

ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2012**



Joint Annual Meeting of the RPRA

&

The Village Foundation

20 February, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2012 was an active year for the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association in such areas as community events, heritage and the environment. In addition, we are working on traffic issues and have begun to attend consultations with respect to the redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe Airbase.

As regards community events, the Library Book Sale continues to be a magnet for book lovers looking for a bargain. This past year, the sale grossed \$16,400, which came close to last year's income which set an all time record. The funds will be used primarily in support of the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, with 15% going to support projects in other areas.

The Lunch and Evening Speakers Programs, organized by Mary Taylor and Susan d'Aquino respectively, continued throughout the year, drawing first class speakers and filling the Community Hall. Other community events included an early summer casual get together at the Rockcliffe Boathouse, a community garage sale, a successful wine tasting event, hosted in cooperation with the High Commission of South Africa, as well as the traditional Children's Christmas Party, Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting. The RPRA also continued to support the popular soccer and rink programs.

On heritage, we are continuing to make progress on the project to develop a Heritage District Conservation Plan for the Village as required under the 2005 Ontario Heritage Act. An inventory of all Rockcliffe properties has been taken and this past year an evaluation team of Heritage Committee members and a city heritage planner completed the ratings of each property in terms of its heritage attributes. The city will use this data in preparing a draft of the new district plan that will include updated guidelines for the management of the heritage district.

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

There were two achievements in the area of the environment, both relating to the Pond. In 2013, the city will resume responsibility for the Monitor Program which the RPRA had successfully administered for the previous two years. We have offered community support in implementing this new arrangement. I am also pleased to report that the city plans to hire a consultant to advise on environmental issues at the Pond, in particular, bank stability and erosion assessment.

The Environment Committee also addressed other issues such as the fate of our ash trees, assisting with a survey of butternut trees in the Village and the removal of the invasive Garlic Mustard and buckthorn in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area.

On communications, as in previous years, the RPRA published six newsletters to keep residents informed of issues affecting our community. Feedback from the survey carried out this year indicates that the newsletter is very much appreciated by Village residents. I would like to thank Cynthia Hamady, editor of the newsletter, for taking on this responsibility, and for improving its format and content. We continue to enhance our ability to reach out to residents via the website and our new email announcement system of which there were about 20 this year.

The RPRA was also active on the bridge issue. We worked with like minded community associations to organize an effective rally in June to express opposition to a possible bridge at Kettle Island, and in fact, to all three proposed corridors. Subsequently, we submitted comments opposing the bridge on social and cultural grounds, two areas that we believe have been seriously overlooked in the consultative process. We had expected that an evaluation committee would recommend one of the three corridors in the fall, but, at the time of writing, this has yet to occur.

As mentioned in the introduction, public consultations are now underway with respect to the redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe Airbase. Members of the RPRA Board have already met in a preliminary meeting with Canada Lands, owner of the site and responsible for its development. Their goal is to develop a Community Design Plan for the site and present it to the city by the spring of 2014. Among other issues, we flagged traffic as a major concern. We are pleased that

Canada Lands has begun the consultative process early, prior to making major decisions, and that they are actively encouraging community input.

On the topic of traffic, there is increasing concern within the Village with respect to new patterns of commuter traffic that use Village streets as a shortcut to circumvent congestion on the Rockcliffe Parkway. These patterns may become ingrained and will be exacerbated with the redevelopment of the airbase. We are working with our Councillor, Peter Clark, on this issue and have established a working group of residents who are concerned about and affected by commuter traffic to recommend a course of action.

You may be aware of a proposal by a group of enthusiastic residents to build a new community facility, composed of a permanent outdoor rink pad and fieldhouse, located on the grounds of the Rockcliffe Park Public School adjacent to the Jubilee Garden. The RPRA has been kept informed of the status of this initiative and has discussed opportunities as well as concerns. We understand that public consultations will take place in the near future.

As in the past, the RPRA has worked closely on community priorities with the Village Foundation and its Chair, Bonnie Robinson. The Foundation, through income 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. As examples, this year the funds helped us revitalize the Jubilee Garden, contributed to the evening Speaker Program, Christmas in the Village, The Rockcliffe News and Annual Report, as well as the popular soccer program. On behalf of the RPRA, I acknowledge the importance of this contribution to our work and thank the Foundation for its continuing financial support.

In closing, I would like to thank our Councillor, Peter Clark, for his wry sense of humour, for his attentiveness, and for the work that he carries out on our behalf. Many thanks Peter!

Finally, hats off to board and committee members and the many volunteers who contribute their time, talents and energy to the Village and who bring to life all of the activities that I have described above. You make our community the special place that it is.

Brian Dickson

HERITAGE, LEGAL ISSUES AND PLANNING

Heritage

The Heritage Committee deals with issues affecting the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District (HCD). The full committee met five times in 2012. The Development Review Subcommittee provides advice on request to City of Ottawa heritage planners on proposals to make major exterior alterations to buildings, demolish buildings or to build new ones. Advice is based on the heritage district's Management Guidelines. Twenty-nine projects were reviewed during 2012, including three demolitions.

The District Plan Subcommittee, together with a City heritage planner, rated the remainder of properties within the HCD (500 properties were reviewed in 2011). Now that all evaluations are complete the City heritage planner has begun the task of redrafting the Heritage Conservation District Plan for the village.

The committee undertook a number of projects throughout the year, such as contributing to an Ontario wide survey of Heritage Conservation Districts, planning the digitization of the village's oral history recordings, creating a Heritage Communications Subcommittee to promote understanding of heritage issues throughout the village, organizing a plaque to commemorate the Birkenfels Gates, reviewing and renewing the committee's goals and objectives, and analyzing the results of two surveys relating to heritage issues in the village.

Prepared by Kathy Day

Committee members: Victoria Angel, John Cook, Kathy Day (Chair), Linda Dicaire, Marilyn Donoghue, Magalie Dubé, Martha Edmond, Caroline Frewer, Robin Fyfe, Anthony Keith

(Secretary), Joan Kingstone, Vic Lanctis, Graeme McCallum, Robert McElligott, Diana Rowley, J.H. (Si) Taylor, George Tymowski, David Waiser. Margaret Gerard retired in 2012 after contributing for more than a quarter century to the conservation of Rockcliffe's heritage. Thank you Margaret.

Legal

An ad hoc working group has updated the RPRA by-laws to bring them into conformity with the new federal Not For Profit Corporations Act. The new by-laws will be presented for approval at the AGM on February 20.

Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton

The Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton 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, take joint action. The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association has been a member of the FCA since amalgamation. The FCA also includes associations from the city centre, the inner suburbs, the suburban communities outside the Greenbelt and rural Ottawa. Meetings of its approximately 35 members take place monthly.

Recent FCA initiatives include: a forum on how to deal with the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer, establishing an agreed definition of "community associations" so as to remove community associations (CA) from the city's designated list of lobbyist groups, reviews of Ottawa Official Plans, the 2008 Comprehensive Zoning By-law and its subsequent amendments, and the Intensification/infill Policy. The RPRA has played an active role in these and other FCA efforts, in particular taking the lead on a move to introduce a 40 km/hr. speed limit in all residential areas of Ottawa. Further developments on this latter initiative are anticipated in the coming year.

In the near future, the FCA is expected to address such key issues as the 2013 Official Plan review and expansion (or not) of the Urban Boundary, Comprehensive Zoning By-law updating, rink construction and management, CA insurance (liability and directors), and CA access to community centres. The RPRA will be at the table as the FCA develops its positions on these important issues.

Anna Blauveldt

Committee of Adjustment Advisory Committee

Thanks to Peter Hyde and his advisory committee members, Karl Blume, Bill Breen, Peggy Gibson and Graeme McCallum for advice on minor variances proposed in the village and for representing the RPRA at Ottawa Committee of Adjustment meetings when necessary in 2012

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of 2012 the RPRA had the following funds:

- Unrestricted Funds: \$60,408. An increase of \$13,529 from 2011;
- Library Fund: \$1,425;
- Heritage Fund: \$1,065. This is a new account in 2012. The money was contributed by the Heritage committee and originates from recoveries of material from houses being renovated or demolished.

These funds are kept in the same bank account and the tracking of income and expenses is done by the Treasurer. The allocations in the Library and Heritage funds are controlled by the respective committees. Most of the money, \$53,114, is invested in easy- to- cash and relatively safe government bonds. A separate Finance Committee oversees the RPRA's financial activities.

A significant amount of funds were generated in 2012. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Planned heritage activities funded by the Village Foundations were not able to be completed in 2012 due to unforeseen circumstances. The update of the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan was delayed due to the City not completing its portion of the work on time.

- A change in the location and intensity of two sprinkler heads in the Jubilee Garden lawn watering system were required before they could be painted.
- A number of expenses came below plan due to volunteer efforts to control costs

The Heritage projects, along with the production and installation of a heritage plaque for the Gates will be completed in 2013 and \$7,000 is allocated in the 2013 budget.

Jose Miguel Peleato

2012 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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 2012, the membership dues helped pay for the Newsletter and our popular social events such as the Christmas party for our children and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing featuring the Salvation Army's Citadel brass band.

For 2012, 237 of the approximately 766 occupied houses in the Village joined as Association members, representing about 31% of the Village, down from last year's 32% and not yet back to our 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 2013 and we will be looking for someone to lead a membership drive. In addition to our resident members, the RPRA also has about a number of 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

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND REPORTS

Speakers Program

2012 marks the twelfth year of our community's Speakers Program. We continue to attract outstanding speakers and enthusiastic audiences to these admission-free events. Topics ranged from art and museums, to diplomacy, Canada's armed forces, politics, and health care. Usually held on Wednesday evenings, and occasionally as lunches, we were delighted to welcome the following speakers in 2012.

Lieutenant General (Ret'd) Andrew Leslie told us about the far-reaching report he was instrumental in preparing – "Transforming Canada's Armed Forces". Anabelle Kienle, co-curator of the National Gallery of Canada's landmark exhibition Van Gogh: Up Close, took us behind the scenes to give a wonderfully personal account of what was involved in putting this exhibition together.

Julie Jacobson, wife of the United States Ambassador to Canada, gave a warm and intriguing account of "A Day in My Life". Victor Rabinovitch, past head of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, challenged us with a thoughtful presentation called "A Worldwide Revolution in Museums: Changing Roles, Challenges and Urban Impacts".

Terry Milewski, senior correspondent for the CBC, did not disappoint with an insightful perspective on "Harper's Canada in 2015". Jeffrey Simpson, The Globe and Mail's national affairs columnist, ended the year's program by making the case, as set out in his new book, that Canada's health care system is in a chronic condition.

Susan Peterson and Mary Taylor

With lots of help from Jane Dobell, Randolph Gherson, Nancy Hooper, Iola Price and Vivian Thompson.

Library Book Sale and Rockcliffe Park Library

Rockcliffe and its surrounding communities are fortunate that they are able to support two quality book sales each year – the April RPRA sale in support of the local Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), and the sale in November organized by school parents in support of the local Public School.

The Library Committee which organizes the Book Sale in support of the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the OPL is under the RPRA for administrative purposes, but it draws its approximately 60 volunteers from the larger geographic area which the branch serves. This includes New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, and part of Manor Park.

Thanks to the generosity of those who donated over 12,000 books and audio visual items, the two day Book Sale in April 2012 organized by the Library Committee grossed over \$17,000. As in the previous year the addition of a rented tent made the sale a more orderly event. The cost of the tent this year was covered by our important sponsor **McGarry Family Chapels**. I would like to thank Brian McGarry for organizing this generous donation.

The library 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.

The money supplied to the library branch by the annual spring book sale and the year round sale shelf makes an important contribution to the quality of service the branch is able to offer. 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 books and adult "quick reads", programming (visiting authors) for school groups, and some teen games. On the advice of Philip Robert, the committee donated 15 % of the net sales to a library initiative in the wider OPL system and to the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association.

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/or 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.

The book sale in 2013 will be held April 13 and 14, and the volunteers are ready NOW! to process your donated Books, CDs, DVDs, Vinyl records etc. It would be appreciated if those who plan to donate books to the April library sale could do so as soon 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 at 613 745-2562 to make arrangements.

The question of the moment facing those who organize Book Sales is – how will book sales be effected by the popularity of electronic books? From our record of sales it seems that even the most electronically minded will continue to buy the printed book.

Jane Dobell, Chair of the RPRA Library Committee

Thanks to the Library Committee members who do what has to be done year round: Barbara Barker, Jennifer Barbarie, Di Bethune, Monique Coupal, Jane Davis, Brian Dickson, Jane Dobell, Linda McDonald, Scott Heatherington, Helen Heighington, Joan and Tony Kellett, Caryn Kewell, Gill and Laurie Kirkwood, Dilshad Macklem, Karen McClure, Jill Moll, Sheila Nelles, Jane Newcombe, Fran O'Brien, Claire Ouseley, Iola Price, Georges Proulx, Claire Schofield, Mary Anne Smallwood, Helen Westington, Ellen Zeiss and the many volunteers who help on the days of the sale. And a special thank you to David Waiser who manages the signs and A Frames which advertise the sale and to school book fair veterans Seanna Kreager, Sarah Baxter, Maggie Knaus and Michelle Collum who are so generous with equipment, time and advice.

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 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 Hilldale 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 league used an online registration tool that allowed the organizer to recruit volunteers, accept registrations and allocate the children to teams. A big thank you Katherine Hall for that program co-ordination and to Bruce Covington, for organizing the coaches and the coaching clinic. Last, but not least, thanks to the parent volunteers, who step forward as coaches and organizers; your support is essential to the program's continued success.

Wine Tasting

In November, the RPRA held its first-ever wine tasting event, hosted by and featuring wines provided by the **High Commission of South Africa**. Forty people tasted and compared six whites and seven reds, all of which are available locally, receiving advice from two experienced sommeliers on which wine would pair best with the many cheeses and meats set out for the evening. Guests were welcomed by His Excellency Membathisi Shepherd Mdladana, the High Commissioner and Brian Dickson and Magalie Dubé of the RPRA. Many of those present had already visited South Africa and they enjoyed viewing the images projected of South African wildlife and scenery and the opportunity to touch artifacts displayed throughout the room.

Magalie Dubé

Children's Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 9th, approximately 150 children and parents gathered at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall for the annual children's Christmas party. The children revelled in 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, Christmas carol singing lead by "Michael", tasty treats, warm food and hot chocolate with whipped cream. Many children also put together and proudly decorated gingerbread houses.

A special thank you to **Cindy Sezlik** of Sezlik.com realty for offering to help defray many of the costs associated with this event and for providing us with gifts in kind. After many years of sponsorship, thank you to outgoing sponsor **Nancy O'Dea** of Royal Lepage Performance Realty who kindly sponsored the children's party in previous years.

Thank you as well to all who kindly and generously donated to the mitten and "toque" tree. If there is anyone interested in volunteering at the Children's Christmas party next year, please contact me.

Russ Gibson

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

The annual Christmas tree lighting and carol singing event was held on Wednesday 5 December 2012, starting at 6:30 pm. This was 30 minutes earlier than last year to accommodate the **Elmwood Junior School Choir** but it is proposed to revert to 7:00 pm next year to give more time for the setting up.

Prior to the event, Graeme McCallum presented the Salvation Army with the RPRA's annual donation in appreciation for their coming to lead the carol sing and, more importantly, to assist the Salvation Army in its important community work. The event started with the Elmwood Junior School choir singing a number of carols and Christmas songs for the first 15 minutes. They were

then followed by **The Salvation Army** brass ensemble, who accompanied the carol singers and played to around 7:30 pm.

Azhra and Mark McMahon of Tim Hortons very kindly sponsored the event by providing hot drinks and snacks to all the hungry choir, brass ensemble and carol singers.

We again had an excellent attendance with a large numbers of Elmwood School pupils participating in the choir. Total attendance was around 100 – 150 people.

In summary, a very successful and enjoyable evening. The only disappointment being the lack of snow but that was made up by the collection of 100 pounds of food for the Ottawa Food Bank!

Graeme McCallum

ENVIRONMENT

Pond Monitors

The atmosphere at the Pond had changed for the worse after three summers without monitors. Following upon our successful 2011 effort, the RPRA applied to Parks, Recreation & Culture and in 2012 received a \$15,000 grant which allowed us to again hire three Conservation Monitors. We were fortunate to find three young and enthusiastic students, one of whom was a 2011 Monitor. The expanded grant allowed us to have them on site from 2:00 to 7:30 p.m. daily from the long weekend in May until Labour Day. This was the first year in many years in which no vandalism occurred; the fence was not cut nor were signs vandalized. (A fence repair was made after a severe thunderstorm felled a tree which landed on a portion of the fence and blocked the trail.)

Although a more peaceful atmosphere generally prevailed, the crowds of people who came to the Pond to escape a very hot summer, did create issues. There were the usual problems of garbage being thrown on the shore, broken beer bottles and one incident of three sexual assaults in rapid succession but, thanks to quick-thinking bystanders, the culprit was apprehended and charged.

In spite of these problems, it was obvious that the atmosphere had improved markedly over previous years. The By-law supervisor reported that the monitors need to phone only 7-10 times this summer, and that they continued to be a “valuable resource”. 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.

In 2013, the city will resume responsibility for the Monitor Program. And, the city has proposed to hire a consultant to advise on environmental issues at the Pond, in particular, bank stability and erosion assessment.

Water Quality

The post-summer level of the water in the Pond is lower than the 2011 level which itself was the lowest on record. We hope that this winter’s snowfall and spring rains will help to raise the water level. We are again exploring with the city our proposal to raise the water levels using water from the deep well drilled for that purpose when the condominiums were built. Summer-months bacterial testing of Pond water is carried out by the City of Ottawa. This year’s three tests all showed *E. coli* counts well below the ON Ministry of the Environment beach guideline of 100 *E. coli*. per 100 ml. For the past ten years, the RPRA has sampled the water three times per summer for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus. In spite of the changing water levels, there do not appear to be significant changes in nutrient levels from year to year although there are periodic seasonal spikes. Buckthorn removal at the Pond was limited to removing branches with berries in order to stop the spread of the fruit. As in the past, Sugar Maple and Chokecherry seeds were planted on the shoreline and semi-cleared areas around the Pond as part of the shoreline rehabilitation program but due to the drought, they may not survive.

Ash and Butternut Trees

In 2011 homeowners from New Edinburgh to Cardinal Glen pooled their efforts to protect their ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. Regrettably, this did not happen in 2012 as there was limited

interest in such a program. The EAB continued to spread and at least 25 ash trees were removed in Rockcliffe with more marked with a large red X meaning that they will be cut down this winter or next spring. Although only 4% of our street trees are ashes there are many more on private property some of which are beginning to show signs of EAB-infection. Many of these ashes are mature (i.e. large) and they provide 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. It is not too late to protect ash trees with TreeAzin® on either public or private property and residents who think their property has an ash can contact Lola Price (iolaprice@comnet.ca) or Jane Newcombe (janenewcombe08@gmail.com) for a tree identification in the spring and we will provide information on steps that you can take to protect your tree.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Butternut Technician visited the Village to check on the status 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 2011 levels; and, to look for developing nuts. Only two Butternut trees on the Rockcliffe list remained healthy but again, the advanced ripening date (warm weather) meant that the squirrels got to the nuts before we did.

Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area (C-CCA) Remediation

With the assistance of an Ashbury student earning volunteer hours, we continued to remove small buckthorn from the woodlot. As well, we removed Garlic Mustard, another invasive plant from one portion of the C-CCA. Volunteers for this project are welcome for 2013, both for work around the Pond and in the C-CCA. We will sign for volunteer hours for high school students. Watch for an article on the conservation work at the C-CCA in an upcoming issue of Ottawa Magazine as part of a feature on Ottawa Woodlands.

Derek Chase, Marilyn Blattel, Jane Newcombe, Lola Price

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

INTERPROVINCIAL CROSSING

It has been a very busy year on the interprovincial crossing file. The NCC consultants unveiled their preferred alignments for each of the three corridors in late May. All three potential bridge crossings contemplate a six-lane approach, with four lanes for cars and heavy trucks and two lanes dedicated to transit. The alignment for Corridor 5 (Kettle Island) would connect Highway 50 in Gatineau to Highway 417 at the Split via the Aviation Parkway.

The consultants held an open house in June to obtain public feedback on the proposed alignments. Communities from all three corridors united at the open house to express their opposition to the process and to the proposed bridge locations. They presented a common message that none of the crossings, as proposed, will solve the downtown truck problem. Nor have they been properly researched or tied into a broader integrated regional transportation plan. Instead, all three of the proposed crossings would create significant traffic gridlock for many communities in the east end and spread the truck problem to other neighbourhoods.

The rally was a huge success, with hundreds of supporters in attendance, including local politicians. Immediately following the rally, Mayor Jim Watson announced that he does not support a bridge at any of the three locations and that the money would be better spent on rapid transit and extension of the LRT.

The NCC was expected to announce this fall which of the three corridors is its preferred option for a new interprovincial crossing, but that announcement now looks to be delayed until late winter or early spring of 2013. There will be another round of public consultations before a final decision is made. The RPRA will continue to work with other concerned communities to vigorously oppose any bridge at Kettle Island.

Lori Assheton-Smith

ROCKCLIFFE AIRBASE REDEVELOPMENT

As many Rockcliffe Park Residents are aware, the Rockcliffe air base redevelopment is now going forward after a number of delays dating back several years. It is located at the eastern extension of Hemlock Ave. beyond St. Laurent Blvd south of the Aviation and Space Museum.

The military use of the area dates back to 1899 when it was known as the Rockcliffe rifle range. Beginning in the 1920s it was a self contained military aviation and residential community and it continued as a military residential base until 1964 when DND declared it surplus and gradually closed it down. Subsequently Canada Lands Company (CLC), a federal agency, charged with dealing with surplus federal lands, began to consider uses for the property in consultation with interested members of the public. Residents from adjoining communities, including Rockcliffe Park, became involved as member of advisory committees.

The Algonquin Indian land claim which resulted in a suspension of redevelopment plans was ultimately resolved with the payment of monies by the Canadian Govt., and as a result in 2011 CLC, took title to the property and development plans recommenced. The CLC Director of Real Estate, Don Schultz, leads the development team. Mr. Schultz has met individually and then collectively with representatives of neighbouring communities (the Public Advisory Group) including Rockcliffe Park this past fall to share CLC's vision for the air base redevelopment and to seek ideas. One very welcome piece of news was that CLC plans to substantially reduce the resident population at the former air base from what had originally been proposed.

The abandoned buildings on the 300 acre site are being demolished. A strip of land adjacent the NRC compound will be set aside for startups of high tech businesses. CLC is eager to preserve as much of the natural landscape as possible including some of the oldest trees in Ottawa. They also wish to preserve the northern border of the property that looks out over the Ottawa River. An open house "Ideas Fair" was held at the Aviation and Space Museum on November 26 to provide the public with proposals for the proposed redevelopment of the former air base.

It is anticipated that the main entrance and exits to and from the property will be to the south and not to the west. This should come as a relief to Rockcliffe and neighbouring communities concerned about extra vehicle loading on Beechwood Ave. It is also proposed to access the Aviation Parkway. The site plan design and access routes will also be affected depending on the location of the Interprovincial crossing if it goes ahead.

A Community Design Plan should be completed by the spring of 2014 with the infrastructure in place and the first lots available for sale. The redevelopment of the former air base will occur in stages over a period of up to 15 years. An official name for the new development has not yet been announced but the RPRA has requested that it not use the name "Rockcliffe".

For updated information on the progress of redevelopment of the former air base, go to the Canada Lands website: www.clcrockcliffe.ca.

Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPRA

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Revitalization of the Rockcliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch program is in progress. The program is essentially an enhancement of the good neighbourliness that is an attractive feature of life in the Village. Not only are there security benefits, but an active Neighbourhood Watch program enhances the reputation of the Village as a safe, caring community.

Many of our experienced Block Captains have agreed to continue, and several new ones have been recruited. There are, however, areas of the village still without a representative. Residents of those areas will be contacted to ask whether they are able to participate. Even people who are away from Rockcliffe for part of the year can make a useful contribution. Block Captains are asked to maintain an up-to-date list of householders in their group, and to welcome new arrivals and give them the opportunity to participate. While there are occasional meetings where Block Captains

receive updates and discuss security issues, there is no obligation to attend. Email addresses are not shared or disclosed.

All Neighbourhood Watch members are urged to be alert to security issues, and consider taking advantage of a range of services that are offered through the program. Block Captains especially are asked to set a good example by adopting appropriate home security measures. From time to time there are security alerts and tips to be passed along informally, and the local knowledge of Watch members can be useful for recognising incidents that are unusual for the neighbourhood. Any concerns should of course be passed along to the police.

Our new Rockcliffe Community Police Centre Officer, Cst. Ryan Pierce, has already become a valued part of the community. For information regarding the program, please contact

Kay James, Coordinator, Rockcliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch rpranw@gmail.com

ROCKCLIFFE PARK COMMUNITY POLICE CENTRE: OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE

Through 2012 the Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre (CPC) continued to be staffed by Cst. Ryan Pierce, who came to the position in February 2011. He is responsible for community policing in Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Lowertown and Sandy Hill, which primarily involves outreach and meetings with community groups.

The CPC hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. Police Centres staff volunteers on the front desks who contribute in several ways. Currently there are five volunteers who attend public events to deliver information and service on our core programmes. Volunteers also take part in other pro-active projects in the community with a view to informing about crime prevention tools and tips that can be easily incorporated into everyday activities to better protect property and person. The job description asks for a commitment of four hours every second week. This means that each week has ten shifts – two per day, five days a week. Our current five volunteers, cover approximately half of the office open hours. .

Therefore it is a good idea to phone ahead to ensure that a CPC Volunteer or Cst. Pierce is there at that time. You may leave a voice mail at 613-236-1222, ext. 5915 outside these hours or ext 8520 for Cst. Pierce.

Remember that it is important to report incidents to police, even those of a seemingly minor nature. **Non-urgent** reports can be made by phoning 613-236-1222, ext. 7300. The information you provide is of great importance to the Ottawa Police Service and enables crime analysts to establish patterns so that resources can be specifically directed to address those problems. **For all emergencies, you should dial 9-1-1.**

If you are interested in volunteering with the OPS, or for other information, you can go to OttawaPolice.ca. And, as of November 2012, you can follow Cst. Pierce on Twitter @RockcliffeCPC.

Alison Green

COMMUNICATIONS

Website and Email Alerts

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

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

In the period 24 September – 30 December, 2012, there were more than 4,300 page-loads and almost 2,200 first time visits. In the same period, there were 250 return visits, indicating that more

people are now consulting the website on a regular basis. For the entire year, there were 24,000 page loads, 12,000 first time and 1,000 returning visits to the website.

A continuing feature of the website is the posting of the *Rockcliffe News* in full colour, along with archived older issues on the Reports page. Posting the newsletter on the website also means 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. City staff 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 Security Alerts, reminders of upcoming Speaker Program events and other community events such as the popular children's Christmas party and our Christmas tree lighting and carol sing, in December. These email alerts are another benefit of RPRA membership.

Newsletter

Cynthia Hamady, our able and volunteer newsletter editor continued in the tradition of producing six newsletters, updating the format and adding more pictures and new content. We lost our long-time cartoonist, Hal Steacy and in the absence of any other volunteer cartoonist, Cynthia has expanded the Dates to Remember column. The RPRA is grateful for her skill in turning out a quality product against such short deadlines. The newsletter is posted to the website as soon as it is sent to the printer and the advantage is that the pictures may be viewed in colour. Those who responded to the Village Survey told us that you want to continue receiving the newsletter in your mailbox, so we will continue doing so.

Many thanks to our volunteer deliverers who, in 2012, delivered your newsletters and village flyers through all kinds of weather: Sue Ashley, Chris and Stephanie Barker, Marilyn Blattel, Derek Chase, Nancy and Ian Clark, Brian Dickson, Jane Dobell, Chantal Gobeil, Alison Green, Walter Grego, Doug and Nicky Hales, Sue Harcourt, Nancy Johnson, Anthony Keith, Joan Kingstone, Charles King, June Lindsey, Alex Macklin, Ainsley Malhotra, Kent Manderville, Louise Meyer, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, José Miguel and Pam Peleato, Iola Price, Tani and Gregory Sanders, Mary Anne Smallwood, Lorna and Paul St. Louis, Mary and Si Taylor, Marilyn Venner, Cathryn Warren, and Ismene Wood. And a special thanks to Paul St. Louis for ensuring that our volunteer deliverers receive their bundles on time six times a year.

Village Survey

In 2011, the RPRA conducted a survey of residents to learn your views on recreation, heritage, communications, roads and traffic, the environment and city services. This survey followed the many of the themes of the first Village survey in 2001. The tabulated results, together with your comments on these and other issues were distributed with the August newsletter.

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association
Balance Sheet
31 December 2012**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash		
Accounts Receivable		5,750
Bank Accounts	62,918	49,784
Total Assets	<u>62,918</u>	<u>55,534</u>
<u>Liabilities and Members' Net Assets</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenue</u>		
Deferred Revenue - Next Year Memberships	20	1,545
Accounts Payable		4,132
Total Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenue	<u>20</u>	<u>5,677</u>
<u>Members' Net Assets</u>		
Restricted Funds (Library, Heritage)	2,490	2,978
Net Unrestricted RPRAs funds	60,408	46,880
Total Members' Net Assets	<u>62,898</u>	<u>49,857</u>
Total Liabilities and Members' Net Assets	<u>62,918</u>	<u>55,534</u>
Unrestricted RPRAs Assets		
	<u>2,012</u>	<u>2,011</u>
Net Assets – Beginning	46,880	44,516
Excess (Shortfall)	<u>13,529</u>	<u>2,364</u>
Net Assets – Ending	<u>60,408</u>	<u>46,880</u>
<u>Details of Accounts Payable (AP)</u>		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Children's Christmas Party	**	1,132
Soccer Field Maintenance		3,000
Total		<u>4,132</u>
<u>Details of Accounts Receivable (AR)</u>		
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Children's Christmas Party	**	
Lindenlea Soccer Contribution		3,750
RPPS Soccer Contribution		2,000
Total		<u>5,750</u>
**Information not available		

Library Account For The Years Ending December 31st

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Balance December 31	2,978	3,626
Book Sale Revenue	18,240	19,711
Expenses		
Printing & Signs	435	1,542
Grant to Library	16,750	16,500
Expenses	2,608	2,317
Total expenses	19,793	20,359
Income (Loss)	-1,553	-648
Balance December 31	1,425	2,978

Heritage Fund Balance December 31st

	<u>2012</u>
Initial Deposit	1,065
Balance December 31 2012	1,065

Revenue and Expense Details For The Years Ending December 31st

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total Revenue	51,239	56,613
General and Admin	23,520	21,495
Bank Interest	515	100
Memberships current year	5,920	6,250
Village Foundation	17,000	15,000
Other	85	145
Heritage	1,380	889
Publications	273	884
Birkenfels Gate Plaque Grant	1,102	
Miscellaneous	5	5
Environment	15,371	15,230
Buckthorn Removal Grant		5,085
Pond Monitor Grant	15,356	10,000
Miscellaneous	16	145
Social	2,519	8,549
Children's Christmas Party		1,150
Speaker P Evening	549	505
Speaker P Lunch	1,190	2,130
T-Shirts	20	125
85th Anniversary		4,639
South Africa Wine & Cheese	760	
Sports	8,450	10,450
Rinks	4,700	4,700
Soccer, Running Track Rehabilitation	3,750	5,750

Revenue and Expense Details For The Years Ending December 31st

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total Expenses	37,711	54,366
General and Admin	5,992	7,693
Newsletter Printing and Mailing	3,336	3,902
Annual Report Printing	467	1,645
Bank Charge RPRA	264	482
Directors Liability Insurance	754	484
Membership Dues	24	190
Other Printing	530	606
Neighbourhood Watch	79	
Communications	353	
Miscellaneous	185	384
Heritage	969	6,052
Tape Transcription	376	
Birkenfels Gates	330	
Counterpunch	226	
Legal		350
Pat Murray Plaque		1,554
Queen Juliana Lettering		1,786
Walking Tour Booklet		2,343
Miscellaneous	38	19
Environment	19,729	18,127
Community Hall Grounds	226	
Jubilee Garden & Flower Beds	4,081	2,950
Pond Water Monitoring	209	188
Pond Monitors	15,212	9,879
CCCA Buckthorn Removal		5,085
Miscellaneous	1	25
Social	6,080	11,832
Christmas Children's Party	283	1,485
Christmas Tree/Salvation Army Donation	981	975
Speaker Program Evening	2,898	1,094
Speaker Program Lunch	1,182	3,236
South African Wine & Cheese	736	
Jacques Legendre Recognition		200
85th Anniversary		4,627
Halloween Children's Party		215
Sports	4,940	10,662
Rink	2,931	4,790
Soccer Program and Running Track Rehabilitation	2,010	5,872
Income – Expenses Library Excluded	13,529	2,247