



Wide Open

A CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE

Wide Open: A Canadian Perspective offers snapshots of how some of our own see the land, the lives and the culture that contribute to our national voice. The photographers, some amateur, others professional, are all based in the Ottawa region. Quotes come from Kickass Canadians—people with generous spirits who stand out as remarkable, inspirational Canucks.

Of the many things Canadians are known for, perhaps the one that engenders the most pride is our essentially generous spirit, our willingness to help those less fortunate. In recognition of that, 100% of proceeds from the sale of this book go to CARE Canada, a not-for-profit organization that helps individuals and families in the world's poorest communities.

Our country is a wonderful place. Let's celebrate that with images of its diverse beauty—the vast natural resources and wide open spaces, the unique perspectives and hidden highlights, all of which contribute to that sense of wonder we all, at moments, feel. And while we're doing that, let's give back. It's our way.

– Amanda Sage, Founder, KickassCanadians.ca



THERE IS A
SPIRIT
THAT RUNS ACROSS LAND AND WATER,
RINGING TRUE, STRONG AND FREE.

Lake Louise, Alberta, 2008 | *Andrew Geddes*



near Constance Bay, Ontario, 2012 | *Dominic Willsher*

Julie Drury, Medical Advocate (MitoCanada), Marathoner

“I have often been asked where I get my energy and how I do what I do. My answer comes from a place of instinct, intuition and passion. I do it because I have to—there is no other way. It is something we all have. To rise to the occasion, to put one foot in front of the other and face an enormous difficulty or a personal challenge.”



near Prince Rupert, British Columbia, 2009 | *Andrew Geddes*

Kristina Groves, Olympic Medalist (Speed Skating)

“Sometimes I get lost in the endless negative stories about all the problems in the world, and it’s enough to make me question, with despair, what this whole life is all about. It’s true that we can’t fix everything ourselves, but we can fix ourselves—fix the way we see things, fix the way we do things, to the point where we see only bright solutions to the things we can control.”



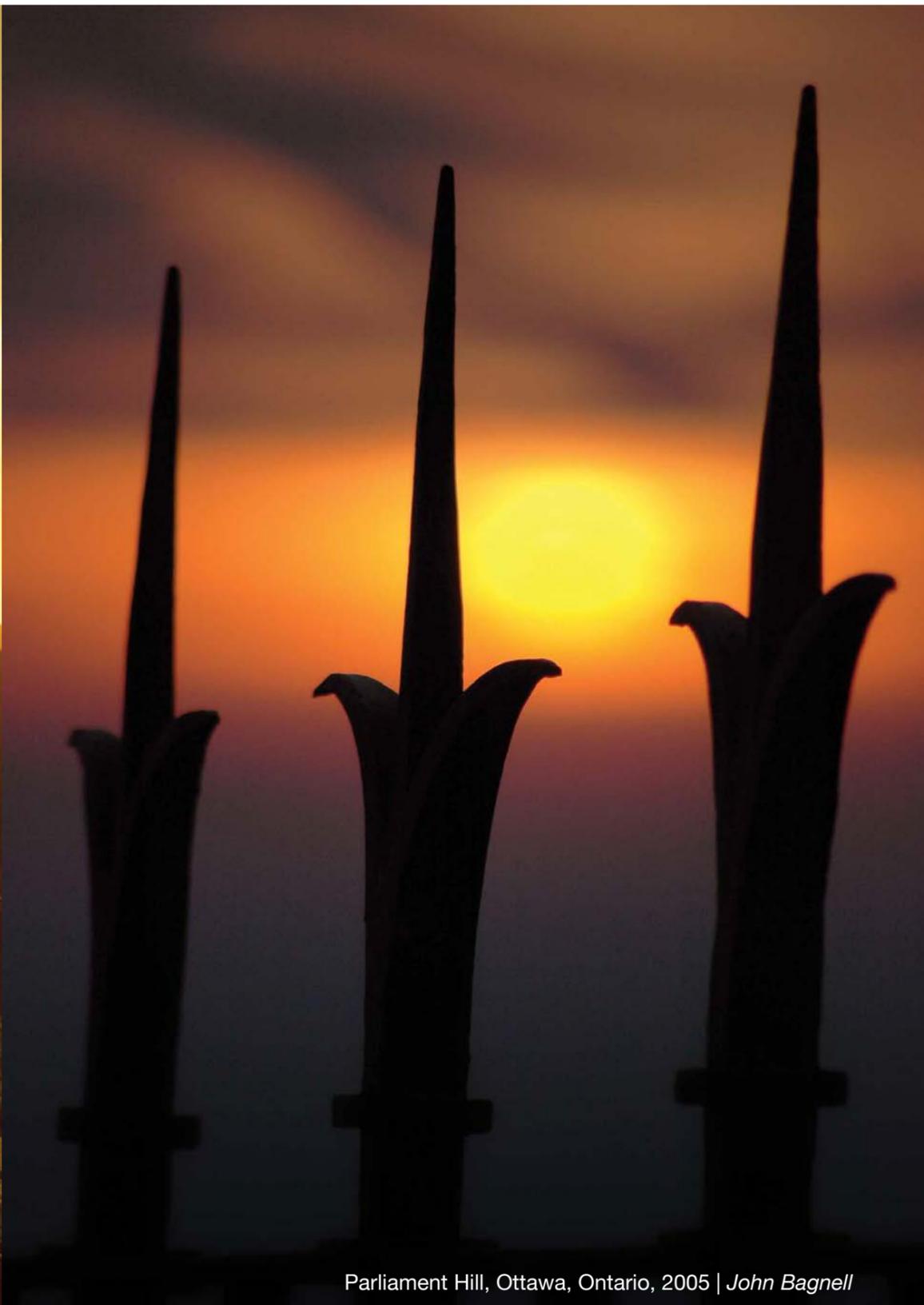
IT SPEAKS
FROM A PLACE OF
STILLNESS,
HEARD ONLY WHEN
THE MIND IS QUIET.

Opeongo Lake, Algonquin Park, Ontario, 2011 | *Dominic Willsher*



IN TIME, ITS
VOICE
GROWS STRONGER, ECHOING THROUGH THE
SPACE WE NEED TO SEE AND TO PROTECT,
REVEALING HOW MUCH WE HAVE TO
CHERISH.

Burrard Bridge, Vancouver, British Columbia, 2010 | *Dwayne Brown*



Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario, 2005 | *John Bagnell*



Jen Grant, Stand-Up Comic

“Doing stand-up comedy for the first time was the scariest thing I had ever done. Staring fear in the face and pushing through it was one of the most empowering things I’ve ever done. Instead of running from fear, face it head on and you’ll be surprised what you can do!”



Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, Quebec, 2011 | *Amanda Large*



TTC subway station, Toronto, Ontario, 2011 | *Amanda Large*

WITH EARS NOW KEEN,
AND TRUSTING HEARTS WIDE
OPEN, WE LISTEN TO A
STORY
THAT CALLS OUT FROM THE
PAST, EAGER TO BE TOLD.



Vancouver, British Columbia, 2012 | *Caitlin Brookes*



Ottawa, Ontario, 2010 | *Dever Villeneuve*



Ottawa River, Ottawa, Ontario, 2012 | *Jim McIntyre*

Glenroy Gilbert, Olympic Gold Medalist (4x100m), Athletics Canada Coach

“Winning the 1996 Olympic Gold Medal for Canada in Atlanta bears proof to a journey of resilience, and a commitment to and desire for excellence. This journey came with a lot of trials and I weathered many storms. The prize wasn’t just a medal, but the journey of self-discovery.”

Blaine Penny, Founder of MitoCanada

“My (quadriplegic) son Evan reminds me daily that time is a commodity we often take for granted. We are truly fortunate to have the luxury of choice in our lives; let’s choose to make every second count!”

Don R. Campbell, President of the Real Estate Investment Network™ (REIN)

Yes, we should be proud of the beauty and people of our country. But a hidden beauty can be found in how we, as a nation, became leaders. With hard work and determination, we evolved from an almost bankrupt country to creating a proven economic model many other countries wished they had put in place before the 2008 economic downturn. That is another reason we all need to be proud of this great country we call Canada, our economic leadership.

Bow River pedestrian bridge, Calgary, Alberta, 2008 | *John Bagnell*



Colin Harris, Co-Founder of Take Me Outside

“Canada has one of the greatest backyards in the world. Finding ways to encourage Canadians, particularly youth, to spend more time out in nature is integral to a healthier country—mentally, emotionally, socially and physically.”

Constance Bay, Ontario, 2011
Dominic Willsher





Al Charron, Canadian Rugby Icon

“As Canadians, we have a lot to be thankful for. Although we might not have exclusive rights in being the only country with beautiful scenery, great people and a fantastic quality of life, we can be extremely proud of how many people throughout the world would actually choose to live in Canada over other nations. That’s a telling point and a reminder of how fortunate we are.”

Roy Henry Vickers, Painter, Sculptor

While trying to come up with a description for some artwork I was doing for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic bid, I was meditating on the word ‘recreation’ and it hit me: Recreation is a time when you can re-create yourself. There are four faces for all humans—the baby, youth, middle-aged and elder. The baby is totally dependent on caregivers. Youth have many hurdles to overcome in the process of maturing. Middle age is a time to relax and look back at your life; a time for fun. The elder looks at life flitting by and becomes more spiritual. As an elder, I can still find challenges and hurdles to overcome; I am able to have fun whenever I want, and I appreciate it all in mind, body and spirit.



Luskville, Quebec, 2011 | *Camille Dubois Crôteau*



Ottawa, Ontario, 2012 | Dever Villeneuve

Lindsay Coulter, David Suzuki's Queen of Green

“ I care about protecting nature—that’s why I’m doing the work I do. And I’m not sorry (how un-Canadian of me!) for taking a stand to ensure that my child might have a chance at a more sustainable future. Saving the planet isn’t a spectator sport. ”

Ray Zahab, Ultra-Runner, Founder of impossible2Possible

“ Canada is not only my home, but a home to many different cultures, geographies and ecologies. A place of never-ending discovery and never-ending, beautiful surprises. ”



**Jay Peachy, Visual Artist, Sound Therapy Radio Host,
Mental Health Advocate**

“Canadians are known around the globe for their generosity, their history as peacemakers and a genuine desire to understand what the rest of the world is about. In this time of global turmoil, Kickass Canadians from all over will rise to courageously express the values we all share.”

**Dr. Derek Puddester, Psychiatrist, Founder of
ePhysicianHealth.com and eWorkplaceHealth.com**

“Canada is so much more than the important trio of its core values of peace, order and good government. We are a land of passion, creativity, innovation and joy. The land forces us to think creatively and practically, inspires us to support each other’s development and growth, and ignites a firestorm of artistic and humanistic beauty. It is our heart and soul, our nourishment and protection, and the very essence of our identity and sense of community.”



Gatineau Park, Chelsea, Quebec, 2011 | *Amanda Sage*





Lascelles, Quebec, 2007 | *Amanda Sage*

Kevin Newman, Digital News Evangelist, Anchor for CTV Question Period

I had become accustomed to having many of life's thresholds in my rearview mirror: graduations, marriage, children, career success. And then I turned 50. Unexpectedly, the path I'd travelled became less important than the one before me, because I was suddenly aware it was the shorter one. It's obvious, I know. But in the years since 50, I have made riskier choices, tried more new things, and focused on living more authentically. Sensing my own finality for the first time turned out to be what I needed to experience more of life's flow.



AS HISTORY GIVES WAY TO
**FUTURE
MEMORIES**
WE ARE BOUND TOGETHER
WITH A LAND THAT STRETCHES
UPWARD, OUTWARD, ONWARD.

Dianne Watts, Mayor of Surrey, B.C.

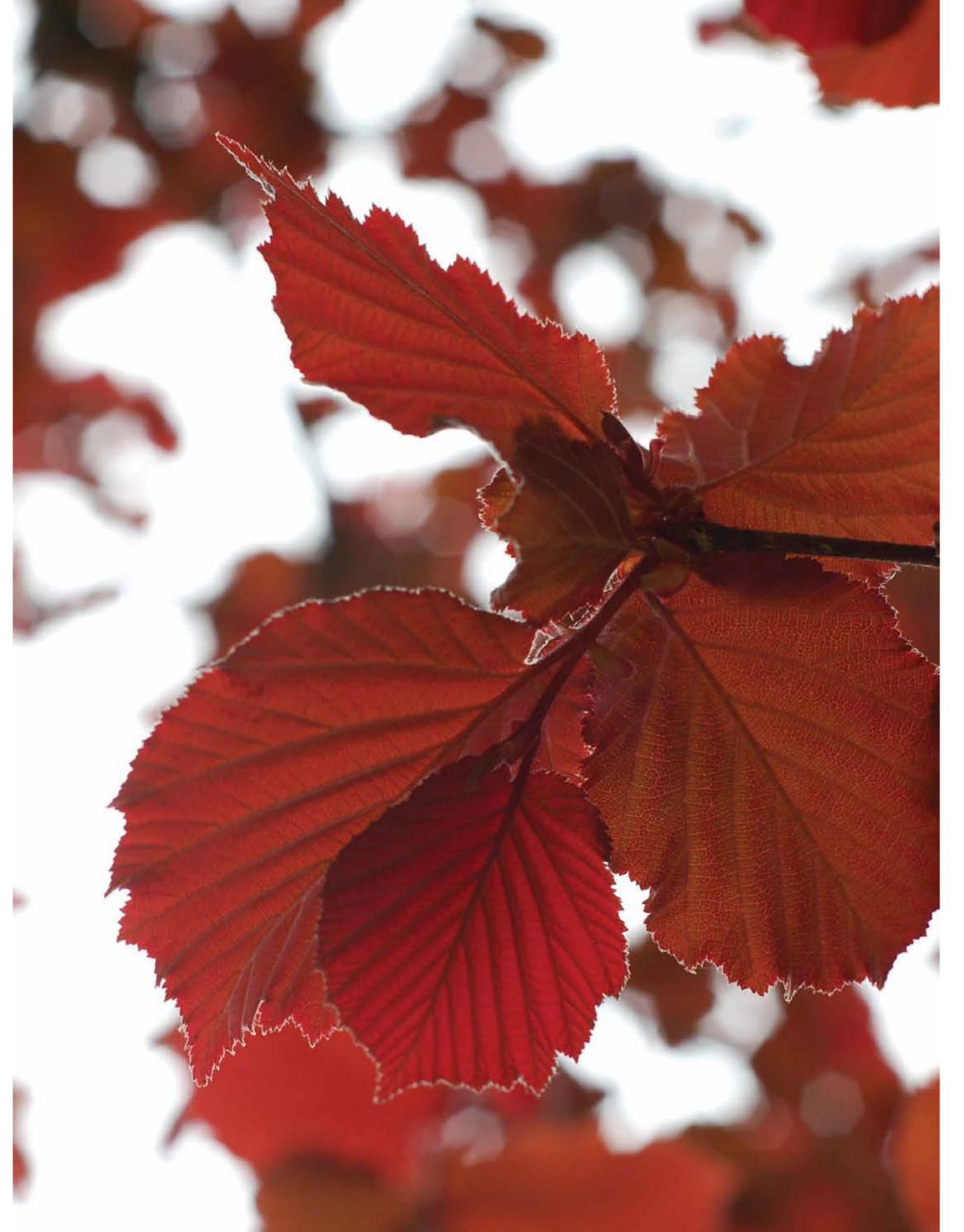
“ We can create a brighter future for Canada if we collectively work to ensure that every child is supported, well-educated, and given the tools they need to lead a happy, healthy life. ”

Arboretum, Ottawa, Ontario, 2011
Amanda Sage

Amma Bonsu, Creator and Producer of AmmazingSeries™

Living in Canada has given me the opportunity to pursue my dreams and the resources to touch the world in a uniquely beautiful way. Thank you Canada.

Arboretum, Ottawa, Ontario, 2010 | *Amanda Sage*





IT
GROWS...

near Calgary, Alberta, 2007 | *John Bagnell*

Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, Neuroscientist

“ Take the time to discover all of Canada, every corner. It's amazing to see such geographical expanse and diversity tied together so tightly by the nature of our people. ”



AND
IT GROWS
QUIET
IN OUR MINDS.

THERE IS STILL
SO MUCH TO
HEAR.



John Bagnell, Photographer

With a background in physics and incredible kindness of spirit (plus a day job at CIRA), John also makes a priority of snapping a photo whenever possible. An endlessly generous human being, he brings his keen perspective to the landscapes, objects and people that catch his eye.

johnbagnellphoto.ca



Dwayne Brown, Photographer

Owner and photographer at Dwayne Brown Studio, Dwayne relishes the opportunity his job affords to see the world and life as others live it. Between professional gigs, he donates his talents to worthy organizations like Youth Services Bureau and Youville Centre.

dwaynebrown.com



Caitlin Brookes, Photographer

A baker by day (and the occasional evening, just for fun), Caitlin often pulls out her camera to switch focus and open her eyes to life's little details. She captures them beautifully, from the tiny imprints on a butterfly's wing, to the quiet shimmer of snow underfoot.

thepaperbutterfly.etsy.com



Camille Dubois Crêteau, Photographer

In between working at the National Arts Centre and studying humanitarian logistics at the Fritz Institute, Camille always looks for a moment (or several) to return to photography—a place where “beauty, humanity and psychology can connect effortlessly.”



Andrew Geddes, Photographer

It took earning his Masters in biomedical engineering for Andrew to realize that photography was his true calling. As owner at Union Eleven Photographers, he loves finding the dramatic moment in every portrait he shoots.

unioneleven.com



Amanda Large, Photographer

An architect by training, Amanda finds unique ways of playing with space to create unusual images. Rarely without a camera, she brings her fresh perspective to Doublespace, the architecture, interior and commercial photography company she co-owns and shoots for.

amandalarge.com



Jim McIntyre, Photographer

A BFA in photography, plus some 30 years in the field, have continued to fuel a lifelong passion for Jim. While working in the graphic design and print industries, he finds time to snap photos of subjects that capture his heart and inspire the imagination.

jamesstreetphoto.com



Simon Osborne, Editor

A man of many talents, Simon is a professional writer/editor who once rocked Toronto's indie music scene, recording and touring extensively as a bassist in countless bands. His scrutinizing eye helps make this book a better read; his ability to get by with little sleep helps him as a new dad.



Shawn Phillips, Designer

Bold, innovative and more than a little snazzy: that's Shawn to a T. As owner and designer at shift180 creative agency, he applies his 12+ years in animation and graphic art to make his clients happy—very happy.

shift180.ca

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Amanda Sage, Photographer, Writer, Publisher

A wordsmith by trade, Amanda loves photography because it can render a person utterly speechless. She first became excited by the craft when she was given a Kodak at age nine, and got just a bit more “serious” about her hobby when she got an SLR a few years ago.

amandasage.ca



Dever Villeneuve, Photographer

A Canadian Forces employee, Dever loves exploring new places and faces from behind the lens. Since returning from Afghanistan in 2010, he’s shared many of his findings with friends and fellow photographers, who take great wonder in his gifts.



Dominic Willsher, Photographer

Designer and owner at Xquisit Communications, Dominic has been honing his photography skills for the past two years. With a passion for the Canadian outdoors, and a deep appreciation for his surroundings in beautiful Constance Bay, he’s already captured countless breathtaking views.

xquisit.ca



Andrew Morrissey, Broker, Re/Max Metro City Realty Ltd.

Over the past eight years, Andrew has established himself as one of Ottawa’s go-to real estate brokers. Specializing in residential and multi-unit sales and purchases, he prides himself on offering clients something novel: the truth. By telling people what they need to hear, he’s able to educate them in making the right choices for their unique circumstances.

Andrew’s practical, no-nonsense approach comes from the fact that he’s walked the walk. In addition to his personal properties, he owns seven income properties, all in Hintonburg. His first development project won the 2008 ‘Infill of the Year’ Housing Design Award for custom homes under 2,400 sq. ft. A multiple Re/Max Platinum Award winner, Andrew knows firsthand what it takes to make a successful real estate investment, and is always happy to share that knowledge with his clients.

andrewmorrissey.com



Brad Rollo, Owner, Bramel Developments Inc.

From the first property that Brad purchased and flipped, he knew his passion lay in transforming homes through first-rate design and quality construction. Since that initial investment in 2006, he has gone on to countless residential successes, making his name as one of the region’s top developers.

In 2010, Brad launched Bramel Developments, an innovative company that delivers unique, modern, eco-friendly infill homes for today’s urban living requirements. All his buildings come with Tarion Home Warranty certification. Under Brad’s expert hand, the business has expanded to include Bramel Design and Construction, which offers additional services such as renovations, additions, new home construction, project management and construction consultation.

brameldevelopments.com



Margaret Tobolowska, Cellist, Co-Founder of OrKidstra

Being awarded the distinguished honour of 'Kickass Canadian' has changed something deep within me. Every day, I double-check—even triple-check—if I am living up to my Kickass reputation. Incredibly, I feel myself making better choices and reaching out faster as I hone my Kickass reflexes. It's a pretty simple two-step maneuver that I encourage you to try: first, truly believe that you are Kickass; and second, dare to bring a little bit of Kickass to all you do. We can change the world one Kickass step at a time!



In development with
KickassCanadians.ca