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# THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ

## Centretowners save orphaned pets

Alayne McGregor

On December 1, Marna Nightingale was sitting in the chilly backyard of a rooming house on Eccles Street, trying to rescue the final cat orphaned by a tragic death.

The cat was one of about 18 which were being cared for by Jonathan Hammell, 42, who lived in the rooming house. He died on November 11 after a fight. Nearby resident Kevin Richer has been charged with second-degree murder in his death.

Together with her partner Lorayne Katz and with the help of animal lovers across Centretown and beyond, Nightingale has been trapping, caring for, and finding new homes for Hammell's cats and Richer's dog. As she talked to *The BUZZ* that afternoon, she was sipping tea and keeping watch over a humane trap baited with tuna, chicken, and mashed oyster, hoping to retrieve the last cat before that night's snowstorm. She had to keep watching, because the cat might injure itself or be vulnerable to predators if left unattended in the trap.

She was particularly concerned because the cat was possibly pregnant, and if it gave birth, the kittens might not survive outdoors. "This is Operation 'No more dead kittens'."

Nightingale, a former *BUZZ* editor, lives three blocks away from the rooming house, and had seen Hammell and his cats regularly. "Jonathan did an amazing job of caring for these cats. They're all very friendly. They're all very sweet. They're in glowing health. He did everything he could for them and it shows."

### Look local for holiday gifts this year

Alayne McGregor

Looking for books or records as holiday gifts? Don't forget Ottawa-Gatineau authors and musicians.

*The BUZZ* asked independent stores in and near Centretown for their recommendations for new local releases which they will be stocking for Christmas.

"Everyone I've talked to say that he was kind, and incredibly devoted to looking after the cats. He could be very shy with people and so the cats meant a lot to him."

On November 11, she had passed by as the argument was starting. When she later gave a witness statement to the police, she learned that Richer's dog Dozer and several young kittens were now at the Humane Society. Nightingale was able to confirm they were fine and in no danger, and walked over to allay neighbours' fears.

"In the course of that, people realized there were a lot more cats. Could we do anything to help? They couldn't take them all in, and winter was coming. We said, 'Yes, we can do that.'"

With Richer's permission, they quickly found a home for his dog, Dozer. The six-year-old white mastiff cross is now living happily with a family in the same neighbourhood in Centretown, she said. "The owner has always had large-breed dogs, and they are doing so well together. We're going to take him to get fixed on January 22."

She and Katz started distributing food for the cats, and then discussed how to find them new homes. Cat rescue operations are completely swamped right now, she said, "so we're just doing it ourselves." They had previous experience, having cared for a colony of feral cats in their backyard.

"At some point, you know who to call, you know what to do, you know what the steps are, you know roughly how much money you need, so it's fairly easy to swing into action because there is an enormous network of de-

**Jim Sherman, Perfect Books (258A Elgin Street),**

Sherman immediately recommended Phil Jenkins, who has just released *As I Walk About*, a collection of his *Ottawa Citizen* columns chronicling his walks around Ottawa, as well as a 25th anniversary edition of *An Acre of Time*, about the history of LeBreton Flats.

Want to learn even more about our city? Sherman sug-



Three of the rescued cats previously cared for by Jonathan Hammell.

CAT MEIER/THE BUZZ

lightly crazy cat and dog people in Centretown. We all vaguely know each other. If it was not me, it would have been someone else."

She said she could not have undertaken the rescue without Arden Gionet, who runs the Pet Circus store on Bank Street, who has been "incredibly generous" with donations, time, knowledge, and contacts.

Over two weeks, Nightingale trapped cats in a "fairly smooth" operation. "There were several days I got two in six hours."

Those cats are in homes, either foster or permanent, or being nursed by Nightingale and Katz. They currently have a waiting list of people willing to take the cats after they've had vet checkups, "which is glorious."

They also found a stray orange tabby who turned out to have been lost for seven months. The owner was delighted to get him back.

Nightingale said that when Hammell moved into the rooming house, he had

gested *Lost Ottawa* (volumes 1 and 2) by David McGee, and the two *Ottawa Rewind* books by Andrew King, collections of Ottawa curiosities and mysteries.

In local fiction, he suggested 2020 releases by Frances Itani (*The Company We Keep*), and by local mystery writers Ron Corbett and Brenda Chapman.

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"New releases..."

one pregnant cat. That expanded to about 18 in just two years. That's one reason why she is determined to ensure the cats are not only fed and re-homed, but also spayed/neutered.

When they realized the number of cats, she and Katz

knew they would need help. On November 24, former *BUZZ* editor Kate Hunt set up a "Bring Jonathan's Cats In From The Cold" fundraiser on GoFundMe to pay for the animals' care.

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### LeBreton Flats to rise again?

Alayne McGregor

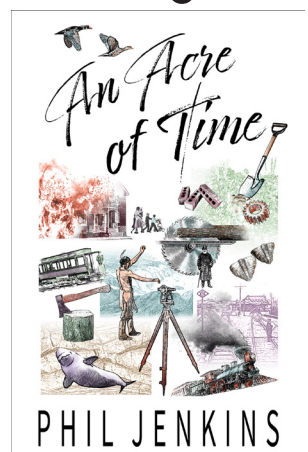
Almost 25 years ago, writer Phil Jenkins brought the complicated and little-known history of LeBreton Flats to life in his book, *An Acre of Time*. That award-winning book examined one acre in the Flats in-depth, from geologic time to the present day.

This year, he took another walk through that acre. It's now partially covered with condos and a firefighters' memorial but much of it is still undeveloped.

Jenkins has just released a third edition of the book, which updates the acre's story to include all the redevelopment schemes of the last two decades and how they ultimately collapsed into "suage (very rich people suing each other) on a grand scale."

It's a story that's repeated itself throughout the Flat's history, he says – all revolving around money and "the notion of land as a commodity."

But Jenkins is feeling more hopeful with the current NCC development plans, which he hopes will be a more grassroots way



to proceed, and that might actually create "a communal home, not an characterless development to be lured into. Not a destination, but a neighbourhood."

"Neighbourhoods that grow according to the calendar rather than the stopwatch are, to borrow from Marshall McLuhan, 'warm' communities. The acre, once warm (indeed at several points, ablaze) had been frozen for over four decades, then became lukewarm when the condosauros made its mark on it. It seems that with the NCC master plan, there is a chance of warmth."

Read *The BUZZ's* in-depth interview with Jenkins about the new edition of *An Acre of Time* online at [centretownbuzz.com](http://centretownbuzz.com)

December 11, 2020 — Vol. 25, No. 11

# THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ

AT THE HEART OF OTTAWA SINCE 1995.

101-210 Gloucester St.  
Ottawa, ON  
K2P 2K4  
Phone: 613-565-6012

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[twitter.com/centretownbuzz](https://twitter.com/centretownbuzz)  
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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 Jan. 15. Deadline for ads and submissions: Jan. 4. ISSN 1204-1604

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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



## The Good, the Bad, and the Bumpy: supporting personal support workers

Ryan Lythall

This year hasn't been a great, or even a good, year for most of us and it has been especially hard for people with disabilities and their personal support workers (PSWs).

For those who may not be aware of this, PSWs are vital to those of us dealing with disabilities, as well as for seniors and those dealing with various medical conditions. PSWs help with daily living tasks such as bathing, laundry, cooking, and sometimes with feeding, housecleaning, and much more. Some PSWs may work for an agency or directly for the individual needing assistance.

Back in September, Ontario Premier Doug Ford promised a three dollar raise

for personal support workers, which was set to take effect on October 1st. As of this writing, the increase hasn't happened, and there is no word of a new date.

Over the past several years, there has been a severe shortage of PSWs, and with COVID-19, the situation has become worse and, in some cases, dire. During this pandemic, I often hear about a PSW calling in sick or simply choosing not to visit their client. Sooner or later, a PSW will probably need to run errands, which typically involves some type of interaction with others in public. So there is some fear for the PSW of getting COVID-19 and infecting their family.

Similarly to people with disabilities, PSWs are often forgotten, over-

looked or viewed as an afterthought. This needs to change. Without personal support workers, people with disabilities wouldn't be able to be independent, productive members of society. In some cases, we wouldn't even be alive if we didn't have PSWs.

As we move closer to the New Year, I have hope that things will improve and that personal support workers will finally get the pay increase and the recognition that they deserve. I also hope that a vaccine for COVID-19 will be distributed in a safe, fair and timely manner.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy the holiday season and take some time to relax. I'll be back in January 2021.

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

## Letter: Feds should protect the Chateau Laurier

The revised site plan for an addition to the Chateau Laurier is expected any day now at City Hall.

Why is there not any federal intervention on this issue? The Chateau Laurier needs protection from the federal government and the Ottawa Centre cabinet minister should be arranging this. How can it be that the National Capital Commission, which has led the way on so many other matters over the

years, remains void of ideas to protect the Chateau Laurier?

The Chateau is a Canadian landmark second only to Parliament Hill. The view from Major's Hill Park is uniquely Ottawa, which we should be very proud of. The scene of the Chateau on one side and Parliament Hill on the other is among the most beautiful of any capital city anywhere.

Can you imagine this happening to the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City?

Never!

Kudos to Heritage Ottawa volunteers to try to salvage the situation. It is especially important for the constituents of Ottawa Centre to speak out about this. There should not be any addition to the Chateau Laurier.

No more excuses. It is time for innovative action by the federal government.

Peter Harris  
former Ottawa City Councillor

## Make more room to walk

I was hoping that the City could plough the paths in Minto Park this winter.

They already plough the north-west edge and a connecting path from the south-east corner. This is great. It would be nice if they could plough all the paths.

This is the only bit of nature we have between Elgin and the canal. The canal is far for people with mobility

issues. During these times it is a healthy means of escape for the high population living in this area.

Many citizens walk their pets, children play while others stroll, socialize and just plain take in fresh air. The park could be used year round, and people do stay away from each other in coronavirus times.

John Kearney

## Managing editor's note

Truly, this month is the "winter of our discontent."

We're seeing not only the effects but the side effects of COVID-19. We've lost dear friends to conditions undiagnosed because of hospital backlogs. The ByTowne Cinema, an Ottawa institution, has just announced it will close at the end of 2020 because of fewer patrons and fewer films to screen.

So this issue we've emphasized the positive and hopeful, and how you can support local writers and musicians. We're also introducing a new contributor, Karen Munro-Caple, whose cartoons depict the lighter side of the pandemic.

Because *The BUZZ* is supported by advertising alone, we were limited to eight pages. Several stories moved to online-only; please check them out at [centretownbuzz.com](http://centretownbuzz.com)

# Non-profit library needs new space for 2500 tools

Alayne McGregor

With less than two weeks notice, the Ottawa Tool Library (OTL) has found itself homeless. It suddenly had to pack up more than 2500 tools – ranging in size from a huge stationary drill press to tiny jeweler’s screwdrivers – and move them into storage by December 9.

But the community tool lending service is determined to find a new location, and to continue its mission of empowering people to make and repair things with their own hands.

The OTL had been subleasing space from Makerspace North, a workshop space, community hub, and startup incubator in the City Centre complex near Bayview Station. The OTL had been there for five years, an anchor tenant since Makerspace North opened.

OTL Executive Director Bettina Vollmerhausen said the tool library had been very happy there: “Makerspace North has been an amazing space for makers to get going, and it was such a great collaborative undertaking. We all helped each other out—if you needed something laser-cut then the guy down in the other unit could do it for you.”

She told *The BUZZ* that the OTL had been paying its rent, on time and in full, to Makerspace for the 1300 square feet it occupied. She

had thought Makerspace was paying its rent to the building’s landlord, and didn’t know of any issues with the lease.

“We’ve been paying our bills. That’s why we were so shocked when we found the notice on the door. ‘What! What? We have to be out? Why? What’s going on?’”

On the morning of November 26, she said, she received a message from another Makerspace tenant, sending her a picture of the notice. It was signed by Michael Morin of District Realty, the property management company for City Centre, and said that the tenant [Makerspace] was in long-standing and significant rental arrears and had not paid up despite numerous demands. Since the landlord would be retaking possession of the space, the subtenants were told they must permanently vacate the premises no later than December 9.

The District Realty website now shows the 19,169-square-foot Makerspace location for rent, with an availability date of February 1.

Makerspace North’s website shows more than 30 other companies also subleasing space there, including a maker of vermicomposting systems, a CNC/laser cutting service, artists, a custom woodworker, leather goods makers, an architect, a puzzle maker, and a mobile game developer.

Vollmerhausen said the OTL had asked District Re-

alty if it could stay on in its location so it would not have to move all its tools and furniture immediately. “Can we just stay and pay you rent? We can cease operations as long as we can keep the tools there while we look around.” They were turned down.

The eviction comes at a particularly difficult time for the volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization as it was recovering from the pandemic. Last spring, it shut down completely for two months and then very slowly reopened.

“At first it was curbside pickup only once a week. You had to book a space and we could only serve a certain number of people. Then we let people in the library one at a time.

“We were just getting back on our feet. We were open now three times a week, and were having eight workshops a month, which is also a great revenue stream for us. They were sold out. [December 6] was a sold-out workshop for kids 8-12, a Tinkering School to teach them tool skills. We had to cancel [it] because we’re packing up.”

The OTL’s purpose is “for people to be able to borrow tools that they most often need only once. Often you need a tool for a project. Why buy a \$700 tool that you need for four hours? You can borrow it and bring it back and someone else can borrow it,” Vollmerhausen said.

“It’s the same as a book



The Ottawa Tool Library as it started to pack up in December.

BETTINA VOLLMERHAUSEN/OTTAWA TOOL LIBRARY

library: we all don’t need to own those tools. We can share them. Better for your pocketbook, better for the environment, better for the community.”

In its inventory, the OTL has hand tools, power tools, kitchen tools, and garden tools. “It’s the typical wood shop thing that you would maybe think of—drills and hammers and saws and a table saw. But we also have kitchen tools and garden tools. We have wheelbarrows and lawnmowers and pruners and shears. We have sewing machines and sergers.”

Its City Centre premises also included a fully stocked workshop area with four workbenches, where people could work on their own projects.

It also offered workshops on how to do common household fixes or make projects like bookshelves. “One thing that’s always been important to us at the tool library is that

we provide access to tools as resources, but then also to the knowledge. That means you don’t know how to use this? Come take a workshop with us. You get to learn how to use the tools and you end up walking away with a product. And it’s amazing to see how happy and successful and empowered people feel!

“If you’ve ever made anything with your hands, and especially with tools that are kind of intimidating, and then you walk home with this beautiful shelf that you’ve built, you’re like this is incredible.”

Packing up the OTL and finding warehouse space has been a logistical nightmare, Vollmerhausen said. “Just imagine moving with tools. You can’t put a sliding compound mitre saw in a Rubbermaid bin and stack it. You put the saw in the truck and you can’t put anything on top of it.”

But she was heartened by

the community support it has received.

“The community has supported us in a way that we did not expect, actually. We thought people would care about it, but oh my gosh... My inbox exploded. People calling me, texting me. ‘What are you doing? How can I help? I’m bringing over bins.’ We’ve had someone drop off pizza for people who are packing up. It’s been amazing, the outpouring of support.”

For its new location, Vollmerhausen said the OTL would prefer to stay in central Ottawa, although it had previously considered opening a second location in the east end.

“Our volunteer base is in this part of town so we’d like to stick around here for now and tackle the east sometime later. But then again I don’t know, right? If we can’t find anything [except] in the east, then maybe we’re opening up an east-end location.”

But definitely the tool library will return, she said.

“I want people to hang in there. We’re coming back, bigger and stronger. It’s a crazy situation, but what gives me hope is that in a few months we’ll look back and go ‘Whew! That was a big mess but look at us. Now we’ve found a great place, we can rebuild.’”

“So we’re asking people to continue checking in with us, to support us. Our team and our community is incredible in their support. It gives me hope that we will come through this.”

*The BUZZ* reached out to both Makerspace North and District Realty for comment, but neither responded.

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**Comment**

# Glashan greening project needs to be completed

Nili Kaplan-Myrth

In 2014, a competition was held across Canada to create green, outdoor-learning spaces for students. The parents of children at Glashan Public School received emails asking the community to participate in a Greening Project. “Bruce Cockburn to lend his support to the project. His mother went to Glashan!” we were told.

Glashan is a middle school for students in Grades 7 and 8 located on Arlington near Kent in Centretown.

The Glashan Greening Project successfully turned the school yard into a more engaging space. At the time, the yard was described by students and teachers as “bleak, grey, and uninspiring” and it had lost most of the shade trees to emerald ash borer damage.

The school’s parent council began the Glashan Greening Project to transform the yard from grey to green, from passive to proactive, and from average to extraordinary. The yard became more functional and attractive, and greener, with colour instead of concrete. It also included naturalized outdoor classroom spaces and some pavement was removed from part of the yard. Naturalized spaces with rocks and logs for seating were created and a small, raised stage for performances was built. One initiative was funded by a Paint It Up mural grant application. An outdoor seating area with a chess table was also set up.

Now, in 2020, Glashan students and their parents are struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic and looking for creative ways for



Installing a mural on the school wall. *GLASHAN PARENTS COUNCIL*

students to learn outdoors. Anything we can do to create outdoor learning spaces would be very helpful. Significant funds were raised in the Greening competition and approximately \$7,000 is still sitting in the council’s bank account.

Our youngest child is at Glashan in Grade 7 and has suggested adding a labyrinth in the yard, or an outdoor stage. Many of the original students from 2014 are now in their 20s. Perhaps they have suggestions. Perhaps parents and children at local

elementary schools feeding into Glashan have suggestions. Community members who do not have children but who have creative ideas and skills—landscaping, architecture, environmental activism—may want to share ideas about how to use the funds.

Over the next year, let’s put together a plan and use the greening fund as it was intended. What an opportunity! Please reach out at [glashansc@gmail.com](mailto:glashansc@gmail.com) or on the Glashan Greening Project Facebook page.

# How’s it going?

Justine Bell, OCDSB trustee

You have likely heard by now that it “takes a community to keep our schools safe” and we must all do our part to stay healthy at school and beyond. Well, it looks like we are heeding the call. So far, following the Ministry of Education’s COVID-19 protocols and the advice of Ottawa Public Health have paid off. We have generally not seen the spread of the virus in schools.

In our classrooms, safety measures such as daily self-assessment, physical distancing, hand hygiene, wearing masks and PPE as required, and isolating high-risk contacts in the event of a positive case are helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

On the home front for the past three months, my family has been on a rollercoaster ride. This morning, my daughter was so happy walking to school that she excitedly told me how to spell Love. Yesterday’s letter in senior kindergarten was L! We are doing our best to enjoy these little moments because we know they can be replaced by fear and uncertainty at any moment. The first (and only) time I

received notification from my daughter’s principal that there was a positive case at her school was petrifying.

An OCDSB survey went out a few weeks ago to ask “What are the most important things you want to share about your family’s school experience so far this year?” We heard from close to 9,000 parents/guardians of in-person school and around 3,250 parents/guardians of students attending school virtually (OCV).

According to the survey results, most parents reported that their child is somewhat or very engaged in their learning. Nearly three-quarters of elementary parents said that their child’s well-being has improved since returning to school. Secondary parents had mixed feelings about how it’s going, with mental health and workload expectations being significant concerns. A message that came out loud and clear was the great appreciation we all have for educators, administrators and custodians, and our concern for their mental health and well-being.

So how’s it going? I’m not going to give it a grade. I believe it’s important to acknowledge that it’s been hard and we still have a lot to learn. But there have been some amazing little moments to cherish.

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## Catherine McKenney • City Councillor for Somerset Ward

*Have a safe and fun  
Holiday Season ~~AND~~  
a Happy New Year!*



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## Partnership produces zesty surprise



Mariam El-Behiry

Beyond the Pale (BTP) Brewery and hot-sauce maker Meow That's Hot (MTH) have collaborated with the Dalhousie Food Cupboard to create Fuzz on Fire!, a flavourful, one-of-a-kind chili sauce. The proceeds from the sale of each bottle will support the food bank and provide emergency safe food support in the community.

The sauce uses juice from grapefruits zested for BTP Brewery's Pink Fuzz wheat beer and combines it with jalapeño peppers, and hints of garlic and strawberry, that yields a mixture of tart, sweet and heat. According to the Dalhousie Food Cupboard website, this sauce goes great with ribs, wings, tacos and much more.

On December 1, Shane and Rob from BTP Brewery,

James from Dalhousie Food Cupboard and Larry from MTH sat down for a live Fuzz on Fire! virtual tasting on Zoom. Straight from the taproom, BTP Smokeyhouse chicken wings, covered with MTH Fuzz on Fire! sauce and accompanied by BTP's classic beers, were enjoyed as they chatted away on how the unique sauce came to be.

James Witherspoon, the Dalhousie Food Cupboard board member behind this collaboration, recalls how the hot sauce idea was born from a throwaway line, "After COVID hit and the usual dinners and concerts and karaoke events were on hold, we needed to figure out a way to fundraise for the food bank. Why not do these things online? What about a virtual beer tasting?"

"So I reached out to Rob and Shane from Beyond the Pale and they were a 100 percent on board and happy to help. During the virtual beer tasting, as we were tasting Pink Fuzz, Shane mentioned that the brewery has hundreds of grapefruit lying around and asked if they could be donated to the food bank. I got a phone call from the coordinator at the food centre the day they were being delivered, telling me that there were 16 cases of grapefruits. The volume was obviously an issue!

"While trying to think of what could be done with grapefruits, I happened to have a bottle of Meow That's Hot sauce in my hand and I started to wonder if we can make grapefruit into hot sauce. I reached out to Larry from MTH and he mentioned he has never used grapefruit in the sauces before but he was excited to try it out."

After two trials, the sauce was ready to go. The big secret to its sweetness and smooth consistency is an ingredient no one would think would be in a hot sauce—sweet potato! According to Larry, the sweet potato balances out the bitterness of grapefruit but still preserves its fruitiness and unique taste. He said the sauce is best paired with a Dark Picante or Pink Fuzz beer from BTP.

Fuzz on Fire! is available on the shelves of the MTH store at 519 Bank Street and the BTP Brewery in City Centre, as well as online at [meow-thats-hot.myshopify.com](http://meow-thats-hot.myshopify.com) with free shipping. It is also available on the BTP website at [btshop.ca](http://btshop.ca) with free shipping on orders over \$60.

The Dalhousie Food Cupboard (211 Bronson Avenue) also needs local volunteers to help in delivering food during the winter season. Contact it at [www.dalhousiefoodcupboard.ca](http://www.dalhousiefoodcupboard.ca)

## Ward boundary review leaves Somerset unscathed

Alayne McGregor

Somerset Ward is expected to be left unchanged after the current city ward boundary review. The city Finance Committee (FEDCO) supported a modified version of the consultants' Option 6 on December 1.

That option concentrated its changes in Ottawa's eastern and southern suburbs outside the Greenbelt, with no change to Somerset Ward and many other urban wards. The biggest controversy at FEDCO was the importance of the francophone versus the rural communities of interest in Orleans/Cumberland.

The review will add one more suburban ward, reflect-

ing population growth in the southern suburbs. That means that urban wards within the Greenbelt will no longer have a majority on City Council.

In addition, it preserves the special status of the three rural-only wards. The population of each rural ward is only about two-thirds of other wards, despite the fact that "relative parity of voting power" was supposed to be an important consideration in drawing up the boundaries.

### Two new COVID-19 testing centres in Centretown

Two new COVID-19 assessment centres opened in Centretown in November.

The centre at the McNabb

Community Centre (180 Percy Street) is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, and tests adults and children older than six months.

At the National Arts Centre (1 Elgin Street), the centre is drive-through only. It's open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and will test those 14 years and older. You must have a valid health card. You enter with your car at the City Hall parking garage entrance on Elgin Street and then continue to the Albert Street entrance of the NAC parking garage.

You must book an appointment for tests at these locations, either at <https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/> or by calling 613-737-8193.

## Planet of the Scares: bright and light

Pearl Pirie

I've fallen into the eggs and am stuck. I presume the body knows best. Cheese and eggs have tryptophan, from which your body makes serotonin, a mood and sleep enhancer. Don't take it from me: Google or Duck-DuckGo it.

The dessert came first and then what to do with eight egg whites? Meringue cookies? Too sweet. Without the egg yolks, these are airy but not as crisp as Yorkshire Pudding.



PEARL PIRIE/THE BUZZ

### Main Dish: Egg White Soufflés

8 egg whites  
1/2 cup grated old cheddar  
1 Tbsp blue cheese or blue cheese dressing  
sprig of thyme  
ribbons of spinach (optional)  
2 tsp butter  
salt and pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Whisk the egg whites on high until soft peaks form. Fold in half of the old cheddar, the thyme, and salt and pepper to taste.

Butter four ramekins. Di-

vide the whipped eggs evenly into each ramekin. Top with the remaining cheese and sprinkle with blue cheese or blue cheese dressing. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.

This recipe is modified from a spring 2015 issue of *Edible Ottawa* by Justin Faubert.



### Dessert: Mandarin Cake

Sometimes the mandarins of Christmas are not quite the sweet treat they could be. This Southern U.S. dish can use up a lot of mandarins, and leave you with a cake that is not overly sweet and different from the usual offerings. It keeps well and freezes well so you can have it on hand without needing to eat up the whole thing. The original recipe ([julieblanner.com/mandarin-orange-cake/](http://julieblanner.com/mandarin-orange-cake/))

is lavish and pretty, but this is more of a simple loaf version.

Mix:

1 cup margarine  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
8 egg yolks

Add:

1 1/3 cup mandarins, minced  
1 1/2 tsp vanilla  
3/4 cup almond milk

Stir in:

2 cups unbleached flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt

Pour into a 9x13 pan. Bake at 350° F for 25 to 30 minutes.

Glaze:

Beat:

3 Tbsp mandarin juice  
1 Tbsp margarine, melted  
2 cups powdered sugar  
1 tsp almond extract  
zest of 3 mandarins

Top the cake with the glaze once the cake has cooled for half an hour.

Pearl Pirie's fourth poetry collection, *footlights, is out!* Buy now: [www.radiantpress.ca/shop/footlights](http://www.radiantpress.ca/shop/footlights) Author site: [www.pearlpirie.com](http://www.pearlpirie.com) Keep washing your hands and wearing your masks.

This could take many months more.

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## Somerset Ward: Major changes in new draft of city official plan

Catherine McKenney

The Official Plan is a high-level planning document that sets goals and targets for development in Ottawa. With input from residents, the city creates an official plan to provide a vision for future growth and a policy framework to guide land use and development.

The draft New Official Plan (NOP) was recently released and contains an official plan document, along with associated supporting documents, and will be in effect (once approved) until 2046. Over this period, the city of Ottawa's population is expected to grow by 400,000 people, reaching a city-wide population of 1.4 million. In order to accommodate these new residents, and the housing, jobs and recreation they will need, while protecting the environment and ensuring everyone can safely move around the city, the Official Plan needs an update.

In the current Official Plan, urban areas are designated as General Urban Area, Mixed Use Centre, or Traditional or Arterial Mainstreet. These designations support different types of land use, as well as specific development patterns and building heights. These land use designations are to be replaced with Neighbourhoods (General Urban Area), Hubs (Mixed Use Centre), and Corridors (Traditional or Arterial Mainstreets). Corridors will be further divided into Mainstreet and Minor Corridors.

The Neighbourhood des-

ignation is meant to represent not only the residential buildings in an area but also the employment, amenity and recreational uses. The creation and maintenance of communities with affordable housing options, adequate employment opportunities and ample green and open space will encourage people to live in walkable and dynamic communities such as Centretown.

Select Hubs are identified as Protected Major Transit Station Areas, in which municipalities are permitted to enact inclusionary zoning policies. Many of the Hubs in the Downtown Transect are classified as Protected Major Transit Station Areas, including the areas around the Lyon and Parliament LRT stations. The NOP includes language that will permit the city to create and implement an inclusionary zoning bylaw to provide more affordable housing in growing neighbourhoods.

Mainstreet and Minor Corridors represent the transportation spines of a neighbourhood that run through communities. Elgin and Bank Streets, and Gladstone Avenue are designated as Mainstreet Corridors due to the high-pedestrian environment and neighbourhood commercial activity.

In order to create policies that represent the widely varying geography of our city, the NOP introduces Transect Areas. The downtown core was previously designated as the Central Area, which is recommended to be replaced by the Downtown Transect.

These transects act as

layers to reflect the differing land uses and built environments in these areas and guide how these areas will evolve and develop in the future. This strategy goes beyond the binary urban and rural designations of the current OP and recognizes the specific needs in different areas of the city.

One of the NOP's primary goals is to achieve more growth within established communities than through expansion. Regeneration is the concept of preventing urban sprawl and creating more liveable neighbourhoods by encouraging growth and development in existing neighbourhoods. It's a bit late given council's recent misguided decision to grow beyond our current boundaries.

A new type of residence, 613 Flats, that has six rooms including one bathroom and three bedrooms has been introduced. These types of units or residences would help provide for the missing middle by locating in existing neighbourhoods. The 613 Flats and regeneration are tools the city can use to create more 15-minute neighbourhoods, especially in areas that are currently lower density and more car dependent.

Our future decisions will reveal how serious we are about resisting more car-dependent and unsustainable neighbourhoods. These new neighbourhoods will need to have wide sidewalks, a continuous and safe cycling network, a healthy tree canopy, local recreation amenities and parks, affordable and efficient local transit, healthy local businesses, and housing that suits everyone's needs.

You can review the draft New Official Plan at <https://engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan>

You can also send any comments and concerns, or questions to [newop@ottawa.ca](mailto:newop@ottawa.ca)



It used to be that the presentation of a City of Ottawa proclamation meant handshakes all around. But when Mayor Jim Watson (centre) presented the city's Centretown BUZZ Day plaque (for our 25th anniversary) to Archie Campbell (l) and Robert Smythe (r) on November 16, masks were worn and social distancing was observed.

CITY OF OTTAWA

### Comment

## Ottawa needs a magnificent pedestrian promenade on the Queen Elizabeth Driveway

Jack Hanna

Ottawa needs a magnificent pedestrian promenade, and right now there is a terrific opportunity to create one.

The Queen Elizabeth Driveway (QED) begs to be a permanent car-free promenade. A vehicle-free QED would not just be a park. It would be a grand promenade that reflects the soul of Ottawa and of Canada.

The driveway was closed to cars this past summer to give Ottawans the opportunity during COVID-19 to stretch their legs while maintaining social distancing. It was an instant and huge success. Walkers, cyclists, joggers, and dog walkers came in droves to be out in the air among the greenery and beside the Rideau Canal. QED's popularity and value as a vehicle-free place of beauty is clear.

Canadians, and certainly the people of Ottawa, embrace nature. The west side of the canal already has shrubbery and trees. By adding parklands, the QED would become a corridor of greenery, a very Ottawa and Canadian place.

The promenade would celebrate Ottawa as the nation's capital. It would embrace so many national monuments: Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal, the Chateau Laurier, the National War Memorial, the Shaw Centre, the National Arts Centre, and the Canadian Museum of Nature.

It would also exude history. The promenade's biggest feature would be the Rideau Canal. The canal is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a national treasure, and the city's pride. The promenade would pay the World Heritage Site the respect it is due and open it to people friendly activities and aesthetics.

How alive the promenade could be! Along with cyclists and pedestrians, it could have cafés, bars, playing fields, picnic areas, and outdoor stages for performances and festivals. There could be pop-up sites where innovative activities can flourish.

The QED could be a winter destination, allowing winter cycling and cross-country skiing. As well, it could provide much-needed additional amenities for the

ever-increasing volumes of canal skaters, such as additional change areas, washrooms, and cafés.

Right now, there are roadways on both sides of the canal. It's a sad relic of the era when the car was king. It's utterly unnecessary. The QED is only lightly used by vehicles; clearly it is not needed for cars, especially as the city pursues its policy of reducing vehicles in the core.

The Centretown Community Association has asked the National Capital Commission, which owns the QED, to work with the city to create a grand boulevard. City Councillors Catherine McKenney and Shawn Menard support the transformation.

The editorial board of *The Globe and Mail* has it right: Close an appropriate roadway and "the result is a good city, made better."

Let's have a grand promenade, one magnificently in tune with the character of this city and of Canada.

*Jack Hanna is the vice-president of the Centretown Community Association, which supports this initiative.*

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# What's on this month

Tony Wohlfarth

At year's end, documentary film buffs can watch an abundance of recent films about the experience of refugees fleeing persecution around the world. The ByTowne Cinema is screening a new film set in Vichy France. Museums are also open for timed entry visits during the holidays.

## One World Refugee Film Festival

*One World Arts* is Ottawa's longest running documentary film festival. This year, they are partnering with the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) to bring audiences a diverse range of films based on the experience of refugees fleeing persecution.

The festival runs from December 1 to 14 and the screenings are available online. The films are being presented around six themes—Voices from Syria, The Rohingya Crisis, The Situation of LGBTQ+ Refugees, Refugees and The Climate Crisis, Canadians Speaking Out for Refugees, and Memory & the Refugee Experience.

Tickets and information can be found at [owrff2020.eventive.org/](http://owrff2020.eventive.org/). A pass for the full festival costs \$30; each program costs \$10.

## Welcome to Chechnya

Until December 21, *One World Arts* is live streaming *Welcome to Chechnya*, directed by David France. It's a chilling documentary about LGBTQ+ youth who flee their country to escape persecution and death threats due to their sexual identity. An underground network of activists helps save them in safe houses in Grozny. From there, they are smuggled to Canada where they can make refugee claims.

I saw *Welcome to Chechnya*

during the 2020 Berlin Film Festival, where it won the Amnesty International Film Prize. The camera work is often grainy, most of it filmed clandestinely on handheld cameras. An enormous sense of relief and pride came over me when I realized that Canada was their preferred destination, offering them the chance to lead a normal life.

Both Russia and Chechnya are complicit in their persecution as this film reveals. In one stunning scene, the head of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kadyrov is responsible for the abduction and torture of Chechens. Be forewarned: this film is brutal to watch.

*Welcome to Chechnya* has a running time of one hour and 47 minutes. The screening is co-sponsored with Amnesty International Canada. You can watch it now at [owrff2020.eventive.org/films](http://owrff2020.eventive.org/films)

## Illumination

In December, darkness comes earlier and nights are long. To brighten the mood, Heritage Canada is live streaming images of the lights beginning on December 17 at [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/christmas-lights/illumination.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/christmas-lights/illumination.html)

## Thirteen Strings returns

Ottawa's Thirteen Strings Chamber Orchestra returned to performances in November, and you can see that concert online at [thirteenstrings.ca](http://thirteenstrings.ca). In December, it will live stream its performance of classical Christmas music via its [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

## ByTowne Cinema

The ByTowne (325 Rideau Street) is screening *De Gaulle*, a remarkable biopic about the early military ca-

reer of General Charles De Gaulle. The year is 1940 and Vichy France is wrestling with the decision to surrender to Nazi Germany. The general lives in rural France and his wife Yvonne (played by Isabelle Carré) is forced to move with their children to escape Hitler's advances. De Gaulle (played by Lambert Wilson) is adamantly opposed to surrender and he works with Churchill (Tim Hudson). *De Gaulle* recreates his famous speech of June 8, 1940, calling on Britain to come to the aid of France.

Directed by Gabriel Le Bomin, the film screens with English subtitles. Tickets and screening times are available at [www.bytowne.ca/movie/de-gaulle](http://www.bytowne.ca/movie/de-gaulle)

## National Arts Centre

In December, you can see *The Good Lovelies* (December 13), and Kellylee Evans' *Winter Song* with Rebecca Noelle (December 17 and 18) in person at the NAC. *The Good Lovelies* and Evans' December 17 concert will also be live streamed. Tickets and info: [nac-cna.ca/en/calendar/list/2020/12](http://nac-cna.ca/en/calendar/list/2020/12)

## Canadian War Museum

On December 4, the war museum (1 Vimy Private) opened its latest exhibition *Forever Changed: Stories from the Second World War*. It weaves together individual stories of sacrifice on the 75th anniversary of the end of WW II.

The museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn more at [www.warmuseum.ca/foreverchanged/](http://www.warmuseum.ca/foreverchanged/)

*Tony Wohlfarth is an Ottawa-based freelance film, arts and entertainment writer. He attended the 2020 Berlinale, where Welcome to Chechnya had its European premiere. Since then he has been reviewing films and online music performances from home.*

# Centretowners rescue orphaned pets

continued from page 1

It has already raised \$6,956, almost \$1000 more than its goal.

What was her reaction to the immediate response? "I may have cried. I was expecting it to be a lot harder. I honestly thought this would be a long, hard slog. It was amazing. I genuinely wish I could name a kitten after every person who donated.

"There are a lot of extremely kind people in Centretown, and there are a lot of extraordinarily kind people in this section of Centretown, living in the rooming houses, and precariously housed or unhoused. A lot of them have pets, and they adore them, and they work incredibly hard to look af-

ter them. They'll go short to feed [their animals]."

The funds raised will go for food and vitamins, vaccinations, testing for parasites and diseases like feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), leukemia, and upper respiratory disease, de-worming, microchipping, and spaying/neutering.

Because Ottawa vets are currently swamped with work, they're taking the cats to a spay/neuter clinic in Leeds-Grenville in January, so they need fuel for those trips.

If any money is left over, Nightingale said the money would go to the pet pantry at St. Luke's Table, or help other local residents who need help getting their cats

vaccinated and fixed.

Nightingale is also promoting [another GoFundMe](https://www.gofundme.com/c...), this one to provide "Support for the Pounder-Hammell family" to "to help alleviate some of the financial stressors his family may be facing." This campaign has so far raised \$1,510.

**Update December 7:** All Hammell's cats have been found, to Nightingale's "enormous relief." After several days of searching, the final cat was located already housed by another volunteer. It was also not pregnant, merely hefty.

Six cats were spayed/neutered after Ottawa Stray Cat Rescue donated veterinary appointments at the Humane Society that it didn't need.



## Centretown Community Association report

Jack Hanna

### Big towers should be iconic

The CCA has formed a group to oppose two proposed skyscrapers at Gilmour and O'Connor Streets.

The 28- and 30-storey towers at 267 O'Connor would be a jarring intrusion in a neighbourhood of heritage houses and mid-rise office buildings. The developer does have the right to build towers up to 27 storeys at this particular site because of the quirky outcome of a legal battle several years ago. However, the legal ruling also stipulates the new towers must comply with the city's Landmark Buildings Policy. This policy offers a tradeoff: A developer can vastly exceed height restrictions in return for putting up a building of unique architectural excellence, a design that is "iconic."

The proposed towers are pedestrian and utterly ordinary, the CCA argues. The community association wants the city to follow the spirit of its Landmark Build-

ings Policy and insist on iconic buildings. More info at [jack.2014@icloud.com](mailto:jack.2014@icloud.com)

### Ban bad plastics

The federal government recently released a discussion paper that recommends eliminating single-use plastic items.

On the advice of its Single-use Plastics Group, the CCA wrote to the federal government to say the proposed ban on grocery bags, straws, cutlery, six-pack rings, some takeout containers and stir sticks would be a good start. However, the CCA suggested the government investigate the possibility of also banning plastic garbage bags and small-size disposable water bottles. More info: [stuartkinmond@gmail.com](mailto:stuartkinmond@gmail.com)

### Battle over canyon wall lost

The CCA carried a fight over a proposed nine-storey building at Bank and James Streets all the way to city council's Planning Committee—and lost. The proposed nine-storey building would rise straight up close to the

sidewalk, creating a canyon wall on the street.

The CCA argued for a step-back at the fourth floor, so that the front wall of the higher storeys would be recessed a metre or two, allowing more openness, air and sunlight. The CCA believes step-backs are important to avoid city streets that feel like deep canyons.

President Shawn Barber presented to city council's Built Heritage Subcommittee, which supported the CCA's position. He then presented to the city's Planning Committee. However, city councillors on the Planning Committee voted to approve the design without changes.

### Neighbours helping neighbours

The CCA's Centretown Support Network (CSN) helps folks facing challenges during the pandemic. Volunteers fetch groceries, deliver meals and contact shut-ins occasionally to make sure all is well or to chat. If you could use a hand, contact the CSN at 613-518-3908 or [support@centretowncitizens.ca](mailto:support@centretowncitizens.ca)

## Comment: Bank Street LRT tunnel needed

Clinton P. Desveaux

Perhaps now is the time to begin discussions for the Ottawa Bank Street O-Train Tunnel.

Ottawa is nearing completion of the O-Train East/West Confederation Line and the Trillium Line running north/south. As the population is forecast to grow significantly, Ottawa has timed its O-Train expansion perfectly.

In recent weeks, there also seems to be consensus forming for an Ottawa/Gatineau rail loop.

The final issue that needs to be resolved is Bank Street. It's the main transportation route for Ottawa South bedroom communities to get in/out of the city. Bank is the hub of the city with countless eateries and local retail shopping which attracts people from all over the city and international tourists.

At 80 km/hr, a light-rail vehicle running in a tunnel under Bank Street would cover the 4.5 km distance from Parliament Station to Billings Bridge in approximately three minutes and 37 seconds. By adding an additional 30 seconds for each of the four stops along the line,

it would cover that distance in six minutes. There would be zero interruptions from pedestrians, cyclists, or delivery trucks.

The Bank Street light-rail line would create a heritage and historical route for national and international tourists visiting Ottawa. It would give easy access to the Rideau River, the Rideau Canal, Lansdowne Park, where countless sporting and cultural events are held, the Glebe retail and eatery district, Chinatown and Parliament Hill.

It would better connect with Confederation Line 1 and, presumably the Gatineau Line, and reduce station congestion issues. We would improve connections to the Ottawa South bedroom communities. The line's

bi-directional transit capacity would reduce congestion and improve public transit effectiveness by making Billings Bridge Shopping Centre a public transit hub, getting people in and out of the southern parts of Ottawa. It would create more public gathering spaces along Bank Street by removing buses, cars, and truck traffic in front of key tourist and cultural locations. Lastly, it would add the convenience of safer public areas for more walking and cycling, while reducing the city's carbon footprint through less gasoline and diesel emissions.

With Ottawa-Gatineau's population (currently 1.4 million) forecast to hit 1.7 million over the next decade, now is the time to start planning the Bank Street O-Train Tunnel.

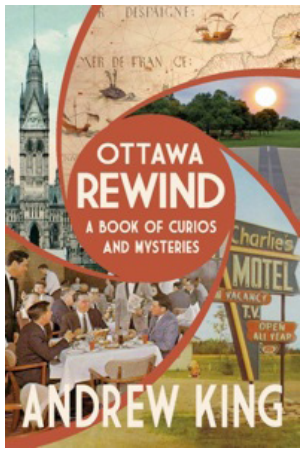
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# New releases from Ottawa authors and musicians

continued from page 1



Corbett's *Mission Road* is about a 21st century diamond rush, while Chapman's *Closing Time* is set in an Ontario wilderness lodge.

For children, Sherman recommended the picture books *Perfect Pigeons* by Katherine Battersby, and *Pocket Mommy* by Rachel Eugster.

## Greg Cameron, Octopus Books (116 Third Avenue)

Cameron recommended *Songs for the End of the World* by Saleema Nawaz, which looks at people's reaction to a fictional pandemic. He also recommended Jenkins, Itani, and Andrew King.

For poetry lovers, he suggested *Walking on the Beaches of Temporal Candy*

by Christian McPherson, which was launched at Octopus this fall.

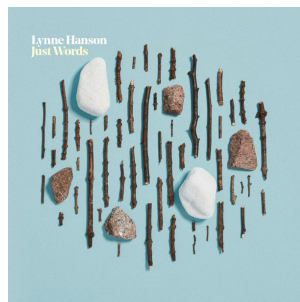
And for children, he recommended *Pierre & Paul: Avalanche!*, a bilingual book for 5 to 8 year olds by Caroline Adderson, which was illustrated by Ottawa artist Alice Carter.

## Ian Boyd, Compact Music (785 Bank Street)

Boyd recommended a wide range of recent local CDs:

**Tony D:** *Speak no evil*, a collection of instrumentals from the guitarist's 25-year history

**Lynn Miles:** *We'll look for stars*, a collection of confessional solo songs by the Centretown resident. "I just love Lynn." He also noted that Miles only sells her collection *Winter* in December.



**Lynne Hanson:** *Just words*. "Another immaculate talent in Ottawa. A genius."

**Paul Weber:** *Ode to*

*Gerry Barber*. Songs about Ottawa communities, people, and history.

**The Victor Nesrallah and Danny Artuso Project:** *Wearing the blues*. Ten songs in the tradition of the blues, with guest vocals by Lynne Hanson.

**Area Resident:** *Jardinova*. What CBC Ottawa traffic specialist Doug Hempstead writes and plays at night.

**John Allaire:** *The Allaire Show Live at Quinn's*, bringing back the vibe of his regular pre-pandemic Saturday matinées.



**The NAC Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Shelley:** *Clara - Robert - Johannes*. Music by Clara and Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms, along with five improvisations by pianist Gabriela Montero based on themes from Clara Schumann's work.

## John Thompson, The Record Centre (1099 Wellington Street West)

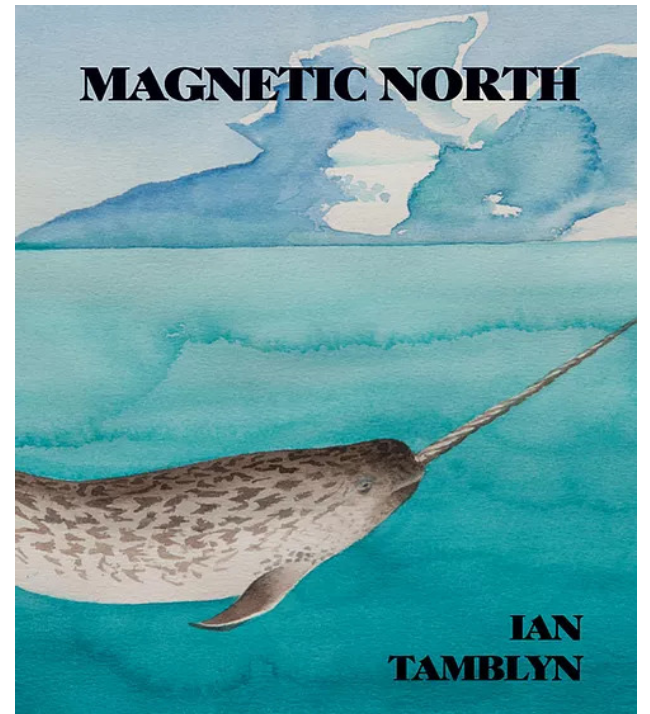
Thompson recommended three recent releases, which he'll be carrying in vinyl:

**Cinephonic:** *Les Paradis Artificiels*. This is the latest record from Pierre Chretien (of The Souljazz Orchestra and the Atlantis Jazz Ensemble), which draws inspiration from classic French film and adds orchestral jazz, cinematic soul, and instrumental hip-hop. Thompson said he particularly enjoyed Chretien's Mellotron playing.

**Downchild Blues Band:** *Live at the Toronto Jazz Festival*. This is the band's 50th anniversary CD, which also features guests Dan Aykroyd, Paul Shaffer, and David Wilcox. Devoted fans can buy the limited edition in gold vinyl.

**Ian Tamblyn:** *Magnetic North*. This is the first vinyl release of this JUNO-nominated album, and the only 2020 release on the store's own record label. It was produced (with considerable difficulty) from Tamblyn's original master tapes and features the original cover art. The music combines more traditional instruments with field recordings from northern Canada of sounds ranging from throat singers, to water and tides, to whales and walrus. Thompson said he loved listening to the original 1990 cassette on road trips.

The store will do a live video release, including an interview with Tamblyn, on Saturday, December 12.



Ian Tamblyn's 1990 album, *Magnetic North*, will receive its vinyl release this month at The Record Centre.

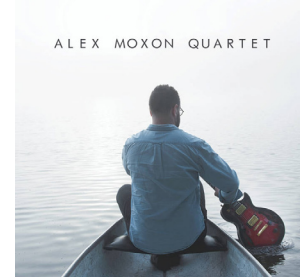
## Ottawa jazz

As the former editor of the news site OttawaJazzScene.ca, I covered many fine local jazz artists. Here are a few who have released albums this year.

- **Numinosity** (Jesse Stewart, David Mott, Justin Gray): *Spectrum*
- **Modasaurus:** *4K*
- **Rachel Beausoleil:** *Brazz*
- **Stone Age Man:** *Handbook for the Recently Chaotic*

And finally, Montreal's Justin Time Records has released another in its series of upbeat Christmas jazz CDs: *Justin Time For Christmas Six*, with performances from Canadian jazz musicians including Oliver Jones, Rane Lee, and Susie Arioli.

Undoubtedly *The BUZZ* has missed many other local and Canadian releases. Check local stores to find more.



• **Alex Moxon:** *The Alex Moxon Quartet*

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