



The Rockcliffe News

June 2014

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

www.rockcliffepark.ca

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE

- 4 Wednesday 7:30 pmHeritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 18 Wednesday 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 25 Wednesday, 8:30 amRockcliffe Park Garden Club: A Day in the Country:
Visit Rock Wall Gardens and the Purdon Conservation
Area near Perth, with lunch at The Stagecoach Inn
in Newboro*



JULY / AUGUST

Summer Break

SEPTEMBER

- 17 Wednesday 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 24 Wednesday, 8:00 pmSpeakers Program: Paul Wells, Political Editor,
Maclean's, on "Stephen Harper's Canada,"
Community Hall*

OCTOBER

- 1 Wednesday 7:30 pmHeritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 15 Wednesday 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 17 Friday, time TBACommunity All-Candidates Meeting,
Queen Juliana Hall, Rockcliffe Park Public School
(enter from Springfield Road)*

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

VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 3

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.

Newsletter Editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now that the final remnants of a never-ending winter have disappeared, we are pleased to welcome the first harbingers of spring: colourful tulips, daffodils and crocuses, together with warmer days and the incremental return of the Village tree canopy. We look forward to enjoying the change of season and the approach of summer.

First, please join me in an enthusiastic round of applause for Jane Dobell and her phalanx of volunteers on another highly successful Book Sale. Held in mid-April with over 10,000 donated books as well as CDs, DVDs videos and vinyl, the sale grossed over \$19,000. This is quite remarkable as most books sell in the \$2 to \$3 range. As in the past, most of the proceeds from the sale will go to support the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, with 15% supporting projects in the larger library system. Our thanks to the generous sponsors – Brian, Joan and Sheetza McGarry, Minto Beechwood and the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence – who helped cover the expenses of the sale.

In response to an invitation from the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, Canada Lands Company held a public meeting in late April with Village residents to provide an update on the redevelopment of the former airbase. The meeting focused on the proposed Community Design Plan which will shortly be submitted to the City for approval. The meeting was well attended and there was no shortage of questions following the presentation. Traffic, green space and density remain concerns.

You may be aware that there will be major road reconstruction projects in Rockcliffe this summer which will be completed in 2015. The work will involve the separation of the combined sewer, and new storm, sanitary and water main works will be carried out.

In the east of the Village, we are informed that construction will take place on Old Prospect, Fernhill, Fairview, Sylvan, Cloverdale (Fairview to Old Prospect) and Mariposa (Sylvan to Lansdowne pathway); on the west side, on Minto Place (Buena Vista to Mariposa), Elmwood (Buena Vista to Park), Kinzua (Elmwood to Manor), Park (30 m west of Elmwood to Manor) and Willingdon (Lisgar to Manor). The City held separate Open Houses in early May to provide information on both east and west projects. The City's website provides further information, including the contact details of those responsible both at the City and at J.L. Richards and Associates, who are the project managers.

With the return of warm weather, our thoughts return to the jewel in our midst, the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area and the Pond. I am pleased to report that the City will, again this year, manage the Monitor Program. We have offered community support, should it be needed; in particular, in the training of the Monitors in the history and rationale for protecting the Conservation Area and providing practical advice for dealing with challenging situations. In addition, the water level has fortunately continued to rise and, as was the case last year, it has risen after the last snows have melted. This seems to me to be good news, since it suggests that the underground aquifer, which feeds the Pond, is also continuing to rise. Finally, we have not yet received a copy of the consultant's report, hired by the City to advise on bank stability and shoreline erosion. We have asked the City to expedite the completion of this report.

With best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Brian Dickson

The Village Foundation Update

The following are highlights of the report made by the Foundation at the Annual General Meeting held on February 26, 2014. The report of the Chair, **Bonnie Robinson**, is posted on the Village Foundation's website, www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

A total of \$16,370 has been directed for projects and activities that will be carried out in 2014. Foundation funds account for about one-third of the RPRA expenses and will be used for a number of initiatives in the Foundation's three mandate areas, including:

Conservation – assistance for the upkeep of the flower beds and mowing of Jubilee Gardens and the revitalization of the Princess Triangle (the entrance to the community at the rear of the Governor General's residence at Lisgar Road and Princess Avenue).

Heritage – to engage a professional heritage planner to advise the RPRA, and to plan and carry out community consultations to update the study to produce new management guidelines to be used in approving plans for residential buildings. (These funds were provided in 2012 and 2013 but the City has yet to commence this work).

Community Building – continued sponsorship of the Evening Speaker Program, The Rockcliffe News, the RPRA's Annual Report, the Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting, as well as the rehabilitation of the soccer field.

Last year the Foundation completed a detailed inventory of commemorative items that appear throughout the Village. Through this exercise we discovered that several benches are in need of repair. The Foundation is in the early stages of arranging to do this. We hope to complete this task before the end of the summer.

A pictorial catalogue is available for reference on the Foundation's website, www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

Foundation Factoids

The Village Foundation was established at the time of amalgamation with the City of Ottawa to manage an endowment, the interest from which is used to help fund community projects and programs. In the last several years, with lower interest rates, the Foundation has taken steps to raise funds to increase the endowment. The Foundation currently manages an endowment of \$622,000 and has raised \$16,100 to date from the Community Appeal.

In 2012, the Foundation developed a new Community Initiated Fundraising Policy to provide guidelines for working with community groups interested in raising funds for initiatives that have a lasting community impact. It will guide the process for these groups to work with the Foundation in raising funds for their projects.

For more information, check the Village Foundation's website, www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

Board members include: **Bonnie Robinson** (Chair), **Mike McIntyre** (Vice-Chair), **Grant McDonald** (Treasurer), **Ryan Kilger** (Secretary), **Chris Denison**, **Nancy Greenley**, **David Lang**, **Thady Murray**, **Jane Newcombe**, **Jane Panet** and **David Weinstein**.

Recognizing Additional Donors to the Community Campaign

Thank you to the following additional donors who made donations since the last newsletter to the Community Campaign of the Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation and to those other donors who have chosen to remain anonymous. The funds raised in the Campaign have been used to build the endowment to support community projects and activities. As of May 2014, \$16,100 has been donated to the annual campaign.

Aly Abdulla

Ronald Cheng

David Cuthbertson and Neva Bruce

Suzanne and Nicholas Dawes

Chris and Brad Denison

John Henderson

Oliver McGinley

Paul and Mary Mirsky

Thady and Pam Murray

Emmanuel Simantirakis

Gregory and Tani Sanders

Gail Toth

Ismene Wood

It is not too late to donate! If you have any questions, please call **Jane Newcombe** at **613 746-8000**. If you missed making your donation and would like to do so, please make your cheque payable to the "Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation" and mail to Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park K1L 5A8, or donate online on the Foundation's website, www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

RPPL SPRING BOOK SALE

2014 Rockcliffe Park Public Library Spring Book Sale Celebrates 17 Years of Success!

Enthusiastic volunteers and long lineups of eager buyers contributed to near-record sales and yet another successful Spring Book Sale, held at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) on April 12 and 13.

Despite a chilly start to the first morning, book lovers queued patiently, waiting for the 10 am start. When the doors opened, there was almost a stampede and the hunt for treasure was on! Over 10,000 books as well as DVDs, videos and vinyl were up for grabs – and grabbed they were with happy purchasers taking home bags of booty for just a few dollars.

“Proceeds from their purchases mean that this small OPL branch can continue to offer additional programs and services. These include “express reads,” activities such as authors’ readings, and more children’s books and magazine subscriptions,” said **Jane Dobell**, Chair of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Library Committee and Rockcliffe Park Public Library (RPPL) Spring Book Sale organizer. “With this year’s donation of over \$19,000, the RPPL Spring Book Sale’s contribution to the OPL since 2008 now amounts to over \$100,000. Quite an achievement! As ever, 15% of the annual total supports activity in the wider library system.”

Word of the RPPL Book Sale is clearly spreading far and wide. This year’s client survey, analyzed by **Linda McDonald**, produced some interesting results. On the one hand, it confirmed that this is a still very much a local community event, with approximately 50% of buyers coming from Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh,

Vanier and Manor Park. That said, almost 50% of the customers came from the entire National Capital Region, and as far afield as Cornwall, Stormont Dundas/Glengarry, Kingston, Napanee and even British Columbia. Literary tourism may soon become a new niche market for Ottawa!

How did everyone find out about the sale? The survey shows that word of mouth is the most important source of information. This is followed by local signage – A-frames which were monitored twice daily for two weeks prior to the event by **David Waiser** (through fair and foul weather, in sickness and health) – as well as newspaper and online advertising.

Increased operating costs necessitated sourcing additional sponsorship for the 2014 Book Sale. The RPRA is greatly indebted to **Joan, Brian and Sheetza McGarry, Marlene Borsboom**, representing **Minto Beechwood**, and **Catherine Strevens-Bourque**, Marketing Director of the **Rockcliffe Retirement Residence**, for their generous support.

Special thanks also go to the dedicated group of helpers who worked tirelessly for six months leading up to the sale – seeking sponsors, advertising for donations, culling, sorting and pricing, packing and handling innumerable boxes

of books and then running the event. “It’s a huge undertaking which entails hundreds of hours,” said Jane Dobell. “We now have over 40 volunteers, several of whom have been involved since we started 17 years ago. *Quel esprit de corps* – this Book Sale would not happen without them!”

Claire Schofield

OVERHEARD AT THE
BOOK SALE:

*My mother donated
our books and
records – and I came
to buy mine back!*



BOOK SALE FACES

The generosity of our sponsors and volunteers were key to the success of this year's RPPL Spring Book Sale.



From left to right: Brian McGarry, sponsor; Jane Dobell, Chair of the RPRA Library Committee and Spring Book Sale organizer; Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson; Sheetza McGarry and Joan McGarry, sponsors.



From left to right: Minto Beechwood representative Marlene Borsboom and Rockcliffe Retirement Residence representative Catherine Strevens-Bourque, sponsors; Jane Dobell; Mayor Jim Watson; Brian Dickson, President of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association; and Brian McGarry.



Our group of intrepid volunteers could still smile at the start of the Book Sale! Photos by Jonathan Schofield.

JANE'S WALK



Jane's Walk is a movement of free, locally led walking tours inspired by Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), an urbanist and activist whose writings championed a fresh, community-based approach to city building. The walks get people to explore their cities and connect with neighbours.

The Beechwood Village Alliance kicked off its spring activities with a Jane's Walk on May 4 (the actual birthday of celebrated urban theorist Jane Jacobs), focused on the natural environment around Beechwood.

Entitled *Water, Earth (Wind and Fire)*, over 70 people came out on a day when the clouds threatened but held off until we were nearly finished. We took advantage of the expertise of a number of local and Ottawa "guides" who offered stories, facts, history and knowledge which enriched our understanding of the geological, cultural, botanical and hydrological features of the area.

Geologist **Al Donaldson** provided an extensive geological survey of our area. We learned about Nepean sandstone, saw fossilized rocks in our midst, and now know we were barely out of the last ice age when the pyramids were built.

Linda Dicaire regaled us with entertaining stories of the early European settlers to the area while also reminding us of the rich aboriginal history at the confluence of our three great rivers.

Iola Price helped us better understand the hydrology and biology around McKay Lake and the Pond, with historical anecdotes to boot.

Thanks to **Ashbury College**, which provided its buses, we easily moved from Stanley Park, to the Rockcliffe Pavillion, to the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area, finishing at New Edinburgh House for a cup of **Bridgehead** coffee and treats.

Many thanks to our guides for their wisdom and time and to **Gemma Kerr** and **John Jarecsni** for their own local stories. **NECTAR** was our co-host, continuing our successful practice of event collaboration.

Over 100 cities participate in this annual event, with more joining every month. For more information on Jane's Walk Ottawa, see www.janeswalk.org/canada/ottawa.

Tobi Nussbaum, Chair, Beechwood Village Alliance

DEVELOPMENT

Beechwood Avenue Activities

The development on the site of the former Kavanaugh Esso garage on Beechwood is proceeding quite vigorously. Construction cranes grace the skyline and the subsurface garage development is now showing above the street surface. From now on, construction will be quite dramatic. No doubt the developer has signed up a sufficient number of new owners to justify this activity.

The Minto development at the site of the burned out block does not appear to have proceeded, although the condo display on Beechwood remains open to the public. Perhaps they are waiting until they have a sufficient number of new owners before they will begin construction.

There has been no further news about St. Charles Church or the redevelopment of the church site since it was designated a Heritage site under the Provincial legislation. There was some discussion of also designating it under the corresponding Federal legislation, but that has not yet come to the writer's attention.

Other Matters

As we all know, there will be a provincial election on June 12, and a municipal election is coming up in the fall. As in past municipal elections, I have been asked to organize a community all-candidates meeting in our area. In that regard I have reserved the evening of October 17 at the Queen Juliana Hall for this purpose. Our mayor, Jim Watson, has been informed of that date, which is 11 days before the election on October 27. Please make a note of this date in your diary.

There may be quite a lot of construction activity in parts of the Village this year as the old sewers are renewed. We have made it very clear that the road widths are to remain as they were, in keeping with the Village atmosphere of lanes rather than wide roads, and to not increase the lighting levels.



While the snow and ice are long gone (thank goodness!), everyone walking on the roads in the Village should be careful to ALWAYS walk facing the traffic, especially at night, and cyclists should ensure they are properly equipped with good reflectors and head lamps.

Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPRA

ROAD WORKS

It's summer and that means road reconstruction – digging, dust and noise. But it is all in a good cause. Two road work projects this summer will see sewer lines separated into sanitary and storm lines, the installation of new water mains and fire hydrants where needed and, of course, the reconstruction of the roads. The City held two open houses in May: for the project in the northeast corner (Cloverdale [in part], Fernhill, Lakehurst, Old Prospect, Mariposa [in part], Fairview, Sylvan and Lakeview); and for Rockcliffe Northwest Phase 1 (parts of Minto Place, Elmwood, Kinzua, Park and Willingdon).

The work is funded in part by the Ottawa River Action Plan and will lead to a reduction in overflows of the contents of the combined sewers on the affected streets to the Ottawa River. After the expected completion of Phase 2 of the Rockcliffe Northwest sewer separation project in 2016, the combined sewer overflow at the Willingdon/Lisgar intersection will be taken out of service. There will be, as a result, a significant reduction in combined sewer overflows to the Ottawa River from Rockcliffe Park.

Regrettably, the project will require the removal of some trees but tree protection guidelines have been developed for the larger, magnificent trees, especially those on Kinzua. Residents on all the affected streets will be asked to help protect the street trees by providing extra water via drip irrigation just before, during, and for the rest of the summer and fall after the construction is finished. Extra water helps reduce the shock that the trees suffer when their roots are cut. The City also has a “two for one tree” policy that means for every tree removed, two will be planted. Those extra trees will help lessen the impact, not only of the construction, but of the loss of our street ash trees elsewhere in Rockcliffe. If you would like a tree planted on the municipal right of way in front of your house, you can email me at environment@rockcliffepark.ca and I will pass your request on to the people in charge of the replanting.

Iola Price



More Environment News...

At the Annual Village Spring Clean-Up on April 27, three teenagers/young adults, three adults and three volunteers (to set up and provide refreshments) participated in the roadside and public area clean-up. The fresh air and sunshine, and the sense of contributing to a cleaner environment (and earned volunteer hours) created happy faces all around. Thanks to all the participants! *Iola Price*



WILDLIFE NOTES

Following the hard winter, the lake ice cleared on April 26, the latest date since 1997, and the lake level is unusually high. Six days before the lake opened, I heard my first Wood Ducks calling over the lake and a pair flushed from a small patch of water by the ice at the east marsh. It appears that two pairs are now trying to nest, one probably in the nesting box on a willow at 400 Lansdowne: Their behaviour is consistent with early-morning egg laying followed by feeding and loafing for the rest of the day. A week before the ice left, a pair of Canada Geese started nesting on the lake side of the isthmus, but the nest was disrupted. Two pairs are now on the lake, but I haven't seen a nest. Missing this spring are Pied-billed Grebes. They first bred, in the east marsh, in 2010, and their loud ringing songs were a feature of the next three summers.

Our three breeding heron species are back, Green, Black-crowned and Great Blue. I have three times watched a Great Blue Heron drive off another. Each time, the aggressor took off and flew low and strongly over the water, with neck menacingly outstretched, directly at the second bird, who flew off as the aggressor neared. On the first occasion I had a good view of the target bird, it was not in breeding plumage. So although there seems to be plenty of space for several Great Blues to fish the lake shores, and we have seen two birds doing so without conflict in past years, some users are not tolerated. The lake is solely a feeding territory, the nearest heronry is beside the Gatineau River, north of the railway bridge.

Red Fox sightings have become common on Fairview these past weeks, mostly early or late in the day, and on most occasions the fox was moving downhill, as if on a regular hunting route, nose to the ground, moving quickly. Going through our garden in early April, a fox picked up a last-year's apple, sampled and dropped it, and kept going. The increase in fox sightings these past weeks is consistent with a denning pair in the neighbourhood; pups are usually born in April, necessitating extra hunting in the vicinity by the adults.

All three nest boxes in my garden are in use by Chickadees. They start by excavating the wood chips I put in, then build a nest of new material. On May 8, one member of one pair was doing all the work, first stripping a beak full of fine brown fibres from cedar hedge stems, then collecting moss from the lawn. This became complicated when the piece of moss was too large to be pushed through the entrance hole, requiring dropping the load and starting again. The successful technique was to tear the moss into small fragments on the ground, collect them and push the head-sized bundle



through the hole. Meanwhile the second bird hovered around. While the first bird was off collecting, the second would fly to the entrance hole, look inside, then off to a nearby branch when the builder returned to the box.

On May 10, **Jeff Mierins** noticed movement in the leaves in his back yard at 535 Fairview and discovered a hawk grappling with a Chipmunk. He quickly snapped the photo above. It is one of our two identically-coloured accipiters, either a Cooper's or a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The hawk flew off with its prey.

On May 12, **John Watson** reports from Lakeway, "I had two pleasant but unusual (for my yard) visitors this morning. I could hear a Least Flycatcher quite distinctly – what a treat! Shortly after that, I spotted a Catbird in our crabapple tree – very quiet and close to me. He even gave me a flash of his red under-tail feathers. I haven't seen one in the yard for years although I may have heard one. I have been serenaded by an Eastern Phoebe for a few weeks now in the early morning."

Last evening was marked on Fairview by a bubbling song I haven't heard in the Village for about 16 years, a House Wren. From the time of my arrival in 1969 until the mid-1990s, wrens were a normal noisy part of the Village in summer, about one pair per garden. Their numbers then quickly dropped off. 1999 was the first summer I didn't hear a single song. I hope last night's bird is here to stay. Later in the evening, a Big Brown Bat hunted in the still air above the garden, first sighting this season and a most welcome one because bats have been catastrophically reduced in numbers by a fungal disease.

Anthony Keith
15 May 2014



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

Lansdowne Park

Since long before I ran for City Council in Capital Ward in 1991, people had been asking what we should do with Lansdowne Park.

It was a historical landmark, on that everyone could agree. But should it be preserved as it is? Should it be renovated? Should it be torn down? These were some of the many questions that were asked about Lansdowne, without answers, from before my time as a Councillor right up until only a few years ago.

It was clear that the status quo at Lansdowne was not sustainable. A crumbling stadium surrounded by a sea of asphalt was an eyesore for the City especially when the beautiful Aberdeen Pavilion sat in the middle of it. But what to do?

This council inherited a plan that would see Lansdowne Park transformed into a mixed-use facility. The plan needed work and we worked hard to not only improve it but also to get shovels in the ground and implement it so that years of indecision would be behind us.

Some people raised concerns about our plan for Lansdowne and I agree that neither the process by which it came about nor the plan itself is perfect. But perfection is the enemy of getting things done. Our plan means a significant improvement and revitalization of Lansdowne and I am thrilled that it is almost complete.

On July 18 we will welcome the Ottawa REDBLACKS to the CFL at TD Place for their home opener. The long wait for CFL football to return to Ottawa is now over and I can't wait to be there to cheer on our team as they push for the



Aerial view of the new Lansdowne Park. From ottawa.ca.

Grey Cup. TD Place will also play host to the Ottawa Fury soccer team, whose season is already underway as they do our City proud in the North American Soccer League.

In August, we will open the urban park at east end of Lansdowne that will see three times more green space (18 acres) than was previously there, four times more trees, 7.2 kilometres of sidewalks and pathways, and five pieces of public art. Lansdowne Park had always been a misnomer because there had never been much park space in it. Now, there will be ample space for people to have a picnic, throw a Frisbee, or just enjoy our beautiful City outdoors.

And, finally, our retail shops will open this fall. A mix of stores and restaurants both familiar and new will make up this site that will serve to bring people to Lansdowne year-round in addition to providing great options for before and after a game or concert.

This promises to be an exciting summer and fall for Lansdowne and for our City. It has been a long time coming but I am happy that Lansdowne Park will once again be a place that Ottawa residents can be proud of.

Watch for the official park opening where we will pay tribute to Lansdowne's past with a community celebration on Saturday August 16.

2017 Ideas Forum

On June 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, the 2017 Task Force and I will be hosting an Ideas Forum for 2017.

This event will bring together leaders from Ottawa's arts and culture and business communities to discuss how each organization can contribute toward the offerings in 2017 or attract conventions and events to Ottawa.

Our country's 150th birthday is important and we have been working hard for a few years now to ensure that we are doing all that we can to put together a year that nobody will forget. But we need to hear from you so that all the best ideas are made public and acted upon.

There is no idea too big or too small to be considered. Maybe you have an idea for a festival that Ottawa could host – or a special 2017 concert or art show.

In less than 1,150 days, our country will celebrate its 150th birthday in 2017. I am writing to ask members of the public for your ideas on how we can celebrate this milestone in Ottawa. For more information, please visit the website www.ottawa2017.ca.

CITY HALL / HOUSE OF COMMONS



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

Heritage Conservation Districts

It is accepted that “a heritage district is a cultural landscape.”* Designation protects these landscapes by “describing that area’s dynamic prevailing character and sense of place.” Built from and surrounding features such as trees and vegetation are included.

In Rockcliffe, we need to continue to press for an update of our Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan as our current plan is inefficient and is outdated by new provincial legislation. This will require public consultation and engagement. It is not sufficient to presume the level of commitment in the community.

My sense of this is that we are, as a community, pleased with our cultural landscape and the HCD would reflect the community consensus.

The HCD designation has a positive impact on property values, and provides a planning tool for managing change. It does not, however, define a straightjacket to freeze properties in time.

The economic and tourism benefits of Ottawa’s HCDs have been demonstrated in many studies. In our City we need to use this to our mutual advantage.

This update is scheduled for 2014. Staffing restrictions in the City’s Planning Department are compromising this progress. Your comments on keeping this contract would help.

**(Heritage Matters, Volume 11, Issue 2, May 2013)*

Beechwood (MacKay to Parkway)

This section continues to clog in both directions. My colleague Councillor Fleury and I have been discussing possibilities to ease some of this pressure, and hopefully some progress can be made.

Hemlock

The Manor Park Community Association agreed to the East-West Bikeway Plan (St. Laurent to Marier) and this is currently under construction. It is not a traffic calming project, but it will contribute to dampening some of the pressure. It will have to be reviewed after this project has been completed to determine whether other issues need to be addressed. Your comments are welcome.



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

The Fair Elections Act (Bill C-23)

In my Spring 2014 Info Ottawa-Vanier issue, I reported that I had strong objections to that bill. Since its introduction in early February, the Government had been under growing pressure to amend or withdraw the bill. That pressure came from Canadians throughout the country, from well-known individuals such as Preston Manning, former Leader of the Reform Party of Canada, and Sheila Fraser, former Auditor General of Canada. It also came from Provincial Election Officials and consultants, from non-governmental organizations, newspapers editorials and columnists and, of course, from numerous Parliamentarians. In the end, the Government introduced amendments to many of the proposals in the bill.

Despite these amendments, however, it is my view that the bill still weakens the authority of Elections Canada, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Commissioner of Canada Elections, who is the individual responsible for investigating possible electoral fraud. All opposition MPs (NDP, Liberal, Bloc and Green) and all independent MPs, save one, voted against the bill at the third and final reading on May 13. The bill was nevertheless approved by the Conservative majority and will likely be approved by the Conservative majority in the Senate.

Should the Liberals form a government after the next general federal election, we are committed to reversing the restrictions imposed by this bill on Elections Canada and its officers.

Reminder: RPRA membership fees for 2014 are now due. Membership is on a household/family basis and remains at \$25. This newsletter contains a renewal notice insert, or you may find the renewal form on our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Cheques should be made payable to the RPRA and may be deposited in the RPRA freestanding 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? To find out, contact secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Elmwood School

Elmwood Theatre Receives Eight Cappies Nominations

Elmwood School students have earned eight Cappies nominations, including Best Play, for their riveting production of Paul Ledoux's *The Secret Garden*, adapted from the classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett and directed by Elmwood's own **Angela Boychuk**. 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.

Four Elmwood actresses are nominated for their outstanding work: **Louisa James-Beswick** for Lead Actress, **Olivia Casarramona** for Supporting Actress, **Emily Bangsboll** for Featured Actress and **Aashna Uppal** for Female Dancer. Aashna was also nominated along with **Sonia Siddiqui** for

Makeup, **Justine Beaulé** was nominated for Lighting, and the team of **Katya Brooks**, **Brooke Mierins**, **Upkeerut Saran** and **Mckenzie Gowie** were nominated for Marketing and Publicity.

Winners will be announced at The Cappies Gala taking place on Sunday, June 8 at 6:30 pm.

Elmwood's 25th Annual Gala – The Silver Gala

Our 25th Annual Elmwood Gala was another phenomenal success. Thanks to the strong leadership of Gala Chair **Nancy Greenley** and her exceptional organizing committee, almost 200 people enjoyed a fantastic meal and danced the night away. We also met our goal, raising \$135,000 to support our bursary program and various creativity-enhancing projects. Thank you to Nancy for her leadership and to the entire committee for all their hard work. Thanks also to Elmwood's Gala Patron, **Michael Potter**, as well as our Corporate Partners, the **Athletic Club**, **EY**, **Star Motors**, **Terlin Construction**, **Vista Credit** and **WiLAN**.

Elmwood Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Looking for a great summer camp for your daughter? With themes like Summer Science, Creature Features and Around the World in Five Days, girls from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 will experience unique challenges, develop new skills and make friends at Elmwood's safe, active and fun summer camps!

Starting the week of June 16, camps run weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Cost is \$290 per week and includes lunch, excursion or special guest, and a camp T-shirt. Visit camp.elmwood.ca or call **613 749-6761** for details and registration.

Classics Team Scores Big at Annual Conference!

Most Saturdays throughout the school year, you'll find a dedicated group of students busily working away under the direction of Elmwood teacher and classical aficionado, **Ms. Ellison**, in preparation for the annual Classics Conference held at Brock University each spring. Their hard work was rewarded at this year's conference, where they were awarded five top-place team trophies, including the prestigious Thompson Trophy (top result per capita), as well as a number of top finishes in individual categories. Congratulations to the team!



Mary (Louisa James-Beswick) and Dickon (Zein Zaghloul) meet a new friend, Robin (Chloe Lucas).

SCHOOL REPORTS



Ashbury Honours in Athletics, Science and Social Justice

Ashbury College was well represented at the recent independent schools CAIS national championship for senior boys and girls. Both teams pulled past many formidable opponents from across Canada to reach the final, with the girls winning silver and the boys bringing home top honours.



Ashbury's senior boys rugby team brought home top honours at the at the CAIS national championship.



Adesuwa Ero, Grade 12, (right) with Susan Wall, Ashbury science teacher.

Two of our students received prestigious recognition for their science studies. **Adesuwa Ero**, Grade 12, took second place in an essay contest sponsored by the American Society of Human Genetics. Adesuwa won \$600 for her essay on the heredity of myopia, while student **Andrew Burwash**, also in Grade 12, represented the Ashbury SMART team at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology's annual meeting, held in San Diego, California.

Ashbury student **Roya Shams**, Grade 11, travelled to Calgary late last month to address 700 guests at a fundraiser for the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan organization, receiving a standing ovation for her words. She shared the stage with CBC reporter **Melissa Fung**, and also attended a breakfast with Canada's new Minister of Finance and participated in a leadership panel at a local high school while she was in the city.



Roya Shams, Grade 11.



Progress on Our Creative Learning Centre

When it opens in September, this new addition to our campus will provide three new floors for enriched learning in the arts, technology and music, as well as new student spaces that extend our library into an open-concept learning commons. Early advance tours of the building show that this will be a state-of-the-art learning centre that will blend seamlessly with our historic buildings.



Mitch Kurylowicz, Grade 11.

Project Jenga

Student philanthropist and Grade 11 student **Mitch Kurylowicz** organized a fundraising dinner in April in support of his charity project, Project Jenga. Mitch is very involved with Free the Children as a board member and student activist. The gala dinner, featuring keynote guests **Martin Luther King III** and **Queen Noor** of Jordan, raised over \$82,000 towards building a boys' school in Kenya.

END NOTES

Summer Camps Galore for Kids Ages 6 to 12 at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre

June 30 – July 4: Chess Camp (888934) Learn how to play chess or improve your game with the assistance of a chess coach. All skill levels welcome!

July 7-11: Medieval Times (888940) Middle Ages cooking, costume-making and craft projects. Learn how castles and catapults were built. Explore the lifestyle, fashions, food, language, music and activities of Medieval Europe.

July 14-18: Outdoor Adventure (888941) Participate in a number of activities, including outdoor exploration and orienteering, and hiking.

July 21-25: Leonardo Camp (888945) Leonardo da Vinci is the inspiration for integrating science and art summer day camp experiences. Explore themes in depth through hands-on art activities, science experiments and outdoor games.

July 28 – August 1: Art Camp (88975) Explore various arts, such as dance, drama, visual arts and music. Focus will be on experimentation and playfulness with the aim of creating art. Drama, games and free flow approaches to imagining will help children express themselves and experience the joy of making art.

August 5-8: Nature Quest (888903) Grab binoculars and magnifying glasses to discover the wonders of nature in your neighbourhood. Through hands-on programming, your child will participate in a number of nature-based activities.

August 11-15: Ooey, Goopy Science (888978) Hands-on messy fun will allow you to explore your inner scientist through games, craft and experiments!

August 18-22: Drama and Improv (888995) Introduction to theatre arts, focusing on skill development and dramatic expression. Acting techniques, script development, theatrical effect, character development, vocal work and basic stage craft. There will be a performance for family and friends at the conclusion of camp.

August 25-29: Pirate's Treasure (889017) Spend the week talking and acting like a pirate. Search for hidden treasure, build a pirate ship and hear some pirate stories from the seas!

The cost for any regular-length full-week camp is \$155 per child, and camp hours run from 9 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday. Pre- and post-care is available from 8 am until 5 pm for an additional \$11.25 per week.

We are also looking for youth volunteers to help in our Summer Camps. Volunteers must be least 14 years of age and have a valid police records check.

For details, contact **Candice Donovan**, Recreation Supervisor, **613 842-8578**, email candice.donovan@ottawa.ca.

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club *A Day in the Country*

Wednesday June 25, leaving at 8:30 am via bus.



Visit Rock Wall Gardens and the Purdon Conservation Area near Perth. Enjoy lunch at The Stagecoach Inn in Newboro. Lunch choices available.

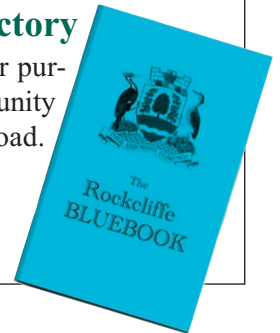
Cost: \$77.

Please contact **Sandra Ferguson** at **613 746-8259** by June 1 for specifics of the tour and to purchase tickets.

New Rockcliffe Park Directory

Revised, updated, and available for purchase soon at the Rockcliffe Community Police Centre, 360 Springfield Road. \$15 each, two for \$25.

Get them before they're all gone!



Save the Date:

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 24 at 8:00 pm

Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

Join your neighbours for an informal evening with distinguished speakers. Free admission. The presentation will be followed by questions, coffee and cookies.



Paul Wells

Political Editor, Maclean's

"Stephen Harper's Canada"

The Speakers Program is an initiative of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and is supported by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.