



The Rockcliffe News

August 2016

Rockcliffe Park

Residents Association

www.rockcliffepark.ca

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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

AUGUST

Please Note: The Community Centre office is closed in August. To contact City staff, email rockcliffe@ottawa.ca or phone 613 842-8578. The library will remain open.

- 20** Saturday, 5:00 pmLumière Festival, Stanley Park, New Edinburgh; details at lumiereottawa.ca
- 23** Tuesday, 6:30 pm.....Doug Barr Children's Show (musician), Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library*

SEPTEMBER

- 13** Tuesday, 1 to 7:30 pm...3D Printer Demo, Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library*
- 14** Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 17** Saturday, 3 to 8 pm90th Anniversary Rockcliffe Village Fête, Community Centre*
- 17** Sat, 4:15 to 4:55 pm.....Luc Leduc Magician, Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library*
- 17** Sat, 10 am to 4 pmNew Edinburgh Artists' Studio Tour*
- 18** Sun, 11 am to 4 pmNew Edinburgh Artists' Studio Tour*
- 21** Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: Susan d'Aquino, Rockcliffe Park Resident and Award-Winning Garden Creator, on "A Garden for an Iconic House," Community Hall*
- 22** Thursday, 7:30 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Rob Brandon, Local Ottawa Gardener and Garden Historian, on "Gardens of Kyoto," Community Hall*

OCTOBER

- 19** Wednesday, 7:15 pm....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 22** Saturday, time TBAElmwood School Fall Open House, 261 Buena Vista*
- 27** Thursday, 7:30 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Andre Boyer on "Bonsai," Community Hall*

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

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 4

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. Paid advertising is not accepted. Current and past issues are posted on the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Sometimes I wonder why we have an August newsletter. Many of you may be reading this after sifting through weeks of mail at the end of your summer holiday. Others will, of course, be reading this hot off the press in August. Whatever the case, I hope that you have had or will continue to have a pleasant and peaceful summer season.

Not all have been on vacation, though. The RPRA has been working with some of your neighbours to form a new Heritage Committee, the purpose of which is to provide comments to City staff concerning development projects in Rockcliffe Park. In the past, this task was conducted by three separate sub-committees, each of which examined and commented upon specific aspects of a development project. Occasionally this resulted in conflicting opinions on the merits of a proposal. The new Heritage Committee, as a single body, will examine development proposals using the new Heritage Conservation District Plan as its reference and guide.

On June 15 of this year, Rockcliffe residents packed our Community Hall to hear a presentation from City staff and the RPRA on the matter of detached secondary dwelling units, which the City is calling Coach Houses, and whether they should be allowed to be built in Rockcliffe. The overwhelming feeling of residents was that Coach Houses should not be permitted to be built in this Heritage Conservation District. The RPRA has formally asked the City and the Mayor to have the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District exempted from any City-wide policy that would permit the construction of Coach Houses. The matter will formally come before Council at some time in the fall. Please continue to check our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, for the latest updates on this file.

In other news, the Pond briefly gave us hope earlier this year with high water levels but very rapidly reverted to much lower levels. With the help of the City we tested a submersible pump that may be able to help us maintain water levels in the future. As of this writing we are awaiting the results of those tests and we are still pursuing a hydrogeological study of the Pond to try to understand what is happening with it.

In a positive development, a public meeting was held on July 13 to inform Rockcliffe residents of the opportunity to take possession of the old warming hut that formerly was attached to the skating rink at Rideau Hall. Many residents, I am sure, have very fond memories of sipping hot chocolate and warming themselves after a skate on the Governor General's rink. The NCC was planning to demolish the hut to allow a heritage building on the grounds of Rideau Hall to be moved and converted into a new and larger facility for the Governor General's rink. By the time you read this, the hut will be resting in its temporary location on the grounds of RPPS before being prepared as the warming hut for our community rink.

Our Rockcliffe Park Speakers Program kicks off again on September 21, this time with the program's organizer, **Susan d'Aquino**, giving a talk entitled "*A Garden for an Iconic Home*." November's speakers are already lined up and you can find the full schedule and description of the topics on the next page of this newsletter.

Finally, please clear your calendars for Saturday, September 17, the occasion of the 90th Anniversary Rockcliffe Village Fête. It is going to be a great day of fun, entertainment, good food and music – all for a good cause, too, as we will help raise funds for the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. Much of the entertainment is to be provided by Rockcliffe residents, so come one and all. I look forward to seeing you there.

Upon reflection, I now appreciate the need for an August newsletter! Just because some of us are away these months, it does not mean that things stop happening – far from it. And the activity in the Village really kicks up in September! So, in closing, I would like to thank all those who work so hard throughout the year to put this newsletter together, bundle it and get it delivered to every house in the Village. Thank you all for your efforts.

Peter Lewis, August 2016

Please Note: Volunteers Needed! Next year is Canada's Sesquicentennial. If you would like to help plan and celebrate Rockcliffe Park's history, please email secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Fall 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.



Susan d'Aquino

Rockcliffe Park Resident and Award-Winning Garden Creator

“A Garden for an Iconic House”

With abundant pictures of her house and garden, Susan d'Aquino will tell the story behind the creation of a garden to complement the iconic modernist Hart Massey House on McKay Lake.

Wednesday, September 21 at 8:00 pm



Ron Cohen

World Expert on the Writings of Winston Churchill

“Churchill: A Man for All Seasons”

A wonderful speaker – who can imitate Churchill's voice – Ron Cohen will paint a portrait of the author, Nobel Laureate, wordsmith and leader who was Churchill, and his connection with Canada.

Wednesday, November 2 at 8:00 pm



Fen Hampson

Co-Director, Global Commission on Internet Governance

“Look Who's Watching: Losing Faith in the Internet”

Fen Hampson, Director of the Global Security and Politics Program at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), will talk about his new book, *“Look Who's Watching: Why the World Is Losing Faith in the Internet”* – big brother, crime, cyber-warfare – and you.

Wednesday, November 23 at 8:00 pm

A Brief History of the Speakers Program

The current incarnation of the Speakers Program got its start over 15 years ago, in early 2001. I wanted to kick off the series with a really interesting and distinguished speaker on a riveting topic, to set the tone for the future. **Louise Arbour** had recently returned from her role as Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague to join the Supreme Court and had bought a house just up the street. So I approached her, telling her that we wanted to have a Speakers Program to help build the community, that there would always be a very interested audience, and that we wanted to start with a bang – her! She did not disappoint, speaking without notes, articulately and with great colour. And her appearance paved the way for a remarkable sequence of prominent, thought-provoking speakers.

A key part of the evenings from the start were the coffee and homemade cookies that are offered after each presentation – an opportunity for those who attend to chat informally with the speaker and among themselves. We reach out beyond Rockcliffe with notices of the events and keep a call list of people who do not receive our newsletter but want to know the schedule. Initially, we had both an evening series of six or seven speakers each year and one or two lunches as well. The lunches, organized by **Mary Taylor**, have fallen by the wayside as they were much harder to organize.

I hope you will join us in the fall for the continuation of the Speakers Program. It promises to be a lively season!

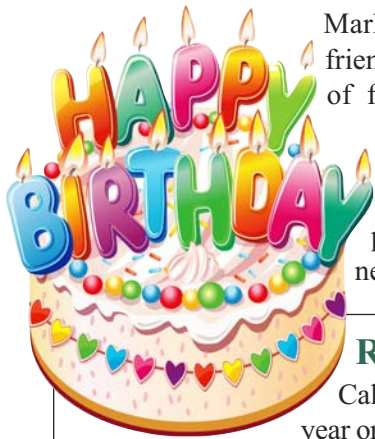
Susan d'Aquino

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Celebrating 90 Years: Rockcliffe Village Fête September 17, 2016, 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm | Rockcliffe Park Community Centre

Rockcliffe Park is turning 90 and resident volunteers are planning a big bash to celebrate its past, present and future. Under the leadership of chair **Aly Abdullah**, an unforgettable program is on track. Events start with the RCMP pipe band, a community photo at the soccer field taken from the air in the shape of a huge figure 90, a dog and owners' escorted walk, *A Taste of the World*, featuring samples of international cuisine from some of our Rockcliffe embassies, a wine and beer tent, oven-baked pizza stand, displays of historic photos, a huge birthday cake, children's games and activities, including a **Luc Leduc** magic show (see details on p. 5) and musical entertainment for all ages. No admission fee; all are welcome. Thanks go to our sponsors, **Allegra Printing**, **Epicuria** and **Rhodes Barker**.



Mark your calendars and tell your friends to join in on this special day of family fun. Watch the RPR website for info updates, friend us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter! Be sure to save the poster insert included with this newsletter. See you there!

Residents 90 and Up: Join in Rockcliffe's 90th Birthday Celebration!

Calling all Rockcliffe residents born in 1926 or earlier – i.e. those who will be turning 90 years this year or older. You are invited to take part in our 90th Anniversary cake cutting ceremony at Rockcliffe's 90th Birthday Party. The cake cutting will be at approximately 5:00 pm on September 17; please come to the stage in the tent located behind Community Hall at 4:45 pm. In the meantime, let us know if you can make it by contacting RPR secretary **Marilyn Venner** by email at secretary@rockcliffepark.ca or by phone at **613 620-6190**. We will take a group photo with Epicuria's owner, **Tracey Black**, who has graciously agreed to donate a huge birthday cake.

On September 17 and 18, Local Artists Build a NEST (New Edinburgh Studio Tour) in New Edinburgh!



NEW EDINBURGH
ARTISTS'
STUDIO TOUR

On September 17 and 18, seventeen artists who work in New Edinburgh will open their doors and invite the public to join them in their creative spaces. In addition there will be three mini-exhibits scheduled to begin mid-August through to September 18 at Second Cup, Bridgehead and Victoria Island Realities Inc. This is the first annual event of its kind in New Edinburgh – a two-day, self-directed artist studio tour that aims to build a vibrant arts community.

Artists will be offering ongoing demonstrations throughout the tour, giving visitors an opportunity to learn about the artists and their techniques as they visit each studio. Artistic media represented include oils, acrylics, pastels, mixed media, encaustic, original prints, photography, ceramic art and glass.

Free admission, free parking and free draws for door prizes at each studio location! Hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday and 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday.

For a tour map, go to nestudiotour.com/map. For more information, visit nestudiotour.com or contact **Susan Ashbrook**, 613 833-8312 or ashbrookcreative@gmail.com.

Heritage Ottawa Offers Fun and Informative Sunday Walking Tours

Stroll through some of Ottawa's most interesting neighbourhoods with Heritage Ottawa's knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteer Tour Guides. Whether you're a long-time resident, a relative newcomer or a visitor to our City, you're bound to discover a side of Ottawa that you never knew existed! Tours begin at 2:00 pm, rain or shine, and last approximately 1.5 hours. Walking Tours are \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members, payable at the start of the tour. There is no need to pre-register. Go to heritageottawa.org/sunday-walking-tours for more information.



EVENTS

Summer Fun at the Library!

Doug Barr Children's Show (musician)

Join children's performer **Doug Barr** at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library at 6:30 pm on August 23 for an intimate and interactive show of musical story telling for families! Program language: English. Ages: Family (for all ages, mainly 12 and under). No registration required.

3D Printer Demo



On Tuesday, September 13 from 1:00 to 7:30 pm at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, come and see demonstrations of a 3D printer (a Makerbot Replicator, 5th generation). Customers will

be able to watch their objects get printed and come alive before their eyes. English presentation (bilingual staff will also be on site). Ages: Family (for all ages). No registration or appointments necessary.

Luc Leduc Magician

On Saturday, September 17 from 4:15-4:55 pm, join us at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library for a fun magic show as part of Rockcliffe's 90th Anniversary Celebration. English presentation (bilingual staff will be on site to answer questions). Magician is also bilingual. Ages: Family (for all ages, mainly 4-12 years). Free admission and no reservations needed.

Contact for both programs: **Sonia Doyon**, Supervisor, email Sonia.doyon@bibliooottawalibrary.ca, phone **613 580-2940**.

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

Gardens of Kyoto: Thursday, September 22, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Rob Brandon, Local Ottawa Gardener and Garden Historian

Rob will present the features of the eight Japanese gardens he visited and show us how we can incorporate their elements into our own.

Bonsai: Thursday, October 27, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Andre Boyer

Learn about this intriguing and beautiful Japanese art form of growing trees in containers.

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.



NEIGHBOURHOOD

Rideau Hall's Historic Warming Hut Finds a New Home at Rockcliffe Rink



After the NCC announced plans to destroy the historic warming hut at Rideau Hall's skating rink and replace it with the much larger Dairy Barn, a 122-year-old structure currently in

another location on the Rideau Hall grounds, some Rockcliffe Park residents organized an effort to save the original hut. On July 20, after months of preparation and a successful public consultation, The Rockcliffe Hosers moved the Rideau Hall Warming Hut to the Rockcliffe Rink site.

We would like to thank the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable **David Johnston**, and the **National Capital Commission** for their generous gift. We would also like to thank our City Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, for his great help on this initiative.

Rockcliffe Hosers' Corporation's **Russ Gibson** led this effort every step of the journey. He took care of all of the little details and made sure everything went smoothly. We could not have completed the move without his great work. Our enduring memory of the move will be of Russ, in dress shoes and business attire, running a full kilometre after the hut as it trundled down Mariposa, phone in hand, documenting the process! Thanks also go to **Robin Fyfe**, **Sandy Smallwood**, **Peter Gibson**, **Steve Bleeker** and **Hawryli Smallwood** for their great work in securing this building.

We would like to commend **Chamberland Lalonde Building Movers Ltd.** for their professional and efficient services. Watching them jack up the building, place it on a float and steer the hut through the neighbourhood behind a pickup truck was fun to watch.

Our next step will be to immediately start the Heritage planning process for the building to be placed between the two rinks at our preferred site. Concurrently we will also start the process to build our chilled rink pad and sport court.

Any additional financial support the community can give during these coming months will be much appreciated. Charitable donations can continue to be made by sending your cheque to Rockcliffe Hosers' Corporation, 150 Sir Guy Carleton Street, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1M 0G7.

Brian Montgomery

ENVIRONMENT



The long-awaited test of the well that was drilled in the 1980s to replenish The Pond took place over July 13-14. The test

was conducted by a company engaged by the City as part of a geotechnical examination of the Pond.

Long-time residents may recall that as a condition of subdivision approval and construction of the condominium complex on Whitemarl and Bittern Court, the developer undertook to have a deep (257 feet) well drilled. Information from the hydrogeologist's 1981 report shows that the well "was to provide a source of good quality groundwater which could be pumped into the pond in case water levels are lowered at some time in the future by urbanization of the McKay Lake watershed. To achieve this goal, the well had to have three important characteristics: *A:* The well had to be constructed in a manner so that it would draw water from a deep fracture system in the bedrock to ensure that the aquifer to be utilized was not hydraulically connected directly to the pond. *B:* The well had to produce an adequate yield of groundwater to recharge the pond. *C:* Groundwater had to be of excellent chemical and bacteriological quality. It also had to be close enough to the pond for ease of maintenance and future use." The well satisfied all those criteria.

Over the years, the water level in The Pond has fluctuated, but since 2010 there has been a drastic drop in water levels. And, the City determined that the pump in the well no longer worked (vandalism?) and so the well could not be used and to repair it would be expensive. There were, however, persistent claims that the pump had worked in the past and that, when needed, it automatically fed water from the well into The Pond. Enquiries to the Ministry of the Environment in 2010 confirmed that the 1981 water quality analytical data could not be used to support a re-start of the well. The City would need to request a permit to pump and test the well and have new water quality data provided to the Ministry.

We do not know the results yet but we do know that water was drawn from a depth of approximately 30 metres and at rates that varied from 10 to 40 gallons per minute over the 24-hour test period. The water was discharged to The Pond but filtered first through straw bales and the shoreline sand. It does not appear that the water level in The Pond changed appreciably in the 24 hour test, in spite of an additional heavy rainfall.

Iola Price
Chair, Environment Committee

CITY HALL



From the desk of Mayor Jim Watson
City of Ottawa

Lansdowne Park

City Council recently received its annual report on the Lansdowne Park partnership, and it contains some very good news for Ottawa residents.

It shows that the site was visited by over 2.5 million last year, and that over 1,000 jobs have been created at Lansdowne in the shops, arena, restaurants, stadium and on the grounds. It also shows how popular and successful the Horticulture Building has become, with hundreds of events taking place each year, many of which are charity and non-profit activities.

The popular Farmers' Market continues to grow, with the addition of the very popular Christmas markets held in the Aberdeen Pavilion in December. I am pleased to report we have also signed a new lease with our Farmers to ensure they have continued stability. The retail component is now 97 per cent leased, and it's great to see so many people enjoying dinner on one of the many patios throughout the Park.

On the Canal side of the park, I always marvel at the amount of new green space and trees that have been added to the public areas. Whether it's kids playing in the park, or skateboarding, or just tossing a Frisbee around the Great Lawn, the Park is now really a park! The fruit trees and apple orchard are now bearing fruit, and the community gardens beside the Horticulture Building are fully utilized. The skating court was open more than 100 days last season, as well.

Financially, the plan sees the City receiving a dividend of over \$32 million over the life of the agreement. What a change from Lansdowne, complete with its rundown building and acres of asphalt costing taxpayers \$3-4 million in losses each year! All of the doom and gloom that Glebe grocery stores would close hasn't happened, or that traffic would be a nightmare on game days, really has not materialized. Yes, there is more traffic at the site, but OSEG has worked with the community to minimize this with their agreement with OC Transpo and operating shuttle services.

Sadly, some on council continue to fight the deal, but they just can't seem to accept that we have a great success on our hands. So after decades of indecision and dithering, we have transformed this important City asset from a pavement jungle into a work, live, play destination that is serving our community well. For more information on Lansdowne, go to www.lansdownelive.ca or www.Jimwatsonottawa.ca.



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

Rockcliffe Pond Update

In response to low water levels in The Pond, an engineering consulting firm has been hired to test the existing pump to verify the viability of the well and whether it could be used to manage water levels in the future. I'm happy to report that the necessary approvals from the province, although delayed, were granted and the test was conducted in July. My office is awaiting the report from the consultants that will include the results of the pump test and should shed light on the root causes of the decreased water levels. As soon as they are available, I will communicate the results of the pump test and the recommended course of action in consultation with City staff and members of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association.

Beechwood Transportation Study

For the past year, the City has been studying and consulting the public on how to make Beechwood Avenue into a complete street, with safer transportation options for all modes of travel. Following consultations in March, a number of tweaks have been made to the plan, which will see the introduction of bike lanes, a lower posted speed limit and alternate side on-street parking. Much of the public feedback focused on the need to retain on-street parking to support local business. As a result, City staff is reviewing the creation of an extra 22 parking spaces (in addition to the initial proposal for 207 spaces) for a total of 229 spaces within one block of Beechwood, compared to 166 parking spaces today. Details on the changes arising from the public consultation will be posted at ottawa.ca/beechwoodavenue.

Residents also identified the need to look at transit service to decrease potential conflicts with cyclists and improve flow through the bottleneck between Vanier Parkway and Springfield Road. This led to an evaluation and pilot relocation of transit stops in this corridor. OC Transpo has been accepting feedback and is reviewing a suggestion from myself and **Councillor Fleury** to add a new stop on St. Patrick on the west side of the Vanier Parkway intersection to ease transfers to the #9 route. If any bus stop changes are made permanent, shelters, benches and garbage receptacles would be relocated to the new stops.

Call for Artwork

The entranceway to my office has been adorned by the beautiful art work of Rideau-Rockcliffe resident **Anuk Jain**

for several months now. I want to continue this tradition and showcase the work of other local residents. If you are interested in having your artwork displayed at City Hall, please send me an email at tobi.nussbaum@ottawa.ca, including an image of your work, the dimensions of the piece and your contact information. My team will contact you to co-ordinate and confirm the display dates.



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

My Bill to Amend the National Anthem

In an earlier article, I reported on the tabling of my Private Member's Bill C-210, An Act to amend the National Anthem Act (gender), to make a small modification to the English lyrics of our national anthem, changing them from "True patriot love in all thy sons command" to "True patriot love in all of us command." Just two words – "of us" would replace "thy sons." These two words would make our national anthem more inclusive and pay tribute to all the women who have helped to shape our society. I believe it is important for our national anthem to finally recognize their contribution.

My Bill C-210 has received support from MPs from all parties and citizens of all parts of the country. I introduced it on January 27. I spoke about it again during Second Reading on May 6, but those opposed to it forced further debate on May 31. I owe a debt of gratitude to **Linda Lapointe**, a Liberal colleague, for giving me her Private Member's Bill slot to allow for this continuation of debate. A vote on June 1 sent the Bill to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage.

This committee reported the Bill, unchanged, back to the House on June 3 and I must again express my gratitude to **Gabriel Ste-Marie**, a Bloc Québécois MP, for allowing me his allocated time to conclude debate on Third Reading on June 10. The House finally adopted Bill C-120 on June 15 by a convincing vote of 225 to 74, and it was sent to the Senate for its consideration.

Senator **Nancy Ruth** introduced the Bill in the Senate the same day for a First Reading. Debate, on Second Reading, took place on June 21. There was no consensus to proceed quickly on the matter so debate will resume when Parliament returns in September. Senator Ruth believes the bill has the numbers to ensure passage, provided those opposed do not engage in procedural tactics to cause unwarranted delay.

I look forward to C-210 becoming law in the fall.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Ashbury COLLEGE



The Class of 2016 celebrates their graduation by throwing their school ties in the air.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

Ashbury's school year officially wrapped up in June with ceremonies commemorating the graduations of both the Grade 8 and Grade 12 classes.

Junior School parents and students gathered in Maclaren Hall on June 16 for a celebration of achievement. The evening began with the presentation of multiple academic awards, followed by diplomas to the talented Grade 8 students who are now ready for the challenges of Senior School.

On Friday, June 17, our Grade 12 graduates gathered on the school's front lawn for the annual alumni pinning ceremony. Members of Ashbury's accomplished alumni community bestowed Ashbury pins on each of the 144 graduates, welcoming them into the alumni fold. Head of School **Norman Southward** addressed the graduates and reminded them of their responsibility as Ashbury alumni. Finally, on Saturday, June 18, hundreds of students, parents and staff gathered on the front lawn of the school to pay tribute to the Class of 2016. Special tributes were paid to retiring faculty, including English teacher **Mary Baxter**, Junior School teachers **Guy Valentine** and **Mike King**, and the Head of Student Services, **Malcolm Mousseau**.

The distribution of diplomas capped off the morning's events. The graduates, who collectively received more than

\$1.5 million in university entrance scholarships, now turn their sights to the future as they head out to more than 40 post-secondary institutions around the world. We wish them well as they continue along their path of learning.

Ashbury Welcomes Refugee Family

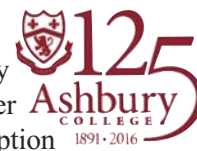
Ashbury welcomed its sponsored Syrian refugee family to Ottawa on July 14 with tears, hugs and waves. Students, staff and parents greeted the family of five at the airport and transported them to their new home, just east of downtown.

The family, comprised of two parents and three young children, fled their native Syria almost two years ago, and had been living temporarily in Beirut, Lebanon, waiting to come to Canada. For the past nine months, a volunteer committee made up of Ashbury parents, students and staff has readied for the family's arrival, coordinating everything from housing to items of clothing and more. Ashbury alumni and the wider school community generously donated to the fund to financially support the family over the course of the next year, while others stepped up to offer translation services, furniture for the home and bicycles for the children. Ashbury volunteers have been helping the new family get settled, arranging for appointments at banks and various government service offices, and registering the children for school. The children enjoyed summer camp offerings at the school, and an Ashbury parent has arranged for free dental work for the entire family in the coming weeks.

"As an international school, Ashbury is dedicated to global responsibility," says Ashbury's Head of School, **Norman Southward**. "We have forged links with families around the world and instilled in our students the importance of caring for others. Welcoming this new family is something that is innate to who we are as a community." Ashbury's 125-year history includes a tradition of reaching out to help, including opening its doors to 55 Abinger Hill students in 1940, offering those students from Surrey, England safety from the chaos of the Second World War and a chance to continue their education. In 2012, the school opened its doors again to **Roya Shams**, a young woman escaping the Taliban threat in her native Afghanistan.

Celebrating 125 in September

Ashbury will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a memorable Homecoming on September 23-26, 2016. Scheduled events include a reception with former Head of School, an alumni art show, anniversary dinner at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, campus tours and commemorative golf game. For more information, visit ashbury.ca/homecoming.



SCHOOL REPORTS



The Class of 2016 gathered in Elmwood's historic front hall for their graduation photo.

Class of 2016 Ready to Continue on Their Path to Success

"I cannot begin to articulate what Elmwood has done for me – the doors it has opened, everything I've learned. I have become the person I am today because of this school. I can't imagine what my life would be like if I had gone somewhere else. I am so incredibly happy to have had the privilege of attending this school," said Centennial Head Girl **Brooke Mierins '16**, as part of her valedictory address at Elmwood's Centennial-year Senior School Closing Ceremony on June 16.

The Class of 2016 is an incredibly impressive group of young women. The class of 30 students has been offered entrance scholarships totaling almost \$2.4 million and 87 per cent of them were offered entrance scholarships to university. Over 85 per cent are also considered Ontario scholars because they had a final average of 80 per cent or greater.

The graduates will be studying a diverse range of subjects in the fall—everything from pharmacology and chemical engineering to abnormal psychology, law and commerce. Many will be studying at excellent schools across Canada, and some are going even further, studying in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Congratulations, Class of 2016, and best wishes as you start your next chapter!

Elmwood Takes Centre Stage at the Cappies Gala!

Members of Elmwood's senior theatre program were thrilled to win five trophies at the recent Capital Cappies Gala for

their production of *Les Belles Soeurs*. The troupe was thrilled to win the award for Cappies Critics' Favourite Play for the second year in a row. In addition, **Emily Wright** won Best Actress, **Eleanor Duffley** won Best Supporting Actress, **Hannah Dolhai** won Best Comedic Actress, and **Vicky Bolitho**, **Florence Campbell**, **Diya Dadlani** and **Carine Ladki** won for Best Costumes.

Elmwood Theatre has a long history of producing excellent shows, and we are so pleased to see this recognized once again by students across the City. We are so proud of our actresses, the crew, and especially **Mrs. Angela Boychuk** for this wonderful achievement. We are very lucky to have such a creative, dedicated and motivational leader at the helm of our theatre program.

Elmwood's Centennial Year Comes to a Close

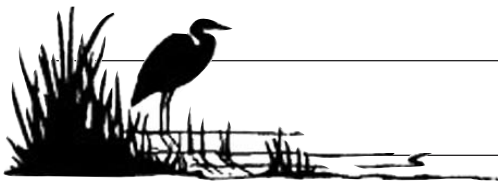
We marked the end of our Centennial year with an incredible Centennial Finale party. The luau theme was the perfect fit as we said 'Aloha' to the past 100 years and 'Aloha' to the future of Elmwood! The entire community gathered to enjoy a delicious BBQ, great music and entertainment (including an amazing hula performance and lesson from Elmwood parent **Juliana Nightingale!**), as well as make contributions to our Centennial time capsule. Thank you to our Centennial Committee Co-chairs **Nancy Greenley** and **Sarah Murray '79**, as well as Elmwood Parents' Association Chair **Gayle McClelland** and parent **Catherine McLaughlin** for all their hard work. It was a terrific evening and was the most perfect way to end the Centennial school year.



Nancy Greenley and Headmistress Cheryl Boughton at the Centennial Finale.

Fall Open House – Saturday, October 22

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 department. For more information about applying to Elmwood, please visit www.elmwood.ca or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.



WILDLIFE NOTES

Two Tree Swallow pairs were active from the beginning of May through June around two nesting boxes at the lake edge, one at 400 Lansdowne and the other in the east marsh, and so likely raised young. On June 28, I found a Tree Swallow pair feeding young at a third lake edge box, at 245 Sylvan. On July 7 there were no swallows around the lake, so the three nestings had been completed. I checked the Sylvan box and there had been a completely successful fledging of young. This is the first time this box has been used for many years.

Susan d'Aquino saw a female Wood Duck off 400 Lansdowne with a brood of newly-hatched young on June 8, and on June 10 was able to confirm that there were eight or nine ducklings. She saw the family on later occasions, most recently with only one duckling – perhaps the lone survivor. Very early on July 16, I watched quietly from the **Rowley** dock at 245 Sylvan. What I assumed to be the same female Wood Duck, because of its tameness and proximity to 400 Lansdowne, sat nearby on a fallen log in the water to my left. A few minutes later I heard a single Wood Duck note on my right. The lone female at once flew from its log to alight on the water opposite where the note came from, and on cue a second female Wood Duck swam out from under overhanging branches. Packed tightly around her tail was a mass of newly-hatched young. The lone female at once swam towards the female with the brood who reacted aggressively by stretching her neck horizontally with bill open and making short rushes at the intruder, keeping her a few duck lengths away. The two birds and brood then swam steadily together the length of the lake to the south shore. During the voyage, the lone bird frequently came too close and was rebuffed as before. In the shelter of the south shore, the adults split up and the young moved independently to feed.

On May 14, **Iola** and I encountered a Chickadee pair digging a nesting hole in a dead stub beside us at the northern of the two boardwalks behind the lake's east marsh. When we arrived, one bird was upside down in the excavation, only its wiggling tail exposed. Its mate waited attentively about a metre away. As soon as the digger left, the mate dived into the hole and came out with a huge beak full of soft wood particles, dropping them some distance from the hole. In and near our garden, two of the four nesting boxes



were being entered regularly by Chickadees by the first week of June. Having seen no activity for some time, on 10 July I opened the two boxes, expecting to find the usual evidence of successful fledging. Instead, each had a full clutch

of cold eggs (*see photo at left*). One set showed no embryo development, the other had early-stage embryos. So both pairs had abandoned early in incubation. These boxes have been used successfully by Chickadees for decades; it is exceptional to find complete nesting failures. Could it be related to this year's exceptionally dry early summer? Was there not enough of the right small insect prey available?

The exceptionally dry early summer may have been the cause of other odd events in our garden. Squirrels took to the wild cherry trees to eat the cherries when they were small, green and hard; normally they go for them when they start to turn red. Squirrels and chipmunks usually take a few of the wild black raspberries, and we pick most of them; this year every berry disappeared as it ripened.

For the past month, Iola and I have been hearing the twanging of two Green Frogs who have adopted our small lily pond. The call sounds like plucking a loose banjo string. Calling goes on sporadically during the day, and at night the sounds come in through our open window.



In the evening of July 18, the larger of the two sat poised on a stone, looking across the pond where the smaller one was in the water, pressed against the rock edge. The smaller one, only its head out of water, then twanged twice, yellow throat bulging out. At once the larger frog reacted, leaped on to lily pads in the direction of the smaller frog, stopped and twanged forcefully with a deeper note. The smaller frog seemed to try to escape, but was against the edge. Then it submerged. A moment later the larger frog made a violent leap, plunging below the surface near the rock edge. The next day, there were still two frogs.

Most, but not all, bird breeding activity is now over. The woodland and marsh of the conservation area on the east side of the lake are quiet, all the noisy Redwings and Grackles have left, and this past two weeks I've heard no more songs there of Baltimore Orioles and Warbling Vireos, so characteristic of the place in June. But in our garden on July 17, a male Cardinal sang strongly from one tree then flew across the garden to a low hemlock branch and copulated with a female who then returned to the adjacent garden where a pair usually nests. The male moved to the exposed topmost tip of the hemlock and sang with great vigour, crest fully erected. Cardinals are reported to have as many as three or four broods. *(continued on next page)*

By the Hillsdale Bridge, a pair of Catbirds has recently become very noticeable and active, with lovely varied songs. The male aggressively attacked his reflection in our car windshield and side mirror when we parked there early on a recent morning, and two mornings later was doing the same to another parked car. There are two chokecherry trees adjacent to the bridge full of ripening fruit that Catbirds relish, so the new interest in the site may be more about food than reproduction.

On the night of July 19, **Frances Pick** was delighted to hear from her window on Ellesmere the descending whinny of a Screech Owl – “It called quite a lot and was very clear.” I’m delighted that Screech Owls are again present in this part of the Village. Iola and I have heard them off and on over the past decades, but not this year. Frances also reports

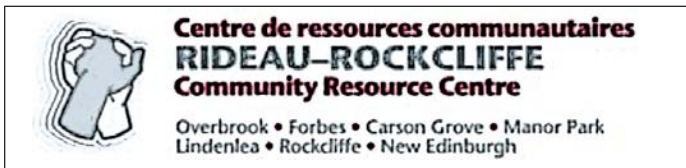
good crops of young Downy Woodpeckers and Chipping Sparrows.

In our garden, a very brightly attired Song Sparrow is singing with spring-time vigour from the lower branches of one tree after another around our garden, marking its bounds. A Great-crested Flycatcher and a Mourning Dove that have been calling for weeks from high in our street trees are tapering off. Goldfinches should be nesting now, and on our street I see them moving from tree to tree high off the ground. I suspect that is where they nest. As usual, the diminutive Chipping Sparrows brought off young in the garden across the street and are finding tiny food items on the road surface and on my walkway that have dropped from the trees above.

Anthony Keith

25 July 2016

COMMUNITY APPEALS



School Supplies Needed for Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre

Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (website www.crcrr.org/en) is asking for donations to distribute to needy children before school starts in September.

Requested supplies include: backpacks, lunch boxes/bags, pencil cases, scissors, glue sticks, colour pencils, markers, pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, highlighters, geometry sets, calculators, 3-hole paper, binders and dividers.

Donations will be gratefully accepted at RRCRC at 225 Donald Street. Tax receipts will be issued for donations more than \$20 in value.

Rockcliffe Child Care Centre in Need of Community Support

The Rockcliffe Child Care Centre has been serving Rockcliffe Park and the surrounding area in its current location since September of 1998. It is a not-for-profit child care centre serving families with toddlers, preschool, kindergarten and school-age children. We provide a child-centred, play-based



learning environment in a beautiful, purpose-built centre located adjacent to the Rockcliffe Park Public School.

In 2015, the City of Ottawa notified us that the provincial government had cut a number of grants. In its place, the province announced a new grant for municipalities. As a result of the loss of the previous grant and the formula for distributing the new grant, we were told we would be losing approximately 70 per cent of our funding, just shy of \$75,000 per year, effective December 31, 2019.

While we have been very fortunate to have engaged an excellent change management consultant, RCCC could use community support in finding ways to bridge the gap in funding and to notify the government of the effect that this funding change has had on our program.

We are interested in the following:

- Volunteers with fundraising and/or sponsorship skill and experience;
- Art supplies/materials (e.g., markers, paper, tape, different sized boxes);
- Local businesses that could provide fresh ingredients for meals at a reduced cost;
- Letters to the municipal, provincial and federal governments supporting funding for child care;
- Ideas!

Every little bit helps. If you – or someone you know – are willing to help us, please contact **Jennifer Noseworthy** at Rockcliffe Child Care Centre by email at rcce@rcce.info or by telephone at **613 745-8005**.

Jennifer Noseworthy, RECE

END NOTES

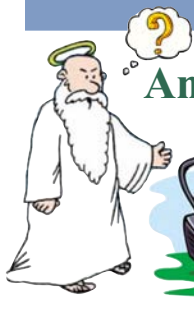
No Good Deed Goes Unnoticed...

From a recent letter to the editor:

*When I saw the photo in The Rockcliffe News of **Monique Laviolette** [Ottawa's Favourite Crossing Guard, June 2016, p. 8], I thought we should also honour persons who spent their time to work for our community. Since last year **Neva Bruce** has spent many hours to embellish the path between Juliana and Lakeview. I hope you understand my request, therefore took this photo.*

– *Annegret Uthhoff, a neighbour of Neva Bruce*

The Rockcliffe News agrees – no good deed should go unnoticed. At right is Annegret's photo of Neva Bruce with her friend Steven. Thanks, Annegret, and kudos to Neva Bruce on her efforts to keep Rockcliffe Park looking so lovely.



And Speaking of Tending to the Garden...

God and Lawn Care: A bit of Lawn Levity to end the End Notes

God said: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had

a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it – sometimes twice a week.

God: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow.

And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, Sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

St. Francis: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

God: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a story about....

God: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.