



# The Rockcliffe News

April 2016

## Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

[www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://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](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### APRIL

- 6 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 9 Saturday .....Say Farewell to a Neighbourhood Institution: New Edinburgh Pub Closes
- 16 Saturday.....Elmwood School's 27th Annual Gala, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 20 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 23 Saturday .....RPL Soccer Season Begins\*
- 23 Saturday 10 am to 5 pm....Rockcliffe Park Branch Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall\*
- 24 Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Branch Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall\*
- 27 Wednesday 8:00 pm .....Speakers Program: Paul Lang, Chief Curator, National Gallery of Canada, on "The Inside Story of a Major Exhibition," Community Hall\*
- 28 Thursday 7:30 pm .....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Brian Carson, Director, North American Rock Garden Society, on "My Lovely Lucretias – Lovely Poisonous Plants," Community Hall\*

### MAY

- 6 Friday 6:00 pm.....OrKidstra Concert, Rideau High School, 815 St. Laurent Boulevard\*
- 13 Friday .....uOttawa Division of Orthopaedics 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner, 100 Rue Laurier, Gatineau, QC\*
- 18 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 28-29 Saturday - Sunday ....Run or Walk for Refugees, Ottawa Race Weekend\*

### JUNE

- 8 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 15 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall

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

### THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 16 • 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. Paid advertising is not accepted. Current and past issues are posted on the RPRA website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca). Editor: Cynthia Hamady, [editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca).

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As your new president, it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you here in this, my first President's Report in The Rockcliffe News. My wife, **Ricarda**, our two children, **Xander** (18) and **Nicola** (14), and I moved into Rockcliffe Park in 2006 after many years living in East Africa. We thought we would be here for a long time but ended up leaving Canada again for a four-year stint in Switzerland. We resettled back in the neighbourhood in 2013 and hope to stay here for a while. I served on the RPR Board in 2007 and 2008 and joined again in 2013. I would like to thank outgoing president **Brian Dickson** for his sterling work as president over the past seven years. Brian was a founding member of the RPR and during his time as President, Brian has not missed ONE single meeting! The shoes he leaves will be hard for me to fill. Thank you, Brian, for your past work and thank you also for staying on the Board to help us tackle the challenges ahead.

The Annual General Meeting, held in February this year, saw some significant transitions as a few Board members left and some new blood was recruited with promises of fame and glory! They will soon be the wiser. I would like to recognize **John Murphy**, **Linda McDonald** and **Michael Teeter**, who leave us this year. Thank you all for your service to our community. I would like to welcome incoming members **Robert Gougeon**, **Claire Ouseley** and **Brad Sweeney**, and thank them for agreeing to serve. The full list of Board members appears on the front page of this newsletter.

As is routine for the AGM, the President reported on activities and achievements of 2015, the most notable of which was the final approval by the City of the new Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCDP), which we anticipate becoming law in the second quarter of 2016. This new HCDP is a significant document for Rockcliffe Park and will hopefully enable us to more vigorously protect the heritage character of our Village. The successful completion of this project was a team effort; I would like to recognize and thank the Heritage Committee and its Chair, **Kathy Day**, and the members of the RPR Board, along with **Sally Coutts** of the City of Ottawa and others who worked so hard on this project. The AGM also recognized the contribution of **Anthony Keith**, past president of the RPR and a long-serving member of the Heritage Committee, who introduced the first Rockcliffe HCDP in 1997 and guided and mentored the creation of the new HCDP. Tony is stepping down from the Heritage Committee. For his many years of service, Tony was presented with a beautiful Inuit stone carving and received a standing ovation lasting several minutes. Thank you, Tony; your contribution to this community is indelible and will be remembered for years to come. Also presenting at the AGM were **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum** and **Yacouba Traoré**, the Executive Director of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. Among the various things on which Tobi updated us was a significant announcement that the City would hire a hydrogeologist to investigate the low water levels in the Pond. This is welcome news indeed. Yacouba Traoré introduced the work that the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre is doing for Syrian refugees. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find more information about the Centre and how you can help. Its work is well worth supporting.

In keeping with the theme of transitions, we will, in a few days, say goodbye to the New Edinburgh Pub. It will be closing its doors on April 9. The pub has been a fixture in the community for more than 20 years. It is sad to see it go, only to be replaced, as is expected, by a franchise operation. Drop by for a last pint and a burger if you can.

In closing, I would like to remind you of two events happening in the next few weeks: The annual Spring Book Sale in support of the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library will be held at the Community Hall on the weekend of April 23 and 24, and on April 27, as part of the RPR Speakers Series, **Paul Lang**, Chief Curator at the National Gallery of Canada will give a talk entitled "The Inside Story of a Major Exhibition." We hope to see you there.

Best regards,

*Peter Lewis, 9 March 2016*

**Please Note:** Ottawa Race Weekend 2016 is May 28-29 and, once again, Rockcliffe Park will be cordoned off for runners on Sunday, May 29. The race starts at 7:00 am and the busiest time for runners is between 8:50 and 11:00 am. Rockcliffe is encircled by the race, but police will allow controlled access and egress at certain points. The race organizers will send out a flyer to residents notifying them of the event. RPR members who have given us their email addresses will receive more information closer to race date about access and egress points.

## Thank You to the 2015 Community Appeal Donors

Thank you to the following individuals who generously donated to the 2015 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 \$16,300 as of February 2016. 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). Donors will be recognized in the June edition of The Rockcliffe News.

<b>Diana Ainslie</b>	<b>JA Keith</b>	<b>Gordon and Wendy Peters</b>
<b>Dr. Aly Abdulla</b>	<b>Michael and Sheila Kelen</b>	<b>Louise Pinnacle</b>
<b>Cynthia Baxter</b>	<b>Joan and Anthony Kellett</b>	<b>Mary and Guy Pratte</b>
<b>Rachel and Colin Baxter</b>	<b>Joan Matthews Khan</b>	<b>Georges Proulx and</b>
<b>Roderick Bell</b>	<b>Timothy Lane</b>	<b>Louise Lamarre-Proulx</b>
<b>Adrian Burns</b>	<b>Rita and Imants Lauks</b>	<b>Emmanuel Simantirakis</b>
<b>Derek Chase</b>	<b>Mrs. June Lindsey</b>	<b>Nancy Richardson</b>
<b>Wilma-Jean Clapham</b>	<b>Jane Little</b>	<b>Andy and Bonnie Robinson</b>
<b>Elly and William Clarke</b>	<b>David Loeb</b>	<b>Elizabeth Robinson</b>
<b>John Connelly</b>	<b>Anne Macklem</b>	<b>Ken Ross</b>
<b>Neva and David Cuthbertson</b>	<b>Alexander Macklin</b>	<b>Greg and Tani Sanders</b>
<b>Jane Davis</b>	<b>Charles Maclaren</b>	<b>Michael Shenstone</b>
<b>Christine Denison</b>	<b>Denise Martel</b>	<b>Anne Stanfield</b>
<b>Paul Durand and Patricia Fortier</b>	<b>James and Dawn Maxwell</b>	<b>James Taylor</b>
<b>Mark Ellis</b>	<b>Robert McElligott</b>	<b>Brendan Timmins</b>
<b>Dieuwke-Renske Eyre</b>	<b>Mrs. Sylvia Mercer</b>	<b>Kenneth Watson</b>
<b>Dr. Robert and Dagmar Forget</b>	<b>John Mierins</b>	<b>David Weinstein</b>
<b>Walter Grego</b>	<b>Robert and Collette Milin</b>	<b>Rem Westland</b>
<b>Margot Gualtieri</b>	<b>Choan E and Ameneh Mirzaei</b>	<b>Earl Weybrecht</b>
<b>Adnan Hadziomerovic</b>	<b>Jamilah Taub-Murray and</b>	<b>Julianne Parfett and Roy Williams</b>
<b>Carol Henderson</b>	<b>Sean Murray</b>	<b>Mrs Ismene Wood</b>
<b>David and Nicole Henderson</b>	<b>Thady Murray</b>	<b>Shirley Yang</b>
<b>Alice Hunt</b>	<b>Rob and Joanne Nelson</b>	<b>Inta Sipolins-Zobs</b>
	<b>Jane Newcombe</b>	

## Highlights of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

The Village Foundation held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall. An overview of the work undertaken by the Village Foundation in 2015 was presented, along with the annual financial statements. The Board thanked departing members **Thady Murray** and **David Weinstein**, and welcomed two new Board members, **Sarah Baxter** and **Elaine Nadeau**.

The Village Foundation is a unique charitable organization established at the time of amalgamation with the City of Ottawa to manage an endowment, the interest from which is used to support community projects and programs in three areas of focus: conservation of the environment, preservation of the heritage character of the Village, and promotion of a sense of community for all residents.

### 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 and Jane Panet

## RPPL BOOK SALE

### What's New at the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale? PLENTY!

With less than a month to go, the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale has moved in high gear. Volunteers have been culling, sorting and pricing books by the thousand!

"We're delighted with the numbers of books coming in," said **Jane Dobell**, the Spring Book Sale organizer. "We have almost 30 different genres of donated books, as well as CDs, DVDs and vinyl. But this year we have an exceptional selection of art books ranging from Japanese art to 20th century French and more mysteries than usual; children's, cookery and 'how to' books are also doing well. That said, we're still collecting until April 12, so please bring your old books to the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library during opening hours as soon as you can."

"We're also renting a much larger tent," said Dobell. "Shoppers will be able to see the treasures that we have to offer much more easily," she continued. "We're now gathering the flats that are used to make our books look great! Thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers, we've already collected over 400 from neighbourhood grocery stores."

"Of course, we're also busy spreading the word that this year's bumper sale will have the same high quality books, CDs, DVDs and vinyl as ever," said Dobell. So, don't forget to share the Rockcliffe Spring Book Sale news with friends and family, and follow us on Facebook."

See you on **April 23 and 24.**

*Claire Schofield*

## COMMUNITY

### Rockcliffe Family Gives \$100,000 Gift to the Ottawa Art Gallery's Capital Campaign

The Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG) announced a major gift of \$100,000 by **Chris and Mary Ann Turnbull** for the Art Now – L'art ici Capital Campaign on January 28, 2016, at OAG Annex Gallery, located inside City Hall. The Turnbull gift will be directed towards the Art Studio in the new gallery, slated to open in 2017. The Art Studio and the programming in this special space will inspire innovation and creativity in students and youths. The gift highlights the Turnbells' continued commitment to youth, education and the arts in the community.



*From left: Alexandra Badzak, OAG Director and CEO, with Chris and Mary Ann Turnbull.*

*Photo: David Barbour*

"We are pleased to be directing our gift to the new Art Studio, where children and youth can pursue their creativity, their knowledge and their enjoyment of art...Through strong arts education, we learn how to appreciate art, to reflect on our humanity, our culture, and our history," said Chris and Mary Ann Turnbull.

Launched in 2015, the Capital Campaign goal is to raise \$3.5 million for the OAG Expansion. With this generous donation from Chris and Mary Ann Turnbull, the campaign is just over the \$2 million mark. As the Capital Campaign continues in 2016, the gallery looks to the public to join them in building Ottawa's art gallery. For more information, please visit [www.artnow-artici.ca](http://www.artnow-artici.ca).

## SPEAKERS PROGRAM

**Wednesday, April 27 at 8:00 pm | 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.



**Paul Lang** Chief Curator, National Gallery of Canada

### "The Inside Story of a Major Exhibition"

How is a major exhibition conceived? How do you get the loans you want? What role do curators play? How are the art works protected and transported? Who decides how to hang the art works? How is a catalogue put together? Paul Lang will take us behind the scenes of the upcoming exhibition of Vigée Le Brun, court painter at Versailles.

## RECREATION

### It's Time to Play!

#### Rockcliffe Park Community Centre

360 Springfield Road | 613 842-8578

Spring is just around the corner! Whether you wish to keep fit, play cards or explore your artistic self, join us for one of our adult courses:

- Tai Chi • Total Muscle Conditioning 50+ • Yoga 50+  
Bridge Basics Level 2 • Duplicate Bridge Drop-in
- Ikebana – Japanese Art of Flower Arrangements
- Ukulele Group Lessons 50+

More details about these courses are available online at [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca) or in our program brochure, available at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre.

### Summer Camps

Summer is for children at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre! Come out and play at Camp Ottawa Adventure. Discover a different theme each week:

- Medieval Times, July 4-8 • Arts & Crafts and Messy Play, July 11-15 • CSI – Camp Scene Investigations, July 18-22 • Nature Quest, July 25-29 • Fun and Board Games, August 2-5 • Olympics Games, August 8-12 • Pirate's Treasure, August 15-19 • Outdoor Explorers, August 22-26 • Ooey Goey Science, August 29-September 2

See details on our summer camps in our program flyer, inserted into this newsletter. Details are also available online at [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca) or in our program brochure.

### Registration

Registration is ongoing. You have three ways to sign up: **1.** Online at [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca); **2.** In person at any City of Ottawa recreation facility or Client Service Centre during operating hours; **3.** By touch tone telephone, **613 580-2588**.

Avoid disappointment, sign up in advance! Course registration is reviewed one week prior to the start of all courses to ensure we've met the minimum numbers to offer them.

Our registration office is located at 360 Springfield Road, shared space with Community Police Centre.

#### Hours of Operation:

Wednesday, 1:30-4:00 pm • Friday, 1:30-4:00 pm

Saturday, 1:30-4:00 pm

The Community Hall is available to rent for meetings and special occasions. Call us for details at **613 842-8578** or send your request by email to [rockcliffe@ottawa.ca](mailto:rockcliffe@ottawa.ca).

## COMMUNITY



### Anthony Keith Honoured at 2016 AGM

*Tony Keith was presented with an Inuit sculpture in recognition of his many years of service to Rockcliffe Park. From left: Brian Dickson, Alexander Macklin (in background), Tony Keith and Kathy Day.*

**Anthony 'Tony' Keith** has retired from heritage matters in Rockcliffe after 35 years of involvement. To recognize and say thanks for his many years of community ac-

tivism and leadership, the RPR and Heritage Committee presented him with an Inuit sculpture of an eider duck during February's AGM. The gesture took Tony by complete surprise.

Outgoing RPR President **Brian Dickson** paid tribute to Tony's work on both Heritage Conservation District Plans – the original, passed by the former Village Council in 1997, and its updated version, approved by the Ottawa Council a few days prior to the AGM. Brian remarked that since Tony moved to Rockcliffe Park in the late 1960s, he has been a member of the former Village Council, a member and chair of its Environment Committee, a member of the Site Plan and Development Advisory Committee, and a member and chair of the Village Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC). He also served as one of the founding directors of the Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation, as Vice President and then President of the RPR, and as a member of the RPR's Heritage and Site Plan Committee, which then was renamed the Heritage Committee. After amalgamation, Tony sat on Ottawa's LACAC from 2001 until 2007. Tony was also involved as an advisor in the production of **Martha Edmond's** book, "Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village." In addition, he contributes to The Rockcliffe News as the author of the popular Wildlife Notes column – recounting the comings and goings of the Village's birds, mammals and other wildlife.

Brian recalled sitting at Tony's dining room table, poring over maps with **Julian Smith**, who, with **Victoria Angel**, drafted the first heritage study of the Village. That study led to Rockcliffe's designation as a heritage conservation district.

**Jane Dobell** added to Brian's remarks before turning over the floor to **Kathy Day**, Chair of the Heritage Committee, who, in presenting the sculpture, expressed the thanks of the RPR and the Heritage Committee for his dedication to heritage issues over the years.



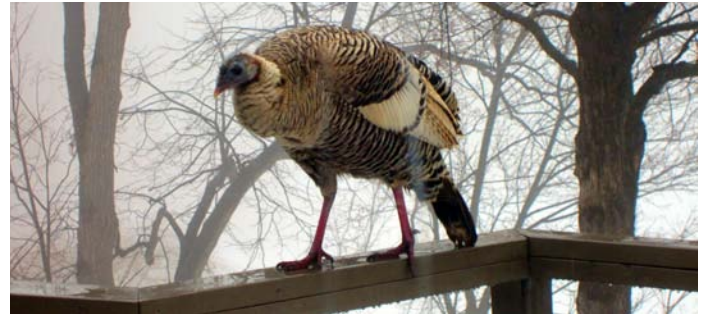
## WILDLIFE NOTES

Winter reports of Red Foxes started on Christmas morning with **Michel Bilodeau** following one in his car on Minto. It crossed 5m ahead to sit and watch as the car stopped then drove away. I saw fox tracks along the north end of the lake and in the conservation area woods on January 22, and the following day **Brian and Kate Dickson** encountered a fox in a fine winter coat on Whitemarl, only 5m from their car and unconcerned. **John Tener** on Minto saw one cross his yard mid-morning on February 27.

The day after the 54 cm snowfall on February 17, **Iola** and I snowshoed around the lake to check last summer's use of the nesting boxes set on poles through the ice. Off 194 Lansdowne, the duck and swallow boxes were not used. In the east marsh, the duck box had not been used but in the swallow box a brood had been successfully raised. On land, the duck box in the willow at 400 Lansdowne was ignored again last summer, despite its position above a lake edge frequented by Wood Ducks in the spring. In the same garden, swallows raised a brood in their box, with one egg failing to hatch. The swallow box at the lake edge at 245 Sylvan contained a delightful surprise – half full of twigs but not a complete nest, the work of House Wrens. This is the first evidence I've seen in the Village since 1998 of breeding attempts by this once-abundant summer resident. The nest box score is the same as last year: No duck nestings, two broods of young Tree Swallows. There has been a marked diminution of the use of our duck nesting boxes over the years. They are sized for Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers.

Wild Turkeys are continuing to use the Village, defying the foxes. On February 1, a turkey pecked at tree seed pods on the snow at 360 Manor. On the 26th, a sighting at 290 Acacia, and then a bird presented itself to be photographed by **Rick Simison** on his deck at 599 Fairview on March 9. His photo (*at top*) of the bird with the misty lake beyond illustrates these notes. All three sightings are of the rare white colour morph.

Cardinals singing occasionally on bright winter days foretell spring for me, and from February 17 they have been singing regularly in gardens at Fairview/Sylvan. A tiny Saw-Whet Owl gave its repetitive one-note call in the evening of February 20, above the extension of Fairview.



John Tener was surprised to find a chipmunk as early as February 29, eating something on top of the snow, then disappearing down its snow hole. These past two weeks the resident Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers have been drumming wherever I walk in the Village. The Hairy's drumbeats are supposed to be the more rapid, but I find myself frequently making the wrong guess. Pileateds are also calling, and seem as abundant as ever.

Spring arrivals are showing up now. I saw my first six Red-winged Blackbirds singing in tree tops bordering the lake's east marsh on March 10. Three days later, only three. The males arrive first and sing in treetops, not down on the old cattail stems as they will do when defending territories. I wonder if this early singing off territory is the tail end of the socializing they do to maintain their winter flocks. **Kathy Day** told me today of a Robin just returned that is hammering away at her windows on Lyttleton, exactly as one has done the previous two seasons, so she assumes it is the same 'demented' male, mistaking its reflection for a competitor. With the first arriving male Robins have come the bark-coloured Brown Creepers, endlessly probing bark as they move rapidly up tree trunks and large limbs. My first sighting was on March 10. Three days later, a call made me look up and there were my first Ring-billed Gulls, gleaming white, far up against a blue sky. When I reached home, there was a White-throated Sparrow checking out debris on snow banks. Later, stepping outside to see which woodpecker was drumming, a Robin flushed towards me from the trees above the lake, giving an alarm note – a moment later an accipiter sped past the trees.

*Anthony Keith, 14 March 2016*

### The RPL Youth Soccer Season Starts on April 23 Player registration is open until April 7.

Register online: follow the link from the Lindenlea website, [www.lindenlea.ca](http://www.lindenlea.ca), or go directly to [rockcliffepark.leaguetoolbox.com/site](http://rockcliffepark.leaguetoolbox.com/site). As always, we are in need of volunteers and volunteer coaches to make it all happen, so please sign up if you think you can. Pro+ will again be running our very successful academy sessions. We are looking forward to a great season! For more information, email **Katherine Hall** at [soccer@manaiakoru.com](mailto:soccer@manaiakoru.com).



# ENVIRONMENT

Are you thinking of planting a tree or shrub to enhance your property this spring or summer? Or maybe some flowers? Consider the environmental and other benefits and plant a species that is native to eastern Ontario and the Ottawa region.

We humans have invaded the Canadian/North American landscape and brought or introduced plants and animals from far away, often without their accompanying pathogens and predators. On occasion, the newcomer, after slowly settling down into the new environment, suddenly increased in numbers, to the detriment of the native species that were here first and which the newcomer displaced. Purple Loosetrife is a good example of an escaped garden plant that suddenly seemed to explode on the landscape. When this happened, marsh and field ecosystems were disrupted and it was only when biological control insects were tested and imported that native plant communities were able to return to normal levels.

## Why Not Plant a Native Tree or Shrub in Your Yard?

Native trees and shrubs, especially those from local seed sources, can better cope over the long run with Ottawa's climate. They should require less care and less water than a southern species. By using native plants, you can help to restore the ecosystem to a state where it is likely most useful to other native plants and native birds, mammals and insects such as butterflies. The benefits of trees are legion: not only do they produce oxygen, but planting a tree on the south side of a house creates shade that can reduce cooling costs by 10 to 15 percent; planting a conifer on the windward side lowers heating costs in the winter as well as providing secure nesting habitat for robins and cardinals in the early spring. Urban trees intercept rainfall and help retain ground water, reducing the strain on our storm water treatment system and providing water later in the summer to the surrounding vegetation.

Working with a Fletcher Wildlife Garden expert, I developed a database of native trees, shrubs and ornamental vines that is now posted on the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club website, [www.ofnc.ca/ofnac/displaytreelisten.php](http://www.ofnc.ca/ofnac/displaytreelisten.php), in an

easy-to-use tabular format. When planting a tree you will want to consider its characteristics and requirements. Our format provides you with information such as the plant's name in English, French and Latin (botanical), water and light requirements, salt tolerance and height at maturity. Clicking on these words at the top of the table arranges them in ascending or descending order. For instance, ☀ means full sun is required or desirable and ● means the plant will grow in or requires full shade. Additional information on each plant can be found by clicking on the English name, where you can find data on flower colour, the kind of butterflies the plant might attract and other items of interest.

For flowers in your garden, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council has an excellent booklet, *Grow Me Instead: Beautiful Non-invasive Plants for Your Garden*, available on its website, [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI\\_2013\\_5th\\_Edition.pdf](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI_2013_5th_Edition.pdf). For each of 20 or so invasive plants such as Norway Maple, Periwinkle and Miscanthus Grass, the guide suggests three or four readily-available alternatives such as Hackberry, Running Euonymous, Big Bluestem and many others. Plant seeds are spread from gardens by many natural means such as wind and water and by wildlife, and these seeds often take root in natural areas. Therefore, using non-invasive native plants is environmentally helpful.

Two final cautions: You need City permission to plant trees on the municipal right-of-way/road allowance in front of your home. Call 311, tell the operator you want to plant a tree on the ROW, the operator will take your details and someone from the City will call back. And, if planting a tree, building a deck or a fence, contact ON1Call first to get an underground services locate so you can dig safely. Rockcliffe Park has many unmarked buried utility wires and other municipal services. Homeowners are liable for any damage or injury caused by interfering with any buried infrastructure. To request your free locate, call 1-800-400-2255 or go online to [www.on1call.com](http://www.on1call.com). Both services operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Happy gardening, everyone!

Iola Price, Chair, RPRA Environment Committee

## Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: My Lovely Lucretias – Lovely Poisonous Plants

Brian Carson, Director of the North American Rock Garden Society, will be speaking about beautiful but poisonous plants that may be lurking in our gardens. **Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm.** (May Special Event to be announced; June Garden Tour to be announced) Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$5 for guests. For information, contact VeraCody, [jcody1@rogers.com](mailto:jcody1@rogers.com).





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

## The Prime Ministers' Row Initiative

A project that began with Ottawa-Vanier residents coming together to celebrate Canada's history has evolved into an initiative of national significance called Prime Ministers' Row, garnering support from across the country. I am proud to be championing this initiative as the Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier.

In a nod of recognition to the multiple Prime Ministers and Fathers of Confederation who once lived here, Laurier Avenue East will be returned to its traditional role as a vibrant space for political discussion and debate. It will become an innovative, participation-oriented, outdoor cultural space designed to encourage reflection on questions of governance, identity, culture, values and history through several components.

These include a curated series of programs and events such as conferences, debates and speaker series, an innovative public art program and a multi-media platform, all currently under development. In this way, Prime Ministers' Row will engage Canadians from across the country and from all walks of life, bringing them together both physically and virtually.

Prime Ministers' Row will leverage existing public and private amenities such as the Government of Canada's Laurier House with its refurbished Visitors' Centre, the recently-purchased All Saints Church, where work has begun to create a centre for political discourse, as well as the vast green expanse of Strathcona Park. In addition, Prime Ministers' Row will benefit from collaboration with the University of Ottawa – Canada's national university.

At the heart of this initiative lie Canadians like you: People volunteering and lending their support; people who believe this place will serve as a symbolic piece of our national identity.

For more information, you may visit [www.pmr-apm.ca](http://www.pmr-apm.ca). Let's be part of creating a national legacy project that both celebrates our history and looks to our future.



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

## New Ontario Student Grant Makes Tuition Free for Tens of Thousands of Students

Providing affordable and accessible post-secondary education for everyone in the province, regardless of their background or circumstance, is truly an investment in Ontario's future.

Ontario is making college and university more accessible and affordable for low- and middle-income students and their families through the single-largest modernization ever of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

Under the new grant program, the government will replace a number of existing provincial assistance programs with a single, targeted, non-repayable Ontario Student Grant starting in the 2017-18 academic year. The changes will make average tuition free for more than 150,000 eligible low- and middle-income students, and will reduce the cost for many more by:

- Providing the majority of eligible students whose parents earn the median annual income of \$83,300 or less with enough in grants to more than cover their tuition costs;
- Eliminating provincial student loan debt for eligible students whose parents earn less than \$50,000;
- Ensuring that no eligible student receives less non-repayable aid through the new grant than they currently do through the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant.

The Ontario Student Grant will also provide additional support for full-time mature and married students, and eligibility will no longer be tied to the number of years a student has been out of high school. This predictable, upfront grant will allow families to plan for their education on the basis of net price – the difference between the sticker price of tuition and what a student actually needs to pay. The government will work closely with the post-secondary sector to develop planning tools that more accurately calculate the net tuition and net price of a university or college education.

By making average tuition free for tens of thousands of students and increasing eligibility for support to so many more, we are demonstrating how firmly we believe in the importance of investing in Ontario's people.



# CITY HALL



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

## Light Rail Update

While the snow melts and days get longer, another busy construction season is set to begin. Crews will be hard at work improving how quickly and comfortably residents move around our City.

Work on the Confederation Line Light Rail has continued throughout the winter. The project continues on-time and on-budget. I am excited to update you on several milestones:

- Phase 1 will be up and running in 2018;
- 2016 will see the final section of running tunnel between Rideau and Parliament Stations excavated;
- Excavation of the Lyon Station was recently completed, while Parliament is over 90 percent complete and Rideau is soon to reach 80 percent;
- More than 3.5 km of track have been installed to date;
- All 13 LRT stations will be under construction before the end of 2016;
- Testing on some of the world-class Alstom CITADIS Spirit LRT vehicles will begin within the next year.

This is just the first phase of the system we will be constructing over the next decade. The next chapter of light rail, Stage 2, is just around the corner. When Stage 2 is complete in 2023, residents will be able to catch a train as far west as Bayshore and Algonquin College, as far east as Place d'Orléans, and as far south as Riverside South. This will bring close to 70 percent of the City's population within five km of rail, transforming the way our City moves and grows.

Bringing light rail to Ottawa will be the single largest infrastructure project since **Colonel By** built the Rideau Canal. With a project of this size and scope, some disruptions are unavoidable for commuters. I encourage you to access construction and traffic management information by:

- Visiting the City of Ottawa's interactive traffic map at [traffic.ottawa.ca](http://traffic.ottawa.ca);
- Calling 3-1-1;
- Following the City of Ottawa's Traffic Twitter feed @Ottawa\_Traffic;
- Signing up to receive email updates at [Ottawa.ca/confederationline](http://Ottawa.ca/confederationline).

For those who make use of Ottawa's extensive multi-use pathway network, access will be maintained during construction where safety permits; detours will be provided where necessary.

Thank you for your patience as the O-Train Confederation Line continues to grow into reality. The way our City moves and grows will benefit our economy, our environment and our families for generations to come.



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

## Updates on Rockcliffe Park Issues

**The Pond:** Steps are underway to address the low water levels we saw in the Pond last season. Originally, City staff agreed to hire an engineering consultant to conduct a pump test in the spring of 2016 to test the neighbouring well, the water quality and the aquifer's ability to replenish itself. Steps are also being taken toward the provincial permit application to take water should replenishment of the Pond become necessary. The scope of the work has now been broadened to include a review to identify the root cause(s) of the decrease in water levels. I expect to receive the report from the consultant, including a summary of findings and recommendations, by the end of May. I will provide updates via my monthly Tobi Talks email newsletter and also on my website.

**Road Construction:** The final season of Rockcliffe Park road reconstruction will begin to get underway in April, when some residences will be switched to temporary water service. You will receive a notice if you live on one of the following roads that will be under construction this year: Springfield Road (Buena Vista to Coltrin); Manor Avenue (Coltrin to 720 Manor); Montagu Place (Thorold to Hillcrest); Coltrin Road (Minto to Springfield); Coltrin Place.

**Beechwood Corridor:** In early March, the City hosted a second public information session to introduce a preliminary concept of how the Beechwood transportation corridor can evolve. The road is not scheduled to be rebuilt for some time, but redevelopment of properties along Beechwood will create opportunities for the City to gain additional right-of-way space we can use to ensure safe passage for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and motorists in the long term. In the meantime, an interim configuration was put forward, which we hope to implement this summer. To view the plans and provide comments to the City, please visit the website [Ottawa.ca/BeechwoodAvenue](http://Ottawa.ca/BeechwoodAvenue).

**Coach Houses:** Last fall, the City began a zoning study to determine the appropriate standards to permit coach houses, small accessory dwellings in residential backyards. A discussion paper, survey results and draft recommendations are all available for review at [Ottawa.ca/coachhouses](http://Ottawa.ca/coachhouses). The item is scheduled to go to Planning Committee for discussion in late spring of 2016.



# SCHOOL REPORTS

## ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Grade 4 EFI Bake Sale

*Editor's Note: On February 17 and 18, 2016, Mme Julie's and Mme Sylvie's Grade 4 classes at RPPS held a bake sale, raising the incredible amount of \$829.45 for two charities, the World Wildlife Fund and the Canadian Cancer Society.*



Three of the students, **Olivia Morales**, **Sylvia LeBlanc** and **Emilia Wesokowski**, submitted a step-by-step account, detailing the process from start to finish. Due to space constraints, *The Rockcliffe News* was unable to publish this excellent write-up, but we wish to congratulate the RPPS students on their hard work and the dedication that made the bake sale such a great success.

### Dance-A-Thon Funds Raised for Local Charities and School Play Structure

The Rockcliffe Park Public School held a Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser on February 11, raising \$7,375. Our student

FAIR Club has identified two local charities to which they will donate two-thirds of the funds: DO IT FOR DARON (DIFD), [www.difd.com](http://www.difd.com), and the Rockcliffe Rideau Community Resource Centre's Youth Programs, [crrc.org/en/content/children-and-youth-programs](http://crrc.org/en/content/children-and-youth-programs). The last third of the funds raised will go toward the construction of our school's new Kindergarten play structure.



The FAIR Club raises funds on a regular basis for various local and international charities, based on interest from its student members. The student group is also affiliated with Me to We, [www.metowe.com](http://www.metowe.com), a student leadership organization that encourages student groups around North America to find a passion and make a positive impact on the world.

Congratulations to our Dance-A-Thon winner, **Christopher Walsh**, who was treated to lunch at The Works restaurant on St. Laurent with **Principal Shari Brodie** and two of Christopher's friends, **Julien Levesque** and **Alexander Burrows**.

*Mme Amber Clement, Teacher*



### Grade 11 Elmwood Student Strikes Gold



Congratulations to Grade 11 student **Allegra Richter** (at left) on her recent gold medal at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations' (OFSAA) Alpine Skiing Championship, held February 29-March 1 at Blue Mountain in Collingwood. She placed first in the province against over 90 competitors in the Level One Girls Slalom event. Way to go, Allegra!

### Magnificent Musicians

Elmwood's musicians came away with outstanding commendations at the recent Capital Region Musicfest. Our

Jazz Ensemble and Grade 7 Concert Bands each earned three silvers, our Grade 6 Concert Band earned one silver and two golds, and our Grade 8 and Senior Concert Bands both came away with three golds! All of our Concert Bands were invited to perform at the national-level, invitation-only Musicfest Canada on May 9-14, 2016. Elmwood was also chosen as the "Most Outstanding Band" in the Concert Band Division of the Capital Region Musicfest, awarded to the school thanks to the collective efforts of our four concert bands. Congratulations to our musicians and their conductor, Elmwood Head of Music **Nicholas Gummeson**.

### Elmwood Summer Camp Registration is On Back by popular demand: Discovery Camps

With exciting new weekly themes like It's Magic, Slime Time, Olympics Week and Island Escape, girls from Kindergarten to Grade 6 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.

**New this year: Elmwood Skills Academy and Sports Camps**  
Elmwood's new camps offer an outstanding range of academic, special interest and sports programs. Taught either

# SCHOOL REPORTS

by Elmwood's talented faculty or by other experts in their field, our Skills Academy and Sports Camps combine superb instruction with dynamic activities, sure to appeal to girls of all ages and skill levels.

Registration is now open. Visit [camp.elmwood.ca](http://camp.elmwood.ca) or call **613 749-6761** for details and registration.

## Elmwood's 27th Annual Gala

On Saturday, April 16, help us celebrate 100 years of inspiring girls at our special Centennial-Year Gala. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner, sip champagne, bid on superb auction items and

hit the dance floor when Elektrik 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/gala](http://www.elmwood.ca/gala) for information and tickets.

## Considering Elmwood for Your Daughter?

We invite you to visit the school during one of our upcoming admissions events to learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. For more information, phone the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783** or visit our website, [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca).



## Ashbury Around the Globe

Celebrations of Ashbury's 125th year continue with receptions around the globe with our vast network of alumni. January saw gatherings in Shanghai and Hong Kong, while February fostered get-togethers in Beverly Hills and San Francisco, CA. In March, a large group of alumni assembled in Toronto to toast the school and hear about upcoming anniversary plans. Ashbury is fortunate to have more than 7,500 alumni across the world, and these receptions offer a chance to connect and for Ashbury grads to share their personal and career trajectories in the arts, finance, health care, tech and innovation and public policy – to name a few.

## A Legal Perspective for Parents on Social Media Responsibility

The first Parentscope presentation of the year took place in February with a talk by lawyer **Eric Roher** on the behaviours young people may face as they interact online. The forum, organized by Ashbury's Parents' Committee, touched on the new definition of online bullying, as cited in the Ontario

Education Act, the role of the bystander and the permanence of digital footprints. Parents were urged to keep close tabs on their children's online activity, and counselled on the importance of keeping and making copies of questionable messages, should follow-up with the school or authorities be needed. Many of the student-led discussions on these topics following Mr. Roher's presentation revealed an increasing awareness of how online behaviour at home can result in serious school consequences if the actions affect institutional culture. As more of us interact solely online, the primer was a critical reminder of how that communication can impact those around us.



## Summer @ Ashbury

Ashbury's campus will once again be busy with summer activities for students from ages 7 to 17. Students from across Ottawa are invited to explore new areas of study with academic prep classes, build skills with for-credit course offerings, or have fun with camp sessions featuring everything from drama and Claymation to sports and debate. Programs run June and July. For more information and to register, see [summer.ashbury.ca](http://summer.ashbury.ca).

*Photos at top, from left: 1) The entire school gathered in the snow in January for an historical shot, captured by a student-operated drone, to mark Ashbury's 125th anniversary. 2) A mid-winter spirit week full of friendly house competitions was a great way to combine physical activity with seasonal surroundings. 3) Over 70 Ashbury students worked together to stage Ashbury's winter musical performance of Oliver!, based on the Dickens classic. 4) Continuing in the spirit of Ashbury's hockey teams of years gone by, alumni gathered at the Rockcliffe Rink on February for the first-ever Ashbury Winter Classic shinny tournament.*

# END NOTES

## ORKIDSTRA Kids: “Empowering Kids. Building Community.”



“Empowering Kids. Building Community.” is the motto of Ottawa’s OrKidstra program, which comes to the neighbourhood with a fund- and awareness-raising concert at Rideau High School on Friday, May 6, starting at 6:00 pm.

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, Ottawa’s OrKidstra program was inspired by a Venezuelan social experiment begun more than 41 years ago, which now reaches some 450,000 children in that country. Such El Sistema-inspired programs now exist in several cities in Canada, the United States and Europe. Through playing and singing together, children enjoy a sense of belonging and achievement – and learn such important life skills as respect, compassion, teamwork and responsibility.

Ottawa’s OrKidstra program now involves some 400 Kids from some 42 linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Ninety percent of the students receive, at no cost, the loan of instruments. Each student is able to play in an orchestra and/or sing in a choir. Professional teachers are assisted by student mentors from uOttawa, local high school music programs, the Ottawa Youth Orchestra and a host of volunteers. We are also delighted to have **Angela Hewitt** as our new Ambassador and the enthusiastic support of the NAC’s new music director, **Alexander Shelley**.

To move forward, the program looks to attract more donors and increase its funding base. To learn more about OrKidstra, visit the website [www.orkidstra.ca](http://www.orkidstra.ca) and come to the May 6 concert at Rideau High School. There is no price for admission to the concert, but you will be encouraged to make a donation and join the post-concert gathering.



## Would You Like to Run or Walk for Refugees?

Thousands of refugees and immigrants will be making Ottawa their new home this year. You can help them by registering for the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend (May 28-29) and joining our volunteer team of OCISO fundraisers (the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization). As a thank you, our first 100 runner or walker volunteers who commit to raising over \$100 will receive a professional racing shirt.

Register to fundraise with us and ensure that arriving refugees and immigrants feel welcomed and supported in our City! For details, please contact OCISO’s volunteer coordinator, **David Rain**, at [drain@ociso.org](mailto:drain@ociso.org), or visit [ociso.org](http://ociso.org).

## uOttawa Division of Orthopaedics Celebrates 50th Anniversary



2016 will be an exciting year for uOttawa’s Division of Orthopaedic Surgery as it celebrates 50 years of providing excellent orthopaedic care and education. **Dr. Paul Beaulé** invites you to join in celebrating this milestone with events from May 12 to 14.

- May 12: Welcome Reception (Shaw Centre).
- May 13: Ottawa Alumni Orthopaedic Specialty Update, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (Shaw Centre); 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner with music and entertainment (Museum of Canadian History) – Cocktails at 6:30 pm / Dinner at 8:00 pm.
- May 14: Golf Tournament at Hunt Club hosted by **Don Johnson**. BBQ dinner.

Proceeds from the Gala will help fund the establishment of a Research Chair in Regenerative Orthopaedic Surgery to support innovation, advance new treatments and improve patient care. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [events.cmeuottawa.ca/website/index/110089](http://events.cmeuottawa.ca/website/index/110089).

## Helping Syrian Refugees

The Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre at 225 Donald Street is supporting new Syrian arrivals and needy families with an impressive range of programmes, including baby care, emergency food supplies, homework club, playgroup, music program, post-traumatic stress counselling and Syrian refugee counselling.

Residents can make tax-deductible donations to the Resource Centre through CanadaHelps: [www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rideau-rockcliffe-community-resource-centre/](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rideau-rockcliffe-community-resource-centre/) or by telephone at **613 745-0073**, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The Centre is also collecting donations of food, toys, household items, textbooks in English, French and Arabic, school and sport supplies, and more. For the full list of the Centre’s needs, please see the RPR website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca). You may bring items to the Centre on the following dates and times: Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; Saturday, April 30 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm; Saturday, May 28 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Wednesday, June 29 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm.

Finally, the Centre is looking for volunteers and ambassadors. If you are interested, please contact **Bonnie Wepler** (volunteer coordinator) by email at [bonnie.wepler@crerr.org](mailto:bonnie.wepler@crerr.org) or call **613 745-0073, ext. 110**.