



# The Rockcliffe News

August 2014

## 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

### AUGUST

- 6 Wednesday 6:30 pm.....Public Hearing of the Committee of Adjustment regarding development of property at 575 Old Prospect Road, Council Chambers at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive
- 16 Tuesday .....Lumière Festival; see [www.lumiereottawa.com](http://www.lumiereottawa.com) for event location and schedule
- 17 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPR Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 23 Saturday 4 to 9 pm .....Penny Palooza Fundraiser Concerts in the Park, Manor Park Community Centre\*

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Thursday 5:30 to 7 pm...Ashbury College Community Open House, 362 Mariposa\*
- 17 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPR Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 24 Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: Paul Wells, Political Editor, Maclean's, on "Stephen Harper's Canada," Community Hall\*
- 25 Thursday, 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Creating a Beautiful Garden: Suzanne Patry, owner of Whitehouse Perennials, will guide your garden transformation, Community Hall\*

### OCTOBER

- 1 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 7 Tuesday, 6:30 pm.....Experts@Elmwood: Speaker: Dr. JoAnn Deak, educator and psychologist, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista\*
- 8 Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: Michael Chong, MP, on "Reforming Your Parliament: Why It Matters," Community Hall\*
- 15 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPR Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 17 Friday, time TBA.....Community All-Candidates Meeting, Queen Juliana Hall, Rockcliffe Park Public School
- 18 Saturday .....Elmwood School Fall Open House, 261 Buena Vista\*
- 30 Thursday, 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: The Adventures of a Garden Tour Planner: Margaret Daley Plouffe of Heatherington & Associates shares some of her favourite tours, Community Hall\*

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

### VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 4

The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPR), 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.

Newsletter Editor: Cynthia Hamady, [editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca)

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With the late arrival of summer, it comes as somewhat of a surprise to realize how much of it is already behind us. We have, however, had our fair share of glorious sunny days coupled with abundant rainfall to promote and sustain new growth. We look forward to the remaining days of summer and to enjoying its array of outdoor activities.

This month, I would like to discuss some developments with respect to our Heritage Conservation District (HCD). But first, a bit of background. In the late 1990s, in anticipation of amalgamation with the City of Ottawa, the Village Council recommended that Rockcliffe Park be designated as a HCD. The purpose was to protect the special characteristics, qualities and values of the Village, including its narrow winding streets, variety of architectural styles, generous lot sizes and, in particular, the importance of its landscaped setting.

A study was carried out, information regarding heritage designation was circulated to all Village residents, and public consultations were held. Support for the initiative was unanimous, and in 1998 Rockcliffe Park was designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. A fundamental part of the designation were the Guidelines to manage the HCD. Over the years, the Management Guidelines have provided a framework to protect the HCD but they have not infrequently been ignored in development applications. In particular, they have proven to be inadequate with respect to “massing” – that is to say, the replacement of smaller homes that fit their lots and are in harmony with their neighbours with “monster homes” that dwarf their neighbours and are out of proportion with the streetscape.

A more recent development relates to lot severance. An application to sever a lot on Old Prospect Road would result in two lots that are deficient in size under the Zoning By-law – one significantly so. The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association has developed a Lot Severance Policy which opposes severance if lot sizes are deficient and adds that new development should be in harmony with adjacent properties. The application has also been opposed by the owners of adjacent properties as well as by our Councillor, Peter Clark. In spite of this, City staff recommended approval, and although the Built Heritage Sub-Committee rejected this recommendation, Planning Committee approved it without debate, as did Council the following day by a vote of 6-1 (Peter Clark dissenting). The issue now goes to the Committee of Adjustment, which deals with severances and minor variances.

It is critical to preserving the character of our Heritage District that severance requirements, Management Guidelines and By-laws be observed. Otherwise, there will be a cumulative steady erosion of the qualities we wish to protect. In the case of new construction, there should be no need for variances.

In short, from a heritage perspective, the Management Guidelines were ignored by the City. This raises a simple question: if this is the case, why bother having them?

This question is timely since we are about to embark on a new exercise to develop a Management Plan for our HCD under the recent Ontario Heritage Act, which I have mentioned in previous reports. In principle, this should provide a welcome opportunity to update and strengthen the framework for protection of the Heritage District. The City, which prepares the first draft of the Plan, expects to have it ready in the near future, with public consultation to take place as early as this fall.

In preparing this new Management Plan, we will need to ensure that it addresses the shortcomings of our current Management Guidelines and is respected in its application. You will be kept informed as this new initiative proceeds.

With best wishes for the remainder of the summer.

*Brian Dickson*

## VILLAGE NEWS



### Rockcliffe Park Resident Appointed a Justice of the Peace

**Anna Blauveldt**, a former Director and Vice-President of the RPR, was formally sworn in as a Justice of the Peace of the Ontario Court

of Justice on July 9. The ceremony, at times solemn and at times humorous, saw Ms. Blauveldt welcomed to the bench by representatives of the Law Society of Ottawa-Carleton, the City of Ottawa's Legal Department, the Law Society of Ontario-East Division and the Defense Lawyer's Association, among others.

All the legal representatives paid tribute to Ms. Blauveldt's distinguished career in the federal public service that culminated in her appointment as Canada's Ambassador to Iceland. Several of them even mentioned her service on our community association. Justices of the Peace represent the first contact that many people have with the legal system. The Ontario Courts website states, "The judicial functions, powers and duties of a justice of the peace are set out in legislation and case law. Two of the more important legislative Acts which confer jurisdiction upon a justice of the peace are the Criminal Code and the Ontario Provincial Offences Act...Respecting criminal law, justices of the peace preside over virtually all judicial interim release (bail) hearings in the province and the majority of criminal remand courts. They also preside over other criminal hearings. They receive informations (the document which commences a criminal proceeding), confirm or consider the issuance of process by either a summons or a warrant and are responsible for receiving and considering the denial or issuance of search warrants and other matters of criminal process.

Justices of the peace exercise jurisdiction over the majority of provincial regulatory offences and municipal by-law prosecutions. As in criminal proceedings, justices of the peace receive informations and warrant applications, consider the issuance of process and preside at hearings and trials."

Another lawyer gave her a list of terms that he had heard "clients" use to address Justices of the Peace, including Your Honour, Your Highness – and even Your Majesty.

In her response to the welcomes, Ms Blauveldt noted the support of her family and friends in this endeavour and said that she was looking forward to this new role.

## SPEAKERS PROGRAM

### Upcoming Speakers

**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 Wells*

##### **"Stephen Harper's Canada"**

The Political Editor of Maclean's and author of the best-selling book "The Longer I'm Prime Minister" paints a portrait of our polarizing prime minister, his thinking, and how he wins elections.

**Wednesday, September 24 at 8:00 pm**



#### *Michael Chong*

##### **"Reforming Your Parliament: Why It Matters"**

Member of Parliament Michael Chong discusses the Reform Act he introduced in April to give greater power to members of Parliament to hold their party leaders to account, and so strengthen our democracy.

**Wednesday, October 8 at 8:00 pm**



#### *Andrew Cohen*

##### **"Two Days in June: John F. Kennedy and the 48 Hours that Made History"**

Andrew Cohen, author, professor and Postmedia columnist, discusses his new book, the untold story of two momentous days in which President Kennedy pivots boldly on the two biggest issues of his generation.

**Wednesday, November 26 at 8:00 pm**

# ENVIRONMENT

## ... And Now There Are Four – Again

In 2000, just prior to amalgamation, the Environment Committee, under the leadership of **Ann Kelly**, negotiated the plantings in the Princess Triangle at the intersection of Princess Avenue and Lisgar Road. Why negotiate? Because the land, while within the confines of the former Village, belongs to the National Capital Commission. Four Sugar Maples along Lisgar Road and several Grey Birches and a grove of Red-osier Dogwoods were planted in the interior of the triangle along with spring bulbs. This planting complements the heritage plaque located close to the back entrance of the Governor General's residence.

During the reconstruction of Lisgar and Princess, two of the Sugar Maples were damaged and they eventually died. So, once again, we needed to negotiate with the NCC to plant new trees – this time to move them farther away from the Lisgar Road to avoid any damage from winter snow removal activities and from cars that park on the grass during activities on the GG's grounds.

Thanks to a grant from the Village Foundation to the RPRA, the Sugar Maples were replaced by two smaller, but never-

theless magnificent, specimens from Manotick Tree Movers. The work started at 7:00 am on June 27 with the arrival of a tree spade to dig the hole for the first tree. At 10:00 am, the first tree arrived, its leaves and trunk encased in a protective wrapping, its roots and surrounding earth from the nursery held by the claws of the tree spade. In short order, the tree was lowered into the ground, with **Ken Stevens**, the driver-operator, checking carefully to ensure it was absolutely vertical.



Although **Mary Pratte** and I knew about tree spades, this was the first time either of us had seen one in action and it was truly a slick operation. Mary will water the trees with her garden hose throughout this summer and next and we thank her for that generous gesture.

The second part of the Village Foundation grant for this project will be used to prune the dogwoods so that they once again show the red stems for which they are named. That work will take place this fall.

*Iola Price, Chair  
Environment Committee*

## ... And Here's How It "Went Down" (Into the Ground):



Top row from top left:  
1. Digging the hole for the tree. 2. The tree arrives. 3. Spade holding tree ready for planting.

Bottom row from left:  
4. Tree partly in the hole. 5. Tree in hole; removing the spade. 6. Tree in; checking for verticality.

Center photo above: The two new trees join the two original ones. And now there are four – again.

*Photos by Iola Price*



# BLAST from the PAST

## From the Annual Report of 1975-76: Traffic

*This is the third installment in a series of extracts taken from the Annual Reports of the former Village of Rockcliffe Park.*

The former Village established a Traffic Committee in 1974 or 1975. This article summarizes the dialogue and issues, concerns and recommendations published in the Village's Annual Reports over the period 1945 to 2000. The Annual Reports of the RPRA made note of some of the concerns about traffic but there was no formal Traffic Committee established post-amalgamation.

Like the weather, everyone complains about traffic. And, like the weather, it seems that we can do little or nothing about it. But that doesn't mean that the residents of Rockcliffe Park didn't try. Residents' historical concerns have not substantially changed over the years. Issues raised at the Annual General Meetings and with the Traffic Committees included increased traffic volume and flow, speeding, failure to stop at signed intersections (rolling stops were, and continue to be, common) and the constant parade of large tour buses through quiet residential streets (heavier than school buses and destructive of the pavement).

The Traffic Committee's recommendation to prohibit large buses was implemented and has, for the most part, been successful. A suggestion that a 40 km/hour speed limit be put in place for the entire Village was implemented only for certain streets (Princess, Lisgar, Cloverdale, Mariposa, Buena Vista and Sandridge-Hillsdale), and as a result of this, excessive speeding continued to be a problem in subsequent years.

In lieu of speed bumps, the Council took the opportunity during sewer and road reconstruction episodes to implement traffic calming measures by narrowing some streets, introducing gentle curves and planting trees as close to the road edge as possible.

In recent years, concern about new developments (Rockcliffe Airbase, Beechwood Avenue, the proposed Interprovincial Bridge) together with the reconstruction of the Rockcliffe Parkway have led to concerns about cut-through traffic.

Shortly after amalgamation, the late **Max Reid** introduced a resident-run systematic series of intersection traffic counts at specific times, dates and places to measure traffic volume. He cleared his methodology with City of Ottawa traffic specialists, so that the data would be acceptable to them.

While the data exist in fine detail (15-minute intervals for vehicles going east, west, north and south), the following summary table of data is revealing. All data were collected from 7:30 to 8:30 am in late April or early May.

	2003	2005-1	2005-2	2006	2007	2008	2011
Springfield at Mariposa	402	527	635	570	626	655	
Springfield at Buena Vista		427	513	484	424	433	
Glenwood			179	130	79	71	
Lansdowne S at Hemlock/Beechwood							151

Further analysis of these recent data would be an interesting exercise; external factors, such as construction outside Village boundaries, might explain some of the year-to-year changes, plus an increase in the number of pupils attending the three local schools and those outside our boundaries who are driven there and back by their parents.

**Reminder:** Become a member of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association. Membership is on a household/family basis and remains at \$25. Fees help to fund, among other things, our very informative website, the evening Speakers Program, the children's soccer program, maintenance of the RPPS playing field and running track, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, and the annual Children's Christmas Party.

You may find the renewal form on our website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca). Cheques should be made payable to the RPRA and may be deposited in the RPRA freestanding mailbox at 380 Springfield Road, left at the Community Police Centre (360 Springfield Road) c/o one of the recreation staff members, or mailed to RPRA, 380-A Springfield Road, Rockcliffe, ON K1M 0K7. Can't remember if you paid? To find out, contact [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

# ROCKCLIFFE AIRBASE REDEVELOPMENT

## Canada Lands Process Winds Up Public Advisory Group Work

Following the information session that Canada Lands Company (CLC) hosted for Rockcliffe Park and neighbours in April at the Community Hall, I attended the ninth and final Public Advisory Group (PAG) meeting in early June. Our main task at these meetings had been to review the documents and drawings and to provide our comments to CLC on how they could be improved and, on several occasions, to choose between options. At the ninth meeting, we reviewed the latest draft preferred Community Design Plan (CDP); specifically, the updates to it from the previous draft. Comments we made on it will be incorporated into the draft preferred CDP that will be sent to the City over the summer or early fall, along with all the technical design documents that CLC has been preparing in parallel with the CDP. Once that happens, CLC's involvement in leading this part of the processes ceases and the City takes over. The City has a pre-defined set of procedures for dealing with CDPs, the Secondary Plan that falls out of the CDP process and the Official Plan Amendment that changes the land use designation so that development can proceed. The Secondary Plan and Official Plan amendment ensure that development proceeds according to the guidelines in the CDP. Also required are the Zoning By-law and the Conditions of Subdivision Approval. There will be times during these stages during which residents of Ottawa will have opportunities to provide additional comments and I hope that Rockcliffe Park residents will continue to follow this development.

As outlined at the April Rockcliffe meeting, the development will take place in three phases, with phase 1 focused in the southeast corner, phase 2 on the western side and phase 3 in the northeast sector with a small spur to the southeast. Within each of these areas, smaller parcels of serviced land will be sold to developers who agree to CLC's strict design and performance guidelines; CLC stays involved until each parcel is fully developed – ensuring that the developer adheres to the CLC vision. CLC projects 920 residential units in phase 1 and a planned-for 738 jobs. At the end of phase 3, there will be almost 5,200 residential units and a planned-for 2,640 jobs in the office, institutional and retail buildings on the site.

**Traffic:** For many of us on the PAG, traffic and transportation are major issues. How will our communities be affected and will there be adequate public transit to minimize traffic leaving and entering the new development? There is no mistaking the fact that there will be an increase in traffic; it will run on the existing road network and it will be felt at

rush hour in spite of the fact that efforts will be made to encourage employment on the site and to have public transit running to the site.

Delcan, the CLC traffic consultant, has forecast how traffic in and out of the development will be distributed. For instance, Delcan assumes that during the morning peak rush at full site development in 15-20 years, there might be 900 vehicles per hour (VPH) entering and 900 VPH leaving the site and during the afternoon peak, 100 VPH entering and 100 VPH leaving (afternoon rush hours are generally more extended). Approximately 50% will enter the site from the west – 20% from the Rockcliffe Parkway, 15% from Hemlock Road and 15% from Montreal Road. For Hemlock/Beechwood in phase 1, Delcan anticipates an additional 50 VPH in the morning peak and 45 in the afternoon (this is a two-way total). At full development, those numbers will rise to an additional 255 and 290 VPH respectively.

The June 2013 Delcan survey conducted at the intersection of Hemlock and Lansdowne showed a two-way total of 1,300 and 1,580 VPH during the morning and afternoon peaks, respectively. Using the Delcan data on projected increases, there could be a theoretical 1,600 and 1,900 VPH in the two peaks in 15-20 years. Part of this projected traffic increase could be due to the proposed opening of the Hemlock Road gate at the beginning of phase 2 in 5-7 years. Although it is no consolation, traffic increases for other roads in the area are projected to be higher.

Other issues with which the PAG dealt were the amount and type of greenspace (natural areas and parks), preservation of significant trees on the site, the potential for on-site water retention and groundwater recharge, building heights and massing, recreation, road widths and road types, including the potential for roundabouts instead of street lights at some intersections, transit, street lighting, building energy conservation options, opportunities for retail and options to make the new community a walkable and pleasant place to live and work. The PAG was also assured that the word "Rockcliffe" will not be included in the new development's name.

Log onto the CLC website [www.clcrockcliffe.ca](http://www.clcrockcliffe.ca) and register to receive email updates by clicking on the quick Contact section. Facebook users can "like" the CLC at <http://www.facebook.com/CLCRockcliffe>.

*Iola Price represented the RPRA on the Public Advisory Group that provided advice and comment to the CLC during design phases of the redevelopment of the Rockcliffe Airbase.*



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

## The Ottawa River Action Plan

Throughout my travels around our City, I have the opportunity to meet many people; some of them call our City home while others are visiting from abroad. One of my favourite questions to ask them is: what is their favorite attraction in Ottawa?

The answers I hear most – Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal, and the Byward Market – all share the commonality of being close to the Ottawa River.

Whether called the Ottawa River, Rivière des Outaouais or Kichesippi, the waterway on the banks of which our national capital was built has been a gathering place, the subject and inspiration for artists, and a constant source of beauty in our City's history.

With the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017 approaching, the need to protect the health and vibrance of this waterway for future generations is increasingly clear.

That is why in 2010 Council approved the Ottawa River Action Plan (ORAP), an aggressive and comprehensive plan for the Ottawa River consisting of 17 projects that set out to:

- Maintain a healthy aquatic ecosystem;
- Ensure compliance with and exceed regulatory requirements;
- Optimize recreational use and reduce beach closures;
- Develop a long-term strategy to guide and prioritize actions.

Working together with our federal and provincial counterparts, we have made tremendous progress. We have reduced combined sewer overflows significantly in recent years – by more than 80% – but there is still more work to do.

Last year, despite our progress, 205 million litres of untreated waste and waste water still made its way into our City's most important waterway, and a big storm this June caused a large overflow. It is troubling that in the 21st century we still have raw sewage overflows going into a treasured waterway, flowing right behind the Parliament Buildings nonetheless.

Our current infrastructure is unable to cope with the volume of waste and waste water produced after heavy rainfalls which causes these sewer overflows. To prevent this, the third phase of ORAP includes building the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel, which will greatly expand our ability to store combined sewer overflow that can then be treated and returned safely to the Ottawa River. This project would help stop almost all raw sewage from flowing into the Ottawa River.



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

## Daniel Therrien – Canada's New Privacy Commissioner

Last June, Members of Parliament had to vote on the appointment of **Daniel Therrien** as Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

The Official Opposition (NDP) was very critical of the appointment, stating that Mr. Therrien's longtime role as a senior government advisor on security and cyber security issues meant that he would constantly be in a state of conflict of interest.

I voted for Mr. Therrien for the following reasons: I believe our public service demonstrates a high degree of professionalism and it gives the government the best possible advice based on the legislation governing our departments and institutions. I also believe that public servants apply this same degree of professionalism when they move to another position and carry out a different mandate, such as that of Privacy Commissioner.



In his first appearance before a Commons committee, Mr. Therrien recommended that Bill C-13 (Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act) be split in two, contrary to the approach taken by the Minister of Justice.

In my opinion, this recommendation is proof that Mr. Therrien will demonstrate professionalism in his new capacity, and that is why I am very pleased to have supported his appointment.

# SCHOOL REPORTS

## Elmwood School



The Class of 2014 gathered in Elmwood's historic front hall for their graduation photo.

### Elmwood's Class of 2014 Ready for the Future

"You are a remarkable group of young women. You are highly intelligent and you work incredibly hard – the ideal combination. You are talented, and certainly not afraid to speak your minds. I have been impressed by the kind and caring leadership you've shown in the school, and I see that the younger students really look up to you. Thank you for your unique contribution to Elmwood. We will certainly miss you next year."

Headmistress **Cheryl Boughton** shared these words with the thirty-seven young women of the Class of 2014 who sat on the stage at Elmwood's Senior School Closing Ceremony on June 13.

Based on their impressive successes at Elmwood, the graduates are sure to excel at university as well. The class of 37 students has been offered entrance scholarships totaling \$860,000 and 97% of them were offered entrance scholarships to university. Eighty-three per cent are considered Ontario scholars because they had a final average of 80% or greater, and 100% of the graduates were offered admission to post-secondary institutions.

The graduates will be studying a diverse range of subjects in the fall. They range from forensic science to chemical engineering, from criminal justice and criminology to architecture, from music to marine biology. Many of the graduates will be studying at excellent schools across Canada, and some are going even further, studying in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Congratulations, Class of 2014, and best wishes as you start your next chapter!

### Accolades for Our Actresses!

Elmwood School's senior theatre program proudly presented **Paul Ledoux's** *The Secret Garden*, adapted from the classic novel by **Frances Hodgson Burnett** this spring. The production was well received by audiences and was nominated in the Capital Cappies Best Play category.

Elmwood Theatre also received seven additional nominations, and two of our actresses took home the trophy in their respective categories: **Olivia Cassarramona** won for Supporting Actress in a Play and **Louisa James-Beswick** was named Lead Actress in a Play. Congratulations to all the nominees, as well as Elmwood Theatre's entire cast and crew!

### Save the Date:

#### Experts@Elmwood

**Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 pm**

Elmwood is pleased to welcome **Dr. JoAnn Deak**, author of *Your Fantastic Elastic Brain* and *How Girls Thrive*, among others, as part of the School's annual speaker series. Dr. Deak, an educator and psychologist, has an unparalleled ability to demystify the complex issues of child development, learning, identity formation and brain research. This event is open to the community, and there is no charge to attend.

#### Fall Open House

**Saturday, October 18**

Come visit our campus, take a school tour and learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. If you can't attend this event but would like to schedule a private tour, please call the admissions department. For more information about applying to Elmwood, please visit [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca) or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.

# SCHOOL REPORTS



## Congratulations to the Class of 2014

Ashbury's school year officially wrapped up in June with ceremonies commemorating the graduations of both the Grade 8 and Grade 12 classes.

Junior School parents and students gathered in the Anderson gymnasium on June 12 for a celebration of achievement. The evening began with the presentation of multiple academic awards, followed by diplomas to the talented Grade 8 students who are now ready for the challenges of Senior School.



*Ashbury's Grade 8 students celebrate their graduation on June 12 by throwing their school blazers in the air.*

On Friday, June 13, our Grade 12 graduates (*photo at top*) gathered in Maclaren Hall for the annual alumni pinning ceremony. Members of Ashbury's accomplished alumni



*An Ashbury alumnus pins a Grade 12 student to commemorate the transition from Ashbury student to Ashbury alumni.*

community bestowed Ashbury pins on each of the 138 graduates, welcoming them into the alumni fold. Head of School **Norman Southward** addressed the graduates and reminded them of their responsibility as Ashbury alumni. He encouraged them to retain their strong ties with the school, and to capitalize on the memories, friendships and connections associated with an Ashbury education.

Finally, on Saturday, June 14, hundreds of students, parents and staff gathered on the front lawn of the school to pay tribute to the Class of 2014. The morning was cool but bright, and the graduating class walked through the school's new not-quite-complete Creative Learning Centre before taking their seats. Mr. Southward welcomed the audience and introduced **Martin Parizeau**, chair of Ashbury's Board of Governors, and school captain **Colin Malone**, who each addressed the crowd. The awards portion of the ceremony included recognizing academic achievement across the Senior School, with recipients picking up carefully chosen books along with their plaques and prizes.

*Continued on next page*

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



## Vandalism is a Crime!

Recent incidents of vandalism in the Village – egg-throwing and graffiti – have left some Rockcliffe residents wondering whether such things should be reported to the police. Well, the answer is definitely “YES.” Vandalism and graffiti are crimes, and should be reported. People have sometimes been reluctant to call the police over minor incidents, thinking it’s not a good use of police resources. That’s no longer an issue because reports can now be filed online, provided that:

- the damage, or lost or stolen property, is less than \$5,000;
- no threats or violence were involved;
- there are no witnesses to interview or evidence to collect.

To see the complete guidelines and/or to file a report, go to <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>. All reports are given a report number and reviewed by police, who will follow up if necessary. There’s still the option of reporting by phone if you prefer, or for more serious matters, you should call **613 236-1222 ext. 7300**. Although each individual incident may be minor, the accumulated reports form a body of data for analysis which is potentially very valuable to the police. So, vandalism, petty theft, etc. – let’s report everything. Each report is another data point!



The egged houses all seem to be on corner lots in Rockcliffe Park and Lindenlea, suggesting that bicycles might have been used, or perhaps the culprits egged and then ran around the corner so they would not be seen. Those living on corners should be especially vigilant.

Also, the local supermarkets have been asked to tell teenagers buying eggs in the evening that their faces are being recorded on the stores’ video surveillance tapes and that would identify them if there were reports of egging.

To discourage graffiti, police recommend increased lighting and visibility, especially motion-detector lights, and planting shrubs or thorny plants to limit access to tempting walls. Graffiti-resistant paint is available if a particular spot is targeted repeatedly.

The steering committee for Neighbourhood Watch groups across Ottawa, part of Ottawa Police Services, has a new website, [www.onwec.com](http://www.onwec.com). It promotes cooperation between neighbourhood watch groups on the same principles as the individual programs: improved communications, and looking out for one another. For instance, the Quartier Vanier people have expertise in dealing with graffiti. If you need their help, let me know. Our own Neighbourhood Watch program is well-established, but still needs more help. If you don’t know who your Block Captain is, or wish to volunteer, please contact me by email at [rpranw@gmail.com](mailto:rpranw@gmail.com) or by phone at **613 366-6793**.

*Kay James  
Rockcliffe Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator*

## ASHBURY COLLEGE *Continued from page 9*

A special tribute was paid to **Randall Coles**, a mathematics teacher retiring after 30 years at Ashbury. Mr. Coles is a highly-regarded instructor and advisor, most notably for his work with the school’s drama and musical theatre productions. He received a standing ovation from students and staff, all of whom will miss his contributions to the school.

The distribution of diplomas capped off the morning’s events, with smiles, best wishes and photos of the new graduates. The graduates now turn their sights to the future, as they head out to 42 universities around the world. Eighty-two per cent of graduates this year received a scholarship offer to university and collectively accepted \$1 million in scholarships for their first year of studies. Forty-four per cent will study in arts programs, 28% in science and engineer-

ing, 24% in business and commerce and 4% in fine arts. We wish each and every one in this impressive group well as they continue along their path of learning.

## New Addition to Campus Complete

The new Creative Learning Centre’s opening will coincide with Ashbury’s school opening in September and promises to enhance and enrich existing learning spaces and arts programs. The community has been both incredibly supportive – and patient – as the final touches are put on this exciting initiative. We look forward to showcasing the building on **Thursday, September 4**, at our **Community Open House** from **5:30 to 7 pm**. Please join us for the celebration.

# COMING OF AGE IN THE VILLAGE: A LOOK BACK

*This article is the third of a series of reminiscences of life in Rockcliffe Park that will appear periodically in this newsletter. The author, Gerald Green, moved to Rockcliffe Park with his parents in 1932 and attended RPPS and Ashbury. In 1952 he married Eleanor Mackenzie, also of Rockcliffe, and had three children; they lived in Manor Park but moved back to Rockcliffe in 1972. Gerald earned an Engineering Degree at the University of Michigan and a Master's Degree in Economics at Columbia University in New York. An economist, he worked at the Department of Industry, Trade & Commerce and External Affairs, with diplomatic postings in Washington, DC and Canberra, Australia. Gerald grew up on Minto Place and lived on Howick Street until 2012, when he moved to New Edinburgh Square. He passed away in December 2013.*

## ***In this installment: Non-academics in the Rockcliffe Park Public School in the 1930s.***

On what might be called the non-academic side, we were given the occasional lesson in penmanship and music. The aim in penmanship was to teach us to write a clear Spencerian script by using the whole arm rather than just the wrist and fingers, and we spent hours producing long boring lines of circles and up-and-down strokes in our notebooks. I never really did get the hang of this and, though I eventually developed a quite legible hand, it owed very little to the authorized technique.

As for music, I forget exactly how it was taught but I can remember most of the lyrics to this day. By and large, the songs were a pretty imperialistic lot: The Maple Leaf Forever, Bonnie Dundee, Men of Harlech, Heart of Oak, Rule Britannia, Weel May the Keel Row, and Bonnie Charlie's Gone Awa. From time to time, we ventured into Drink To Me Only with Thine Eyes, and even Frère Jacques, but essentially we stuck pretty much with the glories of the Empire.

Physical Training took the form of Swedish drill in the assembly hall upstairs where we stood in serried ranks, twirled Indian clubs and gestured with long wooden wands. It wasn't a very demanding exercise but it was all we had. There was certainly nothing in the way of organized sports. We sometimes played scratch games of baseball during recess, but Tag and Simon Says were far more popular. In the winter, a hockey rink was installed on the boy's playground but it was more for casual use than for any sort of supervised activity.

Finally, Manual Training was taught in a basement workshop by Mr. Ponting, a staunch believer in birdhouses and magazine racks. Only boys were involved in this, the girls taking Home Economics instead. The most attractive

aspect of the course was the fact that Mr. Ponting owned a large boat which he kept moored at Hog's Back, and on which each spring he invited us all, boys and girls together, for a ride upstream to the next lock and back. Accompanied by several preternaturally alert parents, we enjoyed these excursions hugely, particularly when one of our classmates vomited over the side.

Looking back on it, it might seem that our education at RPPS was a rather hit-and-miss affair. We spent immense amounts of time, for example, on scrapbooks celebrating various activities of the Royal Family. The marriage of Princess Marina of Greece to the Duke of Kent had us clipping and pasting busily for days.

Much of November and December were given over to rehearsals for the annual Christmas play, while a good part of every spring was devoted to the planting of individual garden plots. This was apparently a provincial requirement since, so far as the school system was concerned, Rockcliffe was considered to be a rural community and it was thus necessary for us to be properly trained in agricultural skills. Since almost all of us went away in the summer, however, anything that actually grew just quietly rotted away during our absence and, except for a few tired radishes, was a quite unrecognizable mess by the time we returned.

Looking at it all these activities in retrospect, one might consider them a waste of time, but in reality, I doubt that we were not really being short-changed in the least. None of them detracted in any way from our regular work, and I am sure we all benefited tremendously from this experience.

***Next time: Children's after-school and leisure time activities in the Village of Rockcliffe Park in the 1930s.***

# END NOTES

## Before You Dig, Call Ontario One Call

The City of Ottawa is now partnered with Ontario One Call to provide one point of contact for all underground utility locates, as mandated in the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act of 2012. As of June 15, Service Ottawa (3-1-1) is no longer taking calls for locate requests. All requests must now go through Ontario One Call at **1-800-400-2255**, or online at [on1call.com](http://on1call.com). This service is provided at no charge and its use is mandatory for any excavation work.

Any property could have underground gas pipelines, electrical services, fibre optic cables, telephone and cable TV lines, water and sewer connections as well as street lighting or traffic signal wiring. Damaging these underground services can have serious consequences and costs, so any resident or contractor doing excavations is required to call at least five days prior to any planned excavation and is required to wait for those locates to be completed before digging.

If locates are not obtained and utilities are damaged as a result, the homeowner and/or contractor is 100 per cent liable for all costs associated with repairs. For more information about this service, please visit [on1call.com](http://on1call.com).

This requirement applies to activities such as tree planting, for which a deeper-than-normal gardening depth would be needed. Call Service Ottawa to obtain the permission of the City Forestry staff if you plan to plant a tree on the municipal right-of-way (road allowance).

## Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

### Creating a Beautiful Garden

September 25 at 7:30 pm

*"Garden design is all about concealment and surprise."* Andrew Crofts

Do you feel your garden is just a collection of plants that is awaiting a magical touch to transform it? Let **Suzanne Patry**, owner of Whitehouse Perennials ([Whitehouseperennials.com](http://Whitehouseperennials.com)) guide your garden transformation.

Illustration: [www.leahjayart.com](http://www.leahjayart.com)



### The Adventures of a Garden Tour Planner

October 30 at 7:30 pm

*"Gardens and flowers have a way of bringing people together, drawing them from their homes."* Clare Ansberry

Join us for an entertaining evening for a behind-the-scenes description of the adventures of **Margaret Daley Plouffe** of Heatherington & Associates ([hnatravels.com](http://hnatravels.com)) as she tells us about some of her favourite tours.

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

## Penny Palooza Fundraiser Concerts in the Park

Manor Park Community Centre • 100 Thornwood Road (at Hemlock Road)

Saturday, August 23, 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

To build on the huge success of last year's Penny Palooza fundraiser concert (\$10,500 raised for the Ottawa Hospital Breast Health Centre – thanks to all who attended and donated), a second annual Penny Palooza Event is scheduled for August 23.

Penny, a supporter of the BHC, was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in 2012. Penny's friends and neighbours banded together in 2013 to create a music festival in her name. Now, in 2014, Penny is cancer-free and helping plan Penny Palooza II, which will raise funds for the Ottawa Hospital Breast Health Centre.

Bring out your family and friends for an evening of toe-tapping live music, food and fun beside the Manor Park School. Penny Palooza will feature great live musicians and bands, delicious food, silent auction and other fun surprises.

If you are interested in making a donation in advance, volunteering at the event, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at [pennypalooza@hotmail.com](mailto:pennypalooza@hotmail.com). For the full schedule of events, please see the Penny Palooza website, [www.pennypalooza.ca](http://www.pennypalooza.ca).