



VIDEOZONE

It's back to Ottawa for Barrie MP Patrick Brown.

BLOGS

- **Janis Ramsay** looks for the perfect pumpkin pic.
- **Glenn Perrett** welcomes Indy, Iron Man on DVD.



EVENT CALENDAR

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OTHER FEATURES

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SPECIAL REPORT

BARRIE COULD LEARN BY OTTAWA'S EXPERIENCE

This fall, Barrie will be dealing with how to revitalize its historic neighbourhoods, as well as what to do with the old Allandale Station. The point of both exercises is to find ways to attract investment into the city's heartland.

The discussion will hopefully focus on how the city should direct reinvestment and rebuild the blocks at the edge of the core, especially since the city is reaching its borders—and the possibility of a border expansion with

Innisfil continues to look grim. There are six neighbourhoods on the edge of downtown which each offer tree-lined streets, their own sense of style and a sense of community. Together, these areas will bolster

the future for Barrie and its downtown. They supply downtown with people to shop, eat and possibly work downtown. Ottawa has been a leader in planning vibrant, core districts and including

the public in the process that redesigns and reinvigorates. Read on to find out about one Ottawa neighbourhood that went through its share of challenging years: the ByWard Market.

The remaking of Ottawa's ByWard Market

In the past 20 years, the city's historic market area has grown, both geographically and culturally

By Laurie Watt
STAFF

The fruit and vegetable stands, the craft stands and the historic ByWard Market building were just all opening up for the day as we walked westward from what was once the fringe of the market area.

In the past 20 years, Ottawa's historic market area has grown, both geographically and culturally.

Once the place where Lowertown loggers and their families tended to their daily needs, the market experienced difficult decades of downturn. Ottawa, however, has looked to build on the market's heritage and created a district that blends the flavour of New Orleans' French Quarter with

the Westminster area of London, England.

For Ottawa's community planning and design division manager Richard Kilstrom, the neighbourhood is close to his heart: his family had moved into the area when he was in elementary school. Now as a professional planner, he is one of the leading players in revitalizing the area with historic homes that had been covered over with aluminum siding and fake brick.

With Ontario urging municipalities to intensify, the area is ready to accept more people and jobs, thanks in part to Ottawa 20/20, a strategy to revitalize the city's core neighbourhoods.

ARCHITECTURE / Page 8



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Ottawa used upside-down thinking

By Laurie Watt
STAFF

Traditionally, municipal planning is a top-down activity: the municipality creates an Official Plan (the long-term guiding document), refines a zoning bylaw to give some detail to its OP and then developers propose projects that either fit or require amendments to the OP or zoning bylaw – and public involvement is limited to commenting on those proposals. Ottawa turned that thinking upside down.

Envisioning the city's core as being a vibrant place locally, regionally and nationally, the city identified redevelopment opportunities for each of several downtown districts, including the ByWard Market.

In December 2002, the city began consulting with the public on how to make the city's core-area neighbourhoods places where people would want to live and where employers would want to locate. The result is Ottawa 20/20.

The first document, published in 2004, identifies several neighbourhoods, general strategies for revitalizing the core areas and then targeted precinct strategies.

ENHANCING / Page 8



Genealogy meeting

The Simcoe County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The meeting is at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 79 Ferris Lane in Barrie.

Ruth Blair will be the guest speaker, talking about Doing Irish Research from Ontario. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information, call 728-1170.

Architecture is eclectic

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“Urban design is very tightly controlled because it is a heritage conservation district. One guideline is the new shouldn’t imitate an old building, but it’s a statement of its own time. It should reflect its own time, but look like its time and how it relates,” explained Kilstrom, as we walked along Clarence Street, with its mix of old and new.

Clarence was once on the fringe; it’s now central, a blend of a new bed and breakfast beside city housing and across the street from historic homes. At 8:30 a.m., young professionals headed to offices, others to the market and to school.

“Ottawa was way ahead in terms of conservation. When the Heritage Act came out in the late 1970s, Ottawa had already started. It’s a good tradition. Now with the emphasis on intensification, redevelopment is taking off. We’re putting more on the land, but not detracting from the neighbourhood,” Kilstrom explained, as we walked westward and enjoyed a view that featured the spires of the Parliament buildings against a clear blue sky, to see two of Kilstrom’s must-see sites, both on Murray Street. One was an adaptive reuse of an old building, the other an innovative infill building.

Undoubtedly, the architecture is eclectic, just as is everything about the market.

In its heritage districts, Ottawa sets the architectural standards high, but that doesn’t necessarily dictate a flavour; beauty is in the blend of eras, just as the area offers tastes from around the world. New projects, Kilstrom explained, could fit with the past but acknowledge today and the future and its potential; that thinking encourages, rather than stifles, creativity.

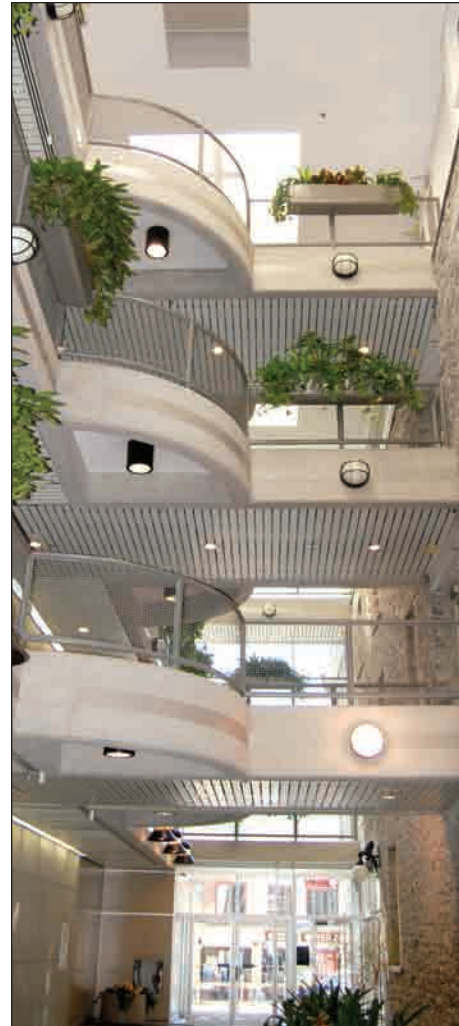
We stop at 100 Murray, a modern building adjacent to an old pub, which undoubtedly captures the history and function of the area: a meeting place where the loggers and their families went for food or fellowship. The building continues to house a pub, adjacent to yet another.

With a breathtaking entrance and lobby, the building is set back into the property and literally flows from today into the past next door. The site, for years, was a municipal parking lot; it not only melds today’s goals of bringing more jobs to the area, but respects the past.

“This one works quite well. It’s playful,” said Kilstrom. “It’s a combination of a very creative architect and an owner who wanted to do (something special).”

It features main-floor retail, which blends the function of the building into the specialty shops in the area, and professional and office suites on the upper levels offer a unique sense of design and space just a few minutes away from Parliament Hill.

Heading further west, we explore 95 Murray, the Carriageway. An old townhouse



The Carriageway, top photo, is an old townhouse building. It’s wide and narrow – a difficult configuration to use today. Above, 100 Murray, is a modern building adjacent to an old pub, which undoubtedly captures the history and function of the area: a meeting place where the loggers and their families went for food or fellowship.

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building, it’s wide and narrow – a difficult configuration to use today. A new building behind, which respected the shape and style of the old, is connected to the old with glass and chrome; from the outside, they blend. From the inside, it’s an architectural marvel, with lots of light, plants and energizing public space.

MARKET / Page 11

Enhancing Ottawa’s heritage

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Generally speaking, the city looked at streetscapes – how to make them more appealing to pedestrians and cyclists, how to direct traffic to bolster economic activity and livability, built-form suggestions to enhance the heritage and functions of each of the districts, and an urban open space program, to encourage community cohesion and enhance function.

“Smaller, well-designed spaces are often better candidates for meaningful, active and safe park spaces than are larger open areas,” the document suggests. Ottawa 20/20 also touches on using these park spaces not only as gathering places, but places where the community can express itself through public art and public performances.

Available on Ottawa’s website, the document lays the foundation for good urban design. It embraces several key principles:

- Encouraging more residential living in the downtown core: City centre living is essential for creating safe, animated, active and economically prosperous downtowns.
- Diversifying the retail sector.
- Creating usable, accessible and safe urban open spaces.
- Protecting and celebrating distinctive places: Blocks in these neighborhoods may reflect different historical, land use and physical characteristics; the plan endorses allowing these locations to reinforce their unique identity and become a city-wide destination and anchor for development.
- Preserving local heritage.
- Using city-owned land strategically.

Ottawa also recognized that major streets, highways, the Rideau Canal and the Ottawa and Rideau rivers can connect or divide the city. Used properly, they can be ways to integrate the various districts and encourage people and cars to move effectively through the city core.

DESIGN / Page 11

Market blends yesterday with today

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Walking through the neighbourhood and looking at old homes stripped of their 1960s/1970s aluminum siding, we see the re-emergence of the early settlers' style, adorned with gardens and porch furniture. A townhouse replica, while imitating the era, looks fake, although upscale.

Along Dalhousie Street, many older buildings have been restored on the outside but rebuilt inside to accommodate apartments, even to the end at Rideau Street. The East Market development is a Toronto-inspired, multi-phase development that Kilstrom credits for sparking private investment.

That's the story of the ByWard Market, told time and time, era and era, again, which blends regional and period Canadian influences, authenticity of today with that of yesterday, just as the cuisine blends international flavours.

Even 25 years ago, the market featured a couple of Mexican outposts, a rarity in Canada in the early 1980s; one chain had its first restaurant there. The market is now home to the most eclectic mix of cuisines from around the world, along with home-bakeries, butcher shops and local farm stands. The Rideau Centre – one of Canada's most-suc-

Design encourages cohesion

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Other strategies included upgrading the streetscapes, with stylish furniture, decluttering and widening sidewalks, protecting on-street parking and converting some one-way streets to two-ways.

Ottawa looked at streetscapes and how to make them more appealing to pedestrians and cyclists. In the market area, changing traffic flow, such as returning one-way streets to two-ways, was a key tool to bolster economic activity and livability, by reducing less-desirable activities and encouraging the success of restaurants and boutique retail.

The city also envisioned new buildings and upgrading old ones that would enhance the heritage and functions of each of the districts, especially in the market which it envisions as competing internationally to offer a sense of place with Toronto's Distillery District, Montreal's Old

Port, Quebec City, Halifax Harbour and Vancouver's Granville Island.

Bringing the market into the 21st century has been a long journey.



Strategies included upgrading the streetscapes, with stylish furniture, decluttering and widening sidewalks, protecting on-street parking and converting some one-way streets to two-ways. The document is available at www.ottawa.ca.

Port, Quebec City, Halifax Harbour and Vancouver's Granville Island.

To expand the sense of place, Ottawa also designed an urban open space program, to encourage community cohesion and enhance function, to encourage residents to live and play there, with safe spaces scattered throughout the neighbourhoods and more central, larger ones where public art could be a feature.

"Smaller, well-designed spaces are often better candidates for meaningful, active and safe park spaces than are larger open areas," the document says.

In the ByWard Market area, the city acknowledges the importance of lanes, alleys and courtyards as public spaces, which should enable pedestrians to walk through the area securely and safely.

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"The change is huge. Intensification has gotten more sophisticated," Kilstrom said, pointing out residen-

department store), the East Market development is not yet complete, although its first phase is six years old.

"Once they got going, others started too. As architecture, it's very Toronto," Kilstrom observed.

He's far more accepting of today's ideas and how they blend with yesterday's.

Ottawa has played a directing role in traffic, as the horse and buggy gave way to the car, and the car becomes king in the commuting era.

Ottawa redesigned the traffic flow to create and support a more livable community, to reduce that. By doing so, it changed the direction of the neighbourhood where 25 years ago, streetwalkers were among the primary entrepreneurs.

By converting some one-way streets to two-way, the city changed the mix of hospitality and commercial activities and the area is a creative one, with fledgling designers and art galleries.

And so the journey to make the market district an even more-vibrant place – a better place to live and work – continues.

A sense of place and building community are what good planning is all about: allowing the community to express itself today, while respecting the past and anticipating tomorrow.

tial infill projects along other outer-market and inner-market streets.

Closer to the Rideau Street commercial area (including the Rideau Centre, which has expansion plans to incorporate an vacant Oglivy's