

**ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 2016**



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**Joint Annual Meeting of the RPRA  
and  
The Village Foundation**

**March 1, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report .....	3
Heritage and Planning .....	5
Heritage .....	5
Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton .....	5
Finance and Membership .....	6
Treasurer's Report.....	6
Membership.....	6
Community Events.....	6
Speakers Program .....	6
Library Book Sale and Rockcliffe Park Library.....	7
Soccer .....	8
Rockcliffe Village Fête .....	9
Candidates' Forum .....	9
Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing .....	9
Children's Christmas Party.....	10
Environment.....	10
Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area: Environmental Remediation .....	10
The Pond: Water Quality .....	11
The Pond: Water Levels.....	11
Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre.....	12
Neighbourhood Watch.....	12
Communications .....	13
Website and Email Alerts .....	13
Newsletter Team.....	13
Appendix A: RPRA Financial Statements for 2016.....	14

**Cover:** Rockcliffe Park marked its 90th anniversary with the Rockcliffe Village Fête, a day of celebration held on September 17, 2016. Festivities began with a performance by the RCMP Pipe Band in front of the Community Hall. Photo: Seanna Kreager.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As the new president of the RPRA, it gives me great pleasure to present my first report to the Annual General Meeting. This was an eventful year for our Association, particularly in matters concerning heritage, community building and the environment. On the heritage front there have been successes and minor setbacks. The Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCDP), passed by City Council in March 2016, has not been fully adopted due to a single outstanding appeal. We had hoped that the matter would have been resolved before now, but the Ontario Municipal Board will hear the appeal in March 2017.

On another matter concerning heritage protection, the residents of Rockcliffe Park rallied on short notice to attend a public meeting with City planning staff on a provincial initiative that would allow for the construction of detached secondary dwelling units called “coach houses.” The Community Hall was packed and the residents’ broad opposition to coach houses in the heritage district was loud and clear. The final City staff report recommended that Rockcliffe Park be exempt from the by-law allowing coach houses. We are grateful to **Tim Moerman** and his staff for their support, as well as to our councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, and his staff for their guidance and advice.

In anticipation of full adoption of the new HCDP, we have restructured and rationalized our Heritage Committee to better assist those wishing to modify or build houses in Rockcliffe Park to work within the provisions of the Plan. Finally on matters of heritage, I am pleased to report that Rockcliffe Park gained another heritage building when it took ownership of Rideau Hall’s old warming hut. This gem was to be demolished to make way for the relocating and repurposing of the “Milking Shed” as the new and larger warming hut for the Rideau Hall skating rink. A core group of our rink volunteers, the **Hosers**, working with **Tobi Nussbaum** and NCC officials, managed extremely tight timelines and in early July transported the old warming hut to its new temporary location beside the rink at Rockcliffe Park Public School. This hut will be brought up to code and serve as a permanent warming hut for the rink, replacing the trailer that is brought in every year.

With over 20,000 books gathered, sorted, priced, boxed, re-boxed and finally put on display, this year’s Rockcliffe Park Library Book Sale broke all records, raising over \$36,000. As usual, a huge round of applause goes to **Jane Dobell** and her crew of 70+ volunteers who put in an enormous effort throughout the year. We are also grateful for the support of this year’s sponsors, **Chartwell’s The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence**, **Brian Montgomery** of **RBC Wealth Management**, **Dymon Storage** and **Rockcliffe Landscaping** for their generous support, as well as **Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering** for their delicious sandwiches for the volunteers during the sale.

This past September, the community of Rockcliffe Park came together for the 90th Anniversary Village Fête. Over 400 residents braved foul weather to enjoy musical and dance performances, and taste delicacies from around the world courtesy of our diplomatic neighbours. There were plenty of popular activities for children, too, making it a real family event. A big thank you to **Aly Abdulla** and all the organizers who worked on this project for more than a year. Thanks also to the musicians and entertainers as well as the sponsors, including the various **foreign missions** who contributed to the Taste of the World buffet, **Tracey Black** of **Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering**, **Chris Barker** of **Rhodes Barker Luxury Real Estate**, and **Walter McGinn** of **Allegra Marketing • Print • Mail**.

**Susan d’Aquino’s** excellent Speaker Series continues to be a popular attraction in the Village, filling the Community Hall six times a year, and the outlook for the coming year is exciting indeed. The annual Village Clean-Up was also well attended, producing more than 30 bags of garden waste. Many thanks go to the host of volunteers who made these events possible.

There were two significant political departures in 2016. We note with sorrow the passing of our popular and long-serving MP, **Mauril Bélanger**; he was a friend to the community and he will be missed. On the provincial front, **Madeleine Meilleur**, our hard-working MPP, retired. I would like to thank Madeleine for her many years of service and support to the community. In November, in cooperation with Lindenlea and Manor Park, the RPRa hosted a successful Candidates' Forum for the provincial by-election in Ottawa-Vanier. We are proud to have conducted a serious event focusing on issues of importance to the community and which was not, thanks to security measures, waylaid by fringe elements. Congratulations go to Liberal candidate **Nathalie Des Rosiers**, who won the by-election and now sits as our new MPP.

Keeping our residents informed on matters concerning Rockcliffe, the RPRa again published six newsletters this past year. Thanks to editor **Cynthia Hamady** for the many hours she puts into the production of each issue. The RPRa continues to enhance its ability to reach out to residents via the website and by email and I would like to remind all residents that if you are not an RPRa member and we do not have your email address, we cannot send you important time-sensitive notices.

As regards the Pond, water levels were down again this year and the popularity of the emergent "beach" resulted in record crowds and occasional problems of parking and traffic congestion along Pond, Whitemarl and adjacent streets. The RPRa is working with the City to address the low water levels. In 2016, the City commissioned a consulting engineers' report which suggested that the water level decline is due to a reduction in the replenishment of the ground water regime and a diversion of rain to the storm sewer system. The report recommended raising water levels via an existing well and pump. The RPRa is working with the City on the implementation of the pump solution and to stabilize the banks to prevent their continued erosion. We are grateful to the City for their continued support on this file.

The year 2017 will see the celebration of Canada's Sesquicentennial. Unfortunately we were not successful in our funding requests to the Federal Economic Development Agency and to the City to renew the Centennial Garden. However, the RPRa does plan to work with the Village Foundation to design and install interpretive plaques in public spaces in Rockcliffe Park. The plaques will recognize places, events and people significant in the development of Rockcliffe Park and/or Canada. Past RPRa president **Brian Dickson** will serve as the Association's representative on the advisory panel that will advise the Foundation on plaque location and design.

As 2016 drew to a close, our seasonal festive activities, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing and the Children's Christmas Party, were well attended. The Tree Lighting ceremony also marked the formal launch of our first-ever RPRa fundraising drive. We elected to support the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre ([www.crcrr.org](http://www.crcrr.org)), which has been providing a broad variety of services, including emergency food services, locally in our neighbouring communities since 1982. The Centre has seen demand for its services increase significantly this past year. It is a sad fact of life that these services are in such high demand and I am delighted to be able to report that by the end of the campaign, we raised a grand total of \$18,377.95! I would like to thank all those who contributed to making this, our first community campaign, such an overwhelming success.

The activities of the RPRa could not take place without the financial support of the **Village Foundation**. In 2016 the RPRa received a grant of over \$19,000 to carry out its activities in support of the Foundation's key priorities of community building, communications and heritage. On behalf of the RPRa, I would like to thank the Foundation and its chair, **Bonnie Robinson**, for their continued support, and look forward to building on our relationship in the years ahead.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the members of the RPRa Board, as well as all the other residents who have stepped forward and volunteered their time and effort to make the Village of Rockcliffe Park such a wonderful place to live. It has been a pleasure to serve with you this past year and I look forward to an exciting and eventful 2017.

*Peter Lewis*

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## HERITAGE AND PLANNING

### Heritage

On February 10, 2016, after years of work, Ottawa City Council approved a new Heritage Conservation District Plan for Rockcliffe Park and a by-law giving effect to the Heritage Plan was passed on March 23. Our councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, strongly supported us in this effort. The Plan has yet not been fully adopted pending the resolution of an outstanding appeal but in the interim the City is applying the new Heritage Plan as a matter of policy.

The fundamental objectives of the new Heritage Plan are to maintain and enhance the park-like qualities and atmosphere of our community, to preserve buildings and properties that contribute to its heritage character, and to ensure that new buildings, and additions or alterations to existing buildings, are compatible in scale, siting, height and materials with the established heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. The protection and enhancement of Rockcliffe's strong canopy of trees, hedges, green space and open space are central to its park-like qualities.

The new Heritage Plan itself and a handy "In Brief" description of it can be found at [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca)

An important milestone was stopping so-called "coach houses" from being imposed on Rockcliffe Park. Coach houses are secondary residences that could occupy up to 40 percent of backyards, increasing density and seriously eroding the park-like setting of houses that defines the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. Residents expressed their opposition in force at a meeting on June 15 at the Community Hall, organized by the RPRA and attended by **Councillor Nussbaum** and City staff. This was bolstered by many residents who wrote to **Mayor Watson**, making it clear why they strongly opposed coach houses. The outcome was that Rockcliffe Park was exempted when City Council approved a new policy on October 26 permitting coach houses in other parts of Ottawa.

Following approval of the new HCD Plan, the RPRA struck a new Heritage Committee tasked with reviewing and advising the City on all development applications for the demolition, alteration or additions to existing houses, and the construction of new houses, in Rockcliffe Park. The objective is to ensure that the provisions of the Heritage Plan are respected and applied consistently and transparently.

The members of the new Heritage Committee are **Michael Kelen, David McRobie, Vic Lanctis, John Cook, Robert Gougeon, Michele Collum-Hayman** and **Susan d'Aquino**. In 2016, the committee reviewed six applications.

*Susan d'Aquino and Kathy Day*

### Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton

The FCA is the forum for community associations and similar non-profit volunteer groups in Ottawa to share information about issues facing their communities and, when appropriate, to take joint action. The FCA includes associations from the City centre, the inner suburbs, the suburban communities outside the Greenbelt and rural Ottawa. The RPRA has been a member of the FCA since amalgamation. The 35+ member FCA meets monthly.

In 2016, FCA priorities included: City budgeting, planning and zoning, community safety, traffic calming, transit and transportation.

*Chris Barker*

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## FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

### Treasurer's Report

The RPRA maintains a fiscal and membership year ending December 31. The restricted funds for Library and Heritage are controlled by the respective committees. The remaining restricted funds for Environment and Community plus unrestricted funds are controlled by the RPRA Board of Directors. Long-term cash is invested in easy-to-cash, low-risk government bonds. A separate Finance Committee oversees the RPRA's financial activities.

In 2016, the RPRA received \$19,450 in grants from the Village Foundation and \$5,100 from membership fees. The fiscal year ended with 2016 net assets \$10,601.22 higher than the previous year. Full details of the RPRA's financial report are found in Appendix A of this annual report on pages 14 through 16.

*Angelica Bolitho*

### Membership

Membership in the RPRA provides critical support for the Association's work in representing our interests at City Hall. In addition, membership dues help finance our popular newsletter and community social events, such as the annual Children's Christmas Party and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, featuring the Salvation Army Citadel Band. Our membership total at the end of the year was 204, reflecting a decrease from the previous year's total of 222. We hope to increase our membership significantly in 2017. We strongly encourage all households to join the Association for the low annual fee of \$25 per family. Two-year memberships for \$50 are also offered to facilitate renewals. Membership forms may be obtained by contacting [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca), or they may be downloaded from the RPRA website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca).

*Claire Ouseley*

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Speakers Program

This was the 16th year of our community's Speakers Program. Held in the Community Hall on Wednesday evenings periodically throughout the year, these events are an opportunity for friends, neighbours and newcomers to hear from outstanding individuals, engage them in discussion, and enjoy coffee and homemade cookies afterwards. Admission is free.

In 2016, we were pleased to welcome the following speakers:

**Colin Robertson**, Vice President of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, outlined what he saw as the key challenges and appropriate directions for the Trudeau government with respect to a foreign policy for Canada.

**Maureen McTeer**, who teaches law and authored a seminal book on the sensitive subject of dying, spoke clearly and eloquently on the work being done and the choices to be made in the lead-up to new legislation on assisted dying in Canada.

**Paul Lang**, Chief Curator of the National Gallery of Canada, gave us the inside story of putting together the splendid exhibition of the paintings of Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, court painter to Queen Marie-Antoinette. During the exhibition, he very kindly conducted two outstanding tours for us.

**Susan d’Aquino**, a longtime Rockcliffe Park resident and award-winning garden designer, captivated her audience with the tale of building a garden over 40 years to complement the iconic modernist house in which she lives. The talk was lavishly illustrated with photos of the garden in all seasons.

**Ron Cohen**, a world expert on the writings of Winston Churchill, painted a magnificent picture of his subject, his mastery of the English language, and his connection with Canada. Ron received a standing ovation from the capacity audience.

**Fen Hampson**, Co-Director of the Global Commission on Internet Governance, left us all unsettled with his tale of the exponentially expanding scale and scope of the Internet, the world’s dependence on it, and the frightening dangers lurking within it.

Special thanks go to **Nancy Hooper** and **Lynn McGuffin**, who provide the warmth of coffee, tea and cookies so graciously, and to **Joan Kellett**, **Claire Ouseley**, **Marilyn Venner**, **Jane Dobell**, **Chris Barker** and **Michele Collum-Hayman** for organizational support.

*Susan d’Aquino*

### Library Book Sale and Rockcliffe Park Library

It was a banner year for our annual April Book Sale in support of the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL). After struggling for years with cramped quarters, we rented a 60x40 foot tent, which, with the space provided by the Community Hall and the library, allowed us to display our books and AV material to greater advantage. A slightly later date in April brought us better weather so we benefitted somewhat from spring fever.



*Both the line-up and the anticipation build before the doors open on the 2016 Book Sale.*

Increased sales and support from our sponsors allowed us to make a \$30,000 donation to the OPL and to cover the advance expenses of the 2017 book sale. Twenty percent of our donation – \$6,000 – supported system-wide OPL initiatives, while the rest enriched materials available at the Rockcliffe Park branch. Our support allowed a variety of programs that would not have been available to the branch without our

funding. These included a robotics program, the magic show presented during the Rockcliffe’s 90th anniversary celebration in September, a Rag and Bones puppet show, a full day of programming featuring a 3-D printer, and a presentation to 240 students from Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) and Fern Hill School by Métis author **David Bouchard**. Some programs were planned for children on teacher professional development days.

We also supported a new OPL initiative, *One School, One Book*, where 130 students in grades 3 to 6 at RPPS and 150 students at York Street Public School read the novel *Lost in the Backyard* at the same time as their schoolmates. This was followed by programming on themes related to the book, including a program on wolves of Gatineau Park, a presentation by **Jean-Francois Carrey**, who was once the youngest Canadian to climb Mount Everest, as well as a visit by author **Alison Hughes**. The goals were to encourage reading for fun, to promote a conversation and activities around the book, and to encourage children to see where a book can lead. One teacher commented, “it was a wonderful experience for my students” and that the best part of the initiative was “the connection between the book and the presenters.”

We are often asked what happens to our unsold books. The volunteers examined their own sections at the end of the sale and estimated that 62 percent of our books had been sold. We donated remaining books to the RPPS Book Fair, to a local library run by the Youth Welfare Association of Rupert (north

of Wakefield, QC), some children's books to West Africa, and the majority to the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association, who contribute over \$250,000 annually to the OPL from sales of donated books in their 32 branches.

The success of our annual spring library book sale is due to the spirit of collaboration between different parts of our community: residents of Rockcliffe Park and surrounding communities continue to give generously of their books and AV material so that, according to the 100 or more eager buyers who line up at the opening of the sale, ours is one of the best book sales in the Ottawa area.

More than 40 volunteers work throughout the year to make the sale possible. Sometimes they might describe the work as fun, but on other occasions the hours are long and the scene is hectic. It is their good judgment, dedication and hard work that make the sale possible. Before, during and just after the sale, the number of volunteers expands to almost 100, heightening the sense of community which the sale fosters. **Sonia Doyon** and the library staff are very cheerful when faced with a steady stream of donations with very little space to handle them, and we thank them for their good humour and helpfulness.



*Book Sale chair Jane Dobell, front centre, with her intrepid volunteers.*

Our sponsors helped cover our costs of the rental of tent, tables and PODS storage container, the purchase of boxes and, once filled, their transportation to and from storage, advertising, etc. A special thanks to **Chartwell's The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence**, and **Brian Montgomery of RBC Wealth Management**, who have continued to support the book sale for many years. In 2016 we welcomed new sponsors **Dymon Storage** and **Rockcliffe Landscaping**.

We are eager to get your donations of books and AV material for the 2017 book sale, which will take place April 22 and 23. Please bring donations to the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the OPL during library hours or call for pick-up at **613 580-2424, ext. 27623**.

*Jane Dobell*

## **Soccer**

After a challenging few years with the maintenance of the soccer field, 2016 was a breakthrough year. This marked the first year of the operations of the field maintenance committee, composed of one representative from each of the following groups: the RPRA, the RPPS School Council and the Lindenlea Community Association, which runs the annual RPL Soccer League. Having representation from the three key stakeholders has resulted in a more effective and cost-efficient maintenance programme.

Due to extreme usage of the field from the moment the snow has melted away, the committee decided to cancel the spring treatment in favour of a more robust treatment in July consisting of an application of seed and fertilizer at 2.5 times the rate of previous treatments. The committee also liaised with the School Board to reschedule the irrigation timing so that there would be two shorter periods of irrigation instead of one long period, which is consistent with best practices for new seedbeds. The field is in better condition now than we have seen in many years. This past summer, 279 participants from ages 4 to 14 participated in the soccer league. For the first time, two children from refugee families played at the senior level and one youngster from a family under financial distress was invited to play gratis. Teams are coached by parent volunteers and the league helps to bring together the larger community. The number of volunteer hours that it takes to make this spring/summer league happen is substantial and we

again thank the Village Foundation, Rockcliffe Park Public School and the Rockcliffe Park/Lindenlea (RPL) Soccer League for their continued goodwill and support.

*Peter Lewis*

## Rockcliffe Village Fête



The weather did not cooperate, but nothing could dampen the spirits of those who turned out to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Village of Rockcliffe Park. Under the big tent, Emcee **Adrian Harewood** of the CBC opened the festivities with the RCMP Pipe Band, RCMP Musical Ride, **Mayor Jim Watson** and **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum**. Children enjoyed, among other activities, face painting and a book reading in the library by CPAC-TV host **Catherine Clark**. The event featured musicians and dancers, and a dazzling sampling of international cuisine donated by 32 Rockcliffe diplomatic residences.

There was even a cake-cutting ceremony, with a special Rockcliffe Park cake created by Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering. **Tracey Black**, owner of Epicuria, assisted Village residents who were 90 years or more in cutting the cake, while volunteer Air Cadets helped out throughout the event. Thanks to our generous sponsors, **Tracey Black of Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering**, **Chris Barker of Rhodes Barker Luxury Real Estate**, and **Walter McGinn of Allegra Marketing • Print • Mail**. Thanks also to the **diplomatic residences of Rockcliffe Park**, our hard-working volunteers and to all our participants.

*Aly Abdulla*

## Candidates' Forum

With the community associations of Lindenlea and Manor Park, the RPRA organized a successful Candidates' Forum in advance of the Ottawa-Vanier provincial by-election. The event, held on Tuesday evening, November 15, in Queen Juliana Hall at Rockcliffe Park Public School, attracted roughly 300 residents from the area. The four candidates were **André Marin**, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, **Claude Bisson**, Ontario New Democratic Party, **Nathalie Des Rosiers**, Ontario Liberal Party, and **Raphaël Morin**, Green Party of Ontario.

Special thanks to **Bea Hampson**, **Sebastien Laroche-Coté** and his family, **Jacques Legendre** and **Stelios Togias** for a well-run event.

*Marilyn Venner*



*Photo: Terry Milewski*

## Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing event was held on Wednesday, December 7, at the Community Hall. This year we had snow, which greatly added to the atmosphere, unlike last year's unseasonably warm event.

We had an excellent attendance of over 100, with a large number of Elmwood School pupils and parents and a good number of residents participating. **Bridgehead** kindly provided hot chocolate and coffee while a good selection of cookies was on hand for the hungry choir, brass ensemble and carol singers.

The event started with the Elmwood Junior School choir singing "O Christmas Tree" to coincide with lighting of the tree. The lights were turned on by our City councillor,



*Tracey Black of Epicuria helps 90-something Rockcliffe Park resident Diana Rowley cut the cake at the Rockcliffe Park 90th Anniversary celebration. Photo: Seanna Kreager*

**Tobi Nussbaum.** Following a number of carols performed by the Elmwood choir, the community carol singing began, led by the Salvation Army Brass Ensemble of the Ottawa Citadel Band graciously playing requests from the carolers, who sang with gusto!

At the end of the Salvation Army's performance, **Peter Lewis**, President of the RPRA, presented them with a cheque in support of the work they do in our greater community. Another element of the evening was the launch of the RPRA fundraising drive to support the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. In summary, it was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

*Jim Carr*



### Children's Christmas Party

The 2016 edition of the Rockcliffe Park Children's Christmas Party was held on December 11 in the Community Hall. Last year's trend towards younger children continued with over 100 pre-school and early elementary school-aged children and their families attending. The reliable **John Cundell** was there to drive Santa and all the happy children around the neighbourhood in his horse-drawn carriage. Goopee the Clown provided holiday-themed balloon creations and the very popular gingerbread house-making gave all the kids an



*Happy participants at the 2016 RPRA Children's Christmas Party.*

opportunity to show off their structural engineering abilities. Hot chocolate (with marshmallows, of course) and holiday treats kept the young ones energized. A crew of approximately 15 fun-loving kids from the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre youth program joined in the festivities and participants were invited to bring toys for the Toy Drive in support of the RRCRC's own Santa Party for underprivileged youth.

Thank you to Mrs. Claus (**Inta Sipolins-Zobs**) and the team of volunteers from the community, the University of Ottawa and local high schools that helped make the party a wonderful event. We could always use more help, especially from families with young children that really know how to plan a good time for the kids. If you are able to help, please indicate your interest by checking off the Children's Christmas Party on the RPRA membership form or by sending an email to [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

*Imbaw Storer*

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## ENVIRONMENT



### Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area: Environmental Remediation

With the help of two stalwart and enthusiastic invasive plant removers, we continued digging and pulling Garlic Mustard, Dog-strangling Vine and Buckthorn. We enhanced our efforts by aggressively cutting off berried Buckthorn branches, marking the cut stems for later removal. All in all we accumulated 180 hours of removal work.

I discovered and have started to remove a patch of Yellow Archangel (sold as a garden plant and considered very invasive on the west coast) and continued, for the second year, tackling a large patch of Japanese Knotweed. And, thanks to regular helpers supplemented by student volunteers from the uOttawa Days of Service program, we moved almost a decade's worth of brush piles to a central pit and cleared the paths of fallen leaves.

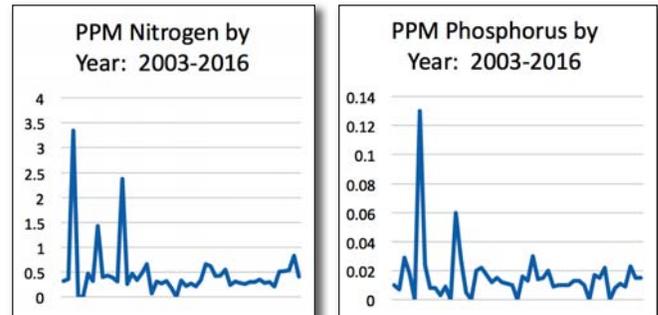


Thanks to **John Brooks, Scott Heatherington, Anthony Keith, Marilyn Venner, Mark Willcox, Jan Wolowski**, and our uOttawa Days of Service volunteers, **Juliette Chartrand, Shirley Chou, Chelsea Ifill, Lucile Leroux and Monique Mackenzie**.

*Iola Price*

## The Pond: Water Quality

**Derek Chase** and other Pond swimmers braved the Pond waters four times this year and our contract laboratory analysed the test samples for Phosphorus and Nitrogen. As often happens, there was a summer spike in nutrients: Nitrogen and Phosphorus each peaked in July (at different times) but returned to normal levels by September. See results at right.



The long-term trend shows a decline in both Phosphorus and Nitrogen from the early years, more or less stabilizing over the past decade. Note that the vertical scales are different.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus foster green growth which contributes to the aquatic life in the Pond, providing a habitat and food for smaller fish and invertebrates. At the present levels they do not sustain undesirable algae.

*Iola Price and Derek Chase*



*Heavy usage of the Pond, along with dropping water levels, has led to concerns for its sustainability.*

## The Pond: Water Levels

Over the years, the water level in the Pond has fluctuated, but since 2010 there has been a drastic drop in water levels. A well was drilled in the 1980s to replenish the Pond; however, the City determined that the pump in the well no longer worked (due to vandalism) so it could not be used, and to repair it would be expensive. There were, however, persistent claims that the pump had worked in the past and that, when needed, it automatically fed water from the well into the Pond.

Enquiries to the Ministry of the Environment in 2010 confirmed that the 1981 water quality analytical data could not be used to support a re-start of the well. The City requested a permit to pump and test the well and have new water quality data provided to the Ministry. The long-awaited test of the well took place July 13-14, 2016. Water was drawn from a depth of approximately 30 metres, at rates that varied from 10 to 40 gallons per minute over the 24-hour test period. The water was discharged to the Pond but filtered first through straw bales and the shoreline sand.

It does not appear that the water level in the Pond changed appreciably in the 24 hour test, in spite of an additional heavy rainfall. The final report, with options regarding water level remediation, has been issued; we have reviewed it and sent comments and questions to **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum** and City staff. We are also pursuing with the City what can be done to stabilize the steep banks in light of the heavy foot traffic around the perimeter of the Pond when the water level is low. Decisions on bank stabilization measures await final City budget considerations.

*Brian Dickson and Nicolas Temnikov*

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## ROCKCLIFFE PARK COMMUNITY POLICE CENTRE



Constable  
Walter Duhme

I would like to take this opportunity to share some information with RPRA members.

I have attached a link to the Ottawa Police Service Online Crime Mapping Tool to assist you in obtaining statistics for your neighbourhood. The Ottawa Crime Map can display the last 14 days of data for selected crime categories. You can also change the date selection and crime categories to customize a search to display up to 30 consecutive days' worth of data within the last six months.

<http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/crime/crime-mapping-tool.asp>

I have also attached links to our Crime Prevention and Safety programs, our News Releases if you would like to register for news updates, the Crime Prevention Ottawa Neighbourhood Tool Kit and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services Home Security Audit Guide.

- <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/Crime-Prevention-and-Safety-Programs.asp>
- <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/news/search.aspx>
- [http://toolkit.crimepreventionottawa.ca/index.php?g\\_int\\_AppLanguageId=1](http://toolkit.crimepreventionottawa.ca/index.php?g_int_AppLanguageId=1)
- <http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/stellent/groups/public/@mcscs/@www/@com/documents/webasset/ec076626.pdf>

Reporting incidents to the police is important and provides us with the information needed to identify crime patterns. Please encourage all your neighbours to report any crimes in progress, suspicious activity and all crimes to the police to assist us in addressing crime in the community.

- **911 is for crimes in progress and life-threatening emergencies**
- **613 230-6211 for non life-threatening emergencies (i.e. suspicious activity)**
- **613 236-1222, ext. 7300 to report crimes that are not in progress**
- **Online reporting at <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>**
- **613 236-1222 for Community Police Centres and all other enquiries**
- **Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-8477 or <http://crimestoppers.ca>**
- **Contact Us link: <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Contact-Us.asp>**

**PLEASE NOTE: As of the end of January 2017, our neighbourhood has a new Community Police Officer, Constable Jonathan Kenney. Constable Kenney can be reached at 613 236-1222, ext. 5823, or by email at [kenneyj@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:kenneyj@ottawapolice.ca)**

*Walter Duhme, Ottawa Police Service*

### Neighbourhood Watch

Rockcliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch is part of a City-wide program sponsored by the Ottawa Police Service. The aim of the program is to promote security consciousness and encourage cooperation and communication among neighbours as a way to help prevent crime. It provides tips for making homes, cars and valuables less vulnerable to thieves, and information on the growing variety and sophistication of "scams" being attempted in person and via phone calls and email.

Rockcliffe Park residents are encouraged to report any crimes or suspicious behaviour to their Neighbourhood Watch contact. All crimes, including minor incidents, should also be reported to the police to keep their data-base effective. This is easy to do online, and the incident will then be given a report

number, which is necessary for filing an insurance claim. All reports are reviewed by police, who will follow up as appropriate. Details at [www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp](http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp).

A survey of all Ottawa Neighbourhood Watches is currently being conducted to establish needs and best practices, and ensure that each community derives maximum benefit from the program. For more information on the Neighbourhood Watch Program, or to volunteer, contact **Kay James**, Rockcliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, at **613 513-6588** or [rpranw@gmail.com](mailto:rpranw@gmail.com).

*Kay James*

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### Website and Email Alerts

Although we had hoped to have our new website up and running by now, it is still a work in progress. We recently lost our webmaster and are looking for a new volunteer to help build the site. If you are interested in working on this worthwhile project, please contact [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca). Sincere thanks to **Carmine Domenicucci** and **Melanie Lee** for stepping in to help during a busy year.

In 2016, the RPRA issued approximately 50 email notices about local issues and events – from warnings about break-ins to publicizing local events to advising of last-minute meetings, such as the Candidates' Forum prior to the provincial by-election. We issue these emails to residents who are RPRA members and who have provided their email address on their membership form. If you are not receiving these notices and wish to be added to our list, send a note to [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

*Marilyn Venner*

### Newsletter Team

A print version of The Rockcliffe News is delivered six times yearly to residents; a full-colour web version, as well as archived issues, may be viewed online at [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca). **Cynthia Hamady** continues as our volunteer newsletter editor.

Thanks to **Marilyn Venner** for helping to organize content, and to Marilyn and **Iola Price** for their eagle-eyed proofreading. Thanks also to **Melanie Lee** for posting the newsletter and archiving earlier issues online. Special thanks to **Ling Lu Langley** for organizing newsletter volunteers and distribution, to **Brian Dickson** and **Paul St. Louis** for ensuring that our volunteer deliverers receive their bundles on schedule, and to **Iola Price**, who ensures non-resident members receive their newsletters. And, of course, thanks to the **Village Foundation**, whose continuing financial support helps to defray printing costs.

We are always interested in your comments, suggestions, stories and photos. Please send them to [editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca).

And, as always, many thanks to our volunteer delivery force who, in 2016, delivered your newsletters:

**Chris and Stephanie Barker, Cynthia Baxter, Rachel Baxter, John Brooks, Derek Chase, Brian Dickson, Jane Dobell, John Edmond, Chantal Gobeil, Alison Green, Walter Grego, Sue Harcourt, Nancy Johnson, Ana Klar, Anthony Keith, Ling Lu Langley, Ainsley Malhotra, Kent Manderville, Louise Meyer, Rodney Moore, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, Iola Price, Tani and Gregory Sanders, Dean Saul, Mary Anne Smallwood, Claire and John Schofield, Lorna and Paul St. Louis, Imbaw Storer, Mary and Si Taylor, Hans and Annegret Uthhoff, Marilyn Venner and Ismene Wood.**

*Cynthia Hamady and Marilyn Venner*

## APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2016 (with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2016	2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	13,564.80	11,120.33
Short-term investments	55,443.46	55,029.22
Other receivables	4,989.88	—
Total Assets	<u>73,998.14</u>	<u>66,149.55</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Liabilities		
Prepaid memberships	725.00	400.00
Accounts payable	2,510.66	5,588.29
Total Liabilities	<u>3,235.66</u>	<u>5,988.29</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Restricted net assets – library	8,490.38	5,386.74
Restricted net assets – other	16,545.65	11,096.15
Unrestricted net assets	45,726.45	43,678.37
	<u>70,762.48</u>	<u>60,161.26</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>73,998.14</u>	<u>66,149.55</u>
<b>Schedule – Accounts Payable</b>		
Library	159.07	868.94
Environment	—	2,983.30
Communications and social events	1,171.99	1,210.47
Administration	1,179.60	525.58
Total Accounts Payable	<u>2,510.66</u>	<u>5,588.29</u>

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## APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets For the year ended December 31, 2016 (with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2016	2015
<b>Restricted Funds – Library</b>		
Revenue		
Sponsorships	1,759.77	3,302.30
Book Sale	38,299.85	28,526.43
Total Revenues	<u>40,059.62</u>	<u>31,828.73</u>
Expenses		
Grant to library	30,000.00	21,500.00
Expenses	6,955.98	5,953.11
Total Expenses	<u>36,955.98</u>	<u>27,453.11</u>
Change in net assets	3,103.64	4,375.62
Net assets – opening balance	5,386.74	1,011.12
Net assets – closing balance	<u>8,490.38</u>	<u>5,386.74</u>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
Revenue		
Membership	5,100.00	5,550.00
Investment income	414.24	517.22
Donations	479.89	154.00
Booklet sales	115.00	169.00
Total Revenues	<u>6,109.13</u>	<u>6,390.22</u>
Expenses		
General administration	1,555.86	1,355.16
Events	1,379.74	720.70
Insurance / filing fees	725.33	674.48
Bank charges	245.12	203.68
Membership dues	155.00	250.00
Total Expenses	<u>4,061.05</u>	<u>3,204.02</u>
Change in net assets	2,048.08	3,186.20
Net assets – opening balance	43,678.37	40,492.17
Net assets – closing balance	<u>45,726.45</u>	<u>43,678.37</u>

## APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets For the year ended December 31, 2016 (with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2016	2015
<b>Restricted Funds – Other</b>		
Revenue		
Village Foundation	19,450.00	18,400.00
<b>Environment</b>		
Donations	–	4.20
<b>Communications and Social Events</b>		
Speakers Program	320.95	415.70
<b>Sports</b>		
Soccer, running track rehabilitation	7,250.00	5,750.00
Total Revenues	<u>27,020.95</u>	<u>24,569.90</u>
Expenses		
<b>Heritage</b>		
Heritage Conservation Plan	404.90	1,401.00
Oral transcription	–	1,550.00
<b>Environment</b>		
Jubilee Gardens / Community Centre	5,358.57	4,588.38
Tree maintenance / Buckthorn removal	–	4,138.30
Pond water analysis	320.19	327.52
<b>Communications and Social Events</b>		
Newsletter	5,277.00	3,208.72
Children’s Christmas Party	1,359.00	1,441.97
Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing	1,044.94	1,096.50
Speakers Program	1,711.25	1,518.51
Website and strategy	728.10	1,247.00
<b>Sports</b>		
Soccer, running track rehabilitation	5,367.50	14,514.85
Total Expenses	<u>21,571.45</u>	<u>35,032.75</u>
Change in net assets	5,449.50	(10,462.85)
Net assets – opening balance	<u>11,096.15</u>	<u>21,559.00</u>
Net assets – closing balance	<u>16,545.65</u>	<u>11,096.15</u>
<b>Schedule – Restricted Net Assets – Other</b>		
Heritage	7,228.10	6,633.00
Communications and social events	999.90	1,728.00
Sports	<u>8,317.65</u>	<u>2,735.15</u>
Total restricted net assets – other	<u>16,545.65</u>	<u>11,096.15</u>