



Dead trees at Pimisi Station, 3



Affordable housing for whom? 4

THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ

New murals see beauty in everyone

Alayne McGregor

Claudia Salguero looks back with joy on her collaboration with downtown Ottawa Community Housing (OCHC) tenants. “The thing that I love about my work is that I work with people from all kinds of backgrounds and genders and ages. The beauty of community art is that it is a beautiful tool with which you can bring people to work regardless of their background.” The digital artist worked with more than 20 tenants last winter to create a mural in three panels, located on the exterior of the OCHC buildings at 415 MacLaren Street and 380 Somerset Street West. The mural’s theme is “I See Beauty, I See Beauty In You.” The mural was officially unveiled August 20, although the panels were finished earlier. Salguero said they waited for the summer to allow “the whole commu-



Artist Claudio Salguero (centre right) helps unveil one of the two new Ottawa Community Housing murals at 415 MacLaren Street and 380 Somerset Street West. The theme of the murals is “I see beauty, I see beauty in you.” OTTAWA COMMUNITY HOUSING

nity to be part of the of the inauguration.” Tenants in the two buildings were invited by Centretown Community Health Centre staff to an out-of-doors, distanced meeting with Salguero to discuss a theme for the mural. At the meeting, she told them they would receive an art kit, with canvas, brushes, and paint, so they could create designs to be incorporated in the mural. She reassured the tenants they didn’t need to be artists to take part.

“The idea was to create something together, so what I always do with the community is that I just ask questions and invite them to talk about things important for them to create. We were talking about interaction, about COVID, about being isolated, about all these things that happen in a building like this one – and then one of the tenants said, ‘Well, I am a poet.’” cont on page 4 New murals

Hospital site becomes election issue

Alayne McGregor

The controversy over the new hospital site in the Experimental Farm has reached the federal election campaign, with widely different views among Ottawa Centre candidates. It has even inspired a daily picket line at one candidate’s campaign office, and an online petition calling for an investigation into the site decision which has garnered more than 4600 signatures. At the city level, the debate will come to a head on October 1, when Ottawa’s Planning Committee and Built Heritage Subcommittee are scheduled to consider the proposed hospital site plan. Citizens can present their comments at that meeting, but not at City Council on October 13. The National Capital Commission (NCC) Board is expected to consider the hospital plan in October as well. The new site near Preston and Carling will replace the current Civic Hospital campus. The proposed plan has proven controversial because of large amounts of car park-

ing, poor transit access, and the destruction of trees and greenspace. This site was a third choice. The hospital’s first choice, also on the Farm, was rejected because it was on prime agricultural research land. The NCC then examined 12 sites in 2016, with more than 7000 people participating in the consultation. It ended up recommending Tunney’s Pasture. The hospital board immediately rejected Tunney’s because of what it considered poor automobile connections to the Queensway, and because of the cost of demolishing existing buildings at Tunney’s. Within a week, behind-doors discussions between the city, province, and federal government resulted in an endorsement of the current site – including by then-MPP Yasir Naqvi. Ottawa Centre candidates in the current election have released starkly different positions on this issue. Angella MacEwen (NDP) called for a public inquiry into the 2016 hospital site decision. She also condemned the idea of “an airport-sized, four-storey parking garage,” and called for the garage to be built underground. Angela Keller-Herzog (Green) called for a new master site plan for the hospital, which would respect a 40 percent tree canopy rule and would integrate with public transit – “not a replay of the Chateau Laurier saga, a much better plan.” Carol Clemenhagen (Conservative) posted on Facebook that “Taxpayers have right to know project impacts. Planners’ job is to address concerns. Timely construction now is a health care priority.” Naqvi (Liberal) promised to introduce a law to protect the Experimental Farm, forever. He also tweeted that it was important to continue meeting with community partners and people of all views to address concerns with the site plan. Naqvi’s support of the site has raised the ire of community group Reimagine Ottawa, which is picketing his campaign office Monday to Friday from 8 to 9 a.m. and Saturdays from 4 to 5 p.m. The community group is also running the online petition cont on page 11 Hospital

It’s time to vote!

This Monday, September 20, is election day in Canada. If you haven’t already voted yet, please do. To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old on election day. Polls are open from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Make sure you bring proper ID to the polling place: either one piece of government photo ID with your current address, or two pieces of ID with your name, at least one of which has your current address. A full list of possible ID, which is quite inclusive, is at elections.ca. Alternatively, you can prove your identity and residence by making a solemn declaration and being vouched for by another elector, who must be on the list of electors in your polling station. Please also wear a mask, and stay two metres away from other voters and poll workers. Elections Canada will provide disposable pencils or you can bring your own. Not on the voters’ list? You can register at your polling station when you go to vote on election day. Make sure to bring ID. If you’ve recently moved, you can also update your address at your polling station before you vote. Don’t know where your polling station is? Enter your postal code at elections.ca to find out. Alternatively, phone the local elections office at 1 866 275-1649. Don’t assume it’s the same location as before: Elections Canada says there are fewer stations than before and locations have changed because of the need to physically distance. There are eight candidates in Ottawa Centre:

- Conservative: Carol Clemenhagen
- Green: Angela Keller-Herzog
- Liberal: Yasir Naqvi
- NDP: Angella MacEwen
- Animal Protection Party of Canada: Shelby Bertrand
- Communist Party: Alex McDonald
- People’s Party: Regina Watteel
- Independent: Richard “Rich” Joyal

Check centretownbuzz.com for more coverage.

September 17, 2021 — Vol. 26, No. 8

THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ

AT THE HEART OF OTTAWA SINCE 1995.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Centretown BUZZ is created and distributed in Centretown, Ottawa, located on traditional and unceded Algonquin land.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of The BUZZ will be published Oct. 15. Deadline for ads and submissions: Oct. 4.
ISSN 1204-1604

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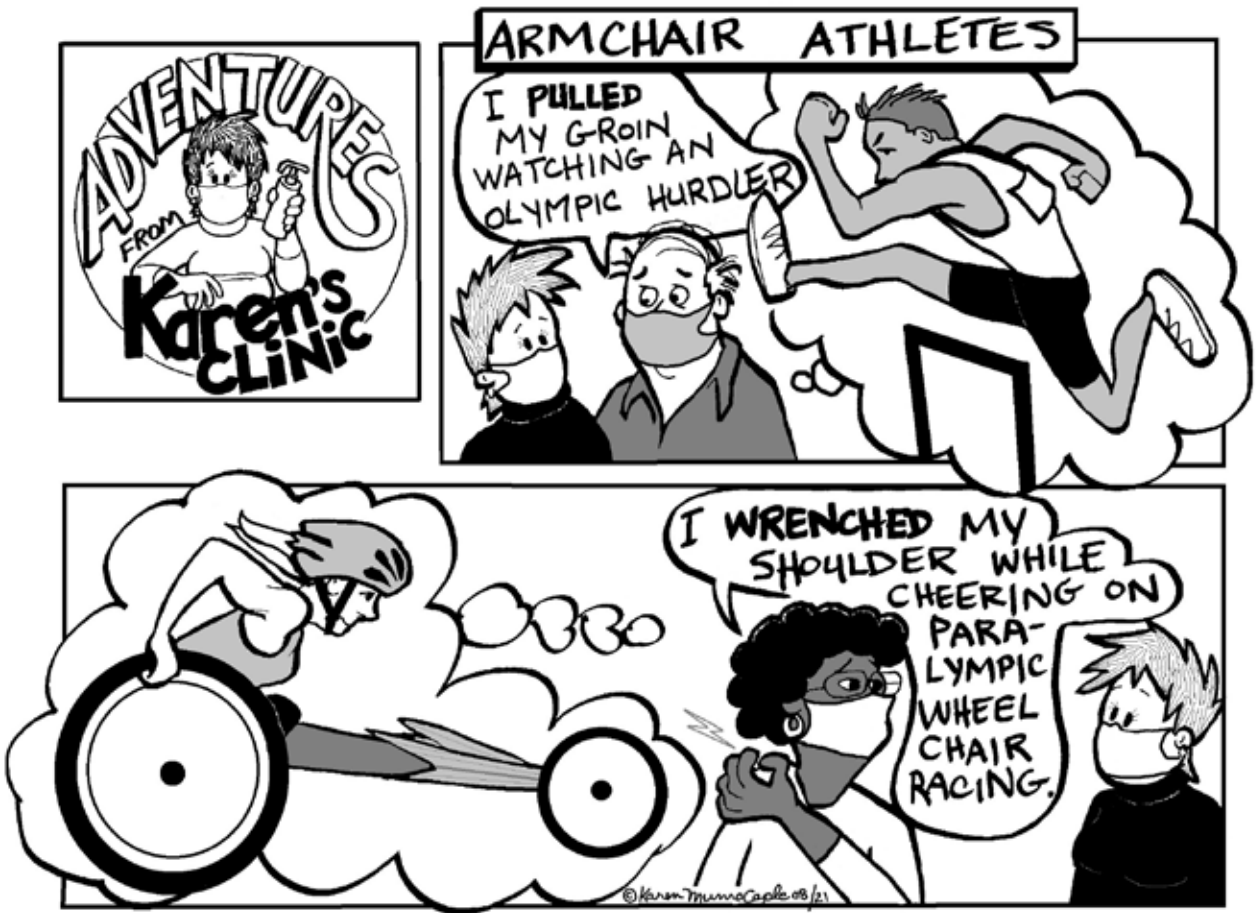
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The Centretown BUZZ is published by The Centretown BUZZ Board of Directors, a group consisting of community members representing all residents of Centretown.

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The Lighter Side of the Pandemic, by Karen Munro-Caple



From the editor: congrats to our contributors!

This month, two of The BUZZ's contributors have something to celebrate.

Our recipes columnist, **Pearl Pirie**, is shortlisted for the Archibald Lampman Award. This award, given by the local *Arc Poetry Magazine*, honours an outstanding collection of poetry by a National Capital area author. Pirie's collection *footlights* is one of three nominees.

Archibald Lampman was one of Canada's finest 19th-century poets, and

lived and worked in Ottawa. He was known for his ability to immerse metaphysics in the details of nature. The 2021 award winner will be announced virtually at the Ottawa Book Awards ceremony on October 20.

And **Karen Munro-Caple** is releasing her first book of cartoons, *The Lighter Side of the Pandemic! or What Day Is It Again?*. These cartoons chronicle the COVID-19 pandemic from the

start to the vaccine release, and document "the funny ways we all deal with stress."

You will have seen some of these cartoons on this page of The BUZZ.

Munro-Caple's book launch and signing will take place outdoors on October 3 in Nepean (we'll update this story online with the exact time and location). The book (\$20) will be available this month online and at local booksellers.

The Good, the Bad, and the Bumpy: Why I love living in Centretown



Bank Street merchants expanded onto the street during the active use closures this summer.

ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

Ryan Lythall

By the time you read this, summer will be almost over and I'm a bit sad about it.

For me, autumn means that it will start getting difficult for me to get outside. My body is sensitive to cold temperatures and my hands and arms tend to stiffen up if I get too cold. But enough about that!

I want to talk about two positives regarding this past summer living in Centretown.

As some of you may be aware, I'm a supporter of the closure of certain sections of Bank Street to traffic. The street closure, which just recently ended, allowed me to ride freely on the road without fear of getting run into or being

in someone's way. (I find that sidewalks are way too small and very bumpy in certain parts, especially near Gladstone. Nor am I a fan of the divider between the intersections.)

This past summer, I used the Bank Street closures on Friday nights and Saturdays as a way to see my friend outdoors. We'd sometimes make plans to meet on Bank Street and go from there. Occasionally, we'd roll around and check out stores or the beautiful new mural on Lisgar Street.

Again, a big thank you to Somerset Ward Councillor, Catherine McKenney, and the Bank Street BIA for the closure. Also, thank you to the several workers who were on the street each week ensuring our safety. I certainly appreciated it and so did others.

The second positive I want to mention is the opening of the Elgin Street Market last month. I had a chance to check it out and I had a great time. I picked up some honey from Harvest Honey to go with the bag of coffee that I bought from No Go Coffee Co.

The market itself is very wheelchair accessible. Everybody was friendly and happy to help. Big shout-out to the Centretown Community Association for organizing it. If you get a chance, please check it out.

For more information on the Elgin Street Market, go to www.elginstreet-market.ca/.

Follow Ryan on Twitter:
[@rolling_enigma](https://twitter.com/rolling_enigma)



A dead tree at the Pimisi LRT Station. ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

Pimisi's greenery interrupted by dead trees

Alayne McGregor

The Pimisi light rail station, at Booth and Albert Streets, has two levels, one connecting directly to Booth and the second lower level connecting to the multi-use paths in LeBreton Flats.

That lower level has been embellished with benches, large-scale artworks, and a raft of trees and other plants to produce a peaceful green oasis for transit users and local residents.

But since the LRT opened two years ago, some of the trees planted there have died and not been replaced. When *The BUZZ* recently checked the area, we found 20 trees in good condition, three looking unhealthy with only a few leaves, and five completely dead.

This situation has infuriated nearby resident Karen Large, who said she has seen

dead trees and weed-filled planters there for several years.

"These dead trees are easy fixes that show clearly the lack of care for the entire [LRT] project. For citizens paying billions for a project that is riddled with secrecy and problems of poor performance, this general lack of care and spending a few hundred dollars for flowers and trees to at least appear to care and have pride in the project are shocking and a slap in our community's face.

"The dead trees and planters full of weeds are symbolic of the terrible city deal as the system does not work and the company does not seem to give a damn as they press on to build more. It looks abandoned, and old after two years.

"Pride and care of our new facility should be standard practice. Trees need to be watered and cared for in a sea of concrete, and bring

shade and green to a man-made space. They should be replaced and cared for. What kind of low standard is there when dead trees are not replaced and flower planters are full of dead weeds instead of flowers?"

She said that she has complained about the Pimisi and Bayview Station landscaping to the city.

Troy Charter, the city's director of Transit Operations said that OC Transpo and its contractors are responsible for the majority of the landscaping around the Line 1 stations, including Pimisi. "Staff are aware of a number of locations where trees need to be replaced and this work has been planned to start in the fall."



What Pimisi's landscaping is supposed to look like, with trees showcasing the sculpture by Nadia Myre. ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

Comment: In this federal election, vote for what matters to you

Centretown and Somerset West Community Health Centres

The 44th federal general election takes place on Monday, September 20, 2021.

After years of engaging people in elections and encouraging everyone to vote, we still hear people say, "Why bother? Nothing is going to change." But governments' policies and decisions during this pandemic have had profound impacts on everyone's life.

Among the clients that CCHC and SWCHC serve, we have seen worsening mental health, more opioid overdoses, even fewer affordable housing options and increased food insecurity. The two centres have effectively responded to these issues by:

- creating safe, accessible spaces for individuals in need of ongoing, in-person care and social services;
- providing virtual services to ensure continuity of care and support;
- staffing COVID-19 assessment and respite centres;
- ensuring clients have access to digital devices to connect with services and programs;
- visiting home-bound seniors; and

- delivering essential goods.

In 2021, we also provided COVID-19 testing and increasing awareness, confidence and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, including delivery of vaccine clinics. Through this work, we have seen and heard every day about the barriers people are facing.

The pandemic has exposed deep social and health inequities. For example, more than 13,000 Ottawa households are on the social housing waiting list with wait times of five to seven or more years. There is a lack of affordable social housing and private rental units in Ottawa. We need a government that will end homelessness and introduce new funding to build affordable community and non-profit housing for low-income households.

Before the pandemic, 4.4 million Canadians, including 39,000 people in Ottawa, relied on food banks each month. During the pandemic, the need for emergency food support has increased. Food banks have seen a 39 percent increase in demand. Now, one in seven people in Canada don't have enough to eat. Nearly five million people in Canada, one of every seven individuals, currently

live in poverty. The effects of poverty can affect a person's life in different ways, including food security, health and housing. We need the next federal government to develop policies, legislation and initiatives to address the exacerbation of poverty and food insecurity during the post-pandemic period.

The Canadian Association of Community Health Centres has identified three areas of social inequities that require action by the next federal government.

1) Pre-pandemic, an estimated seven million (or one in five Canadians) avoided visiting an oral health professional because they couldn't afford it. One in three Canadians don't have dental insurance. The next federal government should commit to investing at least \$1 billion to support public oral health programs for the 20 percent of Canadians who cannot afford to pay and/or suffer in pain.

2) Canada is the only country in the world with a universal health care system that doesn't include universal coverage of prescription drugs. Instead, we rely on a confusing patchwork of more than 100 government-run drug insurance programs and more than 100,000 private drug insurance plans. Yet millions of Canadians don't have access to the prescription medications they require. This glaring gap is part of our unfinished publicly funded health care system. The next federal government should commit to finally establishing a universal, publicly funded Pharmacare program to help residents pay for prescription drugs, medi-

cal supplies and pharmacy services.

3) The COVID-19 pandemic has also underscored the need for increased access to community health centres (CHCs) across the country. People would have timely access to integrated primary care and social services, particularly for complex physical and mental health and so-

cial needs. As we build back from the pandemic, the next federal government should commit to health equity and investment in CHCs so that we "build back better."

Elections can divide us as parties put forward their platforms and differentiate themselves from each other. As voters, we need to talk about policies and issues that

matter to us, discuss our differences, debate the issues and get informed about parties' platforms.

This election is an incredibly important one and every voter needs to get out and vote so we elect a federal government that is able to tackle these social and health inequities.

Candidates debate the climate crisis

Alayne McGregor

An Ottawa Centre election debate on the environment came to life when the candidates talked about riding-specific issues.

The September 8 virtual debate featured four candidates: Alex McDonald (Communist), Angela Keller-Herzog (Green), Angella MacEwen (NDP), and Yasir Naqvi (Liberal). The Conservative candidate could not attend. Their discussion was substantially more civil than the federal leaders' debate, but generally reflected their parties' policy books.

The event was part of GreenPAC's cross-country initiative, 100 Debates on the Environment, and was hosted by non-profit Evidence for Democracy.

The candidates agreed that the climate crisis was the number one issue they were hearing at the door from electors.

The organizers posed four questions to the candidates on issues like nature loss, reducing emissions, ending all government subsidies for fossil fuels, equity in recovering from the pandemic, and supporting the rights of indigenous peoples.

The final question was

from the audience: "What is the most pressing environmental issue facing our riding, and what will you do about it?"

Yasir Naqvi highlighted his Climate Action Plan for the riding, which aims to reduce air pollution and improve traffic safety especially for children going to school. He wanted to work with the city to create dedicated pathways for those who ski, walk, cycle, and roll. As OC Transpo electrifies its bus fleet, he suggested, "there is a great opportunity to apply some of those buses first in our inner city on local routes."

McDonald said that the city has been concerned about reducing emissions from transportation for the last 30 years, but has not been able to buy non-fossil-fuel-powered cars or buses. He called for the nationalization of the Big Three automakers and having them retool to produce affordable zero-emission vehicles.

Keller-Herzog said she had heard from voters that many were suffering from "eco-anxiety." She said her daughter told her that she had a lot of eco-anxiety: "That's why you're so busy and active and running around like

a crazy chicken trying to be a climate activist."

She said the government should offer more direct help to citizens by redirecting half of current fossil fuel subsidies into subsidies for community renewable energy projects like household solar panels, affordable home energy retrofits, or improving the urban forest.

MacEwen said a lot of climate solutions are at the municipal level, and called for low-cost federal loans for investments in transit and complete streets so that people (including the disabled) can use modes other than cars.

Too many of these projects, however, have been undertaken as private-public partnerships (P3s), she said, with federal encouragement. Six to eight percent return is built into those deals, she said, and in cases like Ottawa's LRT, corners have been cut.

"It's a disaster. There was much possibility there. If we had built it as a public good, which it is, instead of through a private company, it would have been cheaper and it would have been higher quality."

You can watch the entire debate on Evidence for Democracy's Facebook page.

Disclaimer

The Board of *The Centretown BUZZ* is aware of flyers being circulated by an individual whose advertisement *The BUZZ* declined to publish. The advertisement promoted a video which contains misinformation about the pandemic and COVID-19 vaccines.

The Board stands behind our editor, Alayne McGregor, and denounces the personal and misogynist attacks on her by this individual.

Affordable for whom? becomes the housing debate

Alayne McGregor

Affordable housing – already a controversial city issue because of the recent Heron Gate development agreement – has also touched the federal election race in Ottawa Centre.

Both NDP candidate Angella MacEwen and Liberal candidate Yasir Naqvi have released specific policies about affordable housing.

Both spoke September 1 at a rally which called on political parties to protect and create more affordable housing. The rally was organized by Ottawa ACORN, an independent national organization of low-and-moderate income families. MacEwen was one of the scheduled speakers, while Naqvi arrived at the end to hold an impromptu press conference and answer questions.

The 30 ACORN members at the rally held signs and banners saying “A housing homelessness crisis isn’t fixed by tearing down the homes that are already there”, “Housing for the People”, “Tenant rights are human rights”, and “80% Median Market Rent for 10-25 years ≠ Affordable Housing.”

At the rally, MacEwen described rents in Ottawa as “out of control. I am talking

to people who are spending 70 percent of their income on rent and going to the food bank to meet their basic needs. Every year their rent keeps going up and their wages don’t. There’s already a waitlist of 10,000 people looking for subsidized affordable housing rent geared to income. We have another whole group of people who aren’t on that waitlist yet that don’t know what they’re going to do next year when their rent goes up.”

She said housing should be affordable for seniors on basic incomes or people earning minimum wage, and promised deeply affordable housing at LeBreton Flats and Tunney’s Pasture. On her website, MacEwen promises 10,000 units of deeply affordable housing in this riding over the next 10 years, plus interim relief for families who cannot afford current rents. She says she is committed to non-market, co-op housing that is deeply affordable, and a strong Community Benefits Agreement for LeBreton Flats.

Naqvi has announced a goal of 1700 more new affordable and accessible homes to reduce chronic homelessness through the National Housing Strategy and Rapid Housing Initiative. He will also seek in-



ACORN members demonstrated for affordable housing on LeBreton Flats on September 1.

ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

vestments in energy efficient retrofits of existing community housing.

Conservative candidate Carol Clemenhausen and Green candidate Angela Keller-Herzog have no riding-specific housing policies. The three-sentence Conservative housing platform promises to build one million homes in the next three years but doesn’t mention affordability.

The extensive Green housing platform promises to declare housing affordability and homelessness a national emergency, and to redefine affordable housing using a better, updated formula that accounts for regional variations across the country, as well as establishing a moratorium on evictions until the pandemic is over.

Ottawa ACORN board member Norma-Jean Quibell said the rally was being held at LeBreton Flats because it is the largest piece and undeveloped land in Ottawa’s core – and is owned by the federal government. That

area could be a site of deeply affordable housing, but the National Capital Commission’s master concept plan is coming up short, she said.

“This is government-owned land. This isn’t a private developer. We should expect a lot more.”



Signs and masks abounded at the rally.

ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

The NCC has committed to some affordable housing, but with no clear definition of what that means. One definition is 80 percent of

average market rent, which is “not affordable for people who need it the most.” As well, the NCC’s master concept plan references CMHC programs that only require housing to be “affordable” for 10-25 years, she said.

Quibell said that, with rents continuing to increase, the most vulnerable people in society are losing the ability to have housing that’s affordable and adequate (both for family size and for disabilities).

ACORN’s federal housing platforms calls for • protecting existing affordable housing from gentrification and renovations of existing tenants; • ending the income tax exemptions to Real Estate Investment Trusts; • for the CMHC to add affordable housing preservation conditions on all financing agreements with developers; • creating a national non-profit acquisition strategy; and • building a minimum of 1.2 million units of affordable housing in the next decade, with the housing kept afford-

able for perpetuity.

Similar issues at the city

Similar issues have been raised recently at Ottawa City Council during the debate over a “social contract” guaranteeing affordable housing in the Heron Gate area in southeast Ottawa, where many currently affordable units have been demolished and replaced with more expensive units.

One issue was how long a rental unit should remain affordable. The Heron Gate agreement, for example, limited the number of years that a unit was required to remain affordable, which Councillor Jeff Leiper termed “slow-motion gentrification.”

And defining “affordability” proved difficult. It is often termed to be 30 percent of income, but should that income be Ottawa’s overall median income of \$109,500, or full-time minimum wage salary? Thirty percent of the median income equates to a monthly rent of more than \$2,700.

New mural sees beauty

cont from page 1

The tenant, Beverly, brought down a poem entitled “Picking Contentment.” It recounts what she had seen through her windows through 20-odd years living in that building, such as Chinese women dancing and doing Tai Chi, and the sun and the leaves and the snow and the sunset. The group took that as their theme, and agreed to paint what they saw through their windows.

After a few weeks, Salguero gathered together the paintings, digitized photos of them, put them together into three panels, and then painted further designs over top with a digital brush.

“When I was in front of all these paintings and looked at what they saw, then I saw them seeing each other right through the windows but all together. And I see all this diversity, and I see the kind of different persons we all are, and I see that there’s lots of beauty in all of this.”

When she brought the results back to the community, they named the mural “I see beauty, I see beauty in you” – “and so it’s a community creation where they put in their part, I put in my part, and then I added different kind of eyes symbolizing how

different we are and how we can see things in a different way. But that doesn’t make us different, so we can still be together and we need to just learn to see the beauty in our difference.”

The mural panels were then printed on aluminum for display. But the tenants have retained their artwork and “the idea is that one day we can do an exhibition where they can expose their own creations together with the mural.”

Salguero has created more than 40 community murals in the city since 2014, 13 in conjunction with OCHC tenants. This is the first in Centretown.

“Through my work with the Ottawa Community Housing for years, we have proven that it is an amazing tool for interaction which is needed always.

“Even though we are living through a lot with the pandemic and lots of limitations, lots of challenges, when we work together, we can do a lot. [It shows that] the creativity of everyone, even not artists, [who] are trying to reinvent themselves as persons and professionals and business owners, has been incredible. These murals are part of that.”

Photographers present pop-up Centretown festival

Four photographers will present an outdoor photo festival in Centretown from September 18 to October 3.

Tony Fohse, Victoria Laube, Ava Margueritte, and Ian Willms will exhibit their work. The photos, while not specifically of the lockdown, reflect “aspects of how this past year felt,” they said.

Fohse and Margueritte will present photos at 561 Somerset Street West, and Laube and Willms will show at 292 Kent Street.

The official opening and photobook launch for both locations is from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 18. There is no admission charge.

On Sunday, September 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. the photographers will “host a conversation (not a talk!) about how the past year has affected people, and its effect on artistic practise.” This event will take place in the parking lot beside 561 Somerset St. West. They suggest bringing

a lawn chair.

Fohse has exhibited internationally and received the City of Ottawa Karsh Award for Photography.

Laube explores issues of degradation, evolution, metamorphosis and change in the quotidian through “stream of consciousness” shooting.

Margueritte received a 2021 Youth in culture pilot program grant from the city; her work documents physical reactions to other emo-

tional states.

Willms is a documentary and contemporary photographer from Toronto whose work has been recognized internationally and by the Canada Council for the Arts.

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Skyline: Planning proposals come in small, medium, and large



The proposed development at 50 The Driveway is the smallest of the three, but likely to be the most controversial.

Robert Smythe

108 Nepean Street

The southeast corner of Nepean and O'Connor is currently a commercial parking lot and it is here that the Taggart Group is proposing a 27-storey, 295-unit apartment building.

RLA Architects have designed a slightly bow-fronted tower sitting atop a red brick, six-storey podium base. These lower floors are meant to resemble nearby vintage apartment houses.

To make up for relatively small unit sizes and the 21st-century gig-economy lifestyles of those expected to live here, the amenities promised include co-working studios, maker-spaces and a dog-washing station. The 432-bicycle indoor parking spaces suggest that these residents will favour active transportation modes.

However, the increased dimensions the development is seeking through this rezoning might appear to be startling. They are requesting that the building's density (a multiple of total floor coverage over lot size) would be enlarged by more than 400 percent over the present limit.



311 Somerset Street West: do bricks mitigate the height?

Additionally, the required amount of landscaped open space is to be cut in half, the tower's permitted girth expanded by 20 percent, and various rear and side yard setbacks drastically reduced. Building height is not a legal issue because, as per a zoning anomaly, the site has no maximum.

This tower would join six others—already built, under construction, or granted approval within a one block stretch of Nepean Street—for a total dwelling count of nearly 2,000 new units. When, through the Centretown Community Design Plan, consultants tried to sell the community on intensification with a high-rise, high-density residential zone here, it was promised that there would be compensating public benefits like improved public spaces and amenities to serve the area's residents.

Apparently, here the cumulative density has been piled on with no apparent long-term public realm improvement, or community services plan to provide these needs.

311 Somerset Street West

The trend to wrap the nether regions of every new tower development in Centretown's historic districts

continues unabated. This follows the widely held idea at City Hall that, as long as a building's base is brick-clad, then height is not an issue and the upper storeys will simply disappear from view. For our neighbourhood, three floors of this magic masonry seems to be the winning formula.

Putting this theory into practice, the latest example is a 16-storey, 140-unit residential development at the northeast corner of Somerset West and O'Connor Streets, proposed by the Gemstone development company.

They will require a rezoning approval for a height increase that almost doubles the current maximum on most of this now-vacant lot, which is in the Traditional Mainstreet category. As well, the property sits within the Centretown Heritage Conservation District and forms the eastern terminus of the Somerset Street Chinatown Business Improvement Area. Car parking will be provided for about a third of the units.

The proponents contend that their three-storey brick base "mitigates the scale [of the tower above] ... helps to transition to the heritage buildings" and is "well thought out and suits the street."

Ottawa's Urban Design Review Panel felt that the tower should be set back and that the three lower floors should introduce a more "vertical rhythm following the established cadence of the low-rise streetscape." However, as can be plainly seen, the developers have disregarded this advice.

50 The Driveway

The smallest development is likely to be the most controversial. Situated at the tip of the Golden Triangle east of Elgin Street, this district is the cradle of the original Centretown Plan, when area residents were galva-

nized by the march of high rises down the Rideau Canal and determined to halt them.

On the site of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) headquarters, the proposed building is a nine-storey condo building with 66 exceptionally large units broken into 21 one-bedroom, 42 two-bedroom and three three-bedroom types with 100 underground car-parking

spaces. No green transportation mandate here: this is almost a 300 percent increase over the bylaw requirements.

With little landscaping of its own, this project has the advantage of being situated in a well-treed UNESCO-protected historic park setting.

And the constituent parts for the pro forma brick base treatment are pre-existing as a portion of the 1967 CNA headquarters was designed by one of Ottawa's pioneering modernist architects, James Strutt. Some of it is to be "retained" in a gesture of façadism. But it won't be preserved in situ as is best practice in the heritage biz. A portion of the canal frontage would be dismantled, relocated and reconstructed many metres to the south to better accommodate the needs of the condo tower.

As an additional fillip, they plan to remove the CNA headquarters' ribbed lantern (said to be modelled on a nurse's cap) and locate it within their site landscaping as a garden folly.

To justify doubling the current height limit in this low-rise zone, the proponents have leaned heavily on the presence of the two 45-year-old towers to the

north (built under ancient zoning before the passage of the Centretown Plan) and argue that this building will provide a transition from their height to the much lower-profile neighbourhood that surrounds them.

This is the "What's one more mini-tower?" argument. If approved, the building will shatter a height limit that has held since the early 70s.

Will it set a precedent for a slew of tallish developments in highly desirable locations along the Rideau Canal? The architect has been mindful of these community sensitivities by staying within the mid-rise category and further slimming its mass through a series of progressive setbacks on the upper floors.

There is no doubt that the CNA site presents a unique opportunity to implement Official Plan policies that support the residential intensification of an institutional property that is now largely a surface parking lot. That this project is to be an ultra-luxury development may ease its progress through the regulatory hoops that lie in its path.

Images are from City of Ottawa Development Application files.



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Join the Centretown Emergency Food Centre walk - but stay apart!



The traditional walk location behind Parliament Hill.

ANISHA EISEN/THE BUZZ

The walkathon for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre remains a virtual event again this October because of the health restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

The event went virtual last October and

supporters were asked to walk separately for the annual fundraiser. Organizers plan to do this again for the upcoming Walk for the Centre on Sunday, October 3. Event organizers will encourage walkers to choose their own path while donating online.

Last year's Walk for the Centre was a

welcome success. People walked with their family, or in their bubbles, on special routes of their own choosing. Walkers were encouraged to decorate and carry colourful personal posters to support the walkathon and to submit photos of their walk later. Organizers offered prizes donated by generous local neighbourhood grocery stores and plan to do the same for this year's walk.

The Virtual Walk for the Centre runs from 1 to 4 p.m. on October 3. It offers several options: People can choose their own two or four kilometre walk in their own neighbourhood, on their favourite trail, or on their treadmill at home! The traditional route for the walkathon in past years—the lovely path behind Parliament Hill—is also a good choice.

The Centretown Emergency Food Centre at 507 Bank Street serves a large central catchment area including Centretown, the Glebe, Old Ottawa South and Old Ottawa East with a large population of students, seniors, recent immigrants and rooming house occupants among its clients.

The Food Centre's 70-plus volunteers also include a number of people outside its catchment area. Twenty-two neighbourhood churches are members of the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CC-SAC), the parent organization of the Food Centre, who together with some local sponsors, make each year's walkathon a successful community event.

The economic consequences of the COVID-19 shutdown have been especially hard for lower-income residents, while pandemic guidelines mean many are isolated as well. The generous volunteers and staff at the Food Centre were able to keep operating within the limits of public health restrictions. The Centre has been offering a scaled-back service with pre-bagged groceries since the pandemic started in March 2020 but it is looking forward to returning to a more personalized



Peter Tobin on the 2020 virtual walk.

LORNA KINGSTON/THE BUZZ

service as soon as possible.

Due to the pandemic, organizers are encouraging people to register and fundraise online. They can sponsor an individual, or a team, or sign up themselves to walk and secure their own set of sponsors, even if it's only them and their own family. It is also possible to simply donate and not walk, if desired. They can ask for a pledge form or make a donation by visiting the CCSAC website (www.centretownchurches.org). For cash donations on October 3, there will be a drop-off site for donations and pledge forms.

Detailed information will be available on the [CCSAC website](http://www.centretownchurches.org) and Facebook pages. Organizers are also asking friends of the Emergency Food Centre to promote the walk on their social media sites and to bring a poster on the day of the walk.

The theme of Neighbours Helping Neighbours means even more help is needed in troubled times. Please register for the Walk for the Centre to support the Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

Please wear a mask and stay safe!

Joel Harden

MPP, Ottawa Centre
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Comment: What’s happening now in long-term care homes?

Susan Sheffield

The Final Report of Ontario’s Long-term Care COVID-19 Commission, published on April 30, made 85 recommendations to ensure residents and staff were kept safe in future viral outbreaks. To date, the provincial government has yet to respond.

Prior to April 30, the government announced some measures to be implemented. More staff will be hired and the amount of time PSWs spend with each resident daily will be increased over a period of three years to four hours, finally achieving the full four hours by 2024.

By then, the complexity of resident care needs could be such that four hours of direct care may not be enough to maintain their physical and emotional needs.

The government also announced that they have been

working to ensure that there is air conditioning in all long-term care homes. But the issue is that air conditioning is not necessarily in the resident’s room but rather in a common room on the unit. How would government officials have fared during the recent heat wave if they did not have air conditioning in their bedrooms?

Will these measures fix a broken system? The commissioners recognized in their report that a new way of thinking about how long-term care is delivered needs to occur.

“There needs to be a transformation to a person-centred care model, which motivates different behaviours and rewards innovation that leads to better outcomes for residents and staff.”

Transformative culture change is already occurring in more than 11 long-term care homes in Ontario. There is no need to reinvent

the wheel! These homes are demonstrating, through their innovative model of care, that they have fewer resident falls/trips to hospital, decreased use of antipsychotic medication and diet supplements, increased social activity among residents and, in general, happier staff, residents and their families.

They all fared well through COVID-19 and the costs to operate their model of care, after the initial period of implementation, were recovered in approximately 18 months!

Let’s hope this is not another report that sits on the shelf while more tragedies occur in long-term care

homes. The commissioners listened to over 700 people and many different organizations and made recommendations that will keep our seniors safe while enjoying a quality of life. Now it is up to the government to act!

You can help by contacting your MPP and advocating that the 85 recommendations

be enacted and that transformative culture change to a model of person-centred care needs to be implemented in our long-term care homes.

Susan Sheffield is a member of the C.A.R.P. Ottawa Advocacy Group on Long-Term Care.



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Catherine McKenney • City Councillor for Somerset Ward

Keep up to date on Ottawa's COVID-19 vaccination plan

For updates on COVID-19 vaccinations in Ottawa, please visit: www.ottawapublichealth.ca. Until vaccines are widely available, please take steps to protect yourself, your loved ones and our community.



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Keep in touch!

For the latest news on Somerset Ward, sign up for my newsletter at catherinemckenney.ca and follow me on social media:

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Questions? We can help!

613-580-2484
catherine.mckenney@ottawa.ca



Planet of the Scares: Protein pop



An idli-filled omelet, with the idli on the inside. Seen on the side are squares of Norview Dairy Goat Gouda from Keene, Ontario.

Pearl Pirie

How to use all the produce? You can grind beets and zucchinis and sneak them into banana bread or chocolate cake.

You can do canning, but how many pickles and sauces do you need? Christmas is coming...

Slipping a few bits of

greens into the omelet is a pain-free way to make more room in the fridge from the garden-of-plenty time of year.

Fresh peaches can easily ripen faster than they can be eaten. This dessert helps you catch up on the crop. Ginger is good for digestion, nausea and health. That makes this dessert – for practical purposes – medicine.

Main Dish: Idli-filled omelet

You may like the idli (dosa pancakes) on the outside and egg on the inside, or vice-versa. It depends on how you like it – or how the flipping turns out. The egg outside is more colourful.

You could grind together your own idli with black urad dal, rice, and leavening. See the recipe at www.onegreenplanet.org/vegan-recipe/soft-idli-scratch/.

onegreenplanet.org/vegan-recipe/soft-idli-scratch/

Or you could buy a package of instant idli mix, and then add water (the amount called for on the box), and pour like a pancake. I did the latter. It is more dense than steamed but as good.

Omelet mix:

- 2 free range eggs
- splash of oatmeal milk
- ½ green pepper, diced
- 1 green onion or scape, diced or minced

Put a handful of fresh baby spinach at the bottom of the pan before you pour your eggs to get more nutrients and green packed in.

Tuck one pancake inside the other. Serve with a side salad of fresh market greens.

Dessert: Peachy Ginger Shortbread Squares

Ginger shortbread:

Mix

- ¾ cup margarine
- ½ cup icing sugar
- 1 cup unbleached flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- ½ cup minced candied ginger
- ½ tsp ground ginger



Peachy Ginger Shortbread Squares use up the cornucopia of peaches available now.

Press into a 9x9 pan and prick through with a fork, Bake at 300 degrees F (150 degrees C) for 50 minutes or until lightly golden.


Peachy top

Mix:

- 4-5 peaches, skinned, pits removed, and sliced thin
- 1 cup unsweetened apple juice
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup peach or apricot jam

During the time that the cake is in the oven, boil on low to reduce the juice to a syrup. Once the cake is out

Pearl Pirie's fourth poetry collection, *footlights*, has been short-listed for the Archibald Lampman Award. Get your copy at Perfect Books. Check out her author site at: www.pearlpirie.com Most importantly, keep washing your hands, phones and masks to protect us all. Two immunizations isn't complete enough for the Delta variant.



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Share your favourite Centretown dish!

What's your favourite dish at a Centretown restaurant?

The BUZZ is inviting readers to let us know about the successes of our local restaurants – about the food they make that you really enjoy.

Tell us about one dish that makes you want to re-

turn to a restaurant – and what makes it special. Is it the combination of flavours? Or the culturally authentic recipe? Or the interesting ingredients? Or the special preparation technique that you wouldn't even try at home? Or how you eat it?

Then we'll talk to the restaurant and get their back-

ground on that dish for a story in The BUZZ.

Take-out or dine-in dishes are both good. It doesn't have to be haut cuisine. We'd prefer local restaurants rather than international chains.

We figure our readers are experts on local dining choices, and we hope you'll want to share your favourites with other readers.

Yes, we know it's hard to pick just one dish – but we'd really like to get your choices and learn what makes them special. Please send your nominations to editor@centretownbuzz.com.

And if you're interested in writing the restaurant profiles, please email editor@centretownbuzz.com as well.



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Somerset Ward: what's in a name?

Catherine McKenney

With the new ward boundaries being recently settled, Somerset Ward's boundaries will remain essentially as they have been since 1994.

Although there will be an additional ward created in the City of Ottawa and the names of other wards will change to reflect changing boundaries, Somerset Ward's name will remain the same.

I recently learned how it was decided to name the

ward "Somerset."

When the former wards of Dalhousie and Wellington were merged, a new name was sought for them. At a public meeting, a local resident suggested that Somerset would be an appropriate name.

The ward is completely bisected by Somerset Street West, which runs the entire east/west length of the ward from the Rideau Canal to the Trillium Line. Somerset Street touches our major traditional main streets of Elgin, Bank, Preston and, of course,

Somerset Street itself.

It also touches such diverse neighbourhoods as the Golden Triangle, Centretown, Somerset Village, Chinatown/Little Italy, and Dalhousie or Centretown West.

Everyone in Somerset Ward, regardless of where they live, is a 15-minute, or less, walk from Somerset Street.

I would bet that it is one of the most frequented streets in our city. I would also bet that most of us have a Somerset story. If you do, share it!



A cyclist crosses Somerset at O'Connor in the middle of Centretown.

DAVE LOAN/THE BUZZ



CCA report

Jack Hanna

CCA Fall Festival goes in-person in Dundonald Park

As *The BUZZ* went to press, the CCA expected to resume in-person events with the Fall Festival being held outdoors in Dundonald Park. The festival is being organized by the Centretown Community Health Centre and volunteers with the CCA's Trees & Greenspace Committee.

Plans include displays on pollinators, growing balcony microgardens, recipes for pulses and aboriginal lessons related to autumn. For the children, there will be beading, storytelling, the opportunity to plant tulip bulbs in the gardens and, of course, the hallmark of all CCA festivals: free popcorn.

The festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (with Saturday, September 25 as the rain date).

Tall building proposed alongside the canal

A formal application has been submitted to build the first tall residential building along the Rideau Canal in decades.

A nine-storey development is proposed for the site of the former Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) building at 50 The Driveway and Lewis Street in the Golden Triangle. The former CNA headquarters would be torn down, except for about half of the two-storey east facade, which would be incorporated into the new building as a nod to heritage.

The developer proposes a building with big terraces on the south side, akin to a tiered wedding cake. The intent is to add visual interest when the building is viewed

from the canal.

As well, the developer plans to keep most of the huge glass-and-concrete "lantern" atop the existing CNA building. The six-metre-high lantern will be moved to the ground and become a feature of the landscaping. (The lantern is the symbol of nursing. When the nurses' headquarters was built in 1966, it was crowned with the big, distinctive lantern to architecturally symbolize nurses and nursing.)

The decision on whether the building will be rental apartments or condominiums has yet to be made but the developer is leaning toward condos.

A public Zoom meeting on the project is scheduled for October 7. To obtain an invite, contact the office of Councillor Catherine McKenney.

Bus station site shows future of Queensway corridor

Public consultations have commenced on the site of the former central bus station at 265 Catherine Street. What happens at the site could set a precedent for the future of the zone between the Queensway and Centretown's streets of old Victorian houses.

Current zoning envisions a thick band of skyscrapers along the Queensway and Catherine Street. A very thin band of mid-rise buildings would separate those skyscrapers from Centretown's residential streets to the north.

The site of the former intercity bus station, encompassing an entire city block, embodies that future. On the south side of the site, along Catherine, current zoning allows 27-storey skyscrapers. On the north side of the site on Arlington Avenue, zoning allows nine storeys. Thus, in rapid succession, building heights can go from 27 to nine storeys to residential houses.

At the first "visioning"

meeting in late August, launched by the developer Brigil, the developer said it intends the usual mix of residential towers with stores and offices on the ground floors.

The developer's representatives mused about possibilities for the site such as a public parkette, trees along Catherine and Kent Streets, mid-block open spaces and affordable housing.

Residents taking part in the visioning process pointed out there are rooming houses very close to the site and that the new development should include deeply discounted affordable housing so folks on very low incomes can continue to live in the neighbourhood.

A representative of the developer said the project will create greater density, which might help drive the evolution of nearby Gladstone Avenue into a "high street" of retail shops.

Elgin Street Farmers Market doubles in size

The number of vendors at the Elgin Street Farmers Market has doubled since the market's July start-up. The market is doing very well, says organizer Chris Penton, and so more vendors want to set up stalls.

The market now offers the bounty of five Ottawa-area farms, including both conventionally produced and organic vegetables, fruits and eggs. Visitors can find locally produced bread, cookies, apple pies, cupcakes, honey, salsa, spring rolls and samosas, and ground coffee – all very fresh.

There is craft beer, cider and artisanal liquors and liqueurs. Crafts on offer include beeswax candles, and artisanal soaps and shampoos.

Located in Boushey Square at Elgin and Waverley Streets, it's open Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until October.

Dalhousie Community Assn report

Ed McKenna

Affordable Housing? Ask the CCOC

The Dalhousie Community Association's next regular meeting on October 6 at 7 p.m. will feature a presentation by Ray Sullivan, executive director of the Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC).

Ray will walk us through the sometimes confusing landscape defined by the term "affordable housing." (Contact president@ottawadalhousie.ca for Zoom details if you'd like to join us.) Affordable housing is regularly identified as one of the greatest needs in the Dalhousie area and almost every large-scale new development promises more of it.

Fortunately, Ottawa Community Housing, the largest "social housing" provider in Ottawa, has two major projects in our area: Rochester Heights Redevelopment and Gladstone Village. The DCA's "Plan Our Neighbourhood" Committee has commented extensively on both projects and will continue to participate in consultation opportunities as they arise.

At its regular September meeting, the DCA learned that a public meeting to discuss plans for 933 Gladstone (Gladstone Village) will be scheduled for early October.

The East Flats

Fencing has gone up around the small block

bounded by Lett, Fleet, Lloyd and the former Ottawa (now Lett) Streets, as Claridge Homes prepares to break ground for the first new residential construction project on LeBreton Flats in more than five years.

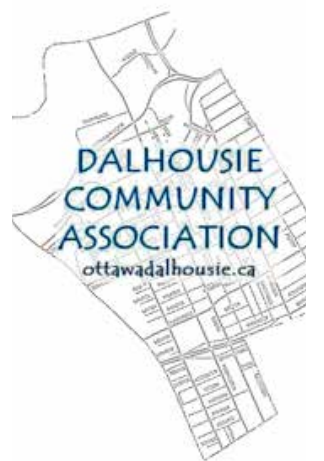
East Flats consists of five tower blocks. However, this month, over the objections of the DCA, the developer successfully sought another zoning bylaw amendment to allow it to build first on Lett Street (instead of Booth), where it will construct the first two towers: one 25 storeys and the second a 30-storey structure.

Claridge Homes also successfully argued that it was not practical to provide the full extent of the floor area for "mixed use" required under the zoning. Hoped-for amenities for this area, including a grocery store, won't be included in the development.

But the city held firm on the requirement for a child care facility for 50 children and will receive \$2 million from the developer toward the cost of a new park south of Lett Street. Of course, there will be a number of "affordable" units included in the development, but the 25 percent affordable housing originally planned for this part of LeBreton Flats remains a dream.

A Demo on Rochester?

Residents have noted activity at the long-neglected site at Rochester and Balsam, where several buildings



are boarded up and fenced off from the street. The site in its present condition may only be described as an eyesore and one that's persisted for more than a year. We're hoping to see plans for redevelopment soon.

Recreation Facilities in Dalhousie-Where Are They?

The DCA's Public Realm Committee, which is concerned with greenspaces, play spaces, public art, benches, trees, gardens and more, will pursue a much-needed inventory of neighbourhood recreation spaces.

These spaces include parks, pools, gyms, meeting rooms and community gardens that are available to the public. The committee is also watching developments at Primrose Park, where the city plans to replace the fencing this fall.

To get involved in the work of this committee, or any of the DCA's committees, contact us. We're always ready to welcome new members!

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Central Centretown: does it merit heritage status?

Stephen Thirlwall

The City of Ottawa is currently re-evaluating the heritage status of parts of Centretown. They have begun with central Centretown between Elgin and Kent Streets to determine whether this area can be considered a Heritage Conservation District.

A high percentage of Centretown was constructed during the period 1880 to 1925. These 95 to 140-year-old buildings bear the classic architecture of the time.

Almost all were built of the same orange-red brick, often with intricate brick designs that we don't seem to be able to reproduce today. Many are very large to grand size—even the single houses. Building heights were one to three storeys. The original area was primarily residential and closely related to the nearby Parliament Buildings.

Since the 1980s, 22 special Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) were established within Ottawa. A Centretown HCD was designated in the Ontario Heritage Act of 1997. A smaller HCD was also established specifically for Bank Street, and a third HCD in Minto Park.



Classical brick patterns on this house on McLeod Street

STEPHEN THIRLWALL/THE BUZZ

What is heritage?

In general, heritage includes all those things in our past that give meaning to our history, culture, civilization, and personal way of life, tradition and identity. It is not just one thing but many factors. It is not static but evolves over time. Each period has its own elements of heritage. Buildings, statues, parks, trees, famous people and events, which make up our urban landscape, are especially important in Ottawa.

In terms of the city, heritage is more narrowly defined by buildings. Heritage is a planning tool to determine which buildings require special approval for demolition, alteration, or additions, and which buildings (or parts thereof) should be preserved close to their original form and style because of their high-heritage value. The concept of heritage districts places heritage value of each building in the context of the surrounding buildings and other features.

Central Centretown as a whole could be considered an HCD because so many of its original buildings still exist and form a vi-

tal part of its community. As described in the city's Draft Plan, an HCD must be "a collection of buildings, streets or open spaces of special significance to the community" with a distinctive character distinguishable from neighbouring areas. It must have a concentration of heritage structures and cultural landscapes, and have visual coherence in building scale, mass, height, material, proportion and colour which convey a sense of time and place.

Finding heritage

I first heard about the new draft plan through the Centretown Community Association Trees and Greenspace Committee and became engaged. It was important for me to go out on the street and see what heritage looks like, decide which buildings could help define it and see how coherent they are as a group.

I started at Laurier Avenue, which had, for a long time, been the dividing line between the Central Business District to the north and the mixed low- to mid-rise residential and commercial area to the south. It quickly became clear that in more recent times, many older buildings have disappeared and been replaced by increasingly larger and taller buildings. At present, intensive urbanization continues moving further south into central Centretown. Most of the new buildings will be 25- to 35-storeys tall. This has serious implications for heritage.

In a meeting between the CCA Heritage Group and a city of Ottawa official, many questions were raised and views expressed, particularly over the newly proposed process of how to evaluate buildings.

The city wants to move the process from having a three-level evaluation to just one—buildings are either heritage or not. This would make work simpler and more efficient for the city.

However, the Heritage Group feels a one-step classification could easily set the standard too high, greatly increasing the chance of demolition of many older buildings that have at least "moderate" heritage status.

The process would actually ignore heritage clusters and overlook heritage neighbourhoods. What is really needed is a multilevel heritage evaluation that includes the surrounding context of each building being considered and which provides a more rigorous defense of heritage.

After this meeting, I revised my initial perception of central Centretown on realizing the deep historical knowledge of some of the other group members (i.e., Brian Bourns, Jack Hanna and Brian Beaven). Our perception is critical.

While the district has been greatly disrupted by development, there are still many spatially distinct pockets of potential heritage buildings, as well as thematic groupings of specific building types (e.g., large apartments, churches, banks). To confirm this and to gain an approximate count of buildings, I created my own field map of the full area.

Heritage layout of Central Centretown

1) **The northern portion – north of Lisgar east of Bank, plus north of MacLaren west of Bank** – has only a small number of widely scattered original buildings, except for a small enclave of about 10 buildings on Nepean Street near Kent. One building is a four-unit clapboard row with a heritage plaque. Two others are now fancy restaurants in old brick houses.

The 15-block area, almost a third of central Centretown, has become highly urban-



A very large heritage building in Centretown with classical brick patterns. STEPHEN THIRLWALL/THE BUZZ

ized since 1920 through various waves of redevelopment and intensification causing the removal of many original buildings. At present, east of Bank, there is aggressive development of condo towers.

2) **The zone along either side of Centretown's original main street (Bank Street)** contains a mix of old and new buildings. But their street-level facades are all new since most are shops, restaurants and other businesses. On the south end, between Gladstone Avenue and Catherine Street, there has been extensive rebuilding since about 2010.

An example of partial preservation of heritage is the inclusion of the front of the old Metropolitan Bible Church in the Hideaway Phase 1. There are some old banks and a church along the street. The Bank of Nova Scotia is still in operation, as is the United Church at Argyle. Throughout the last 100 years, Bank Street has maintained its distinct and dynamic community-based atmosphere.

3) **Elgin Street** forms a similar main street status. It has been greatly revised through recent redevelopment.

4) **The area west of Bank and south of MacLaren** contains about 95 of the original houses and remains residential.

However, with intensification, some buildings are now subdivided into various units. Renovations have kept most of these buildings in good condition and their exteriors show off their original form.

5) **The middle segment of central Centretown south of Lisgar** is a mix of new and old, low- to super-high rises. Yet it still retains many historic buildings.

The landscape contains a blend of various-sized houses and apartments, commercial buildings and big administrative-style

buildings that now house associations and embassies. Its largest historic building is the Canadian Museum of Nature with its extensive grounds.

Parkland is at a minimum close to the Jack Purcell Community Centre. The area also includes Somerset Village, a dozen buildings on Somerset Street West just east of Bank that are now all restaurants, pubs and offices.

On either side of Metcalfe Street are a series of classic old apartment blocks (e.g., Queen Elizabeth, Duncannon, The Mayfair, The Sheffield, Stonehall). Spatially, they form a sizable pear-shaped area. There is another apartment cluster bounded by Frank, McLeod and the west side of Metcalfe to Elgin. The more than 50 apartments in Central Centretown form a "thematic" heritage grouping.

Another thematic grouping is of very grand buildings scattered along parts of O'Connor and Metcalfe. Over 100 historic houses, many now in multiple units and some containing businesses, are south of MacLaren between Metcalfe and Bank Streets. From Cooper to Lewis, and centred around O'Connor Street, is a zone of recent, current and proposed high-rise development that could change the character of this location.

Heritage is not just single buildings

Heritage does not have to mean just a handful of elite buildings of historic age. It should mean significant pockets of old buildings that still exist as a vital part of our community and so provide a lot of distinction, meaning and value. A heritage designation will allow more of these buildings to be protected longer from demolition and help preserve our neighbourhoods.



The Mayfair Apartments on Metcalfe Street.

STEPHEN THIRLWALL/THE BUZZ



Members of Reimagine Ottawa have been demonstrating outside Yasir Naqvi's campaign office for an hour per day, six days a week, about the hospital site. *ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ*

Hospital

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change.org opposing the choice of the Experimental Farm and calling for an inquiry.



Bridgepoint Healthcare (red hatched area) vs the proposed Civic (outline) - Toon Dreessen

On September 1, Ottawa Centre MPP Joel Harden held a virtual town hall about the plan. At that meeting, architect Toon Dreessen compared the proposed 16ha, 640-bed

new Civic Hospital campus to similar hospitals elsewhere.

The current Civic site (which will be reused for long-term care after the move) is about 9.5ha. In Vancouver, St. Paul's Hospital is being rebuilt on a 7.5ha site that will not only hold the 548-bed hospital but also a hotel, retail, offices, and rental housing, with underground parking. In Toronto, Bridgepoint Active Healthcare runs a 404-bed hospital on a 4.25ha site. Both the Humber River Hospital in Toronto (722 beds) and the McGill University Health Centre in Montreal (almost 1400 beds) are on sites much smaller than 16ha.

For only a hospital and a parking garage, he said, "I think it's really unfortunate that we're making such an inefficient use of the land."

He also warned that, because the hospital will be built as a P3, "what we've seen [in the plan images] isn't necessarily what we'll get."

[The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm](#) has also expressed "major concerns" about the plan and its effect on the rest of the Farm, including the fact that the site is much larger than originally indicated and includes "a portion of the Farm's historic core."

More than half the site will be hard-surfaced, meaning "a mostly permeable treed area will be turned into a mostly impervious landscape, with its adverse effects on storm water, air quality and the heating/cooling of outdoor space." And large proposed buildings and servicing equipment will be placed close to the boundaries with the Farm, adding noise, light, and shadows, and "a radically altered landscape."

The Friends were also concerned about the many trees, shrubs, and hedges, including heritage trees, that would be removed, and how the effects of construction on the farm would be mitigated.

The proposed site plan for the new hospital can be seen at engage.ottawa.ca/the-ottawa-hospital-master-plan

Counselling Connect helps with back-to-school stress

Counselling Connect

Back to school can be stressful for many – and even more so with current uncertainty and safety concerns.

"During counselling sessions with children, youth and parents, we hear there has been an increase in back-to-school anxiety for children and that some parents are struggling to get children back into routines," said Katrina Hutchingame, a counsellor with Family Services Ottawa who provides counselling to youth and adults.

As parents' and children's stress rise, Counselling Connect (www.counsellingconnect.org) reminds parents, youth and children that single session counselling appointments are available in Ottawa and the surrounding region. Some services are available seven days per week, and in English and French. Arabic counselling is available for adults. There is no waiting list.

The phone or video counselling sessions are free.

"There are signs parents should watch for," said Stacey Karuhanga, a child and family counsellor with Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre. "From increased gaming, to long-lasting sadness or irritability, extremely high and low moods, social withdrawal, dramatic changes in eating or sleeping habits, and more. If someone in your life is exhibiting these symptoms don't hesitate to reach out to talk to a mental health professional through Counselling Connect."

Counselling Connect services are provided by more than 100 counsellors of diverse backgrounds and experience including Indigenous communities; African, Caribbean and Black communities; other racialized communities; and LG-BT2SQ+ communities. Their perspectives and approaches bring a lot of value to clients.

Counselling Connect counsellors are from more than 20 agencies, including community health centres, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Muslim Family Services, Youth Services Bureau, Family Services Ottawa, Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre and more.

MPP report: hospital is not a done deal

Joel Harden

The new Civic Hospital project at Dow's Lake is not a done deal. We are speaking up and it's making a difference. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise!

On September 1, we held a virtual town hall to inform residents about this project and offer them space to voice their opinions. The event was well attended but what we heard was alarming.

People are deeply concerned by the current proposal and the lack of consultation accompanying it. At risk are 524 trees, Queen Juliana Park and delays for people with disabilities. At issue are congested local neighbourhoods that are unprepared for a new surge in hospital traffic. There is no serious plan for transportation to this site.

Councillor Shawn Menard has since asked all Ottawa Centre MP candidates to state their position on the proposed Civic Hospital. Two have come out clearly against the current proposal and a third is suggesting federal legislation to protect the land in question.

That's a significant shift from 2016, when every provincial and federal politician remained silent as a closed-door process announced Dow's Lake as the site for the new Civic Hospital.

Construction doesn't start until 2024, so we have time to insist on change. As people are seeking your vote, ask them if they support the current Civic Hospital plan.

Ask them if they want over 500 mature trees ripped from Ottawa's tree canopy. Ask them why an airport-sized parking garage, across from the Rideau Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site, is being proposed as we grapple with a climate emergency. Ask them why a comprehensive NCC report involving over 7000 citizens was ignored.

Let's insist on transparency and sustainability for the new Civic Hospital.

I will be writing to Cameron Love, CEO of the Ottawa Civic Hospital, to relay the feedback we received from our September 1 town hall. I will be asking for the evidence behind the decision to locate this project at Dow's Lake.

Sign up for our e-newsletter at joelharden.ca and stay tuned for further updates.

What's on this month in Ottawa and beyond



Library of Infinities by Shaya Ishaq

SAW GALLERY

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friends. Together, the six drink (and make) wine, pick grapes and play music. At times, *Samantha Rose* feels like a musical, relying copiously on musical interludes to meld together scenes.

Most of the film is set in Oregon and was filmed in two small towns: Hood River and Salmon Arm. I have visited Hood River and the film does an incredible job of capturing the beauty of the area. I also enjoyed the rela-

tionship between mother and daughter, as mom calls from across the country to learn the wi-fi password.

The film was released via Video on Demand (VOD) on numerous streaming platforms on September 7. Readers can check out <https://www.samantharosemovie.com/> for more information. Running time: 1 hour, 34 minutes.

SAW Gallery

At 67 Nicholas Street, the

SAW Gallery reopened on August 6. A new exhibition, *Library of Infinities* (pictured here), showcases work by emerging black artists. It runs until October 30. For tickets and other information about the exhibition, check out: www.saw-centre.com.

Out of town

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) opened a new exhibition on September 11 which runs until February 13, 2022. *How Long Does It Take For One Voice to Reach Another* explores the resiliency of human communication.

The museum is located at 1380 Sherbrooke Street West in Montreal. For tickets and more information about the MMFA, readers can check out: www.mbam.qc.ca

Tony Wohlfarth is an Ottawa-based freelance film and entertainment writer.



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What's on this month in Ottawa and beyond

Tony Wohlfarth

ByTowne Cinema

The ByTowne Cinema reopened under new ownership on September 8. The cinema on Rideau Street has been in operation since 1946, first as the Nelson Theatre. In 1988, the managers of the longstanding Towne Cinema took over the premises to create the ByTowne.

The new owners also run The Fox Theatre on Queen Street East in Toronto and The Apollo Cinema in Kitchener. They undertook needed renovations and added a liquor license prior to reopening.

For a complete list of films and screening times, check out www.bytowne.ca



Sara Montpetit as Maria Chapdelaine

Maria Chapdelaine

On September 24, the ByTowne features the theatrical premiere of *Maria Chapdelaine*, directed by Sébastien Pilote. It's based on a 1913 romantic novel by Louis

Hémon. The novel (of the same name) has been adapted for the screen four times and also made into an opera. This film version is widely considered the best.

Maria (played by Sara Monpetit) is the oldest daughter of a close-knit Quebecois family who farm in the remote region of northern Quebec in 1910. Maria attracts two suitors and must decide between living in a rural area or in the city.

The scenery in this version of *Maria Chapdelaine* is stunning. Sweeping views of the north shore of Lac St-Jean region in the winter and the spring thaw crossing the Péribonka River make for compelling viewing. The winter scenes nicely contrast with those of intimate family gatherings by candlelight. Today, the region is named Maria Chapdelaine—just one indicator of the prominence of the novel for Quebec youth.

Maria Chapdelaine premieres on September 24 at 3 p.m. and five more screenings are scheduled until September 29. Running time: 2 hours, 38 minutes.

Irene's Pub

Located at 885 Bank Street under new owners, Irene's Pub welcomes back Sneezzy Waters on September 25 for what has become an annual event. Tickets are available via Eventbrite.

Canadian War Museum (CWM)

The museum (1 Vimy Place) has reopened with strict COVID-19 protocols. On September 24, the CWM opens an exhibition of the art of Elaine Goble. Online, the CWM has initiated Canada's Naval History about Canada's role in the Battle of the Atlantic.

The museum is open for timed entry from Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Thursdays until 7 p.m. (tickets are

free from 5 to 7). Tickets and more information are available at: www.warmuseum.ca.



Ottawa International Animation Film Festival

The best of animated films from around the globe are screening virtually from September 22 to October 3. The festival is the oldest and largest animation festival in North America.

Tickets and information on the films are available at: www.animationfestival.ca

National Day of Reconciliation

Wednesday, September 30, is the National Day of Reconciliation. To mark the day, look for a series of events to honour the legacy of the residential schools. Check reconciliationcanada.ca/category/blog/ for updates. Currently, they are hosting weekly events via Zoom around the theme of *Bringing Our Children Home*.

Ottawa Jazz Festival

At the end of August, fans of live music are delighted to see the return of live jazz. The festival held live shows from local groups and streamed concerts from the

likes of Iskwe & Tom Wilson, the Christine Jensen Remergence Tentet, the Larnell Lewis Band, the Elliott/Boudreau Quartet, Kellylee Evans, Jean-Michel Pilc with Roddy Elias, and Rafael Zaldivar. The promotional video for the festival, along with previous concerts, can be seen on the Ottawa Jazz Festival YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/OttawaJazz.



Samantha Rose

The film *Samantha Rose* was written and directed by Andrew Morgan. Samantha Rose (performed by Sam Rose) is a 23-year-old photographer, living in Queens in her mother's apartment. When her mom kicks her out so she can live with her boyfriend, Samantha suddenly moves back to Oregon to reunite with her dad.

Early in the film, Samantha hooks up with an old boyfriend, Taylor, who happens to work as a mechanic for her father. Taylor introduces Sam to his close circle of five

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