



The Rockcliffe News

February 2015

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

www.rockcliffepark.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Dickson, President

613 744-4481 – 60 Whitemarl Drive

Kathy Day, Vice President

613 321-6672 – 35 Lyttleton Gardens

Peter Lewis, Vice President

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613 747-9376 – 201 Maple Lane

Marilyn Venner, Secretary

613 620-6190 – 221 Springfield Road

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613 612-9555 – 35 Blenheim Drive

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613 741-9970 – 400 Lansdowne Road N

Jane Dobell

613 749-1433 – 145 Lakeway Drive

Russell Gibson

613 741-8387 – 104 Acacia Avenue

Caroline Gingras

613 744-2058 – 158 Acacia Avenue

Joan Kellett

613 748-7540 – 360 Manor Avenue

Linda McDonald

613 740-0785 – 26 Birch Avenue

Michael Teeter

613 748-5061 – 555 Old Prospect Road

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

FEBRUARY

- 4 Wednesday 9:30 am.....Elmwood School Open House, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 4 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 11 Wednesday 7:00 pm.....Public Budget Consultation; Co-Hosts Councillors Tobi Nussbaum and Mathieu Fleury, St. Laurent Complex*
- 11 Wednesday 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: David Halton, Former CBC Correspondent, on "Matthew Halton: Canada's Voice at War: Journalism Then and Now," Community Hall*
- 18 Wednesday 7:00 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Community Centre Open House, 380 Springfield Road*
- 25 Wed to Sun, March 1Elmwood School Theatre presents "The Madwoman of Chaillot," Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 25 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Joint Annual General Meeting of the Boards of the RPRA and the Village Foundation, Community Hall, with guest speaker Councillor Tobi Nussbaum
- 26 Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Benjamin Strapper, Landscape Designer, MacKinnon Reid & Associates, on "Fire and Water in the Garden," Community Hall*

MARCH

- 11 Wednesday 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Mark Kristmanson, Head of the National Capital Commission, on "The National Capital Commission: Looking Ahead," Community Hall*
- 18 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 26 Thursday 9:30 am to noon...Ashbury College Open House, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Avenue*
- 26 Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Josie Pazdzior, Master Gardener, on "Decorative Stone," Community Hall*

APRIL

- 1 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 11 Saturday 10 am to 5 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 12 Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 15 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 17 Friday 6:30 pmDining with the Ambassadors, Community Hall*
- 22 Wednesday 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Evan Solomon, Host of the CBC's Power and Politics and The House, Community Hall*

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this is the first newsletter of the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best for 2015. Winter has so far been one of contrasts, with overcast skies and unseasonably warm weather during the latter part of December, followed by bright sunny days and plunging temperatures. This cold spell has fortunately replaced the freezing rain and ice of last year and has provided ideal conditions for winter sports enthusiasts.

At this time of year, the Board of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) is preparing for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will take place on February 25 at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. As in past years, our meeting will be held in conjunction with the AGM of the Village Foundation. The AGM reviews the events and activities of the past year and also looks to the future. With respect to the former, you will find a copy of our Annual Report, which outlines our work in 2014, included with this newsletter. The AGM will also elect a new Board of Directors in accordance with our By-laws.

I am pleased that our new Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, will join us at the AGM to give his perspective on current issues and to answer questions. We have already attended a Ward meeting with Tobi, who will be a member of the Planning Committee, Community and Protective Services Committee, and Transit Commission. He will also chair the Built Heritage Sub-Committee of the Planning Committee, which is very good news for us as we update our framework for managing change in our Heritage Conservation District.

In this connection, we have made considerable progress relating to the development of a new Management Plan for the District as required under the 2005 Ontario Heritage Act. A draft plan is well advanced and once it has been reviewed and approved by the RPRA Board, a public consultation will be held, organized by the City. Prior to this public meeting, we hope to distribute the draft plan to every household in the Village, together with an explanatory document, so that everyone will be aware of what is being proposed and why.

By way of background, there are two major concerns with respect to our current Management Guidelines: so-called “monster houses” that are out of proportion to the streetscape, and severances that result in lots that are deficient in size, which then may require minor variances to accommodate two houses where one previously stood. On the latter point, the Committee of Adjustment, which deals with severances and minor variances, recently unanimously approved such an application, in spite of opposition from adjacent property owners and the RPRA. Because it believes that this issue is important for the whole community, the RPRA has decided to join the concerned residents in an appeal of this decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. We will want to ensure that our new Management Plan addresses these two issues in the strongest possible terms. However, the severing of lots is done under the Planning Act, limiting the influence of a Management Plan on that issue. The Plan, when approved, will take the form of a By-law that should provide greater protection to the Heritage District than at present.

Over the course of the year, the RPRA has worked closely with the Village Foundation and its Chair, **Bonnie Robinson**, on Village priorities. I am pleased to report that for 2015 the Foundation has provided a grant to the RPRA in the amount of \$18,400 to support events and activities in the areas of the environment, heritage, and strengthening the sense of community within the Village. On behalf of the Board of the RPRA, I would like to thank the Foundation for its generous financial support of our work.

Finally, with the arrival of the new year, I would ask you to renew your membership or become a member of the RPRA in 2015. Higher numbers give us greater credibility when we seek to protect or advance community interests at City Hall and elsewhere. Membership is on a household/family basis and remains at \$25. A membership form insert is included with this newsletter. Forms may also be downloaded from our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, or picked up at the Community Police Centre on 360 Springfield Road during the new winter office hours (*see the Community Centre Registration Office Winter Operating Hours on page 12*). Forms may be dropped off at the Police Centre or, preferably, placed in the RPRA's free-standing mailbox in front of the Library and Community Hall's Springfield Road entrance. You will note on the form that all members are most welcome to help out with any of our activities. If you would like additional information, please contact me or another member of the Board listed on this newsletter's masthead.

I hope you will join us at the AGM on February 25.

Brian Dickson

Dining with the Ambassadors

Join Friends and Neighbours for an Elegant Evening at One of Rockcliffe Park's Beautiful Embassy Residences



Every second year, Ambassadors and High Commissioners living in Rockcliffe Park generously open their homes to help raise money for the Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation.

This unique community-building event takes place this year on **Friday, April 17**. The evening begins at 6:30 pm with a cocktail reception at the Community Hall and Library, 380 Springfield Road. The reception is generously sponsored by **Marilyn Wilson of Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Inc. Brokerage**. Dinner at one of our Village's beautiful embassy residences follows.

Tickets are \$150 per person (with a partial tax receipt) and are available by contacting janepanet@sympatico.ca or by

phoning **613 745-0666**. Dining with the Ambassadors is always a popular event and numbers are limited. Reservations will be honoured by date received. Form a group or meet your neighbours through the random draw of assigning guests to hosts. For more information about the event, email janepanet@sympatico.ca.

The Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a registered charity that supports community facilities, conservation of the environment and preservation of the heritage nature of Rockcliffe Park. Past and continuing projects have included funding for the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, Jubilee Garden, rehabilitation of the sports field, publications including *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village* and the revised *Welcome to Rockcliffe Park* booklet. For more information and to see photos from Dining with the Ambassadors 2013, visit www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

Dining with the Ambassadors Organizing Committee:

Diplomatic Liaison: Eleonore Wnendt; **Co-Chairs:** Jane Panet, Sarah Baxter; **Members:** Pam Gibb-Carsley, Robert Collette, Marianne Feaver, Peter Hyde, Jane Newcombe, Alex Taggart and Marilyn Wilson.

Support Your Foundation Through Our Annual Community Appeal

If you haven't made your donation yet, please do so online at www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org or by cheque payable to the "Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation" and mailed to the attention of **Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1L 5A8**. Donors will be recognized in the April edition of *The Rockcliffe News*.

INTRODUCING... YOUR NEIGHBOUR



Meet Eleonore Wnendt:

Retired geologist, mother of five, adventurer, the wife of the German Ambassador and Rockcliffe Park's friendliest witch!

Wherever Eleonore has lived – in over six different countries to date – she gets right into the scene. Last Halloween, she dressed as a witch and handed out candies to some fifty-odd children who came to her door. She's a member of the Ottawa Garden Club, the David Staines Can Lit Book Club, International Women's Club, and is the diplomatic liaison for the biennial Rockcliffe Park fundraiser, Dining with the Ambassadors. On top of that, she has travelled Canada extensively,

manages an embassy household, entertains graciously, and has two children living at home.

Before joining the German foreign service, Eleonore and her husband Werner were both geologists working for German Technical Aid in Burma. They lived in the jungle, in a remote mining town without electricity. She gave up this job when she returned to Germany to give birth to their first child. Since then, she has focussed on raising their five children and supporting her husband's career. Eleonore has led a rich, rewarding life full of engagement and commitment. She has an active curiosity for new situations, the opportunity to participate in political and cultural events, and the chance to, as she says, tongue-in-cheek, reinvent herself with each new posting.

(Continued on page 5)

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.



David Halton

“Matthew Halton: Canada’s Voice at War: Journalism Then and Now”

Acclaimed former CBC correspondent tells the story of his father,

whose gripping broadcasts from the front lines made him Canada’s voice during the Second World War.

Wednesday, February 11 at 8:00 pm



Mark Kristmanson

Head of the National Capital Commission

“The National Capital Commission: Looking Ahead”

On the job for one year now, the CEO of the NCC will speak of the opportunities that lie ahead for the NCC to enhance our capital region.

Wednesday, March 11 at 8:00 pm



Evan Solomon

Host of the CBC’s Power and Politics and The House

Wednesday, April 22 at 8:00 pm

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 1

The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA), 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

RESOURCES

Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre: a Centre for All Residents of Ward 13

Almost every Wednesday afternoon, the reception area at the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre has an average of about forty people waiting. It is Food Bank day.

Each month the program serves approximately one thousand residents of Ward 13. Such a high number could be surprising to many, given that Ward 13 includes the neighbourhoods of Rockcliffe, New Edinburgh and Lindenlea. But there is a fact that is often forgotten: the Ward also includes Overbrook and Carson, two much less affluent areas.

The Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, 225 Donald Street, has been in operation for over 30 years. A Community House located on Carson Road provides services to the residents of Carson. The Centre offers services in both official languages; hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Its mandate is to promote, with the residents of Ward 13, a process of individual and collective empowerment and improvement in the quality of life.

To meet the needs of residents who experience food insecurity, the Centre has implemented a program of nutritional support that is available two days a week for all residents of Ward 13. The Centre is also involved in several initiatives aimed at food security and better access to fresh and healthy foods, such as the Community Gardens, Good Food Markets and Mobile Market.

Beyond its Food Security Program, the Centre offers a variety of programs that respond to other identified needs in the community. With the help of various partners located within its premises, the Centre offers intake counselling and crisis intervention services, education and health promotion services, housing support services, diabetes education services, a Gifts In-Kind donations program, and numerous community development initiatives. A drop-in space at the Centre supports parents and young children aged 0 to 6 years. Youth programs delivered in the community and at Carson Community House serve children and youth aged 6 to 18.

The Centre is funded primarily by the City of Ottawa; all services offered are free of charge to Ward 13 residents. To learn more or to get involved, please visit www.crcrr.org or phone the Centre at **613 745-0073**.

*Yacouba Traoré, Executive Director
Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre*

APRIL BOOK SALE

Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale Fans: Save the Date!



It's hard to believe, but behind-the-scenes preparations for the 2015 Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale are in full swing. Thousands of books have already been donated, sorted and priced!

Now in its 18th year, its reputation as one of the best used book sales in Ottawa is firmly established all across the National Capital Region. Thanks to the receipt of interesting books from private libraries, this year promises to be even better. **So mark your calendar now: Saturday, April 11, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, April 12, 11 am to 5 pm.**

If you need to offload old books (perhaps to make room for your new Christmas gifts), please drop them off at the Rockcliffe Park Public Library during operating hours or call **613 580-2424, ext. 27623** for assistance. Of course, the sooner you bring in your books the better, as it will help volunteers to prepare for the sale. So please don't delay, and remember – no encyclopaedias, magazines or text books.

Many thanks in advance for your contributions. See you at the fair!

Jane Dobell and the RPPL Spring Book Sale volunteers

The 2015 Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale is generously supported by: The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence; Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering; and Brian Montgomery of Montgomery Asset Management | RBC Dominion Securities.

YOUR NEIGHBOUR

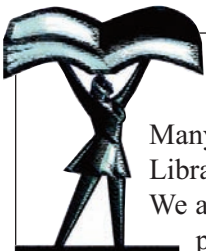
ELEONORE WNENDT *(Continued from page 3)*

Of all the places Eleonore and her husband have lived, Miami, for its influence on their eldest child, David, is perhaps the most interesting. Werner was working with the German Consulate there; at the same time, trials of Nazi war criminals were taking place in Germany. Because a great many elderly Jews lived in Miami at the time, German investigators came frequently to the city to talk to witnesses and gather evidence for the trials. David must have been influenced by what he heard around the dinner table because he is now an internationally renowned film director making movies critical of Neo Naziism. His latest movie is entitled "Look Who's Back" (*Er ist wieder da*), which he adapted from a novel of the same name and which is expected to be released October 15, 2015, in Germany.

Eleonore and Werner came to Ottawa in 2012. A posting usually lasts about two-and-a-half to three years. We hope they will stay longer. We know they will be here at least until after the Dining with the Ambassadors event. What memories will they take back to Germany with them? One memory Eleonore will take back for sure is meeting Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Opposition, standing at her door on Halloween dressed as a rooster, complete with white stockings, round belly, bright red coxcomb, and red wattles dangling from his chin. And maybe he will have lasting memories of her, too.

Jane Panet

Note: *Eleonore loves birds and feeds them all winter. She wants to know if her finches are thinner this year or if it's her imagination. Email her c/o editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca if you have information.*



Strong Volunteers Needed for the 2015 Spring Book Sale!

Many of you are patrons of the Spring Book Sale in support of the Rockcliffe Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, for which the organizers are most grateful. But we also need volunteers to make the event successful. We are looking for assistance to move boxes of books, manage the set-up of the outside part of the Book Sale premises during the week before the sale, and help with the take-down at the end of the sale. Set-up will take place from Tuesday, April 7 to Friday, April 10. The sale opens at 10 am on Saturday, April 11 and closes at 5 pm on Sunday. We have a dynamic and friendly group of volunteers who will price books, organize the audio-visual material and assist to some extent in setting up the outdoor space. We are able to provide volunteer hours for high school students.

This is a fun event and a true community initiative in that sales of books and audio-visual material from community donations raise almost \$20,000 (net) annually for the library, most of which remains with our local Rockcliffe Park Branch. If you are interested in assisting or wish to learn more about the tasks, please contact **Mary Anne Smallwood** at **613 744-3964** or **annie@andrex.ca** for details.

Beechwood Avenue Activities

Much has been occurring in terms of the redevelopment of Beechwood Avenue.

Domicile Developments have completed the concrete work on the Kavanaugh site and are now in the process of closing in the building structure. Domicile has already hosted a social event for those who have signed up as new residential owners in the development. Domicile is anticipating to lease one of the ground floor spaces for a new restaurant.

Minto Communities has yet to commence excavation on its Beechwood site in part due to the need to ensure that the adjacent pharmacy and pub would continue to be supplied with electric power and to decommission the basement electrical substation on the site. It is anticipated that demolition of the fire-damaged building on the MacKay Street corner will begin soon, with excavation beginning in February for the new building.

Claridge Homes has purchased the Casse Desjardins site on the north side of Beechwood. A public meeting was held on October 7, which the writer attended on behalf of Rockcliffe residents. Possibly as a result of submissions received at the public meeting, the application has been put on hold pending a resubmission from the developer.

St. Charles Church Redevelopment

As many have no doubt observed, the St. Charles Church property has been sold to a developer. It is the writer's understanding that the developer plans to retain the exterior of the church, which is protected by a City heritage designation, and to refinish the interior of the church for kiosks and small boutiques and stores. The land surrounding the church structure may be developed for high-rise residences. These plans remain in the speculative stage at this time.

Winter Roads Maintenance

Residents may recall that a column appeared in the December 2014 issue of *The Rockcliffe News* on this subject. I am pleased to say that the City appears to be following the guidelines. The writer was also pleased to receive a call from a representative of the Britannia Park Residents Association asking for a copy of our guidelines, to which I was happy to comply. Once again I must caution residents who are out walking in the evening to always face the oncoming traffic. With the dark evenings at this time of the year, it is very difficult for a motorist to see persons out walking, especially when they are wearing dark winter clothing.

Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPR

Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area Remediation Work in 2014

If you look into the woods in the CCCA on the east side of McKay Lake these days, you will notice that you can see much farther into the interior than was possible in the spring. Thanks to a grant from the City's Community Environmental Projects Grants program and additional support from the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association's environment budget, I was able to hire a professional arborist and his team, qualified and strong enough to use a motorized winch to pull out buckthorn trees and shrubs up to four inches in diameter. Once out of the ground and turned over, we knocked out the adhering soil and carted the root masses and trunks to an on-site pit for disposal. **John Brooks, John Venner, Marilyn Venner** and **Anthony Keith** worked with me, contributing 113 volunteer hours, and three UOttawa students also lent their support to this fall's effort, pulling out small- to medium-sized buckthorn and raking the paths clear of fallen leaves. As in the past, as areas are cleared, I plant acorns and the seeds of Sugar Maple, Dogwood and American Mountain Ash. In November we planted a White Elm, progeny of **Tracey Clark's** magnificent front yard tree. Tracey's 'mother elm' may be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease so we have high hopes that this offspring will also prove to be resistant. We will continue our work in the spring. Additional volunteer help would be greatly appreciated, especially in June when it is time to gently pull out Garlic Mustard. Contact me at environment@rockcliffepark.ca.



I am sometimes asked why I remove buckthorn. The simple reason is that it crowds out and out-competes our native trees and shrubs on which our birds and small mammals have come to depend for nutritious food and good shelter. Its leaves appear earlier in the spring and remain long after our native shrubs lose theirs in autumn. Because it casts such dense shade, ground-dwelling plants such as Trilliums, Canada Anemone and ferns are inhibited. Buckthorn changes the nitrogen and fungal composition of the soil and that also makes it harder for native species to thrive. The laxative effect of the blue berries ensures that the intact and un-macerated seeds are spread, thereby facilitating buckthorn's spread. There is also some evidence that compounds in the leaves can, after leaf-fall and decomposition, migrate through the soil to water and adversely affect frog survival.

Iola Price

www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca



WILDLIFE NOTES

Forty Thousand Residents Leave Rockcliffe

In mid-November, a skillful arborist succeeded in cutting out a section of a hollow maple trunk that contained a hive of domestic bees, including the comb with its store of honey required for winter survival. The arborist trucked the log to a bee keeper, who transferred the bees to a conventional hive and estimated their numbers.



A Village bee hitches a ride out of the neighbourhood on an unsuspecting toque.

For the thirteenth year, Common Mergansers stopped to fish in McKay Lake on their way south to ice-free wintering areas. The largest count I made was of 18 males and two females on 20 November, below the record number of 40 in 2013. The lake ice closed over on the night of 1 December, with a temperature of -15 C.

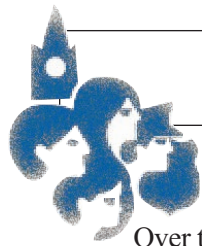
Having checked the lake nesting boxes accessible from the ice, here is the record of last summer's nesting box activity. The duck box at 400 Lansdowne was not used but the Tree Swallow box showed a successful fledging of all young. At 245 Sylvan, neither the duck nor the swallow box was used. At 194 Lansdowne, the duck box wasn't used but the swallow box contained a white feather and a few twigs, showing that a Tree Swallow had considered nesting but moved on. The duck box on the pole in the east marsh showed no sign

of egg laying, but there were traces of down. The swallow box showed a completely successful fledging. So, for the 2014 summer season, no ducks used nesting boxes and two Tree Swallow pairs brought off broods of flying young.

Otter sightings continued. One was reported swimming in the pond on 23 September. From close by, I watched one hunting near the lake outlet early on 28 September. Swimming on the surface, only its head showed. Each time it surfaced, it audibly exhaled. Each time it dived, its tail briefly cut the surface. On 16 October, **Tom d'Aquino** watched an otter eating something on the dock at 400 Lansdowne. A raccoon appeared from behind nearby plants. The otter was startled more than the raccoon, and slithered into the water. No one has reported seeing more than one otter at a time, so I assume just one has been using the lake and pond this past season.

Foxes have become established members of our Village ecosystem. They now take people for granted, rather than as predators to be avoided. On 9 October, as **Iola Price** and I stood at the Maple Lane/Acacia bus stop at 7 pm, a fox walked past between us and the hedge, not more than two feet from us, looking straight ahead, acting as though we didn't exist. One trotted through the **Tymowskis'** garden on Ashbury in November, looking neither to right or left. And on the afternoon of 12 January, **Susan d'Aquino** saw a beautiful fox trotting north on the lake ice. This route along the east side of the lake has been frequently used by foxes in recent years.

Anthony Keith, 16 January 2015



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime Reports

Over the last six months, a total of thirty crime reports were filed in the Village, almost all of them property thefts. Over half of these were of the break-and-enter type, the rest were thefts from vehicles and one theft of a vehicle. October was the most active month, with ten incidents reported.

Our Community Police Officer, **Constable Duhme**, has provided links to some Ottawa Police information services so that anyone can look at the statistics. The On-line Crime Mapping Tool lets the user check out reported incidents in a selected area over a selected period. The available information is category of incident, date/time it occurred, and location (to within a block). The link is www.ottawapolice.ca/en/crime/crime-mapping-tool.asp. It's also possible to

register for news updates from the Crime Prevention and Safety programs and News Releases:

- www.ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/Crime-Prevention-and-Safety-Programs.asp
- www.ottawapolice.ca/en/news/search.aspx

All incidents should be reported to help police address crimes in the community and identify crime patterns. To report a crime not currently in progress, go to www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp or call **613 236-1222, ext. 7300**. Call **911** for crimes in progress and life-threatening emergencies, **613 230-6211** for non-life-threatening emergencies. Reach **Cst. Walter Duhme**, Rockcliffe Park CPC, at **613 236-1222, ext./poste 5916**. Contact **Kay James**, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, by phone, **613 366-6793**, or by email, rockcliffepark.nw@gmail.com.



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

Showcasing the O-Train Confederation Line

As the holiday season becomes distant in the rear-view mirror, people begin to resume their usual rhythm. With that in mind, I am very excited to continue to work towards our City's future, while keeping perspective from the lessons of the past.

Ottawa is currently undertaking the single largest infrastructure project since Colonel By built the Rideau Canal. The Confederation Line project continues on-time and on-budget and I invite you to take a glimpse into Ottawa's transit future.

I was excited to recently announce that we would be showcasing a full-sized replica of the Alstom CITADIS Spirit LRT trains that will run on the O-Train Confederation Line. From February 1 until the end of March, you will be able to visit the train replica at the historic Aberdeen Pavilion in Lansdowne Park from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, seven days a week. The train will be on display along with information about our vision and plans for light rail in Ottawa. The replica will be showcasing the innovative, fully accessible design and features of this world-class electric light rail vehicle.

Along with familiarising Ottawa's future LRT riders, once the showcase has concluded this replica will be used as a true-to-life training tool for train operators. An opportunity to use a replica such as this will ensure operators are able to provide riders with an unparalleled level of safety and expertise from the first day of service forward.

Whether you're in the area to enjoy the Winterlude festivities or to shop, skate, or enjoy the beautiful new Art Wall at Lansdowne Park, I encourage you to take the opportunity to visit the showcase.

As the O-Train Confederation Line grows, our City will be fundamentally transformed. The way our City moves and grows will benefit our economy, our environment, and our families for generations to come. Ottawa's population is projected to grow 30 percent by 2031 and growing our transportation system along with it is essential to maintaining the sustainability and navigability of our City.

If you'd like to know more about this exciting project that continues to shape our City, visit www.confederationline.ca.



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

Although I've only been in office since December 1, 2014, there is a lot from my first weeks on the job that I want to share.

Two City Council meetings were held in December. The first focussed on governance of the Council. One important topic was the description of the annual City of Ottawa budget process. The governance report could have been interpreted to suggest that any budget increases in a particular area (say, parks and recreation) had to be offset within that funding envelope. I felt it was important for Council to be able to respond effectively to public and committee consultations and ensure it had full discretion to adjust the draft budget including by proposing increases in some areas to be offset by reductions in others or financed through other sources of funds. Over the previous term of Council few such changes were made, and Councillors perceived their latitude to be minimal once the draft budget was released. A number of us in the cohort of new Councillors expressed concern on this point and received the confirmation we were seeking that Council discretion was unfettered in this regard.

The second Council meeting established Committee membership and set budget directions. I am pleased to announce that I will be sitting on the Planning Committee, Transit Commission, Community and Protective Services Committee, and Chairing the Built Heritage Sub-Committee. We clarified that our target for the 2015 budget was to keep any property tax increases at two percent or less. The need for Council to be able to reach into the operations of the City and find efficiencies to fund the important priorities of residents was thus made all the more clear.

On the subject of the City budget, I will be co-hosting a public budget consultation on Wednesday February 11 at 7 pm at the St. Laurent Complex along with **Rideau-Vanier Councillor Mathieu Fleury** for the residents of our two wards. I invite you to join us. The session will be a great opportunity for citizens to articulate their priorities and provide views on trade-offs. We want to try and make the session interactive and informative. Please visit my website, tobinusbaum.ca, for further details. Hope to see you there!

I will be soon be starting my monthly e-updates in which I will offer my thoughts on City Hall issues from parks to planning, as well as outline ward updates and events. If you'd like to receive them, sign up on my website, tobinusbaum.ca.



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

Abuse and Sexual Violence in Our Community

Roughly one in three women reading this article will experience sexual assault at some point in her life. Yet fewer than ten percent of sexual assaults are reported to police. Fear of violence knows no bounds of gender or age; almost two-thirds of gay and trans students feel unsafe at school.

These statistics are unacceptable. Every person in Ontario has the right to live free from violence and harassment in their home, workplace and community. We still have a long way to go.

This year, our province is moving forward with a renewed commitment to fight gender-based violence, discrimination and harassment. Our government's new public education campaign will challenge norms and behaviors around sexual violence and harassment. Its goal is to minimize hurtful behavior, skepticism and myths around sexual violence while raising awareness of the services and supports available to victims in the legal, health and mental health systems.

As part of this effort, Premier Wynne has asked me to review current practices and improve support for victims in the criminal justice system. While Canada has strong rape shield laws, many victims who testify in court experience re-victimization. It is our duty as a society to make sure our legal system is a place where no one is excluded. My recommendations, if approved, will become part of an action plan that our government will put into motion by March 8, International Women's Day.

In our last budget, the government invested \$14.5 million over three years to support front-line services that help women and children facing abuse. In addition to this commitment, we are proud to support Talk4Healing, Ontario's only women's helpline that supports Aboriginal women throughout Northern Ontario.

If you are experiencing abuse, the community is here to help: **Assaulted Women's Helpline: 1-866-863-0511; Fem'aide: 1-877-336-2433; Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre: (E) 613 745-4818; (F) 613 745-3665; Talk4Healing: 1-855-554-HEAL (4325).**



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

2014 in Review

A look back at 2014 recalls to mind some significant initiatives. The following is an abridged overview of some accomplishments and issues from the past year, as well as what can be expected in 2015. For the complete English or French version of the text, you may visit my website at www.mauril.ca/news. Pour le texte au complet en anglais ou en français, veuillez vous rendre sur mon site web au www.mauril.ca/les-nouvelles.

National Anthem

On September 22, I tabled in the House of Commons Bill C-624, An Act to Amend the National Anthem Act (gender). The bill seeks to replace the words "thy sons" with "of us" in the English version of the national anthem in order to eliminate any gender distinction. With my bill, I want to pay tribute to all the women who have worked and fought to build and shape the Canada that we know today. The sole purpose of my bill is to include Canadian women. I want to at long last honour their sacrifices and contributions. The debate on my bill will likely begin in February 2015. I am hoping for a respectful and non-partisan debate.

The Events of October 22

It would be impossible to provide an overview of 2014 without mentioning the despicable acts of violence that occurred on October 22 at the National War Memorial and on Parliament Hill. We were all deeply shocked and saddened by the death of **Corporal Nathan Cirillo**, shot down in cold blood as he stood in faithful guard in front of our National War Memorial. Such violence against our democratic institutions is abhorrent. I would like to thank the men and women of the various security services, including **Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers**, who so courageously risked their lives to protect Canadians.

50th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag

On February 15, 1965, the red and white maple leaf flag became the official flag of Canada, which means that we will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Canadian flag was adopted by the House of Commons on December 15, 1964, and raised for the first time on February 15, 1965. Between December 2014 and February 15, 2015, I plan to distribute an informative and colourful poster depicting the history of our flag to all students in Ottawa-Vanier schools.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Scientists in School

Elmwood's Junior School has played host to educators from Scientists in School (SiS) a number of times over the past months. This organization helps students develop a long-lasting interest in science, technology, math, environmental stewardship and engineering, and encourages future careers in science-related fields. First up, in November, was the Grade Five class, where girls spent an afternoon learning about various systems in the human body. They learned how the respiratory, circulatory, digestive, nervous, and the musculoskeletal systems function both independently and



Grade Five students Grace K. and Madighan R. use an x-ray to learn about the skeletal system.

interdependently. The girls also reviewed x-rays to learn the names for bones within the skeletal system, built a model of the urinary system, and created a life-sized model of the digestive system. In December, Elmwood's Grade Three class explored Structures and Forces as part of their "Strong and Stable" Unit of Inquiry. Activities helped to deepen their understanding of structures and the forces acting on them, including magnetic force, friction, resistance and more. After the holiday break, the Grade Four class participated in an SiS workshop about sound. The girls learned about vibration, sound frequency and wavelength, and even made their own musical instruments.

Admissions Open House – Wednesday, February 4 at 9:30 am

Come visit our campus, take a school tour and learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. If you can't attend this event but would like to schedule a private tour, please call the Admissions Office. Please also note: Our Winter Entrance Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 21.

To RSVP for the Open House, or for more information about applying to Elmwood, please visit www.elmwood.ca or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.

The Countdown to the Centennial

Excitement is building for September 2015, when the Elmwood School community will celebrate the School's 100th anniversary! As we approach our centennial anniversary, it is time to come together to recognize and celebrate the School's 100 remarkable years of inspiring girls.

Over the past 10 decades, more than 6,000 students from around the world have passed through the doors of Elmwood School. Our graduates have gone on to make positive contributions to their families, their companies, their communities and their countries. Truly, we have much to celebrate.

And what a celebration it promises to be! To mark our centennial, we will host events and initiatives throughout the year, aimed at engaging and uniting the Elmwood community like never before.

Save the Dates for These Centennial Events:

Centennial Kick Off:

September 9, 2015 (first day of school)

Homecoming/Founder's Day/Fall Festival:

October 2, 3 and 4, 2015

Holly Tea and Art Festival: December 5, 2015

Father-Daughter Dance: February 6, 2016

Elmwood Gala: April 23, 2016

Centennial Finale: June 17, 2016

For more information, please visit elmwood100.ca.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Junior School students started the new year by immersing themselves in a host of winter activities in Quebec.

Junior School Salutes Winter

Our Junior School students started the new term with a focus on French as Grade 7 and 8 classes ventured to Quebec for a number of cultural experiences. Grade 7s set off for Montreal, where they explored the Biodome before heading to the archaeological wonders of Pointe-à-Callière, which lies below the streets at the founding location of Montreal. The Grade 7s worked on their French language skills while skiing, snowshoeing, skating, singing, acting and playing. A scavenger hunt in town and a cross-country skiing adventure were also part of the fun.

Meanwhile, the Grade 8s were in Quebec City experiencing historical sites, dog sledding, Montmorency Falls and French cuisine.

Not wanting to feel left out from special adventures, the Grade 4, 5 and 6 classes created an adventure for themselves. Using the theme “We Love Winter,” the teachers designed three days of special winter curriculum. Measuring the core temperature of snow and determining the insulating effect of snow was one activity. Creating action poetry and clay snowmen were ways to bring creativity into

their learning. Inuit games for PE gave the students the opportunity for kinesthetic learning. All these experiences and more made for a creative and engaging introduction to the new term – and the new year.

The Robotics Race

The Ashbury Robotics team started the year in high gear as they strive to construct a robot in just six weeks. The team is competing in this year’s FIRST Robotics Challenge, Recycle Rush, which is broadcast from NASA and streamed all over the world.

The 20-student team works with parent mentors and mentors from Veritas Tools to develop their strategy and overall robot design. In the coming weeks, they will be building prototypes of different ideas to see what will work best in preparation for the March competition. It’s a fantastic opportunity for them to learn through the stages of design, make some valuable mistakes and have fun with power tools.

Summer at Ashbury

While the school year is in full swing, it’s never too early to start thinking about summer. Once again, Ashbury is offering a diverse summer learning curriculum designed to engage and entertain students between the ages of 7 and 17. Choose camps with a focus on art, drama, music, technology or sports. Or specialize with our academic programs targeting study skills, reading and French. Whether you are looking to learn a new talent or improve existing ones, Ashbury’s summer programs are a great way to get ahead.

All programs are offered on our stunning historic campus and are open to anyone. June and July camp programs are for children 7 to 13, academic programs for children 7 to 17. For more information, visit ashbury.ca/summer or send an email to summer@ashbury.ca.

Spring Open House – March 26

Families interested in the Ashbury Advantage are invited to attend our Spring Open House on Thursday, March 26, from 9 am to noon. Drop by our campus to see our classes in action, chat with students and faculty, tour our historic buildings and learn more about our admissions process. All are welcome!

END NOTES

Recreation News

Spring Programs at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre

Spring is just around the corner! In addition to our regular line-up of courses, you can look forward to new ones as well: Writing for Enjoyment (ages 50+), Fiction Writing – The Basics and Beyond (8-12 years), Basic Photography (adults) and Photo Editing (adults).

Registration begins on March 4 at 9 pm (online) or in person during business hours on March 5. Avoid disappointment, sign up in advance! Course registration is reviewed one week prior to the start of all courses to ensure we have met the minimum numbers required to offer them.

Recreation Open House

Come one, come all! All residents of Rockcliffe Park and neighbouring communities are invited to attend our Recreation Open House. Join us Wednesday, February 18 at 7 pm at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road. We'll present our proposed ideas for recreation programming in the fall of 2015. We are seeking your input and ideas. We welcome all comments – bring us your wish list.

Community Centre Registration Office Winter Operating Hours



Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Wednesday: 1:30 – 8 pm
Thursday: 9:30 am – 4 pm
Friday: 9:30 am – 4 pm
Saturday: 1 – 4 pm
Sunday – Closed

The Program Hall is available to rent for meetings and special occasions. Call us for details or send your request by email. Contact us: **613 842-8578 / rockcliffe@ottawa.ca**.

Elmwood School Theatre presents:

The Madwoman of Chaillot

by Jean Giraudoux, adapted by Maurice Valency

Wednesday, February 25 to Sunday, March 1 at 7 pm
(Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1 at 2 pm)

For information and tickets, phone **613 749-6761**
starting January 26, 2015.

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

Fire and Water in the Garden

Thursday, February 26
at 7:30 pm



Benjamin Strapper, landscape designer with MacKinnon Reid & Associates, will show us how to incorporate water and fire features into our gardens for drama and ambiance.



Decorative Stone

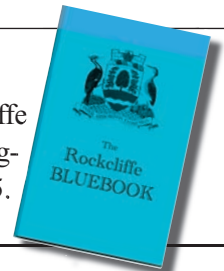
Thursday, March 26
at 7:30 pm

Josie Pazzior, master gardener, will show us how to use stone, from walkways to walls, to highlight our gardens.

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$7 for guests. For information contact **VeraCody, jody1@rogers.com**.

The Rockcliffe Bluebook:

Available for purchase at the Rockcliffe Community Police Centre, 360 Springfield Road. \$15 each or two for \$25.



Fire at 140 Howick Street

On the evening of December 15, 2014, fire swept through a nearly century-old residence located at 140 Howick Street.



The three-alarm blaze destroyed the house, which had been under renovations for much of the past year. The fire department ruled the cause was accidental, likely the result of a spark from a pipe-cutting saw.

Sarah and James Baxter bought the property a year ago from its long-time owners, **Ian and Nancy Clark**, and were restoring the house with care to maintain its heritage qualities. "We're very sad that this wonderful old home was lost and are especially sorry for the Clark family," said James Baxter. "At the same time, we feel fortunate no one was hurt and that the fire department did an excellent job keeping it from spreading. All along, we have been overwhelmed by the support of neighbours and friends, and very grateful for all their support. This is a wonderful community."