



The Rockcliffe News

December 2015

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

www.rockcliffepark.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Dickson, President

brianhdickson1@gmail.com

Kathy Day, Vice President

kathyday@hotmail.com

Peter Lewis, Vice President

plewis42@yahoo.com

Angelica Bolitho, Treasurer

angelicabolitho@gmail.com

Marilyn Venner, Secretary

secretary@rockcliffepark.ca

Alexander Macklin, Past President

alexander.macklin@sympatico.ca

Chris Barker

cb@rhodesbarker.com

Michele Collum Hayman

mmcollum@gmail.com

Susan d'Aquino

spdott@gmail.com

Jane Dobell

613 749-1433

Russell Gibson

russ.gibson@vdg.ca

Joan Kellett

kellett7540@rogers.com

Linda McDonald

lindajmcdonald@yahoo.com

John Murphy

johnmurphy517@gmail.com

Imbaw Storer

lingbawan@gmail.com

Nicolas Temnikov

nicolastemnikov@gmail.com

Board meetings are held monthly and are open to all. See calendar for dates and times. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Correspondence to Board members and any enquiries for administration purposes may be addressed by email to secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

- 2 Wednesday 7:30 pm...Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 5 Saturday 2 to 4 pm.....Elmwood School Holly Tea and Old Girls' Art Fair, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 9 Wednesday 7:00 pm ...Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Community Hall*
- 13 Sunday 2 to 4 pmChildren's Christmas Party, Community Hall*

JANUARY

- 11 MondayRockcliffe Park Community Centre Winter Recreation Programs begin! See flyer in this issue for details and registration information
- 20 Wednesday 7:15 pm...RPR Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 27 Wednesday, 8:00 pm...Speakers Program: Colin Robertson, Vice-President, Canadian Global Affairs Institute, on "A Foreign Policy for Canada," Community Hall*
- 29 Friday, time TBARockcliffe Park Garden Club: Annual National Gallery Private Tour and Luncheon – Monet: A Bridge to Modernity*

FEBRUARY

- 3 Wednesday 7:30 pm...Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 24 Wednesday 7:30 pm...Joint Annual General Meeting of the Boards of the RPR and the Village Foundation, Community Hall
- 25 Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Robert Wolodarski, Perennials and Greenhouse Manager, Artistic Landscape Design Ltd., on "The Selection and Care of Favourite Perennials," Community Hall*

*Additional information on these events may be found in this newsletter.



Save the Dates: Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 pm:
RPR Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing See flyer in this newsletter for details
Sunday, December 13, 2:00 to 4:00 pm:
Children's Christmas Party

See page 8 of this newsletter for information on other upcoming holiday events in the Ottawa area.

VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 6

The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPR), is published six times each year: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions pertaining to the Village are welcome by mid month before publication. Copy may be edited for clarity, length and content. Editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this is the first newsletter since the federal election, I would like to begin by congratulating **Mauril Bélanger**, our Member of Parliament, on his re-election. Mauril has been an attentive and strong ally in past years on issues of concern and importance to the Village and we look forward to maintaining and strengthening our very positive working relationship in the future.

We are in the final phase in the development of our new Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCD Plan), on which I have written extensively in past issues of the newsletter. As previously mentioned, a public consultation on a draft text was held in the latter part of September and comments on it from residents were welcomed by the City until mid October. These were considered by the City and incorporated in the text as appropriate and the final draft text will be reviewed by the City's Built Heritage Sub-Committee (BHSC), chaired by our Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, on December 10. Thereafter, it will go to Planning Committee and then City Council for final approval. It is to be noted that a week prior to the BHSC meeting, the final draft text will be posted on the City's website, which can be accessed via a link from the RPRA website. As in the past, I would encourage interested residents to review the draft text. I would also bring to your attention that any resident may attend the meetings of the BHSC and Planning Committee to make comments or proposals for amendments to the text. It has been a very long but rewarding process and the Board of Directors of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) looks forward to having the new plan in place at an early date.

As regards the Pond, Councillor Nussbaum has provided the following brief update on City plans to address the alarmingly low water levels as well as the stabilization of the collapsing stone walls at the access point at its northeast side. Accompanied by RPRA representatives, City staff visited the Pond to verify the location of the well and has consulted with an engineering firm. The course of action recommended is to conduct a pump test to verify the viability of the well and whether it could be used in future years to manage water levels; to determine the pH levels of the water; and to assess costs. City staff has confirmed that if the freeze on discretionary spending is lifted, as is expected, the pump test will be completed in the spring of 2016, as will the stabilization work recommended at the access point. We will be in touch with the City early next year to follow up on this priority.

We have current photos of the low water levels at the Pond but we need photos of the Pond at its historic water levels from a few years ago to demonstrate to the City the stark change and the extent of the problem. If anyone can send us such photos, please contact secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

As has been the case in previous years, the RPRA has worked closely on Village priorities with the Village Foundation and its Chair, **Bonnie Robinson**. The RPRA and the Foundation share three broad priorities: heritage, environment and strengthening a sense of community within the Village. This year the RPRA received more than \$18,000 from the Foundation to support many of our activities in these areas, including the development of our HCD Plan, the rejuvenation of the Jubilee Garden and the rehabilitation of the soccer field and running track, as well as support for community events such as the Evening Speakers Program, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, the Children's Christmas Party and the publication of The Rockcliffe News and other communications initiatives. On behalf of the Board of the RPRA, I would like to thank the Village Foundation for its financial support and acknowledge its importance to the work we do on behalf of the community.

As part of the communications initiatives mentioned above, the RPRA is updating its website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, to make it more current and more useful. As part of the redesign, we would like to include your photographs of our area. High-resolution photos of Rockcliffe Park, either current or otherwise, would be very much appreciated. Please send them (including photo captions and credits) to secretary@rockcliffepark.ca. We can also scan your original photos. Expect to read more on our new site in the new year.

Finally, please join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing at the Community Hall on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. The Children's Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, also at the Community Hall. A big thank you to **Jim Carr**, **Russ Gibson** and **Imbaw Storer** for organizing these events and bringing us together during the Christmas season.

With best regards,

Brian Dickson, November 20, 2015

The Annual Community Appeal is Coming Soon!

You will soon receive a letter from the Foundation requesting your support for the Annual Community Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. With the lower interest rates, donations from the Appeal will increase the endowment, which will then be used to support your community.

Foundation Factoids

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a unique organization established at the time of the amalgamation with the City of Ottawa. It manages an endowment set up at that time to help fund community projects and activities. Its mandate areas are: conservation of the environment, including assistance for the upkeep of the flower beds and mowing of the Jubilee Gardens and the revitalization of the Princess Triangle; preservation of the heritage character of the Village; and promotion of a sense of community for all residents through a continued sponsorship of the Evening Speakers Program, The Rockcliffe News, the RPRA's Annual Report and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, as well as the rehabilitation of the soccer field.

The Foundation works primarily with the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) to support community programs and projects.

The Foundation also accepts requests for grants from registered charities, or groups that have made links with registered charities, or organizations that can issue suitable receipts (including the City of Ottawa and the City School Boards).

If you have questions about eligibility, please contact the Foundation directly. Proposals should demonstrate commu-

nity support and good value for money. Applicants should ideally have a demonstrated track record of project completion and financial management. Projects should take place in Rockcliffe Park or create value for its residents, and proposals should include a communication or outreach plan.

Check the website www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org for more information.

Commemorative Plaque Project

Over the summers of 2013 and 2014 the Foundation undertook an initiative to record and photograph all the commemorative and other noteworthy items that make our Village special. Altogether we listed 274 items ranging from art installations and benches to plaques and special trees. The locations of the items have been documented using maps and over 750 photos. To make the results of this work accessible, it is all available at the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Library.

As part of our work, several plaques were noted as missing. Through our research we were able to determine what was originally on four of the missing plaques. These have been beautifully re-made for us and are now here and ready for installation as soon as the City can get to it. Many thanks to Village residents **Fiona Lane** and **Meredith Smallwood** for their diligent work on this project.

THE 2015 VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD *Executive:* Bonnie Robinson, Chair | Michael McIntyre, Vice-Chair
Grant McDonald, Treasurer | Ryan Kilger, Secretary | Jane Newcombe, Administrator
Board Members: Aly Abdulla, Chris Denison, Nancy Greenley, Thady Murray, Jane Panet and David Weinstein.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MERRIMENT:

It's the Annual Rockcliffe Park Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 13 ❄️ 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road / Free Admission / All Are Welcome

Santa Claus, horse drawn 'sleigh' rides, Goopee the Clown, outdoor hockey, food, music, arts and crafts gingerbread house making, hot chocolate and more! Don't miss it!!

Sponsored by the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Upcoming Speakers Rockcliffe Park Community Hall 380 Springfield Road

Join your neighbours for informal evenings with distinguished speakers. Presentations will be followed by questions, coffee and cookies. Admission is free. The Speakers Program is an initiative of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and is supported by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.



Colin Robertson

Vice-President
Canadian Global Affairs Institute

“A Foreign Policy for Canada”

After a pirouette in international summitry, Prime Minister Trudeau must shift from “sunny ways” prose to governing in a global environment that is far from sunny. Former diplomat Colin Robertson will speak to the challenges and opportunities, and constraints and realities, facing the Trudeau government on the international stage.

Wednesday, January 27 at 8:00 pm



Paul Lang

Chief Curator
National Gallery of Canada

“The Inside Story of a Major Exhibition”

How is a major exhibition conceived? How do you get the loans you want? What role do curators play? How are the artworks protected and transported? Who decides how to hang the artworks? How is a catalogue put together? Paul Lang will take us behind the scenes of the upcoming exhibition of Vigée Le Brun, court painter at Versailles.

Wednesday, April 27 at 8:00 pm



*Congratulations to Canadian War Museum Historian **Tim Cook** on his appointment to the Order of Canada. Tim's award is in recognition of his work to revive public interest in and shed new light on Canada's wartime history. Tim is an RPRA member and a previous speaker with the Rockcliffe Park Speakers Program.*

EVENTS



Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale Needs Your Books, CDs, DVDs and Vinyl!

It's hard to believe but behind-the-scenes preparations for the 2016 Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale are already well under way! So if you're considering a pre-Christmas clear out, please bring your old books, CDs, DVDs and vinyl to the Rockcliffe Park Public Library during opening hours, or call **613 580-2424, ext. 27623** for assistance. And the sooner you bring them in the better; our volunteers will be eternally grateful! But please remember, no encyclopaedias, magazines or textbooks!

And mark your calendar now for the 19th Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale: **Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10 am to 5 pm** and **Sunday, April 24, 2016, 11 am to 5 pm.**

Many thanks in advance for your contributions!

Jane Dobell and the RPPL Spring Book Sale volunteers

The Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale is generously supported by The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence and Brian Montgomery of Montgomery Asset Management, RBC | Dominion Securities.



The Poets' Pathway Arrives in Rockcliffe

Twenty or so people witnessed the unveiling of the 11th Poets' Pathway plaque honouring Canadian poets on October 17, 2015 in Rockcliffe Park on the hill at the outlet of McKay Lake. On that bright, sunny day, the sumacs behind the boulder glowed red, echoing the lines from the **William Wilfred Campbell** poem *Indian Summer*: “...and all the sumachs on the hills / Have turned their green to red.” Following the unveiling by Poets' Pathway's **Ben Glossop**, Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum**, and **Brian Dickson** and **Kathy Day** of the RPRA, **Jodie McNamara** read Campbell's iconic poem to Canada's most colourful season, *Indian Summer*.

The 35-km pathway runs from Britannia Beach through open spaces in Ottawa and ends at Beechwood Cemetery, where many of Canada's famous poets lie. Each stop features a bronze plaque with one of a poet's most famous poems set into a large boulder. The Poets' Pathway commemorates the land that inspired these poets and serves to raise awareness of and helps to preserve our greenspace. For more info go to www.poetspathway.ca/pathway.htm.

Winter Roads Maintenance

The following is a list of matters that were discussed and negotiated with City staff six years ago. We are working with our Councillor to ensure that these guidelines continue to be followed:

For the City

- 1) Pure salt will not be applied to any of Rockcliffe roads including Lisgar Road and Princess Avenue, save for the portions of Maple Lane and Acacia Avenue that form part of the No. 1 bus route.
- 2) The plowing of the roads following a snowfall will employ equipment with a maximum blade width of 12 feet. No wing blades will be used.
- 3) The roads will be plowed as soon as possible following a major snowstorm, which may require the plows to be operating in Rockcliffe in the late evening or early morning.
- 4) The plows will permit some accumulation of snow on the road surfaces. Plowing to bare pavement will not be practiced as a general rule.

Winter is Here So Roll That Rock!

It's that time again – the snowplows are out so move those rocks back from the pavement edge – at least 12-18 inches (30-45 cm). The same is true for the iron and plastic road edge markers – the snowplow operators need a place to deposit the snow, and our rocks and iron stakes cause damage to their snowplow blades.

If you install T-bars or markers to guide snowplow operations, they should be placed 12 inches (30 cm) from the edge of the pavement. Please ensure they are not so deep as to puncture a gas line. Contact Ontario One Call at **1-800-400-2255** or online at on1call.com for a free underground utilities locate.



- 5) On road areas requiring special treatment to maintain traction such as hills and intersections, a mixture of 10% salt and 90% grit will be applied. The roads will not receive treatment except for freezing rain, icy conditions or the like.
- 6) The snow banks created by the plows on the sides of the roads will be blown onto the verges of the property adjacent the roads as soon as possible following plowing, especially on heavily travelled routes such as Mariposa Avenue.
- 7) The segment of sidewalk running adjacent to Elmwood School will be maintained by a sidewalk plow so as to protect students and others using the sidewalk to access and exit the school. The Dog Walk and other pedestrian paths will also be maintained using a sidewalk plow. It will not be possible to maintain the path adjacent Princess Avenue.
- 8) The City roads crew will respond promptly to any reasonable requests for repairs such as potholes and the like. Come spring, any damage to grassy verges caused by the City road crews will be repaired.
- 9) Any specific requests or complaints concerning any of the guidelines listed here should be directed by email to **Keith.Hardiman@ottawa.ca**, with a copy to one of your Winter Roads Committee members: **Rachel Baxter, rbaxteris@rogers.com**, or **Alexander Macklin, alexander.macklin@sympatico.ca**. No changes in these procedures will be permitted without the approval of the Winter Roads Committee.

For Village Residents

- 10) Property owners with rocks or stones immediately adjacent the roadway must move them to avoid damaging the plows and snowblowers (*see box at left*).
- 11) Property owners with hedges or bushes adjacent the roads should take steps to protect same by snow fences and the like.
- 12) Motorists should refrain from parking vehicles on the roadways during the coming months and especially when snow plows and snowblowers are in operation. Winter tires are also strongly recommended for all vehicles. For more information see <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/transportation-and-parking/parking/winter-parking-november-15-april-1>.
- 13) When walking or jogging, especially in the evening, wear a light coloured and reflective outer garment and always walk or run facing the oncoming traffic. We request that motor vehicles within Rockcliffe not exceed 40 km per hour. With your cooperation, the roadways in Rockcliffe will continue to be safe and secure for all seasons of the year, and especially the coming winter season.

Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPR

RECREATION FACILITY UPDATES

News from the RPPS Sports Field

Did you know that the RPRA, with funding assistance from the Village Foundation, Rockcliffe Park Public School and the Rockcliffe Park/Lindenlea Soccer League, actively maintains the soccer field and running track on an annual basis?

The past couple of years have been a real challenge for the field. In 2014, the irrigation system for the field was non-functional and made the seeding/top dressing programmes pointless.

This past summer, the irrigation system was repaired and we undertook an aggressive seeding/fertilizing and top dressing programme, including fencing the field off for most of July and August. That yielded positive results but left considerable room for improvement. The real challenge is striking a balance between usage demands and the downtime required for the field to regenerate, along with costs associated with keeping the field in playable condition.

To help manage this balance more effectively, we are in the process of striking a committee comprised of representatives of the various users and the RPRA to address the ongoing challenges of these competing agendas.

Every four years or so, the stone dust running track needs to be renewed as it becomes potholed and uneven, making it hazardous to run on. This past summer, with a grant from the Village Foundation and a matching contribution from RPPS, the track was professionally resurfaced. This involved tilling the track to remove grass and weeds, adding roughly 30 square yards of new stone dust, and grading and compacting that into a safe and consistent surface. RPPS students can now happily sprint around the track for their gym classes and track and field days without risk of twisting or spraining an ankle.

These activities could not continue without the ongoing support of the Village Foundation, Rockcliffe Park Public School and the Rockcliffe Park/Lindenlea Soccer League. Many thanks to all involved.

Peter Lewis

News from the Rockcliffe Hosers

Last month's Rockcliffe News contained a two-page insert of frequently asked questions about the Rockcliffe Rink Project. This prompted one resident to comment that certain segments of the neighbourhood are largely unaware of how the rink is currently operated, so in this edition we will offer a brief history and summary of our current operations:

Prior to Rockcliffe's amalgamation with the City of Ottawa in 2000, employees of the Village flooded the seasonal rink at Rockcliffe Park School. Post-amalgamation, the City preferred community associations to operate these 280 rinks. The RPRA asked some residents to take over the operation and that ultimately led to the current group of 125 Hoser volunteers. The rink is flooded at 9 pm, 7 days a week, and generally operates in the months of January and February. The City provides the boards for the rink, a heated construction trailer, water, lighting and \$4,700 to offset our costs such as shovels, Christmas lights and payments to our snow removal contractor. The Hosers flood both the boarded rink and the free skating rink at the Jubilee Garden. The Hosers have recently created a Charitable Canadian Corporation and now sell merchandise (through our Rockcliffe Hosers Facebook page), and hold a variety of fundraising events. Our goal is to organize multiple small, medium and large fundraising activities to establish repeatable and sustainable revenue streams.

The Rockcliffe Rink Project is under way to enlarge and improve the boarded rink, and build a fieldhouse for changing and storing equipment. The skating season will be extended as the rink pad will be chilled, and the facility will have other recreational uses for the rest of the year. To help cover costs, the facility may be available for rent at certain times when current usage is low. We expect that the existing public usage will be enhanced, not reduced. This is a well-used rink and a vibrant part of our community.

The Rockcliffe Hosers: Steve Bleeker, Russ Gibson, Lu Korte, Peter Lewis, Brian Montgomery, Greg Sanders, Sandy Smallwood and Ian Warren, Directors

CRA Approves the Rockcliffe Hosers' Request to Become a Charitable Entity!

The Rockcliffe Hosers have just received a Charitable Registration Number, so donations to the Rockcliffe Rink Project will now be eligible for a charitable donation receipt.

To donate: Cheques should be payable to Rockcliffe Hosers Corporation, 150 Sir Guy Carleton Street, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1M 0G7. Or, if you prefer to donate shares in a gain position to avoid capital gains tax, please email rockcliffehosers@gmail.com and we will call you to make arrangements.



WILDLIFE NOTES

Otters and Foxes and Porcupines (Oh My!)

I walked around the lake on the morning of November 11 expecting to see the fall fishing fleet of Common Mergansers. There were no water birds at all. But something broke the smooth lake surface in the northern sector, so I stopped to watch. It was an Otter swimming on the surface, then making a series of long fast dives towards the western shore, turning to parallel the shore going south at the same speed. Near the south end it turned east and crossed the lake to pause about 40m offshore the large cattail marsh. There, in shallow water, it dove for 26 seconds, and then for 20 seconds, presumably hunting fish. After that it swam out of my view along the edge of the marsh. For the time I watched, the Otter never surfaced with any prey.



An Otter was seen in the lake's northern sector on November 2, and **Susan d'Aquino** saw one there on a number of occasions before that, and it is now a regular visitor to her dock (photo at left). Here are **Joan Kellett's** notes on Otters in the Pond this summer:

Here is the short video of one of the two Otters which swam at the Pond this summer around August and definitely on August 5 and 8 when I went swimming, as I wrote it down in my Pond diary. Sorry can't say which day I shot this shaky video.

This Otter wasn't afraid of any of us and swam back and forth catching fish and eating them halfway up the shore. There was a smaller Otter but I wasn't able to get a photo of

it. I was told this by the swimmer to whom this happened that this big Otter – with a fish in its mouth – popped up in front of him...and at arm's length..and looked him straight in his eyes as if to say 'this is my fishing ground.'

First time I have ever seen Otters at the Pond...other swimmers said the same.

During the month of September I had been swimming (almost every morning between 7 and 10 am). I didn't see the Otters at all.

A year ago, **Brian Dickson** wrote in this space of his encounter swimming with an Otter in the Pond. Otters do seem to have adopted our suburban wetlands as their habitat; I hope they persist.

Driving at night on October 3, **John Brooks** and **Anna Blauveldt** saw in the car headlights the unmistakable shape of a Porcupine walking across Cloverdale. I looked for it in nearby trees the following day, no luck. This is the first time I can recall learning of this species in the Village in the last half century. Has anyone else seen one? We certainly have enough woodland in the contiguous Beechwood Cemetery to support Porcupines. It would be worth keeping an eye out for bark stripping in the upper reaches of Village trees – Porcupines can do serious damage. But nice to have this addition to Village biodiversity!

To round out a large mammal report, Susan d'Aquino on September 11 and Brian Dickson on October 1 saw 'really good-looking' and 'very bright coloured' Red Foxes. Their new luxuriant fall coats provide winter warmth. From April to September a protracted moult takes place, giving the foxes a tattered, dowdy appearance all summer.

Anthony Keith, 15 November 2015



Safety Tips from Constable Walter Duhme, Rockcliffe Park Community Policy Centre Officer Thefts From Vehicles

The Ottawa Police Service is reporting a rash of thefts from vehicles. People are stealing from cars left unlocked, or breaking windows to gain access. Unlocked cars, even in a driveway, are vulnerable to any casual would-be thief, by day as well as at night. Trying car doors on a quiet street is a low-risk strategy, and the occasional unlocked car is enough to encourage the person to continue. Let's make Rockcliffe known as a place where people keep their cars locked. Smashing a window is more likely if valuables are visible, or if there's something that could be concealing valuables. The best course is to have the car clearly empty.

It's very important that all incidents – actual thefts or suspicious behaviour – are reported to the police: **613 236-1222, ext. 7300**, or online at <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>. Cst. Duhme can be reached at **613 236-1222, ext. 5916**, or by email at duhmew@ottawapolice.ca.



*From the desk of Mauril Bélanger
Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier*

A New Government

First, I would like to thank the constituents of Ottawa-Vanier for re-electing me as their representative in the House of Commons. For the eighth consecutive term, I am proud to be able to continue my work as a Member of Parliament and address issues that are important to the riding, as well as to Canada.

During the campaign, I had the opportunity to highlight priorities which are important to us all:

- Ensure public servants are treated fairly and respectfully.
- Make sure the Rockcliffe Air Base redevelopment is driven by the need for balance, viability and sustainability. This is one of Ottawa's most anticipated projects and a very significant urban planning opportunity.
- Fight for the continuation of door-to-door mail delivery. A more grounded solution than elimination of this service is required, one that would ensure the financial sustainability of Canada Post and easy accessibility for everyone.
- Fight for more affordable housing and the right for everyone to have a place one can call "home."

I intend to act on those priorities and look forward to taking an active role in the 42nd Parliament. Canadians from coast to coast to coast have chosen a new and positive Liberal government, one with an ambitious vision for the future and a real plan for a strong middle class.

An example of the positive change which I am very proud our Liberal government will be implementing is that we will prioritize significant new investments in affordable housing and seniors facilities as part of our new, ten-year investment of nearly \$20 billion in social infrastructure.



Some Upcoming Holiday Events

* Holiday Events www.ottawatourism.ca/events

* December at the NAC www.nac-cna.ca/en/calendar/list/2015/12

* Craft Shows www.facebook.com/OttawaCraftShowListings

* **December 2 to January 7** Christmas Lights Across Canada
www.ottawatourism.ca/events/christmas-lights-across-canada

* **December 5** Mayor's 15th Annual Christmas Celebration
www.ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/mayor-and-city-councillors/mayor-jim-watson/mayors-14th-annual-christmas-celebration

* **December 13** Beechwood Cemetery Christmas Candlelight Service
www.beechwoodottawa.ca/calendar/christmas-candlelight-service



*From the desk of Mayor Jim Watson
City of Ottawa*

150th Celebration Plans

In 2017, Canada will celebrate 150 years as a nation.

We are working hard to prepare Ottawa to welcome the country as host of these celebrations. That is why Ottawa Tourism, along with the City of Ottawa and community partners, created the Ottawa 2017 Bureau, which is working hard to position Ottawa as THE place for all Canadians to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation. The energy, excitement and investments generated by Ottawa's 2017 celebrations will serve as a catalyst for long-term tourism growth.

In fact, tourism is Ottawa's third largest economic sector, after the public service and high tech industries. Our aim in 2017 is to generate a significant boost in tourism, which presents a great opportunity for local businesses to grow.

I recently announced that The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has selected Ottawa as the host city for the 2017 JUNO Awards. While Ottawa has successfully hosted the JUNO awards before, we want to do something even greater in 2017. Our vision is to fill the City with music across venues of all sizes, ending with the Awards Gala at the Canadian Tire Centre.

Joining the JUNO awards in 2017, Ottawa is set to host the Canadian Video Game Awards, Canadian Track and Field Championships, The Canadian Olympic Curling Trials – Roar of the Rings, and many more to be announced.

Along with Ottawa 2017, the City of Ottawa is working hard to attract the CFL's Grey Cup and an NHL Winter Classic. I am particularly excited at the prospect of a Winter Classic as December 19, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the first NHL game ever played, between the Montreal Canadiens and Ottawa Senators. It would be a fitting tribute to commemorate Canada's favourite pastime by hosting an outdoor Winter Classic between these two historic franchises.

2017 is also expected to mark the opening of the Ottawa Innovation Centre, the opening of a new Ottawa Art Gallery and revitalized Arts Court.

Ottawa 2017 will be a once-in-a-lifetime celebration and I encourage you to get involved. If you would like to plan your own community event, volunteer, or simply learn more, visit www.ottawa2017.ca.

CITY HALL / QUEEN'S PARK



*From the desk of Councillor
Tobi Nussbaum, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward*

The Pond Update

Since my last update in late September, City staff has visited the Pond to confirm the location of the nearby well and has consulted with an engineering firm. In spring 2016, a pump test will be conducted to verify the viability of the well and whether it could, in future years, be used to manage water levels should they be low again; the pH levels of this water; and the cost of any future pump use – both the initial capital and the long-term operating expenditures that would be required. Should the well and the pump prove viable at this time, we can then explore the option of whether the well could be used to manage water levels. We know that such a function would require permits and approvals from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. My staff will begin to explore what is required and the specifics of this process.

Also, the stabilization work recommended for the armour stone wall (at the northeast side of the Pond) to minimize future erosion will be completed in spring 2016. I invite you to visit <http://bit.ly/McKayPondUpdates>, where my office will continue to provide information on this important topic.

Rockcliffe HCD Plan Update

The public comment period for the Rockcliffe Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan is now closed. City planners have received a large volume of constructive and helpful feedback. Staff will be working to incorporate this feedback into the final draft documents, which will be reviewed by the Built Heritage Sub-Committee on December 10 and by Planning Committee on January 26, 2016. Both meetings will offer an opportunity for members of the public to present their views, either in person or in writing, before they go to Council for final approval on February 10, 2016. For those interested, the City has created a story map of Ottawa's Heritage Conservation Districts. This web tool identifies the locations and provides information on all the City's HCDs; see <http://bit.ly/HCDStoryMap>.

Budget 2016

The draft budget was tabled on November 12. Throughout November and into early December, committees and boards have and will continue to deliberate budgets for the departments they oversee. Council will vote on the final budget on December 9, 2015. I will provide updates on the 2016 budget process via my website, www.tobinussbaum.ca.



*From the desk of Madeleine Meilleur
MPP, Ottawa-Vanier*

Preventing Child Abuse

There is no commitment higher than the one we have to our children. While many children receive unconditional love and support from parents or guardians, not all are so fortunate. It is our collective responsibility to make sure no child falls through the cracks.

Our province is committed to supporting a child welfare system that protects vulnerable children and youth. In Ontario, Children's Aid Societies (CASs) are mandated to protect children who are, or are at risk of, suffering abuse or neglect. CASs are required to assess all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, and to provide necessary services to all children in need of protection.

The duty to help keep all children safe is not limited to the government alone. On this, the law is clear: every person who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection must report that suspicion promptly and directly to a CAS. This includes individuals who perform professional or official duties with respect to children, such as health care workers, teachers, operators or employees of child care programs or centres, police and lawyers.

This responsibility is not new. There has been a general statutory obligation to report a child in need of protection since 1965. Those reporting abuse or neglect to a CAS do not need to be certain a child is in need of protection. "Reasonable grounds" refers to the information that an average person, using normal and honest judgment, would need in order to decide to report. The Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) specifies that a person who acts in accordance with the duty to report is protected from liability, unless the person acts maliciously or without reasonable grounds for the suspicion.

They say it takes a village to raise a child; it is our collective duty as a society to make sure each and every child in our province has an equal chance at a bright future. If you suspect a child is suffering abuse or neglect, please contact the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa at **613 747-7800**.

.....

*Holiday Greetings
from
Madeleine Meilleur*

*Meilleurs vœux de santé et de bonheur
à vous et votre famille.
Wishing you and your family
a healthy, happy holiday season.*

Madeleine Meilleur
MPD/députée, Ottawa-Vanier

Bureau de circonscription | Constituency Office:
237 St. Montreal Road, Ottawa ON K1L 6C7
613.744.4494
mmeilleur.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
www.madeleinemeilleur.onmpp.ca

SCHOOL REPORTS



Ashbury Hosts Ontario-Wide Student Debate on Syrian Refugee Crisis



Ashbury hosted the Ontario-wide Fulford Debate on November 6.

Ashbury College hosted the Fall Fulford Debate on November 6, bringing students from across the province together to examine the Syrian refugee crisis. Over 100 students (40+ Ashbury students and 60+ guest debaters) from Grades 8 to 12 took part in the tournament.

The Fulford Debates take place three times a year at one of the 20 independent schools that are members of this provincial league. The tournament allows junior and senior students to tackle both sides of a single topic, improving their public speaking skills and persuasive abilities in the process.

As host school, Ashbury selected this year's resolution: Should NATO occupy Syria to end the refugee crisis? Students researched the issue for months, examining all points of view, in order to fully dissect the topic. To complement the discussion, representatives from three area embassies spoke to students at the debate's conclusion to offer international insight to the issue at hand.

"We're fortunate to be able to make use of our international friends for this event," said **Dr. John Richardson**, an Ashbury teacher and one of the organizers of the debate. "As an IB World School in Canada's capital, we engage students in international issues, and this tournament provides a means to encourage intellectual discourse."

Over 50 parent and community volunteers pitched in to help judge the debates, including students from the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Education and Carleton University's Department of Political Science. Each judge received training beforehand to help them assess the students' critical thought process. "Fulford is Ashbury's opportunity to involve the wider community in something that showcases the educational value of public speaking and debate," said Ashbury teacher and IB Coordinator, **Marilynne Sinclair**.

Fifteen Minutes of Fame

Members of the Ashbury community came together on November 7 to celebrate the 15th Ashbury Ball and its theme, "Fifteen Minutes of Fame." With an Andy Warhol theme, the event's 350+ guests enjoyed colourful décor,



Ashbury Ball co-chairs Cindy Tomlinson-Keon (left) and Kris McGinn.

fabulous food, a pop-up photo booth and red carpet runway. Guests mingled and browsed the expansive auction tables, featuring items ranging from jewellery and art to service packages and one-of-a-kind clothing. Live auction items included trips, dinners at local embassies and rides in vintage planes. Proceeds from the ball go to support the school's immediate needs, and its scholarship and bursaries programs.

Ashbury Remembers



Second World War veteran Alex Polowin spoke to senior students about his experiences at war. The Remembrance Day assembly also included a reading of the names of fallen Ashburians who served their country.

Mrs. Boyd's Grade 4 class joined others in the school and across the country to recite the poem In Flanders Fields on November 11 as part of an initiative from Canada's Vimy Foundation.



SCHOOL REPORTS



Elmwood School

Elmwood's Centennial Weekend a Huge Success!

Since 1915, Elmwood School has been building a vibrant legacy. On October 2 through 5, we celebrated the incredible past, present and future of Elmwood School with our Centennial Weekend – a three-day celebration that included alumnae, current students and parents, past and current staff and faculty, and members of the community. We came together to celebrate Elmwood's incredible 100 years and rejoice in the remarkable school it has become.



Members of Elmwood's Centennial Committee planted daffodils (donated by Jane Buckley and Andrew Philpot) to commemorate the School's 100th.

The celebration began Friday with a wonderful opening ceremony where students and alumnae were presented with beautiful '100' pins commemorating Elmwood's Centennial. The afternoon was filled with visitors taking tours of the school and visiting the Decades Rooms, along with a ceremonial daffodil planting. The evening held a lovely cocktail party and the launch of our new commemorative book, *Endeavour's All: The Elmwood Story, 1915-2015*, written by **Janet Uren '68**.

Saturday we welcomed the Elmwood community to join us to celebrate Elmwood's 100th birthday with a Big Birthday Bash! The day included a family fun fair with bouncy castles, a petting zoo, pumpkin painting and more. There was a special drama performance of Elmwood Theatre's *Fair Cruelty*. The Elmwood Bistro provided a fantastic BBQ lunch and the afternoon concluded with an ice cream social, thanks to the Merry Dairy ice cream truck! Later that evening the Elmwood community gathered in the beautiful Grand Hall of the Canadian Museum of History for our Founder's Dinner. A highlight of the evening was guest speaker **Margaret Atwood**, who was interviewed by Elmwood Alumna **Catherine Clark '95**.



Elmwood Alumna Catherine Clark '95 interviewed Margaret Atwood at Elmwood's Founder's Dinner.

As a fitting finale for our weekend of celebrations, members of the community gathered on Sunday for a traditional favourite – Prayers – followed by a delicious brunch catered by the Elmwood Bistro. It was so nice to have one more opportunity to

catch up with old friends and classmates, colleagues and students.

Celebrating this incredible milestone with our Elmwood community was wonderful. Thank you to all our alumnae who traveled near and far for joining us for such a special occasion. It was truly an unforgettable weekend!

Holly Tea and Old Girls' Art Fair: Saturday, December 5

Join us as two treasured Elmwood traditions join together for the "can't miss" event of the holiday season!

Old Girls' Art Fair and Holiday Marketplace – 12:00 to 4:00 pm

Peruse over 40 beautiful pieces of work created by Elmwood Old Girls that will be available for purchase and view exciting works from our current students. A variety of vendors will be on hand with demonstrations and items for sale, including poinsettias, wreaths and centrepieces, jewelry and delectable treats!

Holly Tea – 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Embrace the festive season by joining Old Girls, students, families and neighbours for afternoon tea, hors d'oeuvres, treats by Elmwood Bistro and live music.

Free admission. RSVP to btalbot@elmwood.ca.

Considering Elmwood for Your Daughter?

Missed our recent Open House? No problem! Schedule a private tour – you'll get to see the school in action and learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. For more information please visit www.elmwood.ca or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.

END NOTES

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

Annual National Gallery Private Tour and Luncheon – Monet: A Bridge to Modernity

Friday, January 29, 2016

Twelve seminal works from collections around the world to explore Monet's innovative experiments with the motif of the bridge between 1872 and 1875, in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War. Private luncheon to follow.



Contact Vera Cody at jcody1@rogers.com for schedule, admission costs, and luncheon choices and costs.

The Selection and Care of Favourite Perennials

Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Robert Wolodarski, Perennials and Greenhouse Manager, Artistic Landscape Design Ltd.



Who doesn't love adding perennials to their garden? Since 1987, Robert has been helping customers select the best shade and sunny area perennials. Learn about the exciting 2016 plants that are all the buzz and how to incorporate them in your own blooming gardenscape.

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$5 for guests. For information contact VeraCody, jcody1@rogers.com.

St. Bart's to Sponsor Syrian Family

The question many people are asking these days is what can they do to help Syrian refugees.

"The St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church is taking action. We are planning to sponsor a Syrian refugee family," says David Clunie, Rector at St. Bart's.

In September, Parish Council and concerned parishioners gathered to learn about the situation in Syria and the plight of one particular family, forced to flee Syria and living precariously in Lebanon. They are a family of five: father, mother and three children. The father worked as a dental technician in Syria and the mother is an art teacher. The father was kidnapped in Syria and the family had to pay a significant ransom to secure his release. They fled from Syria and cannot go back.

"In order to bring this family to Canada, we need to raise \$30,000. Funds towards the target are flowing in and people are volunteering to do everything from filling out the forms to finding the family housing," says Clunie. "St. Bart's will bring the family to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program offered by the Canadian government. We must provide financial and other support to the family for at least one year after they arrive in Canada. And we hope that the family will arrive within the year. People in the parish and in the community are stepping forward to offer assistance" says Clunie. "We welcome anyone from the community who wants to get involved."

If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please contact David Clunie at St. Bart's at Stbarts@bellnet.ca.

.....



Jessie Garcia, Rockcliffe's beloved dog walker, passed away in September following a struggle with cancer. Friends are considering something to honour her memory and her contribution to our community. If you would like to help, or for more information, please contact secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.



Neighbourhood Watch Members Needed!

More Village residents are needed to sign up as members of Neighbourhood Watch. Membership involves no obligations, but it does demonstrate to the Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch executive that we endorse the program's goals and wish the Village to continue to be a Neighbourhood Watch community. If you haven't received a sign-up sheet from your Block Captain, contact Kay James at RockcliffePark_NW@gmail.com.