



50 years at the Roma Barber Shop, pg. 3



Celebrating Knox Church's 175th, pg. 5

CENTRETOWNBUZZ

# The icebreakers are coming

## Ottawa tests new machines for (hopefully) safer sidewalks



YOUTUBE.COM

The new sidewalk icebreakers might make sidewalk clearing easier and more efficient. The city has called on residents to name the four vehicles on social media: one name in the running is Wesley (after Wesley Crusher from Star Trek). Get in touch with the city if you have a great idea for a name!

ADRIE SUSTAR

Anyone who says Ottawa is a safe city has obviously never tried to navigate its sidewalks after a winter storm. The treacherous and icy conditions can turn the average commute into a full-blown winter expedition.

To combat this problem, four new ice breaking machines are being leased by the City of Ottawa as a pilot project.

You may have noticed that the ice buildup on the sidewalks of Centretown has been exceptionally bad this year. This is partially due to temperature fluctuations causing repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Simply put, we get ice buildup due to freezing temperatures, then the temperature rises and water seeps into the ice, then the temperature dips again and the water freezes, expands, and adds more ice to our sidewalks. Soon enough we can't tell the difference between the canal and Bank Street!

Centretown resident Alice Tremblay, who commutes to work on foot, even went to the extreme of using snowshoes to manage the winter conditions after a particularly bad storm.

Tremblay explains, "The side-

walks are extremely unpredictable. Even on a good day, you're never sure what you're going to get, whether it's sheets of black ice or puddles of slush. Sometimes you're better off walking on the roads."

The City of Ottawa is combating this struggle by introducing four new ice breaking machines. The machines are being leased by the city as a pilot project, starting with one unit last winter and expanding to four additional units since the start of the season.

In an interview with CBC Radio's *All in a Day*, Councillor Catherine McKenney explains that the current equipment was failing to make a dent in the thick layer of ice, so the city needed to try something new.

Hopefully, these machines, manufactured by Québec company GRYB, are what the city needs to make our sidewalks safe and clear.

Dave Loan from Councillor McKenney's office explained how the ice breakers work.

"The rotating attachment is not powered – that is, the tractor simply pushes it along. It weighs about 2000 kilograms and has about 80 cutting blades, which chip and score the ice. Concrete is more compact and resilient than ice, which is why the blades don't damage the side-

walk. The goal is to break up the ice where possible or, in the case of thick ice, to score it so the salt can better penetrate."

On their website, GRYB claims that these machines mean "reduced use of chemicals and salt for de-icing roads and sidewalks" and are "three times faster than standard ice-breaking operation even at very low temperatures."

It's safe to say that this winter has been particularly challenging for Ottawa residents. Climatologist

Dave Phillips from Environment Canada unofficially awarded Ottawa the "gold medal for winter misery" this year.

With that in mind, it is hard to tell just how effective the new ice breakers have been. What is good to know is that the City of Ottawa is testing out new methods to help Centretown residents navigate the sidewalks without injuries ... or snowshoes!



STEPHEN THIRLWALL / THE BUZZ

Residents take to the streets when the sidewalks are too hard to manage.

March 15, 2019 — Vol. 24, No. 3

# THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ

At the heart of Ottawa since 1995.

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# Letters to the editor

## Mayor Watson supports new library plans

I feel obliged to comment on an article written by an accounting manager and a former city councillor about the new Ottawa Central Public Library, which is riddled with inaccurate statements.

The authors say the public has not been consulted. This is false. In fact, the City of Ottawa started public discussions on the new Ottawa Central Library on March 31, 2015, when it held a town hall meeting that attracted over 200 residents. A second, well-attended town hall was held on May 16, 2016, and two additional public consultations were held on June 15 and 22, 2016.

Furthermore, the public also submitted its feedback and comments through online public consultations, email and social media.

Prior to the public consultations, an entire consultation process was developed and approved by the Ottawa Public Library Board. You can follow the project's milestones and new developments, as well as sign up for upcoming public consultations, by visiting [www.OttawaCentralLibrary.ca](http://www.OttawaCentralLibrary.ca).

The authors then say the architecture selection process wasn't an international competition like the one done in Halifax. This is also false. The former Halifax Public Library chief librarian attended our second public meeting and confirmed that we are following the same process they did. And how could Mecanoo International b.v. from Holland and schmidt/hammer/lassen from Denmark have been shortlisted in the top five teams to design the new Ottawa Central Library, if this wasn't an international competition?

They then criticize the Ottawa Public Library for allocating a budget to help raise funds for the new facility. What's wrong with that?

The recently opened Ottawa Art Gallery, a stunning world-class facility and a beacon in Ottawa's downtown core, did the same thing and raised over \$5 million to help with building costs and amenities.

There is a small group of residents who continue to attack this significant community investment in Somerset Ward.

But I can assure you that I am behind this project every step of the way.

I am proud to have worked with local MP Catherine McKenna and collaborated with Library and Archives Canada on this first-of-its-kind partnership between a local public library and a federal agency.

The design development work for this major civic building began on February 28, 2019.

We anticipate that the Ottawa Public Library and Library and Archives Canada joint facility will open in 2024. I am confident that all Ottawa residents will proudly cherish this iconic landmark in our nation's capital.

I'm not going to be dissuaded by a few politicians, former politicians and wannabe politicians who try to derail this project. They had 30 years to get their act together but did nothing but patch up an inadequate bunker we call the Main Library Branch.

The residents of Centretown and the rest of the city deserve a better, more accessible library.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Jim Watson

## Plans for new library: is there enough space?

The *Centretown BUZZ* article of February 15, "Problems with the new (small) Central Public Library," by Diane Holmes and Hunter McGill, lists a number of problems with the proposed new Ottawa Central Public Library, including its not having been subject to an international competition, site problems, a lack of true public consultation, and, most importantly, its small size (the Ottawa Public Library portion of the building would be barely 130,000 square feet).

On page 5 of "Ottawa Central Library Program Framework," by Library Strategies International and Kathryn Taylor Design, the authors of the study allotted 36,323 gross square feet to the "Adult" segment of the proposed Ottawa Central Public Library (31,585 net square feet, according to page 41).

This is subdivided into three smaller segments: Adult Reading Spaces (11,295 square feet, of which 5,500 square feet is for "Collections/Display"); Learning Commons (16,695 square feet, of which 10,000 square feet is for "Collections / Display"); and Business Hub (3,595 square feet, of which 100 square feet is for "Display").

Therefore, of the "Adult" section's net 31,585 square feet of space allotted within the proposed new Ottawa Central Public Library, only 15,600 square feet would be allotted to "Display" space (which I take to mean shelving).

That 15,600 square feet represents the equivalent of slightly more than one-half of one floor of the present Main Branch of the Ottawa

Public Library.

That 15,600 square feet is supposed to be adequate to hold all the Adult books, including fiction, non-fiction, and reference works, that will be included in the new Ottawa Public Library Central Library over the next 30 or 40 years?

A research library worthy of that name needs to contain a large number of reference works.

For a city that will reach a population of 1,000,000 this year, according to Mayor Watson, a reference and research section of the Ottawa Central Public Library of a million volumes or more would not be out of order.

Do the decisionmakers think that reading books is now obsolete? Do we now, as a society, no longer need to do research in order to understand our world and to grow that understanding? Is Ottawa going to remain a highly educated "Smart City" or are we going to continue to downplay the importance of self-taught learning, and underfund and underbuild our Ottawa Central Public Library?

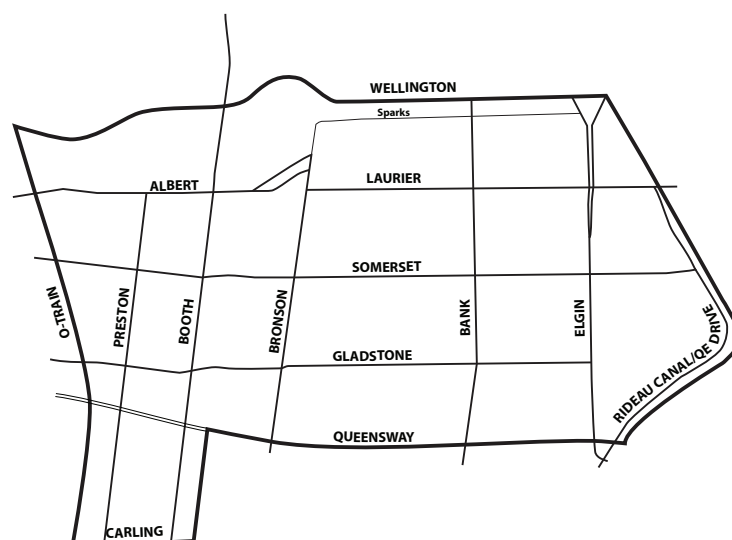
These are the questions we have to answer in our decision on the kind of library we will build.

I'm afraid that, if the decision we've presently made remains the case, we will shortchange our city's and our children's futures and become an anti-intellectual wasteland.

This decision is crucial to the kind of city Ottawa will become in the future. Let's not continue down the wrong path that our decision-makers are now following.

Yves Potvin  
Somerset Street West

## Be a volunteer *BUZZ* carrier!



Our great team of volunteer carriers makes sure this paper gets distributed throughout our catchment area. You can sign up to help distribute the paper once a month by contacting our distribution managers. Your route can be as large or small as you want. Bundles are delivered to you for distribution: no need to come to the office to pick them up. Get to know your neighbourhood a little better and help your local independent paper!

# 50 years of family stories at the Roma Barber Shop



JACK HANNA / THE BUZZ

Alex (standing) and Mario Costanza in their shop.

by Jack Hanna

The barber chairs in the Roma Barber Shop on Elgin look like antiques—and they are. This month, the shop is celebrating 50 years as a family business in its current location. The chairs are even older, going back to the 1950s.

“They work just fine,” says Mario Costanza, “never leaked hydraulic fluid.”

Brothers Mario and Alex took over the shop from their father, Tony Costanza. He had opened his first shop at another spot on Elgin before moving in 1969 to the current location between Lisgar and Cooper.

The father, Tony, never intended to live somewhere as wintry as Ottawa. In the 1950s, the Italian immigrant got off a ship in Montreal in October. He had only a thin suit jacket and found it bitterly cold. He was shivering so badly a stranger gave him

a scarf.

Tony went into the Montreal train station and asked a ticket agent if there was any place warm in Canada. Yes, said the agent, Vancouver. Tony emptied his pockets onto the counter. The agent counted the money. “That all you got?” he said. “I guess you’re going as far as Ottawa.”

The boys grew up around barbering. The whole family worked in the shop. Their father and an uncle cut hair. Their mother was behind the smokes counter. The boys cleaned the tools and ashtrays.

There were checkerboards in the shop and one of the players was an indignant loser. He would fling the board towards the door, scattering the checkers. One of Mario’s chores as a boy was to go outside and collect the checkers off Elgin Street.

The two young boys did not intend to be barbers. Mario’s first career choice was

auto mechanic. One winter’s day, his father visited the auto repair shop where he was serving his apprenticeship. Mario had just fetched a car from the wintry street, had it on a hoist and was working underneath. Oily slush was dripping off the chassis onto his head and neck. Dirty, cold water was running off his hands and down his arms, soaking his clothing.

“You like doing this?” his father asked. “Why don’t you try barbering?”

Mario was hesitant, because barbering involves talking with people and Mario thought he was better suited to being in the company of tools. (Mario is, in fact, a gifted raconteur and conversationalist.)

“I thought I couldn’t do it,” he says, “but I tried it and it went better than I expected.”

The Roma Barbershop is something of a time warp. It offers for sale all sorts of odds and ends from back in the day. There are record albums, typewriters, old coins and a teletype machine. The cash register is old and strictly manual. Much of the wall space is taken up with a collection of many hundreds of lapel pins. Tony, the father, started the pin collection and customers, for decades, added to it.

The business is old and so are some long-time customers. A half dozen customers have grown too elderly to come to the shop, so Mario packs his barbering tools in a bag and does house calls.

“The customer still wants a good haircut, to know it will be done with care,” says Mario. “A good haircut is important to people.”

If you visit the shop, ask to see the plastic model of the Avro Arrow.



## SAVE THE DATE

Earth Day

At Dundonald Park

April 27, 10am-1pm



ottawa.ca 3-1-1  
TTY/ATS 613-580-2401

## Sparks Street Public Realm Plan Update

79 Sparks Street

Thursday, March 21, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Residents are invited to drop in and join the City in planning for the next 50 years of one of Ottawa’s most beloved and historic streets. A preview of the current phase of the Sparks Street Public Realm Plan is ready for public review and comment.

This is the third of four project phases and centers on:

A refined vision for the street

The completion of a preferred functional plan, and

The proposed resolution to strategic issues such as vehicular access, greening, cycling, programming and interpretation.

This phase also explores approaches to streetscape detailing through two demonstration scenarios. The project team members and consultants will be onsite to guide you through the displays, answer questions and receive your input.

Additional opportunities for residents to view plans and provide feedback on this phase, can be made by contacting [mysparksstreet@ottawa.ca](mailto:mysparksstreet@ottawa.ca) before April 15th.

Accessibility is an important consideration for the City of Ottawa. If you require special accommodation, please call or email the project leads identified below before March 14, 2019.

David Atkinson, MCIP, RPP  
Urban Designer / Planner III  
City of Ottawa  
Heritage and Urban Design Unit  
Phone (613) 580-2424 ext. 15013  
[Ottawa.ca/sparksstreetplan](http://Ottawa.ca/sparksstreetplan)



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# Budget 2019 highlights for Centretown

Councillor Catherine McKenney's newsletter for March reported on the city budget, adopted on March 6, following weeks of public consultations and deliberations.

Highlights of interest to Centretowners include:

\$15 million for affordable housing

\$4.4 million for cycling infrastructure on O'Connor from Wellington to Laurier and on Booth Street from Pimisi Station to the Ottawa River Pathway

\$5.9 million for recreation and parks, including repairs to the heating system at Jack Purcell Community Centre

\$750,000 to design and build Booth Street Urban Park

\$139,000 to renew the play structure at Arlington Park

\$20 million for Ottawa Community Housing's Rochester Heights redevelopment (phase I)

\$772,500 for 49 additional child-care spaces

\$406,000 for pedestrian crossovers, including Beech Street near Preston

\$4.7 million for safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency improvements in social housing.

## CENTRETOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# New season, new projects, new name



JACK HANNA / THE BUZZ

Hollywood Parade, the architecturally exuberant row houses at James and Lyon, are an example of the beauty that could be better protected with the creation of new heritage districts in Centretown. Since Hollywood, California, did not exist when the houses were built in 1892, the name, suggesting a pastoral woodlands setting, likely was a marketing ploy.

by Jack Hanna

There is an effort afoot to better protect Centretown's beautiful old buildings. The city has launched a review of heritage matters specific to Centretown.

### Protecting more of Centretown's heritage

The city plans to update the heritage plans for its two designated conservation districts. These plans include policies and guidelines to

shape development within the districts.

The larger heritage district stretches from Elgin to Kent. The second comprises the buildings facing Minto Park.

As well, the city will look at establishing two new Heritage Conservation Districts, one in the Golden Triangle (between Elgin and the canal) and another in the district surrounding Dundonald Park.

The CCA is participating on the city's advisory

committee. Residents are welcome to join. If you are interested, contact Jack at [jack.2014@icloud.com](mailto:jack.2014@icloud.com)

### A rose by any other name

The CCA has altered its name. At a recent board meeting, a motion passed to change the association's name for everyday usage to Centretown Community Association (CCA). The word "Citizens" was dropped. The more concise version was felt to be modern and less clunky. The legal name remains unchanged.

### The plot lottery

The Off-Bank Community Garden, on Nepean Street east of Bank, is getting ready for the coming gardening season. The annual lottery for plots will take place at City Hall on Saturday, March 23 at 11:00 a.m. To qualify, you must live in Centretown. For more information or to express an interest, contact coordinators Tom and Weronika at [offbankcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:offbankcommunitygarden@gmail.com).

### Gardeners – step up now!

Gardeners, how about planting a few extra seeds to start plants to donate to the annual CCA plant sale?

Hosted by CCA's Trees and Greenspace Committee, the sale is planned for the first week of June. And when you are scrutinizing your perennials this spring, think about dividing a few and donating those to the plant sale. The organizers also are looking for donations and volunteers to work the sale. For more info, contact Tom at [treesandgreenspacecca@gmail.com](mailto:treesandgreenspacecca@gmail.com)

### New drive in transportation

The CCA has resurrected its Transportation Committee and the timing is good, because the city is about to commence a rethink of its Transportation Master Plan. The CCA wants a seat at that table, with input into street design, transit routes, transit fares, ease of cycling, and walkability.

The CCA Transportation Committee is considering a town hall on transportation issues for the fall, and a study of the walkability of some of some of Centretown's most important streets, such as Somerset. Want to help? Contact Jack at [jack.2014@icloud.com](mailto:jack.2014@icloud.com)

# VerseFest 2019

## March 23-31

## 80 poets from around the world

Mar 23, City Hall

Mar 26-31, Knox Presbyterian Church (hall)



Dennis Lee, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Jamaal May, Sarah MacDonell, Amal El-Mohtar, Éric Charlebois, Billy-Ray Belcourt, T'ai Freedom Ford, Tanya Evanson, Doyali Islam, David O'Meara, Brenda Leifso, bill bissett, Billeh Nickerson, Deanna Young, Armand Ruffo, Dani Couture, Marie Darsigny, Ursula Andkjær Olsen, Jean-Marc Desgent, Manahil Bandukwala, Rhube Knox, Sam Taskie, Klara du Plessis, Katharina Schultens, Cameron Anstee, Tess Liem, Émilie Turmel, Richard Harrison, Pierre Nepveu, Herménégilde Chiasson, Gilles Latour, Annie St-Jean, and many more.

Full program and tickets at [VERSeOttawa.ca](http://VERSeOttawa.ca)

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE POÉSIE D'OTTAWA  
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OTTAWA'S INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL

# The Skyline: Knox Presbyterian Church at 175

This year Knox celebrates 175 years of ministry. It's also the 145th anniversary of Knox's previous church—an immense edifice that is gone but not forgotten.



The second Knox Presbyterian Church at Elgin and Albert was reduced to rubble.

abandoned because they couldn't sell the old one. It was extended instead, but this proved insufficient for the growing congregation. In 1871, after considering a new building in their existing location, Knox obtained a large property at Elgin and Albert Streets, forming the south side of what was then called Union Square.



The Knox Church Building Committee's appointment of an architect was ambitious. They chose Henry Langley of Toronto, Canada's most prolific ecclesiastical designer, who produced over 100 churches during his career. Knox's size was impressive. On the ground floor, pews arranged in a semi-circle seated 650 subscribers and adherents. The vertiginously narrow horseshoe-shaped gallery above, supported only by rolled iron brackets, held another 450. The tower was one of the city's tallest landmarks.

Construction was delayed by a stonemasons' strike and disputes over payments between the contractors. It was ready for its first service on January 18, 1874 when the *Citizen* described the new building as "in the Gothic style of early French type, but suited in every way to modern requirements."

The church remained obdurate in its opposition. It was a guilt-ridden Mackenzie King, a Presbyterian himself and much attached to Knox Church, who eased their move.

Although he had never expressed much regret over the demolition of many fine buildings that were the collateral damage of his planning schemes, King wrote the congregation a letter of apology for the unavoidable loss of their home and promised that they would never have to move again. Negotiations between the city and the church over the assessed value proceeded for two years. The church demanded half a million dollars, the city offered a quarter million and, in 1929, an arbitration court settled on \$343,000.

The City of Ottawa took possession of the old church when the new one at Elgin and Lisgar, designed by architects recommended by Prime Minister King, was ready in 1932. The city had originally intended to raze Knox immediately, but only managed to remove the spire of the 176 foot west tower. With the onset of the Great Depression it would serve another use as the city's primary welfare and relief centre, which remained here for a further six years.



by Robert Smythe

On November 10, 1844, a group of Free Church Presbyterians met for the first time in the British-Wesleyan Chapel at Rideau and Mosgrove. A year later, they bought two lots in Sandy Hill from Louis Besserer for \$150, erected a small wood-framed church that opened on December 28, 1845, and took the name Knox Church.

In the 1850s, their purchase of a \$500 plot at Wellington and Metcalfe for a bigger church at Wellington and Metcalfe had to be abandoned



CITY HALL.

KNOX CHURCH.

GRAND UNION HOTEL

Plans for the new Knox Church were displayed in the windows of the James Hope stationery store on February 14, 1872. The cornerstone was laid three months later. As the *Ottawa Daily Citizen* said, "It will be an exceedingly handsome structure and make quite an ornament to the city. If many more such edifices be built in that neighbourhood, the old City Hall [then in the ByWard market] will have to crawl down to the canal basin and drown itself." In fact a new and much more imposing City Hall would join Knox within a few years, and the square was renamed in its honour.



Knox Church's fate was sealed in 1927 when the Government of Canada unveiled plans for a grandiose central park in the midst of the city, ultimately resulting in the demolition of all of the buildings east of Elgin Street, which would then be tripled in width. The church stood directly in its path. The City of Ottawa was recruited to expropriate the property, but made some effort to spare the church. They looked at moving it (a feat some engineers said could be accomplished), or dividing the Elgin Street boulevard to sweep around either side of the church.

Workers began to nibble away at Knox's mighty stone walls in the first week of June 1938.

With a Royal Visit only a year away and Jacques Gréber in town readying the completion of Confederation Square for the National War Memorial and its sweeping vista down the Elgin Street boulevard, the great Gothic pile that was Knox Presbyterian Church was reduced to dust in four weeks. Its cornerstone was to be salvaged and returned to the congregation.



# Planet of the Scapes

## Quick no-oven options

by Pearl Pirie

Because our oven is dead, I've been looking at other ways of doing things. Desperate times call for creative measures.



Pearl Pirie is a poet. She takes commissions of poems for birthdays and anniversaries. See [www.pearlpirie.com](http://www.pearlpirie.com) where you can see all her books or sign up for her highly irregular newsletter.



## Main dish: African peanut sandwich

I won't claim anyone in Africa made this. Its flavour combination is based on African Peanut Soup.

Whole wheat tortillas  
dried fried onion (available in Chinatown and international aisles)  
pinches of curry (hot or mild to taste)  
Sriracha (optional)  
Leftover cooked kale (optional)

This is a fast meal and palate-waker compared to the hum-drum sandwich. Grill the assembled for a good crunch.

## Dessert: Chocolate chip pecan cookies on the grill

This is like Pillsbury cookies, except they taste good. Keep a roll in your freezer and slice off when you want a cookie or two.

Tip: Toast the pecans or walnuts while the grill is warming up.

### Mix the dry:

2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp salt

### Mix the wet:

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1/2 cup white sugar  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
2 eggs, at room temperature

### Fold in the solids:

1 1/2 cups (12 oz) chocolate chips or broken up Lindt bar  
1 cup pecan (or walnut) halves, toasted and coarsely chopped

Roll the dough into a 2" log and chill.

Set your heat-safe coffee mug next to the grill. Lower the lid of your grill until it touches the rim of the mug and holds the grill open. The top lid should be 1-3 inches above your cookies. Alternatively, if you have a ceramic small dish for wasabi or dressing, you can keep the lid up with that.

Slice off disks. These cookies spread so you might get 4-6 cookies each time. Bake for 7-8 minutes. Slide them off when still soft and let set. Wrap the rest of the roll and freeze.



## Festivals and Events Ontario names top 100 festivals

Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) has named its 2019 Top 100 Festivals & Events in Ontario.

Submissions from FEO members were received for consideration in the fall of 2018 and were judged by an independent panel of judges. Festivals and events of all kinds from every corner of Ontario were represented in the submissions – from community festivals to internationally recognized events. .

The winning festivals from Ottawa are:

Canada Day Celebrations: July 1, 2019

Canadian Tulip Festival: May 10-20, 2019

Ottawa Chamberfest: July 25-Aug. 8, 2019

RBC Bluesfest: July 4-14, 2019

TD Ottawa Jazz Festival: June 20-July 1, 2019

Winterlude (Ottawa/Gatineau): Jan. 31-Feb. 17, 2020

FEO also inducted Guy Laflamme into its Hall of Fame. Laflamme was the director of the Ottawa 2017 year-long calendar of events, which served as the centrepiece of Canada's 150th sesquicentennial year celebration.



Drumming during Winterlude 2019 in the ByWard Market.

## Centretown winter walkability: poor to dangerous



by Stephen Thirlwall

For once, I didn't mind being awakened by loud noises at 2:00 a.m. on February 19. It was the sound of snowplows, a very large snowblower and a long line of trucks, each one a quarter block long. People in the surrounding neighbourhood streets had been living for a full month with

five- to six-foot-high snow banks both along the roads and in the front yards. A few roadways were fully cleared around January 30, but had two- or three-foot banks by the next day, which rose to six feet again soon after.

Sidewalks changed back and forth during this time between completely buried to icy, greasy or slushy. Only on a very few days were

sidewalks fairly well cleared, salted, and gritted.

Even when cleared, along any one street, parts were very clear and other parts quite messy. Here and there snowbanks collapsed, blocking patches of sidewalk along the way. Plows often left ridges at intersections that had to be climbed over.

There were certain melt days when large and deep ponds formed on roads and across parts of sidewalks. Streets that had been given minimal attention over much of the time had extremely irregular and pock-marked surfaces.

Many people walked on the streets because it was far safer than risking the sidewalks. Others, unfortunately, had to simply stay indoors.

### PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

## Changes to autism services leave families behind

by Joel Harden  
MPP, Ottawa Centre

In Ottawa and across Ontario, parents, medical professionals and autism advocates are speaking out with one voice, calling on the Ford government to stop its disastrous changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

Instead of listening to parents and putting new investment into the program, the government is capping support at \$8,750 per year. This is despite intensive therapies costing up to \$70,000 each year.

While the current program keeps too many parents on the waitlist for too long, the PC's plan will make the situation even worse, depriving thousands of children with autism of the supports they need to thrive.

On February 16, our office hosted an emergency roundtable where we heard directly from parents of children with autism and autistic adults about the impact of the government's changes.

The stories they shared were nothing short of heart-wrenching. People spoke about how their children will suffer without therapy, and about the financial hardship that forcing families to pay out of pocket for expensive but vital services will cause.

This is not a partisan issue – this is about the health and well-being of children. The government needs to go back to the drawing board, and meaningfully consult with the autism community about creating a plan that's fair, and that meets the individual needs of children.

I'm inspired by parents who have been organizing locally and across Ontario, tenaciously calling on the government to listen and start fresh. I was deeply disappointed when Children, Community and Social Services Minister Lisa MacLeod dismissed parents as "professional protestors" and warned the Ontario Association of Behaviour Analysis that they would see "four long years" ahead, unless they supported the Ford government's changes.

Parents, professionals and people with autism deserve better. They deserve to be treated with respect, and they deserve to be heard. Along with my colleagues in the Official Opposition, I'm proud to stand with them in this fight.

At Queen's Park, I have been sharing stories from constituents about how the changes impact them and their children. If you have a story that you would like to share, send us an email at [jharden-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jharden-co@ndp.on.ca).

### Remembering Paul Dewar

We mourn the loss of former Ottawa Centre MP Paul Dewar, who passed away on February 6. Paul was a giant, someone who dedicated his life to building a more just city and country.

Paul's poignant farewell message offered these words, which capture what we need in politics today: "My mom was a strong feminist, and she said something very important that I learned at an early age: 'Don't be afraid of power, know how to use and share it, and give it to those who don't have it.'"

These are words to live by, and values that I hope to see reflected in the work we do at Queen's Park, and in the community.

### Community Builders' Forum

Ottawa is filled with community builders – people who devote their time and energy to making our neighbourhoods better places to live. We want to celebrate the work of local community builders and to provide an opportunity for them to share their skills with you, so we can encourage a culture of community organizing.

Join us on April 26-28 for our Community Builders' Forum. You can register now at: [joelharden.ca/forum](http://joelharden.ca/forum).

## Catherine McKenney City Councillor for Somerset Ward

### Winter maintenance

Concerned about snow and ice on the sidewalks? Join us for an information session and voice your questions and concerns about winter maintenance.

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall



### Keep in touch!

For the latest news on Somerset Ward, sign up for my newsletter on my website and follow me on social media:

[catherinemckenney.ca](http://catherinemckenney.ca)

[mckenneycatherine](https://www.facebook.com/mckenneycatherine)

[cmckenney](https://twitter.com/cmckenney)

[cmckenney14](https://www.instagram.com/cmckenney14)

### Questions? We can help!

613-580-2484 | [catherine.mckenney@ottawa.ca](mailto:catherine.mckenney@ottawa.ca)



## ~ Open House ~ Journée portes ouvertes

Signature Retirement Living invites you to join us for an Open House to share our proposal for a new 18 storey Retirement Residence at 412 Sparks Street.

The proposal is under review with the City of Ottawa through a Zoning By-law Amendment and pending Site Plan Control application.

Signature Retirement Living vous invite à nous rejoindre pour une journée portes ouvertes pour partager notre proposition pour une nouvelle maison de retraite de 18 étages au 412 rue Sparks.

La proposition est en processus d'examen à la ville d'Ottawa pour une demande de modification au règlement de zonage et une demande de plan d'implantation est aussi prévu.

Date: **Wednesday/mercredi, April/avril 17, 2019**  
Time/temps: **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
Place/lieu: **Christ Church Cathedral  
414 Spark Street (Great Hall/Grande Salle)**

Councillor Catherine McKenney & Members of the  
Cathedral Hill Foundation will be in attendance.

Conseillère Catherine McKenney et la  
Fondation Cathedral Hill seront présents.

**Signature**  
RETIREMENT LIVING

## OCDSB TRUSTEE REPORT

## Tackling academic staffing and the new autism program

by Erica Braunovan  
OCDSB Trustee Zone 10

**W**ow! Here we are at March Break already. It is so nice to feel the warmth starting to return to the air. Hopefully, we are almost done with the ice and snow for another winter.

### Icy schoolyards

I have heard from many people across the zone regarding snow and ice accumulation on schoolyards. We are committed to ensuring that students, staff and visitor are safe while on school property. However, this year has been particularly difficult and our contractors have been stretched really thin.

### Academic staffing

The largest piece of board business that we are currently undertaking is academic staffing.

Our collective bargaining agreements require us to set the staff levels for our academic staff prior to the start of April. We hope to see our HR department's recommendation for academic staffing on Tuesday, March 19. This

will only be possible if the ministry has sent needed information to school boards, which has been promised to come on or before March 15.

It is possible, depending on the information, that staff may need to review and update their recommendation after receiving information from the province, which will in turn delay the report to trustees.

The OCDSB budget process is perennially awkward, as we set academic staffing levels well in advance of receiving our overall budget for the coming year. This year, this is compounded by potential changes to class sizes, which could affect academic staffing levels.

We are all anxiously waiting to receive information, as planning in the dark is not pleasant for anyone.

### Response to changes to Ontario Autism Program

At our Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, March 5, we passed a motion to communicate with Minister of Education Lisa Thompson and Minister of Children, Community and Social Services Lisa Mac-

Leod, regarding the changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

Our school district is committed to serving all of our students. We have concerns regarding the implementation of these changes, given that we do not have an accurate picture of what the implications will be, or how the changes will be adequately funded.

Chair Scott will be sending a letter to the ministers and will be requesting a meeting with local MPP Lisa MacLeod to share our concerns and explore solutions.

### Updates

We are excited to announce that Eric Hardie will be joining us as a new superintendent of instruction on April 8. Eric is joining us from the Upper Canada District School Board.

And for anyone who is a planner (like me), next year's school year calendar is available on our website at this time.



ADRIE SUSTAR / THE BUZZ

## Concerned about snow clearing? Have your say

by Kathryn Hunt

**I**t seems that this winter has been harder than usual for snow clearing. And, in fact, we broke records for snow accumulation this year, with January claiming status as the snowiest on record with more than 97 centimetres, besting the January 1999 record of 93 centimetres.

While the City can't predict record-setting weather, it is likely that we will see more extreme weather events in the future, as a result of climate change. Yet, Ottawa has blown through its winter

road maintenance budget for six years in a row, and isn't out of the woods yet for this year.

The budget for 2019 includes \$70 million for snow clearing. But even if that is exceeded, there are other sources of money. The plows don't stop rolling just because there's more snow than expected. The city's draft budget includes \$70 million for snow clearing in 2019, and Mayor Watson admitted the city spent more than it expected through January.

A snow reserve fund and tax stabilization fund are available in case the bud-

get for snow clearing isn't enough.

However, if this winter's news is any indication, people still have serious concerns about snow clearance standards and service.

If you're concerned about the City's snow removal and maintenance, the urban councillors have organized an open house on March 20 where you can have your say. City staff will be on hand to present and there will be a forum for residents to voice concerns. The event will be from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Council Chambers, Ottawa City Hall.

### Choral Season Highlight!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 3 PM**  
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19



# TEMBO: Supporting education for girls



NATHALIE THIRLWALL / THE BUZZ

TEMBO volunteer teacher Nancy Arbogast.

by Nathaie Thirlwall

For those of us who were brought up in Canada, there are many elements of our culture we often take for granted. One of the many benefits of travelling is that we see a window into other societies and realize how fortunate we are.

Recently, I gained a glimmer of insight into the plight of the majority of young girls, who are seldom able to go to school.

A number of years ago, in the late 1990s, two Ottawa women, Jo Marchant and Marian Roks, went to visit a young girl they were sponsoring in Kimokouwa village in the northern part of Tanzania.

They returned there a couple of times and consulted with the community leaders, teachers and the residents of Longido and Kimo-

kouwa about the perceived needs of the community.

Based on this exploration of needs and resources available, the commitment arose to help provide educational and microbusiness opportunities for girls and women. This gave rise to the Tanzania Education and Micro-Business Opportunity (TEMBO).

TEMBO provides opportunities for at-risk girls between 13 and 15 years old who come from rural poor areas. The risks are multiple: they range from not finishing their education to becoming pregnant or pressured into arranged marriages at a very early age.

An array of local staff, as well as teacher volunteers from Canada, assist with realizing the goals. Elementary education is in their local language, but secondary school is in English, so in this five-month period between

these levels, the students are instructed in English.

This helps the girls prepare for their next level of schooling by improving their language skills, developing learning habits and introducing them to other academic subjects such as sciences, history and math. Areas of discussion also centre on health and safety as well.

Every year, approximately 50 girls are selected by the Tanzanian staff based on academic potential, as well as degree of risk. Until recently, these girls have been billeted with families in the village, but a hostel has been built and will house them from now on.

There is a voluntary board of directors in Canada and a trust board of directors in Tanzania, who oversee the school.

There are some teachers who have travelled to and taught at the school for 10 years and others who have volunteered more recently. The teachers pay for their travel expenses.

One Centretown resident, retired school teacher Nancy Arbogast, has gone to the school in Tanzania twice to teach and found it very rewarding to see the girls work hard and progress.

Annually, it costs \$350 for each student. Funds are raised in Canada by selling African batik fabrics and items made from the fabric. This spring, there will be a benefit concert, H is for Hope, on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Southminster United Church in Old Ottawa South.

I trust that you will want to support the education of young girls and come to this concert, as well as explore how you might help in other ways.

For more information, visit [www.projecttembo.org](http://www.projecttembo.org).



PROJECTTEMBO.ORG

Students at the school in Kimokouwa, Tanzania.

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## Elgin update: Lewis and McLeod Street crossings to close temporarily



CITY OF OTTAWA

by Kathryn Hunt

Beginning on Monday, March 11, the Lewis and McLeod street crossings at Elgin will need to close for up to three weeks to accommodate deep sewer and water work. While closed, alternate street crossings will open to accommodate the movement of vehicles and transit.

While Lewis Street is closed, Waverley Street will open to route westbound traffic across Elgin. Also, Jack Purcell Lane will become a two-way street from Lewis Street to Waverley Street to accommodate access to the Jack Purcell Community Centre.

While McLeod Street is

closed, Frank Street on the east side of Elgin will open to allow westbound traffic and transit to cross Elgin to Gladstone Avenue. OC Transpo bus route 14 travelling westbound will be detoured across Elgin to Gladstone Avenue.

A number of side streets will remain open to cross Elgin Street:

Nepean, Gloucester, Somerset, Waverley and Frank Streets (east side of Elgin only, westbound to Gladstone) and Gladstone Avenue (eastbound) will all stay open.

The traffic, transit and cyclist detour maps have been updated and can be found on the City's Elgin Street project webpage.

Construction activities

along Elgin Street have progressed well during January and February. The contractor has been installing portions of deep sewer, new watermain and keeping Elgin Street accessible during construction.

A lot of utility upgrades have also been ongoing throughout the corridor. This includes gas main relocations, hydro and telecommunication upgrades, and new streetlight work.

Work is ongoing for road reinstatement at Frank and Elgin and road modifications at Cartier and Frank to prepare for the upcoming closure of McLeod. Preparations along Jack Purcell Lane will also occur prior to the closure of Lewis.

# The perils of potholes

by Charles Jung

An unusually icy winter, combined with a series of thaws means potholes are appearing faster and earlier than expected. Appearing as if by magic, the dreaded pothole is the nasty surprise that winter leaves behind.

While hitting a pothole can damage tires, wheels, and suspension, the damage can be much more severe, including injury and, in some cases, death. Potholes also present a much bigger danger for motorcyclists, pedestrians and cyclists.

If you have been injured or your vehicle has been damaged by a pothole the local road authority may be on the hook to pay. Ontario's Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and local municipalities have a duty to keep the roads under their jurisdiction in a reasonable state of repair and have a legal duty to take reasonable steps to keep their roads free of hazardous conditions.

A regulation in the Municipal Act, designed to restrict claims against municipalities, deems a pothole on municipal roads to be in repair if it is less than eight centimetres deep and 1,000

centimetres square in surface area on a city street that carries over 10,000 vehicles a day.

The legal duty of MTO and municipalities does not mean that roads must always be kept in a perfect condition. That would be impossible. However, employees responsible for maintaining roadways have timelines that they must meet in order to avoid legal liability. The timelines demand that the busiest roads with the highest posted speed limits be treated with priority.

If the MTO or a municipality fails to maintain a road within the expected timeline, and someone is injured in a crash or a vehicle seriously damaged due to bad road conditions, the courts sometimes hold the MTO or the municipality liable. In many cases, a driver can make a claim against a municipality's insurance for vehicle damage caused by a pothole.

If you see a pothole, you should report it when it is safe to do so. If your vehicle is damaged or you are injured by a pothole, you will need to (safely) take pictures and measurements. In the case of pothole damage or injury, you are obliged to file a claim within 10 days of the incident.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

## Building a city with better roads, housing, transit and safe communities



by Mayor Jim Watson

On February 6, City Council tabled the draft 2019 budget, which, once approved, will help build a city with more affordable housing, better roads and sidewalks, expanded transit and safer communities, while keeping Ottawa affordable.

The tabling of the municipal budget is the single most important discussion we have as a city and, each year, I look forward to the public's input and consideration. As I knocked on over 10,000 doors during the past election, I heard loud and clear that Ottawa residents want better roads, better ser-

vices for those less fortunate and safer communities.

This is why budget 2019 aims at reducing our infrastructure gap by boosting our spending on roads and sidewalks, providing more affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents, and making our communities safer and more resilient.

Budget 2019 will invest an unprecedented \$15 million to start construction on new affordable housing units for residents, many of them near transit or light-rail stations. The City of Ottawa will also continue to work with the provincial and federal governments, as well as community partners such as Ottawa Community Hous-

ing, to fight to eradicate homelessness through programs like Housing First and the City's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

This budget will work to reduce the infrastructure gap: the difference between what the City spends and what we need to spend to maintain our infrastructure in a state of good repair.

Budget 2019 allocates an additional \$9.8 million on roads and other municipal infrastructure, such as sidewalks, buildings and bridges, in all corners of the city.

This increase in infrastructure funding brings the City's investments from \$118.7 million to \$128.5 million per year.

This will close the infrastructure gap within the next five years, twice as fast as previously planned.

Budget 2019 also aims at keeping our communities safe. It includes a 25 percent increase in funding for ward-led traffic-calming projects across the city, up from \$40,000 per ward to \$50,000; double the investment for red-light cameras; purchase and implementation of an additional Automated License Plate Recognition device on

a police vehicle.

These technologies will generate additional revenue that can be redirected into Safer Roads Ottawa and new road safety programs such as the School Bus Stop Arm project, which will start in 2019.

Keeping your taxes low and the city affordable has been my number one priority over the past two mandates and I am proud to have worked with Council to deliver on that commitment.

As we anticipate the tabling of the provincial budget, we must prepare for a possible change in provincial funding in many areas of municipal life. As such, we propose a tax goal of no more than three percent for 2019, while continuing to take care of our most vulnerable residents and address important city-wide priorities.

I believe that the 2019 budget strikes the right balance between keeping our city affordable and investing in the core services and programs that position Ottawa for continued growth, prosperity and social inclusion.



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## Joel Harden

MPP, Ottawa Centre



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# THE BUZZ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Join the Ottawa Celtic Choir for a special St. Patrick's Day concert with celtic music on the theme of **Ireland: Island of Saints and Scholars** at St. Luke's Anglican Church (760 Somerset St. W.) on Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission by free will offering.

\*\*\*

**Join the Good Companions for a Vintage and Vibrant Luncheon** on March 19 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at 670 Albert Street.

Celebrate seniors in the Capital! Event includes a gourmet three-course luncheon with guest speaker Dan Greenberg (community philanthropist and president/owner of Ferguslea Properties). There will also be a silent auction and live auction items

Senior Star Awards: Corporate Engagement Award of Excellence & Community Support Award

Tickets are \$75 each with a \$25 tax receipt.

Call 613-236-0428 to inquire about the menu and to reserve your ticket today!

\*\*\*

**Are you concerned about the state of snow clearing in the city?** To get your feedback on snow clearing services, Councillor McKenney is working with urban ward colleagues to hold an information session on Wednesday, March 20, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Council Chambers, Ottawa City Hall.

This information session will include presentations from City staff as well as an open forum to voice your questions and concerns.

\*\*\*

**Come to the Canadian Museum of Nature for free screenings of BBC Earth: Dynasties** March 21, March 28 and April 4 at 6:45 pm.

Renowned naturalist and filmmaker Sir David Attenborough brings you this awe-inspiring series, which follows the true stories of some of the world's most iconic, yet endangered, species. Each episode features an extraordinary animal in a heroic struggle against rivals and the forces of nature, as they fight for their own survival and for the future of their dynasties. Rated PG. Parental advisory: some sensitive children may find the hunting and fighting scenes frightening.

Duration: 60 minutes. Presented in partnership with BBC Earth and Blue Ant Media Entertainment.

\*\*\*

**The first annual Ottawa Coffee Festival** is happening March 23 at the Horticulture Building at Lansdowne Park. Sample coffee and food from your favourite local roasters and vendors! The event will include prizes, workshops, speakers and entertainment.

Experience the influence and global impact of coffee and celebrate the joy of this staple drink with fellow coffee lovers!

\*\*\*

**Gallery 101 is pleased to present "Gatherers,"** featuring Regreta Brown, Rebecca Clouatre, Kristina Corre, Lori Langille, Olivia Johnston and Amy Thompson, from March 23 to April 20.

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 23, 3:00-5:00 p.m. with an artist talk on Saturday, March 23, from

2:00-3:00 p.m.

The idea for Gatherers began with six artists' desire to showcase various approaches to collage as a contemporary art medium.

While showcasing unique approaches to collage was the original impetus for the show, the show's title, Gatherers, is the rich, thematic jumping off point for the works in the exhibition. In putting this show together, we've faced our collections to consider: beyond what we gather, how do we put it all together? How do we edit it down? How does the act of gathering relate to ideas of sustenance, ritual, ceremony, and what we hold sacred or precious? Who and how do we gather as people?

We invite you to come gather and explore these questions with us.

For more info please visit: [www.g101.ca](http://www.g101.ca) or email [office@g101.ca](mailto:office@g101.ca).

\*\*\*

**(un)told's March theme is International Incidents.**

Ever have an unexpected adventure abroad? Did something get lost in translation? We're pulling up an armchair, traveller! We want to hear your personal tales of culture shock, airport drama, close shaves and dumb luck as we travel the globe one story at a time! Sign up to tell your International Incidents story on Sunday, March 24 by sending your pitch to [untold.ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:untold.ottawa@gmail.com). (un)told is held each month at The Royal Oak, 318 Bank Street at MacLaren. Arrive early to sign up: stories start at 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*

Stories and Tea is pleased to announce that we have moved to The Oak (318

Bank St.)! Please join us this month at our new location for good company and great stories, including **"Shiners and Fenians: Political violence in early Ottawa"** with Dai Chaplin and Cecilia Blanchfield on March 26. Stories start at 7:00 p.m. with a break part way through for treats and chatting.

The full Winter/Spring 2019 season of Stories and Tea is now available on the OST website at [ottawastorytellers.ca](http://ottawastorytellers.ca).

\*\*\*

**VerseFest, Ottawa's International poetry festival,** brings poets from across the world to perform at Knox Church from March 26 to 31. Lineup and schedule at [www.versefest.ca](http://www.versefest.ca).

\*\*\*

**Come to the rummage sale** on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, 82 Kent Street. Clothing, books, household items, surprises, low prices. Church Office 613-232-9042.

\*\*\*

**Help the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm make a difference!** It's time to think about the glorious days of spring and getting out into the garden. What better way to enjoy nature, fresh air, exercise, plant life and contribute to the beauty of the Farm than to join one of the Friends' Garden Teams? Go to our Volunteer activities page on [friendsofthefarm.ca](http://friendsofthefarm.ca) for more info on garden team days, times and tasks.

For those interested in volunteering for gardens and events, join us for a free Volunteer Orientation on Satur-

day, April 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Bldg 72 on the Arboretum. For those who are unable to attend the orientation, our 2019 enrollment and waiver volunteer form will soon be available to download.

\*\*\*

Enjoy great music, traditional African songs and drumming and an eclectic African marketplace.

On Saturday, April 13 TEMBO presents a concert at Southminster United Church, featuring Big Soul Project and Deep Groove Band.

Doors open at 6:30. Tickets are \$20 (children free).

For tickets visit [www.projectembo.org](http://www.projectembo.org) or call Toni at 613 863-3218

\*\*\*

**The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm's annual general meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The AGM will begin with a short business meeting, followed by a guest speaker. The meeting and presentation will take place in the K.W. Neatby Building at 960 Carling Avenue and Maple Drive on the Central Experimental Farm. Free parking is available in the lot east of the building.

Our speaker will be Michael Runtz, a dynamic communicator on TV, radio, in the lecture hall and classroom. He has worked as a naturalist in national and provincial parks, and now teaches natural history and ornithology at Carleton University. His topic is "The Flora and Fauna of Algonquin Park."

To register for this free event, email [info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca) or call 613-230-3276.

\*\*\*

Mark your calendars for this year's transplant season! **The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm's annual plant sale** is on May 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., rain or shine!

Head to the parking lot beside K.W. Neatby Building at Carling and Maple Drive and follow the signs.

Get everything you need for your garden at our spectacular plant sale. Over 30 of the region's top specialty growers and nursery vendors are assembled in one location—no need to drive across town to visit each one!

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton will be on hand with free advice on all your gardening questions.

Our popular "plant coat check" service is under the canopy: keep your hands free while shopping and volunteers help carry your treasures to your vehicle.

Refreshment tables and a sale of gardening books provide a nourishing break while shopping.

Free parking on Maple Drive and in the Dominion Observatory parking lot.

\*\*\*

*Advertise your community event for free in The BUZZ. Send your information to [ads@centretownbuzz.com](mailto:ads@centretownbuzz.com). Ads are subject to editing for style and space. First come, first served. For paid advertising rates, please contact [ads@centretownbuzz.com](mailto:ads@centretownbuzz.com) or visit [www.centretownbuzz.com/advertising](http://www.centretownbuzz.com/advertising).*

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**Erica Braunovan**  
Somerset/ Kitchissippi  
OCDSB Trustee

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**CATHERINE MCKENNA**  
Member of Parliament, Ottawa Centre

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107 Catherine Street, Ottawa, ON  
613-946-8682  
[catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca](mailto:catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca)  
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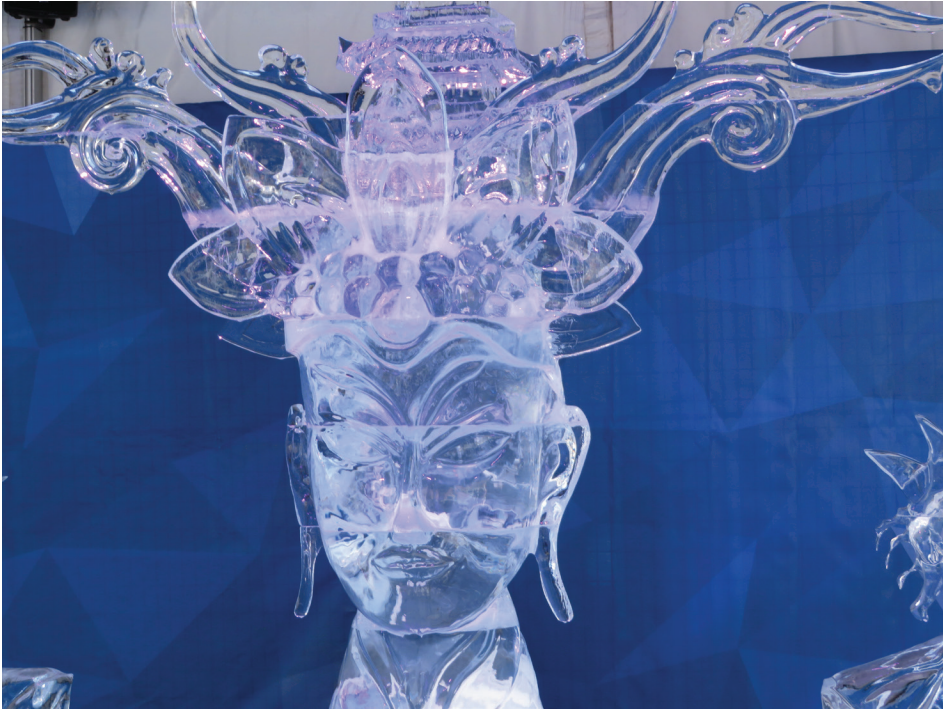


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## Winterlude sculptures show off the beauty of winter



A closeup of one of the ice sculptures featured at Winterlude. BUZZ photographer Stephen Thirlwall says, "Details on some of the sculptures were fabulous." More of his photos are featured here.



The ice sculptures, usually housed in Confederation Park, were moved to the ByWard Market this year.



There were still a number of ice and snow sculptures located in Centretown, some of them interactive, like these on Bank Street, inviting passers-by to take a seat on an icy throne (above) or to take a selfie (below).



The ByWard Market was a new location for Winterlude this year and hosted a number of events, including the ice carving competition in which professional ice carvers from around the world competed by creating dazzling ice sculptures.

Sparks Street, meanwhile, hosted the first-ever winter edition of Capital Pride. Events included an Ice Cabaret featuring Mado, Montréal's most famous drag queen, as well as Capital Tease Burlesque and DJs; and Standing Up, Standing Out, a photo exhibit commemorating the partial decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada.

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