

OVERBROOK NEWS AND CURRENT EVENTS

CONNECTIONS

VOL 1, NO. 2

OCT/NOV 2024

WHAT IS OVERBROOK?

We've been around for more than 100 years, and yet remarkably few people know what we are nor who we are, or that we even exist.

THE STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 12.





CONNECTIONS is a non-profit community publication produced by the *Overbrook Community Association*. It is available online, aimed at approximately 10,000 homes, businesses, and organizations in Overbrook and the environs. The journal is produced six times a year, for the periods of December/January, February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September and October/November.

Volunteer Staff

- Editor
David Ferguson
- Photo Editor
Hind Aliliche
- Advertising manager
Valancy Goodridge
- Proofreader (French)
Hind Aliliche
- Proofreader (English)
Vacant

Contributors

- Heather Amys**
- Steven Boyle**
- Danika Brisson**
- Deborah Doherty**
- Rawlson King**
- Michèle Michichiuc**
- Mélanie Stafford**
- Derek Wright**

Opinions and information published through letters, articles or columns are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this publication. Copyright in letters and other materials sent to ConneXions and accepted for publication remains with the author and the publishers may freely reproduce them for reasonable non-commercial, community-based purposes in print, electronic and other forms.



OUR COMMUNITY OF COMMUNITIES

When is a visible minority no longer a visible minority? One answer is, when that group makes up the majority in a defined community.

Another answer might be, when the “visible” part of “visible minority” no longer applies.

Most people would agree that my skin colour is white, and therefore they might assume that I have strong roots in colonial Canada.

In fact, my father and his ancestors were born in Scotland, his father’s grandmother (my great-great-great-great grandmother) was born in Jamaica, and yes, she was black.

Despite being strongly disapproved of by the government, church and the population in general, apparently, interracial marriages were quite



A brave biracial couple, c.1860

ing in Overbrook and beyond, who have deeper roots in Canada than I.

I am a proud and vocal Canadian, but I embrace my Scottish/English/Greek heritage.

Although I am fiercely proud of the dribble of African blood running through my veins, my connection to that community is weak, despite having researched my great-great-great-grand parents’ life in Montego Bay and studied African-European history and literature in college.

So why is a person with black skin, whose great-great grandparents were born in Nova Scotia or the Niagara Peninsula, assume to be anything other than a proud Canadian who embraces their African heritage?

People from the United States once proudly referred to their immigrant population as a “melting pot,” inferring that the different cultures would assimilate, eventually becoming one, homogeneous group.

Canada’s attempts at assimilating everyone who wasn’t a WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) into a single, “Canadian culture” was both notorious and shameful.

But, in a statement to the House of Commons on October 8,1971, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced multiculturalism as an official government policy, and we have never looked back.

“.. there are visible minorities living in Overbrook and beyond, who have deeper roots in Canada than I.”

common in the early 1800’s, as many young, middle class Brits and Scots travelled to the Caribbean to seek their fortunes in the sugar trade.

On the other side of my immediate family, my mother, Sophia, identified as Greek, even though she was born in Montreal to a British mother. (As a scandalous aside, at 15-years-old, my mother was sent to Piraeus, Greece to live with a “spinster” aunt for six years when my Aunt Christina, her unmarried, older halfsister became pregnant)

Arthoúros Pascalides, my maternal grandfather, came to Canada as an adult to marry my maternal grandmother, Annie Sweeney, after her first husband, my grandfather’s brother, died.

The point I am struggling to make is that there are visible minorities liv-

L’association communautaire d’Overbrook

Overbrook Community Association

613 742 4147

info@overbrook.ca

www.overbrook.ca

Directors

Danika Brisson
President

Mélanie Stafford
Vice President
Media; Volunteers

Ismael Allewah
Vice-president
La francophonie Liaison
OCH Liaison

Pamela Mubeza
Vice-president
La francophonie Liaison

John Hiemstra
Treasurer

Amanda Vyce
Recording Secretary (1)

Isabelle Brunet
Recording Secretary (2)

David Ferguson
Communications

Elizabeth Lancaster
Youth Liaison

Derek Wright
Sporting Liaison
Rink Coordinator

Christine Ford
Social Media

Committees

David Behn
Environment

Steven Boyle
Nora Benamra
Planning and Development Committee

David Ferguson
Presland Park Rejuvenation Committee

Heather Amys
Steven Boyle
Rideau River Kiosk Committee

Deborah Doherty
Donald Street Gardens Committee

CONNECTIONS WWW.OVERBROOK.CA

THE LOCAL

Heather AMYS
Heather@Overbrook.ca



COMMUNITY COFFEE DAY
JOURNÉE CAFÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE

LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER
DERNIER VENDREDI DE CHAQUE MOIS SEPTEMBRE-
NOVEMBRE

COFFEE
TEA
SNACKS
AND MORE



CAFÉ
THÉ
COLLATIONS
ET PLUS

2:00PM - 3:00PM
14H00 - 15H00

815 BOUL. ST. LAURENT BLVD
SALLE INCUBATOR13 ROOM 124



incubator13



Centre de ressources communautaires
RIDEAU-ROCKCLIFFE
Community Resource Centre

Overbrook • Forbes • Carson Grove • Manor Park
Lindenlea • Rockcliffe • New Edinburgh

SEPT 27 SEPT
OCT 25 OCT
NOV 29 NOV

CONNECTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS
OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2024

Editorial _____ 2

The Local
The Bridges of Overbrook _____ 3

News and Current Events _____ 4

The Sites of Overbrook
Places that Define Us _____ 7

Nature in the City _____ 8

Calendar At A Glance _____ 11

What is Overbrook?
Feature Story _____ 12 to 16

Report of the OCA Planning
Committee _____

Politically Speaking
Messages from our local elected
politicians. _____ 18

Enterprising Overbrook
Focus on local businesses _____ 20

DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT ISSUE
DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

Copy : November 22

Cover Art

The picture on the front cover, taken by Hind Aliliche, is a hidden treasure in Overbrook seen and admired by very few people.

It is located on the wall behind the former Lexar building on Coventry Road.

See more of it on page 14.

COMMUNITY NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

Planning and Environmental Assessment Study for Coventry Road Widening Public Open House This Fall

The City of Ottawa has started an Environmental Assessment (EA) study to determine the need to widen and/or improve Coventry Road between Belfast Road and St-Laurent Boulevard.

The EA study will investigate options that can improve circulation for pedestrians, cyclists, public transit, and other vehicles.

As part of the study, the City will analyze the need and justification for widening Coventry Road to four lanes and by comparing existing and future travel demand.

It will look at alternative alignments and options, which might include lane configuration, improved active transportation for pedestrians and cyclists, and improved access to the St-Laurent Transit Station.

A key part of the study will be how any change will affect social, cultural, and natural environment, and how to mitigate the impacts of these changes.

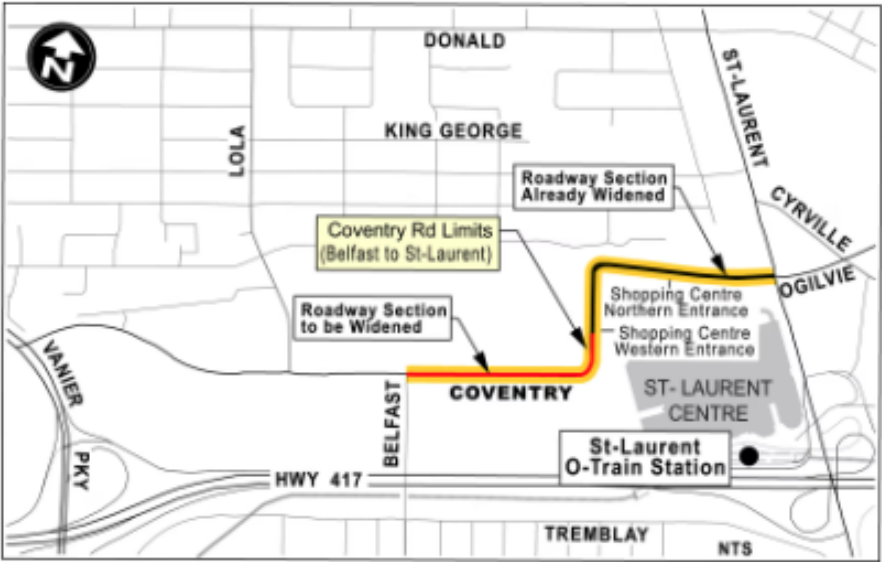
After consultation with the general public and stakeholders, the study group will prepare a functional design and a Class ‘C’ cost estimate, including details for how to implement any changes.

The planning and design process for a Schedule ‘C’ project under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process, is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

Upon completion of the EA study, an Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be prepared, and will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period.

Two Public Open Houses are planned as part of the study. The first will be in the late fall, and Councillor Rawlson King’s office will share the details once they are confirmed by City staff.

Details will also be updated on the project [webpage](#).



A plan to widen Coventry Road to four lanes is underway, and the City planners are looking for public input.

Newly-Installed Traffic Presland Road are a H

The intersection of Presland Road and Lola Street is the only place in Canada (and possibly the world) where, on each corner, one red, octagonal-shaped sign featuring large, but apparently illegible letters that spell S-T-O-P, are meant only as a casual suggestion, unless it’s inconvenient, then the message may be ignored.

Spend 15 minutes during afternoon rush hour to witness this phenomenon yourself. There may be the occasional driver who doesn’t understand this hood’s road rules, but fortunately, the majority rules on these streets.

Seriously, if you think I am kidding, follow the instructions above and, while sitting on the edge of the beautifully adorned concrete planters, take a slow, three- or four- minute video that focusses on each car’s tires as they hilariously glide through the intersection. For optimal effect, be sure to pan slowly and with a steady hand from one street corner to the next. Don’t worry about “accidentally” recording the vehicle’s licence plate. That part can always be redacted later. Maybe.

Failure to stop at a traffic signal is not a laughing matter. In fact, the top five causes of

Type of Conviction	Number of Convictions	Percentage of Total
Speeding	337,697	60.4%
Disobey legal sign	22,532	4.0%
Fail to stop at intersection	19,775	3.5%
No licence or improper class	13,132	2.3%
Fail to produce licence	12,731	2.3%
Drive without validated permit	12,608	2.3%
Careless driving	8,578	1.5%
Unsafe move	8,449	1.5%
Numbers on plate not visible	7,282	1.3%
Fail to surrender permit	6,670	1.2%
No number plate on vehicle	6,280	1.1%

THE CONVICTED A YEAR’S PRESLAND R

by David Ferguson
(with files from the archives)

Prosecutors have closed the criminal case against Pamela Shillingford, who pleaded guilty to the arson that destroyed a 32-unit apartment complex on Presland Road in February 2023.

Shillingford was awaiting sentencing but passed away unexpectedly earlier tmanufacturers his year, according to a report by the Ottawa Citizen.

The case was officially declared abated on July 24. “Abated” is a legal term meaning the proceedings have been suspended or terminated.

Shillingford last appeared in court in February, when she entered a guilty plea on two of the five arson-related counts against her. She pleaded guilty to arson by “intentionally or recklessly causing damage by fire to property ... knowing that, or being reckless with respect to whether the said property was inhabited or occupied.”

The fire was set around 5:30 p.m. and burned for hours before being declared under control at 8:54 p.m.

It has not been reported when or how Shillingford died. She would have turned 33 on July 2.

The case was closed in a hearing on July 24.

Serving Overbrook, Castle Heights and the Environs

Calming Measures on it With *Most* Residents

car accidents in Ontario are distracted driving, speeding, impaired driving (alcohol and drugs), reckless driving, and ignoring traffic signals.

In Ontario in 2022, there were 559,140 convictions under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). The most common conviction was for speeding (60.4 percent), followed by the next ten offences as show on the chart at right.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, in 2022 there were **530 fatal collisions** and **24,635 personal injury** collisions, for a total of **25,165** fatal and personal injury collisions, involving 46,137 drivers and 46,749 vehicles. (Source: <https://www.g1.ca/driving-statistics/>)

Lola Park is located on one corner of that intersection. It is a popular place where parents can congregate while small children play. The fenced area surrounding the play structures suggest a false sense of security, and in an instant a child or family pet can scurry under the fence and into the street where many irresponsible drivers have been witnessed driving at excessive speeds.

To deter the speeders, one clever mother would strategically place entire watermelons on the street in the summer, and full pumpkins during the autumn months. It worked like a charm, until complaints were registered as the food provided sustenance to many unfortunate birds, raccoons and other wildlife that succumbed to the relentless spinning tires.

As a first step in the quest for a permanent solution, the city of Ottawa will install traffic calming methods as shown in the picture above.

For the most part, the extreme speed of some drivers is dramatically reduced as they slow down to calculate the best method of circumventing the obstacles to avoid any damage to their vehicles. But like the traffic calming produce, after less than two weeks on the job, the City's obstacles have begun to experience the same fate.+



Although only recently installed, the traffic pylons are already showing signs of wear.

ARSONIST IN LAST ROAD FIRE HAS DIED



The February 7, 2023 fire ravaged the 32-unit apartment complex, and what remained was torn down in November, 2023.

QUEEN MARY STREET GETS “ASE” CAMERAS

During the week of September 16, the City of Ottawa installed automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras on Queen Mary Street, one of 20 ASE cameras being installed across Ottawa in 2024.

The conduit for the installation is installed from the intersection of Queen Mary and Edith, which impacted the southeast, northeast and northwest quadrants (in succession) and along the north side of Queen Mary to the camera location, about 40 metres west of Edith.

Locations for community safety zone speed enforcement cameras are selected by City staff based on criteria that includes collision history, speeding issues, proximity to schools and feedback from the Ottawa Police Service.

The Ontario *Highway Traffic Act* only authorizes the use of Automated Speed Enforcement in designated school zones and community safety zones. A community safety zone is a section of roadway that has been designated through a by-law and recognized under provincial legislation, identifying it as an area where public safety is of special concern.

A school zone is a section of roadway where reduced speed limits are in effect within 150 metres in either direction. They are designated on roadways that meet certain criteria and are not established at all schools.

Automated Speed Enforcement is one of many tools used by the City of Ottawa to help reduce speeds and alter drivers' behaviour. The system uses a camera and a speed measurement device to enforce speed limits.



Data from a City of Ottawa pilot study showed that speed cameras had a positive impact on driver speed and safety in school zones, resulting in a 200 percent increase in compliance with the speed limit.

The revenue generated from tickets issued via the Automated Speed Enforcement program is reinvested into the City of Ottawa's **Road Safety Action Plan** program, which uses education, engineering and enforcement to promote road safety for all road users.

StopOverdoseOttawa.ca

Overdose Prevention

Ottawa Public Health and Ottawa's Overdose Prevention and Response Task Force is working hard to advance Ottawa's *Overdose Response Strategy*.

Anyone interested can register to receive email alerts from the *Stop Overdose Ottawa Alert System*, or sign up by visiting [StopOverdoseOttawa.ca](https://stopoverdoseottawa.ca) and click "Subscribe to Drug Alerts" and fill out the form.

A confirmation email will be sent to ensure that any future alerts sent out through the new system are received.

Stop Overdose Ottawa alerts are issued when Ottawa's Overdose Prevention and Response Task Force becomes aware of issues related to toxic drugs circulating in the community.

Some examples include: Increased risk of overdose; new drug toxicity risk and contaminants; new or noteworthy drug trends presenting in the local unregulated drug supply.



OVERBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE D'OVERBROOK

Overbrook Community Association FUNDRAISER

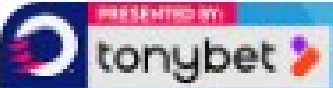
15% DISCOUNT ON ALL GAMES

PROMO CODE: **OCA24**





Ollie Bassett



7:12



HIGHLIGHTS: York United vs. Atletico Ottawa (July 26, 2024) | Presented b...

OneSoccer
2.2K views • 15 hours ago

LAST HOME GAME FOR ATLÉTICO OTTAWA’S SEASON IS OCTOBER 19

Par Derek WRIGHT
Derek@Overbrook.ca

The Overbrook Community Association is proud to partner with Atlético Ottawa in this fundraising effort.

Atletico Ottawa will donate \$2.50 for every ticket sold that uses the promo code **OCA24**, or by using the following link: <https://am.ticketmaster.com/atletico/promotional-page?id=MTAwMw==> .

These funds will greatly help the OCA continue with its current community projects, as well as a few new ones.

Lets get out and support our own premium league team!

Allez Ottawa!



Another Successful Overbrook Day

by **Mélanie Stafford**
Mélanie@Overbrook.ca

Despite the smoldering heat on Sunday July 14, more than 40 volunteers descended on the grounds surrounding the Rideau Sports Club on Donald Street for OCA’s *Gardening Event*.

The group of people represented six area organizations, including the OCA, the Canadian Conservation Corps, Wild Outside Ottawa, Ecology Ottawa, Bird Friendly Ottawa and The Tool Library.

Organized by Deborah Doherty, who is not only the Co-Chair of Bird Friendly Ottawa and the Chair of the OCA’s Donald Street Gardens Committee, she is also the new gardening columnist for *Connexions* (see *The Inviting Garden*, page 10).

The goal of this project was to eradicate the many invasive species that have proliferated in the park, and replace them with native species, officially referred to as a “habitat restoration”.

A special thank you is offered to Rideau Sports Club for providing the location, Loblaws McArthur for snacks and plants, Ottawa Tool Library for providing

the right tools for the job, and Corner Pollinator Garden and Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library for their donation of native plants. Ottawa, Bird Friendly Ottawa and The Tool Library.

Organized by Deborah Doherty, who is not only the Co-Chair of Bird Friendly Ottawa and the Chair of the OCA’s Donald Street Gardens Committee, she is also the new gardening columnist for *Connexions*



Some of the volunteers from July 14th’s Overbrook Community Association gardening event, with Deborah Doherty and Rod Gillyatt holding the Ottawa Tool Library “ceremonial” donation of garden shears.



PHOTO: HIND ALICHE

OVERBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOL

by **David FERGUSON**
DavidF@Overbrook.ca

Sadly, the former Overbrook Public School, now Vinci Montessori School, is one of the few remaining, authentic heritage properties in Overbrook.

Located on King George Street and Quill Street, it was built in 1916, and as Overbrook’s population grew, so too did the building; once post-WWII in 1947, then later in 1955.

The building’s gothic styling is not unusual for its time, and many public schools across North America had similar features. Popular right into the 1930’s, “*Collegiate Gothic*” was thought to evoke images of British higher learning -- a lofty goal for an urban public school whose attendees were largely the offspring of the working poor.

Interestingly, OPS was among the first school buildings ever to anticipate later additions, and each one was architecturally sensitive to the original. The end of

WWII saw a boom in the population, and an L-shaped addition was seamlessly constructed.

Then, in 1955, another addition was sensitively completed, this time it included modern variations of original materials, including red brick, and limestone details and original styling that included a symmetrical façade with evenly-spaced windows with stone ornamentation.

The Overbrook Public School was designated by the City of Ottawa under the Ontario Heritage Act on December 9, 2020. The designation by-law may be obtained by searching the Ontario Heritage Act Register on the Ontario Heritage Trust’s website.

What image comes to mind when you think of Overbrook?
Email your choice using the subject line “Sites”, and I will add it to the Sites of Overbrook feature. Editor@Overbrook.ca

NATURE IN THE CITY

Deborah DOHERTY
Gardening@Overbrook.ca



Comic Wisdom

“ The act of creation fascinates me. You can only sit with a blank page and wait”. “You can’t press a button, and you can’t program it.”

Joan Rivers

ASK US ABOUT THE OVERBROOK

AFTER SCHOOL Program

ENGLISH AND FRENCH

now open for registration!

MONTHLY REGISTRATION

**FUN LEARNING
NEW EXPERIENCES
& ACTIVITIES**

3 HOURS OF ACTIVITIES,
HEALTHY SNACK
BUS PICK UP,
LEARNING TIME:
3PM - 6PM

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

(613) 742-5147
OVERBROOK@OTTAWA.CA



MPP | Députée provinciale
Ottawa-Vanier



613-744-4484

lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

lucillecollard.onmpp.ca

Constituency | Office Bureau de circonscription
237 chemin de Montréal Road
Ottawa (ON) K1L 6C7



**TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE, A
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
NEEDS TWO THINGS:
ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE AND
GENEROUS DONORS.**

Become a member of your community
association.

Anyone who wants to help build a strong
community is welcome.



**Overbrook
Community
Association**



CLICK HERE
TO DONATE OR
VOLUNTEER



EAST

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



3 LOCATIONS

OVERBROOK - 33 QUILL ST.

ROUTHIER - 172 GUIGUES AVE.

RICHELIEU-VANIER - 300 DES PERES BLANCS AVE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AVAILABLE TIMES PLEASE EMAIL ECK-CCE@OTTAWA.CA OR CALL 613-742-5147

OCC

HALLOWEEN

Twice Upon a Time



FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS

—

LIVRES GRATUITS POUR LES ENFANTS

EVERY SATURDAY
1:15 PM TO 3:15 PM

EVERY SECOND & FOURTH
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

TOUS LES SAMEDIS
13 H 15 À 15 H 15

LE DEUXIÈME ET QUATRIÈME
MERCREDI DU MOIS
16 H 30 À 17 H 30

OVERBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE
33 QUILL STREET



FREE PLAY GROUP

Where?
Overbrook Community Centre

When?
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:30-11:30am

Great Toys
Fun Games
Great Crafts
Free Snacks Available

See you Soon!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

CONNECTIONS WWW.OVERBROOK.CA

OCTOBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

- Event of the Overbrook Community Association
 - Event of the Overbrook Community Centre
- Event of the Vanier Community Association
 - Event of the Vanier BIA

NOVEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



OVERBROOK A COMMUNITY OF C

by David FERGUSON, Connexions Editor

NOTE: This essay is not an attempt to decipher the issue of multiculturalism, as I am by no means an expert on this issue. Neither are most people reading this, but what we do have in common is our opinion based on our unique experiences. All opinions are true and valid, but they do not trump the facts.

What Is Overbrook?

Overbrook is a neighbourhood without an identity.

If that seems like a harsh statement, drive down the Nicholas Street offramp into downtown Ottawa and glance up on the gleaming new Ottawa Art Gallery building.

Walk along Bank Street in the Glebe and its distinct High Street atmosphere with its shops proclaiming their Pride of Place, and you know where you are.

Whether entering from Manor Park or the Vanier Parkway, New Edinburgh has a similar atmosphere, with its unique architecture featuring stores, cafes and other businesses. Vanier’s has always had a unique Franco-Ontarien vibe and its new, artsy commercial streets have become a new place to be seen.

Kanata’s manicured parks its flowery “Welcome to Kanata” monument at the side of the highway leaves no one guessing as to their whereabouts. Even Nepean’s anti-pedestrian boulevards are distinctly characteristic of that area.

Stittsville, Orleans, Navan, Manotick ... enter any neighbourhood of Greater Ottawa and you will know exactly where you are.

Many of those communities were once independent municipalities or historic villages, and they had years to establish a unique identity, or to adopt a unique identifier.

The community of Overbrook has no such identity or identifier and the painful truth is, no one really cares where they are when they get here.

If they are not visiting friends, anyone entering Overbrook is either driving through, shopping at St. Laurent Shopping Centre, Canadian Tire or Best Buy. They might have rented storage at Dymon, or are regulars at the Overbrook Bingo Hall, the only indication of the neighbourhood in which we live.

The online dictionary, Wikipedia, describes Overbrook as “an urban neighbourhood situated in Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward, in the east end of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada”. “It is located across the Rideau River from the neighbourhood of Sandy Hill, just to the south of Vanier, and west of the former City of Gloucester”.

In other words, our identity is defined by other neighbourhoods.

Adding to the confusion, only a handful of people know precisely where the Overbrook northern border is located.

But in “Overbrook’s Muddy Borders” on page 17, the code has been decyphered and now anyone will know who is an Overbrookie and who is not.

As it turns out, the convoluted northern border was established after amalgamation to ensure that each area of the city has a relatively equal number of people per city representative, and has been picked at and manipulated many times since then.

Currently, the northern border of Overbrook is where Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward 13 is separated from Rideau-Vanier Ward 12.

Overbrook covers an area of slightly more than three square kilometres and its population today stands at about 10,000 people. It is predominantly a residential neighbourhood, although on the south side, at the crossroads of Coventry Road and Lola Street, there are many large commercial establishments.

Arguably, Overbrook’s “main street” is Queen Mary Street although that title could also apply to Donald Street.

Both run uninterrupted from North River Road and the Vanier Parkway to St. Laurent Boulevard. Both have a smattering of commercial businesses within the residential streets, and both feature two of this area’s largest and nicest parks.

However, in neither case, nor in the case of Lola Street travelling north/south, is there any indication of where you are as you make your way through.

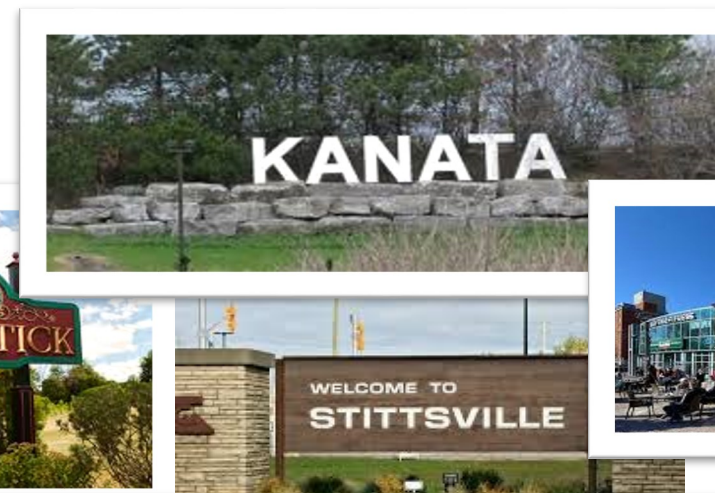
Where did we come from?

Overbrook was constituted as a “police village” in 1922, meaning it became self-governing at that time, but in 1950, it was annexed by the City of Ottawa. It is speculated that move was made to facilitate the integration of the Greber Report.

At the time, many railroad tracks ran through the village, as they made their way into downtown Ottawa and Hull. Every railroad company had their own bridge to cross the Rideau River and there were at least five crossings prior to the relocation of the train station.

How Should I Know Where I Am?

In an unscientific survey taken on July 29, 2024, a random selection was conducted of 25 adult individuals walking through Lola Park.



Of those, 16 people were residents of the area and nine were visitors.

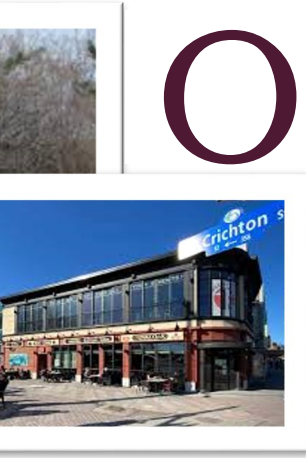
In total, only 18 of the 25 respondents could correctly identify the area in which they were walking as Overbrook.

There were two visitors who were unable to identify the neighbourhood, and shockingly five Overbrook residents were unable to name the area.





OK: COMMUNITIES



Overbrook does have one somewhat unique characteristic that is not as evident anywhere else in Ottawa.

We are a community made up of thousands of new Canadians.

Throughout the area are natives of Senegal and both Congos.

People of Somali and Ethiopian heritage live nextdoor to Eastern Europeans from Russia, the Ukraine, Slovakia and Chechnya.

Former residents of Jamaica, Haiti, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago live and thrive among people from Colombia, Peru, Venezuela and Honduras.

Indians, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Sri Lankans all now make their home in Overbrook, Canada.

This beautiful tapestry of multiculturalism is our identity.

Overbrook's Multicultural History

So why haven't we done everything we can to fully embrace this unique quality?

Because Overbrook was, and is, one of



Ottawa's lowest-income areas, many new immigrants settled here. Some have moved on, but many have remained where they feel comfortable and at home. They have created their own community within this neighbourhood.."

The United States had always viewed itself as a "melting pot", a place where people from around the world would be welcomed once they assimilated into U.S. cultural norms. This was a relatively simple concept until people of all the world's colours began to make up the bulk of new immigrants.

In Canada, Pierre Trudeau's idea of multiculturalism was a place where people from diverse cultures and backgrounds would come together to form a society where each feels

valued and respected because of their individual identity.

That is how Overbrook's identity should have evolved, and yet why haven't we yet fully embraced this unique quality?

Some sociologists say the many newcomers are too anxious to adapt to the Canadian way of life. Some immigrants, often refugees, have suggested that they do not want to appear ungrateful to their adopted country by not at least attempting to assimilate.

Some new Canadians are simply too shy to crow about the beauty of their national heritage, while others have said that they assumed they would have to maintain their homelands only as memories and only to be discussed within their native group.

There have been studies that have shown, when given the choice, hospital patients will prefer healthcare providers who share the same race and/or ethnicity as them.

In some cases, that cycle continues from one generation to the next, and we are all poorer for it.

The irony is, this situation is so easy to fix, but it requires that every community of every ethnic group, every race, and every language and sexual minority — every body — to work together to establish ourselves as one community.

We must respect all people and not attempt to create a community that lives, acts, talks and dresses like everyone else.

Inscribed in Jamaica's coat of arms are the words "Out of many, one people."

Those words were not meant as a call to assimilation, but rather the creation of a culture that embraces the differences.

And that is a surprisingly easy thing to achieve if everyone works towards that goal.

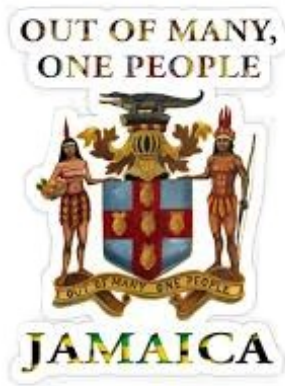
We get involved, and not just with groups of people that look, talk and dress like us.

We must appreciate that we are all richer the more we learn and understand other cultures.

We must never be afraid of losing our ethnicity, nor even the watering-down of our culture as our lives continue far from our homelands.

We should always be prepared to share what we know of our respective cultures, nor should we worry about the non issue of "cultural appropriation" (Yes, I own a kilt, but I am no more entitled to wear its heraldic colours than anyone of colour who shares my family name or heritage).

While embracing and maintaining our respective cultures, it is equally important to remember that for however long you have been or will be in Canada, and your own personality and traditions will evolve,



The Subsets in the Census' Supersets

Those identifying as "white" have their ancestry in the British Isles and Europe. "Indigenous" peoples include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. "Black" Canadians are of partial sub-Saharan African descent. The majority of Black Canadians are from the Caribbean or Africa, although the population also consists of African Americans and their descendants, including Black Nova Scotians.

"Arabs" claim full or partial ancestry from an Arabic-speaking country, while "Asian" is the identifier used by anyone from Türkiye to Japan and includes immigrants from South Asian communities in East and South Africa, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, Mauritius, among other places in the world.

the cultural traditions and landscapes of your birthplace will also evolve, and when you return, you may not recognize it as it was.

Overbrook's Invisible Visible Minorities

True Colours: The Stats

The term "visible minority" presumes that white-skinned people are making the observation, but until a better and more inclusive term is coined, it will be used here to refer to any non-Caucasian individuals.

Visible minorities make up 42 percent of the population of Overbrook. The 2021 census breaks down ethnic groups in a somewhat simplistic way, referring only to "white" (58 percent), "Black" (19 percent), "Arab" (9.5 percent), "Indigenous" (five percent), "Asian" (2.5 percent), and "other" 5.5 percent. The term "other" includes multi-racial individuals or a person of a minority race from a particular country. For example, a white Jamaican or Black Vietnamese.

These ethnic group categories are referred to as "supersets", as the census asked individuals to self-identify their ethnic origins, within seven general categories.

Statistics Canada identifies five supersets of ethnic groups in Overbrook. An **ethnic group** is a group of people who identify with each other based on perceived shared attributes that distinguish them from other groups. Those attributes can include a common nation of origin, or common sets of ancestry, traditions, language, history, society, religion, or social treatment.

In fact, the life experiences of a Russian -Canadian and a Scottish Canadian, although both "white", would be dramatically different. Similarly, an "Arab" native of war-torn Syria would have had a far different life than someone from Morocco, also categorized as an Arab superset.

Socio-Economic Factors

The facts, information gleaned from the 2021 Census, reports that Overbrook is in the fifth of five socio-economic levels (with 'one' representing the most advantaged neighbourhood and 'five' the least advantaged neighbourhood).

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM
PREVIOUS PAGE

Approximately 36 percent of residents own their homes, while 64 percent rent, which suggests a lower sense of ownership of our community.

Altogether, these facts beg the question: Why doesn't Overbrook's built environment look more like its population?

The Case for Art in Public Spaces

Public art has the power to offer a sense of meaning and identification to its residents.

Whether the artform is murals, installations, sculptures and statues, or street signs, public art engages anyone who typically does not visit museums. Public art can redefine the concepts of community and identity.

Public art is efficient. It is a relatively easy way for a community like Overbrook to create a new image. It can solve the problem of the invisible visible minority by telling their stories. As a people-centric practice, it can be a pivotal contributor to Overbrook's social fabric.



In 2019, the City of Ottawa established a mural program with a goal to deter graffiti.

In 2024, a city in Greece can look identical to a city in Nigeria. As a tool for community building and storytelling, public art individualizes an area.

It builds a shared cultural identity, producing a space that strengthens a resident's sense of belonging.

Some works can be cathartic for communities with forgotten pasts and untold stories. Not only does it foster a sense of local pride, but it also elevates the area's cultural relevance.

Around the world, public art has reinforced



A HIDDEN BEAUTY: An astounding wall-to-wall mural behind the former Lixar headquarters on Coventry Road. (photo: Hind A)

WHEN ALPHABET SOUP GOES BAD

It's easy to lose control when naming your community organization.

Local organizations don't make it easy for people to recognize their existence, and we need them to be a part of the change. Community groups can play a role in this, if you can find them.

Here are some of the worst offenders. These are groups that operate locally and that commonly use an abbreviation or an acronym as their only marketed name:

BIPOC, OCF-FCO, OCA-ACO, OCC-CCO, OCH-LCO, BGC, CRCRR, OFCSA, COSCA, OCISCO

In the order that they appear above, these are: Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, Ottawa Community Foundation - Fondation communautaire d'Ottawa, Overbrook Community Association - Association communautaire d'Overbrook, Overbrook Community Centre - Centre communautaire d'Overbrook, Ottawa Community Housing - Logement communautaire d'Ottawa, Boys and Girls Club, Community Resource Centre of Rockcliffe Rideau - Centre de ressources communautaire de Rockcliffe Rideau (the only organization on the list that has the same abbreviation in both official languages), Overbrook-Forbes Community Services

Association, Overbrook Seniors Association (I have no idea how they got COSCA from this), and Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization.

The point here is not to ridicule the important work of these organizations, but to illustrate how it is so easy to get lost in this alphabet jungle.

There are many ways to simplify an organization's name so that the general population can more easily recognize and find them. It's a bit trickier to do when they must use both official languages, but it's never impossible. Their new names don't officially need to be changed, but rather they are used for marketing purposes.

For example, the mouthful *Community Resource Centre of Rockcliffe Rideau - Centre de ressources communautaire de Rockcliffe Rideau* CRCRR might adopt the new name of "Sources Rideau Rockcliffe" where the word "Sources" takes centre stage.

An organization like BIPOC can afford to be sassy in their new nomenclature. How about "COLOUR"?

With groups that identify as part of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and with that notorious collection of letters and symbols increasing all the time, a logical solution is immediately before us: "Rainbow".

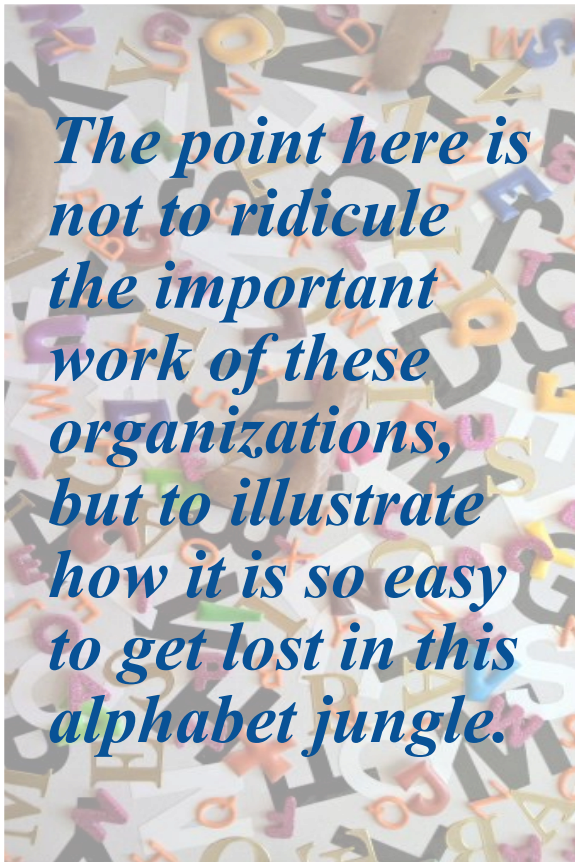
We already own it, let's make it work.



communities by publicly exposing their past and projecting a vision for their future. It has been proven to improve local economies and revitalize It builds a shared cultural identity, producing a space that strengthens a resident’s sense of belonging.



iliche with the permission of Bill Syrrros)



Some works can be cathartic for communities with forgotten pasts and untold stories. Not only does it foster a sense of local pride, but it also elevates the area's cultural relevance.

Around the world, public art has reinforced communities by publicly exposing their past and projecting a vision for their future. It has been proven to improve local economies and revitalize neighborhoods.

Promoting Urban Regeneration

Using a combination of aesthetic values and social identity, a neighbourhood that expresses a dynamic cultural identity is more attractive to individuals and businesses. For years, arts and culture has played a key role in developing tourism opportunities by enhancing a community’s public image. Developers that sponsor local artists will often drive housing

prices upwards. This phenomenon has become known as “artwashing” and may eventually displace the lower-income residents who built and who identify with the community.

At its most basic, public art can reinvigorate neighborhoods with public “creativity”, boosting moods and civic pride.

With both public and private investment, public art can turn aging buildings into vibrant public canvases and return a sense of ownership for the town. Temporary works can be used to “fills in the gaps” in the neighbourhood and can serve as landmarks for pop-up events.

Public art can educate, inspire, embolden and elevate a community. In Overbrook, that is just what the doctor ordered.

CONCLUDES ON NEXT PAGE

Overbrook’s Muddy Borders

If you are one of the many people who thought Overbrook’s northern border was Donald Street, you would be painfully wrong. You would, however, be forgiven for thinking logically.

In fact, our border follows the lines of Municipal Ward 13, and these are drawn in an attempt to ensure balanced population numbers in each ward.

The community of Overbrook’s eastern border follows the west side of St. Laurent Blvd. It turns west and continues along the north side of the Queensway, to the Rideau River where it flows downstream (north) to Riverain Park, and includes the land held by the Rideau Sports Centre (RSC).

This is where it gets complicated.

From the Rideau River, the northern border of Overbrook wraps around the RSC, goes up North River Road to the south side of Stevens Avenue. It then follows Stevens to the east side of Marguerite Ave.

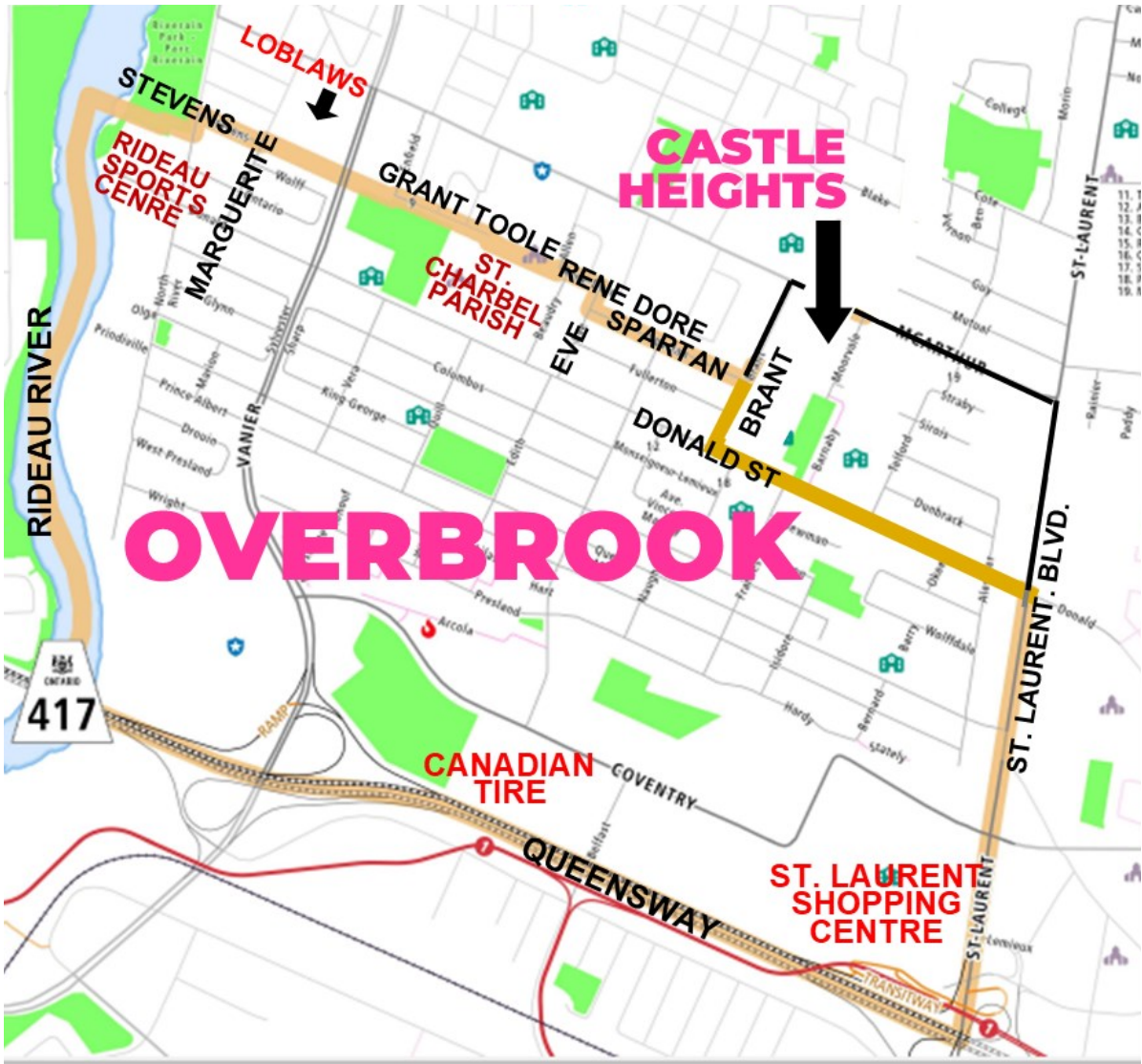
From there it cuts along the backside (south side) of Loblaws, then crosses the Vanier Parkway and joins up with Enfield Avenue, then continues east along the south side of Grant Toole Way to include all of Gil O. Julien Park.

At the end of Grant Toole Way, the border wraps around to include the *Centre Evangelique Nouvelle Alliance*, then joins up with René Doré Way and continues along its south side until Eve Street where it veers south until Spartan Avenue.

Here, it heads east along the south side of Spartan until Brant Street where it turns south to Donald Street, and finally, back east to St. Laurent Blvd.

Some of the landmarks within Overbrook’s border are the St. Laurent Shopping Centre, Adawe Pedestrian Bridge to Sandy Hill, the Hurdman Bridge and, as mentioned earlier, the RSC.

With luck, the map below will clear up any confusion. Clear as mud.





ABOVE — Footsteps painted on the sidewalk leading to and from St. Gabriel School in Kanata.

LEFT — The columns at 420 Cooper, location of the Centretown Community Centre

PUBLIC ART IS EVERYWHERE IN OTTAWA

If you know where to look

Across the city of Ottawa, public art abounds, but mostly like a dirty little secret. Often, works are hidden so as not to be disturbed by vandals. Sometimes they appear proudly on the sides of buildings both large and small, sidewalks and alleyways. Aside from murals, there are many surfaces that can become a canvas for a talented artist. In 2016, artist John Sankey began a quest to preserve into memory the many works of public art that have appeared throughout the city of Ottawa. His website (<https://www.johnsankey.ca/murals.html>) provides a fascinating look and sharp commentary about the many works in Ottawa and beyond .

Many of these works still exist and continue to be enjoyed by the general public. Sadly, others have been removed by unappreciative owners, by city officials after being judged to be vandalism or graffiti, or because of the structure’s demolition. With the help of talented new and established artists from the area, the community of Overbrook has a unique opportunity to embrace public art as an expression of an artists’ culture or simply thjeir talent. Around the area, there are grey, concrete planters, bland sidewalks and roadways rife for the artist’s brush. There are endless possibilities for sculptures, and other art installations. If it’s true that it takes a village, Overbrook has that part covered. After that, it only takes the will of the people.



One of two garage doors at Merivale High School



A remarkable installation at a pedestrian underpass at March Road.



Utility boxes in Riverside Park

RAWLSON KING AD



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

The Honorable
Mona FORTIER
Member of Parliament
Ottawa-Vanier





Rawlson KING
Councillor and
Deputy Mayor
Ward 13
Rideau-Rockcliffe



POLITICALLY
SPEAKING



Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario

Lucille COLLARD
MPP
OTTAWA VANIER



ALLSTATE AD

FOCUS ON LOCAL BUSINESS

ENTERTAINING
OVERBROOK

By David Ferguson
DavidF@Overbrook.ca

When Cynthia Munster, a longtime volunteer photographer and contributor to Connexions, was unable to help on the debut edition because of prior commitments, she suggested I get in touch with

HIND



ALILICHE

PORTRAIT
PHOTOGRAPHY

and in an odd way, romance.

It was obvious to me that this neighbour was no mere amateur.

Hind Aliliche is a native of Fez, Morocco.

A little more than one year ago, she and her husband, Hazim Benghal, a 2D Artist in the field of video game development, along with their young daughter, Lilia, came to Canada to begin a new adventure.

Naturally, her priority was getting her daughter settled into her new school while she established their new Overbrook home, and with everyone comfortably ensconced in their new life, Hind began to set her sights on re-establishing her name as an artist photographer.



One of the photographs Hind produced for the re-launch issue of Connexions exhibited a keen understanding of proportion and shade/shadow. This image of her daughter in Presland Park evokes pure joy, despite a lack of focus on the child’s face.

Her preferred style is commonly referred to as “fine art portraiture”, but there is nothing common about Hind’s work.

Hind will find romance and beauty in every one of her subjects and her passion for her craft and attention to detail is captivating.

Every photograph she takes, from the most mundane building to the image of a bug crawling along a hiker’s shoulder, is infused with an underlying, dream-

like state.

Hind studied graphic design and graduated from the Casa-blanca School of Fine Arts. Although photography is a major component of graphic design, it was not her favourite part of schooling, as she initially found the technical aspects of photography to be confusing and uninspiring. But it wasn’t long before she came to realize her path.



CUTLINE GOES HERE

“After the birth of my daughter Lilia, I started to get more serious about photography.” “I took so many portraits of her, and that was the trigger.”

“I was obsessed with photographing her, taking pictures from every conceivable angle. With Hazim’s help, Hind learned the technical aspects of photography and soon, she found her style.

She went on to explain: “I was always fascinated by faces.” “I would draw portraits with coloured pencils, but now you might say that I draw with light!”

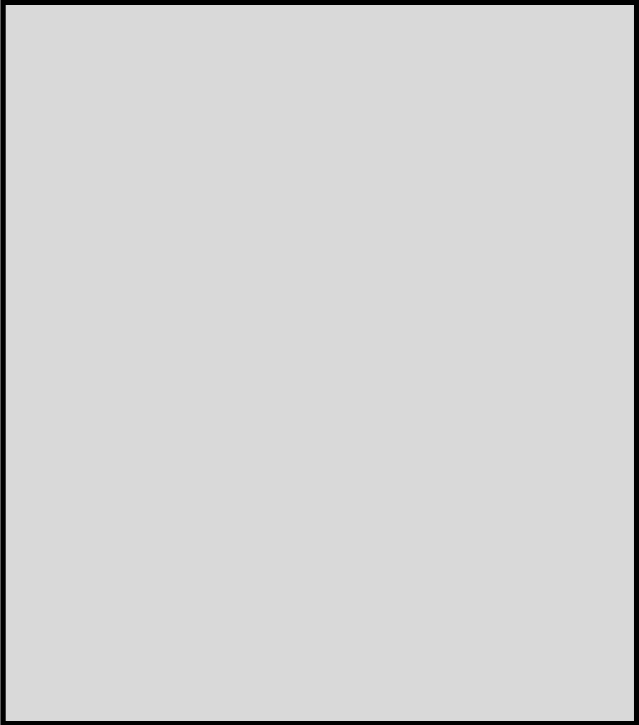
As her experimentation with portraiture developed, she began to devote herself completely to photography. At first, she found her models within her family; first, her daughter and afterwards her sister-in-law and a close friend.

Today, her portfolio includes people from all walks of life, from average people seeking their moment of immortality to actors and actresses from France, Spain and her native Morocco.

“Obviously, my circle of models has widened,” she acknowledges, “but the model is still the central focus of the portrait”.

Her efforts were acknowledged and rewarded when she has received the Certificate of Excellence, presented

CUTLINE GOES HERE



CUTLINE GOES HERE

by *Photographes du Maroc*.

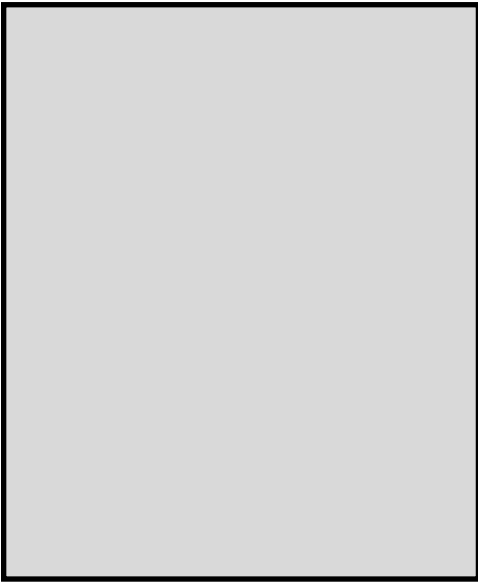
“My portraits are focused on emotion”, she explained. “For me, a successful photo is charged with emotion.”

“I have always been fascinated by romantic painting and literature,” she continues. “Of course, now, it is largely inspired by my personal experiences, my culture, movies, even manga (a Japanese comic strip style).

Some examples of Hind’s extraordinary photographs can be seen throughout this issue of Connexions

For more information about Hind Aliliche, visit her website.

She can be commissioned for photography sessions in studio or in situ.



CUTLINE GOES HERE



CUTLINE GOES HERE

October is
National Library
Month

BOOK
NOOK



L'HONORABLE | THE HONOURABLE

MONA FORTIER

Députée | Member of Parliament
Ottawa-Vanier



Bureau de circonscription | Constituency Office
233, chemin Montréal Road, Ottawa, ON K1L 6C7

Communiquiez avec nous! Contact us!

 Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca

 613-998-1860

 MonaFortier.libparl.ca

 @EquipeTeamMona

 @MonaFortier

 @MonaFortier

The Ottawa Public
Library
Bookmobile visits
the Overbrook
Community
Centre
from 2 pm to 3 pm
on Thursdays



[https://
biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/
library/bookmobile](https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/library/bookmobile)

No appointment is needed to return items or pick up holds at the Bookmobile.

The Bookmobile will offer browsing of a small collection at all stops. For a list of our current schedule and stops, please read below.

The Bookmobile service includes two vehicles, each with its own unique collection. Bookmobile items are not-Holdable in order to ensure that all our bookmobile communities have equitable access to new and exciting materials. To see whether an item you want is available to be picked up at a particular stop, please call 613-580-2424 x32629 or email Bookmobile@BiblioOttawaLibrary.ca

Invite the library (and the Bookmobile!) to an event: [Special event attendance request form](#)

CONNECTIONS
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023 OVERBROOK NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS VOL 1, NO. 2

This is your publication. Shouldn't you be a part of it?

If you have a story to tell, we would love to hear it.

We want to hear from local start-ups and thriving small businesses in Overbrook.

If you have a favourite restaurant that you would like to rave about, put it down on paper for our Overbrook Eats! column.

Maybe you would like to comment on something you read here. We want to hear ALL opinions.

We especially want to hear from all communities from within our community.

If you have an event to promote, an idea that you want to float, or you need to get something off your chest, this is the place to do it.

All submissions are welcome. Submissions are subject to editing and are not guaranteed to be published.

Share your thoughts and ideas with us:
Editor@Overbrook.ca



SOMALI CENTRE
for Family Services



LE CENTRE SOMALIEN
pour les services à la famille



**FREE
COUNSELLING
FOR BLACK
YOUTH**

We're partnering with FutureBlackFemale to provide FREE counselling services to Black Youth (ages 15 - 30 years old)!



 www.shadesoftherapy.ca

 [shadesoftherapy_ca](https://www.instagram.com/shadesoftherapy_ca)

 letstalk@shadesoftherapy.ca

 or  +1 (613) 879 - 0125

**COUNSELLING
FROM
BLACK
THERAPISTS**



Why don't they just fix it?



HUMOUR

**REAL BATHROOM
DOOR ICONS**



Your guess is as good as mine.



Or, they could use a stronger material for the door.



TMI ? (too much information)



WTF ?!?



Do they really have to draw us a picture?



Washrooms are for scientists' use only.



Sharing is Caring.