



# The Rockcliffe News

February 2014

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Rockcliffe Park  
Residents Association**  
[www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brian Dickson, President**  
613 744-4481 – 60 Whitmarl Drive

**Anna Blauveltdt, Vice President**  
613 744-5230 – 354 Cloverdale Road

**John Murphy, Treasurer**  
613 747-9376 – 201 Maple Lane

**Alexander Macklin, Past President**  
613 745-7259 – 495 Maple Lane

**Lori Assheton-Smith**  
613 736-8365 – 40 Lakeway Drive

**John Butterfield**  
613 422-8729 – 294 Manor Avenue

**Susan d'Aquino**  
613 741-9970 – 400 Lansdowne Road N

**Kathy Day**  
613 321-6672 – 35 Lyttleton Gardens

**Jane Dobell**  
613 749-1433 – 145 Lakeway Drive

**Russell Gibson**  
613 741-8387 – 104 Acacia Avenue

**Graeme McCallum**  
613 421-8586 – 511 Mariposa Avenue

**James Taylor**

### VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 1

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

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

### FEBRUARY

- 5 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 5 Wednesday 7:30 am .....Elmwood Admissions Open House, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 12 Wednesday 8:00 pm .....Speakers Program: Charlie Hill, Curator of Canadian Art, National Gallery of Canada: "The National Gallery of Canada: Building the Canadian Collection," Community Hall\*
- 12 Wednesday 10:00 am to noon ....Ashbury Open House, 362 Mariposa Avenue\*
- 18 Tuesday 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm.....Canada Lands Company Final Open House on the Redevelopment of the Former Rockcliffe Airbase, Ottawa Conference and Events Centre, 200 Coventry Road\*
- 26 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Joint Annual General Meeting of the Boards of the RPRA and the Village Foundation, Community Hall\*

### MARCH

- 1 Saturday 10:00 am to noon .....Ashbury Open House, 362 Mariposa Avenue\*
- 19 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 26 Wednesday 8:00 pm .....Speakers Program: Thomas d'Aquino, CEO, Intercounsel Ltd. and Canada's Co-Chair of the North American Forum: "Building a New North America," Community Hall\*

### APRIL

- 2 Wednesday 7:30 pm .....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 12 Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm...Library Book Sale, Community Hall\*
- 13 Sunday, Noon to 5:00 pm.....Library Book Sale, Community Hall\*
- 16 Wednesday 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall

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

**Mark Your Calendar** for the Joint Annual Meeting of the Boards of the RPRA and the Village Foundation, February 26, 7:30 pm at Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. All are welcome to attend.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this is the first newsletter of the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best for 2014.

Winter so far has been a mixed bag with early snows, extreme cold, storms, and melting with ice pellets and rain. It is hard to imagine what still remains in winter's arsenal, but hopefully we will avoid those treacherous sheets of ice that make walking and driving such a challenge.

As in past years at this time, we are preparing for our Annual General Meeting, which will take place on February 26 at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. Following long-standing tradition, our meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Village Foundation. Over the course of the year, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association works closely with the Foundation and its Chair, Bonnie Robinson, on Village priorities. I am pleased to report that for 2014, the Foundation has provided a grant to the RPRA in the amount of \$16,370 for use in the areas of the environment, heritage, and strengthening the sense of community within the Village. On behalf of the Board of the RPRA, I would like to thank the Foundation for its generous grant in support of our work.

The AGM reviews the events and activities of the past year, but also looks toward the future. With respect to the former, you will find a copy of our Annual Report included with this newsletter. It outlines our work in 2013 and highlights the thousands of hours that volunteers contribute to our community, which makes it the special place that it is. Looking at the past year, the decision of the Government of Ontario not to fund a bridge at Kettle Island was a milestone, although the downtown truck problem remains. The RPRA was also strengthened as an institution during 2013 through the drafting and filing of the Articles of Continuance, and new by-laws as required by the recent Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. We also requested and underwent a successful audit of our finances. Looking ahead, we will continue to participate in discussions regarding the development of the former Rockcliffe Airbase, and to support the redevelopment of Beechwood Avenue.

I should also mention that the AGM will elect a new Board of Directors. We are currently seeking new Board Members who would be willing to contribute to one or more of our activities, in particular in the area of communications, organizing social events, and internal administration of the RPRA. If you would be interested in putting your name forward for election at the AGM, or would like further information on Board membership, please contact me. I can be reached by phone at 613 744-4481 or by email at [briandickson1@gmail.com](mailto:briandickson1@gmail.com).

In an earlier column, I mentioned an initiative of a group of enthusiastic residents to build a new community facility composed of a permanent outdoor rink pad and fieldhouse, to be located on the grounds of the Rockcliffe Park Public School, adjacent to the Jubilee Garden. This initiative was discussed at last year's AGM and over a period of more than two years the RPRA has discussed the opportunities offered by this project, as well as concerns.

The proponents of this initiative include the Hosers, a group of more than 100 volunteers from the community who have maintained the ice surface of the outdoor rink over many years. In 2013, the Hosers incorporated to become the Rockcliffe Hosers Corporation (RHC) in order to manage this project. In late 2013, the RPRA Board considered all the information available, and voted on a motion of support. The motion passed by a margin of 11 to 2. Our Councillor, Peter Clark, City staff, and the Board of the Village Foundation have been informed. While considerable work remains to be done, the RHC hopes that the project could get under way this summer.

Finally, with the arrival of the New Year, I would ask you to renew your membership or become a member of the RPRA in 2014. Higher levels of membership give us greater credibility when the RPRA seeks to advance community interests at City Hall and elsewhere. Membership is on a household/family basis and remains at \$25.00. Forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Community Police Centre on Springfield Road or downloaded from our website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca).

I hope you will join us at the AGM on February 26.

*Brian Dickson*



# CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE – 2013

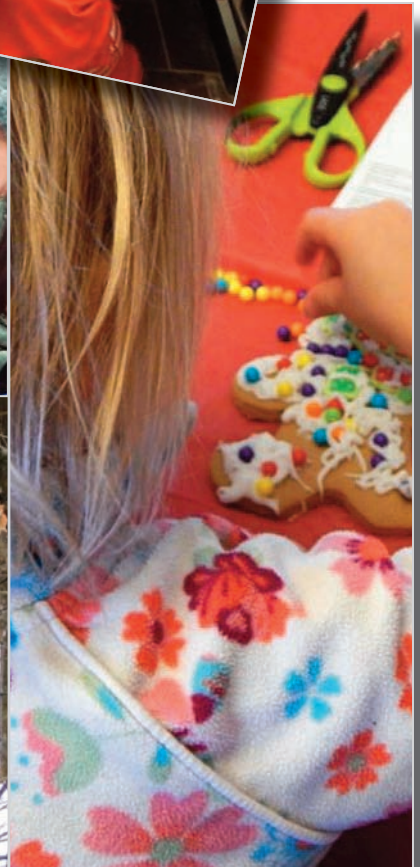
## The Children's Christmas Party

The Annual RPRA Children's Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 15, at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall. Santa Claus 'managed' to attend, and he even made time for several horse-drawn 'sleigh' rides through the Village, together with many of the children and their parents.

Goopee the Clown made special Christmas balloons for the smaller children, while the older ones and some parents played hockey outside. Indoors in the Community Hall, the children revelled in decorating gingerbread cookies and gingerbread houses, making Christmas crafts, and sampling warm food, Christmas cookies, and hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows. Afterwards, many children proudly displayed their decorated gingerbread creations.

Thank you as well to all who kindly and generously donated food items to the Ottawa Food Bank.

*Russ Gibson*





# PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

## Beechwood Redevelopment

While the winter weather has slowed down progress on the redevelopment of Beechwood Avenue, much has been going on behind the scenes. As many readers will be aware, a new underground power line has been installed on the south side of Beechwood to supply electricity to the Kavanaugh condo development located on the site of the former Esso station. A building crane on the site is highly visible on the skyline. It is the writer's understanding that the pre-sale of residential condos has gone very well. A showroom is open to the public just to the west of the Kavanaugh, where several abandoned stores were previously located.



*Domicile's The Kavanaugh.*

New and attractive sidewalks have been installed over the underground power lines along Beechwood. It is also the writer's understanding that dedicated bicycle lanes will be in place along parts of Beechwood once spring has arrived and the streets are free of snow.



*The Minto Beechwood.*

Further to the west and north, the Minto redevelopment of the site of the burned-out block is probably going to begin once warm weather returns. My understanding is that the previous owners of the Home Hardware store may have bought one or more condos in the Minto redevelopment. Wouldn't it be great if one of the new stores on the street level could be a hardware store?

The recently-closed Caisse Populaire on Beechwood has been sold to Claridge Homes, which is a developer of condo towers such as the ones facing the Vanier Parkway. It is to be hoped that the new development will not be as tall as those towers. The Beechwood Community Design Plan will need to be considered, although developers appear to be able to overcome its restrictions without too much difficulty.

The plans for St. Patrick Church have been very quiet recently. The church has been granted heritage status and it is expected that activities will begin in the spring as to how the site can be redeveloped without destroying the iconic steeple and tower. The writer is the Village's representative on the Beechwood Village Alliance, which includes the consideration of the future of St. Charles Church.

*Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPRA*

**Reminder:** RPRA membership fees for 2014 are now due. Membership is on a household/family basis and remains at \$25. Your December 2013 newsletter had a tan-coloured renewal notice insert, or you may find the renewal form on our website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca). Cheques made payable to the RPRA may be deposited in the RPRA free-standing mailbox at 380 Springfield Road, left at the Community Police Centre (360 Springfield Road) c/o one of the recreation staff members, or mailed to RPRA, 380-A Springfield Road, Rockcliffe, ON K1M 0K7. Can't remember if you paid? Contact [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca) to find out.



## WILDLIFE NOTES

With the ice allowing access to the duck and Tree Swallow nesting boxes around McKay Lake, here is the evidence from last summer: On the pole in the east marsh the duck box contained four greyish-white eggs whose widths and lengths are correct for Hooded Merganser. This appears to be an abandoned incomplete clutch; the normal clutch size is five to twelve, and there was no down to indicate incubation. The swallow box on the same pole had nesting debris showing successful fledging of young, with the exception of one that died. The duck and swallow boxes off 194 Lansdowne were not used, perhaps because willow branches have grown down over them. The duck and swallow boxes at 245 Sylvan were also not used. At 400 Lansdowne, the newly-placed duck box wasn't used, but once again the swallow box showed that a brood fledged. The reduction in use of the boxes by nesting ducks in recent years may relate to the poor survival of ducklings that do reach the lake. Likely predators are Ring-billed Gulls when the ducklings are small, and Snapping Turtles at any duckling age. None of the duck species that could nest around the lake are in short supply, but Tree Swallow numbers have dropped drastically in eastern North America, so producing two broods of flying young is good news. The low point at McKay Lake was in 2009 when no young flew.



*Hooded Merganser eggs in the nest box.*

On November 11, three pairs of Common Mergansers were fishing the lake, and the following day three pairs of Hooded Mergansers were there, the males' plumage strikingly fresh and bright. Susan d'Aquino watched the numbers of Common Mergansers steadily increase, with much of the fishing close to the shore at 400 Lansdowne. They departed as the

lake froze over on November 26. By then there were forty birds, a record number in the twelve years Common Mergansers have stopped to fish here on their way south.

Susan's first fox sighting of the season was on December 16, "a handsome fellow in winter finery" heading south along the east side of the frozen lake, the same routine as in previous winters.



*Measuring Hooded Merganser egg width.*

High above our garden, grey and black Grey Squirrels have been moving with great dexterity through the tips of Sugar Maple branches, and doing so for lengthy periods. On watching them closely, I learned that they were eating buds. Former Rockcliffe resident Shirley Woods, in *The Squirrels of Canada*, records that "In early spring, they subsist on the buds of hardwoods, switching to the samaras and flowers of the same trees as the season advances."

This winter our sunflower-seed bird feeders went up very late, at the beginning of December. For weeks, a male Cardinal was the sole customer. A few Chickadees visited initially and then went elsewhere, presumably making use of other feeders in the neighbourhood. By now, there is a little more action but nothing like the abundant bird activity of previous winters when the feeders went up much earlier. The lesson I draw is that our resident seed-eaters establish feeding patterns early in the winter and may not move even when a new abundant source opens up.

*Anthony Keith  
15 January 2014*



# COMING OF AGE IN THE VILLAGE: A LOOK BACK

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

## ***In this installment: Inside Rockcliffe Park Public School in the 1930s.***

Our teacher, Miss Austin – known as “Ozzie” – was a redoubtable character who came from somewhere in the Ontario hinterland and still retained much of her native brogue. She kept order by sheer force of personality and the threat of a rubber strap that was kept in the supply cupboard. I never saw it used but we could catch a glimpse of it every time the cupboard was opened and that was enough. Ozzie had a number of obsessions, namely, grammar, mental arithmetic, art, flowers and birds. By graduation, we had probably been exposed to every grammatical rule under the sun. Not for us the simple division of sentences into subject, verb and object. Instead we dabbled freely in gerunds, dependent clauses, dangling participles and the conditional pluperfect. I’ve forgotten most of the details but it left me with a life-long passion for precise speech. Mental arithmetic was taught with much the same thoroughness. Sitting at her desk, she would slowly intone a long string of numbers. “Twelve, plus thirty-one, minus three, multiply by six, divide by four, etc.” and we were expected to come up with the right answer. This skill has stayed with me as well and still proves remarkably useful.

Art was taught with the assistance of small cards showing famous paintings, the only one of which I remember clearly being Holman Hunt’s “Light of the World.” Ozzie was very fond of the Pre-Raphaelites. A knowledge of local flowers was considered equally important and we scoured the neighbourhood repeatedly for new varieties to paint in our albums. Blue and white violets, dog-tooth violets, white and painted trilliums, jack-in-the pulpits, buttercups, marsh marigolds, all of them were still common in the area and were duly immortalized in our little notebooks. As for birds, the Audubon Society provided us with pictures of the different varieties, and we spent many a morning tramping around the shores of McKay Lake with Ozzie in a search for bitterns and other rare species. On graduation, every student was presented with a copy of Taverner’s “Birds of Canada” as a matter of course.

So far as the more standard subjects were concerned, the only history taught was British history of a type not too far removed from “1066 and All That.” It was a small blue book, and heavy emphasis was placed on such significant events as Alfred and the Cakes, Bruce and the Spider, and the Little Princes in the Tower. French was treated in an even more cursory manner. Flip charts on an easel displayed various domestic scenes while we chanted “*Voici la table*” and “*Voici la fourchette*” as the teacher’s pointer moved from one item to another. I’m sure we must have learned a few verbs as well but I can’t recall any. Geography was incredibly dull, being largely a matter of memorizing the main exports and imports of various countries. Our study of literature, on the other hand, was remarkably extensive, ranging from Greek mythology to “Shorter Poems,” a splendid book full of the kind of heroic verse admired by small boys. I still have a battered copy and dip into it from time to time to refresh my memory on “Drake’s Drum” and “The Highwayman.”

Competition was fierce, at least for those who cared about such things. This was an age when grades were taken very seriously indeed. Report cards avoided such modern generalities as “Could do better” or “Works well with others.” Instead, our results were graded coldly, precisely and mathematically, from a hypothetical zero to a triumphant one hundred. Anyone with a grade of 92 was clearly superior to one with a mere 90 and was well aware of it. My mother and grandmother having both been teachers, much was expected of me, and I always knew exactly where I stood in the general scheme of things. Fortunately, I did very well indeed but it was far from a cut-and-dried contest. As usual, it was the girls who were the most dangerous competitors. There were two bright stars in particular, Barbara Watson and Peggy Miller. The fact that Peggy went on to become a full professor at an American university probably speaks for itself.

***Next time: Non-academics at Rockcliffe Park Public School.***

## LIBRARY

### Rockcliffe Park Library Wants Your Spring Cleaning!

*Books, DVDs, CDs and Vinyl*

*Needed for the April Library Book Sale*

Volunteers are already hard at work culling, sorting, pricing and storing your donated books and Audio Visual material in preparation for this year's Rockcliffe Park branch Public **Library Book Sale** on **April 12 and 13, 2014**.

You might be surprised at the behind-the-scenes work that goes into preparing for the sale.

Books that are not in good condition have to be culled. Decisions have to be made about the relevance of books containing mainly out-of-date information, and about the best way to classify and display our material. Display equipment has to be located. Preparations must be made to rent a tent and a storage pod close to the event, ads to publicize the sale must be strategically placed, and arrangements must be made to transport the books to and from the storage space as there is little room to store books at the community hall. Arrangements have to be made with the central Friends of the Ottawa Public Library to take our unsold books for their book sales.



*Before the sale can commence, there is much to be done!*

Three generous sponsors have been found to help defray this year's expenses: **Joan and Brian McGarry** on behalf of **McGarry Family Chapels**, **Minto Beechwood** and the **Rockcliffe Retirement Residence**.

To attract dealers and collectors, we must be able to advertise that we have over 10,000-12,000 books sorted into 30 categories, with a collectors' table for nostalgia and rare books. So please make time to select books and AV material to give away to us and please do it sooner rather than later.

It's a good cause, a good event, at a good time of year. We are counting on you!

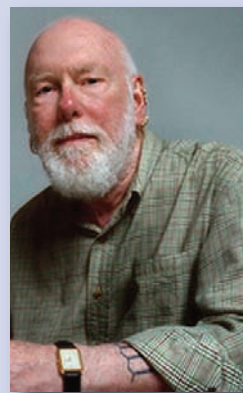
*Jane Dobell*

## 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.*



*Charlie Hill*

Curator of Canadian Art,  
National Gallery of Canada

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

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

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



*Thomas d'Aquino*

CEO, Intercounsel Ltd.

**“Building a New  
North America”**

Canada's Co-Chair of the North American Forum, which annually brings together Canadian, American and Mexican leaders, advocates a strategy for North American economic pre-eminence in the 21st century.

**Wednesday March 26, 8:00 pm**

# QUEEN'S PARK / CITY HALL



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

## Delivering Real Progress for Ontario

Since last February, Ontario has seen purposeful, progressive and practical solutions, and a government intent on making the legislature work. Trust with teachers was restored and extra-curricular activities returned to schools. A sustainable future was secured for horse racing and the many communities that depend on it. Jobs roundtables were held in communities across Ontario, talking to real people about how to grow the economy and create jobs.

As we begin the new year, the economic plan is beginning to bear fruit. Jobs were up in November and economists are predicting Ontario's economy will grow by 2.6% in 2014, the fastest growth rate in four years. And on December 13, a partnership with Cisco Canada was announced that is the largest job-creating investment in the history of Ontario's tech sector.

The economic plan is focused on investing in people, building modern infrastructure, and supporting a dynamic and innovative business environment. This has positioned our economy for healthy growth in 2014 and made measurable by helping people in their everyday lives.

In 2013, a budget that is fair to everyone was introduced. It shows a government prepared to live within its means but committed to taking care of people first and to building a brighter future.

A deliberate decision was made to invest in you and build on your strengths because we believe people are Ontario's number one asset. Access to health care was expanded. The Youth Jobs Strategy was launched to put 30,000 young people into good jobs.

By building modern infrastructure such as roads, transit, hospitals and schools, we are connecting communities and making sure you can get home quickly and safely at the end of the day.

And the government continues to attract businesses and support their growth. That's why taxes were lowered for nine out of ten of 60,000 small businesses across the province.

All this happened in 2013. There's a lesson in the year that was: never underestimate the power of collaboration. The results speak for themselves.



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

## Looking Ahead in 2014

This year marks the third year of our Ottawa On the Move project with 150 infrastructure projects across the City under way. Roads, sewers, sidewalks, bike paths and more will continue to be upgraded to prepare our City's transit infrastructure for the coming of Light Rapid Transit (LRT).

The LRT tunnel beneath the downtown core will continue to be dug by our three boring machines (Chewrocka, Jawbreaker and Crocodile Rouge, as named by the Grade 4 students who won our naming competition). In January we passed the 10% mark of the 2.5km tunnel and the system remains on track to be fully operational by 2018.

Opening in 2014 will be TD Place at Lansdowne Park as we welcome Ottawa's new CFL franchise, the Ottawa RED-BLACKS, and Ottawa Fury FC to Ottawa. I am thrilled to see the results of council's decisive action to move forward with redeveloping Lansdowne Park, starting this summer.

Ottawa On the Move, LRT, and Lansdowne Park are the biggest infrastructure projects under way in 2014 but this year will also mark the beginning of some smaller but equally important projects as well, including the start of construction on the Rideau River Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge between Donald Street and Somerset Street – an \$8.2 million investment; breaking ground for the new Arts Court as well as the Bayview Yards innovation complex; the expansion of the successful Elgin Street recycling program to Laurier Avenue East between Nicholas and Charlotte; and breaking ground on the \$76-million west Transitway extension from Bayshore to Moodie Drive.

I will be partnering with the YMCA-YWCA to host the Y-Biz Expo in Jean Pigott Place at City Hall in June. This expo will showcase some great burgeoning Ottawa companies as well as others who started through the Y Biz network and have grown into significant businesses since then.

Finally, I will also be hosting a "2017 Ideas Town Hall" event to solicit feedback from residents about how the City of Ottawa can make the most of Canada's 150th year. As the nation's capital, we want to own 2017 and I will be asking residents what we should be doing to best celebrate our country's sesquicentennial in Ottawa.

All in all, it's shaping up to be a year of progress in Ottawa.





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

## Snow Clearing

We have already had severe weather conditions that have contributed to hazardous conditions for pedestrians and motorists, and those freezing temperatures followed by the thaw have resulted in numerous challenges for City crews responsible for keeping our streets and sidewalks clear.

Rockcliffe has had historically different needs in snow clearing and I have been working with the RPRA and City staff to come to an agreement that is acceptable and fair to all.

Residents are reminded that winter overnight parking restrictions are in effect. As you know, between November 15 and April 1, when 7 cm or more of snowfall is forecast by Environment Canada, overnight parking restrictions go into effect. These restrictions are automatically enacted, unless the City of Ottawa's General Manager of Public Works issues an exemption. The City will announce parking restrictions and inform residents if there is an exemption through [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) and the City's Twitter account [@ottawacity](https://twitter.com/ottawacity). When restrictions are put into place, parking will not be permitted on Ottawa streets between 1 am and 7 am. Vehicles parked on the street when a restriction is in effect will be ticketed. Vehicle owners who have a municipal on-street parking permit are exempt from winter overnight parking restrictions.

Sign up to receive email or Twitter notifications of overnight parking restrictions at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). After you sign up, you will receive an email or Twitter alert via [@ottawacity](https://twitter.com/ottawacity) every time a winter overnight parking restriction goes into effect or is lifted. The service is free and you can unsubscribe at any time. You can also find out if an overnight parking restriction is in effect by calling **3-1-1 (TTY: 613 580-2401)** or through local media.

When daytime or nighttime snow removal operations are planned, temporary "no parking" snow removal signs will be posted before snow removal begins. Vehicles parked during planned snow removal will be ticketed and towed to a nearby street. This restriction applies to all vehicles, including those with on-street parking permits.

One of the results of the freezing temperatures followed by warm temperatures is the appearance of potholes. You are encouraged to call **3-1-1** to report potholes on our streets.



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

## 2013 in Review

Looking back, we can see that some notable initiatives were undertaken last year. Here's an overview of some of 2013's achievements and issues, and what may be expected in 2014.

### Development of the Former Rockcliffe Airbase

The Development of the former Rockcliffe Airbase is one of the most prominent projects in Ottawa-Vanier. It goes without saying that this initiative must involve the community, business and government in an inclusive debate. This 125-hectare site is a tremendous opportunity to build a new neighbourhood in the heart of our region. My vision for developing this vast tract of land is driven by the need for balance, viability and sustainability, but mainly economic development. One point I continue to insist on, year after year, is the importance of setting aside sufficient land for non-residential use to help create jobs. I have also taken steps to ensure that the Montfort Hospital and the National Research Council of Canada, both next door to the base, are involved in the work of Canada Lands Company (CLC), which owns the site. A final plan will be presented shortly by CLC. Work is to begin in 2014 and the first block of homes will be ready for occupancy in 2017, just in time for Canada's 150th anniversary celebrations.

### United Way Ottawa's Ambassador of the Year Award

Every year, United Way Ottawa recognizes the achievements of people, organizations, partnerships, agencies or neighbourhood groups that endeavour to make positive change happen in our community, at its Community Builder of the Year Awards Gala. In 2013, the event was held on June 6 at the Ottawa Convention Centre. On that occasion, I received the Ambassador Award for my active role on several community projects over the years, such as Project s.t.e.p., a program designed to improve Ottawa's capacity to support young people battling addiction. Last fall, Maison fraternité finished construction of its youth residential substance abuse treatment facility at 300 Olmstead Street, a project I have supported from the beginning.

### Some Issues to Watch in 2014

Locally, a few issues are likely to dominate: the development of the former Rockcliffe Airbase, the municipal elections and the notion of creating a safe injection site in Ottawa.

## SCHOOL REPORTS

# Elmwood School



### Saumya Krishna '09 – Elmwood's First Rhodes Scholar

We are thrilled to share the news that Elmwood alumna **Saumya Krishna '09** has been selected as one of the 11 Canadian members of the 2014 class of Rhodes Scholars. She is Elmwood's first, and one of only three female recipients this year.

The Rhodes Scholarship is the world's most prestigious graduate award, and will allow Saumya two years of all-expenses-paid post-graduate study at Oxford University. The Rhodes' 110-year tradition includes three Nobel Prize winners, as well as former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner and former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"To be part of such a warm and dynamic community of scholars and change-makers is what excites me most," she told *The Globe and Mail*. "Moreover, the opportunity to

study at the oldest university in the English-speaking world feels truly magical. It is a tremendous gift."

Saumya attended Elmwood on a partial scholarship, made possible through generous donations to the School's fundraising campaigns. She was an outstanding student during her time at Elmwood, graduating as an Ontario Scholar with an IB certificate in SL Spanish. She was the recipient of nine awards at graduation, including the Governor General's Academic Medal, the University of Toronto National Book Award and the Grade 12 Overall Academic Excellence Award. She accepted a prestigious President's Scholarship at the University of Western Ontario where she has now completed a degree in Health Science along with the Scholar's Electives programme.

While at Western, Saumya was also president of the student group Rebuilding Health in Rwanda, a member of the Faculty of Health Sciences Students' Council, production manager of the Western Undergraduate Research Journal and a volunteer facilitator for the Violence Prevention Program. She was named among Canada's Next 36 in 2011, and was a co-founder of the Youth Social Innovation Capital Fund, helping provide early-stage financing to young social entrepreneurs.

We are so proud of Saumya's continued academic success and commitment to social improvement. From all of us here at Elmwood, congratulations!

### Admissions Open House – Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:30 am

Come visit our campus, take a school tour and learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. If you can't attend this event but would like to schedule a private tour, please call the admissions department. **Please also note: Our Winter Entrance Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 22.**

For more information about applying to Elmwood, please visit [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca) or contact the Admissions Office at 613 744-7783.

### *Elmwood.ca* Gets a Makeover!

After months of preparation, dedication and hard work, Elmwood School is delighted to officially announce the launch of our newly-designed website. Point your web browser to [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca) and see our new look for yourself!



# SCHOOL REPORTS



## Ashbury College Welcomes Tenth Head of School

Ashbury College welcomed a new head of school in January – the tenth to lead the independent institution in its 123-year history.

**Norman Southward** officially took the helm at Ashbury on January 1, 2014, just days after ending his tenure at St. John's Kilmarnock School outside Waterloo, Ontario. Mr. Southward has over 20 years of experience in the education sector, including leadership roles as principal at Neuchâtel Junior College in Switzerland and assistant headmaster at Stanstead College in Québec.

“It is both a privilege and an honour to lead a school as distinguished as Ashbury College and to be entrusted to work with such a diverse and talented group of faculty, staff, students and alumni,” says Southward.

A graduate of an independent school himself, Southward has taught throughout his career in both the public and independent systems. He is a recognized thought leader with a clear vision for excellence in teaching and learning.

Southward's long career in social studies, second language and international education has made him an in-demand contributor to the independent school community. He has provided active leadership to the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools group, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Swiss Group of International Schools, and currently sits on the board of the Conference of Independent Schools in Ontario. He is also a frequently-requested speaker, presenting at various International Baccalaureate Annual Conferences and at schools around the world.

While this year's academic calendar is in full swing, the business of running an institution continues unabated. Among Southward's many administrative priorities over the



coming months are finalizing a new strategic plan for the school and opening a new Creative Learning Centre, which is currently under construction.

Southward and his family have taken up residence in their home on the school's Rockcliffe campus, where they look forward to meeting Ashbury families and exploring Ottawa.

## Ashbury Open House

Are you, or someone you know, interested in learning more about Ashbury's unique educational advantage for students in Grades 4 through 12? Join staff and students at one of two admissions events this winter. Tour the school, view our modern classrooms and discover Ashbury's advanced learning and IB Diploma options, its diverse extra-curricular activities, renowned athletics program and exceptional university placement record.

**Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 10 am to noon**

**Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10 am to noon**

All are welcome. Email [admissions@ashbury.ca](mailto:admissions@ashbury.ca) for more information or to RSVP.

# END NOTES

## Elmwood Theatre Presents *The Secret Garden*

Elmwood School's senior theatre program is proud to present Paul Ledoux's *The Secret Garden*, adapted from the classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

For ten long years, an overgrown garden in Yorkshire has remained locked and secret, except for the stealthy visits of an old groundskeeper and his cheerful feathery friend, a red-breasted robin. This all changes with the arrival from India of the orphan Mary Lennox, who is determined to find her way into this neglected enclosure and unearth the mystery of this long-forgotten and overgrown place. In so doing, she discovers the garden has restorative powers to heal all those who enter its high walls.

Performances run **February 26 to March 2 at 7:00 pm** and **March 1 and 2 at 2:00 pm** at **261 Buena Vista Road**. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. For more information, telephone **613 749-6761**.



*Louisa James-Beswick will portray Mary Lennox.*

## February 18 Marks the Final Open House on the Proposed Redevelopment of the Former Rockcliffe Airbase

As reported in past issues of this newsletter, Canada Lands Company (CLC) is redeveloping the former Rockcliffe Airbase. CLC expects to maintain tight control over design and the build-out will be over 15-20 years with an expected 4,300 to 6,000 housing units. To date, all the old buildings and roads are gone, leaving only the trees and meadows.



The RPRA is one of 14 community group members of the Public Advisory Group to CLC; the PAG has met seven times since November 2012. In addition, there have been two major opportunities for members of the public to meet with the CLC, its contract environmental and town planners and City staff.

The **final CLC Open House** on the Rockcliffe Airbase development will be held on **February 18** at the **Ottawa Conference and Events Centre, 200 Coventry Road**.

The doors open at 3:00 pm for viewing the presentation boards. The first of two theatre-style (audio-visual) presentations will be held at 4:00 pm, the second at 7:00 pm. There will be opportunities to look at the presentation boards between the two audio-visual presentations and after the second one until the doors close at 9:00 pm.

## New to Rockcliffe Park?

Welcome to new residents of Rockcliffe Park – Ottawa's largest Heritage Conservation District. If you did not receive a copy of our indispensable "Welcome to Rockcliffe Park" booklet, copies are available at no charge from the Recreation Office located in the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield Road. The booklet contains information about Rockcliffe Park, its history, services, useful telephone numbers, schools and much more.