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Bank Street: a photographic essay

Chris Vanderwees

Abstract

Street photography of Bank Street in Ottawa, Canada.

Preface

Bank Street is the major north-south artery in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's capital city. Named for its initial geographic proximity to the Ottawa River bank during the 19th century, the street now runs north from the city limits at Belmeade Road through various villages (Vernon, Spring Hill, Metcalfe, Greely, South Gloucester, Leitrum, and Blossum Park), north through multiple large neighborhoods (Hunt Club, Alta Vista, Old Ottawa South, The Glebe, Centretown) to Wellington Street, home of Canada's Parliament Buildings.

Nearly every afternoon for almost two years, I photographed a particular stretch of Bank Street from Third Avenue in The Glebe to Wellington Street near Parliament. This series of 25 street photographs (made mostly during the Spring of 2013) is a product of these walks through the lens of a 1972 Canon Canonet rangefinder on inexpensive, often expired, color film. The photographs are presented in order of their location from the Bank Street intersection at Third Avenue, proceeding north toward the intersection at Laurier Avenue.

Photographs



1. Corner of Bank Street and Third Avenue. April 2013.



2. Corner of Bank Street and Third Avenue. April 2013.



3. Corner of Bank Street and Second Avenue. April 2013.



4. Corner of Bank Street and Second Avenue. April 2013.



5. Nabil, Glebe Barber (left). Near Bank Street and Second Avenue. April 2013.



6. Near Corner of Bank Street and Second Avenue. April 2013.



7. Near Corner of Bank Street and Second Avenue. April 2013.



8. Near Corner of Bank Street and Second Avenue. April 2013.



9. Near Corner of Bank Street and Glebe Avenue. April 2013.



10. Near Corner of Bank Street and Catherine Street. April 2013.



11. Near Corner of Bank Street and Argyle Avenue. April 2013.



12. Near Corner of Bank Street and Argyle Avenue. July 2013.



13. Corner of Bank Street and Florence Street. July 2013.



14. Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. April 2013.



15. Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. April 2013.



16. Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. May 2013.



17. Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. May 2013.



18. Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. April 2013.



19. Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. April 2013.



20. Near Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. April 2013.



21. Morphine Capsule, Corner of Bank Street and Somerset Street. April 2013.



22. Corner of Bank Street and Cooper Street. May 2013.



23. Corner of Bank Street and Nepean Street. May 2013.



24. Corner of Bank Street and Laurier Avenue. April 2013.



25. Corner of Bank Street and Laurier Avenue. May 2013.

About the author

Chris Vanderwees is a street photographer as well as a PhD Candidate in the Department of English Language and Literature at Carleton University (Ottawa, ON). He is currently photographing and completing a dissertation in Toronto, ON. His previous publications include articles on Donna Haraway, Tim O'Brien, and post-9/11 literature and visual culture.