

Photo Ralph Blaine



Still life at 302 Besserer, Sept 18

Ralph Blaine

As most residents of Sandy Hill know, a Supervised Injection Site (SIS) opened on the premises of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre (SHCHC) in April 2018. There were naturally concerns in the community, but we hoped that the SIS could manage the comings and goings of their clients without undue spillover effects in the community. Alas, this proved not to be the case. First there appeared a semi-permanent camp next to the Pizza Pizza restaurant. Trash accumulated in the environs of the clinic and nearby residents began to report unwelcome intrusions onto their property.

Special Report

What's up with all these needles?

The details of what happened next were reported in a comprehensive series of stories by Larry Newman, beginning in the October 2019 issue of IMAGE. The upshot was that the SIS hired security guards to supervise the area around the clinic; the Pizza Pizza camp disappeared and a NO LOITERING sign was posted in its place. A semblance of order returned to Nelson and Besserer Streets.

But this summer the situation around the clinic seemed to be shifting. There was often a small crowd gathered around the No Loitering sign; there was a growing amount of litter and garbage around the clinic and across the street on Besserer, where another knot of people were gathered. I became increasingly curious about what was going on, and over the summer I

had conversations with several members of the SIS network: security guards, police officers, local residents, drug users, Community Outreach volunteers and the administration of the SIS.

One day I met two fellows with plastic bags roving over the sidewalk area on Besserer, adjacent to the clinic's parking lot, who gave me a crash course in drug paraphernalia litter. Andy and Philly told me they were cleaning up. Andy said they were doing this "on their own" and pointedly insisted, "Just because we are drug addicts doesn't mean we have to behave like animals."

They explained that the thin orange plastic tubes scattered on the ground

Needles in Sandy Hill, see page 10

Updating the Dark Side of Sandy Hill

Reconciliation and walking tours

Hilary Duff

When I set out to design last year's Dark Side of Sandy Hill walking tour, I had one goal: to provide a creative way for neighbours to safely gather during the pandemic. Preparing to offer the tours again for a second year has presented the opportunity to reflect on what exactly I want to say as an individual, and what I personally would like our community to represent.

Two stops on the tour feature the homes of former Canadian Prime Ministers: John A. Macdonald at Stadacona Hall, today the Brunei High Commission at 395 Laurier Avenue East; and Wilfrid Laurier and William Lyon Mackenzie King in Laurier House at Laurier and Chapel, now a National Historic Site.

Last year, the Stadacona Hall stop was a quick one — more an opportunity to point out the limestone "cottage" and mention that Macdonald lived in a number of Sandy Hill residences during his time in government.

This year, as I update the walking tour script, I think about the increasingly nuanced conversation we're having about the legacies of Canada's former leaders. Here are just a few points to contemplate.

As Macdonald was enjoying the rela-

Dark side of Sandy Hill, see page 6

Editorial

No Panda Game next year, please! This is not the first time. It could have gone very badly, with more severe injuries (a car was overturned in the middle of a crowd.) There have been repeated efforts in the past by Action Sandy Hill to try to control this. Police keep saying they have the situation in hand — we're losing faith. The university has to find a better place for a student party than the middle of a residential street. **Jane Waterston**

Photo HS Studio



Photo Judy Rinfret

Parks not parking! protests large crowd at Besserer Park

Judy Rinfret

Perhaps it was pent-up community energy or perhaps a growing awareness of the importance of urban green spaces, but, as though a pied piper were in the lead, children, dogs, parents, grandparents, neighbours, and friends magically materialized on the bluff above the Rideau River known as Besserer Park on September 9. Though it was a perfect September early evening, treats and entertainment awaited, and neighbours were delighted to meet and greet, they were there to save the park.

Developer TCU has plans, despite community protest and appeals, to erect an apartment building on Fountain Place at the Rideau River level that would intrude on the park above. Their last application

would oblige the City to pave part of the park as an extension of Besserer Street to access three parking spaces for that apartment building. Not only would public park space be paved but the pavement would serve only one private interest and would oblige taxpayers to maintain that street extension in all seasons.

Spearheaded by Besserer Street resident Michael Barnes, all formal ways to appeal have been exhausted.

For over thirty years some of us have been protecting this "small green gem" through several previous development proposals. During that time trees have grown to shelter and shade, cyclists and pedestrians appreciate the alternative to the chaos on Rideau Street, and dogs may frolic.

Besserer Park protest, see page 9



Émilien and Loup's placard clearly makes the point.

IMAGE

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Fondé en 1972 sous la direction de Diane Wood

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If you'd like to write articles, draw cartoons or other illustrations for stories, or take photographs on assignment, please call and leave your name and number at 613-237-8889. No age restrictions.

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IMAGE wins media award for pandemic stories

We had very good news at IMAGE last June.

The Federation of Community Associations (68 Ottawa area community groups, including Action Sandy Hill) selected IMAGE for their 2021 Media Award, in particular of our coverage of the pandemic in the April 2020 issue (available at the IMAGE website Archives section).

Hilary Duff's article on community response and Martha Milne's article on Somali women's outreach were



specifically commended in the citation. Jane Waterston, Jan Meldrum and Hilary attended the group's AGM Zoom meeting to express our appreciation.



Hilary Duff



Martha Milne

IMAGE Abroad

Just before the borders closed, our paper was a must-read in the diaspora.



John Cockburn (Marlborough Ave.) read it in Chacala, Mexico.



Rob and Claire MacDonald (Marlborough Ave.) got caught up in Marrakech.



Desmond Walsh (Russell Ave.) perused it in Bali, Indonesia, while visiting son Nollaig and his family.

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Free drugs AND rehabilitation

Regarding Larry Newman's article "Extra, Extra - Free Drugs in Vancouver!" (June-July IMAGE), yes, the Drug User Liberation Front should be distributing clean drugs in order to halt overdoses and deaths attributed to tainted drugs. But, as always with reports concerning this topic, there is no mention of the word, "rehabilitation." Government-funded rehab for drug addicts should be the first order of the day, but seems always to be the last. Access to rehab is not a reality for most. It is just too expensive. I have met two recovered addicts, one a master mason who did some work for me. Both young men shared, with passion, their story. Life as a drug addict is hell on earth. So, yes, hand out clean needles and provide a safe place to shoot up. And provide free drugs. But know that these are only band-aids on the gaping wound of human misery.

Kerry Wilson
Daly Avenue

Moose loose in the Rideau?



Photo R Gladhu

The "Moose" (June-July IMAGE) has been a popular backdrop for people posing on the Adawe Crossing.

Raymond Gladu
Range Road

Ban everything motorized from bike and pedestrian paths

I have been cycling on a regular basis on the beautiful NCC pathways during the last 15 years. In that time, we have seen a growing number of users who are not joggers, pedestrians, or people pedalling a bicycle. This fact was abruptly brought home to me when, on the east side of the Rideau River between Bank Street and Montreal Road, a very loud motorized bicycle came roaring down the pathway at well over 30 km/hour. It presented a high degree of danger to joggers, pedestrians and regular cyclists in addition to the terrible noise produced by its gas engine.

In my opinion, all e-scooters and motorized bicycles (electric or gas) and motorized skateboards should be banned from dedicated cycling/walking paths. Any such vehicle should be regulated in the same manner as a motorcycle and confined to streets and their paint-delineated bicycle lanes. All dedicated pathways or

lanes separated from the street by a physical barrier - whether they are managed by the NCC or the City of Ottawa or other - should be reserved for pedestrians and bicycles which are powered purely by human effort. The only exception should be motorized personal transportation vehicles required by a person with a designated handicap.

Finally, there should also be regular policing or patrols on the City of Ottawa/NCC dedicated pathways to enforce the above approach, with the power to issue tickets and to seize illegal vehicles, as needed. I hope that municipal, provincial and NCC officials will follow through on this recommendation, for the safety and security of all concerned.

Roger Bilodeau
Range Road

It is time to license e-bikes and their drivers

As a senior citizen living in Sandy Hill, I am out almost every day walking the paths along the Rideau River. I have been alarmed at the growing number of e-bikes zooming along the paths, silently stealing up on unsuspecting walkers.

Recently, however, I had an even closer encounter with an e-bike. I was riding my bicycle to the Lowertown Pool and stopped for the light at Charlotte and Rideau Streets. I proceeded across the intersection when the light turned green and it was safe (or so I thought).

I was struck, full force and hard, by an e-bike travelling at high speed westward on Rideau Street. The driver went through the intersection on a red light. When a human body meets a 250-lb. vehicle going 30 km/h, it hurts. A lot. My bike helmet, now toast, saved me from serious head injury. Fortunately, there were two witnesses who came to my assistance.

The young woman who was the driver of the e-bike got up and took off before the police arrived to question all of us. An ambulance transported me to hospital. Fortunately, I am only badly bruised and lacerated, nothing broken. It could have been much worse. Unfortunately, because e-bikes have no licence plate, there is next to no chance of finding the young woman on her red ninja-style e-bike who broke the law by running a red light and leaving the scene of an accident. My point is that users of e-bikes need to be licensed.

I have been told that they are used by a number of drug dealers in town as well because e-bikes are untraceable. And fast. And can get away quickly. Anything that has a motor should require some regulation and licensing.

Beth Smith
Laurier Avenue East

Thank you Bianca: you started a clean-up

In response to Bianca Bertrand's diatribe about the garbage in Sandy Hill:

I agree completely. We have so many beautiful and well-tended gardens in the neighbourhood but the pleasure of walking along to admire them is marred by all the garbage in the streets.

We had been thinking about trying to do something about it and Bianca's article spurred us into action. We have cleaned up Nelson Street from Besserer to Laurier and decided to make this our beat.

Please tell Bianca her article had an effect. Thanks very much for all the work you put into your publication. It looks very professional. I just discovered the website and have bookmarked it.

Michael Allen
Besserer Street

Ed reminder: The IMAGE web site is at imagesandyhill.org

Test your memory and IMAG(E)ination

Photo Bob Whitelaw



Two mystery photos to amuse you this issue!

Does the address at left look familiar to you?

How about the sign below?

Let us know where they are in Sandy Hill and we'll give you some newsprint applause in the December issue of IMAGE.

Photo Betsy Mann



Last issue's mystery revealed

The white poles were a section of the goal post on the football/ soccer field by the community garden at Dutchy's Hole south of Strathcona Park..

Congratulations to **Denise Killick of Besserer St.** for correct identification of the photo. She used to take her mini-schnauzer, Buddy, there all the time.

Good luck to all with this issue's challenges (above).



New name, same philosophy! We would like to introduce our multidisciplinary team, **D+A Wellness Centre**. Formerly known as the Rideau Wellness Centre for more than 35 years, we are pleased to continue to provide **chiropractic, massage therapy, and pedorthic care**. We are committed to providing a welcoming healthcare clinic for the Sandy Hill and greater Ottawa community. Free parking and direct billing is available.

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Creating active transportation connections in our community

After a long, hard road, a more pedestrian-and cycling-friendly route comes to Laurier Avenue and Nicholas Street. Construction was expected to begin this fall. News that it is delayed until spring 2022 is unexpected, but the good news is that the intent and the goal will be realized in 2022.

The scope of the improvements includes: on Laurier Ave. from Nicholas St. to Waller St., Nicholas St. resurfacing from Laurier Ave. to Besserer St. and Waller St. between Laurier Ave. to Nicholas St. (former transitway segment).

We cannot speak about the Laurier and Nicholas intersection without restating the interprovincial truck route challenges: <https://mathieufleury.ca/king-edward-avenue-committed-to-a-solution/>

These improvements are in conjunction with creating a protected signalized intersections at Nicholas St. and Laurier Ave, one of Ottawa's busiest intersections (417 on and off ramp, truck route, busy pedestrian crossing and the East/West bike lane segment). And include as well improvements to the Waller St. and Laurier Ave intersection.

These improvements include new wider sidewalks, which ultimately enhance the pedestrian experience. But we did not forget about avid cyclists in the neighbourhood. New cycling tracks on both sides of Laurier Ave. and bi-directional cycling facilities through Waller St. aim to expand connectivity through Laurier Ave. and Stewart St.

Pedestrian access is maintained in all directions until the project's completion. The next and final step to this improvement for our city's cyclists will finally see the desired connection from Waller St. to Mackenzie Ave. realized by the expansion to the LRT MUP through to the Ottawa Art Gallery intersection. This missing link should continue over the Mackenzie bridge. I will continue to advocate and work with staff on this desired connection over the Mackenzie Bridge via safe and protected cycling infrastructure.

For more information about the East-West Bikeway Project along Laurier Avenue, visit ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/east-west-bikeway-laurier-avenue-nicholas-street-waller-street#project-overview.

BUDGET ASKS

This project is a good reminder that cycling infrastructure and road work are essential for a community. Each year, leading up to the City's draft budget, I work with staff, residents, and stakeholders to define the next needed steps for funding for projects within our ward. Your opinion matters and helps my engagement at the committee and council table (including motions).

On Nov. 3, the City will present its 2022 draft budget. Leading up to that date, I encourage you to get involved and share what you would like to see in this upcoming budget. You can engage with the City now. The City has launched a budget-specific website and survey at engage.ottawa.ca. This is also your opportunity to learn more about the budget process through the web page.

Every year, I host a ward-level budget consultation, and there is also the annual BudgetSpeak, which is a collaboration between all urban wards. Please follow me on social media to get the latest details on these two events. Visit [Ottawa.ca/budget](https://ottawa.ca/budget).

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Photos Bob Whitelaw



Construction trailer gone and a new pedestrian-friendly look

The construction trailer located for three years at the intersection of Somerset East and Range Road finally left us on Tuesday, September 28. It supported the major upgrade to services, sidewalks and drainage on Mann, Range, Templeton and Russell. The work has now shifted to Greenfield Ave. past the Queensway entrance.

News Bites

►The One and Only Craft Fair will not be held this November due to COVID. Depending on the situation, a spring fair may be possible. Stay tuned to the Action Sandy Hill newsletter. (To sign up for the newsletter go to ash-ac.s.ca/)

►Anya Fraser, who lives on Daly, joined the Action Sandy Hill board in August, taking on the role of ASH/City liaison regarding 311 calls. She is to engage with residents on who to call for what (i.e.. when to make a 311 call vs a 911 call, let them know about the needle pick-up services, etc.) and hear community concerns which will then be conveyed to the councillor and City staff on how to improve process.

►The City is no longer using the former St Paul's Eastern church at Daly

and Cumberland as a daytime drop in/ respite centre.

►Play structures near the wading pool in Strathcona Park are to be replaced in spring 2022.

►The University of Ottawa Canadians Sharing Locally and Globally Club ran, walked, and got sponsors to raise funds at the Ottawa Race Weekend. Among 51 charities, the club placed first as the official charity with the largest total dollars raised: \$362,640.23. All proceeds have been used to enhance India's ability to respond to the overwhelming needs of people suffering from COVID-19.

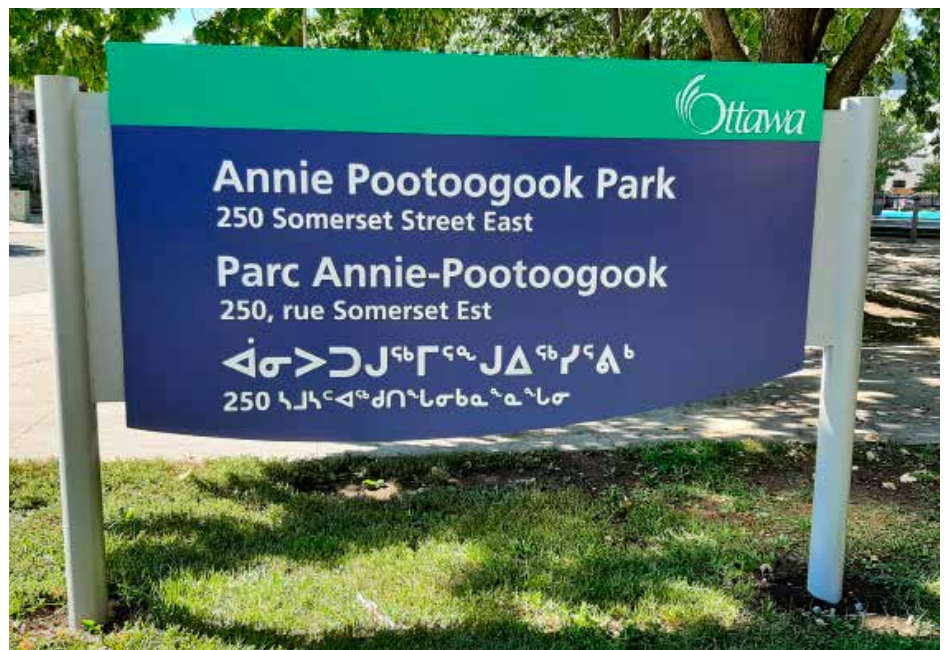
— with notes from the Action Sandy Hill newsletter, Cathy Major, John Wenuk, Bob Whitelaw

Photo Bob Whitelaw



Park bins

New recycling bins with signs have been placed throughout Strathcona Park. This is a new initiative by the City of Ottawa; Strathcona Park is being used as a test site.



Photos Bob Whitelaw

Annie Pootoogook Park naming celebration in the works

A new sign at the corner of Sweetland and Templeton marks the completion of a citizen-led effort, started by Stéphanie Plante, to rename the popular park behind the community centre after Annie Pootoogook, a prominent Inuit artist. Born in Cape Dorset, Nunavut, she lived in Ottawa – sometimes on the streets – until she died at age 47 in 2016.

The park was formerly known as Sandy Hill Park. Its proximity to the Nunavut Sivuniksavut school – an Ottawa-based college that helps Inuit youth from across Canada's North – was very important in Plante's proposal.

The renaming is expected to be celebrated on November 7. There will be an exhibit of Ms Pootoogook's work in the Sandy Hill Community Centre. More of her intriguing pencil crayon works are on view in the Ottawa Art Gallery's "Sheltered in Place" exhibit (reviewed in IMAGE, April-May 2021).

— with notes from Bob Whitelaw, the Ottawa Citizen and ASH.



Skeletal cracks

The alien-looking orange markings along the Annie Pootoogook Park pathway presage repairs coming to the many cracks and uneven pavement. Soon, we hope!

Photo Kathleen Kelly



Federal election, September 20

On the first day of advance voting in the September federal election, Sandy Hillers Jeannette and Julie Scobie, escorted by Skipper and Lily, were photographed outside the poll on Somerset East. Incumbent Mona Fortier was the clear winner in the September 20 contest. What did she promise us (according to Taylor Blewett in the *Ottawa Citizen* on Sept. 30)?

...From \$10-a-day child care to an extension of the Canada Recovery Hiring

Program until next March, many of Fortier's pledges to Ottawa-Vanier voters were national promises in the Liberal Party's campaign platform (she co-chaired the platform committee). In terms of specific, local promises, Fortier did pledge to "focus on expanding our amazing network" of active transportation spaces, including the river pathways. She also said in her campaign literature that she would champion funding "for grassroots First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations who deliver critical cultural, educational and health services."

Photo Paula Kelsall



Wilbrod Street curiosity on the chopping block

An application to demolish the brightly coloured buildings owned by 12784220 Canada Inc. at 326 – 330 Wilbrod Street (between Friel and Chapel) has been filed with the City by Dolyn Construction. If successful, they intend to construct a 40-unit apartment building with mostly 2-bedroom units. As well, they intend to ask the City for cash-in-lieu relief from the parking spaces requirement and to extend a new wing into the rear yard. The height of the planned building meets the requirements in an R4 zone. ASH members had a preliminary meeting with the architect, planner and construction manager to discuss the design of the building. ASH stressed that the building should fit in with the street character, using similar colours and perhaps materials for the facade of the building, possibly balconies for the front of the building and the use of building details which are found on similar buildings on the street such as the kindergarten pavillion of l'École Francojeunesse.

Photo Bob Whitelaw



Coming soon to a park near you: glorious autumn colours



Lucille Collard

MPP / députée Ottawa-Vanier



Chers résidents et résidentes d'Ottawa-Vanier

La place de notre système d'éducation au sein de notre société a été soulignée à maints égards durant cette pandémie. Le rôle qu'a l'éducation dépasse l'enseignement de matières scolaires à nos enfants et a un impact au-delà de la salle de classe. Les écoles ne sont pas seulement des espaces pour apprendre, mais des espaces pour établir des liens importants, pour former des citoyens à l'esprit critique et pour passer du temps en dehors de la maison.

Les changements dans notre système d'éducation sont attendus depuis longtemps et la pandémie l'a bien mis en évidence. Nous avons besoin d'un système qui puisse répondre aux besoins de nos enfants pour les préparer aux réalités du monde après l'obtention du diplôme. Nous avons besoin d'une éducation qui soit honnête à propos de notre histoire et nous devons inspirer les étudiants à construire un avenir meilleur. Nous avons besoin d'investissements importants en infrastructure pour créer des environnements d'apprentissage dynamiques et sécuritaires qui permettent aux étudiants de s'épanouir et d'atteindre leur plein potentiel.

Ayant quatre enfants, je suis passionnée de l'éducation depuis 20 ans. C'est pourquoi, au cours des derniers mois, j'ai contacté nos conseils scolaires pour me tenir au courant de leurs défis actuels. Il a été très utile de discuter des façons dont nous pouvons travailler ensemble pour créer un retour à l'école qui soit sécuritaire et pour améliorer notre système d'éducation. J'ai également assisté à des manifestations de parents et pris part à des consultations pour entendre directement de la communauté les impacts de la pandémie sur les parents et sur les enfants.

Soyez assurés que je reste déterminée à faire pression sur le gouvernement pour qu'il mette en place un plan détaillé pour cette année académique et au-delà. Le gouvernement a le devoir de s'assurer que les enfants, les parents et les travailleurs de l'éducation aient l'esprit tranquille.

Comme toujours, merci de continuer de faire votre part dans la lutte contre COVID-19. Mon équipe demeure disponible pour vous aider. N'hésitez pas à nous appeler au 613-744-4484 ou à nous envoyer un courriel à lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

Dear constituents

The place of our education system in our society has been highlighted in many ways during this pandemic. Education plays a bigger role than just teaching subject matter to our children and makes an impact beyond the classroom. Schools are not only spaces to learn, but spaces to make meaningful connections, develop thoughtful citizens, and spend time outside of the household.

Changes to our education system are long overdue and the pandemic has highlighted this further. We need a system that is responsive to the needs of our children to prepare for the reality of the world beyond graduation. We need honest education about our history, and we need to inspire students to build a better future. We need significant investment in infrastructure to create safe and dynamic learning environments that allow students to thrive and reach their full potential.

Having four children, I have been passionate about education for 20 years. That is why, over the last few months, I have reached out to our school boards to stay informed of their current challenges. It has been very valuable to discuss how we can work together to create a safe return to school and improve our education system. I have also attended parent protests and taken part in broad consultations to hear from the community directly on the difficult toll the pandemic has taken on parents and children.

Rest assured that I remain committed to putting pressure on the government to carry out a thorough plan for this academic year and beyond. The government has the duty to ensure that children, parents, and education workers have peace of mind.

As always, thank you for doing your part in fighting COVID-19. My team remains available to help. Please feel free to give us a call at 613-744-4484 or send us an email at lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

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The Dark Side of Sandy Hill returns this month

continued from page 1

As Macdonald was enjoying the relative peacefulness of our neighbourhood, the *Indian Act* was introduced and passed by Parliament in 1876. Macdonald made many damning comments about Indigenous people throughout his political career, and I choose not to further amplify those here.

Two years later, when he was elected Prime Minister and appointed the Minister of Indian Affairs, Macdonald commissioned a report to examine how the United States had instituted a residential school system for Indigenous children. The author of that report, Nicholas Flood Davin, is considered another of the architects of Canada's residential school system. Shortly after, Macdonald's government formally adopted the residential school system with many government- and church-run institutions opening in 1880. Would Macdonald have been thinking of the devastation and suffering these policies would inflict on Indigenous families while sitting on the terrace at Stadacona Hall? And would he have cared?

I've heard the arguments: the past is the past and this was a different time. Surely politicians were making these decisions in the best interest of our country and Indigenous peoples themselves. But this simply wasn't true.

Fast forward to Wilfrid Laurier's term as Prime Minister between 1896 and 1911, when the residential school system and the expansion of white settlement into western Canada were well underway. During that time, Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce, Chief Medical Officer with the Department of Interior and Indian Affairs, penned a report about residential schools in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. That 1907 report called for reform of the system, referencing that many children had died of tuberculosis because of poor ventilation and standards of care from school staff. The report went unpublished (but was leaked) and its recommendations were largely ignored by Laurier's government.

I am not the only person in Sandy Hill contemplating the controversial legacy of these Canadian figureheads. Prime Minister's Row, a community-based initiative to establish Laurier Avenue East as the first outdoor street museum, will host consultation sessions this month to discuss this very matter, among other details of their plans. And Parks Canada is in the midst of updating its Laurier House programming to better incorporate the experiences of the everyday people employed by Mackenzie King.

Legacies are complex. The questioning of Canada's "great" leaders and the occurrences of the past year have earned a spectrum of reactions: the removal of John A. Macdonald statues in Kingston and Victoria and the proposed renaming of Ryerson University, among others. For some, this is a necessary step towards reconciliation; for others, it is a personal attack on patriotism and pride. It is up to all of us to form our own opinions of Canada's past, the moments in which this country has represented equity and acceptance, and the times when it has systematically stamped out the very same.

As someone who has the privilege of presenting the stories and histories of others, it's my responsibility not to forgo speaking of these realities for the purpose of an apolitical, lighthearted tour, or because of my fear of courting debate. That is why I am choosing to update this walking tour to reflect what is mentioned above. Indigenous folks do not have the option of ignoring the impact of residential schools, so why should I? Why should we?

There are three opportunities to attend Hilary's Dark Side of Sandy Hill walking tour: on **Sunday, Oct. 24, 2 p.m.** with Heritage Ottawa (ticket price applies, see heritageottawa.org/heritage-ottawa-walking-tours), and on **Thursday, Oct. 28 and Friday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m.** (by donation, organized by Action Sandy Hill, see bit.ly/darksideofsandyhill).

Two stories about the toy bin at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park

Photo Susan Khazaeli

Cécile Stockemer

A chance encounter with a City park maintenance worker brought about big changes to the playground on Chapel Street which had been bereft of any play boxes provided by the City of Ottawa. Earlier this spring a couple of parents took the opportunity to ask for one of the bright yellow toy bins which brighten up many city parks.

The play boxes allow both parents and the City to leave toys to be shared amongst children, and most important of all, to be protected from the elements. Heartened by this small victory, some very generous parents readily took it upon themselves to fill the bin with all sorts of toys, small treasures and even kid gear. Despite the immediate success among children (and parents), it soon became obvious that the



The toy box in Laurier Park has been emptied by someone unknown.

Left — There is another empty box in Dutchie's Hole Park.



Photo David Elden

toys kindly brought to stay at the playground, were slowly but steadily disappearing. All parents know how difficult it can be to explain to a toddler that they have to leave a toy behind, but it has unfortunately become the norm, and if they do not disappear, they end up damaged and sometimes even dangerously so.

Since Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services has committed funding to re-fill the bins every spring, we believe a short but effective accompanying campaign about good practices would be beneficial.



One hundred years of history

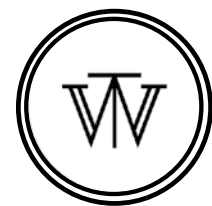


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Action soon returning to Sandy Hill tennis/pickle ball courts

Bob Whitelaw

Three tennis courts at Saint Germain Park (Templeton Street and Sweetland Avenue) were closed in late August and through September for a major rebuild and renewal project. The work is expected to be completed in early October, which will allow late fall community use for tennis and pickleball.

“The courts were aging,” Councillor Mathieu Fleury told IMAGE, “And although the community was not at my door knocking and protesting, we had heard some feedback about safety and undertook a lifecycle review. We rely on community feedback for these free outdoor spaces.”

The City’s asset management group is repaving the playing surface, installing new fencing and painting lines on the courts at Saint Germain Park for both tennis and pickleball. The cost is \$304,000, which includes \$175,000 from a CIL (cash-in-lieu of parkland) fund directed by the councillor.

At the same time the City’s asset management group conducts reviews. “For example,” Fleury continues, “we have identified that the play structures in Strathcona Park near the wading pool are at the end of life. So, we are going to consult over the fall what the community would like in terms of play structures in that area.”

This cooperation is standard: the City does the basic work, Fleury says, and the CIL fund makes sure it is “done right.” Every time there is a development happening in Ward 12 (Lowertown, Sandy



Photo Bob Whitelaw

Ward 12 Councillor Mathieu Fleury checks the level of the surface before the start of paving the new tennis and pickleball courts at Saint Germain Park while Tom Zed, Beth Smith and Roger Bilodeau eagerly await the return of pickleball to their new community courts.

Hill, Vanier), he says, “a proportion goes into a CIL fund, which we use to redo parks. In Lowertown, Jules Morin Park; in Vanier, Smith Park behind the Beechwood fire station, and [in early October] we will have the new tennis and pickleball courts at Riverain Park [as well as Saint Germain].”

Avid neighbourhood pickleball players

Beth Smith, Tom Zed and Roger Bilodeau used the courts regularly during the spring and summer until they arrived one day in late August to find the site fenced off and digging had started. They were happy to learn on Oct. 1 that nets would be placed by Thanksgiving, making possible the return of pickleball to the new community courts.

New name for Laurier Park proposed

Stéphanie Plante

Sandy Hill has always recognized Canada’s greats. We have a park named after Inuit artist Annie Pootoogook, streets named after Wilfrid Laurier and the first Chief Justice, William Osgoode, as well as a historic movie theatre named after Colonel John By, who built the famous Rideau Canal.

Building on this legacy, two members of Action Sandy Hill are hoping to pay tribute to the thousands of front-line and essential workers who kept our shelves stocked, tended to our children and elderly, and cared for the sick throughout the pandemic.

On September 20, Stéphanie Plante and Susan Khazaeli both members of ASH reached out to the City of Ottawa to begin the process of renaming Wilfrid Laurier Park on Chapel Street to Cindy Mitchell Park. For those who don’t know, Cindy was the long-time director of Bettye Hyde Cooperative Early Learning Centre, located on Blackburn Avenue. Under Cindy’s leadership and vision, Bettye Hyde is not

just daycare, but an extension of a child’s home. Thousands of “children” (now adults) and their parents can attest to the tireless energy and enthusiasm she has dedicated to early childhood education for over 30 years.

As of today, Bettye Hyde has seven dedicated staff and a full-time cook. It is also important to recognize Cindy’s insistence that Bettye Hyde be a place where there was fair compensation and health benefits for the staff in a field where such things are a rarity.

The goal of naming a park after Cindy is threefold. First, it would honour a person who has devoted endless time and energy to Sandy Hill’s youngest residents thus ensuring that thousands of families can resume their careers while knowing their children are safe and in good hands. Second, it helps to increase the representation of women in the topography of the City of Ottawa. When you count the number of commemorative names in our city including streets, pools, community centres, parks, libraries, arenas and bridges, only 12% are named after women—something both Susan and Stéphanie



Cindy Mitchell

anie are hoping to rectify. Lastly, Cindy has done much to improve the status of vulnerable minorities through the refugee sponsor group, Everyone’s Sister. Given Laurier’s racist policies as well as the fact that 29% of Sandy Hill residents identify as BIPOC, renaming the park aims to better reflect the openness and values of Sandy Hillers.

If anyone has any feedback regarding the Cindy Mitchell Park, please send your comments to stephanie.plante@gmail.com. We like to think that Sandy Hill is a community that cares for the caregivers and we cannot think of a better tribute than dedicating a public space to Cindy.

Visioning a Sandy Hill street museum

Prime Ministers’ Row

Megan Lafrenière

Let’s face it. Ottawa has a lot of history. Some of it is obvious; Parliament Hill, the ByWard Market, the Rideau Canal, not to mention the many museums and galleries.

At the same time, a large part of our history is hidden, or at least not easy to find. Perhaps there is no other neighbourhood with more hidden history than Sandy Hill. For over a century, this quiet downtown enclave has been home to politicians, prime ministers, diplomats, lumber barons, public servants, and many university students.

In 2015, under the banner of Prime Ministers’ Row (PMR), a group of Sandy Hill residents began to look at ways to bring some of this hidden history out into the open. Over the past six years, and with recent support from the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Tourism and TD Bank, PMR has worked to envision Canada’s first street museum. This new museum seeks to showcase the many historical figures, including Canadian prime ministers, who lived in Sandy Hill: to bring people to where they lived; to place them in the context of history; and to create a space to encourage dialogue on the impacts, both good and bad, that their actions and policies have had on all Canadians.

To include as many Canadians as possible to help shape the street museum, PMR and co-host Action Sandy Hill are reaching out to the community in several ways:

Community Conversation 1 – In Person October 17, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Working Title, 330 Laurier Avenue East – Covered patio or indoors in case of inclement weather. Limited capacity of 50 participants. Led by bilingual moderators. All provincial COVID-19 protocols will be strictly enforced. Visit www.pmr-apm.ca to register.

Community Conversation 2 – Virtual (Zoom) October 27, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Limited capacity of 50 participants. Led by bilingual moderators. Visit www.pmr-apm.ca to register and receive the link.

Online Survey – Launches November 15. Visit www.pmr-apm.ca to participate.

For further information on any of these engagement activities or on the street museum project, please contact: info@pmr-apm.ca

With thanks to our funders, Action Sandy Hill, Working Title and our longtime supporters.

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Phil Caron's Portfolio

The Shepherds of Good Hope are (likely) building again



My neighbour Chippy.

Larry Newman

"The City of Ottawa has received Zoning Bylaw Amendment and Site Plan Control applications (#D07-12-21-0040) to permit the development of an eight-storey mixed-use building with 48 dwelling units on floors three to eight, and a community health and resource centre that includes a drop-in centre which will operate 16 hours/day and a commercial kitchen at grade and on the second floor." This announcement appears on the City of Ottawa Development Applications site.

This building will be constructed in place of what is now a one-storey commercial building at 216 Murray St. The apartments are typically about 350 sq. ft. (32.5 sq metres) and include a bathroom and kitchenette. The new tenants will be provided with medical and social support 24/7.

So, who pays for this new building and its furnishings? As explained on the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation web site, "The Government of Canada, through CMHC, launched the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) in October 2020. The initial funding for this initiative was \$1 billion to help address urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians, especially in the context of COVID-19, through the rapid construction of affordable housing." The Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH) acted quickly and acquired \$10.3 million for the



CSV Architects drawing of the 8-storey building being proposed by the Shepherds of Good Hope for 216 Murray St.

construction of 216 Murray St.

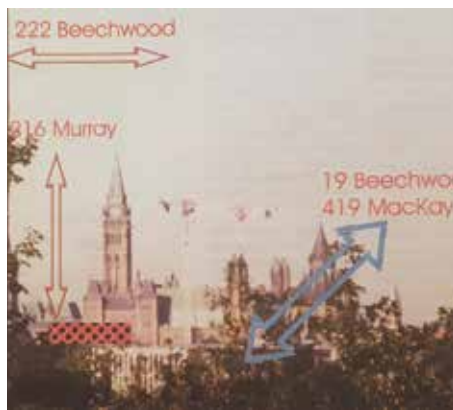
This new building is not in Sandy Hill but it's just a few blocks away and it will affect people who we now see on streets in our neighbourhood. As part of the agreement between the SGH and the City, the number of beds at SGH's existing shelter will be reduced as people are moved into the supportive housing next door.

How does one qualify for these special housing units? Criteria are provided by Ottawa City Health and Inner City Health. They include a priority for women as well as Indigenous people. People with special needs (physical, emotional, behavioural, or learning disability or impairment) are also a priority. The people who are most in need are the most likely to qualify for one of these special housing units.

After the 216 Murray St. building is constructed (and another on Merivale), there will be a total of six buildings in Ottawa accommodating more than 337 people who would otherwise be homeless. Four of the six are distributed rather generously throughout Ottawa: Kanata, Nepean, and Gloucester.

As many of us know, drug addiction has increased substantially during Covid-19 and we're seeing more drug users and their paraphernalia on our streets. An increase in housing for those who cannot afford it and who now spend most of their day on the street is welcome news.

However, there is another aspect to this story that is not welcome: how easy it is for developers to get zoning concessions from the City. The zoning changes obtained for this building are typical for this city. For example, building height increased from the originally required 21.4 metres to 33.3 metres, and the requirement for a minimum front yard distance (from the property line to the building) has been eliminated: it was originally 3 metres and is now 0 metres. The proposed design will utilize the entire footprint for residential units in order to increase cost effectiveness. The proposed design increases the number of permanent housing units for individuals currently experiencing homelessness from 28 to 48. Once more this was justified by the need "to increase cost effectiveness."



Sightlines vis à vis Centre Block.

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News flash!!! Stop the keyboards!!

On May 31, 2021, the Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH) submitted an application to the City to construct an eight-storey building at 216 Murray St. In a new development, the *Lowertown Echo de la Basseville's* September-October issue reports that a group calling itself the Citizen Coalition for Compassionate and Safe Communities (CCCSC) has appealed this application to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Members of the CCCSC have more than one motive to object to its construction. Some worry about an increase

in the number of people on the street who are recipient of services by the SGH. This is a security issue for them. Others worry about the safety of Indigenous women who would have to live in the vicinity of a large shelter and a busy safe injection site: A technical argument relates to a line of sight from the Beechwood National Cemetery to Parliament apparently protected by a 2008 bylaw (see drawing at left). It will be argued that this increase in building height interferes with that line of sight.

The CCCSC has started a GoFundMe campaign to pay for the cost of appeal.

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 - PRC Toy Library
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Parent Resource Centre
parentresource.ca

Besserer Park protest

continued from page 1

On September 9, protest was enthusiastic—banners in French and English declared the possibility that any part of Besserer Park could be lost to private interests. Our very limited urban green space is more valued than ever, not only because of increased appreciation and use during the pandemic, but because of the recent and ongoing development of so many residential units on Rideau Street.

As Hilary Duff, organizer and spokesperson for Action Sandy Hill (ASH), said “we need to defend public parks—this is a breakdown between public good and private interest.” She pointed out that the developer could provide parking on the Fountain Place site simply by building 19 instead of 20 units. Besserer Park is the backyard for neighbours who may have none she said. Iola Price of the Greenspace Alliance spoke passionately about the need for green spaces not only for human well-being but to mitigate the effects of climate change. Such spaces “improve our sense of well-being, offer shelter for wildlife, provide oxygen and remove carbon dioxide and pollutants, and slow or prevent water runoff.” The retaining wall for this development will result in the loss of 20 or more trees on the south slope. Glenys Egan, a Sandy Hill resident and Ottawa Horizon organizer, spoke of the grassroots effort to make a “better Ottawa for all—to put people before profit.”

Horizon Ottawa and ASH arranged the event. Aside from the snacks, banners and banter, the inspiration of the speakers, the over 600 signatures on a petition, and the size of the crowd (ASH reports 100), the event was elevated by musicians Ronney Abramson and Jerry Golland.

We were treated to great versions of a couple of original and several familiar folk tunes; not surprisingly Joni Mitchell’s *Big Yellow Taxi* (aka “Paved Paradise”) was



Photos Harlequin Studios



Above— Masked, but speaking out ... Former ASH president Susan Young (left) met up with Barbara Brockmann and Jan Finlay, who helped organize the event. Left—Singers Ronney Abramson (at left) and Jerry Golland of Ronney Abramson Music had revised Joni Mitchell’s famous lyric to suit the cause.

the favourite. Ronney Abramson sang his new verse which expressed the sentiment of the event:

Hey Mr Paver,
Take those big machines away now
We want our green grass
And a place for all the people to play now
Don’t it always seem to go
That you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone
DON’T pave BESSERER,
WE DON’T WANT NO PARKING LOT

Though Councillor Fleury reported that TCU would withdraw the application to extend Besserer Street, that has not been confirmed as we go to press. City planner Kimberley Baldwin says “the applicant is **considering** a revised concept with a reduced number of residential units and two parking spaces off of Fountain Place only.” The protest and the petition may persuade Council to deny what would set a precedent for the private appropriation of greenspace. We must hope that Councillor Fleury will convince his colleagues that park space is sacred.



Cars erode greenspace; a quality transit system would not

Nick Grover & Donald Swartz

Once again, development planning in the City of Ottawa ignores climate change and public transit. And it’s no surprise given the political commitment to our high-carbon, car-centric transport system —and the constant expansion of pavement over green space.

One example is the unconscionable plan that would see a BMW dealership expand its parking lot into the Hunt Club forest, felling trees to sell cars. Another is the provision in the Ottawa Hospital development plan to place a four-storey parking garage over Queen Juliana Park. It would also remove an important section of the Trillium Line Multi-Use Path, making it harder for patients and staff to access the train line.

It’s time to stop debating whether parking complexes should be located above or below ground, over this habitat or that one, and call into question the expansion of car infrastructure altogether.

We are in a climate crisis and transportation is the single largest source of carbon emissions in Ontario, with private vehicles accounting for the vast majority. There is no way to meaningfully reduce emissions without getting people out of cars and onto public transit. Electric cars are a false solution. As personal vehicles, they still require far more resources per person than buses and generate incessant pressure to expand roads and parking lots into green space.

Planning must make driving less convenient and public transit more attractive. A straightforward approach is to limit parking space and redirect money towards improving transit reliability and accessibility.

In the Ottawa Hospital case, planners must narrow the distance between the LRT stop and the hospital, consider shuttle buses, a covered moving sidewalk, covered/heated bus stations on-site, and work with OC Transpo to increase the number of direct bus routes to the hospital campus, for example by restoring Route 3 along Prince of Wales. To encourage transit use and as a gesture of thanks to hospital staff for their work during the pandemic, the City should provide them with free bus passes. This would complement the demand made recently by dozens of community associations for free transit for ODSP and OW recipients.

The City betrays its affinity for cars over climate with its numerous road-widening projects as well, for example the proposal to expand Brian Coburn Boulevard from four lanes to six into the Mer Bleue wetlands. Despite intentions to relieve congestion, widened roads consistently attract new traffic and are packed with cars again before long. While the plan also includes two dedicated bus lanes—which we absolutely need to improve service reliability—it should not be at the expense of green space. If the City is serious about reducing traffic congestion, they should convert existing car lanes into bus lanes rather than widen roads. It may seem counterintuitive but a 2001 study confirmed that when road space is repurposed for buses, bikes, or walking there was less congestion on the target street and surrounding area. Traffic was reduced by 22% on average and 11% most consistently, reducing pollution and increasing road safety. Put simply, “if we build it they will come.” Specific design schemes matter but the evidence shows shifting to sustainable transport is possible with some creative thinking.



Needles in Sandy Hill

continued from page 1

They explained that the thin orange plastic tubes scattered on the ground were needle guards for syringes, while the milky plastic caps cover the plunger of a new syringe. If that plastic cap is not attached, the syringe has been used. There were also numerous light blue tubes scattered about. These had contained distilled water used to dissolve drugs before injection. All of these objects, plus the syringes themselves, could easily be found next to the Pizza Pizza fence, in the surrounding streets and alleys, as well as the front and back yard of the row at 302-306 Besserer.

I got a bit more insight into the litter situation one day when I was taking a picture of a discarded syringe on Besserer Street. Alexander, one of the SHCHC security guards, approached me.



Garbage someone collected on Besserer - Aug 25

distilled water, the necessary equipment to safely dissolve drugs before injection, syringes, secure boxes to store and return used syringes to the clinic, pipes for users of crack and meth, and a host of other personal hygiene items. The fact that clients can take this equipment with them as they leave seems to be a tacit admission that the SIS itself cannot service, inside its doors, all the needs of the intravenous drug users in the area for supervised injections.

When I asked Cat why people in the community were still finding syringes lying about the streets and sidewalks despite the disposal boxes SIS provides, she said, in so many words, that people who are high just don't always have it together to be that organized. Cat knew her clients by name, and her manner with one client who left while I was there was informal, friendly, and respectful on both sides. I hoped I could do as well.

Doesn't it seem odd, though, that just steps from a site designed to provide safe conditions for injections, we find clear evidence that people continue to inject on the street, in alleyways and backyards? The answer unfolded gradually, and began with my running across Morgan and Kim walking up Nelson Street in bright blue matching tunics reading "Street Outreach." They were handing out snacks



A toke at 306 Besserer

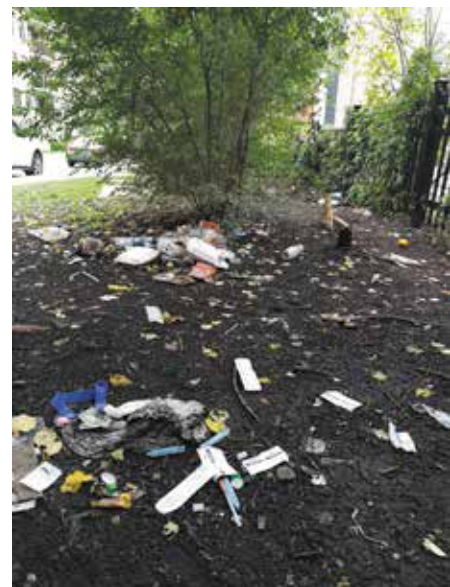
and water to homeless people at the Pizza Pizza fence.

As Morgan picked a used syringe from the ground, I asked why do people inject potentially dangerous drugs on the street when there is a walk-in supervised injection site right across the street or around the corner? Kim explained that it was not always possible for a drug user to get into the SIS. In those cases, they might choose to inject nearby, where the security guards or SIS staff could call help if an emergency arose.

Rob Boyd, the Director of the Oasis program at the clinic which includes the SIS, told me that at any one time there are four to five people working in the SIS. They used to be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. but now, due to the difficulty of finding nurses, they are on a reduced schedule, closing at 5 p.m. On this reduced schedule they are supervising from 50 to 75 injections per day. This is a walk-in clinic, so

there can be a line-up, but they try to keep the wait time to 15 minutes. Nonetheless, Mr. Boyd acknowledged that wait times could explain why some users inject in the surrounding neighbourhood. He also pointed out that there is another SIS open 24/7: The Trailer at Murray and King Edward.

Whether they are waiting their turn to use the SIS, or seeking another spot nearby to use drugs, there do seem to be more drug users in the vicinity of the clinic. One day, I spoke to two bicycle-mounted police officers doing a call at 302 Besserer St. just opposite the clinic. One of them, J.F., said categorically that the drug-related problems in the immediate area were the worst he had ever seen on this beat. As we spoke, a group of people in the front yard were gathering their belongings in preparation to being moved on. But I knew they would be back. *(continued on page 11)*



On Besserer above Shoppers - Sept. 24

He wanted to tell me that people from an organization called Needle Hunters came around every evening to pick up the needles. He also introduced me to Cat, an employee of the SHCHC, who invited me inside and gave a quick explanation of some of what the SIS does.

The SIS makes a point of educating its clientele about safe drug use. They also give out kits containing the blue vials of

Executors: Build the Right Team



While it is an honour to be asked to be an executor, you may be unsure about your role and responsibilities. Administering another person's assets, particularly when they include real estate, may be very challenging. Executors are advised to choose an estate lawyer and a realtor who will bring the necessary knowledge and experience to the table.

Because executors are accountable to beneficiaries and to creditors, it may be prudent to keep detailed records of the advice received in case they are called upon someday to justify their actions.

One of the trickiest parts of selling an estate home is deciding when to list the property. Bear in mind that, in most cases, executors are not able to transfer the title of the home to a new buyer. In addition, they will not have access to the estate funds needed to prepare the home for sale before probate is granted by the courts.

To complete the probate application, the value of the home at the date of death is required. It will benefit executors to hire an experienced realtor who does not overlook the possibility that, depending on the zoning,

lot size and location, the lot may be worth more than the house on the lot. A formal appraisal from an accredited appraiser may be a worthwhile investment.

If the home is listed before probate, the agreement of purchase and sale will commonly provide that the closing date will be a certain number of days following the date probate is granted. In Ottawa, the anticipated approval time for probate is 6-10 weeks but this could extend into years if a notice of objection is filed, requiring the matter to go to court.

Executors will want to know what effect the uncertainty of the closing date may have on buyer interest and the final sale price. The answer may depend on market conditions and the underlying motivation of each buyer. Buyers who intend on flipping the property for profit often care less about the closing date than buyers trying to secure a home to enjoy. Although the homeseeker is likely to pay substantially more than the flipper, they may not move forward with an offer because of their inability to line up the closing date with the sale of their current home or to schedule contractors to complete improvements needed before taking possession.

It is possible to fashion an agreement of purchase and sale that allows the buyer to take possession of the home prior to the transfer of title, but there are risks involved for both the buyer and the estate. What if the buyer's financial or personal situation changes, and they are no longer willing or able to



Executors, often trusted friends or loved ones, may accept their role out of an act of kindness.

close or maintain possession of the home or what if they effect changes that devalue the property?

It is easy to see how important it is that the listing brokerage avoids a conflict of interest and does not represent the interests of both the buyer and the estate. It is equally as important for buyer and seller to have independent legal counsel.

Executors, often trusted friends or loved ones, may accept their role out of an act of kindness, bringing peace to the appointor who is confident that their wishes will be fulfilled. If guided by the right professionals, the experience can go smoothly and be wonderfully rewarding.

For a helpful checklist or if you have any questions, please contact Judy Faulkner:
Judy@HomesInOttawa.com 613-231-4663



Sarah and Roy's shelter, 304 Besserer



Sarah's garbage pickup



Debris in back of 302 Besserer - Sept. 17



Except for the six syringes, pretty clean boulevard next to SHCHC parking Sept. 24



Two of the six syringes found next to SHCHC on Besserer Sept. 24.

The camp next to Pizza Pizza may be gone but, as the police will tell you, the homeless have to go somewhere. On the evening of September 6 that "somewhere" was 304 Besserer. Plastic tarps draped over salvaged chairs formed a makeshift shelter. Inside were Sarah and Roy.

Sarah is a soft spoken young woman whose father kicked her out of the house in Constance Bay when she was 15. Without any work experience, she made her way to Ottawa where she slept under the Wellington Street overpass near the Conference Centre. She felt safe there, sharing the space with seven or eight other young people. Eventually the City fenced off this refuge and Sarah had to move on. I didn't hear about the following years, but she did say she has now been homeless for two years. She prefers to sleep rough because whenever she stays in one of the local shelters, her clothes and other possessions are stolen. Sarah says she doesn't inject but chooses to smoke stimulants instead. She says the injection drugs on the street are not reliable. Sometimes users feel no immediate high after one injection, so they try another and find themselves overdosed.

Roy is a stocky vigorous man eager to tell his story. He once owned a business in Alberta. After losing the business he spent time in prison. At one point he was hit by a truck and needed hip surgery. He was left with chronic pain and wore a fentanyl patch for a while. But now he is dependent upon street drugs and uses the SIS for his injections. He is hoping for a place to stay and some counselling to break out of his current situation. "I am lucid, but I need the drugs for pain."

Five days later, at the same location, I found two guys huddled in the alley near 306 Besserer. Below them on the ground was another fellow, dead still in a fetal position. On a nearby porch a man was giving himself an injection. Meanwhile, across the street a sun-browned anguished looking older man on his knees was speaking to another man on a bicycle. A short time later a third man pulled up on an e-bike, produced an orange pill bottle,

handed something to the older man and drove away.

It was a much calmer scene at 8 p.m. that night. Sarah was sitting on the steps of 306 Besserer with Nick. Nick is a well-spoken fellow who is from Ottawa, but had gone out West, got married and had children. He is back in Ottawa living on the street for now. Then Nico blew in with a bit of something white to smoke with Sarah and Nick. Nico says he mostly stays away from injecting drugs - he'd had one bad experience with fentanyl recently. He was excited to tell me that he will soon have his own apartment and is lined up for a treatment program, "I want my life back!" He also told me that there were guys down at the Shepherds of Good Hope who had served their country but are now out on the street with no help, forgotten.

I caught Dan, the last person I spoke with, tidying up the strip adjacent to the SHCHC parking lot. Forty-eight years old and from Toronto, he has come to Ottawa to avoid arrest back home. When I asked him where he was staying, he pointed to his bicycle. He and his roommate were "kicked out" of a Lowertown room in April. Since then he has tried staying at the local shelters but when he does, "I get cleaned out every few days." Two phones have been stolen from him. He says he doesn't take drugs but does use the SHCHC to get "meds" and comes around occasionally to help clean up the premises.

What to do?

Everyone who has regular contact with the homeless population in our city seems frustrated that this problem not only exists on a large scale, but is getting worse. One of the local police officers says he sometimes thinks that if there were suddenly a large population of stray dogs in the neighbourhood there would be an immediate hue and cry. People would be falling over themselves to gather them up, get their health needs attended to, and foster them until a decent home had been found for all of them. Like most effective analogies this one is not perfect, but I think it

unbearable. But I suspect, as long as the problems of homelessness, mental illness and drug addiction are largely concentrated in the downtown cores of our cities, it is going to be difficult to marshal the widespread support needed to truly get these lives back on track.

Postscript

This story began with a description of a relatively minor problem - the accumulation of garbage, litter and drug paraphernalia in the area around the SHCHC which houses the SIS. I decided to make a final survey in the morning and afternoon of September 21. In the area across from the clinic near Pizza Pizza, up on the strip next to the sidewalk bordering the clinic and in the backyard of the row at 302 Besserer there was very little garbage or litter. But in all three areas there were syringes and other drug equipment in full sight.

The worst area was the brushy strip on Besserer just above Shoppers Drug Mart. There were three guys in the corner next to the apartment building—one of them with the needle of a syringe in his arm. The area was littered with used syringes, tattered food containers, and plastic bags, as it generally is.

When I pointed out this problem to Rob Boyd, he said we could call 311 and get the needles picked up. He also mentioned that the people from Needle Hunters come by every day. This is true, but they don't seem to be picking up litter and garbage and they don't go into all the nooks and crannies where some addicts shoot up. In any case there is never any difficulty, at any time of day, finding syringes and other drug litter.

This drug equipment is being supplied by the SIS, and they have good reasons for providing their clients safe equipment along with excellent safety guidelines. But it seems to me that, if they can hire security guards to maintain order on their premises, they can also hire people to pick up the garbage and drug litter within, say, a two-block radius of the clinic. All it would take would be an agreement with local property owners to allow a cleaner to pass through any open areas a few times a day. Wouldn't this be a fine way to create a healthier, more pleasant environment for the clinic's clients and surrounding permanent residents? I feel sure Sarah, Andy, Philly and Dan would agree.

Photos by Ralph Blaine



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Chef Ric's is a place of opportunities

Photos Linda Scales

Linda Scales

The new Chef Ric's social enterprise at 384 Rideau Street is a place of opportunities. For passersby, it may seem this new café offers only tasty food and drinks at incredible prices. However, what isn't immediately evident is the hope and community found here by the Ottawa-area men and women seeking new futures for themselves.

Since its September 7 opening, Chef Ric's is home to the Ottawa Mission's Food Services Training Program (FSTP), a transformative job training initiative started in 2004 by Chef Ric Watson, an executive chef and Director of Food Services at The Mission.

Chef Watson's desire to help people get into the workforce stems from his experience as a homeless youth with addictions. He was working as a dishwasher at Queen's University, in Kingston, when a baker would say to him "you can do better, be better," recalls Chef Watson about the person he now calls his mentor. That baker gave him hope and "believed in me."

After training as a chef and earning a hotel and restaurant management certification, he started working at The Ottawa Mission, in 2002.

Moving from The Mission's Daly Street kitchen to the former Rideau Bakery space has enabled the FSTP to stay in Sandy Hill and increase its number of students, decreasing the constant waiting list. There are now three intakes of 25 students per year (instead of two intakes of 12 to 14). Because of the pandemic, the program is currently functioning at 50% capacity.

It also means becoming a social enterprise, a concept envisioned by Chef Watson. This means preparing healthy food while providing students with retail experience and commercial kitchen training and credentials. The food is sold in the café's storefront and through The Mis-



By the end of the FSTP the students are ready to be hired into commercial kitchens. The program is intense: every weekday for four hours each day over five months and an industry placement. The FSTP is in partnership with Algonquin College and other culinary organizations, plus is accredited by the Canadian Culinary Federation.

sion's successful catering program. It will also be the home of the Mobile Mission Meals Food Truck Program that started a year ago. The goal is that Chef Ric's will be self-sustaining.

Helping to teach are Algonquin College chefs, who volunteer their time, and city-wide volunteers, who help with kitchen duties. To date, about 200 graduates have

given the FSTP a 90% success rate. The next cohort graduates on November 4.

Wraparound program

The one requirement for acceptance into the no-cost five-month program is the desire to change one's life for the better. "We don't care about their pasts," says Chef Watson about the FSTP students.



This wall of donor appreciation is on prominent display at Chef Ric's, an Ottawa Mission program at the former Rideau Bakery space on Rideau Street. It was offered to the Mission by the Aggarwal Family for \$10 per year for seven years.

"We care about their futures." Adult men and women of all ages are accepted, with a recent predominance of women aged 35 to 55.

The FSTP is "a wraparound program," he says. "We want to make sure our students have everything in life to be successful. I ask them about their dreams and goals. Most of them say they want to work at The Mission, at Chef Ric's."

"Most of the staff here are past graduates," says Chef Watson. "Isn't that wild!"

Before students graduate, they get to use their new skills in placements organized by the program in restaurants, catering companies and even hospitals and retirement homes. These practicums often lead to employment.

"We've three red-sealed chefs who work here. We want our students to be able to work in real restaurants," he says.

Meanwhile, Chef Watson invites Sandy Hill neighbours to "check out the place and support it."

"We've healthy, fresh food available at affordable prices, and a freezer of frozen foods to take home and cook," he says.

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Summer sights in Strathcona Park



Tortue pondeuse

Photo Pierre Cantin



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EXPERIENCE THE DENYS DIFFERENCE

SHCHC Community Development and Engagement team is growing

Malika Séguin-Gervais

Community Development as defined by the UN is a *process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems*. While this appears to be simple, not everything that is simple comes easily. It takes work, coordinated work, and resources, mostly human resources. I have come to understand that collaborative work between residents, neighbours and partnering organizations is extremely satisfying work and it contributes to innovative solutions to a variety of community challenges.

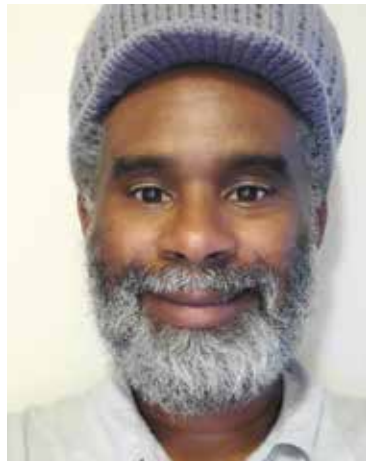
For Sandy Hill Community Health Centre's team lead, Gerald Dragon, "Residents are meant to be the driving force when designing initiatives aimed at responding to identified needs." And this is exactly what it is. Understanding that, while we may support community members and associations in the development of different initiatives, they are instrumental because the value of their lived experience and understanding of their neighbourhood is incomparable.

Ottawa Community Health and Resource Centres have agreed on four guiding principles to define how community development agents, often called community developers, can inform their work in the community. We must be *Responsive to Community* as well as *Challenge Systemic Inequity, Power Dynamics, and Support Empowerment* of the individuals we work with. We do this through *Partnership and Collaboration*, keeping in mind we aim for *Transformational Practice*.

While SHCHC has been involved in community development since its inception, its department of Community Development and Engagement was initiated in the early 2000s. Through the years it has been involved in multiple projects to improve the health and well-being of residents. Currently, the CDE team is made up of four members. I am Malika Séguin-Gervais and I am the latest addition to this formidable team and I am happy to present the team to you via IMAGE.

Our team lead, Gerald Dragon, has been with SHCHC since 2011. Over the course of 10 years, his role has changed significantly from initially focusing on child/youth programming to ensuring certain services can be accessible to residents and engaging residents in capacity-building activities where they can take the lead and develop initiatives to make their neighbourhood better. These experiences and more have helped prepare him for his current role working alongside colleagues who are equally committed to making sure that SHCHC is responsive to the needs expressed by residents.

Sylvie Roussel is our program assistant and has been a resident in Strathcona Heights since 2004. Sylvie volunteered on



Gerald Dragon



Sylvie Roussel

multiple community development initiatives such as arts and crafts groups and Ottawa's Cleaning the Capital program. She was hired in 2014 by SHCHC as the Good Food Markets site coordinator and became program assistant in 2018. Her strong connections with residents make her instrumental in increasing residents' participation in numerous programs. Her role is to act as a liaison between residents and multiple community programs offered by both SHCHC and other service providers.

Annabelle Gisanza joined the CDE Team in May 2021 as community services coordinator. With over ten years of relevant professional experience, she says she is honoured to be the first to hold this new position, which Strathcona Heights residents have long advocated for. Her role includes establishing relationships with the community, responding to emerging needs, and facilitating service navigation. In addition to coordinating services with our network of partners, she hopes to offer a wide range of services to residents by using various pre-existing communal rooms in the neighbourhood.

Finally, there is me. I joined the team in June 2021. I have professional experience in strategic and action planning, community development project management, advocacy efforts and a passion for social justice. My role is to collaborate with individuals, community associations and city-wide partners on various initiatives



Annabelle Gisanza



Malika Séguin-Gervais

with the objective of making our city more just by effecting initiatives to tackle inequities.

As a team, our work is grounded in community development principles, and the voices of residents, clients and patients are the building blocks of all our work. Do you have a resident-led project you would like to see implemented in your neighbourhood? Concerns about lack of services or barriers to access services? Do you see something unjust or something missing in your neighbourhood? Do not hesitate to contact me at msgervais@sandyhillhc.on.ca to share your views and ideas.

A short list of projects the CDE Team is, or has been, engaged in.

- Lees crosswalk implementation
- Speed bumps throughout Strathcona Heights
- Yard sales
- Community gardening
- Movies in the Park
- Back-to-school backpack
- Christmas Hamper
- I Love to Dance
- Jumpstart Soccer
- Girls Night, Let's talk
- Springhurst Park renewal
- Paint it Up!
- Awesome Arts
- Youth Active Media
- MarketMobile
- Ottawa Public Library Bookmobile
- Transportation advocacy
- Voter engagement



Maman et gros bébé; famille raton-laveur

Photos Robert Dupuis



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Sandy Hill's neighbourhood Early Learning Centre



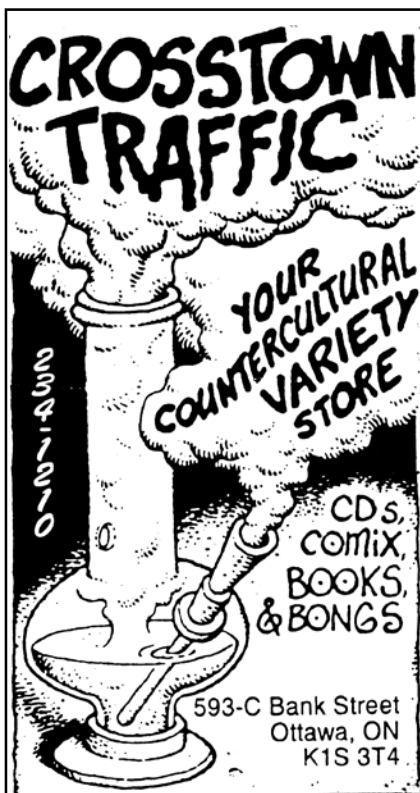
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SASMAD : Briser l'isolement une visite à la fois

Gilles Côté

François bénéficie d'un accompagnement SASMAD depuis quelques mois. Cela se faisait d'abord via ZOOM quand les mesures de confinement ne permettaient pas les visites à domicile, mais se font maintenant chez lui. Un grand sourire aux lèvres, il m'a fait la confiance suivante, « Cela fait tellement de bien de savoir que quelqu'un vient me visiter une heure par semaine et que je peux partager avec lui des choses qui me tiennent à cœur. C'est rare de rencontrer quelqu'un qui a le temps de t'écouter et avec qui on peut parler sans se sentir juger. »

Depuis le début de la pandémie, nous avons tous vécu des moments d'isolement—des semaines sans pouvoir visiter nos enfants, nos petits-enfants, nos amis. Ces moments de solitude forcée n'étaient pas faciles à vivre et nous attendions avec impatience de pouvoir enfin retrouver nos proches en chair et en os plutôt que simplement en deux dimensions sur un écran d'ordinateur ou de cellulaire.

Pour certaines personnes, ce genre de solitude est leur lot quotidien, pas seulement pour de courtes périodes, mais pour des mois, voire des années. De nombreuses personnes qui vivent avec des maladies chroniques et des personnes âgées isolées la connaissent trop bien.

C'est dans le but de briser cet isolement que des membres de la communauté paroissiale du Sacré-Cœur sur la rue Cumberland ont décidé de créer un Service d'accompagnement spirituel pour les personnes malades ou âgées à domicile (SASMAD) dans notre région. Ce service qui existe à Montréal depuis près de 30 ans a pour mission d'offrir un service de visites pour les personnes retenues à



domicile dans le but de prodiguer un accompagnement spirituel et/ou religieux.

SASMAD est un service gratuit de visites individuelles à domicile par une personne bénévole qui est formée à cet effet. Ces visites sont d'une heure par semaine ou selon les besoins de la personne bénéficiaire. Il cible une clientèle qui a besoin qu'on aille vers elle, dû au vieillissement, à la maladie ou à l'isolement.

Depuis le début de cette année, 34 personnes ont répondu à l'appel et ont participé à la formation de base pour devenir bénévoles SASMAD à Ottawa. Ces personnes bénévoles sont prêtes à offrir leur temps et une écoute attentive et active, sans jugement et sans conseil, tout en étant respectueux de la dignité de la personne, de ses croyances et de ses us et coutumes.

Ce service est là particulièrement pour les personnes qui vivent présentement une situation difficile ou un deuil, pour celles qui se questionnent sur le sens de leur vie, sur leurs valeurs fondamentales et/ou religieuses et aussi pour celles qui désirent faire un bilan de leur vie ou qui aimeraient un soutien spirituel ou religieux.

L'objectif d'un accompagnement spirituel selon SASMAD est d'établir un contact humain sécurisant qui permet un climat d'ouverture et de confiance et favorise des échanges en profondeur qui libèrent, rassurent et redonnent sens à la vie.

Communiquer avec SASMAD à Ottawa : sasmad.ottawa@gmail.com ou par téléphone au 343-558-0303.

Magno The Magnificent now in print

Photos Christine Aubry

Christine Aubry

When Gilbert Le Gras showed his son Olivier the photo of himself and their puppy Magno in the April 2020 issue of IMAGE, they joked that they should write a book about their furry friend. In just over a year, with the assistance of the Canadian self-publishing firm FriesenPress, the idea materialized into print under the title "Magno The Magnificent—Musings on Humanity in Times of Crisis."

J'ai fait la connaissance de la vedette du livre devant sa résidence du quartier voisin d'Overbrook. LeGras décrit son chien comme "un gros marshmallow sur pattes - charismatique, super sociable, vraiment bon avec les enfants. Il fait rire tout le monde. Les gens arrêtent même leur voiture pour sortir flatter le chien. Disons que ça change le mal de place."

LeGras says this creative endeavour was a wonderful COVID project for the family. His son, living in Ottawa during his pre-university gap year, dabbles in rap music lyrics. His fiancée, Katharina Schopohl, is an artist and illustrator who also works with animals. Benefitting from LeGras's experience as a published author, including several children's books, they pulled together a 73-page miscellany (that's a fancy word for a collection of various things)—poems, humorous prose, recipes, photos and drawings, all capturing the joy of having a puppy in your life.

Ancien journaliste et maintenant fonctionnaire, LeGras est aussi auteur de nombreux livres. « C'est vraiment par amour qu'on écrit un livre, » me dit-il, « c'est une façon de donner aux autres. » Ce dernier ouvrage suit la thématique des antécédents : l'évolution de la relation parent-enfant, même si l'enfant en question a quatre pattes.



Magno inspired a wonderful COVID project for Gilbert LeGras and his son Olivier.

FriesenPress describes the book as "a whimsical story of a charming, mischievous, and playful English bulldog and his human family (...) that will put a smile on your face at every page." I found it not only amusing, but informative and heartwarming, with insightful life lessons and quotes such as "The Love Pie gets sweeter and bigger the more you add to it!"

Magno and his humans walk the loop along the Rideau River, between Adawe Crossing and the old train bridge, almost daily. If you spot them, don't hesitate to ask for a small therapeutic dose of puppy love.

You can obtain the book at our local independent bookstores: Singing Pebble Books, Perfect Books and Books on Beechwood. For more information about the authors and illustrator: www.gilbertlegras.com



Des artefacts du siècle passé, près du Parc Strathcona

Image : historynerd.ca

Betsy Mann

Si vous voyez un homme se promener le long de la rivière Rideau, longues pinces et sac de plastique en main, en train de ramasser des déchets, vous pourriez croire que c'est simplement un bon citoyen qui se soucie de la propreté de son milieu. Et vous n'auriez pas tort. Toutefois, une photo qui accompagne cet article est la preuve que ce monsieur est un peu archéologue à ses heures. Il trouve non seulement du débris récent mais aussi parfois des vestiges du passé de notre quartier. Résidant de l'immeuble Sandringham, sur la rue Range près de Templeton, il veut rester anonyme, mais dernièrement il a partagé ses découvertes avec IMAGE.

« C'est en nettoyant la pente du côté est de l'édifice où je demeure que j'ai trouvé cette assiette brisée, raconte-t-il. Depuis longtemps, les gens utilisent cet endroit boisé comme dépotoir. J'y ai aussi trouvé de vieilles briques datant du siècle dernier et un morceau qui vient possiblement d'une cafetière en métal. » Est-ce qu'il lui a faut une pelle pour déterrer ces artefacts? Il explique que ses pinces étaient le seul outil nécessaire. « Quand il pleut fort, l'eau emporte des couches du sol argileux, dévoilant progressivement les objets jetés là au fil des ans. » Plusieurs de ces objets témoignent de l'édifice qui occupait le site en haut de la colline avant la construction du Sandringham en 1958. Il s'agit du Strathcona Isolation Hospital, l'hôpital où, depuis sa construction en 1903 jusqu'à sa désaffectation en 1953, les patients de tous âges ont été mis en quarantaine. Ils souffraient de maladies contagieuses, telles la diphtérie, la poliomyélite et la scarlatine.

Paulette Latrémouille Scace, qui a grandi dans la Basse-Ville, se souvient bien de son séjour à cet hôpital, et pas en bien. « Mon frère Gérard est revenu de l'école avec des rougeurs qu'on pensait être la rougeole, dit-elle, mais en réalité c'était la scarlatine. Ma mère et moi avons dû aller à l'hôpital Strathcona pendant que le reste de la famille faisait la quarantaine à la maison. J'avais 9 ou 10 ans à l'époque; j'ai manqué plusieurs semaines de ma quatrième année. Ma mère est restée plus d'un mois. » C'était en 1944 et



Le Strathcona Isolation Hospital se profile contre l'horizon dans ces deux vues du Parc Strathcona. La carte postale colorisée date d'environ 1910. La photo du bas a été prise quelques années plus tard.

la scarlatine était alors une maladie grave qui exigeait la quarantaine et le traitement à l'hôpital.

Paulette ne se souvient pas beaucoup du traitement qu'elle aurait reçu, si traitement il y avait à part le temps et le repos. Le peu de souvenirs qu'elle a de son séjour à l'hôpital Strathcona lui ont laissé un mauvais goût à la bouche... littéralement. Elle se rappelle encore la soupe qu'on

lui a servie : « C'était du lait dilué avec de l'eau avec quelques pois moisis qui flottaient dessus. C'était horrible. » Elle se sentait très seule, ne pouvant recevoir qu'une visite de son père Raymond. À part cette seule visite dans l'hôpital, elle devait se contenter de regarder sa famille par la fenêtre. Son frère Jean Latrémouille se rappelle être allé avec son père voir Paulette et leur mère Irène pendant leur confinement. « On ne nous permettait pas

d'y entrer, dit-il. On pouvait seulement leur faire signe à travers la vitre. C'était triste. » (De quoi nous rappeler des scènes vécues à des établissements modernes 76 ans plus tard durant la pandémie actuelle.)

Pour ajouter à sa solitude, la petite Paulette était tenue à l'écart même de sa mère, qui était également en quarantaine mais soignée au dernier étage d'une autre aile de l'édifice. Paulette raconte son seul bon souvenir de son séjour. Une gentille jeune infirmière l'a amenée à la fenêtre du rez-de-chaussée d'où elle pouvait voir sa mère qui se tenait à une fenêtre en haut de l'aile en face. Paulette avait d'ailleurs une question urgente à poser à sa mère. « Je ne parlais pas anglais et le personnel soignant ne parlait pas français, dit-elle en se rappelant ces moments difficiles. J'ai crié à ma mère : "Comment tu dis j'ai envie en anglais?". Ma mère a répondu avec les mots magiques : "Bed pan!". » Vocabulaire essentiel pour éviter de se faire gronder par certaines infirmières moins gentilles et plus impatientes.

Quelques années après le séjour de Paulette et sa mère, à la fin des années 40 et au début des années 50, le Strathcona Isolation Hospital devient un des six hôpitaux en Ontario désignés pour le traitement des patients souffrant de la polio. En 1953, l'hôpital Civic a ouvert son nouveau pavillon est. Il accueille dans son unité d'isolement les 17 derniers patients du Strathcona, dont l'un dans un poumon d'acier. Vidé maintenant de ses patients et de sa raison d'être, le vieil édifice sur la rue Range ferme définitivement ses portes.

Depuis, les vaccins ont mis fin au besoin de maintenir des hôpitaux d'isolement comme le Strathcona Isolation Hospital. Le Canada a été déclaré exempt de la polio en 1994. Les cas de diphtérie sont maintenant rares au Canada, grâce à la vaccination généralisée des enfants et aux rappels pour les adultes. De nos jours, la scarlatine dont souffraient Paulette et sa mère se soigne facilement à l'aide des antibiotiques et il y a peu de cas au Canada. Du vieux Strathcona Isolation Hospital, il ne reste que des souvenirs d'enfance d'anciens patients, quelques photos et des artefacts qui émergent tranquillement de la côte derrière le Sandringham. Avis aux archéologues en herbe : les prochaines pluies d'automne pourraient dégager d'autres trouvailles, témoins de l'évolution des soins de santé dans notre quartier.



Photo : Jack A.W. Cullen, sur Lost Ottawa Facebook



Cette photo, prise probablement dans les années 40, montre que ça ne date pas d'hier que le passage à gué de la rivière Rideau attire des garçons aventureux!

À gauche — Un artefact provenant de l'ancien hôpital, trouvé récemment sur la pente derrière les appartements Sandringham.

Image : NAPL A4571 Item 29, historynerd.ca



Vue aérienne de l'Hôpital Strathcona en 1933. Les ailes en forme d'U ont permis à la petite patiente Paulette Latrémouille de voir sa mère à la fenêtre de l'aile en face.

Ken's Bygone Sandy Hill

“Fireworks” displays from the Lees Avenue gas making plant

Ken Clavette

For many years my partner and I visited local long-term care homes in the region with our two golden retrievers. Often, we would run into residents that had a Sandy Hill connection, either growing up here or visiting grandparents. It was one of these people that told me about the entertainment kids got while sitting with their grandparents on a porch at the corner of Henderson and Somerset. The subject of their fun was the gas flares coming from the Lees Avenue gas making plant. Between 1920 and 1958 a large industrial gas site on Lees Avenue could be seen from the homes high on Sandy Hill and Confederation Heights. The flares that the children saw as fireworks were harbingers of future environmental destruction.

Up until 1854 oil burnt in Ottawa came from whales. Then an industrialization process allowed gas to be produced from coal. The first plant built by Ottawa Consumer Gas was at the corner of York Street and King Edward Avenue. After Ottawa East was annexed into Ottawa in 1907, the area just south of Sandy Hill along the Rideau River was designated commercial by the City.

The gas plant had a 10-storey high tank



Looking northwest from dumping grounds near east end of Lees Avenue Gas Plant. LAC 5066177



Gas Works, City of Ottawa Archives CA 8494

used to make what was called “Water Gas.” Coal was brought to the site daily on the many railway lines running into Sandy Hill. The gas was produced in a cyclical process with air and steam separating gas from the coal leaving behind coal tar. The gas was then piped through the city to be used mainly in heating. The tar was piped across Lees Avenue where it was used by Hamilton Tar Products (later Currie Products Ltd).

There was also a city-run garbage incineration plant that operated from 1912 until 1930 where the former Algonquin College campus, now uOttawa buildings and sports field,

are located. With railways, the incinerator and the gas plant the view south from Sandy Hill to the river was anything but looking at the beauty of nature.

The times did not place environmental protection very high on the social-political agenda. From 1930 onward into the 1940s, after the garbage incineration ceased operating, there were two large landfill sites along the river where now stand two apartment buildings and the open space being held for the Alta Vista Expressway (sometime in our future).

In 1958 Ottawa switched to “natural gas” and the plant was no longer needed. It was used as a storage yard by the gas company until 1966 when it was sold. The new owners demolished the buildings and covered over the many underground tanks on the site. There they remained until the



Ottawa Journal, June 16, 1965

building of the transitway in 1986 opened them up and the carcinogenic tar started to leak into the river. Today there is an underground collection system associated with the transitway that collects contaminated water.

I always think that the builders of today should really study history or talk with the elders about what the land was used for in their youth. If they did the Folly play structure in Strathcona Park would not have been built in an old canal bed with the resulting flooding, the OTrain builders would have known why this community is called Sandy Hill, and someone could have told them about a gas plant south of Sandy Hill that once entertained local children and probably left behind a toxic industrial site.

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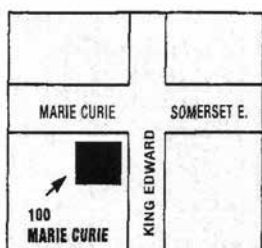
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9/11 and Uptown Rideau Street

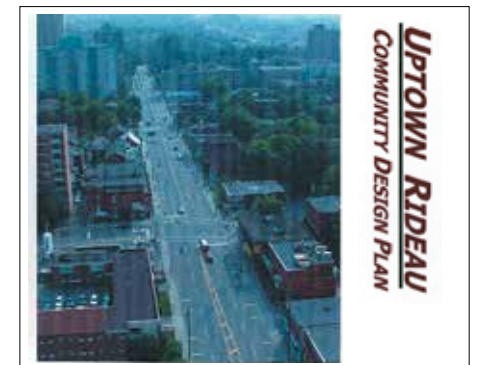
Lena Creedy

The media attention to the events of 9/11 and “where were you” stories took me back to where I was on September 11, 2001—preparing the inaugural meeting of the Rideau Street Redevelopment Working Group (RSRWG)

I had been closely involved with Action Sandy Hill (ASH) and had arranged the meeting to organize community action aimed at revitalizing Rideau Street between King Edward Avenue and Cummings Bridge. Some fifty people had agreed to attend, but late that afternoon there were a host of phone messages questioning its feasibility in view of the tragic news. I consulted with the president of ASH, and the decision was to carry on.

This meeting resulted from recommendations of the *Rideau Street Design Charrette*, held in February 2000. The *Charrette* was a brainstorming session on how to revitalize Rideau Street and return it to a vibrant main street instead of the rather tired strip of rundown stores and vacant lots that it was becoming. The *Charrette* participants discussed the ideas to improve Rideau Street presented by five design teams of architects and planners.

Acting on the ideas from the *Charrette*, ASH formed coalitions with local organizations to establish a group to work toward urban design solutions. So in spite of the unfortunate circumstances of 9/11/01, 28 brave souls attended the inaugural meeting that evening, including stakeholders, designers, developers, planners, architects, ASH representatives and members of the community. The news of the day made us cautious at first, but soon



we were actively engaged with optimism for a new beginning for Rideau Street.

This initiative eventually resulted in the *Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan*, published in 2005, as a firm display of the community spirit, history and value associated with this part of the city. The Plan included a vision statement and design planning principles for Uptown Rideau.

In the years that followed, some aspects were modified due to external pressures and changing circumstances. The original plan for five to six storeys was increased after pressure from developers, and the proposal for light rail was de-emphasized. Nevertheless, many aspects of the plan did get incorporated into the current *Uptown Rideau Street Secondary Plan 2016* (available on the City of Ottawa website).

Although the goals envisioned in the *Charrette* and the vision for Rideau Street have not come through quite as foreseen on the earlier plan, the vision is still alive and coming to fruition. Indeed, the street is under heavy construction as this article is written. We certainly hope that in the midst of all this change the character of the neighbourhood is preserved, as envisioned back in that memorable meeting of September 11, 2001.

Two new exhibitions make you think about books, photos, music

Maureen Korp

Remember that book you read once, the book that opened your eyes even wider? Was there a photograph somewhere that made it all clearer? Is there music on the shelf that gives you the beat of your heart and feet?

Two new exhibitions in town raise these questions, and more: Library of Infinities at SAW gallery on Nicholas, an installation by Shaya Ishaq; and *Souriez, on vous regarde* (Smile, we're looking at you), the work of Gail Bourgeois and Pira Pirani at Voix Visuelle on Beechwood.

Walk into the big gallery at SAW. You enter the **Library of Infinities**. Here you will find a crowd-sourced assemblage of Black books and Black music from everywhere. One room is for reading, the other for music. In the reading room, large, freestanding sculptures of red, yellow, blue provide comfy places for bookworms and books to hide away. Angles, triangles, and rectangles are the stuff of which these structures are built, not unlike (come to think of it) the shape of a book being opened or a record removed from its cover. That large, curved, green structure? Of course. A veritable leap of the imagination! A dance of delight! It too provides a place for the reader to sit and be sheltered within.

The music room has a sound system, a turntable, and vinyl LPs aplenty — everything from Earth, Wind and Fire to Miles Davis, Miriam Makeba, Sun Ra, and much more. Cushioned modular seating enables a good many people to sit comfortably. From time to time, it is also a room for performances.

On the walls of both rooms are large, Africa-inspired design motifs constructed of circles, rectangles, hard angles. Each is different from the other, yet all are built of the same interrelated shapes, colours, thematic, iconic proportions. They are the library's source and *raison d'être*. Just as no one reads the same book as another, or hears music the same way twice, Shaya Ishaq's work opens many possibilities to all. So too, the peoples of Canada's Black diaspora are a multiplicity of voices, story, origin.



Photo Justin Wonnacott

Shaya Ishaq / *Library of Infinities* / Installation view

In 2017, Shaya Ishaq, then an artist-in-residence at the Khyber Centre for the Arts in Halifax, pulled together a crowd-sourced collection of Black music and literature, a collection she entitled "Black Libraries Matter." She has brought much of this material back to Ottawa, where she grew up. The collection grows daily. Anyone may contribute. All may sit, read, and listen.

Not far away in Lindenlea, is le Centre d'artistes Voix Visuelle, a small second floor gallery on Beechwood, next door to Clothes Encounters of a Second Time, east of the big Metro store. Walk up the stairs. There you will see a thoughtful, black-and-white exhibition of small pho-



Photos: Shahla Bahrami, Director, Voix Visuelle



Gail Bourgeois and Pira Pirani, *Souriez, on vous regarde* / Installation views

tomontage studies by Gail Bourgeois and Pira Pirani, *Souriez, on vous regarde*. The subject matter is set by four editorials displayed with their work. Three are by François Brousseau, one by Christian Rioux. All were written in the last year for *Le Monde* or *Le Devoir*. The subject is the same: Covid-19 and what is being done about it. The headlines speak of "democracies in peril," and the "new cold war."

The artists' photomontages delve further into this new cold war by reminding us how little was known at the time about the last Cold War. The photograph of Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin at the Yalta conference may be well-known today, but who knew then that those three men had just divided up Europe? Above this image, the artists give us a series of images of hands, each a signalling system. For what? Below the photograph is a line of Morse code. And, behind the three seated men? Missiles are pointed.

Another photomontage displays a letter from Japanese women to the women of the world. Beside it? The original Blonde Bombshell, Jean Harlow (1911-1937), clad in her bikini. Bikini? Oh yes. The Bikini Atoll, a coral ridge of the Marshall Islands, that nuclear test site from 1946 to 1958. Too far away? The Rideau Canal photomontage of Winterlude skaters is paired with the cautionary warning: "This has been a test of the Emergency Broadcast System." What is that all about?

In both exhibitions, the artists open doors to matters that still matter much to everyone today.

Shaya Ishaq: *Library of the Infinities*. SAW Gallery, 67 Nicholas Street, saw-centre.com/

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Free. Continuing to October 30.

Gail Bourgeois and Pira Pirani: *Souriez, on vous regarde* (Smile, we're looking at you). Le Centre d'artistes Voix Visuelle, 67 Beechwood Avenue. Upstairs, voixvisuelle.ca/

Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Continuing to October 12.



Peter Evanchuck and Hélène Lacelle on location in the Maritimes.

Crazy Daisy May on location

Peter Evanchuck

The life you lived may not be the life others think you lived; languid thoughts on an idyllic maritime forest as I get ready to shoot a scene with partner and star Hélène Lacelle for *Crazy Daisy May* the latest addition to our very successful shorts. Reality and imagined reality always confuse each other, is the theme of this unique movie

Digital shorts seem a perfect venue for the low- or no-budget filmmaker. Hélène and I are the team of two, making two shorts a year. Their ongoing success at international festivals has prompted us to continue making these creative little addi-

tions to our lifetime of art.

Being naturally curious helps all to enjoy life more and more. After all, the dilemmas and hardships life can sometimes force upon us can be alleviated with the joys of creating something; giving life to something that never existed before borders on the miraculous.

Creative media has pulled me along on my journey. Our movies winning numerous awards, and invites around the world by appreciative viewers do make life sweeter.

During the past four years, we have made a series of eight movies dealing with mental illness, individuality, existential ideas of how life should be lived—free and creative.

See movieshandmade.com



Marquee marks an important moment (Bytowne theatre founder's retirement)

In late July, a group of Sandy Hill and neighbouring residents thanked Bruce White and Karen McDonald, the owners of the Bytowne, for all the pleasure they have given our community and our city over so many years.

— Jacqueline Hucker

Tournage au parc Strathcona, mai 2021

Photos Pierre Cantin



Sandy Hillers work to create a Knotweed free zone in the park

Photos John Cockburn

John Cockburn and Brian Dewalt

Throughout the summer a dedicated band of Sandy Hillers has been working hard to rehabilitate the natural habitat along the banks of the Rideau. In addition to weeding the poorly maintained gardens at the foot of the Adawe Crossing bridge, a principle focus of their efforts has been to contain the spread of the invasive plant, Japanese Knotweed, along the Rideau River path between Strathcona Park and the entry to Robinson Village. Knotweed, imported as an ornamental shrub in the 1800s, outcompetes native flora and eventually crowds out all other plants. The group, numbering about 20 people, is working under the auspices of the Tree and Greening Group of Action Sandy Hill. The Japanese Knotweed project was initiated by Bryan Dewalt, with valuable input from Marilyn Whitaker and other members of the Tree and Greening Group.

The high point of the effort took place during the sweltering August 26-27 weekend, when volunteers returned to areas from which they had earlier dug out or cut back Knotweed plants; and covered these patches with geotextile cloth and about 100 millimetres (four inches) of mulch.



Gabrielle Dewalt, Jane McNamara, Michel Gauthier, Joelle Sanderson, Bryan Dewalt, Marilyn Whitaker, present but missing from photo are Rhéal Gauthier, Susan Young, Sabrina Mathews, John Cockburn.

The aim is to smother the remaining rootstock in these areas and prevent it from re-growing. This will create a Knotweed-free zone in sensitive areas near the riverbank and public pathway, and provide a buffer against large Japanese Knotweed

infestations still growing on steep upper slopes, farther from the river.

Volunteers will follow up by removing any Knotweed plants that sprout around the edges of these control zones, and by planting a variety of robust native plants

nearby to increase local biodiversity. Next year the City has undertaken to replant the area with native trees and shrubs.

It has been a noble effort by the group, given both the time and physical effort from the volunteers, as well as the time involved for the leaders to deal with the organizational complexities of obtaining a grant from the City for the purchase of geotextile landscape fabric, mulch and other supplies. In addition to the City's support, the group was grateful to receive discounts on fabric and mulch from suppliers, Ritchie Feed and Seed, and Greely Sand and Gravel.

Work continues throughout the fall. Interested volunteers can make contact through the Tree and Greening Group listing on the ASH website



Controlling European gypsy moths on our trees

Photos Marilyn Whitaker

Marilyn Whitaker

In June people were noticing that the leaves of some trees appeared lacy, and some trees lost all of their leaves. While healthy deciduous trees can produce more leaves in the summer and survive, annual attacks can cause the trees to lose vigor, become vulnerable to other pests and diseases, and die. The culprits were European gypsy moths *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD moth).

First seen in Ontario in 1969, they have spread to many parts of southern Ontario and are appearing in parts of Ottawa. While LDD caterpillars prefer oak leaves, they will eat the leaves of other deciduous trees such as maples, aspens, fruit trees, as well as coniferous trees, and many other plants.

These insects are now established in Toronto which has led to the City of Toronto setting up a LDD Moth Treatment Program and posting some information and videos for people wanting to help control LDD moths and protect trees (see www.toronto.ca/threats-to-trees-insects/european-gypsy-moth). Recently, the City of Ottawa posted information about what it is doing and what residents can do about gypsy moths (Google, Ottawa.ca – gypsy moths).

Knowing the LDD's life cycle is impor-



Tree with egg masses which need to be removed before the caterpillars hatch in the spring. Scraping into soapy water is a good option.

tant for combating them. For example, by July/August, the caterpillars have completed their feeding, entered the pupae stage and are emerging as adult moths. This summer, some people were able to set up pheromone traps near affected trees in order to attract male moths and interfere with mating. Now until spring,

removing egg masses is important. Egg masses are fuzzy, tan to beige flattened blobs about 2 to 2.5 cm wide (3/4 inch) and can be on tree trunks, branches, and leaves, plus lawn furniture, building crevices and walls. They should be gently scraped or brushed away into a solution of soapy water, then covered for 48 hours to



Oak leaves with egg masses. These should be raked and bagged for municipal yard waste pick-up and disposal.

kill them before disposal (see above websites for details and other suggestions). Check trees after their leaves have fallen. When asked about egg masses on deciduous leaves, Ottawa forestry officials said to rake and bag the leaves for pick up and removal to the municipal waste depot where they can be safely destroyed. Do not add them to your compost or mulch these leaves around your property.

2021 marked the start of dealing with a new invasive species to Ottawa which could devastate trees if left unchecked. There are some natural predators such as some birds as well as some bacteria and viruses which are natural controls which could help reduce the LDD population and destruction. Nevertheless, people will need to be vigilant and start taking measures to keep LDD moths in check and protect our trees.



BULLETIN BOARD

Sandy Hill Community Rink

Operators Wanted for the 2021-2022 season! Do you spend lots of time at the outdoor rink? Are you passionate about smooth ice? The Sandy Hill community rink in Annie Poogootook Park needs a Rink Coordinator and staff for the upcoming season. Once contracted, the coordinator's duties include finding and managing a team, building the ice, maintaining the ice during the season, balancing the budget, managing supervision during rink hours, and coordinating events with the city or third parties. If interested in applying, please write to info@ash-acsc.ca by **October 27**.

Catch-up immunization clinics

Ottawa Public Health has expanded its routine and catch-up immunization services at four community clinics including the Minto Sports Complex at 801 King

Edward Avenue (at Mann). In addition to COVID-19 vaccines for people born in 2009, there are, by appointment, publicly funded immunizations for eligible children and youth aged 0-17 years old and catch-up school-based immunizations for students in grades 7 to 12 who did not receive vaccines at school during the past school year. For more information visit the Ottawa Public Health website.

Looking for Bill and Dave?

Since 2018, when you needed a computer repair place, one of the options was Bill and Dave Computer Repair. They operated from a rundown store front on Rideau near Augusta. They are gone, but not out of business. During June, they packed up and moved to 2310 St. Laurent Blvd E near Conroy. The location is not as local but parking is great. Service still includes the same high quality thoughtfulness.

Meals on Wheels

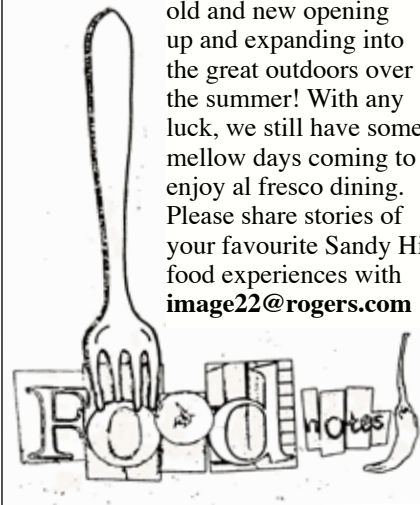
If you or someone you know would benefit from the Meals on Wheels service please call (613) 233-2424. If you would like to donate to help our clients, please visit our website at www.mealsonwheels-ottawa.org

Ottawa Newcomers Club

Our club is a non-profit, social organization for women who have recently moved to this area; (and those who have experienced a significant life change), and would like to meet new people of similar interests by joining our many group activities. More information about us and what we do can be found on our website at: ottawanewcomersclub.ca or by contacting newcomersclubottawa@gmail.com. — Gloria Lauris

Photo Dodi Newman

What a pleasure it's been to watch neighbourhood eateries old and new opening up and expanding into the great outdoors over the summer! With any luck, we still have some mellow days coming to enjoy al fresco dining. Please share stories of your favourite Sandy Hill food experiences with image22@rogers.com



The Bridge Public House, 1 Donald St. The restaurant at the Rideau Sports Centre has a lovely L-shaped patio, with court-side seats as an added bonus for those who love to watch tennis. Service is friendly and helpful, and the menu is varied and interesting with lots of choices for vegetarians as well as omnivores. The vegan burger with sweet potato fries was a hit, and we've heard good things about the fish tacos and the daily soups.

ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. The re-opening of our neighbourhood cinema in September was a joyful occasion, and for many of us the ByTowne's superlative popcorn is part of the thrill. It's back! You'll now pay extra for butter (and extra extra if you want it "layered"), but given the restricted number of seats they're allowed to fill, we can all be glad to have such a tasty way to support this local business. Furthermore, the ByTowne now has a liquor licence, so you can enjoy a glass of wine or a local beer (in cans or on tap) with your snack. They also carry the locally-made City Seltzer line of sparkling waters.

Cadena Spanish Restaurant and Tapas Bar, 323 Somerset St. East. The pandemic brought us a few new ways to look at our streets and neighbourhoods, and the pleasant outdoor ambience at Cadena, with customers dining and chatting where once there were only parked cars, is a good example. Cadena has a very rich menu; they offer a great assortment of brunch-style egg dishes; you can always find a snack of sweet or savoury empanadas; and when you're ready for lunch or supper there's lots of choice, from sandwiches to hot main dishes. You can't go wrong with the Spanish shrimp or the tortilla espanola. Over the summer we shared a Cadena paella (which must be ordered ahead of time) in a friend's backyard. It was a mountain of rice full of delicious treasures: chicken, seafood and spicy sausage. There were abundant leftovers!

Chef Ric's, 384 Rideau St. The doors have opened once more at the former premises of the Rideau Bakery. The food services training program associated with The Ottawa Mission is serving breakfast and lunch to go from Monday through Friday. There is a different special for each meal every day. Prices are extremely reasonable at \$4.99 for breakfast and \$6.99 for lunch. The food is simple, but tasty and filling. Our serving of mac and cheese was huge and came with a side of crisp green salad and a slice of garlic bread. With a couple of Chef Ric's excellent oatmeal cookies, it made an ample and comforting lunch for two. Along with the specials, the restaurant offers a selection of sandwiches, soup, and muffins. Mains, such as shepherd's pie, meat loaf, and vegetarian lasagna, are also available in frozen portions to take home.

No Forks Given, 191 Somerset St. East The new burger place at the corner of Somerset and King Edward has settled in over the summer. They now have a proper sign and a pleasant sidewalk patio that's patronized by students and neighbourhood families alike. Drop in to find some very fine burgers and especially good house-made onion rings with a crisp ex-

terior wrapped around plump, sweet onions. There are also some playful items on the menu, such as the recently added Korean corn dog. For the protein-seeking vegetarian, there is mac and cheese, as well as a vegan "chicken" burger.

O-Frango, 151 Laurier Ave. East The food truck that once belonged to the late, lamented Nacho Cartel has been home to another crew of friendly young chefs for a couple of years now. Passing by the little patio in St. Joseph's parking lot one mild evening and seeing it full of people who were unmistakably enjoying, or looking forward to, their food made me realize I had better check it out. Frango means "chicken" in Portuguese, and there is really only one thing on this menu: bite-sized chunks of boneless fried chicken nestled on a bed of fries and slathered in a choice of sauces. This concoction, which comes in small, medium or large-sized boxes or as a wrap, is absolutely delicious. Portions are generous, and "medium" was enough to leave me feeling full for the rest of the day with leftovers that were devoured by the vegetarian at my house, who showed no sign whatever of guilt at straying from his usual diet.

Purely Dates, 103 Mann Ave. There is a very limited inventory at this shop and it's a bit challenging to find it open, but it's well worth a visit for the plump, tender Algerian dates which are available pitted or on their stems. Boxes of dates stuffed with nuts or covered in chocolate make a fine gift or a special treat. The shop also sells date syrup and date sugar, along with a few other Algerian groceries such as wonderfully aromatic olive oil. The hours at Purely Dates are short and unpredictable, so it's best to call ahead at 613-252-8380.

Safi Fine Foods, 296 Somerset St. East It's a joy to see Safi open again after so many months of anticipation. The shop looks great with an elegant seating area at the front window and a small patio that gives a big boost of life to this block of Somerset when folks are seated outside with their coffee and food. Inside, you'll find most of your grocery requirements as well as a tempting menu of quick snacks and meals. The much-loved samosas are back, and if you step in as a fresh batch of basmati rice is nearing readiness the aroma will compel you to order a bowl. The teriyaki tofu bowl is terrific with a fine mixture of textures from the nutty black beans and corn kernels, the crisp shredded vegetables and corn chips, and the tofu, sautéed to order in its sauce, nestled on a bed of that delicious rice.

Soup Fairy Malatang, 425 Cumberland St. The latest addition to our neighbourhood's ever-expanding portfolio of Asian eateries, this build-your-own soup emporium next to Tim Horton's surely deserves a prize for eye-catching names. Diners choose one of 6 broths, from lemongrass Tom Yum to House Spicy Beef, and then pick from a dizzying array of sauces, meats, seafood, vegetables, noodles and soy foods to assemble a customized bowl. At the moment the restaurant is open for pick-up only, but this should be a very fun destination when it's possible to dine in and survey all the tempting morsels on offer. For now, we can enjoy cruising the online menu.

Working Title, 330 Laurier Ave. East We are so lucky to have the great Working Title bakery in the heart of our neighbourhood, and such a lovely patio on which to enjoy a croissant and a coffee! As we move into fall, Working Title is adjusting its plans and its menu. For the moment dinner and Sunday brunch are on hold, but treats and lunch can be had from 8:00 to 6:00 on the patio, in the cafe or to take out. There is also a growing selection of refrigerated and frozen food to bring home, including jars of soup and portions of chicken with various sauces; salmon en croute; short ribs and meatballs pomodoro.



Eggs poached in a curried almond sauce

Dodi and Lexa Newman

Serves three or four for dinner, six for lunch

For one of our virtual cooking get-togethers recently, my older daughter suggested we cook something vegetarian, along the lines of a Sicilian dish called Eggs in Purgatory (isn't that a great name!) but using curry and almonds as a base rather than tomatoes. This dish is the result, it is very loosely based on two recipes: Egg Mappas – hard-boiled eggs in a curry sauce, published in "Coconut Lagoon" by Joe Thottungal; and Chicken in Almond Sauce, published in *Gourmet* magazine, March 2004. I'll leave the exact timing to you – everyone's stove is different, and you may not want your egg yolks runny. Check progress often and trust your judgement.

1 cup (250 ml) almond flour
2 three-inch (75 mm) cinnamon sticks
2 teaspoons (10 ml) fennel seeds
½ teaspoon (3 ml) cumin, ground
2 medium bay leaves

2 tablespoons (30 ml) coconut oil
2 cups (500 ml) finely chopped onion
1 tablespoon (15 ml) grated or finely chopped garlic
2 tablespoons (30 ml) grated or finely chopped ginger

2 cups (500 ml) coconut milk
1 tablespoon (15 ml) tomato paste
1½ teaspoon (8 ml) turmeric
1 teaspoon (5 ml) freshly ground black pepper

¼ teaspoon (1 ml) cayenne pepper, or more to taste (optional)
½ teaspoon (3 ml) cardamom (optional)
¾ teaspoon (4 ml) salt

6 large eggs

Heat a dry, heavy bottomed 10 inch (25 cm) skillet over medium heat and in it toast the almond flour, cinnamon sticks, fennel seeds, cumin, and bay leaves, stirring constantly, until the almonds are pale golden, about five to seven minutes. Transfer to a bowl and reserve.

In the same pan, over medium heat, heat the coconut oil, add onion, garlic and ginger. Cook, stirring often, until the onions are soft and golden, about five to eight minutes.

Reduce heat to medium low. Stir in ground almond mixture, coconut milk, tomato paste, turmeric, black pepper, cayenne pepper and/or cardamom if using, and salt. Turn the heat to low and simmer, covered, for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir now and then to prevent the sauce from burning.

Up to this point the sauce can be prepared up to two days ahead, refrigerated, and reheated 15 minutes before proceeding with the recipe. This will allow the various flavours to marry and the dish to become greater than the sum of its parts.

Discard cinnamon sticks and bay leaves. With the back of a spoon, make six divots in the sauce, then crack an egg into each divot. Cover the pan and let cook until the eggs are set to taste, about four or five minutes for runny yolks. Covering the pan is important if the eggs are to cook properly.

Spoon the eggs and sauce over Basmati rice and serve. Enjoy!

Photos HS Studios



Councillor Mathieu Fleury and uOttawa's student federation offered a BBQ behind the community centre on September 14, in concert with the annual walkabout distributing information packs for students moving into the neighbourhood. Town and Gown efforts are part of the effort to avoid scenes like the Panda Game after-party on October 2.

Photo Jan Meldrum



Sandy Hill's dedicated MOW volunteers Brian and Carol Waters

Forty years with Meals on Wheels

Sandy Hill residents Carol and Brian Waters have, between them, worked with Meals on Wheels (MOW) Ottawa for 40 years, both as volunteers on the delivery of meals and members of the organization's Board of Directors. For many years Carol was also a major fundraiser. In addition, their daughter Olivia helped on deliveries starting as a child which gave great pleasure to clients including one who always had a can of Coke waiting for her upon arrival.

The need for this service is emphasized by the fact that around 10,000 meals are delivered each month in the city by MOW including over 800 meals to 40 clients in Sandy Hill. The importance of the service goes beyond its basic nutritional benefits and is encapsulated in the motto of MOW which is "More Than A Meal." Many of its clients are isolated and homebound. We realize as volunteers delivering a meal at lunchtime that we are often the only person that those clients will see that day. In addition to the social interaction, if required, we are able to notify MOW about any potential problems that might be apparent during delivery which can

then contact other social service providers as necessary.

Christmas Day is a special occasion each year for MOW. A group of volunteers gathers at a restaurant in Ottawa early in the morning to prepare a turkey meal with all the trimmings which is then delivered to over 100 clients. As well, packages of gifts and goodies are prepared and delivered with the meal. All of this is provided free of charge. The joy apparent on all of the recipients' faces is wonderful to see knowing that, for some of them on this very special day, we may be the only persons with whom they have contact.

COVID-19 has put added pressure on MOW. Not only has the demand for meals increased considerably but also the organization has had to adjust to the many public health protocols. From the start of the pandemic we were involved in the daily symptomatic screening of clients prior to meal delivery. Apart from its obvious health necessity this gave one the added pleasure of an early morning chat with clients about their overall well-being.

—Brian Waters

Photos Jane Waterston

For he's a jolly good fellow

Thank you, Chad!

Chad Rollins, President of Action Sandy Hill from 2014 to 2018, has sold his Cobourg St. home and moved to Carleton Place, where he has an easier commute and happier dogs.

Some of his friends from the "good old days" of outrageous bunkhouse startups, Uptown Rideau Community Development Plan debates, Town and Gown consultations, heritage overlays (and more) gathered in Eiko Emori's garden on September 11 to reminisce and celebrate Chad's many successes in Sandy Hill.



François Bregha and Chad Rollins



ASH Secretary Cathy Major, Richard Macie and Marilyn Whitaker; Sally Southey



Yves LeBouthillier and Eiko Emori; Judy Rinfret, Susan Young and Nicole Girard



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