



A garden grows at the Bronson Centre, 6



Carl Reinboth remembered, 3

THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ

Illegal truck traffic shakes Booth St. homes

Residents of Booth Street near Primrose Avenue are frustrated by the frequent banging and shaking of their homes, caused by trucks – some travelling there illegally – hitting a nearby speed hump on Booth.

The noise and shaking is enough to wake them up at night, says resident Peter Unger, as well as causing plaster cracks and shaking mortar out of their homes' foundations. A city-sponsored engineering study last September measured 289 "nuisance" vibrations in a 24-hour period.

But at the same time, the speed hump is succeeding at what it was installed to do – to substantially reduce the traffic speed on Booth from over 60km/h before it was installed. *The BUZZ* saw motorists noticeably brake

and slow before crossing the hump. In 2017, city measurements showed the average speed in that section of Booth at 30km/h, the operating (85th percentile) speed at 40km/h, and the compliance with the 40km/h speed limit at 90 percent.

Residents say the vibration problem has recently become worse, exacerbated by more large trucks on Booth, which they think are going to the nearby construction zones at Zibi and the new central library site.

A city traffic count in 2017 measured an average of 11,800 vehicles in 24 hours on Booth between Albert and Somerset West. Of those, 382 were heavy vehicles.

That section of Booth from Albert Street south to Gladstone is not a truck route. Large trucks are supposed to use designated truck routes on Preston Street or Bronson



Homeowners on Booth Street are frustrated at the noise and vibration from large trucks hitting the speed bump in front of their homes. Booth is not a truck route. BRETT DELMAGE/THE BUZZ

Avenue instead. However, Booth is a more direct way to reach the Chaudière Bridge and the Zibi site.

Unger said he makes two to three reports of illegal trucks to the police every weekday, but has not noticed increased enforcement. He

said he has seen a truck carrying steel girders, as well as large container trucks. His neighbour, Elsbeth Vaino, said she saw a truck carrying eight pontoon boats.

The issue was raised at the city Transportation Committee in February. Coun-

cillor Catherine McKenney told the committee that "After many meetings with staff, meetings with residents, we've all thrown up our hands and said, look, we need help, we need something put in place on Booth." **cont on p 10 "Booth St. homes"**



Joyce Crago won the Project X Photography Award this year.

Two wins for the arts in Centretown

Two Centretown residents, Amanda Lowe Warnakulasuriya and Joyce Crago, received major awards from the Ottawa Arts Council (OAC) on April 22 at a virtual ceremony.

Warnakulasuriya, a folk musician and community organizer, received the Emerging Artist Award, which recognizes artists who are in the beginning stages of their professional artistic careers and are engaging with the community. As of 2021, the award was changed to recognize artists of all disciplines from Ottawa's indigenous, black, and persons of

colour community. The winner is awarded \$5,000.

Crago, a photographer and multimedia artist, received the Project X, Photography Award for her collection *Playing Dead*. Working with the Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG) and the School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa (SPA), the award recognizes an outstanding, publicly presented photography project by an Ottawa artist. It offers a \$1,000 prize, a bursary of \$1,000 toward classes at SPAO and other credits. Additionally, the artist may exhibit the project at the OAG later in the year.

cont on p 4 "Arts awards"

Priced out of downtown?

Jack Hanna

The housing crisis in Centretown is only getting worse.

"I am shocked at the degree to which people are being priced out of living downtown," MPP Joel Harden said at a workshop presented by the Centretown Community Association on April 27.

The generally accepted maximum which people must spend on housing is 30 percent of their monthly income, workshop organizer Mary Huang said. For someone working full time at minimum wage, this is just \$728 a month for rent, she pointed out, barely enough for a single room. One-bedroom apartments in Centretown start at \$1,800 a month.

For those living on government programs, the situation is even bleaker. A single senior, receiving the usual benefits, would have \$485 for rent. A single person receiving provincial disability support has a shelter allowance of \$497.

"If someone is low-income, we know that spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent means they are living unaffordably, without enough for food security, clothing or the children's well-being," said City Councillor Catherine McKenney.

There is a waiting list of more than five years to get into rent-geared-to-income housing in Ottawa. A year ago, the most recent period for which statistics are available, more than 12,000 people in Ottawa were on the waiting list for affordable housing. That's enough families to fill half of all affordable-

housing units in the city. "It is unconscionable," said McKenney. "We are a wealthy city. Yet we are leaving people behind. And we are doing that with our eyes open."

Some new affordable housing is in the works. The city's affordable-housing agency, Ottawa Community Housing, is building Rochester Village at Gladstone and Rochester with 140 units and has plans for Gladstone Village in Little Italy with up to 1,100 units. A significant portion of both developments could be affordable.

The city has methods available to partially address affordable housing that are not yet implemented, for example, a tax on investment properties left vacant, or "inclusionary zoning" that requires developers to include affordable units in every development. (The Centretown Community Association has advocated for both.)

However, McKenney says such measures can only make a marginal difference. Governments need to step up to build affordable housing and help the most disadvantaged rent it. "Without deep affordability, we are not going to move people out of homelessness," they said.

McKenney says the city should increase its budget for rent subsidies from \$3 to \$8 million. This would move 800 to 1,300 households a year out of shelters – homelessness – and into an apartment home. The cost to Ottawa homeowners would average under one dollar per month.

McKenney says the best thing citizens can do to get more affordable housing is speak up. "Always push whoever is representing you politically. Be louder."

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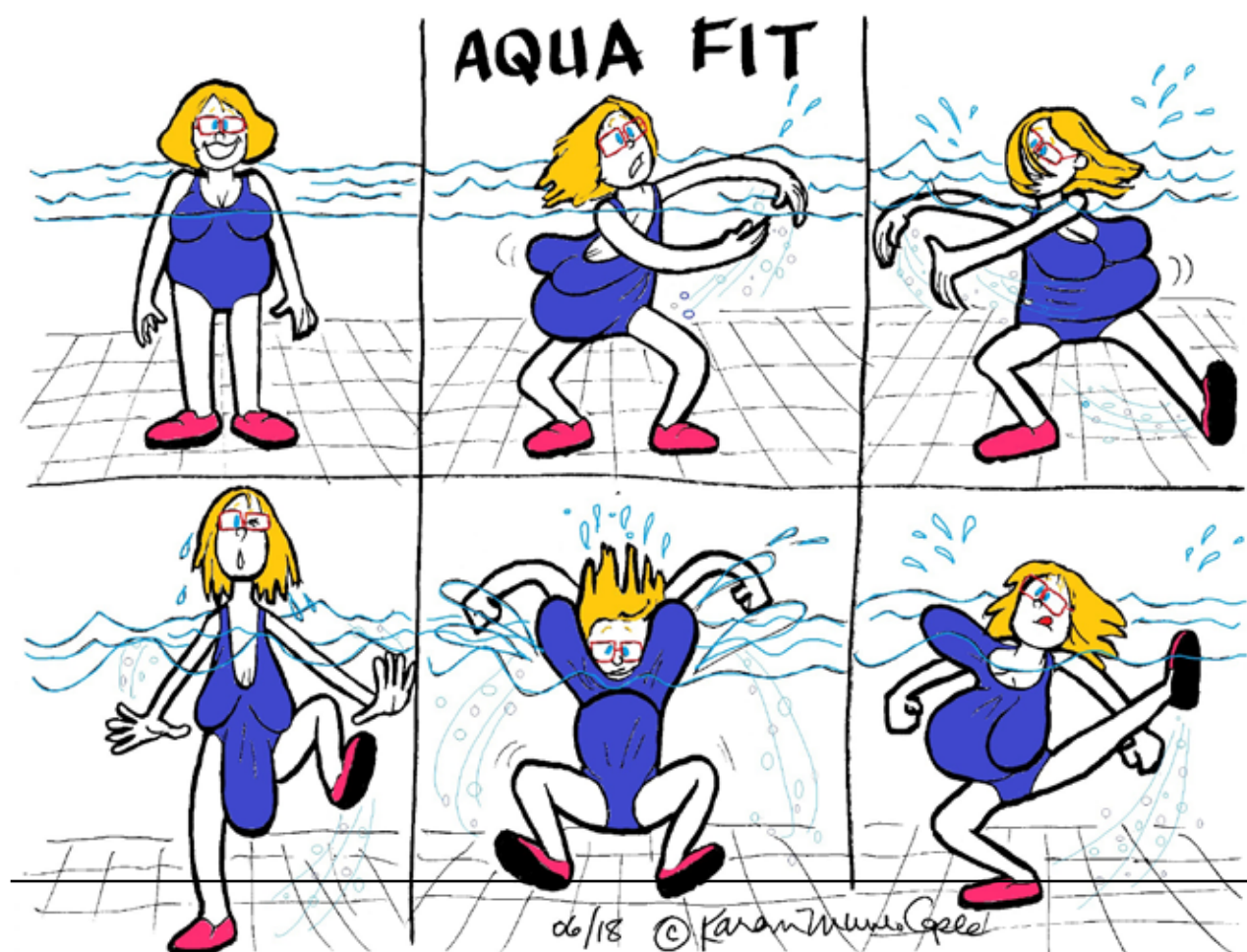
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The Lighter Side of the Pandemic, by Karen Munro-Caple



The Good, the Bad, and the Bumpy: my experience getting the vaccine

Ryan Lythall

On April 27, I received my first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

For the most part, everything went smoothly. However, there were a few hiccups, particularly affecting those with disabilities who are planning to get vaccinated at a community centre or related space.

My appointment was at Routhier Community Centre, which is located in the ByWard Market. I don't remember ever being there before and had no idea how well my wheelchair would fit. My chair is considered to be one of the bigger models at least in Centretown.

My appointment was for 4:35 p.m., Para Transpo picked me up around 4:10 p.m. and I arrived early. When I got there, I was asked to get in line outside. Luckily, it was warm and sunny.

What if it had been raining or snowing or was very cold out? What would have happened? Would I have been allowed to wait inside or would I have had to reschedule? I know many people with disabilities who can't be outside if it's cold or raining, myself included.

When it was my turn, I easily entered the building. But I quickly encountered problems making myself understood. I was asked to identify myself and answer questions by two different people, both of whom were behind a glass or plastic barrier. For those using a wheelchair, or with a disability affecting communication, the

barrier makes it more difficult for the staff to hear or understand responses, especially when spoken through a mask. Luckily, I never travel alone.

My advice to others with disabilities is to bring someone with you or write down your information before you arrive. In this case, write your name, address, phone number, date of birth, name of your doctor, your emergency contact information, as well as answers to the COVID-19-related questions. Remember to bring your health card and your appointment notification.

When my number was called, I rolled up to the nurse, who asked me a few questions, told me about the shot and asked if I had questions. I said no. We waited a few minutes due to a tech issue on their end. Then she told me to take a deep breath and administered the shot.

After you get the shot, you're asked to wait for 15 minutes in a waiting area to

make sure you're okay. After 15 minutes, you raise your hand and one of the staff will come over to sign you out.

I have some issues with the sign-out procedure. What if you can't raise your hand or you're non-verbal? Do they have a system in place to make sure that they can come to you at the end of your waiting period?

When my 15 minutes ended, a staff member went directly to my caregiver and asked if I was okay. They should have asked me directly. I'm the one who got the

vaccine, not my caregiver. I would suggest that more education of the staff at city-run events needs to be done to ensure that people with disabilities are respected, especially if it's medically related.

My only side effect was a sore arm for a few days. My second dose is scheduled for August. Please get vaccinated when you're able to and if you can.

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

Letter: Risks to OPL workers

The article on the services provided during lockdown, by the Ottawa Public Library, in the April 2021 issue of *The BUZZ*, made no mention of the risks to the workers if these services were expanded, as was being requested.

For too long the Ford government put economic and other concerns ahead of workers' safety from the pandemic. As a result the third wave has been much worse for them and their families than it needed to have been. OPL has done an excellent job in still providing some services while keeping their workers safe. To demand that they do more is completely unreasonable.

Diana Pepall

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“He genuinely liked people”: co-workers remember Carl Reinboth

Alayne McGregor

Carl Reinboth was a harm reduction worker at the Somerset West Community Health Centre (SWCHC), working with addicts and the most marginalized people in society. SWCHC Executive Director Naini Cloutier said that he was a leader in the field, “instrumental in shaping harm reduction programs across Canada.”

About 9:30 a.m. on April 23, Reinboth headed out from the centre on Eccles Street for a quick break. Ten minutes later, police found him at the intersection of Somerset West and Arthur Streets, with serious stab wounds. He later died in hospital.

His death has left a huge hole in the lives of those who knew him and worked with him. Flowers and other mementos, as well as chalked messages of sympathy on the sidewalk, were soon left where Reinboth was attacked.

Arwen McKechnie is the team leader for the SWCHC’s needle exchange and safer inhalation program (NESI). Reinboth worked on that team; they were also long-time friends. Part of what drew him to this work, she said, was that “he genuinely liked people. It was a rare person that he couldn’t find some kind of point of common interest or shared experience with.

“He was curious about them, and about how they saw the world. He was always up for a chat about the big ideas and how our society functions and how people move within it. And so he brought that open-mindedness and that curiosity about people and how to help them attain whatever goals they might have into his work in a really genuine authentic way

that resonated really well with people.”

“Outreach was Carl’s niche,” said Amy Cameron, who worked in harm reduction outreach with Reinboth. “Carl was loyal, genuine and led with his heart. He was a fierce advocate for people who use drugs and those facing marginalization. He worked countless hours of his own time checking in on our many clients, ensuring they were OK and had what they needed. Carl’s ‘job’ was not a job to him. It was a way of life and he did it with much dedication and compassion.”

The 64-year-old Reinboth was a former drug user, who quit in 1992. As [he recounted in 2019](#), “they say do what you know, and I knew playing saxophone wasn’t going to make me any money. ... I’m talking to people about drugs every day which is exactly what I did before, so it was a good fit.”

McKechnie said that Reinboth moved from New Zealand to Vancouver as a teenager, and was introduced to drugs in the 1970s counterculture. “He was really big into the punk scene, and because he was a person who was adventurous, curious about the world, very open-minded—all of those things would have led naturally to trying drugs, exploring different things and options until he had that knowledge and that experience to draw on. But lots of people who use drugs couldn’t do the work that Carl did, and certainly not in the way that he did it.”

Reinboth was “never cynical about individuals. He had a great faith in the fact that people were doing their best and, even if they didn’t quite reach where they wanted to in those efforts, that most people were sincerely well-inten-

tioned and wanted to do right by themselves and each other. And that’s a rare quality.”

He was patient with people, while still being firm as necessary. “Carl’s particular gift was working with people who were prickly, people who resented having to access our support and our systems. Carl was able to feel that—to truly empathize with people in those positions and to hear them and hear their frustration and the competing things that they had on their minds and on their time.

“He would go above and beyond if you needed it. He had a tendency to be very straightforward with people. If he thought that you were being an idiot, then he’d tell you. But he also would do it in a way that came from a place of love and was very clearly intended to be grounding. Sometimes people get caught up in frustrations or annoyances and that’s all fine, but we can’t focus on that right now. We need to talk about this one thing.”

He also had great patience for those who had reached the end of their tether, and “was always willing to try and talk someone down to make sure they had space to talk about whatever was going on with them that had brought them to that crisis point.”

At home in Hintonburg, Reinboth loved gardening. McKechnie said her favourite memory of him was sitting in his backyard and listening to him tell her about the garden beds he planted.

“Carl was also just a good friend. He would often be the person who after a tough day would say, ‘Do you want to go for a drink? For a walk? For a bike ride?’ So I have these moments just picturing him telling some ridiculous

Meeting asks: when will elder care become human?

Patricia Marsden-Dole

Councillor Catherine McKenney hosted 1000 guests on May 6 for a virtual meeting on long-term care (LTC).

Only the week before, Ontario’s Long-Term Care Commission released a scathing report on the current state of LTC facilities in the province. McKenney referred to the report’s recommendations 58 and 59 which call for more home care support to replace the current dependence on a medical model of institutional care.

André Picard, a Globe and Mail columnist on health issues, was the keynote speaker at the meeting. He recently published a book on LTC, *Neglected No More*. He referred to the endless provincial reports on the poor

state of institutional care for elderly residents in LTC facilities and noted that most are owned and managed by for-profit owners who report to private investors. He argued for changing the philosophy of LTC, saying that a focus away from institutional medical management to one which honours the social, emotional, and intellectual lives of elderly residents is needed.

Picard’s emphasis on care of the whole person was echoed by Moira Welsh, a reporter for the Toronto Star, whose 2021 book, *Happily Ever Older* explores novel approaches to elder care, including the butterfly model for LTC homes.

Butterfly homes realize that people later in their lives need colour, humour, music, sport, social events, and in-

tellectual stimulation just as much as younger people—all accompanied by warm human relationships.

This model has been incorporated by The Glebe Centre, whose director of resident services, Susan Zorz, also spoke at the meeting.

Journalist Mohammed Adam emphasized that this model requires an investment by management and funding agencies in training staff to see, experience, learn and be rewarded for an environment which focuses on the emotional well-being of the elderly person.

McKenney closed the meeting by emphasizing the need for a transformative culture change in elder care, from a costly model which is not working, to one which offers more support for a richer, well-rounded life.



Carl Reinboth spoke about his work as a harm reduction worker in a 2019 video posted on YouTube by the Ontario Harm Reduction Network. This is a still from the video. PHOTO COURTESY SWCHC

story about what had happened that day or a story of his wayward youth which was very wayward. I think he quite enjoyed the shock factor they would bring!”

On the day he died, Reinboth had attended the team’s morning huddle and did a wellness check on a client. Then he went out to run an errand. When he didn’t show up for a planned meeting, McKechnie looked for him and texted him. But then two calls came in about the stabbing.

“I grabbed one of our nurses—like we need to go! And then we started running up the block. In my mind I had

assumed that this was related to our work—not necessarily that someone had targeted Carl, but that he’d seen two people in conflict and tried to step in and intervene because that was the person he was.”

But when she got to the scene, she realized something very different had happened. She described the stabbing as “a tragedy that had nothing to do with his work or the way that we work.”

Honor Charley, 20, has been charged with second-degree murder in Reinboth’s death, police said. Charley was arrested two hours later, after a second man, 84, was

stabbed at 11:50 a.m. on Somerset near Bronson. Charley has been charged with aggravated assault and attempted murder in that case.

McKechnie said Reinboth would be missed both as a point of stability and history within the team, and as someone who offered support and made new staff feel welcome.

“This is a big hole in my life, and I don’t even really know how to conceive of what it’s going to mean, how we’ll carry forward. We have to, but it’s inconceivable that this has happened. He was one of the kindest, nicest, most genuine people I know.”

MPP report: The opioid crisis is a public health, not a criminal justice, issue

Joel Harden

On April 23rd, Carl Reinboth, a harm reduction worker at the Somerset West Community Health Centre, was tragically killed while walking to a local business.

His death appears to be random. Before his death, Carl did not know or interact with the man who killed him. In response to this tragedy, some have called for an increased police presence in Centretown West.

Given the nature of Carl’s death, we know he could not have been saved by an increased police presence. In fact, even as Centretown West had increased police presence right after his murder, the man who killed him stabbed another person just two blocks away.

Carl was an experienced hand in local harm reduction efforts. Having lived experience, he devoted his life to helping others grapple with trauma and addiction. As we grieve and struggle to make sense of his death, we should also be concerned about in-

creased calls for policing in his name. As friends of Carl have told me, this is not what he would have wanted.

I’ve spoken to area residents and business owners concerned about a marked increase in property damage and troubling behaviours. I understand their concerns. But we must dig deeper and recognize that Canada’s opioid crisis has only worsened under COVID-19.

We are told to physically distance and stay at home. But addictions flourish in the context of social isolation. More are reaching out for substances such as alcohol, cannabis or illicit drugs to cope with the stress of the pandemic, lost social interaction, or to mitigate the pain they carry.

Policing illicit drug use and related behaviours is a failing strategy. It does not reduce drug use and it perpetuates the cycle of trauma that led to an addiction in the first place. Only through abandoning a criminal approach and addressing addictions as a public health issue can we begin to help drug us-

ers and our communities.

If we are to honour Carl’s legacy, let’s treat our neighbours, who use drugs, with solidarity and respect. Let’s think of how we can foster more support and connection in our communities. It begins by acknowledging, as Dr. Teresa Tam has said, that we “can’t arrest our way out of the opioid crisis.” Criminalizing drug users is a waste of resources, continues the descent into despair and perpetuates a cycle of dehumanization.

We can and must do better. What if we decriminalized possession of all drugs, as the government of British Columbia has proposed; ensured a safe supply of opioids which is progressing in Ottawa; and vastly increased mental health supports which is long overdue?

There is no police solution to the opioid crisis. There is only compassion and marshalling our compassion so everyone can be their fullest selves. It’s time for bold steps in that direction. Let this be Carl’s legacy.

Cornerstone's pandemic expansion houses 125 women, and counting



Cornerstone executive director Sarah Davis

Mariam El-Behiry

In the last three months, Cornerstone Housing for Women has moved to a temporary location on Booth Street. This will better serve the 125 women who have been affected by the pandemic and the colder weather.

During the pandemic, Cornerstone's emergency shelter program has expanded by 102 percent. Its newest project, nicknamed Project One, is a continuum of care under one roof. The project will encompass supportive housing, transitional housing and emergency welcoming beds.

Cornerstone provides emergency shelter and safe affordable permanent housing for women in Ottawa. Additionally, a gender-diverse staff and a team of about 160 volunteers offers counselling services and assistance toward independence. Its programs and services include individual case management and address addictions, recreational needs, mental health problems, spiritual supports and more.

Alaina, a former resident, found shelter at Cornerstone when she was 23 years old. A year later, she moved to Cornerstone's

MacLaren residence, one of their supportive housing residences. Now Alaina has a home of her own in Centretown and is passionate about spreading Cornerstone's mission.

"Cornerstone is helping end the mental health stigma. I was healing from a sexual assault and I was able to connect to a counsellor and resources for support. The mental health care at Cornerstone was better than any other shelter I stayed at. I didn't feel like I was being thrown in the deep end. I found myself in tears in the office a lot," she said.

After leaving supportive housing, Alaina joined the outreach program where she was able to maintain the connections she had made with staff and residents before moving into independent living. She said, "At first it was a hard transition from supportive housing but I think I have found support in the community, and I can connect with my own therapist. When I am having a hard day, my outreach worker will pick me up and we will go on a walk with my dog, Stewart. If I need to talk, I know that I can go over to Cornerstone and have a chat instead of suffering in silence."

Sarah Davis started as Cornerstone's executive director in January. She comes from the Elizabeth Fry Society and has devoted her career to helping vulnerable women. Davis says, "I've been working with women all my career in one way or another. I spent my younger years working with women exiting the criminal justice system, and the skills that I gathered were exactly what I needed to fulfill my role at Cornerstone. I also have my own experience with PTSD that connects me with the women we serve."

Sarah has had to help Cornerstone transition from the O'Connor shelter to a larger temporary location to accommodate the increase in women in need of emergency shelter and services during COVID-19.

"Moving a shelter and all the pieces that go along with it is quite an undertaking but

the women and staff have embraced it. They are happy that all the resources they could need are under one roof. However, there have been more barriers to the housing transition due to COVID-19. Viewing new apartments or trying to get paperwork signed has become much more of a process."

Cornerstone has not been able to open its doors to its dedicated volunteers due to the physical distancing restrictions. It has been supported instead throughout the pandemic by relief funding and community donations. The funds have been used for additional

staffing costs such as time away from work, overtime and taxis due to reduced transit.

Currently, Cornerstone is preparing for its annual Purple Tie fundraising gala, which will be streamed live on the official Cornerstone Facebook page. Accessing in-kind donations from the Centretown community has not been possible due to the province-wide lockdown. Davis said that monetary donations have been vital in supporting Cornerstone's sizable expansion during the pandemic. To donate: cornerstonewomen.ca/make-a-difference/donate

Ottawa Arts Awards honour Centretowners

cont from p 1

Amanda Lowe Warnakulasuriya

Warnakulasuriya grew up on Prince Edward Island in a family of Sri Lankan refugees, surrounded by music. "I'm part of a very musical family," they said, "Music is very strong, especially in Sri Lankan culture."



Amanda Lowe Warnakulasuriya PETRA VAN EEGHEN

In 2012, Warnakulasuriya started at the University of Ottawa. The larger music community, along with the free time provided by student life, led to exploring music opportunities further. "Moving to Ottawa was the first time that people actually took me seriously as a musician. They were asking where they could buy my music. I was getting paid for performances. I had never encountered that back home," they said.

At first, they didn't consider making a career out of music. But, with more opportunities in the industry, music began to take up an even larger part of their life. "It was a hobby that paid," they said. That hobby turned into a solo album, two albums as part of a duo, and touring both Canada and the United Kingdom.

Warnakulasuriya is also dedicated to helping others in Ottawa's music community at Girls+ Rock, an organization which provides programming for girls and gender-diverse individuals. The group holds annual music camps as well as various music workshops and jam sessions. Warnakulasuriya was the former program coordinator for Girls+ Rock and now sits on their board. "We can help young folks that are women or gender-diverse to have access to really cool opportunities to grow creatively and professionally, both on and off stage," they said.

They stressed the importance of organizations like Girls+ Rock which cultivate a welcoming community for musicians. "I wish I had a group like that when I was growing up," they said. "Community support is so important in our [Sri Lankan] culture, I want to bring that back."

Last year, they moved from Sandy Hill to Centretown. "A lot of my musician friends live in Centretown, so it would be easier for me to jam with them." Warnakulasuriya also looks forward to more opportunities to perform in Centretown once pandemic restrictions are lifted. "I'm looking at the venues and I'm right close by. I could just walk to the venues that I would play at."

As for the Emerging Artist Award,

Warnakulasuriya feels grateful, humbled, and validated. "It gave me a confidence boost that I didn't know that I needed," they said. "It feels really good to be recognized for both the creative and community work that I've done."

Warnakulasuriya looks forward to an opportunity to focus on a solo music career, including a new album this year. "I've always had this sound in my head of what I want my music to sound like. I'm always trying to find it. Finally, I feel like I know what the sound I want is and I'm just gonna work double time to make sure that it comes out the way that I hear it."

To learn more about Warnakulasuriya: www.amandalowe.ca/

Joyce Crago

Crago has been taking photographs as long as she can remember. Her career has spanned the fashion industry, law, and the arts, and through it all, her camera was there. When she graduated from the School for the Photographic Arts: Ottawa (SPA0) in 2016, she discovered new ways to use the medium. "It wasn't until I went to SPA0 that I found my artistic voice—that I found out about putting together bodies of work and then I really got serious about it," she said.

Crago moved to Centretown in 1996 and has lived in the area ever since. She enjoys living in the heart of the city and is excited for the neighbourhood's art scene to come to life once pandemic restrictions are lifted. "Centretown has quite a vibrant arts community," she said. "That's one of the things I miss most is being able to go to openings to see people and talk about art. I miss that a lot."

Crago's sister, Hazel, died suddenly in 2018. Crago began working on her winning photography project, *Playing Dead*, a few months later. "I was in shock and this was one way of coping with it." The project ended up spanning two years, as Crago developed its different stages. The first stage included seven pieces made from Hazel's personal items and physical remnants of her funeral. The other four stages included videos, photographs and other multimedia works on the theme of death and grieving.

With *Playing Dead*, Crago hopes to bring the public's attention to the mourning process. "I think people in modern Western cultures have a hard time grieving and have a hard time with death, and I think they tend to cope with that by just pretending it doesn't exist," she said. She hopes that her story and *Playing Dead* will help people process their grief.

The collection will open at the Ottawa Art Gallery later this year, as part of the Project X Award. Crago was overjoyed at winning the award. "I'm over the moon," she said, "The other two finalists were really strong, so I'm ecstatic."

Crago is in the process of developing ideas for new projects but also focused on continuing her artistic education. She is thankful to SPA0 and their faculty for encouraging her art, especially, Jonathan Hobin and Michael Tardioli.

For more about Crago and to view her works, see: joycecrago.com

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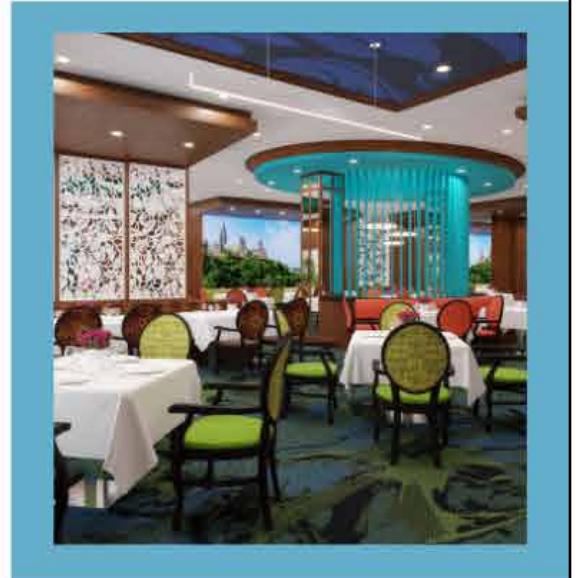
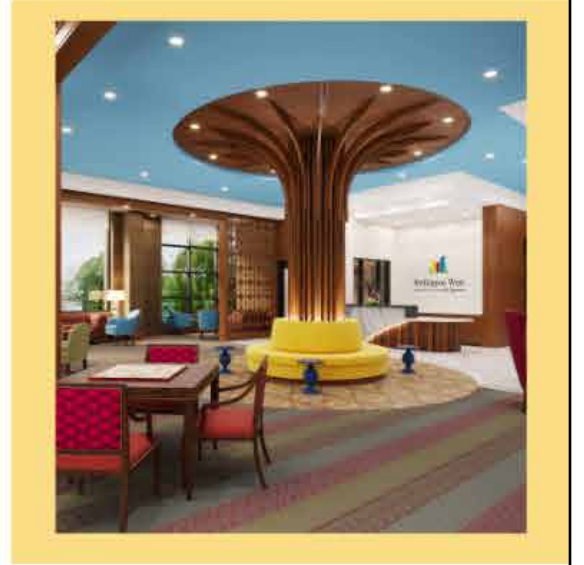
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Catherine Boucher steps up as new Dalhousie Community Assn president

Archie Campbell

Catherine Boucher was elected president of the Dalhousie Community Association (DCA) on May 4 at the first board meeting following the recent DCA AGM (see last month's BUZZ). She is a longstanding DCA executive member.

Boucher is a former executive director of the Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC), the local non-profit housing organization. She has been active in various community endeavours since her retirement, including stints on the boards of Rooftops Canada

and the Catherine Donnelly Foundation. She spent a year in South Africa working as a volunteer for the social housing sector there.

The previous president, Michael Powell, decided not to continue in that position but will stay on the DCA board as a member at large. Also elected to executive positions were Ed McKenna (vice-president), David Seaborn (treasurer), and Ryan Turley (secretary). Ryan is one of seven new members on the board.

Besides the usual full plate of planning files, the board—plus Councillor Catherine McKenney—discussed several recent violent inci-

dents which raised safety and security concerns.

In response, the councillor has organized a Zoom meeting for May 19 at 4 p.m. with the DCA, Constable Stephanie Lemieux, Somerset West CHC, the Salvation Army Outreach Team, and interested residents. More details are available from McKenney's office.

The meeting also paid tribute to Carl Reinboth, a harm reduction worker with the Somerset West Community Health Centre, who died in a random stabbing attack on April 23. Councillor McKenney is working on a memorial commemoration. More details to follow.



Volunteers display produce from the Dalhousie Courtyard Garden. PHOTO COURTESY THE BRONSON CENTRE

A garden grows off Bronson

Pat Kelly

Last year, one of the Bronson Centre's courtyards was transformed into a flourishing raised bed vegetable garden.

The garden was created by members of the centre's Real Inclusion by Seniors Everywhere (RISE) program, a seniors-led initiative which addresses the isolation and inclusion of those 55-plus.

Volunteers began planning the garden early in 2020. They transformed the

space from an empty concrete courtyard to a vibrant living urban space where staff, volunteers, and visitors find a colourful sanctuary.

They designed and installed raised cedar beds, added wheels, and filled them with "organic soil, seedlings and hope." To make the most of the space, they opted for Square Foot Gardening, a gardening method that divides the growing area into one-foot sections to create a densely planted vegetable garden. This method requires less space, less water, and much less work, with almost no weeding, digging, rototill-

ing, or heavy tools—making it easier for older gardeners.

The garden vegetables are contributed to the Dalhousie Food Cupboard, the area food bank, providing welcome fresh produce for its clients.

This summer, Bronson RISE is looking for volunteers to join in expanding urban gardens into more of the outdoor spaces at the centre. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Interested? Contact garden@dalhousiefoodcupboard.ca

Pat Kelly is the Project Manager for Bronson RISE.

The Ottawa Tool Library IS OPEN AGAIN!

- A wide selection of hand tools, power tools, garden tools, and hobby tools.
- Open for curbside pick up right now. Hours will change once restrictions are lifted.

Reserve your tools!
OttawaToolLibrary.com

877 A Boyd Ave
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Wed: 3 pm-9 pm
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Catherine McKenney • City Councillor for Somerset Ward

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

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

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

[f mckenneycatherine](#) [t cmckenney](#) [i cmckenney14](#)

Questions? We can help!
613-580-2484
catherine.mckenney@ottawa.ca

Planet of the Scapes: Seeking solace in pasta and bread

Ellen Chang-Richardson

By now, you'd think the whole "work-from-home" thing would be easy routine. But what about for us A-type personalities, who find the slower pace of "work-from-home" a bit boring? Bake some bread, I say. And maybe make a fresh pasta salad for lunch.



ELLEN CHANG-RICHARDSON/THE BUZZ

The Full-Day Affair:

"The Saturday White Bread" but on a Tuesday

This recipe is straight out of Ken Forkish's *Flour Water Salt Yeast*, with a few small tweaks from me. If you're a budding home baker and have yet to pick up a copy of this book, I highly recommend it. Pick it up at your local independent.

Bulk Fermentation Time: About 5 hours

Proof Time: About 1 ¼ hours

Ingredients:

- flour – 500 grams (I use a combination of white flour (400g) and spelt flour (100g))
- water – 360 grams (32° to 35°C)
- fine sea salt – 11 grams
- instant dried yeast – 2 grams

Combine your flour and water in a large round tub or similar container. Mix by hand until just incorporated. Cover and let rest for 20 to 30 minutes.

Sprinkle the salt and yeast evenly over the top of the

dough. Mix by hand, wetting your working hand before mixing so the dough doesn't stick (it's fine to rewet your hands three or four times while you mix). Using the pincer method, full integrate the salt and yeast into the dough. Let it rest, then mix again to tighten it up. This whole process should take about 5 minutes. Target dough temp at the end of the mix is 25° to 26°C. Cover and let it rise.

Fold once at 10 minutes in. Fold again at 1 hour and 10 minutes. Let rest for 4 more hours until your dough is approximately triple its original volume. When it's nearly proofed, dust a proofing basket with a 50-50 rice flour/white flour mix.

Turn your dough out onto a lightly floured surface and shape into a medium-tight ball. Place dough ball seam-side down in its proofing basket. Lightly flour the top of the loaf and cover with a kitchen towel, or place in a nonperforated plastic bag.

Plan to bake about 1 ¼ hours after the loaf is shaped. If your kitchen is warmer, you may only need 1 hr. Use the finger-dent test to determine when your loaf is perfectly proofed. You do not want it to collapse.

At least 45 minutes prior to baking, put a rack in the middle of the oven and put an oven-proof Dutch oven on the rack with its lid on. Preheat to 475°F (245°C) with the Dutch oven inside.

For the next step, please be careful not to let your hands, fingers or forearms touch the extremely hot Dutch oven. Invert the proofed loaf onto a lightly floured countertop. Use oven mitts to remove the preheated Dutch oven from the oven. Remove the lid. Carefully place the loaf in the hot Dutch oven seam side up. Using mitts again, replace the lid and then put the Dutch oven back in the oven. Maintain the oven temperature at 475°F (245°C), or a bit under that if your oven runs hot.

Bake for 30 minutes, then carefully remove the lid with mitts on and bake for about 10-15 minutes more, uncovered. Check it while baking uncovered and pull it out when the loaf hits a medium to dark golden-brown colour.

Using oven mitts, remove the Dutch oven and carefully tilt it to turn out the loaf. Let it cool on a rack or set the loaf on its side so air can circulate around it. Rest it for at least 20 minutes before slicing.



ELLEN CHANG-RICHARDSON/THE BUZZ

A Midday Break: Caprese Pasta Salad

Alright readers, this one's straight from the recipe bank inside my head. Take your favourite dried pasta (or the pasta you happen to have in your kitchen pantry) and toss it with some fresh ingredients to make a pasta salad based upon that simple Italian gold standard, caprese.

(2 servings)

- 2 cups dried pasta – cooked per instructions (I use penne zita rigate from Delverde)
- 1-1 ½ Tbsp extra virgin olive oil (I use Basso)
- 2 fresh basil leaves
- ½ ball soft fresh mozzarella, sliced (I use Santa Lucia)
- 1 small tomato, sliced (I use Kumato tomatoes)
- 1-2 tsp balsamic vinegar (I use Fig Balsamic Vinegar from Rustichella)
- salt and cracked black pepper to taste

Cook your pasta as per its instructions in liberally salted water. Once cooked, drain in a colander and toss under cold water to cool. You can use ice cubes in addition to the cold water or place the still-warm pasta in the fridge if you desire.

Once cooled, toss your pasta with the olive oil, balsamic vinegar, sliced mozzarella, sliced tomatoes, salt and pepper. Top with fresh basil leaves and serve.

Ellen is sitting in for Pearl Pirie for this month.



Your local Ottawa Markets are beginning to reopen!

Marchés d'Ottawa Markets is proud to announce the return of our ByWard and Parkdale Public Markets for the 2021 season. Representing the two oldest and most historic markets in Ottawa, vendors offer fresh produce, flowers, plants and a variety of locally produced goods for residents and visitors alike – 9AM-5PM, 7 days a week!

Join in the fun and be a part of Marchés d'Ottawa Markets' 2021 season.

Vos marchés locaux d'Ottawa ouvrent, pour la nouvelle saison!

Marchés d'Ottawa Markets est fier d'annoncer le retour de nos Marchés Publics ByWard et Parkdale pour la saison 2021. Installés dans les deux marchés historiques les plus anciens d'Ottawa, les vendeurs vous offriront des produits frais, des fleurs, des plantes et une variété de produits locaux – de 9 h à 17 h, sept jours par semaine!

Profitez de la saison 2021 des Marchés d'Ottawa Markets pour faire de nouvelles trouvailles.

Heritage Skyline: Good manners When infill doesn't call attention to itself



This is the house that once stood at 408 Bank Street.

ROBERT SMYTHE/THE BUZZ

Robert Smythe
Will a third time be the charm for the empty lot at the corner of Bank and Florence Street? This tiny property has stood vacant for nearly 20 years. Successive proposals for mixed-use retail/residential developments have come and gone.

The zoning bylaw classifies this site as a Traditional Mainstreet zone. It permits new structures of approximately six storeys and mandates that the street frontage at sidewalk level be commercial. Parking requirements are virtually zero.

Both the City of Ottawa Official Plan and the Centretown Community Design Plan amplify this with further design guidelines dictating the building's mass, height, finishes, materials and its compatibility with the surrounding area. Finally,

the property is located in the Centretown Heritage Conservation District which carries its own strictures.

To back up 130 years or so, local hardware magnate Thomas Birkett chose this corner lot to erect his Centretown branch, with a residence for manager Wm. Rankin and family above. Rankin would eventually take over the business and move across Florence Street to build Ottawa's largest hardware store. But that is another story!

The 408 Bank Street site then served a variety of uses, including a well-known tailor shop and, finally, as Milano's Pizza. The building was destroyed by fire in 2005, resulting in a property that remains vacant to this day.

Interest in developing the property languished until 2006, when Galaxy Camera was seeking a new store lo-

cation on Bank Street. City of Ottawa heritage staff rejected their proposal, a rather cheeky design dominated by bright orange with a bold Mondrian-ish inspired panel inserted on the Bank Street frontage.

The planners adhered to the guidelines for new development in this historic corridor which held that, "An infill should be of contemporary design, distinguishable as being of its time. However it must be sympathetic to the heritage character of the area and designed to enhance these existing properties rather than calling attention to itself."

Liking the decidedly

store with five floors of very compact units above. Designer Brian Clark wrapped the project in a more conventional skin of red brick piers infilled with stucco, which was approved because "it evokes the character of Bank Street in this area." Heritage permits were issued and then lapsed unused after two years.

Which brings us to the appearance of the 2021 project (also by Clark) currently under consideration by city planning staff. They have provided this very complicated analysis: "The ground floor facade along Bank Street is highly transparent with glazing and contains architectural details and ma-



The current (2021) proposed design.

non-self-effacing design by late architect Gary R. Stunden, City Council overturned this recommendation and approved the Galaxy development but, ultimately, it didn't proceed.

The owner turned to a new architect in 2012 for a reprise of the same building program: a ground floor

materials carried throughout its faces and into the upper levels. The 2nd to 4th storeys contain a more simple and consistent rhythm, achieved with smaller window openings and masonry materials. The upper level provides differentiation with darker masonry. Red brick masonry is carried through these upper



The 2006 proposal, with its cheeky Mondrianesque design.

(CITY OF OTTAWA DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION)

levels in the southeast corner, creating the illusion of a turreted design."

On a more practical level, the building will contain 30 apartments, mostly micro-units ranging from 20 to 24 square metres. There's no residents' parking but one visitor's space, which also serves as an internal loading zone, and parking for 15 bikes. A height increase from 19 to 21 metres is being sought. Since only a few of the residential units have balconies, and there's no open yard, 181 square metres of amenity space is provided in the basement.

The micro-apartment is a type that has emerged in many American cities with an affordable housing crisis. There are few examples in Canada. It is aimed at carless, lower-income singles and students willing to live in a space this small. With on-site services, they would also be suitable for special-needs housing.

The same developer has just completed a smaller-scaled project nearby on Frank Street, another example of a type of housing that's much needed in the Bank Street corridor regardless of any esoteric design considerations.



A micro-apartment floor plan for 408 Bank (20m²)

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Please wear a mask and stay safe!

Joel Harden

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CCA report

Jack Hanna

Woods in the hoods

The CCA is launching a Neighbourhoods initiative. Volunteers will survey trees near where they live, creating a baseline description of the tree canopy in Centretown. They'll also identify gaps where new trees might be planted. The goal is to preserve the city's established trees and focus efforts to get new plantings.

Love trees? Contact: dpearson.ottawa@gmail.com

Free transit

The CCA has backed an initiative, Free Transit Ottawa, to eliminate transit fares for low-income people. Specifically, transit should be free for recipients of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW). The CCA wants the city to stop asking "those with the least to incur the biggest burden" for transit.

Act on affordable housing

The CCA is forming a new working group to advocate for affordable housing. The group kicked off with a workshop late last month featuring MPP Joel Harden and Councillor Catherine McKenney as speakers. The next event will feature experts with track records in actually getting affordable housing built.

The group intends to look at all sorts of mechanisms for getting new affordable housing. These could include non-profit providers or coops, requirements imposed on develop-

ers such as community benefit agreements or inclusionary zoning and community or housing bonds for "impact" investors.

To get involved, contact Mary, Brenda, or Daniela at: affordable-housing-champions@centretowncitizens.ca

406 and 408 Bank Street

The CCA has objected to some elements of the design of a new six-storey residential and retail building proposed for Bank and Florence Streets.

The CCA wants to mitigate the "cliff wall effect" by having the upper floors of the building recessed 1.5 metres back from the face on both the Bank and Florence faces. As well, the CCA wants the building to follow existing zoning, which requires it be set back on the Florence side three metres from the property line. This will help ensure the survival of two red oak trees on the site. The CCA points out that red oaks are "beautiful, majestic, and not common in Centretown."

Suggestions for the new OP

In its comments on the proposed new Official Plan (OP), the CCA continues to focus on those elements most pertinent to Centretown.

The CCA's OP Working Group made a 27-page submission to the city. Now members are readying for the final round of consultations. As part of the revamp of the OP, the Centretown Secondary Plan, which influences development, will be revised and updated. The secondary plan will be a key CCA focus.

Interested?
Contact: janetmrenica.opplan2021@gmail.com

More trees = cleaner air, cooler summers

Darlene Pearson

Ottawa's urban forest is shrinking. It is natural to lose trees to age and disease, but new development projects inflict additional pressures and threaten the very existence of urban trees.

To address this problem, the Centretown Community Association (CCA) is launching a new initiative, the Neighbourhoods project. Volunteers will collect information on Centretown's trees and develop a stewardship plan to protect and enhance the tree canopy. The CCA wages a non-stop battle for trees by defending existing trees and advocating for space for mature trees in almost every proposed development project.

Neighbourhoods is a program created in 1995 by University of Toronto Professors Andy Kenney and Danijela Puric-Mladenovic. It encourages people to inventory and evaluate trees on their street or in the neighbourhood. The inventory includes trees on both private and public lands. See: <http://neighbourhoods.org/>

In 2019, the City of Ottawa declared a climate

emergency. A 2020 study has projected that Ottawa's temperatures will rise significantly in the future. Given those pressures, it is critical to preserve our tree canopy for the many benefits it offers.

Trees cycle our water, clean our air, store carbon and house biodiversity. They help reduce summer peak temperatures, save on energy costs in buildings and reduce air pollution. They are fundamental to a city's efforts to adapt to climate change.

Trees promote mental health, reduce stress and improve social ties among neighbours. The increased use of our public greenspaces during this COVID pandemic highlights the role trees play in our mental and physical well-being.

In Centretown, the current canopy covers less than 25 percent. The CCA would like the city's proposed 40 percent target applied to Centretown.

The Neighbourhoods model is a first step toward this target. Its standardized approach to collecting and assessing tree data such as age range, health and species will give a picture of the current state of the Centretown

tree canopy. It will also identify areas for new tree plantings and focus future stewardship efforts to maintain and enhance the tree canopy in perpetuity.

Other Ottawa communities, such as Kanata-Beaverbrook, have used Neighbourhoods successfully. A new group is up and running in Old Ottawa South. The CCA hopes to collaborate with these and other groups to build a network to promote a bigger, healthier urban tree canopy.

The CCA is looking for volunteers who want to learn about trees and work for a healthy and thriving tree canopy in Centretown. An initial Zoom meeting to form the Tree Canopy Team will be held Thursday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

If you are interested, please contact Darlene at dpearson.ottawa@gmail.com

**See the flowers
in your 'hood
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Email circulation@centretownbuzz.com

Somerset Ward: Now is not the time to cut transit

Catherine McKenney

On April 21, the city's Transit Commission considered an innocuous-sounding report titled, "Transit Service Evaluation Criteria."

I believe that the report creates a roadmap for slashing public transit in Ottawa by establishing a series of benchmarks which will trigger future cuts. I have voted against this report at both the Transit Commission and at City Council.

I oppose it for several reasons.

First, the report acknowledges that council has adopted an equity and inclusion lens, requiring that any potential decision be evaluated for its effect on groups of people who are already disadvantaged. The lens identifies these groups as Indigenous people, Francophones, LGBTQ residents, immigrants, older adults, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, racialized people, rural residents, women and youth, as well as others who are at risk of being excluded.

But because these very groups, particularly women, older adults, immigrants, racialized people and low-income residents make up the majority of transit customers, staff think it is unnecessary and would take too much time to apply the equity and inclusion lens. In other words, since we already know that cuts will hurt the most vulnerable residents, what's the point of considering them?

The purpose of the equity and inclusion lens is to prevent exactly this type of action. We cannot ignore our vulnerable populations and make policy decisions that hurt them, without providing them with an opportunity to voice their concerns and without doing a full analysis of what the cuts will mean.

I am also concerned with

the impact any cuts will have on greenhouse gas emissions, public safety and the further reduction of transit ridership. We know that public transit offers a sustainable alternative to private car use, particularly for daily commuters. This has positive impacts for our community, including fewer vehicle collisions, less congestion and less air pollution affecting our health and our planet. Our city declared a climate emergency in 2019 and we must continue to ensure that this declaration affects our policy decisions.

Yet the report offers no analysis on these impacts. If we cut transit routes, what will happen? How many more tonnes of greenhouse gases will be emitted? How many more people will switch to private vehicle use? How long will daily commutes become for those who rely on transit?

Furthermore, how will low-income workers, who often have little choice about how far they live from their jobs, get to work each day? How many of them will lose their jobs as a result of these decisions?

As elected representatives, we must understand

what effect our decisions will have prior to making them. This report focuses on one element only, that is, lowering expenditures. But reducing our tax base, creating more pollution and having to build wider roads will end up costing more money, not less. The overall impact on our residents will be harmful and long-lasting.

The foundation of this approach is a City of Ottawa policy that public transit users must pay 55 percent of the costs of the system from their pockets, with general revenues paying the rest. This means transit users pay twice: once through their fares and again through their property taxes. This also means any reduction in ridership has a tremendous impact on transit funding. Making cuts is not the answer. Revisiting the formula is.

A healthy city needs a good, sustainable public transit system. We are teetering on the precipice of losing that.

There's more!

We couldn't fit all our stories into the May print edition. Read our interview with James Keelaghan, extended versions of stories, and more at centretownbuzz.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual general meeting is happening virtually this year!

Wednesday, June 23, 2021
5:30 pm

Register by June 16, 2021 by emailing info@swchc.on.ca
Members may also vote by proxy.



What's on(line) this month in Ottawa and beyond

Tony Wohlfarth

Ottawa is in the grip of the third wave of the pandemic, closing cinemas, live music venues and schools. This month's focus is on online virtual entertainment options.

The Latin American Film Festival (LAFF)

This weekend, the annual Latin American Film Festival wraps up on May 14 with two screenings from Argentina and Mexico. *Devil Between the Legs* is filmed in black and white – suggesting it is a period film. The Old Man (played by Alejandro Suárez) is a retired homeopathic pharmacist who lives with his wife Beatriz (Silvia Pasquel) in an upscale Mexican home. The film opens to the song “Falling in Love Again” (in German) by Marlene Dietrich, which tells you all you need to know about this quixotic, sexualized drama. The running time is two hours 27 minutes. The film screens on May 14 via the LAFF site: www.cfi-icf.ca/laff

The Tulip Festival

The annual Tulip Fest (May 14 – 24) is available online this year at tulipfestival.ca

International Museums Day

On May 18, museums across Canada are collaborating on a series of online webinars and presentations. All of them are free, and you can register now at: zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aiR7h8qDSLq3KppCGXNtg



The County is a story of fighting corruption in Iceland.

The County (2019)

Iceland is a barren, windswept country in the middle of the north Atlantic Ocean. *The County* is a feature length film which captures its stunning beauty and loneliness.

Inga (Arndís Egilsdóttir) farms with her husband Reynir (Hinrik Ólafsson) set in the remote village of Skagafjörður, on Iceland's north coast. When Reynir dies under suspicious circumstances, Inga determinedly continues farming and comes into conflict with what she calls The Mafia. The corruption involves the local cooperative, from which Inga must buy all her supplies and to which sell all her milk. The issue escalates when Inga calls them out on Facebook.

This modern-day David v. Goliath struggle gets resolved in (of all places) at a public meeting of the members of the co-op. *The County* is billed as a story of confronting corruption. I have a hard time seeing producer coops as corrupt,

especially in Iceland, where citizens lost their livelihoods in 2008 when the banking system collapsed.

The County was released in North America on April 30. Directed by Grímur Hákonarson, *The County* had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in 2019. It is a gorgeous film to watch, capturing the vast lunar landscapes of Iceland. The running time is one hour and 32 minutes.



Subjects of Desire investigates beauty contests COURTESY HOT DOCS

National Film Board of Canada

To mark its 82nd anniversary, the NFB added a number of new films for viewing at www.nfb.ca/channels/curators-choice-of-the-week/

Tenk

Tenk is an online celebration of documentary films from Quebec. *BUZZ* readers can subscribe to its extensive directory at www.tenk.ca/fr

SXSW Online

The South-by-Southwest Film Festival in March featured the world premiere of *Subjects of Desire*, a provocative documentary about beauty contests.

Jennifer Holiness's film follows four black women who participated in the 2018 Black America beauty contest. The running time is one hour and 40 minutes.

Following its world premiere at SXSW, *Subjects of Desire* is screening at Hot Docs.

Hot Docs 2021

Each year, the best of documentary films from around the world screen in competition at the Hot Docs Film Festival in Toronto.

This year, due to the pandemic, the festival (April 29-May 9) went online, and all of the films screened virtually at hotdocs.ca. The *BUZZ* will bring you more highlights next month.

National Arts Centre (NAC)

The NAC is livestreaming a CD launch party with Jeffrey Straker (May 26) and a free show with local guitar wizard Lucas Haneman and his blues/rock ensemble, The Lucas Haneman Express (June 4). The NAC is also live streaming a free workshop with Leela Gilday on June 10. Gilday captivated audiences last month with her exceptional vocals and music

When *The BUZZ* visited the area last month, we talked to nine people living on Booth between Primrose and Elm, all of whom said they were disturbed by the vibration.

We saw one large truck and several pickups with trailers hit the speed bump, creating loud bangs and bumps. The pickups are legally allowed on the street, and Vaino noted that, despite their smaller size, they tend to have an even louder sound when they hit the speed bump.

“We are not unaffected by speeding but the speed bump is much much worse than living with the speeding ever was,” Vaino said.

In that block, Booth is only two lanes wide, putting traffic near homes. The houses are brick-faced and located immediately next to the sidewalk, with at most a small flower bed between. Unger said that his house is almost 120 years old: before recent renovations, one part of his house was 13 inches lower than the rest, and he had cracks in his plaster and in his basement. “I’m sure the vibrations aren’t helping.”

Eugene Bolduc said he repointed the mortar in his house's stone foundation last year, only to find it falling out later that year.

Martha Musgrove, who has lived on that block for three decades, said the problem became much worse in the last two years and is particularly noticeable between 6 and 8:30 a.m. She showed *The BUZZ* a photo of a flatbed truck that had passed by that morning.

The noise also makes it impossible to sit outside, Musgrove said.

at the virtual Grassroots Music Festival on April 23.

Earlier this month (May 1), the NAC live streamed a concert from Montreal with Élage Diouf. The Senegalese Canadian musician performed new songs from his recent CD, *Wutiko*, and answered questions from the audience. The sound quality was excellent, reflecting the rhythms and movements of Africa.

Singing Together Apart

Also on May Day, the 12th annual musical tribute to Gil Levine went online with a one-hour video tribute: <https://gilshootnanny.ca/>

I had the privilege to work with Gil at the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and we enjoyed the Ottawa Folk Festival together. Gil also gave me my first opportunity to write about film.

The 50th JUNO Awards Online

The 50th annual awards of the best of Canadian music have been rescheduled to June 6. Mark the date now to catch the awards and the live performances. The awards ceremony from Toronto will be broadcast on CBC or can be seen online at junoawards.ca/

Next month, I will bring you highlights from the 50th JUNOs.

The National Gallery of Canada

This spring and summer, the National Gallery of Canada is hosting special exhibitions on Rembrandt in Amsterdam and the art of Tau Lewis and Rashid Johnson. While the museum is currently closed due to the pandemic, the gallery has posted talks by its curators via its YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ngcmedia/videos>

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

The Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal has several virtual exhibitions currently available online.

“Ports of Exile, home harbours” reconstructs the fates of French and European Jewish people who were hunted down by Nazi occupiers and accomplices or by the Vichy regime and whose paths ended in deportation or exile. It includes images of Jewish life in France prior to World War II: <https://www.mbam.qc.ca/en/ports-of-exile-home-harbours/>

“GRAFIK! Five Centuries of German and Austrian Graphics” explores printmaking in Germany and Austria from the early history of the medium in the mid-15th century to modern times. It is on display until July 4. “Paris in the Days of Post-Impressionism” journeys through the artistic ebullience of France at the turn of the 20th century.

Doors Open Ottawa

On June 5-6, Ottawa welcomes the virtual edition of Doors Open. Our deadline preceded the list of venues, so readers are invited to check out ottawa.ca/en/arts-heritage-and-events/doors-open-ottawa

Tony Wohlfarth is an Ottawa-based freelance film, arts, and entertainment writer. He participated in the LAFF thanks to the Canadian Film Institute. He was a guest of the NAC at its livestreamed event on May 1. He also screened Subjects of Desire via the online SXSW Festival and The County thanks to Ted Geoghegan at Dekanalog.

Booth St. homes vibrating

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In response, McKenney said, signs were added in April to both ends of the street indicating the fine for drivers of large trucks using the street. The city will also renew line and other pavement markings and make the speed hump sign more visible, and staff are considering other traffic calming options, they said.

City staff are opposed to removing the hump at Booth and Primrose, McKenney said, because it's slowing northbound traffic going down the steep hill in that area (that hump is near the bottom of the hill.)

But staff have agreed to consider a third speed hump further up the hill to slow traffic before it reaches the hump at Primrose. The new hump would be paid for out of the ward's temporary traffic calming budget, and McKenney hoped for installation in the spring of 2022 if it meets city warrants.

At the February meeting, Phil Landry, the city's director of Traffic Services, was unenthusiastic about adding a third speed hump, saying that vehicles would speed up again after crossing that hump because of the steepness of the hill.

The two existing speed humps on Booth were installed in 2006 in response to community complaints about traffic. Several bulb-outs to narrow intersections were also installed.

Landry told the committee that any removal of a hump would require consultation with the entire neighbourhood since the humps were installed after community consultation.

The city's 2020 vibration study, conducted by engineering firm Explotech, detected 289 vibration events in 24 hours. They were recorded by a sensor located in the second-storey bedroom of a house near Booth and Primrose. Two other sensors were located in that house's front yard and on its basement wall.

In a February report to Transportation Committee, however, city staff argued that only the vibration events measured by all three sensors (24 in all) were traffic-induced. The magnitude of each of these events was well below what might cause structural damage, staff said, and at only 75 percent of the level that would impact people.

There's one more twist to this story, which may temporarily reduce the truck traffic in the area. As this story was going to press, *The BUZZ* checked the [city's official truck route map](http://citys-official-truck-route-map).

The map was recently updated to say that the Chaudière Bridge and the section of Booth north of Albert Street would be temporarily removed as truck routes from June 2021 to July 2022. Trucks were advised to use alternative routes, shifting them to the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge well to the east, and making Booth less attractive as a cut-through.

Musgrove and Unger said they had not been notified of this change. “If the temporary closure actually works, the respite will be most welcome,” Musgrove said. However, she said she was not hopeful since trucks routinely ignore the designated truck route. “The only thing that will keep trucks off Booth will be the closure of Booth at Albert or the Parkway or the closure of the Chaudière Bridge.”

Celebrating and managing the environment



The gardens are already blooming.

STEPHEN THIRLWALL/THE BUZZ

Stephen Thirlwall

There were no formal Earth Day celebrations in Dundonald Park in April for the second year in a row.

Perhaps, before we hold any further festivities, we should ensure that we have undertaken meaningful steps toward cleaning up, improving and better managing our environment, so we have something definite to celebrate. Or is this work itself the real act of celebration?

Sound practices

While stopping our big event, the pandemic has forced us to be more aware of our local environment and to consume and waste less, and rely less on the automobile. It has also encouraged some individuals to engage in small efforts to improve our environment.

People in homes with front- and backyards have been planting new gardens or extending old ones with flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables over last year. Plant boxes and large pots have been placed on patios, porches, sunny balconies and driveways. If we can continue these new habits post-COVID, it will make a strong foundation for better maintaining our environment and taking up other sound environmental practices.

Community gardens springing up in Centretown

There is good news in Centretown at the neighbourhood level. The Off-Bank Community Garden on Nepean Street will be able to continue for another season before building construction starts on its current site. Its garden plots were assigned in late April so planting could begin early May.

The Off-Bank garden has proven how temporary community gardens can develop positive relations between the city, the developer, gardeners and neighbours, while producing an abundance and variety of crops and flowers.

In trying to be more proactive, the Centretown Com-

munity Association (CCA) Trees and Greenspace Committee (T&G), along with Councillor McKenney, are exploring the possibility of another temporary community garden site on Gladstone Avenue, where a building is to be taken down.

As long as pandemic lockdowns don't prohibit individuals from working in community gardens, Nanny Goat Hill, the McNabb garden, and the community garden at Lyon and Lisgar in Centretown, as well as the Dalhousie Community Garden on Somerset West and Preston, will likely all be operational.

Other T&G projects are underway. The Dundonald Gardening Group, together with Dundonald's adopt-a-park hosts, already began initial park and garden cleaning, and tree trimming in early April. This work will continue from spring to fall. Plans are being developed for similarly cleaning and gardening in Minto Park along with its adopt-a-park team. Another garden team will be active at St. Luke's Park.

On Sparks Street between Kent and Lyon, the Sparks Street BIA is sponsoring eight large (6' x 6' x 3' high) planting boxes. This is an opportunity for a few avid local gardeners to produce food crops. Some of the crop is intended to help feed people downtown who are in need.

The CCA is looking at establishing a small public space (parkette) on Elgin Street as a meeting place for seniors. A CCA working group is also developing a proposal for a new Elgin Street Farmers' Market to be set up just east of Jack Purcell Park. They are working with city staff and Ottawa Public Health, and seeking vendors.

Another T&G working group is investigating pilot studies into Centretown's urban tree canopy. They would not just look at trees on street fronts but also on properties. This would help to update city records, check the health and condition of trees, moni-

tor tree removals and new plantings, and recommend locations for further planting. If all goes well, the project could unfold gradually over the next three years.

For a second season, the Dundonald Improvement Group (DIG) is working to deal with the more social aspects of the park, factors that directly affect how the park is used and cared for, or misused and abused. What the group learns in this park can be applied to the management of other city parks. DIG includes representatives from the councillor's office, police, the Centretown and Somerset West Community Health Centres, other community social agencies and concerned residents living near the park.

To enhance walking and cycling, the National Capital Commission has announced that, from May 3 to June 30, the Queen Elizabeth Drive-way from Fifth Avenue to Somerset Street West will be reserved exclusively for active transportation. This closure will apply seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The temporary closures of streets like Bank Street may happen again this summer.

Downsizing and refocusing our lifestyles

We have all heard the slogan Reduce, Recycle, Reuse but how well do we practice this? Unless enough individuals, community groups and institutions put this into regular and careful practice, not much change will happen and we'll definitely face environmental crises. To make a significant transformation to protect and improve the environment, an upsurge in grassroots action is necessary.

All citizens need to be aware of, examine their situation and engage in at least simple changes. Main actions needed are to control water use; reduce consumption of throwaway goods; limit heating, cooling and electrical consumption; and move away from the heavy use of vehicles, especially polluters and fuel-guzzlers.

Steadily improving technologies, such as electric and hybrid cars, can make a difference over time. Not everyone may be in a position to change their cars right away. But, by the time this is done, there will be many more environmentally friendly options available. With an electric car, the energy cost per kilometre is far less, pollution is greatly reduced, fewer car parts break down and there are overall cost savings. There will soon be many more charging locations across and between cities.



Garden preparation at Dundonald Park. Chief gardener Barbara Sibbald (left) is working with Luc, another experienced gardener.

STEPHEN THIRLWALL/THE BUZZ

With new smart thermostats and other meters, we can automatically program control of our heating, cooling and electrical consumption. This has always been possible manually by resetting the dials at certain times to reduce or stop consumption for periods when it's not really necessary. We can also turn off lights in rooms not being used.

We can shop more carefully, focusing on essentials first and then a small margin of special products. We will always need carrier bags and containers but can avoid the

overuse of single-use plastic bags and containers. Many people are now using fabric bags and backpacks, which can be reused many times. We can also reuse plastic bags more than once for multiple purposes before they end up in the trash. T&G has a team looking into ways to reduce our reliance on single-use plastics.

We can also handle our waste better. I found that my small backyard composter processes about 90 percent of vegetable waste and some fall leaves into useful compost. The rest goes into the

green bin along with waste from meat, fish and fowl. We can ensure that recyclable paper goes into the black box and we can check with the city to learn which glass, tin and plastic can be recycled and which can't. The remaining garbage will be mostly packaging and unrecyclable plastics.

We shouldn't wait for others to do all the work! It takes the participation of a huge groundswell of engaged citizens, each carrying out small individual and group projects, to make a significant impact.

Thank you educators!



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It takes a community!



PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS

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Wednesday, May 19 | 2:00-3:00pm
RSVP by May 17

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Join Alex Moshtagh of Treasure Antiques & Estate Appraisers as he explains the appraisal process and what impacts the value of our antiques and family heirlooms. Jake Devine of Devine Fine Jewellery will also explain how traditional jewellery can be reset and uniquely customized to compliment personal taste and current fashion trends.

Wednesday, June 9 | 2:00-3:00pm
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