



# The Rockcliffe News

December 2013

## Rockcliffe Park

### Residents Association

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

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### VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 6

The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA), is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions pertaining to the Village are welcomed by mid month before publication. Copy may be edited for clarity, length and content.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### DECEMBER

- 4** Wednesday 7:00 pm ..... Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Community Hall\*
- 7** Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm ... St. Brigid Annual Christmas Fair, St. Brigid Catholic School, 200 Springfield Road (in the school gymnasium)\*
- 7** Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm ... Locavore Artisan Food Fair, Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road (New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre)\*
- 7** Saturday 2:00 to 4:00 pm ..... Elmwood School Holly Tea, Elmwood School, 61 Buena Vista Road\*
- 11** Wednesday 7:30 pm ..... Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 15** Sunday 2:00 to 4:00 pm ..... Children's Christmas Party, Community Hall\*

### JANUARY

- 15** Wednesday 7:15 pm ..... RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 22** Wednesday 8:00 pm ..... Speakers Program: Andrew Cohen, award-winning author and journalist: "Lost Beneath the Ice: The Story of HMS Investigator," Community Hall\*

### FEBRUARY

- 5** Wednesday 7:30 pm ..... Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 12** Wednesday 8:00 pm ..... Speakers Program: Charlie Hill, Curator of Canadian Art, National Gallery of Canada: "The National Gallery of Canada: Building the Canadian Collection," Community Hall\*
- 26** Wednesday 7:30 pm ..... Joint Annual General Meeting of the Boards of the RPRA and The Village Foundation, Community Hall

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



*Do you recognize these new additions to the Village? See page 7 in this issue for the full story.*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last leaves of a glorious autumn have fallen, each day is noticeably shorter, and temperatures have dropped as we prepare for the change of season and the first snows of winter.

The Board of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association has been working on a number of issues since the last edition of this newsletter.

One is a new initiative relating to the Village Green; in particular, the restoration of its stone circle. Developing the Village Green was Rockcliffe's Centennial Project and the central paved area, ringed by sugar maples, is the heart of the design. Over time, the area has deteriorated considerably and the RPRA Heritage Committee and the Board have discussed options for its restoration. These discussions have centred around a plan prepared by Linda Dicaire, Village resident and landscape architect with extensive heritage experience. We are very fortunate to have Linda's assistance and expertise in support of this project. It has been suggested that this could be Rockcliffe Park's 150th Anniversary of Canada project, marking 50 years since the centennial initiative in 1967.

A second issue has been a successful audit of our finances that has been carried out. Following the adoption of our new by-laws under the recent Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, the Board discussed and then requested, as matter of good management and due diligence, an audit by the accounting firm Deloitte. The year 2012 received a full audit, with a review of the years 2010 and 2011. These procedures were very thorough and have recently been completed. I am pleased to report that our finances are in good order but we will be making some adjustments to our accounting procedures to bring them fully into line with current audit and review practices.

As regards the Pond, some of you have enquired about the status of the report of the consultants hired by the City to advise on shoreline remediation, especially erosion and bank stability. The draft report has been received by the City, which, however, has requested some further information. This process is still under way and so we have not yet received a copy of the report. As I have mentioned earlier, we hope to use the report, in cooperation with the City, as a guide over time to better manage the shoreline.

We have also been working on winter roads maintenance, together with the neighbouring communities of Lindenlea and New Edinburgh. The basic issue is to ensure that the road classification and road maintenance systems are properly aligned so as to eliminate the excessive and, in some cases, unnecessary use of road salt on some community streets. We have approached the City, through Councillor Peter Clark, on this issue.

Throughout the year, the RPRA has continued to work closely on Village priorities with The Village Foundation and its Chair, Bonnie Robinson. This year, the RPRA received over \$17,000 to support many of our activities, including the rehabilitation of parts of the soccer field, the Evening Speakers Program, the Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting, the rejuvenation of the Jubilee Garden and the publication of the Rockcliffe News and our Annual Report. On behalf of the Board of the RPRA, I would like to thank the Village Foundation for its financial support and to acknowledge its importance to our work on behalf of the community.

Finally, mark your calendars to attend the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing at the Community Hall on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm. The Children's Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 15th, beginning at 2:00 pm. As in previous years, many thanks to Graeme McCallum and Russ Gibson, respectively, for bringing us together over the Christmas Season.

With best regards,

*Brian Dickson*

## Tree Commemoration for Thomas W. Delworth

On October 28th, a brisk but bright afternoon, **Pamela Delworth** and over 50 friends gathered to commemorate a tree planted in The Village Green in the memory of Tom, a friend and immediate past Chair of The Foundation, who passed away in 2012. His passion for our community, particularly his enthusiasm for its unique and special nature, was fondly recalled by **Thomas d'Aquino**, a founding member and past Chair of the Foundation, and **Brian Dickson**, President of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA).



*Joanne Nelson (Past Chair), Thomas d'Aquino (Past Chair and Founding Member), Pamela Delworth, Brian Dickson (President, RPRA) and Bonnie Robinson (Chair, The Foundation) at the Tree Commemoration for Tom Delworth.*

## Commemorative Plaques, Benches and Art – What Next?

This summer, The Foundation undertook and funded an initiative to document and describe the wide range of commemorative plaques and artwork found throughout our community. This pictorial catalogue is now available for reference on the Foundation's website, [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org). We welcome suggested additions that you think should be included by sending an email to [info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org). The first stage of this work identified many items in need of repair or refurbishing. The Foundation plans to fund some of that work in the coming year.

## The Annual Community Appeal – Have You Responded?

Recently, you will have received a letter from the Foundation requesting your support for the Annual Community

Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. With the lower interest rates, donations from the Appeal will increase the endowment. To support your community, donate online at [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org) or send a cheque payable to the **Friends of Rockcliffe Park Foundation** to **Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park ON K1L 5A8**. Any questions? Call **Bonnie** at **613 749-5297** or **Jane** at **613 746-8000**.

## Foundation Factoids

The Foundation is a unique organization established at the time of amalgamation to manage an endowment, the interest from which is used to support community projects and programs. The endowment is currently at \$625,000. This includes funds raised in the past year: \$20,000 from the Dining with the Ambassadors event on April 26th and \$8,000 from the Annual Community Appeal. During the year we provided \$17,700 to support community projects and programs, largely through the RPRA, and \$1,000 to the St. Brigid Playground Renewal Project.

**Mark Your Calendar: Wednesday, February 26th, 7:30 pm – The Foundation's Annual General Meeting, Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road.**

## Community Tree Canopy Project

Have you noticed the number of majestic shade trees that are marked with a red X? These are designated by the City to be taken down. We want to build funds to supplement the tree planting the City does in public areas. To focus attention on this important aspect of the character of the neighbourhood, we will be developing guidelines for donations for a Community Tree Commemorative Program to be used to replace some of the trees that are being lost to disease, while providing a fitting memorial to commemorate an individual or event through a donation. Guidelines will be announced when they are finalized.

## The St. Brigid Playground Renewal

The St. Brigid Playground Structure Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on Thursday, November 7th. As you may recall, The Foundation was pleased to financially support the renewal of the playground at St. Brigid School on Springfield Road. The play structure at the school had been declared unsafe and was removed in 2012. A great example of community building!



# BOOK FAIR

## What's the Secret of the Annual Book Fair's Success? It's the People!

If you'd told her four years ago that she'd be running the Book Fair at Rockcliffe Park Public School, Seanna Kreager would have laughed.

Back then, having just moved her family from Orillia, Ms. Kreager says that although she didn't know anyone, she was invited to a Book Fair meeting and took the opportunity. Fast-forward to today, and she's unwinding after another successful Book Fair, her third at the helm. "I feel good," she says. "Book Fair was a big success."

Now in its 52nd year, the Rockcliffe Park Book Fair is one of the largest used book fairs in Ontario. Ms. Kreager says attendance was good during the fair's three days (November 1, 2, 3), book sales were on par with last year, and she estimates the fair raised more than \$45,000 for literacy programs not just at RPPS, but also at other Ottawa schools. She also gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship from local businesses.

The Book Fair Café proved popular once again, boosting totals. Café Coordinator Gillian Campbell says the Singapore noodles, lasagna and cupcakes were the most popular items. "We sold out of virtually everything on Friday," Ms. Campbell says, "but we had a great number of generous bakers bring additional items on Saturday and Sunday."

Book Fair 2013 fell on the weekend between Halloween and the time change from Daylight Savings, and Ms. Kreager says she was impressed how the volunteers managed.

"Halloween this year was different for us," she says. "It cut a day off the set-up as parents took kids trick-or-treating," she says. "But we had about ten parents come back to help finish set-up. That was really nice to see." She also says the extra hour of sleep on November 3rd was welcome.

It takes two weeks to transform the school's Queen Juliana Hall into a bustling book market, with volunteers helping to unload hundreds of boxes of donated books, set up book-cases, sort and price books, and decorate the venue.

One change this year was incorporating books once destined for the "Canadiana" section into their respective subjects, like



art, politics and literature. "Sections change year after year, depending on what gets donated," explains Ms. Kreager, adding the change also helped free up floor space and improved traffic flow.

As Book Fair chair, Ms. Kreager was on site daily. "My days were generally 8:30 am to 10:00 pm for

two weeks," she says. "No laundry was done. My house fell apart," she laughs. "It is fun and I really like doing it, but it is also a huge job. It is not as difficult as it once was, thanks to the volunteers."

Ms. Kreager is grateful to the countless community members, school parents and staff who donated their time. "We have volunteers who have come back for over 50 years, and we also have the new parents. We have that continuity," she says, adding that it is the volunteers that make Book Fair special.

Principal Shari Brodie agrees. Having previously taught at Rockcliffe Park for seven years, she returned as principal in September 2013 and says she was impressed how much time the volunteers put in.

"I thought I knew everything about Book Fair, but what I didn't know was just how dedicated the volunteers are," says Ms. Brodie. "It starts in January and continues through the summer. They are just so committed."

Already thinking ahead to next year, Ms. Brodie says she wants to get the students and teachers more involved in Book Fair, and will work on promoting the fundraiser beyond Ottawa. "I love how our school opens its doors to the community and the entire City, to spread the love of reading," she says.

Book Fair falls on November 7, 8 and 9 in 2014, but with Ms. Kreager's daughter graduating from the school in June, she can't stay on as chair. "I will co-chair with somebody," she says, adding that the next chair needs experience, and must be involved throughout the year. "It takes people skills, dealing with a lot of different personalities. I love it. It is what makes Book Fair."

*Christina Leadlay*

*Photo by Seanna Kreager*

## LIBRARY

### Rockcliffe Park Library Open House: A Fun Day for All



*Lola Girvan and Elizabeth Gray having fun making sock puppets at the Rockcliffe Branch of the Ottawa Public Library Open House.*

The recent Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Open House and Fun Day, held October 5th, was a great success, attracting over 100 young members of Rockcliffe Park and surrounding communities. They enjoyed a Rag and Bone puppet show, face painting, crafts, live music and refreshments. Library staff were on hand to share information about various electronic library services available to the public.

The local communities supported the event generously by providing volunteers to staff it, food and beverages, and prizes for participants.

This Open House was funded by proceeds raised from the April 2013 Spring Book Sale, which is organized annually by the Library Committee of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association. This sale supports public programming, services and materials for the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library.

The Library Committee is now collecting books for its 2014 Spring Book Sale, which will be held on Saturday, April 12th and Sunday, April 13th. Donations may be dropped off at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Library during opening hours.

*Chloe Girvan*

## SPEAKERS PROGRAM

### Upcoming Speakers

**Rockcliffe Park Community Hall • 380 Springfield**

*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.*



#### *Andrew Cohen*

**“Lost Beneath the Ice:  
The Story of HMS  
Investigator”**

Award-winning author and journalist discusses his new book on 19th century Arctic exploration.

**Wednesday, January 22, 8:00 pm**



#### *Charlie Hill*

Curator of Canadian Art,  
National Gallery of Canada

**“The National Gallery  
of Canada: Building the  
Canadian Collection”**

One of Canada’s most eminent curators and art historians will talk about the high points over more than three decades of acquiring art works for the National Gallery.

**Wednesday, February 12, 8:00 pm**

## *Reminder:*

**Join Us in December at  
Community Hall for Our  
Annual Holiday Events**

Wednesday the 4th, 7:00 pm: **Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing**

Sunday the 15th, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm: **Children’s Christmas Party – This year featuring Santa Claus, Horse Drawn ‘Sleigh’ Rides, Goopy the Clown, Outdoor Hockey, Food, Music, Arts and Crafts, Gingerbread House Making, Hot Chocolate... and more!**



# PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

## Update: St. Charles Church

The Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA), of which Rockcliffe is a member, has succeeded thus far in saving St. Charles Church from demolition. The writer was one of the representatives from the BVA who attended before a meeting of the City of Ottawa Built Heritage Subcommittee to support the heritage designation of St. Charles Church. I am very pleased to report that we were successful. It is my understanding that the City Planning Committee has also approved the heritage designation and I expect so will City Council if they have not already done so.

It has been suggested that an application be filed under corresponding Federal Legislation to have St. Charles Church designated an historical site, which would solidify its preservation. The next step is to plan how we can best make use of the church property, such as a cultural and musical centre. If anyone has ideas in this respect, feel free to contact the undersigned. As an example, St. Bridgid's Church shows what can be done with an unused heritage church building rather than see it demolished and lost to the community forever.

## Winter Roads Maintenance

For those new to Rockcliffe or who may have forgotten the details, the following is a list of matters that were discussed and negotiated with City staff four years ago. With a few exceptions, by and large, the City has followed these guidelines as discussed and agreed upon:

### For the City

- 1) Pure salt will not be applied to any of Rockcliffe roads including Lisgar Road and Princess Avenue, save for the portions of Maple Lane and Acacia Avenue that form part of the No. 1 bus route.
- 2) The plowing of the roads following a snowfall will employ equipment with a maximum blade width of 12 feet. No wing blades will be used.
- 3) The roads will be plowed as soon as possible following a major snowstorm, which may require the plows to be operating in Rockcliffe in the late evening or early morning.
- 4) The plows will permit some accumulation of snow on the road surfaces. Plowing to bare pavement will not be practiced as a general rule.
- 5) On road areas requiring special treatment to maintain traction such as hills and intersections, a mixture of 10% salt and 90% grit will be applied. Otherwise the roads will not receive any such treatment absent special circumstances such as freezing rain or icy conditions.

6) The snow banks created by the plows on the sides of the roads will be blown onto the verges of the property adjacent the roads as soon as possible following plowing, especially on heavily-travelled routes such as Mariposa Avenue.

7) The segment of sidewalk running adjacent to Elmwood School will be maintained by a sidewalk plow so as to protect students and others using the sidewalk to access and exit the school. The Dog Walk and other pedestrian paths will also be maintained using a sidewalk plow. It is not anticipated that it will be possible to maintain the path adjacent Princess Avenue.

8) The City roads crew will respond promptly to any reasonable requests for repairs such as potholes and the like. Come spring, any damage to grassy verges caused by the City road crews will be repaired.

9) Any specific requests or complaints concerning any of the guidelines listed here should be directed by email to **Jason.Staniforth@ottawa.ca** or **Keith.Hardiman@ottawa.ca**, with a copy to one of your Winter Roads Committee members: **Rachel Baxter, rbaxteris@rogers.com**, or **Alexander Macklin, alexander.macklin@sympatico.ca**. Please note that no changes in these procedures will be permitted without the approval of the Winter Roads Committee.

### For Village Residents

10) Those property owners with rocks or stones immediately adjacent the roadway must move them to avoid damaging the plows and snow blowers.

11) Those property owners with hedges or bushes adjacent the roads should take steps to protect same by snow fences and the like.

12) We highly recommend that motorists refrain from parking vehicles on the roadways during the coming months and especially when snow plows and snow blowers are in operation. We also strongly recommend that motorists ensure their vehicles are equipped with winter tires.

13) For those who enjoy walking or jogging, especially in the evening, please ensure that you wear a light coloured and reflective outer garment and always walk or run facing the oncoming traffic. We request that motor vehicles within Rockcliffe not exceed 40 km per hour.

Your Winter Roads Committee anticipates that with your cooperation the roadways in Rockcliffe will continue to be safe and secure for all seasons of the year and especially the coming winter season.

*Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPRA*



# HERITAGE

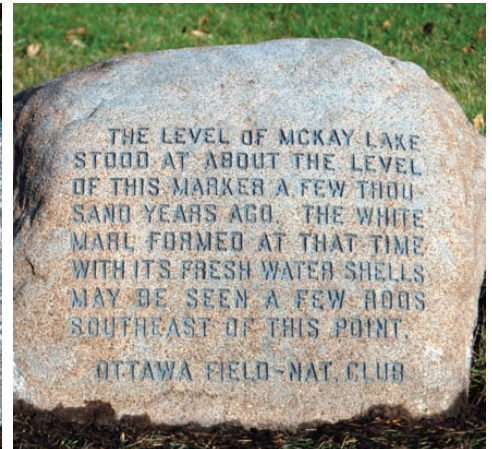
## Three New Heritage Markers Grace Various Village Locales



*This plaque beside the newly-repainted Birkenfels Gates records their origin.*



*The Hillsdale Bridge boulder engraved with the text of the stolen bronze plaque.*



*Replicated on this new boulder are the words of the 1930 marker; both are located on the Hillsdale Triangle.*

The RPRA Heritage Committee has completed three markers in the Village. The first is the bronze plaque outside the Birkenfels Gates in the Buchan Road entrance to Jubilee Garden. The plaque records where the gates came from, and a glimpse of their history. Because we have had bronze plaques stolen, this one is deeply embedded in its boulder. We thank the City of Ottawa for its Heritage Grant that paid for the plaque. We also thank The Village Foundation for funding the repainting of the gates themselves this summer.

In 1996, the Village reconstructed Hillsdale Bridge. To record the restoration and the bridge's origin, a bronze plaque was attached to the surface of a large boulder, placed just west of the bridge. That plaque was stolen some years ago. In debating how to prevent such problems in future, the Heritage Committee decided to try a new approach, engraving the text directly into the stone, with no bronze involved. Last weekend, Alain Joanisse did a beautiful job of engraving the text into the boulder at the bridge. Alain has been doing this work for thirty years. He is a third-generation stone engraver who works extensively across eastern Ontario.

In 1930, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club installed a marker to record the level of McKay Lake a few thousand years ago and the associated deposit of white marl. The marker sits on the hillside northeast of Hillsdale Bridge, where the footpath to Sandridge leads off Hillsdale. This marker was made of concrete fashioned to look like a boulder. An article recounting the history of this marker, and the one on the shoreline of McKay Lake, may be found in the OFNC's Trail and Landscape 1976 vol 10(3):68-73. One

winter, the Village snow plow accidentally knocked the marker, causing cracks. The Heritage Committee over the years has patched the cracks, but the freeze-thaw cycle has gradually increased the damage to the point that two words are now illegible. So the committee decided to replicate the wording on a real boulder, using the new engraving idea. Vic Lancitis discovered a boulder that closely matches the shape of the original. Alain Joanisse has done an excellent job of replicating on the boulder the wording and layout of the original. We have placed the boulder to the east of the original marker.

*Anthony Keith*



*Master craftsman Alain Joanisse engraving the Hillsdale Bridge marker.*

# QUEEN'S PARK / CITY HALL



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

## **We Are Diverse, We Are One Ontario**

Wherever you live in our great province and whatever language you speak; no matter your gender, orientation, or ability; whether you're religious or not, and no matter what symbols you wear: there is only one Ontario.

This diversity doesn't divide us. It unites us. It's our strength and our path to success, and it should be celebrated and protected. We understand that diversity is not just a bunch of symbols on a page. It's about people from different backgrounds with different perspectives and beliefs, living together as one. It's an Ontario value.

To grow and strengthen our province, we must embrace our diversity. That's why we're investing in our greatest asset: our people. We're making sure everyone in Ontario has the skills and support they need to get the job they deserve and live the life they want.

Starting with investments in education, like full-day kindergarten and smaller class sizes in elementary schools, we're increasing graduation rates by catering to the needs of students and providing them with the support they need to succeed. And we're making post-secondary education more accessible by giving low- and middle-income families an additional 30% off tuition.

We're making sure that everyone in Ontario has access to quality healthcare, regardless of where they live. And we're helping seniors get the care they need so they can stay in their own homes longer. We're helping people on social assistance get back on their feet by allowing them to work and keep more of their earnings.

We know that to help people get to work in the morning and back home to their families in the evenings, we must invest in our transit infrastructure.

We must create a business climate that draws investment to Ontario, keeps business in Ontario, and encourages growth in Ontario.

To grow as One Ontario, we have to invest in our people, invest in our infrastructure, and create jobs by developing an attractive climate for businesses.

We can do this by embracing our diversity and working together for One Ontario.



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

## **A Time for Giving**

Holiday season is right around the corner. While many will celebrate the holidays with lavish meals and presents, others are at risk of going without a warm meal, let alone a gift. Ottawa's residents always give generously to those in need and I encourage you to keep doing so during the holiday season. If you would like to offer donations of food, gifts, or your time, here are just a few of the many organizations that could use your help:

**Toy Mountain – The Salvation Army Toy Depot**  
**250 Champagne Drive N (aka City Centre Drive), Unit 118, 1st level warehouse.** <http://www.toymountain.ca>. Free toys for children 12 and under are distributed to eligible families from the end of November until Christmas.

### **Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre**

**786 Bronson Avenue, 613 257-2813 ext. 1201.** Monetary donations are requested for the purchase of bus tickets, personal items/clothes and present exchange for their clients. Gift cards for Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart or Bayshore Mall are also welcome.

### **Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa**

**2825 Dumaui Avenue, 613 828-0428.** Donations are requested for the annual holiday children's party: decorations, Christmas cookies, food and beverages, as well as new children's gifts (6-13 years old).

### **Christmas Exchange-Program of the Caring and Sharing Exchange**

<http://www.CaringandSharing.ca>. Monetary donations are needed to help provide gift vouchers and food hampers to families in need during the holiday season. Volunteers are needed to help at fundraising events, for data entry, to phone the parents for toy pick-up appointments and to deliver hampers and vouchers ready for mailing.

### **Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter**

**393 Piccadilly Avenue, 613 236-8070.** Donations are needed of men's and women's mitts, hats, gloves, socks, scarves, toiletries (soap and hairbrushes), make-up, pyjamas, slippers, pens, notepads and calendars, gift cards, movie passes and chocolates (sealed packages only, please). Please call to make arrangements for drop-off.



# HOUSE OF COMMONS

## Operation Come Home

**179 Murray Street, 613 230-4663.** Donations required for youth, such as toys, socks, underwear, personal hygiene products, sweaters, clean towels, cough drops (Halls) and cereal. Please call ahead.

## The Snowsuit Fund

**225 Donald Street, Suite 134, 613 746-8719.** Donations needed of winter coats, mitts, scarves, hats, and boots for children and adults; drop them off at the office or at a Canadian Tire Store or Browns Cleaners. Cash donations can be brought in person or made over the phone with a credit card.

## OC Transpo Annual Christmas Food Bank

### Drive in support of the Ottawa Food Bank

For more information and participating Food Drive locations see <http://ottawafoodbank.ca/2013/12/oc-transpo-annual-christmas-food-drive/>



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

## Heavy Truck Traffic in the Downtown Core

I have always supported relieving traffic congestion in downtown Ottawa and removing heavy trucks from the area. Since some of them carry hazardous materials, these trucks pose an ongoing public safety threat to the densely populated core. Their size alone adds another set of problems to already congested traffic, not to mention their environmental impact.

Numerous proposals over the last couple of decades to relieve traffic congestion and remove heavy trucks included building a bridge at Kettle Island, endorsed by consultants Roche-NCE. Fortunately, the Government of Ontario decided in May to withdraw their support of the project, and the NCC, facing heavy opposition, followed suit. I wish to congratulate the Honourable Glen Murray, Ontario Minister of Transportation, as well as my provincial colleague, the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, for taking responsibility for this important and appropriate decision. However, that still leaves the problem of heavy trucks in the middle of downtown.

Ottawa City Council and the Government of Ontario will need to work together to resolve this longstanding issue. Let's hope the NCC will get on board, or at least not get in the way of the other levels of government actually trying to fix the problem.



*From the desk of Councillor Peter Clark  
Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward*

## 2013 Community Safety Award Winners

Crime Prevention Ottawa is pleased to announce the winners of the 5th annual Community Safety Awards. The awards recognize the people and programs that have made a difference in preventing crime and making communities safer across the City. The eight winners were recognized at the Community Safety Awards ceremony on Monday, November 4th at Ottawa City Hall. Rogers Television broadcast the award ceremony on Sunday, November 17th.

One of the award winners for the Enforcement Professional Award was Rockcliffe Park Community Services Constable **Ryan Pierce**. Please visit [www.CrimePreventionOttawa.ca](http://www.CrimePreventionOttawa.ca) to view the videos of all winners.

## Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

On November 1st, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) began delivering nearly 1 million Property Assessment Notices to property taxpayers across the Province. The last province-wide assessment took place in 2012, when every property owner received an assessment notice. Some of the reasons for receiving a notice this fall include a change in property ownership; a property value increase or decrease; a change in the classification or tax liability of a property. Property owners are encouraged to visit [www.aboutmyproperty.ca](http://www.aboutmyproperty.ca) to confirm their property details and compare their property with others in their neighbourhood. Enquiries about notices and other assessment matters may be directed to the Customer Contact Centre at **1-866-296-MPAC (6722)** or visit [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca). **The deadline for filing a Request for Reconsideration with MPAC or Appeal with the Assessment Review Board is March 31, 2014.**

## 2012 By-law Activity in the Ward

In our ward, By-law and Regulatory Services experienced an 8% increase in overall call volume in Quarter 4 of 2012, compared to the same time last year. Animal and noise call volumes remained relatively constant. The main complaints received were animal complaints (mainly dogs off-leash), noise, parking complaints and property standards. Those issues remain as the most calls so far for 2013.

## SCHOOL REPORTS

# Elmwood

## Row Eagles Row! School

The Elmwood Eagles Rowing Crew had an incredibly successful fall season. The rowers were thrilled to welcome a new Head Coach this season, **Laryssa Biesenthal**, a two-time bronze medalist for Canada and two-time Olympic coach. Her guidance and leadership have already had a fantastic effect on our rowers!



*The Eagles Rowing Crew at the Frostbite Regatta in Philadelphia.*

They started their season at the Head of the Rideau Regatta, where the crew won two gold and two bronze medals. The girls also competed in the Head of the Trent at Trent University, the Head of the Charles in Boston and the Head of the Fish in Saratoga Springs, New York.

To finish the fall rowing season, the crew travelled to Philadelphia to compete in two regattas. At the Frostbite Regatta, the crew won two silver and three gold medals. The following day the crew also earned medals at the Bill Braxton Memorial Regatta, coming home with two gold, two silver and one bronze.

Congratulations to all of our rowers – your hard work and commitment really paid off!

## Elmwood Girls Give Back

A group of Elmwood students, led by Community Service Prefect **Celina Gilligan**, has been working together to improve conditions for other young people in Ottawa. The students helped to organize a fashion show at the School, as

well as a warm clothing and food drive in support of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre's after-school and emergency food programs.

Many Elmwood students were involved in the fashion show, as models, speakers, and pitching in behind the scenes. We are very proud of our students for their commitment to helping this local organization. Way to go, girls!

## International Day of the Girl

On October 10th, Elmwood celebrated the second annual International Day of the Girl. This day is an opportunity to highlight the particular needs and rights of girls across the globe, so teachers planned lessons that focused on building understanding of how our students' lives differ from their peers in other countries, and what actions they can take to advocate for girls' rights. The highlight of the day was a visit from Olympic gold medalist and Plan Canada "Because I Am A Girl" Ambassador **Jenn Heil**, who spoke to students about the importance of finding your passion and, once you find it, putting it to good use. She certainly left our Elmwood girls with a lot to think about, and many of them were inspired to take action.



*Olympic medalist Jenn Heil and Elmwood students gathered to show their support for girls around the world on International Day of the Girl.*

## Join us for our Holly Tea – Saturday, December 7th

The Elmwood Parents' Association is reviving a beloved Elmwood tradition this December – the Holly Tea! As in years past, this is a wonderful opportunity for Elmwood students, families, alumnae, staff and neighbours to get together to celebrate the season with afternoon tea and holiday treats. Please join us on Saturday, December 7th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. There will be poinsettias and holly for sale, but admission is free. Please RSVP at [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca).



# SCHOOL REPORTS



## Ashbury's International Spirit

Much like Rockcliffe is an international neighbourhood within a diverse city that boasts residents from around the world, so too is Ashbury College an international society that exists within a broader community.

With students from over 30 countries attending the school, the opportunities for international learning and understanding are endless. This school year, Ashbury has welcomed senior students from the following countries: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Israel, Lithuania, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, China, Columbia, Czech Republic, France, Guinea, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan and Kazakhstan.

So why are international students attracted to a school like Ashbury? The answers are as varied as they are obvious.

First, Ashbury's location is highly desirable. For students who are leaving home to attend school thousands of kilometres away, the fact that they will be living in a safe and approachable city is a real draw. Beyond the security offered by the school, with its live-in residence advisors and numerous on-site staff, Canada's stable and secure reputation and our general quality of life holds definite allure.

Ottawa's status as a national capital is another attraction. Benefitting from a unique combination of urban conven-

*Ashbury College welcomes international students from 30 different countries at its campus in the heart of Rockcliffe.*

ience and accessible nature, Ottawa combines small-city life with a cosmopolitan vibe. With Parliament Hill, the House of Commons and the Senate, national museums and galleries, the UNESCO World Heritage Site Rideau Canal, neighbourhoods steeped in history, and generous green space on its doorstep, Ottawa's diverse, bilingual culture provides both opportunity and familiarity for international students.

Finally, travel options to and from Ottawa make it easy for students to return home on breaks and for parents to visit. Our boarding students also take advantage of the proximity to cities like Toronto and Montreal as destinations for frequent activities where they can experience Canadian history and culture.

With students from so many cultures living and learning together, opportunities to develop integrity, a sense of international responsibility, tolerance and mutual respect are numerous. At Ashbury, we proudly celebrate our international spirit whenever possible. At our recent fundraising ball to support scholarship and bursary programs, the school's international composition was the theme of the evening. Several of our students joined in the fun by wearing traditional dress representing their home countries.

Throughout the year, we host cooking and other cultural events that showcase some of the cultures that make up our community. These chances for students to share, learn and explore together are important, and they go a long way towards fostering the global understanding that is a vital part of the school's value system.

## END NOTES



# Rockcliffe Park Children's Christmas Party



Sunday, December 15th ✨ 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road  
Free Admission

*Featuring: Santa Claus, Horse Drawn 'Sleigh' Rides, Goopy the Clown, Outdoor Hockey, Food, Music, Arts and Crafts, Gingerbread House Making, Hot Chocolate... and more!*

## St. Brigid Catholic School Annual Christmas Fair

Please join us on Saturday, December 7th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at St. Brigid Catholic School, 200 Springfield Road (in the school gymnasium). Free admission.



- ✨ Christmas crafts and art sale from local vendors
- ✨ Bake sale
- ✨ Silent auction

Kids' activities include face painting and kids' craft table – and Santa Claus will make a special appearance.

## The Locavore Artisan Food Fair (LAFF) Returns



This popular annual event will be held on Saturday, December 7th, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, at Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road (New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre). Free admission.

The City's 20 finest food artisans will gather together; this year about the half of them are new vendors. Two gourmet food trucks, The Flatbread Pizza Company and Stone Soup Foodworks, will be on site.

A silent auction will be held to benefit Ottawa School Breakfast Program of Ottawa Network for Education, feeding 11,300 Ottawa children in 148 schools every day.



## Newsletter Delivery Coordinator Needed

The RPRA needs someone to take over the assignment of managing the list of thirty volunteers who deliver the newsletter six times per year, starting February 2014. The task involves notifying the volunteers two or three weeks in advance of the anticipated delivery dates and ascertaining their availability to deliver that particular newsletter. For the most part, the notifications are done by email, as is the confirmation of delivery. The Newsletter Delivery Coordinator would also need to maintain a list of people who could occasionally step into deliver routes should the normal deliverer be unable to do so on that occasion.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact the RPRA Secretary at [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca)

For the moment, **Paul St.-Louis** will continue to deliver the bundles of newsletters to each volunteer deliverer, so this task is purely an armchair activity.