



The Rockcliffe News

December 2014

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

DECEMBER

- 3 Wednesday 7:00 pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Community Hall*
- 6 Saturday 2 to 4 pmElmwood School Holly Tea, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 7 Sunday 10 am to 3 pm ...Locavore Artisan Food Fair, at Encounters With Canada – Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre, 1805 Gaspé Avenue*
- 10 Wednesday 7:30 pmHeritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 14 Sunday 2 to 4 pmChildren's Christmas Party, Community Hall*

JANUARY

- 21 Wednesday 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 31 Saturday 10 am to noon..Experience Ashbury Day, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa*
Date and Time TBARockcliffe Park Garden Club: Annual National Gallery Private Tour and Luncheon*

FEBRUARY

- 4 Wednesday 7:30 pmHeritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 11 Wednesday 8:00 pmSpeakers Program: David Halton, former CBC correspondent, on "Matthew Halton: Canada's Voice at War: Journalism Then and Now," Community Hall*
- 25 Wednesday 7:30 pmJoint Annual General Meeting of the Boards of the RPRA and The Village Foundation, Community Hall
- 26 Thursday 7:30 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Benjamin Strapper, Landscape Designer with MacKinnon Reid & Associates, on Fire and Water in the Garden, Community Hall*

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

Reminder:

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

Wednesday the 3rd, 7:00 pm: **Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing**
With performances by the Salvation Army Band and Elmwood School's Junior Choir..

Sunday the 14th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm: **Children's Christmas Party**
Featuring Horse Drawn 'Sleigh' Rides with Santa Claus, Outdoor Hockey, Hot Chocolate, Goopee the Clown, Music, Arts and Crafts ...and more!



VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 6

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The roar of the leaf blowers has subsided as the last leaves have now fallen. The first large fluffy snow flakes lay briefly on the ground, to be replaced today by a carpet of frost. Temperatures have dropped dramatically and each day now ends so early, as we experience the first snows of winter.

I would like to begin by congratulating our Mayor, Jim Watson, on his well-deserved re-election in the recent municipal elections. I also welcome our new Councillor, Tobi Nussbaum, as our representative at City Hall. Tobi is well known to many of us and over the years has assumed a leadership role on issues of importance to us and surrounding communities. We look forward to maintaining and enhancing a very productive working relationship with him in the future. Also, a big thank you to Peter Clark for all his efforts on our behalf over the past four years. Peter was always attentive and responsive to our requests and concerns, and effective in dealing with them. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

In a previous newsletter, I mentioned the issue of lot severances. An application has been filed to sever a lot on Old Prospect Road, which would result in two lots that are deficient in size under the Zoning By-law. The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) opposed the application since our Lot Severance Policy stipulates that in the case of a severance, the resulting lots must conform to the requirements of the Zoning By-law. In spite of this, the application was approved by Planning Committee and City Council earlier this year. The RPRA will oppose this application once again when the Committee of Adjustment considers the severance issue, as well as requested variances.

As regards the Pond, the water level is alarmingly low and some have wondered whether it is draining back into the aquifer. Hopefully, winter snows and spring rains will restore it to a normal level, as was the case last year. With respect to the consultants' report on bank stability and shoreline erosion, the main recommendations were to reset the boulders at the public access point and to add granular material adjacent to the gravel path on the west side of the Pond to prevent further erosion there. We carried out a site visit with a representative of the City to discuss these recommendations and to provide our own observations and suggestions. We have more recently been in touch with the City regarding follow-up next year. On a personal note, I had an unexpected encounter with a large otter when I was swimming in the Pond in mid October. I have written a brief account of this adventure, which appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

As has been the case in previous years, the RPRA has worked closely on Village priorities with the Village Foundation and its Chair, Bonnie Robinson. This year the RPRA received more than \$16,000 to support many of our activities, including the rehabilitation of parts of the soccer field, the Evening Speakers Program, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, the rejuvenation of the Princess Triangle, and the publication of The Rockcliffe News and our Annual Report. We also received funding to hire a heritage expert to provide advice on the development of a new Heritage Conservation District Management Plan, which I have described in previous newsletters. 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 for our work on behalf of the community.

Finally, I hope you will be able to join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing at the Community Hall on Wednesday, December 3, at 7:00 pm. The Children's Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Many thanks to Jim Carr and Russ Gibson, respectively, for organizing these events and bringing us together during the Christmas Season.

With best regards,

Brian Dickson

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Seeks Additional Board Members for 2015

Please consider joining the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Board of Directors for 2015. Contact Brian Dickson, President, or any current Board member (contact information available on the front page of this newsletter or at www.rockcliffepark.ca) to ask about how to help us grow our community.



THE VILLAGE FOUNDATION

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

Foundation Factoids

The Village Foundation is a unique organization made up of volunteer community members who manage an endowment fund. The interest from this fund is used to support community projects and programs. As of October 31, 2014, the endowment is at \$660,086. Many of the funded initiatives are undertaken by the Rockcliffe Park Resident's Association (RPRA) and fall under three areas: conservation of the preservation of the heritage character of the Village, and promotion of a sense of community for all residents.

Annually, funding is provided to the RPRA for:

- Communications, including The Rockcliffe News
- Tree planting on the street verges and green spaces
- Maintenance of the Jubilee Gardens lawn and flower beds
- Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing
- The Evening Speakers Program

Also, the following is a sampling of some of the funded initiatives taken on by the RPRA in the last few years:

2010:

- New lectern for the community hall
- Remedial work in the wooded area in the east end of McKay Lake and the Pond
- Rehabilitation of the Rockcliffe Park Public School track and soccer field

2011:

- Street tree inventory update
- Carver Caldwell Conservation Area environmental rehabilitation
- Rockcliffe Park Walking Tour Booklet update
- Plaque for Birkenfels Gate
- Soccer field maintenance
- Rockcliffe Park Public School garden

2012:

- Development of Heritage Management Guidelines
- Jubilee Gardens pruning of trees and planting of crabapple tree
- Repainting of Birkenfels Gates
- Digitization of historical LACAC audio tapes for preservation
- St. Bridgid's playground renewal project

2013:

- Revitalization of the Princess Triangle
- Memorial tree planting for W. Thomas Delworth
- Preparation of the Commemorative Plaque Inventory

The Annual Community Appeal is Coming Soon!

Soon you will receive 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, which will then be used to support your community.

Commemorative Plaque Project

For the past two summers, the Foundation undertook and funded an initiative to document and describe the wide range of commemorative plaques and benches found throughout our community. A sample of the pictorial catalogue is available for reference on the Foundation's website, www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org, or visit our Public Library Branch, where the full inventory is available to view. Some of the plaques on the benches have gone missing over the years. If you have information on any of these plaques, please contact the Village Foundation so that repairs can be initiated.

Future Funding Ideas

Is there a current project that would have lasting community impact that the Foundation could support? With the sesquicentennial coming up soon, your ideas are welcome, as the Village Foundation encourages community-initiated projects. Ideas can be emailed to brobinson@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

100th Anniversary of World War I

One hundred years ago, young residents of Rockcliffe went off to fight in the war. Processions of corteges along Landsdowne Road on their way to Beechwood Cemetery by way of the Mile Circle – a common sight – provided residents with a constant reminder of our involvement.

Among the Rockcliffe residents who returned home were **Major Thomas Coltrin Keefer II, Captain Ernest Fosbery, Lieutenant Elbert Soper, Thomas Gerard, D.J. Newton, Lieutenant William Thackray, Walter Kingsmill, and Terrence Maunsell.**

Two young men of our neighborhood, **Private Robert Sifton Turriff and Lieutenant Herbert Stopford Maunsell**, did not make it home.

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.



David Halton

“Matthew Halton: Canada’s Voice at War: Journalism Then and Now”

Acclaimed former CBC correspondent tells the story of his father,

whose gripping broadcasts from the front lines made him Canada’s voice during the Second World War.

Wednesday, February 11 at 8:00 pm



Evan Solomon

Host of the CBC’s Power and Politics and The House.

Wednesday, April 22 at 8:00 pm

Winter is Here So Roll That Rock!

This is the time of year to roll back rocks at least one metre from the edge of the pavement. If you install T-bars or markers to guide snow plow operations, they should be placed 30 cm from the edge of the pavement. Please ensure they are not so deep as to puncture a gas line. That also applies any time you are digging deeper than for planting flowers in the ground. Contact Ontario One Call at **1-800-400-2255** or online at on1call.com for a free underground utilities locate.

FYI: For helpful tips on winter driving safety, visit the Ottawa Police website, www.ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/winter-driving.asp. For information on winter parking regulations, go to ottawa.ca/en/residents/transportation-and-parking/parking/winter-parking-november-15-april-1.

RPPS BOOK FAIR

The 53rd: Yet Another Successful Book Fair!

The 53rd annual Rockcliffe Park Book Fair wrapped up on November 9 with yet another successful outcome. A much beloved and highly anticipated community event, this fundraiser takes a great deal of effort to put together, all accomplished solely by volunteers from school families and the local community who donate their time year round to make the Book Fair happen. They are indispensable during set-up and whilst the fair is in full swing.

But the effort is always worth it, as the impact of Book Fair reaches far beyond the happy customers. Funds raised help not only Rockcliffe Park Public School, but five other schools in Ottawa each year.

“Book Fair was fabulous, and has definitely reignited enthusiasm for books in my class,” said RPPS teacher **Jane Baron**, providing priceless feedback.

Here’s a quick glimpse at the effort and impact of Book Fair on our community:

Rockcliffe Park Book Fair by the numbers



50,000 books
donated throughout the year



14 days
of set-up, sorting and pricing



64 subjects
in the Book Fair “library”



200 volunteers
spent over 3,500 hours to make it all happen



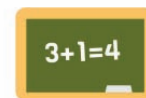
100s of baked goodies
donated by families and diplomatic missions



10 boxes
of videos donated for other kids to enjoy



18 RPPS classrooms
supplied with books bought by customers, benefiting over 400 students



5 area schools
receive funds to support literacy



1 wishlist
Book Fair provides funds for a host of resources and activities at RPPS

book fair



SAFETY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Meet Rockcliffe Park's New Community Policy Centre Officer

Constable Ryan Pierce, who has been our Community Police Officer for the last four years, has moved on to a new posting in the Ottawa Police Service. His assistance has been very much appreciated, and he will be missed.

Constable Walter Duhme will be our new Community Policy Centre Officer. He was born and raised in Ottawa and has lived in several different communities within the City. He joined the Ottawa Police Service in 1988. Cst. Duhme has held a variety of different positions that have allowed him to work closely with the community. He has been a School Resource Officer, a Community Police Centre Officer, a Neighbourhood Officer, and, most recently, held a post in the Diversity and Race Relations Section, where he worked with Ottawa's diverse communities.

Cst. Duhme can be reached at **613 236-1222 ext./poste 5916**, email/CE duhmew@ottawapolice.ca.

Block Captains Needed!

The Village of Rockcliffe Park has been a Neighbourhood Watch Community for many years, although not one of the most active in the City – probably because of the relatively low crime rate we enjoy here. Even so, most of us see the Neighbourhood Watch designation as a fair indication of the nature of our community. The Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee is about to conduct a City-wide membership census. Each of the current Neighbourhood Watch communities will be asked for their list of Block Captains and the number of households they represent, so that the proportion of households participating in the program can be calculated. The participation rate at which a community qualifies to have Neighbourhood Watch signs is 50% or more. Rockcliffe is currently below that number, because several parts of the Village still don't have a Block Captain.

In order to maintain our Neighbourhood Watch status and signage, we need to fill these gaps. If you don't know who your Block Captain is, then your area probably doesn't have one! Please think about volunteering. The time commitment is minimal, and there is no requirement to attend meetings. The main task is just to keep a list of members in your 'block,' which would consist of a dozen or so of your neighbours. If you can help, please contact **Kay James** at **613 366-6793** or rpranw@gmail.com.

Kay James, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Local Criminal Apprehended

This is an edited report from an original post by Victoria Young on the Lindenlea Listserve, an invaluable free information service that is open to Rockcliffe Park residents. For more information, or to sign up, contact John Verdon at johnverdon@gmail.com.

We as a community have been enduring the actions of at least one criminal for some time now, with multiple break-ins of cars, thefts, etc. Due to the heroic actions of my neighbours, **Dave and Suzanne Lang**, a man was apprehended early on the morning of October 21 after he had broken a window and entered my house, having unsuccessfully tried earlier to break into another house two doors down the street.

I was alone in my house when the break-in occurred, ill in bed and deeply asleep. Dave and Suzanne witnessed the criminal at work, reported to the police and then followed him on foot around the neighbourhood – despite multiple threats to their persons – until the police could locate and arrest him. **Constable Susan Laska** of the Ottawa Police, whose knocking at my door finally awoke me, reported that the man was carrying a crack pipe, and I expect that his reckless behaviour was both fueled and motivated by drugs.

Since the break-in, I have had the opportunity to speak to a number of my neighbours and to **Detective Constable Dan Bergeron**, who is in charge of the case. It seems that lower Wood Avenue was the target of multiple attempts that night: the attempted break-in down the street was reported to police, who arrived promptly but were unable to locate the suspect. He then went across the street, entered a garage and stole two bicycles, one of which the police removed from my property after he was apprehended.

I will also note here that both Constable Laska and another officer, whose name I failed to take but who came to check on me later in the morning, were both very concerned, very calm and helpful – exactly what I needed. Given the events of the following day on Parliament Hill, I take the opportunity to thank all our security forces for their untiring and courageous efforts in keeping us safe.

My gratitude to Dave and Suzanne as a neighbour, a friend and a resident of this community is immeasurable. As rattled as I feel following this incident, I am eternally grateful – on my behalf but also on the behalf of our community – to be blessed with such wonderful neighbours. Thank you so much, Dave and Suzanne – I couldn't ask for better!

Victoria Young, former Wood Avenue resident

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Municipal Election

Together with a representative from each of the adjacent three communities, the RPRA organized an all-candidates public meeting on October 16 at Queen Juliana Hall here in Rockcliffe Park. The meeting was considered a great success, with all candidates for Councillor present and nearly all the candidates for Mayor, including Jim Watson. Each candidate was given an opportunity to speak and the candidates for Councillor then responded to written questions from an overflow audience of about 300 residents from the Ward 13 communities. Jim Watson was easily re-elected as Mayor and Tobi Nussbaum from Lindenlea was elected as our Ward 13 representative, replacing Peter Clark.

Beechwood Avenue Activities

The development on the former site of the Kavanaugh ESSO garage continues. It is anticipated that the exterior of the building structure will be sufficiently enclosed so that work on the interior can continue during the winter months.

Minto Corporation appears to be moving forward on the new construction at the site of the burnt-out block adjacent MacKay Street. New signs are up and there is an office on-site for those interested in the pre-purchase of units. Many of us wish that one of the stores on ground level will be a hardware, which has been sorely missed since the fire.

The St. Charles Church property is for sale. Given the heritage status granted by the City of Ottawa, it is not clear what a developer could do with the property if the church cannot easily be torn down; it is essentially the only historical landmark remaining along Beechwood. It would be a wonderful site for activities similar to those carried out at St. Brigid's Church in Lowertown.

The Desjardin Credit Union building property on the north side of Beechwood has been purchased by Claridge Homes. The writer attended a public meeting recently at which representatives from the City were present and the proposed development was displayed and discussed. It will have a combination of stores on the ground floor and residences above. As has been the case with the other new developments on Beechwood, Claridge is seeking a variance from the Community Design Plan to increase the height of the building to include more residential units. It is also proposed to virtually eliminate on-site parking save for occupants and residents of the building. Apparently it is felt by the developer that on-street parking should be adequate for store customers and visitors. However, given the proliferation of bike lanes that are being proposed for Beechwood, on-street parking may become a real problem.

Winter Roads Maintenance

The following is a list of matters that were discussed and negotiated with City staff five 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. The roads will not receive treatment except for freezing rain, icy conditions, or the like.
- 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 will not 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.

(Continued on next page)



WILDLIFE NOTES

This month's column was written by "guest contributor" (and reluctant wildlife observer) Brian Dickson. Anthony Keith will return in February.

Swimming With a (Large) Otter in the Pond

In mid-October, I decided to follow my daily routine, put on a wet suit, and went down to the Pond in the early morning for a swim.

A young woman was just leaving the beach area after a swim and mentioned to me that I "might be swimming with something big this morning." I asked her what she meant by that and her answer was not clear to me. I thought perhaps a large carp might have come to the surface. As very cold water began to creep into the inside of my wet suit, I promptly forgot about our brief discussion.

I swam to the far side of the Pond and checked the water level against one large stone that is my guide from spring to late fall as to how the Pond is replenishing itself or not. I enjoyed the fresh air, the tingling sensation of the water and the sense of well-being during exercise. As I usually do when I arrive on the south shore, I looked back toward the entrance point to see who might have arrived during my swim.

My view was suddenly interrupted by a large, square, furry head breaking the surface of the water, perhaps twenty yards from me and moving in my direction. My new swimming friend's head swiveled, much like a periscope on a

submarine, and its eyes darted left and right. This was accompanied by irregular snorting sounds. The otter knew I was there but didn't know who I was, or where I was. Only my head was above water.

I don't know anything about otters, but I always assumed they were small and playful. This one was large, perhaps four to five feet, including the tail. I now also assume that otters have a very good sense of smell, since this one started to swim, in an exploratory way, exactly in my direction, with assorted head pivots and snorts.

When my new friend got too close for comfort, I decided to get out of the water and retreat to the shore. When I did, the otter froze and immediately dove, surfacing finally on the east side of the Pond near the Condos. Swimming back to the entrance area, I passed a new swimmer, complete with a stylish woolen toque. When I told him he would have a companion in the water, his response was, "Cool!"

Otters have been sighted in the Conservation Area before but apparently only during winter. An otter was spotted at the Pond last summer, and appeared frequently in McKay Lake. Whether this is the same otter, or different members of a family, remains an open question. I understand that otters are very sensitive to their environment, in particular, water quality. If this is the case, it is good news that new species are finding a year-round home in the Caldwell Carver Conservation Area.

Brian Dickson, November 15, 2014

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT *(Continued)*

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) Motorists should refrain from parking vehicles on the roadways during the coming months and especially when snow plows and snow blowers are in operation. Winter tires are also strongly recommended for all vehicles.

13) When walking or jogging, especially in the evening, 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.

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



Photo by Gail Roger

CITY HALL



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

Thank You

On October 27, I was given the great honour of serving as your Mayor for four more years. Today, I am writing to say thank you. The support I have received from Ottawa's residents over the past year has been nothing short of extraordinary. As a candidate for Mayor this year, I canvassed in all 23 wards, participated in more than a half-dozen debates, worked hard to put forward a platform that would move our City forward while living within our means, and all while continuing on with my usual Mayoral duties.

What made campaigning so rewarding for me was the chance to speak with Ottawa's residents one-on-one at their doors, day after day. My job as Mayor puts me in touch with tens of thousands of residents each year through different events and programs but it doesn't leave me much time to visit residents at their doorstep to hear their ideas and concerns first-hand. Doing so during the campaign reminded me again how compassionate and diverse our City's residents are and the support I received at the door was what kept me working hard every day.

The campaign, in combination with my job as Mayor, made for some very long days for me and for my campaign team. Despite the positive response we received from the outset, we took nothing for granted and made sure that come election night we could look back and honestly say that we gave it everything we had. As the results came in on election night, I felt honoured to have received the largest percentage of the votes cast and the highest number of total votes in Ottawa's amalgamated history.

This is a mandate for progress in our City and as I set out to lead this new term of Council I promise not to forget this support. I have been hard at work since the morning after the election, finishing this first term while planning the coming four years. These years will see us open the first phase of our LRT system, clean up the Ottawa River, make the key investments in our City's future while being fiscally responsible in the present, and celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in 2017. I look forward to working collaboratively with my council colleagues to push our great City to new heights.

Contact: jim.watson@ottawa.ca, www.jimwatsonottawa.ca



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

To the Residents of Rockcliffe Park

Since the October 27 municipal election, I've been getting ready for my December 1, 2014 start date. In particular, I've been learning about the key areas of my new responsibilities, thanks to a robust Councillor "boot camp" program.

I am in the process of staffing up my office and will be able to introduce my new staff to ward residents in my next update. I have also been attending Community Association meetings and will have the chance before starting my duties to attend the 2014 Annual General Meetings of the New Edinburgh, Overbrook, Carson Grove, Manor Park and Lindenlea Community Associations as a very interested observer! These meetings are a great opportunity to hear from residents and get a good sense of community priorities moving forward.

I'm looking forward to the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association AGM in February and to working closely with Village residents over the next four years.

I want to thank the voters of our ward for entrusting me with the important responsibility of representing all residents at City Hall. I also want to acknowledge Peter Clark for his service to our ward and City during his years of public service, as well as the other Councillor candidates – all of whom contributed thoughtful ideas during the election campaign on how to make Rideau-Rockcliffe and Ottawa better for all of us.

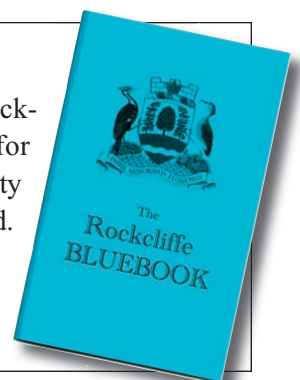
Please feel free to contact my office by telephone or email as of December 1 to share concerns, offer ideas or seek information. Contact me by telephone at **613 580-2483** or by email at tobi.nussbaum@ottawa.ca.

The Rockcliffe Bluebook:

The indispensable directory of Rockcliffe Park residents is available for purchase at the Rockcliffe Community Police Centre, 360 Springfield Road.

\$15 each, two for \$25.

Limited quantities.





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

The Silent Killer

In small doses, it can cause headaches, nausea and dizziness, as well as confusion, drowsiness and loss of consciousness. In high doses, it can be fatal.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, tasteless and odourless gas that kills approximately 50 people per year in Canada, including an average of 11 people per year in Ontario. The most tragic part of these figures is that most of these deaths are completely preventable.

Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels such as propane, gasoline, natural gas, heating oil or wood have insufficient air to burn completely. This can happen in any appliance or device that burns these fuels, such as a stove, furnace, fireplace, hot water heater, vehicle engine, or a portable generator.

In October, Ontario took further steps to keep families and homes in Ontario safe by making CO alarms mandatory in all residential homes. The new regulation, which came into effect October 15, updated Ontario's Fire Code following the passage of Bill 77 last year. Carbon monoxide detectors will now be required near all sleeping areas in residential homes and in service rooms, as well as adjacent sleeping areas of all multi-residential units.

Last month, Ontario kicked off its first Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week to talk about the importance of installing CO alarms. The campaign, led by fire services across the province, raised awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide and the importance of installing detectors in residential dwellings.

Under the law, landlords and home owners will be responsible for complying with the requirements under the Fire code. CO detectors/alarms are affordable; the average mid-range plug-in model with a battery back-up costs \$35 - \$40. Less expensive models can be purchased for as little as \$25.

It is critical that we continue to raise awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide and the importance of installing a CO alarm. I urge all the residents of Ottawa-Vanier to install carbon monoxide alarms immediately – a simple, affordable action everyone can take to help protect their families and their homes.



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

Cuts That Undermine Access to Information

The Globe and Mail published an interesting editorial on November 11 entitled "No money, no access." It points out that the Conservatives had promised in 2006 to give the Canadian Information Commissioner the power to order the release of contested information.

They also said that the Commissioner would be able to review information withheld on the grounds of cabinet confidentiality. Eight years later, neither reform has been enacted.

The Conservative government has ignored the voices in the House – which, before 2006, included its own – calling on Parliament to update the Access to Information Act. The Act was passed in 1985, which was well before we had home Internet access.

Today, Information Commissioner **Ms. Suzanne Legault** is facing budget cuts, while the funding allocated to her office has not kept pace with a workload that gets heavier every year. Her \$11.2 million budget has decreased by 9% since 2009, according to her most recent annual report, while the number of complaints being filed by Canadians has increased steadily. For example, in 2013-2014 alone, they rose 31%! Of course, response times have slowed dramatically as a result.

To address this situation, **Justin Trudeau**, MP for Papineau and the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, introduced Bill C-613, An Act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act and the Access to Information Act (transparency) on June 11, 2014. The bill puts forward concrete ideas to improve transparency, not only within Parliament, but also within our government.

Its purpose is to deliver on certain priorities, such as to specify in legislation that the default position be that government information must not only be automatically accessible, but also be available in formats that are relevant and useful in this day and age. Mr. Trudeau proposes having a more open government by providing for a careful review and modernization of the entire access to information system.

I support this bill without reservation.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Ashbury College Students in Hong Kong for International Debate Tournament

Three Ashbury students travelled to Hong Kong in October to compete in a prestigious international public speaking competition. The Grade 10 and 11 students vied for the podium with students from schools around the world in a variety of events, including cross-examination debating, parliamentary debating, persuasive speaking and extemporaneous speaking.

This was an incredible opportunity for Ashbury students to hone their skills with other high-calibre students on a world stage. Public speaking and debate are both critical skills that will serve our students well as they head out into the world.

The students worked on their speeches during the summer, and met regularly after school to prepare for their events. While at the tournament, they delivered speeches on the female confidence gap, how artificial beef can prevent Amazon deforestation, and the over-prescription of antidepressants.



From left: Anthony Zhong, Emma Richeson and Yousef Choudhri represented Ashbury College at the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition in Hong Kong.

The 34th annual International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition drew more than 150 high school students and their coaches from 48 schools representing eight different countries, including Peru, India, England, Germany, Pakistan, Bermuda, the U.S. and Canada. During the four-day competition, students' intellectual strength and ability to think on their feet were put to the test as each student competed in three of nine possible categories, spanning two styles of debate to various impromptu and prepared public speaking categories.



Ashbury paid a Remembrance Day tribute to the 72 Ashburians lost at war.

Ashbury Remembers

Our students marked Remembrance Day with assemblies for both the Junior and Senior schools. We were fortunate to have members of Canada's military join us for the event, including a parent who spoke about his experiences serving the country. Hearing directly from those involved in peace-keeping is meaningful to our students, most of whom have never been – and hopefully never will be – directly affected by war.

Visitors to the school may have noticed our Remembrance Day table in the front lobby, with a screen displaying the names of 72 Ashburians who were lost at war. It's chilling to think that those young men once roamed the halls of our school as students do today. We will forever be grateful for their service and will do our best to ensure their efforts are not forgotten.

Athletics Season Off to a Winning Start

The busy fall season culminated in many victories for Ashbury teams on and off the field. The Colts football team made it to the season semi-finals, while the girls field

(Continued on next page)

SCHOOL REPORTS

ASHBURY SCHOOL (Continued)

hockey team won silver in the City championships. Meanwhile, our cross country team made it to OFSAA in Waterloo, our senior girls basketball team captured the CAIS Invitational Bronze in Hamilton, and Grade 11 golfer **Julia Malone** won the OFSAA title in Windsor. What an exceptional start to the competitive school year!



Ashbury's Julia Malone took home the OFSAA golf title in October.

Experience Ashbury Day, January 31

Families interested in the Ashbury Advantage are invited to attend our second annual Experience Ashbury Day on Saturday, January 31, 2015, from 10:00 am to noon. This student-led initiative gives prospective students a chance to experience classes, athletics and extra-curriculars – all through fun and interactive programming designed by our current students. Everyone is welcome at this free event.



Grade 10 students gather around their Land Art Project, "Weaver's Nest."

Elmwood Students Express Themselves Through Land Art Project

A group of students from Grades 6 to 12 recently launched their first-ever Land Art Project at an opening vernissage on Thursday, November 6. Internationally acclaimed Land Artist **Marc Walter** (www.marcwalter.ca) was hired as a guest artist to work with the students for the past two months. Students were given the challenge of working as a collective to build one sculpture for each grade.

They worked tirelessly – imagining, collecting, recycling branches and tying hundreds of knots to create six collective, large-scale works of art through rain and cold. The

sculptures are set outdoors throughout the Elmwood School grounds for people to interact with, inviting discussion, wonder and curiosity. We invite our neighbours to come and see these impressive works of art.

Join us for our Holly Tea – Saturday, December 6

The Elmwood Parents' Association welcomes you to join them for a beloved Elmwood tradition this December – the Holly Tea! This is a wonderful opportunity for Elmwood students, families, alumnae, staff and neighbours to get together to celebrate the season with afternoon tea, holiday treats and some very special festive performances. Please join us on Saturday, December 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. There will be poinsettias and holly for sale, but admission is free. Please RSVP via email at eaylen@elmwood.ca.

Eagles Laced Up for the Cure

On Sunday, October 5, over 200 members of the Elmwood community, including students, staff, parents, grandparents and siblings, participated in the CIBC Run for the Cure. The Elmwood Eagles were an impressive team, raising over \$22,000 in total, making us the top school in Ottawa again.

Huge congratulations to Grade 10 student **Maya Mainland-Gratton** for being named the top fundraiser in Ottawa-Gatineau. She raised over \$13,000 – an amazing achievement! Well done, Maya!

Special mention also to Elmwood's Community Prefect, **Jenna Moledina**, for all her hard work as team captain. Go Eagles!



Elmwood Eagles Run for the Cure team members are ready to get moving for the cure!

Considering Elmwood For Your Daughter?

Missed our recent Open House? No problem! Schedule a private tour – you'll get to see the school in action and learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. For more information, visit www.elmwood.ca or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.

END NOTES



Save the Date:

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 pm
RPR Annual
Christmas Tree Lighting
and Carol Sing

See flyer insert in this newsletter for details.

Volunteers Take to the Rake

Over two weekends in October, volunteers from the RPR and student volunteers from the University of Ottawa worked together to refurbish some of our community spaces. Students helped rake and groom trails throughout the Caldwell Carver Conservation area, remove invasive buckthorn, cut back the vines that were damaging the shingles of the Jubilee Pavilion, and weed and plant at the Community Police Centre and Library/Community Hall. Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers and to the University of Ottawa's Days of Service Program.



Newsletter Deliverers Needed Starting February 2015

The RPR is looking for volunteers to deliver the newsletter six times per year, starting with the February 2015 issue. Take a leisurely stroll around your area every other month (you can multi-task and walk the dog at the same time!) and deposit the newsletter in your neighbours' mailboxes. If you are interested in helping out, please contact **Iola Price** at 613 746-6145 or iola.price@distributel.net.



The Locavore Artisan Food Fair (LAFF) Returns

This popular annual event will be held on Sunday, December 7, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, at Encounters With Canada – Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre, 1805 Gaspé Avenue (2 blocks from the famous RCMP Musical Ride location). Free admission.

Some of the City's finest food artisans will gather together to present their delectable wares. A silent auction will be held to benefit the Ottawa School Breakfast Program of Ottawa Network for Education, feeding 13,000 Ottawa children in 166 schools every day.

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

Annual National Gallery

Private Tour and Luncheon

January 2015: time and date TBA

Contact **Vera Cody** at jcody1@rogers.com for information.



Fire and Water in the Garden

Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 7:30 pm

Benjamin Strapper, landscape designer with MacKinnon Reid & Associates, will talk about how to incorporate features in your backyard.

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