



The Rockcliffe News

April 2017

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

www.rockcliffepark.ca

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Board meetings are held monthly and are open to all. See calendar for dates and times. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Correspondence to Board members and any enquiries for administration purposes may be addressed by email to secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

- 3 Monday 9:30 to 9:30.....By-election in Ottawa-Vanier
Details at www.elections.ca/home.aspx
- 5 Wednesday 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Arif Virani, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and Lori Rosove on "Canada's Syrian Refugees: One Year On," Community Hall*
- 13 ThursdayLast day to donate books and AV materials for the Book Sale, Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road*
- 19 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 22 Saturday Time TBA.....Elmwood School Gala: Ahead by a Century, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 22 Saturday 10 am to 5 pm...Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 23 Sunday 11 am to 5 pm....Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 23 Sunday Time TBA.....National Rugby Finals, Ashbury College Athletic Field*
- 27 Thursday 6 to 9 pmOttawa Garden Club Art Exhibit Vernissage Reception, Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, 100 Island Lodge Road*
- 27 Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Suzanne Patry, owner, Whitehouse Nursery and Display Gardens, on "How to Create Your Ideal Garden," Community Hall*
- 28 Friday 6:30 pm.....Dining with the Ambassadors, Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road*
- 29 Saturday 10 am to noon..Annual Village Clean-up, Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road*

MAY

- 1 Monday 7:00 pm.....Parentscope Talk, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Ave*
- 10 Wednesday (to Sunday)Ottawa Children's Festival, LeBreton Flats*
- 13 Saturday.....Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club Open House, 465 Lansdowne Rd N*
- 13 Saturday.....Springfest, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Avenue
- 15 Monday.....Start of Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club Junior After-School Program, 465 Lansdowne Rd N*
- 17 Wednesday 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 25 Thursday 11:30 am.....Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre Second Annual Lunch Fundraiser, Gil O'Julien Park, 201 Donald Street, tickets/info: 613 745-0073, ext. 142
- 27-28 Saturday-SundayOCISO Run or Walk for Refugees, Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend*

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



As I sit writing this letter on a sunny day in March a few days after a significant snow storm, thoughts of warm temperatures and green grass fill my imagination. As you read this in the early days of April, the winter's snow should be melting away and we should be in the midst of what I have come to call the "mud" season. It is a pretty busy time of year for Rockcliffe. On our radar will be the upcoming annual Library Book Sale, the Village Clean-up, and the Rockcliffe Park/Lindenlea soccer league should soon be getting under way as well. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 1 this year. As usual, it was a joint session with the Village Foundation's AGM and, with a few notable exceptions, the rows of seats seemed to be filled with members of both boards and their spouses. Normally a low attendance might be cause for concern, but I take comfort in the advice of a friend and longtime Village resident that this may instead reflect the degree of satisfaction and general contentment with how the affairs of the Village are progressing. I am happy to adopt this point of view.

In reporting on the major activities of the previous year mentioned in my annual report, I highlighted the fact that our Heritage Conservation District Plan is still very much in play. There is a detailed article by **Susan d'Aquino** elsewhere in this newsletter that explains very well the current situation so I shall not belabour this issue other than to say that the successful passage of the HCDP remains a top priority for the RPR. We face an Ontario Municipal Board hearing in September, and the RPR will be present as a registered participant at that hearing.

The AGM is also a time of transition as we welcome new Board members and say goodbye to others. I am delighted to welcome **Dr. Aly Abdulla**, **Claire Schofield** and **Gouhar Shemdin** to the Board as new members and thank them for agreeing to serve our community. To outgoing members **Kathy Day** and **Robert Gougeon**, I offer on behalf of the entire Board my sincere thanks for their service. Kathy in particular has served for many years and was instrumental in bringing the HCDP to fruition. Kathy and her husband are resettling in the UK and we wish them the very best. I also offer my sincere thanks to Robert for his support and work over the last year. Also presenting at the AGM were **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum** and **Yacouba Traoré**, the Executive Director of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. Tobi updated us on City matters, including welcome news that the City will be activating the pump at the Pond to attempt to alleviate the low water level problem. Also welcome was the news that aside from some minor tidying up, the road excavation in Rockcliffe is over. He further updated us on traffic calming measures in Rockcliffe, developments along Beechwood Avenue, Wateridge Village, the CSST and LRT, and various other matters. Yacouba Traoré came to thank the residents of Rockcliffe for their generosity during the fundraising drive in December and to give an indication how the funds raised were being used.

These issues and more have received ongoing attention from RPR Board members and committee members. We appreciate the support of the many residents who also volunteer in our community and who pay their membership dues, allowing us to continue to represent you and manage many projects on your behalf. You will likely hear from an RPR Board member in the coming weeks if you haven't yet had a chance to renew your RPR membership. Please support our work to maintain our beautiful community. This time last year, I reported on the closing of the New Edinburgh Pub. It somehow seems fitting that, one year on, I can report that the new Royal Oak Pub has recently opened its doors in that same location.

In closing, I would like to remind you of events happening in the next few weeks:

The next Speakers Program event on April 5 will feature **Arif Virani**, MP, former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and **Lori Rosove**, leader of a group privately sponsoring a Syrian family, in a presentation entitled "Canada's Syrian Refugees: One Year On." We hope you will make an effort to come out and hear these speakers. 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 22 and 23; and on April 28 we have the Village Foundation's biennial fundraising event, Dining with the Ambassadors. That same weekend, the annual Village Clean-up will occur. Grab your gloves, haul the kids out of bed and come out and help get our beautiful Village ready for summer. Details are to be found elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope we will see you there.

Peter Lewis, 20 March 2017



THE VILLAGE FOUNDATION

FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE OF ROCKCLIFFE PARK www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org

Thank You to the 2016 Community Appeal Donors

Thank you to the following individuals who generously donated to the 2016 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 \$19,019 as of February 28, 2017.

It's not too late to donate! If you missed making your donation and would like to do so, please mail your cheque payable to "Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation" to **Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1L 5A8** or donate online on our website, www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

Dr. Aly Khan Abdulla
George Babbitt
Howard and Liani Balloch
Cynthia Baxter
James and Sarah Baxter
Rachel and Colin Baxter
Paul Beaulé and Anna Fazekai
Roderick Bell
Michael Borish
John Brooks
Adrian Burns
Derek Chase
Jean and Aline Chrétien
Wilma J. Clapham
William Clarke
Alexandra Colt and Philip Smith
John Connelly
David Cuthbertson and Neva Bruce
Elizabeth Day
Brian Dickson
Marilyn Donoghue
Peter and Heather Eddison
Mark Ellis
Dean and Rina Eyre
Patricia Fortier and Paul Durand
Leigh Fraser Roberts
John French
Philip Garel-Jones
Osman and Sylvia Gialloreto

Robert Graham
Nancy Greenley
Walter Grego
Adnan Hadziomerovic
David Halton
R.S. Heatherington and
Elizabeth Raymont Heatherington
Carol Henderson
David and Nicole Henderson
John Hewitt and Diana Sheng
Liisa Honey and Doug Cochen
Michael and Sheila Kelen
Anthony and Joan Kellett
Joan Matthews Khan
Ryan Kilger and Lucie Martin
David and Laura Kilgour
Rosalyn Kimmel
Vic and Marilyn Lanctis
Andrea and Dennis Laurin
G. Alexander Macklin
Charles Maclaren
Denise Martel
Yomna Mazouk and
Mohamed Alaa El Danasoury
Robert McElligott
Beverley McLachlin
Louise Meyer
John Mierins
Robert Milin

Sheila Nelles
Joanne and Rob Nelson
Jane Newcombe
Louise Ouimet and John McPherson
Gordon and Wendy Peters
Frances Pick
David Pigott
Mary and Guy Pratte
Georges and Louise Proulx
John and Lillian Richard
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Roberts
Bonnie and Andy Robinson
Diana Rowley
Emmanuel Simatirakis
Inta Sipolins-Zobs
Susan Smith
Anne Stanfield
Alison Surette
JH Taylor
Marilyn and Gordon Venner
Donna and Obbe Vermeij
David Waiser
David Weinstein
Rem Westland
Roy Williams and Julianne Parfett
Michael Wilson
Mrs. Ismene Wood
Shirley and Bill Yang

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 help fund community projects and programs largely through the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) in three areas of focus: the conservation of the environment; preservation of the heritage character of the Village; and promotion of a sense of community for all residents.

THE 2017 VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD

Executive: Bonnie Robinson, Chair | Michael McIntyre, Vice-Chair | Ryan Kilgour, Secretary | Jane Newcombe, Administrator
Roy Williams, Treasurer | *Board Members:* Sarah Baxter, Nancy Carr, Jean-Guy Dumoulin, Nancy Greenley, Emily Moyo and Jane Panet

Dining with the Ambassadors • Friday, April 28



The biennial **Dining with the Ambassadors** on April 28 sees Rockcliffe's ambassadors and high commissioners host elegant dinners, the proceeds of which go to the Rockcliffe Park Village Foundation. The event kicks off with a pre-dinner reception at the Community Hall courtesy of our returning Presenting Sponsor **Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Inc.** It is only here that guests find out who their hosts will be.

Most always, this all goes off without a hitch, but sometimes it gets a little hairy. One year, a matter of state required a host to cancel just hours before and those guests ended up having a spectacular dinner at a restaurant on Beechwood. What's important is the warmth and generosity of our community, coupled with our extraordinary visiting diplomats, that pull it all together into a fun, cherished evening of revelry with new friends and old.

This is not an event curated by event planners and it is more or less unchanged since it was first held decades ago. Committee member **Robert Collette** starts working early, introducing both the event and the Village Foundation to our diplomatic neighbours and asking for their support. As soon as the event is announced in February, tickets are snapped up and **Jane Newcombe** diligently updates the growing and changing guest list. Neighbours and neighbourhood businesses step up with cash support. There's the mad dash late in the day to prepare the Community Hall. And it's often the little things behind the scenes that speak to the spirit of the event, like our Library's **Sonia Doyon**, who, just before the event begins, pulls out books so that guests can quickly brief themselves on the backgrounds of their hosts and their countries.

All this is a reminder of the unique neighbourhood we are so lucky to call home. So let's hope for good weather – and for those neighbours who are able to attend this year, have a wonderful time with your neighbours, new and old, celebrating our lovely Village. For information on the event, contact **Sarah Baxter** at sarah@sarahbaxter.ca.

Map of Rockcliffe with past 2013 hosts prepared by neighbour Sarah Murray. Photo: Lois Segal

Celebrating Our History – The Rockcliffe Park Canada 150th Initiative

To mark the sesquicentennial of Canada, the Village Foundation is planning a community project to design interpretive plaques for installation in public spaces in Rockcliffe Park. The community has strong links to the history of Canada and plaques will recognize noteworthy places, events and/or people considered significant in the development of Rockcliffe Park and/or the country.

To focus on the understanding of Rockcliffe's history, the period for consideration for installs in 2017 is primarily up to 1967, Canada's 100th anniversary. The book "*Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village*" by **Martha Edmond** is a key reference. An Advisory Panel of community residents will make recommendations to the Village Foundation for ten to fifteen ideas for interpretive plaques. The Panel is led by **Tom d'Aquino** and includes fellow residents **Joe Clark**, **Brian Dickson** (Rockcliffe Park Residents Association liaison), **Martha Edmond**, **Alison Green**, **David Halton** and **Jane Newcombe** (Village Foundation liaison). It is hoped that initial plaques will be installed before year-end. Further information will be provided in the June edition of The Rockcliffe News.

Highlights of the Foundation's Annual Report to the Community

The Village Foundation provided its report to the community on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall. **Bonnie Robinson**, Chair, provided her report on the Foundation's work in 2016, and **Grant McDonald**, Treasurer, presented the 2016 financial report. Please visit the website www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org to see the reports. The Board thanked outgoing members **Dr. Aly Abdulla**, **Chris Denison**, **Grant McDonald** and **Elaine Nadeau**, and welcomed new Board members **Nancy Carr**, **Jean-Guy Dumoulin**, **Emily Moyo** and **Roy Williams**.

BOOK SALE

Original Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale Volunteers Keep Its Flag Flying High!

The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, now in its second decade, takes place this year on April 22 and 23. The sale has grown from a few thousand secondhand books, mostly fiction, spread on tables in the Community Hall by two volunteers, to a major undertaking with over 20,000 donated books and AV material. Up to 100 volunteers work through the year to make it possible.

The Spring Book Sale was started by **Barbara Mirsky**, the local Librarian from 1983 to 2001, to raise money to purchase books for the new Public Library, which opened in the Village of Rockcliffe Park in 1994. **Di Bethune** and **Sheila Nelles**, both of whom still volunteer with the sale today, remember that first sale. It was just the two of them, under Barbara's supervision and with some help from their husbands. Both women were seasoned volunteers with many years'

experience sorting, pricing and arranging books for the Rockcliffe Park School Book Fair. They remember pricing paperbacks back then and debating whether they should charge 25 or 35 cents per book!

Another longtime volunteer, **Barbara Barker**, who still lends a hand in the Library two afternoons a week, also has a history of dedication to the Library and the Rockcliffe Park community. Barbara, a Foreign Service spouse, spent many years away on posting but was very involved during her years at home. She volunteered at the Library back in 1970s when it was housed in a small room in the school; she also served on the Library Board. In those days, the Village of Rockcliffe Park was a separate entity with its own Reeve (Mayor) and Council. Sheila was an elected Councillor and was also on the Rockcliffe Park Library Board. Like Barbara, she continued to be a regular volunteer at the Library until very recently.

Sheila recalls that the timing of the sale was somewhat random in those early days. "Barbara would hold a sale when enough books had been donated by residents and friends." In the days leading up to the sale, Sheila and Di sorted and priced books at a desk in the Librarian's office. Barbara



Original volunteers (from left) Di Bethune, Sheila Nelles and Barbara Barker amidst boxes of donated books in the Library on Springfield Road. Above: Jane Dobell, current Chair of the Book Sale.

Barker, who joined the team a little later, remembers that it was very hard to argue with Barbara Mirsky: "She was definitely the boss." Everyone agrees, however, that without Barbara Mirsky there would be no Library; she was a driving force behind the campaign to build the new Library and Community Hall.

Books run in Di Bethune's blood. In addition to her many years volunteering, she worked in a variety of bookstores for more than 30 years. She and her husband owned two used book shops in Ottawa back in the 1980s. She worked for several years with **Joan Askwith** at the Bookery on Sussex and at Books on Beechwood. Di puts all that expertise to good use in the sale, where she oversees the Classics and Collectors' items. One of the biggest changes that Di has

seen in the sale over the years is in the quality of the books. "People don't keep books the way they used to," she says. "There was a time when people in Rockcliffe had huge, wonderful libraries, including leather books, and we were given many of these." Today, the sale gets a lot of self-help books, for example, which Di doesn't care for personally but, as she acknowledges ruefully, "They do sell."

Today, the sale is coordinated by another leading light in the community – **Jane Dobell**. In 1965, she and Joan Askwith started the RPPS Book Fair and she has been a literacy champion ever since. Her tenacity and leadership have taken the Spring Book Sale to the next level and it is now considered one of the best in Ottawa. Its major contributions to both our local branch as well as the broader Library system means that more programming and services are being offered and literacy is being well served!

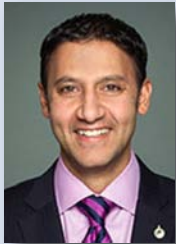
Thanks to the commitment of these dedicated volunteers, our local Library is thriving. Thanks are also due to **Sonia Doyon** and the Library staff for their patience and good humour in dealing with the disruption associated with a steady stream of donations and very little space in which to handle them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Evening Speakers Program

Rockcliffe Park Community Hall
380 Springfield Road

Join your neighbours for informal evenings with distinguished speakers. Presentations will be followed by questions, coffee and cookies. Admission is free. The Speakers Program is an initiative of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and is supported by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.



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



Lori Rosove Leader of a group privately sponsoring a Syrian family

“Canada’s Syrian Refugees: One Year On”

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

Wednesday, April 5 at 8:00 pm

Rideau Club Luncheon Presentation – Libraries, Archives, Museums: A Bright New Day



In the digital age, what use are memory institutions? With the mind-blowing speed of their algorithms, aren't Google, Amazon, Wikipedia, Facebook and Twitter good enough for 'remembering'? With more readers borrowing e-books, why build new libraries? With archives' holdings digitized and available on their own platforms, what is the need for hard-copy collections? Are virtual museums, accessible to all, not the best tool to democratize culture?

Join **Dr. Guy Berthiaume**, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, for a fascinating talk on these questions and on why he sees a bright future for Canada's memory institutions. The talk will take place on Thursday, April 20 at noon at the Rideau Club, 99 Bank Street, 15th floor. Tickets are \$39.00. Jacket and tie required. For more information and reservations, contact **Caroline LePage** by phone at 613 233-7787 or by email at lepagec@rideauclub.ca.

The Rideau Club, founded in 1865, is the meeting place both of Canada's political elite and the City of Ottawa's social and business elite.

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club



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

Thursday, April 27 | Speaker: Suzanne Patry

As the owner of Whitehouse Nursery and Display Gardens, Suzanne has her pick of what is new and exciting each year. But there are also tried and true favourites. Learn how she mixes, switches, edits and chooses her personal favourites to create stunning gardens.

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield, at 7:30 pm. Free for members; \$5 for guests. For more info, contact **Vera Cody**, vcody1@rogers.com.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden's Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, June 3, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Prince of Wales Drive, south of the Arboretum
Guest Vendors: Beaux Arbres and Twigs nurseries

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden is having its annual native plant sale on June 3. Hundreds of beautiful wildflowers are native to the Ottawa region; we can tell you which ones suit your backyard. Plant a wide variety of native plants for a garden that changes from month to month and attracts birds, butterflies and other wildlife that will bring your garden to life. See our demonstration backyard garden. Pick up free plant lists and “how-to” info on gardening for butterflies, attracting birds, building a backyard pond and more!

For questions or more information, please contact **Sandy** at 613 730-0714 or fletcher@ofnc.ca.

ART FOR CHARITY

Ottawa Garden Club

Art Exhibit:

“Celebrating Canada’s 150th”

For the fifth year, the Ottawa Garden Club is pleased to present an art exhibit; this year’s show is entitled “Celebrating Canada’s 150th,” and each artist will create at least one artwork that specifically reflects this theme. The show will be on view from April 27 to May 7 at the Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, 100 Island Lodge Road, Ottawa.

Twelve artists, many of them professional and all members of the Ottawa Garden Club, will be displaying art in a variety of media including pastels, oils, acrylics, watercolours, encaustics, jewelry, photography and quilting.

The new Commemorative Garden of Remembrance at the Canadian War Museum, created by the Ottawa Garden Club, will be the beneficiary of a percentage of the show’s proceeds.

Please join the artists at the vernissage reception on Thursday, April 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The show will remain open from noon until 4:00 pm through May 7. Participating artists include **Dianne Breton, Ann Clayton, Marianne Feaver, Patsy Fyfe, Pam Gibb-Carsley, Mary Hardwick, Bev Hyde, Joan Kellet, Mary Pratte, Bea Robertson, Marion Robertson and Beth Stikeman.**

For more information, contact **Beth Stikeman** at stikeman@rogers.com or **Dianne Breton** at rdbreton@rogers.com.

Former RPR Board Member Takes to the Canvas

Robert Gougeon, a former RPR Board and Heritage Committee member, is an emerging professional artist who recently joined the modern, spacious Galerie Côté Creations (cotecreations.wordpress.com/galerie-ottawa), located at 98 Richmond Road in trendy Westboro, just west of Island Park Drive. This unique, artist-run ‘pop-up’ gallery offers quality original art at affordable prices, made by 11 local artists who give part of their proceeds on behalf of their patrons to a local charity, the Ottawa Hospital Foundation.

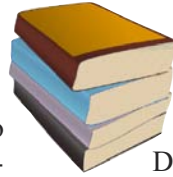
Robert is a contemporary abstract painter committed to creating a strong visual impact while using a minimalist approach.



A dozen of his acrylic paintings are on display. You may also view Robert’s many works on his regularly updated website, www.robertgougeon.com.

BOOK SALE

It’s Not Too Late to Donate



The 2017 Book Sale will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, April 23 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road.

Donations of books and AV materials will be accepted up to April 13. Please bring them as soon as possible to the Rockcliffe Park branch of the OPL during opening hours, or call for assistance at **613 580-2424, ext. 27623**. But please, no encyclopaedias, magazines or textbooks! All books must be in good condition.

New This Year!

Enjoy live classical music while you browse. A string quartet will perform at the sale on Saturday, April 22 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm.



FESTIVAL

Plan a Visit to the Ottawa Children’s Festival



Get ready for an incredible family adventure May 10 to 14! Visit the Ottawa Children’s Festival at LeBreton Flats and hang out with princesses, pirates, dinosaurs and other special guests. Any show ticket gives you access to our amazing free on-site activities – rock climbing, T-shirt printing, puppet workshops, crafts, activity zones, instrument petting zoo and so much more!

This year we are showcasing two very special productions from Montreal at two off-site venues: I on the Sky at La Nouvelle Scene and A Heart in Winter at the Museum of History. Oh, and shhhh (you didn’t hear it from me)... Mega Bloks is taking over one of our biggest tents with a large activity space and is preparing to make a special announcement. So very exciting!

Music, theatre, dance, acrobats, puppetry: we’ve packed in more fun than ever before. Pick a show or two and head out for the day. See ottawachildrensfestival.ca for more info.

Joni Hamlin



WILDLIFE NOTES

On January 26, walking out my driveway around 2 pm I noticed small birds fussing, darting in and out of a spruce across the road – Chickadees, two White-breasted Nuthatches and a Goldfinch. Staring to see what was going on, I caught sight of a small Screech Owl, perched close to the trunk. The owl spent the afternoon on its perch, unfazed by the small birds or by me taking photographs. With our deep snow cover, I expect this owl would depend for food on catching small birds roosting at night.

Walking in Beechwood Cemetery in the late morning of February 27, two Crows calling aggressively brought me to inspect; their concern was a Great-horned Owl perched on an open branch about 30 feet up a White Spruce. One Crow was noisily threatening from behind the owl, the other from beside it. The closest they dared get was about three feet. The owl didn't even deign look at them, acting as though they weren't there. Great-horneds are likely the most serious predators of Crows at night.

On February 3, Crows started to assemble in unusual and noisy numbers at about 3:50 in the afternoon in the trees bordering the west side of McKay Lake. At first I thought they might be mobbing a predator, such as a hawk. But that wasn't the case. Small parties came down on the lake and open lawns, pecking at the snow and scooping it up in what I took to be drinking. Many were calling, others sat or flew silently. By 4:30 the general flow changed direction, and all departed towards Hemlock Road.



Crows assembling on Hemlock Road. Photo: Doug Taylor.

The following afternoon at the same time Crows gathered in even larger numbers in the trees, from above Cloverdale through Old Prospect, Fairview and adjacent Mariposa. Many assembled in the cemetery trees overlooking Hemlock as dusk approached, appearing to settle down. There were at least 1,000 birds. Then they changed their minds and flew west towards Beechwood where Brian Dickson encountered them in the Chapleau area, low over the roads, very noisy.

On the afternoons of February 5, 6 and 7, hundreds of Crows gathered again in the Fairview – Mariposa area and then moved around. On the 7th, Doug Taylor found them settling down in the cemetery woods bordering Hemlock, from the cemetery entrance east past Lansdowne for a distance of perhaps 300m. They arrived from all directions. They spent the night there in a communal roost.

In the dawn of 6:25 the next morning, the birds were noticeably thicker on the branches than the evening before – some branches showed almost no light between bodies. Between 7:00 am and 7:30 with increasing daylight they left. Almost all flew east, others north. The roost extended into the cemetery woods from Hemlock, so an accurate count was impossible from the road. By extrapolating from areas counted, there could have been more than 5,000 birds. This may have been the largest assembly of intelligent social animals ever to have happened in our neighbourhood.

While these dramatically large Crow gatherings with their attendant cawcophany seemed unusual, and even alarming, the only unusual aspect is that they happened here. Communal roosting outside the breeding season is what this species does, all across its North American range. It may reduce predation risk. Communal roosting for the night has taken place in many locations in Ottawa. This is the first occurrence in this neighbourhood to my knowledge since I settled in 1969.

Never having seen this behaviour up close before, I've been fascinated. The extended period of pre-roosting activity, extending over some three hours, leaves me with a surprise and a puzzle. The surprise is that although the birds are coming together in social flocks, they act as individuals. One bird will be settled right down on a branch, feathers overlapping it, resting, while its neighbour will be stretched tall cawing away, and another neighbour takes flight and goes to join a party eating snow. Only occasionally does a mass of birds take to the air at once. Normally, a general movement to another group of trees is done by birds acting singly. The puzzle is that this pre-roosting social activity occupies some three hours of short winter days. How can birds that need fuel to survive a freezing night in the open afford to take such a large proportion of their day away from feeding?

During the breeding season our Crows space out on breeding territories across the Village. A nesting pair may have helpers – offspring of an earlier year – but other Crows are driven off the territory. Then when summer raising of young is done, Crows have found it advantageous to change from being aggressive to each other to being social in searching for food and roosting together at night in large numbers.

Anthony Keith, 6 March 2017

VOLUNTEER

ELTOC (English Language Training for the Ottawa Community) Seeks Volunteers



Fabric of Society Panelists (from left) Abdulrahman al-Masri, Catherine McKenney, Alex Neve, Don Smith and moderator Jacqueline Bonisteel (President, ELTOC). Photo: Justyna Szluinska (justyna.ca)

On March 2, in celebration of 25 years of serving the community, ELTOC held a panel discussion, “The Fabric of Society,” and a fundraising silent auction at Arts Court. It was a lively discussion about the barriers newcomers face and possible solutions. Panelists were **Alex Neve** (Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada), **Abdulrahman al-Masri** (Syrian Canadian Community Association), **Catherine McKenney** (City Councillor, Somerset Ward) and **Don Smith** (Chair of the Refugee Working Group for the Anglican Diocese).

Thanks go to the following local firms (alphabetically) for their gifts to the Silent Auction: **Books on Beechwood**, **Elmwood School** and **Jacobson’s Gourmet Concepts**.

ELTOC is a non-profit organization that provides home tutoring to those eligible for IRCC’s (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) language program, LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada). ELTOC’s mission is to provide this service only to those who cannot attend regular English programmes. They are mothers with young children, some taking care of family members with health issues, and those who have challenges with health, mobility or an irregular work schedule. Once a week, students receive free, one-on-one instruction in their homes by volunteer tutors. The emphasis is given to practical English skills that allow newcomers to integrate into Canadian life.

ELTOC is 95 per cent funded by IRCC, with donations from the private sector and fundraising events. Proceeds from the March 2 event will support teaching materials. A registered charity, ELTOC will issue a tax receipt upon request for all donations over \$20.00.

Due to the arrival of many newcomers to Ottawa, ELTOC is seeking volunteer tutors. The organization is small but manages an excellent service – please consider volunteering or perhaps donating. If you would like further information, contact ELTOC at **613 232-8566** or esl@eltoc.ca.

*Elizabeth Heatherington
Volunteer Tutor*

HERITAGE MATTERS

Ontario Municipal Board to Hear Appeal of New Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan

The new Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan, approved by City Council on February 10, 2016, has been appealed by a single party – a developer. The appeal will be heard by the Ontario Municipal Board over an anticipated six-day period between September 12 and 19 at Ottawa City Hall. Both the City and the RPRA will be opposing the appeal. It is unlikely that the RPRA can be a full “party” to the appeal as the costs of having legal representation are beyond our means, but we will be able to make a statement as a “participant.” When it is ready, we will post the statement on the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Observers are welcome at OMB hearings.

In concert with the appeal, the developer has submitted an application to the City to demolish the house at 270 Buchan Road, which is a Grade I property. Under the new Heritage Plan, the demolition of such houses is permitted only in extraordinary circumstances such as fire or natural disaster. The house, built in 1940, was originally the home of Robert Southam, the publisher of the Ottawa Citizen for 20 years.

Throughout the more than two years of diligent work on the development of the Plan with City heritage staff and with our Councillor, we kept residents informed and encouraged them to make submissions and attend the public meeting that was held in June 2015. Both the Plan and a document setting out its main provisions are on the RPRA website.

Since 1864, Rockcliffe Park has been developed with a sensitivity to scale, massing, spatial relationships and density of housing in a park-like setting. Existing safeguards had proved ineffective, resulting in compromises to the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. The new Heritage Plan is designed to better protect that heritage character.

The Ontario Heritage Act provides that the new Heritage Plan is not in full legal effect until any appeal has been dealt with. In the interim, the City is applying the Plan as a matter of policy. We are concerned that the legislation means that full implementation of the Plan can be delayed for a significant period of time – a Plan which reflects the public interest as expressed by the residents of Rockcliffe Park and by City Council. We will approach our MPP about seeking an eventual change to the legislation. The new Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan is immensely important to the future of our community. The RPRA will do all we can to defend it.

CANADA'S 150th

In honour of Canada's upcoming 150th birthday, The Rockcliffe News will publish a series of Rockcliffe History stories throughout the coming year. This time, something a little different:

A Primer on How to Throw the Perfect 150th Street Party

What better way to celebrate the beginning of summer 2017 and to mark Canada's 150th than by planning your very own street party? A street party is a wonderful way to honour our Canadian heritage, meet neighbours old and new, enjoy the outdoors and strengthen our community.

1. Start by contacting a few neighbours six to eight weeks in advance to see if there is enough interest to organize a street party.
2. Set up a meeting or divide up a few duties by email.
3. Determine a budget.
4. Choose a date, hours of road closure, plus a rain date.
5. Select a contact person to email the City of Ottawa at specialeventstraffic@ottawa.ca or call **613 580-2424, ext. 28164** to obtain the application for permits for the street closure (this should be done at least three weeks before the event, if not earlier).
6. Determine the need for table and chair rentals vs. using your own.
7. Plan food, drinks, decorations, activities and music, according to age of participants.
8. Send out invitations to everyone affected by the road closure (and beyond, if you like!) at least a few weeks in advance of the party.
9. Have fun, take photos of the event and consider sending them in to The Rockcliffe News. We'd love to hear about your street party event!

Mary Lapner



Manor Avenue street party, 2014.

QUEEN'S PARK



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

The Path to Reduce Poverty in Ontario

In 2008, the government of Ontario set a strategy to reduce poverty. "Realizing Our Potential" aims to create a province where every person has the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential and contribute to a prosperous and healthy Ontario.

The Annual Report for 2016 indicates that some progress has been made and we can see the results in the lives of Ontarians who are now building an entirely new life for their families and their future.

The child poverty rate has been reduced by over 20 per cent. The creation of the Ontario Child Benefit and reforms to the child care and full-day kindergarten are partly responsible for this improvement.

Youth are also facing real challenges on their path to adulthood. Under this strategy we've put emphasis on education, employment and training opportunities. And we are happy to see that for the first time in the province's history, 85 per cent of Ontario youth are now successfully completing high school. It's a key milestone that is opening up new opportunities for these graduates and their families.

Full-day kindergarten to 260,000 four- and five-year-olds that offers publicly funded, child-centred and developmentally appropriate learning has helped families save up to \$6,500 per child, per year, in child care costs.

Housing is also an important issue as we have to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a home they can afford. The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative has helped approximately 39,600 individuals and families obtain housing and approximately 115,600 households at risk of homelessness remain in their homes.

The government has also provided new supportive housing spaces as well as funding for housing assistance and support services to up to 6,000 individuals and family to break the cycle of chronic homelessness.

The province will continue to build on this progress in 2017 while exploring new ways to lift people out of poverty, so that everyone has the opportunity to contribute to and participate in a prosperous and inclusive Ontario.



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

EquiPass Available for Low-Income Residents

This past October, **Councillor Steven Blais**, Chair of the Transit Commission, and I announced the inclusion of a low-income transit pass in the 2017 City of Ottawa Budget. One month later, City Council approved our plan for the new pass. This was the largest one-time increase in financial support for transit customers in the City's history. The pass is valid for travel on all OC Transpo services, including Para Transpo, the O-Train Trillium Line and STO services.

Called EquiPass, it is now available to City of Ottawa residents whose household income falls below the low-income cut-off threshold, as set out annually by the Government of Canada. Once approved, eligible customers will be able to purchase the discounted pass for use as of April 1, 2017. It is priced at \$57 per month, a 50 per cent discount on a monthly adult transit pass. A single adult will save \$681 each year and a family of two will save \$1,344 annually.

The launch of the EquiPass application would not have been possible without the support and efforts of numerous community partner organizations like OC Transpo and Community and Social Services, who can also provide assistance to those who need help filling out the application form.

Eligible residents can get the EquiPass in three easy steps:

Apply: Obtain, fill out and submit the application forms. These are available online at octaroon.com, by mail (call **613 741-4390 (TTY 613 741-5280)** to request a copy) or in person at various locations across Ottawa, including OC Transpo Customer Service Centres, City of Ottawa Client Service Centres, City of Ottawa Public Libraries, City of Ottawa Community and Social Support Centres, and Community Health and Resource Centres. Applicants will receive a letter advising them of the status of their application within three weeks. **Set Your Discount:** Customers can bring their approval letter to any OC Transpo Customer Service Centre. A Customer Service Representative will set the EquiPass discount on a registered Presto card. Those who don't already have a Presto card can purchase one for \$6. **Buy:** Approved customers can purchase their monthly EquiPass online at prestocard.ca, by phone at **1-877-378-6123 (TTY 7-1-1)**, in person at an OC Transpo Customer Service Centre, or at select City of Ottawa Client Service Centres.



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

Beechwood Complete Street

Beechwood Avenue is an important artery that joins many communities together. With this in mind, the City of Ottawa is in the process of turning Beechwood Avenue into a complete street, with safer options for all modes of transportation. This is a step towards improving safety and helping Beechwood become a more thriving main street – priorities local residents expressed during consultations last year.

Last September, crews repainted the lines on Beechwood between Charlevoix/Springfield and Putman/Marier to include bicycle lanes, alternate-side parking and changes to and consolidation of some bus stops. Those lines will need to be re-painted as soon as possible after the snow season. The City will complete the next and final phase of this project this summer with minor construction to curbs in sections of Beechwood between the Vanier Parkway/Crichton and Springfield Road. Curbs will be rebuilt in three areas in order to facilitate the addition of raised cycle tracks, separating cyclists from vehicular traffic. The sections of cycle track will be linked by painted bike lanes, completing the east-west bikeway from Hemlock Road through the downtown. A cycle track will be added in the westbound direction between Springfield and MacKay, continuing through in front of the new Minto condominium west of MacKay Street. In the eastbound direction, a small section of cycle track will be added in the middle of the block east of the Vanier Parkway. Plans for these changes can be viewed on the City's website at ottawa.ca/beechwoodavenue.

Better Beechwood 2017

Last September, residents cast ballots for the type of physical infrastructure project they wanted to see on Beechwood in 2017. The choices were street art, seating/gathering spaces, and celebrating local history. Street art came out as the preferred option. "Brighten Up Beechwood" is the winning concept for our Better Beechwood 2017 project. We issued a call for proposals seeking artists' visions to bring this concept to life. A jury consisting of community members, local artists and representatives from the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area and my office will select a winning proposal for implementation in 2017 (pending technical review and City approvals). More details about this project can be found on my website, tobinussbaum.ca.

SCHOOL REPORTS



ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Rockcliffe Park Public School Wins 3rd Place in Kids Lit Regional Competition Held at Ashbury College

For the second year in a row, Rockcliffe Park Public School placed in the top three in the regional Kids Lit reading competition. On January 26, RPPS continued its strong presence by capturing third place amongst 13 schools entered. The quiz promotes reading and motivates readers. It builds teamwork and consensus building skills, and provides a meaningful and engaging activity for middle grade students, aged 10 to 13 years.

Principal **Shari Brodie** is a proud supporter of the Kids Lit competition, and Grade 6 teacher **Alex Alexopoulos** has been the team coach for the past two years.



ASHBURY COLLEGE



Ashbury continues to nurture its partnerships here in the nation's capital, including our relationship with the Forum for Young Canadians, an initiative born on the Ashbury campus 40 years ago. This year, two Ashbury students spent time engaging with peers from across the country at Forum as they took a deep dive into the political underpinnings of this country. We also cemented a partnership with Carleton University, which will allow our students to access some of the benefits of post-secondary learning in the form of library access, university credit courses for Grade 12 students and collaboration around co-op placements, lectures and events.

On a broader scale, we have started planning for the Round Square International Conference, which we will host in 2018, and which will bring 300 students from around the world to our campus and Ottawa. Ashbury is fortunate to have a variety of partnerships with organizations and institutions, both locally and nationally, that provide our students with the opportunity to think critically about issues that affect the world around them.

Access to these experiences at a young age instills a sense of curiosity and action that will extend beyond our campus perimeter.

National Rugby Tournament April 20 - 23

Ashbury will host student athletes from across Canada this month as we host the CAIS Rugby Tournament (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools). The majority of the games will take place at Carleton University, but, weather depending, Ashbury will hold the tournament finals for both boys and girls on its athletic field on April 23. Drop by to see some high calibre action on the pitch!

Parentscape, May 1: How to Raise an Adult

Join us on Monday, May 1 at 7:00 pm for a presentation by **Julie Lythcott-Haims**, author of "How to Raise an Adult" and former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford University. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for Ashbury's Refugee Sponsorship Initiative.



Springfest, May 13

Ashbury will welcome alumni and current families to its campus for Springfest on May 13. The day will include activities for all ages with a kids' zone, BBQ, rugby games and the always-fun colour run, where students will take to the streets around our campus.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Magnificent Musicians!

Elmwood was well represented at the Capital Region Musicfest and our musicians came away with outstanding commendations. Our Middle School Jazz Combo and the Grades 6, 7, 8 and Senior Concert Bands each earned three golds! The Grade 9 Jazz Combo earned three silvers. In addition, all of our Concert Bands and the Middle School Jazz Combo were invited to perform at the national-level, invitation-only Musicfest Canada on May 14 to 19, 2017. Congratulations to our musicians and their conductor, Elmwood Director of Music **Nicholas Gummesson**.



Mr. Gummesson and the Senior Concert Band at Capital Region Musicfest.

Make-A-Wish



Head of Nightingale House, Sydney Greenley '17, at the Nightingale Breakfast.

On Thursday, January 19, Nightingale House hosted its annual fundraiser in support of its House charity, Make-A-Wish Eastern Ontario.

Sydney Greenley '17, this year's Head of Nightingale, along with help from the Prefect team, organized a wonderful fundraising breakfast for the Elmwood community that raised \$2,361.

Elmwood Summer Camp Registration Now Open

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

Discovery Camps

With exciting new weekly themes such as NASA Space Camp, Circus Camp, Art-apalooza and Sleuth Academy, girls from Kindergarten to Grade 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, located here in Rockcliffe Park.

Elmwood Skills Academy

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

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

Ahead by a Century – Elmwood's 28th Annual Gala

On Saturday, April 22, join us for the party of the next century at our 28th Annual Elmwood Gala. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner, sip champagne, bid on superb auction items and hit the dance floor when "1945" takes the stage! Thank you to **Peter and Kelly Hudson**, Matching Sponsors, and **Jamilah Taib-Murray**, Gala Patron, for their leadership and support.

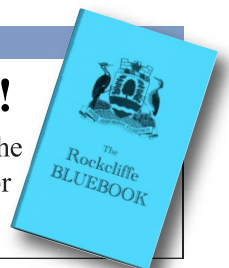
Visit www.elmwood.ca/gala for information and tickets.

Considering Elmwood for Your Daughter?

We invite you to visit the school for a private tour to learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. Please visit www.elmwood.ca for more information or contact the Admissions Office at 613 744-7783.

The Rockcliffe Bluebook 2017 Edition Will Be Available Soon!

The new Rockcliffe Bluebook will be ready for purchase in the Recreation Office, 360 Springfield Road, by the end of April. (Call 613 842-8578 to confirm opening hours.) As always, they will be \$15 each or two for \$25. For more information contact **Julie Beatty**, publisher, by email at beattyfam@aol.com.



RPRA MEMBERSHIP

RPRA Launches Spring Membership Drive



In April and May, a friendly RPRA Board member and neighbour will come to your door if you haven't had a chance to renew your RPRA membership for 2017. He or she will be happy to answer your questions about the RPRA and encourage you to join or renew.

Having a significant percentage of Rockcliffe residents as members of the RPRA increases our credibility with the City to enable us to represent your interests. Your membership dues also help pay for special events, such as All-Candidates meetings, communications, and maintenance and enhancement of our public spaces and environment. In addition, members receive email notifications on pertinent issues in a timely manner.

Membership is a very affordable \$25 per family per year. We look forward to welcoming more members aboard.

HOSERS

New Rockcliffe Hosers Board Continues Rockcliffe Field House Project

As of March 7, a new Board of Directors of the Rockcliffe Hosers has been appointed, chaired by **Shawn Malhotra**, to resume work on the Rockcliffe field house project.

The project will consist of two phases: first, the building of an all-purpose outdoor recreational sports pad; and second, the creation of a year-round community field house that excites and inspires our neighbourhood. A geotechnical study will be undertaken this spring in anticipation of building the sports pad in the fall of 2017. The field house is in the design phase to determine the look and feel of a dynamic new community resource that meets realistic fundraising budget constraints. Our greatest appreciation goes to **Brian Montgomery** and the previous Board members for their ongoing dedication. We look forward to engaging the neighbourhood in this project and seeing its fulfillment.

*Shawn and Louise Malhotra
on behalf of the Rockcliffe Hosers Board of Directors*

REC CENTRE

Once Upon a Time... The Story of Bupa and Kaito

Bupa and Kaito were eight-year-old twins when they arrived in Ottawa on a cold January day. The family was so new to this country, they knew no one. They'd never experienced freezing temperatures, so they didn't venture out much! The children just stayed home all the time, playing by themselves and becoming isolated. Even though Bupa and Kaito went to school, they struggled to make friends because of the language barrier. The families they'd met through infrequent special events at the embassy were all very kind, but most lived in other neighbourhoods, making it difficult for the kids to see each other outside of the scheduled events. Bupa and Kaito became sad and lonely and missed their homeland.

One day in early April, the postman delivered The Rockcliffe News to their door. Inside the newsletter, their mother discovered a flyer promoting summer camp programs at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre. The community centre would be running interesting and exciting specialty camps, just around the corner from their house. So, one afternoon she headed over to the registration office and signed up the boys for Taekwondo, Science, LEGO Robotics and Magic. Bupa and Kaito were sure to have fun!

By mid-summer, Bupa and Kaito were communicating better and had met other kids who lived in their neighbourhood. They were often invited to go swimming at the Pond on weekends with their new friends. Since there were no lifeguards, Bupa and Kaito's parents always accompanied them, meeting other neighbourhood moms and dads. This created a social outlet for the adults as well, complete with backyard barbecues and movie nights. Camp had really turned it all around for the entire family. They'd all made new friends. The boys had also learned new skills while having fun. The children were feeling happier and more confident. By September, Bupa and Kaito were ready to go back to school. The summer had given them the boost they needed to better adapt to their changed environment.

If you can relate to this story, or know of families who might, call us about the recreation activities at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road, **613 842-8578**. Drop by and see us on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1:30 to 4:00 pm in the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield Road. Good things await you!

Please Note: The Community Centre office will be closed from April 14 to April 26.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES



ONEC Puts New Spin on Summer Day Camps

For the first time, the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) will introduce brigade canoeing to its 2017 Summer Day Camp programs that run from July 3 to August 5. ONEC received a gift of six brigade canoes from the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre in 2016 and will be one of the only sports facilities in Ottawa to offer this program.

The ever-popular camps have traditionally offered a combination of rowing, sailing and tennis but the on the water program has now been expanded. “We’re keen to broaden our Summer Day Camp programming,” said **Richard Vincent**, ONEC Rowing Director. “We want to give our campers a taste of Canadian heritage and build team spirit by introducing them to traditional brigade canoes. Paddle boarding is also increasingly popular.”

Image credit: Keint-he Winery and Vineyards



The brigade canoes will be used in two afternoon programs entitled Initiation to Sculling and Watersports, which is for children from 9 to 12 years,

and a Crew Sculling and Brigade Canoeing program for youth from 12 to 17 years. Weather permitting, at least one excursion will be made along the scenic Ottawa River for youth campers. Each program will still include a sculling component but participants in the Crew Sculling and Brigade Canoeing program must have successfully completed Learn to Scull Journey 1 or be taking the morning Learn-to-Scull course concurrently to participate.

Registration for all ONEC Summer Day Camps is now open but space is limited. Visit www.onec.ca for detailed information. The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club is one of Ottawa’s oldest sports clubs and offers recreational and competitive sports opportunities in tennis, sailing and sculling for adults and youth.

Claire Schofield



Learn. Improve. Have a Ball at the RLTC!

As the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) gears up for its 95th tennis season, we are excited and admittedly revelling in our history. This classic tennis club has been a gathering point for neighbours since the 1920s, brought together by their love for the game and the wonderful setting.



At the Club, players of any level can choose from group clinics, lessons with our Club pros, round robins and tournaments. And for decades, parents have trusted the RLTC to help their children develop tennis fundamentals and a life-long passion for tennis.

The spring Junior After-School Tennis program begins on May 15 and runs for six weeks. And back for the summer is Coach **Jack Warren**. He’ll be running the very popular weekly summer tennis camps starting June 26. For more info on these programs, email juniorpro@rltc.ca, and to register, see the Club website at www.rltc.ca. Registration is open to junior members and non-members.

With all this tennis on the courts, there’s plenty of friendship and fun at the Club for all. And this is where the memories kick in. There’s the annual Diplomatic Tournament, during which Club members battle the Diplomats for the title, breakfast at Wimbledon, BBQ nights, tennis socials and more.

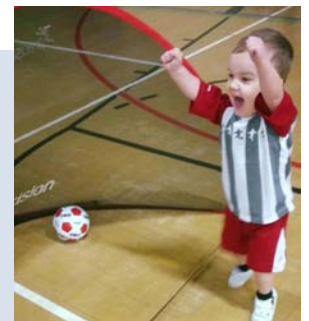
We invite neighbours, colleagues and friends to join us at the annual Open House on Saturday, May 13 (rain date May 14). Meet our Club manager, **Elaine Courteau**, her staff and our Board, enjoy an organized round robin and learn more about our adult and junior tennis programs. Join us and be tempted by the benefits of an RLTC membership!

Sarah Baxter



Little Kickers Comes to Ottawa

‘Little Kickers’ is a pre-school soccer program for children 18 months to 7 years that provides a positive introduction to the sport for pre-schoolers in a friendly, fun-filled, non-competitive environment. Classes are held on Saturday mornings in the Rockcliffe Park Public School gym and will move outdoors at the end of May. The programs run throughout the year so there are no specified start and end dates. For class descriptions go to www.littlekickers.ca/ourclasses.aspx. For more info, contact **Megan Inskip** at 613 806-6325 or minskip@littlekickers.ca, or check out Little Kickers Ottawa on Facebook.



END NOTES



Walk or Run for a New Start! Help Make Refugees Feel Welcome in Canada

There are many ways we can show our support for refugees and welcome them into our community. The Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO) invites you to join OCISO's "Run for a New Start" fundraising team of walkers and runners and train for one of the 2km, 5km, 10km, 21km or 42km races as part of the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend, May 27-28. This year our volunteer fundraising team has set an ambitious goal of raising \$20,000 to support OCISO's increasingly important work with refugee and immigrant youth here in Ottawa. We invite interested runners and walkers to sign up and join our "Run for a New Start" team. Volunteers who commit to raising \$100 will receive one of our distinctive T-shirts! For registration info, please contact OCISO's volunteer coordinator, **David Rain**, at drain@ociso.org, or visit ociso.org/run-for-a-new-start. Thank you for helping refugees and immigrants feel welcomed and supported in our City!

Spring is Here, So It's Clean-up Time!



Spring is here, which means that it's time for the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Village Clean-up. Join us on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 am to noon at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall. Bring the whole family!

We will provide garbage bags, plastic gloves, rakes and refreshments. You will choose a street or area to clean (such as your own road, the Jubilee Garden, Village Green or Community Hall), and then head out for a couple hours of soul-satisfying neighbourhood beautification. We will sign student forms for volunteer hours. Rain date is Sunday, April 30 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

If you can volunteer, please contact **Joan Kellett** by email at Kellett7540@rogers.com by Wednesday, April 26 to confirm.

See you there!

Please Note: Ottawa Race Weekend 2017 is May 27-28 and, once again, Rockcliffe Park will be cordoned off for runners on Sunday, May 28. 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. RPRAs members will be notified by email as additional information becomes available.



Former Village Resident Mary Raymont Turns 100 Years Young!

Former Village resident **Mary Raymont** celebrated her 100th birthday on January 17, 2017. Friends attended a party to celebrate, **Mayor Jim Watson** presented a Letter of Congratulations from the **Queen**, and **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum** read citations from the **Governor General** and **Prime Minister**.

For over 68 years Mary has enjoyed walking in the Village – from using a “pram” for her two young sons in the 1950s to her trusty walker in 2017. In fact, a walk in the Rockeries has been a part of her spring and summer routine since 1949. Living on Maple Lane and then on Park Road, she enjoyed all seasonal activities. She instructed her children to ski in Rockcliffe Park (when there were no trees on the hills!) and skated at Rockcliffe Park Public School. Mary's children all attended local schools – Peter and David at RPPS and Liz at Elmwood. Mary was an early supporter of the bench and tree planting programmes and still checks up on our Dad's bench every spring, which overlooks a tree planted for his 90th birthday on the Village Green. A very happy birthday and congratulations to Mary!

Notes from Liz Raymont Heatherington (Village resident), and Peter and David Raymont (in Toronto) Photo by Lois Siegel.

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 2

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