

# Another roadside attraction, towering over Sandy Hill

Ralph Blaine

In order to understand where the action of this story takes place, you might imagine taking a walk in Sandy Hill about five years ago. You head south on King Edward Avenue and cross Mann Avenue onto Lees Avenue. Then, you climb up Lees Avenue as it veers to the left. If you had glanced to your left at this point, you might have glimpsed a nondescript industrial-style building all alone on the large parcel of land between Lees and the Sandy Hill Arena. Demolished in 2020, this former City of Ottawa utility building was the second installation to occupy this plot of land in recent history; it served as the Iranian Cultural Centre until 2012. Did you ever visit? Me neither. Well, it was easy to miss. But what's coming next will be an attraction of an entirely different order.

Over the next two to three years, a development at 2 Robinson Ave. will fill this empty space and dramatically change the skyline of southern Sandy Hill. According to the architectural drawings, there will be three residential towers set along the curve of Lees Avenue at the southern end of this development. Tower A will count 28 storeys (89 metres), while Towers B and C will count 32 storeys each (103 metres). In addition to their residential units, these three towers will have 2,529 square metres of ground-level



Les travaux sont entamés sur l'ancien site du Centre Culturel Iranien au 2 avenue Robinson. Les documents trouvés sur le site web de la Ville montrent le plan pour quatre immeubles d'entre 28 et 32 étages, avec un total de 1 539 appartements, et de l'espace commercial au rez-de-chaussée. Un espace communautaire est prévu et Action Côte-de-Sable fera partie des discussions concernant le meilleur usage pour notre communauté.

Drawing: GeigerHuot Architects

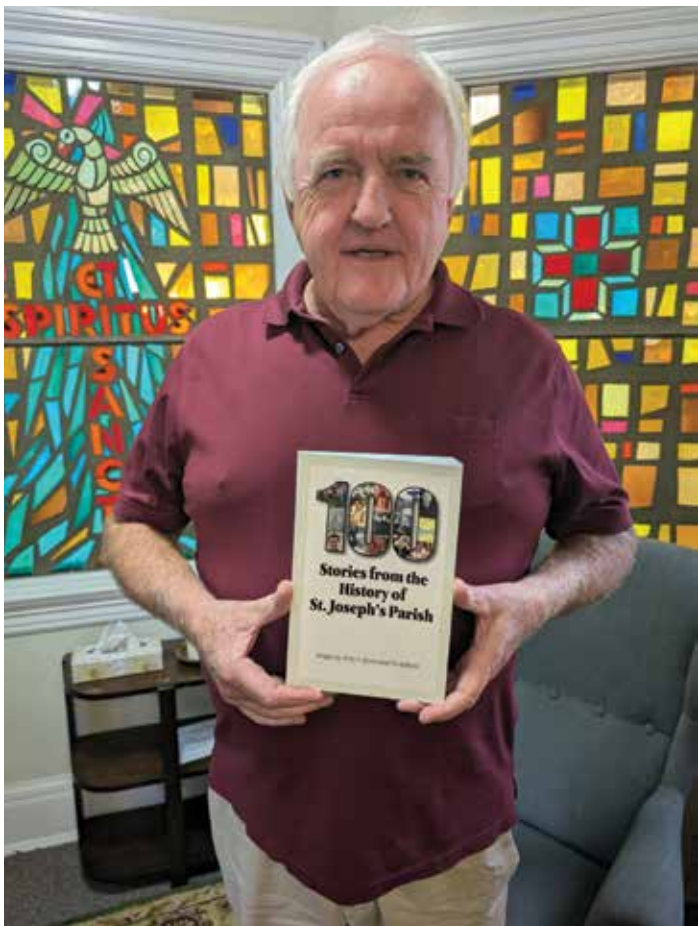
commercial space. Residential Tower D, counting 28 storeys, will be located at the northern end of the project and have no commercial space. There will also be five mixed-use six-storey podiums attached to the four towers. Lees Avenue will be reconfigured to allow automobile access

to the site between Towers A and B.

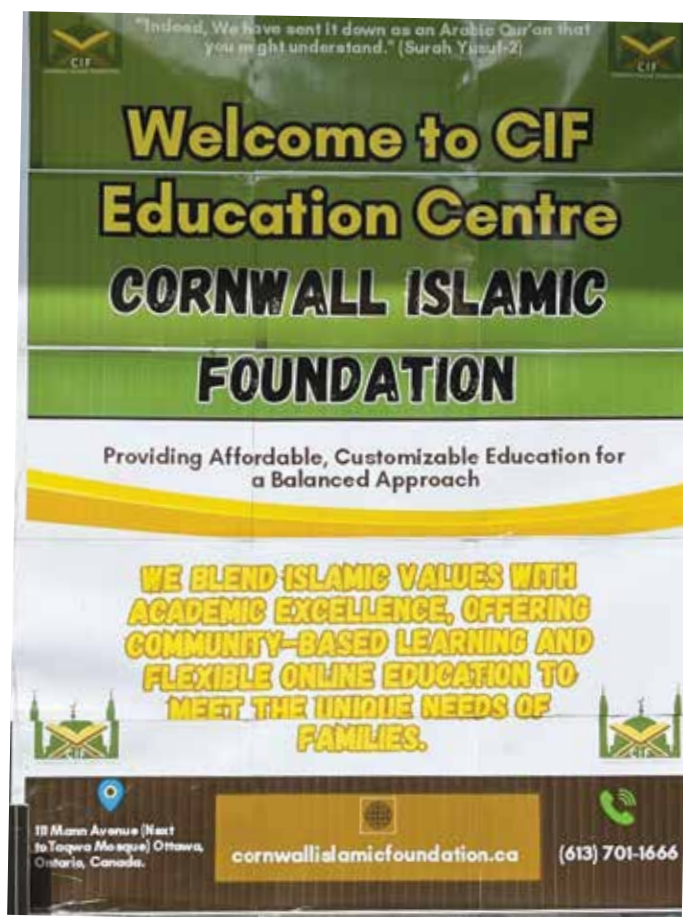
These four towers and their associated podiums will offer 1,539 residential units ranging from studios (120 units) to three-bedroom apartments (295 units).

Robinson Ave. development, see page 6

## New from Sandy Hill faith-based communities



En 2007, pour souligner le 150e anniversaire (en 2006) de l'église St-Joseph au coin des rues Laurier Est et Cumberland, Terry Byrne a publié un premier livre sur l'histoire de la paroisse. Inspiré par le défunt voisin et historien François Bregha, il a ensuite voulu développer le côté humain en présentant des histoires personnelles. Son livre *100 Stories from the History of St. Joseph's Parish* est disponible sur Amazon. See story, page 8. Photo: Christopher Adam



There are new signs in the windows of the Mann Avenue plaza, announcing the new Ottawa location of the Cornwall Islamic Foundation, a private Islamic school. [www.cornwallislamicfoundation.ca](http://www.cornwallislamicfoundation.ca)

Photo: Christine Aubry



### HAPPENING SOON

#### Sandy Hill History & Housing Walking Tour – Sun., Oct. 5, 2 p.m.

Walk with Heritage Ottawa to explore our neighbourhood's transformations, from its origins as the 19th-century estate of Louis-Théodore Besserer, to its heyday as a home for lumber barons, senior public servants and prime ministers, on to its postwar shift toward denser, more middle-class housing. Along the way, the architectural styles that define our area and the shifting demographics, values, and pressures that continue to shape Sandy Hill's urban fabric will be highlighted.

Tour departs from Église Sacré-Coeur, 591 Cumberland Street, corner of Laurier Avenue East. \$25 per person. For tickets and more information: <https://shop.heritageottawa.org/en/2025-walking-tour-season>

#### Tour of Heat Pumps in Overbrook – Sun., Oct. 5 - 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Meet residents in our neighbouring community of Overbrook to learn about their heat pumps and get your questions answered. Ottawa Community Housing will also showcase townhomes that completed a net-zero retrofit project including installation of heat pumps. A free learning event!

Overbrook Community Centre at 33 Quill Street. Details at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-heat-pumps-in-overbrook-tickets-1602961634399>

#### NS at 40 - Infinity Conference Centre - Oct. 6–8

Nunavut Sivuniksavut, the post-secondary institution for Inuit students located in Sandy Hill at 450 Rideau, is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a celebration and conference to explore innovative approaches to Inuit and Indigenous education through thought-provoking workshops and discussions. The event will bring together Inuit and Indigenous post-secondary students, educational leaders, political organizations, government representatives, funding agencies, industry partners, and foundations. The conference will close with an amazing gala reception the evening of October 8.

Details at: [www.nunavutsivuniksavut.ca/ns40](http://www.nunavutsivuniksavut.ca/ns40)

#### Survey on Rental Renovation Licence By-law Review - until October 3

A survey has been posted on the City's Engage Ottawa website to gather feedback on residents' experiences with evictions for renovation and repair in Ottawa and on potential regulations and measures under consideration for this review. This survey takes up to 15 minutes to complete. Find it at [www.engage.ottawa.ca](http://www.engage.ottawa.ca) under By-law reviews. There are also many other opportunities to share your views on city-wide issues on this website.







# Test your memory and IMAG(E)ination

This issue's challenge

Photos: Christine Aubry



First lions, now a dog! Do you know where this canine statue is perched in Sandy Hill?

Send your guess to: [editor@imagesandyhill.org](mailto:editor@imagesandyhill.org)



LETTRE À LA  
RÉDACTION



## Je reconnais bien ces deux félins de pierre

Sur la photo publiée dans IMAGE, été 2025, je reconnais bien ces deux félins de pierre: ils trônent devant le 459 rue Besserer. Ils me saluaient à chacun de mes départs et retours rue Besserer, prêts à m'inviter pour jouer au ballon. L'an dernier, je demeurais dans un des appartements de la grande maison à côté, au 461. Quelle que soit la fonction de ces lions : accueillir, dissuader, monter la garde, décorer (selon le goût du propriétaire), ces fauves sont des repères. J'ai souvent indiqué à mes amis et aux chauffeurs de taxi que mon appart se trouvait avant ou après les lions, selon une arrivée par l'est ou par l'ouest.

À côté, au 461, un vitrail d'origine a été conservé sur une fenêtre qui baigne de lumière la montée des escaliers. J'adorais ouvrir ma porte de palier pour voir et entendre rugir les couleurs du verre caressé par le soleil.

Au-delà des architectures des maisons, ce sont probablement aussi ces « p'tits » détails d'humains qui les distinguent. Le bleu choisi pour celle au coin, le jardin opulent d'un voisin, la maison aux 1000

vélos, les chants des carillons à vent plus loin, le Noël permanent accroché à une autre, celle au sofa défoncé sur le perron.

Toutes ces caractéristiques amusent, intriguent, émerveillent, irritent, horrifient parfois. Mais à choisir, hop! je préfère vivre, habiter et déambuler dans un quartier mûr et multisensoriel plutôt qu'une zone de ville avec le centre commercial comme repère, une zone plane, pareille, hip!, lisse... sans un chat durant le jour et encore moins de lions.

Déménagée il y a quelques mois dans un autre « vieux » coin de la ville d'Ottawa, de l'autre côté du canal, je ne réside plus dans la Côte-de-Sable. Toutefois j'y passe beaucoup de temps; je travaille dans une école du quartier. Avec mes jeunes élèves nous faisons régulièrement des promenades dans les rues avoisinantes, en toutes saisons.

Au plaisir de se croiser!

**Martine Périat**  
Ancienne de la Côte-de-Sable




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Mark your calendars: many fun ways to connect with your neighbours in the coming months!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Sandy Hill Neighbourhood Yard Sale on August 30! It was wonderful to meet so many neighbours, especially those who have recently moved into the neighbourhood. Special thanks to Christine Aubry and Cathy Major for organizing the event.

Have you seen the Sandy Hill Green Team at work? Every other Thursday over the summer, teams have been doing clean-up, weeding, and watering in the de-paving gardens on Somerset and removing buckthorn and other invasive plants along the Rideau River. Green Team members are wearing green t-shirts with a Green Team logo. Funds from the native plant sale at the ASH Annual Meeting last May helped with the purchase of a Canadian-made Pullerbear used to extract the invasive buckthorn trees. With lots more to plant, Saturday sessions are planned. If you see the Green Team around, say hi and get involved if you love working with plants! (See details at right.)

Coming up, mark your calendars: the One & Only Arts & Crafts Fair along with the Good Books Sale are happening **November 15** and the Sandy Hill Winter Carnival will be back again on **January 25**, both at our community centre. Put on by dedicated volunteers, these very popular annual events are a fun way to kick off the holiday and snowy seasons.

Many IMAGE readers may remember the cold December day back in 2015 when the ribbon cutting for the Adawe Crossing over the Rideau River turned into a spontaneous cookie exchange! For the 10th anniversary on **December 4**, ASH and the Overbrook Community Association are encouraging residents to meet up again to celebrate the connection between our two communities. Please bring treats to share if you wish! Look for more details from ASH soon, in the members' monthly newsletter and on our website: [www.ash-ac.s.ca](http://www.ash-ac.s.ca).

We've also started something new: ASH Community Conversations. This is a (hopefully!) easy way to connect with neighbours online. These happen **every second Monday** of the month, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Zoom. Sometimes we'll have a theme or a special guest and we'd love your input on issues that affect our neighbourhood. ASH members should already have access to a link, but we send out reminders monthly.

Meetings of the ASH Board of Directors are the last Monday of the month (except December and July) at the Sandy Hill Community Centre and virtually on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend, ASH member or not. The ASH Board currently has two open seats. They are not required to be filled but we always love to have more volunteers!

Wondering if you are a member of Action Sandy Hill? Or wondering if you'll ever get your renewal notice? ASH paused memberships over the summer due to changes with our payment processor. We are aiming to have a new set-up soon, one that accepts credit card payments! Look for instructions on the ASH website soon as well as an email in your inbox if you have ever been a member. Having a strong community association with representative membership helps us as residents advocate for our community. Thanks to all the ASH volunteers and members who are pitching in to make Sandy Hill a wonderful place to live!

Betsy Schuurman (Chair, Action Sandy Hill)

Here comes the fall planting season!

Come out for an ASH Green Team Thursday or Saturday work session.



Photo: Jane McNamara



Help bring biodiversity back to Sandy Hill – plant a tree with us! The ASH Green Team has been busy this summer removing invasive species along the Rideau River between Mann and Somerset and now it is time to plant. We have received a grant to buy lots of native trees and shrubs and we need to get them in the ground this fall. If you're interested in doing something to increase biodiversity, come out and join us. We will be holding work sessions through the fall, generally on Thursday or Saturday mornings. For more details on where and when to meet, contact Bryan at [bdewalt.ash@gmail.com](mailto:bdewalt.ash@gmail.com) or [sandyhillec@gmail.com](mailto:sandyhillec@gmail.com).

HAPPENING SOON

Many hands make light work, and on **October 18 from 12-2pm**, Action Sandy Hill hopes to make light work of cleaning up our neighbourhood. Action Sandy Hill invites you, your family, and your neighbours to join us at Annie Pootoogook Park/Sandy Hill Community Centre to help **Clean Up the Capital!** The bigger the turnout, the cleaner our neighbourhood. We hope to focus on residential streets, around schools, near the university, and along Cumberland, King Edward, Laurier, and Rideau streets. We encourage long time residents, students, kids, and parents to join so we can build a strong sense of community for upcoming school year.




Do you love cycling season and wish it would last longer? Well good news! Action Sandy Hill is hosting an **Extending Your Cycling Season workshop on Oct 18 from 3pm-4pm at the Sandy Hill Community Centre**. Learn about how to maintain your bike, tips on the proper clothing, riding in slick conditions, and the winter cycling network around the community. There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing! Make your fall and winter a bit more fun and learn how to keep getting on the saddle when the weather gets tough. Snacks and refreshments will be provided! We hope to see you there.



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Take a toy, leave a toy! Someone has anonymously put up a new toy box for our canine friends along the Rideau River path across from Robinson Field.

Photo: Christine Aubry



Garbage here, there and everywhere!



Photo: HS Canada



Photo: Christine Aubry

Are you tired of being told to report property maintenance problems to 311? Do you wonder why the city (and our taxes) pay for garbage pick-up for commercial rental properties? IMAGE has been trying to get the dirt on this messy issue. Unfortunately, the City has been avoiding giving us answers. But we won't give up! Stay tuned to the next issue of IMAGE for a deep dive into all things garbage.

Bytowne Birds



Illustration: Evelyn Baraké



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**Coming up this fall at the City of Ottawa**

Stay tuned to Engage Ottawa and my website for more information and opportunities to have your say:

- New Zoning By-law
- Budget 2026
- 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Refresh
- Report on the School Street Pilot Program
- Speed Zone Review

**Stéphanie Plante**

Conseillère | Councillor

Quartier | Ward 12 Rideau-Vanier

[stephanieplante.ca](https://stephanieplante.ca)

613-580-2482

[stephanie.plante@ottawa.ca](mailto:stephanie.plante@ottawa.ca)

**À venir cet automne à la Ville d'Ottawa**

Restez à l'écoute ! Plus d'informations à venir sur Engage Ottawa et mon site Web et l'occasion de donner votre avis.

- Nouveau règlement de zonage
- Budget provisoire de 2026
- Mise à jour du Plan décennal de logement et de lutte contre l'itinérance
- Rapport sur le programme pilote « Rue école »
- Révision des zones de vitesse







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Chères résidentes, chers résidents,

Alors que l'automne arrive, la Côte-de-Sable continue de bouillonner d'énergie. Le quartier accueille une grande diversité de résidents : étudiants, familles et nouveaux arrivants. Leur présence anime nos entreprises, commerces et espaces communautaires, faisant de la Côte-de-Sable un quartier à la fois vivant, inclusif et accueillant.

Les familles de la Côte-de-Sable continuent de bénéficier du soutien des programmes fédéraux. La Prestation canadienne pour enfants a augmenté cette année, avec des montants pouvant atteindre 7 997 \$ par enfant de moins de 6 ans et 6 748 \$ pour les enfants de 6 à 17 ans. Le Régime canadien de soins dentaires aide à couvrir également les Canadiens admissibles sans assurance privée et ayant un revenu familial net inférieur à 90 000 \$.

Cet automne, le logement est au cœur des priorités du gouvernement. Le 14 septembre, le premier ministre Mark Carney a annoncé la création de Maisons Canada, une agence qui transformera la construction de logements au pays. Le Canada vit une crise du logement, et dans des quartiers comme la Côte-de-Sable, les loyers élevés et le manque de logements accessibles touchent particulièrement les jeunes, les étudiants et les premiers acheteurs. Maisons Canada met l'accent sur la construction de logements abordables, transitoires et de soutien, incluant des options supervisées pour aider les personnes en situation d'itinérance à retrouver stabilité et sécurité. L'agence travaille avec les municipalités, provinces, communautés autochtones et promoteurs privés, et mise sur des projets utilisant des matériaux, technologies et travailleurs canadiens.

Au-delà du logement, notre gouvernement agit pour protéger les industries canadiennes et soutenir les travailleurs. Une nouvelle stratégie industrielle prévoit des programmes de requalification, un Fonds de réponse stratégique pour aider les entreprises à croître, ainsi qu'une politique Achetez canadien pour renforcer les chaînes d'approvisionnement. Les PME et organismes à but non lucratif bénéficient aussi de 160 millions \$ grâce à l'Initiative régionale de réponse tarifaire.

Enfin, le Bureau des grands projets, lancé cet été, accélère l'approbation d'initiatives créatrices d'emplois bien rémunérés et porteuses de croissance. La première vague—Phase II du port LNG, un projet nucléaire, le terminal de Contrecoeur et les mines McIlvenna Bay Foran et Red Chris—représente plus de 60 milliards \$ d'activité économique. Le Bureau fait aussi avancer des projets à un stade précoce, comme le train à grande vitesse Alto.

Mona Fortier, P.C., M.P.

Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester

Dear residents,

As autumn paints our streets with vibrant colours, Sandy Hill continues to buzz with energy. The neighbourhood is home to many University of Ottawa students, whose presence brings life to cafés, shops, and community spaces.

This fall, housing is at the centre of our government's work. On September 14, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the creation of Build Canada Homes (BCH), a new, mission-driven agency that will transform how we build housing. Canada faces a housing crisis. Rent and mortgage costs remain too high, and young people, students, and first-time buyers in communities like Sandy Hill are among the most affected. BCH will focus on building affordable housing at scale, including on public land, and ensuring that projects use Canadian materials, workers, and technology.

BCH is taking concrete action to tackle the housing crisis and support those experiencing homelessness. The agency focuses on affordable, transitional, and supportive housing, in partnership with municipalities, provinces, Indigenous communities, and private developers. In neighbourhoods like Sandy Hill, BCH will create safe, accessible housing for low-income households, students, and first-time buyers. Supervised and transitional housing provides residents with a stable foundation to recover from health, mental health, or addiction challenges, offering a practical approach to ending homelessness and fostering community well-being.

Beyond housing, our government is protecting Canadian industries and supporting workers. A new industrial strategy includes reskilling programs, a Strategic Response Fund to help businesses adapt, and a Buy Canadian Policy to strengthen supply chains. SMEs and non-profits also benefit from \$160 million through the Regional Tariff Response Initiative.

The Major Projects Office, launched this summer, accelerates approvals for projects that create high-paying jobs and grow the economy. Its first wave—LNG Canada Phase II, the Darlington New Nuclear Project, the Contrecoeur terminal, the McIlvenna Bay Foran Copper Mine, and the Red Chris Copper and Gold Mine—represents over \$60 billion in activity. The Office is also advancing early-stage projects, such as the Alto High-Speed Rail.

Mona Fortier, P.C., M.P.

Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester

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Graffiti ghost on the prowl



Photos: Christine Aubry

Despite the hearts in the images, there is no love for the graffiti “artist” who has been tagging properties in Sandy Hill. Neighbours are hoping the vandal will be caught soon!

Robinson Development, from p.1



— RESIDENTIAL

2 Robinson Avenue

This impressive three-tower project, consists of over 1,500 residential units spread across 32 stories and is situated in the heart of the Sandy Hill neighborhood. Located just a short walk from the University of Ottawa campus, this development is perfectly positioned to attract students and young professionals seeking a vibrant and convenient urban lifestyle.

The towers are surrounded by community gardens, recreation centers, and various local amenities, enhancing the living experience for residents. With its close proximity to the Queensway, 2 Robinson Avenue offers easy access to those commuting to and from the downtown core, making it an ideal location for residents who value connectivity and accessibility.

Residents will have 804 underground parking spaces and there will be 120 spots for visitor parking. In addition, there will be 1,782 residential bike parking spots and 52 spots for the commercial area.

On the eastern side of the development, ten percent of the site area (23,000 square metres) will be set aside for a publicly accessible park.

Along the northern perimeter, there will be paths that appear to allow public access to the site from its northwestern and northeastern corners. A designated community space will also be provided on the ground level of Tower C. The use of this space will be decided through consultations with our local councillor and Action Sandy Hill.

If, long before the Queensway was built, residents of Sandy Hill had wandered onto this plot of land they would have been standing in the midst of the first modern installation on this site: a railway yard servicing one or more of the three railroad companies, each with its own bridge across the Rideau River to the east. It seems that 2 Robinson Ave. will be the third set of buildings on this site in the last 150 years or so. As roadside attractions go, it will certainly be the most imposing.

Note: Anyone wishing to explore the details of the 2 Robinson Ave. development will find a very useful set of plans at <https://devapps.ottawa.ca/en/applications/D07-12-21-0202/details/>.

Illustrations: GeigerHuot Architects





# What makes our neighbours march?

Lina Dib

Since October 2023, our Ottawa streets are regularly the sites of pro-Palestinian demonstrations. In the crowd that chants, yells, cries, you can always find some of our neighbours. A question comes to mind: What moves someone who lives in Sandy Hill, far away from Gaza, to get so deeply involved in this cause?

“Once I learned about Palestine....You can’t unlearn it and you can’t turn away from it, you actually have to do something,” says Yipeng Ge, the most recognizable of the demonstrators. Dr. Ge, who practices medicine at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, made the news when the University of Ottawa sanctioned him for speaking out in favour of the Palestinians. Since that moment, he hasn’t stopped speaking out, in social and traditional media, and in the street. In June, he travelled to Egypt with 4000 others from all over the world to march to Rafah. They tried but failed to force the opening of the border and the delivery of food and aid into Gaza. He also joined part of the journey of the *Handala*, the ship that tried to break the siege, but was intercepted by Israel in July.

Yipeng is convinced that only collective action can change “the conditions of what our neighbours are going through, whether it be next door or in our community or around the world.”

Neighbour Céline Bak has Abraham on her mind when she protests. “Abraham Berham is an Algonquin College electrician, a proud Canadian citizen, who builds homes in Ottawa,” she tells me. “He has 23 nieces and nephews in Gaza .... He asks me about Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and why officials do not call to ask how they can help.”

Back in June, in an Ottawa home, Céline and Yipeng are sitting at a kitchen table with other neighbours who all believe in



Photo: Yipeng Ge

**In June, Egyptian police seized the passports of the 4000 demonstrators who were attempting to march to Rafah. Here, Yipeng Ge and Lori Clarke of Ottawa are relieved to have their travel documents back! (The photo was “retouched” to obscure personal info in the passport.) Both are part of a newly formed group called Palestine Solidarity Ottawa-Vanier. You can scan the QR code to join their email list.**

collective action and want the Canadian government to help the Palestinians. There is talk of how to get the federal MP, Mona Fortier, to work in favor of an arms embargo on Israel. MP Fortier’s riding goes beyond Sandy

Hill, so at the same table sits Lori Clarke, who lives in Gloucester. She, too, demands concrete action from MP Fortier. In demonstrations, she carries her homemade sign: “Starving children can’t eat statements.”

Next to her, Mehdi Javanfar, who lives in Lowertown, quotes Tolstoy: “If you feel your own pain, you’re alive; if you feel other people’s pain, you are human.” That is how he explains his involvement with the group of humans forming Palestine Solidarity Ottawa-Vanier (PSOV), described on their Instagram account as “Community members coming together for a Free Palestine.” “We do these things not to change the world but because we want not to be changed by the world,” concludes Mehdi.

Palestine Solidarity Ottawa-Vanier (PSOV) is part of the Palestine Solidarity Network, a coast-to-coast network of federal riding-based groups who aim to build local solidarity towards Palestinians through education and action. PSOV calls on elected officials in Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester to impose a complete arms embargo on Israel, demand justice and accountability for the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and respect our commitments to humanitarian, Canadian and international law. If you join the emailing list, you will be informed via email, twice a month, of the actions you can take locally and globally.

PSOV sign up link: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-up-neighbours-for-palestine-inscrivez-vous-voisines-pour-la-palestine>

PSOV sign in for email list QR code:



2 ET 3 DÉCEMBRE 2025

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Lucille Collard

MPP / députée Ottawa-Vanier



Photo Claude Brazeau

La Côte-de-Sable : un quartier vibrant et résilient mais qui a besoin de soutien!

Alors que l'été tire à sa fin et que l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario s'apprête à reprendre ses travaux, je prends un moment pour partager mes réflexions sur les enjeux soulevés par les résidents de la Côte-de-Sable et sur ce que je compte défendre à Queen's Park.

La Côte-de-Sable est l'un des quartiers les plus dynamiques d'Ottawa : diversifié, riche en histoire, engagé. Mais il porte aujourd'hui un fardeau disproportionné en ce qui concerne la concentration des refuges, l'insécurité croissante et la pression immobilière liée à la croissance du logement étudiant.

Notre communauté fait preuve d'une grande compassion, mais cette situation ne peut être réglée sans une coordination efficace et des investissements durables. Le soutien aux personnes sans-abri doit être partagé équitablement dans toute la ville. Cela passe par la création de logements avec services de soutien, un meilleur accès aux soins en santé mentale et dépendances, ainsi qu'un dialogue sérieux avec les universités quant à leur responsabilité en matière de logement étudiant.

J'ai rencontré plusieurs groupes communautaires, comme le Centre de santé communautaire Côte-de-Sable et les organismes de logement et de réduction des méfaits, qui redoublent d'efforts pour combler les lacunes. Mais ils ne peuvent pas y arriver seuls. La province doit en faire davantage.

Voici ce que je continue à réclamer à Queen's Park :

- une distribution plus équilibrée des refuges à travers la ville;
- des services accrus en santé mentale et en dépendances;
- des normes applicables pour les logements à locataires multiples;
- la protection de notre patrimoine et de nos espaces verts;
- la création d'un groupe de travail provincial-municipal axé sur les réalités spécifiques de la Côte-de-Sable.

Ensemble, bâtissons un quartier plus fort, plus solidaire et inclusif.

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Sandy Hill: Vibrant, resilient, and in need of support!

As summer comes to a close and we prepare for a busy fall at Queen's Park, I want to take a moment to reflect on what I've heard from Sandy Hill residents and what I'll be bringing forward on their behalf.

Sandy Hill is one of Ottawa's most dynamic neighbourhoods: diverse, historic, and community minded. It's also carrying a disproportionate burden when it comes to shelter services, rising safety concerns, and housing pressures linked to the expansion of student housing.

While compassion remains a defining feature of our community, we need better coordination and sustained investment from the province. We must support our neighbours facing homelessness, but that effort must be city-wide, not concentrated in a few blocks. That means more supportive housing with mental health care, more mobile crisis teams, and a serious conversation about how universities plan for housing their students.

I've met with local groups working hard to fill the gaps, like the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, housing advocates, and harm reduction teams, but they need more help. That's where Queen's Park needs to step up.

As your MPP, I'll continue pressing for:

- a more balanced shelter distribution across the city
- better supports for addiction and mental health
- enforceable standards for multi-tenant housing
- protection of heritage and green space
- a provincial-local working group focused specifically on Sandy Hill's realities.

Let's build a stronger, more inclusive Sandy Hill, together.

Have ideas or feedback? Contact me at [lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org).

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# Human stories from a church at the heart of Sandy Hill

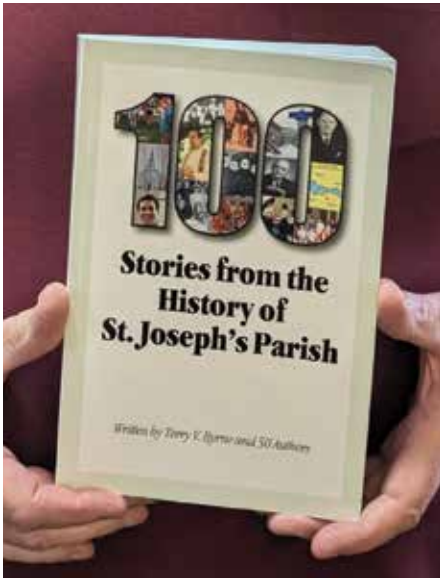
Photo: Christopher Adam

Terry Byrne

This spring, one of the oldest Catholic parishes in Ottawa released a comprehensive 438-page book entitled *100 Stories from the History of St. Joseph's Parish*. Our goal was not just to look inward as we tracked a colourful history spanning three centuries, but to look outward too: at Sandy Hill, the University of Ottawa and our nation's capital. In fact, our inspiration for this book project is closely tied to IMAGE Sandy Hill. The long journey of preserving and documenting St. Joseph's history, however, began two decades ago.

I was approached by parish leadership to create a pamphlet about the community's history, ahead of its 150th anniversary in 2006. Initially, my knowledge of the parish's past was quite limited. As I sat in the church pews, numerous questions arose in my mind. How did the church catch fire in 1930? Did any famous individuals attend St. Joe's? What was parish life like? Unfortunately, there was scant information available in the church archives, prompting me to conduct extensive research. My exploration resulted in a 237-page book, which was published in 2007.

My interest in the parish's history only deepened over time, compelling me to continue my research out of genuine fascination. Over the last 18 years, I have accumulated over 3,000 newspaper articles, more than 2,800 photographs, and uncovered numerous books, theses, and book chapters documenting the parish's history. The parish archives are now a treasure trove, containing records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths dating back to 1858, church bulletins from 1960 onward, as well as committee meeting minutes spanning the past 50 years, among other valuable documents. Undoubtedly, it now ranks among the city's most well-maintained parish archives. Although I never intended to write another book, I gathered all this information with the hope that



someone else might someday take on the task.

Upon meeting François Bregha, who shared with me the stories he wrote for IMAGE regarding the happenings and residents of Sandy Hill, I began contemplating a similar endeavour, perhaps collaborating with other authors. During my nearly two-decades-long investigation, I uncovered even more compelling aspects of this parish's history, which I believe warrant sharing. St. Joe's, without a doubt, stands out as a unique parish.

In 2024, I made the decision to embark on writing a second book about the history of this esteemed institution. This time around, I enlisted the help of fifty individuals to collaborate on this project. My goal was to find people who could integrate the research I had already gathered with their own personal experiences. Remarkably, everyone I approached agreed to contribute at least one story.

*100 Stories from the History of St. Joseph's Parish* is available for \$25 at the front desk of St. Joseph's Church, located at 151 Laurier Ave. East, or through Amazon at <https://www.amazon.ca/100-Stories-History-Josephs-Parish/dp/1069440302>.

## Happening Now!

Photo: John McQuarrie



IMAGE writer and photographer John McQuarrie makes this suggestion for a beautiful autumn day: For an absolutely delightful drive, first visit Mackenzie King Estate (also known as "Kingsmere") in Gatineau Park, the 600-acre estate of the late Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King. You can visit Moorside cottage and the Abbey Ruins and picnic on the grounds. Then, return to Ottawa for a tour of Laurier House, rounded off with dinner and drinks on the patio of Working Title across the street. See history of Laurier House on p. 10.

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Ken's Bygone Sandy Hill

# The Town House Motor Hotel was an Ottawa hotspot

Ken Clavette

Sandy Hill is getting a new heritage designation for one of its buildings. It's not a home that belonged to one of the upper crust of our community or one that was designed by a famous architect. It is the ByTowne Cinema, once the Nelson Theatre. A building that is connected to the community and to our bygone days.

In February 1947 Mayor Stanley Lewis cut the ribbon on a new theatre on Rideau Street. *The Ottawa Journal* reported him recalling the days when as a boy he used to "play over backyard fences in this very spot." He added, "This is not intended as encouragement to children to play over backyard fences; they might get to be mayor too." A highlight of the opening ceremonies was the mayor's presentation of a \$100 cash prize to the winner of the Theatre Name Selection Contest. Assisting the mayor in cutting a ribbon to raise the curtain was Mrs. H.J. Goyette of 70 Henderson Ave. (home still standing). Her suggestion of the "Nelson" was chosen out of more than 4000 suggested names.

The lot at 319 Rideau where the theatre sits was, *The Ottawa Journal* believed, the oldest home on Rideau Street, built in 1850. It had served as a confectionery and grocery store before the Berlin family operated the "Star Cleaners and Dyers" in it. In 1945 Hyman Berlin obtained a building permit for a new theatre. The theatre was managed by his brother Morris who ten years earlier had opened the Somerset Theatre near Bank Street. He told reporters, "We selected this site because we felt a theatre was needed in the Sandy Hill district." It has served our neighbourhood well for the past 78 years.

In giving the building a heritage designation, the report to council provided the following justifications: "The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community."

The theatre was designed by Toronto architects Harold Solomon Kaplan (1895-1973) and Abraham Sprachman (1894-1971) who were notable for designing many movie theatres across Canada in the 20th century, as well as significant buildings for the Jewish community. The theatre is in the "Moderne style" characterized by streamlined surfaces and a lighted marquee. Once ubiquitous

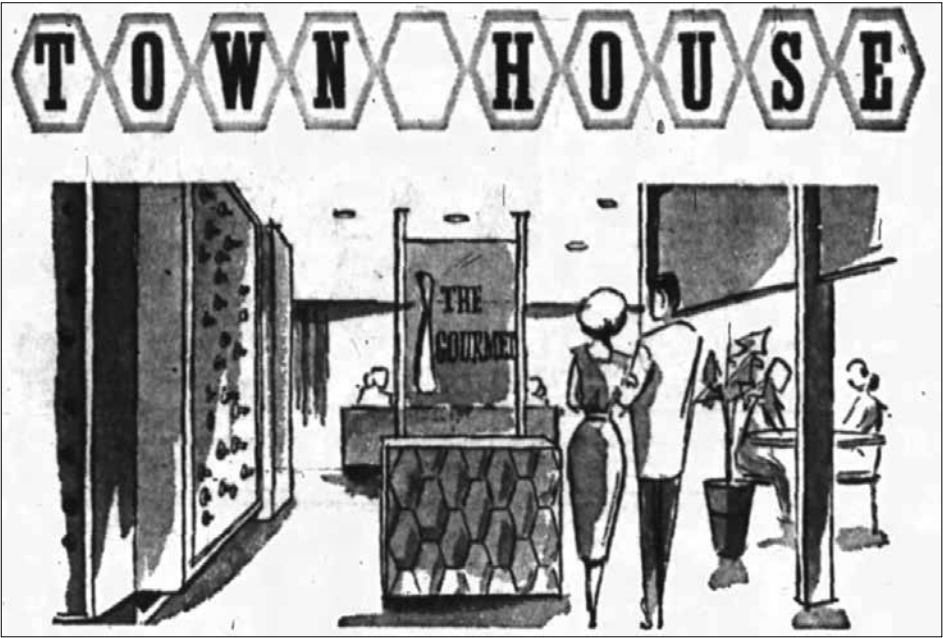


Photo: Ken Clavette

**Le Days Inn sur la rue Rideau, sous le nom original de Town House Motor Hotel, fut construit en 1960 par le même propriétaire que le Nelson Theatre (maintenant la salle de cinéma ByTowne) et fut acclamé pour son élégance et sa gastronomie. Plus qu'un simple motel avec stationnement, c'était un « hotspot » des années 60 et 70, avec son Nailhead Lounge, salle de banquet, et cinéma avoisinant.**

outside movie theatres, the ByTowne marquee is now the last remaining one in the city. All others are gone, along with the theatres that sported them.

The Berlin family ran the theatre for five years before renting it to the Famous

Players theatre chain. It prominently advertised that the theatre was air-conditioned, a great selling point in Ottawa's humid summers. The cinema found a niche market as movie houses competed with TV and later the

development of small-screen cinemas that came on the scene in the late 1970s. With its large 70-mm screen, the Nelson would host block-buster epic films: Ben Hur, Apocalypse Now, Hair, 2001 Space Odyssey, Jaws, Dune, and The Exorcist. I remember lining up around the corner onto King Edward with friends to get into that last movie in 1974. It was restricted to age 18 which I would not be until many months later. Ushers were provided smelling salts, and religious groups leafleted outside.

As the large movie chains retreated to the small-screen multiplexes in the suburbs, they shuttered their larger downtown theatres. Lease agreements prevented them from being used as movie theatres after they left, and we lost them one by one. But since the lease on the Nelson dated to the 1950s, that clause had not been included.

In 1988 when Famous Players departed, in stepped Bruce White and Jean Cloutier who were operating the trendy "Towne" repertory cinema in New Edinburgh. The Berlin family sold them the Nelson, and it became the "ByTowne"—just in time, as redevelopment on Beechwood closed the Towne. Independent, Canadian, and foreign films found a home in Ottawa at the theatre as did film festivals. Local groups used the theatre for fundraising events.

In 2020 the effects of the COVID pandemic caused a temporary closure. The ByTowne was purchased by Daniel Demois and Andy Willick and reopened in 2021 under the same name. I reached out to the theatre to get their response to the designation. They are welcoming the news that the theatre is being recognized for its cultural and architectural importance in Ottawa. "This designation under the Ontario Heritage Act will help preserve the cinema for future generations, reflecting our community's dedication to the arts." The owners say they are "encouraged by, and grateful for, this recognition. As we celebrate this announcement, we look forward to the ByTowne Cinema continuing to inspire and entertain audiences for many years to come."

You can learn more about Ottawa's movie theatre history in the book *A Theatre Near You: 150 Years of Going to the Show in Ottawa-Gatineau* by Alain Miguélez, or online at <https://urbsite.blogspot.com/2016/02/coming-soon.html>.

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# Laurier House: A glimpse into Canada’s political history, 1897–1950

Photo: John McQuarrie

John McQuarrie

Stepping into the former residence of two of Canada’s most significant prime ministers feels like entering the heart of our nation’s political narrative. For over fifty years, this Victorian mansion in downtown Ottawa was central to Canadian political life, serving as the home of both Sir Wilfrid Laurier and William Lyon Mackenzie King. Here, they hosted dignitaries and politicians while often engaging in the business of state.

Laurier House is located in Sandy Hill, a fashionable residential area within easy commuting distance of Ottawa’s commercial and political centre. In addition to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mackenzie King, a number of prominent political figures found Sandy Hill a desirable place to live. Canada’s first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald and his wife, Agnes, lived in three different houses in Sandy Hill, the only one of which survives being the impressive stone house known as Stadacona Hall (395 Laurier Avenue) near Laurier House. Sir Charles Tupper, who became prime minister in 1896, lived a few streets away from Laurier House in the early 1870s. Sir Robert Borden, the man who defeated Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1911 and led Canada during the Great War, lived in Sandy Hill as did Lester B. Pearson who owned a quaint Gothic cottage just around the corner from Laurier House. Pearson served as prime minister from 1963 to 1968, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 for his crucial contribution to the deployment of a United Nations Emergency Force in the wake of the Suez Canal crisis.

Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier moved into their new home in the fall of 1897. As



**La Maison-Laurier fut domicile de deux premiers ministres, Sir Wilfrid Laurier et William Lyon Mackenzie King. Elle fut aussi un manoir du Second Empire, au cœur de la vie politique canadienne pendant 50 ans. Aujourd’hui, c’est un lieu historique national géré par Parcs Canada. Si vous n’avez pas encore fait la visite des lieux, il faudra maintenant attendre sa réouverture en mai 2026.**

the house belonged to them personally, the Lauriers had the freedom to make any desired modifications. One of their most notable renovations, the charming verandah that wraps around the front and side of the house, still stands today.

They resided there throughout Laurier’s tenure as prime minister and later, when the Liberal Party lost power, during his time as leader of the Opposition (1911–1919). The couple spent their final years in the house, with Laurier passing away in

1919 and Lady Zoé Laurier in 1921. She bequeathed the house to William Lyon Mackenzie King who as a longtime friend and staunch supporter had succeeded Laurier as head of the Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition in 1919. Two years later, he led the Liberals to victory in the general election, becoming prime minister. King likely received the house as a gesture of gratitude from his predecessor’s widow.

Delays in renovations postponed King’s

move to his new home. Finally, in his diary entry for January 12, 1923, he recorded, “I am writing for the first time in my new library at Laurier House and spending the first night beneath my own roof.” He lived there for the rest of his life.

For King, life in Laurier House revolved around his third-floor study (see then and now photos). During parliamentary sessions, his daily routine involved working in this study in the mornings before

> *Laurier House, continued p. 11*

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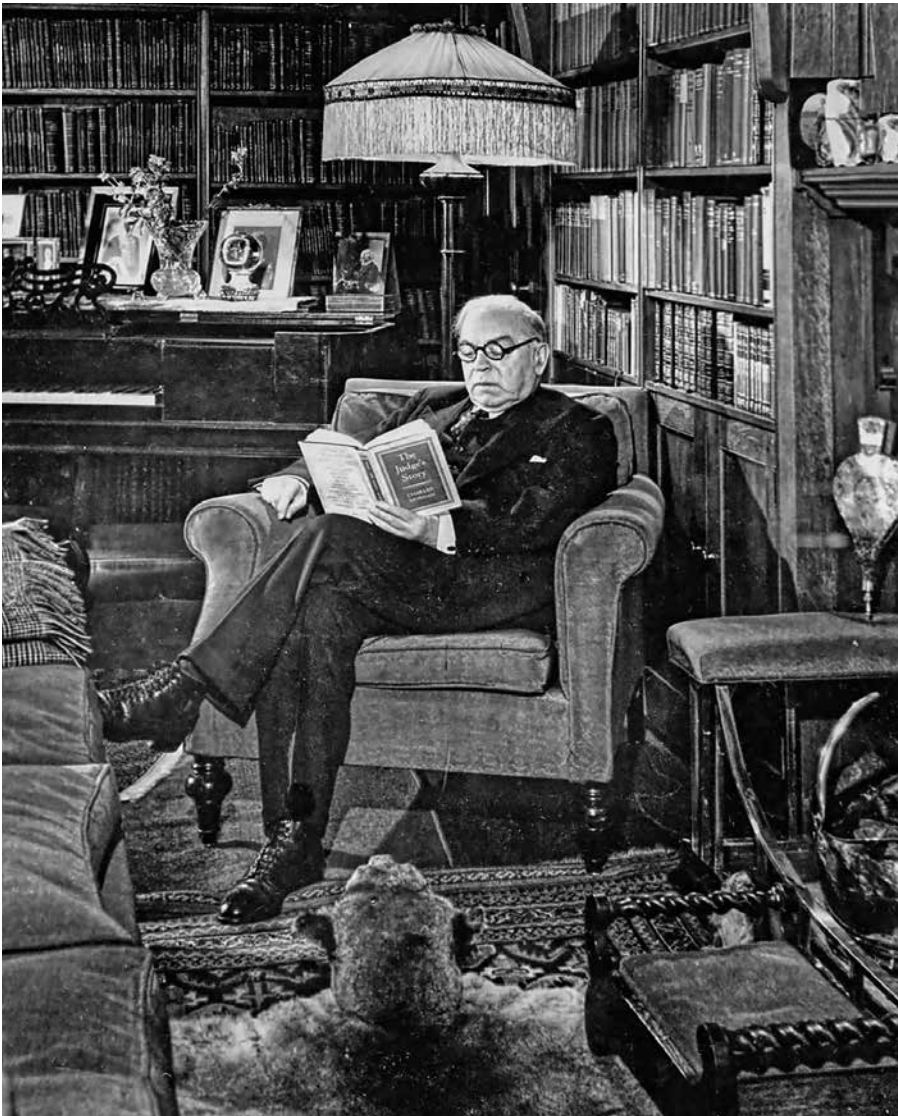


Photo: John McQuarrie

Le lieu historique national de la Maison-Laurier au coin des rues Chapel et Laurier comprend l'ancien bureau de Sir Wilfrid Laurier, pièce où il passait la plus grande partie de son temps, entourés de livres. En comparant cette photo avec celle des Archives nationales (à gauche) de King lisant l'œuvre *The Judge's Story* de Charles Morgan, on remarque l'effort de Parcs Canada de reproduire chaque détail de la scène.

Laurier House, from p. 10

heading to his parliamentary office after lunch. As a result, part of the third floor was designated for his clerical staff and the storage of government papers. The study, more than any other room in the house, reflects King's interests and personality, with walls lined with books on

poetry, biographies, history, and philosophy. A cherished piano, once belonging to his mother, occupied a prominent spot in the room. King became Canada's longest serving prime minister, holding the office for over twenty-one years. Poor health forced him to retire three years after his last general election win in 1945. He died in 1950.

By the terms of King's will, Laurier House and most of its contents were bequeathed to the people of Canada. Since 1951, it has been open to the public. Today, Laurier House is a national historic site administered by Parks Canada, the agency responsible for protecting and presenting significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage.

Parks Canada's goal at Laurier House is to ensure the preservation of the building and its collection of Laurier and King artefacts and to provide Canadians the opportunity to understand and appreciate the contribution of these two prime ministers to Canada's history.

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# Sandy Hill is the new home base of a renowned chef

Photo: Christine Aubry

## Jan Finlay

The 2008 docuseries *The Chef’s Domain*, an eight-part cross-Canada culinary adventure series, featured an episode with Ottawa’s Chef Michael Moffatt and described him as being “on a mission to overhaul his hometown of Ottawa’s culinary reputation.” Nearly 20 years later, having certainly made his mark on the Ottawa food scene, he continues on his mission in his new role leading the culinary and bakery team at Working Title and *allsaints* event space.

Having joined the group in August, Mike (as he prefers to be called) has just started to put his stamp on the neighbourhood restaurant and event space at 330 Laurier East. I sat with him a few weeks after he started, to learn more about him and his vision for his new role.

Mike has a prestigious resume in Ottawa, as a partner in the launch of the Beckta Restaurant Group and at Thyme & Again catering. He also spent many years outside Ottawa, working in renowned kitchens, including New York’s iconic The River Café, as well as in the CAA 5 Diamond Award Rimrock Resort in Banff.

When asked about his path, Mike explained: “In the early 2000s, I wanted to change the foodie’s attitude that there was nowhere worth eating in Ottawa. I did that by helping launch Beckta and subsequently Play Food & Wine, and Gezellig. Now I’m at Working Title, in part because I want to prove that same great food can be accessible. It doesn’t need to carry a huge price tag or be overly complicated.”

Leanne Moussa, who spearheaded the *allsaints* project and launched Working Title, chimed in on our discussion: “Restaurants are both a business and an art. Striking the right balance is a difficult feat. I believe Mike is one of a select



Le café et restaurant Working Title a un nouveau chef de renommée locale et nationale. À Ottawa, le CV de Mike Moffat comprend le groupe de restaurants Beckta, Play Food & Wine, Gezellig, ainsi que le traiteur Thyme & Again. Il continue aussi de former le talent culinaire de la région, dont on espère profiter!

few chefs who know how to do both really well.”

Sitting across from Mike, I am struck by how personable and down to earth he is. As a sports enthusiast and avid golfer, he is clearly a multifaceted guy who finds a way to carve out enough time for his hobbies while remaining effective in a very demanding industry.

Motioning to the large historic church and the terrace full of customers, Mike said, “I feel there is quite an opportunity here. Leanne’s entrepreneurial spirit,

drive, and passion are aligned with my vision. The opportunity to grow a brand rather than just run a restaurant fits with where I am in life.”

It appears this moment offers opportunity for both the *allsaints* project and Chef Mike. Asked what he hopes to achieve in his new role, he says, “I hope through this role I can bring unique opportunities to Sandy Hill and the greater Ottawa environs. Together, I think we can reinterpret hospitality in the city with dynamic concepts and different levels of customer

engagement.”

And he is well positioned to have this significant impact. For one, he envisions bringing together his love of hospitality with his passion for guiding the next generation of cooks. As a proud graduate of the Algonquin College Culinary Arts Program and longtime member and chair of its Advisory Board, Mike continues to teach the best and brightest chefs in the city. With his addition to the neighbourhood, don’t be surprised if you see some of them right here in Sandy Hill.

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# Many community organizations are fostering youth engagement in Strathcona Heights at the south end of Sandy Hill

Fatima Zahra Mounfaloti

Strathcona Heights recently wrapped up a summer filled with connection, learning, and celebration. As part of the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP) initiative, residents proudly took part in Welcoming Ottawa Week, contributing tremendous efforts to an international potluck around a variety of cultural activities including a Burundian dance performance offered by Ishaka. The event highlighted the neighbourhood’s rich cultural diversity and commitment to inclusion.

One of the season’s highlights was the Strathcona Heights Summer Fun Day, which brought families and neighbors together for a day of outdoor activities. These included a lively bike rodeo, basketball games, arts and crafts, a community scavenger hunt, and a locally sourced live music performance. The event wrapped up with a shared meal that reflected the warmth and generosity of the community.

The neighbourhood’s summer camp program was another standout, offering children and youth a chance to learn, grow, and build friendships in a fun, supportive setting.

The summer camp ran at Viscount Alexander Public School with 63 participants throughout the summer and 10 staff members who all enjoyed activities such as park picnics, a visit to the Museum of Nature, outdoor pools and a trip to Westboro made possible by Councillor Plante.

Youth engagement in Strathcona Heights has also been actively fostered



La communauté de Strathcona Heights s’est réunie autour de plusieurs évènements cet été, renforçant les liens entre voisins, notamment lors d’un autre repas-partage après la journée « Strathcona Heights Summer Fun Day ».

Photo: Gerald Dragon

through a variety of local meetings, drawing participation from up to 30 young residents. These events, ranging from sports tournaments and art contests to talent showcases and community challenges, provide a platform for youth to express creativity, build skills, and connect with peers. Organized in collaboration with community health centres and local organizations, the

competitions aim to promote inclusion, confidence, and a sense of belonging. Participation has grown steadily, with youth showing enthusiasm not just in competing but also in planning and volunteering. These initiatives help strengthen community ties and encourage positive youth development in a supportive environment.

Looking ahead, the community is preparing for a busy and engaging fall, with events like the neighbourhood clean-up, the return of the after-school program, and the much-anticipated holiday community meal. Strathcona Heights continues to grow as a place where neighbours come together, support one another, and celebrate what makes their community unique.



Une résidente de Strathcona Heights a eu la chance de partager sa culture burundaise en démontrant danse et costumes traditionnels, avec d’autres membres du groupe de danse Ishaka, lors de la Semaine d’accueil à Ottawa, parrainée par le Partenariat local pour l’immigration d’Ottawa (PLIO).



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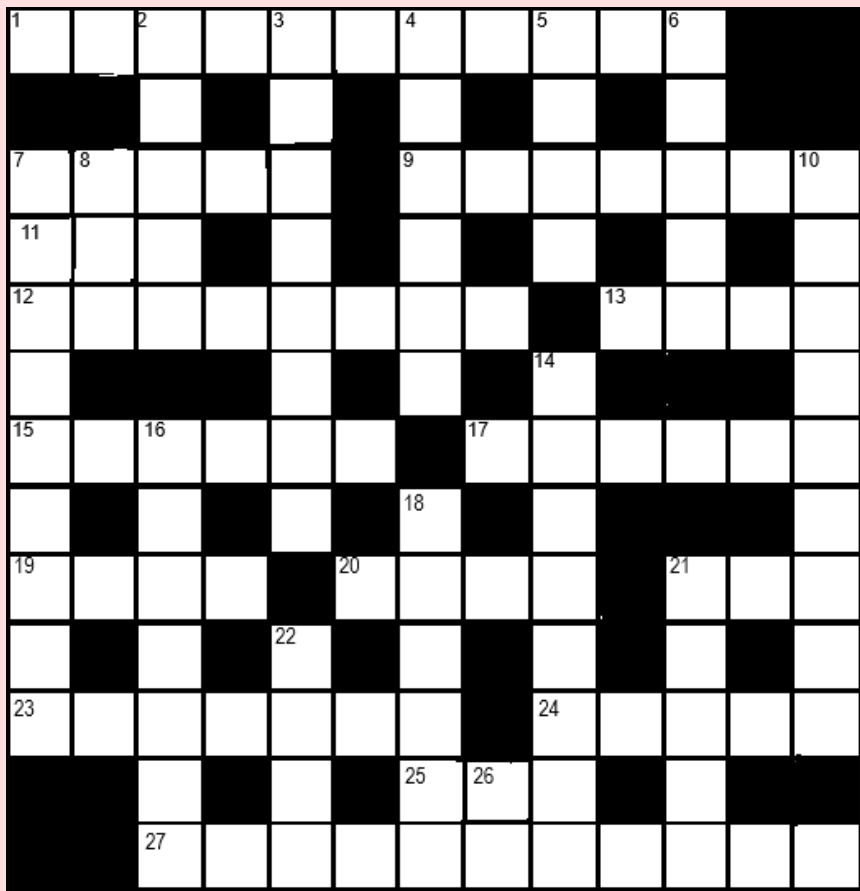


A l’occasion du 50e anniversaire du drapeau franco-ontarien, le Centre d’excellence artistique de l’Ontario et ses élèves de l’École secondaire publique De La Salle, ont crée une vidéo émouvante de l’hymne Mon Beau Drapeau. Disponible sur YouTube (@chaineyoutubeduceao1474) ce montage vous rendra certainement fier de notre heritage et de nos jeunes. Bravo les artistes!



# HOODS OF OTTAWA

**By Ralph Blaine**



## ACROSS

1. This Ottawa neighbourhood southwest of Sandy Hill has the first Ottawa business to sell gelato in Ottawa and a fine assortment of restaurants on Preston Street. (6,5)
7. A small fragment, especially of something baked. (5)
9. A line drawing made for mathematical or scientific purposes. (7)
11. Cool; in the know; also a joint in the pelvic area. (3)
12. These frozen giants brought down an “unsinkable” ocean liner in 1912. (8)
13. A slangy way to say “simply put” or “namely.” (2,2)
15. Flowering. (6)
17. This neighbourhood shares an eastern boundary with Sandy Hill. It has its own maple sugar shack and was a separate city until 2001. (6)
19. A pig’s commentary, maybe. (4)
20. A gelatin-like substance extracted from seaweed. Often used in biology labs. (4)
21. Canadian government branch that might stick its nose into your finances. (3)
23. Famous, remarkable, eminent. (7)
24. Action taken on a link, often. (5)
25. One of the largest members of the deer family. (3)
27. En juillet 2024 RE/MAX a désigné ce quartier d’Ottawa comme un des 10 meilleurs quartiers résidentielles du Canada. C’est sans doute l’avis de la plupart des lecteurs d’IMAGE! En français svp. (4,2,5)

**DOWN**

2. A grey-brown colour (5)
3. This area was once a thriving neighbourhood before it was bulldozed. It is now home to a museum, a few high-rise condo buildings and possibly a new home to the Ottawa Senators.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Flats (8)
4. This Sandy Hill (chain) bookstore is located on Rideau Street, part of the Rideau Centre complex. (6)
5. Eve's beau. (4)
6. They are more than feet but less than miles. (5)
7. You might go to this neighbourhood for DimSum.  
(5,4)
8. A Sandy Hill café opposite the library features tasty, inexpensive meals. It also doubles as a training school for future cooks. It is run by Chef \_\_\_\_\_. (3)
10. This neighbourhood northeast of Sandy Hill seems to be currently resisting a City-proposed invasion – of sidewalks! (5,4)
14. Buildings which serve as lodging for soldiers on duty (often). (8)
16. A person who is seen as mentally ill, dangerous, foolish, or crazy. (7)
18. Discussed or negotiated and then accepted by all parties. (6)
21. Ascend. (5)
22. Notice of death (abr.). (4)
26. "The" en français. (2)

➤ *Crossword solution, page 19*

## Sandy Hill scene

*Photo: HS Canada*



**University of Ottawa students were on campus in September sharing information about Sielo Robotics, a company that partners with the university to develop affordable assistive technology that is simple to control. [www.sielorobotics.com](http://www.sielorobotics.com)**



**Two members of the new Mounted Unit of the Ottawa Police Services were happy to pause for a photo on Goulburn Avenue one sunny day in August. Part of their work while on community patrol is engaging with the public in an approachable way.**

*Photo: Tim Sweeney*

*Photo: Tim Sweeney*



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# Would you like to be a child’s “Chosen Grandma”?

Peg Herbert

Chosen Grandma Ottawa was co-founded by Dr. Peg Herbert and Mary Ann Turnbull as a non-profit, volunteer initiative to build intergenerational connections between senior women who have no grandchildren in their daily lives and families in the Vanier area who have no external support.

As grandmothers themselves, Peg and Mary Ann are well aware of the joy and meaning derived through relationships with children. As women who have devoted themselves to the well-being of children throughout their professional lives, they are also aware of how much families are struggling these days with no external familial support. Having both founded a highly successful venture, they have the experience to establish the initiative with the safeguards, policies and procedures to ensure children are well cared for and protected. Peg is the founder of Help Le-sotho, an international non-profit building resilience in children and those who care for them, reaching 23,000 people a year. Mary Ann is the founder of Turnbull School, one of Ottawa’s most well-known and respected private elementary schools.



The Chosen Grandmas program is accepting applications from senior women who are healthy and active, from the age of 55+, who do not have grandchildren in their lives, or not nearby, who are seeking connection and meaningful engagement and can commit for at least one year—and hopefully longer! The goal is that the child and Chosen Grandma will connect at least twice a month and that at least one of those connections be in person. There are provisions to keep the

connections when “grandma” is away on holidays. Chosen Grandma applicants will be well-screened and supported.

Once their applications are vetted and accepted, the senior will be matched with a family who has children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, are open to building a meaningful relationship with a Chosen Grandma, and who do not have nearby extra-family or grandparent support.

The organizing group, called the “Connection Team,” provides phone support,

resources, a private Facebook group and monthly meetings of the Chosen Grandmas to talk about their activities with the children and make new, interesting friends.

A Chosen Grandma might like to take the child to visit museums, play cards, go to a movie or a local restaurant, visit the library, read together, teach knitting or sewing, visit parks or do crafts. The options are endless. The gift of undivided fun time to give to a child is an amazing opportunity to make a difference and bring special joy into both the senior woman’s and the child’s life.

Dr. Herbert is fond of saying that the “delight in volunteering and making a difference in someone else’s life is the best medicine ever.”

We hope that senior women in Sandy Hill will apply to CGO to become a “Chosen Grandma” and build stronger communities through warmth, care, and connection. Children can be such fun!

Please share with women you think might be interested. For more information or an application form, contact [chosengrandmaottawa@gmail.com](mailto:chosengrandmaottawa@gmail.com), or visit [chosengrandma.ca](http://chosengrandma.ca) or on Facebook: Chosen Grandma Ottawa.

## Bazaar benefits many local groups throughout Ottawa and Sandy Hill

Photo: Gilles Vézina



Mark your calendars for the Church of St. Bartholomew Annual Bazaar and Tea Room, taking place Saturday, November 1, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 125 MacKay St.

November 1 is less than a month away, and the St. Bart’s Bazaar is one of the most popular events in the fall calendar. Not only is it a great place to meet friends, enjoy tea together and see your neighbours, it also presents great tables of bargains, including antiques, gifts, jewellery, books, preserves, attic treasures, toys, games, crafts, knitting, Christmas decorations, and a superb bake table.

You will enjoy great shopping knowing that you are helping many important community causes and global relief initiatives. The 2024 Bazaar’s proceeds supported St. Bartholomew’s ministries and many other local initiatives, including the programmes offered by the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre and Belong Ottawa. This latter organization provides safe spaces and fosters dignity for those who are homeless or precariously housed, with programming at The Well, St. Luke’s Table, and Sandy Hill’s Centre 454. It also benefited Alongside

Hope (formerly Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund) which offers aid nationally and internationally for those affected by war, violence and natural disasters, and joins in right relations with Indigenous Peoples.

The St. Bart’s Bazaar has always been a success and it is mainly due to *you*! We are only as good as the donations we receive! Should you be downsizing or

wanting to dispose of items in your home, please consider donating to our bazaar. We always need unique souvenirs, classic tea sets, glass, costume and fine jewellery, books, attic treasures, toys, games, and any special, handmade items. Closer to the date, we would also appreciate home baking and preserves.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call either Liz or Linda (see

contact information below). We would also be happy to pick up boxes from you!

— *Linda Assad-Butcher & Liz Heatherington, Co-Conveners, Church of St Bartholomew Annual Bazaar*  
[elizmaryh@gmail.com](mailto:elizmaryh@gmail.com)  
Linda: 613-745-4677  
Liz: 613-298-9980



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## Ironmen and ironladies, 2025

Photos : HS Canada



Sandy Hill photographer Philip Owen was able to get close to the action during Ottawa’s first ever Ironman event in August.



# Belles outardes à outrance

Claude Bégin

Surnommée « outarde » par les premiers explorateurs français, la bernache du Canada, une sous-espèce de bernache de notre région, est la plus grande des oies noires. La confusion entre les noms « outarde » et « bernache » semble remonter aux premiers comptes rendus des navigateurs Jacques Cartier et Samuel de Champlain. Pour ces colonisateurs, cet oiseau aquatique aux pattes palmées et au bec rond ressemblait à l’outarde de l’Europe, un oiseau terrestre aux pattes non palmées et au bec pointu. Ancré dans notre culture, le mot « outarde » est encore utilisé de nos jours comme un simple nom vernaculaire. Depuis plus de deux siècles, cet oiseau est classé en taxonomie biologique sous le nom de « bernache du Canada », soit en latin « *Branta canadensis* ».

Dès l’automne, des bernaches se rassemblent en grands nombres pour migrer vers le sud. Pour certaines personnes, apercevoir une volée en forme de « V » de centaines d’oies noires et les entendre cacarder tout haut dans un ciel ensoleillé est tout un événement de joie. Cependant, ce ne sont pas toutes les bernaches qui migrent vers le sud. Depuis plusieurs années, des milliers de bernaches s’installent en permanence au Canada en bordure de nos parcs citadins. Ces endroits sont souvent à proximité de zones humides telles une rivière, un lac ou un étang. Puisque les renards et certains oiseaux chasseurs ont une présence de plus en plus rare en milieu urbain, les bernaches n’ont plus de prédateur à craindre. Celles-ci broutent paisiblement sur gazons et pelouses en se nourrissant principalement de plantes comme les graminées, l’herbe, le trèfle, les baies.

La population grandissante de ces bernaches est devenue problématique pour beaucoup d’usagers des parcs. Près de nous, notre beau parc Strathcona ne fait pas exception : marcheurs, cyclistes,



Photo: Claude Bégin

**Did you know the Canada goose consumes (and excretes!) an average of 1.5 kg of grass per day? Sandy Hill teacher and artist Claude Bégin wonders if students may be up to the challenge of finding solutions to the nuisances and environmental problems caused by an increasing goose population in urban centres.**

pique-niqueurs, trouvent très désagréable de poser leurs pieds dans les fientes vertes de bernaches qui tachent! Les bernaches adultes peuvent manger plus de 1,5 kg d’herbe par jour et en libérer presque autant en matières fécales. Elles évacuent leurs selles partout causant un grave problème d’esthétique et de salubrité. Aucun doute, les belles bernaches polluent les sentiers pédestres, les pistes cyclables, les espaces verts désignés aires de détente ou de jeux, les plages et les bassins d’eau. Elles peuvent même parfois se montrer agressives envers les humains si elles se sentent dérangées.

Comment faire alors pour régler ce problème de surpopulation de bernaches dans nos parcs? Le gouvernement permet la chasse à la bernache pour sa viande dans certains milieux agricoles à l’automne, avec certificat de chasseur et permis nécessaires. Mais il n’est pas question de capturer la bernache dans les limites de la ville, même si plusieurs personnes dans le besoin accepteraient volontiers de se faire servir un bon bouilli à la bernache! Malgré de multiples efforts, à ce

jour, aucune municipalité ne semble avoir trouvé la solution miracle à ce problème grandissant. Il faut noter toutefois que plusieurs autorités municipales se sont ingénérées à montrer leur bonne volonté avec différentes stratégies et techniques voulant éloigner les bernaches des zones urbaines, mais les résultats en demeurent très peu satisfaisants : drones, pétards, tirs d’armes à blanc, dispositifs à ultrasons, répulsifs naturels, bateaux miniatures téléguidés, installation de clôtures, grillages et filets temporaires, épouvantails et chiens de berger, destruction des nids et stérilisations des œufs. Tous ces moyens nécessitent des ressources financières et les coûts finissent par être absorbés par les contribuables. Effrayées, les bernaches s’éloignent et vont temporairement s’installer sur des terres avoisinantes et reviennent peu après aux mêmes endroits qu’avant!

De toute évidence aussi, on créerait un scandale si le gouvernement autorisait à grande échelle la chasse à la bernache en milieux urbains avec les contraintes s’y rapportant. Amants de la nature, écologistes, environnementalistes, monteraient à coup sûr aux barricades et exposeraient la honte à s’attaquer à de si beaux animaux, entraînant toutes sortes de réactions excessives. Pour d’autres enfin, afin de préserver une écologie saine et équilibrée, surtout en ce qui concerne les bassins et cours d’eau propres, l’abattage de ces oies noires serait la mesure draconienne à prendre.

Bref, pas facile de trouver la meilleure solution. Alors, pourquoi pas demander aux enseignants de proposer à leurs élèves un projet sur cet enjeu? Qui sait, les solutions proposées par nos jeunes pourraient surprendre voire inspirer certains scientifiques de l’environnement et autorités gouvernementales en panne d’idées, non?



## Poems

by Ralph Kretz

### Small and Large

Atoms  
Too small for us to see  
Minerals  
As beautiful as can be  
Rocks  
Rising from the sea  
Planet Earth  
In the Milky Way  
Galaxy

### Trees

Small trees  
Large trees  
Maple and oak  
Spruce and pine  
Trees for shade  
Trees for birds  
Trees make oxygen  
That we breathe

### Birds

Birds,  
How beautiful your song  
With notes both high and low  
Short and long  
Birds,  
How do you produce  
These sounds  
Often repeated many times  
Beautiful birds

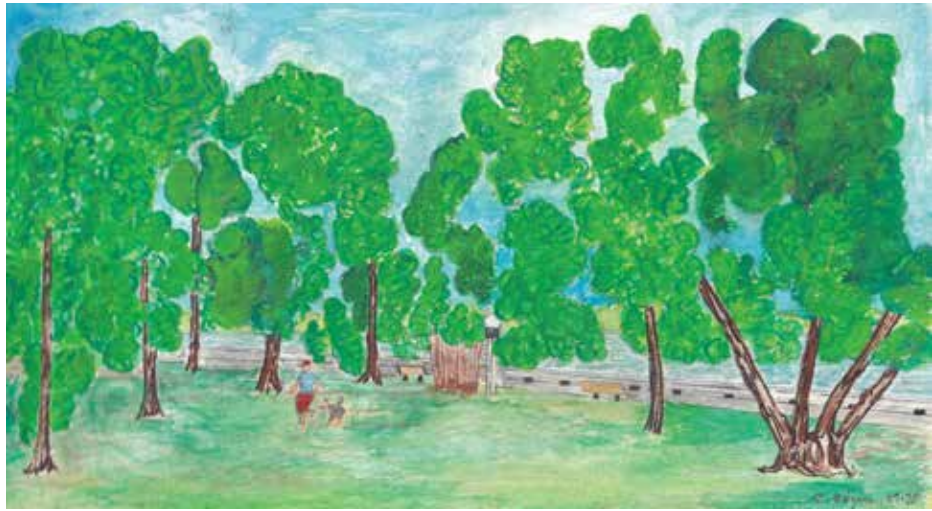



Illustration: Claude Bégin

# Word Sonnets

by Seymour Mayne

Sandy Hill's Rabbits	August Orbit	Value Added	Hands	Posterity	Cache	Can't Say No	Winter Solstice
They hop heedless of danger; snow is their meadow, eyes blink with wary caution	The vast armies of the dead flicker above their stones on flaring lunar nights.	It's not a sin to spin words in a poem, applying valued added syntax.	Whose hands held plank and saw, nail and hammer that shaped these sheltering walls?	Who are you, with insouciant eyes glancing over our digital messages to the future?	For Peter Humphreys How many smiles do I have left or are they numberless like Abraham's seed?	For David Mibashan When the call comes, there is no voice mail to deflect the imperious summons.	It's the end but also the beginning; light starts to rise reaching towards summer.





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**FOR ADULTS / POUR ADULTES**

**Monday Evening Book Club**  
Monthly on Monday evenings, 7:00–8:15 p.m. Drop-in. Adults.  
Oct. 6 - *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens  
Nov. 3 - *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver  
Dec. 1 - *Companion* by Ali Smith

**Pen and Paper Writer's Group**  
Every Tuesday night till Dec. 16, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Drop-in. Adults.  
Get feedback on your writing (any genre) and ideas from the group. Hear the work of other writers and offer your feedback. Discuss issues about writing and publishing. Share your triumphs, trials, and tribulations with a supportive, informal group. "Pen and Paper" is just a name - bring any medium you want.

**Groupe de conversation en français**  
Le mercredi, 10 h 30 à midi, jusqu'au 10 déc. Portes ouvertes. Adultes.  
Profitez de notre groupe de conversation afin d'améliorer vos habiletés en français à l'oral. Bienvenue à tous.

**Wednesday English Conversation Group**  
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., till Dec. 10. Drop-in. Adults.  
Do you already have some basic English language skills, and are you looking for a casual, friendly environment where you can practice your English speaking skills? All levels are welcome.

**Thursday Morning Book Club**  
Monthly on Thursday mornings at 10:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Drop-in. Adults.  
Oct. 16 - *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern.  
Nov. 13 - *Knife* by Salman Rushdie.  
Jan. 15 - *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

**Friday English Conversation Group**  
Fridays, 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., till Dec. 12. Drop-in. Adults.  
Do you already have some basic English language skills, and are you looking for a casual, friendly environment where you can practice your English speaking skills? All levels are welcome.

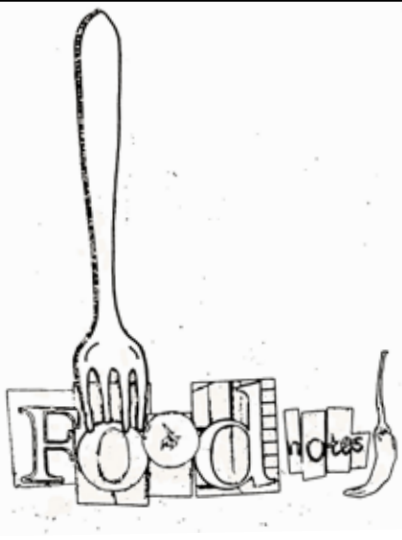
**Go (Board Game) Workshop / Atelier de Go (jeu de stratégie)**  
Saturdays, 2:00–5:00 p.m. Drop-in. Adults.  
Learn to play Go, the ancient strategy game. Designed for beginners and intermediate players.  
Le samedi, 14 h à 17 h. Portes ouvertes. Adultes.  
Apprenez le Go, jeu de stratégie ancien. Conçu pour les débutants et les joueurs de niveau intermédiaire.

**ZineWorkshop**  
Saturdays, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, 3:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Drop-in. Adults & teens.  
Learn to design, make and publish your own mini magazines. At the end of the workshop, you can make copies of your completed Zine to share with your friends. All supplies will be provided. Bring any writing, poems, or ideas you may want to include in your Zine.

**Paranormal Investigation 101**  
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Drop-in. Adults.  
Presented by *Scientific Investigation of Paranormal Activity Canada*. S.I.P.A. are not traditional Ghost Hunters, taking a scientific approach to their investigations in order to debunk the haunting before investigating a potentially paranormal cause. Learn how S.I.P.A. conduct their investigations, discover the tools and techniques used in paranormal investigation, and learn about local haunted sites that S.I.P.A. have investigated.

**FOR CHILDREN / POUR LES ENFANTS**

**Bilingual Family Storytime / Contes en famille bilingue**  
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. till Dec. 9. Drop-in.  
Stories, rhymes and songs for children of all ages and a parent or caregiver. Followed by 30 minutes of "stay and play" for those who would like to linger and socialize.  
Le mardi, 10 h 30 à 11 h 30, jusqu'au 9 déc. Portes ouvertes.  
Contes, comptines et chansons pour les enfants de tous âges et un parent ou gardien. Le programme sera suivi de 30 minutes de jeu libre pour les familles qui veulent rester socialiser.



*Did you make any happy gastronomic discoveries in Sandy Hill over the summer? Is there something you're really looking forward to trying out, now that you're home from the cottage? Please share your favourite Sandy Hill food experiences with:*

*editor@imagesandyhill.org*

*Photos: Paula Kelsall*

Paula Kelsall

**AC Lounge, 201 Rideau St.**

The restaurant in the new Marriott Hotel west of the Metro doesn't call attention to itself in any way, although diners near the windows are sitting just feet from passersby on Rideau. We checked it out for breakfast one steamy July morning when we needed an air-conditioned interlude. The friendly young waitress was an IMAGE reader, and the scrambled eggs on grilled sourdough with prosciutto, arugula and manchego cheese were very enjoyable.

**Dinette Atomique, 321 Somerset St. E.**

After a tantalizing wait, it was thrilling to see the new restaurant at the corner of Somerset and Blackburn finally open in late August. Our first forays were most promising; we loved the bento bowl with five-spice roasted pork and an array of corn, lightly pickled onion and other tasty tidbits on rice, as well as the spring rolls (crisp and full of pork, with a succulent sweet chili sauce) and the messy but delicious vegetarian version of the banh mi muffaletta sandwich. Fried chicken had a crisp and flavourful coating and came with an excellent biscuit. There was also a large and beautiful pile of slaw, which we found a bit dry and bland. Perhaps the fish sauce vinaigrette that's mentioned on the menu didn't make it onto this serving. Breads and desserts are baked in house and have been universally delicious; check out the rhubarb and strawberry coffee cake if you get a chance.



**Halibut with a savoury sauce of greens and tomato, tomato salad with balsamic aioli, and greens with shaved egg and bagna cauda sauce, plus focaccia—a satisfying dinner for two at Jackson Café!**

**Mumbai Masala Grill, 319 Rideau St.**

So many restaurants have come and gone from the Days Inn at Rideau and King Edward! The hotel's guests must appreciate having breakfast available just downstairs, but it seems to be tough for restauranteurs to make an impression on the neighbourhood. Maybe Mumbai Masala Grill, which already has an established branch on Albert St., will have the lucky formula. Certainly other Indian restaurants are thriving in the area, and there is no place that's handier for a meal with friends before or after a movie at the Bytowne. The new owners have taken some trouble with the decor, now a warm and cheerful array of teal blue and salmon pink, and service is kind and quick. We have enjoyed the tender garlic naan, the paneer lababdar and the eggplant bharta, and are looking forward to checking out their breakfast offerings, which include both western and Indian options.

**Onua Bakery & Cafe, 165 Chapel St.**

Let it be said that Onua Bakery makes one of the most delicious BLTs you could hope to find anywhere. With plenty of meaty, well-cooked bacon, a spicy and garlicky sauce, and juicy tomato slices on a fresh and chewy ciabatta bun, these sandwiches have had us murmuring with pleasure on more than one occasion this summer. The chicken sandwiches are darn good too, with lots of solid breast meat, tomato, avocado, lettuce and cheese, making for a well-rounded meal on a focaccia square that's big enough for two. If you are lucky enough to be at Onua on a day when the bread pudding is available, you shouldn't miss it. This moist slice of eggy goodness is studded with raisins, pumpkin seeds and the odd chunk of chocolate, probably from leftover chocolate croissants. Topped with a swirl of pink whipped cream and a couple of jaunty strawberry slices, it's happiness on a plate.



**The fried chicken plate at Dinette Atomique. Loved that biscuit!**

**Jackson Cafe, 10 Daly Ave.**

The Germain Hotel next door to the Ottawa Art Gallery has taken over the management of the gallery's cafe, and it was delightful to discover that Jackson is once again offering food on at least some evenings (Wednesday to Sunday, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.). With a small plates format and an interesting cocktail list, this is a good place for an after-work rendezvous or a full-fledged supper. On a summer evening it's fun to sit in the courtyard on Daly St. and watch the sky turn indigo with a plate of patatas bravas, a cheese or charcuterie platter, or a salad with some unexpected garnishes and dressing. As for dessert, the donut of the day is a generous portion of two fresh fritters with something sweet and sticky—we've enjoyed the caramel-pecan glaze—and the blueberry galette has tender pastry and a filling bursting with flavour.



**Onua Bakery's bread pudding: happiness on a plate.**



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# Sandy Hill summer winds down

Photo: Christine Aubry



Councillor Stéphanie Plante celebrated back-to-school for all Sandy Hill students with a 3rd annual Food Truck Festival in September. This time it was in a new location, beside Cindy Mitchell Park, and with musical entertainment from Maple Quartet.



Art in the Park returned to Strathcona Park in September this year, organized this year by National Capital Artisans, and with a surprise new mascot!

Photo: Christine Aubry



Driest conditions we remember on the Rideau shore.



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

**Evolution of the Orchestra**  
Tuesdays, October 21–November 25, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. on Zoom.

This fall, join Sandy Hill's renowned musician, artistic director and arts administrator Julian Armour as he explores the Evolution of the Orchestra in a six-part adventure through music. This course traces the fascinating story of the orchestra, from its earliest beginnings in royal courts to the polished, powerhouse ensembles of today. With lively stories, famous recordings, fun anecdotes, and a look at great conductors and orchestras past and present, this entertaining series brings the orchestra's rich history to life. For details and registration: [www.musicandbeyond.ca](http://www.musicandbeyond.ca)

**Homes for the Holidays**  
**Les Maisons des fêtes**  
November 14, 15 & 16, 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. in various locations throughout Ottawa.

Explore Ottawa-area homes decorated by talented designers and florists, to benefit Hospice Care Ottawa. For details and tickets: [www.homesfortheholidays.raiselysite.com](http://www.homesfortheholidays.raiselysite.com)

**Understanding our femaleness through Christ**  
Sundays, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Prayer group for the female gender, in the boardroom of the Sandy Hill Community Centre, lower level, 250 Somerset East. Bring a copy of your Holy Bible. Contact: [gavaut@gmail.com](mailto:gavaut@gmail.com)



Sandy Hill gardener and Green Team member Marilyn Whitaker visited the Canadian Museum of Nature exhibit *Ikebana: Nature's Beauty Reimagined*, this past September. Ikebana are floral creations that depict the ancient art of Japanese floral design; there are members of an Ikebana group called Soketsu that meets every month at the Sandy Hill community centre.

Photo: HS Canada

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

from page 15

### HOODS OF OTTAWA

#### ACROSS

- 1 LITTLE ITALY 7 CRUMB 9 DIAGRAM  
11 HIP 12 ICEBERGS 13 AS IN  
15 ABLOOM 17 VANIER 19 OINK  
20 AGAR 21 CRA 23 NOTABLE  
24 CLICK 25 ELK 26 CÔTE DE SABLE

#### DOWN

- 2 TAUPE 3 LEBRETON 4 INDIGO  
5 ADAM 6 YARDS 7 CHINA TOWN  
8 RIC 10 MANOR PARK  
14 BARRACKS 16 LUNATIC  
18 AGREED 21 CLIMB  
22 OBIT 26 LE



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# Urban heat islands

## How urban infrastructure exposes our most vulnerable to scalding adversity

Sabrine Adjinakou & Karandeep Singh

This June, Ottawa experienced its hottest day in more than a century at 35°C. Environment Canada issued alerts, calling on seniors and people with fragile health to stay indoors—regardless of the fact that many homes in the “True North” are not built to be hospitable in such heat. Many folks cannot afford to cool their homes, while many others live in ill-ventilated apartments. These record-shattering events are becoming increasingly common as climate change affects us in unprecedented ways, and extreme climatic conditions are slated to become even more intense.

Urban infrastructure retains heat. Surfaces such as asphalt, pavements, rooftops, etc. absorb heat during the day and gradually release it overnight. On the other hand, trees and green spaces help cool the air by providing shade and releasing moisture into the atmosphere. Neighbourhoods with fewer trees and more built-up spaces are most likely to suffer from unhealthy heat levels even after sunset. The City of Ottawa employs the Tree Equity Score to assess urban tree canopy cover and to identify areas with low tree canopy cover. The American Forests Tree Equity Score was developed to measure and address inequities in tree distribution in cities and towns.

The most recent assessment of tree canopy cover in Ottawa was released on September 4, 2025, covering the five-year period from 2017–2022. That report, which is available on the City of Ottawa website, identified that the target tree canopy cover for urban areas is 40%. The neighbourhoods identified



Photo: Christine Aubry

**The City’s Tree Equity Score shows our Rideau–Vanier ward is well below a healthy target of 40% tree canopy, with still only 21% for 2017-2022. The recent loss of large numbers of trees at Dutchie’s Hole (above) and Annie Pootoogook parks seems to be a move in the wrong direction!**

with low canopy cover tend to be lower income, overcrowded, poorly served by transit and more socially vulnerable overall. There are quite a few Ottawa neighbourhoods that are significantly less than 40%. Our Rideau–Vanier ward sits at 21%, well below the 40% target for tree canopy cover. The Rideau–Vanier ward was assessed at the same 21% tree canopy cover in 2017, so there has been no improvement during the five-year period assessed.

More affluent areas tend to be better shaded and have better access to greenspaces, whereas denser, poorer neighbourhoods, where the houses more often do not have central air-cooling systems, have fewer greenspaces which can serve as an oasis during sweltering temperatures. A single well-placed tree can provide shade, and clusters of trees in public parks lower the temperatures around them. Less affluent neighbourhoods lack access to public parks, and those they have tend to be poorly maintained. These differences between affluent and less affluent neighbourhoods originate from years of uneven investments by the City.

Cities must focus their greening efforts at the hotspots which experience the greatest heat, instead of prioritizing the already well-served, affluent areas which hold electoral sway. Residents’ voices need to matter in the decisions in their community; they are the people who inhabit those areas and naturally know best what needs fixing. The Tree Equity Score report is intended to make information available to us residents that we can use to advocate for our own health and resilience in increasingly extreme weather conditions.



Working Title - 330 Laurier Ave East - [www.workingtitleottawa.com](http://www.workingtitleottawa.com)

### AUTUMN NIGHTS AT WORKING TITLE

As the evenings get cooler, our Lounge Bar Manifesto awaits for cocktails, wine, and charcuterie. A cosy spot for two, or book an area for a get-together.

open daily 4pm - 10pm



### SUNDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Join us weekly for our family-style dinners, 5-9pm in the restaurant and on the terrace while the weather allows!

three courses - \$36 | kids - \$18