



# CCSAC NEWSLETTER

## CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

July 2026

### 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  
Ottawa Quaker 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. Theresa'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!  
507 Bank St.

Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5  
613-232-3059

[Contact@centretownchurches.org](mailto:Contact@centretownchurches.org)  
[www.centretownchurches.org](http://www.centretownchurches.org)

## Volunteer Appreciation

All those who serve the Centretown Community Food Centre were honoured with a get-together on May 29. The invitees included volunteers who sort, package and shelve food, those who serve the clients, the Food Centre staff and members of the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee. The Centretown Churches Social Action Committee was instrumental in founding the Food Centre and has supported the Food Centre since its inception.



## Encore Fashions Closing

Encore Fashions, a volunteer-staffed initiative located in the basement of Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, closed for business on May 23. During the years since it opened in September 2012, it raised funds for a variety of local and international charities. Most importantly, it became a place to gather and meet friends who had an interest in fashion, fellowship and making a difference in the world.

*Your Centretown Churches Social Action Committee keeps busy working and advocating on behalf of our neighbours. Follow our activities on [www.centretownchurches.org](http://www.centretownchurches.org) and Facebook.*

# Being Studio

By: Naheem Ahmed

BEING Studio is a charitable, non-profit organization based in the Ottawa region that supports and mentors artists with developmental disabilities. They provide an accessible space, arts programming, workshops, and professional opportunities that help artists build skills, express themselves, and participate in the arts community.

Located at the Bronson Centre, BEING Studio has provided inclusive arts programming for adults with developmental disabilities for over 24 years. Artists participate in weekly guided art prompts that support learning in visual arts and creative writing. Our programs are led by facilitators who encourage self-expression and emotional well-being through mediums such as painting, watercolour, embroidery, and digital art making. Artists also engage in exhibitions, sales, and merchandising opportunities that help grow their professional practice.



The people standing in front of a wall hung with acrylic paintings are: (L to R) Walter Howell (Executive Director, BEING Studio, Emilia Valerio (Artist), Debbie Ratcliffe (Artist Ambassador), Aryana Juzdani (Artist), Cassidy Clifford (Artist) and Ariel Troster (City Councillor).

There are many ways to support BEING Studio: donations, purchasing artwork, or volunteering or just spread the word about our community. Every contribution directly strengthens accessible and inclusive creative opportunities. Your support helps ensure these programs continue to grow and remain accessible.

For more information visit:  
<https://beingstudio.ca>

## Gay Eloise Richardson (1944-2026)



Gay Richardson, a dedicated worker for social justice in the Ottawa community, passed away on May 19. After retiring from a long career in the federal government, Gay devoted her time and energy to fostering her belief that people of different faiths could work together on social needs. She put words into action and founded the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), an organization that provides affordable housing to the Ottawa community. Guided by love, service and deep faith, her generous spirit will be missed.