

# **ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009**



**Joint Annual Meeting of the RPRA**

**&**

**The Village Foundation**

**Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. President’s Report .....	3
2. Planning, Legal Issues and Heritage .....	4
Heritage Committee .....	4
Committee of Adjustment Advisory Committee .....	6
Pine Cones Sculpture Donation for Rockcliffe Park .....	6
3. Treasurer’s Report.....	7
4. Membership.....	2
5. Community Events and Reports .....	2
Speakers Program .....	2
Christmas in the Village.....	3
Community Garage Sale (Trash Bash) .....	4
Soccer Program .....	4
6. Environment .....	5
Pond Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting .....	5
Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area .....	6
Street Tree Planting .....	6
Community Energy Reduction Project.....	6
Village Gardening.....	7
7. Communications.....	8
Newsletter .....	8
Website .....	8
8. Liaison with the Federation of Citizens’ Associations of Ottawa-Carleton .....	9
9. Ottawa Police Service – Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre .....	9
Neighbourhood Watch.....	10
10. Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library .....	11
11. RPRA Program Co-ordinators .....	12
Appendix A: RPRA Financial Statements.....	13

## 1. President's Report

Since the Village of Rockcliffe Park was amalgamated into the City of Ottawa, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association has carried out activities to foster a sense of community and to protect and enhance the special environment in which we live.

The past year has been very active as regards community events with the Spring Clean Up and Trash Bash, organized by Wendy Hadwen, and a very successful membership drive, spearheaded by Brian Montgomery and his enthusiastic group of Hosers. The April Book Sale, led by Jane Dobell, raised a record \$12,000 for the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library.

The RPRA also continued to support the popular soccer and rink programs and, in December organized a well-attended Community Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting, as well as a Children's Christmas Party. Many thanks to Melanie Harmon for again taking the lead on the Christmas events. Throughout the year, the Lunch and Evening Speakers Program, organized by Mary Taylor and Susan d'Aquino, respectively, continued to attract a roster of top notch speakers and a full house.

Iola Price continued to chair the Environment Committee which was active in a number of areas, including the monitoring of water quality at the The Pond, the removal of invasive species, such as buckthorn, in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area, carrying out a program of street tree planting with a special grant from the Village Foundation and promoting a Community Energy Reduction Project. The Committee also supported the Village Gardeners who enhanced the beauty of our public spaces by planting flowers around the Community Centre and in the Jubilee Garden.

The RPRA Heritage Committee, chaired by Karl Blume, has been particularly busy providing advice to the City on heritage issues, variances, demolitions and new construction. Unfortunately, the past year has provided further evidence that the framework for heritage protection within the Village is weak and needs to be strengthened and updated.

There are essentially two issues: the first is to better protect historic properties. As has been reported in the Rockcliffe News, the RPRA's efforts in support of the City to preserve the residence at 456 Lansdowne Road North were not successful which is expected to result in the demolition of the existing structure. The second issue is that current management guidelines do not address the size of new replacement houses that are disproportionately large and out of scale with neighbouring houses. Construction of such houses can adversely affect greenspace, a key element in our heritage district.

To bring our current framework into line with the 2005 Ontario Heritage Act, we will need a description of each property in the Village. We will also need to update the study and management guidelines that led to the designation of the Village as a heritage district in 1997. Based on the cost of similar exercises elsewhere in the city, we understand the cost could range between \$150-200,000. This far exceeds available resources and will constitute a major challenge.

As regards a possible bridge at Kettle Island, after a relatively quiet period of several months, Phase 2A of the Interprovincial Bridge Environmental Assessment was initiated in December. This phase of the NCC study carries forward the Kettle Island option with two other corridors

further east. The RPRA will continue to work with other like-minded communities to point out the serious flaws in the Kettle Island recommendation and identify a better solution.

Construction projects continue apace. Work on Lisgar Road should be completed by next spring. A major project will soon begin on Sandridge Road to separate the sewer and reconstruct the watermain, which is expected to be completed by March 2011. A major benefit of the project will be to reduce sewage overflow into the Ottawa River.

On a different note, I would like to mention a very successful first-ever (I think) joint meeting between the RPRA and the Village Foundation in November. We discussed objectives, priorities and possible initiatives, particularly in the areas of the environment, heritage and communications. The RPRA also expresses its appreciation to the Foundation for its ongoing financial support to many of the RPRA's activities.

Again during the course of the year, the RPRA published six newsletters to keep residents informed of issues affecting our community. Many thanks to Julie Beatty, our editor, for her work on our behalf.

A tip of the hat and note of appreciation also to our Councillor, Jacques Legendre, who regularly attends our meetings, is always well informed and attentive to our concerns, and who represents our interests so effectively at City Hall.

Finally, warm words of thanks to board and committee member and so many volunteers who put countless hours into making Rockcliffe Park the great place it is. With this community spirit, we will continue to build on our strengths in the coming year.

**Brian Dickson**

## 2. Planning, Legal Issues and Heritage

### **Heritage Committee**

The Heritage Committee meets regularly throughout the year to deal with all heritage and site plan issues affecting the Village. New houses and major renovations are dealt with through the Development Review Subcommittee which provides advice to City staff on alterations to buildings, demolitions and new construction on the basis of the heritage district management guidelines.

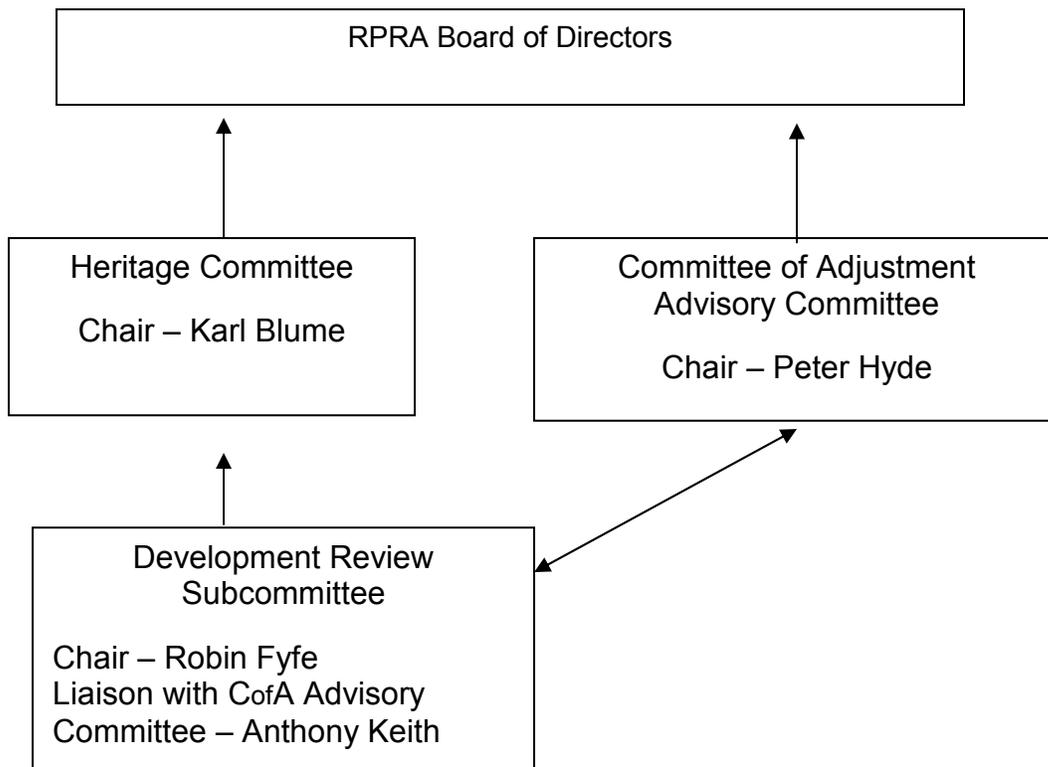
The decision by the Ontario Municipal Board to overrule City Council and allow the demolition of the house at 456 Lansdowne Road is a serious loss to the heritage district. This increases the importance of creating a 'heritage conservation district plan' that meets the requirements of the 2005 Heritage Act. This plan would build upon the management guidelines of the district study adopted in 1997 when the Village was designated a heritage district. City planners tell us that the new requirements include an evaluation of every property in the Village. From recent experience with a similar project in Sandy Hill, completing a heritage district plan for Rockcliffe would take several years and cost at least \$150,000. We are discussing with Councillor Legendre how to proceed.

Using the Village's management guidelines, the Development Review Subcommittee gave advice to City planners on eleven alteration or construction projects.

The RPRAs publication *The Cultural Landscape of Rockcliffe Park Village* by Humphrey Carver has been reprinted and may be obtained at the Community Police Centre. The revision of the booklet *Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park* is nearing completion and the Committee has applied to the City's Heritage Grant program for funds to assist with the production and printing.

Section 3.10 of the former Village zoning by-law 2000-8 provided for larger front yard depths on certain streets. This provision was inadvertently omitted from the amalgamated City by-law. Following our request, the provision has now been reinstated, although restricted to residential properties.

#### RPRAs Board of Directors and Heritage: committee relationships



#### **Karl Blume**

Committee members: Karl Blume (chair), John Cook, Linda Dicaire, Martha Edmond, Robin Fyfe, Margaret Gerard, Anthony Keith (secretary), Joan Kingstone, Vic Lanctis, Robert McElligott, Meryl Oliver, Diana Rowley, J.H. (Si) Taylor.

## **Committee of Adjustment Advisory Committee**

Ottawa's Committee of Adjustment hears applications from property owners who want to make changes to their property that result in "minor" non-conformance with the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw. It applies section 45 of *The Planning Act* when making its decisions. Interested parties, which include the City of Ottawa, the RPRA and neighbours of the proponent, make presentations either pro or con to the Committee of Adjustment. Decisions of the Committee of Adjustment may be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Rockcliffe Park's Committee of Adjustment Advisory Committee (CAAC) operates under a mandate from the RPRA and formally represents it at hearings of the Committee of Adjustment.

We meet as required upon receipt of notice for "minor" variance requests being received by the RPRA. Our practice is to review documents, investigate and discuss with the neighbours to find out if there are reasons to object, and to meet with the proponents/owners to reach an accommodation.

We are guided by the Management Guidelines for the Heritage District of Rockcliffe Park and the zoning by-law in efforts to negotiate with the proponents / owners to reach an accommodation regarding the degree of variance that is necessary.

We are constantly faced with development plans which seek the largest possible structure for a particular lot without regard to setbacks. We try to determine how a structure will impact the neighbours and the green spaces which are so essential to the character of Rockcliffe and which are the foundations of our Heritage designation.

We are concerned as well, whether approval of plans would set a precedent for future applications for minor variances. There have been some five such applications during the past year and we have made submissions to the Committee of Adjustment in more than half of the cases. Usually our input is well received and modifications to the plans and drawings often result.

We believe that if architects, real estate agents, builders and new residents were more aware of the Heritage aspect and the benefits it provides the residents before embarking on a project, time and money would be saved and the unique character of the neighbourhood could be preserved. Furthermore, the new residents could live in harmony with their neighbours for the ultimate benefit of everyone.

### **Peter Hyde**

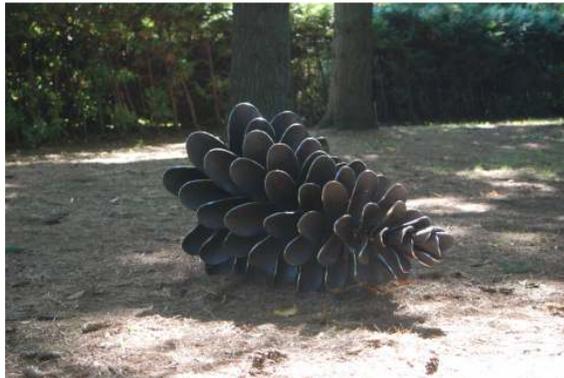
Committee Members: Karl Blume, William Breen, Peggy Gibson, Peter Hyde with Anthony Keith as a liaison from the Development Review Subcommittee of the Heritage Committee of the RPRA.

## **Pine Cones Sculpture Donation for Rockcliffe Park**

The Pine Cones sculpture installed in the Village Green in September is a family tribute to Margot Gualtieri, a life-long Village resident. The surprise unveiling took place in the presence of Margot, her family and friends. The sculpture sits in the space between the cedar hedge of the Jubilee Garden and the seating circle, under the White Pines planted as part of the Village's celebration of Canada's Centennial in 1967. The donation of sculpture and service to the

Village runs in the family – not only is Margot a dedicated Village volunteer, but Margot’s mother arranged for the installation of the birds and squirrel in the Village Green and her father was one of the planners of the Village Green Centennial Project.

With time, sculptor Floyd Elzinga’s Pine Cones will gradually take on a rusty orange-brown patina that is weather- and further rust-resistant.



### 3. Treasurer’s Report

The role of Treasurer is primarily one of managing the funds of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and maintenance of the appropriate records. This role involves the receipt and banking of revenues, the payment of expenses associated with approved activities, monthly reconciliation of the bank account and attendance at the monthly meetings of the Association.

The main financial activities of the Association are as follows:

#### Communications

- printing and delivery of the Rockcliffe Park newsletter
- printing and distribution of the Annual Report
- providing a forum for topics of interest to the Village (e.g. Mayoral debate)
- printing and distribution of the Welcome to Rockcliffe Park booklet
- website

#### Sports and Recreation

- soccer field and rink maintenance
- speakers series
- children’s Christmas party
- Christmas tree lighting ceremony

#### Environment

- tree planting and mulching
- Pond water testing
- Village clean-up
- Jubilee Garden lawn maintenance and summer plantings

## Heritage

- production and reprinting of Heritage publications
- legal issues surrounding proposed alterations and demolition/new house construction

Financial Statements for the year 2009 are attached as Appendix A to this report.

## **José Miguel Peleato**

## 4. Membership

Membership in the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association provides critical support for the Association's work on behalf of Village residents and as Rockcliffe's voice at City Hall. We encourage every resident to become a member of the RPRA each year. The membership dues help pay for the Newsletter and our popular community events.

For 2009, 340 of the approximately 766 occupied and non-diplomatic-community houses in the Village joined as Association members, representing about 44% of the Village. This is an increase over 2008 and is due, in large part, to the efforts of the Hosers (parents and children who skate and who create and maintain the rinks) who went door to door this summer with RPRA membership forms. The RPRA thanks them heartily.

In addition to resident members, the RPRA also has 50 non-resident members, many of whom are former Village residents. They are loyal supporters of the Speakers Program (both lunch and evening) and we appreciate their continued support.

## **Iola Price**

## 5. Community Events and Reports

### **Speakers Program**

2009 marked the ninth year of the Speakers Program – again attracting outstanding individuals to our Community Hall to share their views with residents of the Village and neighbouring communities in both the Lunch and Evening Programs

Thomas d'Aquino who heads the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, started off the evening program with a riveting talk on the economic meltdown – the "whys" and the "what nexts". At lunch, the leader of the Green Party – Elizabeth May – again joined us, this time to paint a picture of the interlinked crises she sees in Canadian democracy and the climate. The second lunch featured the head of Ottawa's Heart Institute – Dr. Robert Roberts – who captivated his audience with what he called a glimpse of the future from the perspective of medicine. The evening speakers continued with our former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson who shed some fascinating light on Norman Bethune – the myth and the man – the subject of her new book. On leaving the CBC after an extraordinary career as a broadcast journalist, Don Newman packed the hall with tales of his "career so far". The year's program ended with the new Director of the National Gallery of Canada – Marc Mayer – intriguing us with his views on his

favourite works in the collection of the Gallery – incidentally passing up an invitation to dine with Prince Charles and Camilla to do so!

### **Mary Taylor and Susan d'Aquino**

Committee Members: Jane Dobell, Randolph Gherson, Joan Kingstone, Katie MacMillan, Anne McDougall, Anke Magnus, Sheila Nelles, Mary Taylor, Susan d'Aquino and Vivian Thompson.

## **Christmas in the Village**

After taking its time to arrive, winter finally did, and chose Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> to do it. While events throughout the city were cancelled due to the storm, the residents of Rockcliffe proved once again that they don't let weather get in the way of celebrating, and came out for the annual Christmas tree lighting.

Residents were treated to a very special performance by the Elmwood Junior School choir before singing along to the Salvation Army Band on their own. Hot chocolate and mulled cider helped keep everyone warm as they sang and mingled with friends and neighbors. A huge thank you goes to Kate Angell, Evelyn Pike and the Elmwood choir as well as to Peter Van Gulik and his band members for managing to make it to the Community Center in order to entertain us.

On Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> we gathered once again at the Community Hall for the RPRA's annual Children's Christmas party. Children delighted in decorating Christmas cookies, making several charming Christmas crafts and eating as many tasty treats as they could. Dr. Kaboom was on hand to entertain, and while he was entertaining, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the parents of any children who stayed awake all night with visions of the ever popular Christmas tradition of "Let's pretend to chop off this small person's hand". Perhaps some traditions are best forgotten.

There are so many people who helped make these events a success, but I would like to start with Nancy O'Dea of Royal Lepage Performance Realty. Without her sponsorship, the children's party could not have taken place, and I am incredibly grateful that she agreed to do it again. One of the biggest obstacles this year proved to be flyer distribution, and I would like to thank Sarah Baxter, Lucie Bohac, Margaret Douglas, Simon Hicks, Anthony Keith, Alex Macklin, Patty Paul, Lola Price for helping in this area. Donna Wishart and Micheline McElligott did a wonderful job organizing the mitten tree again and I know that the recipients of all the hats, scarves and mittens were thrilled with the donations.

I would also like to thank Diana Carney and Whitney Fox for their talent in transforming the Community Centre into a Winter Wonderland, Margaret Douglas for organizing the amazing crafts, and Laurie LeGallais and Lynda Iwanoff for making sure there was plenty of delicious food on hand. A special thanks goes as well to Karen and John Butterfield who took over the parking lot hockey this year; it ran incredibly smoothly. Events like these are so important to the community, and are only made possible through the support of everyone. Thank you.

We will need someone to organize these two important community events in 2010. The "how to" binder sets out all the important steps, so no one would start from scratch. Please contact me or Brian Dickson, RPRA president, if you will help.

### **Melanie Harmon**

## **Community Garage Sale (Trash Bash)**

The Trash Bash took place Saturday 13 June in fine weather, in the parking lot of the Library and Community Hall. A record 25 tables were rented. Revenues of \$700 for the RPRA exceeded those of 2008 by 40%. Table holders were satisfied with the traffic and the volume of sales. Most said they would return in 2010. Many thanks to Jane Davis, Brian Dickson, Jennifer North, Pam Peleato and Lola Price for contributing to the success of the event.

The challenge of locating and moving tables for the Trash Bash remains the only deterrent to the growth of this initiative into a larger community event. The City does not permit the use of the majority of the Community Hall tables, and as such, tables have to be procured from around town. Suggestions from the community would be welcome on this issue, and any other points related to the Trash Bash.

**Wendy Hadwen**

## **Soccer Program**

The Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea (RPL) Soccer Program had another very successful year and continues to receive strong support from a committed group of volunteers and parents in the community. Enrolment continued to grow in 2009, with a record high of 272 children in the RPL Soccer League playing on 22 teams in five different divisions from late April through late June. The RPL Soccer League continues to be a popular community activity for all age groups. The Pee Wee Division was once again split into two time slots (ages 4-5 played at 9:30 am and ages 6-7 played at 10:30 am), allowing 145 children to play soccer at the Rockcliffe Park Public School field on Saturday mornings. The Junior (ages 7-9), Intermediate (ages 9-11) and Senior (ages 11-14) divisions played at both the school and Hillside fields on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

In the Pee Wee and Junior Divisions, all players ended their season with a Fun Day, pizza party and engraved participation medals for each player. The Senior Division joined forces with the Manor Park League to play regular weekly games, sharing referees and alternating fields. The four Intermediate Division teams and the Senior RPL teams also participated in end-of-season tournaments, capping off the session with a pizza finale and gold, silver or bronze medals for all participants.

The RPL League, in collaboration with the Lindenlea (LCA) and our community environmental group Local Eco Action Families (LEAF) undertook an initiative to "Green the League" in 2009, which was met with much excitement by many parents. The impetus for reducing the ecological footprint of the RPL Soccer League came out of discussions with many parents. As a league we decided that there were a number of simple actions we could take to help the environment, such as reducing waste at the Fun Day events, voluntary return of gently used T-shirts for re-use, and the introduction of an equipment swap to take place before the commencement of the 2010 season. The response to the initiative has been extremely positive. The RPL League is excited about taking these small, but important, steps towards a greener soccer league. Input from the community is welcome as preparations for the 2010 season begin.

The RPL Soccer Program has been a great community-building success, a reflection of the strong partnership between the LCA and the RPRA in organizing the league. Volunteers from Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Sandy Hill, Lower Town, New Edinburgh and Manor Park together

contributed an estimated 2000 volunteer hours to making the RPL Soccer Program such a great community sports program.

On behalf of the LCA and RPRA, all of these volunteers should be commended for their contributions to the RPL Soccer League. In particular, the organizing committee of Joy Chow, Julie Vanderschot and Rebecca Gwyn devoted significant time and energy to ensuring the successful operation of the RPL Soccer League in 2009. Special thanks also to the LCA for handling the registration portion of the program, in particular to Valerie Devine-Egan, LCA General Manager. A thank you is also in order for Kent Manderville, for his role in organizing and facilitating the coaching clinic over the last few several years. His efforts have helped many coaches prepare and plan for a successful soccer season.

Lastly, I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to Joy Chow and Julie Vanderschot for their dedication and commitment to the RPL Soccer League over many years. While Julie and Joy will continue to be involved in community and school activities, they have officially passed the torch on to me, and I would like them to know how much they will be missed. Merci!

**Rebecca Gwyn**

## 6. Environment

### **Pond Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting**

The RPRA continued to collect Pond Water and have it analysed for nutrients and, as in the past, the City's Health Unit analysed the water for *E. coli* every two weeks.

The water was safe for swimming throughout the summer. Levels of Phosphorus were below those of the past six years and are normal for a healthy ecosystem. The total Nitrogen to total Phosphorus ratios from the tests (above 20:1) are indicative of lawn fertilizer runoff and led to less biologically diverse conditions, dominated by green algae. Under current conditions of higher Nitrogen levels, green algae and rooted aquatic weeds will dominate. High Phosphorous levels lead to eutrophic conditions and could create the conditions for a toxic blue-green algae bloom, a very serious issue. Phosphorous is another component of chemical fertilizers, another reason to avoid using them. These nutrients will remain in the Pond for an indefinite time once they enter the water. It is essential, that, with the exception of the buckthorn removal program, the trees and shrubs in the COPP area not be trimmed, cut down or be tampered with, unless authorized by the City, since their roots are major absorbers of excess fertilizer/nutrient runoff.

As in 2008, there was no supervision provided by the City this summer, however, most swimmers self-policed the 2:00 pm curfew. The long cold, wet periods also discouraged many swimmers and the rainfall contributed to maintain the water levels. Some swimmers used overhanging trees to dive into the water and were warned of the damage to the trees and the risk of personal injury, as well as the liability risk to continued public use of the Pond. There was a call to the Police about rowdy behaviour during swimming hours. For 2010, residents living around the Pond should call City By-law officers at 311 to report swimming and rowdy behaviour after hours rather than approaching the swimmers and asking them to leave. The City By-law office and the RPRA are continuing to collect data to gauge the level of the problem.

## **Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area**

The invasive species removal and control program continued in the small woodlot on the east side of McKay Lake (Urban Natural Area No. 176 – known by its Rockcliffe Park name as the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area). Thanks to Meiping MacIsaac and Isabel McCarten who volunteered their time to remove buckthorn and garlic mustard and, at the same time, earn credits toward the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the International Baccalaureate Program. The year ended with some commercial cutting of buckthorn on the lake side of the fence and the toppling of large poplars growing up against the fence both to prevent future damage to the fence and to create floating logs as turtle basking habitat.

Thanks again to Anne Dale-Harris who walks the paths around McKay Lake picking up litter and generally keeping a watchful eye on the area.

## **Street Tree Planting**

The Street Tree Planting Program resumed in 2009. The Village Foundation provided a special grant of \$2,400 to cover the cost of 5 trees to augment 5 privately-donated trees. Two flowering Crabapples were planted in the Jubilee Garden to replace two that were destroyed when a large White Pine branch fell from a tree in the adjacent Village Green during the tornado in April. The replacements conform to the original colours and location as directed by Humphrey Carver's original design. Elsewhere on the municipal road allowances in the Village, an American Beech, a Sugar Maple, Serviceberries and a Flowering Crabapple were planted by the contractor under our supervision in locations approved by the City's Forestry Division. Thanks to Cynthia Baxter and Carolyn Buchan for their assistance in telephoning people with properties having enough frontage for a planted tree. Residents who lost a street tree during the tornado or who would like a tree may contact Lola Price by email < [iolaprice@comnet.ca](mailto:iolaprice@comnet.ca) > to discuss the potential for a replacement street tree in 2010 or 2011.

As a follow-on to the Butternut health assessment in 2006, Rockcliffe Park's only canker free butternut was determined to be a pure, not hybrid, butternut (good news) but there are some signs of a decline in its health (bad news). However, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority will continue to monitor the tree and collect nuts from it as it may rebound and, in spite of any decline, it is still healthier than its neighbours (good news).

## **Community Energy Reduction Project**

The RPRA's Environment Committee is part of LEAF – a grouping of the environment committees of the Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Manor Park and Cardinal Glen community associations. This neighbourhood project is part of a study on ways to assist households to identify and reduce their environmental impact or 'footprint'. The project is coordinated by a local architectural firm, Jane Thompson Architect with funding from CMHC.

Householders volunteering to take part in this year-long study started by measuring their environmental footprint via an online calculator in the Autumn of 2009 and will do so again at its conclusion after taking steps during the year to lighten their impact, while at the same time potentially reducing their costs. There will be a series of community forums, and information sessions scheduled over the year as well as a series of e-mail tips to assist households in identifying and making adjustments to reduce their impact (energy, electricity, transportation, water, food and waste).

Rockcliffe Park hosted the first Community Forum on November 4, 2009 at the Community Hall to a full house of very attentive project participants, guests, and local environmental groups with displays. The theme of the first session was energy consumption with a presentation from Scott Mackenzie of Seventh Generation Community Projects offering practical tips and ways to 'Get Energy Smart' and generate real energy saving\$ in the home, transportation, waste, and in food consumption. This very successful session gave a big boost to initiate the community part of the study.

These information forums are open to all in the community not only project participants and are advertised in the community newspapers as they are scheduled. Watch for future CERP forums in the next year sponsored by participating communities on other themes including Transportation, Water, Food, and Waste. Although the study has started, we are still short of the 20-participant goal for Rockcliffe Park. We encourage residents to contact Jane Thompson 613-747-8104 or Magda Goemens 613-260-1003 < [jtarch@rogers.ca](mailto:jtarch@rogers.ca) > for information on the study and how to participate. You may also contact Jane Newcombe at 613-746-8000 or < [janenewcombe07@canada.com](mailto:janenewcombe07@canada.com) > the project contact for Rockcliffe Park if you have questions. Participation in the project need not take a lot of your time or energy, only as much as you wish, but it has great potential to help you save in more ways than you imagined.

The average footprint for Rockcliffe is 16.89 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> according to the calculations at <http://ottawa.zerofootprint.net/groups/603>. The average person in Ottawa emits 9.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, just above the Canadian average of 9.8 tonnes; the per person average in Sweden, also a northern climate, is 3.6 tonnes.

#### **Derek Chase, Marilyn Blattel, Jane Newcombe, Iola Price**

Environment Committee Members: Marilyn Blattel, Derek Chase, Jane Davis, Brian Dickson, Wendy Hadwen, Tudy McLaine, Louise Meyer, Jane Newcombe, Iola Price, Susan Shenstone, Ismene Wood.

#### **Village Gardening**

Village Gardeners regroups volunteers from the community who wish to help with the maintenance of the flower beds at the Community Hall and Jubilee Garden. Were it not for their efforts, these gardens would be neglected. Funding is provided by the Environment Committee of the RPRA, with further financial assistance from the Rockcliffe Garden Club.

Ongoing activities involve cleaning beds, working the soil, and planting annuals and perennials with a mind to selecting low-care and self-sufficient varieties. Summer maintenance means ensuring that plants have adequate water, not an issue this past summer. Fall activities consist of planting bulbs and making the beds winter-ready.

Of particular interest this year, was the creation of a wildflower garden at the edge of the driveway to the Community Police Centre. This garden should become self-sufficient in time. Two of our members worked tirelessly on this project and we thank Jane Little and Lynn McGuffin for all of their efforts. More daffodil and tulip bulbs have been planted at the Community Hall and at the Jubilee Garden, adding yet again to a Village Gardeners initiative started a few years ago.

This year's volunteers are: Genevieve Blais, Nancy Colton, Marilyn Donoghue, Margo Gualtieri, Joan Kellett, Ann Kelly, H  l  ne Lamontagne, Jane Little, Lynn McGuffin, Anne McMahon, Sheila Perry, Donna Roberts.

Thank you to all of them and thank you to all of those who have helped in the past. Gardens can be a solid foundation for communities and for friendships and I am glad to say that has been our experience.

**H  l  ne Lamontagne**

## 7. Communications

### **Newsletter**

Special thanks to our Newsletter Editor Julia Beatty and our witty cartoonist Hal Steacy for their efforts in 2009. This is your community news and Julia has been reporting this to you faithfully over many years.

All the newsletters were hand-delivered to Rockcliffe residents by Village volunteers. Many thanks to: Marilyn Blattel, Chris Cadham, Derek Chase, Jane Davis, Brian Dickson, Jane Dobell, Raquel Garbers Fisher, Bill Fleury, Robin Fyfe, Chantal Gobeil, Alison Green, Wendy Hadwen, Melanie Harmon, Lynda Iwanoff, Nancy Johnson, Anthony Keith, Joan Kingstone, Charles King, Lou Korte, Nick Leadbetter, June Lindsey, Alex Macklin, Ainsley Malhotra, Kent Manderville, Louise Meyer, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, Jos   Miguel Peleato, Lola Price, Susan Shenstone, Mary Anne Smallwood, Mary Taylor, Si Taylor, Marilyn Venner and Ismene Wood.

Many of our volunteers have been doing this for a number of years, but we do still need people willing to help out occasionally. Please email Jane Davis at <[janedavis@livinginottawa.com](mailto:janedavis@livinginottawa.com)> to put your name on a substitute list.

**Jane Davis**

### **Website**

The RPRA web site at [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca) contains information pertinent to the Village and is updated regularly with articles and pictures provided by the RPRA Directors. If you wish to submit any articles or information of interest to the residents in general, please send them to the webmaster.

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Website – 6 months of use statistics in 2009

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Total
Total Hits	8650	6386	9026	12112	11764	9273	57211
Total Visits	959	835	897	972	1248	1107	6018

The Hits record every time someone or a robot clicks on an element of a page. Visits are the number of unique entries to the site

It is not surprising that the top two in regards to enquiries have come from the USA (1452) and Canada (728). European countries generated 153 enquiries.

**Carmine Domenicucci**

## 8. Liaison with the Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton

During 2009, the RPRA continued to be represented and to participate constructively at meetings of the Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton. Member associations share information about issues facing their communities and, when appropriate, take joint action. The Federation provides a window on priority community concerns, whether they are primarily of local interest or have application city-wide.

In the city-wide category, the FCA has recently discussed such issues as intensification and its impact on communities, proposed residential speed limits, the Lansdowne Park redevelopment, the Recreation Master Plan, staff interpretations of the Official Plan, changes to the 2003 Official Plan and citizen reaction to those changes, and changes to the Municipal Elections Act. In some circumstances, it may be possible to obtain FCA endorsement of a community position to give it greater weight and impact. In 2008, it had been hoped to enlist the support of the FCA in opposition to the proposed bridge at Kettle Island but representatives of community associations further east reduced this initiative to its lowest common denominator, namely that heavy trucks should be removed from the King Edward corridor. Now that the Interprovincial Bridge Environmental Assessment Study has entered its second phase, with its next meeting to be held February 22, 2010 it will be important to monitor developments closely within the FCA.

In April 2009, the RPRA hosted a productive meeting of the FCA at the Community Hall.

**Brian Dickson**

## 9. Ottawa Police Service – Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre

In 2009 Senior Constable Tom Mosco continued to be the officer in charge of the Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre, at 360 Springfield Road. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Community Police Centre volunteers were active in the community at various events this year. Child Print volunteers attended Manor Park Public School, Elmwood School, St. Brigid Catholic School and Fern Hill School through 2009, and provided personalized booklets with fingerprints and safety information to more than 200 children. This program was also provided at various public events, including the January 31<sup>st</sup> RCMP Stables Open House Fundraiser for the Food Bank, where approximately 205 children and parents took part in Child Print and the Manor Park Skating Rink Fundraiser on September 11th which saw over 30 children fingerprinted and a further 100 provided with booklets and information. This service is also offered at the Police Centre itself.

Volunteers also conducted 9 Home Security audits in the community and completed follow ups to the audit suggestions and to incidents as they occurred in the area. If you are interested in an inspection you can make an appointment at the Centre. All services are free of charge.

In May, Cst. Mosco hosted an Ottawa Police Week display in the parking lot behind the Library and Community Hall.

The current roster of volunteers assigned to the Rockcliffe Centre is 10. If you are interested in volunteering with the Ottawa Police Service please go to our website at [OttawaPolice.ca](http://OttawaPolice.ca) for details, or phone Cst. Mosco directly at 236-1222, ext. 5916.

The Police Centre will be under new leadership as of February 2010 as Cst. Mosco retires in his 35th year of service.

**Alison Green**

**Neighbourhood Watch**

The Rockcliffe Neighbourhood Watch was moderately active in 2009 but a step forward was the attendance at meetings by some of our sister Neighbourhood Watches in New Edinburgh, Manor Park and Cardinal Glen. There were two meetings of the block captains in April and November with an area coordinators’ meeting to consider sending a representative to the Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee. Attendance at the meetings was low as criminal activity in the area was very low.

Topics of discussion included graffiti and what to do about it, speeding, door to door canvassers (don’t give unless you know the person or the organization), when to call 311 as opposed to 911 or the general 613-236-1222, rocks on the verges, Home Security Inspections, establishing “best practices” for Neighbourhood Watches, the need for better web-based mapping tools for tracking small-area criminal or other activity and the long-awaited Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators Manual. The RCMP continues to patrol the Village and listen to Ottawa Police radio calls. Their proposed presence in the CPC will increase awareness of Rockcliffe Park issues.

Tom Mosco announced that he would be retiring in February 2010 upon completion of 35 years with the Ottawa Police Service, 13½ of which were served in the Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre.

<b>Top Calls Rockcliffe Park</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>% Change from 2008</b>
ALARM, FALSE	145	150	114	-24
ADMINISTRATIVE	58	48	34	-29
TRAFFIC STOP	27	30	24	-20
SUSPICIOUS PERSON(S)		23	20	-13
FALSE 911 CALL – NO EMERGENCY IDENTIFIED	29	24	17	-29
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE(S)	19	20	20	0

For further information on Neighbourhood Watch and how to become involved in our community’s safety and security, please contact the Rockcliffe Community Police Centre at (613) 236-1222, ext. 5915.

**Thomas Mosco, Constable, and Iola Price**

## 10. Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library

Although the library committee is under the RPRA for administrative purposes, it draws its membership from the larger geographic area which the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) serves. This includes New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, and part of Manor Park as well as Rockcliffe Park.

In October members of the committee lead by Caryn Kewell organized a family outreach program at the Library and Community Hall which attracted many new members of the wider community who had not been previously aware of the branch and the excellent service it offers.

Thanks to the generosity of those who donated their books, the two-day Book Sale in April 2009 organized by the committee in support of the public library branch made a record \$12,000. The committee also raises money all year from the ongoing sale of books from its shelves located near the window on the side of the parking lot. The money is collected by the librarian at the desk who then gives it to the RPRA treasurer for the library committee's account. Di Bethune makes sure that interesting titles are always available at rock bottom prices. Next time you are in the library why not check it out?

The committee wishes to thank the Library staff who put up with the commotion caused by the problem of inadequate storage for the donated books and the more than 40 volunteers who work during the sale and throughout the year collecting, sorting and pricing donations, staffing the sales desk and advertising the event. A special vote of thanks goes to Di Bethune whose knowledge of the second-hand book market is invaluable and to Julie Stephens whose contacts with and knowledge about other used book sales in Ottawa is extensive.

As in previous years the committee took the advice of Philip Robert, the Supervising Librarian, and donated money in support of the branch for over 20 magazine subscriptions, a subscription to the Globe and Mail, children's programs (visiting authors), an increased number of express reads, the adult non fiction and the children's collections. It also paid for an additional book truck and shelving for its ongoing sale of books.

The Ottawa Public Library gears its financial support to the library branches based on the size of the branch. The additional money supplied to the branch by the RPRA annual spring Book Sale makes an important contribution to the quality of service the branch is able to offer.

The library committee supported an outreach program for the Rideau Branch which was celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and, as in the past, made a donation to the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library.

As usual, some members of the library committee keep close watch on the support for the OPL – or the lack of it – at City Hall. An attempt is made to work cooperatively with other community groups across the city to support the budget of the OPL.

The circulation figures at the Rockcliffe Branch continue at a high level. Elementary school children participated in class visits to the library which were ably handled in both English and French by the staff and, on occasion, invited authors. Rockcliffe Public Library Branch has an efficient cost per use. This is in part due to the number of volunteers who work under the supervision of the library staff.

The 2010 Book Sale will be held April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in the Community Hall. Donations of books, selected magazines, cassettes, CDs, videos, etc. can be left at the library during open hours. If you need to have your books picked up call the library who will make the necessary arrangements.

Please support our Book Sale which enables us to enhance the local library services. We need your books.

**Jane Dobell**

Committee members: Barbara and Jim Barker, Di Bethune, Jane Dobell, Joan and Tony Kellett, Caryn Kewell, Dilshad Macklem, Jill Moll, Sheila Nelles, Fran O'Brien, Julie Stephens.

**11. RPRA Program Co-ordinators**

President	Brian Dickson
Heritage Committee	Karl Blume
Committee of Adjustment	Peter Hyde
Treasurer	José Miguel Peleato
Newsletter Editor	Julie Beatty
Website	Carmine Domenicucci
Soccer Program	Rebecca Gwyn
Rink Program	Brian Montgomery
Environment	Iola Price
Pond Water Monitoring	Derek Chase
Community Energy Reduction Project	Jane Newcombe
Village Gardeners	Hélène Lamontagne
Membership	Iola Price
Evening Speaker Program	Susan d'Aquino
Lunch Speaker Program	Mary Taylor
Tree Lighting and Carol-Sing Ceremony	Melanie Harmon
Community Garage Sale (Trash Bash)	Wendy Hadwen
Liaison with the Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton	Brian Dickson
Ottawa Police Service – Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre	Alison Green
Neighbourhood Watch	Iola Price
Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library	Jane Dobell

Appendix A: RPRA Financial Statements

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association**

**2009 TREASURER'S REPORT**

**January 2010**

**Prepared by José Miguel Peleato**

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association  
Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2009**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash	-	-
Accounts Receivable	\$ 7,950	\$ 4,950
Bank Accounts	37,922	67,696
Total Assets	<u>\$ 45,872</u>	<u>\$ 72,646</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Members' Net Assets</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,878	\$ 11,170
Current Portion Loan Payable (Birkenfels Gates)		5,000
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,878</u>	<u>\$ 16,170</u>
<u>Other Liabilities</u>		
Funds Held in Trust (Rink)	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,878	\$ 36,170
<u>Members' Net Assets</u>		
Restricted Funds (Library)	\$ 1,761	\$ 2,423
Less 2008 Correction		<u>(240)</u>
2008 Library Funds		2,183
2008 Unrestricted Funds		35,053
Transfer from Library (2008 correction)		240
Net unrestricted RPRA funds	<u>\$ 42,233</u>	<u>\$ 34,293</u>
Total Members' Net Assets	43,994	36,476
Total Liabilities and Members' Net Assets	<u>\$ 45,872</u>	<u>\$ 72,646</u>

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association  
Members' Net Assets  
December 31, 2009**

**Members' Net Assets**

	<b>2009</b>		<b>2008</b>
Net Assets – Beginning	\$ 34,293	*	\$ 37,827
Excess (Shortfall)	<u>7,940</u>		<u>(3,534)</u>
Net Assets – Ending	<u>\$ 42,233</u>		<u>\$ 34,293</u>

\* The number reported above as 2009 beginning Net Assets is \$240 higher than reported in the 2008 financial report. An item for \$240 was initially double counted in 2007 and 2008

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Library Account  
For the year ended December 31, 2009**

Balance December 31 2008	\$ 2,423.78
Correction of 2008 financial statement	<u>(240.00)</u>
Adjusted Balance 2008	2,183.78
2009 Book Sale Revenue	12,860.20
2009 Expense	
Author activities	1,214.54
Printing & Signs	653.34
Transfer to Library	11,312.00
Book sale expenses	<u>102.39</u>
Total expenses	13,282.27
2009 Income (Loss)	(422.07)
Balance December 31 2009	<u>\$ 1,761.71</u>

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association  
Income and Expense Details  
For the year ending December 31, 2009**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>44,427.14</b>	<b>62,424.90</b>
<b>General and Admin</b>	<b>26,781.69</b>	<b>22,911.92</b>
Bank Interest	2,921.69	2,061.92
Governance Manual	350.00	
Memberships 2009	5,970.00	6,250.00
Memberships 2010	540.00	
Village Foundation	17,000.00	14,600.00
<b>Heritage</b>	<b>1,378.00</b>	<b>5,710.35</b>
Publications	132.00	122.00
Rockcliffe Photo Exhibit	1,190.00	3,560.00
Welcome to Rockcliffe Booklet		2,028.35
Miscellaneous	56.00	
<b>Environment</b>	<b>24.40</b>	<b>9,995.13</b>
GPP Grant		9,975.00
Miscellaneous	24.40	20.13
<b>Social</b>	<b>4,793.05</b>	<b>12,607.50</b>
Childrens Christmas Party	1,200.00	1,200.00
Speaker P Evening	481.25	245.20
Speaker P Lunch	2,380.00	2,540.00
T-Shirts	40.00	200.00
Trash Bash	691.80	435.70
BBQ		7,986.60
<b>Sports</b>	<b>11,450.00</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>
Rinks	4,700.00	4,450.00
Soccer	6,750.00	6,750.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>36,487.14</b>	<b>65,959.04</b>
<b>General and Admin</b>	<b>6,188.00</b>	<b>4,975.89</b>
Newsletter Printing and Mailing	2,813.98	3,206.48
Annual Report Printing	1,127.16	881.83
Bank Charge RPRA	184.86	172.23
Directors Liability Insurance	615.60	367.00
Governance Manual & Training	731.07	
Membership Dues	160.00	308.85
Other Printing	459.05	
Miscellaneous	96.28	39.50

<b>Heritage</b>		<b>5,001.01</b>	<b>15,978.70</b>
	456 Lansdowne	220.86	
	Zoning by-law	1,878.19	
	545 Springfield	2,341.25	
	Heritage Conservation District Guide		1,701.00
	Legal		1,262.42
	Rockcliffe Revisited Photo Exhibit	560.71	10,926.82
	Welcome to Rockcliffe Printing		2,030.71
	Miscellaneous		57.75
<b>Environment</b>		<b>6,802.01</b>	<b>14,357.17</b>
	Jubilee Gardens	4,018.71	4,082.73
	Pond Water Monitoring	147.78	142.80
	Tree Planting	2,595.60	
	GPP to RPRA		2,100.00
	GPP to FWG		7,875.00
	Contributions		100.00
	Miscellaneous	39.92	56.64
<b>Social</b>		<b>4,895.92</b>	<b>13,974.26</b>
	Christmas Childrens Party	1,267.49	923.00
	Christmas Tree	837.54	689.85
	Speaker P Evening	432.96	461.88
	Speaker P Lunch	2,357.93	2,749.12
	BBQ		8,811.41
	Miscellaneous		339.00
<b>Sports</b>		<b>13,600.20</b>	<b>16,673.02</b>
	Rink	5,681.10	2,522.37
	Soccer	7,919.10	14,150.65
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b>7,940.00</b>	<b>(3,534.14)</b>