



# THE PARK BENCH

APRIL 2017

HUDSON PARK'S QUARTERLY EXCHANGE OF NEWS AND VIEWS

## Committee Reports

The **Communications Committee** has come out of hibernation to work on the Spring edition of The Park Bench. The Communications Committee is actively recruiting new members, so please indicate your interest in participating by contacting us at [thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com](mailto:thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com). We're seeking writers, fresh ideas, and contributors of all kinds. Possible topics include: local restaurant reviews, neighbourhood activities or points of interest, historical buildings close by, suggested scenic walking routes in our area.

The **Access Committee** has been investigating the benefits to having a fob door access system. The Access Committee have done an initial walk throughout the buildings to examine each of the two buildings' access points. As we've all experienced difficulty opening the front doors of both of our two buildings, the access committee is focusing their efforts on potentially installing a fob system for the front doors, and hopes to have further information soon.

With spring approaching, the **Landscaping Committee** will meet in the near future to assess the extensive work done last year and plan for the summer. Considerable infill planting was completed in the fall and hopefully will have survived the winter. The trees were extensively pruned then as well. In addition to ongoing maintenance, plans will possibly include the planting of seasonal flowers as budget permits.

The **Social Committee** would like to thank all who made gifts to the Ottawa Food Bank through our donation boxes during the holiday season. The generosity of residents who contributed food items, as well as those who organized and delivered the food, was very much appreciated.

Our Holiday Wine & Cheese event was held in December in the lobby of 235 Kent. Thanks to several kind volunteers, we were gathered around a beautifully decorated tree and festive lights, and enjoyed an array of sweets, snacks, & wine. The Social Committee holds such events twice each year, encouraging residents to come join in & meet their neighbours.

Please come and join us at **6pm on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in the lounge of 235 Kent for HP's first Book Club meeting!** All are welcome to come with a book suggestion, or just vote on the selection. The Social Committee would like to organize more events for the residents of HP such as a games / card night, walking club, etc., and are seeking your input. We will be creating email lists for each group/ proposed group, so we can gauge interest & plan the group events from there.

Don't be shy - please indicate your interest for any type of club or group by email to: [thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com](mailto:thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com) & we can start building new social events for us all to enjoy.

## Spokes

By John Gahan

For us fair-weather bikers the new season is at hand, and after a spring tune-up (Fosters at 305 Bank Street is close by, reasonably priced, and friendly) we should be ready to venture out. I rode the O'Connor Segregated Cycle Path several times last fall and found it smooth-running and inviting in both directions. You may be aware of initial problems with cars turning west from O'Connor. In that regard the City has much improved the signage cautioning motorists, but until everyone is comfortable with the new arrangement, it's a good idea for cyclists to be (as always) alert.

Speaking of cycle paths, I am anxious to try the still unopened MacKenzie Avenue Cycle Path (on the west side of the American Embassy). To quote the NCC, who is working with the City and the Embassy on this project: "The new [bi-directional] cycling facility will connect the existing cycling lanes on Sussex Drive, St. Patrick Street and the Alexandra Bridge to Wellington Street / Rideau Street and the Rideau Canal Eastern Pathway." That really will fill in several missing links. When will it open? "Early 2017," we are told, but since the Americans have yet to appoint a new ambassador since the change of government there in January, that date may well be optimistic.

## HP Resident Profile

### Have you noticed a roaming Mad Scientist at Hudson Park?!

Actually, the "Mad Scientist" is a science teacher whose company entralls and inspires children with science.

Urszula and Michael D'Asti are original owners at 235 Kent and although urban living felt strange at first, they now love and embrace their downtown location. Urszula appreciates being able to walk to her office at the CBSA and Michael's daily bus ride is 7 minutes! "Great running and bike paths are nearby, and so too is the Slater St. Running Room."

The philosophy behind engaging children in science is what encouraged Michael to launch his business. He began his 'Mad Science' 19 years ago in 'home town' Windsor, and today he manages the business from here. In meeting Michael, it is sparkingly clear that he is driven by a love of science and by the fact that children learn deeply when they don't realize that they are being taught. His aim is always to encourage an irresistible and lasting love for the sciences.



As Michael says, Mad Science is a "science centre on wheels" and "edu-tainment." For example, the company has an animated method using characters and stories to teach young children chess! (Along with his staff, Michael also presents the annual Windsor Chess Challenge.) Similarly, a 'Brixology' program uses Lego to help construct projects and thus mentor potential engineers! Scientific presentations that actively involve children - through fun and fascinating - are how STEM careers can be germinated. There is a skill to presenting the sciences with dramatic effect and Michael has obviously mastered this.

For the Ottawa-Gatineau region, Mad Science is a different operation - here in English: <http://ottawa.madscience.org/en-US/> and here in French: <http://ottawa.madscience.org/>

After having spent 11 years in a uniform (police and customs), Urszula now works at the CBSA headquarters. At Hudson Park, she loves the two libraries and occasionally takes the time to organize the books on the shelves. She has also donated many books over the years, including the beautiful set of red-bound classics at HP II.

Deciding to live in the city usually involves adapting to smaller living space; however, the design of Hudson Park helps to mitigate that. The D'Asti's recognize and enjoy the full worth of HP II's landscaping, patio and rooftop. Also, Michael likes that the exercise room is rarely crowded but, he adds, a rowing machine (an ergometer) would be welcome!

Three of the D'Asti's favourite local businesses are Mystiko on Kent, Truc on Bank (order their Pho or Pad Thai!), and Herb and Spice (364 days a year: 9 - 9). Hudson Park, they say, is by far the best location for downtown living!

**Interview by Jan Morgan**

### **Farmers' Markets**

The growing season is almost upon us, and Hudson Park residents are fortunate to have for their fresh fruit and veggies the Lansdowne Farmers' Market, which is only a 25 minute walk or 15 minute bike-ride (on the new O'Connor Segregated Cycle Path, if you like) away. While the Lansdowne Market is open year round, on May 7th through the fall it will operate an hour longer every Sunday from 9 A.M. (instead of 10) to 3 P.M. It is located at Lansdowne Park beside the Aberdeen Pavilion.

The Main Farmers' Market has been another local option for us at Hudson Park, but its location at the Museum of Nature was only temporary (unfortunately) while the City reconstructed Main Street. Well, that project is complete and so the Main Market is re-opening in May on Main Street (opposite St. Paul University) on Saturdays. Regardless, Main Street is almost as easy a bike ride away as Lansdowne (down the Canal. across the Pretoria Bridge. and right on Main!).

### **Elevator Quick Tip**

In the unlikely and unlucky event that you find yourself stuck in one of our elevators and need to use the emergency button to call for help but the elevator starts working again before help arrives, please call the Axia / CMG emergency line to have the service call cancelled to avoid additional charges above the monthly contract amount as set out in the maintenance contract.



### **Organic Recycling**

This is to remind everyone about the Green Bin in both garbage rooms. For a couple of years now we have been fortunate to have available to us Organic Recycling done on a weekly basis. Your condo should have a Kitchen Container, small enough to fit easily under the sink. Line it with a few sheets of newspaper and collect your organics (including kitchen scraps like vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, bones, dairy products, coffee grounds and filters) in it until they need to be taken to the Garbage Room, where the newspaper and contents can be folded up and put in the Green Bin. An alternative to newspaper liners are specially lined brown paper bags designed to fit in your Kitchen Container. A brand called Bag to Earth / Sac au Sol is available for purchase nearby at Massine's Grocery at Bank and Somerset, but there are doubtless other brands and prices available.

Finally, if you do not have a Kitchen Container, go to: <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/garbage-and-recycling/recycling> to download a coupon for one that can be redeemed at any Canadian Tire store.

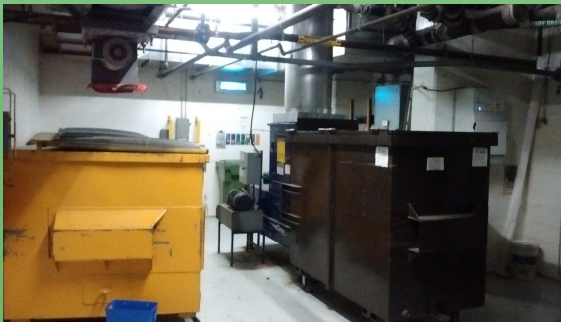
## ***Spring Cleaning?***

**By Michael Lee**

Many people start their spring ritual of cleaning & sorting items that may be no longer of use. I spoke to our superintendent and with the City of Ottawa to inform ourselves on the subject of garbage disposal.

While the garbage/recycling room has information posted regarding disposal of regular garbage & details on the recycling program, residents may still have questions concerning other types of garbage or unwanted items.

Items which are too big for the garbage chute, but will reasonably fit into the big brown metal bin in the garbage room, should be disposed of there. If lifting the lid of the bin is too difficult, these items may be left on the floor beside the bin.



Items which are too large for the bin (mattresses, bookshelves, furniture, etc.) need to be left outside for city curbside pickup, in accordance with the City of Ottawa's 'large bulky item' regulations. Residents must check the City's pick-up schedule and only leave items on the evening before collection day. They must also advise the Superintendent before moving large items in the elevator so the protective covers can be put in place prior to the move.

The pictures below show where large items are to be left for pick-up by the City (Lisgar / Nepean):



If you wish to dispose of an item and are still unsure of the proper procedure, please ask the Superintendent.

*The Park Bench* is published by Hudson Park residents and owners on the Communications Committee. We welcome volunteers, comments, story ideas, and *HP Resident Profile* suggestions.

Please write to us at:

**[thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com](mailto:thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com)**