

ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2014**



**Joint Annual Meeting of the RPRA
and
The Village Foundation**

February 25, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

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Cover: *The Village Council placed bronze plaques on large boulders in 2000 to mark the nine principal road entrances to the Village and its heritage conservation district. The boulders were taken from the area of the Village Green and the plaques were cast in Merrickville. Photo: Iola Price.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to begin by welcoming our new Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, as our representative at City Hall. Tobi is well known to many of us and, over the years, has assumed a leadership role on issues of importance to us and surrounding communities. We look forward to maintaining and enhancing a very productive working relationship with him. Also, a big thank you to **Peter Clark** for all his efforts on our behalf over the past four years. Peter was always attentive and responsive to our requests and concerns, and effective in dealing with them. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours. I would add that prior to the election, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association initiated and worked with nearby community associations in Ward 13 to organize a highly successful All Candidates Meeting.

This past year continued to be active for the RPRA in priority areas such as community events and communications, heritage and the environment. We also continued to participate in public consultations with respect to the former Rockcliffe Airbase.

As regards community events, I would like to congratulate **Jane Dobell** and her army of volunteers on another very successful Book Sale. With over 12,000 donated books as well as CDs, DVDs, videos and vinyl, the sale grossed over \$19,000. This is remarkable, as most books sell in the two to three dollar range. As in the past, most of the proceeds from the sale will go to support the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library, with 15 percent supporting projects in the larger library system. Our thanks to the generous sponsors – **Brian, Joan and Sheetza McGarry, Minto Beechwood**, and the **Rockcliffe Retirement Residence** – who helped cover the expenses of the sale.

The Evening Speakers Program, organized by **Susan d'Aquino**, continued throughout the year, drawing first-class speakers and filling the Community Hall. Other events included the All Candidates Meeting mentioned above, the Children's Christmas Party, and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing. Thanks go to **Russ Gibson** and **Jim Carr**, respectively, for bringing us together during the Christmas season.

On communications, as in previous years, the RPRA published six newsletters to keep residents informed of issues affecting our community. Feedback indicates that the newsletter is very appreciated by Village residents. I would like to thank **Cynthia Hamady**, editor of the newsletter, for her commitment and creative touch. We also continue to enhance our ability to reach out to residents via the website and email. With financial support from the **Village Foundation** and advice from neighbouring community associations, we will be looking into ways to strengthen messaging across community media.

In recent newsletters, I have written about the origin of our Heritage Conservation District as well as current challenges. Work is underway to develop a new Management Plan for the District. The City's senior heritage planner, **Sally Coutts**, is writing the draft and the RPRA's Heritage Committee has commented on various versions received. The revisions will continue until the Heritage Committee and the RPRA Board are comfortable with a text. Then the City will organize a public consultation.

A new development this year relates to lot severances. An application was filed to demolish a house on Old Prospect Road, sever the lot – creating two lots deficient in size under the Zoning By-law – and build two new houses. In reaction, the RPRA developed a policy that, in the case of a severance, lots must conform to the requirements of the Zoning By-law. Despite the RPRA's opposition and that of the City's Built Heritage Subcommittee, both the Planning Committee and Council approved the application and the proposed new buildings. The Committee of Adjustment, which has the authority to approve severances, more recently considered the severance issue and associated variances. Again, in spite of opposition from the RPRA and adjacent property owners, the Committee unanimously approved the application. The RPRA is currently considering an appeal of this decision. It is critical to preserving the character of our Heritage District that severance requirements, Management Guidelines and By-laws be observed.

Otherwise there will be a steady erosion of the qualities we wish to protect. In the case of new construction, there should be no need for variances.

The RPRA continues to work with the Village Foundation on a new heritage initiative relating to the Village Green – in particular, the restoration of its stone circle. Developing the Village Green was Rockcliffe’s centennial project, and the central paved area, ringed by sugar maples, is the heart of its design. Over time, the area has deteriorated; the RPRA and the Village Foundation have discussed options for its restoration. It has been suggested that this could be Rockcliffe’s 150th Anniversary of Canada project, marking 50 years since the centennial initiative in 1967. We plan to seek ideas and suggestions from Village residents on how we might make this area more attractive and welcoming.

Moving to the environment, the water level at the Pond is alarmingly low. We hope winter snows and spring rains will restore it to a normal level, as was the case last year. We understand from the City that the Pond monitor program will continue next summer. As regards the consultants’ report on bank stability and shoreline erosion, the main recommendations were to reset the boulders at the public access point and add granular material adjacent to the gravel path on the west side of the Pond to prevent further erosion there. We carried out a site visit with a representative of the City to discuss the recommendations and to provide our own observations and suggestions. Recently we have been in touch with the City regarding follow-up next year. The RPRA’s Environment Committee applied for and received a City grant to help with removal of invasive buckthorn trees this year. Many residents have commended **Iola Price** and her volunteers for their work to remove invasive species and neaten up the area around the Pond.

As has been the case in previous years, the RPRA has worked closely on Village priorities with the Village Foundation and its Chair, **Bonnie Robinson**. In 2014, the RPRA received more than \$16,000 from the Foundation to support activities including the rehabilitation of parts of the soccer field, the Evening Speakers Program, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, the rejuvenation of the Jubilee Garden, and the publication of *The Rockcliffe News* and our Annual Report. We also received funding to hire a heritage expert to provide advice on the development of a new Heritage Conservation District Management Plan, noted above. On behalf of the Board of the RPRA, I would like to thank the Foundation for its financial support and to acknowledge its importance for our work on behalf of the community.

Finally, many thanks to Board and Committee members as well as Village residents who have volunteered their time over the past year. Your commitment and dedication bring all these projects to life and make our community the special place that it is.

Brian Dickson

HERITAGE AND PLANNING

Heritage

The Heritage Committee deals with issues affecting the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District (HCD). The full committee met six times in 2014 (five regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting in May to discuss lot severances).

The Development Review Subcommittee provides advice on requests to City of Ottawa heritage planners on proposals to make major exterior alterations to or demolish buildings or to build new ones. Advice is based on the Heritage District’s Management Guidelines. In 2014, we reviewed 17 projects.

The District Plan Subcommittee, together with a City heritage planner, continued the task of redrafting the Heritage Conservation District Plan for the Village. The third draft is being prepared at this time. The

process has taken a considerable amount of time, but gathered momentum in 2014. We hope that a new Heritage Conservation District Plan will be completed during 2015.

The Committee of Adjustment Subcommittee reviews and comments on all applications for variances in the Village. In 2014, it reviewed, in meetings or by email exchanges, eight applications for variance. The Heritage Committee asked the Subcommittee to draft a policy on the subject of subdivision of lots and it adopted the proposed policy.

This Subcommittee lost two members during the past year: **Bill Breen**, who resigned, and **Peggy Gibson**, who moved out of Rockcliffe, but gained three others: **Michael Teeter**, **Peter Lewis** and **Michael Kelen**. We thank Bill and Peggy for their long-standing support and valued contribution to our work.

The Heritage Committee worked with the Ottawa Poets Pathway Committee (www.poetspathway.ca) to assist in the identification of an appropriate location for a boulder that will display a plaque with a poem by a Canadian poet. The boulder will be placed in 2015 and an unveiling ceremony will be scheduled. Watch for this in the spring.

Kathy Day, Chair, Heritage Committee, and Peter Hyde, Chair, Committee of Adjustment Subcommittee

Heritage Committee members during 2014: Victoria Angel, Chris Barker, Karl Blume, William Breen, John Cook, Michele Collum Hayman, Kathy Day (Chair), Linda Dicaire, Marilyn Donoghue, Magalie Dubé, Martha Edmond, Robin Fyfe, Peter Hyde, Anthony Keith (Secretary), Michael Kelen, Joan Kingstone, Vic Lanctis, Peter Lewis, Robert McElligott, Diana Rowley, J.H. (Si) Taylor, Michael Teeter, George Tymowski and David Waiser.

Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton

The FCA is the forum for community associations and non-profit volunteer groups in Ottawa to share information about issues facing their communities and, when appropriate, take joint action. The RPRA has been a member of the FCA since amalgamation. The FCA includes associations from the City centre, the inner suburbs, the suburban communities outside the Greenbelt, and rural Ottawa. Meetings of its approximately 35 members occur monthly.

The FCA priorities include work on planning and zoning (infill) issues, the new regulations on urban community mail boxes, determining how best to provide effective input to the City's budget process, and building a refreshed FCA website to ensure improved communications with members and citizens. The RPRA is represented on the community mail box committee. It would welcome more volunteers to participate on the Infill Committee and the Budget Committee.

Linda McDonald

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Treasurer's Report

Full details of the RPRA's financial report maybe found in Appendix A on pages 14-16.

RPRA funds are kept in the same bank account and the Treasurer does the tracking of income and expenses. The Library and Heritage committees control the allocations in the Library and Heritage funds, respectively. All the money, \$64,812, is invested in easy-to-cash and relatively safe government bonds. A separate Finance Committee oversees the RPRA's financial activities.

We are grateful that **Angelica Bolitho** organized our accounts this year, greatly simplifying and reducing the costs of our annual financial review.

John Murphy

Membership

In addition to organizing various community events, such as the Speakers Program and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, the RPRAs represent the residents of Rockcliffe Park at the municipal level.

The RPRAs offer memberships at a cost of \$25 per household per annum. In 2014 the association membership count was 268, an increase of 55 in comparison to the previous year. The additional 55 members represent a 26 percent increase in membership.

We encourage all households to become members of their Association to help maintain our strong sense of community. We are also looking for a volunteer to organize a membership drive.

Caroline Gingras

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Speakers Program

This year marks the 14th year of our community's Speakers Program. Held in the Community Hall on Wednesday evenings periodically throughout the year, these evenings are an opportunity for friends, neighbours and newcomers to hear from outstanding individuals, engage them in discussion, and enjoy coffee and homemade cookies afterwards. Admission is free.

In 2014, we were delighted to welcome:



Andrew Cohen, who told us the fascinating story of the quest for Franklin's lost ship, based on his book about it, "Lost Beneath the Ice: The Story of HMS Investigator."



Charlie Hill, Curator of Canadian Art at the National Gallery of Canada, who took us through the history of how the collection of Canadian art at the Gallery was built over the years, including his most important acquisitions.



Thomas d'Aquino, who challenged us with ideas of why and how "Building a New North America" is critical to our future, given the competition emerging around the world from newly powerful countries and trading alliances.



Cheryl Boughton, Headmistress of Elmwood School, and **Norman Southward**, Head of School, Ashbury College, who gave us an up-to-date and fascinating picture of what matters in education today.



Paul Wells, Political Editor of *Mclean's*, who described what he considers the key ingredients of Stephen Harper's Canada.



Michael Chong, Member of Parliament, who set out why reform of our Parliament is needed and matters.



Andrew Cohen, who returned to tell us the gripping story contained in his new book, "Two Days in June: John F. Kennedy and the 48 Hours that Made History."

Susan d'Aquino with lots of help from Pat Bailey, Jenni Barbarie, Jane Dobell, Nancy Hooper, Joan Kellett, Linda McDonald, Lynne McGuffin, Iola Price, Ainsley Sullivan and Marilyn Venner.

Library Book Sale and Rockcliffe Park Library

Skill testing question: How many book sales/fairs are there in Rockcliffe?

Many people don't realize that Rockcliffe and surrounding communities support two quality book sales each year – the April RPRA sale in support of the local Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), and the November sale organized by school parents in support of the Rockcliffe Park Public School.



Eager buyers enjoy the thrill of the hunt at the Rockcliffe Park Library book sale in April 2014.

The RPRA Library Committee, which organizes the April Book Sale, draws volunteers from the larger geographic area served by the branch.

Thanks to the generosity of those who donated over 12,000 books and audio-visual items, the two-day Book Sale in April 2014 grossed close to \$20,000. Expenses such as a tent, a rented PODS storage container and transportation to and from off-site storage made the sale more manageable but also more costly. I would like to thank our sponsors,

Joan, Brian and Sheetza McGarry, Marlene Borsboom of Minto Beechwood and Catherine

Strevens-Bourque of the **Rockcliffe Retirement Residence**, for helping to defray the expenses.

The Library Committee also raises money all year from the ongoing sale of books from the library's shelves located near the window on the side of the parking lot. **Sheila Nelles** makes sure that interesting titles are always available at rock-bottom prices. Check it out next time you are in the library. The money raised makes an important contribution to the service the Rockcliffe branch is able to offer. On the advice of the Supervising Librarian, the committee donated money for magazine and newspaper renewals, children's and teens' books, adult "quick reads," programming (visiting authors) for school groups, DVDs and games. As usual, 15 percent of the profit supports library initiatives in the wider library system.

This year, **Linda McDonald** organized a survey to discover how our customers found out about our sale. Not surprisingly, 50 percent come from Rockcliffe, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Vanier and Manor Park. However, an impressive 50 percent come from elsewhere in the National Capital Region. We also had a customer who was a "literary tourist" from Napanee, with others from Stormont/Glengarry and as far away as British Columbia.

Many people heard about the sale through word of mouth. We are also extremely grateful to **David Waiser**, who looked after the A-frame advertising, and **Claire Schofield**, who organized our excellent publicity campaign.

The sale depends on more than 50 volunteers who work during the sale and throughout the year finding sponsors, organizing publicity, spreading the word, collecting, culling, sorting, endlessly packing and unpacking and pricing donations, staffing the sales desk, setting up, managing and taking down tables, bookcases, signs and tents. It makes me tired to think about it! What an achievement! Some have been involved for 17 years. The RPRA cannot thank them enough.



Some of our many April Book Sale volunteers take a break from sorting books (left to right): Claire Schofield, Jane Dobell, Catherine Strevens-Bourque, Claire Sullivan, Joan Kellett, Penny Thompson, Jane Newcombe, Jill Moll, Jane Davis, Di Bethune, Dilshad Macklem, Gill Kirkwood, Linda McDonald.

Thanks also to the Library staff that put up with the commotion caused by the problem of inadequate storage for the donated books.

In closing, here are some tidbits from our survey that might interest you. Customers said:

“My mother donated books and records, and I came to buy mine back.”

“I shared my voting preferences for the next election.”

From Kingston: *“I stayed an extra night just to come.”*

“I have been here for 17 years and this is the first year I have heard about the sale.” (You can't win 'em all!)

Jane Dobell, Chair of the RPR Library Committee

Thanks to the Library Committee members who do what has to be done year round: Jennifer Barbarie, Barbara Barker, Chris Barker, Di Bethune, Monique Coupal, Lisa Coy, Jane Davis, Brian Dickson, the Heatheringtons, Helen Heighington, Joan and Tony Kellett, Caryn Kewell, Gill and Laurie Kirkwood, Peter Lewis, Dilshad Macklem, Patricia MacDonald, Karen McClure, Linda McDonald, Sheila M'Gonigle, Jill Moll, Sheila Nelles, Jane Newcombe, Claire and Roger Ouseley, Mark Ouseley, Sheila Paterson, Iola Price, Georges Proulx, Claire Schofield, Richard Simison, Mary Anne Smallwood, Claire Sullivan, Mary Taylor, David Waiser, Helen Westington, Ellen Zeiss and the many volunteers who help on the days of the sale. And a special thank you to school Book Fair veterans Seanna Kreager, Michele Collum Hayman, Sarah Baxter and Maggie Knaus, who are so generous with equipment, time and advice.

Soccer

Despite the delay in the onset of spring, soccer started at the end of April. By the end of June, another successful soccer season had finished, albeit with slightly fewer participants (270) than in previous years.

The Rockcliffe Park League (RPL) Soccer Program continues to be a popular community activity for all age groups across families in Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea and New Edinburgh, with games spread over two venues, the Rockcliffe Park Public School Soccer Field and the Hillsdale Field. Games were played in the evenings, Tuesday through Thursday, and on Saturday mornings, as has been done in the past. New for this year was the addition of professional coaching support from **Julien Edwards** at Pro+ Sports (www.proplussports.ca), who ran drills and strategy sessions in spring. Julien also ran a soccer skills development session in September for five- to ten-year-olds, which was very well-received and which we hope to repeat this coming year.

Normally the RPR contracts a landscaping company to maintain the soccer field with up to three treatments of fertilizer, top dressing, aerating, etc. per year. This year, however, due to the failure of the underground sprinkler system, it was decided to withhold treatment until the sprinkler system is repaired. The RPR is in contact with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (who own and manage the sprinkler system) and is coordinating with them to ensure the repair of the system in time for the 2015 season.

The RPL Soccer Program has been a great community-building success, a reflection of the strong partnership between the Lindenlea Community Association and the RPR. Continuing in that spirit of partnership, this year **Ashbury College** became a new partner in the RPL Soccer Program, providing funds to cover the cost of painting lines on the fields. Ashbury has agreed to partner with the program next year as well. We welcome their support, so a big “Thanks” goes out to Ashbury College.

A program such as this does not happen without a lot of work by a dedicated crew of volunteers who give much of their personal time to ensure that the league is a success. Again this year, a big shout-out and thanks to **Katherine Hall** for program co-ordination and to **Bruce Covington** for organizing the coaches and running the coaching clinic. Thanks also to all the parent volunteers who step forward as coaches, organizers, dispensers of ice cream and freezies, fans and cheerleaders; your support is essential to the program's continued success. Thank you all.

Peter Lewis

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing was held on Wednesday, December 3, at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall. The evening started with the **Elmwood Junior School** choir singing “Oh Christmas Tree” to coincide with lighting of the Christmas tree. Our new City Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, turned on the lights as his first public event since assuming office.



Carolers sing along to the Salvation Army Brass Ensemble at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing.

Following a number of carols performed by the Elmwood Junior School choir, the community carol singing portion of the evening started, led by the **Brass Ensemble of the Ottawa Salvation Army Citadel** band. The band played a number of carol requests from the crowd. At the end of the caroling, RPR President **Brian Dickson** presented a cheque to the Salvation Army Citadel in support of the continued work they do in our greater community.

Bridgehead very kindly donated the hot drinks and snacks for the hungry choir, brass ensemble and carol singers. We again had an excellent attendance

of well over 100 people, with a large number of Elmwood School pupils and parents participating. Donations for the Ottawa Food Bank totalled \$121 in cash and a box of food items.

In summary, it was a very successful, festive and enjoyable evening, with a little snow falling to give it seasonal atmosphere.

Jim Carr

With thanks to volunteers Angelica Bolitho, Nancy Carr, Brian Dickson, Jane Dobell, Cynthia Hamady, Peter Lewis, Linda McDonald, Iola Price and Marilyn Venner.

Children’s Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 14, approximately 200 children and parents gathered at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall for the annual Children’s Christmas Party. A fresh snowfall and perfect weather were ideal for the outdoor activities – hockey, “snow soccer” and rides through the Village on Santa’s horse-drawn “sleigh.”

Inside the community centre, the children made Christmas crafts, snacked, and generated creative requests for “specialty balloons” from **Silly the Clown**. Many children also put together and proudly decorated gingerbread figures. With seasonal music, tasty treats, warm food and hot chocolate with whipped cream, many parents were also seen taking in the occasion.



Santa and Silly the Clown with Jack, sporting a stylish balloon hat made by Silly – and Sugar the Horse in the background.

A special thank you to the sponsors who helped defray some of the costs associated with this event and to all those who provided gifts for Ottawa’s Toy Mountain. If there is anyone interested in volunteering at the Children’s party next year, please contact me.

Russell Gibson

ENVIRONMENT

Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area Remediation

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



University of Ottawa volunteers cleaned up the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area.

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

We will continue our work in the spring. Please consider donating an hour or two to this environmental remediation effort. Every buckthorn removed makes room for a native dogwood, maple or chokecherry that we plant and which will provide the high quality food and/or shelter for a bird or small mammal that buckthorn, Garlic Mustard or Dog-strangling Vine will not. Contact me at environment@rockcliffepark.ca.

Water Quality

Bacterial testing of Pond water is carried out by the City of Ottawa and this year's tests all showed *E. coli* counts well below the Ontario beach guideline of 100 *E. coli* per 100 ml. It is interesting to note that the levels of *E. coli* are the lowest in the region in spite of the number of swimmers and visitors to the Pond. The RPRA sampled the water five times for Nitrogen and Phosphorus. In spite of the changing water levels, there do not appear to be significant changes in nutrient levels from year to year although there are periodic seasonal spikes.

The Pond's limited visiting hours results in less time for people to loiter and leave garbage on the shore, although the latter is occasionally a problem. Fish and frogs continue to live in the Pond, although the lower water level in the winter appears to have reduced the volume of oxygenated water, leading to fish kills in the spring. Great Blue Herons and other birds come to feed at both the Pond and McKay Lake – a welcome sign of ecosystem health. We have continuing concerns about the erosion of the Pond shoreline, especially at the beach area; constant digging for sand castle building and trampling lead to sand migration into the water.

Iola Price, Chair, Rockcliffe Park Environment Committee, with Derek Chase, Committee Member

ROCKCLIFFE AIRBASE REDEVELOPMENT

Over the course of 2013 and 2014, Canada Lands Company (CLC) held nine Public Advisory Group (PAG) meetings during which PAG representatives from the neighbouring communities reviewed documents and drawings and provided comments to CLC on how they could be improved and, on several occasions, chose between options. CLC has now sent the latest draft preferred Community Design Plan (CDP) and associated technical documents to the City, where they are being reviewed by staff. CLC is seeking Secondary Plan status and an Official Plan Amendment so that zoning changes and land use designations may proceed. There are opportunities for further public involvement as part of these proceedings.

CLC plans to sell small parcels of serviced land to developers who agree to CLC's strict design and performance guidelines. CLC is forecasting 2,640 jobs in the office, institutional and retail buildings on the site. Development will proceed in three phases until the almost 5,200 residential units are completed.

For many of us on the PAG, traffic and transportation are major issues. There will be an increase in traffic; it will run on the existing road network and it will be felt at rush hour, in spite of the fact that efforts will be made to encourage employment on the site and to have public transit running to the site. How will our communities be affected and will there be adequate public transit to minimize traffic leaving and entering the new development?

Other issues with which the PAG dealt were the amount and type of green space (natural areas and parks), preservation of significant trees on the site, building heights and massing, recreation, road widths and road types including the potential for roundabouts instead of traffic lights at some intersections, transit, street lighting, building energy conservation options, opportunities for retail and options to make the new community a walkable and pleasant place to live and work.

The PAG was also assured that the word "Rockcliffe" will not be included in the new development's name. Log onto the CLC website www.clcrockcliffe.ca and register to receive email updates by clicking on the quick Contact section. Facebook users can "like" the CLC at www.facebook.com/CLCRockcliffe.

Iola Price, RPRA's representative to the Public Advisory Group that provided advice and comment to the CLC during the design phases of the redevelopment of the Rockcliffe Airbase.

ROCKCLIFFE PARK COMMUNITY POLICE CENTRE

After four years of friendly and professional service as our Community Police Centre Officer, **Constable Ryan Pierce** has moved on to a new position with the Ottawa Police Service. His assistance and advice have been much appreciated, and we wish him the very best in his new assignment. We welcome **Constable Walter Duhme** as Rockcliffe's new Community Police Officer.

The Community Police Centre, located at 360 Springfield Road, carries information on a number of crime prevention programs designed to help keep our community safe. One can even arrange for a free Home Security Inspection by calling the centre at **613 236-1222, ext. 5915**. To contact Cst. Duhme, call **613 236-1222, ext. 5916**, or email DuhmeW@ottawapolice.ca. Follow him on Twitter at *Walter Duhme @RockcliffeCPC*.

Please visit the Ottawa Police Service website www.ottawapolice.ca for information on their crime prevention and safety programs.

Reporting incidents to the police is important and provides the police with the information needed to identify crime patterns. Please report all crimes or suspicious activity to the police to assist them in addressing crime in the community. Call:

911 for crimes in progress and life threatening emergencies.

613 230-6211 for non-life threatening emergencies.

613 236-1222, extension 7300

or On-Line Reporting www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp
(French language website www.ottawapolice.ca/fr/contact-us/Police-Reports.asp)
to report thefts, mischief/damage to property, lost property, thefts from vehicles and traffic complaints.

613 236-1222 for all other enquiries.

Neighbourhood Watch

As in previous years, the incidence of crime in the Village has been comparatively low. Even so, the security consciousness and general alertness promoted by Neighbourhood Watch continue to be important. This year, in addition to the "usual" thefts from homes and vehicles, there have been several incidents of graffiti-spraying. These and other forms of vandalism are definitely crimes and need to be reported along with other crimes so that police can build a comprehensive database. To encourage reporting, an online process has been established for reporting incidents not involving violence or loss or damage of more than \$5,000. All reports are given a report number, useful for insurance claims, and are reviewed by police, who will follow up as appropriate. Details may be found at www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp.

Rockcliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch is part of a City-wide program sponsored by the Ottawa Police Service and supported by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee (ONWEC, www.onwec.com). Rockcliffe's Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, **Kay James**, is currently a member of ONWEC.

A Neighbourhood Watch membership drive is planned for 2015, starting with a count of current membership to establish a baseline. The level of participation normally required for a community to display Neighbourhood Watch signage is 50 percent. Because Rockcliffe has not traditionally kept formal

membership lists, it would be difficult at the moment to establish a participation rate. However, given the general sense of community in Rockcliffe and the willingness of many residents to join the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, support for Neighbourhood Watch should not be an issue. It may be largely a question of adopting new reporting procedures to establish that the Village's participation rate can be shown to meet the signage requirements. Block Captains will be asked to compile lists of participating households, and efforts will be made to contact residents not currently represented by Block Captains to enlist them directly. Other suggestions would be welcomed.

Kay James, Coordinator, Rockcliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch

COMMUNICATIONS

The new Communications Committee is working on plans to improve membership communications, ensuring that residents receive relevant information about the events and issues that are important to them. We also aim to strengthen the links between *The Rockcliffe News* and our website and email notices. We encourage residents to consult the RPRRA website www.rockcliffepark.ca and, if they have suggestions for content, to contact committee members by email c/o secretary@rockcliffepark.ca. Thanks go to our webmaster, **Carmine Domenicucci**, for maintaining the site.

Angelica Bolitho, Chair, RPRRA Communications Committee, with Marilyn Venner

Newsletter Team

Cynthia Hamady completed her fourth year as volunteer newsletter editor, producing six print and web versions of the newsletter in 2014. The RPRRA thanks her for her continuing involvement. A web version, resplendent in dazzling full colour, may be viewed online, often before the print version is delivered. Thanks to **Carmine Domenicucci** for posting the newsletter and archiving earlier issues on the RPRRA website www.rockcliffepark.ca.

Special thanks goes to **Brian Dickson**, **Paul St. Louis** and **Iola Price** for ensuring that our volunteer deliverers always receive their bundles on schedule.

And, of course, many thanks to the **Village Foundation**, whose continuing financial support helps to defray printing costs.

Those who responded to the Village Survey told us that you want to continue receiving the newsletter in your mailbox, so we will continue to produce a print version and deliver it to all Village residents.

In the coming year we hope to update the newsletter to make it more visually appealing, easier to read, and more relevant in content. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please email them to editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.

Cynthia Hamady, Editor, The Rockcliffe News, and Iola Price, Newsletter Delivery Coordinator

Many thanks to our volunteer deliverers who, in 2014, delivered your newsletters and Village flyers through all kinds of weather: Ron Ashley, Chris and Stephanie Barker, Marilyn Blattel, Derek Chase, Brian Dickson, Jane Dobell, John Edmond, Thomas Geraghty, Alan Gill, Chantal Gobeil, Alison Green, Walter Grego, Doug and Nicky Hales, Sue Harcourt, Nancy Johnson, Anthony Keith, Charles King, Joan Kingstone, Alex Macklin, Ainsley Malhotra, Kent Manderville, Louise Meyer, Rodney Moore, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, Iola Price, Tani and Gregory Sanders, Dean Saul, Margo Scott, Mary Anne Smallwood, Lorna and Paul St. Louis, Mary and Si Taylor, Lori Timmins, Bill and Barbara Turner, Marilyn Venner, Cathryn Warren, Hans and Annegret Uthhoff and Ismene Wood.

APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Balance Sheet 31 December 2014

| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Assets</u> | | |
| Cash | – | – |
| Accounts Receivable | – | – |
| Bank Accounts | 64,812.00 | 57,185.77 |
| Total Assets | <u>64,812.00</u> | <u>57,185.77</u> |
| <u>Liabilities and Members' Net Assets</u> | | |
| <u>Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenue</u> | | |
| Deferred Revenue – Next Year Memberships | – | 2,475.00 |
| Accounts Payable | 1,749.71 | 527.70 |
| Total Current Liabilities and Deferred Revenue | <u>1,749.71</u> | <u>3002.70</u> |
| <u>Members' Net Assets</u> | | |
| Restricted Funds (Library, Heritage) | 1,011.12 | 1,636.96 |
| Net Unrestricted RPRA Funds | 62,051.17 | 52,546.11 |
| Total Members' Net Assets | <u>63,062.29</u> | <u>54,183.07</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Members' Net Assets | <u>64,812.00</u> | <u>57,185.77</u> |
| Unrestricted RPRA Assets | | |
| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
| Net Assets – Beginning | 57,185.77 | 60,408.00 |
| Excess (Shortfall) | 7,626.23 | -3,222.23 |
| Net Assets – Ending | <u>64,812.00</u> | <u>57,185.77</u> |
| Details of Accounts Payable (AP) | | |
| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
| Children's Christmas Party | 565.00 | 527.70 |
| Greenscape | 540.83 | – |
| Peter Clark Lunch | 141.00 | – |
| Library Account | 502.88 | – |
| Total | <u>1,749.71</u> | <u>527.70</u> |

APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Library Account For The Years Ending December 31st

| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Initial Balance | 1,636.00 | 1,425.00 |
| Sponsorship | 3,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Book Sale Revenue | 20,616.00 | 20,664.14 |
| Expenses | | |
| Printing and Signs | – | 407.45 |
| Grant to Library | 19,825.38 | 18,500.00 |
| Expenses | 4,342.88 | 2,590.16 |
| Miscellaneous | – | 1,534.93 |
| Total expenses | 4,342.88 | 22,987.11 |
| Income (Loss) | -522.26 | -1,322.97 |
| Balance December 31 | 1,011.12 | 1,636.96 |

Heritage Fund Balance December 31st

| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Balance December 31 | 534.05 | 1,065.00 |

Revenue and Expense Details For The Years Ending December 31st

| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Total Revenue | 30,527.503 | 8,422.29 |
| General and Administrative | 22,615.00 | 23,690.97 |
| Bank Interest | 670.00 | 665.97 |
| Memberships Current Year | 5,575.00 | 5,325.00 |
| Village Foundation | 16,370.00 | 17,700.00 |
| Other | – | 85.00 |
| Heritage | – | 62.00 |
| Publications | – | 62.00 |
| Birkenfels Gate Plaque Grant | – | 1,102.00 |
| Miscellaneous | – | 5.00 |
| Environment | 1,964.60 | 112.90 |
| City Grant (Buckthorn) | 1,750.00 | |
| Donations | 214.60 | 112.90 |
| Social | 233.00 | 538.65 |
| Speakers Program Evening | 233.00 | 498.65 |
| Speakers Program Lunch | – | 40.00 |
| T-Shirts | – | 20.00 |
| South Africa Wine and Cheese | – | 760.00 |
| Sports | 5,700.00 | 14,017.77 |
| Rinks | – | 4,767.77 |
| Soccer, Running Track Rehabilitation | 5,700.00 | 9,250.00 |

APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Revenue and Expense Details For The Years Ending December 31st

| | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Total Expenses | 22,859.28 | 47,973.04 |
| General and Administrative | 7,502.39 | 16,128.36 |
| Newsletter Printing and Mailing | 3,193.46 | 3,359.90 |
| Annual Report Printing | 426.14 | 493.58 |
| Bank Charge RPRA | 285.00 | 270.00 |
| Directors Liability Insurance + Receiver Gen'l. | 694.48 | 681.48 |
| Membership Dues (FCA and Volunteer Canada) | 130.00 | 130.00 |
| Other Printing | 273.31 | 123.23 |
| Bylaws + Legal | – | 253.08 |
| General Admin | 2,103.37 | 9,612.80 |
| Communications | – | 371.51 |
| Christmas Tree Lighting Contract | 396.63 | – |
| Miscellaneous | – | 772.78 |
| Heritage | 530.96 | 5,268.45 |
| Birkenfels Gates | – | 2,900.53 |
| Boulder Moving and Engraving | – | 2,367.92 |
| Tape Transcription | 530.96 | |
| Environment | 10,775.66 | 6,316.30 |
| Princess Triangle 2 Maples+ Dogwood Trim (2,209.15 + 904.00) | 3,113.15 | – |
| Jubilee Garden and Flower Beds | 4,736.00 | 5,123.43 |
| Community Hall Grounds Sprinkler (closing paid in 2013) | 257.11 | 661.91 |
| Pond Water Analysis | 409.40 | 304.96 |
| Buckthorn Removal (incl. City grant of \$1750) | 2,260.00 | – |
| Social | 3,509.44 | 3,184.27 |
| Christmas Children's Party | 916.48 | 918.50 |
| Christmas Tree Ceremony/Salvation Army Donation | 475.00 | 990.42 |
| Speaker Program Evening | 2,117.96 | 1,154.58 |
| Speaker Program Lunch | | 120.77 |
| Sports | 540.83 | 17,075.66 |
| Rink | – | 4,758.66 |
| Soccer Program and Running Track Rehabilitation | 540.83 | 12,317.00 |
| Income – Expenses [Library Excluded] | 7,668.22 | -9,550.76 |