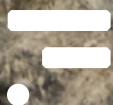


# COMMUNITY MATTERS



OTTAWA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

FALL 2019

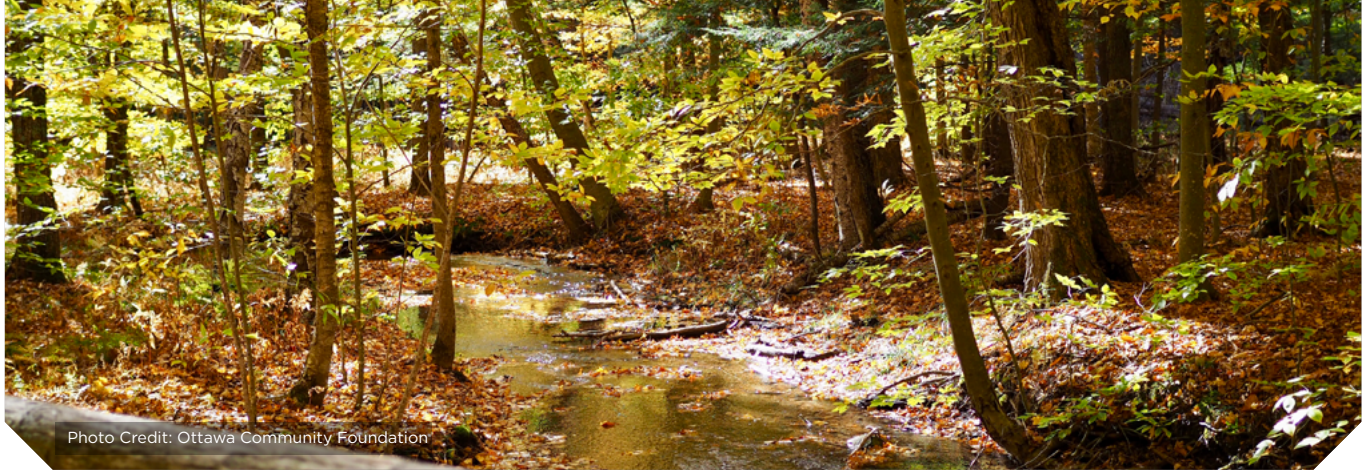


Photo Credit: Ottawa Community Foundation

Welcome to our fall edition of **Community Matters**. We hope you were able to experience Ottawa's natural beauty and all that the city has to offer during the summer months.

In this edition, we profile just a few of the outstanding individuals and organizations who dedicate their time and energy to creating and advancing initiatives that make our city even 'greener!'

In our **Community Giving** section, you can read our interview with Kristina Inrig, executive director of Sustainable Eastern Ontario, and a member of our Grants Committee. For more than 15 years, Kristina has championed environmental and sustainability issues and has established several funds with the Ottawa Community Foundation (OCF).

How 'green' is Ottawa? In our **Community Pulse** section, learn how the city is progressing on indicators such as energy efficient buildings and waste management. You can also read about organizations like the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation and their work with local schools.

We check in with the winners of the 2018 New Leaf Community Challenge as part of our **Community Impact** section. Global Vision and the Ottawa Community Housing Foundation share their update on Youth+ and how the project is equipping local youth to secure employment or pursue a post-secondary education.

As one of seven LC3 urban climate centres across Canada, the OCF is poised to play a significant role in helping to reduce carbon emissions. For more on this development,

see **Community News**. In this section, we also introduce new staff members Fateema Sayani and Ishita Ghose.

For this edition, our **Community Profile** features Tim Brodhead, a member of our Board of Directors and a visionary leader who has transformed the not-for-profit sector.

We hope this issue inspires you to join us in making Ottawa an even greener city!

#### JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

*Share this newsletter with friends, family or colleagues!*



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# COMMUNITY GIVING

## KRISTINA INRIG ON SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY



As executive director of Sustainable Eastern Ontario (SEO), Kristina Inrig spends her time creating and nurturing partnerships to support sustainability activities. Her focus is squarely on the future. Working with the Ottawa Community Foundation (OCF), Kristina established several funds to support the long-term goals of organizations she has led and supported. In a recent interview, Kristina shared her thoughts on how organizations can achieve their long-term vision.

### What motivated you to want to lead and support sustainable initiatives?

I've been involved in the movement my whole life. I grew up on the Rideau River, so the natural environment was always important to me. I founded an organization called Help our Only Planet when I was 10 years old. We collected garbage and organized bike-a-thons in my neighbourhood. When I finished my undergraduate degree, I went back to an environment focus. Sustainability is really where my heart is.

### How did Sustainable Eastern Ontario get started and what is its mission?

I started my career in the environmental sector as the executive director at Tucker House, a space that inspires sustainable living through education, collaborative leadership for sustainability, and eco-spiritual retreats. We launched the National Capital Environmental Non-profit Network, which was first funded by the OCF 10 years ago. We wanted sustainability organizations like Ecology Ottawa, Peace & Environment Resource Centre (PERC), Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City, and others to communicate and work together. By doing so, it helped with volunteer recruitment, governance and other priorities. The project began to take on a life of its own and eventually it led to the creation of SEO.

Today, we connect sustainability groups, develop strategic collaborations across the sector, build capacity of administration and operations, and celebrate successes covering the region.

### What was your motivation to work with the Ottawa Community Foundation?

I see the benefit of working with OCF for many different organizations. This was especially the case when I was looking at our long-term goals for Tucker House and I was considering how an endowment fund could help us. By working with the OCF, we would have a trusted partner that the community knew and respected and we wouldn't have to manage the money ourselves.

*Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

**1983 World Commission on Environment and Development**

Eventually, we also worked with the OCF to create a fund for the PERC. When a bequest came in, we were able to protect it by adding it to an endowment fund to look after the Centre's long-term needs.

SEO now has a donor-advised fund to receive donations and a flow-through fund to address short-term impact projects with local groups. This year, we will be funding several capacity-building projects for local organizations. With a tool like this, it makes it easier to have conversations with people who want to support us. In fact, a donor recently left the organization a significant donation in their will.

### What does the future look like when you think of sustainability?

Our strength as a sector is based on how collaborative we can be. Groups are working closely together, which can help us address sustainability issues. The OCF can also make a difference by playing a convening role and bringing different stakeholders together to tackle critical issues. The new Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) Urban Climate Centre being created by the OCF is a great example. [See page 6 for more information.]

We also want to connect with groups from outside the usual circles. That must be a defining shift in Ottawa. How do we engage all groups on sustainability issues? All of us need to find ways to integrate sustainability into our lives in a meaningful way.

### What advice would you give other organizations who want to secure their future?

Every organization's needs are different. When you can stop thinking about having enough funds for your annual operations and are able to start thinking about the future, an endowment fund is a good option. The minimum requirement is \$5,000 (The OCF allows an organization to raise this over several years), which is very achievable for small organizations. You have a lot of time to grow it, and you have a trusted organization like the OCF that can receive and manage donations.

To learn how to establish a fund, visit [www.ocf-fco.ca](http://www.ocf-fco.ca).

# COMMUNITY PULSE

## ENVIRONMENT

Ottawa Insights is a community knowledge centre that connects key information on the status, trends, and conditions across a broad range of issues affecting the quality of life in Ottawa.

Over the last few years, we have noted meaningful actions on the part of our civic leaders as well as a dramatic increase in the level of public discourse related to climate change. We appear to be at the tipping point of positive, systemic change to protect our environment.

In this issue, we highlight just a few indicators related to the environment and sustainability in our city.



**OVER THE  
PAST 10 YEARS  
AROUND 30%**

OF COMMUTERS USED



TO GET TO WORK<sup>1</sup>

**FROM 2010**, WHEN THE GREEN BIN WAS INTRODUCED, TO **2016**, THE AMOUNT OF GARBAGE COLLECTED HAS ↓ BY NEARLY 16%<sup>1</sup>

**IN 2018**, OTTAWA ADDED 7 PLATINUM GOLD, AND SILVER LEED-CERTIFIED NEW BUILDINGS, JUST UNDER 1/2 OF THE NUMBER OF LEED-CERTIFIED NEW CONSTRUCTIONS COMPLETED IN 2017<sup>2</sup>



**WHILE SCHOOLS ARE THE MOST EFFICIENT PUBLIC BUILDINGS ALL 3 TYPES MEASURED (OTHERS ARE HOSPITALS AND CITY BUILDINGS) ARE SLIGHTLY LESS EFFICIENT THAN — — — — — ONTARIO'S AVERAGES<sup>3</sup>**



1. City of Ottawa, 2016, 2. Canada Green Building Council, 2018, 3. Government of Ontario, 2016

**Note:** The data presented here reflects an upcoming Ottawa Insights update and therefore, may not be available on the website at the time of publication.



Ecology Ottawa recently conducted pedestrian and cycling audits of two Light Rail Transit (LRT) stations.

## GRANTS THAT SUPPORT ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

**Our Community Grants Program supports a broad range of projects including those related to environmental and sustainability issues. The following is just a sampling of recent projects.**

### RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OFFERS OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR PRIORITY SCHOOLS

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation supports efforts to care for and maintain the Rideau Valley watershed in Eastern Ontario. This includes raising awareness through outdoor education. Last year, priority schools participated in field trips to the Baxter Conservation Area. Under the guidance of certified teachers, the students—many who rarely have a chance to engage with nature—participate in hands-on activities like examining animal tracks and studying wildlife.

### CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY OTTAWA CONNECTS NEWCOMERS WITH THE OUTDOORS

Many newcomers to the Ottawa region may not be aware of the opportunities to experience the outdoors. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Ottawa Valley is working with local community organizations to offer newcomers access to outdoor events throughout the four seasons. Whether it's snowshoeing in the Greenbelt or exploring caves in Gattineau Park, the Society engages participants in inclusionary activities to foster an interest in, and appreciation of, nature and the environment.

### ECOLOGY OTTAWA HOPES YOU CAN WALK OR BIKE TO THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT

Ottawa's new LRT line will place 70% of Ottawa residents within five kilometres of a major transit hub. Ecology Ottawa is hoping to make that journey a sustainable form of transportation, whether it's cycling or walking. Volunteer-driven and focused on making Ottawa the green capital of Canada, Ecology Ottawa will consult the public and identify opportunities for active transportation connections to two LRT stations.



Courtesy of Nature Canada

Nature Canada's Naturehood Program engaged kids in experiencing nature and wildlife.

### NATURE CANADA ENGAGES KIDS WITH NATURE-BASED LEARNING

In 2018, Nature Canada offered kids from the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa the chance to take part in experiential learning in nature at Camp Smitty. Staff and counselors were trained to lead various activities, including identifying common animal species found around the campgrounds and organizing a scavenger hunt to track them down. The 2018 program drew 47 participants and helped train 10 counselors.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## OTTAWA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH LC3 URBAN CLIMATE CENTRE



Rebecca Aird, Director of Community Engagement with the Ottawa Community Foundation and Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

In August 2019, the Government of Canada officially announced a \$20 million endowment for the Ottawa Community Foundation (OCF) to establish a Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) Centre. The Centre will increase the uptake of solutions that help reduce carbon emissions. An additional \$2 million will support the Centre's operations in the early years, with future operations to be funded from earnings on the endowment.

The investment is part of the \$183 million allocated to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to finance seven LC3 Centres in major urban areas across Canada including Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Halifax.

"We envision the Ottawa LC3 Centre as a partnership platform," says Rebecca Aird, OCF's lead on the

LC3 Centre. "We'll be able to tap the knowledge, expertise and other resources from a broad range of players to ensure the investments made, the grants awarded, and the research completed will increase our city's resilience and economic strength while reducing carbon emissions."

With our experience in asset management, governance, granting, and impact investing,

we are confident this one-time investment will support high-impact solutions in our city for many years to come. Along with contributions and investments leveraged from other sectors, organizations and individuals, the investment will be used to remove barriers to proven solutions in a range of key areas – such as building retrofits, energy systems, renewable energy and transportation so that they can reach their full potential.

In preparation, we are working with FCM to establish the agreements and necessary groundwork for the transfer of the

endowment and operating funds to each centre. We are pleased to be working with Kate Fleming, FCM's newly hired program director for LC3.

In mid-September, OCF and FCM hosted the leads from the seven Centres for a planning meeting, where many of the major elements of our working relationships were discussed. The group also connected virtually with municipal leaders from across the country to consider ways to work together on this important initiative.

The Ottawa LC3 Centre is another example of the recognition of our growing role as city-builder and our contribution to positive, systemic and sustainable change in our city and beyond.

For more information visit our [web page](#) or [lc3.ca](#).



(L to R) OCF board member, Janet McKeage; OCF staff, Rebecca Aird, Fateema Sayani, Danielle Côté; and Catherine McKenna.

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## LOCAL YOUTH BUILD SKILLSET FOR THE FUTURE

Last November, the Ottawa Community Housing Foundation and Global Vision won the 5th New Leaf Community Challenge with their Youth+ program designed to increase the employability of local youth. Underserved youth from low-income neighborhoods are invited to



join Youth+ where they develop skills to gain a competitive advantage in the job market or transition to post-secondary education.

“Youth+ is about building confidence,” explains Amy Giroux, executive director of Global Vision. “We try to show participants

the many opportunities they can consider when thinking about post-secondary studies or potential future employment.”

Last March, 140 youth attended the inaugural Youth+ Industry Roundtable at Saint Paul University. During a full day session, participants completed a personal branding exercise called “From Me to We,” networked with community leaders in business and government, and collaborated on solutions to issues like mental health and climate change.

The young men and women also participated in industry tours and round tables with local business leaders, and received entrepreneurship training — all designed to increase their awareness of the job market and boost their networking skills. Participants also benefited from mentorship support and the opportunity to take part in a Junior Team Canada trade mission. From those experiences, they are equipped to begin mapping their personal career path. For many graduates of the year-long program, the end signals a new beginning when they sign up to give back as alumni to the next cohort of youth.

According to Amy, the participants in the program’s first year did very well and are already showing signs of eagerness and insight into what their future might be. “We are thankful to the Ottawa Community Foundation for the opportunity to collaborate in this way.”

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS



Fateema Sayani joined our team in April 2019 as director of donor engagement. She plays a pivotal role in fulfilling our promise of making philanthropy easy and meaningful for current and future donors. Previously an award-

winning journalist who has written on social change and advocacy, she is also poised to shape and support the organization’s strategic vision in city-building and policy development.

Fateema is past vice-chair for community radio station *CHUO-FM* and she volunteers with the Polaris Music Prize and the East Coast Music Awards. In addition to holding a bachelor’s degree in journalism, Fateema earned a master’s in philanthropy and non-profit leadership at Carleton University.

Fateema was founding manager editor of *Future of Good*, which focuses on all the things that are making a difference in the world of impact. Her writing has also been featured in *Canadian Geographic*, *Maisonnette Magazine*, and *Ottawa Magazine*.

In her spare time, Fateema enjoys studying French language and literature and enjoys getting out around Ottawa on her bike. She supports cycling initiatives through the Sayani Cycling Action Fund at the OCF.

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This past spring, we also welcomed Ishita Ghose as associate, finance and administration. She processes donations and payroll and supports our financial reporting.



Having worked at the Guelph Community Foundation before moving to Ottawa, Ishita transitioned comfortably into her new role here. She also brings with her experience in office management, grants administration, and project coordination.

Community minded as well, Ishita has volunteered with the Guelph Citizenship Committee, helping to organize citizenship ceremonies.

Ishita is a graduate from the University of Delhi. In the past, she has worked with diverse clientele on integration and settlement on projects funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. She also worked at Bracelet of Hope, an NGO committed to ending the AIDS pandemic in Lesotho, Africa.

When she’s not busy crunching numbers, Ishita loves to spend time working in her garden or planning that next trip to a seaside beach.

# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## TIM BRODHEAD



**Tim Brodhead is widely recognized as an innovator and thought leader with a passion for the not-for-profit sector. He recently shared his perspective on a range of topics: from his early days as a volunteer overseas to his role as an Ottawa Community Foundation (OCF) board member, and from working with Indigenous peoples to his thoughts on climate change.**

When Tim graduated from McGill University and journeyed to Nigeria to volunteer, he essentially started on a path that led to a 25-year career in international cooperation in the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector, followed by 25 more in the foundation world in Canada.



Tim was a member of our New Leaf Community Challenge jury in 2018.

"I returned home from overseas with a deeper appreciation of the advantages we have in Canada, but also of the challenges we face in creating a more inclusive and equitable society," Tim recounts. "The sector seemed to me to be the best place to engage Canadians in addressing those challenges."

Tim founded several organizations and served on countless boards. He later became president and CEO of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation in 1995, a position he held until 2011. In this role, he helped advance its mission of supporting social innovation, inclusion and sustainability. During his time, he also helped create the Community Foundation of Greater Montreal.

In 2001, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. In his citation, Tim was recognized for his leadership in the Canadian NGO community, his work on international cooperation and his drive for social justice, among other accomplishments.

When he returned to Ottawa from Montreal after he retired, he felt a natural pull to connect with the OCF where he could get a better sense of what was being done to create a more dynamic and innovative Ottawa. "Community foundations offer one of the most flexible and dynamic ways to tap into, and support, local community generosity and initiative," Tim notes.

He joined the OCF board in 2016, and points to the Community Grants Program as the most rewarding part of his time on the board – gaining insight into the amazing range of initiatives the OCF supports in the community. He also recognized the OCF's leadership in responsible investments and impact investing, and how it stewards its assets towards vehicles that see both a financial and social return.

"Right now, I am most passionate about reconciliation—creating a different relationship with Indigenous peoples based on respect and reciprocity. Living in a democratic society, we all have a responsibility to play our part."

Tim also believes the climate crisis is the great existential issue of our time. Framing it as a test for society on the

same magnitude as World War II or the Great Depression, Tim reiterates the need for all citizens to act in the face of this challenge. In his view, each of us can undertake individual action, but we must also impress on our leaders that we support large-scale change, however inconvenient it might be in the short term.

**"The Ottawa Community Foundation channels individual generosity into collective action."**

Community leaders and organizations like the OCF are playing an increasing role in providing opportunity and leadership. While Tim believes Ottawa is a healthy city in many ways—public services, access to nature and other activities, a well-educated population—there is much to be done. "We have far too many people living in poverty, in inadequate housing, facing discrimination or exclusion," he warns.

But he recognizes organizations like the OCF are leading a city-wide movement to tackle the issues. "The Ottawa Community Foundation channels individual generosity into collective action," he suggests. "We are identifying emerging problems that are still on the horizon, and are providing the means to enable citizens to help improve our city."