



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

June 2024

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray &
Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Emmy Verdun
Communications & Newsletter
Editors: Mary Mussell &
Lorna Kingston
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Quaker Ottawa Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Teresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all
denominations through joint
participation in social projects and
prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
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Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5
613-232-3059

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www.centretownchurches.org

What is a NORC?

The guest speaker for the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee's AGM was Jennifer Brooks, a nurse and nurse practitioner, who is on the Housing Committee of the Council on Aging.

Jennifer spoke about naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC). These are buildings where at least thirty percent of the residents are older than 65 and there are at least 50 of those residents in the building or neighbourhood.

When this is the situation, there is the possibility of a supportive service program that can provide health, social, recreational, educational and/or physical supports.

To have a supportive service program, there are some essential requirements. There needs to be a shared outdoor space and an indoor space that includes:

- a communal kitchen for gatherings
- a large room for social/ recreational activities
- a room for visiting health and social services

A supportive service program in a naturally occurring retirement community has been proven to reduce social isolation and provide older adults with opportunities to be productive and useful. In addition, there are economic benefits to both the individuals and the community.

An example of this in Ottawa is Ambleside condominiums which was approved as a site in 2022. Another one on the horizon is located at 2400 Carling Avenue.



What Happens at Youville Centre

At the monthly CCSAC meeting in April our guest speaker was Peter Embleton, Executive Director of the Youville Centre. He shared the history of Youville and why it was founded. His goal is to ensure that every young woman and child who comes to Youville Centre has the ability to learn and grow and dream that anything is possible. Youville meets adolescent mother where they are and helps them to be successful. When mothers are successful, the children are as well.

Youville is a fully accredited secondary school with a licensed child development program. There are usually 14 to 25 moms and babies between the ages 0 to 3 in their program. When a mother graduates from secondary school, she is given a bursary for post secondary education.

Case coordinators help moms deal with life. A psychotherapist is available for counselling. Youville provides crisis intervention, mental health therapy and treatment, substance use counselling and collaborative problem solving.

The website for Youville Centre is www.youvillecentre.org



Peter Embleton

Downtown Ottawa Revitalization Task Force

CCSAC members were pleased to welcome Yasir Naqvi, Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre, as guest speaker at our meeting on June 3. He was invited to talk about the recommendations of the Downtown Ottawa Revitalization Task Force in its final report released in January entitled “Envisioning a Great Downtown”.



Yasir Naqvi addressing CCSAC members

The report proposed possible solutions to challenges such as the lack of affordable housing and chronic homelessness. It addressed how to create a hybrid work environment that would encourage residents and tourists to return to downtown. Ideas to provide a more sustainable urban environment and more inclusive community spaces that promote Indigenous reconciliation were considered.

The Task Force looked at potential projects to redevelop such as the Jackson Building, the old Ottawa Public Library and l’Esplanade Laurier.

For more information about the Task Force, visit Yasir Naqvi’s website at Yasir.Naqvi@parl.gc.ca.