

Reopening the ByWard Market

By Jasna Jennings

For nearly 200 years, the entrepreneurial spirit of business owners in the ByWard Market has shined through. Over two centuries Market businesses have faced a litany of challenges from malaria and Spanish flu, and two world wars to economic depressions and recessions, and through it all they have always found ways to survive and thrive. But this latest challenge: COVID-19 might prove to be the toughest yet.

Unfortunately, some did not survive the quarantine phase and closed early on, and recently we are saddened by reports of permanent closures. These businesses were long-standing members of our community and will be truly missed. Sadder still is the reality of knowing more of these announcements are to come.

But COVID hasn't killed the entrepreneurial spirit, most of our members are fighting back and are thrilled to be re-opening and re-engaging with their customers and the community at large. Some pivoted quickly like the grocers along ByWard who banded together to offer combined grocery deliveries and orders, while others switched their focus to spearhead charitable causes. The BIA immediately identified funds in the budget to continue the Digital Main Street program and provided digital experts to help members with their online presence. This investment will assist them during the crisis but will also serve them well into recovery.

COVID could not have hit at a worse time. Most assume that July and August are the busiest months for ByWard Market businesses, however spring is in fact the bread and butter for most of our members. It all starts with Easter Long Weekend, one of the Market's busiest weekends of the year (supported by our provincial tourism designation allowing ByWard businesses to open all weekend), Mother's Day, (this usually coincides with the annual opening of the outdoor market), The Canadian Tulip Festival, Victoria Day Long Weekend, Ottawa Race Weekend and of course Canada Day. In addition to these celebrations, we normally host anywhere from 40-50,000 students during the months of May and June for their national annual pilgrimage to Parliament Hill/the Nation's Capital.

All of this crucial business was lost this year. For restaurants, many had stockpiled food supplies in preparation for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Retailers had already purchased their spring stock, having done so several months in advance. Online sales, though very much appreciated, only moved a small fraction of that inventory. And then there is of course the salons, spas and other personal service businesses who were completely shuttered.

The good news is we see signs of life and hope with the re-openings. Streets and sidewalks are



Dalhousie Street looking North. Photo: John McQuarrie

coming back to life and businesses are reconnecting with their regulars. But in the background is the worry and reality that our once bustling and busy downtown is now very much empty.

Tens of thousands of workers are now working from home and aren't downtown purchasing their daily coffees and lunches, or shopping on their breaks or after work. Hotels are currently at 2-3% capacity, and the Shaw Centre Convention facility, normally hosting tens of thousands of conference and events guests per year is quiet. Add to that thousands of university students faculty and staff no longer at the University of Ottawa and it becomes frighteningly obvious the uphill battle we face attracting customers to the area. But what is even more disheartening, is the sight of customers lined up around the block at the suburban box stores and large-scale chains. Internal operational issues are also challenging; staffing shortages, requirements for PPE and retrofitting interiors to accommodate distancing are but a short list. But as each business is unique so are their approaches to address these new realities.

COVID has changed everything and the Market will look different this summer with upcoming road and lane closures providing distancing and space for more cafe seating and patios. Retail shops have changed hours and some require advanced booking to visit by appointment only.

Some of this may be refreshing, you'll have more elbow room at your favourite restaurant, and you can enjoy the full attention of staff at shops providing one-on-one service.

#shoplocal has never been more important. By supporting your favorite ByWard businesses, you

are also ensuring that those dollars stay local. Those same dollars move around the community supporting all kinds of other businesses and causes.

Happy Canada Day!

Remember to

Stay Safe

Things are tough today, and we might be down but we sure aren't out. But you should get out. Get out and show your love for your favourite business. Get your friends to join you in the Market for lunch or dinner or a mani-pedi or shopping trip. Share and like the great stories and posts from members. And please don't forget to be kind and let the business owners know how much you appreciate their efforts and how happy you are to see them open again.

Jasna Jennings is the Executive Director, ByWard Market BIA

Reaching out

By Sandra Milton

As 2020 and COVID unfold this summer, and while many of us have been self-isolating, we may have observed someone not following rules, particularly in parks and other public spaces. Everywhere has been like a ghost town, an unusual feeling for most of us who are used to the hustle and bustle of life. Seeing the ByWard Market so empty was eerie.

Some of us are lucky and have homes and a safe place with essential services, such as a bathroom and laundry facilities. Others are not so lucky.

While we were locked down and inside in a safe place, our first responders were still on the street working for us. We would like you to know who they are:



To start with, meet Ottawa Police Services Neighbourhood Resource Team in our neighbourhood. These men and women on bicycles provide a community feel and an understanding of each community's issues. They are very friendly and approachable! The guy in the middle is Constable Sebastien Lemay, our community officer in Lowertown.

There are also City Park Ambassadors, who are here to provide you with information about COVID rules in parks, and ensure that park users are social distancing appropriately. Meet Mat, J.R. and Jason. When not acting as park ambassadors they manage city community centres.

And we can't forget emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Come rain or shine, they suit up in protective gear to assist people in need.

At Wabano Outreach, staff work from 9 am to 5 pm daily, and at the Salvation Army staff work from 11 am to 3am daily. Both services transport homeless and at-risk people to safe, appropriate shelter. And the Causeway Needle Hunters patrol our parks twice daily, morning and late afternoon, to pick up up any discarded drug paraphernalia.



When calling for service from a park you need to provide the address :

- Bordeleau Park - 349 Bruyère St
- King Edward Park - 101 King Edward Ave
- Basketball court - 9 Union St
- Bingham Park - 145 Cathcart St
- Jules Morin Park - 400 Clarence St East
- MacDonald Garden - 541 Rideau St

Thank you frontline workers, first responders, families, friends, neighbours and those we saw from a distance but never met.

Who to Call?

Most calls should be made to 3-1-1. Your call will be triaged and sent to the appropriate service.

Call 311 or go online ottawa.ca to report any infractions and issues related to City of Ottawa services for garbage, outreach services, needle pickup, parking, noise, or overnight campers between 2300 and 0500 hours. If you see something suspicious report it. Call 911 directly if it's an emergency, for example life-threatening emergencies, fire, medical or crime in progress. You can also call 613-236-1222 option 4 for community police non-emergencies. The Lowertown Community Association is working with Wabano, the Salvation Army, the Causeway Needle Program, Inner City Health, the Sandy

Hill Community Centre and other services to ensure the safety of all in Lowertown.

Remember you can also call to compliment a City staff member or for the customer service you received!

Sandra Milton is the Director, Safety and Security, at the Lowertown Community Association.



Bracing for impact

By Catherine Hacksel

As the weather warms and quarantine restrictions ease, health-care providers continue to track, trace, and treat COVID-19 across the city of Ottawa. After initially pursuing hotel accommodations, Ottawa Inner City Health (OICH) was given space at our local Routhier Community Centre to serve homeless residents requiring medical isolation for the COVID-19 virus.

It officially launched service Monday March 23, twelve days after Ottawa Public Health confirmed COVID-19 had reached the Capital.

Symptom advisories and limited PPE were shared among emergency shelters, and the OICH's mental health van was repurposed for mobile COVID testing.

While local partnerships and flexible program development are hallmarks of the non-profit organization, a spacious public facility is an unusual service backdrop. OICH has largely grown within snug social services, beginning with bedside care for adult emergency-shelter clients nearly twenty years ago. This service is now the Diane Morrison Hospice, where I currently work frontline.

Before lockdown fades from our collective consciousness, this is a critical time to reflect on the challenges this situation starkly presented. Social determinants of health can have harsh and deadly outcomes, with no silver bullet. How can we responsively and responsibly engage with one another, while ensuring no one gets left behind?

Catherine Hacksel is a frontline worker with OICH and Secretary of the Lowertown Community Association





The Echo, a non-profit community newspaper, is supported financially by its advertisers and the Lowertown Community Association. Opinions expressed are those of contributors and advertisers and do not necessarily represent those of the volunteer editorial staff.

In 2020, the Echo will be published in February, April, June, September and November. 8,000 copies are printed and distributed free of charge to residents of Lowertown. Additional copies can also be picked up at the Routhier Centre, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, the public library, and various public and commercial locations in Lowertown.

The Echo welcomes articles, letters, photographs, notices and other material of interest to its readers in the Lowertown community. Name and telephone number of contributor must be included.

If you'd like to write articles, draw cartoons or other illustrations for stories, or take photographs on assignment, please email and leave your name and telephone number at echo@lowertown-basseville.ca. No age restrictions. The Echo reserves the right to edit in part or in whole all contributions.

L'Echo est un journal communautaire à but non lucratif dont les seuls revenus viennent des annonceurs et l'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville. Les textes n'engagent que leurs auteurs et annonceurs respectifs et ne reflètent pas nécessairement l'opinion de l'équipe de rédaction, qui est composée de bénévoles.

En 2020, l'Echo sera publié en février, avril, juin, septembre et novembre. Son tirage est de 8000 exemplaires. Il est distribué gratuitement partout dans la Basse-Ville. On peut également l'obtenir au Centre Routhier, au Centre de Ressources Communautaires de la Basse-Ville, à la bibliothèque et dans plusieurs commerces du quartier.

Tous les articles, lettres, illustrations, photos et autre matériel qui peuvent intéresser les lecteurs de la Basse-Ville sont les bienvenus. Leurs auteurs doivent indiquer leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone.

Les personnes qui aimeraient collaborer avec l'Echo sont invitées à envoyer un courriel au echo@lowertown-basseville.ca en indiquant leur nom et leur numéro de téléphone. Nous apprécions la contribution de tous, quel que soit leur âge. L'Echo se réserve le droit de modifier en tout ou en partie les documents.

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Deadline

Reserve your advertising space or submit your contribution to echo@lowertown-basseville.ca by August 24, 2020

Questions regarding delivery? If you live in Lowertown, the Echo is delivered free to your door. Please email if you are aware of anyone or any business in our neighbourhood who is not receiving their community newspaper.

Date de tombée

Publicité, articles, photos et autres soumissions à echo@lowertownbasseville.ca avant le 24 août 2020

Questions au sujet de la distribution? L'Echo est distribué gratuitement dans la Basse-Ville. Veuillez envoyer un courriel si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui ne le reçoit pas.

Jeu-questionnaire de la Basse-ville #11-3

Lowertown Quiz #11-3

- 1.Name any two of the five stores that worked with Saslove Meats in a pick-up or delivery scheme./ Nommez deux des cinq magasins qui ont travaillé avec Saslove Meats dans le cadre d'un programme de livraison ou de ramassage.
2. Where is the Mackenzie-Papineau Brigade monument located?/ Où se trouve le monument de la Brigade Mackenzie-Papineau?
3. What is the address of Jules Morin Park?/ Quelle est l'adresse du parc Jules Morin?
4. What restaurant in the Market known for giving a free dinner on your birthday is closing for good?/ Quel restaurant du marché connu pour offrir un dîner gratuit le jour de votre anniversaire ferme définitivement?
- 5.Name two games played on Fridays by Ms Smith's grade 6 class at York Street Public School?/ Nommez deux jeux joués le vendredi par la classe de 6e année de Mme Smith à la York Street Public School?
6. What music group did Ernie Cox play in back in the 1970s/ Dans quel groupe de musique Ernie Cox jouait-il pendant les années 1970?
7. When might we see buskers back in the ByWard Market?/ Quand pourrions-nous revoir des amuseurs publics sur le marché By?
8. In the picture of a mother with child in a stroller, what is the name of the restaurant?/ Dans l'image d'une mère avec enfant dans une poussette, quel est le nom du restaurant?
9. According to the Echo, how many hotels are within a 10-minute walk of the ByWard market?/ Selon l'Echo, combien d'hôtels se trouvent à moins de 10 minutes à pied du ByWard?
10. How many children can be accommodated in the *regular* summer camp at le Patro?/ Combien d'enfants peuvent participer au camp d'été *régulier* au Patro?

A winner will be drawn on July 31st from the names of all those who have submitted correct entries.

The prizes will be a free manicure from Smudge Beauty Bar, a \$25 gift certificate from the Dalhousie Shoppers Drug Mart and two more mystery prizes valued at \$50.

Le nom d'un gagnant sera tiré au sort le 1er mai des noms de tous ceux qui auront soumis des inscriptions correctes.

Le prix sera une manucure gratuite du Smudge Beauty Bar, un certificat-cadeau de 25 \$ du Dalhousie Shoppers Drug Mart et deux prix mystère d'une valeur de 50 \$ à nommer plus tard

Thank you to the Ottawa - Gatineau Hotel Association, the ByWard Market BIA, Downtown Rideau BIA, Mathieu Fleury, Lowertown Community Resource Centre and the Marché Ottawa Markets for purchasing additional advertising space which allowed us to publish this edition.

Merci à l'Association des hôtels d'Ottawa-Gatineau, à la ZAC du marché By, à la ZAC du centre-ville de Rideau, à Mathieu Fleury, au Centre de ressources communautaires de Lowertown et aux Marché Ottawa Markets qui ont acheté de l'espace publicitaire supplémentaire nous a permis de publier ce journal.

Victory Gardens and other lessons from the past

By Michel Rossignol

While dealing with the disruptions and uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, examining how residents of Lowertown and other Canadians survived the Spanish flu and other epidemics of the past can give us hope and improve our ability to cope with today’s upheavals. However, comparing our situation today with what Canadians experienced during the Second World War can also give worthwhile lessons.

Limited food supplies, line ups at grocery stores and uncertainty about when things will return to normal have tested our patience during the last several months. However, Canadians had to deal with similar situations for six long years during the WWII, from late 1939 to mid-1945. Concerns about the availability and price of food items during the pandemic have prompted many residents of Lowertown and other parts of Ottawa to dig up their front lawns and their backyards to plant vegetables in order to have a secure source of food.

The same thing happened during WWII. Canadians planted what were known as Victory Gardens around their homes to ensure a steady supply of vegetables. While the work done in Victory Gardens gave a boost to the country’s food production and eased the pain of wartime rationing, it also helped people think about other things besides the dangers and uncertainties of the war. It was not possible to completely escape the realities of the war because newspapers printed daily lists of local soldiers killed or injured in battles around the world, much like today’s daily reports on the number of persons with COVID-19 and those who have passed away.



May 7, 1945, a crowd near the Chateau Laurier Hotel celebrates the announcement of the end of the war in Europe. No need for physical distancing then. Photo: Chris Lund, LAC

During WWII, trains arrived almost daily at Union Station, now the Senate of Canada Building, with injured military personnel returning to their hometown for more treatment. For example, on May 25, 1944, as reported the next day in the Ottawa Citizen, many health-care workers were at the station to welcome the injured soldiers, including one who lived on Rideau Street, and to take them on stretchers to waiting ambulances. In May 1944, as in May 2020, dedicated health-care workers did their best to help those in need regain their health.

After years of grief and uncertainties, Canadians celebrated with great joy the end of the war in Europe. Indeed, while May 8, 1945, was officially declared Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), people started celebrating on May 7, including residents of Lowertown who danced during the whole evening at the intersection of St. Patrick and Dalhousie streets. There will certainly be many reasons for us to celebrate when most of the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic will disappear into the past, but in the meantime, we will have a steady supply of vegetables from our Victory Gardens to help us stay healthy.

Adolphe Robillard: Ottawa’s first francophone medical health officer

By Nancy Miller Chenier

Envisage a densely populated Lowertown with its mixture of houses, industries, hospitals, outdoor privies and inadequate city drains. Think about the episodes of contagious diseases like smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid and the slowly evolving scientific knowledge. And consider that all public-health decisions were balanced against the budgetary, religious and language biases of municipal aldermen. Now, imagine being Adolphe Robillard, Ottawa’s medical health officer in the 1880s and 1890s.

Adolphe Robillard was a member of a large and illustrious francophone family. His father, Antoine, cut stone to build the Rideau Canal and in the 1830s brought his wife Emilie and a growing family to the Ottawa area. Here he became a significant property owner and prominent contractor. Adolphe was born in 1836 and his early years at his Clarence Street home in Bytown shaped his life.

In 1860, after four years of study and the presentation of a thesis on puerperal fever, Adolphe graduated from McGill University Medical Faculty as a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery. On returning to Ottawa he established a practice at 11 York Street. After marriage to Sophia Cross, another Lowertowner, in 1868, he lived at 218 Murray Street. Over time, in addition to general practice and a stake in a Rideau Street drug store, he advertised as an oculist and aorist (eye and ear specialist).

Dr. Robillard was an optimist and early in his career as a municipal medical health officer, he asserted that Ottawa could be one of the healthiest cities

in Canada. But he was also realistic, and in the absence of political support and definitive science and some religious opposition, he was practical about



Cameo photo of Dr. Adolphe Robillard on a smallpox notice

public-health measures.

Communicable diseases were a common occurrence at the time. When Dr. Robillard assumed his responsibilities in 1880, smallpox had a mortality rate of over 40 percent. During his tenure, this highly contagious virus emerged several times, spreading readily from crowded dwellings and through train travel. He got support from local newspapers that promoted free vaccinations for “the most easily preventable of all epidemics.” He asserted that quarantine and isolation were important control measures, but City Council discussions about a new isolation hospital sometimes degenerated into arguments about whether Catholics and Protestants should have completely separate wards.

Typhoid was a periodic seasonal challenge, and in the 1880s, Dr. Robillard identified bacterial contamination in the city water. According to the Ottawa Journal, when he expressed his conviction that water was the trouble, the city’s Board of Health pooh-poohed the idea. He also argued for improvements in personal hygiene and public sanitation to prevent the spread through food, hands and other objects.

In 1894, during an outbreak of diphtheria, Dr. Robillard recommended contact tracing as one method to control the respiratory bacteria. He convinced the Board of Health to work with the Chief of Police to secure daily lists of all pupils absent from the city schools. He then insisted on the provision of a horse and rig so that he could visit the house of each absentee to ascertain if a contagious disease was the reason for the pupil’s absence.

Adolphe Robillard had some major challenges when trying to control epidemics. He had to work continuously to dispel misinformation about various diseases and to convince aldermen that the City should spend money on public-health measures. He was a health professional in a time of tensions and divisions between Uppertown and Lowertown, French and English, Catholic and Protestant. And in his private life, he had to deal with the premature death of his wife and several children.

Sometime in the early 1900s, he disappeared from local news coverage. Perhaps he moved west to join family settled there. In 1908, he is on record as delivering a grandson in the Peace River area of Alberta.

And now for something completely different

By Hannah Manning

Summer in Lowertown is looking a bit different than past years, but there is still plenty to look forward to. COVID-19 has shaped the last few months and will certainly be reshaping summer plans.

With the announcement that Ottawa is entering Phase 2 of reopening, the ByWard Market will start to return to “normal”. Patios and more local businesses can welcome back patrons after many hard weeks. As time progresses, we’ll see how many businesses have made the decision to move out of the Market or had to close down. The Smoque Shack, Tucker’s Marketplace, the Highlander Pub and Textures Hair Salon are some examples of businesses that won’t be reopening. Good news for those craving some BBQ or some scotch: you can still enjoy the Smoque Shack at Beyond the Pale in the City Centre, or some Scotch at the owners’ other location, , Deacon Brodies on Elgin Street.

There has been a concerted effort during COVID-19 to support local businesses and hopefully this will continue in the coming weeks and months. There’s no better time than now to be a tourist in your own city and rediscover its hidden gems. We can look to Ottawa Markets and the ByWard Market BIA to help champion local businesses, but it is always great to get out and support our neighbours any way we can.

Speaking of Ottawa Markets ... they recently announced that the ByWard Market is reopening after a few weeks of online operations, which is .great news for anyone looking to stock up on fresh local fruits and vegetables. There are also reports that plans are underway to close down some streets to



A landmark in the ByWard Market, Tucker’s Marketplace (formerly Mother Tuckers) announced it will not re-open. No more free birthday dinners. Photo: John McQuarrie

allow for pedestrian traffic and patios where customers can physically distance. Last summer’s pilot that saw William Street transformed into a pedestrian-friendly space was a huge success.

These days, one needs only to look at the success of the National Capital Commission’s closure of various parkways to allow for greater pedestrian traffic to see how much Ottawa welcomes greater access to the outdoors. Not only do these street closures encourage physical distancing, they also encourage residents to visit parts of town on foot or by bike, two methods that many have embraced as a way to beat the fatigue associated with physical distancing.

Usually one of the highlights of the summer, Canada Day celebrations have moved online this year. With renovations on Parliament Hill, the original plan was to move celebrations to Major’s Hill Park. The latest plan has celebrations moving to your home. Canadian Heritage will be releasing downloadable celebration kits online (fireworks not included).

As people head out to a patio or choose to stay home, remember to be kind. We are still learning to navigate our way through new and unfamiliar times. A smile, even hidden behind a mask, goes a long way.



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Hard choices for university students

By Emma Ewart

The impacts of Covid-19 have been felt across the country in almost every aspect of our lives, but for Lowertown university students, the pandemic’s impacts have affected their plans for their immediate and long-term futures.

On March 13th, the University of Ottawa cancelled all in-person classes and moved the rest of the term online. The University recently announced that online learning, with some limited exceptions, will continue in the fall semester. Many Lowertown university students, having just finished a semester of unsatisfying online classes, are worried that universities will not be able to resolve the logistical and technological issues that plagued our classes throughout March and April.

As a Lowertown resident who attends university outside Ottawa, it is difficult to justify the already high cost of tuition for a semester of online classes. This is even more significant considering that the sense of community, the ability to make friends and have one-on-one discussions with professors, and the use of university services like libraries, computer labs or gyms are all not part of the online class experience.

For students who have already experienced a month or more of the impacts of Covid-19 on a university classroom, the online class experience leaves a lot to be desired. Technological concerns are a big issue for students, as well. “Now that everything is online, it is a lot harder to access resources, help, and important information you need to be successful in classes,” says Yodit Asrat, a 23-year-old University of Ottawa student.

She continues, “I understand that finals have to be done online but it

may impact how well people can concentrate because you’re forced to do finals in a comforting space instead of a university auditorium, which can really impact people’s grades.”

“If you don’t have Wi-Fi at home you’re still forced to put yourself in dangerous spaces just to do a final.” Yodit continues. Mithila Ali, a 22-year-old Carleton student, adds

swered, and for students s like myself, my learning was in a different time zone making scheduling of classes a challenge.

For Lowertown students, hard choices will have to be made now that the University of Ottawa has announced it will be doing its classes online in the fall. If online classes are what needs to occur to maintain safety and slow the spread of Covid-19, students understand and respect that, but they struggle to justify the cost of a full semester’s tuition for a semester of online classes, particularly in the challenging job situation.

Many Lowertown students have lost the jobs they might normally rely on for summer employment, such as summer camps and recreational programs that traditionally hire students. “If they continue with online classes in the fall it might be difficult to do all the classes I want for my program. In my case because I am minoring in Mandarin, doing a language class like that is very difficult online so that will be a challenge.

Also in the final year there are a lot more seminar courses and year-end projects that may be affected by the courses being online. So this will impact my choice in courses,” notes Mithila Ali. She continues, “I might even take less courses just because I know that doing five to six courses per semester online will be difficult for me without the resources from physical attendance.”

While the impacts of Covid-19 cannot be avoided, Lowertown university students hope that in this upcoming fall semester some sort of solution can be worked out that will allow students to learn in an equitable and safe learning environment, one where economic and class differences can be accounted for.



Furthermore, online classes highlight economic disparities among the student body, as universities provide a place where students can access the internet. For many in our economically diverse Lowertown community, not every student has reliable internet access in their home, meaning that lower-income students are at a disadvantage compared to those who can pay for faster internet or data plans.

that “the stress of writing it online where the system can crash is nerve-wracking.”

While professors have tried their hardest in a difficult situation, a lot was lost when classes went online, including one-on-one face time with professors, the classroom setting and reliable internet. There were often internet delays and confusion, not to mention browsers crashing while trying to answer a professor’s question. Emails to professors often went unan-

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Taking it in stride

By Kelly Butler

Who knew that going for a walk could change one’s perspective so significantly? Well maybe not on everything, but now I cannot imagine a day without ambling outside, no matter the weather, to enjoy some fresh air, take a screen break and create a calming escape from isolation. While I used to walk to and from the office, these days my walks are for leisure rather than purpose. It is free, no equipment is necessary and as an added bonus, I am discovering my own neighbourhood by wandering in a different direction each day.

Unless a person is quarantined, going outdoors is allowed in Canada unlike some other countries. Social distancing has encouraged many more people to get out walking, running and biking. With far less traffic now in Lowertown, and with buses abnormally empty, the streets seem far more welcoming. Finally permitted to enjoy our neighbourhood parks once again, I see people lounging on blankets, reading and even having picnics.

It feels generally friendlier with frequent hellos and smiles; tokens of human contact amidst long weeks of missing friends and family. Rainbows on front windows, messages of gratitude for front-line workers and inspired chalk art are all hopeful sights. The strategic dance to respect an oncoming pedestrian is usually reciprocated with appreciation.

Anyone seeking some interesting strolls need look no further than our very own Lowertown community and learn about its story. We are fortunate to have such a walkable area as pathways and sidewalks abound. I have also discovered some beautiful areas of Lowertown that have quickly become my favourites.



The Mackenzie - Papineau memorial erected by the Government of Spain to honour Canadians who gave their in the Spanish Civil War.

The native trees and open spaces of the much-loved Macdonald Gardens Park holds a special place for me. My father grew up on Clarence Street and spent a lot of his childhood at this park. Many residents are using the park these days for a friendly game of social-distancing frisbee, football and other recreation.

In the ByWard Market area, stepping through the tranquil Sussex Courtyards offers a charming blend of new and old architecture leading to the stunning Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica.

Strolling down neighbourhood streets in Lowertown, I found unique houses with different styles and fascinating designs. These walks spurred an interest in the history and geography of our area and I found plenty of information on the internet. A good place to start is the Lowertown Community Association website <http://www.lowertown-basseville.ca/our-community--notre-communautea-cute.html>). I was curious to learn about what I was seeing every day as I ventured out in a new direction, admiring some lovely gardens along the way.

The Mackenzie Papineau Monument located on Green Island offers striking views of the Ottawa River, Gatineau Hills and the symbolic Rideau Falls. The Rideau Falls foot bridge leads to the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (formerly the Canada and the World Pavilion), which is part of Ottawa’s ceremonial route and The Great Trail.

Lady Grey Drive, located behind the Royal Canadian Mint, is a great sunset-watching spot and a pleasant walk from any part of Lowertown.

The term “walkability”, often used in real estate, is a positive aspect of any neighbourhood and makes where you live more enjoyable. It builds physical activity into your daily lifestyle without your having to think about it, and it rewards your senses. It was one of the features that first attracted me to Lowertown when I moved back to Ottawa. Now, it means so much more to me.

I have been paying closer attention lately to finding the small joys in my life - right here, right now. A respite, beautiful in its simplicity, can be found by re-discovering our community through its heritage, sense of shared interest, charm and character.

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Learning Continues at York St. Public School

By Christine Kilfoil

For students at York Street Public School, the pandemic has been a huge disruption to their usual routine. Students have had to adjust to online learning and the lack of daily contact with their friends and teachers.

York Street student Jane Ewart says, “The hardest part is not knowing when schools will reopen. It means I don’t have anything to look forward to because I don’t know when school will go back to normal.”

The school has maintained contact with parents and students through regular email updates and phone calls when necessary. The virtual classroom is the new reality for the time being and a way to ensure some measure of what is known as synchronous learning. This refers to a learning event in which a group of students are engaging in learning at the same time.

York Street grade 6 teacher Sara Smith says teachers have a degree of flexibility to implement learning depending on student needs and teacher style. “In my classroom, I provide synchronous learning when I provide students and families with their ‘weekly blast’ on Monday morning. Students and families will find different learning opportunities which will be due on Friday.” Ms Smith notes that some other teachers are choosing to post on a daily basis. Most teachers are also making use of Google Meet.

Google Meet is a video-conference-calling platform designed primarily for professional use, which links at-home students and teachers for real-time interaction. “In my classroom, we have three Google Meets scheduled every week at the same time,” says Ms. Smith.

Jane, a student in Ms. Smith’s class appreciates that her teacher gives the students 15 minutes before class to talk together, but once class starts Jane notes, “It is just like a regular class where we have to pay attention and do our work.”

Ms. Smith explains the differences with online learning that can present challenges. “Schools are very structured in terms of timing. With the introduction of online learning there is a lack of structure.”

Ms. Smith recognizes the difficulties for families to adjust to the online learning environment. “Families have different characteristics which in turn become different schedules. Children in the same families often have different sleep, eating and school schedules.”

Online learning has meant that students can continue their learning while staying safe, but it requires computer literacy. “For those families who struggle with computer literacy, online learning is more difficult,” explains Ms. Smith. She further explains that in response, teachers have been creating and finding videos explaining how to navigate through online platforms.

In my class, on Fridays we hold a game day. I often plan three games for the class to play. We also find time to chat about our day. Some examples that we have played have included; Would you rather?, Two truths and a lie, Charades, Pictionary, and Kahoots. The students are able to interact and are able to connect with the peers who attend the game day.

For Ms. Smith, meeting these challenges means creating a learning plan that is structured. “One way to accomplish this has been to maintain the same schedule for synchronous learning. Another important aspect is making clear directions of when work will be assigned and due.”

It is also important to recognize that students have lost more than their learning environment during this time. Recess time is the highlight of a lot of students’ school days says Ms. Smith, and she recognized that holding social gatherings virtually would boost student morale.

“In my class, on Fridays we hold a game day. I often plan three games for the class to play. We also find time to chat about our day. Some examples that we have played have included; Would you rather?, Two truths and a lie, Charades, Pictionary, and Kahoots. The students are able to interact and are able to connect with the peers who attend the game day.”

Jane says that game day is something she looks forward to. “It is hard to keep up so-

cial interaction during the pandemic,” says Jane. “It’s also hard sometimes to keep motivated to do my school work or go for a walk to exercise. It’s a good thing to have the game times at the end of the week.”

Just as students have different learning needs and family situations, that school staff have different teaching styles too. Ms. Smith explains that the pandemic has been a time for teachers to get creative with ways to reach out to students and their families.

At York Street, teachers have established different virtual clubs. For example, in the month of May Chess Club ran once a week and all York Street students were invited. In the month of June, York



Street is introducing a games club where students will play a large variety of games with any student who joins. Again, all York Street students are welcome to join. York Street recognizes the importance of students still feeling connected to the school experience even while working from home.

Families are even more important than ever to student learning as the classroom has moved to the kitchen table. To assist families, the Ministry of Education of Ontario has established “Learn at Home” (<https://www.ontario.ca/>

page/learn-at-home). “Learn at Home” has been established to “[f]ind made-in-Ontario activities, courses and more to keep the learning going, from home.”

These activities are used to help families extend student learning at home and as a family. The OCDSB’s Learn-at-Home framework has been developed to meet the Ministry of Education requirements that families can access to support online learning. The Government of Ontario has announced that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year.

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New era begins for market

City releases new plan for public spaces investments in ByWard Market



Mathieu Fleury
Councillor, Rideau-Vanier

No one needs to remind Lowertown residents of this fantastic space, just steps or merely streets away from their home. This month welcomed the reopening of some patio spaces, curbside and retail shops opening and the launch of a physically-distant version of the outdoor Market for the 2020 season.

Living in Lowertown, residents understand the importance of the iconic market stalls, the multiple shops, the eateries, and evening entertainment. But of course, many of you also know there is room for

improvement, and that is where the City’s Byward Market Public Realm steps in.

The Plan, which dedicates \$150M to improving the public spaces, was released this month and outlined projects for proposed investments for the area. This investment is long overdue, and I am pleased to say the goal is to ensure this area remains a thriving, prosperous and popular destination for years to come.

The Plan establishes a vision, guiding principles, a functional plan and conceptual design concepts that guide investment and change in the market for many years to come. As the heart of the Market, the Heritage Public Market building currently accommodates a diverse collection of original shops, boutiques, retailers, restaurants and public spaces. This new Plan guides how best to utilize the existing amenities like this heritage building, the streets and public spaces all within the ByWard Market.

Additionally, the fundamental goal is to shift the perception of the Market and provide objectives and designs to beautify, organize and connect the ByWard Market’s public spaces to make them inviting, accessible, inclusive, and safe.

Developed thanks to residents and local businesses’ participation, this Plan is critical to the renewal of this space. City Council will review this Plan



this fall, and the City has also put the Public Realm Plan on its shortlist for stimulus funding requests from senior levels of government as investment programs to help relaunch the economy following the COVID-19 impacts.

If you want to learn more about this public realm plan, we have some good news. A draft of the ByWard Market Public Realm Plan has been prepared and is now available at <https://mathieufleury.ca/byward-market-public-realm-plan-2/>.

Une nouvelle ère pour notre marché

La Ville dévoile un nouveau plan d’investissement dans les espaces publics au marché By

Tous les résidents de la Basse-Ville connaissent cet espace incroyable, à quelques pas ou à quelques rues seulement de chez eux.

Ce mois-ci, nous assisterons à la réouverture de quelques terrasses, magasins ayant pignon sur rue et commerces de détail, en plus du lancement de la saison 2020 du marché extérieur, version distanciation physique.

Les résidents de la Basse-Ville connaissent l’importance des étals emblématiques du marché, des différents kiosques, des restaurants et de l’animation en soirée. Bien entendu, beaucoup d’entre vous savent aussi qu’on peut faire mieux, et c’est ici que le Plan du domaine public du marché By intervient.

Le Plan, qui a été dévoilé ce mois-ci, mobilise 150 millions de dollars pour l’amélioration des espaces publics et donne un aperçu des projets d’investissement proposés pour le secteur.

Cet investissement s’est longtemps fait attendre, et nous sommes fiers de dire que notre objectif est de nous assurer que cet espace demeure une destination florissante, prospère et populaire pendant de nombreuses années.

Le Plan définit la vision, les principes directeurs et les concepts relatifs aux plans fonctionnel et conceptuel qui guideront les investissements et les changements dans le secteur pour de nombreuses années à venir.

Au cœur du marché, l’édifice historique accueille actuellement un éventail diversifié de magasins,



boutiques, commerces de détail et restaurants uniques ainsi que des espaces publics. Le nouveau plan permettra d’orienter les décisions relatives à la meilleure utilisation des installations déjà existantes, comme l’édifice historique, les rues et les espaces publics au marché By.

Par ailleurs, l’objectif fondamental est de changer l’image du marché et de déterminer l’orientation et les concepts qui permettront d’embellir, d’organiser et de relier ses espaces publics pour les rendre accueillants, accessibles, inclusifs et sûrs.

Élaboré à la lumière des commentaires des résidents et des commerces locaux, le Plan constitue le pilier de la revitalisation de cet espace.

Le Conseil municipal examinera le Plan cet automne, et il figurera sur la liste des projets retenus pour lesquels la Ville présentera des demandes de fonds de stimulation au titre de différents programmes d’investissement offerts par les gouvernements fédéral et provincial pour la relance de l’économie après la COVID-19.

Vous voulez découvrir le Plan du domaine public du marché By? Bonne nouvelle : vous pouvez en consulter une version provisoire à l’adresse <https://mathieufleury.ca/plan-du-domaine-public-du-marche-by-2/>



Real Estate in the time of COVID

By Lynda Cox



Since the start of the Pandemic the Ottawa real-estate market has experienced an increase in home prices and a decrease in the length of time a house takes to sell, or days on market. Both of these factors are good indicators that the housing market is stable, at least for the time being. Currently the inventory is lower than ever, causing pent-up demand and lots of bidding wars.

In fact, within the last two weeks, the majority of properties in the Ottawa region are selling for at least their asking price, with multiple-offer scenarios a common occurrence causing the buyers to pay more. This is happening from Orleans to Stittsville and everywhere in between.

This frenzy is prompting buyers to delete their financing and building-inspection conditions and go in with a firm offer. It's a risky business but very common at the moment. Buyers are encouraged to have all their mortgage approvals and even building inspections completed before they submit their offer. It is often the only way to have a chance of securing the property in this fast seller's market.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) is predicting an up to 18% drop in housing prices once the pandemic panic comes to a close. Once the mortgage deferrals come to an end, some of those home-owners might be forced to sell if their financial position has changed due to

COVID layoffs. Also, home owners that intended to list their properties this spring and have been waiting until the virus was under control will be ready to put their houses up for sale. Listing inventory could spike. There might be lots to choose from. This could quickly turn into a buyer's market with sellers adjusting their prices just to be more competitive. Even now we are seeing a daily jump in the number of listings.

So for now, it is wait and see. There are so many unknowns. Will CMHC be right? Only time will tell.

In my last article I suggested you hold off selling because the market had ground to a halt due to COVID but now my advice would be to get your house on the market as soon as possible so as to take advantage of this strong seller's market. Who knows how long it will last? If you are still not in a panic to sell this year you can wait it out. If the prices drop it shouldn't be for long. Ottawa always bounces back.

Lowertown Real Estate Update May 1 to June 11

Residential	
Active Listings	6
Conditionally Sold	1
Sold	6
(3 sold over list by \$25K to \$55K)	

Condominium	
Active Listings	34
Cond. Sold	2
Sold	18
(3 over list by \$8K to \$30K)	

Lynda and her son Jim form the COX HOME TEAM, and are sales representatives with Royal LePage Performance Realty. You can reach Lynda at lynda@coxhometeam.ca

COVID, change, and the condominium world

By David Lu



It has been almost three months since the last Condo Corner column, and what a new world we are all now living in! Speaking for myself, this experience has made me appreciate many things that I have previously taken for granted. I miss going to food courts! This new reality is still something that I am getting accustomed to.

In the condominium world, some things have changed dramatically as well. The condominium community really had no other choice. As you know, in most situations condominiums involve many people living in close contact with each other. That, of course, does not fit well with current health guidelines.

In my view, one of the biggest adjustments is in relation to condominium meetings. With summer right around the corner, during normal times it is the height of AGM season. An AGM (Annual General Meeting) is a yearly meeting of all owners to review the condominium's affairs for the past year (including finances), vote on any specific matters, conduct elections for the Board of Directors and discuss any other issues facing the community.

With physical distancing requirements, in-person AGMs are simply not possible. Fortunately, soon after the emergency was declared, the provincial government extended the timelines for condominium corporations to conduct their AGMs. (Condominiums are normally required to hold their AGMs within six months of the end of the fiscal year). However, without holding AGMs, certain affairs of the Corporation cannot be conducted, e.g. electing a new Board of Directors.

This could be problematic if the situation lasts long term. Given these challenges, implementing procedures for conducting an AGM electronically is becoming increasingly necessary.

In normal times, a condominium cannot hold a virtual owner meeting, or allow for electronic voting, unless the condominium's by-laws permit it. For many condominiums, particularly the older ones, such a by-law does not exist in their governing documents. The proverbial Catch -22 applies: you can't hold a virtual meeting without having such a by-law but you can't adopt the by-law without holding a meeting to approve it.

Fortunately, the provincial government made temporary amendments to the Condominium Act that dispensed with this requirement. Our firm has begun helping various condominiums conduct these virtual AGMs.

Having experienced these virtual meetings, I have to say that even when the world returns to normal (whatever that looks like), conducting virtual meetings will be a very attractive option for many condominiums moving forward. Virtual meetings are here to stay, at least in some capacity.

Another change I have seen in condominiums is the surge in community spirit. Many condominium residents have offered to volunteer their labour and time to help others. Whether that is doing extra cleaning around the hallways, picking up groceries for the most vulnerable or checking in on those who are self-isolating, the biggest benefit that I've seen from crisis is the increased sense of community.

It is through this community spirit that we will overcome this challenge, together.

I want to wish you all well during these exceptional times.

David Lu is an Associate at Davidson Houle Allen LLP.



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Combattling COVID: It’s up to us

By John Chenier

Medical scientists have been working all out to understand and find a way to defeat COVID-19. Teams in countries around the world are searching for a vaccine that will neutralize the virus or to find medicines that will treat and relieve the deadliest symptoms brought on by COVID. Public health agencies are examining how the virus is spread, how long it can live on various materials in wait for its next victim and how much and what kind of exposure people can tolerate before they come down with the disease.

At the moment, the only and best weapon available to prevent the spread of COVID is not medical, but social — as in social distancing. If you avoid contact with an infected person, you cannot contract the disease and, more importantly, you cannot pass it on to others.

The lockdown gave us time to design practices and redesign workspaces based on what we were learning about the spread of COVID. Many businesses adopted new ways of serving their customers. Take-out, on-line ordering and pick-up or delivery services eliminated most physical contact. Protective screens, directional arrows and limited capacity in stores made practicing social distancing easier and shopping safer.

But, as lockdown restrictions are phased out, it is important to remember that the one thing that really matters hasn’t changed. The COVID-19 virus is still out there and there is still no known cure or means of prevention other than to wash your hands

Public health has been all over the map in relation to the use of, or need for, masks. The major concern has been that they give the wearer false confidence. Unless you are in full protective gear, the cloth masks everyone is wearing will not prevent you from contracting the virus. However, there is strong evidence that wearing a mask reduces your chances of spreading it to others.

frequently, avoid touching your face and, of course, practice social distancing. It may sound easy, but it isn’t as easy as you might think.

While medical scientists have been searching for a cure, social scientists have been working on what kind of messaging works best at getting people to accept and act on pandemic warnings. An article by Graham Lawton in the May 2020 issue of New Scientist laid out what they have discovered about public acceptance. Among those he interviewed were researchers from the Behaviourial Research Unit in the Economic & Social Research Institute of Ireland



There are many problem areas in the Market precinct where a restaurant’s livelihood may be in conflict with the requirements of physical distancing. What will be sacrificed? Parking? Vehicle traffic? Pedestrian and/or diners’ safety? Photo: John Chenier

The trick here, says Lunn, [Peter Lunn, team leader] is to generate a common group identity. That means “geting it across that we are all in it together and communicating to everybody a strategy that says , ‘if we all do X, we will all be better off and here’s why.’ And also introducing gradual degrees of social punishment and disapproval for people who don’t bat for the team.” Think tutting when people don’t social distance or challenging those who break the rules.

Obviously a British magazine! In other countries, a mere tut-tut has led to dire consequences.

The article continues:

Encouraging collective action, for example, is a classic public goods problem where enough people must override their own self-interest in pursuit of a common goal. Existing research suggests that most people are “conditional operators”: willing to make sacrifices for the greater good, but only if others do too.

That last part is what they discovered to be the most critical element to public acceptance. It is also the source of our biggest problem.

There have been many contradictory approaches and attitudes to COVID since the pandemic was declared. Some of these changes in approach are a result of what we have managed to learn about the spread or containment of the virus; others are what people would rather have us believe, such as “It’s just a flu.”; others are based on different ways of coping with a pandemic, such as developing herd immunity.

These contradictory messages chip away at the public’s buy-in to social distancing. The likelihood that people will follow recommended procedures on social distancing is reduced significantly when they see leaders who don’t “walk the talk” or public policies that go against social distancing. Add in all the false information that has been circulated and you can understand why we seem to have social confusion rather than social distancing.

The real test for residents of Lowertown, especially in the ByWard Market area, will be the ability to practice social distancing in restaurants or when walking on the sidewalks. Diners on patios will, for obvious reasons, not be wearing masks. Pedestrians should be two metres away from the closest diner. Current patio regulations for restaurants require that they leave a space of 1.98 metres for pedestrian traffic. If that is followed, the first rank of pedestrian traffic would have to be on the roadway and those going in the opposite direction attempting to social distance should be a further two metres beyond that. And that doesn’t account for patrons waiting to get in.

In other words, something will need to change. We cannot have patios, ensure pedestrian safety and have 1.98 metre pathways. There has to be some combination of either shrinking patios or shrinking roads.

How the city goes about balancing the safety of its citizens against the need for patios if restaurants are to remain viable will send a message about the priority it places on preventing the spread of COVID — and how safe it is to enter the Market precinct.

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COVID-19 impact on tourism

By Steve Ball

Approximately 11 million people visited Ottawa in 2019. As in many other Canadian cities, they came to attend meetings and conventions, were part of a group-travel excursion, or just came to explore the many great attractions and events that Ottawa has to offer. During their visit they spent money, lots and lots of money.

Ottawa Tourism reports about \$2.2 billion was contributed to our local economy last year from tourism. Visitors spent money in hotels, restaurants, retail outlets and for entertainment. This of course makes the ByWard Market an attractive destination for visitors, as much of what they want is offered right here.

By my calculations, there are 27 hotels within a 10-minute walk of the Market, and combined they represent 5,762 bedrooms. Ottawa's average annual hotel occupancy in 2019 for all properties was a respectable 73%. The occupancy is traditionally well over 80% during the summer months.

Using that annual average of 73%, the math tells us we had well over 1.5 million room nights sold in these 27 hotels alone during 2019. Often there is more than one person staying in a room; therefore a conservative estimate would suggest over two million

guests were within a short walk of the ByWard Market. That's about twice the population of the region.

The OGHA has 55 members in total representing another 5000 hotel rooms outside of the 10-minute walking distance. Many guests at these properties would also visit the By Ward Market during their stay, but perhaps arrive by car or taxi. Needless to say, when you add up all the potential out-of-town customers it's an astounding number.

Unfortunately, 2020 will deliver only a small fraction of that customer base. When COVID-19 took hold of the world in mid-March travel came to a screeching halt. Occupancy levels of hotels around the world dropped to historic lows, with recovery in the sector expected to take years.

This summer looks bleak for our local tourism industry. With many of our blockbuster attractions expected to be closed this summer it will be difficult to encourage leisure travel even though there is a reported pent-up demand for domestic road trips.

The talented team at Ottawa Tourism have great summer campaigns ready to launch but will they succeed in attracting visitors? Will a virtual Canada Day fill any hotel rooms? With summer hotel occupancy expected to be in the single digits, mil-

lions of our best customers will just not be here. The lack of visitor traffic this year will emphasize the critical importance tourism plays to the success of the Market and crystalize why we need to nurture this gem as a key tourism asset.

The lack of visitor traffic this year will emphasize the critical importance tourism plays to the success of the Market and crystalize why we need to nurture this gem as a key tourism asset.

I applaud the City's vision of a rejuvenated ByWard Market outlined in the Public Realm study and once executed this plan will provide some much needed cosmetic and street-level improvements.

As a next step though, we need to take a broader and longer-term view to resolve the really big issues that negatively impact our ability to get to the next level, including the complex and growing social challenges related to homelessness, mental health and drug use, not to mention the ridiculousness of still having a downtown truck route ploughing through the core of our city causing traffic congestion and significant noise and pollution.

All the while we must ensure we provide a safe, affordable and a healthy environment for people and their families that have chosen to live in the growing concrete jungle surrounding the Market.

As business leaders living in the Capital of our country, we owe it to Canadians to do better. Ottawa is beautiful and we are proud to call it home. We do so many things right and have a great base to work from. But the Market needs some immediate attention and significant investment. That may be hard to contemplate during the financial crunch of COVID-19 but necessary none the less.

If action is driven by necessity, then I expect there will be plenty of renewed interest to talk about this in the fall. The timing is good as we have the important 200th anniversary of the ByWard Market coming in 2027. Ottawa demonstrated in 2017 that we are good at throwing birthday parties so let's look forward to making 2027 an equally great celebration for Canadians by featuring a polished-up version of the ByWard Market as the guest of honour.

Steve Ball is the President of the Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association and a resident of George Street.

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Be Kind. Support Local.

By Zachary Dayler

The time has come to announce the re-opening of our beloved ByWard and Parkdale markets! You have probably noticed the increased activity of patio set-up and stand construction as we look to open the area in a new way.

The markets will begin to be open June 18, 2020, and if you can, make an effort to get out there and support local! The next few months are going to be important as businesses re-open, every little bit of shopping that you can do at the local grocery, restaurant, or specialty shop will mean a great deal.

Ottawa Markets would also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who supported the Ottawa Markets Pick and Click Market that launched the 2020 season for both ByWard and Parkdale. Because of your support, we were able to provide over \$65,000 to local producers.

We will be keeping this online service for the added convenience, but also because it is a great way to meet and engage with new producers. For many, this is an excellent first step to potentially coming out and setting up on a busy weekend!



**The road back to a full market begins with a single stall.
As local produce becomes more bountiful, the hope is that more growers and more shoppers will return.**

The area and our markets are going to feel and look a little different. We will slowly be opening vendors to make sure each stand and producer have an understanding of what is required to keep a healthy and safe environment.

You will also see most staff wearing masks and taking other protective measures, along with distancing decals and signage on how to move through the area. It is going to feel awkward at first, but if we come together in understanding and remain supportive of each other, we can carve out our new routines.

It is a nervous and exciting time as we all dust off and wade back into our routines. We are not going to rush. Instead we will be taking a measured approach to add all the components back that make up the market experience in Ottawa.

We have started with our food producers, then we will add back arts, and hopefully, by the end of July, we will see busking. As you begin to get back out there, keep a couple of things in mind:

- Wash your hands. We have added hand sanitizing stations around the markets.
- Do not rush. Maybe write a list of everything you need and plan a route.

- No mask jokes. Many have no choice, and people are wearing them for our collective health and safety.
- Have a good time, but remember wait times will increase, so think of the next person. Many shops and services are working with limited space.
- Do NOT come out if you are sick.
- Your kids are cute, but if they are running around, they might be getting too close to other people.
- If you can, tip generously, there is ALOT of added work so we can have some normality in our routines.
- Be kind. Be patient. Be a friend to a local business.

These are just some helpful tips as we get back into our daily routines and activities. From us here at Ottawa Markets, we are working hard to re-open, and as the season goes on, we hope we can return to a full complement of artists, producers, and buskers at both ByWard and Parkdale.

Enjoy the summer months, and just in case it wasn't clear in our article - don't forget your neighbour and remember to be kind. We do that, and we may just get to a better place!

Zachary Dayler is Executive Director of Marché Ottawa Markets



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Lowertown commerce in a post-pandemic world

By Joel Weiner and Juliet O'Neill

Lowertown's business community is diverse, ranging from low to high tech, from small specialty shops to big-box stores and from skilled tradespeople and artisans to medical, legal and financial professionals. All changed in one way or another when the federal government issued a health advisory on March 13 to contain the global COVID19 pandemic in Canada

Most had to shut their doors and stop doing business, assuming the lockdown would last a few weeks before discovering that it would drag on for months. Others qualified as essential services and were permitted to remain open with precautionary measures in place. A third category barred in-store traffic but quickly turned to online or telephone shopping and used delivery services or curbside pickup to fulfill orders.



One business that stayed open from the start was Michel's Tobacco and Variety, at 262 Dalhousie Street. "It was very eerie," recalls Wilson, the owner. "The Market was deserted, except for homeless people. Working people just weren't here. The streets and the sidewalks were empty." During this period, Wilson had far fewer customers than usual, but they bought more, either as loyal clients helping him out or people looking to avoid long lines at supermarkets.

Still, his sales dropped by more than 50%. "For me, it was like moving from one shutdown to another," says Wilson. "I shut the store for three weeks to go overseas and had just reopened when the pandemic struck. But given the situation we're all in, I really can't complain."

Down the street, at 176 Dalhousie, Ideal Coffee was closed for a few weeks until it started providing delivery and pickup of online orders. Now open again, its menu is far more limited than when it served full meals and drinks, and hosted folk nights and popular Brazil nights featuring black bean soup, live music and dancing. Today, it's only one customer at a time in through the front door to pick up coffee beans or a hot brew, fresh scones or a sandwich of the day, and then quickly out the back door.

"It's a shift back to basics," says manager Paige Blacklock. By late May, Ideal had recovered 45% of its clientele but it was too soon to plan a return to normal. "The concept of normal hasn't been redefined yet," says Blacklock.

In fact, most owners interviewed by The Echo say that operations will likely remain transformed for some time to come, even as public health restrictions are steadily eased and more and more businesses open to customers.

The new safety procedures will stay on for a while, at least, limiting the number of people in es-

tablishments at any one time; specifying how they can move around; requiring the use of facemasks; regularly sanitizing counters and equipment; and using tap-only credit card machines instead of cash. A number of businesses expect that several of these approaches could become permanent, especially cashless transactions.

Looking forward

As for what lies ahead economically in Lowertown's businesses community, it seems to be anybody's guess. Views typically range from deep concern to cautious optimism, even though everyone shares a fervent hope that things will eventually return to normal.

"I don't think that anyone really has the answer," says Gabriele O'Brien. She sells local maple syrup products at Gateway on the southeast corner of George Street and ByWard Market. The stand remained open all through the lockdown because there's enough room on the broad sidewalk for proper social distancing.

But even though the rules are relaxing, O'Brien reports that business is still quite slow. "There aren't a lot of people out and who knows what will be?" Normally, she moves across the street from April to late fall and works a popular flower stand on the opposite corner; in mid-June, it still wasn't there.

At Blue Nile, a grocery and convenience store at the northwest corner of King Edward and St. Andrew, owner Debalke Melaku was able to stay open from the outset. "People in the neighbourhood wanted to help me, so they came in to shop," he reports. "I couldn't have carried on without their support."

But Melaku thinks that the immediate future will be tough for small businesses like his. "People are still afraid of the virus and are not going out like they used to," he says. "There is also difficulty getting supplies, and I have the same overhead expenses."

That prognosis is shared by Etienne Humez, owner of L'HEXGONE Menswear at 252 Dalhousie Street. He reopened on May 19, when regulations permitted. "I think it will take a minimum of six months for small businesses like mine to get back to usual levels of activity," he says. Currently, he's letting no more than three people in at once, wearing gloves and a mask when taking measurements, and quarantining all new merchandise for 24 hours.

Quarantine is also standard procedure at Milk Shop, a clothing and gift boutique on William Street. Apparel that's been tried on but not purchased is isolated for a day and then steamed before being put on sale again. Among other new procedures are hopping by appointment only and no more than two customers in the shop at a time.

"Two thirds of our clients are gone," says owner Inaas Kiryakos. "One third, a loyal customer base, remains intact. The rest is equally divided between students and tourists who are unlikely to return this summer."

Students and tourists also comprise a large segment of Fazi Kapro's clientele. He owns Cumberland Pizza, a Lowertown institution for almost 50 years and currently located at 152 Nelson Street. Kapro says that his sales are down 50%. "Much of our business comes from university residences and tourists," he explains. "But the students went home, the hotels are empty and I don't know when they'll



come back."

Volume is also down significantly at 341 Dalhousie, where Bytown Shoe Repair's owner, Joseph Haddad, relies on Lowertown office workers, hotel guests and passersby for his livelihood. "It's very slow right now," he says. "Since reopening, I've had only about 30% of the business from before the lockdown, and I don't know whether I can survive if things don't go back to the way they were."

Haddad worries that government employees, who constitute a big percentage of his trade, will continue working from home rather than returning to nearby offices, and that there will be fewer tourists. "I'm in a trial period right now," he says. "I'm not ordering new supplies, just working with what I have to see how things develop."

Next door, at M. Good Custom Tailor, owner Kelly Fontil went in to his closed shop a day or so each week to service the Ottawa Police, one of the several large organizations with which he has contracts. "But there wasn't enough business to keep my regular six employees on," he recalls, "and we'll have to see how things develop in the months ahead."

One thing's for certain: the daily Changing of the Guard ceremony on Parliament Hill has been cancelled this season, so Kelly won't be taking care of the regiments that perform it. And that means he won't hire help for the summer months, when his staff usually increases to 16 and he does about half of his annual business.

At 50 ByWard Market Square, on the other hand, Saslove's Meat Market was able to keep key employees on at full salary, even though the doors were closed to walk-in traffic. In addition to curbside





Lining up at The French Baker

pickups, owner John Diener turned to home delivery and also offered other food merchants an opportunity to participate. Ultimately, this collaborative venture included ByWard Fruit Market, the House of Cheese, Lapointe Fish Market and The French Baker.

Explains Diener: “If someone ordered meat from us and also wanted the other products, those shops put together their parts of the order and brought them to us for merger with the meat order. Then everything went out as one delivery with one bill.”

Despite this success, Diener is concerned about the future. “Things are very uncertain for us right now,” he admits. He’s expecting pressure to open for walk-in traffic again, but

he’ll have to limit customers to only one or two at a time. He also foresees ongoing demand for curbside pickups. “The logistics of operating both ways will be difficult,” he says.

Like so many Lowertown merchants, Diener appreciates the support received from neighbourhood customers, but he worries that the COVID crisis is renewing talk about closing Market streets to vehicular traffic. “That will spell the end of retail food here,” he says. “People will not walk for blocks with their food purchases.

This was proven during the Inspiration Village fiasco in 2017, where lots of long- time customers stopped coming to the Market because of lack of parking. We need shoppers from

throughout the Ottawa-Gatineau region who need to access the Market by car.”

Opportunities

While the lockdown created problems for businesses across the board, there were also breaks for some. For example, Bruno Mesta, owner of Mobile Surgeons at 203 Dalhousie, closed his doors when the pandemic struck. But that allowed him to be on hand when his son was born soon after, and then stay home to enjoy the expanded family. Fortunately, when Bruno reopened on May 13, lots of work came in from the many shops around town that contract out their repairs of smartphones, tablets and game consoles to him. There’s also been a pickup in walk-in traffic for these services as well as the accessories that he sells.

At The French Baker and Benny’s Bistro on Murray Street, the lockdown brought about a beneficial change that may become permanent: sale of frozen food. “I’ve been a chef for 25 years and I’ve never done takeout ever,” says executive chef Scott Adams. “I always thought my product wasn’t represented properly when it gets to someone’s house an hour or two later.”

But the lockdown inspired Adams to start selling frozen bistro cooking for curbside pickup, along with fresh bakery items. The initiative has been quite successful. “We don’t have to stand in front of the stove for 14 hours in hopes we’re going to sell a couple

of hundred dollars of orders,” he says. “It’s been pretty effective.”

Although the pandemic struck not long after Kaz Kitchen and Grocery started up in February at 207 Giguere Avenue, owner Amin Kazemihari feels that, “In retrospect, it was a good time to begin because COVID-19 encouraged local shopping and I was open.”

A professional chef who operated restaurants in the past, Amin is converting Lauzon Meats and Groceries into an emporium selling prepared food along with groceries and fresh meat. He’s optimistic that business will continue to pick up as restrictions are relaxed, his advertising begins and new signs are up. “I’ll limit the number of customers inside to five or six, but traffic hasn’t reached that point yet,” he says.” Amin wear a mask and has hung a sneeze guard at the meat counter.

Many businesses had their rent deferred or reduced by generous landlords, some of whom did so in anticipation of federal support that was promised in mid-April. It kicked in on May 25 as the Canadian Commercial Rent Assistance program for landlords who reduced their eligible tenants’ rent by at least 75% during April, May and June. This will help, of course, but what Lowertown’s business community will look like next year is a mystery.

STAY, CLOSE TO HOME

If you’re not venturing far from home this summer, why not plan a quick and easy getaway to one of the member properties of the Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association? Downtown and across the region, there are many great places to stay—and plenty to experience! Check out our member directory at OGHA.ca

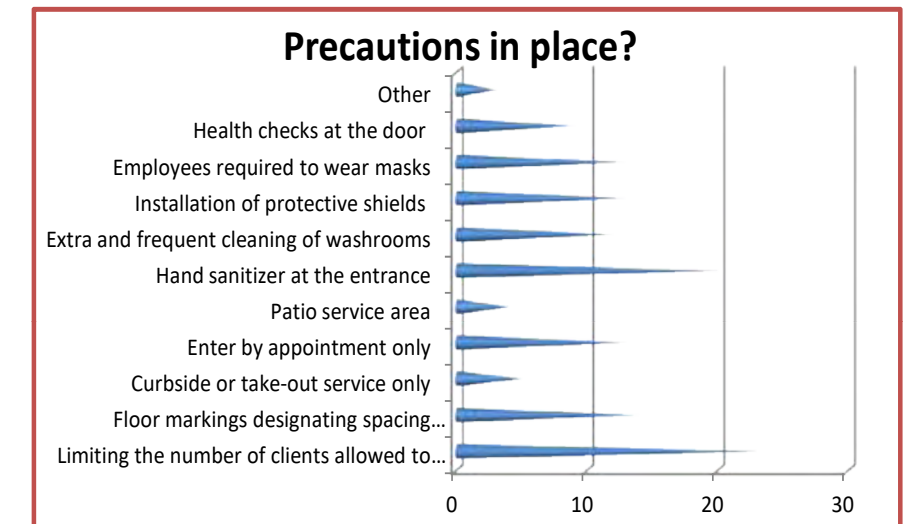
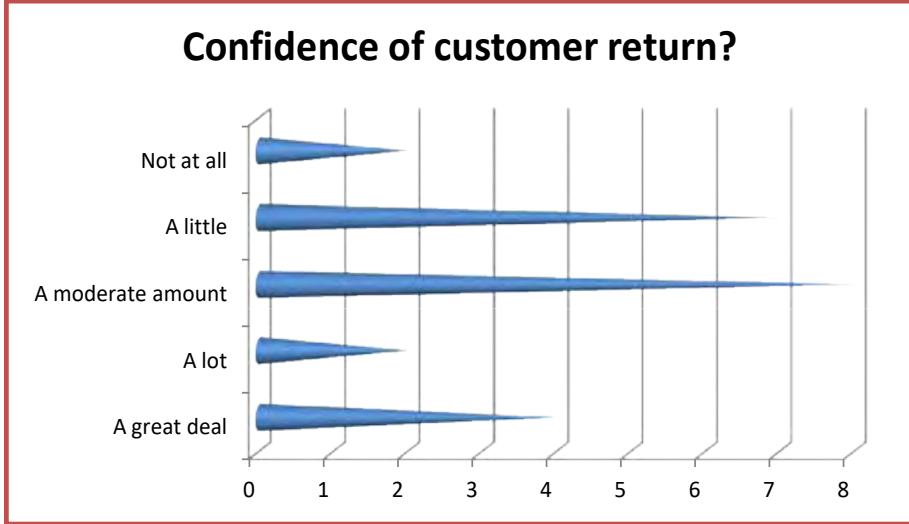
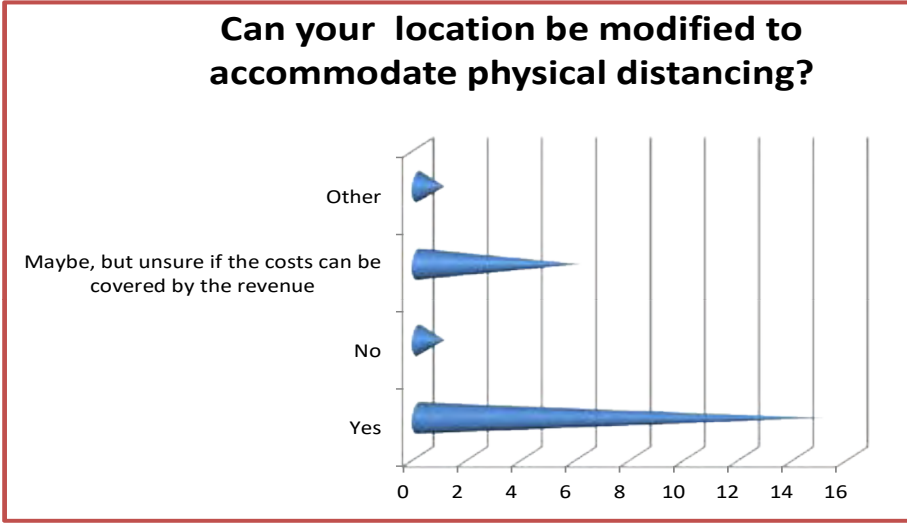
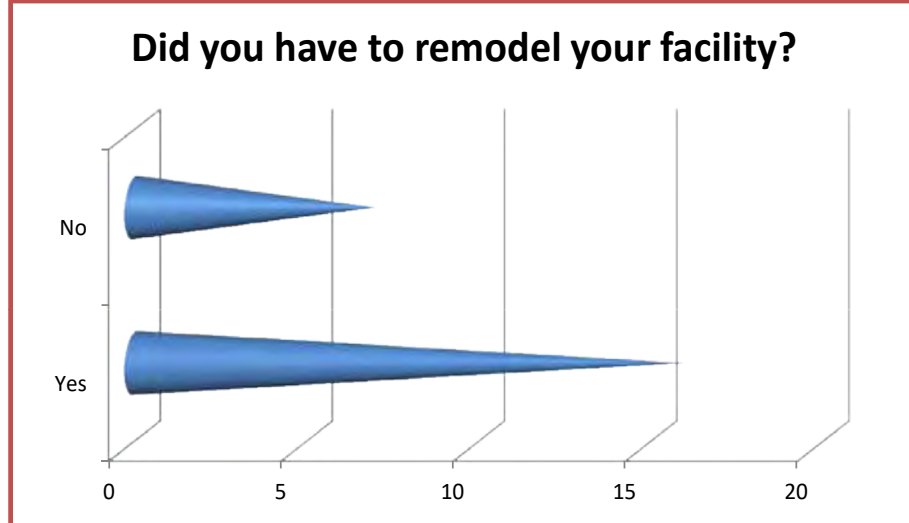
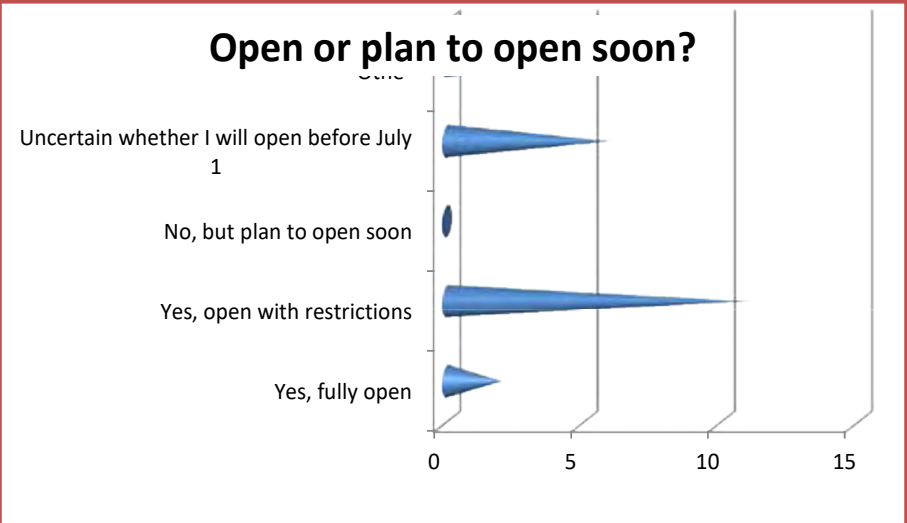
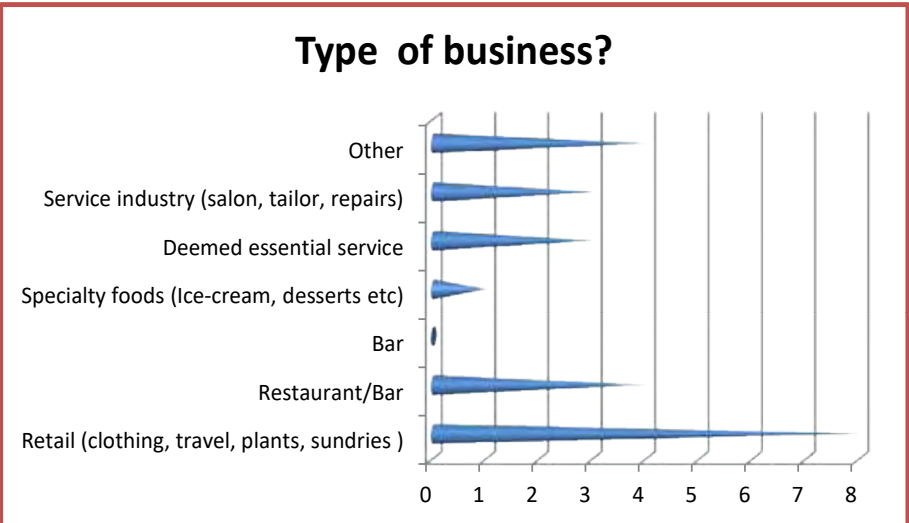
Business survey

The Echo sent out a short survey to businesses in Lowertown in an effort to develop a picture of what our businesses have been through and how they see things developing as we emerge from the lockdown but operate under new rules.

The questions were:

1. Were you able to keep some part of your business going during the lockdown?
2. What type of business do you operate?
3. Are you open for business now or do you plan to open soon?
4. Have you had to remodel your premises to facilitate opening under social distance rules?
5. Do you think your business location can be adapted to support social distancing?
6. How confident are you that customers will quickly return to shop or buy?

7. Do you have concerns that customers and/or employees could contract COVID in the workplace?
8. Which of the following special precautions will you be adopting to protect employees and customers?
- Here are the responses.



Business profile: Carlos Radi of Carlos Graphics

By John Chenier

You can find the nondescript entrance to Carlos Graphics just a couple of doors down from La Bottega. Unless you are in the habit of walking around craning your neck to look up at second-storey windows, the only indication of this funky second floor loft at 70 George Street is an unremarkable sign on the sidewalk out front.



If you are like me, you could live in Lowertown and shop in the market for years and never know it was there. If it weren't for a friend having some of his cartoon drawings put on some dishes he was giving as a very personalized wedding present to his niece I might still be oblivious to its presence.

To use my friend's expression, Carlos Graphics is a treasure trove for the creative mind looking for a unique gift — perhaps bordering on the kitschy. If you are yearning to put a slogan, a special picture, logo or touching message onto something solid, Carlos Graphics is the place to go.

Team-building T-shirts? No problem.

Company water-bottles? What colour?

Embroidered undershorts? Maybe?

The biggest challenge is climbing up those steep steps to get to the shop.

Carlos Radi brought his graphics design firm from the periphery down to the ByWard Market more than a dozen years ago. Why the Market, I asked? "Because downtown is the place to be," he replies. Where else could he find such a diversified market for his many services?

The list of offerings in his regular ad in the Echo reads like this: offset and digital printing, business cards, booklets, kit folders, envelopes, letterhead, postcards, calendars door hangers, banners, event backdrops, stickers, labels, vehicle magnets, wall graphics, real estate signs, coroplast signs, illuminated signs, totebags, lamination, embroidery screen printing, custom T-shirts, mugs & cups and — get this — MUCH MORE.

Time for a confession: his firm does not print the Echo, but it has produced coffee mugs with the Echo and LCA logos, and it is considered by some to be the official printer for the Lowertown Community Association.

Like many businesses, Carlos Graphics was closed during the lockdown. But the firm is slowly getting back to work and, according to anyone you ask working there, it is busy. If you find yourself in a store looking at signs telling you where to stand to maintain physical distance or to locate a public hand-cleansing station, you may be seeing some of his handiwork.

As the orders for these and other COVID-related products come rolling in, it is evident that the pandemic has had both a positive as well as a negative impact on his business. The company is still not operating at full strength, which perhaps is just as well. Carlos says the ability to order in supplies for overnight delivery is not an option these days. Delivery by any mode is a challenge, whether awaiting packages to arrive from the major "overnight" shippers or wanting to send things with a local bike courier.

The realignment of the business world is going to take some time. But if it needs any signs to point the way or give directions, Carlos knows a place where you can get them.



Join the ECHO team and you, too, could have a mug like this from Carlos Graphics

Volunteers needed for writing, editing, layout, delivery, selling advertising organizing, coordinating

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Meet your neighbour: Rev. Ernie Cox

By Patricia Balcom

If you're walking down Bruyère Street near King Edward, quiet strains of piano music might greet your ears. And if you step inside Ernie Cox's home you will see the grand piano that dominates the living room. This living room became a recording studio during the lockdown, where Ernie played piano and sang over 20 songs which he recorded and posted to his "Songs from Self-Isolation" site (<https://erniecox.com/>)

Ernie started recording and posting his music when he and his wife came back from Florida earlier this spring and had to go into quarantine. Inspired by others who were posting music to the Internet to entertain others in lockdown, he decided to do the same. One of his sons came up with the title "Songs from Self-Isolation" and both helped with the recording, production and posting. He started by putting up one song a day, on his website and on Facebook, where he has about 250 followers.

In order to do the recordings he bought himself a good microphone, a tripod and some good apps so he could record the audio and video together. What kind of music did he perform? "Some swing songs, some blues songs, a few gospel songs". Because Ernie sings and plays piano he "naturally" did a quite a few Ray Charles numbers, noting "I wish I could sing like Ray."

While Ernie tried to do uplifting songs to cheer people up during their self-isolation, he said he couldn't do that kind of song every day, and sometimes also performed blues songs. As he explained: "I couldn't do a song that was uplifting and meet the moment every day. I tried to do upbeat songs or meaningful songs and people would respond by saying 'That was great. That made me feel better today.'"

He started off posting a song every day, but after 17 songs he "started getting a little thinner on the material" and he needed to work harder to think of a new song. He then posted a song every couple of days, and now is doing one a week. Now that the lockdown is lifting he doesn't feel people need the music as much.

So who is Rev. Ernie Cox? He was born and raised in Ottawa, the son of a medical doctor. He studied music at the University of Ottawa, specializing in piano and organ, and played keyboard in Sneezy Waters' Excellent Band in the early 1970s. Ernie said it was "a fun time, but it didn't last". When Sneezy Waters started doing his Hank Williams show, Ernie moved on to other things.

Ernie used to stage gospel performances with a full choir and back-up band at the Fourth Stage at the National Arts Centre, and one year Sneezy Waters opened the concert for Ernie. They have kept in touch over the years, and Ernie thinks Sneezy is "a great entertainer".

Ernie started studying divinity at Queen's University's Theological College and the Toronto School of Theology to be a United Church minister, but along



Now, the Rev. Ernie Cox
Then, Ernie Cox of Sneezy Waters



the way he decided to become a Baptist minister, so ended his studies at Acadia University's Divinity College in 1983. He assured me "I'm not that kind of Baptist.", and has the t-shirt to prove it! His first charge was a church in Winchester, just outside Ottawa, and then he moved to Parkdale United Church in Ottawa as Minister of Music.

In 1990 he was offered his own church, Fourth Avenue Baptist, where he stayed until his retirement in 2007. After he retired he did short-term Sunday preaching until he was offered a full-time position at McPhail Memorial Baptist Church on Bronson Avenue. After five years full-time, he is

now working part-time, sharing the position with another minister, "a younger guy" whom he hopes will stay on full-time when Ernie retires completely.

He loves his church and his congregation: as he told me "It's a wonderful thing to end up in your last church in the best church I ever had. Amazing people, open minded, accepting, loving compassionate, caring people. It's a wonderful place to be."

Ernie is currently giving Sunday services online, with several hundred people viewing them every Sunday. He has found it is more time consuming to prepare virtual services than it is to do "live" ones. The board of the church and the two ministers have decided to continue church services on-line until at least September. He explained that because McPhail is a small church, with only 80-85 attendees every Sunday, at 30% the group would be very small.

Besides that, with "everybody masked, you can't shake hands, no coffee, no hugs and you can't even sing hymns". For these reasons, they have no desire to hold physical services, at least yet.

Ernie and his wife Lynda (who is the Echo's real-estate writer) have been married for almost 47 years, and have two sons. Jordan works for the UN's World Food Programme and lives in Rome; Jimmy works in real estate with his mother. Ernie and Lynda have been living in Lowertown since 2013, when they moved here from Sandy Hill. He said they love the Market area, elaborating that: "One of the reasons we moved here is because it is the closest thing to the feeling of downtown in Rome when you go to the markets."

He concluded:

Some friends of ours say "You live in Lowertown? Aren't you worried about that?" "We're not worried; we feel quite comfortable here and we just prepare ourselves when we walk downtown with a few toonies and loonies in our pockets. And we're okay. So I think if people think more about that it's not a problem. We're really happy here."

Take the Quiz and win
valuable prizes!

Questions on page 3

Send you answers to
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Inside Shepherds of Good Hope during COVID-19

By Stephen Bartolo

I started working at Shepherds of Good Hope almost 20 years ago as a frontline staff member. Over my 20 years, we’ve weathered many crises, most recently major shelter overcrowding and the opioid crisis. And throughout all of them there are two things that never fail to amaze me about Shepherds of Good Hope: the innovation and the people.

The novel coronavirus pandemic took us all by storm: in an incredibly short period of time, our lives have been changed fundamentally. With this virus, the prevailing public- health wisdom is “Stay home. Stay safe.” But the stark reality is that there are many people in our community who don’t have a home in which to self-isolate and rely on Shepherds of Good Hope’s emergency shelter programs.

Others are vulnerably housed and rely on us for meals and social supports, while over 200 individuals with complex mental health, physical health and addictions issues live in our supportive-housing programs across the city.

When the novel coronavirus first hit Ottawa in March, we knew we had to act quickly to protect our vulnerable clients and residents. We drastically changed the way all of our programs and services operated, still trying to ensure our clients had the support they needed at this difficult time. Shepherds of Good Hope looks very different these days, not just from when I started, but even compared to three months ago.

On May 14th, eight weeks into the pandemic, Shepherds of Good Hope was notified of its first positive COVID case from someone who had previously stayed at our shelter. Alongside our health care partners, we rapidly conducted testing for everyone staying or working in our shelter programs, nearly 300 people in total. Results showed there were five confirmed cases; most were asymptomatic and all

came from the same unit. All the individuals and their roommates were sent to the Routhier Isolation Centre. All of the other tests came back negative, including all staff.



Again, our organization’s innovation and our people continue to amaze me when we are hit with difficult times. Shepherds of Good Hope staff were able to prevent COVID-19 from entering our shelter for over eight weeks, and when it did, the outbreak was quickly contained. This is a testament to the extensive procedures we had put in place from the beginning with our healthcare partners. We were able to rapidly isolate the individuals who tested positive, lock down the unit and conduct widespread testing. I am so proud of our team.

We are grateful to be part of such a caring community who continue to support Shepherds of Good Hope, even as many people go through their own challenges.. We have businesses and community members donating and preparing food, sewing gowns and masks, donating supplies, volunteering and sending messages of support. We also received \$320,000 from the City of Ottawa as a part of the federal government’s COVID-19 relief fund to support with our significant unbudgeted staffing and supply costs.

Our biggest need continues to be Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as we expect it will be for some time. We need to supply approximately 100 staff each day with an average of two masks, one gown and three pairs of gloves each per shift. These numbers fluctuate depending on the level of client care needed. Our total PPE cost is coming in at approximately \$340 per day, so any in-kind donations of PPE or financial contributions help us a great deal.

We know the pandemic is not over, and our clients continue to be among our community’s most vulnerable. The lack of physical distancing in our overcrowded shelter continues to be a primary concern, as we work with the City of Ottawa to refer clients to other temporary accommodations. We know we need more permanent affordable and supportive housing in our City, and hope you will continue to work with us around this issue.

I want to say a special thank you to our Lowertown community, who have stayed by our side during these tough times. You are the heroes keeping our spirits up and helping to keep us protected at Shepherds of Good Hope 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Stephen Bartolo is Vice President, Shepherds of Good Hope.

Préparez-vous à vivre un été couleur patro!

Deux camps d’été sont mis sur pied : un camp francophone régulier, un camp d’immersion francophone et des activités de libre participation dans le parc!

À la suite des orientations gouvernementales concernant l’offre des camps d’été, c’est avec plaisir que le Patro d’Ottawa vous présente sa programmation estivale adaptée pour l’été 2020!

En réponse à la pandémie COVID-19, le Patro suivra les directives de distanciation sociale, à l’intérieur et à l’extérieur du Patro. Notez que les programmes peuvent être modifiés, en tout temps, selon les consignes des instances gouvernementales.

Nos camps d’été

Les camps auront lieu du lundi 13 juillet au vendredi 21 août 2020. Les inscriptions, via notre site web, débiteront le mardi 23 juin, à 10h, sur une base de premiers arrivés, premiers servis. Veuillez noter que nous accordons une priorité aux travailleurs de services essentiels.

La santé et la sécurité des enfants, des employés et des utilisateurs du Patro étant notre priorité, nous auront un ratio de 8 enfants accompagnés de 2 animateurs. Si les consignes de distanciations s’assouplissent, nous pourrions accueillir un plus grand nombre d’enfants à partir de notre liste d’attente.

*Le Patro émettra un guide au parent expliquant les règles et consignes de la santé publique qui devront être respectées.



Camp régulier*

Nous sommes heureux de vous annoncer que nous pourrions accueillir 24 enfants, par semaine, de 4 à 12 ans au camp régulier. Les enfants participeront à des activités sportives, artistiques et sociales en français et auront un accès exclusif et désigné à un gymnase.

Camp d’immersion culturelle*

Grâce à une subvention obtenue par l’Association des communautés francophones d’Ottawa (ACFO) dans le cadre d’Ottawa Bilingue, le Patro d’Ottawa offrira un mini-camp d’immersion culturelle. Grâce à ce projet pilote, cette initiative permettra, à 8 enfants, par semaine, de 2 à 5 ans de vivre une immersion à la culture franco-ontarienne.

Ce camp d’immersion francophone s’adresse particulièrement aux communautés culturelles d’ex-

pressions linguistiques variées. En plus des activités pédagogiques, les enfants participeront à des activités sportives, artistiques et sociales en français. Bref, une réelle expérience d’immersion culturelle les attend en toute sécurité.

De plus, le Patro souhaite offrir à la communauté des alternatives d’animation pour les familles de la Basse-Ville et d’Ottawa et vous présente un nouveau programme d’animation, dans le parc Jules-Morin, adaptés au contexte de la pandémie :

« Patro-Partout » Animation Dans Le Parc

L’objectif est d’offrir une expérience d’animation enrichissante, en français, pour les familles, tout en appliquant des mesures de distanciation physique dans le parc Jules-Morin. L’équipe de coordination et de gestion travaille fort pour mieux desservir la communauté.

Fonctionnant sous un concept de libre participation et d’immersion francophone, les familles pourront participer, de façon ponctuelle et sur une plage horaire spécifique, à des activités ludiques de qualité, encadrées par une équipe d’animateurs dynamiques, responsables et qualifiés.

Afin de bien profiter de l’été, nous invitons les familles intéressées à s’inscrire via notre site web : www.patro-ottawa.com. Restez à l’affût des dernières informations. Suivez-nous sur le groupe Facebook!

A COVID-19 summer camp recipe

By Matt Beutel

At last year's summer camp, I was able to build strong relationships with many kids in our community. There's no homework to worry about or cold days to bring us down. Having fun with the kids and allowing them to see us in a different light really strengthens our bonds with them. We get to be silly, make jokes, and create wonderful memories -- Bridgette, Child & Youth Worker at LCRC



Camp in Lowertown is a seven week adventure. Some of our experiences push us (campers

and staff) out of our comfort zones; others provoke contagious laughter that travels through the group. It always amazes me to see the excitement on the kids' faces early in the morning, and to hear parents' apologies as they wait outside an hour early because their child was "so excited for camp." Kids say it over and over: "I love summer camp!" –Alana, Child & Youth Worker at LCRC

Planning a summer day camp for kids aged 6-12 usually requires a good deal of tolerance for uncertainty: the ground is always shifting beneath our feet, even without a pandemic to factor in. But these days, the ground is nowhere to be found! Here is our normal summer camp recipe compared to this year's:

How to get a lowertown summer camp off the ground

STEP 1: SECURE FUNDING to hire counselors and coordinators, to organize stimulating activities and to provide healthy lunches and snacks. Regular years: Submit applications to foundations (Sens Foundation, Telus Foundation, etc.) and to Service Canada's Summer Jobs program. If all goes well, we receive answers well before the start of June. COVID times: Will camps be allowed to operate? What rules and guidelines

will we have to follow? How can we do things differently? Funding from foundations: up in the air! Canada Summer Jobs? As of June 12, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre isn't even on the list of employers approved for funding! We have had access to summer jobs grants every year since at least 2013.

STEP 3: OBTAIN PERMISSION TO USE SPACE Regular years: We work with York St, Ste-Anne and De La Salle schools to see if we can have access to their spaces. As often as not, there are summer renovations at one or two of them, so we adjust. COVID times: Will we even be allowed to operate in indoor spaces? If so, under what conditions?

STEP 3: PROMOTE THE CAMP AND TAKE REGISTRATION Regular years: Establish registration dates for late May; set a maximum number of campers based on funding secured (80 campers in 2019); start a waiting list if demand is greater than the number of available places (always the case). COVID times: We can't register the kids—we don't know yet what we can offer!

STEP 4: PLAN ACTIVITIES AND CAMP PROGRAMMING

Regular years: Camp employees are hired in April or May; outings and fun activities are planned; roles are assigned. COVID times: We are planning for the bare minimum assuming that we won't have access to indoor spaces and that there will be social distancing restrictions, etc. We are currently considering individual weeks for small groups of kids (one week per family) each with a counselor. But what to do when there is rain? When it's too hot? Will we be able to use wading pools, swimming pools, parks, museums, etc.?

The only thing that will remain the same is **STEP 5: THE KIDS WILL HAVE A BLAST!!!**

Such is life in a non-profit organization especially a neighbourhood one. Most businesses are going through such upheaval as well. Creativity, willingness, stick-to-it-iveness, and a make-do-with-what-you-have attitude: all are here...for youth, for families, for the neighbourhood.

By the time these lines are published, we will, with luck, have been given some clarity on summer camp 2020. As soon as we can, we will share camp details and registration information.

Check at www.crcbv.ca, Twitter @CRCBV

Recette pour un camp d'été COVID-19

par Matt Beutel

Lors de notre camp d'été 2019, j'ai pu tisser des liens forts avec beaucoup de jeunes de notre communauté. C'est un temps sans devoirs et sans journées froides. L'absence du stress qui accompagne l'année scolaire nous permet de simplement nous amuser avec les enfants. On fait des blagues et on peut être plus cocasses avec eux... on crée des souvenirs magnifiques. On nous voit d'un autre œil, ce qui renforce nos relations de confiance et d'entraide. –Bridgette, Travailleuse auprès des enfants et jeunes au CRCBV

Notre camp d'été dans la Basse-Ville est une aventure ! Plusieurs de nos expériences nous font sortir de notre zone de confort ; d'autres nous font rire aux éclats de façon contagieuse ! Je suis toujours étonnée de constater l'excitation sur le visage des enfants en début de journée et d'entendre les excuses présentées par les parents d'avoir amené leurs enfants 60 minutes de bonne heure parce qu'ils étaient « trop excités » ! Les enfants le répètent sans cesse : « J'adore le camp d'été ! » –Alana, Travailleuse auprès des enfants et jeunes au CRCBV

Planifier un camp d'été pour des enfants âgés de 6 à 12 ans est un exercice en tolérance à l'ambiguïté durant une année régulière—le sol au-dessous de nos pieds est en train de bouger con-

stamment et ce, même sans pandémie. Mais ces temps-ci, on dirait qu'il n'y a même pas de sol ! Voici notre recette normale comparée à celle de cette année :

Comment mettre sur pied un camp d'été à la Basse-ville

ÉTAPE 1 : TROUVER DU FINANCEMENT pour embaucher des moniteurs et coordonnatrices, pour organiser des activités stimulantes et pour offrir des lunchs et collations santé. Temps normal : soumettre des demandes de subvention à des fondations (Fondation des Sénateurs d'Ottawa, Fondation Telus, etc.) et à Service Canada au programme emplois d'été. Si tout va bien, on a des réponses avant le mois de juin. Temps COVID : Les camps seront-ils permis? Quels règlements devrons-nous suivre? Que pouvons-nous faire autrement? Financement des fondations : dans les airs ! Emplois d'été de Service Canada ? En date du 12 juin, le Centre de ressources de la Basse-Ville ne figure même pas sur la liste des employeurs dont la demande de fonds a été approuvée—du jamais vu! Nous avons eu droit à des postes depuis au moins 2013.

ÉTAPE 2 : OBTENIR ACCÈS À DES LIEUX APPROPRIÉS Temps normal : On voit avec les écoles York, Ste-Anne et De La Salle si leurs lieux sont disponibles. Plus souvent qu'autrement, il y a des

rénovations planifiées dans l'une ou deux d'entre elles, donc on s'adapte. Temps COVID : Aurons-nous même le droit d'avoir accès à des espaces intérieurs? Si oui, sous quelles conditions?



ÉTAPE 3: PROMOUVOIR LE CAMP ET PRENDRE LES INSCRIPTIONS Temps normal : Établir des dates d'inscription à la fin mai; fixer un nombre maximal de campeurs selon le financement (80 campeurs en 2019); créer une liste d'attente si la demande est plus forte que le nombre maximum (toujours le cas). Temps COVID : On ne peut pas inscrire les jeunes—on se sait pas ce qu'on peut offrir!

ÉTAPE 4 : PLANIFIER LES ACTIVITÉS ET LA PROGRAMMATION DU CAMP Temps normal : Les employés sont

embauchés en avril ou mai; on planifie les sorties, les activités et les rôles. Temps COVID : On planifie pour le strict minimum présumant qu'on n'aura pas accès à des espaces intérieurs et qu'on aura des restrictions de distanciation etc. On prévoit pour l'instant de blocs hebdomadaires (une semaine par famille) pour des petits groupes de jeunes chacun avec un moniteur. Mais quoi faire quand il pleut ? Quand il fait trop chaud? Aurons-nous accès à des installations comme la pataugeoire, la piscine, les parcs, les musées, etc.?

La seule chose qui sera semblable, c'est **ÉTAPE 5 : LES ENFANTS S'AMUSENT !!!**

Telle est la vie dans un organisme à but non lucratif surtout un organisme de quartier. Créativité, volonté, aucune relâche devant les défis, l'attitude de faire ce que l'on peut avec ce que l'on a : toutes sont ...pour les jeunes, pour les familles, pour le quartier.

Avec chance, quand ces lignes seront publiées, nous aurons eu de la clarté. Dès que nous pouvons, nous communiquerons des détails sur notre camp d'été et les modalités d'inscriptions. Voir www.crcbv.ca, Twitter @CRCBV

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ByWard Market Businesses Reopening

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