

ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011



Joint Annual Meeting of the RPRA

&

The Village Foundation

Wednesday February 15th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

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1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2011 was a good year for the RPR in priority areas such as community building, the environment and heritage. As regards community events, the highlight was the celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Village. This began with an informal get together of residents in June at the Rockcliffe Boathouse followed by a day of special events in September that included an Amazing Race, a Vintage Car Rally and later a Garden Party attended by some 150 residents in the Jubilee Garden. At that time, we had the opportunity to dedicate a tree in the Village Green in memory of Patrick Murray, Mayor of the Village from 1985-2000. Many thanks to Magalie Dubé for orchestrating the Anniversary, to all Board members and to the many volunteers who made the celebrations such a success.

Another highly successful event was the record breaking annual Library Book Sale. With an inventory of some 14,000 books, the sale grossed over \$19,000. The funds will be used, as in past years, in support of the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library with assistance this year to the Aboriginal Outreach Program.

The Lunch and Evening Speakers Program, organized by Mary Taylor and Susan d'Aquino respectively, continued throughout the year, drawing first class speakers and attracting a full house.

Other community events included the Spring Clean Up, a spooky Halloween Party as well as the traditional Children's Christmas Party and Carol Sing & Christmas Tree Lighting. The RPR also continued to support the popular soccer and rink programs.

The major achievement in the area of the environment was the reinstatement of Monitors at the Pond in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area. Because the City had cut funding for this program in 2008, there were an increasing number of incidents at the Pond over the summer months. Following discussions with senior city staff, the RPR applied for and received a grant of \$10,000 to hire three Pond Conservation Monitors. I am pleased to report that this project was very successful. In short, the Monitors re-established a culture of respect for the area. We are working with our Councillor, Peter Clark, to establish long term City funding to manage activities at the Pond.

The Environment Committee also addressed other issues such as protecting our Ash trees, assisting with a survey of Butternut Trees in the Village and the removal of Buckthorn in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area, the latter through a \$5000 grant from the city.

On heritage, we are making good progress on the project to develop a revised Heritage Conservation District Plan for the Village as required under the 2005 Ontario Heritage Act. An inventory of all Rockcliffe properties has been taken and the properties are now being evaluated in terms of their heritage attributes. Once this has been completed, the information will form the basis for a revised district plan that will include updated guidelines for the management of the heritage district.

I am pleased to report that the booklet, *Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park*, has been expanded and updated. The new version, Volume 2, was launched on the occasion of the 85th Anniversary festivities.

The Heritage Committee also continued to provide advice to the city on development issues and the Committee of Adjustment Advisory Committee provided comment on proposals for minor variances.

Moving to communications, the RPR is trying to improve channels of communication with its members. We recently developed and distributed a survey to identify residents' priorities and concerns. We will use this information in setting our own objectives, programs and activities. We

have also begun to provide community information by email to our members who have given us permission to do so – another benefit of RPRA membership. And our paid membership is recovering from a drop in 2010.

As in previous years, the RPRA published six newsletters during the course of the year to keep residents informed of issues affecting our community. I would like to thank Julia Beatty who has retired as our newsletter editor after six years of faithful service. I also welcome Cynthia Hamady as the new editor and thank her for agreeing to take on an important community responsibility.

The RPRA has also been active on the bridge issue and the current National Capital Commission consultation process on the three proposed corridors, including Kettle Island. This past summer, the RPRA hosted a meeting which brought together representatives of community associations across all three corridors. The purpose was to share information and identify ways in which we can work together more effectively. The Board will continue to closely monitor this issue and take action as appropriate.

We will also pay close attention to the proposed redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe Airbase which will have a major impact on neighbouring communities, in particular, our own. It is expected that public consultations will begin early in 2012. When they occur, the RPRA will work closely with other community associations to address common concerns such as increased traffic, and to contribute to a successful project.

Within the Village, you may be aware of a proposal, which has received agreement in principle from the City, to construct a permanent rink pad and fieldhouse in the area of the existing rink site. The RPRA has reviewed this proposal and has a number of observations. It is expected that there will be a public consultation on this proposed project.

Throughout the year, the RPRA has worked closely on community priorities with the Village Foundation and its Chair, Bonnie Robinson. The Foundation, through interest earned on its capital, provides a generous annual grant to the RPRA for some of its activities, particularly with respect to the environment, heritage and community building. On behalf of the Board of the RPRA, I would like to acknowledge the importance of this contribution to our work and thank the Foundation for its continuing financial support.

Finally, a big thank you to board and committee members and the many volunteers who contribute their time and energy to the Village. This community spirit is a hallmark of Rockcliffe Park.

Brian Dickson

2. PLANNING, LEGAL ISSUES AND HERITAGE

Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee deals with issues affecting the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District. The full committee met five times. The Development Review Subcommittee provides advice on request to a City heritage planner on proposals to make major exterior alterations to buildings, demolish buildings, or build new ones. Advice is based on the heritage district's Management Guidelines. Seventeen projects were reviewed during the year, including three proposed demolitions. Two cases of flagrant destruction of trees at construction sites were brought to the attention of the City, and action was taken.

The District Plan Subcommittee, meeting with a City planner, rated heritage evaluations of 500 properties on the west side of the lake. Evaluation forms have now been completed by graduate students under the City's direction for all properties in Rockcliffe. Rating them should be

completed by the spring. These evaluations will be used by City planners as they begin to draft in 2012 a revised Heritage Conservation District Plan for the village.

The most continuously popular Rockcliffe publication has been the pocket-size booklet *Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park*, produced by the heritage committee in 1982. In 2011, the committee has produced Volume 2 to replace the original. It now has four walks, and includes the east side of the lake. While in the same format, its content has grown to 95 pages from 56 in the original. It is available at the Community Police Centre, along with the other RPRA publications.

A series of newsletter articles has been started to showcase house renovations that respect heritage qualities of the building. The 'Queen Juliana Hall' lettering above the hall's external doorway, facing Springfield Road, has been replaced. The original lettering had been missing for many years.

The committee continues to be concerned about the construction of new houses that seem too large for their surroundings, and members discussed at several meetings procedures that might curb this trend although no wholly satisfactory solutions have yet been identified. The problem of over-sized houses proves to be common to heritage areas in cities across Canada and in many cities in the United States.

Committee members: Victoria Angel, John Cook, Kathy Day (Chair), Linda Dicaire, Magalie Dubé, Martha Edmond, Caroline Frewer, Robin Fyfe, Margaret Gerard, Anthony Keith (Secretary), Joan Kingstone, Vic Lanctis, Robert McElligott, Diana Rowley, J.H. (Si) Taylor.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The role of the Treasurer is primarily managing the funds of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and maintenance of the appropriate records. This role involves the planning and approval of the yearly budget, advising the Board on the financial viability of activities, 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 Association continues to operate in a financially responsible manner. Despite the many community activities successfully conducted a surplus of \$3,233 was recorded in the RPRA funds in 2011 which brought the RPRA overall operating funds to \$46,880. In addition the separate library account has a positive balance of \$2,978.

The 2011 Financial Statement is attached as an Appendix 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. In 2011, the membership dues helped pay for the Newsletter and our popular social events such as the 85th Anniversary celebrations, the Halloween and Christmas parties for our children and the Christmas Tree lighting and Carol Sing featuring the Salvation Army's Citadel brass band.

For 2011, 250 of the approximately 766 occupied houses in the Village joined as Association members, representing about 32% of the Village, up from last year's 28%. This helps to reverse

the decline from our recent high of 340 in 2009. While the percentage of household membership may seem low, our membership rate is much better than some of Ottawa's other community associations. We hope to see an even higher percentage of residents joining the Association in 2012. In addition to our resident members, the RPRA also has about 50 non-resident members, many of whom are former Village residents. They are loyal supporters of the Speaker Program (both luncheon and evening) and we appreciate their continued support.

Iola Price

5. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND REPORTS

New Ottawa River Crossing

A dedicated group of concerned Rockcliffe residents together with residents of other affected communities, including Manor Park, have been vigilant in following developments in connection with the above longstanding issue. This matter is currently with the consultants who were reappointed by the NCC more than one year ago and given a new mandate to consider the so-called environmental phase of the study which was expanded following a public uproar several years ago, to include a total of three potential Ottawa River crossings including Kettle Island, notwithstanding the almost universal objection by affected communities and others to Kettle Island as an option.

Submissions to have the NCC and its consultants consider other options such as a tunnel under the Ottawa River as well as a light rail system crossing the Ottawa River on one or more of the existing bridges have not been officially acknowledged by the NCC or its consultants.

Rockcliffe Park together with other affected communities have had preliminary discussions with an independent consultant to receive advice on options other than a new bridge crossing to resolve the river crossings and congestion caused by heavy trucks and other vehicles on the City streets including King Edward Ave..

At the moment it is anticipated that next month the NCC's consultants will publish their next report on the river crossing study. It is expected that they will recommend one of the three identified bridge crossings. If it is again the Kettle Island crossing one can expect there will be a major negative reaction from the affected communities, including Rockcliffe Park and Manor Park. If any of the other bridge options are chosen, it is anticipated that those affected communities will object. Virtually a catch 22 situation!

Rockcliffe Airbase Development

The writer was one of Rockcliffe's residents who was involved as an interested person in a study into the redevelopment of the 136 hectares of the former air base at the bottom of Hemlock Ave. That study however came to a halt in 2006 when the Algonquins of Ontario laid claim to the land.

Since that time, negotiations had been ongoing on the land claim which resulted in a financial settlement in early 2011. Recently, title to the air base has been transferred to Canada Lands Company which has agreed to work with the Algonquin's during the development process.

Because of the time that has passed, further meetings with City of Ottawa planners and new public consultations will need to be held. No notice of any such public consultations has come to our attention or the attention of any residents of other affected communities to this date so far as the writer is aware.

Alexander Macklin

Speakers Program

We were delighted to have nine remarkable speakers in this, the eleventh year, of the Village's Speakers Program. The evening events are free of charge and open to all – they attract up to 100 or so people. The lunch events charge a modest amount for the lunch itself, and can accommodate 60 to 70 people. They are all held in our Community Hall.

The evening events got under way with the always fascinating Andrew Cohen - journalist, author, professor – speaking on what he calls “the urgency of history” and why the past matters in Canada. The head of the Ottawa Public Library, Barbara Clubb, talked about the future for books and libraries in this digital age – how libraries are embracing the future and playing many more roles in the community than most of us ever knew about. The distinguished journalist Don Newman joined us to interview Thomas d'Aquino on the three decades he has spent “in the fray” of business and public policy as head of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives.

Ottawa Citizen columnist and author Dan Gardner exposed the nonsense that infects the writings of those who engage in the profitable but perilous business of forecasting the future. Village resident David Berks brought his elegant 1929 Stutz and told the amazing tale of challenges he encountered in driving this vintage car in the Peking to Paris endurance rally. On a very different note, former Prime Minister Joe Clark spoke of what he sees as deepening solitudes that divide us both within Canada and more widely in the world, and the urgent need to find ways of breaching those solitudes. Allan Thompson – professor and journalist – moved us with the story of the Rwandan genocide and its context, and the efforts he has made to help rebuild professional and independent media in that country.

The lunch program welcomed two guests to what were lively events. Grete Hale – well known business woman and volunteer – spoke engagingly on what she called “a slice of life” related to her autobiographical book “Baker's Daughter”. Our new mayor, Jim Watson, explained the city's 2012 budget and answered questions about issues of concern to the community.

Prepared by Susan d'Aquino and Mary Taylor

Speakers Program Committee: Susan d'Aquino, Mary Taylor, Jane Dobell, Randolph Gherson, Vivian Thompson, Nancy Hooper (with many thanks to Lola Price).

Lunches were organized by: Jane Dobell, Joan Kingstone, Katie MacMillan, Anne McDougall, Sheila Nelles, Ellie Siekierski, and Mary Taylor

Christmas in the Village

On Sunday, December 11th, approximately 125 children and parents gathered at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall for the RPRA's annual children's Christmas party. The children enjoyed making Christmas crafts, the horse drawn “sleigh rides” through the village with Santa Claus, receiving “specialty balloons” from Goopy the clown, playing hockey outside, seasonal music, tasty treats and hot chocolate with whipped cream.

A special thanks to Cynthia Mar for leading the children's craft activities, and David Smith for generously providing plenty of warm delicious food and Sue Jacobson of Jacobson's for donating delicious snacks and Christmas cookie boxes for the children to take home with them. A special thanks as well to John Butterfield for all of his help, as well as to Bruce Sherry who assisted with the outdoor hockey activity.

Nancy O'Dea of Royal LePage Performance Realty kindly again sponsored the children's party and helped defray most of the costs of this event. Thank you to all who contributed to the mitten and “toque” tree. If there is anyone interested in helping next year, please contact me.

Russ Gibson

Soccer

The Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea (RPL) Soccer Program had another very successful year with over 300 children participating in the RPL Soccer League playing in five different divisions from late April through late June.

The very wet weather in April and early May caused some disruption at the start of the season, but with some creative use of the areas to the sides of the pitches at Rockcliffe Park Public School and Hillsdale Rd (where the main field was initially waterlogged); the season was completed with only a modest number of cancelled games.

The RPL Soccer League continues to be a popular community activity for all age groups across families in Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea and New Edinburgh. 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) 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 Hillsdale fields on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

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. This year the organization of the RPL passed from a single individual to several teams of volunteers each taking on one of the many tasks (including registration, team allocation, referee recruitment, shirt and badge printing, end of season party planning and field maintenance).

A big thank you is owed to Sara Rock for stepping forward to co-ordinate all these volunteers. A thank you is also in order for Bruce Covington, for his role in organizing the coaches and the coaching clinic. Last, but not least, thanks are also owed to the parent volunteers, who step forward as coaches and organizers, whose support is essential to the program's continued success.

John Butterfield

Rockcliffe's 85th Anniversary Celebrations

Rockcliffe Park was incorporated as a Village in February 1926, changing its status from a Police Village to that of a municipality in charge of its own destiny and finances. The Village was amalgamated into the larger City of Ottawa in 2001. On September 17th, the Rockcliffe Park Residents association hosted a celebration of the Village's 85th anniversary with a series of events.

The Amazing Race

Fourteen teams with 54 adventurers took part in the Amazing Race around the Village. Teams walked or ran around the Village finding clue locations, picking up scavenger objects, performing a song, and learning a little of the history of the neighborhood along the way. Thanks go to the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club for co-hosting the BBQ at the end of the race: to Lori Assheton-Smith, Leigh Fraser-Roberts and Sarah Oliver for cooking 100 hot dogs for the famished participants and being an audience for the teams' song and dance routines; and to Lucie Bohac and John Butterfield for the overall organization and prize-giving.

Classic and Vintage Car Tour

Two RCMP horses drawing a carriage headed the parade of 20 classic and vintage cars and 2 military vehicles from the Cold War Foundation's collection. The oldest vehicle was a 1926 Franklin, with a 1927 Auburn and 1929 Stutz close behind. Several distinguished guests were passengers; Honorable Madeleine Meilleur and Mauril Bélanger, Her Excellence Mohau Pheko (South Africa High Commissioner), His Excellence Georges De La Roche (Ambassador of Guatemala) and his family, Thea Geerts (wife of the Ambassador of the Netherlands), Peter Clark, Margaret Gerard (the oldest Rockcliffe resident), Brian Dickson, Brian Montgomery (Rockcliffe Foundation), Marianne Harvey (RPPS principal), to name only a few. The route wound through the

Village's streets and many residents stood, watched and clapped as the procession made its way from the Elmwood School back to the RPPS playing field. Once parked, the cars and drivers were the centre of attention for quite some time.

Garden Party

The weather couldn't have been more perfect for this outdoor community event. The Jubilee Garden was beautiful with the plants, trees, heritage artifacts, white tent, and table decorated with gold tablecloths and festive off-white and gold balloons. Guests were greeted in the Garden by the music of Susan Sweeney-Hermon, harpist. What made the Jubilee Garden most special were the 150 people gathered to celebrate the 85th anniversary of their community. Four generations of Rockcliffe Park residents attended. All enjoyed the food from Creative Kosher, but more so, the wonderful company and enthusiastic discussions. The birthday cake was definitely a centre of interest. The centerfold of the new Walking Tour Booklet, made of edible icing and ink, was on the cake and guests showed each other the street on which they lived. Some asked to have the cake piece with their street on it! People left the Garden with a few tulip bulbs as take-home gifts which they have planted and that we will see blooming this spring. As part of the afternoon, a memorial plaque to Patrick Murray, last Mayor of Rockcliffe Park, was unveiled at the corner of Springfield and Mariposa, and a nearby Sugar Maple dedicated to his memory.

Many thanks go to Land Rover-Jaguar Ottawa, the event sponsor, to the RPRA directors and to the fantastic group of volunteers who made this day a huge success.

Magalie Dubé

6. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Pond

Pond Monitors

The atmosphere at the Pond had changed for the worse after three summers without monitors. In 2011, the RPRA applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from Parks, Recreation & Culture which could be used to re-instate the monitors. Writing the proposal, speaking with the relevant people from the City, and hiring and supervising the monitors was a time-consuming task. We were fortunate to find three young women, all students at Carleton, who had an excellent work ethic and were responsible and pleasant to work with. Designated Conservation Monitors, they helped to educate those who wished to swim after designated hours about the environmental issues at the Pond and how the limits on swimming hours could benefit the water quality, shoreline stability, and wildlife. The grant allowed us to have them on site from 2 to 6:30 p.m. daily from June 18th until September 7th. Longer hours and a start date of June 1st would have been preferable, but the atmosphere improved markedly once it was obvious that there was supervision at the Pond again. Calls to By-law, for example, decreased by fifty percent. The RPRA has worked with Councillor Peter Clark to find funding for supervision in 2012 under a mechanism that should remove the need for the program to be run by RPRA volunteers. The RPRA thanks the staff of the city's Parks, Recreation & Culture and Community & Protective Services (By-law) Departments and our Community Police Centre officer for their continued assistance this past summer.

Water Quality

The post-Summer level of the water in the Pond is lower than usual. We nervously wait for precipitation to make up the loss by next Spring. Summer-months bacterial testing of Pond water is carried out by the City of Ottawa. This year's three tests all showed similar counts of 9 *E. coli* per 100 mL, well below the ON Ministry of the Environment beach guideline of 100 *E. coli* per 100 mL. For the past nine years, the RPRA has sampled the water three times per summer for Nitrogen and Phosphorus. While the Nitrogen levels were similar to those in the past, the August Phosphorus level was about twice that of previous tests. Phosphorus is an ingredient of some lawn fertilizers and high levels in the Pond are suspected to have resulted from runoff. It is

important that fertilizers not be used in the areas adjacent to the Pond. It is also essential, that, with the exception of the Buckthorn removal program, the trees and shrubs in the Pond 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.

Trees

Protecting Our Ash trees

In 2011 homeowners in the neighbouring communities of Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Manor Park/Cardinal Glen and Rockcliffe pooled their efforts to protect their ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. The EAB is present and spreading in the greater Ottawa area and could potentially infect all ash tree species, with the exception of the un-related Mountain Ash. The City of Ottawa expects it could lose thousands of trees, as 25% of the forest cover is made up of ash trees. We are fortunate that only 128 (4%) of our street trees are ashes but we should not be complacent as, given the maturity of the tree canopy in our community, the ash trees tend to be very large specimens providing much appreciated shade for our homes and streets. We have no data on the number of privately-owned ashes in side and back yards, but the numbers could be significant.

Homeowners interested in taking action to protect the trees on their own property at their expense were asked to self-identify to the Environment Committees in their community. This allowed us to negotiate a better group rate with a contractor to inject the ash trees. In Rockcliffe a dozen trees were treated in the early summer, most of these were on the Elmwood grounds. The treatment has to be repeated every two years. We have already lost or will lose 12-15 ashes in 2011 with more to go in 2012. Homeowners with ashes that they value for shade or aesthetic reasons on the municipal part of their property may also have them protected at their expense. If you are interested in knowing more about the program or whether you have an ash tree, please contact Jane Newcombe – janenewcombe08@gmail.com.

Butternut Survey

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Butternut Technician visited the Village this summer to check on the status of ten of our healthiest Butternuts. Her objectives were to measure growth rates since 2006; inspect for the slowly-lethal canker to determine if it had advanced over 2006 levels; and, to look for developing nuts. Sadly, only two Butternut trees on the Rockcliffe list remained healthy and both gave every indication of producing a good nut crop. But, the hot August weather meant that the nuts ripened much more quickly than expected and our local squirrels beat us to the draw. Offsetting this setback was the discovery of three new previously unknown Butternuts. If you have a Butternut tree on your property that we don't know about, please call me as we would like an opportunity to assess its health and collect its nuts in August 2012. Iola Price iolaprice@comnet.ca.

Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area (C-CCA) Remediation

The Environment Committee applied for and received a city Community Environment Program Grant of \$5,000 to continue the removal of the large buckthorn roots and trunks in the wooded C-CCA area around the Pond and McKay Lake. We removed a considerable amount of buckthorn at the Pond as clearing the area may help to reduce the use of the area as a public toilet. Our three Conservation Monitors cheerfully helped to pull smaller buckthorn shrubs by hand and with the WeedWrench™. Volunteers for this project are welcome for 2012, both for work around the Pond and in the C-CCA. We will sign for volunteer hours for high school students.

Street Tree Inventory

Our village is known for its magnificent trees and our canopy cover. Two years ago, the city updated the property line survey. This set the stage for an update of the 2003 city tree inventory. There are over 2,670 street trees on the 16 km of roads in the inventory (more than 3,000 if we include those in the Village Green and the C-CCA. The most numerous native tree is the Sugar Maple (there are 620 – many of which are 100 years old or more). The most numerous invasive tree is the Norway Maple. We have eight street Butternuts (an endangered species protected

under the Ontario Endangered Species Act) and a number more on private property. From time to time there are suggestions that the Environment Committee create an inventory of trees on private property. Would any Village resident be interested in leading such an initiative?

Derek Chase, Marilyn Blattel, Jane Newcombe, Iola Price

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

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch was somewhat dormant in 2011 and in the December, the RPRA “advertised” for a new Coordinator. We are happy to announce that Kay James has agreed to step into this position and revitalize this important community function. The recent spate of break-ins to houses and automobiles reminds us that we all need to be vigilant but that vigilance is greatly enhanced by a strong presence of Neighbourhood Watch.

Neighbourhood Watch is a tiered concept with a Coordinator (at our Village level) and Block Captains and a search will be initiated for residents to serve in the Block Captain capacity. Email is a very effective way of doing just that and a space in the Rockcliffe News for Neighbourhood Watch information is also available. The RPRA will continue to offer its support to Neighbourhood Watch for meetings on Wednesday nights on an as-needed basis.

In 2011 the Rockcliffe Community Police Centre saw the departure of Cst. Chris Cochrane and three volunteers. The new Centre Officer is Cst. Ryan Pierce who has approximately eight years of experience with the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) after working with the City’s By-Law Services.

The patrol area for the Police Centre encompasses Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Lowertown and Sandy Hill, and this keeps Cst. Pierce very busy away from the office and in the community. Volunteers attend public events to deliver information and service on our core programmes and we currently have seven volunteers designated to this type of outreach. Police Centres also require volunteers on the front desk and the job description asks for a commitment of four hours every second week. We currently have six volunteers in this position and have a number of unfilled shifts so do consider phoning ahead if attending the Centre for any police related business to ensure that someone is there at that time. If you are interested in volunteering with the OPS please go to the OttawaPolice.ca website for more information.

The RPCPC hours are 9-5 Monday to Friday. You may leave a voice mail at 236-1222, ext. **5915 outside these hours but please note that, for all emergencies, you should dial 9-1-1.**

Alison Green and Iola Price

8. THE RPRA LIBRARY COMMITTEE

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.

In October members of the committee lead by Caryn Kewell organized and funded a family outreach program at the Library and Community Hall which attracted 180 parents and children of the wider community some of whom had not previously been aware of the branch and the excellent service it offers.

Thanks to the generosity of those who donated over 14,000 books and audio visual items , the two day Book Sale in April 2011 organized by the committee in support of the public library branch grossed over \$19,000. This year the addition of a rented tent made the sale a more orderly event. 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. Di Bethune makes sure that interesting titles are always available at rock bottom prices. Check it out next time you are in the library.

As in previous years the committee took the advice of Philip Robert, the Supervising Librarian, and donated money in support of the branch for magazine and newspaper renewals, children's and adult books, programming (visiting authors) for school groups, and for the first time, some teen games. The committee made its usual donation to the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library as well as a donation to an outreach program for the Aboriginal Community. The additional money supplied to the branch by the RPRAs annual spring book sale and its year round sale shelf makes an important contribution to the quality of service the branch is able to offer.

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 60 volunteers who work during the sale and throughout the year collecting, sorting, and pricing donations, staffing the sales desk, and advertising the event. Luckily the OPL is able to store our books off site once they are priced and sorted and return them to us the week of the sale.

Although the **book sale in 2012 is not until April 14 and 15**, the volunteers are already at work. It would be appreciated if those who plan to donate books to the April library sale could do so as early as possible so we can avoid being overwhelmed at the last moment. Donations can be brought to the library during the hours it is open. If you need to have your books picked up please get in touch with the library who will try to arrange it.

The question of the moment facing those who organize Book Sales is – what will be the effect on both donations and sales of the popularity of electronic books? These are interesting times for the book world.

Although I cannot mention the names of the 60+ volunteers I do want to say a special thank you to Gill and Laurie Kirkwood who along with Jane Newcombe, Brian Dickson and Lola Price do much of the heavy lifting on a regular basis and provide ingenious solutions to our many problems.

*Jane Dobell
Library Committee members*

Barbara Barker, Di Bethune , Jennifer Barbarie, Monique Coupal, Jane Davis, Jane Dobell, Joan and Tony Kellett, Caryn Kewell, Dilshad Macklem, Fran Obrien, Claire Ouseley, Sheila Nelles, Jane Newcombe, Mary Anne Smallwood.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Website and Email Alerts

The RPRAs communicates with its members and the Village as a whole in four ways – the Rockcliffe News, our website, the RPRAs bulletin board located on the Springfield Road side of the Library and Community Hall and email alerts available to all paid-up members.

The RPRAs web site at www.rockcliffepark.ca contains information pertinent to the Village and is updated regularly with articles and pictures provided by the RPRAs Directors.

In the period 26 September – 25 December, 2011, there were more than 4,000 pageloads, 2,222 unique visits of which just over 2,100 were first time visits. In the same period, there were just

under 100 return visits. Although the latter figure is low, it has begun to climb in number over this time frame – indicating that some people are consulting it on a regular basis.

A new feature of the website is the posting of the *Rockcliffe News* in full colour, along with archiving older issues on the Reports page. Posting the newsletter on the website will also mean that we can add material and photos that were not possible to include in the printed version.

Also included on the website is the posting of plans and drawings submitted under the Ontario Heritage Act for alterations to buildings, or proposals for demolition or new construction, in the Village. Although the city's heritage staff now send a letter describing such proposals to residents within a 60 m radius of the property in question, residents beyond that range may also wish to know what changes are planned. Staff now send the RPRA electronic versions of heritage applications for Rockcliffe Park and the documents may be found by pasting <http://rockcliffepark.ca/city.html> in your web browser and scrolling down to Applications Under the Heritage Act. Or, when in the RPRA's website, look under Development Applications with the City of Ottawa and click on the highlighted word "city".

RPRA members who give us their email addresses at the time they pay their annual membership dues, have been receiving email notices such as our first ever Security Alert following a sexual assault at the Pond, reminders of upcoming Speaker Program events and other community events such as the popular children's Halloween party in October, the children's Christmas party and our Christmas tree lighting and carol sing, in December. These email alerts are another benefit of RPRA membership.

Newsletter

The *Rockcliffe News* saw a change in Editorship this year. Julie Beatty stepped down after six years of dedicated service. The RPRA extends its thanks to Julie for all her work in getting the newsletter out during that time period. Hal Steacy continued to draw those witty cartoons that adorn the front page. Although Hal has semi-retired to The Rockcliffe, we hope that his trusty black pen will continue to enliven the newsletter.

Cynthia Hamady has stepped in as Editor and we wish to thank her for volunteering her time and talents. Cynthia, together with our volunteer webmaster Carmine Domenicucci has pioneered the posting of the newsletter, with colour photographs, on the RPRA website. But fear not, we will continue to deliver a paper copy to your mailboxes six times a year.

All the newsletters were hand-delivered to Rockcliffe residents by Village volunteers. Many thanks to: Sue Ashley, Marilyn Blattel, Derek Chase, Nancy and Ian Clark, Brian Dickson, Jane Dobell, Robin Fyfe, Chantal Gobeil, Doug and Nicky Hales, Alison Green, Walter Grego, Nancy Johnson, Anthony Keith, Joan Kingstone, Charles King, June Lindsey, Alex Macklin, Ainsley Malhotra, Kent Manderville, Louise Meyer, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, José Miguel Peleato, Iola Price, Mary Anne Smallwood, Lorna and Paul St. Louis, Mary and Si Taylor, Marilyn Venner and Ismene Wood. And a special thanks to Paul St. Louis for ensuring that our volunteer deliverers receive their bundles six times a year.

Carmine Domenicucci, Paul St. Louis and Iola Price

Appendix A

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2011**

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Cash	-	-
Accounts Receivable	\$ 5,750 *	\$ 1,250
Bank Accounts	49,784	50,517
Total Assets	<u>\$ 55,534</u>	<u>\$ 51,767</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Members' Net Assets</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenue</u>		
Deferred Revenue - Next Year Memberships	\$ 1,545	\$ 2,125
Accounts Payable	4,132 *	2,370
Total Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenue	\$ 5,677	\$ 4,495
 <u>Members' Net Assets</u>		
Restricted Funds (Library)	\$ 2,978	\$ 3,626
Net Unrestricted RPRAs funds	46,880	43,647
Total Members' Net Assets	\$ 49,857	\$ 47,272
Total Liabilities and Members' Net Assets	<u>\$ 55,534</u>	<u>\$ 51,767</u>
 <u>Unrestricted RPRAs Assets</u>		
Net Assets – Beginning	\$ 43,647	\$ 42,233
Excess (Shortfall)	3,233	1,414
Net Assets – Ending	<u>\$ 46,880</u>	<u>\$ 43,647</u>
 <u>Details of Accounts Payable (AP)</u>		
Children's Christmas Party	\$ 1,132	\$ 1,500
Soccer Field Maintenance*	\$ 3,000 *	
Jacques Legendre Recognition		100
Jubilee Garden		770
Total	<u>\$ 4,132</u>	<u>\$ 2,370</u>
 <u>Details of Accounts Receivable (AR)</u>		
Children's Christmas Party*	\$ -	\$ 1,250
Lindenlea Soccer Contribution*	3,750 *	
RPPS Soccer Contribution	2,000	
Total	<u>\$ 5,750</u>	<u>\$ 1,250</u>

* Estimate

Library Account For The Year Ended December 31, 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Balance December 31	\$ 3,625.70	\$ 1,761.71
<u>Book Sale Revenue</u>	19,711.19	17,898.08
<u>Expenses</u>		
Printing & Signs	1,542.07	829.36
Grant to Library	16,500.00	14,500.00
Expenses	2,317.14	704.73
Total Expenses	20,359.21	16,034.09
Income (Loss)	(648.02)	1,863.99
Balance December 31 2010	\$ 2,977.68	\$ 3,625.70

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Revenue and Expense Details For The Years Ending December 31st, 2010 and 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Revenue	58,599	41,740
General and Admin	21,495	20,458
Bank Interest	100	173
Memberships Current Year	6,250	5,255
Village Foundation	15,000	15,000
Other	145	30
Heritage	2,675	1,757
Publications	884	1,107
Rockcliffe Photo Exhibit		625
Queen Juliana Hall Lettering	1,786	
Miscellaneous	5	25
Environment	15,230	4
Buckthorn Removal Grant	5,085	
Pond Monitor Grant	10,000	
Miscellaneous	145	4
Social	8,749	9,571
Children's Christmas Party	1,150	1,250
Speaker P Evening	505	335
Speaker P Lunch	2,130	3,746
T-Shirts	125	200
85th Anniversary	4,639	
Dîner-en-Blanc		340
Jacques Legrendre Recognition	200	3,700
Sports	10,450	9,950
Rinks	4,700	4,700
Soccer Program and Running Track Rehabilitation	5,750	5,250

Revenue and Expense Details For The Years Ending December 31st, 2010 and 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Expenses	55,366	40,326
General and Admin	7,693	5,498
Newsletter Printing and Mailing	3,902	2,448
Annual Report Printing	1,645	817
Bank Charge RPRA	482	195
Directors Liability Insurance	484	586
Membership Dues	190	160
Other Printing	606	440
Tom Mosco Recognition		340
Miscellaneous	384	510
Heritage	6,052	1,846
Legal	350	990
Reprint Humphrey Carver Book		848
Pat Murray Plaque	1,554	
Queen Juliana Lettering	1,786	
Walking Tour Booklet	2,343	
Miscellaneous	19	8
Environment	18,127	6,821
Jubilee Garden	2,950	3,690
Pond Water Monitoring	188	158
Pond Monitors	9,879	
C-CCA Buckthorn Removal	5,085	2,938
Miscellaneous	25	35
Social	11,832	11,515
Children's Christmas Party	1,485	1,621
Christmas Tree Lighting/Salvation Army Donation	975	902
Speaker Program Evening	1,094	1,061
Speaker Program Lunch	3,236	2,957
Jacques Legendre Recognition	200	4,523
85th Anniversary	4,627	
Children's Halloween Party	215	
Municipal Election Forum		120
Dîner-en-Blanc		330
Sports	10,662	14,647
Rink	4,790	4,379
Soccer and Running Track Rehabilitation	5,872	10,268
Interprovincial Bridge (Kettle Island)	1,000	
Income - Expenses Library Excluded	3,233	1,413