



The Rockcliffe News

February 2017

**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

FEBRUARY

- 1** Wednesday, 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Harley Finkelstein, Chief Operating Officer of high-tech phenomenon Shopify, on "The Shopify Story: Thriving on Change," Community Hall*
- 15** Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 22** Wednesday, 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Charlotte Gray, award-winning author and historian, on "The Promise of Canada: 150 Years and Counting," Community Hall*
- 23** Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Mary Reid, owner, Green Thumb Garden Centre, on "Kickstart Your Garden," Community Hall*

MARCH

- 1** Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Joint Annual General Meeting of the Boards of the RPRA and the Village Foundation, Community Hall
- 1-5** Wednesday to Sunday..Elmwood School Theatre presents "Blue Stockings," 7 pm / 2 pm matinees Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 8** Wednesday, 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Robert Fife, Ottawa Bureau Chief for The Globe and Mail, on "The View from Parliament Hill," Community Hall*
- 22** Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 23** Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Esther Bryan, master gardener, on "Veggie Gardening 101," Community Hall*
- 25** Saturday 5:30-8:30 pm..Big Art Auction, a fundraiser to benefit Ottawa children and youth programs, Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Avenue, Ottawa*

APRIL

- 5** Wednesday 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Arif Virani, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and Lori Rosove on "Canada's Syrian Refugees: One Year On," Community Hall*
- 19** Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 22** Saturday, Time TBA.....Elmwood School Gala: Ahead by a Century, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 22** Saturday 10 am to 5 pm..Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 23** Sunday 11 am to 5 pm....Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 27** Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Suzanne Patry, owner, Whitehouse Nursery and Display Gardens, on "How to Create Your Ideal Garden," Community Hall*
- 28** Friday 6:30 pm.....Dining with the Ambassadors, Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road*

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



The past two months have been a busy period for the RPRC, with the various activities that surrounded the festive season. In December, our Tree Lighting and Carol Sing doubled as the official launch of our first community fundraising drive. I am delighted to report that over the holiday season we were able to raise \$18,377.95 in aid of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. This is a terrific achievement for a first event and on behalf of the RPRC I would like to thank all those who contributed. We expect that we shall hear a report on how these funds will be used by the RRCRC at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. Tax receipts for those donations have been sent out.

Aside from the festive activities, there has also been a lot of work undertaken by our Heritage Committee in the past few months. The Committee has reviewed several applications, made a series of recommendations and met with the City heritage staff and Heritage Ottawa. This is the kind of work that goes on in the background, completely invisible to all but the few who are most interested or involved, but which can have a profound impact on our neighbourhood. The continued support, building and strengthening of this committee will be a priority of the Board in the coming year.

Over the next month, we will be focused on the preparations for the Annual General Meeting, which takes place on March 1 at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. Our councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, will be on hand to discuss various matters of interest to our community and update us on relevant matters at City Hall. We will then review the events and activities of the last year, welcome some new Board members and bid farewell to those departing. You will find a copy of the Annual Report included with this newsletter, which will give you a preview of topics to be discussed. We hope to see as many residents as possible in attendance for this important and informative meeting. As usual, the AGM of the RPRC will be held in conjunction with the AGM of the Village Foundation. The RPRC works closely with the Village Foundation, from which it receives the bulk of its funding. I am pleased to report that the Foundation has provided the RPRC with a grant of over \$26,000 to allow the RPRC to continue its work in the key areas of heritage, environment and strengthening the community. In another first, this year the grant includes a significant strategic investment grant that we intend to put to good use. On behalf of the RPRC, I would like to thank the Foundation and its chair, **Bonnie Robinson**, for their continued support and I look forward to a continued productive relationship.

It is the time of year when we remind you of the importance of membership and thank those who have already joined or renewed. Our membership dues remain a very modest \$25 annually or \$50 for two years. Membership holds a number of advantages: From an individual standpoint, not only do you get to support your local community association, you will also receive up-to-date information by email about what is happening in the community. Sometimes, as with a security alert, it can be urgent. From a community standpoint, the greater percentage of members we have, the greater credibility we have when we need to come together to, for example, challenge the City on policies that threaten the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. Membership forms are available on the RPRC website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, or by emailing secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

Another benefit of membership is that you may fill out the volunteer form and tell us in what way you would like to lend a hand in Board activities and committees. It's a great way to give back to your neighbourhood by getting involved in a single project or committee without a huge time commitment. It takes many people to get things done so help is always welcome.

Finally, the popular Speaker Series will kick off this year with a "Town Hall" type meeting on February 1 with Shopify COO **Harley Finklestein** being interviewed by **Tom d'Aquino**. It promises to be a very interesting evening. The RPRC will have a membership desk there so you may take the opportunity to drop off your membership cheque at the same time, if you haven't already done so.

Wishing you all a healthy winter.

Peter Lewis

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 1

The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRC), 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 RPRC website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.

Dining with the Ambassadors: A Memorable Evening with Friends and Neighbours at One of Rockcliffe's Elegant Embassy Residences



Every second year, ambassadors and high commissioners generously open their homes for Dining with the Ambassadors, a unique and delightful community fundraising event for the Rockcliffe Park Village Foundation.

Dining with the Ambassadors has been taking place for decades and is one of the most anticipated events of the season. It's also a favourite of the diplomatic community, who look forward to making new friends and helping sustain the very best features of our neighbourhood.

The evening begins with cocktails at the Community Hall, hosted once again by longstanding benefactor **Marilyn Wilson**. It's one of the rare times the neighbourhood gathers together to mix and mingle with new and old friends. Here, our host ambassadors and high commissioners and their spouses are introduced. Only then do guests learn the residence where they will be spending the evening.

This year, Dining with the Ambassadors will take place Friday, April 28, and we are thrilled to once again have **Dr. Eleonore Wnendt**, wife of the German Ambassador, as our Diplomatic Liaison. The list of our hosts, of course, remains a secret until the event.

Tickets are on sale now and are limited. Reservations can only be secured by payment, so don't delay in purchasing your tickets for this very popular event. Come on your own or create a group. Either way, you can be assured of an evening of fun and friendship.

For more information about the event and ticket information, please see the box at right.

Dining with the Ambassadors Organizing Committee

Diplomatic Liaison – **Eleonore Wnendt**

Members – **Robert Collette, Alexandra Colt, Marianne Feaver, Jane Newcombe, Jane Panet, Alex Taggart and Marilyn Wilson**

Co-Chairs – **Sarah Baxter and Claire Schofield**

Dining with the Ambassadors Event and Order Information

Date: Friday, April 28

Time: Pre-dinner Cocktail Reception: 6:30 pm

Location: Community Hall and Library
380 Springfield Road

Hosted by: Marilyn Wilson
Dream Properties Inc.

Dinner at Embassies: Usually around 7:45 pm

Tickets: \$150 per person

A partial tax receipt will be provided. **Reservations are confirmed only when payment is received.** Payment by cheque: Please make cheque payable to Rockcliffe Park Foundation and mail to the attention of Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1L 5A8. Please include guest name(s), email and phone contact information. For information contact **Sarah Baxter** at sarah@sarahbaxter.ca or 613 746-2822.



Ritva Murto, Marianne Feaver, Miriam Barak, Jane Panet and Dr. Eleonore Wnendt at the 2015 Dining with the Ambassadors Pre-dinner Cocktail Reception. Photo: Lois Siegel

THE 2016 VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD *Executive:* Bonnie Robinson, Chair

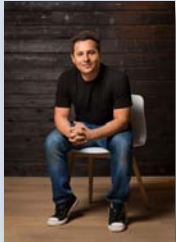
Michael McIntyre, Vice-Chair | Grant McDonald, Treasurer | Jane Newcombe, Administrator

Board Members: Dr. Aly Abdulla, Sarah Baxter, Chris Denison, Nancy Greenley, Ryan Kilger, Elaine Nadeau, Jane Panet

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

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.



Harley Finkelstein Chief Operating Officer of high-tech phenomenon Shopify

“The Shopify Story: Thriving on Change”

One of Canada’s most exciting tech companies, Shopify is disrupting the way people buy and sell things, as well as its own workplaces. It allows people and businesses all over the world, without any tech expertise, to easily create on-line stores and more. In conversation with **Tom d’Aquino**, hear the chief operating officer tell the astonishing story of this Ottawa-based phenomenon.

Wednesday, February 1 at 8:00 pm



Charlotte Gray Award-winning Author and Historian

“The Promise of Canada: 150 Years and Counting”

To mark Canada’s 150th, Ottawa author Charlotte Gray will speak about her latest book, painting compelling portraits of nine influential Canadians and their ideas that have shaped our country over the last 150 years.

Wednesday, February 22 at 8:00 pm

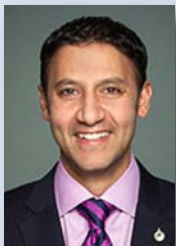


Robert Fife Ottawa Bureau Chief for The Globe and Mail

“The View from Parliament Hill”

The award-winning journalist and TV host Robert Fife will paint a picture of what is going on on Parliament Hill as we move into the second year of the Trudeau government.

Wednesday, March 8 at 8:00 pm



Arif Virani MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

and

Lori Rosove Leader of a group privately sponsoring a Syrian family

“Canada’s Syrian Refugees: One Year On”

The two speakers will share their stories on the remarkable initiative by the Government of Canada and by private groups to warmly welcome refugees to our country.

Wednesday, April 5 at 8:00 pm

In December, the RPRR kicked off a fundraiser in support of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, raising \$18,377.95 for a great cause. Thanks to all who contributed! *Photo, from left: Nicolas Temnikov, RPRR Board member, Yacouba Traoré, Executive Director, Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, Lauren Touchant, Coordinator, Community development and relations, Marilyn Venner, RPRR Secretary, and Peter Lewis, RPRR President.*



SPRING BOOK SALE

Reminder: The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale Wants Your Books!



(And Your CDs, DVDs and Vinyl)

It might not feel quite like spring yet, but if a little de-cluttering would help beat the winter blahs, why not donate your gently used books (English and French), CDs, DVDs and vinyl, to the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale? Over the past 20 years, the sale has blossomed into a cornerstone community event involving over 100 volunteers. Not only is it enjoyed by Rockcliffe residents, but also by our surrounding communities and far beyond. Rest assured, loving new owners will warmly appreciate your contributions, and best of all, your generosity will support our wonderful local library and promote literacy in Ottawa!

So don't delay, bring them as soon as you can to the Rockcliffe Park Public Library during opening hours, or call for assistance at **613 580-2424, ext. 27623**. But please, no encyclopaedias, magazines or textbooks!

And remember to save these dates for the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale!

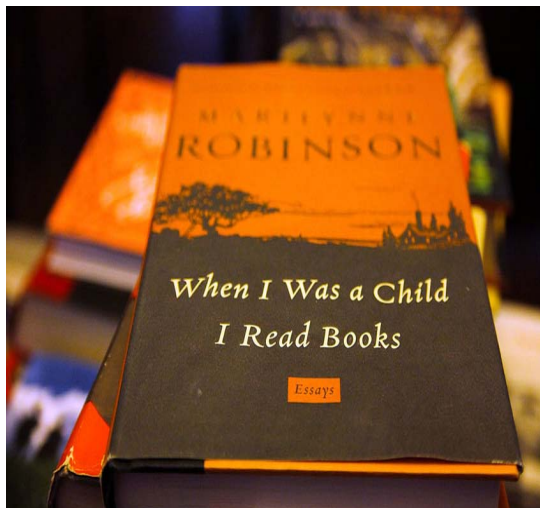
Saturday, April 22, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, April 23, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Rockcliffe Park Community Centre
380 Springfield Road**

Warmest thanks in advance!

Claire Schofield



*Top quality
books
for the
Rockcliffe
Park
Spring
Book Sale!
Photo:
Seanna
Kreager*

RECREATION

Once Upon a Time... George and Harriet's Story

George and Harriet married after graduation. Their wedding was held in the gardens near the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre where they celebrated with a reception in the Community Hall. The event would mark the beginning of their life-long association with this community.

George and Harriet were both busy with their careers. There was little time to do much but work and raise their three children. The young ones thrived while pursuing various interests and participating in summer camps at the community centre.

After the kids left home, George and Harriet went on to experience a life filled with ups and downs...

Harriet sat back one day at George's bedside while he recovered from his first heart attack, and thought about what it would be like to have time to herself. She'd spent her entire adult life looking after others with no time for herself. While George slept, she mused about her childhood – dancing in recitals and doodling in her books while lying in the meadow with a long blade of grass hanging from her lips.

When Harriet got home from the hospital, she found a copy of The Rockcliffe News in her mailbox. There was a flyer insert describing recreation programs offered by the City of Ottawa at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre. Her friends had been raving about a fitness class they all took together. It seemed like a fun way to get back in shape. She decided she would sign up for that and the floral arrangement course.



Months after his recovery, George retired from his job. Initially he felt lonely and bored. Then, with Harriet's encouragement, he discovered he could play Bridge at the Community Centre. He later signed up for the Tai Chi class. Maybe retirement wouldn't be so bad after all...

If you can relate to this story, call us about the recreation activities at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road: **613 842-8578**. Drop by and see us on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1:30 to 4:00 pm. You'll find us in the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield Road.

Good things await you!

Illustration: www.istockphoto.com

CANADA'S 150th

QUEEN'S PARK

In honour of Canada's upcoming 150th birthday, The Rockcliffe News will publish a series of Rockcliffe History stories throughout the coming year. These historical photos were recently displayed at our 90th anniversary celebration, the Rockcliffe Village Fête.



*From the desk of Nathalie Des Rosiers
MPP, Ottawa-Vanier*

Ontario Student Assistance Program

January is a turning point for thousands of people in Ontario. Whether they are in Grade 12 or want to go back to school, it's time to apply to colleges and universities in the province. The new Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) should facilitate this.

From now on, students whose annual family income is less than \$50,000 will be entitled to free tuition. If the family income exceeds this amount, they will still be able to benefit from substantial scholarships and grants that make college or university studies much more affordable. In fact, once the changes to OSAP are in place, average tuition will be free for more than 150,000 students and about 80 percent of all OSAP recipients will graduate with less provincial debt.

We know that students from the lowest-income families are about four times less likely to go on to post-secondary education than those from the highest-income families. That's a lot of wasted potential. This overhaul of the student assistance program is essential for three reasons. Education is the great equalizer of opportunities. A society committed to giving everyone a chance to succeed must encourage the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Second, high-level training leads to better paid jobs and a stronger economy across Ontario. The numbers make this clear. In 2013, the number of jobs in Ontario increased by 700 for adults aged 25 and over with a high school diploma and 93,600 for adults with post-secondary education. Sixty-seven percent of Ontarians have a post-secondary degree – the highest level of anywhere in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Finally, in a changing world, we know that our economy needs a skilled workforce. We must have access to all the brains and talents of the population. Our competitiveness depends on it. Supporting access to education is a good investment for equality, for employability and for our economy, now and for years to come.

Our government believes that access to college or university should be based on the people's potential, not their ability to pay. Visit ontario.ca/osap to find out how much you can get from the new OSAP and to learn more about the biggest reform to financial assistance in North America.



The official opening of the Rockcliffe Park Library and Community Hall, 28 June 1994. Photo: Phillip Mirsky



*Girls' hockey at Elmwood in the 1920s.
Photo: Village of Rockcliffe Park*



Ottawa Electric Railway (Rockcliffe Line) on the Parkway, 1930s. Photo: R J Sandusky

CITY HALL



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

Celebrating Rural Ottawa

Alongside the Ottawa 2017 Bureau and our partners, Council has been working hard to position Ottawa as THE place for all Canadians to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation in 2017. Not only is this exciting for residents and visitors but these festivities can be a major boost to our local economy, filling restaurants, shops and hotel rooms. Tourism is the third largest contributor to our local economy behind the high-tech and government sectors.

Canada is a diverse country, and we will host an equally diverse selection of large signature events, such as the Canadian Video Game Awards, the Canadian Track and Field Championships, The Canadian Olympic Curling Trials – Roar of the Rings, the 105th Grey Cup and many more.

More than just taking part in these exciting events, I encourage you to use the Sesquicentennial as an opportunity to celebrate and explore some of the more out of the way places that make our City truly unique. Did you know that you can fit the five largest Canadian cities within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa? Its size offers us the opportunity to enjoy a world-class, modern city alongside the charm and history of our rural communities.

It's hard to imagine in the depths of winter, but in the Merivale Gardens in Ottawa's west end, there is a massive inland sand dune. Further east, don't miss the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum for a taste of local life in the 1920s and '30s. Just south in Greely lies our very own cranberry bog at Upper Canada Cranberries. Even Ottawa's downtown has rural attractions! Stop by Canada's only urban sugar shack in Richelieu Park, Vanier. The Vanier Muséopark opens the sugar shack every weekend between March and April with programming for the whole family. These are just a few of the exciting attractions, alongside old favourites like the Diefenbunker in Carp or Watson's Mill in Manotick.

Ottawa's geographic diversity is one of our strengths, so try to take advantage of it during 2017 by heading outside the City core to explore these amazing features you may never have known were there. Take a moment to visit my Facebook Video's page or jimwatsonottawa.ca and watch my "Ottawa's Rural Attractions" video to learn more.



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

The Pond Update

To understand why water levels in the Pond have been decreasing and investigate possible solutions, an engineering consultant was hired by the City in 2016. I have made the consultant's report available on my website, tobinussbaum.ca, and discussed the recommendations with the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) Board and City staff.

Following up on the consultant's report, steps are being taken to explore a pilot project to stabilize the water levels for summer 2017. The proposal would be to pump deep groundwater into the Pond to maintain the level of water while establishing appropriate monitoring mechanisms. Details of the pilot project will be discussed over the coming weeks, including with the RPRA and information shared with the community. I am encouraged by the progress made on this important file to ensure the sustainability of this much-loved natural jewel.

Drop-Ins

This year I will be hosting monthly drop-ins at various locations throughout the ward. These will be an opportunity for residents to share with me their ideas, concerns or questions. Drop-in details will be available on my website or you can call my office to confirm dates and locations.

New Team Tobi Members

As we entered 2017, I welcomed two new members to Team Tobi, **Laura Hagerman** and **Sophi Laghi**, and said goodbye to **Miranda Spessot**, who has taken a job working on the Parliamentary precinct with Public Works Canada. To meet my complete team and get their contact information, please visit my website, tobinussbaum.ca. They are the friendly voices at the other end of the phone helping residents navigate the various City departments and assisting me in my committee and Council work and to advance my priorities for the ward and the City.

Councillor Nussbaum will be at the Joint Annual General Meeting of the Village Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association at 7:30 on March 1 at the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, to update residents on matters of interest. Attendance is open to all.



WILDLIFE NOTES

The annual closure of the lake's surface to oxygen exchange was complete on December 12. Four days earlier, **Rick Simison** noticed an unusual pattern in the forming ice: "I'm attaching a photo, one of eight, of the 'star' freeze-up phenomena I observed on the lake about 11:00 am on December 8. It lasted about 10 minutes and then the 'star' pattern slowly dissipated into the circular patches of ice dusted with snow. Very peculiar and even artistic. Rockcliffe's own icy version of 'crop circles'? No. My guess is that the lake was just on the cusp of freeze-up. Perhaps some upwelling of slightly warmer water percolates from the limestone bottom and briefly thaws the surface ice layer. Fluctuations in the upwelling stream of warmer water then causes the pattern. Or frozen cracks in very thin ice start to thaw and this creates the pattern? One might guess it's fish but I'd discount that as unlikely to cause the repetitive 'star' pattern you see in this photo within the seven or so circular patches. Very odd." Rick invites readers to offer their own ideas to the Editor (editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca) on the cause.

A flock of some 30 Robins moved through the tree tops along the western lake shore on 21 December. With snow blocking their access to terrestrial invertebrates, they have to subsist in winter on low-energy persistent fruits on shrubs and trees. The maturing Hackberries planted decades ago to replace American Elms on Rockcliffe roads have a fair crop of berries this year. The berries persist all winter.

Wild grapes produced a bumper crop last autumn. Having picked plenty of wild grapes for jelly elsewhere, **Iola** and I left for winter birds the grapes on our back fence. The fruit will shrivel a little but persist through winter. On the morning of January 4, hearing the kekking call of a Pileated Woodpecker, I watched a female working tail-first down a Sugar Maple trunk, inspecting the bark with taps on the way. Then she flipped to our nearby fence where she enthu-



Photo: Rick Simison

siastically stabbed and swallowed the frozen grapes for about five minutes, then flew off. She returned to repeat the whole performance late that afternoon.

John Brooks reported one of our famous white-phase Wild Turkeys wandering through his garden at 354 Cloverdale on December 26. And **Susan d'Aquino** at ten this morning reported a Red Fox "prancing proudly along the east side of the lake right now. We see him frequently." This has been going on since before the ice cover was complete.

Following up on the December column's account of **Brian Dickson's** unusual mammal sighting, two local experts consider that the animal was more likely to be a Fisher than a Marten. Although most Fishers are all dark in colour, the combination of pale gold body and dark tail does occur, and the cat size Brian noted is closer to Fisher. We are south of known Marten range. It extends from Algonquin Park north, with rare captures in Pakenham Township, while Fishers are definitely in the Ottawa area, and have been reported in Rockcliffe.

Anthony Keith, 9 January 2017

Big Brothers + Big Sisters + Big Art = Big Support for Ottawa Kids



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ottawa (BBBSO), in partnership with Operation Come Home (OCH), is bringing back their "Big Art" auction on March 25 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Glebe Community Centre. The event is an important fundraiser for the programs and services offered to children and youth in Ottawa. A silent auction featuring carefully selected

pieces of art from renowned artists such as **Tim Descloude**, **Christopher Griffin**, **Jerry Grey**, and **Erin Robertson** will be followed by a live auction presented by **Lawrence Greenspon**. The funds raised from the event will be used to support and grow BBBSO's mentoring programs and OCH's school, employment and housing programs. Come out and show your support for Ottawa's kids.

GARDEN CLUB

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club



Kickstart Your Garden:

Thursday, February 23

**Speaker: Mary Reid, Owner,
Green Thumb Garden Centre**

If your tired garden needs a new look and is overgrown, lacks colour and is messy, it is then past its prime. Mary will assess whether it is a major project or a minor one. Learn how to really look at your garden if you want to change it and then plan – these are the first two critical steps. What do you want to do? What would you like to do? What can you do? Find out what will work for you to get your garden flourishing again.

Veggie Gardening 101:

Thursday, March 23

Speaker: Esther Bryan

Master gardener, military wife and mother of two school-aged daughters, Esther started growing vegetables in B.C. when she was young. She has kept it up throughout all of her moves and has gardened coast to coast – even in Florida. Always learning through her experiences, her presentation will be from the perspective of a family gardener and how she plans and plants for urban/small spaces. There will be kid-friendly tips, a quick primer on household composting and disease/pest issues. This is a broad overview on having a successful vegetable garden that works for a busy family with limited space.



How to Create Your Ideal Garden by Combining Your Favourite Plants, Shrubs, Perennials, Grasses and Conifers:



Thursday, April 27

Speaker: Suzanne Patry

As the owner of Whitehouse Nursery and Display Gardens, Suzanne has her pick of what is new and exciting each year. But

there are also tried and true favourites. Learn how she mixes, switches, edits and chooses her personal favourites to create stunning gardens.

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, starting at 7:30 pm. Free for members and \$5 for guests. For more information, contact **Vera Cody**, jcody1@rogers.com.

ON LOCATION

“His Master’s Voice” Films in Rockcliffe Park

Rockcliffe Park is not normally the site of spectacular vehicle crashes; last summer was the exception to that rule. But it was all staged as part of the making of the movie “His Master’s Voice” – a Canada-Hungary co-production starring **Eric Peterson** (Corner Gas, Street Legal and Billy Bishop goes to War) and **Csaba Polgar** (Egyéjsaká, Roadmovie) as father and son. **Kate Vernon** (Malcolm X, Battlestar Galactica) and **Marshall Williams** (Glee) also star in this story of Péter, the son, searching for his father’s story, based on a 1960s Polish novel.

With many scenes from the movie shot in and around Ottawa, and with Rockcliffe Park standing in for Chicago, residents of Fairview Avenue were front row spectators to filming of scenes involving “FBI agents” repeatedly knocking on our neighbours’ door and forcibly removing “Hogarth,” Eric Peterson’s character. The most exciting part was watching two days of practice in preparation for “Hogarth’s” removal from the house, being ushered into the FBI car and the ensuing car/truck crash. For much of one day, stuntmen **Bobby Brown** and **Dana Jones** practiced driving the “FBI car” and a delivery truck down Fairview Avenue but stopping short of actually crashing into each other. On the big day, August 30, Fairview Avenue was closed by real police cars, and a fire truck and medical emergency personnel gathered for what could only be one “take” of the crash. Close-ups of the crash car show that the stunt driver had padding and protective devices built in, but of course these were not visible from the exterior.



Interviewed after the “crash,” Mr. Jones said that it “pretty well went as planned” but the impact was greater/harder than he expected and that “the experience was fun and awesome.”

The answer to the question

“Did the movie characters survive the crash?” will have to wait until we see the final product – after its international festival premiere sometime in 2017, followed by a “red carpet” premiere in Ottawa.

Iola Price

SCHOOL REPORTS



Elmwood School

Elmwood's Grade Four Class Wins International Competition

In December, our fourth grade girls began a new International Baccalaureate unit, Back to the Drawing Board, where they examined how creativity and innovation are essential for advancement by developing their own critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

They were over the moon when they learned they could participate in a global #MARSchallenge, for which they would inquire into the nature of the planet before designing a school building, a curriculum and the technologies that would allow students to thrive on Mars once it is colonized.



Elmwood Grade Four students with their winning project.

It was an out-of-this-world start to 2017 when our girls learned that out of 329 registered schools from around the world, which comprised 10,000 Kindergarten through Grade 12 students, Elmwood had been awarded the grand prize – a 3D printer – for their Innovation Station project! Our girls celebrated their achievement with smiles and hugs and then immediately went back to the drawing board to tweak some of their original designs. They are certainly ready and eager to take on any challenges that come their way.

Old Girls Art Fair and Holly Tea a Great Success!

On Saturday, December 3, Elmwood hosted the annual Holly Tea and Art Fair. Members of the Elmwood Community gathered together for a cup of tea, enjoyed entertainment by a choir made up of students and alumni, and perused

beautiful pieces of artwork from over 30 artists. A variety of vendors were also on hand at the Marketplace with demonstrations and items for sale. Thank you to everyone who helped at the event, especially Holly Tea Co-Chairs **Nancy Greenley** and **Gayle McClelland**, the Art Fair Co-Chairs **Elizabeth Heatherington '63** and **Lynne Evenson '79**, and Art Fair Curator **Maureen O'Neill '69**.



Victoria Woodhead, Emma Young and Nuha Yousuf volunteered to serve tea to our guests.

Elmwood Summer Camp Registration Now Open

We are thrilled to be offering a full slate of camps this summer, including our popular Discovery Camps, as well as our Elmwood Skills Academy!

Discovery Camps

With exciting new weekly themes such as NASA Space Camp, Circus Camp, Art-apalooza and Sleuth Academy, girls from Kindergarten to Grade Six will discover new challenges, develop new friendships and enjoy a dynamic range of hands-on, interactive activities.

Led by skilled and experienced educators, our camps have the perfect blend of learning, active play and creative exploration, all within Elmwood's beautiful and safe campus, located here in Rockcliffe Park.

Elmwood Skills Academy

Our Skills Academy offers an outstanding range of academic and special interest programs. Taught either by Elmwood's talented faculty or by other experts in their field, these camps combine superb instruction with dynamic activities, sure to appeal to girls of all ages and skill levels.

Visit camp.elmwood.ca or call **613 749-6761** for details and registration.

Save the Date: Ahead by a Century – Elmwood's 28th Annual Gala

On Saturday, April 22, join us for the party of the next century at our 28th Annual Elmwood Gala. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner, sip champagne, bid on superb auction items and hit the dance floor when The 1945 takes the stage! Many thanks to our Corporate Partners, **Movati Athletic**, **Star Motors**, **Terlin Construction Ltd.** and **Vista Credit**, for their support.

Visit www.elmwood.ca for information and tickets.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Elmwood Theatre Presents Jessica Swale's Blue Stockings



Sophia Swettenham as Tess Moffat in Jessica Swale's Blue Stockings.

Photo: Karemma Boychuk

The year is 1896 and Cambridge has tentatively opened its doors to young women. Unlike their male counterparts, though, these women hold little hope of receiving a university degree. In fact, these 'blue stocking' academics have very few prospects professionally or personally. Despite this, Tess Moffat and the members of her study group work hard to effect change even when a surprising chance at love nearly blows Tess off course. Challenging the status quo has never been easy, and this attempt culminates in a charged finale that tests the resolve of these determined young women. **Jessica Swale's** new play, *Blue Stockings*, which premiered at London's Globe Theatre in 2013, is coming to Ottawa and Elmwood Theatre is proud to present this critically acclaimed play. Performances run March 1 to March 4 at 7:00 pm; March 4 and 5 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 Adults / \$15 Students and Seniors. **Elmwood Theatre, 261 Buena Vista Road, phone 613 749-6761 ext. 221.**

Ashbury COLLEGE



Born Again in Canada:

Ashbury Brings Refugee Family to Ottawa

They were surprised by Ottawa's humidity and now they've seen their first snow.

The **Al Kaoud** family from Syria have been on Canadian soil for just six months, and they are adapting to and learning about their new home. The family of five – mom, dad and three kids under 10 – were the focus of Ashbury's fundraising and community engagement project: the Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (RSI).

Originally established in the fall of 2015, the RSI brought together Ashbury parents, faculty, alumni and students – all with the common goal of helping to bring a refugee family



Ashbury welcomed the Al Kaouds in the summer and since then, the family has embraced their new life in Canada.

to Ottawa. Working closely with the Anglican Diocese and within the parameters of the Government of Canada's private sponsorship agreement, the committee planned initiatives to raise money to support the family, secure housing and help with immediate and long-term needs, including schooling and language lessons.

La famille habite dans une maison de l'Est d'Ottawa, fournie gratuitement par un donateur pour un an. Les trois enfants sont inscrits à l'école et réussissent bien, tandis que les parents sont occupés à apprendre l'anglais. Le père travaille avec l'équipe d'entretien du collège Ashbury à temps partiel, ce qui lui donne l'occasion de mettre en pratique ses aptitudes langagières avec ses collègues et le personnel enseignant.

La prise en charge de la famille Al Kaoud est le plus récent exemple de la longue tradition d'entraide du collège Ashbury. Le collège a notamment hébergé des élèves de l'école Abinger Hill, du Royaume-Uni, qui ont été déplacés pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale; il a aussi offert un refuge à **Roya Shams** de l'Afghanistan en 2011. Leur parcours et leur histoire donnent aux élèves actuels du collège Ashbury une bonne leçon sur l'importance de la responsabilité globale.

Bien que ce ne soit que le début d'un parcours rempli de défis pour cette famille, elle a toujours le formidable soutien du comité de bénévoles – devenus des amis – qui a préparé le terrain pour son avenir.

As the father told Ashbury's Head of School, "We are born again in Canada and we hope we will meet your expectations." With each new word learned, every new experience embraced, and each history shared, our expectations have been met – and surpassed.

END NOTES

Meet Constable Kenney, Our New Community Police Officer

The Ottawa Police Service launched its new Frontline service delivery model on January 23, 2017. The new model includes a new section named Community Safety Services (CSS), dedicated to working with our communities, comprised of our Community Police Officers (i.e. CPOs), School Resource Officers, Youth Services, Mental Health and Crime Prevention teams. The ultimate goal is to build stronger working relationships with our community partners and collectively work towards resolving some pressing issues that are impacting our communities. As part of the strategy, each community has been assigned a dedicated point of contact. Rockcliffe's new Community Police Officer is Constable **Jonathan Kenney**. He can be reached either by email at kenneyj@ottawapolice.ca or by telephone at **613 236 1222, ext. 5823**.

Finding Nemo

On December 29, Rockcliffe Park's east-side residents received an urgent email via the RPRa regarding a lost dog. It read: *"My brother is visiting from out of town and his little white poodle Nemo escaped from our house at 190 Camelia Avenue [in Manor Park] around 5:45 this evening. He is friendly, but a very difficult dog to catch. He runs away as you approach and he's from Kitchener so he doesn't know his way back to our house. If you have seen him please call Rosanne at 613 864-9230."*

In the bitterly cold days that followed, there were a few reported sightings around Rockcliffe Park. Nemo's owners went door-to-door, distributed hundreds and hundreds of pamphlets, put up dozens of neon posters, created a Facebook page, informed local businesses, gave media interviews, and set up infrared cameras around the areas he was last seen.

Ten days later, around 10:00 pm., they got a call from a new Rockcliffe resident, **Dr. Tilak Mendis**, who lives on Pond Street. He reported hearing whimpering nearby. The owners rushed over, Nemo was found, and after recovery in hospital, he is now safely back with his family.

For Nemo, a wonderful happy ending! And to Dr. Mendis, a big thank you and welcome to the neighbourhood!



New Recipients of the Order of Canada



Congratulations to **Marie-Lucie Morin**, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, on her Order of Canada appointment.

Morin, who served Canada for 30 years in the Federal Public Service and was Executive Director for Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean at the World Bank from 2010 to 2013, was one of 100 new appointments to the Order of Canada announced on December 30, 2016, in advance of Canada's 150th anniversary year.

The Rockcliffe resident and Ottawa-based lawyer and director was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada and cited "for her contributions to advancing Canada's place in the world and for her professional mentorship."



Congratulations to heritage conservation architect **Julian Smith** on his appointment to the Order of Canada. Smith was central to the creation of Rockcliffe Park as a heritage district and to heritage concepts in the Village He and historian

Victoria Angel wrote the heritage district study that articulated the special character of the Village for the first time. He defined its landscape qualities and origins as of fundamental importance, qualities that in combination with Rockcliffe Park's historical and architectural values justified conservation under the Heritage Act.

He served as Chief Architect for the National Historic Sites program while employed at Parks Canada, where he helped design and implement the Federal Heritage Building Review Program.

After establishing his own architecture and planning practice in 1987, his many heritage projects included restoration of the Vimy Memorial in France, the restoration and rehabilitation of the Aberdeen and Horticulture buildings at Lansdowne Park, and the adaptive reuse of the Lister Block in Hamilton.

His planning work also included the heritage conservation district for the Byward Market and management/landscape plans for the Central Experimental Farm, Rideau Hall and Parliament Hill.

Carmine Domenicucci, RPRa's webmaster and a former RPRa Board member, passed away on Sunday, January 22, of pancreatic cancer. Carmine leaves his wife, **Chantal**, his daughter, **Catherine**, and many friends and neighbours who will miss his kind and thoughtful nature. We send our sincere sympathy to Carmine's family as well as our appreciation for his expertise and contributions to our community.