



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Overbrook Centennial Year  
(1922-2022)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FEBRUARY 2022 – APRIL 2023**

**Co-Presidents:** Marjolaine Provost & Heather Amys

**Vice-President:** Awaleh Ismaël

**Treasurer:** Mercedes Marcano

**Co-Secretaries:** Joanna Bellamy & Danika Brisson

### **Directors at Large:**

David Behn

Joanna Bellamy

Nora Benamra

Christine Beauchamp (until April 2022)

Danika Brisson

Anna Stefanovici (since September 2022)

## **OCA'S VISION STATEMENT**

Overbrook is the diverse, caring urban neighbourhood of choice.

## **OCA'S CORE VALUES**

Respect • Inclusion • Collaboration • Integrity

Diversity • Sustainability • Safety

## **OCA – KEEP IN TOUCH AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Please visit [overbrook.ca](http://overbrook.ca) to learn more about our association.

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

Our **digital bulletin** (join the mailing list if you're not on it already!):

<https://www.overbrook.ca/news>

### **Social Media**

**FB:** @overbrookcommunityassociation

**Twitter:** @OverbrookCA

**Instagram:** @613HumansofOverbrook

## **OCA IS POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS**

**You can help sustain improvements in our community by making a donation today!**

## CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Overbrook celebrated its **100th anniversary in 2022!** Special thanks go to the **OCA 100 Committee** led by **Joanna Bellamy** and **Diana Cartwright** who displayed leadership and rallied a team of community partners and volunteers to put on a day of fun for Overbrook's birthday. On August 4, 2022 at the Overbrook Community Center, the community came together to enjoy many family-friendly activities including a talent show, treasure hunt, bouncy castle, music, treats and more.

In May, the **Gloucester Historical Society** (GHS) partnered with OCA to host the GHS Annual General Meeting at the Overbrook Community Centre. Speakers and a filmed interview shared wonderful stories from Overbrook's history. GHS provided a fascinating summary of Overbrook history which is available on the GHS and OCA websites. **GHS President Glenn Clark** also led an Overbrook history walk which found the group meandering our streets on a beautiful October day. We set up a special web page to feature historical information, photos, reports and articles on the history of Overbrook.

2022 began with slight glimmers of relief from the **COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency**. Our **OverbrookCommunityCares** programme led by **Danika Brisson** and **Awaleh Ismaël** continued to deliver food and other necessities to residents in need into the spring of 2022 until the lockdown lifted. Residual funds were distributed in the form of gift cards to families in need. Resources from **Crime Prevention Ottawa**, combined and donations secured by **Javier Robinson-Clavello (Integrated Neighbourhood Services Team)** supported soccer for youth aged 9-16, led by Awaleh Ismaël. The OCA Public Safety Committee was disbanded in the spring 2022 after the departure of our 3rd chairperson.

In late January, the disruptive "**freedom**" **convoy** occupied the city's downtown core. Overbrookies watched as trucks were directed to the City-owned baseball stadium on Coventry Road in Overbrook. This headquarters site obstructed resident access to LRT Tremblay Station and disrupted neighbouring businesses for about three weeks. OCA and residents sent letters and attended discussions. Former OCA president Sheila Perry represented the Federation of Citizen's Associations (FCA) at the Ottawa People's Commission on the Convoy Occupation. Several residents contributed to the work of the Commission launched in June 2022, Part 1 of their report is [available](#); Part 2 will be released in April.

On May 12, a "**historic derecho**" with winds up 190km/hr tore through Overbrook. Described by some as one of the most impactful thunderstorms in Canadian history, it left many residents and volunteers without power for up to 11 days, with big cleanups of fallen trees, damaged homes and vehicles. OCA relies exclusively on volunteers and donations, and, like everyone, our resilience is being tested, and our capacity diminished by the cumulus of crises.

The 2022 **OCA Board of Directors** was initially unable to name a Secretary or a President, and settled on two volunteers each, to share the jobs. We bid a fond farewell to board member

**Christine Beauchamp**; newspaper editor, **Alexandra Pope**; planning committee co-ordinator **Alia Farhat**; volunteer-extraordinaire **Marilyn Read** and book keeper **Joanne Lockyer**. The Public Safety Committee was discontinued after the departure of its chairperson; and because the committee's original mandate had been superseded by the pandemic. Our **Community Planning Committee team** lost 5 volunteers and has been actively advertising for new participants. Our **Digital Team** grew in 2022 adding 3 new volunteers and great energy. And we welcomed **Anna Stefanovici** who joined in September as a director at large. We invite nominations to the Board at any time of year, especially at our AGM.

We *Zoomed* through another year of business meetings, gradually emerging from lockdowns. We invited residents to **5 meetings** – some on line and some in person - with presentations and discussions on community topics including: trees; traffic safety; Rideau Winter Trail and Gear Library; community gardens; the future of the former CPR rail bridge over the Rideau River; Overbrook Community Centre services and improvements; and more. In October, we **co-hosted two all-candidates events** for residents; one led by Manor Park CA, to meet candidates for councillor and school board trustees; the other led by Glebe CA to focus mayoral candidates on urban concerns. Once again, the **OCA Community Planning Committee** (CPC) did a lot of heavy lifting responding to development applications across Overbrook & Castle Heights, as well as participating in a range of city-led initiatives on transportation, parkland dedication, trees and renewal of Ottawa City Housing. The **Digital Team** kept news about events and opportunities for Overbookies flowing. And our **Newspaper Team** produced one proud historical edition for the centennial before dissipating.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023 PRIORITIES

- Fundraise and forge connections with/among residents and partners
- Meetings for residents to connect on matters of local interest.
- Promote thoughtful planning; mitigate impacts of intensification
- Renew focus on traffic calming and tree canopy
- Re-register OCA as a not-for-profit corporation

To all past and future volunteers, members and donors:  
You make OCA the strong voice for Overbook.  
Thank you.

**Heather Amys & Marjolaine Provost**

## OVERBROOK 100 AD HOC COMMITTEE

### Diana Cartwright, Joanna Bellamy and Alissar Hajjar

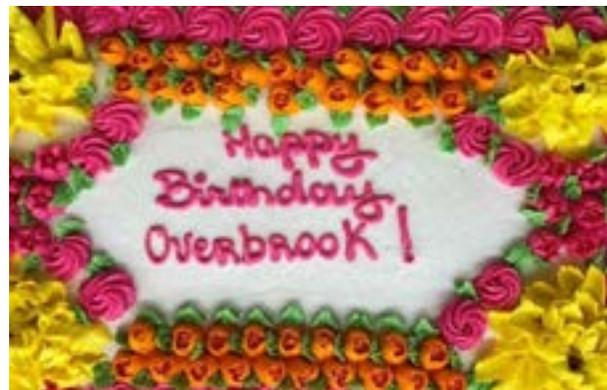
Overbrook was first formally recognized as a community in 1922 when the Carleton County Council passed a bylaw to make Overbrook a “police village”, with municipal status separate from the Township of Gloucester. 100 years later, community partners and volunteers organized several events celebrating Overbrook’s Centenary.

The OCA, the **Overbrook Community Centre**, **Ottawa Community Housing** and the **Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC)** worked together to organize and host a day celebrating ‘Overbrook 100’ at Overbrook Park on August 6, 2022. Events included a community barbecue and picnic, a talent show, a scavenger hunt, the Thunderbird Circle of Ottawa drumming circle and crafts, balloon twisting, inflatable games, and a basketball clinic and games. OCA partners made generous contributions to the event, providing staff to coordinate games and events (Overbrook Community Centre), food for the community barbecue (Ottawa Community Housing), and funding for activities and crafts (RRCRC). The local **Baha’i community** offered a craft table for children to make drums and **Raven Brightmoon and friends** helped participants make indigenous medicine shields.

1922-2022  
OVERBROOK



*Organizers Diana Cartwright, Joanna Bellamy and Alissar Hajjar*



*One of the four Overbrook 100 birthday cakes provided by Loblaws Vanier Market.*

Organizers were very grateful for the generous donations of a number of local businesses including **Canadian Tire Coventry Road**, **Loblaws Vanier Market**, **Freshco McArthur Avenue**, **Starbucks Coventry Road**, and the **Rideau Sports Centre**. Support was also provided by **Councillor Rawlson King**, and by the community partners listed above. We estimate over 700 community members came out to enjoy the event on a very hot day.

Community members and the OCA also organized and hosted a **poster contest**, and a **Treasure Hunt**, organized by **Cynthia Munster**, **Liz Parker** and other volunteers, with plenty of prizes awarded at **Overbrook Day**. OCA gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of two anonymous donors to funding prizes for the Treasure Hunt and of **Nadine Levin** for organizing the poster contest and donating a number of prizes for the event. Overbrook Day was followed by a **Sports Day** held on August 13. The Overbrook Community Association thanks its partner organizations and the community volunteers, who worked so hard to make these events a success!

## LESSONS OF 2022

Overbrook 100 organizers compiled a Reflection Report that provides a summary of learnings and suggestions for organizers of future events.



- (1) Overbrook 100's stage
- (2) Overbrook Day Volunteers serving centennial cake to the community
- (3) Overbrook Day MC Alastair McAlastair and event organizer Alissar Hajjar
- (4) Overbrook Day MC Alastair McAlastair and community kids performing on stage

Photo credits: Diana Cartwright and Joanna Bellamy

## COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

### Nora Benamra, Steven Boyle, Joanna Bellamy

- Reviewed and in some cases formally commented to the Committee of Adjustment on minor variance applications (primarily for residential infill such as semi-detached dwellings)
- Provided review comments to city planning staff and councillor on site plan, rezoning and/or Official Plan amendment applications including those at 212 & 214 Donald Street, 400 Coventry Road, 453 & 455 Coventry Road and 982 & 986 Frances Street
- Monitored or provided input into: i) Ottawa's new parkland dedication by-law; ii) draft Transportation Master Plan (on going), iii) visioning exercise for use of the facilities at the Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton Park (baseball stadium), iv) St. Laurent Boulevard Transit Priority Environmental Assessment Study (on going), v) process to develop a joint community mission statement on a new interprovincial crossing and downtown truck traffic (former councillor Mathieu Fleury)
- Updated the committee's terms of reference including a new name for the committee
- Improved the "Overbrook guidelines for pre-application consultation meetings" used by OCA representatives who for City-organized pre-application meetings (2 in 2022) with applicants or potential land purchasers of sites that might be redeveloped. These meetings are critical opportunities to provide input into redevelopment plans at a very early stage. As a condition of attendance at these meetings OCA representatives are bound by a non-disclosure agreement to keep confidential discussions until such time as a formal planning application is made.
- Advanced plans, fundraising, and National Capital Commission approvals for the OCA's proposed Rideau River centennial kiosk project near the Adawe Crossing.
- Continued discussions with councillor's office and city staff on traffic safety issues such as the death of a cyclist at the corner of North River Road and Donald Street, excessive car speeds and truck traffic on Donald Street, safe crossing on Coventry Road to the LRT, etc.
- Slower than hoped for movement (staffing shortages, covid-19 or other delays) on various projects such as: i) the resurfacing of Donald Street (Vanier Parkway to St. Laurent Boulevard), which will include bicycle lanes, ii) seeking lower speed limits and reduced truck use of Donald Street and other streets, iii) engagement with the Ottawa Community Housing on their redevelopment plans in our community, and, iv) NCC review of OCA's submitted documents for the Rideau River centennial kiosk project
- All the good work on the new parkland dedication by-law adopted by the City of Ottawa was either reversed in full or in part by the new provincial Bill 23 that among other things substantially weakens or removes parkland dedication requirements for redevelopment types

## 2023 PLANS

- Renew focus on traffic safety and calming
- GoFundMe campaign, fundraising, construction of centennial kiosk
- Recruit more volunteers for ongoing committee work



*Centennial kiosk project near Adawe Crossing*



*Visualization kindness of Ben Barocsi*



**Help us build the Overbrook of tomorrow.**  
If you are interested in joining the Community Planning Committee,  
please reach out to [info@overbrook.ca](mailto:info@overbrook.ca)

## DIGITAL TEAM

Marjolaine Provost, Anna Stefanovici, Madeleine Gomery, Colin Campbell, Helin Burkay

In 2022, the OCA Digital team expanded, and moved forward with some exciting initiatives, including **the creation of a new logo**. The stylized letters of the logo - skilfully rendered by **Anna Stefanovici** - represent the Rideau River, the community's diversity, and the association's support for efforts regarding the trees and green spaces in our community.



Another big change is that OCA has moved into the 21st century by signing up for **Google for Non-for-profit services**, which means that email, website and other IT needs are now all centralized through Google services. This transition had been in the works for a long time, and was completed thanks to our volunteer extraordinaire **Marilyn Read**, longtime member of OCA (who, earlier in the year, left us for the greener pastures of BC).

Thanks to **Anna Stefanovici** and **Madeleine Gomery**, our email bulletin has also resumed regular publication and broadcast after a transitional period, and is now reaching over 450 contacts. Bulletins, along with social media posts, now regularly go out in advance of public meetings to inform our members of the upcoming events.

With respect to social media, we have seen a growth in followers on Meta platforms this year, and now have over 1,000 subscribers regularly looking at our content on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. On **Twitter** we also have more than 1000 subscribers, thanks to local community organizations sharing and collaborating on different initiatives.

Popular content over the past year included posts about the **100 years celebration** (especially post-event pictures), updates on the restoration of power to the neighbourhood after **the Derecho last May**, and congratulatory messages for members of the Overbrook community who have been recognized for their work. The team also promoted on social media the fundraiser for the fire on Presland in February, which will be discussed in more detail next year. In an effort to explore building a **business directory for Overbrook**, **Helin Burkay** started working on a list of small and medium businesses within Overbrook. Due to the complexity of creating a dynamic and comprehensive directory, she directed her efforts to find out best practices from other BIAs before creating the directory. She had conversations from representatives of Byward Market, Westboro Village, and Barrhaven BIA and reached out to Vanier BIA. Based on other BIAs' experiences, it became clear that the most efficient way to build a directory would be a staged approach by creating a high level directory based on google business results and collaborate with Vanier BIA in order to update it. The option of applying for funding to hire a summer student for creating a detailed directory has also come up as a viable alternative. Current status is pending final conversation with Vanier BIA and decision on a funding application. Are you interested in helping out with the business directory? Join us!

**As OCA enters a new year, we are looking for digital team members who can help with our social media, website and email bulletin needs. If you know how to send an email and post on Facebook, you can help.**

We look forward to another year of sharing helpful content and keeping the community informed!



**Are you looking for volunteer hours?**

**Are you looking to further hone your digital skills?**

**Reach out to [info@overbrook.ca](mailto:info@overbrook.ca) to express your interest in volunteering with us.**

## CONNEXIONS NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION TEAM – UNTIL AUGUST

Alexandra Pope (Editor), Marilyn Read, Joanne Lockyer, Heather Amys

Our centennial year inspired a lot of contributors and materials, and our Heritage edition featured a condensed version of the history of Overbrook. The newspaper also published a number of photos taken during the photojournalism youth workshop held in March 2022. Production was delayed by several factors affecting our volunteers, not least, our wonderful editor **Alex Pope** became the **Chief Editor of Canadian Geographic Magazine**.

We have quite a lot of material left over, and had planned a second edition in the autumn, but have opted to post much of it on our website and social media.

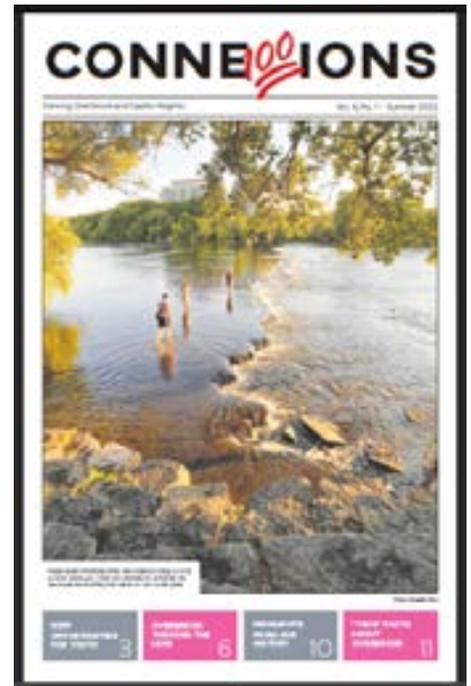
2022 was a very difficult year on many levels, and volunteer capacity has suffered more than in a normal year. We began the year in COVID lockdown and the “Freedom” Convoy; the devastating “derecho” left many of our volunteers without power for 11 days, and with a big cleanup. Volunteers were focused on that, and on the Overbrook 100 Celebration Day in August, leaving available very little capacity to support the newspaper. Our 2022 core funding for the year was just recieved in 2023. Our whole production team had moved or stepped down for personal reasons by August.

### 2023

The new board will reach out to the community for volunteers, and explore creative options for production and distribution going forward.

**We need a new editor, an advertising manager and layout volunteers to get the paper up and running.**

**CONTACT EDITOR@OVERBROOK.CA IF YOU WANT TO HELP.**



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## Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2022

We started the 2022 financial year with a reserve of \$7,866, and ended with a balance of \$7,588, meaning that we had to draw from this reserve (\$278) to cover a portion of our operating expenses as our general revenues during the year (\$678) were not sufficient to cover operating costs.

All approved projects had a positive cashflow arising from grants, donations and advertising: \$7,650 for the Rideau River Centennial Kiosk project (2023 construction); \$950 for Overbrook Day centennial celebrations (completed); \$5,850 for Connexions (in reserve). The YES Project was in its second and final year and fully financed by a grant from the Government of Ontario.

All these approved projects contributed 6% of their total expenditures towards OCA operating costs, which greatly reduced the amount we had to draw from reserves to cover operating expenses. We are immensely grateful to all our grantors and donors. However, in order to remain financially sustainable over time, we will need to ensure we are able to attract sufficient donations for OCA operating expenses in addition to donations for specific projects.

Our biggest operating expenditures are General liability and Directors' liability insurance. Without insurance we would not be able to secure some types of grants, for some types of projects. This year, thanks to the efforts of our co-presidents, we left the 'Community Partner Insurance Program' offered by the City of Ottawa, to a tailored private policy which satisfied our grantors and reduce premium costs from \$1,850 to \$1,326. This is a huge cost saving, but the cost of insurance remains a significant financial sustainability issue for the organization. Needs should be reassessed each year.

In 2019, the OCA Board opened a separate CIBC bank account for this quarterly publication which permitted on-line banking and receipt of electronic payment by advertisers. This account costs \$48/yr (our main account is \$0). We recently arranged to have on-line banking for the main account, at no extra charge, obviating the need for a separate account. We suggest the new OCA Board consider closing this account and moving the funds into the main OCA account, while retaining their designation for the newspaper.

**Mercedes Marcano, Treasurer**

# Financial Statement

Prepared by Mercedes Marcano, February 2023

## INCOME SUMMARY

Overbrook Community Association

For the Period January 21, 2022 to December 31, 2022

	General Account	Newspaper ConneXions	Riverside Memorial Park Account	TOTAL
reserve at start of year	\$34,843.37	\$1,505.39	\$1,143.92	\$37,492.68
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Revenues excluding project revenues	\$676.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$676.83
Project Revenues	\$15,394.60	\$5,851.00	\$0.00	\$21,245.60
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$16,071.43</b>	<b>\$5,851.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$21,922.43</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Expenses excluding project expenses	\$954.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$954.87
Project Expenses	\$13,130.03	\$4,017.13	\$0.00	\$17,147.16
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,084.90</b>	<b>\$4,017.13</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,102.03</b>
Regular Cash Flow (excluding proj)	-\$278.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$278.04
Project Cash Flow	\$2,264.57	\$1,833.87	\$0.00	\$4,098.44
<b>CASH FLOW</b>	<b>\$1,986.53</b>	<b>\$1,833.87</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,820.40</b>
<b>Cash Flow (with previous year carry-over amount)</b>	<b>\$36,829.90</b>	<b>\$3,339.26</b>	<b>\$1,143.92</b>	<b>\$41,313.08</b>

Financial Statement OCA 2022-2023 (January 20, 2022 to December 31, 2022)

Prepared by Mercedes  
Marcano and Heather  
Alyx

	Operational Expenses (main account)	Projects (main account)			Total Main Account	Conexions Newspaper	Riverside Memorial Park Account	Total
		YES project	Overbrook Day Centennial Celebration	Rideau River Kiosk				
Reserve at Start of Working Year	\$7,866.39	\$26,037.02	\$0.00	\$879.96	\$34,843.37	\$1,505.39	\$1,143.92	\$37,492.68
approved budgets per committee project	\$3,890.00	\$4,794.60	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$11,084.60	\$9,004.00		
<b>Income</b>								
Donations	\$676.83		\$950.00	\$1,650.00	\$3,276.83	\$100.00		\$3,376.83
Fundraising						\$0.00		
Grants		\$4,794.60		\$6,000.00	\$12,794.60	\$3,000.00		\$15,794.60
Ads						\$2,751.00		\$2,751.00
Other								
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$676.83</b>	<b>\$4,794.60</b>	<b>\$950.00</b>	<b>\$7,650.00</b>	<b>\$16,071.43</b>	<b>\$5,851.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$21,922.43</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>								
Project expenses		\$11,512.42	\$874.41		\$12,386.83	\$3,741.75		\$16,128.58
Insurance	\$355.66	\$695.74	\$12.46		\$1,063.86	\$227.36		\$1,291.22
Meeting Expenses						\$0.00		
Website Costs	\$417.89					\$0.00		\$417.89
Communication Expenses						\$0.00		
Banking Expenses						\$48.00		\$48.00
FCA Membership	\$35.00							\$35.00
Other	\$148.32				\$148.32			\$148.32
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$954.87</b>	<b>\$12,203.16</b>	<b>\$926.87</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$14,084.90</b>	<b>\$4,017.13</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,102.03</b>
<b>Cash Flow</b>	<b>-\$278.04</b>	<b>-\$5,408.56</b>	<b>\$23.13</b>	<b>\$7,650.00</b>	<b>\$1,986.53</b>	<b>\$1,833.87</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,820.40</b>
<b>Balance at the End of Year</b>	<b>\$7,588.35</b>	<b>\$20,628.46</b>	<b>\$23.13</b>	<b>\$6,509.96</b>	<b>\$36,829.90</b>	<b>\$3,339.26</b>	<b>\$1,143.92</b>	<b>\$41,313.08</b>
<b>Main account Balance Dec 31, 2022</b>	<b>36,359.08</b>				<b>Conexions Bank account balance 31 Dec, 2022</b>	<b>\$2,510.64</b>		
less payable costs	-400.50				less payables	-82,171.38		
plus receivables	\$77.30				plus receivables	\$3,000.00		
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>36,829.90</b>				<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$3,339.26</b>		
reserved for YES Project	-\$20,628.46							

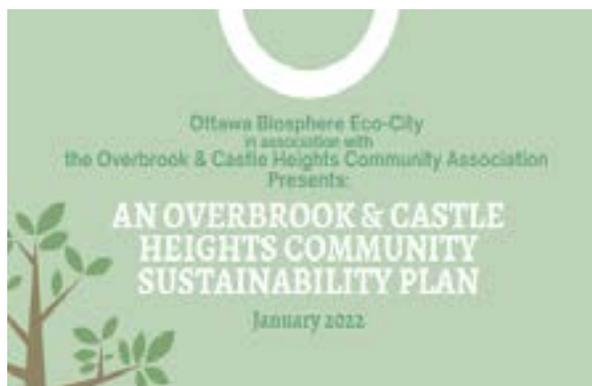
## OVERBROOK/CASTLE HEIGHTS SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

OCA in partnership with Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City (OBEC)

### David Behn and Guy Levac

On January 15, 2022, members of OCA and other interested Overbrook and Castle Heights residents attended **workshop to develop a community sustainability plan**. This event was the result of a partnership with OBEC, and followed a series of planning and framing meetings with OBEC staff. The discussion was organized around 5 themes:

1. **Energy and Transportation Issues:** reducing fossil fuel dependency, increasing active travel options, mobility and accessibility issues, reducing car dependency, energy efficiency and cleaner energy options:
2. **Waste management:** waste collection issues, use of more recyclable materials and better recovery and processing of waste (“circular economy”):
3. **Climate change and conservation:** reducing heat islanding, increasing green spaces, preserving natural spaces, tree planting, biodiversity:
4. **Design and sense of place:** design to encourage a sense of community and belonging, design to encourage sustainable group activities:
5. **Food security and urban agriculture:** community gardening, sustainable agriculture, supporting locally produced food.



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**THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON OBEC'S WEBSITE: [WWW.OBEC-EVBO.CA](http://WWW.OBEC-EVBO.CA)**

In conjunction with these themes, OBEC and Social Harvest Ottawa presented on August 29 a **workshop on Climate-Smart Gardening**; and a gardening demonstration was presented at the community gardening center behind the OCC building at Quill Street.

**OBEC and OCA are assessing interest in new projects. We hope you will get involved. For more information, contact [david@overbrook.ca](mailto:david@overbrook.ca), or visit [www.overbrook.ca](http://www.overbrook.ca)**

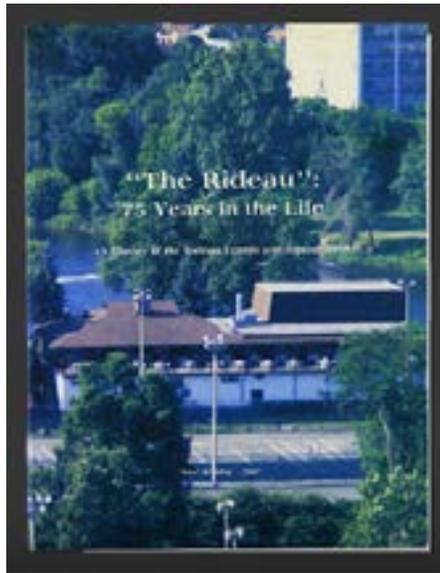
## HERITAGE PROJECT

Digitization of the first 75 years of history of the Rideau Sports Centre

### Marie Christine Blais

As part of Overbrook's 100th anniversary, and with the assistance of a City of Ottawa Heritage funding Program Grant, we digitized a book from the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame Archives about the Rideau Tennis Club entitled "[The Rideau: 75 Years in the Life - A History of the Rideau Tennis and Squash Club](#)" (1910-1985). This is only the beginning and we hope to be able to add more interesting Overbrook historical photos and documents for the community to access and explore.

## **The Rideau: 75 Years in the Life** **A History of the Rideau Tennis and Squash Club (1910–1985)**



*Link to digital book: [https://issuu.com/ocaheritage/docs/the\\_rideau\\_-\\_75\\_years](https://issuu.com/ocaheritage/docs/the_rideau_-_75_years)*

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023 AND BEYOND

If you have any ideas, suggestions or wish to be involved in heritage projects in Overbrook, please reach out to Overbrook Community Association.

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## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR SAFETY (Y.E.S) PROJECT: FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION AND PREVENTING HATE CRIMES THROUGH ART

### Marjolaine Provost and Marie-Caroline Badjeck

In the spring of 2021, two Digital Committee volunteers launched the YES project, a free arts for social justice community program, thanks to a grant through the Safer and Vital Communities program – “**Preventing Hate Motivated Crime through Community Collaboration**” from the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Ontario.

The 1st round of workshops in July-August 2021 were led by spoken word artists **Jamaal Jackson Rogers** AKA [Just Jamaal the Poet](#) and muralist **Kalkidan Assefa** AKA [Drippin Soul](#) and recorded by the artist **Mailyne K. Briggs** from [Kilam Media](#). Through this project, local youth got to explore the meaning and impact of discrimination with local artists. Participants attended workshops over several weeks, dedicating more than 300 volunteer hours in total to the project and culminating in the painting of their own co-created mural, directly on the south side of the Overbrook Community Center. The mural was inaugurated by **elder Irene Compton** on August 27, 2021 during Overbrook Day. It was an opportunity for a community dialogue with youth project participants, the artists, community members and local officials, i.e., **Councillor Rawlson King** and the **Ottawa Police Service**. This first round of workshops would not have been possible without community volunteers **Diana Cartwright, Jay Howden, Samira Michmich** and **Cynthia Munster** and support from staff at the **Overbrook Community Center** and the **Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Center (RRCRC)**, especially to ensure that all activities respected public health guidelines. Local Vanier **photographer Caleb Ficner** volunteered to capture beautiful photos for OCA.

For the second year of the project, in March 2022, the team organized a photography and social justice workshop led by **community volunteer Cynthia Munster**, also an award-winning photo-journalist. Cynthia worked with a diverse group of youth from Overbrook over a couple of weeks, teaching them the basics of photo-journalism and storytelling, all while discussing how photos and journalism can be used as a tool against hate and discrimination. Councillor Rawlson King also participated in the workshop sharing his perspectives on the importance of diversity and inclusion. The participants were gifted the professional equipment they had used and some of them wrote articles of the **OCA Connexions Newspaper**.

In August 2022, an **Arts and Soccer Festival** was organized at Overbrook Park saw over 30 participants playing soccer with the coaches from the **soccer club Mundial FC**. Participants got to learn new skills while also hearing from their head coach on the importance of accepting our differences and striving for our dreams. They enjoyed great ice cream treats from **Juliano's Gelato** and prizes for Most Valuable Player courtesy of **Déathlon Ottawa**. On the opposite side of the soccer field, the 13 large prints from the March 2022 photography workshop were displayed with an explanatory banner of how these pictures came to be. It was a successful community event, complete with visits from local elected officials **Councillor King** and **MPP Lucille Collard**. Since then, two youth from Overbrook who participated in the event are training with Mundial FC free of charge thanks to a grant.



*Children working on mural,  
Horizon Jeunesse School*



*Poster for the Arts and Soccer Festival,  
August 2022*

That same month, the project team also collaborated with [Moov Ottawa](#), a local dance company, to organize two dance workshops in the community, taught by **Moov founders, Alea de Castro & Arnaldo Betancourt Silva**. The workshops focused on House dance and Break Dance, two urban styles of dance. About a dozen participants came to both workshops, and together they learned about the history of these dances, they practiced different moves and also exchanged on the power of dance as a way to accept one's self.

For the three events held in 2022, the project was able to hire two youth project coordinators via the RRCRC. This was an opportunity to give two Ottawa youth relevant paid project management experience.

The final activity (2023) is being organized in collaboration with **Collège catholique Samuel-Genest** and **École élémentaire catholique Horizon-Jeunesse**, and will lead to the creation of a mural at Horizon-Jeunesse celebrating diversity. Local renowned **artist Jimmy Baptiste** will lead the artistic process, including via workshops, and help 25 youth from Samuel-Genest and students from grade 3 until grade 6 design from Horizon-Jeunesse create their mural and execute it. This activity is ongoing and OCA will organize an event to celebrate its completion later this spring. Stay tuned for all the details!

One final word: Our community, volunteers and trusted partners faced many challenges in the last two years, including several waves of Covid-19 lockdowns and public health restrictions in 2021-2022, the one-month long convoy and occupation of the Ottawa Baseball Stadium in winter 2022 that disrupted Ottawa and particularly Overbrook, and the 'Derecho' in May 2022 that severely impacted our neighbourhood. Despite all of this, **the YES project managed to reach more than 120 participants** (and counting!). This is a testament of the resilience of our community and that of the many partners that poured hours to make these activities happen, the power of arts to bring people together and the vibrancy of our youth. **Thanks to everyone who helped make this fantastic project possible.**

*Funded by*



## ADDRESSING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL

### Final Report March 31 2022

This project spanned about three years and received funding in year two from the **National Housing Strategy** under “Solutions Labs.” Inspired by discussions among the Community Collective (comprised of OCA and the 6 community associations north of us), it was led by the Lansdowne Consulting Group. Several dozen organizations and experts working in the field were involved. OCA participated in some aspects of the research and outreach.

*“This lab focused on neighbourhood-level interventions and the unique opportunities these provide to increase system capacity and permit earlier interventions to prevent families from experiencing homelessness and, when necessary, divert families from the shelter, rehouse them, and stabilize and integrate families in the community.”*

The Lab created a structure, the **Rapid Response Table**, which allowed the City and social agencies to work in concert moving the system from one that is reactive – simply providing shelter – to developing proactive interventions that prevent homelessness from happening. Several knowledge products were created including: a compendium of promising practices; journey maps; and informative neighbourhood profiles for Overbrook-McArthur, Manor Park and Vanier.

The report was completed in March 2022 as per the terms of the grant. Two new interventions are still being tested and refined. For more information, contact Heather Amys.



*Challenge brief poster*

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

Look for a presentation on this work at an upcoming OCA community meeting. The report and knowledge products will be made available via our website.

*Funded by*



## OCA Members Recognized for their service in 2022 Marie-Caroline Badjeck and Heather Amys



Marie-Caroline Badjeck received an award on International Women's Day for her outstanding leadership and many years of volunteering to the benefit of our community. She received her award from the Honourable Mona Fortier.



Heather Amys received an award to mark the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, in recognition of service, expertise and dedication to the benefit of Ottawa-Vanier. She received her award from the Honourable Mona Fortier.

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*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

Margaret Mead

# OCA NEEDS YOU!

**OCA needs Board members and volunteers.  
Passionate people, curious people,  
people of all ages, and of all interests.**

**Are you interested in working  
to make Overbrook a better place for all?  
Check out [www.overbrook.ca](http://www.overbrook.ca)  
and reach out to [info@overbrook.ca](mailto:info@overbrook.ca)**

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