



The Rockcliffe News

June 2015

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

- 3** Wednesday 7:30 pmHeritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 6** Saturday, time TBARockcliffe Yard and Treasure Sale in support of the
(Rain Date: Sunday the 7th) Rockcliffe Rink Project, at the back field of Rockcliffe
Park Public School*
- 6,7** Saturday, SundayOttawa New Edinburgh Club "Doors Open"*
- 16** Tuesday 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 17** Wednesday 7:30 pmHeritage Ottawa presents: "City Water and Country Air:
Rockcliffe Park at 150," a talk by Martha Edmond,
Community Hall*
- 21** Sunday 7:30 to 8:30 pm...RPRA hosts "A Sunset Evening in the Village Green"*
- 24, 25** Wed/Thurs 7:00 pm ..Elmwood School Theatre Company presents the play
"Fair Cruelty," Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre,
1233 Wellington Street West*

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

JULY: Summer Break



SAVE THESE DATES

In anticipation of Canada's upcoming 150th anniversary in 2017, please mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

"City Water and Country Air: Rockcliffe Park at 150"

Wednesday, June 17 at 7:30 pm, Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

Martha Edmond, historian, author and long-time guide for Heritage Ottawa's Rockcliffe Park Walking Tours will explore the origins and present character of Rockcliffe with particular emphasis on development pressures that now put the Olmsted/Keefer vision to the test. For details, visit <http://heritageottawa.org/events/city-water-and-country-air-rockcliffe-park-150> or contact Heritage Ottawa at **613 230-8841** or info@heritageottawa.org. **Please Note:** This is a Heritage Ottawa members-only event; memberships will be available at the door.

"A Sunset Evening in the Village Green"

Sunday, June 21, 7:30 to 8:30 pm, hosted by the RPRA to introduce Rockcliffe's 150th Project, the rehabilitation of the Stone Circle. Hear our own resident harpist, **Susan Sweeney Hermon**, stroll around the Centennial Garden and view plans for the project.

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 15 • 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. Editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Library Book Sale, held in mid-April, goes from strength to strength. With a final tally of over 15,000 donated books as well as DVDs, CDs and vinyl, this year's sale eclipsed previous records, grossing \$26,000. This is an amazing accomplishment, given that the sale lasts only two days and most books sell in the \$2-\$3 dollar range. As in the past, most of the proceeds support the Rockcliffe Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, with the remainder supporting the broader library system. Once again, a hearty round of applause goes to **Jane Dobell** and some 40 volunteers who work throughout the year to organize this event. I would also like to thank the generous sponsors of the sale, **The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering** and **RBC Wealth Management | Montgomery Asset Management**. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

Another sure sign of spring is road reconstruction. In April, the City held an Open House to discuss plans for Rockcliffe Park Northwest, which represents Phase 2 of the work carried out last year in the surrounding area. As can be easily observed, this work has already begun and completion is expected by the end of 2016. The City's website provides further information on the affected streets as well as the contact details of those responsible for the project, both at the City and at J.L. Richards and Associates, who are the project managers.

I have written previously about our efforts to strengthen heritage protection in Rockcliffe Park. This initiative is proceeding well. **Sally Coutts**, Coordinator of Heritage Services for the City of Ottawa, and the RPRA Heritage Committee have been working for many months on a new Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan, in consultation with the RPRA Board. We are especially grateful to **Anthony Keith** for his expertise, leadership and for the many hours he has contributed to reviewing and redrafting the plans. Sally will present the draft plan to our Board meeting on June 16. It will be available on our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, during the summer for all residents to review and provide comments. The statutory public meeting on the plan will be held in the autumn.

On other heritage issues, I would like to draw your attention to a lecture sponsored by Heritage Ottawa entitled "City Water and Country Air: Rockcliffe Park at 150." The speaker is **Martha Edmund**, historian, author and long-time resident of Rockcliffe. The event will take place at Community Hall on Wednesday, June 17 at 7:30 pm. This is a Heritage Ottawa members-only event but memberships will be available at the door.

There is good news and bad news with respect to the Pond. The good news is that the City will again manage the Monitor Program. We are offering community support, as we have in previous years, in training the Monitors in the history and rationale for protecting the Conservation Area, and providing practical advice on dealing with challenging situations. The bad news is that the water level at the Pond is alarmingly low, particularly for this time of year. This creates a wide, exposed "beach" area which encourages visitors to stay longer and to trample the shoreline. At the time the Rockcliffe-on-the-Lake development was established, a pump was installed to provide a supplementary source of water for the Pond, if required. It was successfully tested but never used, and we understand it is at the moment inoperable. We may have to explore this option if the water level continues to drop.

On security issues, the RPRA recently issued an Alert, sent to those members who have provided us with their email addresses and wish to receive periodic communications from us. The incidents involved eggs thrown at Rockcliffe properties, new graffiti, and problems at the Pond. The important point is to report incidents and suspicious activity to the police so they have a record and can identify crime patterns.

Finally, I would like to update you on a proposed project in Rockcliffe Park to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017. The project is focused on the restoration of the Centennial Garden in the Village Green. A separate article appears in this newsletter which provides details. I would, however, highlight a special event in the Village Green associated with this initiative on Sunday, June 21 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, to hear the music of resident harpist **Susan Sweeney Hermon**, to enjoy this beautiful and tranquil spot in the middle of our community, and to review a project plan. I hope you will be able to attend.

With best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Brian Dickson
May 15, 2015



THE VILLAGE FOUNDATION

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

The Village Foundation Update

The 2015 Dining With the Ambassadors Event – A Special Thank You

Our community is unique in that it is the 'Canadian home' of many foreign heads of mission. They also enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding trees, gardens, the Rockeries, McKay Lake, the Pond, the 'woods' and 'dog walks.' This year was the 10th Dining with the Ambassadors, the key fundraising event for the Village Foundation, where heads of missions host dinners in their homes. This very successful event was held on April 17 and netted more than \$25,000, which will benefit projects and activities in our Community. A special thanks to the organizing committee, Co-Chairs **Jane Panet** and **Sarah Baxter**, and their hard-working committee members, **Pam Gibb-Carsley**, **Robert Collette**, **Marianne Feaver**, **Peter Hyde**, **Jane Newcombe**, **Alex Taggart**, **Marilyn Wilson** and **Eleanor Wnendt**.

Thank You to Residents Who Donated to the 2014 Community Appeal

The Foundation would like to thank the donors to the 2014 Community Appeal, who have raised \$15,000 for the endowment, which benefits community projects and activities.

Commemorative Plaques and Benches

Based on the inventory of the community's commemorative plaques and benches, which is available in the library, benches

requiring needed repairs have been identified. The City of Ottawa has undertaken most of the repairs of the broken benches and, this summer, the repaired benches will be painted. There is also work being done on replacing and repairing damaged or missing commemorative plaques.

Enhance Your Community with Village Foundation Support

Do you have a community project or other initiative related to the following areas?

- Conservation of the environment.
- Preservation of the heritage character of the Village.
- Promotion of a sense of community for all residents.

The Village Foundation encourages and financially supports community initiatives to maintain and build a vibrant community related to these areas. Much of its financial support for community programs and projects has been through the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) and this will continue.

The Foundation also accepts requests for grants from community individuals or groups that have made links with registered charities or organizations that can issue suitable receipts (including City of Ottawa and City School Boards).

If you have question about your eligibility, please contact the Foundation directly. Proposals should demonstrate community support and good value for money. Please refer to our website, www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

THE 2015 VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD *Executive:* **Bonnie Robinson**, Chair | **Michael McIntyre**, Vice-Chair

Grant McDonald, Treasurer | **Ryan Kilger**, Secretary | **Jane Newcombe**, Administrator

Board Members: **Aly Abdulla**, **Chris Denison**, **Nancy Greenley**, **Thady Murray**, **Jane Panet** and **David Weinstein**.

The Village Foundation is a unique charitable organization established at the time of amalgamation to manage an endowment, the interest from which is used to support community projects and programs in the areas of conservation of the environment, preservation of the heritage character of the Village and promotion of a sense of community for all residents.

Neighbourhood Watch Report: Be Vigilant to Keep Our Area Safe!

An unfortunate side effect of the fine weather seems to be recurrence of some familiar problems: egg-throwing, graffiti, and rowdiness at the Pond. We should also be alert to anything out of the ordinary that may be a sign of trouble. People who walk their dogs regularly are especially well placed to observe something unusual – even if you don't notice, your dog certainly will!

All incidents of vandalism or mischief, as well as security concerns, should be reported to the police. To file a report online, go to <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>. To report by phone, call Ottawa Police Services, **613 230-6211**, or the Rockcliffe Park Police Centre, 360 Springfield Road, **613 236-1222, ext. 5915**.

RPPL SPRING BOOK SALE

Spring Book Sale Shoots for the Moon!

When books first started being donated to the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), no one could have possibly imagined that the tiny trickle would turn into Noah's flood! But this year's Spring Book Sale, staged at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the OPL on April 11 and 12, did just that – and achieved sky-high donations and record sales!

"This year's sales increased by 37%, which is a stellar result," said **Jane Dobell**, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) Library Committee Chair and Book Sale organizer. "The attendance was the highest ever. Before the sale opened, people were queuing all the way down Springfield Road to Mariposa," she added.

So why did this year's sale reach a new stratosphere? Dobell feels that its success was due to various factors including exceptionally high-quality book donations, the dedication of the more than 40 volunteers who helped organize the annual sale, keen pricing, advertising that straddled traditional and new media, and the value that people still place on the printed publication. "After 18 years, our brand is quality," said Dobell. "The word is really out and people come from miles around. It also shows that printed books are far from a thing of the past."

Dobell also commented on the role of the community and the huge spirit of collaboration amongst the volunteers. "They are totally committed to its success and are the ones who really make it happen," she said. "Each of them knows that their efforts contribute to the enrichment of this small



Ready, Set... Sale!

Photo: Claire Schofield

OPL branch's programs, services and activities, such as 'express reads,' authors' readings, and children's books and magazine subscriptions," asserts Dobell. "The wider OPL system also receives a percentage, which is excellent. After all, promoting literacy is our greater goal."

Dobell also expressed great appreciation to this year's event sponsors – **The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering and RBC Wealth Management | Montgomery Asset Management**. "They have been extremely generous with their support and we could not have put the sale on without them," she said. "We were also pleased to welcome **Tobi Nussbaum**, City Councillor, Rideau Rockcliffe, Ward 13."

When asked if the sale was totally sold out, Dobell said "no" but that all residual books had been sent to the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association's (FOPLA) central depot, from which they are sold. "Through their monthly book sales, and sales outlets in various OPL branches, FOPLA contributes over \$250,000 a year to support the library system. This is a truly impressive record and we're proud to contribute to its success," said Dobell.

When will planning for the 2016 Spring Book Sale start? "We depend completely on the generous donations we receive," said Dobell. "So believe it or not, this is almost a continuous process and we're already accepting books for next year at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the OPL. So if you're downsizing, can no longer store your adult children's books, or want to reduce your CD, DVD and vinyl record collections, please think of us," said Dobell.



Record RPPL Spring Book Sale crowds line up far down Springfield Road.

Photo: John Schofield

RPPL SPRING BOOK SALE

The 2015 Book Sale in Photos



RPPL 2015 Spring Book Sale sponsors (from left): Katherine Strevens-Bourke, The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence; Brian Montgomery, Montgomery Asset Management; Jane Dobell, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Library Committee Chair and Spring Book Sale organizer; Tracey Black, Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering; Tobi Nussbaum, City Councillor, Rideau Rockcliffe, Ward 13
Photo: John Schofield



Seasoned RPPL Spring Book Sale volunteers (from left) Iola Price and Di Bethune.
Photo: Claire Schofield



A happy group – some of the RPPL Spring Book Sale volunteers, ready for take-off!

Photo: Claire Schofield



Above: The thrill of the hunt! Left: Bargain hunters with their trophies, lining up to check out.

Photos: Claire Schofield



WILDLIFE NOTES

April 12 was our first really warm spring day, reaching 18 C. For the first time this year I took my mug of afternoon tea outdoors, to sit on the warm terrace stones and relish the sun. As soon as I settled down, a Little Brown Bat came fluttering towards me, hesitated above a patch of water fringed with ice, then landed on the warm stones about two metres away. It quickly moved about three metres further off to a residual snow pile. Facing the sun, lying flat, the bat started to lick the snow. With binoculars I could see its pink tongue rapidly working in and out. It continued to do this steadily for nine minutes. Towards the end, it was also chewing snow grains. Then it rested for five minutes.

The bat then took to the air, flew up to clear the shrubs at the garden edge and started across the road. Part way across, at an altitude of some ten metres, the bat reversed course and was starting back when a Sharp-shinned Hawk zoomed up the road at right angles to the bat's path at an altitude of about nine metres, swung its talons forward and upward, and seized the bat from below. Because of the absence of tree leaves, I could follow the hawk with binoculars. It flew to a horizontal tree branch some seventy metres away. The hawk pinned the bat to the limb and ate steadily for eleven minutes, then, the meal complete, flew off. Why did the bat take the risk of coming out in full daylight?

Of our four resident flycatchers, Phoebe's are always the earliest, my first sighting was at Hillsdale Bridge on April 12. A pair is now frequent at that traditional site, and a second pair is centred on 245 Sylvan. Our largest, the Great-crested Flycatcher, I first heard on May 8.

After no reports of Wild Turkey during the winter, a white colour morph was seen on Fairview on April 24, on Birch on May 6, on Juliana on May 7, and what may be a different pale bird in Lindenlea on May 11. On April 18, **Susan d'Aquino** found a fox loping south along the western lake edge, but I've had no other fox reports. This contrasts with last spring when fox sightings were sufficiently common on Fairview to suspect a den nearby.

At the lake, when there were only patches of water at the edge of the ice on April 14 and 15, a few Wood Ducks appeared off 400 Lansdowne and Tree Swallows flew above the nest box sites. Two pairs of Common Mergansers fished for a week or so, as have one and sometimes two Double-crested Cormorants – after diving they stand on logs lying on the water at the south end, wings outstretched, to dry.

Early on April 25, I found a fresh-killed Virginia Rail on Bittern Court. I presume it was on its way to or from the



Virginia Rail. Photo: Anthony Keith

lake. These are marsh skulkers, very hard to see, so it was sad but wonderful to see close up the beautiful, subtle colours of the wings and body. I don't recall noting this bird before at the lake. It is worth listening for the distinctive calls this season: Sibley describes one as "Wheezy, piglike grunting series wep wep wepwepwepppprrr descending and usually accelerating."

Walking on Juliana early on April 28, a hunting Merlin streaked by at very high speed down the middle of the road, about a metre and a half off the ground, passing me at about an arm's length. It flushed a few Juncos on the grass verge just past the Maple Lane corner, but I couldn't see if it got one.

Frances Pick noted a Merlin in that neighbourhood earlier on.

John Watson came home on May 3 to find a rufous phase Screech Owl perched by his garage, with a nicely formed pellet on the ground below.

On the morning of May 5, about 6:30, I was on the conservation area boardwalk that allows a look into the shrubs and trees standing in water bordering the marsh, when an unfamiliar shape and movement caught my eye. Walking through the dark wet undergrowth, probing at the water's edge like a sandpiper while bobbing its tail up in the air, was a bird with a dark back and heavily-striped underparts: Northern Waterthrush. I think it is the first I've seen in Ottawa. Just as I was about to turn away, a larger shape appeared stalking through the dark undergrowth with its head held low – a Black-crowned Night Heron in full gorgeous breeding plumage, my first sighting of the year.

There seem to be many more Mourning Doves about this spring, known by their four-note hooting call. On May 8, a pair repeatedly flew in and out of a Hop Hornbeam tree at 245 Sylvan, settling briefly on a horizontal limb as if about to mate, and then off again. A little later across the street they were joined by a third bird, but after a sharp chase, only two remained.

I associate the first Baltimore Oriole arrivals with full-out apple blossom. The two beauties coincided again today.

*Anthony Keith
15 May 2015*

DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS 2015

The Ambassadors' evening was delightful – a brilliant idea to get the community together and fundraise at the same time. The format of finding out at the very last minute one's designated table /country /embassy was no less than the Oscars.

– Romina Malhotra



Andy and Bonnie Robinson, chair of the Village Foundation.



*Above: Jim Taggart and Mauril Bélanger, Ottawa-Vanier MP.
Right: Liba Bender.*



James Baxter of iPolitics with his wife, Sarah, Dorinda Brunst and Tobi Nussbaum, Councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe.

Close to 200 friends, neighbours, and diplomats gathered together on Friday, April 17, 2015 at the Rockcliffe Community Centre to celebrate the biennial and 10th Dining with Ambassadors fundraiser for the Village of Rockcliffe Park.

It was a beautiful evening; a grand and elegant affair. Long-time Rockcliffe resident and real estate agent **Marilyn Wilson** sponsored the welcoming cocktail party in honour of the 13 embassies who generously hosted dinners for between eight and as many as 17 guests.

Huff Estates Winery of Prince Edward County donated a VQA Merlot 2013 and a Reisling Medium Dry 2013, which were enjoyed by all; **Tulips and Maple** provided tasty hors d'oeuvres; Rockcliffe librarian **Sonia Doyon**, along with Community Hall staffers **Candice Donovan** and **Emily Beausoleil**, took the invasion of partygoers in stride.

(Continued on page 8)



From left: Marilyn Wilson, Presenting Cocktail Party Sponsor; with Joan Sun and Dr. Allan Wilson.



Huff Estates Winery donated a delicious VQA Merlot 2013 and a VQA Reisling Medium Dry 2013.



Star Motors was one of many generous sponsors.



Dining with Ambassadors Organizing Committee (from left): Marianne Feaver, Eleonore Wnendt, Sarah Baxter, Peter Hyde, Jane Panet, Alex Taggart and Jane Newcombe. Missing: Robert Collette, Pam Gibb-Carsley and Marilyn Wilson.

THE VILLAGE FOUNDATION'S GALA:

I did not know what to expect...and what a treat it was. The ambassador and his wife were very interested in getting to know their guests, eager to be more involved in Rockcliffe, and were warm, generous neighbours.

— Sarah Baxter



Ambassador Charles Murto, Finland, and Ambassador Per Sjogren, Sweden.

One of the things that makes this party so much fun is the “Big Reveal.” No one knows ahead of time at which embassy they will be dining. Everyone loves the surprise. Lots of new friendships are made. One young family doctor even picked up a couple of new patients! For many reasons, this is definitely a party not to be missed.

Rockcliffe is a unique neighbourhood. Nowhere else are so many diplomatic residences concentrated in one area. And we have been very lucky with our diplomatic neighbours; they have been generous in the extreme, opening their homes and sharing their cultures and customs with us.

Many thanks to the ambassadors who hosted their neighbours this year. They are, in diplomatic order, **Ambassador of Uruguay, His Excellency Elbio Rosselli and Mrs. Regina Hermida Mouriz; Ambassador of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Konstantin Zhigalov and Mrs.**

(Continued on page 9)



Ambassador Alfonso Silva Navarro, Chile, and Ambassador Elbio Rosselli, Uruguay.



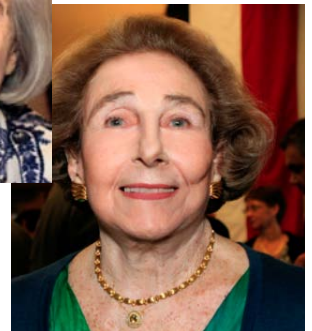
Above: Ambassador Selcuk Unal, Turkey, with his wife, Lerzan. Right: (from left): Deborah Wyatt, Gloria Connelly and Denise Bourque-Larivière.



Left: Diana Rowley, long-time Rockcliffe Park resident.



Right: Ismene Wood of Rockcliffe Park.



From left: Dr. Aly Abdulla, Marc LeBoutillier, The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier, Bill Malhotra and Neelam Charania.



German Ambassador Werner Wnendt with his wife, Eleonore Wnendt-Juber, who served on the Organizing Committee of Dining with Ambassadors 2015.

DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS 2015

The evening was great as they hosted 16 of us and it was a real treat....the dinner was not only spectacular but fun. They truly went out of their way to make us feel welcome.

– Marilyn Wilson



Ambassador Raoul Delcorde, Belgium, and Ambassador Rafael Barak, Israel.



Cathy Ireland, Ambassador Per Sjogren, Sweden, and David Graham.

Indira Zhigalova; Ambassador of Finland, His Excellency Kaarlo Murto and Mrs. Ritva Murto; Ambassador of Germany, His Excellency Werner Wnendt and Mrs. Eleonore Wnendt-Juber; Ambassador of Colombia, His Excellency Nicolas Lloreda-Ricaurte and Mrs. Alessandra Tassara; Ambassador of Israel, His Excellency Rafael Barak and Mrs. Miriam Barak; Ambassador of China, His Excellency Zhaohui Luo and Mme. Jiang Yili; Ambassador of Chile, His Excellency Alfonso Silva Navarro and Mrs. Ada Aldana Norambuena; Ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Raoul Delcorde and Mrs. Fatemeh Javadi; Ambassador of Switzerland, His Excellency Beat Nobs and Mrs. Irene Knopfel Nobs; Ambassador of Egypt, His Excellency Motaz Zahran and Mrs. Hala Youssef; Ambassador of Sweden, His Excellency Per Sjogren; Ambassador of Turkey, His Excellency Selcuk Unal and Mrs. Lerzan Unal.

(Continued on page 10)



Ritva and Ambassador Kaarlo Murto, Finland.



Above: Hala Youssef and Ambassador Montaz Zahran Egypt. Left (from left): Miriam Barak, Eleonore Wnendt and Ambassador Konstantin Zhigalov, Kazakhstan.



From left: Marianne Feaver, Miriam Barak and Jane Panet.



Left: Victoria and Russ Gibson.



From left: David Esdaile, Perrin Beatty and his wife, Julie Beatty, Paul Beaulé and his daughter, Justine.

DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS 2015

What a lovely evening night!..I am sure everyone had a ball! I certainly did. I found our dinner group so interesting and our Israeli hosts genuinely warm and gracious in their hospitality!

– Claire Scholfield



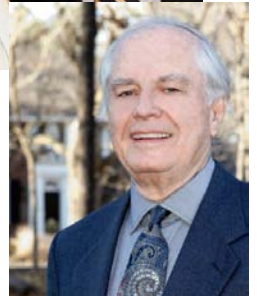
Tasty hors d'oeuvres served by Tulips and Maple's friendly staff.

A special thanks to Contributing Sponsors **Star Motors** and **iPOLITICS**; and to Event Supporters **Maria and John Bassi, The Beacon Agency, Nicholas Caragianis Architect Inc., Claridge Homes, The Cutting Edge Landscaping, New Edinburgh Pharmacy, Whitney Fox and Dan Goldberg, Elizabeth and Scott Heatherington, Andrea and Dennis Laurin, Kris and Walt McGinn of Allegra, Jamilah and Sean Murray, and Tamarack Homes.** Thank you to **Le Baccara, Beckta Dining and Wine, Le Café du Centre national des arts, Courtyard Restaurant, Les Fougères, Hy's, El Meson, Play food & wine, L'Orée du Bois, Social, The Shore Club, Le Tartuffe, Elmwood School and Beauty + Sussex.**

Funds raised by Dining with Ambassadors support the Village's community facilities, conservation of the environment, and preservation of the Village's heritage nature.



Above: Carolynne and Sam Kucey. Carolynne gave up a Sens playoff to attend Dining with Ambassadors. Right: Peter Hyde.



Below, top photo (from left): Louise French, Irene Knopfel Nobs, Ambassador Beat Nobs, Switzerland, and John French. Below, bottom photo (from left): Mary Burke-Cameron and Eric Cameron, Stephen Bleeker and Janice McDonald, Grant McDonald and Carol Devenny.



Left: Alexander Macklin, past president, RPR.



Volunteers from Elmwood School greeted guests on arrival at the welcoming cocktail party in honour of hosting Ambassadors. From left: Leane Gaussorgues, Fumi Shibusani, Megan Sweeney, Emily Bangsball, and Sheetza McGarry.



Dining with the Ambassadors pages 7-10: All photos by Lois Siegel © 2015; www.siegelproductions.ca

DEVELOPMENT

St. Charles Church Development

In the church on May 20, the developer ModBox held its first public meeting on the proposed development of the church site. The developer acquired the site last winter and has talked to City planners on technical issues. ModBox is now looking for feedback, after which a more refined design will be produced. This is the beginning of a process of re-zoning and site plan approval expected to take a year and a half.

The design shows the church open to the street on the Beechwood side with space for a farmers' market in the corner between Beechwood and St. Charles Street. The Barrette side of the site and half way up the St. Charles Street side is to be covered by an L-shaped residential block rising to six storeys at the Marier end and eight storeys at the St. Charles Street end. At the ground level facing the two streets the block will have townhouse units, decorated with pitched rooflets, projecting a metre or two from the façade, to relate to nearby house forms and the church. Above this first floor, the design is modern with many horizontal lines and some colours. At the Marier end of the church, the existing addition is to be removed and replaced with a new separate building of commercial and residential space. About forty condo and townhouse units are planned altogether, with underground parking. The ModBox new building at the intersection of Springfield and Putman will give an idea of the architect's design approach. Other projects may be viewed at www.modbox.ca. Information on the St. Charles project will be available at info@modbox.ca.

While the condo block is as tall as the roof of the church, its bell tower will remain visible from all perspectives except at street level on Barrette. The views of the front and side of the church from Beechwood will not be changed except that the backdrop will be the wall of condos. Looking along Beechwood from Marier, the rear roof of the church will be hidden.

The interior of the church is to have two levels of retail, with a focus on food. Two restaurants connecting to outside patios are planned for the rear, and other ideas are for a butcher, baker and similar small enterprises. The developer recognizes the community desire for a hardware store, but the space and loading dock required may make that difficult. The farmers' market space will be backed by a single storey coffee shop projecting from the base of the residential block in front of the church door. The market space is to be attractively designed with seating so as to be a public place to hang out. Along the site's Beechwood frontage the City will add a bicycle lane separate from the roadway, and there will be new street tree plantings.

150TH PROJECT

Rockcliffe Park Project Underway

On March 25, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and the Village Foundation hosted a community consultation to discuss a project to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada in Rockcliffe Park. The proposed project is focused on the restoration of the Centennial Garden, located in the Village Green at Mariposa and Springfield Roads, just west of the Jubilee Garden.

The Centennial Garden was Rockcliffe's project to commemorate Canada's centennial. It was designed by **Humphrey Carver**, a pillar of our community and a founding member of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA). It consists of a central stone circle, punctuated by two huge boulders, of concentric rings and of alternating rays of flagstone, mortared round river stone, benches and sugar maples. A perimeter asphalt path rings the area, with globe lighting on poles. The design subtly suggests ten provinces and (at the time) two territories. Almost 50 years old, the condition of the surfaces has deteriorated badly. The 1967 project was made possible through the co-operation of the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada; we hope to repeat this funding arrangement for 2017.

At the community consultation, long-time Village resident and landscape architect **Linda Dicaire**, FCSLA, presented a proposal to restore and preserve the integrity of the Centennial Garden, with the possibility of introducing a connection to the adjacent Jubilee Garden, with new elements to reflect Canada in 2017, enhancements to lighting, and wheelchair and universal access overall.

To expand awareness, the RPRA is holding a magical Sunset Evening on Sunday, June 21 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Village Green. Come hear our own resident harpist, **Susan Sweeney Hermon**, stroll around the Centennial Garden and view a plan for the rehabilitation of the Stone Circle.

If you can contribute expertise, suggestions or time to the project, please contact **Linda Dicaire**, **Thady Murray**, **Chris Barker** or secretary@rockcliffepark.ca. We are seeking volunteers to help with budgeting, project management, liaison with the City and possibly with local schools, and event planning, communications and administrative support. We are also looking for any family and other photos taken in the Village Green, particularly in and around the Centennial Garden, during the 1960s and 1970s, to piece together a visual record of the site and its social history, which will be posted on our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Photos should be sent to secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.



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

Thinking About Mental Health

Sometimes, the most serious illness has the least obvious symptoms.

Imagine an illness so crippling that it leaves you unable to get up in the morning – where the pain becomes so severe that you fall behind on your household responsibilities, on your homework and on your personal relationships. You become trapped in a cycle where falling behind on your life makes the condition harder and harder to cope with – a condition that does not show up on any X-Ray or blood test, and will not be solved with crutches or a new cast.

Mental health is a crucial yet often ignored part of overall wellbeing. We have all been touched by mental health and addiction challenges – whether through a friend, a co-worker, a family member, or through our own experiences.

For Children's Mental Health Week (May 4-10), Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) held their annual YouTube video contest, called "Change the View." Youth from across the province competed by making short videos that showed how we can take the stigma out of mental health issues like stress, depression, ADHD, bullying and psychosis. Two hundred thirty teams from across Ontario competed and 20 finalists were selected; seven were from our very own Colonel By Secondary School. One of these teams took home first place, coming ahead of productions from universities and high schools across the province.

As part of our commitment to supporting Ontarians suffering from mental health challenges, the government of Ontario launched the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in 2011, with a focus on children and youth, and is now expanding to support the transition between youth and adult services and to improve the quality of services for Ontarians of all ages. By 2017, the government will have increased annual funding for mental health and addictions by a total of \$172 million since the program's inception.

Conquering our own mental health challenges and supporting our loved ones through theirs are not easy tasks. Every Ontarian has a place in this conversation – only when we can all talk openly about mental health will we be able to break this cycle.



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

Bill C-50: Another Flawed Election Reform Bill

The Conservative government's latest election reforms risk disenfranchising Canadians living abroad. In Ottawa-Vanier there are historically thousands of voters living abroad; electors previously eligible to vote in this constituency and who do so.



The Conservatives introduced Bill C-50, the Citizen Voting Act, in December 2014 after the Ontario Superior Court struck down provisions last May that barred Canadian expatriates from voting if they had been outside the country for more than five years. The government unsuccessfully tried to stay the ruling, then appealed that case and brought in this new legislation. It is my view they are using the ruling to introduce residency requirement changes and other unrelated amendments – changes that will not enhance the integrity of Canada's voting system.

The country's Chief Electoral Officer, **Mr. Mark Mayrand**, said when appearing before the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs that the Bill's proposal to eliminate the International Register of Electors will make voting much harder for Canadians living outside Canada.

While members of the military can vote on base, their families and other Canadian expatriates would have to apply to vote after the election writ is issued and provide proof of citizenship in addition to proving their identity and residence. Elections Canada then has to mail them a voting kit and the Canadian living abroad then has to mail it back in time for Election Day.

This is clearly unacceptable. On our side of the House we have compared the level of voter suppression in this Bill to that of the government's previous Bill C-23, the so-called 'Fair Elections Act.'

Should this bill become law it is my view it will need to be reexamined in order to respect the Charter rights of Canadian citizens to vote.

Illustration from <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/council-canadians/2014/12/harper-seeking-new-voter-suppression-powers-bill-c-50>

CITY HALL



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

The Order of Ottawa

In 2012, I launched the Order of Ottawa to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of some of Ottawa's most distinguished residents. Each year, up to 15 worthy recipients are recognized for making our City a better place in which to live.

This prestigious civic award recognizes exceptional contributions in the many areas of City life, including arts and culture, business, philanthropy, health care, education, public service, labour, communications and media, science, sports, entertainment or other fields of endeavour that benefit the citizens of Ottawa.

I believe that it is important that we take the time to recognize those who do outstanding work in our City; by showing them that their dedication and hard work is being noticed, they are emboldened to continue to push harder and reach greater heights. The group selected each year are role models to those inside and outside their respective fields, and inspire others to work towards making Ottawa a better place in which to live.

The Order of Ottawa allows us to celebrate the incredible achievements of Ottawa's residents, across a vibrant and diverse range of endeavours. From **Pinchas Zuckerman** of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, to **Moe Atallah** of the Newport Restaurant, to **Allison Fisher** of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, and many more, we have people achieving great heights in every field and the Order of Ottawa lets us recognize their achievements.

I encourage you to put forward a nomination for somebody who you think would be a deserving inductee. Registration is now open, and submissions can be made until September 11, at which time nominations are reviewed by a selection panel. For more information on the Order of Ottawa please see the flyers available at your local library branch, community centre, or any Client Service Centre. Alternatively, you can find out more online at **Ottawa.ca**.

Nominations by immediate family members, self-nominations, and posthumous nominations will not be accepted. Municipal, provincial and federal officials are not eligible to be considered for this award while they are in office.



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

Planning for the Integrity of Rockcliffe Park Road Construction

Construction to modernize the sewer infrastructure has been ongoing in Rockcliffe Park since last year. Over the next two years, the work will move into the northwest area of the community and has already begun this construction season. One concern that arose as part of the construction was City staff's intention to resurface all the roads to a minimum width of six metres, wider than many of the roads in their current state.

I shared the view of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and a number of individual residents affected that wider roads were not in the interest of the Village. Not only is there a historic and aesthetic appeal to the more traditional narrow roads in Rockcliffe Park, but they also serve an important traffic calming function. And with the absence of curbs, I feel there is no risk that an emergency vehicle couldn't get past a parked car to access a house in need.

As a result, I am in discussions with City staff to leave the road widths as is. I hope those discussions with staff lead to a positive resolution; however, I am prepared if necessary to take this matter up with the Transportation Committee to give City staff Council direction to keep the road widths status quo. There may need to be the odd change to address minor oddities in the road curvature, and Coltrin Road will be moved slightly south to protect the heritage stone wall on the north side. But overall, I think it's important to ensure the remaining roads set to be rebuilt maintain the Village's heritage feel and traffic-calming function. Work on Buena Vista Road, Birkenfels Road (resurfacing only), Minto Place, Manor Avenue, David Thomas Lane and Hillcrest Road is expected to be completed in 2015. Thorold Road, Montagu Place, Springfield Road, Coltrin Road and Coltrin Place are expected to be completed in 2016. The contractor, Taggart Construction, is required to ensure that people have access to their homes when the roads are closed. Letters with more detailed information have been sent to affected property owners.

I wish all residents an enjoyable summer. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas.

SCHOOL REPORTS



A New Symbol for a New Century



Thursday, May 7 was a very exciting day in Elmwood history! We were thrilled to unveil our new Coat of Arms to the community, with the help of Her Excellency **Sharon Johnston, Dr. Claire Boudreau**, Chief Herald of Canada, and **Ms. Manon Labelle**, Miramichi Herald.

The Coat of Arms is a representation of the School's symbols and traditions, and serves to preserve the link between the first students of Elmwood and the thousands of students who have walked the halls since. One hundred years of history has paved the way for Elmwood to become the premier school for girls in Ottawa, and the creation of this meaningful and lasting symbol reflects that spirit of excellence.

This event was a fitting start to our year of Centennial celebrations, and we were happy to have so many members of our community attend.

Elmwood School's Theatre Company Brings Elizabethan Royalty to the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre

Elmwood School's theatre company is a-bustle as thirteen young actresses, with their five-member production team, prepare to open a new show, **Fair Cruelty**, at both Ottawa's Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre in June and later this summer at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland.

A play that is being toured overseas to a theatre festival must be technically simple (we can only take what we can carry in our suitcases!) but attention, on the other hand, may be focussed on costumes. To this end, **Emily Soussana** – a graduate of both Elmwood School and uOttawa's Faculty of Arts programme – was invited by director **Mrs. Angela Boychuk** last December to design the costumes for our troupe of actors. Currently enrolled in the pre-professional design programme at the National Theatre School, Emily is fulfilling her long-time dream of becoming a designer.

Two upcoming performances of **Fair Cruelty** at Ottawa's Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre promise audience members a British-themed festive evening that will include an opportunity to sample pub fare from **Beyond the Pale Microbrewery** before and after each show. Raffle prizes, a silent auction and a reception are also in the offing. All proceeds will go towards funding our company's participation in the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) in Edinburgh this August, the second time Elmwood Theatre has been invited by AHSTF to participate.

In order to qualify, every school must go through a rigorous and competitive selection process, as a panel of theatre professionals and university professors adjudicate hundreds of applications from across North America. The opportunity to perform at the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe is a much-coveted honour by high school theatre students and it has proven to be a life-changing experience.

Performances are Wednesday, June 24 and Thursday, June 25 at 7:00 pm at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 1233 Wellington Street West. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Tickets are \$20; order online at tinyurl.com/faircruelty or by calling **613 749-6761, ext. 221**.

By Sophia Swettenham, Grade 10 theatre student, Elmwood School

Garden Gala a Great Success!

On Saturday, April 25, guests were transported to a flower-filled spring garden at the School's Annual Gala. The theme – an Evening in the Garden – was very fitting after a long, cold winter. Many thanks to Chair **Nancy Greenley** and her team of volunteers for putting on such a beautiful event, and to everyone who helped raise over \$140,000 for the School. Special thanks also go to our Gala Patron, **Michael Potter**, and our Corporate Partners, **Ernst & Young, Movati Athletic, Star Motors, Terlin Construction Ltd., Vista Credit** and **WiLAN**, for their support.

Remember: Elmwood Summer Camp Registration is Now Open! For details and registration, please visit camp.elmwood.ca or call **613 749-6761**.

Save the Dates for Elmwood's Centennial: In 2015: Centennial Kick Off, September 9; Homecoming/ Founder's Day/Fall Festival, October 2, 3 and 4; Holly Tea and Art Festival, December 5. In 2016: Father-Daughter Dance, February 6; Elmwood Gala, April 23; Centennial Finale, June 17. For more information, please visit elmwood100.ca.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Celebrating 40 years of IB

Forty years ago Ashbury brought the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to its campus, establishing a high-standard advantage for students and cementing a reputation as a leader in education. The IB Organization was created in 1968; Ashbury was one of the first to offer the Diploma Program in Canada in 1975, and the 55th school in world. Since then, Ashbury has seen the exponential growth of the IB globally. Today, over 3,900 schools around the world offer at least one program and with various degrees of emphasis.

The real value of the IB is in feedback received from universities and IB alumni: developing adaptable learners and a preparedness for success in university. The breadth and depth of the program lets students feel more confident with their transition to university studies, stronger performance in undergraduate courses, a high level of student engagement beyond academics and a propensity for graduate studies.

At one time perceived as an elite program only, IB holds access as a new mantra. This does not, however, diminish the commitment needed to succeed in the IB and what vertical planning is required in course selection to meet its goals. Coupled with our pre-university OSSD courses, over 75% of Ashbury students will graduate with at least one IB certificate, while 35-45 students completed the full IB Diploma program in recent graduating classes.

Interguild

Ashbury hosted parent volunteers from independent schools across Ontario in May for the Interguild event. Interguild is an organization of parents – past and present – who assist schools by volunteering their time to support activities and programs. Interguild participants toured the school and its residences, held the group's annual general meeting, and listened to guest speakers **Melissa Fung**, former CBC journalist and author, and Ashbury's own Grade 12 student **Roya Shams** speak about their experiences in – and hope for – Afghanistan.

International Day

With students from 49 different countries represented on campus, Ashbury truly is an international school. Students celebrated that fact earlier this spring with a day of fantastic food, colourful clothing and lots of critical thinking about the state of the world. International Day at Ashbury builds on the notion of “education for global citizenship” where students and teachers come together to look at some hard issues.

This year students identified the theme “threats to humanity” and simulated a United Nations Security Council Session on dealing with ISIS. Grade 12 student **Roya Shams** spoke to a packed Maclaren Hall of her experience in Afghanistan and the historic and contemporary realities of the country she left four years ago. Students broke out into discussion groups to look at different conflict areas of the world and evaluate how nations might best respond. They also returned “to Canada” to evaluate merits and pitfalls of proposed legislation, Bill C-51.



Ashbury students showcased their cultures at International Day through food, clothes, dance, song and debate.



Speaking About Science

Popular McGill University chemistry professor and media contributor **Dr. Joe Schwarcz** visited Ashbury on May 19 to speak to students and launch his new book,

Monkeys, Myths and Molecules. Dr. Schwarcz explained how his love of chemistry began, and demonstrated simple “magic” tricks, all made possible through chemistry. Dr. Schwarcz's visit to campus was due in part to Ashbury alumna **Emily Shore '03**, who works at McGill's Office for Science & Society.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Rockcliffe Park Public School



Message from Principal Brodie

My second year as Principal at Rockcliffe Park has flown by so quickly, with numerous images flashing by across my mind: the buzz of student activity in the classrooms and in the school yard, whether it be an intramural game in the gym; the melodic voices of the school choir; the musical beat of the dance club rehearsing for an assembly; the Green Team busy collecting the recycled paper; the Lego and Hobby club creating magnificent works; the F.A.I.R. club preparing for their fundraising activity; the numerous athletic teams practising for the tournament; the entire school kickin' up their heels at the Dance-A-thon or just the excited chatter of the students eager to share ideas. All these point to a vibrant core which emanates energy, caring and pride in their accomplishments. The staff, students and their families work together to create an environment that allows all to flourish, grow and achieve. It is energizing and inspiring to work with such a group, in such a wonderful atmosphere.

Recent RPPS Events

Clockwise from right: Serena Mantomina-Beto, Grade 6 RPPS French Immersion student, first-place winner at the May 9 French Oral Speaking Competition provincial finals in Toronto. "Art In Bloom" student art exhibit held May 5-8 in Queen Juliana Hall; Reading with students at Grandparents Day.



END NOTES



The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club is Gearing Up for the Summer Season!

All tennis courts (seven red clay, and four hard courts) are now open. Come meet our new certified Tennis Canada Coach 2 level instructor, **Catalin Tudorache**, and learn about our private and drop-in lessons, stroke of the week, aero tennis, round robins and interclub leagues.

Doors Open on June 6 and 7 – Join Us!

ONEC is located at 501 (Boathouse) | 504 (Tennis Pavilion) Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway. Join us to:

- **Tour our facilities, including our heritage Ottawa River boathouse.**
- **Sign up for Tennis, Sailing or Rowing memberships.**
- **Register children or youth for summer camps.**

For more information, contact us by phone: **613 746-8540** or by email: **onecadmin@gmail.ca**, or visit our website, **www.onec.ca**.

*Happy Summer = Sailing –
Rowing – Tennis!*



Rockcliffe Yard and Treasure Sale Saturday June 6 (Rain Date: June 7)

The Rockcliffe Yard and Treasure Sale, in support of the Rockcliffe Rink Project, will be held at the back field of the Rockcliffe Park Public School – the future site of the proposed chilled rink and field house.

The sale will have two components: First, free space and tables will be available to residents who wish to sell; email **RockcliffeYardSale@gmail.com** to sign up (organizers will ask sellers for a small, non-obligatory donation to the Rink Project). The second part is the sale of donated items. Organizers will be soliciting residents and will pick up any items that residents wish to donate, big or small. Email **RockcliffeYardSale@gmail.com** to arrange for pick up. There are several pick ups planned for the first week of June.

The community has shown real support to date, with sponsorship from **Kolbec Dodge** and main sponsor **Rhodes Barker Luxury Real Estate**. Organizers are also working to make it a festive event by including a beer tent, food trucks and other surprises that have yet to be finalized.

