DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 21 - Multicultural Fair at the Centretown Community Health Centre, 420 Cooper St., from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call 233-4443 for details.

March 3 - Deadline for entering Short Story Contest. Call 580-2424, ext. 41468 for details.

The O·S·C·A·R
The Community Voice of Old Ottawa South

See page 3 for some tips on what to give your loved ones on Valentines Day

YEAR 29, VOL. 31, NO. 02 THE OTTAWA SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REVIEW FEBRUARY 2003

FOLK MUSIC WALK OF FAME COMING TO OLD OTTAWA SOUTH

As construction begins on Bank Street, the folks at the Ottawa Folklore Centre remain upbeat. That's because they aren't focusing on the potentially damaging effects on business of reduced traffic lanes during the multi-million dollar facelift, but rather on a unique project that they've come up with – The Canadian Folk Music Walk of Fame. Since the sidewalks have to be torn up anyway, some of the staff at the Ottawa Folklore Centre decided it was a great time to bring the Walk of Fame right here to Old Ottawa South.

It is envisioned that the Canadian Folk Music Walk of Fame will begin on the east side of Bank, running from the Rideau Canal to the Rideau River, and come back on the west side of the street.

"The idea is to identify and recognize some of the musicians and others who have contributed to the growth and success of the Canadian folk scene," says David Taylor, a publicist at the Folklore Centre who is spearheading the project. The inductees will have their names on plaques that will be cemented into the new sidewalk.

The City of Ottawa has committed $8,000 for the first six to eight plagues. The opening plague will announce the Canadian Folk Music Walk of Fame, while the others will have the names of Canadian folk music greats on them.

Canadians across the country are being asked to vote on which folk artists should get their name on a plague. The selections would be vetted by a board of directors. Who would you vote for? Joni Mitchell? Stan Rogers? Ian Tyson? Bruce Cockburn? Don Messer? Edith Fowke? Someone else?

Taylor hopes he'll be able to raise enough money to have a number of blank plaques fitted into the sidewalk, so that new inductees can be added every Canada Day.

"This is an idea whose time has come...even before we were ready! It has been introduced at an opportune time, in a very fine neighbourhood that will provide Canadians a touchstone to our folk music roots," writes Ottawa Folklore Center owner Arthur McGregor in a pamphlet published by the music store. "...This area of Bank Street is about to be rebuilt this spring, from storefront to storefront...new lights, sidewalks, bike stands and...a Folk Music Walk of Fame!"

Taylor hopes to get more money from Canadian Heritage or private sponsors to increase the number of stars on the Walk, and to perhaps even have one of the original inductees hold a concert on Bank Street following a ribbon-cutting opening. The Walk grew out of a brainstorming session over a cup of coffee, with McGregor, Taylor, Lori Rowsell and Mike MacDonald growing the idea. Prototypes of the plagues have already been designed. They are 22 inches by 22 inches and in the shape of a stylized maple leaf.

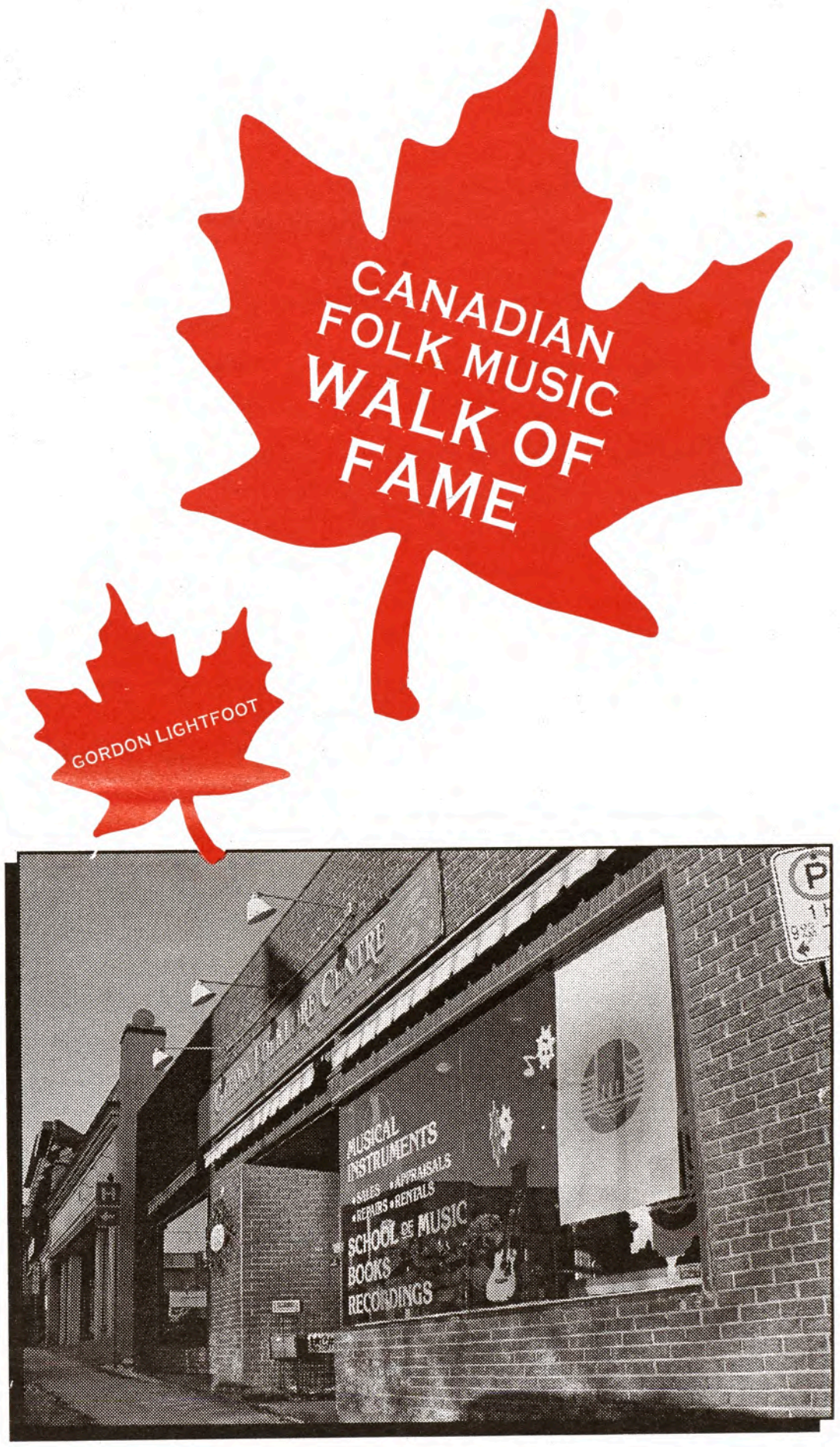
"We are all very excited about this project and know it will be a real attention getter for our part of town. This wonderful new landmark will attract local residents and tourists to the area," says Taylor.

Full funding for the re-construction of Bank Street, a project which has been on the books for years, was approved on January 8. Public consultations were held last year for input into the streetscaping and lighting. The first phase got underway last month, as contractors prepared duct work for underground telecommunication cables along the western curb of Bank Street. The preparatory work is expected to be completed over the next six to eight weeks.

The main reconstruction of Bank Street between the Canal and Rideau River will begin in the spring when weather permits, and is slated for completion by September 30, although some additional streetscaping and planting work may continue into October.

Taylor says he has approached most of the businesses along Bank Street, where the Walk will run, with the idea.

"They are all pumped and enthused about the Walk. They might not get a plaque in front of their business right away, but that will come with time as more people are inducted," he points out.



NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE FRI., FEB. 14

INSIDE...

Blackbird Catering Sold
New Fieldhouse at Carleton U
Clive Doucet's Report
Forging Ties With Westboro
Academy For More Space
Use Your Imagination – Donate To Spring Fling II
Book Review: Fatal Passage
Read-A-Thon At Hopewell
And much, much more.....!

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Web site: *www.OldOttawaSouth.ca*

The OSCAR
The OTTAWA SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REVIEW

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PLEASE NOTE: The OSCAR Has No Fax
The OSCAR PHONE LINE: 730-1045
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Distribution Manager: Lily Hecht 730-5902
Business Manager: Colleen Thomson

Advertising Manager: Gayle Weitzman 730-1058 (not classy ads)

MONTHLY DEADLINE: 2ND LAST FRIDAY OF MONTH

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Thanks to Susan Sutherland and the Small Family, who are passing on their duties as OSCAR deliverers.

The name of the deliverer thanked in this spot in the January issue of the OSCAR should have said David Farr. The name was correct in the article on page 16.

FOR DISTRIBUTION INQUIRIES, CALL 730-5902 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR LILY

The OSCAR thanks the following people who brought us to your door this month:

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ZONE B1: Ross Imrie (Coordinator), Andrea and Cedric Innes, the Montgomery family, Chloe Hanes, Laurie Morrison, Norma Reveler

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ZONE C1: Laura Johnson (Coordinator), the James-Guevremont family, the Williams family, Sylvie Turner, Lynne Myers, Bob Knights, Jeff Pouw; the Franks family

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CONTRIBUTIONS

We have no fax. Contributions should be less than 250 words in length and must be provided in electronic format, either by e-mail to *oldottawasouthoscar@yahoo.ca* or on 3 ½" diskette along with a clear, unformatted, printed copy, delivered to the Firehall office. Your diskettee will be returned only if you label it with your name. Phoned in submissions or Classy Ads will not be accepted.
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Future Deadlines
2003

Friday, February 14 Friday, March 14 Friday, April 18
Friday, May 16 NO JULY ISSUE

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WHAT'S THAT NUMBER?

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ottawa South Community Centre - The Old Firehall	247-4946
Ottawa South Community Association (OSCA)	247-4872
Ottawa Public Library - South Branch	730-1082
Lynn Graham, Public School Trustee	730-3366
Centretown Community Health Centre	233-5430
Carleton University	
CUSA (Carleton U Students Association)	520-6688
Graduate Students Association	520-6616
Community Liaison	520-3660
Mediation Centre	520-5765
Athletics	520-4480
New City Hall	
Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of Ottawa (*bob.chiarelli@city.ottawa.on.ca*)	580-2496
Clive Doucet, City Councillor (*clive.doucet@city.ottawa.on.ca*)	580-2487
Main Number (24 hrs) for all departments	**580-2400**
Community Police - non-emergencies	236-1222
Emergencies only	**9-1-1**
Serious Crimes	230-6211
Ottawa Hydro	738-6413
Streetlight Problems (burned out, always on, flickering)	738-6411
Brewer Pool	247-4938
Brewer Arena	247-4917
City of Ottawa website - *city.ottawa.on.ca*	

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

READER AGREES WITH CLIVE DOUCET ON PESTICIDE BAN

DEAR EDITOR

I found the column by Clive Doucet about pesticides (in the December issue of *OSCAR*) very interesting, but not so the long-winded harping critique of this letter by one of your readers in your January issue. I believe there is evidence about harmful effects to some people of pesticide use – or does the National Capital Commission. put up signs after spraying just to show they are on the job? Also studies are easily obtained on the web to show the deleterious effects on birds.(i.e. *www.abcbirds.org/pesticides/FAQs.htm*).

Jeanne White

ENJOYING THE GREEN SPACE

BY HOLLY TAYLOR

In between Osborne Avenue and Pentry Lane, there is a little park– the "green space" as some people call it. It could be called the "white space" in winter, or the "brown space" for the mud on rainy days in the spring. But the "green space" is what it's called all year round.

At the "green space," lots of dogs are walked, and kids of all ages play there. There is a little swing that hangs on a big tree that kids also have a lot of fun on.

In the summer, the Rideau River flows by but the water is a bit too polluted to swim in. In the winter, you can walk along the frozen river's edge to the dog-walking area at Brewer Park.

In the spring and summer, the "green space" is also used for picnics, games of tag, and a lot of other fun things.

Although the "green space" isn't as big as Brewer Park or Windsor Park, there are still a lot of exciting things you can do at a tiny park.

Holly Taylor is a member of the 30th Ottawa Girl Guides.

A SHORT NOTE ABOUT WHAT TO DO FOR VALENTINES DAY

BY SUSAN ATKINSON

February 14, or as it's more commonly known, Valentine's Day, is once again just around the corner. It's the one day of the year that fills many a young man with dread and sends a girl's hearts a flutter.

The big question is what do you give to that special someone in you life? And the answer is just as difficult whether that person is a life-long partner, a school friend, or someone you just met that you like a heck of a bunch. If you're looking for a unique way to mark this celebration or a token gift that's out of the ordinary; something that isn't your run of the mill fancy restaurant, dozen roses, box of chocolates, Hallmark greeting card kind of offering, then try something homemade.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started and maybe inspire the Cupid that is probably buried deep in all of us:

1. Instead of buying roses or fresh-cut blooms, why not make your own bunch of flowers using tissue paper or pipe cleaners. Pipe cleaners can be used by bending them into the shape of a tulip. Use different colours to create an artistic bouquet. Start by bending one pipe cleaner into a cup shape, molding the top into points like a tulip. Use a second pipe cleaner for the stem and a leaf.

2. Instead of buying a card from the store, which rarely says exactly what you're trying to say, how about making a homemade card complete with a poem or letter telling your loved one just what they mean to you. Guys this is a particularly good one for you as nothing melts a woman's heart like sincere, romantic words. If you need a starting point think of the poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning that begins with "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." And remember poetry does not need to rhyme!

3. How about putting together a homemade massage kit. This again is a very simple yet effective gift. Make a mix of your own massage oil (½ cup light oil, canola, almond or safflower oil shaken with two to three drops of your favourite essential oil). Pour into a bottle, warp in a face cloth and tie with a ribbon. Don't forget to include a homemade gift certificate for a free massage!

4. For those couples that are married or share a home together, a homemade coupon book makes a great gift. Each voucher can be made to use a trade-in for household chores. It's amazing how far this little gift goes. Sometimes the nicest thing in life is not having to do the routine things like the dishes, housework, laundry or making dinner.

5. If a small romantic gesture is what you're looking for maybe a batch of homemade cookies will do the trick. Sugar cookies or shortbread cut into heart shapes and wrapped in tissue paper then tied with a bow make a lovely heart-felt gift.

These are just a few of the many possibilities for a more unique way to show how much you care for someone. Mind you if homemade's not your thing and your creative juices are at an all time low then jewelry is always a safe bet!

Good luck and Happy Valentines!

Got an opinion you would like to express?
Send letters to the editor by e-mail to *oldottawasouthoscar@yahoo.ca*, or drop them off at the Firehall, 260 Sunnyside Avenue.

Thanks to OSCAR's many volunteer writers and distributors for helping get the news to you!

The ***OSCAR*** is a self-supporting newspaper, paid for entirely by advertising, and reliant on volunteer contributors and distributors.

Thanks to the **Dairy Queen** for contributing to our community through its support of the many ***OSCAR*** volunteers.

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OFC MUSIC

ALWAYS SOMETHING GREAT HAPPENING AT THE FOLKLORE CENTRE.

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BLACKBIRD CATERING SOLD AS OWNER LEAVES FOR GERMANY

BY WHITNEY ZELMER

You may have noticed that something is going on at 1200 Bank Street. The windows are covered with red paper and the old sign above the store front has been painted over. This is the beginning of a new operation and the end of an old one. Blackbird Catering is no more.

Since 2000, we have become accustomed to the busy hub of activity coming from within the walls of this establishment. We have also relied upon the convenience of a wonderful gourmet meal on a moments notice and most importantly we have come to depend on the smiling face of Tanya Harding to greet us as we walked through the door. Sadly for us, Tanya has embarked upon the next chapter in her life and it does not include Blackbird Catering, Bank Street or even Ottawa for that matter.

Black bird began in 1996 as a small catering outfit performing operations out of Tanya's home. For four years she managed to build up a respectable list of clientele and made the decision to open a store front and have a take-out food section as an extra to her already well established catering business. Looking back on this, Tanya says that she "prefers the catering side of things and feels that the take home aspect was not as strong as it started out to be since there is not enough time to really work at it."

She had managed to focus on large-scale corporate events and, therefore, was kept too busy to put as much of herself into the take home aspect of the business as she would have liked. "This year November sales were huge," she told me, "and I was putting in 18 hour days with the catering." She does feel that her frozen food did sell really well and that people enjoyed the convenience of having a gourmet food option in the neighbourhood.

One of the problems with success and owning your own business comes the huge workload. Tanya says, "This year it was getting to the point that it would take three people to replace her and do the work that she does." Coming from a family where they were served "plain, unadorned food," Tanya managed to keep some of the simplicity in her creations but also make them different and exciting. Preferring to use fresh produce, items without preservatives or additives and make everything from scratch, was her key to success and her customers appreciated the hard work and extra care that went into her cooking.

On holiday in Cuba, Tanya met and fell in love with her life partner. Inconveniently he lives and works in Germany, and they have managed a long-distance relationship for the past little while. Today, Tanya finds herself due to have her first child and she is extremely excited about this and all the changes this monumental event will bring to her life.

First and foremost was the sale of her first baby, Blackbird Catering. "It is really a lot more emotional that I expected it to be and I will really miss this neighbourhood and all the people I have come to know," she said sadly but it was obvious to me that this is not the kind of woman who looks at anything in a negative way. She spoke to me of her new life and where she will live with such an exuberance and excitement that I became a little envious of this adventure she is about to embark upon.

Her baby is due on April 23 and as soon as it is medically possible, she and her new addition will be taking off to join Daddy in their new home in Germany. About four hours from Hamburg in the province of Thrunga is a small rural town that translated means a "clearing in the forest." Her partner grew up in this town and still has most of his family there although he commutes to and from Hamburg on a regular basis for work.

The house that they will inhabit was built in the 1800's and was made in the half timber architecture of the time and place and has a lot of character. Tanya tells me that Germany is a wonderful place to raise children and they have a "wonderful social fabric that supports mothers with such things as daycare and an excellent school system."

Although she is becoming a new mother and this will obviously take up a lot of her time, Tanya does not plan on abandoning her first passion – food. She has an abundance of ideas to continue working while she is there and perhaps it will involve catering or she may do something as outrageous as opening up a poutine stand in the Christmas Market. "Food is simple there and people have a certain respeet for it, a potato is a potato and they do not try to force it to do something it is not meant to do," she noted. She seems to have this same philosophy about her cooking and feels that she can make something work in her new found home.

After talking to Tanya for some time, I am a strong believer that she will be a success not only as a mother but also in anything she attempts. She maintains a positive attitude about life and all its bumps and turns and seems to be a generally happy, intelligent woman. I know that many people in the neighbourhood will miss her food but I think that more that that it will be her presence that will be missed. Good Luck with you new life Tanya!

February Special

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OSCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY MICHAEL JENKIN

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Old Firehall as the Ottawa South Community Centre. We occupied the new (then) community centre in January 1978 when it was officially opened after a conversion and renovation. A new firehall for the area had been build in the Glebe on Fifth Avenue and we were fortunate to get a very centrally located heritage building as our community centre.

We have evolved and grown a lot since that event 25 years ago, but the Old Firehall has remained pretty much the same and now we are bursting at the seams. None the less it is a time to celebrate 25 years of growth and accomplishment as a community.

We will be branding all our communications with a 25-year anniversary logo and putting up a banner at the Old Firehall later this year. But to mark the event in a really inclusive fashion, we have decided to hold a community street party outside the Firehall on the last weekend in June before the Canada Day holiday weekend. We hope to have a dance band, events for kids and a big cook out as well. Planning has started already and I will have more details for you in a couple of months time.

COMMUNICATING WITH OSCA MEMBERS

Many of you weathered the line ups to register for OSCA's winter programs last month. I am glad to say that enrollments have held up and while a few under subscribed programs had to be cancelled, we have also added capacity to a number of programs as a result of increased demand. Many of you who registered will have noticed that we asked you for your email address and whether you might be interested in volunteering to help with special events and other OSCA activities.

We will also be doing this at the spring program registration and during the membership drive. Our goal is to communicate more effectively and rapidly with our members, notifying them of community events and specific issues that may interest them.

Getting the message out to such a large membership base can be a slow and expensive process using such traditional methods as regular mail or through posters and notices. This is particularly the case for emergency issues, which often fall between OSCA issues, and where we have no easy way to get time sensitive information out to members. We have a good email address base now which will allow us to get messages to you in a timely fashion. We will use it prudently, so you will not be getting "spam" from OSCA, but we do hope you will appreciate the improved communications when they arrive.

SPRING AUCTION

Last year's Spring auction in aid of redeveloping the Firehall was a spectacular success raising over $12,000 for the redevelopment fund. With a success like that needless to say we are planning a repeat for Friday evening, May 23.

The MC will be Jim Watson and we are rounding up an impressive array of goods and services, which we hope will attract at least as much interest as last year. There will be an article on the auction in an upcoming issue of *OSCAR* giving you details on what will be on offer and on the specific time and location of the event.

WINTER CARNIVAL

Just a heads up that our annual winter carnival will be held on Sunday, February 2 from 11 a.m. to about 2 p.m. at Windsor Park. There will be sleigh rides and games for the kids and food for all so do try and make it and find out how much fun you can have with friends and neighbours – even if it is cold!

Lighting Lessons

Of all the elements found in a room, lighting has perhaps the greatest effect on its inhabitants: good lighting can make a room look bigger, cleaner and more comfortable by day, cosy or dramatic by night. Poor lighting can shrink a room, making it seem dirty and dingy. Too bright a bulb can induce headaches and greenish skin tones. An unfortunate choice in a bathroom sconce can cast dark, haggard shadows on any face below it. Lighting is the most important feature in any decor, yet it is often given the least attention. Many of us don't hesitate to invest a pricely sum in a contractor or interior designer, yet few consider hiring a professional to design the lighting in our homes. By lighting in layers, balancing technical and esthetic considerations and following a few fundamental guidelines when selecting fixtures, it is possible to achieve effective lighting.

As an expert in the older homes found in Ottawa South and the Glebe, Tracy Arnett can provide you with more information about the charms of owning a property in these areas. For inquiries or a referral regarding lighting, please feel free to call Tracy at (613) 238-2801.

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OSCA BASKETBALL TEAMS ENJOY A NIGHT AT THE RAVEN'S NEST

BY LEO DOYLE

Participants in the OSCA Basketball League enjoyed their first field trip on Saturday, January 18 – a visit to the Raven's Nest at Carleton University to watch both the women's and men's teams take on the visiting McMaster Marauders from Hamilton.

The OSCA hoopsters proved to be loud and enthusiastic Raven supporters. During one time-out, they were invited on to the court to lead the standing room crowd in a cheer. For their efforts, OSCA hoopsters received a basketball and the much coveted Fan-Of-The-Game Award: free pizza! The Raven women dropped a close game to McMaster, losing 62-57. In the second game, the No. 1 ranked Raven men's team defeated the No. 8 ranked McMaster Marauders 80-70 in a thrilling match.

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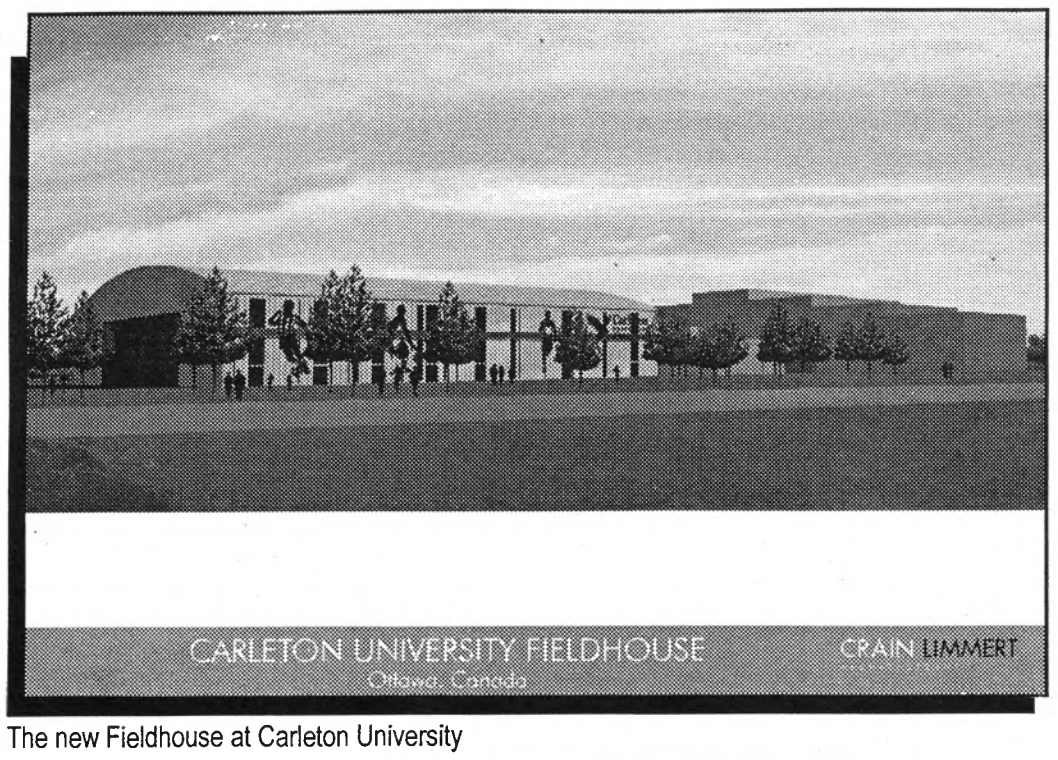

The new Fieldhouse at Carleton University

NEW FIELDHOUSE OPENS AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG, CARLETON ATHLETICS

The Bronson Avenue corridor is set to have an impressive new landmark structure, one sure to be used frequently by the Old Ottawa South community. The Carleton University Fieldhouse, a 4,500-square-metre, multi-use indoor facility, was to open on February 3, 2003. The facility boasts an indoor field made of artificial turf and is surrounded by a three-lane jogging track.

The full indoor field, about 65 metres long (213 feet) by 53 metres wide (173 feet), can be made into two cross-fields, each approx. 53 metres long (173 feet) by 26 metres wide (87 feet).

The Fieldhouse may be rented (whole or half field) by enthusiasts of many sports including; soccer, rugby, field hockey, ultimate, touch football, lacrosse and more. According to Wayne Baird, Assistant Business Manager, the Fieldhouse has already been booked by several community sport groups and there is a "Trailhead Cottage to Wilderness Outfitting Show" booked in the facility for March.

As well, Baird reports that several groups are renting entire weekends for winter/spring indoor soccer tournaments. The Fieldhouse will operate year-round and will enable our Sports Camp participants to have a weather-proofed activity area in the summer.

The track is a 220 metre by three-lane jogging track with a rubber base and a poured urethane finish. The track will be open to members (memberships available to the public) to jog in throughout the year and will be especially handy during the icy winter months.

For rental information, contact Wayne Baird at 520-2600, ext. 8441. For membership information, contact our General Office at 520-4480. To find out more check our web site at: *carleton.ca/athletics*.

5TH BROWNIES GET LESSONS ON OUTDOOR SURVIVAL

BY JULIE DONALDSON

The 5th Ottawa Brownies started January with a two-week theme on communications. First-year Brownies learned about and discussed different forms of communication, and earned their Communications badge.

Second-year Brownies were busy in early January planning for an overnight winter camping weekend with the 30th Ottawa Guides. This wintry adventure was a very exciting event as some of the girls celebrated their independence with an overnight trip away from home. The girls braved the cold and learned how to hike safely, and how to stay safe in cold weather.

The Brownies also learned how to work as a team by doing chores, including cooking, cleaning up and setting up a meal for 22 girls. While having all this fun, they also earned their Winter Adventures badge, part of the Outdoor Exploring Window, and their Camp badge.

Later in January, the Brownies were to join with other guides, cubs and scouts for the annual Skate-a-thon, sponsored by the Kin Club of Ottawa. The event raises money for boys and girls clubs, including their own circle. January was to wrap up with a "Be Proud of Canada" theme and a career night. All in all a very busy January for the Brownies.

Julie Donaldson is Brown Owl of the 5th Brownies.

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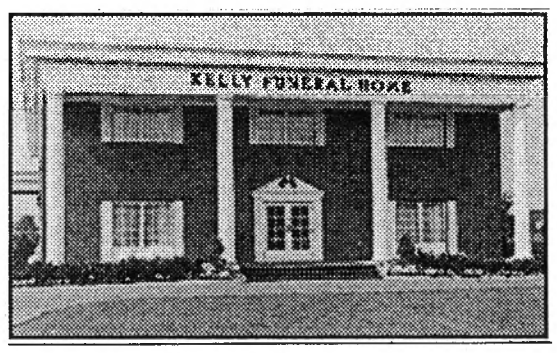

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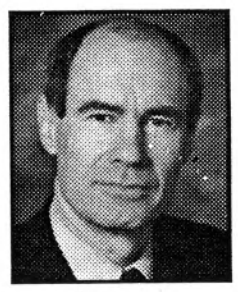
CITY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

BY CLIVE DOUCET

Dear OSCAR readers:

This has been a bad news/good news kind of month at City Hall. Let's start with the bad news first.



PROVINCIAL (MTO) QUEENSWAY EXPANSION STUDY

Every ten years of so, someone comes up with the great idea of widening the Queensway through the center of the city. The last go-round was in the 1980s. It was defeated. And it's always a variant of the same plan – reconfigure Isabella and Catherine Streets to integrate them more closely into the Queensway proper, i.e. get rid of the landscaping, lengthen the ramps, and then turn Hawthorne, from Pretoria Bridge across Main Street, into a straight-on connection to a reconfigured Nicholas Interchange.

This plan means expropriations, loss of greenspace, loss of heritage buildings like the Old Town Hall in Ottawa East, loss of community integrity, and loss of city integrity (what do you do with donated park space like Ballantyne Park?). It's a plan straight out of the 1950s.

The frightening thing is the province seems ready to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in widening the 417 to accommodate car use. But it's a short-term fix as provincial consultants admit that it is not possible to widen the 417 sufficiently to handle projected traffic increases (think about the 401 in Toronto – six lanes to 21).

At the same time, the province refuses to invest in public transit, which can solve the problem (two light rail lines carry 18 lanes of traffic). According to the province, public transit is a city problem. The consultants are not even planning for one bus lane from the dedicated single-vehicle and high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

This is not a balanced or effective way of growing our city's transportation capacity. The Queensway is not the 401. It traverses almost every city community. It needs a city solution, not a provincial solution.

This issue gets to the heart of the debate regarding how we grow as a city. Smart growth demands that we provide effective alternatives to single-occupant car commuting so that we can protect quality of life in communities throughout the city – suburbs, rural areas, and downtown included. The only balanced, equitable, and fiscally responsible way to manage growth is by investing in public transit, not by feeding the water-wheel of freeway expansion that would come at such an unacceptable price for the inner-city.

With a forecasted 400,000 extra residents predicted in the city over the coming two decades, bringing with them an estimated 200,000 new cars (and a disproportionate amount of this growth concentrated in the suburban areas) we need to find affordable, and environmentally-sensitive solutions to the transportation problems of gridlock, air pollution, and reduced quality of life.

I invite all those that would like to become involved in opposing this provincial policy to call, write or email my office so that I can get them in touch with the community groups that will be rallying support for a made-in-Ottawa, transit-based approach to growing our city.

Now for the good news:

BANK STREET RECONSTRUCTION

This long-awaited rebuild is finally starting this month with some Bell Canada underground utility work being conducted by the subcontractor Transelec Common Inc. (TCI).

The one message we got from the business community was that they didn't want the fall and Christmas season impacted. The Bell Canada work will, therefore, be started before the frost is out of the ground so that the main construction season can begin as soon as the spring thaw arrives. It's going to be tough on everyone, but this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and you can be sure we will continue to do everything possible to mitigate the inconveniences.

RAPID TRANSIT EXPANSION STUDY (RTES)

City staff and consultants are developing a long-term game plan for rapid transit expansion in Ottawa. The Rapid Transit Expansion Study (RTES) will deliver its draft final report to Transportation and Transit Committee on February 19.

It's an exciting time for sustainable growth advocates at City Hall these days with the success, particularly with Carleton University students, of our modest light rail pilot project, and the momentum building through the Rapid Transit Study to expand Ottawa's public transit system.

The RTES plan is calling for a light rail connection downtown, to the airport, out west to South Nepean and the high-tech business campuses of Kanata North, out east to Blackburn Hamlet and Orleans, as well as bringing back streetcars to Carling Avene and Montreal Rd. This will give us a real city-wide service.

I think this type of multi-faceted transit plan is the way to go. Clean air and smart growth demands that we provide effective alternatives to single-occupant car commuting. Long-term planning and budgeting will be the key to providing this real alternative to car commuting and achieving the smart growth modal splits (the percentage of people using public transit versus the percentage taking their cars to work) that we hear thrown around so often at City Hall.

I'm convinced that expanding light rail in conjunction with our existing busway system is the only affordable, community-friendly solution for green-growth in Ottawa, which for the sake of our lungs and our communities we need to make a priority. The alternative is the grey-growth of asphalt. That's not the type of city I want to live, nor is it one that I think is sustainable financially or environmentally over the long haul.

PESTICIDES

There was some criticism about my position on pesticides that I wrote about in my last column.

The information that is currently coming out of the medical research community is showing links between pesticide use and cancers. For example, there is a higher incidence of prostate cancer amongst golf course groundskeepers than there is in the general population. Pregnant women and babies are advised to stay away from pesticide-treated grounds. In the rural areas, where ground water is drawn straight from wells, pesticide use near aquifers is not advised. More and more toxic materials are being found to have migrated into our ground water and into the bodies of pets, farm animals, and wild animals.

So while we don't have iron clad proof of the direct cause and effect between pesticide use and cancer, the evidence use is mounting that pesticide use, wherever possible, should be limited.

Public policy is not a science. You have to look at the evidence and the trend lines and make the best judgement possible. This is why I continue to support the restriction of cosmetic pesticides on private property.

It's important to underscore that the proposed pesticide "ban" never included golf courses or cases of private property infestations. This is how the existing by-laws in Westmount, Chelsea, and Hudson function, and it works well there.

Finally, I did not read in the letter complaining about my position, one argument for the *benefits* of pesticide use.

Happy skating,
Clive Doucet
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Fax: 580-2527
clive.doucet@ottawa.ca
www.clivedoucet.com

NOTE

"Coffee with Clive" chat sessions take place the first Friday of every month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at The Wild Oat in the Glebe, Bank and Fourth. The next session is Friday, February 7. I invite you to join me there and bring city issues to my attention in an informal, neighborhood setting.

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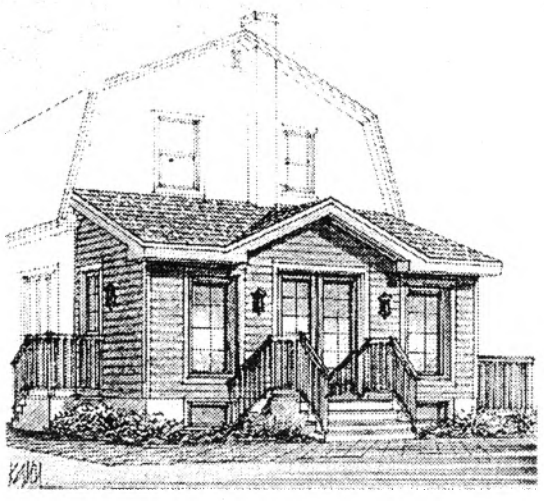

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30TH OTTAWA GUIDES ENJOY OUTDOOR FUN AT WINTER CAMP

BY JULIE FLETCHER

Hats off to the 30th Ottawa Guides for a tremendous winter camp. The Guides spent January 10 -12 at the Ottawa-area Camp Woolsey, doing crafts, cooking, singing, learning astronomy, hiking, playing outdoors, and hosting the 5th Ottawa Brownies. And what a beautiful winter weekend it was – the weather couldn't have been more perfect. The camp began at 7 p.m. on Friday night, when the Guides arrived, got settled and listened to Canadian stories and legends. Saturday started bright and early, with cooking, playing games outdoors, and sculpting with clay. At lunchtime, the Guides packed up and headed outside again, where they cooked a yummy lunch on buddy burners they had made.

At noon, the second-year 5th Ottawa Brownies arrived at the camp, and after settling in, all the girls prepared skits on how to deal with winter emergencies and how to be safe outdoors in cold weather. Saturday continued with more games outside and another evening hike, with candles, down to the Ottawa River. What a surprise it was for some girls to see the beach they play on and the river they swim in at camp in the summer frozen solid. Sadly, there were too many clouds that night to do any stargazing, but the walk through the quiet woods was beautiful nevertheless. Saturday night's fun wound up with an indoor sing-along and an outdoor campfire for those who just couldn't get enough of the fresh air.

Sunday morning was just as bright and beautiful as the rest of the weekend, and the girls spent one last stretch outdoors playing, before packing up and heading home – but not before each girl had the chance to say what she enjoyed most about camp.

Later in January, the Guides will join Guides and Scouts of all ages in the annual Skate-a-thon on the Rideau Canal, sponsored by the Kin Club of Ottawa.

In February, Guides, Sparks, Brownies and Pathfinders will present an evening of songs and skits to commemorate Thinking Day, the anniversary of the birth of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the scouting and guiding movements.

Upcoming Guide events include a bake sale at Trinity Church, creating with stained glass, learning how to do—yes!—laundry, observing an ecosystem in different seasons, and learning the dos and don'ts of good money management.

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN CLUB

BY PAT SADAVOY

We saw a bit of a tour de force at our January meeting. Lots of speakers and magazine articles talk about planning for three-season colour in your garden, and it's easy to think "Yeah, right – if you've got half an acre." Gillian Boyd ended her slide show with five slides of the same corner of her garden, starting in early spring and ending in late October. Five slides, five different sets of plants and lots of colour from start to finish. How does she do that?

Gillian is Master Gardener who learned to garden from the women in her family in England, and then had to re-learn when she moved to Ottawa. She started her slide show, "A Garden Walk Through the Year," with some pictures of gardens very close to where she grew up – sheets of species crocus on a Wimbledon estate, and large drifts of snow drops in a woods, started years ago by her aunt. English garden pictures do help get us through January.

But then, we returned to her Ottawa garden and the plants she uses to give it colour through the seasons. A couple of factors inform her choices. She has sandy soil, lean with good drainage, and she values plants that attract beneficial insects and birds.

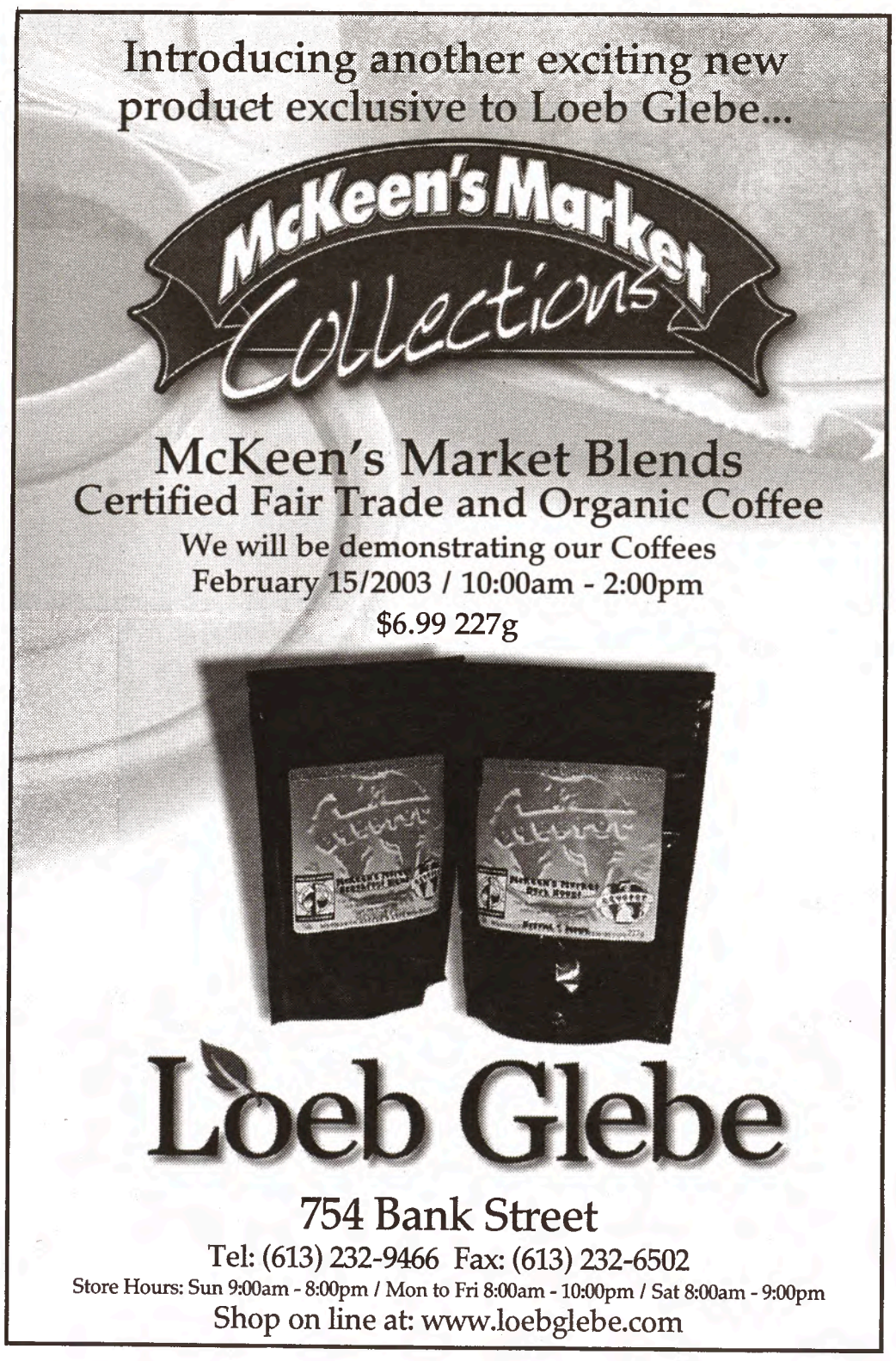
Along with lots of close-ups of individual plants, there were some great groupings in each season.

For early spring, basket of gold, creeping phlox, aubretia and arabis made one picture, while snowdrop anemone, coral bells and primula made another slightly later one. In late spring, a white peony, rosy gas plant, pinks, pink geraniums and white sweet rocket were all in bloom together – it looked like a wedding party!

A couple of summer combinations using the grey-green and white snow-on-the-mountain were eye-catching: in one case, it was interspersed with tri-colour sage (rose, cream and violet), and in the other, partnered with Salvia coccinea, "Lady in Red." This second pairing, with the addition of a small peachy day lily in the background and a golden coreopsis in the foreground, was stunning.

Finally, a simple combo for late fall: rusty rose Sedum Autumn Joy set off the warm white flowers of Pearly everlasting. Not fancy, but very satisfying. In a sense that sums up the overall impression of Gillian's garden – not pretentious or trendy, but very satisfying.

More get-you-through-the-winter OSGC topics: Perfect Peonies on February 17 and The City Herb Garden on March 17. Both sessions begin at 8 p.m. in the Firehall, with a $3 drop-in fee.



BOOK REVIEW: FATAL PASSAGE

REVIEWED BY STEPHEN HAINES

FATAL PASSAGE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JOHN RAE, THE ARCTIC ADVENTURER WHO DISCOVERED THE FATE OF FRANKLIN
BY KEN MCGOOGAN.
HARPERPERENNIAL CANADA, $21.95
ISBN 0-00-638659-8

What kind of man, at 45 years of age, slogs 60 kilometres through a Canadian January to deliver a lecture on icebergs?

After many years of hostile attitudes to the Victorian Era it's a pleasant novelty to encounter the resurrection of a forgotten icon. Author Ken McGoogan relates the life and accomplishments of Scotsman John Rae in the Canadian Arctic. Rae joined a Hudson's Bay Company ship as surgeon, travelled to Canada in 1833 and remained for 12 years – on the first stay. Rae's Orkney Islands origins gave him the background to cope with the Northern environment. Commissioned to explore the Arctic coasts, he became enmeshed in a different quest. The book becomes nearly two stories in one: Rae's ranging explorations along the Canadian Arctic coast, and the mysterious disappearance of the John Franklin expedition. McGoogan balances this paired account nicely until merging them to restore Rae's faded reputation.

John Rae was a departure from the typical Victorian age explorer. While the Royal Navy insisted on major expeditions using oceanic routes and ample crews, Rae travelled with a small support group. Instead of using ships, he travelled by canoe or small boat. On land he used snowshoes and small dogsleds while the Navy stuck with cumbersome sledges pulled by malnourished sailors. He kept his associates fed when other British explorers were starving on government rations – Royal Navy officers scorned hunting. Scurvy, the scourge of Navy crews, never infested Rae's teams who returned healthy.

McGoogan makes Rae's adventures in Arctic lands read almost like a tourist brochure. Unlike his contemporaries, he adapted many features of Aboriginal life in his travels by "going native," a practice uniformly condemned. Rae readily accepted both Native Americans and the despised "half-breeds" as partners. The custom resulted in all his journeys succeeding and setting records for distance. Ultimately, he found the route of the elusive Northwest passage and determined the fate of the lost Franklin expedition. Later, he turned from Arctic adventures to the survey of a telegraph line site across the Rocky Mountains. Why have we heard so little of him?

According to McGoogan, one individual sustained a campaign to reduce Rae's reputation. Jane Franklin, Sir John's quasi-widow (for years she refused to admit her husband's death), irked by the possibility her husband had turned to cannibalism in his extremity, challenged Rae's accomplishments. In her zeal, she managed to secure no less a figure than Charles Dickens to her cause.

McGoogan contends Dickens' virulent racism aided this assault when the novelist asserted the Inuit were consummate liars and the true cannibals. Between them, Lady Franklin and Dickens eroded Rae's renown.

McGoogan has produced an outstanding study, done with lively wit and solid research. He restores John Rae's position as the true finder of the Northwest Passage and a man with few peers. This book can be read by anyone seeking knowledge of the North or as a model of perseverance and sacrifice. Illustrated with photographs and engravings and including a fine bibliography, this is a real treasure to read and possess. McGoogan's book is a prime example of enthusiasm, solid research and vivid prose. It's a fine example of the best Canadian writing.

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BY JANE ALLAIN

Weren't part of the Spring Fling last year? Wonder what all the mystique was about? Well it's going to be a repeat performance this May, with another Charity Auction to raise funds to renovate the Firehall. Many of our past donors have generously accepted to offer their services once again. Donations include the CBC Radio Extravaganza – Interview a local celebrity (with Rob Clipperton); Stellar Soccer Coach Session – Learn the power of the Cooper Test (with Steve Johnson); Myers Briggs testing – Find out if you are an extrovert or an introvert (with Jennifer MacLeod); Golf for Two at the Hunt Club – and enjoy refreshments at the 19th hole (with John Graham); Take a ride in her Bright Red Sports Car and lunch is on her (with Peggi McNeil); or Book a Holiday at a Cottage by the Beach in Prince Edward Island!

Lucky you, you can be part of the action this time around, too. Think you've got nothing to offer? Let us dispel your doubts. Think of all your many hidden talents or assets that someone may be tempted to steal away...like your traditional storytelling abilities to entertain guests, your cottage or camp for a weekend retreat, your homemade goodies, your strong arms and back for a weekend of yardwork. Let your imagination run wild – and help us meet our strong commitment to raise lots of money to brighten the lights at the Firehall for years to come. Curious? Cautious? Call or e-mail one of our main fundraising groupies: Jane Allain at 730-0165 or *janeallain@sympatico.ca*, and John Graham at 730-0069 or *jgraham@iog.ca*.

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OCDSB TRUSTEE REPORT

BY LYNN GRAHAM, TRUSTEE, ZONE 9
(CAPITAL AND RIDEAU-VANIER WARDS)

Merv Beckstead, Supervisor of the OCDSB since mid-August, has announced he is stepping down before the end of January 2003. The Minister of Education has said she will soon be announcing another Supervisor for the OCDSB. Surely it is time to reinstate public school trustees in Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. The report of the Education Equality Task Force, chaired by Dr. Mordechai Rozanski and commissioned by the province, recommended a significant increase in resources (over $2 billion) for public education in Ontario over the next three years. Subsequent provincial funding announcements totaling $610 million province wide have in all likelihood eliminated the OCDSB's 2002-2003 deficit. Many think that those demanding more funds for public education have been vindicated.

The province required Mr. Beckstead to produce a plan by November 25, 2002 "to return the OCDSB to a balanced financial position." On November 26, the supervisor released a number of budget documents, but his actual plan was not released publicly and posted on the web site until, January 13, 2003. It is entitled *Interim Report to OCDSB School Supporters* and can be found at *www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca*. It does not take into account the EETF report and the new 2002-2003 school board funding.

It is uncertain how long the OCDSB will be under supervision. In any event, I can simply assure readers that, as your trustee and as vice-chair of the OCDSB, I will continue to work with school communities to enhance our public education system.

COST SAVINGS

A number of new budget reductions are noted in the supervisor's report (see above). The supervisor has assumed all powers and duties of the board of trustees. Here I will mention three of his cost savings.

First, the report announces the closure of the Media Centre, a resource for teachers, who up until December were able to borrow novel sets, music sheets, curriculum kits, videos and films for their classes. I know many teachers are concerned about this budget cut as replacing these resources is prohibitively expensive for an individual teacher or school.

Secondly, the report states that the Outdoor Education Centres (Bill Mason and MacSkimming) are to be closed effective September 2003, unless the centres achieve full cost recovery. These sites are outdoor classrooms as students come to know, understand and respect the natural world around them. Indeed, outdoor education is an important component in Ontario's curriculum. An Outdoor Education Task Force has been formed to look at saving these centres but the challenge over the coming months is daunting.

Thirdly, the report examines the costs associated with community use of school facilities after school hours. It suggests that increased fees for outside user groups starting in September 2003 are a strong possibility. A working group, including representatives from the City of Ottawa, the community, daycare and board staff, is to be set up to determine ways to deal with this situation. Many groups that run programs at Hopewell, including the Ottawa South Community Association (OSCA), will want to follow these discussions.

ENROLMENT IN THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR

This school year, enrolment at Capital Ward schools is up by 63 students or 1.9%. At Hopewell, it is up by 33 students or 3.8%, making it the second largest (in terms of numbers) elementary school in the entire OCDSB.

Capital Ward's increase in enrolment is not the reality across the board's jurisdiction, where enrolment is down by 899 students or 1.1%. Provincial government grants to school boards are based on enrolment and our loss of students translates into a $3.8-million budget reduction. Why this loss of "market share," especially in some parts of the OCDSB? Are the demographics changing? Are we losing students to private schools or the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board? Are our more restrictive transportation policies hurting enrolment? Is the uncertain political situation at our board a factor? I'll return to this issue in a future column when we have more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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OCCSB TRUSTEE REPORT

BY KATHY ABLETT, TRUSTEE, ZONE 9
(CAPITAL AND RIVERSIDE WARDS)

Greetings and Happy New Year to all in our community! I wish to extend my congratulations for all of your accomplishments in 2002. To Corpus Christi School for a very successful Book Fair, the Art Smart Grant and the wonderful Family Advent Mass. To Immaculata for a successful Terry Fox Run as well as being the top fundraising school for the CIBC Run for the Cure. They did an amazing job with the Christmas Basket event and also the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The students at Immaculata High School are preparing for exams, which run from January 24 - 30. Good luck and best wishes to all of our students.

One very important note to graduating students and their parents is that students must complete their 40 hours community service work. This is a graduation requirement. The Ministry of Education has stated that there are no exceptions and students must accomplish this work. Current statistics show that a very high percentage of students have not yet begun their volunteer hours. It is a difficult time for graduating students, preoccupied by this double cohort year, to work on this as well as the significant homework, projects, etc. that are required to pass this final year. Some students have part time jobs as well. For these reasons, parents are urged to remind their children that completing this requirement is a priority.

Immaculata High School is busy planning its 75th Anniversary celebrations, which will take place in May. I hope all Immaculata alumni will be there to help celebrate this joyous occasion. A tremendous amount of work and research go into making such a homecoming the success I know it will be. In addition, Immaculata is about to launch an anti-smoking campaign with the City of Ottawa. Stay tuned for more details in future issues of this newsletter.

Corpus Christi is also busy planning for their annual Mardi Gras Fun Fair in April, which is a fundraiser for the Catholic School Council. In addition, their annual visit to the Heart Institute is coming up on February 14. Several students from grades three to six will go to the Heart Institute to visit patients and present them with Valentine cards, which they have made. The school has received thank you letters in past years from families of patients from the east coast of Canada to the west, thanking the children for their visits to their loved ones when they could not be there themselves.

Watch for upcoming information in the February issue of this newsletter as we begin budget deliberations as well as information on the official opening of the Catholic Education Centre of the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board.

As we go forward into the New Year, let us continue to build on last years' successes. Let us also make resolutions of peace and hope, which reflect our Board's Spiritual Theme for 2002-2003, "May Peace Abound."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WESTBORO ACADEMY STUDENTS GET INTO WINTER SPIRIT

BY KAREN IVINGS

We've been having a wonderful winter at Westboro Academy. Our 10th school year is one to be proud of, full of amazing activities and great school spirit. In December, students in grades four to six spent a beautiful snowy day at MacSkimming Outdoor Education Center. No one minded the accumulation as the children searched for signs of animal life in the woods. Tracks were easy to see and everyone stayed active to keep warm. The fire was a hit at the outdoor lunch, but the Predator-Prey game in the afternoon was what everyone had waited for. It was a great day.

Some lucky neighbourhood residents got to hear students, teachers, and parents carolling to raise money for the Youville Centre. Thank you for your generous donations to this worthy cause. An in-school raffle added to the bank of funds for the Youville Centre and a very full "food train" of donations was transported to the food bank.

As per tradition, Santa's Breakfast was held just before the Christmas break. It seemed that the food was unlimited and of course, Santa was very popular.

The children's bilingual presentation of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* was the culmination of a lot of hard work by children and teachers. The music, narration, costumes, and backdrops were all fantastic. With all children participating throughout the performance and a grand finale of the entire school on the stage, it was an event that will be long remembered by all.

January arrived and the children continue to be very active, despite the frigid temperatures. The younger students are having their turn at once weekly swimming at Brewer Pool. The older students are out skating on the speed-skating oval. The annual ski trip to Vorlage is always a highlight of winter as well.

The grades four to six boys achieved second place at the Ottawa Independent Schools volleyball tournament in early January. Not to be outdone, the grades four to five girls were proud to return to school with first place ribbons from their volleyball tournament. What is really wonderful is that all the grades four to six children get to play and to share in the accomplishment. Well done.

Our JK to grade one students visited the Science and Technology Museum. That is always an enlightening experience full of fun. It's hard to believe it is time for the mid-term progress reports already. The children do indeed accomplish a lot in both English and French while still making time for educational outings and sports events.

Look us up in the next issue to find out about "francais en vedette" and "Dictee PGL." We have lots of other great outings planned for February as well.

EDUCATIONAL AFTER SCHOOL FUN PROVIDED AT ARTSKIDS

BY JESSE A

Artskids is a nice, fun and educational after school program. At Artskids the director, Deborah, the supervisor, Cindy, and many younger assistants look after the kids exceptionally well.

Cindy picks the kids up at Hopewell, so most of the kids there are from Hopewell at 3:30 p.m., the end of school. She then brings them to Artskids, situated at St. Margaret Mary's Parish Church. After, the instructors bring out a yummy and healthy snack, mostly a type of bread (e.g. pita, bagels, etc.) and fruit or veggies – occasionally followed by cookies or treats.

Each day there is a different activity, all taught by a teacher who specializes in a special art area (except for Wednesday's senior art, which is taught by Deborah and Jana). Here are the days, activities and the instructors: Monday – Junior Drama (Sandra); Tuesday– Hip Hop & Jazz (Natalie); Wednesday – Visual Art (Deborah/Jana); Thursday – Senior Drama (Sandra); and Friday – Singing (Maya/Cindy).

During times in which not every child is participating in the above activities, Cindy brings the children up to the "stage" and does creative hobbies with them, such as writing, drawing, and reading. During that time, the other children participate in the daily art activity. On Fridays, there are crafts to make, baking, or free time. So,

> *One might want to visit the lovely and educational after school program – Artskids.*

Artskids is affiliated with the Canadian Museum of Nature, and also runs thematic P.D. days, March break and summer camps at this location. For details, call 233-2946 or visit *www. artskids.com.*

Jessa A. is a member of the 30th Ottawa Guides.

HOPEWELL PS'S READ-A-THON BECOMES PROTOTYPE

BY MIKE HARRISON

At the most recent School Council meeting, Nancy Bickford mentioned that Hopewell's successful Read-A-Thon program has been noticed by the Kiwanis Club and will become a prototype which will be deployed by other schools. Nancy also thanked and congratulated the library staff for the successful Panorama Book Fair, which earned $3,000 worth of books for the library. New books reflect current interests of the children, and include biographies, autobiographies, Canadiana, and books on animals and sports. Over 9,100 books have been signed out this year by students. Many thanks to the members of the Library Committee for these tremendous initiatives that will result in Hopewell children keeping their interest in reading strong.

Dr. Alison Dugan spoke to School Council regarding health and wellness and she proposed that physical activity be made a higher priority with 30 minutes a day being the appropriate goal for children. She spoke of the spread of the childhood obesity epidemic in Canada. A report that Dr. Dugan cited from the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* stated that from 1981 to 1996 the prevalence of overweight increased by 92% in boys and 57% in girls, and during the same period the prevalence of obesity has more than doubled in both girls and boys. Council is looking into the possibility of establishing a committee on this issue to explore the best ways to combat this nationwide trend at Hopewell.

The Communications Committee unveiled the new School Council web site at the School Council meeting January 14. The site is now live and can be found at *www.theglebeonline.ca/hapsc.* Special kudos are due to Marc Rand for the considerable time he spent incorporating ideas and comments from the committee and many others to create a very intuitive information-packed site that teachers, parents and council can use on a regular basis to check upcoming events, get the latest issue of Hopewell Happenings in electronic format, see what School Council committees are up to, find council contacts, find out what council covered at their last meeting, agenda for upcoming meetings, etc. Please review the site and provide comments to the Webmaster (Marc). Enjoy.

Lamar Mason (Co-Chair of OCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee) provided a very interesting overview of the whole process for identifying children with special needs at the January 14 council meeting. Ms. Mason also announced that Woodroffe High School will be offering enhanced arts programming and she welcomed Hopewell students to apply.

Also at the council meeting, Bernie Finnerty reported that the full-time teaching positions for the gifted program have now been filled by Roxanne Parent and Marie-Louise Perron starting in September. Two contract teachers, Brenda Quinn and Sylvia Sheridan, are staffing the positions from now until June. Mr. Finnerty invites council to recommend alternative procedures to the Hopewell tradition of the overnight line-up for SK and JK. As more neighbourhood day-care centres open morning programs, the pressure on the morning kindergarten spots may ease. Mr. Finnerty also reported that the enrollment cap is again an issue and he expects to receive about 40 cross-boundary transfer applications.

The Volunteer Committee is seeking people to help out with The Economics of Staying in School, a program for grade eight students. Please contact Janet Stephens for more information or to volunteer your services at *janet.stephens@sympatico.ca.*

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WESTBORO ACADEMY EXPLORING PARTNERSHIPS WITH OSCA

BY DON CUMMER

What space is available for community functions in Old Ottawa South? The recently formed OSCA committee on Community Space has begun its inventory by meeting with Yolaine Munter, Principal of Westboro Academy.

Since 1999, the school has been located at 200 Brewer Way, next door to the City of Ottawa swimming pool. Westboro offers programs from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6. The classes are small – the largest has only 18 students. The school has a strong focus on working with the community, including working with ECOS on the rehabilitation of Brewer Pond, and concerts for the residents of the Maycourt Hospice. About 130 students attend Westboro, many of them from Old Ottawa South.

Longtime residents will recall that 200 Brewer Way used to house municipal offices. When the City declared the building surplus, OSCA itself considered moving in. After much discussion, the board voted to remain in its current location at the Firehall. But many still regard Brewer Way as a more desirable site, in spite of its location on the edge of the community, because of the greater availability of space in which to run OSCA programs.

Madame Munter and OSCA's Community Space Committee are exploring whether a partnership could be established in which OSCA programs could take advantage of Westboro's rooms. The building is shaped like a square doughnut. The inside rooms have windows onto an inner courtyard where a tree provides shade. The school has no gym or assembly facility.

Smaller assemblies are held in a cafeteria that faces onto the inner court. OSCA's Community Space representatives focused on this room as a possible place to begin a working in partnership with Westboro. It has a linoleum-covered cement floor, but with mats available, it would be suitable for programs such as Pilates or Tai Chi. A partly-separated roomette at one end of the cafeteria hosts a fridge and four-burner stove that could possibly be used for cooking programs.

The Community Space committee is also interested in exploring partnerships with Westboro for OSCA's summer programs. With Brewer Park right across the street, the setting may be ideal for summer camp once Westboro's teachers have safely stowed away their teaching materials for another year.

"This is our fourth year at Brewer Way," says Madame Munter. "I must tell you that community involvement is one of the values that we share in our classrooms, and we look forward to working with OSCA in the months and years ahead."

CORPUS CHRISTI STUDENTS AID HOSPICE AT MAY COURT

BY JIM ROGERS, PRINCIPAL

On December 19, Corpus Christi School was pleased to present its holiday concert. Performed by students in grades one to six and the school choir, the diverse talents of the children were enjoyed by all those in attendance. The afternoon included a selection of holiday songs by the school choir, mini-versions of holiday productions and a wide variety of musical talents. All participants, including parents, thoroughly enjoyed the presentations.

MANY HANDS

The grade four/five class shared the Christmas spirit by painting and assembling wooden tree-shaped baskets for the Day Program clients at the Hospice at May Court on Cameron Avenue in Old Ottawa South. Master Carpenter Rob Schultz, who has a daughter, Rebekka, at the school, graciously shared his talent by donating and cutting all the wood for over 35 baskets – and that is a lot of cutting.

Class representatives delivered the baskets, which were filled with tea, personal care items and love, to the Hospice on Tuesday, December 17, much to the delight of the recipients. The students acquired a variety of skills while working on the project but, most importantly, carried on the Spirit of Giving, one of the hallmarks of the Corpus Christi School community.

CREATIVE MINDS

The school's Enviro-Club will issue a Reuse Challenge to all students this month. Students will be challenged to invent a creation from recyclable materials. Some of these creations will find a prominent place in the festive display in the *Arbour Recycled Products* window display on Bank Street, in the Glebe. Corpus Christi students care about the environment.

KINDERGARTEN LITERACY PROGRAM

Our language enhancement and early literacy program for Junior and Senior Kindergarten children continues with great success. The program is implemented by trained volunteer adult readers who read quality literature to the children, one on one, and focus on exploring and developing concepts, as well as features of text .The approach not only makes literature more accessible to these four- and five-year-olds, it also provides all children with an opportunity to develop a strong language foundation before they proceed to more formal learning. The students of grades one to six have embarked on their own reading adventure program…watch for details.

We believe that the community enriches the educational undertaking at Corpus Christi as we work together in providing a challenging learning environment. Staff and students always extend a sincere welcome to the community to visit Corpus Christi.

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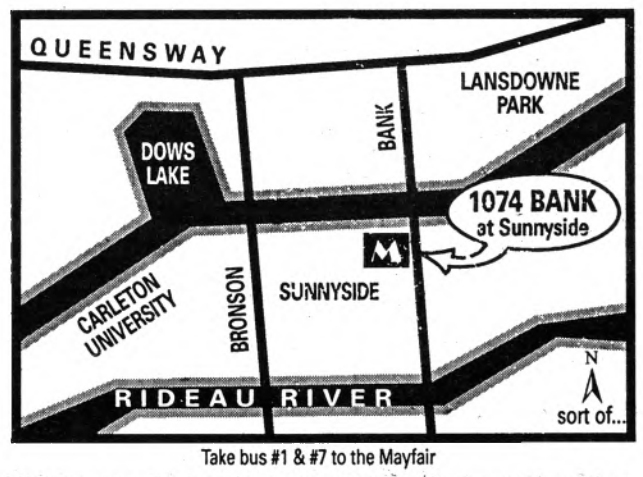

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THE WINDSOR CHRONICLES

PART 31

DEAR BOOMER,

Here's a philosophical question for you. If a dog barks his head off in a forest, and no humanoid is there to hear him, is he still a bad dog?

I think that Alpha has forgotten whether or not there's a doorbell at our house. He certainly doesn't need one with me around.

But I am certainly more inclined to bark when the perimeter needs to be secured against those who would cross the line-of-sight I have from the top of the stairs. You can see the street from up there. You can see whether people are just passing by, or whether they are turning to come to our house. Sometimes it's a good idea to bark at the passers-by, just to keep them honest.

But barking in the forest is another matter. You don't need an excuse. Nature provides excuses aplenty, but why not bark for the sake of barking?

But barking in the forest is another matter. You don't need an excuse. Nature provides excuses aplenty, but why not bark for the sake of barking? If you don't howl, how will you ever find your pack?

Alpha took me out to the hills last week. He brought along his skis but, because of some arcane rules posted by the side of the road, he was not allowed to unleash me. What followed was an afternoon of exploring new forms of winter sport.

We developed several new games. In one, the challenge is to pull Alpha along on his skis, as though he were water skiing at the cottage. You score extra points if you can pull him off balance and send him into a snow drift. In another, the challenge is to dart across the trail as skiers approach from the opposite direction. You score points if they trip over the leash.

And finally, my personal favourite is played when Alpha and his friends have paused to catch their breath. While they lean on their ski poles, the object is to go out on a sniffing expedition and hope they don't notice as you mosey around someone. At one point, you can bound back to Alpha and tie up the legs and poles of your victim with your leash.

A couple of times we were stopped by humanoids who appeared to have some kind of authority. They told Alpha that dogs were not allowed on these trails. So Alpha and I will likely return to our regular ski haunts along the river beside Windsor Park. I prefer this in any event. You don't need to stay on leash as you explore along the snow-covered ice of theriver. It leaves me free to investigate smells at my leisure, and reduces Alpha's stress levels considerably.

The Pup does not accompany us on these expeditions, but he has acquired yet another device for going down the hill at the park. This year, he straps boots to a bright yellow board, and tries to go down the hill standing up. The gentler slopes give him a longer ride, and on this contraption he's able to make quite a show of carving gentle arcs for as long as there's even a hint of a downward grade.

Meanwhile, Alpha watches him like a hawk – or like he used to watch the Pup when he first began going down the steeper hills on a sled. He's ready to dash off in an instant if he thinks the Pup is heading toward trouble. This means he is paying less attention to the real purpose of the day's adventure: to throw the tennis ball over the trees toward the hockey rink.

I've heard Alpha discuss with the other humanoids how he intends to get one of these boards himself. I'm not so sure this is a wise idea. I remember all too well how he broke his foot two summers ago, but Alpha is particularly stubborn, even for a humanoid. Maybe it's safer pulling him along on his cross-country skis.

Fit as a husky, and loving the snow,

Zoscha

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Little Secrets	Dra	One Hour Photo	Thr
Prison Songs	Dra	Spy Kids 2	Act
Sweet Home Alabama	Com	Sordid Lives	Com
FEBRUARY 11TH		Mad Love (sub-titled)	Dra
Brown Sugar	Com	Nailed	Dra
Diamond Men	Dra	**FEBRUARY 25TH**	
Deadly Little Secrets	Thr	Edge Of Madness	Thr
Full Frontal	Com	8 Women	Dra
My Big Fat Greek Wedding	Com	Road To Perdition	Dra
Possession	Dra	The Tuxedo	Act
Swept Away	Com	Wild About Harry	Com
The Thin Blue Lie	Dra	Women Versus Men	Com
Wasabi	Act		

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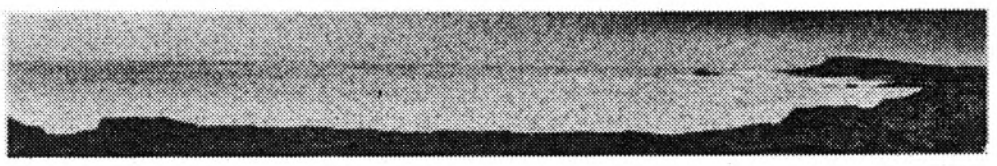
PRIVATE ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN



Established landscape painter Patrice Stanley is offering private art classes in her home studio in the Glebe. Classes are weekdays between 4 and 6 pm, tailored to individual interests and level of skill, including drawing and painting.

Classes are limited in size and fees are $25 an hr. For more information contact Patrice at 234-8412, pstanley114@rogers.com

Patrice is a graduate of Concordia University and is represented by the James Baird Gallery in Newfoundland. Recipient of numerous awards and grants, including the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council.

www.patricestanley.com

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Heritage Month In Ottawa

The City of Ottawa's Office of Cultural Affairs and Heritage Advisory Committee along with the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa invite you to celebrate our City's rich history this February.

Mark your calendars for these events.

Workers Heritage on the Canal

The Gloucester Historical Society presents Ken Clavette of the Workers Heritage Committee who will speak about the development of a Celtic cross on the Rideau Canal in Ottawa to commemorate more than 1,000 workers who died during its construction. Presentation will include a slide presentation, and light refreshments.

February 2 ~ 2 p.m.

Free admission.

Gloucester Historical Society, 4550 Bank Street, Leitrim.
Information: 837-7334.

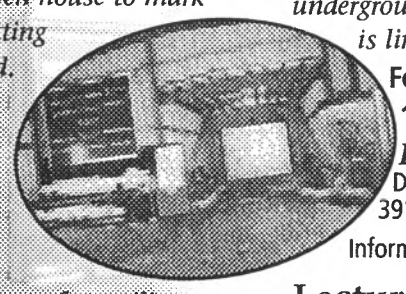
Exhibit: Knitting Guild

The Nepean Museum will host an open house to mark the opening of the contemporary knitting display by the Ottawa Knitting Guild.

Saturday, February 8 ~ 1 – 4 p.m.

Free admission.

The Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Avenue.
Information: 723-7936



Stenciling Workshop

Participants will learn the historical art of stenciling and create their own stenciled cards in time for Valentine's Day. Workshop is for both children and adults.

February 8 ~ 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Workshop fee $15.

The Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Avenue.
Information: 723-7936

Black Loyalists in Canada: The Rocky Road to Freedom

This presentation by the Sir Guy Carleton Branch United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada includes a guest speaker, videos on early black settlements in Ottawa, and a display of resources available for research or interest.

February 8 ~ 1 – 4 p.m.

Free admission.

The Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Avenue.
Information: Sylvia Powers at 225-6377

Cold War Artifact Tour

Visit the archives, library, and artifact storage rooms at Canada's Cold War Museum in addition to the regular tour of the museum. Tours begin at 12 noon and will take approximately two hours. Reservations are required as space is limited.

February 8 and February 22.

Regular admission fees apply.

Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum, 3911 Carp Road, Carp.
Information: 839-0007 or 1-800-409-1965

Heritage Open House

The Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum will host a Heritage Open House, which will include a guest speaker and light refreshments.

Saturday, February 14 ~ 1 – 4 p.m.

Free admission.

Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum, 7814 Rideau Street, Vernon
Information: 258-1444

The People of the Bunker Return

The Diefenbunker will be reliving the Cold War through the eyes of its former employees. Come and listen to the stories of people who worked in this underground world. Reservations are required as space is limited.

February 16 ~ Tours at 11 a.m., 12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.

Regular admission fees apply.

Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum, 3911 Carp Road, Carp.
Information: 839-0007 or 1-800-409-1965

Lecture Series

The Nepean Museum presents the third in a series of Sunday lectures: Andrew Couture of Ottawa's Antique Market on "Consignment Sales and Auctions."

February 16 ~ 1 – 4 p.m.

Lecture fee $6.

The Nepean Museum, 16 Rowley Avenue.
Information: 723-7936

Heritage Day Ceremony and Reception

The Heritage Day Official Ceremony and Reception by the Office of Cultural Affairs, the Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa, and the Heritage Advisory Committee will take place in Jean Pigott Hall, the main foyer of Ottawa City Hall. The ceremony will feature heritage interpretations by students from Fisher Park Public School and many guests in period costume. General Public Welcome.

Monday, February 17 ~ 12 noon.

Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa
Information: Office of Cultural Affairs at 244-4475

A Fund-Raising Lunch and Virtual Exhibition Launch

The Regroupement des organismes du patrimoine franco-ontarien (ROPFO) invites the public to a fundraising lunch. On this occasion ROPFO will present awards to their community leaders and launch 16 virtual exhibitions of Franco Ontarian heritage produced by Expomédiatour partners.

Tuesday, February 18 ~ 12 noon – 2 p.m.,

Centre francophone de Vanier, 270, Marier Avenue.
Information : Contact ROPFO at 562-5800, ext. 3723

Archives in Your Attic

The Archives Association of Ontario, Eastern Chapter, and the Lanark County Archives are hosting an Open House in celebration of their first anniversary that will feature a number of expert guest speakers and a workshop on how to properly conserve your paper artifacts.

February 22 ~ 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free admission.

Lanark County Archives, 1920 Concession #7 Drummond Center
Information: Colleen at 257-2078

Raising the 100th Regiment of Foot

The Goulbourn Museum is hosting the "Raising the 100th Regiment of Foot, the Soldier Settlers of Goulbourn." This unique presentation will include guest speaker Barry Roberts, who will discuss the raising of the regiment in Ireland, and it's perilous voyage to Canada. A gift basket draw, cookies and light refreshments will also be available.

February 22 ~ 1:30 p.m.

Free admission.

The Goulbourn Museum, 2064 Huntley Road, Stittsville.
Information: E-mail: goulbmus@compmore.net

Cookies and Crafts

Attention all children! Come and roll the dough, bake cookies and create a unique heritage craft at the beautiful Billings Estate Museum.

February 23 ~ 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

$2.50 per child.

The Billings Estate Museum, 2100 Cabot Street.
Information or to register: 247-4830

Lecture Series

The Ottawa Historical Association Presents Vicki Bennett, Director of the University of Ottawa Press, and her presentation on "Gothic Ottawa: A Look at the Saintly Side." A discussion and light refreshments will follow the lecture.

February 27 ~ 8 p.m.

National Archives of Canada, 39 Wellington Street.
Information: Greg at 992-6288.

Heritage on Display

The Huntley Township Historical Society's Shadow Box will handsomely display some of the township's most interesting heritage ***throughout February.***

Carp Branch, Ottawa Public Library, 3911 Carp Road, Carp
Information: Anne at 831-2490

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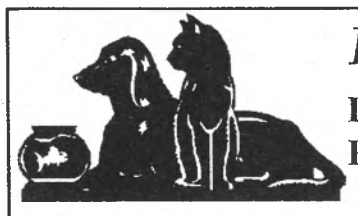

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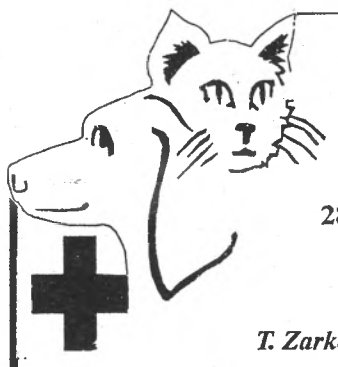

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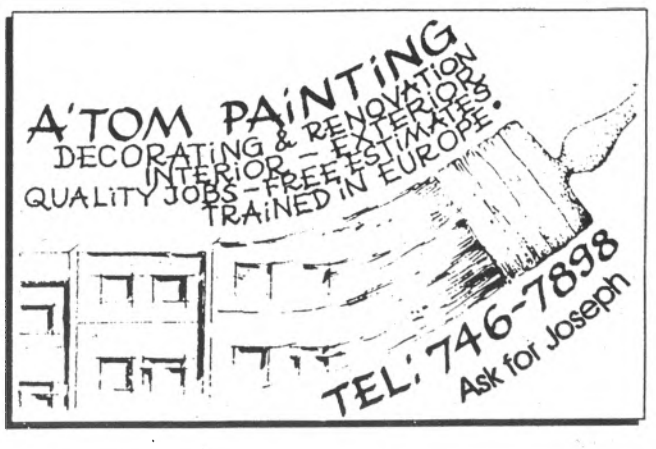

CLASSY ADS©

CLASSY ADS are free for Old Ottawa South residents (except for business operations) and **must be submitted in writing or by e-mail** (*oldottawasouthoscar@yahoo.ca*) to *The OSCAR*, the Old Firehall office by the deadline. Your name and phone number must be included. Only your phone number will appear unless you specify otherwise. Please make sure your phone number is correct. The editor retains the right to edit or exclude submissions. *The OSCAR* takes no responsibility for items, services or accuracy. For business inquiries, call 730-1058.

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Vintage teak sideboard/credenza ca. 1970: $1,000. Singer treadle sewing machine, working, ca 1930: $150.

Call: 730-2562.

Double futon couch with green cover: $50. Pier One Queen Mexican-style headboard, oversized antique desk: $500, or best offer.

Call: 730-5195

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Call Danielle: 730-2496 or 946-5556.

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Power Macintosh 6500/300. Plus E700 MultiSync Monitor. Keyboard and mouse only $300.

Call: 730-6180.

Walker: $200. Electronic blood pressure cuff: $175.

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FOR SALE

Hooked on Phonics, like new. Full audio tape set: reading, math (pre-school, primary, remedial, adult): $300.

Call: 730-0391.

LOOKING FOR BIRD CAGE

Looking for a cockatiel bird cage with a minimum of 25 inches by 25 inches by 35 inches. Willing to buy, trade or take off your hands..

Call Ana: 730-0972

DOG WALKER WANTED

Retiree or student wanted to walk medium-sized dog on weekday afternoons. Must be trustworthy and responsible, experience with pets preferred. Wages negotiable.

Call: 730-6418 in the evenings or leave a message.

NANNY WANTED

Nanny position required for three children (5, 3, 1) in Alta Vista, commencing March 1. References required. Driver's licence an asset. French speaker welcome.

Call 737-6752 after 6 p.m.

HOUSE WANTED

Family looking to rent a house in Old Ottawa South for April 1. Our children attend Hopewell and we all want to stay in the neighbourhood. 3+ bedrooms and a yard would be ideal.

Call: 730-5812.

JOB

Part-time administrator for small, not-for-profit seniors residence. Three days a week, three hours a day. Work involves staff supervision, office skills, menu planning, etc.

Call: 730-3928.

HOUSE FOR RENT

2-bedroom, upper duplex. 11 Grove Avenue, close to Bank/Sunnyside. Kitchen, bathroom, living room. Hardwood floors. Side entrance. Laundry/storage in basement. Parking for one car. Shared backyard patio. Garden. No smoking. No pets. $930 plus hydro. Available March 1.

Call 730-1068

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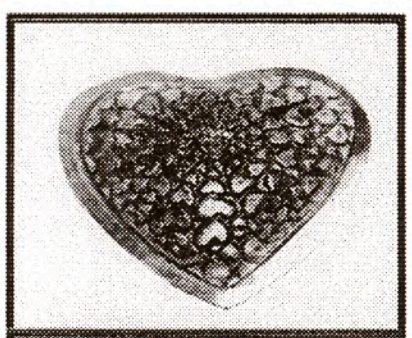

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Register at carleton.ca/athletics

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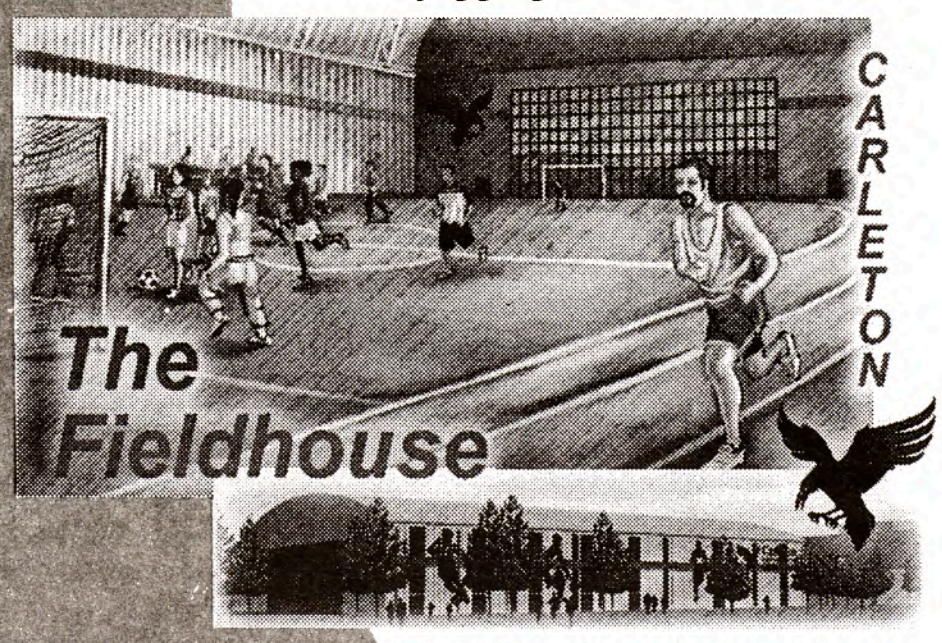

For more information Tel: 520-4480 Email: ravens@carleton.ca