



The Rockcliffe News

February 2016

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

FEBRUARY

- 3 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 10 Wednesday, 10:00 am ...City Council Meeting to approve Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan, Andrew S. Haydon Hall, City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West – open to the public
- 10 Wednesday, 7:00 pmElmwood Admissions Information Evening, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 15 Monday, 11:00 amMayor’s Annual Family Day Skating Party, City Hall*
- 17 Wednesday, 8:00 pmSpeakers Program: Maureen McTeer, law professor and author of “Tough Choices: Living and Dying in the 21st Century,” on “Assisted Dying,” Community Hall*
- 18 Thursday, 9 am to noon ..Ashbury Open House, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa*
- 20 Saturday, 6:3019th Annual Viennese Winter Ball, Westin Ottawa Ballroom, 11 Colonel By Drive*
- 24 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Joint Annual General Meeting of the Boards of the RPRA and The Village Foundation, Community Hall
- 25 Thursday 7:30 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Robert Wolodarski, Perennials and Greenhouse Manager, Artistic Landscape Design Ltd., on “The Selection and Care of Favourite Perennials,” Community Hall*

MARCH

- 2-6 Wednesday to Sunday..Elmwood School Theatre presents “Les Belles Soeurs,” 7 pm / 2 pm matinees Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 9 Wednesday 9:00 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Recreation Centre registration for spring/summer courses begins*
- 14 MondayMarch Break camps begin, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Avenue*
- 16 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 24 Thursday 7:30 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Sophie Cardinal, Canadian National Collection of Insects, Agriculture Canada, on “The Buzz on Bees,” Community Hall*

APRIL

- 5 Tuesday 7:30 pm.....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 20 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 23 Saturday 10 am to 5 pm ..Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 24 Sunday 11 am to 5 pm....Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale, Community Hall*
- 27 Wednesday 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Paul Lang, Chief Curator, National Gallery of Canada, on “The Inside Story of a Major Exhibition,” Community Hall*

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At this time of year, we are busy preparing for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will take place on Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall. Following longstanding tradition, our meeting will be held in conjunction with the AGM 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 2016, the Foundation has provided a grant to the RPRA of more than \$19,000 for use in the areas of 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.

At the AGM, we will welcome our Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, who will give us his perspective on current issues at City Hall and answer questions. We will also review the events and activities of the past year and look toward the future. With respect to the former, you will find a copy of our Annual Report included with this newsletter, which outlines our work in 2015.

A highlight of the past year has been the development of a new Heritage Conservation District Plan to replace the management guidelines which have been in place since Rockcliffe was designated a heritage district in 1997. The draft plan was approved by the Built Heritage Sub-Committee of the City's Planning Committee in early January. It will then go to Planning Committee for consideration and subsequently to City Council in early February for final approval. After years of work, the RPRA is fully in favour of the new plan. It will provide greater protection of the unique character of our historic community.

You may recall that the RPRA also conducted a survey of residents in 2015. The purpose of the survey was to better respond to community needs, expand membership among Village residents and build on our strong sense of community. A document has been prepared which analyzes the results of the survey, which will be posted on our website. I think it makes very interesting reading. We will use these results to assess the relevancy of our programs and activities, and to improve our communications with residents.

With the arrival of the New Year, I would ask you to renew your membership or become a member of the RPRA in 2016. Our membership level is respectable for a community organization, but more members translates into more credibility when we seek to protect or advance our interests at City Hall or elsewhere. Membership is on a household/family basis and remains at \$25. A membership form is included with this newsletter. Membership forms may also be picked up at the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield Road (call **613 842-8578** to confirm that they are open), or downloaded from our RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. You will note on the form that members are most welcome to help out with any of our activities. If you would like additional information, please contact me or another member of the Board.

Finally, this will be my last report as president of the RPRA. I have held this position for seven years and will be passing the torch at the forthcoming AGM. Over this period, we have made excellent progress on community priorities, held successful Village-wide activities, strengthened the RPRA and had a lot of fun. I would like to thank Board and committee members, as well as all Rockcliffe residents who have volunteered thousands of hours of their time to make our community the special place that it is. It has been both an honour and a privilege to have been a part of this dynamic process.

I hope you will join us at the AGM on February 24.

With best regards,

Brian Dickson, 21 January 2016

Volunteer Newsletter Delivery Coordinator Needed:

A Village resident is needed to coordinate distribution of The Rockcliffe News six times per year. The coordinator picks up the newsletters from the printer, assembles a team of two or three people to "stuff" flyers, such as the ones in this issue, into the newsletter, bundles the newsletters into the bags for each of the 30 routes and arranges for the delivery of the bundles to the two drivers, one on each side of the lake. A more complete set of instructions together with the route information is available from Cynthia Hamady at editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.

The Annual Community Appeal is Now On!

The annual Community Appeal is now underway. 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. It is not too late to support your community! If you missed making your donation and would like to do so, please mail your cheque to **Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park K1L 5A8**, or donate online on the website www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

Commemorative Plaque Project

Over the summers of 2013 and 2014, the Foundation undertook an initiative to record and photograph all the commemorative and other noteworthy items that make our Village special.

As part of our work, several plaques were noted as missing. These have been beautifully re-made for us and are now ready to be installed. These benches make our community a unique and special place for its residents. The Foundation would like to thank **Liz Heatherington** for sharing her story of one of the many benches in the Village:

“Our family arrived in Ottawa in 1949 from Great Britain. It was lovely growing up in this beautiful part of the city and my parents – used to walking – were out twice a day for walks, even when my Father was working. As a military man he often travelled overseas and during this time my Mother would take her children on long walks around the village. We loved this – the woods above Lisgar, Mariposa and Princess Roads – the path overlooking MacKay Lake and then on to ‘Mile’s Circle’ – still a beautiful area where people walk their dogs and jog along Sandridge Road near the RCMP Stables. On his retirement my Father was still active on the golf course and he and my Mother were always walking around the village – When I was with them – perhaps at the Beechwood shops or elsewhere – neighbours would often remark how they would see them consistently over by the Ottawa River or through the Rockeries enjoying a daily ‘constitutional’! So when it came time to find a gift for our Father’s 90th Birthday it seemed appropriate to

join the bench project that the local conservation committee had launched. At 90, although Father still walked, he often needed a short respite and the bench on the Village Green was an ideal gift. He was walking until his 97th Birthday so it was put to good use not only by he and our Mum but many other visitors to the Green. And just for the record, my Mum at 98, is still walking (with a walker) and the Green is one of her favourite spots during the spring where she will sit on the bench and look at the growing Maple Tree that we gave to our parents for a special anniversary!”

*Elizabeth Raymont Heatherington,
writing about the gifts to her parents,
Col Rob and Mary Raymont, November, 2015*



Call for Nominations for the Foundation Board

The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation is looking for individuals interested in sitting 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 three key areas: conservation of the environment; preservation of the heritage character of the Village; and promotion of a sense of community for all residents.

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 one the Board Nomination Committee members:

Michael McIntyre, Chair: 613 286-1356

Ryan Kilger: 613 746-3541

THE 2015 VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD *Executive:* Bonnie Robinson, Chair | Michael McIntyre, Vice-Chair
Grant McDonald, Treasurer | Ryan Kilger, Secretary | Jane Newcombe, Administrator
Board Members: Dr. Aly Abdulla, Chris Denison, Nancy Greenley, Thady Murray, Jane Panet and David Weinstein.

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.



Maureen McTeer

Law professor and author of
“*Tough Choices: Living and Dying
in the 21st Century*”

“Assisted Dying”

How we die is a topic of great interest and complexity. Maureen McTeer will outline the key proposals before Parliament as it drafts a law by June 6 to govern who, where, and under what circumstances Canadians will be able to seek physician assistance to die.

Photo: Valberg Imaging

Wednesday, February 17 at 8:00 pm



Paul Lang

Chief Curator,
National Gallery of Canada

“The Inside Story of a Major Exhibition”

How is a major exhibition conceived? How do you get the loans you want? What role do curators play? How are the art works protected and transported? Who decides how to hang the art works? How is a catalogue put together? Paul Lang will take us behind the scenes of the upcoming exhibition of Vigée Le Brun, court painter at Versailles.

Wednesday, April 27 at 8:00 pm

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 1
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. Current and past issues are posted on the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.

RECREATION

Spring Courses at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre

Our winter programming session is well underway. Spring will soon follow. Don't miss out on your favourite class. Avoid disappointment, sign up in advance! Course registration is reviewed one week prior to the start of all courses to ensure we've met the minimum numbers to offer them.

Registration for spring/summer courses begins on March 9 at 9 pm (online/Touch Tone) or in person starting March 10 during business hours at any City of Ottawa recreation facility or Client Service Centre. Courses to be offered:

Yoga 50+, Monday; **Total Muscle Conditioning**, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; **Bridge Basics, Level 2**, Tuesday; **Duplicate Bridge**, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; **Ikebana**, Thursday, Saturday; **Tai Chi**, Friday; **Ukulele**, Friday.

It's Not Too Soon to Think About Summer Camps!

Win a FREE week of camp – register before June 1

Ottawa Camp Adventure for children ages 6 to 10 years: Bring all your energy to camp for days of adventure and making friends. One out trip or special guest each week to spice it all up! A different theme each week...

Medieval Times, July 4-8; **Arts & Crafts and Messy Play**, July 11-15; **CSI – Camp Scene Investigations**, July 18-22; **Nature Quest**, July 25-29; **Fun and Board Games**, August 2-5; **Olympics**, August 8-12; **Pirate's Treasure**, August 15-19; **Outdoor Explorers**, August 22-26; **Ooey Goey Science**, August 29-September 2.

Winter/Spring Registration Office Operating Hours:

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 1:30-4:00 pm;
Office closed March 25, 26, April 20, 22, 23, May 23.

The Community Hall is available to rent for meetings and special occasions. You may reach us by phone or email: **613 842-8578 / rockcliffe@ottawa.ca**.

The RPRA Survey Results Are In!

Last summer and fall, the RPRA invited Rockcliffe residents to participate in a survey on current issues and communications needs. To view the complete survey, with feedback and comments, visit www.rockcliffepark.ca.

SPRING BOOK SALE

Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale Brings Businesses and Communities Together



It's only February but activity is already buzzing around the Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale! Books are streaming in and a team of dedicated volunteers is already culling, pricing and sorting. Local businesses are also stepping up to the plate and lending a very helpful hand.

"It's astonishing to think that this book sale has been going for 19 years," said **Jane Dobell**, RPRA Library Chair and Spring Book Sale organizer, "and it's remarkable to see how over 40 volunteers from Rockcliffe Park and surrounding communities return year after year, contributing a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Apart from their outstanding organizational skills, they bring wonderful humour and camaraderie which creates the spirit of the sale."

"And we're also thrilled with the excellent sponsorship we've received this year," continued Dobell. "**Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence** and **Montgomery Asset Management** are supporting us once again, and we're very pleased to welcome aboard **Rockcliffe Landscaping** and **Dymon Storage**. The combination of their financial contributions as well as goods and services is invaluable to the event."

The sale is growing rapidly. Last year's takings set a record! Demand has become so great that a larger tent is being rented to make it easier to see all the treasures on offer. Why such growth? Part of the Spring Book Sale's expansion is being driven by spreading the word through Internet advertising and other social media. "Soon you'll be able to find us on Facebook, which means we'll be reaching even wider audiences," said Dobell. "It's a whole new world!"

Claire Schofield

ICE RINK PROJECT

Time to Get Out Your Skates and Send in Your Donations The Rockcliffe Rinks Are Open!

The Rockcliffe Rinks were finally open by the second weekend of January. Was this the latest start ever? Certainly in the last 14 years it was. The very warm and snow-free December would not allow base ice to be put down until the first week of January. But the Hosers persevered through multiple weather systems and large temperature swings to lay down the ice.

Rockcliffe Rink Project Fundraising

The Rockcliffe Rink Project Fundraising will wind up on March 1. To be part of this great recreation project in your community, please have your cheques in by that date.

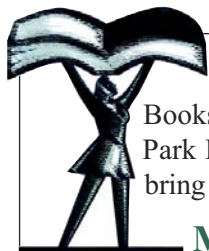
We're asking for your generosity to complete the job. Every dollar will be matched by the City of Ottawa, and it will



be a charitable contribution as The Rockcliffe Hosers' Corporation received charitable status (Charitable Registration # 80798 4844 RR001) in the fall.

Please find a way to donate or pledge the following amounts: Rockcliffe residents: \$490 per household (many, many residents have sent in this amount – thank you!); Rockcliffe Hosers: \$2,016 per volunteer.

Please complete and mail the donation form insert that is included with this newsletter or drop off a cheque payable to The Rockcliffe Hosers' Corporation to 150 Sir Guy Carleton Street, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1M 0G7. Thank you in advance for your generous donation!



Your Books (and More) Are Needed for the Spring Book Sale

Books are being collected now and so please drop off your old books, CDs, DVDs and vinyl at the Rockcliffe Park Public Library during opening hours or call for assistance at **613 580-2424, ext. 27623**. The sooner you bring them the better, but please remember, no encyclopaedias, magazines or textbooks!

Mark Your Calendars! Please note that the sale will take place two weeks later this year.

What: The Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale

When: Saturday, April 23, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, April 24, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: The Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road



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

LRT: On Time and On Budget

Ottawa is in the midst of an unprecedented period of growth and investment. After all, our population will grow 30 per cent in the next 15 years. We need to make sure we can keep people and goods moving quickly and easily across the City.

That's why we are investing in light rail transit (LRT) – the biggest infrastructure project since the building of the Rideau Canal. The O-Train Confederation Line project is continuing on time and on budget, and you will be able to catch your train in 2018.

LRT will strengthen our transportation system and local economy for generations to come. Looking ahead in 2016, I am very happy to share some upcoming milestones on this historic project with you:

- The LRT tunnel will be fully excavated by this summer.

In fact, excavation of the Lyon Station was recently completed and Parliament and Rideau Stations are nearly 70 per cent complete.

- More than 3.5 kilometres of track have been installed to date.
- All 13 LRT stations will be under construction before the end of 2016.
- Testing on some of the world-class Alstom CITADIS Spirit LRT vehicles will begin within the next year.

As many of you know, this is just the first phase of the system we will be constructing over the next ten years. The next chapter of light rail is just around the corner: Stage 2 of LRT. When Stage 2 is complete in 2023, residents will be able to catch a train as far west as Bayshore, as far east as Place d'Orleans, and as far south as Riverside South. This will bring close to 70 per cent of the City's population within five kilometres of rail. This will fundamentally transform the way our City moves and grows for generations to come.

We will move forward with this ambitious vision for LRT in the nation's capital in order to benefit our families, our environment and our economy.

If you'd like to know more about this exciting project that continues to shape our City, visit www.confederationline.ca.



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

Heritage Conservation District Plan Finalized

A major milestone for Rockcliffe Park has been achieved with the finalization of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan. Once approved by Council, the plan will be incorporated into a City By-law providing the necessary teeth to ensure the district, originally designated in 1997, evolves in a way that respects the historical cultural landscape of the Village. The new guidelines were developed in collaboration with a working group from the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association over the course of more than a year, and refined based on feedback from public consultation.

Unlike many HCDs, the cultural heritage value of Rockcliffe Park is based largely on its landscape and how the buildings fit into the verdant natural environment. This unique aspect has been captured in the guidelines, but it has also prompted further discussion about the terminology and methods used to assess which properties "contribute to" the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. That assessment is critical as it determines how the guidelines apply to different properties, including whether buildings can be recommended for demolition. I felt that this was an important discussion to continue beyond the approval of the plan, so I will be meeting with representatives from the RPRA to examine various options over the course of the coming months. Any proposed changes to the plan that result from these discussions will be clearly communicated to provide residents a chance to comment before any action is taken.

I'd like to thank all of the residents who attended the public consultation back in the autumn of 2015, as well as those who wrote to me to provide me with their views.

Beechwood Avenue

On the transportation front, we've been working on plans for the future of Beechwood that can be implemented as properties along the street redevelop and the City gains more space for wider sidewalks and bike lanes. The feedback from people who attended the July 2015 consultation is being addressed and draft plans will soon be available for public comment at an open house. You can read more about the project and what we heard during the consultation on my website, tobinussbaum.ca. Sign up for updates on this project by emailing me at tobi.nussbaum@ottawa.ca.



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

Know Your Rights Before Joining a Gym

The start of a New Year is a great time to put healthy lifestyle goals into action; it's also when Ontarians get inundated with time-sensitive promotions for fitness classes and gym memberships. The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services dealt with over 710 gym and fitness club-related complaints and inquiries in 2015, most commonly contract cancellations, billing disputes and the ten-day cooling-off period.

Before you sign a contract, make sure that the gym or facility you choose fits your expectations by checking key elements. These include the hours and class times to ensure they are convenient for you. You should also verify that the trainers and instructors are knowledgeable. Finally, the condition of the facilities is important as you want to be in a clean environment which is not too crowded.

Once you have found a facility that is right for you and you're ready to commit to a contract with a gym or fitness club, remember you have consumer rights that protect you under Ontario's Consumer Protection Act.

First of all, you have a ten-day cooling-off period; this gives you the right to cancel a membership within ten days of receiving a written copy of your contract. You don't need a reason to cancel. All you need to do is give notice to the business, preferably in writing. Use this ten-day cooling-off period to test out the facility to see if it's right for you.

Second of all, you have the option to pay monthly. It's often people's preference to pay month-to-month rather than paying up front for the whole year. The business can charge up to 25 per cent more for monthly payments than the total cost of the annual, up-front fee. However, monthly payments provide flexibility and convenience.

Finally, all contracts must end after a year. It's important to ask about the club's renewal policy and how you will be contacted to renew. The gym or fitness club must send you a renewal notice between 30 and 90 days before your contract expires, listing any changes to your new contract. If you received a renewal notice and do not respond to it, the club has the right to renew and bill you under the renewed contract.

For additional information, we advise you to contact Consumer Protection Ontario at **1-800-889-9768**.



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

2015 in Review

A look back at 2015 recalls to mind some significant initiatives. The following is an overview of some accomplishments and issues.

Redevelopment of the Old Rockcliffe Airbase

Redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe Military Base is one of Ottawa's most anticipated projects. This 125-hectare plot of land is a very significant urban planning opportunity for our region. Lots should be offered to builders later in 2016 and the first block of homes should be ready for occupancy in 2017, just in time for Canada's 150th anniversary celebrations!

My vision for developing this vast tract of land has always been driven by the need for balance, viability and sustainability, by ensuring the creation of over 5,000 jobs within the community.

My Fight Against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) (aka Lou Gehrig's Disease)

On Friday, November 27, I met with highly respected Ottawa neurologist **Dr. Pierre Bourque**. After undergoing a series of tests, he has diagnosed me with ALS. It is presently an incurable disease. Earlier in November, I sent a letter to all Members of Parliament signaling my intention to seek election as Speaker of the House of Commons. My wife, Catherine, and I are enormously appreciative of all the efforts deployed for my candidacy.

Under the doctor's advice and following the ALS diagnosis, I announced on November 30 my decision to withdraw my candidacy for Speaker of the House. I also announced that I will be continuing to serve as the proud Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier. As a Member of Parliament, I intend to raise awareness by sharing this journey with my colleagues and the public so that more Canadians will learn and fight to continue research for a cure for ALS.

Prime Ministers' Row

I invite you to join a group of citizens as they work to transform Laurier Avenue into a place that celebrates Canada's
(Continued on page 8)

URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Beechwood Village is Growing!

Many things are happening along Beechwood Avenue and the area which will eventually produce a much more interesting and exciting area for Rockcliffe Park and Beechwood's other surrounding area residents.

Two major redevelopments on Beechwood are continuing apace. The Kavanaugh redevelopment by Domicile on the site of the former Esso Station is nearing completion. We are advised that nearly all of the residences above the street level have been sold and at least one of the stores has been leased for a restaurant called "Sutherland." The owner, Donald Sutherland, a longtime Beechwood resident, is currently the owner of three other restaurants in Ottawa. Sutherland is expected to be open for business in June 2016.

In order to permit development of the south side of Beechwood, Domicile paid to extend the underground power line eastward from the Metro store to service any new stores and condos in the new area. A unique feature of the Kavanaugh has been the placement of an old Esso gas pump in its lobby.

Heading west from the Kavanaugh, Burton's Dive Services has closed and according to a sign posted on the property, a six-storey building will be erected on that site.

The former Credit Union at 89-99 Beechwood, on the north side of Beechwood, remains vacant. According to the posted sign, it will be replaced by a six-storey building with retail space on the ground floor and 67 dwellings above, along with parking.

The former Za-Za-Za pizza restaurant, also on the north side of Beechwood at Putman, closed recently and will also be replaced by a six-storey building with ground floor commercial space and eight dwelling units above.

The St. Charles Church and property is slowly being redeveloped. The church's heritage designation protects the building from demolition, especially its iconic bell tower and steeple.

There are anticipated to eventually be about 40 condo units built along Barrette Street on the south side of the church. An outdoor market is planned for Saturdays in the summer and a permanent market stall area similar to the St. Lawrence market in Toronto will open in the church interior. A mid-century modern vintage home furnishings and accessories store is currently operating in the basement of the church.

Further to the west on the north side of Beechwood is the new development by Minto, replacing the burnt out block. At the moment, the development is quickly rising above street level. It is the writer's recollection that the new building will rise to a height of about 11 stories. There have been rumours circulating that one of the stores on the street level will be a Home Hardware store. If true, this will be a welcome addition to the neighbourhood.

Growth continues at a rapid pace on Beechwood and has already resulted in a more diverse, and very welcome, assortment of offerings, with more to come.

Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPRA

HOUSE OF COMMONS / MAURIL BÉLANGER

(Continued from page 7)

past and shapes Canada's future – a place we hope will come to be known as Prime Ministers' Row.

Many people have no idea that Ottawa's Laurier Avenue and the surrounding area, from King Edward to Strathcona Park, has been home to eight Prime Ministers and seven Fathers of Confederation. This stretch, which once served as a meeting place for our nation's leaders, has been all but forgotten. If residents have their way, it will soon be recreated as an interactive street museum and gathering place.

National Anthem

On September 22, 2014, I tabled in the House of Commons Bill C-624, An Act to Amend the National Anthem Act (gender). The Bill advocated a simple change in the English lyrics. It proposed that "True patriot love in all thy sons

command" become "True patriot love in all of us command," therefore replacing only two words, "thy sons" with "of us." This change would have rendered the Anthem gender-neutral.

Although my bill was defeated at second reading in the House of Commons, the drive to make "O Canada" more inclusive has been advanced. I intend to table my bill once more when the House of Commons resumes in late January 2016 and expect to initiate the debate on the bill around April.

Some Files to Watch in 2016

Locally, a few files are likely to dominate; namely the redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe Airbase, the advancement of the Prime Ministers' Row project, and getting the heavy trucks out of the downtown core by exploring the possibilities of digging a tunnel.

Happy New Year! / Bonne Année !

SCHOOL REPORTS



RPPS Achieves Second Place in Ottawa's Inaugural Kids Lit Quiz

On January 18, seven schools in the Ottawa region participated in the "Kids Lit Reading Quiz Competition," an annual literature quiz for students aged 10-13 years. Quizzes are held in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the USA. Teams of four students are asked to answer 100 questions on children's literature divided into ten categories, which vary each year. Examples of categories set previously include poetry, authors, titles, settings, characters, and nursery rhymes.

RPPS participated in the first Ottawa competition and finished in second place (**Fiona Ivison, Lillian LeBlanc, Norah DeWolfe and Zoya Thomson-Arnold**). The Governor General of Canada His Excellency the Right Honourable



Left to right: Quiz Master Wayne Mills, students Fiona Ivison, Norah DeWolfe, Zoya Thomson-Arnold, and Lillian Leblanc with His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston.

David Johnston was present to award prizes to the top three teams. The fourth place team representing RPPS included **Hallie Rainbow, Josie Girvan, Martha Burkom, and Jackman Kavanagh**. The seventh place team members were **Duncan Hunter, Michaela Fudali, Emma Fazakas and Harvard Matt**. The parents, teachers and administration at RPPS are all very proud of the students' strong showing at the event and of their achievements.

– Mr. Alexopoulos, teacher

RPPS F.A.I.R. Club Winter Clothing Drive

Our F.A.I.R. Club has been working hard to promote, gather and sort winter clothing donations. This student-driven group at RPPS decided in November to collect gently used warm clothing to assist Syrian refugees arriving in Ottawa this winter. The drive has been a success, with over twenty large bags and boxes of clothing sorted and ready to be delivered. Donations will be dropped off on January 16 to Capital Welcomes, one of the organizations established to accept clothing-specific donations for Syrians arriving to our City. Students, parents and staff will be involved in helping to sort the items once they are dropped off at the Sparks Street depot. – Amber Clement, Grade 6 teacher

Logo photo: SimonP at en.wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17795495>;
Maione photo: @derrickrice / readersdigestca

Play-Based Learning

Children are full of natural curiosity and they explore this curiosity through play. In our full-day kindergarten program, teachers and early childhood educators structure play to create learning moments. Our Kindergarten program provides children with educational activities appropriate for young learners, helping them investigate and develop an understanding of their world through play. Educators observe the children's social, emotional, physical and intellectual interactions within a classroom setting, assessing their stages of development aligned with the curriculum, and support and encourage experiences to further their growth.



Local Superhero is Helping With Furniture (HWF)

Nathalie Maione is a full-time Early Childhood Educator at RPPS, mother of six, and Co-Founder and President of HWF, a volunteer-run charity that helps Ottawa residents in need. So, basically, Nathalie Maione is a Superhero.

Every Wednesday evening for ten years, this five-foot-nothing sprite has hopped into a donated five-ton Penske truck and set out across the City with her merry band of volunteers. Their mission: to provide furniture and household items to people restarting their lives in the Ottawa area – people with limited financial means who often go months with little to no furniture. Refugees and permanent residents alike, HWF helps anyone displaced by situations of hardship, such as international conflict, domestic violence, disaster or poverty. To date, the charity has helped over 1,150 households.

With the Syrian refugee crisis, the need for aid has reached a new high. HWF has partnered with Refugee 613 (tasked with coordinating Ottawa's response to the crisis) to expand HWF's operation, forming HWF613. This branch of HWF will manage the growing influx of public donations and refugee aid requests, as well as the lack of warehouse space that houses the furniture. "We have the bodies, we have the passion, we have the work ethic and the know-how," says Maione, "All that's missing is a place to put it all."

With no employees and no long-term funding, the organization is actively seeking a sponsor who can provide short-term use of warehouse space. As Maione noted, "Every donation that we have to turn away because of lack of space means fewer families can be helped..." To learn more, visit www.helpingwithfurniture.org, or challenge Nathalie for her role as HWF's Superhero by contacting us with a lead on warehouse space! Email westwood@hwfottawa.org.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Kids' Lit Quiz Inaugural Ottawa Tournament Held at Elmwood

On Monday, January 18, Ottawa's most voracious young readers descended on Elmwood's gymnasium to take part in the inaugural Ottawa Kids' Lit Quiz tournament. For more than two decades, this competition has been inspiring students to become lifelong readers with a fun and challenging tournament that rewards the team with the broadest and deepest knowledge of children's books.



Students from across Ottawa gathered at Elmwood for the Kids' Lit Quiz Inaugural Ottawa Tournament.

Elmwood's Librarian, **Kimberly Senf**, worked over the past year to bring the competition to Ottawa. In honour of this first competition in Ottawa, we were thrilled to welcome a very special guest, His Excellency the Right Honourable **David Johnston**, Governor General of Canada, to be the guest Quizmaster for the final round of the tournament. He also announced the winning team: Connaught Public School. They will go on to represent our City at the National Final in Toronto next month. Congratulations to all the other teams that participated: Ashbury College, Manor Park Public School, Rockcliffe Park Public School, St. Patrick's Intermediate School, Turnbull School and Elmwood School.

Chopped for a Cause

Elmwood's Community Prefect **Megan Sweeney** organized the School's first hair drive as a new initiative this year. We

were thrilled that 14 girls and one faculty member took part – each donating eight inches or more of their hair as part of the Pantene Beautiful Lengths program. The hair will be used to make wigs that will be given free of charge to women who have lost their hair due to cancer treatments. Many thanks to the team of stylists from **York Street Spa**, who donated their time and expertise, and congratulations to Megan and the other brave girls who took part!



Megan Sweeney with some of the fruits of her hair drive.



Volunteer "tea ladies" Aiyanna Morris, Lily Newberry, Bakiza Al Khalili.

Old Girls' Art Fair and Holly Tea a Great Success!

On Saturday, December 5, Elmwood hosted the annual Holly Tea. In honour of our Centennial, another beloved tradition – the Old Girls' Art Fair – was revitalized as part of the event. Members of the Elmwood Community gathered together for a cup of tea, listened to carolers and perused over 40 beautiful pieces of artwork created by Elmwood alumnae and students. A variety of vendors were also on hand at the Marketplace with demonstrations and items for sale. It was such a festive afternoon! Thank you to everyone who helped at the event, especially Holly Tea Chair **Liana Ladki**, Art Fair Co-Chairs **Elizabeth Heatherington '63** and **Lynne Evenson '79**, and Art Fair Curator **Maureen O'Neill '69**.

Admissions Information Night Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 pm

Interested families can learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women at our upcoming Information Night. 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 20.*

To RSVP for Information Night or for more info about applying to Elmwood, please visit www.elmwood.ca or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Ashbury Kicks Off 125th Anniversary Year

The new year marks the beginning of Ashbury's 125th celebrations. In 1891, at just 24 years old, founder **George Penrose Woolcombe** started his school with just 17 students in a building facing the Parliament buildings. By the turn of the century, Ashbury moved to its current Rockcliffe site, establishing itself as one of the leading schools in the country.

Over the next 18 months, Ashbury will fête the past and continue to build a visionary future for our school and students. **Mr. Stephen Woolcombe**, the grandson of our founder, spoke to students about our history; several events will rally graduates and community members around our 125th milestone and we will continue to examine the extraordinary role that Ashbury has played in both Canadian and international education. For more on Ashbury's anniversary, please visit ashbury125.ca.

Working to Welcome Refugees

Ashbury College has committed to sponsoring a refugee family; a committee comprised of students, parents and staff is planning for their safe arrival to Ottawa. As an international school, Ashbury is dedicated to global responsibility. We have forged links with families around the world and instilled in our students the importance of caring for others.

A fundraising campaign is underway and volunteers are being organized to assist with the family's needs, from housing and education to social and cultural acclimatization. For more on the school's initiative, visit ashbury.ca/rsi.

Ashbury First Ottawa School to Host Ideas Forum at TEDx

Ashbury College presented its independently organized TEDx event in November, exploring the theme of the pursuit of progress. Ashbury became the first high school in Ottawa to feature this unique TED-style series of talks from a range of speakers, including students, teachers and members of the wider community.

"We were excited about the blend of our speakers, ranging from students in Grade 6 to some of the more impressive thinkers in the City," says **David Sung**, Grade 12, an organizer of the student-led event.

TEDxAshburyCollege's speakers covered topics ranging from the role of design in the everyday product to achieving environmental sustainability in the 21st century and more. Notable community presenters included **Dr. Joel Westheimer** from the University of Ottawa, **Emilie Taman**, former Crown prosecutor, and **Mitch Kurylowicz**, Ashbury class of 2015 and founder of Project Jenga.



Grade 6 student Kyle Wilson spoke on the benefits of eating bugs, finishing his presentation with a snack of crispy crickets!

Winter Open House, February 18

Are you curious about Ashbury's admissions policies, academic programming, athletic offerings or financial assistance options? Join us on February 18 from 9 am to 12 pm to learn more about the advantages of an Ashbury education. Tour the school, chat with students, teachers and parents, and see learning in action. Everyone is welcome!

Ashbury College is located at 362 Mariposa Avenue. On-site and nearby street parking will be available. Contact admissions@ashbury.ca for more information.

March Break Programs

Ashbury will offer an exciting array of March Break programs from March 14-18. Programs are available for children from ages 8-12 and will run from 9 am to 4 pm each day. Lunch will be included. Camps include:

Amazing Art Camp with Ms. Elisabeth Arbuckle: Mask making, sketching techniques, sculpture/printmaking exercise, clay-modeling, and painting with watercolours and acrylics. This is an excellent and fun opportunity to learn new skills in a recreational setting!

Amazing Pro+ Sports Camp: Soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis/badminton, football, ball hockey, arts and crafts, yoga, organized games, the ever popular Glo-Sports and more. Fun Fun Fun!

Visit summer.ashbury.ca for more info and registration.

END NOTES

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

The Selection and Care of Favourite Perennials

Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 pm

Robert Wolodarski, Perennials and Greenhouse Manager of Artistic Landscape Design, will talk about the exciting new perennials for this year and how to incorporate them into your garden.



The Buzz on Bees

Thursday, March 24 at 7:30 pm

Sophie Cardinal, Canadian National Collection of Insects, Agriculture Canada, will speak on the importance of bees to our environment. Why are they disappearing and what we can do to prevent their decline? What can we plant to encourage them to visit our gardens?



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

Lace Up Your Skates for the Mayor's Annual Family Day Skating Party!



Join your friends and neighbours at City Hall on February 15 beginning at 11:00 am for the Mayor's Annual Family Day Skating Party. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever before with special guests, interactive and educational exhibits through the National Research Council's "Cool Science" program, family entertainment, hot chocolate and snacks. See you there!

Twelve Ashbury Students to Participate in the Viennese Winter Ball

February 20 marks the date Music and Beyond will proudly present the 19th annual Viennese Winter Ball. It will also be a real life fairy tale for the 24 Ottawa high school and university students who have applied, been selected and trained for the honour of presenting the opening Polonaise.

On the roster are 12 Ashbury College students who have diverse comfort zones. Some, like Grade 12 student **Sarah Ashton**, are just as comfortable on the sports field as the dance floor. **Melanie Greenberg**, another Ashbury student, took ballet lessons for over 10 years. The Ball will mark her first performed partner dance, though waltzing and ballet are similar in "their elegance and the way you move your hands." Ashbury College's other student participants are **William Forgie-Williams, Sabrina Hyjek, Molly Marland, Alex Parizeau, Rebecca Spiteri, Bennett Bleeker, Karina Wang, Rob Murphy, Samuel Scrivens** and **Jeffrey Yateman**.

The event will commence at 6:30 pm in the Ottawa Westin Ballroom. Those interested in attending the Ball – whose beneficiaries are Music and Beyond's young people's initiatives, the Junior Thirteen Strings and Orkidstra – can purchase single tickets at viennesewinterball.ca for \$450 or an eight-person table for \$3,500.

Elmwood School Theatre presents:

Wednesday, March 2
to Saturday, March 5 at 7 pm;
Saturday, March 5
and Sunday, March 6 at 2 pm

Elmwood School
261 Buena Vista Road, Ottawa

Tickets \$20 Adults
\$15 Students and Seniors

For information and tickets,
phone 613 749-6761, ext. 221

LES
BELLES
SOEURS
A
PLAY
BY
MICHEL
TREMBLAY

Elderly or Disabled? Need Help Clearing Your Snow? The City of Ottawa Can Help!

The City of Ottawa provides a service to help elderly or disabled people to find someone to clear their snow. There are also financial subsidies available. If you have a neighbour who could use some help clearing their snow and you are unable to do it, please help them connect with the City.

Go to <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/social-services/seniors/get-help-clearing-snow> for info.

NOTE: High-school students can also qualify for volunteer hours for this kind of work as part of their community involvement requirement.

