



The Rockcliffe News

June 2017

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** Saturday, 9:30 am to noon ..Fletcher Wildlife Garden's Annual Plant Sale, Prince of Wales Drive, south of the Arboretum
- 3,4** Saturday, SundayOttawa New Edinburgh Club "Doors Open Ottawa"*
- 17** Saturday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm...Book signing for "An ABC of Ottawa" by author Miriam Bloom, Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood*
- 21** Wednesday, 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 23** Friday, time TBARockcliffe Park Garden Club: Rockcliffe Garden Club Day in the Ottawa Valley*
- 30** Friday, 8:00 pmRockcliffe Park Outdoor Family Movie Night, Jubilee Gardens*

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



CANADA'S 150th

CANADA 150

In honour of Canada's upcoming 150th birthday, The Rockcliffe News will publish a series of Rockcliffe History stories throughout the coming year. But this time, Happy Birthday Canada! Here's what's going on in our Nation's Capital on the big day!

In 2017, Canada Day celebrates the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation, which took place on July 1, 1867. To stay informed regarding all the Canada Day 2017 celebrations in Ottawa, visit the Canadian Heritage website, www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage.html.

Crowds will gather on Parliament Hill for a 9:00 am flag raising ceremony and the Changing of the Guard ceremony, followed by the carillon concert featuring the Peace Tower bells at 10:00 am. Be there at noon for a thrilling performance by the Snowbirds Demonstration team, and a noon hour show filled with cultural entertainment. For families, the Canadian Museum of History will host a variety of activities especially for children ages 3 to 12 including games, physical activities, performances and inflatable slides. For revelers of all ages there will be free activities at most of the area's national museums and institutions.

Parliament Hill will be the focal point for Canada Day celebrations, with a giant stage featuring Canadian performers throughout the day, the noontime playing of "O Canada" and a flyby by Canada's Snowbirds aerobatics team and other military aircraft. The celebrations will spill over from Parliament Hill to venues on both sides of the Ottawa River, including Major's Hill Park and the Canadian Museum of History in downtown Gatineau, with fun and activities for people of all ages. The day is capped off with a massive fireworks finale visible from any vantage point downtown. Get a good spot by 10:00 pm, as that's when the fireworks light up the sky. Happy Canada Day!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



In recapping the events of the past few months, the highly popular Book Sale in support of the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library takes top billing, concluding another banner year. Revenues were up over last year and in spite of cool, cloudy weather on the first day, the crowds were as strong as ever. An element of elegance was added this year in the form of a string quartet that was on hand Saturday to serenade the literati as they combed the tables for treasures. Many thanks are due to chief organizers **Jane Dobell** and **Linda McDonald** and the huge stable of volunteers who pitch in during the year to sort, price, box and shift the masses of books that are accumulated each year. I would also like to recognize and thank this year's sponsors, **RBC Wealth Management** | **Montgomery Asset Management** and **Dymon Storage**, for their generous support, and **Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering** for their magnificent chili and sandwiches for the volunteers during the sale. This year marks the end of an era as the indomitable Jane Dobell steps down as the lead organizer of the Book Sale. Jane has been an incredible force and deserves enormous gratitude for her work. In early May, a reception was held at the Rockcliffe Library to honour Jane and the other founding volunteers of the Book Sale, **Di Bethune**, **Sheila Nelles** and **Barbara Barker**. **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum** was on hand to present to them the model of a commemorative plaque that will be placed in a suitable location outside the library.

Being an odd-numbered year, the Village Foundation's biennial Dining with the Ambassadors event was held on a balmy April 28th evening. A huge crowd filled the Community Hall and Library for the pre-dinner cocktail and I was impressed by the number of people there who reside outside Rockcliffe Park. **Ricarda** and I were fortunate to be hosted by **His Excellency Abdulhamid Alfaiakawi**, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait. Excellent food and lively conversation made for a lovely evening. The RPRA would like to extend our recognition and gratitude to all the foreign missions who participated in this year's soiree.

The annual Village Clean-up was held the next day and saw 39 keen folks turn up to help. Teams collected 44 bags of leaves and twigs from the areas surrounding the Community Hall and Village Green, and 12 bags of garbage from those who fanned out and scoured the roadsides. Many thanks to **Joan Kellett** for organizing the event, and to everyone who came out that day.

The RPRA continues to monitor the water levels in the Pond. A new electrical panel has been installed to control the pump that will be used when needed to try to maintain a high water level. See **Brian Dickson's** report in this newsletter for an update on what is happening there. As a reminder to all members of the community, the hours for swimming in the Pond are strictly limited to between 7:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Our defence of the new Heritage Conservation District Plan is ongoing. The Heritage Committee has been extraordinarily busy with new applications for modifications to existing buildings. The process is frustrating as the HCDP is under an appeal that is due to be heard at the Ontario Municipal Board in September. Thanks go to **Susan d'Aquino** and her colleagues on the Heritage Committee for the many hours of work they devote to trying to conserve the essence of our heritage neighbourhood.

By now, many of you will have had a visit from one of the RPRA Board members who have been circulating around the Village as part of our May-June Membership Drive. I hope that you are convinced that renewing or joining the RPRA is worthwhile, so a warm "Welcome" to all new members. It is my sincere hope that you will seek ways to become more involved in your community association. Why not start by coming out to the first RPRA Outdoor Family Movie Night on June 30 in the Jubilee Gardens? This is the first time we are doing this in Rockcliffe and if it works well, we will look at having more evenings such as this one. Please help make this a success and feel free to offer your requests for future film features.

Finally, those of you who have had occasion to look at our website will be aware of its shortcomings. I am pleased to announce that we are rebuilding it on a new platform to better serve our residents. We hope to be able to link to a new Facebook page and Twitter feed to get through to a wider audience. Fear not, though, we will retain our members' email blasts for those of you who, like me, remain off the Facebook/Twitter grid and, of course, we will continue to publish our trusty newsletter every other month. We hope to have the new site up by September.

Wishing you all a peaceful and safe summer break.

Peter Lewis, 22 May 2017

HERITAGE MATTERS

270 Buchan Road

On May 24, City Council voted 13 to 10 to refuse Richcraft Properties' application to demolish the beautiful Grade I heritage house at 270 Buchan Road and replace it with a much larger house. What Richcraft was asking was starkly at odds both with the new Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan and with protections that have been in place and respected for the twenty years that Rockcliffe Park has been a Heritage Conservation District.



This was a watershed decision with immense implications for the future protection of the heritage of Rockcliffe Park and of the other 17 heritage districts in Ottawa. This was the first time that anyone had applied to demolish a Grade I house in Rockcliffe. This case has been viewed with great interest as a test case of the wider public interest vs. the private interests of developers/owners.

We owe much to **Mayor Watson** who, just before the vote was taken at council, spoke strongly in favour of respecting our Heritage Plan which council had approved unanimously only a year ago, and highlighted what a terrible precedent it would set if this Grade I house were demolished. We also owe much to **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum**, who worked tirelessly with us to achieve the desired outcome. **Heritage Ottawa** also deserves great thanks for weighing in repeatedly on this matter, saying “there is no possible justification for demolition of a Grade I contributing building in a heritage conservation district.”

The struggle to save the house at 270 Buchan and our Heritage Plan is, however, not over. Richcraft Properties has appealed both Council's decision and the Plan to the Ontario Municipal Board. The City will be defending its decision and the Heritage Plan at the OMB in September. We are gearing up to do whatever we can to help.

Excerpts from Mayor Jim Watson's comments to City Council (May 24, 2017) on the application to demolish the house at 270 Buchan Road:

I'm asking Members of Council to support our Heritage District Plan and vote against demolishing this building.

I remind everyone we ALL voted for the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan and we all knew what we were voting for. It was to protect and preserve the character of that particular community. And in preparation of the Plan, every building in the district was researched and analyzed, evaluated with a score based on environmental, historical and architectural significance. And, yes, there were changes to the score [for 270 Buchan], because new information came forward since the original scoring. But even with an alteration, it still remained the highest grade – a Grade I building – in the Heritage Conservation Area.

People have said, well, you know the building is not in good shape. Well, there's someone living there. And it meets all the standards of the City of Ottawa, the building code, and Grade I buildings cannot be demolished except in extraordinary circumstances. And those extraordinary circumstances are things like fire or flood damage and so on. And it should be noted that although Council approved the Rockcliffe Plan only in 2016, the house located at 270 Buchan Road is one of the original 200 buildings that received the highest designation by the previous municipality of Rockcliffe in 1997.

So I think what we have before us is a key opportunity for us to support what we all supported unanimously in the Heritage Conservation District vote in 2016. And it would seem rather strange – literally, the ink isn't dry on the document – and the first application through the door, we're ready to throw out the entire Heritage District Conservation Area. And as someone pointed out, this does set a precedent. All of a sudden if someone sees this happening, why not open the flood gates – I've got a Grade I building, I'm going to ask for demolition because I want to put a different building up. Well, it defeats the whole purpose of the heritage conservation concept – that we want these areas to remain as part of our built heritage.

I think it's important that we actually support what we supported. And we not simply go down the path, simply because some person wants to demolish a home. You know, the reality is anyone buying in a neighbourhood that has a Heritage Conservation District knows that – or they should know it – or they should have a good real estate agent or a lawyer to tell them, so that they're not surprised and feel hard done by by the City that doesn't want to bend its rules that we just voted for a year ago.

(Continued on page 4)

HERITAGE MATTERS

(Continued from page 3)

83 Placel Road

The owners of this property have been charged by the City under the Ontario Heritage Act with demolishing a building without the required permit. They had been given approval to make minor additions to the house, but as



neighbours reported to us and the City on March 30, the bulk of the house had suddenly been turned into a pile of rubble. The case is scheduled to be heard in July.

35 Lakeway Drive

The City has approved the application to demolish the Grade II house at 35 Lakeway Drive. We supported the application because the existing house does not contribute strongly to the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park and the new house is very respectful of the streetscape and of the provisions of our Heritage Plan. The greenscape in front of the house will be significantly enhanced. It was a pleasure to work with the owners, the **Hunters**, to arrive at this outcome.

Susan d'Aquino



Rockcliffe Park Family Movie Night, June 30

The RPRA invites you to a family movie night in Jubilee Gardens (corner of Mariposa and Buchan) on Friday, June 30 at 8:00 pm. Come early to get a spot to see **Mary Poppins** at 8:00 pm and stay for **Ferris Bueller's Day Off** at 9:30 pm.

Popcorn is free, courtesy of **Rhodes Barker Luxury Real Estate**. The movies, projector and large screen are courtesy of the **Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre**.

Bring the whole family, chairs or a blanket and settle in for a fun night. Please bring a donation of food or cash/cheques to support the food bank at Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. (Rain date: Friday, July 7, same time.)

ENVIRONMENT

Survey of the Pond Bottom on May 24, 2017

The City recently conducted a survey of the Pond bottom. RPRA Vice President **Brian Dickson** was on hand to photo-document the proceedings. Results of the survey will be published when they become available.

The RPRA especially thanks **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum** for his assistance on this project.



1. The Pond at 8:00 am.



2. City staff unloading the equipment on Pond Street prior to use.



3. Preparing the boat for use, placing a cross piece to which the sonar device will be attached.



4. Launching the boat.

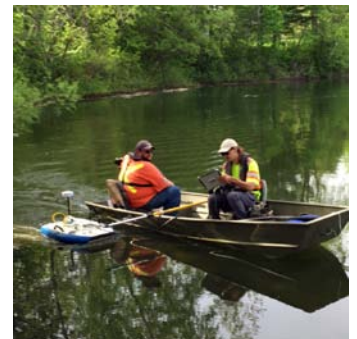
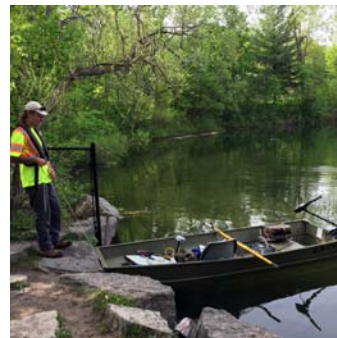


Photo at left: 5. Boat launched and ready to go. Above: 6. Project underway.

BOOK SALE

Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale Breaks Records (*the non-vinyl kind*) and Builds Communities!

Volunteers at the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Spring Book Sale, held April 22 and 23, had every reason to whoop with joy at its close. They had achieved the highest sales in its history!

“Over the past 20+ years, this sale has totally transformed,” said **Jane Dobell**, Spring Book Sale organizer and Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) Library Committee Chair. “From humble beginnings, its scope has increased dramatically. This year we offered over 35,000 books for sale, which is also a record, and we are deeply grateful to residents of Rockcliffe Park and surrounding communities for their generous donations. Without their support, there would be no Spring Book Sale!”

Book enthusiasts, who came from all over Metro Ottawa and beyond, lined up from early morning all along Springfield Road and far down Buena Vista Avenue before swarming into the sale. They praised the high quality of the books, the number of genres and the organization. Also popular and new this year was the addition of light classical music played by a professional string quartet, which created a warm and convivial atmosphere.

But this event is about so much more than just sales. Over the years, it has become a social hub for volunteers in Rockcliffe Park and surrounding areas. “We had more than 120 for this sale and their ages ranged from 14 to 90 years!” said **Linda McDonald**, Spring Book Sale Volunteer Coordinator. “They are so committed and generous with both their time and donations,” she continued. “But while they work almost year round to make this sale happen, they also have fun and



make new friends. It's become a real community event.”

The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale was attended by **Jim Watson**, City of Ottawa Mayor; **Tobi Nussbaum**, Rideau-Rockcliffe City Councillor; **Mona Fortier**, MP, Ottawa-Vanier; **Nathalie Des Rosiers**, MPP, Ottawa-Vanier; **Peter Lewis**, presi-

dent, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA); and corporate sponsors **Brian Montgomery** of **Montgomery Asset Management**, **RBC | Dominion Securities** and **Tim Miller** of **Dymon Storage, Coventry Road**. “We’re most grateful to both of these organizations for their support as they help defray our costs,” said Jane Dobell. “And we also deeply appreciate the generosity of **Tracey Black**, owner of **Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering**, who generously donated food for our hardworking helpers.”

Proceeds from the sale support materials and programming at the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library as well as literacy programs in the wider library system, including a new initiative entitled “One School, One Book” that allowed 350 children from four different schools to read the same novel, *Lost in the Backyard* by **Alison Hughes**, and a presentation to 250 students by Residential School survivor and author **Margaret Pokiak-Fenton** and her daughter-in-law, **Christy Jordan-Fenton**. Unsold books are donated to a number of different organizations, including the Rockcliffe Park (RPPS) Book Fair, the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library, and to selected causes. Some remain on the shelves in the Rockcliffe Park branch of the OPL and are for sale year-round. (Photo at top by Seanna Kreager.)

Claire Schofield



Spring Village Clean-up: On April 29, a hard-working crew of volunteers gathered to clean up the Village. After two hours, they had raked and gathered enough sticks and leaves to fill more than 44 leaf bags, hauled bundles of large sticks and branches to the edge of the Village Green, and filled 12 large garbage bags with litter! Thanks to **Joan Kellett** for organizing this year’s event. Our neighbourhood is more beautiful and cared-for, thanks to great work by **Jane Newcombe**, **Alan Gill**, **David Graham**, **Maria** and **Milos Rajcic**, **Julian**, **Gulay** and **Elizabeth Coulter**, **Bill Clarke**, **Susan** and **Tom d’Aquino**, **Brian Dickson**, **Bill** and **Linda Dunn**, **Robert** and **Suzanne Gougeon**, **Robert Graham**, **Margot** and **Inger Gualtieri**, **Peter Lewis**, **Ricarda McFalls**, **Roger** and **Jeremy Ouseley**, **Gordon**, **Marilyn** and **John Venner**, **Kyrci Good**, **Louise Meyer**, the **Reesal** family, the **Shantz** family and five Ashbury volunteers – **Sam**, **Jack**, **Melvin**, **Haifei** and **Aaron**.

RP REC CENTRE

Choices Abound at RP Rec Centre!



Dear Grandma,

You'll never guess what Mom and Dad got me for my 10th birthday! I get to go to camp for four weeks this summer. It's so awesome! My friends Kyra and Artie are going too. They said they'll go at the same time as me. Now I have to decide what to do...

I'm pretty sure I want to go to the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre. I saw a flyer and it looks like a lot of fun there. I get to choose different camps. Maybe you can help me?

Here's what there is:

- Taekwondo Adventure, July 10-14
- Science Camp Adventure, July 17-21 and August 21-25
- LEGO® Powered Up and Mindstorms® Robotics, July 31-August 4
- Magic Camp, August 14-18
- LEGO® Mindstorms® EV3 and NXT Robotics, August 28-September 1

And I just found out about CSI Camp (Camp Scene Investigations and Swim) at Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre on July 24-28 and August 8-11. I could go there too. It's really not far at all.

I sure hope you can help me decide. They only take 20 kids each week. I heard lots of kids are planning to go this summer so we have to sign up before school ends.

See you soon, Grandma!

Love, Claudia

Call us at **613 842-8578** for information about the recreation activities at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road.

Spring Hours until June 30:

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1:30-4:00 pm

Summer Hours July 10-August 28:

Mondays, 8:00 am-Noon

You'll find us in the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield Road.

Good things await you!

RPPS BOOK FAIR

Book Fair Needs People Power!

The Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) Book Fair is one of the community's most anticipated annual events. Over three days each November, tens of thousands of shoppers come to browse through and buy gently used books, vinyl, DVDs, games and puzzles. They chat with neighbours over coffee and snacks – even a meal – in the café. The proceeds from Book Fair – more than \$50,000 in 2016 – flow not only back to RPPS, but also to other area schools in the form of grants to support literacy programs.

Book Fair may be many months away, but planning starts now – and the entire enterprise runs on people power. We're incredibly grateful to all our volunteers: members of the RPPS family and kind supporters from the Rockcliffe Park community and surrounding neighbourhoods. It takes more than 4,000 volunteer hours to make Book Fair happen each year. How can you help?

Join the Standing Committee

At time of writing we have a prospective Chair (hooray!), but we are still seeking organized and enthusiastic folks to fill the roles of Co-Chair, Volunteer Coordinator and Administration Team Coordinator. Accomplished veterans will provide lots of guidance and advice for each role and we'll provide support throughout.

Play to Your Strengths

Bring your sales skills to our Café and Cash Teams. Use your graphic design or photography experience to help the Communications Team. Do you know how to write an evacuation plan? Help us with ours. Become one of our subject matter experts – we particularly need help pricing the following subjects: architecture; chemistry; computers; DIY; decorating; economics; gardening; LGBTQ issues; mathematics; military; philosophy; photography; politics; sociology; true crime and women's studies.

Become a Sponsor

Lend your business or organization's support to Book Fair: we have a variety of sponsorship levels available. You can also Adopt a Bookcase for just \$100 – a popular option for alumni, grandparents, families and small businesses. Go to www.rockcliffeparkps.com/shop to adopt a bookcase online.

Whatever time, resources or expertise you can offer for Book Fair 2017, we'll gratefully accept, and we think you'll find it very rewarding. Learn more about volunteering or becoming a sponsor: info@rockcliffeparkbookfair.com / www.rockcliffeparkpsbookfair.com / Facebook: **Rockcliffe ParkBookFair** / Twitter: **@RPPSBookFair**.

DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS 2017

"Dining at the Malaysian Embassy residence was such an entertaining and enriching experience. We learned so much about the country and its culture, and the food was superb!"

– John and Claire Schofield



Tobi Nussbaum, Rideau-Rockcliffe City Councillor; Michael Waters of The Minto Group (Friend of the Village sponsor).



Israeli Ambassador Nimrod Barkan with his wife, Shlomit Shulov Barkan.

The Village Foundation's principal fundraising event, the biennial "Dining With the Ambassadors," took place on April 28 and reminded us once again how fortunate we are to call Rockcliffe home. The generosity and the spirit of welcoming of so many made this a memorable evening of revelry once again for new friends and old, and in the process raised more than \$28,000 in funds in support of our Village Foundation.

The year, nearly 200 old and new friends gathered with the Village's ambassadors and high commissioners at the Community Hall before heading to elegant dinners at the residences. Bedecked in flags, the hall was abuzz with neighbours on the rare beautiful April evening. The cocktail reception, presented by **Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Christie's International Real Estate**, was our moment to celebrate the Heads of Mission who generously host dinners for our guests. This is the third time that we have been fortunate to have a presenting sponsor for the reception and Marilyn Wilson's attention to detail and willingness to give back are unmatched.

(Continued on page 8)



Jane Panet and Allan Wilson.



Chilean Ambassador Alejandro Marisio with his wife, Maria Cecilia Beretta.



Bonnie Robinson (Village Foundation Chair), Lisa Cogan, Carolyn Buchan, Marianne Feaver.

Below: Dining with Ambassadors Organizing Committee (from left): Alex Taggart, Alexandra Colt, Claire Schofield, Sarah Baxter, Robert Collette, Jane Panet, Marilyn Wilson and Jane Newcombe. Absent from the photo: Marianne Feaver and Eleonore Wnendt.



Dave Dickinson, Czech Ambassador Pavel Hrnčíř with his wife, Veronika Holcová, Marilyn Wilson of Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties (Presenting Sponsor for the reception).

DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS 2017

"It was a truly wonderful evening....meeting new people, tasting exotic dishes, and enjoying some fascinating conversation. Our Colombian host could not have been more gracious and welcoming."

– Heather Sweeney



Dan Goldberg and Whitney Fox with Carolyn Buchan.



Janice McDonald, Rina and Dean Eyre, Chris Edwards.



Above: Tony and Dorinda Brunst. Below: Anna Zyzniewski, Slawo Wesolkowski, Dennis Waite.



None of this is possible, of course, without the generosity of our extraordinary diplomatic neighbours who welcome our guests so warmly into their official residences and impress with the meal. Many thanks to our dinner hosts this year, in diplomatic order, **Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Mohammed Saif Helal Al Shehhi; Ambassador of Colombia, His Excellency Nicolás Lloreda; Ambassador of Denmark, His Excellency Niels Boel Abrahamsen and Mrs. Karen Eva Lind Abrahamsen; Ambassador of Iceland, His Excellency Sturla Sigurjonsson and Mrs. Elin Jonsdottir; Ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Raoul Delcorde and Mrs. Fati Delcorde; Ambassador of Turkey, His Excellency Selçuk Ünal and Mrs. Lerzan Ünal; Ambassador of Slovakia, His Excellency Andrej Droba and Mrs. Daniela Drobova; Ambassador of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Pavel Hrnčir and Mrs. Veronica Holcová; Ambassador of Thailand, His Excellency Vijavat Isarabhakdi and Mrs. Wannipa Isarabhakdi; High Commissioner of Kenya, His Excellency John Lanyasunya;** (Continued on page 9)

Dennis Laurin.



Japanese Ambassador Kenjiro Monjii with his wife, Etsuko Monjii.



Kenyan High Commissioner John L. Lanyasunya, Malaysian High Commissioner Aminah Tun Karim.



Slovak Ambassador Andrej Droba with his wife, Daniela.

DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS 2017

"Our dinner experience was absolutely delightful – a great cultural exchange – and our host were moved and felt honoured when they learned that one of the guests, Diana Rowley, was just shy of her 99th birthday."

– Marianne Feaver



Kevin Yemm, Siobhan Jones, Lisa Honey.



Richard Simison and Gouhar Shemdin.



Emily Moyo.

Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Kenjiro Monji and Mrs. Etsuko Monji; High Commissioner of Pakistan, His Excellency Tariq Azim Khan; Ambassador of Kuwait, His Excellency Abdulhamid Alfaiakawi; Ambassador of Norway, Her Excellency Anne Kari H. Ovind and Mr. Tom Oscar; High Commissioner of Malaysia, Her Excellency Aminahtun Karim and Mr. Shaharudin Abd Ghani; Ambassador of Chile, His Excellency Alejandro Marisio and Mrs. Maria Cecilia Beretta; and the Ambassador of Israel, His Excellency Nimrod Barkan and Mrs. Shlomit Shulov Barkan.

We'd also like to thank our newest community sponsor and neighbour, **The Minto Group**. The Minto Group stepped up as a Friend of the Village sponsor and we are thrilled that **Michael** and **Sarah Waters** were both able to join us. A special thank you also to **iPolitics** and **James Baxter** for being a contributing sponsor again this year.

For each Dining with the Ambassadors, event, we are fortunate to have supporters who give us an extra push in our fund-
(Continued on page 10)



Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdulhamid Alfaiakawi, United Arab Emirates Ambassador Mohammed Saif Helal Al Shehhi.



Icelandic Ambassador Sturla Sigurjonsson and Colombian Ambassador Nicolás Lloreda.



Turkish Ambassador Selçuk Ünal with his wife, Lerzan.



Gordon Peters, Kathie Swim, Louise and John French.



Norman Southward (Ashbury College) and Anna Rumin, Cindy Sezlik, Russ Gibson.

DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS 2017

"Dining with the Ambassadors is a unique Rockcliffe event and one not to miss. We had an unforgettable time at our dinner, learning about our host country's culture, building new friendships and celebrating our neighbourhood."

— Janice McDonald



Maria da Leyba Burrows and David Esdaile.



Bill and Romina Malhotra.



Thai Ambassador Vijavat Isarabhakdi with his wife, Wannipa.



Sarah and Michael Waters.

raising. Thank you to the following neighbours and neighbourhood businesses: **Whitney Fox and Dan Goldberg; R. Scott and Elizabeth Heatherington; Frank Tonon and the New Edinburgh Pharmacy; Sarah Murray and Nicholas Caragianis Architect Inc.; Investment Partners Fund; Dennis and Andrea Laurin; Ashbury College; Elmwood School; The Beacon Agency; Montgomery Asset Management; Robert Corporation-Guy Robert Landscape and Design; and Huff Estates.**

One last shout out needs to be for **Sonia Doyon** at the Rockcliffe Park Library and the Organizing Committee for all the work and creativity put into this unique neighbourhood fundraising event. This key fundraiser for the Village Foundation champions so much in the Village that we love. The Foundation supports the community-building projects of the RPRA as well as initiatives including MacKay Lake preservation, the maintenance of our soccer field and Jubilee Gardens, and the popular Speakers Program at the Community Hall. Dining with the Ambassadors celebrates all this. See you in 2019! *Sarah Baxter*



Anand Aggarwal and his wife, Saroj, with Malaysian High Commissioner Aminahtun Karim.



Norwegian Ambassador Anne Kari H. Ovind and Tom Oscar Ovind.

Robert Collette.



Dining with the Ambassadors 2017 map created by Sarah Murray.

Dining with the Ambassadors pages 7-10:
All photos by
Lois Siegel © 2017
www.siegelproductions.ca

HOSERS

Sports Pad and Field House Update

The recent fundraising party at Sutherland Restaurant, hosted by **Shawn** and **Louise Malhotra**, was a great success and raised \$20,000 for the new all-purpose sports pad and field house. More than 175 people attended the event and it was a great example of our community coming together to strengthen our neighbourhood.

The sports pad and field house design has been developed by local architects Linebox Studios and they have provided a fresh perspective on how our community can use this important gathering space at the Village Green Park. The design includes a multi-purpose 65' x 130' asphalt sports pad with permanent boards and appropriate lighting that can encourage summer activities such as basketball, ball hockey and Pickleball, as well as our favourite winter sport, ice hockey.

With a permanent pad and boards in place, the rink season would be greatly extended and the structure would contribute to significantly more ease in ice surface maintenance.

The design also includes a dynamic new field house which would provide our community with a vibrant and welcoming gathering space that meets a variety of needs. It would provide a changing space for skaters, an accessible bathroom, a kitchenette with appropriate amenities for hosting events, and ample storage for seasonal sports equipment.

The proposed design of the field house and sports pad will be presented to the RPRA at its Board meeting on June 21. We will begin the formal application process for construction approvals with the City of Ottawa Heritage Planners this summer.

In addition, we have had positive preliminary discussions with the City Parks Department regarding overall upgrades and improvements to the Village Green Park. We have also confirmed that we will receive a fundraising matching grant from the City for all money raised up to \$490,000.

We welcome your feedback throughout this design process. Please come out to the RPRA meeting in June to help us create a facility and park that successfully meets the needs and expectations of our community.

And for more updates, follow us on Facebook: [@Rockcliffe Hosers](#). Watch for a new website coming soon!

Louise Malhotra

RESTORATION

Ottawa New Edinburgh Club Embarks on Visioning Process for its Historic Boathouse



In the late fall of 2016, with support from the NCC, the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club embarked on a visioning process that could one day lead to a significant restoration of the historic boathouse with both Federal and City heritage designations. Under the guidance of professor **Mariana Esponda**, an expert in sustainable heritage conservation, 13 fourth-year students at the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism at Carleton University were tasked with reimagining the boathouse and the overall ONEC site, and putting forward fresh ideas for utilization of the building and how the broader community could continue to engage with the beautiful Ottawa River in the future. Over the course of the winter, a series of on- and off-site consultations took place with current stakeholders, leading to each student developing a design based on their own learning and interpretation.

On April 13, 2017, the student final presentations were made to a panel of heritage experts and representatives from both ONEC and the NCC. While some of the students took a far-reaching, blue-sky approach, others felt that a more minimalist intervention was appropriate. Regardless of the method, every design had something compelling to propose. The student projects will be on public display at Doors Open Ottawa on June 3 and 4 and can also be seen by appointment through the ONEC office.

An exciting second phase of this project follows with the support of a grant from MITACS. One Carleton architecture program student has been selected to undertake a 3-D laser scan that will give precise renderings of the entire boathouse. MITACS is a national, not-for-profit organization that builds partnerships, which support industrial and social innovation in Canada.

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club is one of the oldest multi-sport clubs in Canada with a historic boathouse that is one of only four of its type in Canada. Watch for further updates in this newsletter and online at www.onec.ca or call ONEC at **613 746.8540** for further information. *Claire Schofield*

CITY HALL



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

Celebrating Canada's Big Day

We have been working hard to bring Canada's 150th anniversary celebrations to the Nation's Capital and kicked off 2017 by lighting the Cauldron at City Hall and the Centennial Flame with a First Nations sacred fire. Since then, we've had:

- Thrills and spills during Red Bull Crashed Ice, the National Skating Championships and the Davis Cup;
- Moving concerts and memorable performances during JUNO Week and at the JUNO Awards;
- Diverse world-class cultural events showcasing Canada's multicultural and welcoming spirit during numerous Ottawa Welcomes the World events held at Lansdowne Park.

But the celebrations would not be complete without throwing Canada a grand and impressive birthday party on July 1, 2017! Once again, Ottawa's Canada Day celebrations will start with my Annual Canada Day Celebration for Seniors, and will continue throughout the afternoon with special Canada Day events in all corners of the City, from Beacon Hill to Vernon and, of course, in Ottawa's urban core. Don't miss these free Ottawa 2017 signature events:

- Inspiration Village, an ephemeral hub and the site of a succession of special exhibits and performing arts events in Ottawa's historic ByWard Market, each one showcasing Canada's provinces and territories;
- Kontinuum, an immersive multimedia production unfolding in Ottawa's future Lyon Light Rail Transit station;
- July 1 will also mark the opening of the National Art Centre's beautiful new entrance and atrium. To celebrate this milestone, the NAC will offer a full day of free concerts, programming and activities. After your stop at the NAC, enjoy free admission for the whole family at all National Museums and National Galleries in the Nation's Capital.

The 2017 Canada Day celebrations will culminate with concerts, special performances and fireworks on Parliament Hill. Ottawa will be the site of continuous sesquicentennial celebrations for the rest of 2017, with free events such as La Machine, ambulatory urban theatre on the streets of downtown Ottawa, the lighting and illumination of Chaudière Falls showcasing Indigenous heritage, and the continued celebrations of nations from around the world during Ottawa Welcomes the World. See www.Ottawa2017.ca for more info.

QUEEN'S PARK



*From the desk of Nathalie Des Rosiers
MPP, Ottawa-Vanier*

2017 Budget: A Stronger, Healthier Ontario

Ontario's 2017 Budget includes significant investments in health care and education in order to support families and improve the services people rely on most. It is also a balanced budget – the first since the global recession. Thanks to the hard work of the people of Ontario, our economy is strong and unemployment is at a ten-year low. Ontario is leading all of Canada and the G7 in economic growth. By delivering on a commitment to balance the budget this year, we are able to invest more in health care and education, and make life more affordable for everyone across the province.

With the new OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare program, Ontario will be the first province in Canada to offer free drug coverage for more than 4,400 medications for children and youth under the age of 24, beginning in January 2018. OHIP+ represents the biggest expansion of medicare in Ontario over the course of a generation and a major leap towards universal drug coverage for people in the province. That commitment is part of \$11.5 billion more that will be invested in our health care system over the next three years, to reduce wait times and improve access to care. For the hospitals of our riding, it means additional resources for their operating funding. Montfort Hospital will get \$3.1 M more for 2017-18 and Bruyère Continuing Care will get \$1.8 M.

Our public education system is renowned for its innovative approach to learning, including full-day kindergarten, small class sizes and healthy schools. We're investing an additional \$6.4 billion over three years to continue to build a strong education system that sets students up for success. And they will have even greater financial support heading to post-secondary education, with 210,000 students receiving free tuition beginning this fall.

Ontario's debt grew during the recession, when our government committed to maintaining the services that people depend on. Since then, we have managed debt responsibly, paying off our deficit while making historic investments in infrastructure. Now, with a balanced budget, the government no longer needs to borrow to pay for its operating costs and our capital investments are spurring economic growth and improving quality of life for people today and future generations. Our government is building a stronger, healthier Ontario because that's what hardworking families deserve.

SCHOOL REPORTS

ASHBURY COLLEGE



125th Closing Ceremonies

Since 1891, Ashbury College has prepared students to take on the world. Ashbury will celebrate its 125th Closing Ceremonies on June 17, as the Class of 2017 officially graduates. This year's 152 graduates are a remarkable group, all of whom are destined for universities around the world. Congratulations to our students...and to the universities that will welcome them in September!

We know our students are impressive

Carleton Brown Western
Queen's Northeastern Oxford
U of T Cornell Ottawa NYU
Harvard McGill Mount Allison
UBC Waterloo London

These universities think so too



ASHBURY
COLLEGE

Grades 4-12 | Coeducation
ashbury.ca

Summer @ Ashbury

There are still a few spots left for Ashbury's summer programming. From arts and sports to academic prep and biking, there's something for every child aged 5 to 17. Learn more and register at summer.ashbury.ca.



Interested in Ashbury College?

Enrollment is now full for September 2017, but applications are currently being accepted for the 2018-19 academic year. The admissions office continues to operate during the summer months and welcomes inquiries, visits and any other questions you may have about an Ashbury education. You may contact the Admissions Office by phone at 613 749-5954, or by email at admissions@ashbury.ca.

Ashbury Raises \$21,000 for Charity

Ashbury's annual Monte Carlo evening raised over \$21,560 for local charities. The fun event had a Las Vegas theme, and students dressed up to play the odds for worthy causes. Students raised nearly \$12,000 for Christie Lake Kids and another \$8,000 for Ashbury's refugee family.



Elmwood School

Grade 7 Student to Compete at Canada Wide Science Fair



Elmwood Grade 7 student **Madighan Ryan** is off to Regina, Saskatchewan to compete in the Canada Wide Science Fair.

She earned her berth in the national competition as a result of winning "Best in Fair" with her project "Hydrofoils: An Uplifting Experience" at the Ottawa Regional Science Fair (ORSF). The ORSF is open to student researchers from Grades 7 to 12. Madighan's win is even more impressive considering this is the first year she has been eligible to enter. Good luck Madighan!

(Continued on page 14)

SCHOOL REPORTS

Elmwood School *(Continued from page 13)*

Blue Stockings Scores Ten Nominations

The nominations are in for the Cappies – Ottawa’s answer to the Oscars – and Elmwood Theatre is up for ten awards for the recent production of “Blue Stockings”:

Marketing and Publicity; Hair and Make-up; Props; Lighting: **Nika Jalali** and **Sheetza McGarry**; Costumes: **Diya Dadlani**, **Carine Ladki**, **Myriam Rostom** and **Qinchen Wang**; Stage Management and Stage Crew: **Isabelle Collum**, **Pooja Moorti** and **Lily-Anne Villemaire**; Ensemble in a Play: **The Boys** – **Claudia Finak-Fournier**, **Cynthia Sedlezky**, **Alexa Bothwell** and **Bronte Assadzadeh**; Supporting Actress in a Play: **Claudia Finak-Fournier**; Lead Actress in a Play: **Sophia Swettenham**; and Best Play.

We are so proud of our cast and crew for this wonderful achievement. Break a leg!



Limited Spaces Available for Elmwood Summer Camp

We are thrilled to be offering a full slate of camps this summer, including our popular Discovery Camps, as well as our Elmwood Skills Academy!

Discovery Camps: With exciting new weekly themes such as NASA Space Camp, Circus Camp, Art-apalooza and Sleuth Academy, girls from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will discover new challenges, develop new friendships and enjoy a dynamic range of hands-on, interactive activities.

Led by skilled and experienced educators, our camps have the perfect blend of learning, active play and creative exploration, all within Elmwood’s beautiful and safe campus, located here in Rockcliffe Park.

Elmwood Skills Academy: Our Skills Academy offers an outstanding range of academic and special interest programs. Taught either by Elmwood’s talented faculty or by other experts in their field, these camps combine superb instruction with dynamic activities, sure to appeal to girls of all ages and skill levels.

Visit camp.elmwood.ca or call **613 749-6761** for details and registration.

Considering Elmwood for Your Daughter?

We invite you to visit the school for a private tour to learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. For more information, please visit www.elmwood.ca or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.



ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Adieu from Principal Shari Brodie, Rockcliffe Park Public School



Words cannot express how fortunate I have counted myself these past four years to serve as the Principal at Rockcliffe Park Public School. After 31 years in education, I have decided to retire this year at the end of June. I will leave with a sense of admiration for the students, staff and parents. The students bring such joy and happiness to our school. We are truly

fortunate to have such a wonderful group of children at Rockcliffe Park Public School. My friends and family often laugh at me when I refer to all 396 students as “my kids.” They have touched my life and this school with their presence. Parents, it has been my pleasure getting to know not only your child, but you as well. Having parental support and open lines of communication is an essential part of any successful school year. Thank you for all you have done to make our school so fulfilling and memorable.

It was nineteen years ago when I first stepped into Rockcliffe Park Public School, not as the Principal but as a Grade 1-2 teacher, and it is where I taught for the next seven years. In my final year of teaching at RPPS, I became the Vice Principal and the Grade 4 English to French Immersion teacher. RPPS was the school where I enjoyed working

SCHOOL REPORTS

for so many years. It was the school where my two daughters attended and it is the school where so many fond memories have been made.

In 2005, I left RPPS to take the position of Vice Principal at Queen Elizabeth School for two years, followed by Principal positions at Viscount Alexander PS and Manor Park PS. It was four years ago that I returned RPPS.

It seems like only yesterday when the Rockcliffe Park School students, staff members and parents first dazzled me with their positive attitudes, never-ending eagerness to persevere, and their enthusiasm for the ideals of fine education. Their dedication to learning in its purest form has helped surpass the already high expectations that I held when I first joined the Rockcliffe Park Community. Every day I find myself beaming inside and out as I observe the children's noteworthy growth as both students and individuals as a result of their own hard work and determination and their teachers' and parents' dedication and commitment. Thank you for being so welcoming over the years!

Principal Shari Brodie

Rockcliffe Park Public School will welcome Katia Sioufi-Guarna as new its Principal in the fall.

RPPS Students Participate in First Ottawa Coding Quest Arcade

On May 1, **Mme Sylvie's** Grade 5 and **Mme Gordon's** Grade 6 from RPPS took part in a Coding Quest Arcade pilot project at the Aviation Museum in Ottawa. Students worked collaboratively in class, taking different parts of the project to research various topics, display creatively and report about the event. Several schools, including RPPS, then presented their video games at the museum.

Coding Quest was made possible for the first time in Ottawa this year through a collaboration with the Learning Partnership and the OCDSB. The Learning Partnership is a charity that uses funding from corporate Canada, education and government organizations to enhance public education. The Learning Partnership organized the project by hiring retired educators and people with technology backgrounds to train them. They then support teachers and students to code around Canada. Over 37,000 students across Canada participated in the coding challenge this year, which means that the 525 students participating in Ottawa were only a small fraction of the students nationwide! RPPS looks forward to participating again next year.

Kailey Chen, Maggie Curtin and Amélie Cote-St. Louis

RPPS Sugar Bush Outing

On a beautiful spring morning, the four Kindergarten classes at Rockcliffe Park Public School made the short trip to 300 Pères-Blancs Avenue, our local sugar bush! Hosted by the Vanier Museopark, students, educators and parents were guided through the four activities that make up the Lil' Maple Syrup Producer program. Year 1 and 2 students learned to distinguish between different maple trees based on their leaves and enjoyed a presentation about maple syrup production from past to present featuring real life artifacts and tools. Reflecting on the presentation, Layla remarked, "I liked that [presentation] because it told us about our First Nations."



Every group enjoyed a sample of maple taffy, poured onto snow and twirled around a popsicle stick right before their eyes, and a walk through the woods

full of maple trees. When asked what they liked the most about the trip, most agreed it was the maple taffy!

The Kindergarten students of RPPS

are fortunate to have had the opportunity to explore and support this unique community resource.

Jennifer Nelson Photos: Matt of Green Tea Photography

RPPS Visits the Children's Festival

Field trips will come and go but what about a field trip where the children come first and not the schoolwork? School is evidently about learning but it is also a place



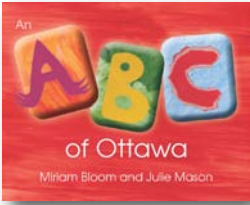
where we should be happy there's a time for work and a time for play. May 12 was one of those days when fun came before schoolwork as our entire school population attended the Ottawa Children's Festival in Lebreton Flats.

Thank you to all who helped organize it, especially to parent volunteer **Joni Hamlin**, who spent numerous hours planning the trip, and to **Principal Brodie**. All and all I would give the organizer of this event a high-five – she/he gave it a shot and nailed it!

Rebecca Taylor, RPPS Grade 6 Photo: Green Tea Photography

END NOTES

Local Author Pens “An ABC of Ottawa” Book



Local resident **Miriam Bloom** has penned “An ABC of Ottawa,” the first ever children’s alphabet book featuring Ottawa. An English version is already available and a French version is in development.

“It was a long process,” said Bloom, a graphic designer and a grandmother of four. The project began when her close friend and colleague, **Julie Mason**, asked Bloom to bring her design and typographic skills to the table for the book. When Mason died in 2010, it was only half finished. With the support of **Don McGregor**, Mason’s husband, Bloom resumed work on the project.

An “official” launch was held recently at Mrs. Tiggy Winkle’s, attended by **Mayor Watson** and several City councillors. A book signing is planned for June 17 from 1 to 3 pm at Books on Beechwood, where the edition is already on the shelves.

For more information, go to www.miriambloomart.ca, facebook.com/ABCbookOttawa, or email mbloom@magma.ca.

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club



Kiwi Gardens

Rockcliffe Garden Club

Day in the Ottawa Valley Friday, June 23

This outing includes a visit to Suzanne Patry’s lovely display gardens at Whitehouse Perennials, viewing of art installations throughout the property at Kiwi Gardens, tours of Hummingbird Chocolate and Equator Coffee Roasters, and lunch at the popular Cafe Postino in Almonte.

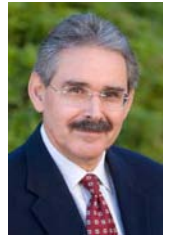
Cost: \$87.00 all inclusive. For information on departure point/time and lunch menu, please contact **Sandra Ferguson** at **613 746-8259** or j_s.ferguson@sympatico.ca. Bring your friends and enjoy this day in the Ottawa Valley.

Rockcliffe Park Residents Honoured



The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada elects individuals who have demonstrated great dedication to bettering their communities and their profession. Joining their ranks, **David McRobie**, president of McRobie Architects + Interior Designers Inc., was formally inducted into the College of Fellows of the RAIC at the recent 2017 Festival of Architecture in Ottawa. Congratulations on your Fellowship, David!

Former CBC News Senior Correspondent **Terry Milewski**, who retired in October after 38 years with the CBC, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award on May 27 by the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) in Toronto. Said Terry, “Once you’ve been given a lifetime achievement award, you know you’re through!” However, Terry can still be seen (and heard) occasionally on CBC, and has upcoming speaking engagements scheduled across the country.



Susan Taylor, Senior Engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint, was the 2017 winner of the American Medal of the Year (AMY), awarded by the American Medallist Sculpture Association. With 30 entries from 21 medalists, the jurors had a tough time choosing among many wonderful medals. Taylor’s entry, Remembrance, honours the heroic efforts of the artist’s grandfather, **George Edie**, and his fellow comrades who fought in the 2nd Battle of Ypres during the “Great War for Civilization.” Susan describes the medal: “The portrait of the young soldier framed by the barbed wire represents youth sacrificed through the loss of life, imprisonment and emotional trauma. On the reverse the poppies emerging from the barbed wire symbolize the loss of life through the spent flowers; the flowers in bloom, the survivors; and the young buds, the future, lest we forget.” Congratulations, Susan.



THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 17 • 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. Paid advertising is not accepted. Current and past issues are posted on the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.