



Right to parking over right to housing, 8



Feeding pollinators on their way south, 12

# THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ



Centretown's China Doll performed in a tent on Bank Street on August 27 for Ottawa's Pride Week. They invited members of the audience to sing with them. Here Sophie, along with Pride volunteer Bianca Belanger, joyfully sings "Total Eclipse of the Heart" as her proud mother looks on.

ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

## Fight over convoy funds escalates

Alayne McGregor

With the class action to compensate Centretowners for what they suffered in the convoy occupation still awaiting certification, 10 occupation participants are trying to claw back some of the funds currently held in escrow.

The participants, including organizer Tamara Lich, are asking for \$450,400 to fund their attendance at the Public Order Emergency Commission. According to a CTV News report, their application was filed in Ontario Superior Court on September 2; it says the funds would be used for legal representation at the inquiry, including an unnamed senior counsel at a rate of \$350 per hour, plus \$83,000 in travel and accommodation costs for them and other witnesses. At press time, a court date was not set.

The commission's man-

date is to examine the federal government's use of the Emergencies Act to end the convoy occupation. Lich and the other participants were granted full standing at the commission as a group along with the organization Freedom 2022 Human Rights and Freedoms. Commissioner Paul Rouleau said they had a "key role in the events that led to the declaration of the emergency," and could "provide a vantage point that goes beyond an individual Convoy participant or observer and encompasses the organization and leadership of the Convoy."

None of them asked for funding for expenses from the commission, although they had the right to request this if they otherwise could not attend.

The money in escrow – about \$5.3 million – was donated to support the convoy occupation. It was gathered

from two American crowdfunding platforms, plus bank accounts in the names of the organizers, money from a payment processor, and cryptocurrency accounts. It was frozen last spring as part of the class action lawsuit against the convoy occupation and its organizers and major participants, pending the result of the lawsuit.

[The class action was filed on behalf of Zexi Li](#) plus Happy Goat Coffee, the Union Local 613 restaurant, and waiter Geoffrey Devaney, by Ottawa lawyer Paul Champ. It seeks damages for those residents and businesses most affected by the incessant honking and engine noise, air pollution, and other effects of the trucks which blocked downtown streets for more than three weeks this winter.

Champ said he would strongly oppose any release **continued on page 10 "Champ"**

## Mayoral candidates propose transit fixes

Alayne McGregor

If there is any priority on which our current Ottawa mayor and council have dropped the ball, it's transit.

We have a light rail system that couldn't meet basic rider demand pre-pandemic, and then repeatedly failed so badly that a provincial commission of inquiry is currently examining why. We have a bus system where dozens of trips were cancelled with almost no notice on a daily basis this summer. Riders have constantly complained about off-schedule and unreliable buses.

And, to top it off, OC Transpo charges some of the highest fares in Canada.

What are the candidates for Ottawa's mayor planning to do about this? There's a wide range of ideas, although most candidates espouse improve reliability and a review of OC Transpo operations. The most controversial is fare-free transit.

**Catherine McKenney** announced their transit platform last week, calling for "reliable transit that people can afford." They said riding on buses and the LRT should be easier and more convenient and more reliable across Ottawa. "And we need to make our transit as affordable as possible to reduce congestion and everyone's commute times."

McKenney proposed

- freezing transit fares
- expanding free transit to all children and youth ages 17 and under (it's now free for 7 and under)
- reducing the price of the

low-income EquiPass to the same as the Community Pass (from \$58.25 to \$43.25)

- increasing transit operations (adding trips) by 20 percent over the next four years
- reviewing the entire route system "to ensure transit is serving communities across the city in the most efficient and effective way"
- instigating a top-to-bottom review of OC Transpo in their first 100 days as mayor
- if RTG/RTM is found in default of their contract, bringing the maintenance contract into City control to improve reliability
- investing in Para Transpo and accessible taxi services with funds raised by increasing the accessibility surcharge on rideshare companies (to 20 cents per ride)
- accelerating the electrification of Ottawa's bus fleet

They said the plan would cost \$35 million in 2023: \$18 million to increase trips, \$14 million to make transit free for youth, \$2 million for freezing fares, and \$1 million on the EquiPass.

That funding would come from "reallocating existing City spending away from lower priorities," rather than increasing fares or taxes. They gave "subsidies for Porsche dealerships and the failed P3 deals" for LRT as examples of places to cut.

None of the other candidates proposed transit platforms in this much detail or costed out.

**Mark Sutcliffe** has attacked McKenney for [their column in the April issue of The BUZZ](#), in which

**continued on page 9 "Transpo"**

The Centretown BUZZ is saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on September 8.

The Queen visited Centretown 13 times during her reign, including in 1982 to sign the royal proclamation of Canada's Constitution Act, which included the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She was most recently here in 2010.

You can sign a book of remembrances on the main floor of Ottawa City Hall until sunset September 19, the day of the Queen's funeral. City Hall is open 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Messages of condolences can also be made online at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca)

[National books of condolences](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/commemoration-her-majesty-the-queen/book.html) are available to sign outside Rideau Hall from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and online at [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/commemoration-her-majesty-the-queen/book.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/commemoration-her-majesty-the-queen/book.html) until September 19.

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# THE CENTRETOWN BUZZ

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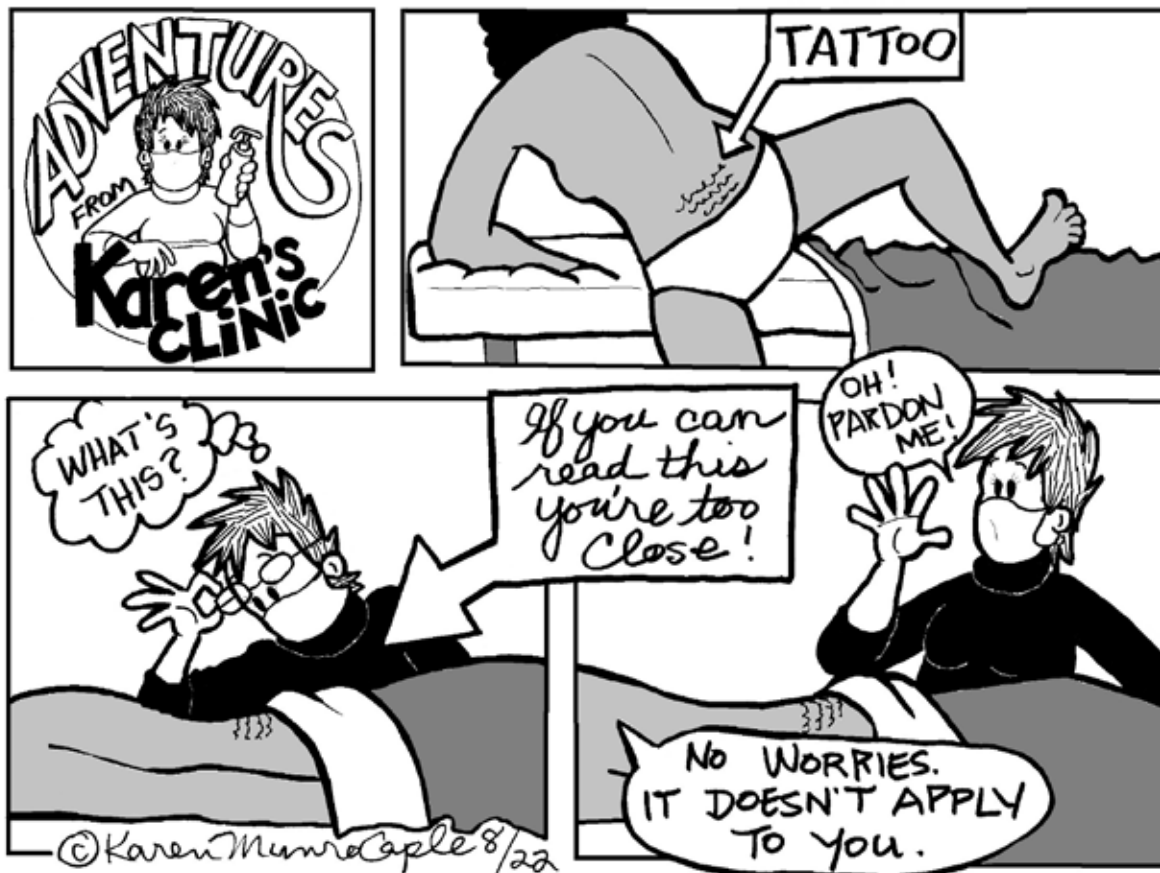
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## The Lighter Side of the Pandemic, by Karen Munro-Caple



## The Good, the Bad, and the Bumpy: sidewalk construction shouldn't be a barrier for PWDs

Ryan Lythall

In Ottawa, there are five seasons: fall, winter, spring, summer – and construction.

Traffic gets backed up, causing delays and frustration; bus routes are detoured causing confusing; and then there's sidewalk construction!

Sidewalk construction causes a different set of problems. Sidewalks and bike lanes are blocked off, construction signage takes up space on sidewalks and all of this causes problems for pedestrians, cyclists, small businesses and, most especially, people with disabilities (PWD).

I find that most sidewalks in Centretown are way too small as it is. As soon as construction signs or pylons are put in place, they become a barrier to any PWD using a mobility device. And, sometimes, there aren't any construction signs to indicate closed sidewalks or construction sites.

This happened to me recently. I was rolling along Bank Street in front of Barmore's and Babylon, and I hit a roadblock. A fence in front of a store was being renovated and it created a literal roadblock in the middle of the sidewalk. I had to turn around and cross the street. What if I was visually impaired, or the other sidewalk was closed, or without a low curb?

I didn't see any signs indicating that this particular section of the Bank Street sidewalk was blocked off or not accessible to PWD. I say PWD because there was still enough room for able-bodied people to walk around it. So two questions come to mind: Why weren't there any signs indicating a construction zone? Why was it set up so that only able-bodied people could get by?

The city recently issued a press release to remind residents that each year between April and October the city performs assessments to ensure that construction sites are accessible for everyone. It states:

"The City's construction contracts include accessibility requirements for construction sites per the Accessibility Design Standards. Every year, the City assesses many construction sites as an essential tool to verify that requirements



Construction fencing in this Bank Street sidewalk completely blocked Ryan's wheelchair.

RYAN LYTHALL/THE BUZZ

are met and the sites always remain accessible for residents."

In reading the press release, I learned that there are opportunities for community volunteers to go along with professional engineers who do site assessments. They are usually selected "based on their experience" and the assessment takes two hours with hard hats and vests provided.

According to the release, the assessment includes walking through the construction site to look at "accessibility features", the "type of material underfoot" and fencing that is in place. A report is prepared and shared with the construction site staff so they can make improvements.

I admit that I wasn't aware of the accessibility assessment team. I'm glad they exist and that PWD are being considered. But clearly more needs to be done.

For starters, the City Of Ottawa should be making more of an effort to inform the community about their efforts and how the public (including PWD) can get involved in ensuring that construction season doesn't put up more

barriers for anyone who uses the sidewalks, most especially PWD.

Ottawa really needs to ramp up doing what it takes to make Ottawa truly accessible for all.

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

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# The BUZZ asks and Somerset Ward candidates respond: new ideas for Centretown

On October 24, voters in Somerset Ward will elect a new city councillor for 2022-26.

In each issue up to the election, *The BUZZ* will ask the candidates running in this ward one question about city issues important to this ward. If you have suggestions for future questions, email [editor@centretownbuzz.com](mailto:editor@centretownbuzz.com).

This month, we ask:

*You've heard the standard solutions like repurposing offices into housing and adding bike lanes. As a city councillor, what new ideas would you advocate to make downtown and Centretown more attractive to work, visit, and live in? Feel free to steal from other cities and to think big.*

## Ariel Troster

It's time to dream big in Ottawa. We can have the most dynamic, accessible, green and fun city in Canada -- we just need to work together to make it happen. The way to do this is to shift priorities and focus on places and services for people. It also means investing in affordable housing, embracing inclusionary zoning, and making our streets and parks places where people want to gather and invite their friends to join them.

Here are some ideas:

- Revive our parks and community spaces by partnering with local community groups and businesses to increase programming opportunities and events.
- Provide heat relief and expanded recreation options by building an adult-depth outdoor pool within Somerset Ward and extend the hours at the existing wading pools and public swim areas. Install misting machines or convert fire hydrants to provide further heat relief on hot days.
- Explore seasonal street closures to create more pedestrianized community spaces.
- Reduce the costs of new housing and promote walkable, 15 minute neighbourhoods by eliminating parking minimums for new builds.
- Make transit work for more people's needs by increasing dedicated bus lanes and adjusting routes to focus on getting around within the city, deprioritizing the 9-5 commuter model.
- Work with the rest of City Council to expand Ottawa's cycling network into a four-season, all ages and all abilities urban grid, that is focused on commuting and biking for utility, not just recreation.
- Invest in a functional and widespread bikeshare system, designed as a last-mile part of Ottawa's public transit system, modeled on BikeTO's success.
- Protect tenants from losing their housing by creating proactive renovation and demolition by-laws.
- Make it accessible for people of all ages and abilities to move around in the winter by prioritizing snow-clearing on sidewalks and ensuring access to curb cuts.
- Work with StopGap Ottawa to promote low-cost ramps for businesses with only one step to allow access into business for people with mobility devices.
- Make childcare more accessible and flexible by supporting the creation of more city-run and non-profit childcare centres.
- Work with the rest of City Council to create an affordable municipal public internet option, to ensure all neighbours can access the same services and supports.
- Work with community health centres and other partners to develop a pilot project for a non-police crisis intervention team to help resolve conflicts related to addiction, homelessness or mental health challenges.

At the core of my campaign for Somerset

Ward is building a city where no one is left behind. If we prioritize people over profits, pedestrians over cars and community care over austerity, we can invest in a truly dynamic, creative and fun downtown core. I can't wait to get started.

## Stuart MacKay

Ottawa's downtown core needs more people. Attracting more people to live in the downtown core is going to be the key goal over the next four years. While that involves creating more housing by building new homes and repurposing office buildings, we also need services like hardware stores, grocery stores, and retail stores to emerge. In other major urban centers like Toronto and New York we've seen traditionally suburban stores like IKEA experimenting with smaller, more urban stores that cater to condo and apartment residents.

We also need to take a hard look at zoning in the downtown core. Are there ways that we can encourage more multi-use buildings throughout the core? Are there ways that we as a city can make it easier to use a single space in different ways? Are there ways that we can encourage more performance spaces for the arts? We should create the conditions for an artistic renaissance in downtown Ottawa, one that is organic, and artist driven.

We should also look at integrating city services with existing buildings. L'Esplanade Laurier is a big, iconic building that is ripe for potential should it be sold by the federal government, and there have been discussions about repurposing it into new offices and housing. Could we transform a portion of L'Esplanade Laurier into a community centre for the downtown core? A downtown core community center could provide a gathering space for the downtown community, an all-season recreation place for kids, and a place to run workshops and events. We have seen great local businesses like Thali lead the way in revitalizing the previously barren corner of O'Connor and Laurier. Let's use that same energy to think about transforming one of downtown Ottawa's iconic buildings into a place where the community can come together.

Finally, we must make the downtown core livable at the street level. This means long-term investment by the city in larger sidewalks, accessible public spaces, comfortable seating, public restrooms, more green space, interesting public art, and a sensible tree-planting program that gives room for roots to grow and for a canopy to emerge.

We have an incredible opportunity as a community to transform Ottawa's downtown core into a place that is vibrant and brimming with possibility. Should I have the honour of serving as Somerset Ward's next city councillor, I will be a leader in the transformation of Ottawa's downtown core.

## Brandon Russell

People from across the country, and around the world look at many factors when moving to a new city. Ottawa can offer the best of the best in many areas.

However, some of the most important things people look for that Ottawa is lacking in. Transit comes to mind, we have 3 class transit. If we can't expect to improve our transit, how can we expect to attract talented people? We also have serious homelessness and crime in our city. We need an experienced counselor that can get things done on day 1, I have the experience and know how to make Ottawa world class!



Heather Duggan's dog Skyli accompanied her on the 2021 walk.

HEATHER DUGGAN/CCSAC

# Walk to fight hunger in our community

Patricia Marsden-Dole

The changing colours of the early fall will beckon you to take a walk on October 2 in support of food security in central Ottawa.

The Centretown Churches Social Action Committee, and its 22 members, invites you to join your friends and neighbours for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre (CEFC) Walkathon to be held on Sunday, October 2. The proceeds will raise funds for the local food bank.

Registration will take place at Jean Pigott Place on the main floor of Ottawa City Hall. At 1:30 p.m., there will be live music from a barbershop quartet, followed by the official opening at 2. At 2:20 p.m., a piper will lead everyone into the walk with the skirl of the bagpipes.

Walkathon donations will go to the CEFC which is located at Bank Street and Argyle Avenue. It is open three days a week and serves up to 650 clients each month with a five-day supply of food. Diana Mahaffy, the centre's manager, is looking ahead to customize orders using a shopping model for more personalized choice. Once a month cli-

ents may book an appointment or drop in.

This annual walk for the centre is a family friendly community event. Walkers are encouraged to take photos of their walk. Several Glebe and Centretown merchants are offering prizes for the best shots. Categories include celebrating the natural beauty of the Rideau Canal, pets looking their best, or images that catch the spirit of the walk.

This year's walkathon will be the first in-person event since since many pandemic restrictions have been lifted. Given ongoing concerns about the pandemic, there will be masks and sanitizer available at the registration desk. You can also choose to walk by yourself.

Donations can be made either online at [www.centretownchurches.org](http://www.centretownchurches.org) or in person with cheques at the time of registration. Cheques can also be mailed directly to the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee at 507 Bank Street, K2P 1Z5.

Donations for the virtual walkathons of the past two years have helped the centre to keep operating through that difficult time. We would like to express our gratitude for the generosity of our individual and business donors.

# Affected by Elgin Street construction?



**We are looking for people in the Golden Triangle in Ottawa whose properties suffered damages such as cracked foundations arising from the Elgin Street road construction.**

**If your house or property was affected, please contact [RPetersen@lmrlawyers.com](mailto:RPetersen@lmrlawyers.com). Thank you.**

**[Low Murchison Radnoff LLP](http://www.lmrlawyers.com)**



# Heritage Skyline: Secrets of Dundonald Park

Robert Smythe

If the block of Somerset Street that eventually became Dundonald Park was developed as originally intended, this sector of Centretown would look substantially different.

Because the property stands on the highest point of land around, the City of Ottawa Waterworks Committee purchased the block in the mid-1890s for future use as a reservoir site to feed local water mains. This never came to pass, and the plot of land soon turned into an informal dump, an eyesore in this burgeoning residential community.

Nearby home-owners grew restless. In August 1901, the Waterworks Committee received a petition from a Mr. T.A. Beament of MacLaren Street on behalf of the ratepayers in the neighbourhood asking that the reservoir lots be converted into a public park.

The city's official response was dismissive: "Your Board after having discussed the Petition could not entertain the request and would recommend that the Police Commissioners be requested to see that no horses or cows be allowed to pasture or graze on the Somerset Street grounds and that the City Engineer be instructed to have grass cut as requested."

## A vision for parks in Ottawa

Within a year, however, the Ottawa Improvement Commission (OIC) – forerunner of the NCC – would dramatically alter the reservoir lots' fate by retaining the professional services of Frederick Todd, an aspiring young landscape architect and an acolyte of Frederick Law Olmsted.



The park in 1906 shortly after the landscaping was completed. The central fountain only survived for a few years and was then turned into a flower bed. (Library and Archives Canada)

Todd's 1903 report, which is now seen as the granddaddy to the later Gréber Report, recommended that the block of Somerset between Lyon and Bay, and nine other undeveloped lots scattered about Ottawa, be acquired by the OIC and transformed into small city parks.

## "A place of rest and recreation"

His report pointed out that, "These small squares and breathing places situated at various intervals throughout the crowded portions of the city are of great importance. They do not remind one of the country to the same extent as the suburban parks, for they are intended to fulfill an entire different mission, their object being rather to provide a place of rest and recreation for the people in their immediate neighbourhood, and to make the city as a whole more beautiful and attractive."

"Somerset Street Square [Todd's suggested name], although presenting a much more difficult problem, has greater possibilities than any of your small squares. The expense involved would necessarily be greater, but the fact that it is far from being level, should make possible a square of more than ordinary

interest."

The following year the government of Canada took out 15-year leases on two city properties, the proposed Somerset Street Square and what would become Strathcona Park in Sandy Hill. This was one of the few recommendations in the Todd report that was actually implemented.

## Tories choose the park name

It was the commemorative naming of Dundonald Park that became hugely controversial. Why would the Liberal-dominated Ottawa Improvement Commission title its first city park after the government's bitter enemy – the Earl of Dundonald, Canada's last foreign-born commander of the Canadian Militia, who had just been summarily dismissed and ordered back to England for insubordination and, according to the *Times of London*, "political agitation against the Government of Canada"?

The answer is that they didn't. In a fiery meeting held on July 19, 1904, the Conservative-dominated Ottawa City Council, with the support of half the country, passed a resolution dedicating the park in honour of Dundonald, likely as a means of vexing the federal government.

The OIC stubbornly refused to recognize the name of its new park until the Laurier Liberals were thrown out of office in 1911. A new Conservative government promptly reinstated the name Dundonald and it has stuck ever since.

The naming debacle had its consequences. While the commission proceeded with the implementation of their elaborate plans for Strath-



A pith helmeted Lord Dundonald at his official residence in Rockcliffe Park. For many years after his departure the house was known as Dundonald Lodge until it became the Embassy of Norway. (Library and Archives Canada)

cona Park, Dundonald was left as a lunar wasteland for a further two years.

## Political retribution

There were repeated charges in Parliament that the delay was retribution for the park's naming.

A front-page photo and editorial in the *Ottawa Journal* of June 6, 1905 summed up the situation. "Dundonald Park, Somerset Street, was taken over from the city by the Improvement Commission in June, 1904. When the Commission took the park over the residents of the locality began to expect great things. The people who live immediately around the park began to see visions of beautiful flower beds and gravelled walks and the whole park a thing of joy – if not forever at least during the summer months.

"Over a year has elapsed

and the Improvement Commission has done nothing towards making anything of the park except to dump a lot of dirt on it. The earth was mostly carted there early this spring. The picture which is from a photo taken by Mr. A.G. Pittaway, photographer, shows what the park looks like today. The photo was taken from the corner of MacLaren and Lyon Street.

"A resident of the locality suggested to the Journal to-day that when the children of Percy Street School return to work they can be brought down and be taught geography, the square being used as a relief map."

When Dundonald's landscaping was finally completed in late 1906, the final result was deemed disappointing. The terrain was simply leveled, with a ring of trees around the perimeter, some crushed gravel pathways, and a red concrete fountain in the centre. This was heavily criticized five years later by the newly reconstituted Tory-dominated improvement commission.

## A meaningless layout

The OIC wrote in a subsequent summary of the work that, "Dundonald Park's steep slope was spo-

ken as being a difficult problem with great possibilities and having more than ordinary interest. This park has been laid out in a meaningless manner and among other alleged ornaments are artificial flower beds made of cement and coloured stones."

That opinion was echoed by the Ontario Association of Architects.

"The Association, after a careful inspection of the work that has already been executed, feels that much which has been done will have to be undone, as it neither meets the demands of the situation in design or execution."

Nevertheless, Dundonald Park was to remain in this configuration for a further 110 years.

There is much more to say about the park: a deep well was sunk in 1913 at the Bay Street end to provide western Centretown with safe drinking water after a typhoid epidemic; the park was short-listed as a site for a new city hall building which persisted between 1931 and 1955; and a large pagoda feature was promised in the 1980s to harmonize with Chinatown.

But these are events for subsequent chapters in this story!

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# Strong Mayors bill passes, changing the balance of power at city council

Alayne McGregor

Ottawa will have a “strong mayor” starting in November, changing the balance of power around the city council table.

Bill 3, the “Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022” was passed by the Ontario Legislature on September 8. The bill gives many new powers to mayors in Ottawa and Toronto.

During the debate on Third Reading, Ottawa Centre MPP Joel Harden questioned why the bill was pushed through so quickly, and why residents of Ottawa were not directly consulted about it.

“Would we ever want to introduce a piece of legislation that would impact a particular municipality or community without talking to them first?”

He pointed out that current Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson had asked all candidates for mayor “to promise not to use the powers presented in this bill – not to use veto powers, not to use single-capacity hiring contracts for key positions in our city, either financial or otherwise.”

Referring to the lack of transparency in the city’s LRT Line 1 contract with Rideau Transit Group, Harden said that process demonstrated problems with lack of consultation and transparency – as would happen if a mayor could make decisions unilaterally.

The bill will also not succeed in creating more desperately-needed affordable housing in Ottawa Centre, he said; none of the new high rises now being built here by local developers have affordable housing components. He noted the bill did not include any references to inclusionary zoning that would require a percentage of affordable units.

In response, PC MPP Robin Martin said that the bill would allow “mayors to cut through red tape and to get housing built faster so that more families can realize the dream of attainable home ownership.”

Ontario Green leader Mike Schreiner noted that the government’s recent [Housing Affordability Task Force](#) did not mention increasing the mayor’s powers in its 55 recommendations.

On August 31, Ottawa City Council passed a motion opposing the bill, noting that “no evidence has been presented” to support the claim that the added powers in the bill will allow more homes to be built, and that “recent history demonstrates that the Mayor of Ottawa has been able to consistently secure majority support for his motions at the Council table.”

The motion contended that the mayor is already the most influential position at the council table and that “further empowering the Mayor at the expense of ward councillors undermines the ability of ward councillors to effectively

represent their constituencies.” The “increased asymmetry of power at the Council table diminishes the value of local representation and local democracy,” it said.

The bill is expected to come into force with the new city council in November.

Its associated regulations, which will more closely define the mayor’s powers, have not yet been published. Ottawa City Council also passed a motion asking the province to consult the city, the public, and professional and municipal organizations on the regulations.

Premier Doug Ford has said the powers could be extended to other Ontario cities later; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has said any such expansion would require broad consultation.

Under the bill, mayors would gain the power to write the city budget and choose or fire many senior city staff, in particular the Chief Administrative Officer and other senior administrators.

The Act specifies that the Mayor cannot touch some staff: the city clerk, the treasurer and deputy treasurer, the auditor-general, the integrity commissioner, the chief building official, police and fire chiefs, the medical officer of health, and officers who must be appointed according to provincial acts.

The mayor would also be able to appoint the chairs and vice-



The City of Ottawa unveiled its first hydrant drinking water fountain in August, with a two-week trial run at Somerset Street West and Empress. It’s now looking for feedback, and may install more fountains next summer to provide refreshment during heat waves. ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

chairs of all local boards (presumably including the police board and the library board) and the chairs and vice-chairs of all standing committees. The mayor could also dissolve or establish any committees of council, and set their terms of reference.

The provincial government can also ordain provincial priorities, for example increasing housing supply. If a city council decision is in

those areas, the mayor can override that decision and can only be overridden in turn by two-thirds of council. The mayor can also make unilateral proposals in those priority areas and require city council to consider them.

When *The BUZZ* polled candidates for mayor last month, six of the nine who responded were opposed to the bill, including Catherine McKenney and Mark Sutcliffe.



**Vote for Mark on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>**

## It’s time for a fresh perspective that delivers results for all of Ottawa.

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*Mark Sutcliffe*

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



**Mark Sutcliffe** A MAYOR FOR ALL OF OTTAWA



Ecology Ottawa was at the Elgin Street Market on September 4 to give away trees. This fall, the group will give away 10,000 native tree seedlings to residents to plant on private property: 22 species including red pine, red oak, white spruce, and yellow birch. Their aim is to replace the many trees lost to invasive insects and to factors like suburban sprawl, disease, climate change, and violent storms like the derecho. Mark (pictured here) is holding red maple and white spruce seedlings he received at the group's booth. More giveaways are scheduled for across Ottawa, but no others so far in Centretown.

ARNO RYSER/THE BUZZ



## CCA report

Jack Hanna

### Kids: build a kite, hear a story, plant a daffodil

The Fall Festival in Dundonald Park will be rich in activities for kids, from making kites, to read-alouds, to planting daffodils.

The festival will be held on Saturday, September 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If it rains, the party in the park will be pushed to the next day, Sunday.

Kids will be able to join a kite-making workshop, put bulbs into the flower beds, paint a rock or do other crafts. And they can enjoy the free popcorn.

The always-popular story read-alouds, provided by the Ottawa Public Library in English and French, start at 11:30 a.m.

Performances of Chinese music and dance start at 10:15 a.m.

There will be all sorts of displays, on everything from sketching trees, to bees and pollinators, to the NeighbourWoods program (which ensures mature trees get the TLC they need).

The festival is jointly sponsored by the CCA and the Centretown Community Health Centre.

### Housing for the hard-to-house

Some hard-to-house folks need support if they are to be able to remain in a home.

A CCA Zoom workshop on Monday September 26, at 6:30 p.m. will examine the need for supportive housing, how to provide it, and how to make it part of the community.

The speakers, from the John Howard Society, Options Bytown and Daybreak, are experienced in building and operating supportive housing to meet a variety of challenges.

For the link, email: [affordable-housing-champions@centretowncitizens.ca](mailto:affordable-housing-champions@centretowncitizens.ca)

### Catch BOTH history walking tours

The history walking tours out of the Elgin Street Market on Sunday mornings are still running – until Thanksgiving.

There are two different tours, offered on alternating Sundays. If there's one you've yet to catch, email [jack.2014@icloud.com](mailto:jack.2014@icloud.com) to get the schedule for the remaining tours.

*Blunders and Beauties* tells of historic boobos made by those who govern, and Centretown's architectural beauty.

The other tour, *Canal and Communities*, covers the building of the local portion of the Rideau Canal, and the communities that have lived on Centretown lands, from Indigenous encampments to a canal workers' shantytown to early villages.

The kilometre-long tours take about an hour, and leave from Elgin and Waverley Sundays at 11 a.m. There's no cost, although donations to the CCA are gratefully accepted.

### Elgin Street Market — the place for pie pumpkins

The Elgin Street Market will be in full swing each Sunday until Thanksgiving.

A big item in autumn, says market manager Chris Penton, is pumpkins, especially the medium-sized gourds ideal for pumpkin pies.

Root vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets, onions and garlic are at their best – and Brussels sprouts.

And of course there's everything else the market offers every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Boushey Square – vegetables; organic produce; craft beers, cider, honey, bread and pies; Lebanese and Italian foods; and even carpets.

### Free Friday concerts in Dundonald Park

Prominent musicians will give free live performances on Friday evenings in Dundonald Park until the end of September.

The performances will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

Friday, September 23: Kenny Hayes performs original works ranging from folk and country to pop.

September 30: singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Ky Anto showcases his versatility. Anto says his influences span country, jazz, punk, and classical.

The concerts are sponsored by the Dundonald Improvement Group and the Art House Cafe, a bistro, gallery and performance venue on Somerset Street West across from the park.

### More music in the park

You can also catch live performances in Dundonald Park Saturday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Two acts perform September 17. Cellist Julian Armour will be joined by pianist Frederic Lacroix, followed by the Nepean Panharmonics Steel Band.

On the 24th, you can hear the Trillium Saxophone Quartet.

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**ELGIN STREET MARKET**  
Every Sunday June 19th - October 9th  
9am-1pm  
Boushey Square, 211-A Waverley Street

Shop local all year long with the online market store. Shop from over 40 vendors with free local pickup at Haus of Plants, 329A Elgin Street.

[www.elginstreetmarket.ca](http://www.elginstreetmarket.ca)

## Community fridge opens this month

The Centretown community fridge and pantry will open at 415 MacLaren Street on Wednesday, September 28. A joint project of the Glebe St. James United Church, Ottawa Community Housing, Centretown Community Health Centre, the Arlington 5 Café, and Carleton University's School of Architecture, its purpose is to share free food with those in need.

The project, which has been in the making over the last year, is a unique initiative to support food security in the Centretown neighborhood. The philosophy behind the community fridge and pantry is to invite Centretown residents to "take what you need and leave what you can."

The community fridge and pantry is the result of the drive of volunteers from the Glebe St James United Church. They saw the need to develop additional means to address food insecurity in the community. The initiative is a collaboration among many partners including residents in the Centretown neighborhood. With support from Carleton University's School of Architecture, and working with feedback and input from local residents, Carleton students designed and constructed the structure that houses the pantry and fridge.

Amanda Ryan, an Ottawa Community Housing community developer, said that local residents are excited to see the structure

come to life, complete with a roof top mural that adds a playfulness to the views of residents on the upper floors of 415 MacLaren.

Susan Palmai has coordinated support from the Arlington 5 Café, which will ensure volunteers are in place to stock the fridge and pantry. Residents and local businesses will contribute fresh produce and pantry items.

"Seniors at one of the local buildings are growing vegetables to donate to the pantry and are thrilled to share the fruits of their harvest," said Tong Zhao-Ansari, a community developer with Centretown Community Health Centre.

Centretown Emergency Food Centre (CEFC) board member Martha Musgrove said that July was a record-breaking month in terms of people accessing CEFC. She said that food bank use has been increasing steadily, with more than 600 people receiving groceries that month. "As inflation drives up food prices, there is a growing need for affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food in our neighbourhoods. Community fridges and pantries are community-inspired and directed initiatives that can be helpful to individuals and families in need. They provide an important link in the network of food security services offered in Centretown," she said.

To volunteer for this initiative, contact Susan Palmai at [palmaisusan@gmail.com](mailto:palmaisusan@gmail.com).

## No need to wait until Election Day

Alayne McGregor

Can't make October 24? You can vote in city and school board elections as early as next weekend.

The city has slightly expanded voting options this year, with city-wide advance polls at nine locations (including City Hall downtown) from September 24 to 27, plus two advance poll days on October 7 and 14.

All polls will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can also appoint a proxy to vote for you any time up to and including October 24.

You can find your voting locations and candidates at [ottawa.ca/vote](http://ottawa.ca/vote).

If you're on the voters' list, you should

have already received a letter from the city. You can check at [ottawa.ca/vote](http://ottawa.ca/vote). Need to get on the list? You can fill out a form at your voting location on voting days.

You must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old to vote. You must live in Ottawa, or own or rent property in Ottawa, or be the spouse of an owner/tenant.

You must show ID when coming to vote. It must show your name and address. Photo ID is not required. The city will accept not only government-issued ID, but also bank statements, utility bills, hospital cards, pay receipts, a college/university transcript or report card, and more. See "Information for voters" on [ottawa.ca/vote](http://ottawa.ca/vote) for the full list.

## Justine Bell

School Trustee  
Zone 10 Somerset/Kitchissippi

✉ [justine.bell@ocdsb.ca](mailto:justine.bell@ocdsb.ca)

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# 142 Nepean: why right to parking won over right to housing

Alayne McGregor

The six-unit affordable apartment building at 142 Nepean Street will be torn down to build a parking lot.

On August 31, Ottawa City Council voted 13-11 to allow demolition of the building and force tenants to move, over the strong objections of local councillor Catherine McKenney, and despite councillors' questions as to why no other parking was suitable. The discussion came down to the right to parking versus to the right to housing.

McKenney pleaded with fellow councillors to preserve the building. "The precedent that this sets could lead us down a path where we are removing 'missing middle' housing, affordable market housing, in order to provide more parking, anywhere in this city."

142 Nepean is part of a complicated deal to allow the building of a new large apartment building nearby. Developers Glenview Homes and Taggart Management want use the land at 142, 144, and 148 Nepean for a 30-spot surface-level parking lot.

That lot would then replace the parking lot at 108 Nepean now used by a nearby office building at 190 O'Connor Street. On the 108 Nepean parking lot, Glenview and Taggart will build a new 27-storey, 300-unit mixed-use tower with 25 units of market-affordable housing. That project was approved by city council.

"These reports should have never been linked," McKenney said.

Glenview president Mark Shabinsky had told the city's Planning Committee that Glenview's office building must have control of "its own parking destiny," and was not willing to rent spots in other lots instead of using 142-8 Nepean. "The tower will not proceed unless we have control of our parking next door. It's not a threat, it's simply a commercial reality that we are dealing with."

Councillor Keith Egli said that, by linking the two projects, Council was "almost being asked to play chicken. We're waiting to see who blinks first on this and I'm not all that interested in blinking today."

"I cannot fathom that there is no other way to achieve these parking spots and that the whole development would be pushed aside and not carried forward over the minor amount

of parking spots."

Current 142 Nepean tenant Lionel Njeukam had said his two-bedroom apartment was affordable at \$1200/month. McKenney noted that market rent in Ottawa for a two-bedroom apartment is now well over \$2,000.

"What we don't have enough of is this type of housing – affordable market rental for individuals, for families. These small buildings are scattered across our city. What we do have a lot of is parking. Excess parking, in what is a housing emergency that we're living through. We have over 2,000 people last night sleeping in a shelter or outside in this city. We've got hundreds of families, children, living in motels. For every unit of social housing that we build in this city, we lose at least seven in the private market."

McKenney counted hundreds of parking spaces not being used within a two-block radius of 190 O'Connor. "There are other parking opportunities, not rights – unlike the right to housing, you don't really have a right to parking."

"So if we allow ourselves to be held hostage here with an applicant who says I won't build this unless you allow us to take down this, where does it end? Where do we say no?"

The Planning Committee had given city staff and the developer time over the summer to find other parking but none was found to the developers' satisfaction. Taggart's Derek Howe told the committee on August 25 that they had looked at several surface lots from Laurier to "past Somerset" and one to two blocks east and west of O'Connor. Assuming that parking would be allowed at 144 and 148 Nepean, Howe said that would accommodate up to 15 vehicles, leaving 15 spots to be found.

The current lot at 108 Nepean gives tenants their own dedicated stalls, rather than sharing spaces. Howe said when they looked for five to 10-year leases for exclusive dedicated parking in downtown surface lots, "the resounding answer is largely no. They are all contemplating some form of redevelopment and they are all reserving their rights."

Could they purchase another lot? Howe said several lots close by have already been submitted for redevelopment as high rises. Others were priced higher than 142 Nepean. "There are not any available lots for sale of a similar size in close proximity to the office building with similar economic



Tenants speaking at a demonstration outside 142 Nepean.

ALAYNE MCGREGOR/THE BUZZ

terms as the proposed lots at 142-8 Nepean."

He said the agreement between Glenview and Taggart would not allow the office tenants at 190 O'Connor to park in the new building when it is built.

When asked by Councillor Mathieu Fleury if they had investigated the underground lots at Place Bell or World Exchange, Howe said they had not. "A stall in a below-grade structure would be significantly more expensive than a surface parking lot, so there is a material impact in terms of both proximity to the existing office building and an increase in parking costs to the landlord, which is not something that we were looking to enter into."

Fleury noted that the Chateau Laurier had successfully signed long-term parking leases with the National Arts Centre for dedicated parking spaces. Councillor Jeff Leiper noted that exclusive parking in parking garages for commercial tenants "is not new. It's not out of the ordinary. I just don't see any signs of serious work in trying to find parking for a couple of dozen vehicles."

Howe argued that relocating the parking for tenants at 190 O'Connor would break their lease contract and "constitute a breach of their right to enjoy parking across the street."

"In this time of COVID we're trying to maintain a sense of stability and calmness as it relates to tenants coming back to this office building. Simply asking them to relocate from

continued on page 11 "Rental replacement by-law"

## Make your mark in the 2022 Municipal Elections

Vote at any one of the seven in-person voting opportunities:



**Special Advance Vote Days**  
September 24 to 27



**Advance Vote Days**  
October 7 and 14



**Voting Day**  
October 24

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During Special Advance Vote Days, you can vote in person at any one of the nine voting places across the city. For Advance Vote Days and Voting Day, you can cast your ballot at your designated voting place. Use the "Where do I vote?" tool on [ottawa.ca/vote](http://ottawa.ca/vote) to learn where and when you can vote. All voting places are fully accessible.

If you can't make it to a voting place, you can appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

Ottawa has new ward boundaries for the 2022 Municipal Elections and 2022-2026 Term of Council. Use the "Who is running in my ward?" tool on [ottawa.ca/vote](http://ottawa.ca/vote) to verify your ward name and number, and to view the list of candidates running in your ward.

For more information about the 2022 Municipal Elections, visit [ottawa.ca/vote](http://ottawa.ca/vote) or contact the City of Ottawa's Elections Office by phone at 613-580-2660 or by email at [elections@ottawa.ca](mailto:elections@ottawa.ca).



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# What's on in Ottawa

Tony Wohlfarth

## City Folk (Lansdowne Park)

The second weekend of City Folk gets underway on September 15 with Cape Breton's Matt Andersen. Andersen was the closing act at the 2022 Calgary Folk Music Festival in July and delivered a stellar set before a packed main stage audience.

City Folk wraps up on September 17 with Sarah Harmer, followed by John Fogerty. Tickets and lineup: [cityfolkfestival.com](http://cityfolkfestival.com)

## Culture Days

Culture Days is an annual celebration of the arts, with events across Canada. The Ottawa International Animation Film Festival (OIAFF) marks the occasion on Saturday, September 24 with a [day of Family Day activities](http://dayoffamilydayactivities.com).

To register and for updates, see: [cuturedays.ca/en/events](http://cuturedays.ca/en/events) and search for "Ottawa."

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The National Day of Reconciliation, on Friday, September 30, marks the second anniversary of Cana-

da's response to the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

To mark Orange Shirt Day, participants are encouraged to wear orange in memory of the children who died in Canada's Indian residential schools. For a list of events across Canada: [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html)

## Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF)

The EIFF, one of the world's oldest film festivals, celebrated its 75th edition this year. Two films from the EIFF have been reviewed.

Jessica Chastain (as Jo Henninger) and Ralph Fiennes (as her husband David) co-star in *The Forgiven*, an entertaining feature-length film about revenge and justice in a post-9/11 world.

Jo and David travel from London to Morocco to celebrate a lavish birthday party for their friend Richard (Matt Smith).

En route, an inebriated David runs over and kills a young man near the remote village of Asma. A cover-up fools the police but not the father Abdallah (Ismael Kanater) who wants to know

how his son died. David accompanies the grieving father back to their village for his burial. The reckoning takes place in tense moments set in the stunning backdrop of the remote High Atlas Mountains. *The Forgiven* has a strong script and decent acting, especially by Kanater as the grieving father.

Filmed on location in Morocco, the film brilliantly juxtaposes pastoral life with the hedonistic lifestyle of the UK. *The Forgiven* is directed by John Michael McDonagh and is based on a book of the same name by Lawrence Osborne. Running time: 1h57m.

The second film, *Nothing Compares*, is a fascinating documentary about the career of Sinéad O'Connor, an Irish singer-songwriter, whose debut album was released in 1987 when she was 21.

The film does not shy away from controversy. It deals with her appearance on Saturday Night Live when she ripped up a picture of the Pope, being booed off stage a few weeks later at a concert celebrating Dylan's 30th anniversary and her decision to refuse to perform if the US national anthem was played before her concert.

You can watch a video of O'Connor performing the title song "Nothing Compares 2 U" at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-EF60neguk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-EF60neguk)

Directed by Kathryn Ferguson, *Nothing Compares* will be released on September 23. Ahead of its commercial release, the film won the Audience's Choice Award at the 2022 Belfast Film Festival. Running time: 1h37m.

## Great Canadian Theatre Company (1233 Wellington West)

Beginning on September 20, the GCTC is staging a documentary play, *The Chemical Valley Project*, co-created by Julia Howman and Kevin Matthew Wong.

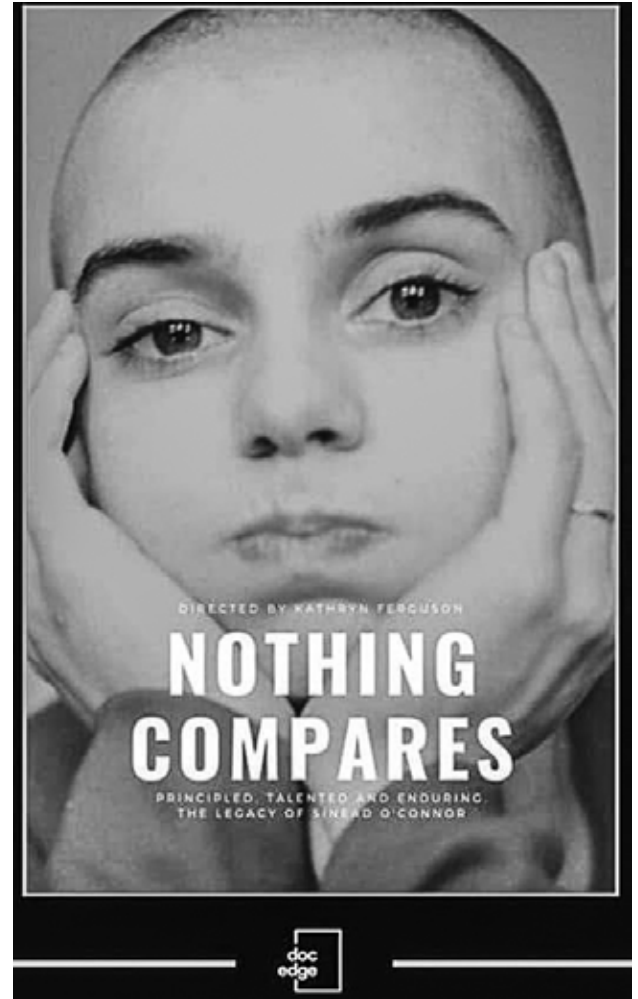
It tells the story of one of the most polluted regions of Canada—the Sarnia region—in relation to indigenous environmentalists.

See: [www.gctc.ca/shows/chemical-valley](http://www.gctc.ca/shows/chemical-valley).

## National Arts Centre (1 Elgin)

The NAC will showcase a diverse range of music this fall that includes:

- James Keelaghan, Sept. 22;
- The NAC Orchestra presenting *The Eternal Earth*, with a free pre-show conversation between Alexander Shelley and photographer



This new documentary about the early career of Sinéad O'Connor doesn't shy away from controversy.

- Edward Burtynsky, Sept. 22;
- Canadian jazz musicians Jim and Chet Doxas and Adrian Vedady, teaming up with American pianist Marc Copland, Sept. 29;
- Gentiane MG Trio, Oct 6;
- Loreena McKennitt, *The Visit Revisited*, Oct. 7;
- Tanika Charles, Oct. 14;
- Florian Hoefner Trio playing original piano trio jazz, Oct. 15;
- David Foster and Katharine McPhee, Oct. 16;
- Basia Bulat, Oct. 21.

Tickets and event information: [nac-cna.ca](http://nac-cna.ca)

## Queen Street Fare (170 Queen)

Queen Street Fare has two performances worth checking out this month: experimental music by Ottawa-based visual artist-musician Anne Socoria, Sept. 29; and

the Capital Beatles live tribute, Oct. 1. See: [queenstare.ca/happening](http://queenstare.ca/happening).

## Live on Elgin (220 Elgin)

Live on Elgin has open mic nights every Tuesday with Jessica Pearson.

On September 28, check out the monthly Kino short film festival.

On October 6, it's The Comedy Jam with Sophie Buddle. On October 12, it's PEI singer-songwriter Rachel Beck.

See: [www.liveonelgin.com/collections/shows](http://www.liveonelgin.com/collections/shows)

Tony Wohlfarth is an Ottawa-based freelance film and entertainment writer. He is accredited to cover the EIFF and The Fringe.

# Candidates propose fixes for OC Transpo

continued from page 1  
McKenney outlined the possible reasons for fare-free transit and called for "a serious talk about how transit is funded and by whom."

Sutcliffe opposed free transit, saying it would cost "taxpayers millions of dollars. We need more reliable transit, including light rail that works and improved bus service." He did not specify on his website how he would do this.

Bob Chiarelli had a similar position, objecting to a city study to investigate the possibility of fare-free transit because of the cost, and emphasizing improving service reliability. On his website, he called the bus system "broken", and said "it is clear existing management has failed passengers and that he solution is the need for new

oversight over our transit system."

In a radio interview, Chiarelli called for a top-to-bottom review of OC Transpo operations by an outside auditor to look for efficiencies in its management within 100 days of taking office. He also called for focusing on service in neighbourhoods rather than commuting, given many public servants will continue to work from home.

Brandon Bay supported building a light-rail transit loop between Gatineau and Ottawa, and running a rapid transit line to Lansdowne Park. He also called for funding reliable, fare-free transit with parking revenues and in-station retail.

Bernard Couchman supported free public transit.

Graham MacDonald

said he is looking for accountability and answers to the current LRT "debacle" from the provincial inquiry. He also called for a financial, ridership, and maintenance audit to ensure the system is running effectively and efficiently. He also recommended inquiries into LRT stages 2 and 3 regardless of the outcome of the inquiry into stage 1.

At press time, Mike Maguire had not yet released his transit options policy.

Ade Olumide proposed introducing 13-seater jitney buses as shuttles to transit stations in both rural and urban areas. He pushed for free transit for those who earning under \$53,000/year, and also suggested having the federal government buy transit passes for all its employees and

using the proceeds to fund free transit. He recommended OC Transpo give weekly performance reports on large number of measures including late or canceled trips, ridership, and maintenance.

Param Singh's platform included the establishment of a "Transit System Review Committee composed of experts to review the city's existing transit issues with the aim of providing practical recommendations to make our transit system safe, and reliable, and affordable." He also suggested reducing the price of the low-income EquiPass.

The websites of Nour Kadri, Celine Debassige, and Gregory Jreg Guevara did not mention transit. Zed Chebib and Jacob Solomon did not have websites.

# Helping pollinators on their travels

continued from page 12

## Protecting pollinators

A variety of plants in dense patches that have flowers throughout the seasons (similar to Stephen's garden) will help pollinators thrive.

Connected corridors are also important for pollinator travelling efficiency. It takes a lot of energy to fly long distances and pollinators require more nectar when they finally reach a patch of flowers. Bees and butterflies and

other pollinators are always looking for the next garden to visit.

What else can you do? Don't just plant milkweed. The butterfly needs nectar sources from late spring to early fall.

Plants rich in nectar are critical prior to migration when the butterflies are fueling up for their long flight south. Joe Pye Weed, Liatris (blazing star), Goldenrod and Asters are great options.

University of Ottawa re-

searchers are studying how different nectar sources affect the butterflies fat reserves, which enable them to fly great distances without refueling.

If everyone focuses on pollinator protection and providing food through their gardens, then nature can flourish, biodiversity will increase, and the food supply will be more secure for humans as well as the many pollinators.

# FREE! FEEDING YOUR BABY WORKSHOP

Learn everything you need to know about feeding your baby from 6 to 12 months. This free virtual workshop is open to anyone in Ottawa and is ideal for parents with children between 3 to 9 months.

When: October 11, 2022, 10 - 11:30 am  
Where: Virtually via Zoom  
Register: Call Deidra at 613-238-1220 ext. 2248 or email [dsmith@swchc.on.ca](mailto:dsmith@swchc.on.ca)





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## People's Commission starts public hearings

OPC  
The Ottawa People's Commission (OPC) will begin public hearings on September 21 to hear and collect stories from Centretown residents and businesses that were impacted by the convoy occupation that clogged our streets and disrupted our lives last February.

Brenda Knight, a Centretown resident and co-chair of the OPC Steering Committee, said: "We want to create a safe space for healing and for justice, where people can come forward to share their stories and offer ideas on how to ensure we never have to suffer through that again."

OPC's first public hearing will take place at McNabb Community Centre, 180 Percy Street, from 2 to 4 p.m. on September 21. A second hearing is set for the following evening at Le Patro, 40 Cobourg Street in Lowertown from 7 to 9 p.m. People who

wish to make presentations for these or future hearings can register through the OPC website at [opc-cpo.ca](http://opc-cpo.ca)

Hearings will be chaired by four independent commissioners: Leilani Farha, an internationally renowned expert and activist on the right to housing; Alex Neve, a law professor and former head of Amnesty International; Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity; and Monia Mazigh, an author and human rights activist.

The OPC will focus on the experiences and concerns of the people who live and work in the neighbourhoods that were affected by the occupation. "Our focus isn't the feds and we're not interested in partisan politics," said Knight. "We want to hear from folk who were taunted and targeted, and were failed by governments at all levels."

The OPC is committed to creating a safe space where

people are respected, supported and valued. Special efforts are being made to reach out to groups and communities who face stigma, racism, discrimination and isolation.

"We know there are still many who are traumatized from their experience of the convoy and, when we see what's been happening at St. Brigid's, we know we need to come together as a community to find a way forward," said Knight.

While these initial hearings will be live and in-person, the commissioners will also be holding online hearings, community consultations and private meetings with affected residents who prefer to remain anonymous. As well, they'll review written submissions.

Go to [opc-cpo.ca](http://opc-cpo.ca) to register to speak at a hearing or to send in written comments. The commission is also looking for volunteers and donors, who can contact them through the website.

## DCA report: the "new year" begins

Ed McKenna

### Summer Vacations: Over!

The Dalhousie Community Association held its first regular meeting in three months on September 7.

Yes, there was the annual DCA BBQ on Willow Street in early July, some important committee work has taken place, and the Plant Pool Recreation Association has been very active, but it's been a quiet summer.

And in a few days' time, summer ends. An election's coming. There's a busy year ahead.

### Peaceable Neighbourhoods

Before we leave the summer of '22, it's important to note the success of the first annual Eccles Street Block Party, held during a fine summer's evening on June 11.

With the support of the DCA's Peaceable Neighbourhoods Committee, the Somerset West Community Health Centre, and Cornerstone Housing for Women, the event met its goals: building bridges in the community, sharing information (including the Who To Call list), and just having a good time. Watch for it next year.

The committee's report prompted a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion of the high visibility of people without housing in the neighbourhood this summer. The availability of drinking water for the public, the use of hostile architecture, such as armrests in the middle of public benches, and the impact on local recreational programming by the PPRA were discussed. The committee will be pursuing these issues this fall.

### Preston Street Extension, or Not?

The DCA Mobility Committee will write to the city to support the application by the National Capital Commission (NCC) to remove from the Official Plan the "Preston Street Extension," an arterial road currently planned for LeBreton Flats.

Instead of Preston crossing Albert and continuing north to the Parkway, the NCC

proposes an "active transportation network linkage" in the form of a pedestrian and cycling bridge.

A comprehensive study, *Building LeBreton Flats: Transportation Impact Assessment*, accompanies the application. It provides an analysis of the effect of the development of LeBreton Flats on local vehicular traffic and other transportation issues.

The study concludes that extending Preston to the Parkway will draw more traffic to the area, particularly on Preston, Rochester and Booth. We don't need more vehicular traffic on the residential streets of Dalhousie!

### Climate Change is a Local Issue

We do need more trees!

The DCA is an active member of CAFES Ottawa, the Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability.

This fall we'll partner with CAFES and Carleton University in the "Broadening Community Engagement Project," which aims to increase diversity in local environmental and climate change efforts. This means working with students to reach out to a range of community organizations to learn more about what we can do locally to respond to climate change. There's a hands-on element, too, which may include an updated tree inventory for the neighbourhood.

### Municipal Elections

The DCA has agreed to join with other organizations in Ward 14, and, in particular, the Centretown Community Association, to sponsor a local debate among candidates for city councillor. The DCA also will support a debate for candidates for mayor.

Both events will take place next month. Watch for announcements on *The BUZZ* website and on social media.

Interested in getting involved, joining one of our committees, and more news about what's happening in Dalhousie? Please get in touch!

Contact: [president@ottawadalhousie.ca](mailto:president@ottawadalhousie.ca)

## MP report: revitalizing downtown

Yasir Naqvi

I was thrilled to host my first annual Ottawa Centre Cup event at St. Luke's Park in Centretown. This community event provided an opportunity to promote sports, youth and inclusion with a basketball game and a community barbecue.

The event opened with an Indigenous drumming ceremony by Theland Kicknoway, an educator and leader, who shares Indigenous history and culture in everything he does. This was followed by two basketball games. First, the Christie Lake Kids Team took the game with the St. Luke's youth team 62 to 41. Then the St. Luke's Bulls beat the OC Express by a score of 72-43, with the Bulls winning the cup.

This summer we also launched the Downtown Ottawa Revitalization Task Force. Following the last

two years of pandemic hardship, downtown Ottawa has changed significantly.

Downtown office workers from communities across the region have changed their commuting habits. A business community that once relied on daily foot traffic in the tens of thousands is struggling to get by. Ottawa's transit system, once envisioned to bring workers from the suburbs to downtown, has yet to re-gain its pre-pandemic ridership.

Recognizing this, it became clear that now is the time to bring together community and business representatives to propose creative ideas for Ottawa's downtown core, post-pandemic.

The Downtown Ottawa Revitalization Task Force includes affordable/social housing advocates, not-for-profit and for-profit housing developers, Indigenous leaders, sustainability advocates,

local business improvement area representatives, and tourism stakeholders. You can read more about this at [bit.ly/3QXj3c9](http://bit.ly/3QXj3c9). Meetings will be held over the next four months. Please feel free to share your ideas that will help revitalized our downtown.

I have also been able to get out to meet and hear from residents. These community check-ins have provided an opportunity for me and my team to speak with residents about the issues that matter most and to let people know what services they can access through our community office, such as help with immigration or other federal government files.

The House of Commons will also be back in session on September 20 with much work ahead to be done. Local priorities will include supporting affordable housing projects in our community by developing partnerships with non-profit housing organizations and leveraging federal funding.

I also look forward to following the progress of Bill C-23, the Historic Places of Canada Act to respect places, persons and events of national historic significance or national interest, archeological resources, and cultural and natural heritage. This includes the Central Experimental Farm. I remain committed to supporting legislation that will protect the Farm from any further future development.

My community office is located in Hintonburg. Please don't hesitate to visit, or call at 613-946-8682 or email at [Yasir.Naqvi@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Yasir.Naqvi@parl.gc.ca).

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# City staff to study rental replacement by-law

continued from page 8

a walk across the street to several blocks away, while it may not seem significant to the members of this panel today, it is a significant concern for some of these tenants. That is one of the reasons they entered into leases in this building, precisely because they have parking available to them across the street. So it is not as easy as just saying, ‘Would you like to move five blocks up the street and park?’”

The fight to preserve the building did gain the tenants some extra protections. They were offered what Howe said was a better deal than the developers had ever offered before: • a comparable unit in a building less than 100m away with the same number of bedrooms; • no increase from their current rent for five years; • a parking spot at the new building if they currently had one; • payment of all reasonable moving expenses; and • first right of refusal in one of the affordable units in the new building at 108 Nepean once it’s built.

This was further sweetened at council to either a) the promise that the rent in their replacement unit would continue to be subject to the rent increase guideline limit under the Residential Tenancies Act, with no balloon payment; or b) a lump sum of \$15,000.

Howe said two of the four tenants in the building had already accepted these terms.

Mayor Jim Watson argued for demolition on the basis that it allowed another new residential building to go forward. “I’ve never seen a more generous agreement that will allow these individuals to remain at the same level of rent for a number of years ... if anyone else comes and takes over this file there’s no commitment at all for those tenants.”

The tenants at 142 Nepean had been supported by ACORN, the organization of low- to moderate-income families, which held several rallies to publicize their cause. ACORN member Bill Ewanick told Planning Committee on August 25 that it was “grotesque and unethical to be taking families out of a perfectly fine building to build more housing for vehicles, especially downtown near light rail stations and tons of other parking. Our city and our staff should not be part of the drive to push marginalized people into precarious housing and homelessness.”

Natalie Appleyard, who also spoke for ACORN at the meeting, said the developers’ offer was generous compared

to what was legally required, but that was only because legal requirements don’t go far enough in honouring the right to housing. She noted that rents based on a percentage of market rents are not actually affordable for many low-income people, as opposed to rent geared to income.

ACORN also pointed out that, in June, two city committees directed city staff to study the creation of a rental replacement by-law that would prohibit the demolition or conversion of residential and rental housing of six or more units without their being replaced, unless special permission is granted.

- The study will also consider tenant protections such as
- Providing tenants temporary accommodations or a rental top up
  - Providing tenants the right of first refusal to the new units at the same rent they were paying previously and with the same number of bedrooms
  - Assistance with actual moving costs



A map of the area by Fotenn Planning shown at committee.

It’s not clear when 142 Nepean will be demolished. City staff said that a clause in the approval says demolition is not permitted until construction has started at 108 Nepean.

## MPP report: if we resist, Bill 7 can be stopped

Joel Harden

For many, an end to summer means getting kids ready for back-to-school routines. By now, that process has already been underway for a few weeks, but it is still something many families are getting used to, with concerns around COVID-19 still lingering.

For me, I’m thinking about recent debates at the Legislature. In particular, I’m thinking of how the Ford Government just passed Bill 7, legislation to compel “Alternate Level of Care” patients in hospital to be admitted to long-term care homes they don’t want, notably homes with high levels of illness and death during COVID-19.

During Question Period, the government insisted that wasn’t true. They said no one would be charged high fees for staying in hospital if they refused a long-term care bed. They said no one

would be compelled to move to a home they didn’t want.

But MPP Chandra Pasma proved this isn’t the case. She championed the cause of Deana Henry, a 62-year old woman with complex care needs living at Extencicare’s West End Villa in Nepean. Twenty-three residents have died of COVID-19 there.

In 2021, the Ottawa Hospital (TOH) took over control of a floor at this home, and did so with care standards common in hospitals. When Deana was on the floor operated by TOH, the quality of care was good. She thrived.

Her experience on Extencicare-operated floors was much different. It took an hour for calls to be answered by staff who were working short, and run off their feet. She was moved three times, and “felt like a piece of furniture”.

When Deana resisted a recent appeal to move from the TOH floor, the

care coordinator replied: “It is a bed. You had better take it or you will end up after Bill 7 where you have refused and be liable for up to \$1,800 a day.”

That’s what patient consent means under Bill 7. Any insistence on proper care brings the threat of fines. That’s no way to respect the residents, families and staff whose lives depend on publicly-funded care homes.

As I gave my remarks about Bill 7, I reminded the government that people will push back. Residents and families will fight for decent living conditions in long-term care homes. Staff will challenge orders that hurt others.

That’s why I offered to help anyone refusing to pay fines assessed under Bill 7, and any staff member challenging orders that would make residents suffer. If you or someone you know is in this position, tell them to contact me. If people resist, Bill 7 can be stopped.



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# Providing food for monarchs and other pollinators on their way south

Dinah Robinson

Now that we are transitioning to fall, many pollinators are already getting ready for winter.

Most native bees, butterflies, moths and wasps will soon enter a period of dormancy, much like hibernating. Some pollinators such as hummingbirds and the much-loved monarch butterfly will migrate to warmer locations down south. They're more likely to survive if gardeners provide them with food along the way.

### An extraordinary trip

Monarch butterflies travel up to 5,000 km in each direction on their annual migration. Eastern monarchs fly to forests in Mexico, where they roost on the same fir trees every year. Western monarchs fly to overwintering sanctuaries in southern California. The site in Mexico was kept secret by locals until it was located by a Canadian biologist, Dr. Fred Urquhart. Assisted by citizen scientists, he was able to track tagged monarchs along their migration route to their destination.

There can be as many

as five generations of the monarch butterfly on their commute. The northbound butterflies only live for two to six weeks. They breed as they find milkweed, the host plant for the caterpillar.

Connected corridors of suitable plants for both the butterfly and the caterpillar are critical during spring migration. The monarchs travelling south have the ability to live until the following spring, up to eight or nine months in some years.

Monarchs need to cluster together to stay warm. They fly solo during the day but they find each other to form a roost to share their heat at night during migration.

### An endangered species

In July, the monarch butterfly was added to the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. It believes the monarch could become extinct if its numbers continue to decline.

According to the director of the Montreal Insectarium, Maxim Larrivée, there were a billion monarchs making the trip south in the late '90s; today there are only 125 million, a decline of over 85 percent. Loss of habitat from

development and pesticide use, as well as factors related to climate change, are the biggest contributors to the drop in numbers.

Monarchs have been listed as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada since 2016. But they don't receive any additional protection because the federal government hasn't added them to the endangered list of the Species at Risk Act.

Ontario declared them a species of special concern in 2020 but there are no extra protections in Ontario either.

The City of Ottawa was asked to take the mayor's monarch pledge. But council decided the city was already doing enough to protect monarchs and other pollinators.

### A passion for photography and pollinators

This summer, Stephen Thirlwall provided *The BUZZ* with a tour of his gardens. As an accomplished photographer, he often discusses pollinators at his photo displays of colourful Centretown gardens.

Stephen's gardens have a layer of flowers through the seasons with various colours. In early July, more than a

dozen plants are blooming. "I can take a pic of the same spot in the garden every day and it will look completely different," he explains.

Almost all the plants are perennial and the garden beds are densely packed. This helps to reduce the amount of watering. "There's something blooming and something else dying off every day. If it's going to survive, it will," he says.

Ground covers help to keep the soil from drying out and taller plants provide some shade for more delicate plants and new transplants.

"I guess I just like insects, animals and plants. They are living beings and we all share a lot."

Some sections of Stephen's garden are very organized; others are like a wild meadow. Stephen described the garden's flowers, fruit, vegetables and seeds as, "food for family, birds and insects."

He developed his passion for pollinators through photography. By taking pictures of flowers, he noticed things that people don't usually see but that are right there, "finding the (almost) invisible world."

continued on page 9 "Helping"



Stephen Thirlwall in his ever-blooming garden.

DINAH ROBINSON/THE BUZZ

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