



John Fraser

YOUR COMMUNITY MPP, OTTAWA SOUTH

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Your COMMUNITY Voice

**ALTA VISTA
CANTERBURY**

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Playfair Tower addition triggers traffic, overflow parking worries

BY ERIN MCCRACKEN

Some Alta Vista residents worry a proposal to construct an eight-storey 120-unit apartment building at Playfair Towers will cause a parking crunch on already clogged side streets.

The plan calls for the structure to be built on a three-level parking garage at the property, which will be closed during the two-year construction period, according to representatives of property owner Greatwise Developments.

“It’s a nightmare,” said one man, who declined to provide his name, during a presentation at the Congregation Machzikei Hadas Jewish Synagogue on April 12. “You can’t plow the streets most of the time because there’s already cars parked on the streets. If there’s even a hint of it being a problem for parking for two years, it’ll be a nightmare for everyone, and a safety issue.”

Architect Rod Lahey said measures are being planned to ensure current tenants will be able to access parking at the property, located at Kilborn



Erin McCracken photo

About 50 people gathered for a meeting at the Congregation Machzikei Hadas Jewish Synagogue on April 12 to hear plans for a 120-unit apartment building at the Playfair Towers property in Alta Vista.

Avenue and Playfair Drive, during construction.

“What we’re committed to doing is everybody who is parking on site will remain parking on site,” he said. “We may be able to do phased occupancy and we may be able to – in a year period or eight months – have all the

work on the lower (parking) level done.”

That would permit cars to park in the garage sooner, with more to come as construction progresses. The parking garage will also be reinforced with a steel frame structure rather than concrete, which will reduce the

construction period by four or five months.

“What we don’t want is an overflow of traffic in the community,” said Lahey.

In addition to the garage, a level will be added to an existing single level of semi-underground parking beneath a

nearby courtyard and community centre at the complex.

“And depending on how much space we need, we also have potential to put in a short-term parking area back here,” Lahey said referring to a northwest corner of land at the site.

Another resident also

questioned how much busier Kilborn Avenue would become with an influx of new tenants, what traffic-calming measures will be considered and how people would be able to cross the street to the park.

“We all know Kilborn is very busy now with a lot of fast cars,” he said.

“That will get worse.”

Traffic studies project the new tower will produce 40 additional vehicles during peak times on Kilborn, which translates to one extra vehicle every two minutes, said engineer Arthur Gordon, of Castleglenn Consultants, who is managing the traffic and parking plan for Greatwise.

There will be a “nominal” traffic impact and about 15 per cent of the new tenants won’t own cars, he said.

Jennifer Dawson was skeptical. “I’m not convinced by what I heard that we’re not going to have an overflow of traffic over the two-year span,” she said, particularly with visitors and construction vehicles.

PLEASE SEE PLAN, PAGE 10



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Motorists shirk traffic laws, causing concern in Ridgemont

BY ERIN MCCrackEN

Gary Howard watches as vehicles zip past his Kitchener Avenue house toward the intersection at Bank Street.

Though several signs indicate that left turns are prohibited and the traffic light stays red Monday to Friday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., one by one drivers make that turn to head south on Bank.

"It's kind of ridiculous," said Howard. "You would think

that people would obey the law and go another way, but no, they don't learn."

The signs have been at that intersection for years to prevent cut-through traffic and speeding in the Ridgemont community. Two similar signs are posted farther down Kitchener to give advance warning to drivers.

Frustrated and worried, Ridgemont residents turned to River Coun. Riley Brockington, who requested

last August that the city make the light permanently red for the two-hour afternoon period.

It's helped to some degree, but the restriction is still routinely ignored.

Brockington's office has even been contacted by some of those motorists wondering about the new red light, unaware that the left turn during the afternoon period is illegal. "If you don't live in the neighbourhood, you have no business coming down the street to begin with," said Brockington.

"If you live within this community and you want to go westbound, you've got to go a couple streets down to Walkley and then come (south) down Bank," he said. "That's the trade-off for me reducing traffic in our community."

What's considered a shortcut isn't really saving drivers any time.



Erin McCracken photo

The traffic light at Bank and Kitchener is programmed to stay red during the afternoon commute to reinforce the rule that left turns onto Bank are prohibited there during that two-hour window. The measure is an attempt to curb cut-through traffic and speeding in the Ridgemont community, but long-time resident Gary Howard says it isn't working.

Howard has tested that theory himself by driving north on Banff Avenue, turning left on Walkley Road and making a left on Bank, taking less time than it does to drive west down Kitchener to turn left onto Bank.

"They're not saving anything really," he said.

The number of motorists cutting through the neighbourhood from Albion Road to Bank Street has been getting worse.

"It's been going on for years. Ever since South Keys went in, the traffic has been getting heavier and heavier," Howard said, adding that traffic has also increased as drivers head farther south to Findlay Creek and beyond, and when the Deborah Anne Kirwan pool farther east on Kitchener opened to the public.

'SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL'

More traffic has meant more speeding.

"They're making this straight shot," said Brockington. "Kitchener is like a speedway."

The councillor implored Ottawa police to enforce the rules at that intersection "because you're going to have a head-on."

When they did arrive, "it was

like shooting fish in a barrel. Non-stop. Couldn't keep up," said Brockington, adding the issue is that police aren't there often enough.

The councillor said in addition to the red light and more turn-restriction notification signs, other new measures include painting the 40 km/h speed limit on the road, adding school zone markings and installing speed display boards.

He's also made a request for a traffic counter.

Other drivers who notice the no-left signage, and realize their mistake, then try to move over to instead turn right onto Bank Street. In the process, they end up cutting off other drivers making that same right turn, Howard said.

Drivers are also not allowed during that two-hour window to drive straight through the light where the LCBO and other stores are situated. But some do anyway, then circle around in the parking lot to turn right onto Bank.

"It's a matter of when is there going to be an accident that's going to occur at our street," said Howard, who has lived on Kitchener for the past 37 years and has filed several complaints with police about the traffic problem.

There are times when cars waiting to make that illegal left turn has created a backlog along Kitchener, trapping area residents who live near the Bank Street intersection.

"We have had people who haven't been able to get out of their laneways," said Howard.

Potential solutions, he said, include opening up Albion Road and allowing motorists to cross the train yard there.

"That would eliminate a lot of problems and we'd probably get our traffic back down to normal," he said, but recognizes this strategy would likely be "long term and very costly."

Closing Kitchener to all cars but local traffic might do the trick, and larger signs at the intersection might also help as well as extending the period for the red light from 2:30 to 6 p.m., he said.

Howard has also asked Brockington to add a green arrow at the Bank Street traffic light to reinforce the right-turn-only rule during the afternoon commute period.

"It's an accident waiting to happen," he said. "If it doesn't happen on our street, it'll happen on Bank Street or at the LCBO. It's just a matter of when it's going to happen."

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SUMMER CAMPS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS
A CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE IN AN OUTDOOR SETTING

City looks to get more park-and-ride users on bikes

BY JESSICA CUNHA

The city wants to know what it needs to do to get more transit riders to cycle to the Greenboro park-and-ride and South Keys transit station.

A recently launched survey aims to find out how many people are currently biking to the transit stops and what others would require to get them out of the car and onto a bike. The survey is available until April 30.

"In the last few years the city has invested in really great cycling infrastructure that leads directly to (the) park-and-ride," said Kathleen Wilker, transportation demand management project officer.

It includes bike lanes on the Airport Parkway from the Hunt Club and Riverside South areas, as well as the Greenboro neighbourhood bikeway, which has cycling paths all through the community, she said.

New signs have been posted throughout the bikeway to help people navigate "exactly where they can go," said Wilker. "But just because there's the infrastructure, it doesn't mean that people are used to using it."

The survey asks participants if they currently cycle in their neighbourhood, if they're interested in biking more and if that would include cycling to the park-and-ride.

"Quite a few people are driving to the park-and-ride station and then taking transit, but often it's actually a short trip that could be done on a bicycle if people were interested," said Wilker.



Erin McCracken photo

The city has launched a bike-to-transit survey to learn what it will take for people to switch from cars to bicycles and cycle to such transit stations as those at Greenboro and South Keys.

"We understand that's not an option for everybody. That's why we're focusing on just a few neighbourhoods where there's really great infrastructure."

A possible scenario would be parents and their children cycling to school for the morning drop-off with the parents continuing on to the park-and-ride to catch a bus to work, she said.

For those interested in swapping their vehicle for a bicycle, the survey asks what kind of information is required for people to feel comfortable making the change.

It could include more information on transit schedules, cycling education sessions or guided bike tours from the neighbourhood to the park-and-ride to build familiarity.

"The survey is finding out

what of those education and outreach pieces would be most helpful to the community and then we will be offering those over the next year," said Wilker. "We do parked bike counts but we'll be monitoring that and see how many are biking now and if there are more bike trips afterwards."

The results from the study will also assist in developing a community cycling map.

The survey is available online at www.ottawa.ca/biketotransit until April 30 at 5 p.m. Kiosks where people can complete the survey in person will be at the Greenboro Community Centre and the Greenboro library branch, both located at 363 Lorry Greenberg Dr.

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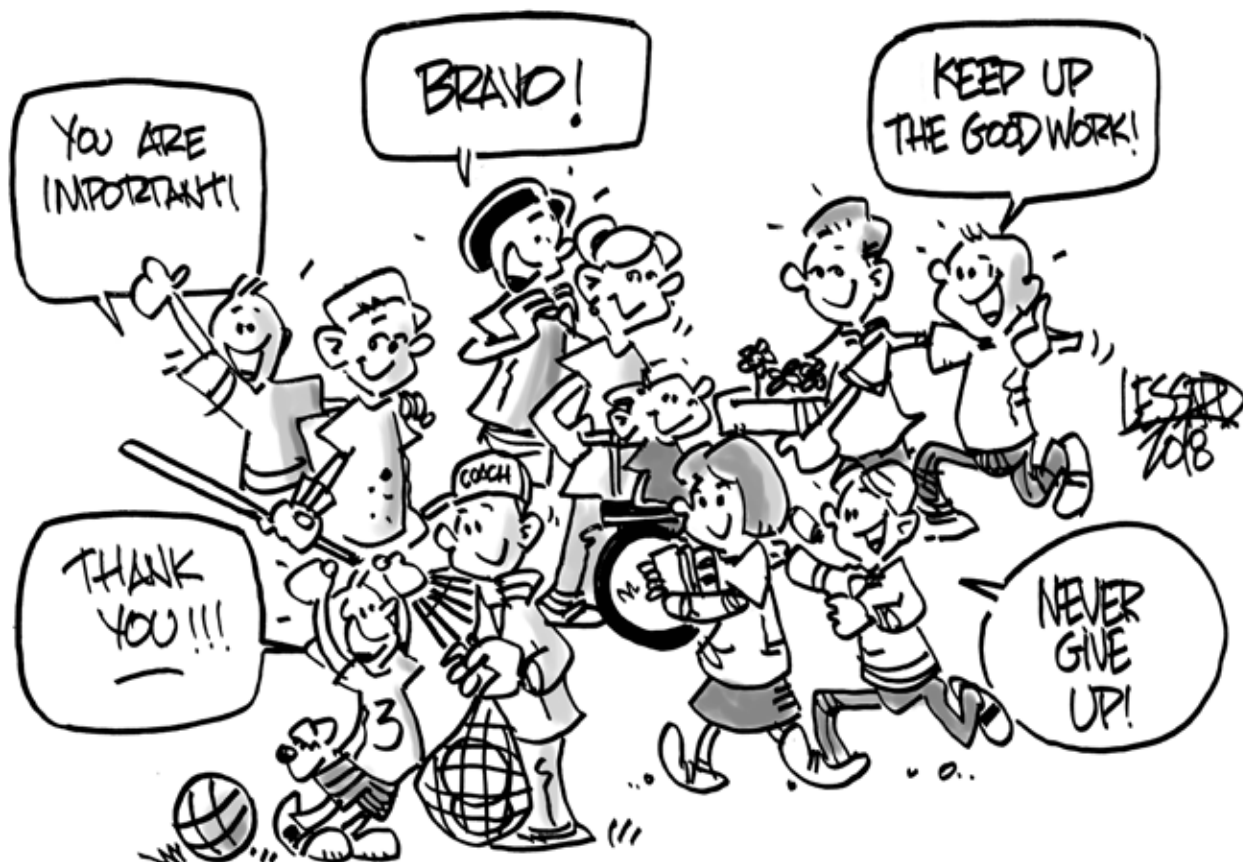
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Volunteers are the pulse of any community and Ottawa can boast more per capita than any other city in Canada.

The mayor reminded us of that fact in his remarks at a Volunteer Ottawa awards ceremony where special volunteers were being feted during National Volunteer Week.

Not a weekend passes in this city without some kind of event or cause brought to you by people only in it for the satisfaction of bettering one life at a time in their neighborhood.

These pages are filled every issue with news of volunteer-driven winter carnivals, fundraising garage sales and community safety meetings to name a few. And there are selfless individuals at all hours mentoring our children sacrificing time with their brood to coach behind the bench or on the court.

Without volunteers there would be no Canada Day celebrations or Victoria Day fireworks, no park clean ups and local museums couldn't tell the stories of the past.

Everywhere you look, at any time of the year, there are people of all ages giving of their time, energy and money to make things happen for the betterment of their community.

Think about it. There would be no food banks across this region

without volunteers and local animal shelters couldn't keep their doors open without hundreds of people giving of their time freely.

It's hard to imagine any neighbourhood in this city without a community association that isn't fighting for its citizenry against a development that threatens their piece of paradise.

Volunteer community association executives play a hugely important role for elected officials as it allows them to channel a lot of information through these groups and get feedback from them on what's working and what's not.

They do things in tandem often, from holding meetings together on a given issue to bringing residents together at various times of the year for community celebrations.

A community association that is working in the interest of the community is vital to the ward councillor in helping them do their job.

There's no shortage of opportunities for you to get involved and become an active part of your neighbourhood. You will never regret it.

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>> LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HUMBOLDT TRAGEDY

That awful tragedy in Humboldt will lead to discussion and debate on the size of our country and the density of its population.

Some will say we live in an immense (we do) and sparsely populated country.

I disagree with this last statement.

Canada has a population of 35 million people, 90 per cent of whom live in urban areas – Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, etc., making Canada one of the most densely populated countries on the planet.

A reality is that those Canadians who live in small towns and rural areas are, to a great extent, disenfranchised with poor and unsafe roads, inadequate services, little or no enforcement and enjoy little or no economic or political power.

Don't bet on this changing even with the reality of that terrible tragedy in Humboldt.

Emile Therien
Alta Vista

MOONEY'S BAY PARK PAVILION

As a member of OSEAN (Ottawa South Eco-Action Network), I just want to thank you for the excellent article on the pending upgrades of Mooney's Bay.

It's an important project given how much the park is used and not just by Ottawa South residents.

Here's hoping our elected officials will do their job and make sure it is done properly.

Also happy to see *Your Community Voice* in action. We need local journalism more than ever.

Judy Burwell
Hunt Club

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

Emile Therien starts his April 12 letter on the incident where a cement truck and a pedestrian were involved in an accident close to the General campus of the Ottawa Hospital on Smyth Road – the pedestrian was killed.

The rest of his letter is focused on drivers exceeding the speed limit.

The Ottawa Police Service have not yet finished their investigation of the incident. I do not know if the driver of the cement truck was speeding. Also Therien does not say if he knows he was speeding.

However, it seems that he knows as he attacks only those that exceed the speed limit.

Did the pedestrian cross the road against a no walking sign? It does happen.

Pedestrians walk across at intersections without lifting the eyes from their phones. People cross the road in between intersections. We see many who rush to cross the road while the lights are showing amber for pedestrians.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

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>> LETTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In my experience, most drivers do exceed the posted speed limit. On the Queensway, 110 or 115km/h will not get you a ticket as everyone else is doing the same.

The suggestion that police enforce the law on all the city's streets would mean a 100 per cent increase in manpower or perhaps even more.

This surely would not go down well with the city taxpayers.

How many deaths are attributed to speeders on our residential streets? Going through a red light is a common fault that causes many accidents.

We mourn the death, but first let's find out what really happened.

Geoff Radnor
Riverview Park

EMOTIONAL ISSUE

I'm a pet owner, so I am biased.

I remember travelling the first time in Germany some 30 years ago and being impressed to see how welcoming the trains were to dogs. They did not even have to be in carriers. So, I am OK with it, providing the pet takes up no significant space.

But whether it is pets or bikes, it is an emotional issue. The city really should seek to distance itself from those emotions and treat pets and bikes solely from an economic perspective.

Most mass-transit charges are based upon "occupancy." The farther you travel/longer you occupy space, the more you pay. Children's fares are based on a similar principal – children pay less because they occupy less space.

As for bikes, look to Holland which may be the most bike-friendly nation in Europe. There you can take your bike for free outside of rush hour or free at any time, if it is a folding bike.

But you need to buy a ticket for the bike to bring it on the train during rush hour – it is a space available or pay system.

David Knockaert
Riverview Park

LYNDA LANE - A TRASH DUMP

Lynda Lane, near the Ottawa Hospital General campus, extends from Pleasant Park Road to Smyth Road. There is a sidewalk on the east side of this very busy artery. On the immediate side of Lynda Lane there is a ditch, which extends all the way from Smyth Road right up to Billings Avenue – a fair distance indeed.

This ditch at most times of the year is littered with all kinds of debris/trash – cans, bottles, plastic bags, and other waste, including used tampons and used baby diapers, making the walk on the sidewalk very unsightly and unpleasant, bordering on looking like a dump.

This flies in the face of public health and civility! Residents of this area should not have to tolerate this.

I would assume much of the waste comes from hospital workers/visitors and students who go

to schools on Smyth Road and Pleasant Park Road. There are no signs on or near the sidewalk advising people that discarding their waste in this ditch is unlawful and punishable by a fine.

I am aware city workers, at a cost to taxpayers, are responsible for the clean-up of such ugly messes, which have a significant negative impact on the environment.

It is time for the city to take responsible action and address this concern. Is it up to the challenge?

People who are responsible for these messes should be held accountable, financially and otherwise.

Emile Therien
Alta Vista

NOTHING'S CHANGED

Are we certain that the new residents of the planned apartment towers at Sandford Fleming Avenue and Steamline Street (west of the Train Yards shopping district) will take the bus or the new LRT?

Way back in February 2008 I did write to the editor of the Riverviews (as it was known then). It was in response to a traffic study done by the city acting on a request by our community association.

It was about the increasing traffic on Alta Vista Drive. It asked the city to focus on limiting left turns, reducing the speed limits, timing the traffic lights to allow less stops, more pedestrian crossings and more speed bumps.

In the ensuing six years we do have two bumps, but they are at intersections, so I don't know what they do if anything.

My letter suggested one sure way of reducing the traffic on Alta Vista would be to add a \$5 tax to a litre of gas. With that tax revenue the city could have a fleet of deluxe air conditioned buses with fancy seating (just like my 2015 Lexus, I wish). No more cars needed.

Some cities have introduced a charge for driving in the city. London, Stockholm and Singapore are just three examples.

However, I finished my letter to the editor with the response to a question asked of commuters in London. "When would gas prices be so high that you would give up your car?" 63.5 per cent said, "Never."

With the current price of gas today (April 12, 2018) hovering around \$1.32 it looks like commuters will be still driving to work for some time yet.

On the day of my original letter in 2008 the price of gas was around 80 cents a litre. That's a 65 per cent increase in 10 years. Nothing's changed.

Forget OC Transpo. Forget the LRT. Where's my new SUV?

Geoff Radnor
Riverview Park



April Update from Queen's Park

I wanted to let you know about two important pieces of proposed legislation.

Bill 145

I reintroduced Bill 145 WSIB Coverage for Workers in Residential Care Facilities and Group Homes on April 10. If passed, my private member's bill will expand mandatory workplace safety and insurance coverage for employees of group homes and residential care facilities including retirement homes, rest homes and senior citizen's residences. The bill passed first reading in the last legislative session and will need to be debated again.

Currently, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) coverage is optional for employers in these settings. Often employees are covered through private insurance policies which can vary by employers. However, employees in long term-care homes and hospitals have mandatory WSIB coverage. Despite performing comparable work, employees in residential care facilities and group homes often do not have equal access to those same workplace protections.

I have heard too many stories about a worker who has been injured at work unable to access the benefits that we would expect them to receive. It is only fair that workers in similar settings receive the same protections, especially as it relates to workplace safety. Workers in group homes and residential care facilities care for the people we care for most. It is important that they receive strong workplace protections.

Passport Funding

The proposed 2018 Budget is helping people living with disabilities. There is an additional investment of \$1.8 billion over 3 years to strengthen and expand services to enable choice and independence among people living with developmental disabilities and their families.

This will also include expanding funding for the Passport program which will ensure that more than 40,000 people living with a developmental disability will receive at least \$5,000 per year to access supports and services.

Here to Help

Please feel free to contact me at my community office if there are any provincial issues I can assist you with. My staff and I will always do our best to help you.



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More seniors falling victim to financial abuse, online scams

Police to offer protection strategies at River Ward summit

BY ERIN MCCRACKEN

As the population ages, Ottawa police are seeing a growing number of elder abuse and fraud cases.

And the level of devastation is enormous. Some of Ottawa's seniors have been bilked of upwards of \$300,000 by scammers.

"It comes back to the fact they are so vulnerable. They don't have many people looking after their finances, or giving them advice," said Det. Anne Menard, one of two constables and a sergeant assigned to the Ottawa police elder and vulnerable person abuse unit.

Menard and Det. Isabelle Ouellette, from the organized fraud unit, will speak during River Ward's second annual Older Adult Summit on May 11 at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre.

The number of older adults living in Ottawa is growing quickly. According to police, by 2031, one in four Ottawa residents will be over the age of 65, with the largest segment between 79 and 84 years old.

For this reason, River Ward's annual summit for older adults fills a need.

"We're providing information to a certain segment of the population and that speaks to them and is of value to them," said River Coun. Riley Brockington, who is hosting the event. "There are many older adults and retirees who live in River Ward and

there's demand for that.

"Our challenge is there are so many topics we can showcase, but we want to keep it to half a day."

Menard and Ouellette want to arm the older population with information that can offer protection.

"The scammers are good. They're going to keep having a different excuse to extort the money," said Menard.

And without any oversight or someone the senior can turn to for advice, money often flows out of the victim's bank account before someone notices a scam is underway.

"Sometimes we luck out and we have a family member spot a problem and start asking questions," said Menard, adding that banks are getting better at notifying police to limit the damage.

Ottawa police are seeing more cases of elder abuse and fraud not only because of the growing senior population.

"We're finally talking a lot more about elder abuse," said Menard. "I do think there's more abuse as well because the generation that is seniors right now have the tendency of having a lot more money because they were better than us to put money aside and save and be prepared for their retirement.

"Unfortunately, the people around them are finding creative ways to get a hold of their money and that's by abusing them."

The internet isn't helping.

There is no shortage of online scams and email phishing schemes targeting older adults, who may not understand computers or the online methods they can be conned.

"It's also a generation that was raised to trust, help your neighbour. That's the way it was years ago," said Menard.

But times have changed. If a pitch sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Factor in isolation and loneliness and some seniors are even more at risk of falling prey to such ruses as online romance scams.

One scam currently making the rounds during tax season sees callers tell potential victims they owe a lot of money to the Canada Revenue Agency, that unless they pay up immediately over the phone, police will be sent to their home to arrest them.

"We don't do that and the CRA would never phone you to get your money," Menard said. "There's not that sense of emergency."

Menard said she has 12 of the estimated 30 elder abuse cases her unit is actively investigating.

That's likely just the tip of the iceberg.

STIGMA

Menard said there are many more incidents of elder abuse and fraud that have not been reported due to stigma.



Photo courtesy of Noella Gingras

Ottawa police say the number of reported fraud and elder abuse cases is just the tip of the iceberg. Many victims don't want to admit they are being abused by a loved one or that they have lost thousands of dollars to an online scammer. Detectives will be speaking on the issue during River Ward's second annual Older Adult Summit on May 11.

"We see more financial abuse than the physical or emotional, but the physical and the emotional, people have a tendency of hiding that a little bit more because they're ashamed," said Menard, whose specialty unit investigates cases involving victims aged 65 and older who are in a relationship of trust with their abuser, such as a family member or a personal support worker.

"Some blame themselves, or they don't want to tell people that their son, daughter, niece, nephew are the ones abusing them. It's a secret the family keeps," she said.

The message she and Ouellette plan to give during the upcoming summit will include strategies on protecting yourself from emotional, physical and financial abuse, as well as insight on the signs and symptoms of elder abuse, and where to turn for help.

Menard said it's also important for seniors to know that if they call to report abuse, officers don't necessarily charge the suspect and take them away to jail. That perception, she said, is also preventing victims from reporting crimes.

"Quite often that's not the right solution and that's not what the senior wants. We try

to work hand-in-hand with our seniors to do what's best for them," Menard said. Many just want the abuse to stop and the abuser removed from the home without criminal charges.

"Don't be afraid to call the police," she said, adding that officers can also help connect victims with community supports.

"We're there to help, whether it's to make that arrest because you're in danger or to put you in contact with the right people to assist you in your day to day life."

TAKE NOTE

The Older Adult Summit, for people aged 55 and up, happens May 11, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre, 3320 Paul Anka Dr.

In addition to the talk on fraud and elder abuse, presentations will also be done on bone health by Ottawa Public Health and aging in place by the Ottawa Council on Aging. There will also be a catered lunch and a tradeshow.

Advance registration is required by calling Brockington's office at 613-580-2486 or emailing alix.duncan@ottawavoice.ca.

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Delve into Hunt Club's history on a guided Jane's Walk

Plus, French-language tour to shine spotlight on school architecture

BY ERIN MCCrackEN

Taking a walk with Glenn Clark brings local history to life. The Blossom Park resident is planning to guide a free tour during the annual Jane's Walk Ottawa-Gatineau weekend, May 5 and 6, an annual pedestrian-focused festival of free neighbourhood walking tours given by local residents.

Clark's focus will be some of the historical gems of the Hunt Club community and Uplands, home of the former CFB Uplands and the Ottawa International Airport.

"There's a lot of history in that area," said Clark, president of the Gloucester Historical Society. "Ottawa is more than about Parliament Hill and the By Ward Market. History is so focused on that area. The history of suburban and rural Ottawa is rich too."

His leisurely-paced 1.5-hour walk begins May 5 at 10 a.m. at the entrance to the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club at 1 Hunt Club Rd.

He'll delve into the club's evolution over some of its more than 100-year history and also discuss William Upton, who farmed the lands in the mid to late 1800s where the club is now.



Erin McCracken photo

Glenn Clark, a Blossom Park resident and president of the Gloucester Historical Society, will lead a Jane's Walk of the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club and other local historical highlights.

"We'll walk through the golf course, which used to be Bowesville Road, where there used to be apple orchards and a well-known nursery," said Clark.

He'll then guide his group north while discussing the large sandpits and also the railway bridge not far from Old Riverside Drive.

"The whole airport area is a natural sand deposit. This used to be the Champlain Sea 10,000 years ago," Clark said.

He has a family connection to the airport lands. Relatives lived where the airport is now, but had to move in 1940 to make way for its construction during the Second World War.

"I want to share things that I have personal memories of," said Clark.

One of the

interesting airport-related stories he will share is about Charles Lindbergh, who arrived in Ottawa on July 2, 1927 for Canada's Diamond Jubilee celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of Confederation.

Lindbergh's wingman and friend, Thad Johnson, was also coming in for the festivities, but he was killed in a plane crash at the airport.

"Apparently my family witnessed all of this," Clark said. "Tens of thousands of people had come out. Charles Lindbergh was probably the world's biggest celebrity at the time because he had just finished his cross-Atlantic flight within a month of that."

Lindbergh's Ottawa visit was his first stop on a continental tour after making the first solo transatlantic airplane flight.

"I think it was a very exciting time," said Clark.

Depending on the weather, his walking group may get the chance to see the same model of car Lindbergh rode in during his Ottawa visit, owned by a Manor Park resident. "The story behind that is the Franklin motor car company was promoting its vehicles when Charles Lindbergh was here," said Clark.

His tour will be one of at least 50 Jane's Walks taking place during the 11th annual event. An estimated 2,000 people take part each year.

"I always find Jane's Walks sort of a way to bring life to history," said Angela Plant, who started volunteering with the event five years ago as a walk marshal, went on to lead to walks and is now one of six on the organizing committee.

"People aren't always keen to go to a lecture or read a book, but a walking tour is really accessible, family friendly and it allows you to see and interact with history in a way that's different than a lot of the history we're exposed to," Plant said.

Walk themes range from urban design to suburban heritage and are designed to boost appreciation for the city and inspire community engagement.

"The best way to know a city is by getting out and walking it," said Plant.

Clark has been leading Jane's

Walk tours off and on since 2011.

Two years ago he guided two walks, including one on the history of the Billings Bridge area along Bank Street and another of the blooming magnolia trees at the Arboretum at the Experimental Farm, reflective of his botanical interest.

Clark said participants often ask interesting questions during his tours.

"They share their memories too," he said, adding these personal anecdotes are the hidden stories not often found in history books.

Plant said leading a walk is more like a conversation.

"We don't really expect people to lead perfectly curated walking tours," she said. "The idea is

to share knowledge you might already have and to create a conversation."

People who take part in Jane's Walk are often new to the community and want to learn more, or they have deep family ties to the neighbourhood.

"So much of a neighbourhood's history is through its residents and their lived experience," Plant said.

"Generally, these are people who are interested in community," Clark said of Jane's Walk participants. "They're interested in hearing the stories and they're interested in sharing their stories as well."

For details about Jane's Walk, visit www.janeswalkottawa.ca.

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FRENCH TOUR OF SOUTH OTTAWA SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE

A French-language tour is also planned for south Ottawa with a focus on school architecture.

The focus of the two-hour talk on May 5 at 2 p.m., which will be given by independent researcher Diego Elizondo, will be on different types of school architecture after the Second World War.

According to the Jane's Walk listing, special attention will be on Franco-Ontarian architecture and the former Charlebois secondary school, from 1972 to 1994.

The south Ottawa tour will include stops at Marius-Barbeau Catholic elementary school in the Ridgemont neighbourhood, Ridgemont High School, St. Patrick's Catholic High School, Queen of the Angels Adult School, the current St. Patrick's Catholic Intermediate School, the Federal Study Centre, which used to be the site of the former Notre Dame High School, and the Heron Road Community Centre, also the previous site of Notre Dame secondary school.

Participants are asked to meet at 2 p.m. at Marius-Barbeau Catholic elementary school, located at 1234 Notting Hill Ave. The 2.4-kilometre walk will wrap up at the Heron Road Community Centre.

The Honourable | L'honorable

David McGuintyMember of Parliament | Député
Ottawa South | Ottawa-Sud**The National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians initiates special review**

I am pleased to provide my constituents with an update regarding my work as Chair of the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians:

The National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) is conducting a special review of the allegations that have been raised in the context of the Prime Minister's trip to India in February 2018, specifically those relating to foreign interference in Canadian political affairs, risks to the security of the Prime Minister, and inappropriate use of intelligence.

In doing so, the Committee considered the Senate of Canada's amended motion from March 28, 2018 stating that NSICOP may be an appropriate forum to review the security and intelligence operating procedures in relation to diplomatic and foreign visits involving the Government of Canada.

These are serious issues which could have important implications for Canada's national security and sovereignty. An examination of the decisions and actions of security and intelligence organizations and officials falls within the purview of NSICOP's mandate.

As the Chair of NSICOP, I have notified the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness of the Committee's review.

In accordance with section 21(2) of the NSICOP Act, the Committee will provide the Prime Minister and his Ministers with a special report by the end of May. An unclassified version of the report must be tabled in both Houses of Parliament.



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Photo courtesy of Jeff Dubois

Ottawa-Orléans MPP Marie-France Lalonde, left, and Ottawa South MPP John Fraser, right, presented Ontario Volunteer Service Awards to longtime directors with the Ottawa PC Users' Group at Tudor Hall on April 16, including Chris Taylor, Bob Walker, Jocelyn Doire and Greenboro's Brigitte Lord.

High-tech volunteers honoured for community service

BY ERIN MCCRACKEN

Longtime volunteers with an Ottawa group that helps people become more tech savvy come by their organization's motto of 'users helping users' honestly.

Six of the volunteers have chalked up a combined total of 127 volunteer years with the not-for-profit Ottawa PC Users' Group, which promotes the use of technology.

"I thought, 'Wow, our guys have volunteered three times longer than Microsoft has even been around,'" said Jeff Dubois, a Canterbury resident who serves on the group's board of directors in the areas of public relations and meeting co-ordination. "It just shows their passion for technology."

He nominated the members for the Ontario Volunteer Service Award through the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The awards were presented to volunteers from several Ottawa-area organizations during a ceremony at Tudor Hall in the Hunt Club community on April 16.

The computer group recipients include president Chris Taylor for 30 years, membership co-ordinator Mark Cayer for 25 years, facilities co-ordinator Robert Walker for 20 years, special events co-ordinator Jocelyn Doire for 15 years, treasurer Alan German for 15 years and newsletter editor and webmaster Brigitte Lord for 15 years.

Lord, a Greenboro resident, has been a member of the PC Users' Group since 1998. She went on to become its webmaster in 2000 and newsletter editor in 2003.

"When I joined they needed a webmaster. I knew nothing. I had just learned to use Windows 3.1," Lord recalled.

While she didn't know much about the webmaster's role, she did her homework.

"Being young and fearless I thought, I'll give it a crack," Lord said with a laugh. "I looked at the code behind the pages and I figured it out."

She was pleasantly surprised when she learned Dubois had nominated six directors for the volunteer recognition.

"I actually wanted to decline because I'm behind

the scenes," Lord said. "But I definitely feel good about that (recognition). It's a very nice acknowledgement of all our work."

The PC Users' Group formed in 1982 and draws members from across Ottawa and beyond to its monthly meetings at the Canada Science and Aviation Museum. The directors are currently searching for a new venue come September.

The meetings are open to everyone and feature troubleshooting discussions and talks given by members and guest speakers from outside the PC group.

The organization also partners with the Ottawa Public Library to provide free talks on different tech-related subjects for the public, ranging from digital cameras to protecting against computer viruses, for example. This fall, the group will deliver its 500th presentation at a library branch.

Dubois was elated when he found out his application to nominate the group of volunteers had been approved.

"The reason I submitted the

application is it's one thing to say thank you, but how does a group show members of the group who've done some outstanding contributions that appreciation other than saying thank you?" said Dubois.

"I was quite pleased when I got the news. These people are really deserving of this."

Volunteers are the backbone of any community.

"Your community is defined by the people within it and if your people are all pitching in ... you really want to encourage that," Dubois said. "It's important to recognize people when they do that little extra."

For more details about the computer group, visit www.opcug.ca.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ottawa PC Users' Group will give a free 'Windows Performance Tune-up' talk at the Alta Vista library branch on May 30, from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. For registration details, visit www.biblioottawalibrary.ca.

emccracken@ottawavoices.ca



Erin McCracken photos



Treasures galore at giant indoor garage sale

Thousands were expected to come through the doors of the Canterbury Recreation Centre on April 15 for Canterbury's annual giant indoor garage sale. Everything from toys to collectibles were up for grabs during the event.

BOTTOM LEFT: Elizabeth Smith has been selling her renown homemade pies and preserves at the sale for the past decade.

TOP LEFT: The 104th Ottawa Scouts, which draws kids from across Alta Vista Ward, sold plenty of goodies at the canteen during the garage sale. Helping out were Cole Christie, 8, left, Tess Knight, 10, Lucien Williams, 11, and James Nicholls, 10.

TOP RIGHT: Elmvale Acres residents Vesna Zic-Côté and her daughter Chloe Côté, 11, were kept busy selling a treasure trove of items during the event.

Lyft ride-sharing service launches with CHEO partnership

BY ERIN MCCrackEN

Lyft has shifted into gear in Ottawa, officially entering the ride-sharing market in the nation's capital – it's second Canadian city after Toronto.

The first Lyft ride in Ottawa was provided last month at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Lyft and CHEO announced they are partnering in the coming months.

Lyft passengers will be able to use the company's app to round up their fares to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to CHEO or their charity of choice.

The partnership is causing excitement at CHEO.

"Support from Lyft's passenger community will go directly to the CHEO Foundation, which funds the purchase of specialized medical equipment, life-saving research, medical and nursing education and assistance for families," Kevin Keohane, president and chief executive of the CHEO Foundation, said in a statement.

"We look forward to sharing the Lyft values and services with both the local community and tourists while offering an affordable and reliable transportation service," said Aaron Zifkin, Lyft's managing director, in a release.

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- ▶ Eleanor est un membre de la communauté avec de l'expérience au niveau de l'association communautaire d'Alta Vista. Elle s'occupe d'amener des bons changements pour la région d'Ottawa-Sud
- ▶ Named one of 150 Women for Nature for her environmental work. Eleanor will fight for a fair and sustainable future for all.

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Alta Vista candidate says better consultation needed

BY PATRICK UGUCCIONI

Raylene Lang-Dion is committed to getting more women elected to office – starting with herself.

As the former national chair of Equal Voice, the Riverview Park resident has advocated for many years to have more women involved at all levels of government.

“I think we can all agree that the City of Ottawa will benefit greatly with more female voices at the political decision-making table,” she said.

The fact a woman has not run municipally in Alta Vista Ward for 20 years is “absolutely shocking” to the first-time candidate.

“This is our nation’s capital,” Lang-Dion said. “We can do better, and we should. We’re looking like we are so far behind in that manner, and having more women run for elected office is a really good start, but it’s also all about

getting them elected.”

Lang-Dion applauds Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans’ dogged efforts in pushing for a Women’s Bureau at city hall. Council recently voted unanimously to direct staff to look into the creation of the bureau and the role of a special liaison on women’s issues.

“I already thought that was done,” she said. “So, when the issue came up, I, from the perspective of where I work now, you always have a sex- and gender-based lens. That, to me, makes a lot of sense.”

Lang-Dion says her adoptive parents in her home province of Newfoundland instilled in her a desire to help others.

Outside of her nine-to-five job in the communications realm with the federal government, she has volunteered her time as chair of the Community Addictions Peer Support Association in Ottawa; as a foundation



RAYLENE LANG-DION

board member with the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa; and promoting the election of more women in Canada as the former national chair of Equal Voice.

She announced her intentions in October to run for a city council seat in Alta Vista and has been knocking on doors ever since, including through the dead of winter.

“I’ve been thinking of doing this for many years,” she said,

sipping on a hot cup of tea at Nero Café in the Alta Vista Plaza on a recent unseasonably bitter cold spring day. “I think that the Alta Vista Ward needs a stronger voice at the decision-making table at city hall and for their residents.”

A resident of the ward for two decades, Lang-Dion explained she is taking the plunge now because with development happening across the ward she feels “you need to have strategic thinking, thought and approach when you’re sitting around that table at city hall.”

That’s not a shot against the incumbent, she said.

But the veteran of political wars in the Chretien years, which brought her to the capital from her native Newfoundland, feels while there are a few things going well, a few improvements are needed, notably getting ahead of issues.

On her door-to-door trek over the past few months,

Lang-Dion has heard everything from pothole issues and snow removal, to concerns over some of the bigger development proposals in the ward, such as the Train Yards and Herongate projects.

A common theme she is hearing as she makes her way around the ward, no matter the neighbourhood, is concerns around a perceived lack of public engagement on several issues.

“To me that’s a big thing,” she said. “You can’t represent people if you’re not consulting them on a regular basis and I don’t mean just you and I having a conversation.

“Whether that’s simple town halls on various subject matters... Whether it’s using social media or some other modern technology to get a quick pulse of what people are actually thinking, I think it’s really important because how can you be at a political decision-making table if you haven’t

consulted with people? I know you can’t consult about every item there is, but you have to be able to know what they’re thinking, and what direction and what their preferences are.”

Knocking on doors has been a learning experience for Lang-Dion.

“It’s very humbling in the sense of it’s me going door to door,” said Lang-Dion. “It’s me putting my name on the ballot and just letting go of every insecurity I have ever held close to my heart because people are either going to get a good feeling from me, right over to the extreme of saying ‘You’re a woman. What are you doing running?’

“I’m ready to just be myself. I have no interest in being a phoney baloney, as they say. I am going to stick to my values and my principles and lay it out on the table. I’m laying everything out on the table for this.”

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>> PLAN, FROM PAGE 1

“I live on one of the side streets and we’re at our maximum for safety,” said Dawson. “There’s very, very poor visibility around many of these corners now and I would say, at most, we can accommodate two more cars. Doing the math, I’m not sure it actually works out.”

She asked Alta Vista Coun. Jean Cloutier what the city will do to mitigate this potential pressure, and was told a construction plan will be in place.

One woman who lives on Dorset said it’s already challenging trying to get out of her street onto Kilborn in the morning.

“With 120 units, not everybody comes and goes at the same time. It’s spread out during the day,” said planning consultant Lloyd Phillips, adding any pressures on Dorset and Playfair will be taken into account when Greatwise submits a detailed traffic study to the city.

The top level of the parking garage will be covered and topped with eight storeys of 120 apartment units, making it a nine-storey building.

“We began looking at an innovative way to make use of what we had on site,” Lahey said. “The best way in the end we came up with was the parking structure.”

Calling that structure “an eye sore,” he said it would have been very costly to tear down the garage and rebuild, so engineers determined it was possible to build on top if the parking facility was re-clad and the size of the structural columns increased.

Since parking tends to be a huge cost of any new build, there is a financial advantage to the project’s “innovative” design, said Lahey.

“This parking structure is relatively inexpensive and it makes the whole project, from a rental point of view, affordable,” he said.

While the city requires at least 0.5 parking spaces per unit, the normal expectation is one spot per unit, Phillips said, adding that 0.2 visitor spaces per unit are required.

“In other words, 80 per cent of the available parking is being used,” said Phillips. “The rest were just running vacant.”

Instead, .85 spaces per unit will be available for the new building, which works out to 103 parking spots for tenants.

“But the existing building actually has more than that,” he said.

“To provide one space per unit then we would be parking everywhere all over the place. We were trying to strike a balance of green space and parking,” he said.

About 24 visitor spaces will be added and made available for all of the buildings at the property.

“Currently, there aren’t any visitor spaces on the site right now because that’s grandfathered under the zoning bylaw,” said Phillips.

The property has a long history of development proposals going back about a decade, including townhouses “that fell by the wayside,” said Phillips.

PLEASE SEE PLAN, PAGE 11

>> **PLAN, FROM PAGE 10**

Then a 14-storey 144-unit condo development was proposed about three or four years ago for the triangular lot where a tennis court is located. While the site plan was approved, it wasn't finalized with the city.

That project is on hold because "the bottom fell out of the condominium market," Phillips said. "It will still stay sitting there until at some point market conditions warrant reactivating that."

Some residents at the meeting also questioned why a new building is going up when existing apartment towers and a tennis court there need improvements. One tenant said her requests for a bathroom vent have never been addressed.

"Obviously, there's issues there surrounding the existing properties," said Alta Vista resident Ron Ugoniek.

Lahey said some money could be spent to clean up the tennis court, and that the new build could inspire "some imagination" to improve the other



**ROD LAHEY,
ARCHITECT**

towers. Landscaping improvements will also be made.

When another man complained about green space being eaten up with the development and changes to the parking garages, Phillips said 30 per cent of the area must be kept green.

As well, there is a special condition on the property that a cash payment must go towards improvements for Grasshopper Hill Park nearby.

"That's over and above the standard payment of five per cent of the land's cash-in-lieu value. So that's an additional



**LLOYD PHILLIPS,
PLANNING CONSULTANT**

payment," Phillips said.

The company hopes to file its site plan application with the city around May 1. Pending approvals, construction could get underway in late October.

"The goal would really to be open the doors in September 2020," Lahey said.

To submit feedback about the proposal, contact city planner Tracey Scaramozzino by emailing tracey.scaramozzino@ottawa.ca, or calling 613-580-2424, ext. 12545.

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Elmvale Acres 'monsterologist' introduces young readers to Frankenstein classic

BY ERIN MCCRACKEN

Two hundred years after Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was published, an Elmvale Acres writer and scientist is marking the anniversary by introducing young readers to the classic tale.

Norman Marcotte blended his science background with his passion for writing to bring to life his first children's chapter book, *Frankenstein's Science Project*.

Marcotte is also a self-described "amateur monsterologist."

"I've loved monsters for a long time," he said. "The passages and the wording came pretty easily. I don't know why, maybe because I'm a monsterologist and I could just imagine and it just came. There were so many

possibilities for humour in this."

Marcotte's penchant for horror developed when he picked up a Stephen King book in high school for the first time. He can also remember being allowed to stay up on Halloween to watch horror movies all night long as a kid.

"My mom let us watch those with her," he said.

There were the classics, of course. *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*. All in black and white. He's also a fan of the wolfman and the mummy.

"It's a bit mysterious," Marcotte said of the draw. "I also like the science part of monsters – how they came about."

While much of the science involved in *Frankenstein's* creation was intentionally left out of the original book,

Marcotte wanted to explore that in his own work of fiction. That allowed him to put a new spin on a classic tale for

The family was up at their cottage in 2015 and the kids asked their dad for a scary campfire story. Marcotte had

"It's a way to demystify monsters or things that are scary. If you know, we understand and they're not as scary."

readers ages eight to 11, who likely don't know the story yet.

"It's a way to demystify monsters or things that are scary. If you know, we understand and they're not as scary," Marcotte said.

His son and two daughters, ages nine, 11 and 13, also inspired his book idea.

recently read the original *Frankenstein* book and started with an abridged version of that.

"Based on what my wife's reaction was, I made it very light," he said of leaving out the scarier elements. "They liked the story and I transformed that into the book."

Marcotte's story follows the adventures of Dr. Frankenstein, known as Dr. F in the book, and his science experiment.

It took about two-and-a-half years to write and edit, and while he pitched the story to several publishers, he decided to self-publish because he wanted the book to come out in time for the anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein*.

The original book and his adaptation offer some similarities around the theme of creation and with some of the characters, but Marcotte left out the violence from Shelley's original and injected more humour and, of course, science.

Marcotte has a background in chemical engineering and has long worked at the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada,



Erin McCracken photo

Elmvale Acres resident and self-described 'amateur monsterologist' Norman Marcotte recently published his first children's chapter book, called 'Frankenstein's Science Project.'

a federal agency that funds university research.

"You don't necessarily think of all these when you write the book," he said of the themes he included. "But little things, because of your background, they just come out."

His 136-page chapter book, which includes illustrations by Vancouver's Alex Bjelica, was first published in January, but it's not Marcotte's inaugural self-published work.

He published a memoir in 2014 based on his running of the Boston Marathon in 1997 called *Take 10 and Reach the*

Boston Marathon.

Marcotte has already been working on more books for young readers, including a second monster book about *Dracula*.

"He's just too popular," Marcotte said.

Frankenstein's Science Project is priced at \$10 to \$12 and is available for purchase at Amazon, IndieBound and Lulu Press.

For details, please visit unrealfrankenstein.com or normanmarcotte.com.

emccracken@ottawavoices.ca

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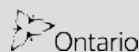
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South Ottawa volunteers receive prestigious medals

BY ERIN MCCRACKEN

Five south Ottawa volunteers have received the highest volunteer honour in Canada.

At a ceremony at city hall on April 11, Mayor Jim Watson presented 21 Ottawa residents with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers on behalf of Gov. Gen. Julie Payette.

The medal is awarded to those who have made "significant, sustained and unpaid contributions to their community in Canada or abroad," the city said in a statement, noting the honour was first bestowed by former governor general David Johnston in 2016.

Gloucester-Southgate Ward residents Sandra Bruff,

Nancy Ferguson and Barbara Hayduk were recognized, as were Wanda Molnar and Kay Stanley from River Ward.

According to the city, Bruff volunteers with many Ottawa organizations. She's dedicated 30 years to the Girl Guides of Canada and has co-ordinated food donations at the Pavilion Food Bank in Greenboro since 1994. She has also held

many roles with the South Keys-Greenboro Community Association.

Nancy Ferguson has been a community outdoor rink co-ordinator for the past decade, has maintained the ice for years and is a past director with the Hunt Club Park Community Association.

Blossom Park resident Barbara Hayduk has volunteered with the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada since 2004, and served on the National Capital advisory board and the Savour the Moment committee.

From River Ward, Hunt Club resident Kay Stanley has served on the Ottawa Hospital's board for nine years and on a number of National Capital Commission committees since 2012. She also volunteers with the Eldercare Foundation of Ottawa and Hospice May Court.

"Our recipients today have had a positive impact on their

communities and our city as a whole," Watson said in a statement. "Volunteers enrich our lives and help make Ottawa the amazing city that it is.

"Their dedication and

efforts are the backbone of our fundraisers, community programs, festivals, and other special initiatives and events."

emccracken@ottawavoice.ca



Photos courtesy of the City of Ottawa

LEFT: Longtime Gloucester-Southgate volunteers, from left, Barbara Hayduck, Nancy Ferguson and Sandra Bruff were presented with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers during a ceremony at city hall on April 11. RIGHT: The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers is presented to Hunt Club resident Kay Stanley, left, and Carleton Heights resident Wanda Molnar.

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Police and Fire Files

Police to step up patrols after string of shootings

For the third consecutive night, police responded to south Ottawa to investigate reports of gun shots in what is the city's 32nd shooting of 2018.

Multiple 911 callers reported hearing several shots fired in Herongate in the 2800-block of Baycrest Drive, near Heron Road, on April 19 at 10:30 p.m.

"That's too many," said Alta Vista Coun. Jean Cloutier. "In the Herongate area, the police will increase their presence. And it is in response to this shooting."

The next afternoon, the councillor planned to meet with police, residents and reps with area landlord Timbercreek. He also touched base with the South-East Community Health Centre.

Over the past three years, multiple organizations and agencies have met regularly as part of a 20-member Herongate steering committee, including Cloutier, health centre staff, Timbercreek, Ottawa police, Somali Family Services, school boards and Crime Prevention Ottawa.

Their focus has been on community building and cohesion, building trust between police and residents and improving safety and security, among other strategies. For example, an annual spring cleanup and barbecue are planned to take place in Herongate's Sandalwood Park on April 27 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. There will be resource and information tables available.

"(These measures) brought a lot of good results," Cloutier said, adding this was evident in the number of 911 calls that came in reporting the Baycrest Drive shooting. "We're very happy about that."

In the aftermath of that violent incident, health centre staff planned to be available to support residents at their community hub, located at 2825 or 2870 Cedarwood Dr.

Despite the recent gun



Photo courtesy of Scott Stilborn/Twitter

Fire broke out in a second-floor unit of an apartment building at 830 Canterbury Ave. on April 10. One man suffered smoke inhalation.

violence, Cloutier has faith in the community building underway.

"It doesn't mean that what we're doing is not working," he said. "It is a long road. It is a long process."

Less than 24 hours prior, gun shots were also heard in the 1200-block of Ledbury Ave., off Bank Street in River Ward, on April 19 at 12:25 a.m. Two days before that, similar reports of shots fired came in on April 17 at 10:40 p.m. at Walkley Road and Cedarwood Drive, also in Herongate.

Further south, a man was shot once while in a vehicle in the parking lot at the Towngate Shopping Plaza at Bank Street and Hunt Club Road on April 14 sometime between 11:15 and 11:30 p.m. This is in Gloucester-Southgate Ward.

It was not immediately known if the victim, who suffered a non-life-threatening injury, was the intended victim.

When asked if the three back-to-back shootings in Herongate and Banff-Ledbury may be connected, Ottawa police spokesperson Const. Alain Boucher said this was not immediately known.

"As in all investigations, investigators will be examining if there are any links," he said.

In all three cases – in a pattern that is becoming all too familiar

– the shooter(s) had fled the scene before police arrived and no suspects were identified but multiple bullet casings were found at each crime scene.

It was also not immediately known if the crimes were the product of gang activity.

There were no reported injuries or property damage in the three cases.

Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to call the east criminal investigation unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 3566, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Police crack down on distracted driving, speeding

March saw 1,123 charges laid against speeding and distracted drivers in Ottawa.

Of those, 167 charges were related to distracted driving and 956 were for speeding, according to data compiled by Safer Roads Ottawa, a program that focuses on eliminating or preventing road deaths and serious injuries.

"Distracted driving is one of our highest related to fatalities," said Const. Chuck Benoit, Ottawa police spokesperson. "That's a big number."

The charges stem from

distracted driving and speeding related to crashes and traffic stops.

Nationwide search launched to replace deputy police chief

With Ottawa Deputy Police Chief Jill Skinner's contract coming to an end in June, a nationwide search for a replacement is underway.

The Ottawa Police Services Board, which is the civilian body responsible for governing the Ottawa Police Service, has hired Odgers Berndtson to help with the search. The company is said to be the largest executive search firm in the country.

The job description calls for someone whose leadership and strong ethical code will inspire the loyalty and confidence of the department and the community, according to the career posting on Odgers Berndtson's website. Ottawa's police department is the fourth largest in Ontario and one of the largest in Canada with more than 1,900 members and a net operating budget of \$294.3 million.

"This is a rare opportunity for an effective, highly experienced law enforcement professional to lead one of the most respected police forces in North America,"

the job description reads.

The service is looking for an experienced law enforcement executive who has the leadership skills to "energize, motivate and guide" members in a changing and increasingly complex policing environment.

An ability to build partnerships is key as is a strong understanding of equity and diversity issues as the department works to implement a multi-year action plan on bias neutral policing.

"You bring experience working to strengthen relationships with racialized communities," according to the description.

"We recognize the strong caliber of the current senior leadership team at the OPS, however we also know the benefits of casting a wider net as we look to find the best candidate for the job," Coun. Eli El-Chantiry, chair of the police services board, said in a statement.

Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on May 11. Interviews with short-listed candidates will be done in June.

Man suffers smoke inhalation at apartment fire

One man was taken to hospital in critical condition after fire broke out in a Canterbury apartment building.

Firefighters responded to 830 Canterbury Ave., near Arch Street, early in the morning of April 10. Once on scene, they saw smoke coming from the second floor of the building.

Inside the premises, they confirmed that smoke and a slight haze on multiple floors, according to the fire department's communications centre.

The source was tracked to a second-floor unit. A working fire was declared at 4:46 a.m., and was put out by 5 a.m.

One male occupant suffering from smoke inhalation was transported to the General campus of the Ottawa Hospital.

Because he was admitted in critical condition, an

investigator with the Office of the Ontario Fire was called in to lead the investigation, said Capt. Danielle Cardinal, Ottawa fire spokesperson.

The cause of the fire was not known before press time, nor was the health status of the patient. Damages are estimated at \$30,000, Cardinal said.

Police warn of scam targeting international students

A scam targeting international students has resurfaced.

Victims have reported receiving calls from people pretending to be investigators with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

"The fraudster typically tells the victim that they have committed a crime in their home country (usually money laundering) and that they will be deported unless they pay money to a lawyer," according to the Ottawa police organized fraud unit. "The victim is then instructed to purchase prepaid gift cards in order to pay the lawyer."

"To further complicate matters, the calls appear to be from telephone numbers that belong to Ottawa Police Service, i.e. 613-236-1222."

The police department's number does not appear on call display if it's a legitimate call from the service. The fraud unit is reminding people that if they receive unsolicited calls from someone asking for personal information or money, they should tell the caller they will call them back. The number given should then be verified.

Investigators suspect the scam phone calls are coming from outside Canada.

Anyone who has been bilked of their money through this scam is asked to file a report with the Ottawa police by calling 613-236-1222, ext. 7300, or going online to www.ottawapolice.ca.

Bounty of fun coming to Alta Vista school's spring fair

BY ERIN MCCrackEN

Obstacle courses, cake and cupcake walks, a silent auction, sales, games and lunch are all signs of spring at Alta Vista Public School.

A jam-packed lineup of activities is in the works for the school's annual Spring Fair on May 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"There is so much going on. It is the event of the year," said Nancy Dean, a long-time parent volunteer with the Alta Vista Public School Council. "The kids so look forward to it, and so do the parents."

The event, which has been going on for more than a dozen years, serves as the school's largest annual fundraiser, generating dollars to help with the purchase of supplies, library books, musical instruments and athletic equipment, assisting with trips, and helping bring in guest speakers in the areas



Photo courtesy of Concetta Minnella

Alta Vista Public School's parent volunteers are preparing to host an annual Spring Fair at the school on May 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is the school council's largest fundraiser of the year.

of science, math and art, for example.

"We use the funds to enhance the school learning experience, which is quite important to us as a parent council," Dean said. "Every year we ask the teachers to give us a wish list of things they would like to see in the school and we try

our best to give them that."

The council holds several fundraising events during the academic year, including movie nights, a book fair, a welcome-back barbecue and pizza and sub lunches.

But the Spring Fair is a major attraction, and has drawn 1,000 people in past years.

Given the bounty of activities that are offered, it takes about 100 volunteers to keep the fun going each spring, Dean said.

The lineup this year will include a bouncy castle, an outdoor obstacle course, games in the gym such as ball toss and a fish pond, a cake walk for older kids and a cupcake walk

for younger children, nail painting, hair braiding and face painting, a toonie toss, white elephant sale, a penny auction, and plant, book and bake sales.

Tickets for the activities and games will be available for 50 cents each.

"There's tons of activities. You are not going to be at a loss for things to do," Dean said. "The other piece de resistance is our silent auction. We have a large silent auction, which brings in more than half of our earnings for the day."

Class baskets will also be auctioned off.

Each year, Alta Vista Public School students bring in donated items for different themed gift baskets: I love chocolate, family games night, the beach, camping and gardening, among others.

"It's a great way to involve all the kids in the fair," said Dean.

Hamburgers, hotdogs and

pizza will be also available for purchase during the festivities.

Ottawa firefighters typically bring a fire truck, while Ottawa police show off a cruiser and provide a fingerprinting program for kids. Mini Kicks will have a soccer obstacle course, Pedalheads will have a bike safety clinic and the 69th Scouting Group, which reopened last year in Alta Vista, will be on hand with a display and information about the troupe.

"It's nice to also get to know who is in your community," Dean said of the fair. "It's a great, great day."

Volunteers are needed and are welcome to email altavistasc@gmail.com or visit www.altavistacouncil.com for more details or to sign up for a shift. The fair happens rain or shine at the school at 1349 Randall Ave.

emccracken@ottawavoice.ca

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We publish every 2nd week

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LES SCHRAM

Time is ripe for Green party, says south Ottawa candidate

BY PATRICK UGUCCIONI

When Les Schram was ready to make the move from advocate to political candidate, the Green Party was a natural fit for him.

He is realistic they may never attain power, but he believes the time is ripe to move the needle with the growing dissatisfaction among voters with the

Liberal, Conservative and NDP parties.

"We can grow our vote because the Green Party isn't about politics as usual," the Ottawa South candidate for the perennial fourth place party said in a recent interview. "We do things differently. We care about our province and our planet. We care about the people of Ontario."

As Schram and volunteers deliver flyers in the community and talk with local residents, he says he has been stunned and amazed at how many people are undecided "and don't want to vote for any of the three major parties and looking at the Green Party as an alternative for them."

"We have conversations with these people and talk

to them about our policies and why they should really look at us as a potential opposition party and what that would mean for Ontario. But more importantly why increasing the Green vote is important for Ontario."

While his party has a focus on the environment, the long-time resident of south Ottawa stresses they are about "much more than that".

"We're very fiscally conservative," he said. "I'm very fiscally conservative. I don't think you should be spending money that will be paid for by someone else tomorrow. I have a responsibility to pay my bills now. The government should have the responsibility to pay their bills now."

PLEASE SEE GREEN, PAGE 17

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>> **GREEN, FROM PAGE 16**

That's not to say that government shouldn't make investments, he stressed.

"But you have to be sure that what you're doing makes sense and that there is actually a good reasonable return on investment. The priority should always be if we are borrowing for an investment for a purpose, there should be a time horizon on the return on investment. So, you have to look at it as investment strategy. Borrowing is an investment strategy.

His campaign is focusing on three pillars – jobs, people and the planet.

He said the way forward for his party is clear to him.

"We can make the province a better place for future generations," he promised.

Schram has three children and six grandchildren.

He said it was a concern for their futures that prompted him to seek the Green Party nomination in Ottawa South.

"I was looking at the whole environmental aspect of life and looking forward to the future of my grandchildren and I said to myself 'this doesn't make sense. They're not going to have a good life.'"

"I said it's time to get involved and see if I could help them have a better future."

That should start with a focus on job creation with government supporting clean tech innovation, he said.

And another emphasis needs to be on life-long learning, Schram said. Gone are the days a worker stays with the same employer for their entire career, the self-employed group benefits broker and consultant pointed out.

A worker today, he said, will have upwards of 20 jobs and four to six career changes before retirement.

On the environment, he said his party has an alternative to the governing Liberals proposed cap and trade policy.

"We have a different proposal and that's a fee and dividend," Schram explained. "We would raise the amount of fees collected from the emitters of greenhouse gases, and we're talking about industrial emitters.

"We would take the entire fee that we collected and return it to the taxpayers as a dividend. So there would be no cost to the taxpayer particularly but it would force those industries to look at their costs. If they have an increase in costs, they would then have to look at how they can reduce their carbon emissions and we would be supporting those industries while we do it."

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Blossom Park courts may be named for tennis star

BY ERIN MCCrackEN

Anyone passing by the tennis courts at Russell Boyd Park last summer may not have realized a tennis star was in their midst, honing her athletic prowess that has earned her a place on renown courts at the world stage.

Gabriela Dabrowski's résumé sports major wins.

The 26-year-old Blossom Park native earlier this year won a mixed doubles championship at the Australian Open. Last year she became the first Canadian woman to win a Grand Slam in the French Open. And she competed in the Rio Olympics in 2016 with doubles partner Eugenie Bouchard.

The list goes on.

"I'm just a normal girl growing up in a house on a street, nothing fancy, parents never really played tennis even. And then, all of a sudden, I'm lucky enough to play all of the biggest tournaments in the world," Dabrowski said humbly during a recent visit home. "It's cool. I

had good partners. I was lucky?"

When her daunting travel, training and competition schedule allows, Dabrowski returns to her parents' Blossom Park home to visit and, depending on the season, squeeze in a few games with her father, Yurek, at the nearby Russell Boyd Park tennis courts.

"Those courts played a vital role in her development," said her mother, Wanda.

A proposal to name the two courts after Dabrowski is in the works and a public consultation period is now underway.

"I think everyone knows she grew up in Ward 10 learning how to play tennis with her dad on the courts of Russell Boyd Park," said Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans, who is working to get the aging courts upgraded before a commemorative naming ceremony takes place later this year.

"I think she's very worthy, and it's nice to see young women recognized and honoured in commemorative namings in the city," Deans said, adding

that Dabrowski's Grand Slam win last year earned her a spot in the history books.

"That's impressive, especially for a young woman from Blossom Park who learned to play on city courts," she said.

But the condition of the city's tennis courts is a problem due to a gap in infrastructure spending.

"The courts at Russell Boyd are no exception to that, but we are currently working on securing a funding source to have the courts in Russell Boyd resurfaced," said Deans, who has long complained that repairs to each court would have cost roughly \$5,000 if the work had been done on time. But delays mean more work is needed to the tune of about \$40,000 each.

TALENT FOR TENNIS

It was by chance that Dabrowski discovered her talent for tennis.

She was just seven years old and on summer vacation when she and a visiting childhood



Erin McCracken photo

A proposal to name the tennis courts at Russell Boyd Park in the Blossom Park community after tennis champion Gabriela Dabrowski is currently in the works.

friend went to the Russell Boyd courts to swing racquets they'd found in Dabrowski's basement.

"We tried hitting the ball back and forth," she said.

A man at the court noticed and asked Dabrowski where she took lessons.

"At age seven, I was like, 'I don't take lessons,'" she recalled.

She later told her dad, Yurek, and he went to the park the next day to watch. The other man was back and asked her dad the same question.

"He encouraged us that I should be put into lessons and then I started at the Ottawa Athletic Club," said Dabrowski.

Her talent and notable hand-eye co-ordination blossomed. She and her dad would go on to play every morning for two

hours and then return to the neighbourhood courts later in the day and keep at it until it was too dark to play "or the mosquitos got too bad," Dabrowski recalled with a laugh.

"Honestly, the windiest days were the best days because the mosquitos wouldn't sit on you and bite you. I remember those afternoons."

PLEASE SEE TENNIS, PAGE 19



Tennis star Gabriela Dabrowski discovered her love of the sport at age seven while playing on the courts at Russell Boyd Park in the Blossom Park neighbourhood.

Photo courtesy of the Dabrowski family



Erin McCracken photo

Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans is working with city staff to have the tennis courts at Russell Boyd Park improved before they are named in honour of Blossom Park tennis star Gabriela Dabrowski, if the commemorative naming proposal is approved.

>> TENNIS, FROM PAGE 18

Her dad even bought a ball machine.

"The neighbours would see them rolling it down the street," Wanda said smiling.

Very early on, when Dabrowski was just eight years old, her dad also designed and built a ball feeder and installed it in their basement so she could train on rainy days and in the winter.

"That's probably another reason my volleys are decent, better than my groundstrokes," Dabrowski said. "Our basement is tiny so there's not a lot of space to swing a lot. If you swing up you hit the ceiling. If you swing to the side you hit the wall."

She quickly began playing well at the local level, sometimes winning tournaments against older competitors. At nine, she began playing and winning at the provincial levels. She also found success competing in the junior world championships in Florida.

"Those kinds of signs as we were going along were indicators she had some talent there and so we just kept growing

and learning every year," Wanda said.

Around age 13 Dabrowski was encouraged to seek out a higher level of coaching expertise. She'd already travelled to Florida to scout a number of training centres, considered the home base of some of the best coaches in the world. That's where she learned of the Saddlebrook facility in Tampa, where she trains today.

SACRIFICES MADE

But excelling meant sacrifice.

As a kid growing up, she often had to turn down invitations to her classmates' birthday parties.

"It got to the point where I was never invited," said Dabrowski, who attended St. Bernard Catholic elementary school, Sawmill Creek Elementary School and, for a couple of years, Westboro Academy.

Her dad would leave work to pick her up early from school and head to the Ottawa Athletic Club for training.

"She gave up a lot in her childhood and (a lot) in

the high school years," said Wanda. "She didn't have the prom experience."

They arranged through Ridgemont High School for her to earn her high school credits online so she could focus on her tennis. There's an entry for her in the school's yearbook, but no photo.

"Tennis has been her job for such a huge portion of her life," Wanda said. "It's been an absolute devotion and commitment.

"Yes, you're making some good money now," she said, turning to her daughter, "but when you think about it you've been on the job since the age of nine."

Dabrowski and her dad, who served as mentor and coach, were often on the road, while Wanda stayed home to work and support the family.

"My dad being the perfectionist that he is, which was really cool actually, he taught himself how to watch, how to play," Dabrowski said. "He has an athletic background so he understands body mechanics and the fitness side of it."

When she transitioned from juniors to pro at 18, she was

among the top five singles players in the world.

Despite her accomplishments, Dabrowski said Tennis Canada, the governing body of tennis in this country, did not follow through on its promise to provide her with a high-calibre coach and other essentials. And there was a host of other concerns.

"At that time, we made the decision to just go our own way," Wanda said. She and her husband remortgaged their house and Yurek went on the road with their daughter.

As Dabrowski transitioned to the pros, her prowess in mixed and women's doubles proved a financial help.

"I knew that if I wanted to make more money and actually play all the big tournaments and the Grand Slams and the Olympics – that was my dream forever – I'd have to do something and that was find a consistent partner for doubles and see how far I could go," she said.

Over the past five years, she and her partners have gone on to best some of the top teams in the world. Her current female partner is Xu Yifan of China. So far, 2018 has been



Photos courtesy of the Dabrowski family

Gabriela Dabrowski developed a strong volley thanks to a ball feeder her dad Yurek built from scratch and installed in the basement of their Blossom Park home.

a good year, and Dabrowski's schedule is just heating up.

She just competed in Montreal in the Fed Cup, and later this spring she plans to play in Prague, Madrid and Rome before heading to the French Open. Yurek won't be there, but he'll watch her matches online and provide insight when asked.

"My dad doesn't come to too many tournaments anymore, but I still phone home every day," Dabrowski said.

She also has her sights set on qualifying for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Closer to home, Dabrowski said it will be nice to see the Blossom Park courts receive some much-needed attention.

"I think if they're presented in a nice way then people will be more inclined to play," she said.

"It could inspire in many ways. They don't have to have a whole career in it, but just be inspired to pick up a racquet and enjoy," Wanda added. "It's good for you."

"Even if it helps one person," Dabrowski said.

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"I think she's very worthy, and it's nice to see young women recognized and honoured in commemorative namings in the city."



Gabriela Dabrowski, centre, and her grandmother and father work on their game while at the tennis courts in Russell Boyd Park.

Photo courtesy of the Dabrowski family



**Jim
WATSON**
Mayor • Maire

SPRING COMMUNITY UPDATE #PROGRESS



I had the pleasure of spending Family Day in good company with Alta Vista residents and Councillor Jean Cloutier, at the Jim Tubman Chevrolet Sens Rink at Canterbury Recreation Complex! Thanks to the collaboration between the City, funding partners and the community, residents of all ages will be able to enjoy this multi-use facility for many years to come.



City Building

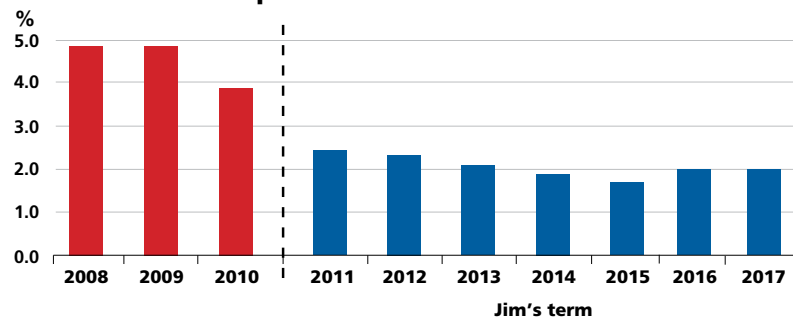
- Confederation Line of our Light Rail Transit (LRT) System opening to the public in November 2018
- Record \$80 million invested into cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in this Term of Council
- Additional \$10 million being invested into road repairs and resurfacing in 2018 to bring the total roads budget to \$ 45.2 million
- Partnership with Library and Archives Canada and \$73.3 million funding secured for the new Ottawa Central Library



Community

- Official opening of the House of Sport at the RA Centre, which houses various local and national Sporting and Multi-Sport Organizations
- Official opening of the newly expanded and renovated Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG) on April 28, 2018
- 136 new affordable housing units to be completed in 2018, with 142 more to be built in 2019
- New Red Light cameras being installed and a new 30 km/h speed policy in school zones being implemented
- 75 new Police Officers and 52 new Paramedics hired
- Implemented the low income transit pass, EquiPass, and single-ride fare, EquiFare

Municipal tax rate



Affordability

- Overall surplus of \$24.9 million for 2017
- Maintained a Moody's Aaa credit rating
- Keeping the City affordable with a 2% tax cap