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August 19, 2021

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Vol. 4 No. 11

'Wild Stittsville' resource guide tells about Stittsville ecosystems

BY JOHN CURRY

Stittsville residents now have a resource guide to the community's diverse environmental ecosystems.

It's the brainchild of 23-year-old Jessie Lozanski of Stittsville who has produced the guide entitled "Wild Stittsville" to raise awareness among her fellow citizens of the natural world that surrounds them.

She began working on the guide in January, taking a few months to do most of the research and writing, followed by editing, reviewing and printing. The Canadian Wildlife Federation provided some help to produce what Lozanski calls "an easy to read overview" of the ecosystems of Stittsville.

"The hope for this guide," she told Your Community Voice, "is to show the residents of Stittsville that our suburb is home to a natural



Submitted

Jessie Lozanski of Stittsville holds a copy of her 'Wild Stittsville' resource guide.

world worth caring about." She points out that Stittsville has endangered species, an old growth forest, a rare cold water creek and a provincially significant wetland. The guide shows some ways that residents can help "re-wild" the area.

The 22-page guide explains the value of productive ecosystems, followed by sections

on Stittsville habitat types such as creeks, wetlands and forests and on gardening tips to help pollinators, native plants and the habitat in general.

The guide explains about some of the rare and threatened species which exist in Stittsville's ecosystems.

The guide was done by Lozanski as a project for the Canadian Conservation Corps, a program run by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Canada Service Corps that works to get youth aged 18 to 30 engaged in conservation and service through a three-step program. This includes an outdoor expedition followed by a short-term placement with a conservation organization and finally with implementation of a conservation project in the participant's hometown.

PLEASE SEE GUIDE, PAGE 5



John Curry photo

Taking a 'bow'

Checking out bows at the Angelita & Co. Accessories booth at the market at Village Square Park in Stittsville on Sunday, Aug. 8 are (from left) vendor Angelita Abou Kassam, four-and-a-half-month old Electra Willis and mom Ali Willis of Kanata. The market, hosted by the Knights of Columbus of Holy Spirit Parish, featured a dozen vendors. Vendor fees minus expenses like park rental as well as on-site donations are being donated to Chrysalis House in Kanata, a shelter for women and children experiencing abusive situations. Each vendor also displayed a QR code which allowed customers to make direct online donations to Chrysalis House.



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Time to get back to work

It's time City council came off the summer BBQ chicken circuit and returned to work.

In their absence a commuter train on our two-billion-dollar-plus light rail system derailed closing the length of the Confederation line for a week - plus.

Taxpayers, who are being asked to pay more for transit, are told with much fanfare the service was back to running at 50 per cent capacity, yet we are paying 100% of the loss of revenue.

Let's not forget these are the same Alstom trains that regularly left passengers stranded when people were actually riding the rails pre-pandemic. So much for the great self-praising press releases out of OC Transpo headquarters that we had turned the corner with these vehicles and all was well.

To remind you, we have purchased 35 more of the same model for our much vaunted third stage of the light rail system.

What is that saying about making the same mistake over and over and expecting a different result?

The same week of the derailment 19 double-decker buses were pulled from the road over a suspected steering box malfunction.

That development came in a late night memo from the transit boss to city councillors.

Gunfight is becoming an almost nightly occurrence in parts of the city with the death toll reaching 14 in total for the year in the past week.

Where is the outrage on council that teenagers are killing each other?

These are not isolated incidents. But we have heard nothing from any of the 24 members of council this summer despite the trend showing we could end the year with record numbers of shootings and deaths.

And moving on, despite the lifting of the strictest restrictions of the months-long lockdown, we learned recently from public health officials recently that one third of the city, primarily consisting of immigrant and lower income neighbourhoods have yet to reach the 75 percent threshold for double vaccinations.

Not a chirp from any of them outside of the usual platitudes about what they're going to do to get more jobs in the arms of the most disadvantaged.

It's time for our local elected officials to get back to work and help solve what ails us.

Infrastructure upgrade on Sweetnam Drive



OUT & ABOUT WITH JOHN CURRY

Poole Creek is flowing through a new concrete culvert where it crosses

under Sweetnam Drive in Stittsville.

The new culvert has been installed to replace a series of existing steel culverts that had been in place for 36 years. These steel culverts had reached the end of their useful lifespan as small holes had deteriorated their structural integrity.

Two giant cranes were on site for the installation of the new eight 35-tonne concrete sections which were assembled to create the new culvert. The new culvert was surrounded by gravel and covered with

insulation to avoid any heaving from frost.

Another challenge regarding this culvert installation involved protecting from any construction damage the communication and gas lines which run along Sweetnam Drive in this location.

In addition to the new concrete culvert, the project has included the installation of guard rails along the road at this creek crossing. There were no roadside guard rails previously.

Goldie Mohr Ltd. of Nepean handled the job

under contract to the city of Ottawa. Cost is believed to be about one million dollars as the published combined cost for this culvert replacement plus one on Emerald Meadows Drive in Kanata is \$1,922,000.

For this new culvert installation, the flow of Poole Creek as it headed east-bound under Sweetnam Drive had to be blocked off with a coffer dam. The water was pumped using two high-volume pumps and large hoses around the site.

The new culvert will be



Submitted
One section of the new concrete culvert sits on a flatbed trailer, awaiting installation by a giant crane.

able to accommodate a greater flow than previously. This would seem to be wise due to increased development upstream and the impact of climate change, both of which should generate higher peak flows in the future.

Phil Sweetnam, whose family has business interests along Sweetnam Drive, praises the city of Ottawa for upgrading this Poole Creek infrastructure. Sweetnam Drive is named after the Sweetnam family which developed the area.

Your
COMMUNITY VOICE
Your Community Newspaper

Published by Ottawa Community Voice Publishing Company Inc.,
1 WOLFF CRES., ARNPRIOR, ONT, K7S 0B9; 613-458-6423

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is Copyrighted August 19, 2021

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