



# The Rockcliffe News

April 2015

## Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

[www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brian Dickson, President**

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**Nicolas Temnikov**

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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](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### APRIL

- 1 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 11 Saturday 10 am-5 pm .....Rockcliffe Park Branch Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall\*
- 12 Sunday 11 am-5 pm .....Rockcliffe Park Branch Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall\*
- 15 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 16 Thursday 6:30-8:30 pm ...Rockcliffe Park Northwest (Phase 2) Open House, Rockcliffe Park Community Centre\*
- 17 Friday 6:30 pm .....Dining with the Ambassadors – SOLD OUT
- 22 Wednesday 8:00 pm .....Speakers Program: Evan Solomon, Host of the CBC's Power and Politics and The House, Community Hall\*
- 25 Saturday .....Elmwood School's "Evening in the Garden" Gala, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 30 Thursday 7:30 pm .....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Mary Ann Berlo, Master Gardener, on "The Gardens of Cuba," Community Hall\*

### MAY

- 9 Saturday (rain date May 10) ..Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club Annual Open House, 465 Lansdowne Road North\*
- 11 Monday .....Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club Junior After-School Program begins\*
- 20 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 23-24 Saturday-Sunday ....Run for Biodiversity, Ottawa Marathon Weekend\*
- 30 Saturday .....IODE Laurentian Chapter 54th Annual House and Garden Tour\*

### JUNE

- 3 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 17 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 17 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Heritage Ottawa presents:"City Water and Country Air: Rockcliffe Park at 150," a talk by Martha Edmond, Heritage Ottawa, 2 Daly Avenue\*

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

### THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 2

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the February newsletter, I mentioned a “cold spell” which had fortunately replaced the ice and freezing rain of last winter. Little did we know that the plunging temperatures would remain with us for the next two months, bringing with them a record-breaking run of 59 consecutive skating days on the Rideau Canal Skateway, and wonderful downhill and cross country skiing. Temperatures are now slowly rising, offering hope for an early spring. I begin by thanking our members who joined us at our Annual General Meeting, together with the Village Foundation's, in late February. As in the past, we reviewed the events and activities of 2014, summarized in our Annual Report in such priority areas as heritage, the environment and strengthening a sense of community within Rockcliffe. We also looked to the year ahead; in particular, the ongoing development of a new Heritage Conservation District Management Plan to strengthen the protection of the heritage character of the Village. We were pleased that our new Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, was able to join us. He provided insights into his initial period at City Hall and responded thoughtfully to questions directly affecting our community. Many thanks, Tobi!

The AGM also elected a new Board of Directors for 2015. In terms of numbers, our Board remained stable over the past year, at 15, with only one departure. I would like to thank **Caroline Gingras** for her many contributions as a Board member, particularly in the area of membership. At the AGM, we were pleased to welcome three new members to the Board: **Angelica Bolitho**, **Imbaw Storer** and **Nicolas Temnikov**.

The following directors from 2014 were re-elected: **Chris Barker, Michele Collum Hayman, Susan d'Aquino, Kathy Day, Jane Dobell, Russ Gibson, Joan Kellett, Peter Lewis, Alexander Macklin, Linda McDonald, John Murphy, Michael Teeter, Marilyn Venner** and myself. We now have a total of 17 directors for 2015 out of a maximum of 18 that are permitted under our By-laws.

Following the AGM, the new Board elected a new Executive for 2015. Kathy Day and Peter Lewis will continue as Vice Presidents, Marilyn Venner continues as Secretary, Angelica Bolitho was elected as our new Treasurer, following the departure of John Murphy from this position, and I was honoured to be re-elected as President for another term.

While John Murphy has stepped down as Treasurer, we are pleased he has remained a member of the Board. I would like to thank John for his professional expertise, his commitment to the RPRA and his unfailing good humour during his time as Treasurer. This included the audit that we underwent, at our request, which was a demanding and time-consuming process.

We have a very talented and energetic Board for 2015 and we look forward to building on the work that is underway and taking on new initiatives. I would like to remind you of the upcoming annual Spring Book Sale in support of the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, to be held at the Community Hall. The dates are Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12. This event has been very successful in the past and we expect that this year it will be even better. We hope you will come to browse, buy and chat with your neighbours.

Finally, I note that Dining with Ambassadors, organized by the Village Foundation, will take place Friday, April 17, 2015. I understand that this event has already been sold out and I would like to congratulate the Foundation on a very successful fundraising initiative.

With best regards,

*Brian Dickson*

*March 14, 2015*

## Thank You to the 2014 Community Appeal Donors

Thank you to the following individuals who generously donated to the 2014 Annual Appeal of the Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation and to those other donors who have chosen to remain anonymous. The appeal has raised \$14,600 as of March 2015. It is not too late to support your community! If you missed making your donation and would like to do so, please mail your cheque payable to the "Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation" to **Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1L 5A8**, or donate online at [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org).

<b>Diana Ainslie</b>	<b>David Halton</b>	<b>Jane Newcombe</b>
<b>Stephen Assaly</b>	<b>Anne Hamilton</b>	<b>Julianne Parfett and Roy Williams</b>
<b>Colin and Rachel Baxter</b>	<b>Elizabeth and Scott Heatherington</b>	<b>Gordon and Wendy Peters</b>
<b>Cynthia Baxter</b>	<b>Hon. Michael Kelen</b>	<b>Iola Price</b>
<b>Paul E. Beaulé</b>	<b>Anthony and Joan Kellett</b>	<b>George Proulx</b>
<b>Roderick Bell</b>	<b>Mrs. Joan Khan</b>	<b>Bob and Donna Roberts</b>
<b>Tony and Dorinda Brunst</b>	<b>Ryan Kilger and Lucie Martin</b>	<b>Andy and Bonnie Robinson</b>
<b>Elly and Bill Clarke</b>	<b>David and Laura Kilgour</b>	<b>Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson</b>
<b>David and Neva Cuthbertson</b>	<b>Mrs. John Kingstone</b>	<b>Mrs. Diana Rowley</b>
<b>Norma Davies</b>	<b>La Fondation J &amp; AC</b>	<b>Patrick Roy</b>
<b>Jane Davis</b>	<b>Dennis and Andrea Laurin</b>	<b>Gregory and Tani Sanders</b>
<b>Suzanne Dawes</b>	<b>Mrs. June Lindsey</b>	<b>Karen Shigheishi-Waite</b>
<b>Pamela Delworth</b>	<b>Alexander Macklin</b>	<b>Emmanuel Simantirakis</b>
<b>Chris Denison</b>	<b>Charles Maclaren</b>	<b>Evan Solomon</b>
<b>Carol Devenny and Grant McDonald</b>	<b>James and Dawn Maxwell</b>	<b>Anne Stanfield</b>
<b>Brian and Kate Dickson</b>	<b>Scott McDonald</b>	<b>Fabiano Taucer</b>
<b>Marilyn Donaghue</b>	<b>Anne McDougall</b>	<b>J.H. Taylor</b>
<b>Paul Durand</b>	<b>Robert McElligott</b>	<b>Peter Thompson</b>
<b>Mark H. Ellis</b>	<b>Oliver McGinley</b>	<b>Brendan Timmins</b>
<b>Rina and Dean Eyre</b>	<b>Sylvia Mercer</b>	<b>Gail Toth</b>
<b>Sheila Farquhar</b>	<b>Robert Milin</b>	<b>David Weinstein</b>
<b>Dr. Robert and Dagmar Forget</b>	<b>Choan E. and Ameneh Mirzaei</b>	<b>Howard Weld</b>
<b>Osman and Sylvia Gialloredo</b>	<b>Brian Montgomery</b>	<b>Steve and Eunice West</b>
<b>Dr. David and Rochelle Greenberg</b>	<b>Thady Murray</b>	<b>Rem Westland</b>
<b>Walter Grego</b>	<b>C.S. Nelles</b>	<b>Michael and Jacqui Wilson</b>
<b>Margot Gualtieri</b>	<b>Joanne and Rob Nelson</b>	<b>Mrs. Ismene Wood</b>

## Highlights of the AGM on February 25, 2015

The endowment as of December 31, 2014 is \$688,594. The grant to the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association for 2015 community activities and projects is \$18,400.

The Village Foundation Board for 2015 includes the following members: **Bonnie Robinson** (Chair), **Mike McIntyre** (Vice-Chair), **Grant McDonald** (Treasurer), **Jane Newcombe**, **Chris Denison**, **Nancy Greenley**, **Ryan Kilger** (Secretary), **David Lang**, **Thady Murray**, **Jane Panet**, **David Weinstein** and **Aly Abdullah**.

See the website [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org) to read the 2014 Report from the Chair and 2014 Financial Statements.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## Rockcliffe's Neighbourhood Watch Status Is In Jeopardy

The Ottawa Police Service is standardizing its administration of Neighbourhood Watches across the City, and this process is about to impact the Village. In order to qualify as a Neighbourhood Watch community, authorized to display official signage, we need a participation rate of at least 50% of households. What's new is that, to be part of the official count, members need to have completed a Neighbourhood Watch membership form. Over the next few weeks, we are asking as many residents as possible to sign up.

Neighbourhood Watch is a community-driven crime prevention program, helping neighbours watch out for their neighbours. Neighbourhood Watch is particularly appropriate for a community such as Rockcliffe Park, a low-density, low-crime area with proportionate police presence; people who live in the community are the ones who will first notice anything unusual, such as a stranger in a neighbour's backyard. All that Neighbourhood Watch membership involves is agreeing to practice

sensible security measures and report any incidents of crime or vandalism.



Starting in April or May, the Block Captain for your immediate neighbourhood will be asking you to sign up. Those in a part of the Village that does not yet have a Block Captain can obtain a form from the Community Police Centre, 360 Springfield Road, or from **Kay James**, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, at [rpranw@gmail.com](mailto:rpranw@gmail.com) or **613 366-6793**. Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum's** office at City Hall will also have forms ([Tobi.Nusbaum@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Tobi.Nusbaum@Ottawa.ca), or **613 580-2483**).

A recent check of Rockcliffe's Neighbourhood Watch signs turned up only three: one each on Acacia, Lansdowne and Whitmarl. If there are others, please send a note to Kay James. Clearly there should be more, at least marking the boundaries of the community. As soon as the membership situation has been regularized this will be taken up with the Neighbourhood Watch executive.

*Kay James, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator*

## SPEAKERS PROGRAM

### Upcoming Speaker 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.



#### *Evan Solomon*

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

**Wednesday, April 22 at 8:00 pm**

### Save the Date

**Wednesday, June 17 at 7:30 pm  
at Heritage Ottawa, 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa**

### *"City Water and Country Air: Rockcliffe Park at 150"*

Please join us for a talk by **Martha Edmond**, historian, author and longtime guide for Heritage Ottawa's Rockcliffe Park Walking Tours.

Martha will explore the origins and present character of Rockcliffe with particular emphasis on development pressures that now put the Olmsted/Keefer vision to the test.

For details, visit <http://heritageottawa.org/events/city-water-and-country-air-rockcliffe-park-150> or contact Heritage Ottawa at **613 230-8841** or [info@heritageottawa.org](mailto:info@heritageottawa.org). **Please Note:** This is a members-only event but memberships will be available at the door.



# RPPL SPRING BOOK SALE

**Dedicated Rockcliffe Park Branch Public Library Spring Book Sale Volunteers...  
prepare for the largest sale ever. Over 12,000 books will be sold on April 11 and 12.  
Spread the Word!**

*If you like Mysteries,  
don't miss our book sale!  
We have just received an  
extensive collection which we  
are offering at bargain prices!  
Military history? Travel?  
Kids books? Yes!  
We have it all.*

## **Help! Bookcases Urgently Needed!**

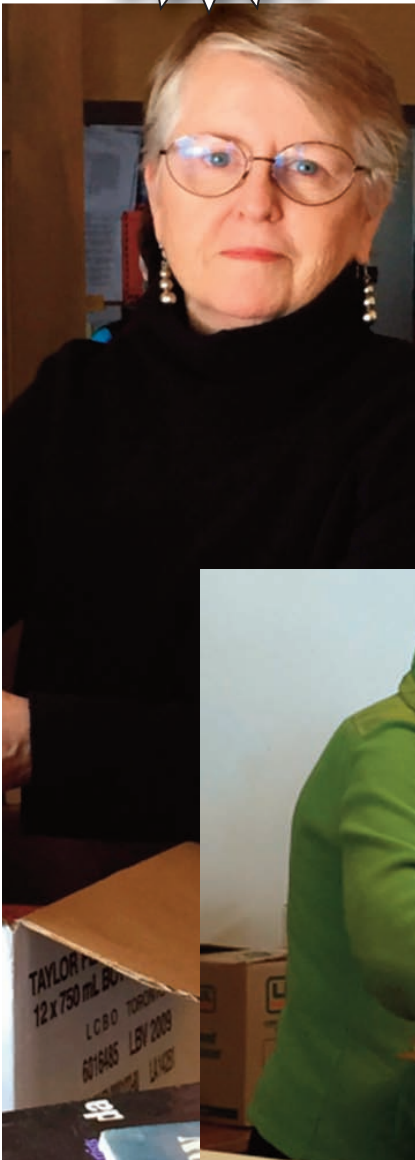
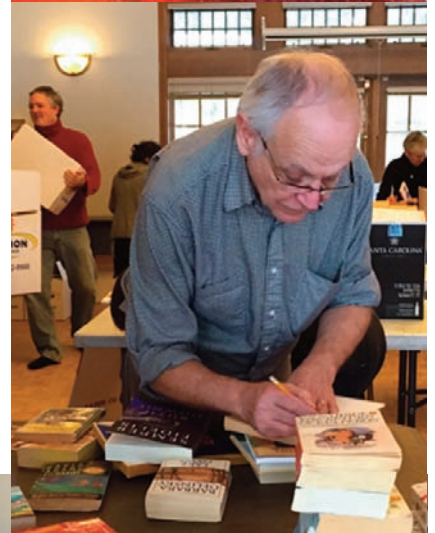
The Rockcliffe Park Branch Public Library Spring Book Sale is in urgent need of the loan or donation of 18 small bookcases needed to display the thousands of books we sell. These should be up to three feet tall so that they can sit on a tabletop.

Our previous loan source of bookshelves is no longer available so please scour your houses and basements to see if you might have something suitable. Available bookcases will be collected from you on April 6 or 7, carefully labeled, and returned on April 13 or at a date convenient to you after the sale.

Contact **Jane Dobell** at 613 749-1433 or [jayobell@magma.ca](mailto:jayobell@magma.ca), or **Claire Schofield** at 613 747-2874 or [clairehschofield@gmail.com](mailto:clairehschofield@gmail.com).

Many thanks in advance!

*Jane Dobell  
Chair, RPRA Library Committee*





## WILDLIFE NOTES

At noon on January 19, **Richard Simison** caught sight of movement on the snow near the lake edge at 400 Lansdowne. When he checked with binoculars, it turned out to be an otter. On the afternoon of the 20th, I walked over on the ice. There was a fresh entrance hole into the snow. The hole was in one corner of flattened snow about a metre square which was covered with signs of fresh rubbing. Two 'trough' tracks in the loose snow, unmistakably otter, led to or from the hole.

On January 22, the hole in the snow had large ice crystals around the edge, so the cavity below may have been occupied. On January 25, after light snow the night before, I walked by on the ice again: No sign that the fresh snow near the hole had been disturbed. So the otter had moved on. This may well have been the same otter that frequented the lake and pond last summer.

**Donna Naughton**, in her recent book, *The Natural History of Canadian Mammals*, describes "Shore-edge haul-outs are worn, often muddy areas where the otters habitually emerge from the water. Invariably, a roll site will be nearby, distinguished by flattened vegetation, snow, or sand where the animal rolled to dry its coat. Roll sites are a fairly common sign if otters are around." The flattened, rubbed, snow patch by the hole at 400 Lansdowne fits this "roll site" description. And since the rolling is to dry the coat, the hole in the snow may well have led both to a snow den and to an entrance into the water – the water's edge was a few metres from the hole.

On dens, Naughton says that otters "use a variety of temporary dens as they move about their home range." "Preferred den sites have a submerged entrance, ..." "During winter, snow cavities provide den sites."

Crows are mostly absent from the Village in the depths of winter. The territorial behaviour in the breeding season



*Otter tracks and roll site; den entrance where vegetation shows.*

gives way to socializing in winter flocks that range widely in the region for food and gather at dusk in roosts that may number many hundred birds. On February 22, I first noted several Crows calling in the Village. It was our first warm day, minus 5 C. That same day I recorded my first Cardinal song – in milder winters I hear a few Cardinal songs in January. On February 26, several Cardinals were singing in mid-morning along Mariposa. On March 2, the full songs of Cardinals came from every other block as I walked in the Village.

A Raven pair collecting food on Crescent on March 2 wasn't fazed by a pair of dive-bombing Crows. The Ravens then flew to the area of the Public School where one perched on the communications tower and gave first a series of deep 'Raven' calls, then switched to a similar number of higher-pitched 'Crow' calls. On March 13, a Raven repeated this two-tone performance at the tower. Ravens nested on a house front on Acacia in 2009. Has anyone seen a nest this season?

*Anthony Keith  
15 March 2015*



### Rockcliffe Park Garden Club presents:

***The Gardens of Cuba* | Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 pm**

Mary Ann Berlo, Master Gardener, will share all she discovered, on a two-week tour in 2012, of the amazing flora and vistas of Cuba.

**Also please note: May Special Event to be announced.**

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$7 for guests. For information contact **Vera Cody**, [jcody1@rogers.com](mailto:jcody1@rogers.com).



Photo: Greenhouses at Cuba's Jardín Botánico Nacional, from <http://www.havana-live.com/news/2014/07/29/cubas-botanical-garden-a-tropical-treat.html>



# REMEMBERING ROCKCLIFFE PARK VILLAGE

*Lilah Moore grew up on Howick Street in Rockcliffe Park Village. She visited Ottawa recently and was saddened by the sight of the fire-gutted house at 140 Howick. Back at home, she retrieved an essay on Rockcliffe she had written in 2001. It was originally published in The Rockcliffe News in December 2007. An abridged version is reprinted here.*

“Coming!” said my brother, looking up at his elder sister with the sweetest smile and big innocent brown eyes.

I knew better. Coming meant coming-at-the-last-minute. He had stopped to play with a friendly puppy on the way to Rockcliffe Park Public School.

“You’re going to be late!” I said, knowing it was falling on deaf ears. My brother was not immune to the importance of time – he just loved dogs. He knew many in Rockcliffe and the corollary was also true. Wherever he went, he was adopted on sight; he was greeted with affectionate embraces, wagging tails, yaps, yelps and howls of delight.

Then, there was Desmond.

Desmond was a large, somewhat intimidating black poodle belonging to our neighbours across the street. About half my brother’s height and equal in weight, he was my brother’s self appointed protector and defender. His benevolence appeared to extend only to my brother – the rest of us he ignored. On weekdays, arriving home on Howick Street after school, we would find him sitting on our front steps waiting patiently for my brother’s return. After careful inspection, he would bid him a courteous farewell and disappear across the street for supper.

These are some of the fondest memories that I have of living in Rockcliffe Park Village.

Tucked away in the north of our busy nation’s capital on the Ottawa River, close to the Prime Minister’s residence and bordering on the residence of Canada’s Governor General, Rockcliffe is a visually delightful and historically appealing village. Its history dates back to the 1800s when around 1826 **Colonel By** hired a Scottish stone mason named **Thomas MacKay** to build the Rideau Canal. This canal was to provide a vital link between Montreal and Lake Ontario in order to bypass the St. Lawrence in the event that the war of 1812 was renewed. MacKay, with the earnings from building the canal, bought this “bush land” now known as Rockcliffe for himself. His family and subsequent generations were the original land developers of this area.

Rockcliffe has had many famous villagers. On Acacia Avenue you will stumble across number 541: **Crown Princess Juliana** of the Netherlands lived in this house (known as Stornoway) when she was exiled here during the

Second World War. In 1948 it was purchased as the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition – **Lester Pearson, Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark and John Diefenbaker** all lived here. At 115 Lansdowne Road South, you can see the house that John Diefenbaker lived in until his death in 1979. Canada’s first female Senator, the **Honourable Cairine Wilson**, lived in 724 Manor Avenue, now the residence of the Papal Nuncio. Walk on to Crescent Road and you can see the Turkish Ambassador’s elegant Georgian Revival style residence, the majestic residence of the Austrian Ambassador with its Queen Ann Revival style and the stately Spanish Ambassador’s residence in Tudor Revival style.

Today, Rockcliffe is home to old established Ottawa families, business executives, Canadian government officials and diplomats from around the world. If you wander through the village on late fall afternoons, the usually empty narrow village streets are lined with official limousines bearing Diplomatic and Government of Canada license plates. And, if you stay long enough, you can catch a glimpse of dignitaries slipping in and out of diplomatic and state receptions that are a hallmark of official Ottawa.

But for my brother and me, Rockcliffe was just plain home.

The most constant thing about life is change. Yet Rockcliffe always creates the illusion of permanence. When I return to Rockcliffe, I always walk on a familiar route – along Howick Street, past our old house, down the hill, right onto Mariposa Avenue, left onto Springfield Road, past the Village Green and up towards the old school.

And on that path that my brother and I walked so often, so many years ago, Rockcliffe always works its magic of timelessness. The years seem to slip away, and images of a young boy with big innocent brown eyes, his battery of four-footed friends, and school days in this beautiful old village once again become as vivid in my mind as they are close to my heart.

*References: Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park. Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. Village of Rockcliffe Park, 1982.*

*The author wishes to gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Rockcliffe Park Municipal Office. © L.A. Moore 2001.*



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

## 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag

In May 1964, the Government of **Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson** introduced, in the House of Commons, a resolution for Canada to adopt a national flag. The flag debate ran from June 15 to September 10, 1964. Discussions were hostile and bitter. Although **John Diefenbaker**, Leader of the Opposition, strongly opposed any alternative to the Red Ensign, his caucus was divided. The eight Conservative MPs from Quebec preferred a flag with no allusion to either the Red Ensign or the fleur de lis.

Pearson and Diefenbaker eventually agreed to the establishment of a Special Committee, which then considered thousands of sketches submitted by the general public, keeping only three. On October 29, the Committee recommended the adoption of a flag with the one-leafed red-and-white design, which had been suggested by **George F.G. Stanley**, Dean of Arts at the Royal Military College of Canada.

Debate resumed in the House of Commons, but no consensus could be reached. At 2:15 am on December 15, 1964, a free vote resulted in adoption of the recommended design. One hundred twenty-five Liberals voted in favour and one against, six Progressive Conservatives voted in favour and 73 against; 19 Socreds voted in favour and three against; 13 New Democrats voted in favour and one against, for a total of 163 for and 78 against. The new flag was adopted by Royal Proclamation on January 28, 1965, and was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill on February 15. Today, it has become the greatest symbol of our country, loved by most Canadians and recognized as well as respected around the world.

*Happy fiftieth anniversary to the Canadian flag!*

*Joyeux 50e anniversaire au drapeau canadien!*



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

## It's Never Okay

Sexual violence and harassment occur in every community in Ontario, including Ottawa-Vanier. We hear of incidents through the media, the courts, and perhaps even encounter it in our personal or professional lives. One in three women will experience sexual assault in her lifetime, and fear of violence may occur regardless of race, age or socio-economic status. All Ontarians deserve to feel safe from sexual violence and harassment in their communities, workplaces, homes and schools.

On March 6, **Premier Kathleen Wynne** launched "It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment." This Action Plan deepens our government's commitment to ending sexual violence and harassment in Ontario.

Through short- and long-term initiatives, our Action Plan will challenge societal attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate sexual violence and harassment. The Action Plan will improve supports for survivors while educating young people about gender equality and respectful relationships built on consent. We must support bystanders in intervening and inspire generational change by making sure people feel safe and respected when they reach out for help.

As part of this plan, our government will ensure that universities and colleges have clear policies to stop sexual violence and harassment on campus, that stronger laws exist to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, and that we include groups such as seniors, newcomers, persons with disabilities, as well as Aboriginal, Francophone and LGBTQ communities.

We all deserve safe environments in which to live, learn, work and enjoy ourselves free of violence.

It's Never Okay builds on progress we have already made while recognizing how far we have left to go. Today, I ask everyone in Ottawa-Vanier to join this effort. It is up to each person, each family, each employer to end sexual violence and harassment. We all need to examine our own reactions, attitudes and behaviours, learn how to intervene safely and effectively, and take responsibility for our actions.

Our government's Action Plan is available online in 27 different languages at [ontario.ca/itsneverokay](http://ontario.ca/itsneverokay). Together, we must ensure our homes, schools, workplaces and communities reflect the values of freedom and security for everyone.





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

## Sports Tourism in Ottawa

Whether you are an amateur athlete, sports fan, or just enjoy the outdoors, Ottawa has something for you this season.

With the Ottawa Champions bringing pro baseball back to our City in May, and another season to look forward to from the Ottawa Redblacks and Fury FC, Ottawa is quickly emerging as a sporting hub in Canada.

Not only is this exciting for fans, but sporting events can be a major boost to our local economy, filling restaurants, shops and hotel rooms. In fact, tourism is the third largest contributor to our local economy, behind the high-tech and government sectors.

With all eyes on Ottawa as the center of festivities for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, strengthening our tourism industry by attracting major sporting events becomes even more important. That's why I recently asked City Council to appoint Innes Ward Councillor **Jodi Mitic** as Ottawa's first Sports Commissioner. With a keen interest and passion for sports, Councillor Mitic will act as an ambassador to pitch Ottawa as a host for high-profile sporting events of all types. With his experience and team mentality, I am excited to see the opportunities Councillor Mitic, working with partners like Ottawa Tourism, is able to bring to the City.

Continuing our collaborative efforts, the City of Ottawa and Tourism Ottawa's "bid more, win more, host more" program will further foster economic and social prosperity within our City. We have made great strides already, securing several major events for 2015-2016:

- FIFA Women's World Cup
- Rugby Canada National Championships
- Canadian Sprint Canoe/Kayak National Championships
- Pan American Combined Events Cup – Track and Field
- Capital Karting Grand Prix

Ottawa was also recently named host of the 2016 Brier Curling Championships for the first time since 2001. A major Canadian sporting event, the Brier is projected to bring more than 10,000 room nights to hotels and over \$4.5 million to the local economy.

If you would like to know more about these exciting events and many more, visit <http://www.ottawatourism.ca/>.



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

## Updates on Rockcliffe Park Issues

With the City's 2015 budget now approved, I am looking towards spring construction and other projects that will improve our communities.

Of note for Rockcliffe Park residents, the budget included money for monitors at The Pond during the upcoming summer swimming season as well as significant construction funds to finish rehabilitation work on the Minto Bridges, linking New Edinburgh with Lowertown just south of Sussex Drive (visit [tobinussbaum.ca](http://tobinussbaum.ca) for more details on this project).

### Rockcliffe Park Northwest (Phase 2) Open House: April 16, 2015

In terms of other updates, as residents are aware, many of Rockcliffe Park's roads have been the object of significant construction over the past two construction seasons as the city separates the storm and sanitation sewers. The construction will continue this year on select streets in the northwest corner of Rockcliffe, west of Springfield and north of Buena Vista.

A public open house to inform residents of the construction plans will be held on April 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre. I encourage affected residents to come out to learn more about the impact on your streets and ask any questions of the responsible staff. For more information, go to the website <http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/planning-and-development/transforming-ottawa/rockcliffe-park-northwest-phase-2-open-house>.

One of the outstanding issues on which I am in conversations with City staff and residents is the issue of road widths. City staff has said it would like to rebuild the roads to a minimum width of six metres to ensure fire trucks can access all houses. I am not convinced that such width is necessary, given the absence of curbs in the Village and the ability of fire trucks to use the road verge if necessary. I know many residents share my concern and would like to ensure the look and feel as well as the width of the rebuilt roads are not affected. Narrow roads serve an important traffic-calming function and have aesthetic value that many residents value as part of the Village character.

# SCHOOL REPORTS



## Elmwood's Golden Girl

Congratulations to Grade 12 student **Sophie Ackert** on her recent gold medal at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations' (OFSAA) Alpine Skiing Championship, held February 22-24 at Blue Mountain in Collingwood.



*Grade 12 student Sophie Ackert shows off her gold medal.*

Sophie raced to a first place finish in the province against 90 competitors in the Level One Girls Slalom event. It was a decisive victory, as she posted the fastest time in both runs in the slalom event.

Said Sophie of her experience at Blue Mountain, "OFSAA was incredible – I hope other Elmwood girls will get to experience this level of competition. I really enjoyed interacting with other skiers from outside of Ottawa and challenging myself physically. It was a great way to end an amazing four years with the Elmwood Ski Team!"

Without a doubt, Sophie has made all of us at Elmwood very proud! Congratulations!

## Elmwood Summer Camp Registration Now Open

With weekly themes like Art Attack, the Great Outdoors and the Pan Am Games, girls from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will experience fun new challenges, develop new friendships and enjoy a wide range of hands-on activities.



Our camps have just the right mix of active play, learning and creative exploration, and all within Elmwood's safe and caring girl-centric environment.

Cost is \$295 per week and includes bistro lunch and snacks, excursion or special guest and a cool camp t-shirt. Visit [camp.elmwood.ca](http://camp.elmwood.ca) or call **613 749-6761** for more details and registration.

## An Evening in the Garden – Elmwood's 26th Annual Gala

On Saturday, April 25, step into Elmwood School's whimsically lush Evening in the Garden Gala and experience a spring-filled night of elegant dining, superb auction items and dancing to contemporary hits by The Digs. Many thanks to our Gala Patron, **Michael Potter**, and our Corporate Partners, **Ernst & Young**, **Movati Athletic**, **Star Motors**, **Terlin Construction Ltd.**, **Vista Credit** and **WiLAN**, for their support.

Visit [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca) for information and tickets.

## Help Us Celebrate Elmwood's 100th!

September 2015 will mark the beginning of Elmwood's 100th year, and we are looking forward to coming together to recognize and celebrate the School's remarkable past, present and future!

To mark our centennial, we will host events and initiatives throughout the year, aimed at engaging and uniting the Elmwood community like never before. This is going to be a year-long birthday party that you won't want to miss!

### Save the Dates for These Centennial Events:

#### Centennial Kick Off:

September 9, 2015 (first day of school)

#### Homecoming/Founder's Day/Fall Festival:

October 2, 3 and 4, 2015

#### Holly Tea and Art Festival: December 5, 2015

#### Father-Daughter Dance: February 6, 2016

#### Elmwood Gala: April 23, 2016

#### Centennial Finale: June 17, 2016

For more information, please visit [elmwood100.ca](http://elmwood100.ca).



# SCHOOL REPORTS



## A Busy March Break for Some Students

While some families travelled over the March break, or enjoyed a “staycation” in Ottawa, a number of students and teachers were busy elsewhere with Ashbury activities. A contingent of senior rugby players and coaches landed in Cape Town to begin their South African tour. The team played a number of games, led rugby-skills workshops with local South African children, and took the opportunity to visit several cultural sights and venues, including historic Robben Island.

Closer to home, our senior basketball team spent time in Windsor, Ontario for the OFSAA provincial competition, where they collected the bronze medal after a tough weekend of play. And our Robotics team headed to Toronto with their robot, nicknamed Jane Wattson, to take part in the annual Greater Toronto Regional FIRST Robotics competition.



## Ashbury Follows the Yellow Brick Road

Months of preparation and practice culminated in the Musicals @ Ashbury four-night performance of the Wizard of Oz. A talented team of actors, musicians and crew put on

the entertaining show to applause and kudos from those in the audience. The colourful depiction highlighted the whimsy of **L. Frank Baum's** story about unlikely friendships. Bravo to our very own Ashbury stars!

## Experience Summer at Ashbury



Ashbury's summer programs provide a variety of options for students aged 7-17. All programs are delivered on our historic campus in June, July and August.

### Senior School

Reach-ahead credits are available for students entering Grades 9 through 12 and boarding is offered for students who wish to live on campus. Summer study is beneficial for students because it permits students to focus on one subject, builds flexibility into student timetables and allows for more course options in the final years of high school. Students enjoy the camaraderie and relaxed rapport with teachers developed during summer study time.

**IB prep:** The new IB summer prep program is designed to familiarize students with IB objectives, expectations and assessments. This course prepares students for the IB Diploma program by exploring key academic subjects, including Creativity, Action and Service, and Extended Essay writing.

### Junior School

We continue to offer the very popular Study Skills Program and the Art Camp. A bilingual drama camp is back for a second year, alongside new courses Tech and Tools, Reading Skills Prep, Music and Claymation Camp. Ashbury is also partnering with Pro+Sports to offer sports camps starting June 15 and running through July 17.

Whether you are looking to learn a new talent or improve existing ones, Ashbury's summer programs are a great way to get ahead. Visit [summer.ashbury.ca](http://summer.ashbury.ca) for more information, or email [summer@ashbury.ca](mailto:summer@ashbury.ca).



# END NOTES



*"Teasing Space"*

by Beth Stikeman

## Rockcliffe Resident Opens Neighbourhood Art Gallery

Longtime Rockcliffe resident **Mary Pratte** has opened a new art gallery at 299 Crichton Street, taking over a long-vacant commercial space two blocks from Beechwood Avenue. Mary is an accomplished gardener, an expert on peonies and a talented photographer. Her first show will present paintings by **Beth Stikeman** and **Martha Nixon**, and photographs by **Louise Tanguay** and Mary herself. To visit the gallery, call **613 299-0064** for an appointment.



## Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club's 93rd Season Starts Soon!

The Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club's annual open house takes place on Saturday, May 9 (rain date May 10). Members and non-members are invited to enjoy an organized round robin and complimentary BBQ. Meet our club manager, **Elaine Courteau**, and her staff. Our junior head instructor, **Jack Warren**, will also be on hand to discuss the details of the 2015 junior program. The Junior After-School Program begins on Monday, May 11. For registration information and more details, please see [www.rltennis.ca](http://www.rltennis.ca) or visit the club at 465 Lansdowne Road North.

## 54th Annual IODE House and Garden Tour

**Saturday, May 30**  
**9:30 am to 4:30 pm**

This popular annual fundraiser returns with this year's theme: "From Vintage to Glam." The tour will feature six spectacular homes, including three in Rockcliffe Park.

The RCMP Musical Ride Centre in Manor Park will offer half-hourly tours of the stables where you can pat the stately black horses, view the tack and farrier rooms, and see the horses put through their paces.

Shuttles will be available. Tickets are \$30.00 each. Go to <http://laurentian.iode.ca/event/54th-annual-iode-house-and-garden-tour> for details and payment options.



*The German Ambassador's residence, one of three Rockcliffe Park homes on the 2015 IODE tour.*

## Rockcliffe Park Community Centre Registration Office

### SPRING 2015 OPERATING HOURS\*

*(Effective April 1 to June 12, 2015)*

**380 Springfield Road**

**613 842-8578 • [rockcliffe@ottawa.ca](mailto:rockcliffe@ottawa.ca)**

**Please Note:** The office will be closed April 3 - 12. During this time, please direct all your enquiries to the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre at **613 580-2424, ext. 28464**.

Sunday and Monday, CLOSED

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday 12:00 to 4:00 pm

Friday and Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

*\*Operating hours may be adjusted according to operational requirements.*

There are two methods of registration for all City of Ottawa recreation programs: **1. Online** at [Ottawa.ca](http://Ottawa.ca) or **2. In Person** at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre or Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre, 300 des Près-Blanc Avenue in Vanier.



## Run for Biodiversity

For the seventh year "running," USC Canada's Run for Biodiversity team will again be going the distance as part of the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend (marathon, half marathon, 10km, 5km and 2km), May 23-24.

Our amazing team of R4B Runners and Walkers will be fundraising to support USC Canada's work with seed-saving farmers in Ethiopia. So why not join us?

- All R4B-Ottawa runners and walkers who commit to raising at least \$100 will receive a specially-designed Run for Biodiversity t-shirt, as well as ongoing support to help them achieve their fundraising goal.
- As a special thank you, USC Canada will refund the registration fees for all R4B-Ottawa fundraisers who raise \$250 or more!

Races are selling out fast, so don't be disappointed – REGISTER TODAY. For more information, visit the Rockcliffe Park website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca), or contact **David Rain** at **613 234-6827, ext. 231** or by email, [r4b@usc-canada.org](mailto:r4b@usc-canada.org). For info on USC Canada, go to <http://usc-canada.org/>.