

A long history of collaboration

by Ken Rubin, Investigative Researcher

contribution to 175th Ottawa Citizen Celebration

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I have productively interacted with *Citizen* reporters for decades, coming up with hundreds of stories.

I've helped monitor the National Capital Commission's kooky ideas, such as operating a gondola lift in Gatineau Park, and ferreted out its spending of \$250,000 renovating an outdoor bathroom at Rockcliffe Park.

The *Citizen* has published my opeds, such as one on a misleading \$2-billion tree-planting promise, and run my inquiries on light-rail transit construction missteps.

It once got to the point that a reporter called on me with a long list of what she wanted me to request using access-to-information legislation, in the mistaken assumption that I worked for the *Citizen* out of the basement of its building at Baxter Road.

At times, reporters could not quite figure how I came up with data, such as my discovery that National Defence was spending \$30 million on marching bands.

My own trials have been reported on too. Kelly Egan wrote about how I almost lost my clunker of a bike locked up outside the Sheraton Hotel. Tom Spears reported on my court fight after getting sued for simply filing access-to-information requests.

Now more than ever we need a robust *Citizen* and a watchful public – in year 176 and beyond.