

Fresh off first novel, Glabar Park writer plans for sequel to be out early next year

Chris Fournier may have moved to Ottawa from Halifax in 2012, but he always knew the story would take place in Montreal, where he lived from 2006 to 2011. "For several years during the writing I would travel to Montreal every chance I got to do research," he says. "I really wanted to capture the essence of the city and to bring it alive for readers."

Fournier, a former journalist who has lived in Glabar Park since 2015, is celebrating one year since the launch of his book, *The Freelancer*. It follows protagonist Denny Durant, a struggling freelance reporter, as a story he's chasing gets him tangled up in Montreal's criminal underworld.

Fournier plans to publish the second book in the series in early 2024. He took some time to answer the Glabar Gazette's questions about his writing process, the importance of place to a good story, and whether Glabar Park needs its own pub.

Glabar Gazette: How long had you been thinking about writing *The Freelancer*?

Chris Fournier: I started working on this story around the time I moved

to Montreal. There were many stops and starts, and most of the early drafts are unrecognisable from the published novel, but it's all part of the process. Someone once said no writing is wasted — it all goes into the stock, and the stock is what creates the flavour.

GG: Were you inspired by any of the real-life stories you covered as a reporter?

CF: At the time I was working as a financial reporter and we were covering a lot of stories about cross border trade and the value of the currency. It got me thinking about the border itself, and how people and things can move across under the radar, and the mechanics of that. That's one element of the book that remained pretty much constant throughout all the drafts.

GG: What is Capital Crime Writers and how did being a member help with your writing?

CF: It's a group of Ottawa crime writers - published and aspiring - who meet once a month to hear from visiting authors or subject matter experts. Few things energize a writer more than engaging with other writers, to learn about what works and what doesn't, and to

hear the stories from the trenches. Writing is a lonely business so meeting with other writers can be very nourishing.

GG: Your descriptions of Montreal are quite detailed. Why was place such an important element of your storytelling?

CF: Setting and character are as important if not more important than plot, and done well, the setting can become another character. A well-drawn setting makes for a richer experience. I'm a big fan of Graham Greene and I love the way he portrays the settings in his work. A more contemporary example is Adrian McKinty and his portrayal of Northern Ireland.

GG: Denny has his preferred watering hole, The Gargoyle, where he reflects on the adventures befalling him and gets guidance from his wise friend, Virginia, the bartender. There isn't a similar spot within even 1 km of Glabar Park. What is it about a good pub that draws in a loyal customer base and allows it to become a beloved place in a community?

CF: I agree it's a shortcoming of an otherwise wonderful neighbourhood. I think a good watering hole offers an escape from what can be a dull, dreary or difficult existence. It's a place where you feel a sense of belonging but where there's also the possibility of the unexpected: you never know who might turn up!



The Freelancer is available for lending through the Free Little Library on Lenester, and for purchase on Amazon and at the Pinecrest Indigo. You can support the book's local author by leaving a review: cjfournierbooks.com.



Join us in person for our Annual General Meeting on November 7

A message from your Glabar Park Community Alliance



Board members and volunteers serve up hot dogs, drinks and treats at Summer Fun Day on Saturday, August 12 in Kingsmere Park. ABBY GRAY-DONALD/GLABAR PARK.

As the pandemic experience proved, it's great to have so many virtual ways to stay connected to our community. But as two very well-attended Fun Days this year made clear, there's still a strong appetite for meeting up in person.

Whatever may have brought you down to Kingsmere Park initially—the skating, the fire truck, the food, or maybe just the promise of some free entertainment for your kids—you likely stayed for the company. At both events, residents thanked our Board members for putting together a day that brought together so many neighbours of all ages.

The Alliance will continue to organize

these occasions for connection, but we are limited in what we can do by the number of people available to provide support on the ground. In 2022, we hosted events for Cleaning the Capital and July 1st; in 2023, we pivoted to the two Fun Days—one in winter and one in summer. In all cases, help largely came from Board members, their families and a core group of rink volunteers and longtime Alliance sponsors.

We'd love to increase the number and scope of Alliance initiatives each year. It would give residents more chances to attend and participate in an activity that suits their interests. We also decrease the risk of burning out our existing volunteers—especially

those out in the winter working on the rink!

To this end, our Annual General Meeting takes place Tuesday, November 7, and we are holding it in person at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. The meeting will include reports on our activities and finances, as well as an update from Bay Ward City Councillor Theresa



Save the date

Annual General Meeting of the Glabar Park Community Alliance

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 7pm–9pm
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Great Hall
971 Woodroffe Avenue

Winter Fun Day

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Kavanagh. The Councillor will hold a question-and-answer period where residents will be able to ask about issues important to the neighbourhood, like the impact of the province's "More Homes Built Faster" act, and the City's Official Plan. There will also be an election of directors to the Board for 2023–24.

We hope you will come by, chat with neighbours, and hear about the many ways to help keep this community vibrant.

Theresa Kavanagh

Ottawa City Councillor
Bay Ward

110 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

Tel: 613-580-2477
Theresa.Kavanagh@Ottawa.ca
3-1-1 for City Services



Thank you to the office of Councillor Kavanagh for printing this edition.

August 12th festivities bring together neighbours of all ages

The forecast called for rain, but it held off for the duration of Glabar Park's first Summer Fun Day since 2019. Raindrops fell just as volunteers finished cleaning up after more than 100 residents joined the Alliance at Kingsmere Park for hot dogs, drinks and freezies.

While temperatures were too cool for swimming in the wading pool, a visit from Ottawa Fire Division 21 went into overtime as dozens of children clamoured for a chance to sit in the fire truck.

The fun kicked off just before noon with a bike

parade that cruised over from the parkette on Hare Avenue. Bay Ward Councillor Theresa Kavanagh joined the parade, and Ottawa West-Nepean MPP Chandra Pasma came by to chat with residents and hand out frisbees—which saw immediate use.

Families ate BBQ under tents set up with the generous support of Morris Home Team, and on picnic blankets around the play structures. Even when the sky became overcast, music and bubbles kept the atmosphere buoyant until the event ended at 3pm.

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Alliance president Trent Gray-Donald greets crew members from Ottawa Fire Division 21. STEVE AUBRY/GLABAR PARK.



Bay Ward Councillor Theresa Kavanagh joins in for the bike parade. STEVE AUBRY/GLABAR PARK.

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Recruitment open for rink season

Kingsmere Park's community rink needs residents to help out with ice maintenance and supervision this winter. A commitment of even one shift a week can go a long way towards keeping the rink operational and the ice surface in top condition.

Take a moment to review the roles below and reach out to rink coordinator Curtis Thorne by email at kingsmererink@gmail.com or by phone at 613-619-5476.

Maintenance team

Clears and floods the ice surface daily between mid-December and late-February (typically in the evenings after skating closes but can be during the day, too, depending on snowfall and other weather conditions).

Supervision team

Keeps the fieldhouse open so that skaters have a place to change and use the washroom. Logs the number of skaters per hour, which is a requirement for the City to provide the boards, lights and other equipment for the rink.

Ice-building team

Needed at the end of December to build the base ice, packing down snow with sleds or other tools and then flooding regularly for 10-14 days.




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Stay connected

To keep up on the latest community news, bookmark our website, www.glabarpark.ca, request to join The

Glaborhood group on Facebook, or email The Alliance at glabarparkca@gmail.com. Here is the 2022/2023 Board of Directors: Trent Gray-Donald (President),

James Richenhaller (Vice-President), Berny Latreille (Secretary), Steve Aubry (Treasurer), Curtis Thorne, Janice Vriend, Rebecca Spence, Rocio Lopez, Sara Lee and Susan Fortier.