



# The Rockcliffe News

December 2016

## Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

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

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### DECEMBER

- 1 Thursday, 7:00 pm .....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Karen LeRoy on "Holiday Tablescapes," with holiday shopping, Community Hall\*
- 3 Saturday, Noon to 4 pm...Christmas Bazaar, MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin\*
- 3 Saturday, Noon to 4 pm ...Elmwood School Marketplace, Old Girls' Art Fair and Holly Tea, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 7 Wednesday, 7:00 pm .....Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Community Hall\*\*
- 11 Sunday, 2 to 4 pm.....Children's Christmas Party, Community Hall\*\*
- 11 Sunday, 6:00 pm.....Christmas Candlelight Service, Beechwood Cemetery\*

### JANUARY

- 9 Monday.....Rockcliffe Park Community Centre Winter Recreation Programs begin\*\*
- 11 Wednesday 7 to 9 pm..Ottawa School Board Public Meeting – Eastern Review, Rideau High School, 815 St. Laurent Boulevard
- 18 Wednesday 7:15 pm...RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 27 Friday, 11:00 am .....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Annual National Gallery Private Tour and Luncheon – Alex Janvier Retrospective\*

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Wednesday, 8:00 pm..Speakers Program: Harley Finkelstein, Chief Operating Officer of high-tech phenomenon Shopify, on "The Shopify Story: Thriving on Change," Community Hall\*
- 15 Wednesday 7:15 pm...RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 22 Wednesday, 8:00 pm..Speakers Program: Charlotte Gray, Award-winning Author and Historian, on "The Promise of Canada: 150 Years and Counting," Community Hall\*
- 23 Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Mary Reid, Owner, Green Thumb Garden Centre, on "Kickstart Your Garden," Community Hall

\*Additional information on these events may be found in this newsletter. \*\*See flyer in this newsletter for details.



**Save the Dates:** Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm:  
Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing;  
Sunday, December 11, 2:00 to 4:00 pm:  
Annual Children's Christmas Party\*\*



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

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



With the leaves barely twelve hours up off the lawn, the season's first real snow has fallen, removing any doubt that winter is upon us, making it clear that it has no intentions of repeating last year's post-Christmas arrival. A lot has happened this past year and, as befits the season, it would be appropriate to quickly review what has occurred that is relevant to our community.

In February this year, our new Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCDP) was approved by City Council after years of work by dedicated residents working with City of Ottawa Heritage staff. More recently, a new Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee was struck to assist builders and renovators navigate the guidelines contained in the HCDP. In October, the new by-law regulating Coach Houses was approved and passed by City Council. The by-law exempts Rockcliffe Park from the provisions allowing for the building of Coach Houses. We are grateful to the great number of residents who made their voices heard on this issue and to City staff who listened.

The summer months saw an unprecedented number of users of the Pond, encouraged by the emergent "beach" resulting from unusually low water levels. The RPPA is continuing to work with the engineering consultants and the City to negotiate remedial action to improve the water levels for next year. Again, as with other issues, we are thankful for the great support from Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum**'s office and from the City.

Rockcliffe Park residents had occasion to come together twice in a short period this fall. First there was the tremendously successful Village Fête, where 400 or so brave souls faced the foul weather and gathered under the big tent and in the Community Hall to celebrate 90 years as a village. And just a few weeks ago we met again, along with the communities of Manor Park and Lindenlea, and hosted a very successful All Candidates Meeting for the Ottawa-Vanier provincial by-election, which generated highly complimentary media coverage.

These accomplishments, in addition to the other familiar activities that take place during the year – the Speakers Program, the annual library book sale, the spring clean-up, and regular and largely unpublicized removal of buckthorn and other invasive species in the Carver-Caldwell Conservation Area – could not happen if it were not for the tremendous efforts of volunteers. It is their efforts that make everything we do possible.

The year is not over yet and we have another opportunity to come together as a community, this time for a good cause. As I have mentioned before, the RPPA is launching a fundraising drive for the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC) this December (see enclosed flyer). The RRCRC has been operating for decades but is struggling to meet the increase in demand for the kind of services – particularly food bank services – it provides, inadvertently brought about by the Syrian refugee crisis and Canada's response to it. We have selected them because they are our neighbours and they need our help. We will officially launch our campaign to raise \$10,000 at our Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing ceremony on December 7 at 7:00 pm. We have 15 additional strings of lights, the tree will be magnificent and by the looks of things, we are pretty sure to have snow. I hope you will all join my family, me, RPPA Board members and your neighbours for this evening of song and celebration. And later that week, for those with young children, don't forget to attend our Annual Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Given the events south of our border and the (hopefully brief) spike in intolerant behaviour that appears to have been given licence by those events, even here in Ottawa, I feel it particularly important that we reach out to the community at large in the spirit of inclusion. I am fortunate to have travelled all over the world and have, on many occasions, been the recipient of kind salutations associated with celebrations unique to cultures other than my own. I have often been the beneficiary of Diwali greetings (accompanied by succulent Indian sweets), and have been invited by a complete stranger in the streets of Khartoum to break the fast with his family during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. I have celebrated Shabbat (complete with Yarmulke) with an observant Jewish family in Memphis, Tennessee, and have celebrated Easter with Dominican monks in Ibadan, Nigeria. On every occasion I felt grateful to be considered a worthy recipient of well wishes and to be invited to share their celebration, regardless of my beliefs, culture, religion or background.

It is therefore in this spirit of celebration and inclusion, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, something else or nothing at all, that I, on behalf of everyone in the RPPA, extend greetings and wish for you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

*Peter Lewis, December 2016*

## Dining with Ambassadors is Back in 2017!

The Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation's major fundraiser, which takes place every two years, is back in 2017! Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of members of the diplomatic corps living in Rockcliffe Park, our residents and their friends/invited guests will once again have an opportunity to discover the cultures of other countries and what it means to be an ambassador to Canada. In 2015, this very special event achieved record attendance and sold out almost as soon as tickets became available. So save the date and see the February issue of The Rockcliffe News for reservation information.

*Dining with Ambassadors* Saturday, April 28, 2017

*Pre-Dinner Cocktail Reception at 6:30 pm*

*Hosted by Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Inc. Brokerage*

**Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road**

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*

**Sarah Baxter and Claire Schofield, Co-Chairs, Dining with Ambassadors 2017**



## 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**. With the lower interest rates, we need your financial support to increase the endowment, the interest of which is used to help fund community projects and activities.

We work primarily with the **Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA)**, which plans and implements projects and activities in the Foundation's mandate areas:



- **conservation of the environment,**
- **preservation of the heritage character of the neighbourhood, and**
- **promotion of a sense of community.**

Over the past few years, the income from the endowment has covered over half of the RPRA costs, with the remainder covered by grants from the City of Ottawa and activity user fees. The RPRA requests for annual grants from Village Foundation have exceeded what we have been able to provide.

We all enjoy this wonderful community; by making a donation we now have an opportunity to support it in a tangible way. **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.** Donations are tax deductible. If you have questions, call **Bonnie Robinson at 613 749-5297** or **Jane Newcombe at 613 746-8000.**

## Call for Nominations for the Village Foundation Board

The Village Foundation is looking for individuals interested in serving on its Board of Directors.

The Foundation is a registered charity established in 1996 to protect and enhance the beauty, character and vitality of the Rockcliffe Park community. The Foundation encourages and financially supports community initiatives in its mandate areas.

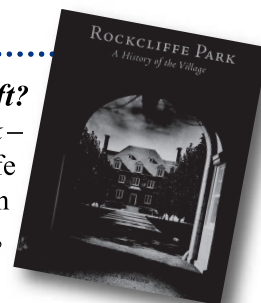
The role of the Board is to set direction for the Foundation, to manage the Foundation's endowment fund, and to undertake activities and make distributions that support its mandate.

The Board meets approximately eight times per year. Individuals interested in seeking a position on the Board are asked to contact the Chair of the Nomination Committee, **Ryan Kilger**, at [ryankilger@hotmail.com](mailto:ryankilger@hotmail.com) or **613 746-3541**.

The Village Foundation's Annual Report to the community will be presented on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall.

## Looking for a Special Holiday Gift?

Consider giving our own *Rockcliffe Park – A History of the Village* by Rockcliffe resident **Martha Edmond**, published in 2005. Available at our local bookstore, Books on Beechwood, for \$49.50.





## SPRING BOOK SALE

### The 2017 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale Needs Your Books!

Who could believe that in 2017, the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale will celebrate its 20th anniversary? Building on last year's huge success, preparations are already gearing up. So now is the time to bring your gently used books, CDs, DVDs and vinyl to the Rockcliffe Park Public Library during opening hours, or call for assistance at **613 580-2424, ext. 27623**. And of course, the sooner you bring them in, the better. But please remember – no encyclopaedias, magazines or textbooks!



*Jane Dobell, Book Sale Chair (centre, in light-coloured jacket) and her merry band of volunteers are already working to make the 2017 Book Sale an even bigger success than last year's.*

Thanks to stellar community and public support, the 2016 Spring Book Sale broke all records, allowing the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) library committee to make a very substantial contribution to programming and materials at our local branch, as well to Ottawa Public Library as a whole.

So please donate now, and be sure to save the dates for the 2017 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale:

**Saturday, April 22, 2017: 10 am – 5 pm**

**Sunday, April 23, 2017: 11 am – 5 pm**

**Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Rd.**

Many thanks in advance for your contributions!

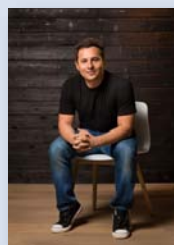
*Jane Dobell, RPRA Library Committee Chair  
and the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale Volunteers*

## SPEAKERS PROGRAM

### Fall 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.



#### *Harley Finkelstein*

Chief Operating Officer of high-tech phenomenon Shopify

#### **“The Shopify Story: Thriving on Change”**

One of Canada's most exciting tech companies, Shopify is disrupting the way people buy and sell things, as well as its own workplaces. It allows people and businesses all over the world, without any tech expertise, to easily create on-line stores and more. In conversation with **Tom d'Aquino**, hear the chief operating officer tell the astonishing story of this Ottawa-based phenomenon.

**Wednesday, February 1 at 8:00 pm**



#### *Charlotte Gray*

Award-winning Author and Historian

#### **“The Promise of Canada: 150 Years and Counting”**

To mark Canada's 150th, Ottawa author Charlotte Gray will speak about her latest book, painting compelling portraits of nine influential Canadians and their ideas that have shaped our country over the last 150 years.

**Wednesday, February 22 at 8:00 pm**

## Residential Fourth Density (R4) Zoning Review

For those of you having Rockcliffe Village property in R4 zoning along Beechwood east of Acacia, please be advised that the City of Ottawa is conducting a review and has posted on its website an R4 Zoning Review discussion paper, with comments to be submitted by Friday, December 16, 2016. The intent is to address certain cases where R4 zoning is permitting development (heightened density/occupation) that is adversely impacting the character and planned function for some established areas of Ottawa. We are informed that is not considered a problem in Rockcliffe Park. Should you wish more information or to comment, please visit [ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-consultations/planning-and-infrastructure/residential-fourth-density-r4-zoning](http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-consultations/planning-and-infrastructure/residential-fourth-density-r4-zoning) and let us know what you think by emailing [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

# RPPS BOOK FAIR

## Thanks – and a Call to Action – from the 55th RPPS Book Fair

The lineup stretched down the block on Opening Day. All weekend the floor was packed with new and repeat visitors. The Café buzzed with shoppers happily noshing on hot dishes from **Lemon Catering**, coffee from **Bridgehead** and baked goods from **Da Bombe**, as well as from the kind kitchens of eight area embassies, RPPS families and generous neighbours.

This was an incredibly successful year – at the time of writing, we are looking at gross proceeds of \$70,000. The net proceeds will go to the RPPS Parent Council to fund literacy grants for five area schools, to supply RPPS' own literacy programs, to hold annual events like our Author and Illustrator Workshops and Grandparents' Reading Day, and to upgrade technology and equipment.

### We Love Our Volunteers

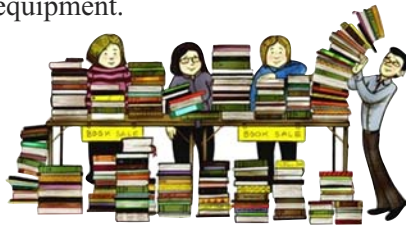
We're immensely grateful for our hardworking volunteers – the hundreds of folks who signed up online, the scores of students who logged hours, and the casual helpers who found time to work behind the scenes, behind the cash registers and amid the shelves. We couldn't have a Book Fair without them.

Special thanks to two outgoing Committee members: our three-time Chair, **Joni Hamlin**, and our Volunteer Coordinator, **Inge Vander Horst**. Both of these tireless women have stepped into multiple Book Fair roles over the years and they will be sorely missed.

### Help Us Plan for Next Year

We are actively seeking a new Chair, Co-Chair, and Administration Team Lead for Book Fair 2017. This event does not just happen. If you're new to the school or community – or even if you're not – please consider joining the Committee or stepping into a team role. Steely veterans who have come before will help you and we're always looking for fresh voices, opinions and ideas.

As we're fond of saying at RPPS: *"One sale – the book sale."* Parents need not hawk chocolate bars or cookie dough or anything else. We ask only for kids' and parents' support for this single, exciting, exhausting and rewarding event. To find out how you can help, drop us a line at [info@rockcliffeparkpsbookfair.com](mailto:info@rockcliffeparkpsbookfair.com).



# CANADA'S 150<sup>th</sup>



## Gearing up for Canada's 150th Birthday in 2017, Dutch Ambassador Van der Zwan Plants Canada 150 Tulip Bulbs

On November 2, just before the frost set in, **His Excellency Henk van der Zwan**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canada, planted Canada 150 tulip bulbs in the flower beds in front of his residence on Manor Avenue in Rockcliffe Park.

The Canada 150, designed as a tribute from the Netherlands to Canada, will be a celebrative icon for Canada's 150th birthday next year. The National Capital Commission has partnered with the Netherlands embassy to bring this special tulip to Canada. During the sesquicentennial celebrations in spring 2017, 300,000 of these special tulips will be showcased in the NCC's flower beds – all over town, on Parliament Hill, Commissioners Park, near Dow's Lake and for the annual Tulip Festival. And thousands more will bloom in gardens across Canada, including – of course – at the residence of the Netherlands Ambassador.

The first tulip beds in the Capital were planted in 1945, when the Netherlands sent 100,000 tulip bulbs as a postwar gift of gratitude for the role that Canadian soldiers had played in the liberation of the Netherlands and for the hospitality that Canada offered to then **Crown Princess Juliana**, the grandmother of the present King of the Netherlands, and her family during the dark days of the Second World War. The Royal Family lived just around the corner from Henk Van Der Zwan's residence, in Stornoway on Acacia Avenue.

"These distinctive red and white blooms represent so much more than the Maple Leaf flag," said Ambassador Henk Van Der Zwan. "They represent a century and a half of shared hopes, dreams, and accomplishments. I hope that when Canadians see these tulips blooming next spring it will bring home to them the deep feelings of friendship that my countrymen have for Canada."

*Ambassador Henk van der Zwan, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Canada (at right), plants Canada 150 tulip bulbs in front of his Rockcliffe Park residence.*





# ROCKCLIFFE HISTORY

*In honour of Canada's upcoming 150th birthday, The Rockcliffe News will publish a series of Rockcliffe History stories throughout the coming year. A version of this article appeared on January 19, 2016 (Princess Margriet's birthday) in Trouw, a Dutch daily newspaper, and in the Spring 2016 issue of MAA Matters, published by the Medical Alumni Association in co-operation with the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine.*

## Dr. Harold Fireman, 96-year-old Rockcliffe Resident and University of Toronto Alum, Remembers North America's Only Royal Birth



Medical doctors, in their long careers, encounter many interesting, unforgettable events. Strangely, my most elite experience came almost immediately after I graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine in March 1942. World War II was at its peak, following Hitler's invasion of Europe in 1939. Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands had escaped to England with her family, joining the Allies in hopes of eventually re-conquering Europe. England, however, was a short distance from mainland Europe and endured frequent bombings from the German Luftwaffe. Queen Wilhelmina felt she had to remain as the iconic Dutch figurehead at the allies' hub in London, but wisely decided that her family would be safer in Canada. Consequently, her daughter, Princess Juliana, with her husband Prince Bernhard, came to settle in a home on a small estate in Rockcliffe Park, then an exclusive village in east-end Ottawa that was home to many foreign diplomats.

In 1942, Princess Juliana was "in a family way" and came under the care of Dr. John Puddicombe, the chief of obstetrics at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. On learning that the royal baby would be delivered there, the hospital rebuilt four rooms at one end of the obstetrical ward, then the government temporarily declared the rooms to be "extraterritorial," rendering them outside of Canada, allowing the baby not to be declared a Canadian citizen (and thus a Dutch one).

In April 1942, I arrived at the Ottawa Civic Hospital to complete an abbreviated wartime rotating internship as a medical officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. In January 1943, Princess Juliana was admitted to the hospital in labour and I was appointed to be the intern for obstetrics during her hospitalization. Dr. John Puddicombe warmly welcomed me to his service and told me that Princess Juliana was a very nice young patient who did not want any special privileges. She had insisted on coming to his office for her monthly prenatal check-ups although Dr. Puddicombe had offered to go to her house.

When the arrangements for the Princess became known, an unofficial meeting was called by the interns in our quarters. There my colleagues performed a mock ceremony in which I was presented with a broad red satin ribbon that stretched diagonally from my left shoulder down to my waist, standing out brightly against my white uniform. Looking like a diplomatic aristocrat, I was dubbed "The Royal Intern." My routine included frequent visits to the nursing station at the head of the obstetrical ward, with special checks of the Royal Dutch Four Rooms. One front room housed two Dutch bodyguards in civilian clothes and we soon became good friends. The second front room was reserved for the Dutch baby nurse who had also cared for Princess Juliana when she was born.

Princess Juliana stayed in one of the back rooms, and the remaining room was made ready for the new baby. The royal labour progressed and the Princess was taken to the delivery room. I was summoned to appear and when I arrived, I was surprised to find a crowded room that reminded me of New York's Grand Central Station! The medical team included Dr. Puddicombe, as well as an anesthetist, two nurses and me. Seated in a far corner were Prince Bernhard, plus the Dutch ambassador and his first (male) secretary.

The delivery advanced rather quickly, smoothly and quietly. The baby was born with a lusty cry that made us all chuckle and congratulate the parents. Prince Bernhard then went to the nurses' station where a telephone line had been kept open to Queen Wilhelmina in London. The Prince delivered the good news that a healthy baby girl was born and that baby and mother were well. Then the Dutch ambassador and his secretary came to the nurses' station to sign an affidavit, swearing they had witnessed the birth of the baby, the true daughter of the Royal Princess. Princess Margriet, born on January 19, 1943, and third daughter of the royal couple, was named after the flower worn during the war to symbolize defiance to Nazi Germany. She is the only royal baby ever born in North America. There was one unusual but harmless, complication. Young Princess Juliana had suffered a mild case of the mumps through it all. Dr. Puddicombe and his wife visited the Royal Dutch family years later and told me they were given a very warm welcome. Dr. Puddicombe also later delivered my own daughter who became my princess.

*Dr. Fireman can be contacted at [fireman\\_henry1@sympatico.ca](mailto:fireman_henry1@sympatico.ca)*

*Dr. Fireman photo: UofT Faculty of Medicine. Princess Juliana photo: Yousuf Karsh.*



# OTTAWA-CARLETON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Eastern Secondary Review Meeting with Trustee Chris Ellis at RPPS

On October 24, close to thirty RPPS parents and members of the community attended a meeting at RPPS with OCDSB Trustee **Chris Ellis** to discuss the OCDSB's Eastern Secondary Review and how it might affect families in the RPPS catchment, which includes Rockcliffe Park. Superintendent **Pino Buffone** also attended, representing OCDSB staff.

It became clear that the proposal to close Rideau HS and send that school's students to Gloucester HS would not affect students in the RPPS catchment, who would continue to attend Lisgar HS. Discussion then turned to ongoing changes to the OCDSB's Gifted Program and how these changes might affect the future educational environment at Lisgar. As it stands, the Gifted Program at Lisgar could see a substantial decrease in size over the next several years.

## Eastern Secondary Review Public Consultation

On November 1, the OCDSB held the first of two public consultations on the Eastern Secondary Review, which proposes to close Rideau HS and instead send Rideau students to Gloucester HS. At the consultation, many members of the Rideau community expressed concern about the proposed closing, as the school facility hosts many community programs in addition to education it provides to school-aged students. The OCDSB hopes to transfer those programs to other OCDSB properties in the area. Questions were also raised as to how well the Board would be able to transition current Rideau HS students to Gloucester HS at this critical point in their education.

## OCDSB Elementary School Program Framework Consultation

While families living in Rockcliffe Park are not affected by the proposals in the Eastern Secondary Review, it should be noted that there will be other reviews in the future and RPPS will be included at some point.

Additionally, the OCDSB is currently proposing an Elementary School Program Framework that could have considerable implications for RPPS. While it is unlikely RPPS would ever face closure, there is still the possibility of significant change, which the community should be prepared to address. For instance, RPPS doesn't currently maintain the 1.5 classes per grade in the English Program that the Framework seeks to meet. How this would be addressed if the Framework is approved is unknown.

If you wish to provide feedback on the Elementary School Program Framework, there is a survey available at this link: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESPF\\_Consultation](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESPF_Consultation). The survey is open until December 13 and the Trustees are scheduled to vote on the Framework on January 31, 2017.

## RPPS Position on OCDSB Elementary School Program Framework

The RPPS supports strong community schools that can offer regular English programs and French immersion programs in one school building. The requirement that any program must have 1.5 classes available at every level weakens the community school concept. If a student drops out of French Immersion, s/he should not be obliged to leave siblings and go to another school. Experience has shown that split classes of a reasonable size can provide excellent education.

## SCHOOL REPORTS



### ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

## New Kindergarten Yard at RPPS Now Open

On November 14, kindergarten students at RPPS were joined by their teachers, families, local City Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum**, School Board Trustee **Chris Ellis** and community representatives to formally open the new kindergarten playground and yard. The new kindergarten yard provides a safe and fun environment for the children to explore their

outdoor world each day, and is already proving very popular with the youngest members of the school. In addition to support from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, substantial funds for the building of the new kindergarten yard were raised by the RPPS School Council, including through the Dance-a-thon and Book Fair. This community project was also made possible through partnership with the City of Ottawa. Both the RPPS and the Lindenlea Community Association supported the School Council's application

*(RPPS School Report continued on page 8)*





## ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

# SCHOOL REPORTS

### New Kindergarten Yard *(continued from page 7)*

to the City of Ottawa for a grant. The new kindergarten yard is a great addition to RPPS and is open to the community outside of regular school hours.

*Jane Hooker, RPPS School Council Member*



Opening ceremony for the new RPPS kindergarten yard.

Photos: Green Tea Photography, Mathieu Louis-Seize; click@greenteaphotography.ca

### RPPS F.A.I.R. Club

Student members of Rockcliffe Park Public School's F.A.I.R. Club wrapped up their We Scare Hunger campaign with 350 food items collected.

The food will be donated to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre to support their food cupboard. Thank you to all families who participated.

On November 9, 18 students from F.A.I.R. Club were invited to WE Day Ottawa. This annual event is a celebration of service and social change geared to our youth. Students witnessed a variety of national and international leaders, ranging from **Justin Trudeau** to **Gord Downey** to **Spencer West**, speaking to the message of "living WE." They were inspired and empowered to continue to help to make our communities, our country, and our world more just and harmonious. It was an amazing event.

*Amber Clement, Teacher*

*Rockcliffe Park  
Public School students  
at WE Day Ottawa.*



## Elmwood School

### Eagles Laced Up for the Cure

On Sunday, October 2, over 100 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 \$20,000 in total, making us the top school in Ottawa once again and the fifth place team overall.

Huge congratulations to our Community Prefect, **Maya Mainland-Gratton**, for being named the second-place individual fundraiser in



*Members of the  
Elmwood Eagles Run  
for the Cure team  
accepting the School  
Team Challenge award  
after a rainy 5K run!*

Ottawa-Gatineau. She raised over \$13,000 – an amazing achievement! Well done, Maya!



*Our Grade Four class at the  
Wabano Centre for Aboriginal  
Health.*

### Our Home and Native Land

Elmwood's Grade Four class visited the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health this fall as part of the "Our Home and Native Land" unit of inquiry. Students had the opportunity to participate in various cultural activities that helped

them connect to Canada's indigenous peoples. The girls met with an elder, took a tour of the facility, learned about indigenous history, culture and medicine, made medicine bags in the shape of turtles and had a delicious traditional lunch. The girls learned so much and loved their experience there.

### 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



# SCHOOL REPORTS

more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. Please visit [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca) for more information or contact the Admissions Office at 613 744-7783.

## Giving Back to Our Community

An important part of what we do at Elmwood is to develop a sense of the value of service to others.

As the weather started to get colder, our girls recognized a need in our community for warm clothing and meals. With this in mind, Elmwood held its annual Warm Clothing and Food Drive in support of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. We were pleased to drop off a busload of items at the Centre after a week of collecting!



*Elmwood's Middle School Community Service Council members are ready to deliver warm clothing and food to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre.*



## Celebrating 125 Years of Ashbury

Ashbury's campus was a busy place this fall as the school celebrated 125 years in the nation's capital.

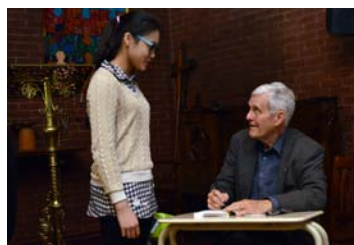


*The GG's Foot Guard performed at halftime during the Ashbury Homecoming football game.*

Homecoming weekend in late September saw the return of former students, parents and Headmasters, as all gathered to reminisce about the Ashbury experience and see in person how the school has grown and changed.

Alumni from as far back as the 1950s joined students from today to share in the Ashburian spirit. Highlights of the weekend included a football game, Terry Fox Run, an alumni art show, the launch

of **Stephen Woolcombe's** book about his grandfather, Ashbury founder **G.P. Woolcombe**, a chapel service and an anniversary dinner at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, where magician **David Ben** spoke about Ashbury graduate and influential magician **Dai Vernon** from the Class of 1913.



*Author Stephen Woolcombe signs a copy of his book, "The Life and Times of George Penrose Woolcombe: Educator," at Ashbury's Homecoming.*



*Ashbury Ball Co-Chair Jill Dickinson, Head of School Norman Southward and Co-Chair Wanda Peters at the November 19 fundraising event.*

On November 19, the Ashbury gymnasium was transformed for the Ashbury Ball. The evening's theme of "reflections of Ashbury, inspiring our future" was on display through striking backdrops of antique clock faces to symbolize the passage of time and all those who have helped advance the school over the years. Over 330 guests donned black-tie outfits to celebrate. **Thyme & Again** prepared a mouth-watering meal and Montreal band **Electrik** provided toe-tapping tunes to get the dance party started. Hundreds of auction items, including diamond jewellery and trips to Bali and Turks and Caicos, tempted bidders, who raised their paddles in support of scholarship and bursary programs to increase access for deserving students. The evening, overseen by Co-Chairs **Jill Dickinson** and **Wanda Peters**, both Ashbury parents, raised about \$200,000.

Thanks to all who helped us celebrate our milestone year!

# CITY HALL



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

## Rockcliffe Park Update Coach Houses

Thanks to the clear and strong community position, the Village has been exempted from a new City policy permitting backyard Coach Houses. These accessory dwellings in residential backyards are part of a new provincial densification policy. City planning staff had sought public views and at the RPRA-organized open meeting this past June, they heard important arguments why Rockcliffe Park should be exempted. I was grateful for the time residents took to attend the meeting or communicate their position, which made my job to achieve the desired result that much easier.

## BudgetSpeak and the City Budget

The City's draft budget was tabled at Council on November 9, 2016. Deliberation on individual departmental budgets began in late November and will continue into early December before the budget vote on December 14.

I was encouraged to see commitments in the draft budget to support social services and a low income transit pass. These two priorities, along with safe active mobility, had been identified by residents as three priorities they wanted to see reflected in the budget. That interest was reiterated earlier this fall during a public budget consultation to explore how the City could better support these areas, which I co-hosted with four of my colleagues representing urban wards. For more information on this year's consultation and a summary of the feedback shared by participants, visit my website.

## How to Participate in the 2017 Budget Process

Now that the draft budget has been tabled, I encourage residents to continue to share their thoughts with me. You are also welcome to attend any of the upcoming committees where departmental budgets will be considered to learn more and speak to the issues that are important to you:

**Transit Commission**, Dec. 5, 9:30 am; **Finance and Economic Development Committee**, Dec. 6, 9:30 am; **Ottawa Public Health Board**, Dec. 5, 5 pm; **Ottawa Public Library Board**, Dec. 6, 5 pm; **Transportation Committee**, Dec. 7, 9:30 am; **Community and Protective Services Committee**, Dec. 8, 9:30 am.

If you have any questions about how to sign up to speak at committee or need other information, please don't hesitate to contact my office at **613 580-2483**.



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

## Welcoming the World to Ottawa 2017

With winter upon us and Canada's 150th birthday less than 50 days away, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

2017 will be a historic year in the nation's capital. We have worked hard to prepare Ottawa to welcome the world as host of these celebrations. As with Expo '67 during Canada's centennial, we plan to create a year of lasting memories and experiences during Canada's upcoming sesquicentennial.

It seems like yesterday that I announced the creation of the 2017 Bureau to begin preparations for Canada's Big Year. Now we are only weeks away and 12 full months of big, bold, immersive and moving experiences are about to begin. Visit [www.ottawa2017.ca](http://www.ottawa2017.ca) and sign up for the newsletter to stay up to date and receive the latest information on the many upcoming events and celebrations. Here are just a few to look forward to, early in the New Year:

- New Years Eve – December 31st: [Ottawa2017.ca](http://Ottawa2017.ca)  
Lighting of the Ottawa 2017 cauldron at Ottawa City Hall kicks off a family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration, leading to a national celebration on Parliament Hill with fireworks at 8:17 pm (20:17) and midnight.
- Canadian Tire National Skating Championships – January 16-22: [skatecanada.ca](http://skatecanada.ca)
- Red Bull Crashed Ice – March 3-4: [redbullcontentpool.com](http://redbullcontentpool.com)
- JUNO Awards – April 1st-2nd, 2017: [Junoawards.ca](http://Junoawards.ca)

Canada is a diverse country, and we will host an equally diverse selection of large signature events, such as the Canadian Video Game Awards, the Canadian Track and Field Championships, The Canadian Olympic Curling Trials – Roar of the Rings, the 105th Grey Cup and many more. We have also worked hard to ensure that residents and visitors alike can partake in many Ottawa 2017 celebrations at no cost: the Underground Multi-media Experience, La Machine, Inspiration Village and Ottawa Welcomes the World are just a few of free signature events not to miss.

Ottawa 2017 will be a once-in-a-lifetime celebration and I encourage you to get involved. If you would like to plan your own community event, volunteer or simply learn more, visit [www.ottawa2017.ca](http://www.ottawa2017.ca).





## WILDLIFE NOTES

Robins invaded my garden on 27 September. Both front and back gardens were covered. A total of perhaps two dozen birds, acting as a flock as they do on migration and in winter. About nine out of ten appeared to be juveniles, with good flight feathers but scruffy necks. Food was their interest, constantly pecking at the ground, always on the move. A few conflicts – brief chases. They were here for an hour or so, and then moved on. What they didn't do was go after the obvious wild grapes still hanging on a fence. They fed below the grapes. I presume it was more profitable to get migratory fuel from invertebrates still available on the ground. Once the ground freezes, persistent fruits become a vital resource.

From 28 September through 2 October, wherever I walked in the Village there were bands of migrant White-throated Sparrows. Usually less than eight birds each, perhaps family groups. Feeding on the ground and moving frequently, groups of brown plump bodies making brief flights at a height of a metre; a familiar Village autumn sight. And on 4 and 6 October a predictable single Swainson's Thrush visited the garden, stirring up the leaves on the ground, hunting for invertebrates.

Chickadees in my garden and that of **Diana Rowley** next door have been taking sunflower seeds from our feeders in the past month at an extraordinary high rate of consumption, one we've never seen before in decades of maintaining bird feeders. Temperatures have been mild, warm enough not to harm the birds' normal insect prey that lives on tree bark and leaves. So what is going on? In the August column I reported that the garden Chickadees had a most unusual complete breeding failure in nest boxes this spring, an event I surmised could be due to shortage of their insect food. Here in October is further suggestion of a shortage of the insects that Chickadees depend on. Could this still be a repercussion from the drought early in the growing season?

Returning with his dogs from the Mile Circle in his car this evening, **Brian Dickson** encountered a most unusual mammal near Lakeway and Blenheim. Flushed by the lights of the car, the animal ran up the broad trunk of a large maple, pausing with limbs extended on either side. In the light of his flashlight, Brian saw an animal the size of a cat with body fur of a golden hue and a contrasting dark-coloured tail; a solid dark – not ringed like a Raccoon's. Of two other mammals of cat size and tree-climbing agility, Fishers are all dark in colour but Marten (*Martes americana*) body fur can be gold with the tail dark brown. So Marten is the most



*Photo: Wikipedia*

likely identification. Martens range mainly across the boreal forest region from Alaska to Newfoundland and have been greatly reduced by past trapping in the southern parts of their historical range that includes Ottawa. I don't recall any report of a Marten in the Village since I moved here in 1969. At press time, I was unable to contact the best local expert who would know of occurrences in this region.

Apart from an occasional few Canada Geese, I've seen no water birds on the lake since returning to Ottawa at the end of September.

*Anthony Keith*  
14 November 2016



### Winter is Here so Roll that Rock!

It's that time again – the snowplows are out so move those rocks back from the pavement edge – at least 12-18 inches (30-45 cm). The same is true for the iron and plastic road edge markers – the snowplow operators need a place to deposit the snow and our rocks and iron stakes cause damage to their snowplow blades.

If you install T-bars or markers to guide snowplow operations, they should be placed 12 inches (30 cm) from the edge of the pavement. Please ensure they are not so deep as to puncture a gas line. Contact Ontario One Call at **1-800-400-2255** or online at **on1call.com** for a free underground utilities locate.



# END NOTES

## Rockcliffe Park Garden Club



### *Holiday Tablescapes – Getting Back to Nature:*

**Thursday, December 1, 7:00 pm**

**Speaker: Karen LeRoy, Alta Vista Flowers**

Our most popular night of the year. Come early to shop the tables of local artisans.

Karen LeRoy, co-owner of Alta Vista Flowers, will demonstrate how to create stunning holiday arrangements. She will also have products for sale and you can win one of her creations in our raffle.

*The Rockcliffe Park Garden Club wishes to thank our December 1 Christmas event presenting sponsor, Brian Montgomery of Montgomery Asset Management | RBC Dominion Securities.*

### *The National Gallery Annual Private Tour:*



Followed by a private luncheon in the Cafeteria Glass Rotunda catered by Tulips and Maple.

**Friday, January 27, 2017**

**Meet at 11:00 am at the Tour Desk**

We will see the major retrospective of Canada's first Native modernist, Alex Janvier from the Dene Nation in Cold Lake, Alberta, who has a unique mix of symbolic content and rhythmic abstractions of natural forms. Learn more about how his life experiences affected his work and his road to becoming an iconic figure in Canadian art.

[www.gallery.ca/janvier/en/](http://www.gallery.ca/janvier/en/)

Please contact Vera Cody for admission costs to this tour and luncheon choices and costs.



### *Kickstart Your Garden:*

**Thursday, February 23, 2017, 7:30 pm**

**Speaker: Mary Reid, Owner,  
Green Thumb Garden Centre**

If your tired garden needs a new look and is overgrown, lacks colour and is messy, it is then past its prime. Mary will assess whether it is a major project or a minor one. Learn how to really look at your garden if you want to change it and then plan – these are the first two critical steps. What do you want to do? What would you like to do? What can you do? Find out what will work for you to get your garden flourishing again.

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$5 for guests. For information, contact **Vera Cody, [jcody1@rogers.com](mailto:jcody1@rogers.com)**.

## Awards for Rockcliffe Residents



collection of vintage aircraft housed at the Gatineau airport.

Congratulations to **Michael Potter** on receiving the Ottawa Business Journal – Ottawa Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award. Former head of Cognos, Mr. Potter now devotes much of his time to his other passion – flying small airplanes – and his foundation, Vintage Wings of Canada, the



Congratulations to **Manjit Basi**, who recently received the first-ever spark Ignite Award. Manjit – philanthropist, businesswoman and community builder – is the co-founder and Director of Synapcity, a citizen engagement non-profit in Ottawa. She has contributed as a board member to many organizations including the Community Foundation of Ottawa, Immigrant Women Services and the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. The annual spark Ignite award recognizes a woman who has made a significant impact in Ottawa in leadership, philanthropic giving, advocacy and volunteerism.

## Holiday Markets and Events

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3**

**Christmas Bazaar, Noon to 4:00 pm, MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Road** Featuring a bake table, preserves, books, CDs and vinyl records, attic treasures, accessories, vintage/retro/couture ladies clothing, Christmas decorations and more.

**Elmwood Marketplace, Noon to 4:00 pm, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road** A variety of vendors with demonstrations and items for sale, including poinsettias, centrepieces, jewelry, local honey, delectable treats and more! Poinsettias are available for pre-purchase. Check out the **Old Girls' Art Fair, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**. Over 50 beautiful pieces of work (available for purchase) created by Elmwood Old Girls, current students and community members. And stop by for Elmwood's annual **Holly Tea, 1:00 to 4:00 pm**. Join Old Girls, students, families and neighbours for afternoon tea, with treats by the Elmwood Bistro and live music.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

**Christmas Candlelight Service, 6:00 pm, Beechwood Cemetery** A special way to remember loved ones, the service features a candlelight memorial with carols and a tree-lighting ceremony. Full info at [www.beechwoodottawa.ca/calendar/christmas-candlelight-service](http://www.beechwoodottawa.ca/calendar/christmas-candlelight-service).

