



# The Rockcliffe News

October 2014

## Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

[www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://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](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### OCTOBER

- 1 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 4,5 Saturday, Sunday..... "It's Not the Ships" Book Signing and Reading, various locations and times\*
- 7 Tuesday 6:30 pm.....Experts@Elmwood: Speaker: Dr. JoAnn Deak, educator and psychologist, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 8 Wednesday, 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Michael Chong, MP, on "Reforming Your Parliament: Why It Matters," Community Hall\*
- 15 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 16 Thursday 7 to 9:30 pm...Community All-Candidates Meeting, Queen Juliana Hall, Rockcliffe Park Public School, 350 Buena Vista Road\*
- 18 Saturday 9:00 am .....Elmwood School Fall Open House, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 21 Tuesday 7 to 9 pm.....Ashbury College Information Evening, 362 Mariposa\*
- 27 Monday .....Municipal Election Day – Get out there and VOTE!
- 30 Thursday 7:30 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: The Adventures of a Garden Tour Planner: Margaret Daley Plouffe of Heatherington & Assoc. shares some favourite tours, Community Hall\*

### NOVEMBER

- 7,8,9 Fri 10 am-9 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Book Fair, Queen Juliana Hall  
Sat 10 am-6 pm; Sun 11 am-5 pm (RPPS Gymnasium), 350 Buena Vista Road\*
- 8 Saturday 1 to 4 pm.....St. Bartholomew's Annual Tea and Bazaar,  
St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street\*
- 14,15,16 Friday-Sunday...Homes for the Holidays Tour, various locations\*
- 19 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 26 Wednesday 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Andrew Cohen on "Two Days in June: JFK and the 48 Hours That Made History," Community Hall\*
- 27 Thursday 7:00 pm.....Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Seasonal Décor: Wreaths, Urns and Centrepieces: celebrity florist Elizabeth Young, owner of Flowers Talk and Flowers Talk Tivoli, designs holiday pieces. Shop our Holiday Table. Community Hall\*

### DECEMBER

- 3 Wednesday 7:00 pm .....Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Community Hall
- 10 Wednesday 7:30 pm.....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 14 Sunday 2 to 4 pm .....Children's Christmas Party, Community Hall\*

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

### VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 5

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](mailto:editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca)

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The transition from summer to fall has occurred quite abruptly with chilly temperatures and frost on the roof. Splashes of colour in crimson, orange and yellow are emerging throughout the tree canopy, while large formations of Canada Geese, flying southward, pass overhead.

In the last newsletter, I wrote at some length about the origin of our Heritage Conservation District as well as current challenges. I also mentioned that work was under way to develop a new Management Plan for our Heritage District. This redrafting of the 1997 management guidelines is now under way. The drafting is being done by the City's senior heritage planner, Sally Coutts. In early September, the RPRA's Heritage Committee's team commented on her initial rough draft. The drafting will continue until the Heritage Committee and the RPRA Board are comfortable with a text. Then the City will organize a public consultation.

Looking back on the summer, there are developments to report with respect to the Pond. While there were some incidents as might be expected, the Pond Monitor program, once again run by the City, worked well. There can be no doubt that this program is essential in managing the large number of visitors and swimmers, and in protecting the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area. It was also helpful that the water level remained high this year until August, helping to protect the banks and shoreline from erosion.

In this connection, I am pleased to report that we have now received a draft copy of a report, commissioned by the City, by Golder Associates on Bank Stability and Erosion Assessment at the Pond. As regards slope stability, the report concludes that there is no indication that the overall shoreline slopes may be unstable. With respect to erosion assessment, the report identifies erosion particularly beneath the boulders at the public access area and along the western shoreline. It recommends reseating the boulders at the beach area and the addition of granular material at the edge of the gravel trail on the west side. Representatives of the RPRA propose to meet with the City and Golder Associates to discuss their recommendations as well as provide further information and suggestions for future work.

On a less positive note, I have become concerned that the Conservation Area and the pathways leading to it are increasingly being used as a dumping ground. Much of it is garden waste, pruned tree branches and other refuse including garbage bags. In some locations, the debris is so thick it has stifled new growth. I would ask those of you who live in and around this area to be vigilant.

In advance of the municipal elections on October 27, 2014 to elect a Mayor, City Councillors and School Board Trustees, the RPRA has been working with neighbouring community associations in Ward 13 to organize an All-Candidates meeting on October 16 at Queen Juliana Hall, 350 Buena Vista Road, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. A similar event was held prior to the last municipal election in 2010 and proved extremely popular, with standing room only. Please mark your calendars.

With best wishes for the fall season.

*Brian Dickson*

*September 19, 2014*

## Foundation Factoids

The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a unique organization established at the time of the amalgamation with the City of Ottawa to manage an endowment set up at that time to help fund community projects and activities. The endowment value is currently \$663,000. The Foundation's mandate areas are:

- conservation of the environment (assistance for the upkeep of the flower beds and mowing of Jubilee Gardens and the revitalization of the Princess Triangle);
- preservation of the heritage character of the Village; and
- promotion of a sense of community for all residents (a continued sponsorship of the Evening Speakers Program, The Rockcliffe News, the RPRA's Annual Report, the Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting, as well as the rehabilitation of the soccer field).

The Foundation works primarily with the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) to support community programs and projects.

## Is There a Community Project That You Think Would Have Lasting Community Impact?

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

If you have questions about eligibility, please contact the Foundation directly at [info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org). Proposals should demonstrate community support and good value for money. Applicants should, ideally, have a demonstrated track record of project completion and financial management. Projects should take place in, or create value for, Rockcliffe Park residents and proposals should include a communication or outreach plan. For more information and to apply, see the website [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org).

## Call for Nominations for the Foundation Board?

The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation is looking for individuals interested in sitting on its Board of Directors. The Foundation is a registered charity established in 1996 to protect and enhance the beauty, character and vitality of the Rockcliffe Park community. The Foundation

encourages and financially supports community initiatives in three key areas: conservation of the environment; preservation of the heritage character of the Village; and promotion of a sense of community for all residents. The role of the Board is to set direction for the Foundation, to manage the Foundation's endowment fund and to undertake activities and make distributions that support its mandate. The Board meets approximately eight times per year. Individuals interested in seeking a position on the Board are asked to contact one of the Board Nomination Committee members:

**Michael McIntyre, Chair: 613 286-1356;**  
[michael.mcintyre@carleton.ca](mailto:michael.mcintyre@carleton.ca)

**David Lang: 613 746-5189; [dlre@bellnet.ca](mailto:dlre@bellnet.ca)**

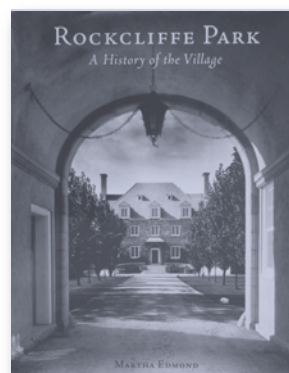
**Ryan Kilger: 613 746-3541; [ryankilger@hotmail.com](mailto:ryankilger@hotmail.com)**

## Did You Know?

More and more families chose to move to Rockcliffe in the early 1900s. Although the introduction of the streetcar made the commute to downtown Ottawa more manageable, water and clean country air also drew families to the new suburb. Real estate agents used these two factors to promote Rockcliffe as an attractive place to live.

Water came to Rockcliffe with the help of the Keefer family. In 1898, the Dominion Rifle Association had relocated their range to the east of Rockcliffe and with 2,000 men and horses, they needed a large supply of water. The Keefers negotiated for the pipes to run down Maple Lane, Acacia Avenue and Buena Vista Road, where many of the first new homes emerged.

Access to clean water was a major attraction when diseases such as typhoid took so many lives in the City. Also, the water pressure meant security in case of fire, which was always a threat with the large piles of drying timber in the area.



**Source: *Rockcliffe Park – A History of the Village*, by Martha Edmond, was the community millennium project sponsored by the Foundation. It is available for purchase from Books on Beechwood for \$49.50.**

## Ward 13 Community All-Candidates Meeting

**Queen Juliana Hall, Rockcliffe Park Public School, October 16, 2014, 7:00 to 9:30 pm**

As Rockcliffe residents will be aware, a civic election will be held on October 27, 2014, to elect the Mayor of Ottawa for the next four years as well as the Councillors for the various wards across the City.

As was the case four years ago, it has been decided to hold an All-Candidates Meeting for our Ward 13 and to invite the candidates for Mayor and Ward 13 Councillor to attend a public meeting to speak to us on the various issues of the day and why we should vote for one of them to be our Mayor and our Ward 13 Councillor for the next four years.

A date has been fixed for October 16, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm in the Queen Juliana Hall, Rockcliffe Park Public School, 350 Buena Vista Road. Access to the venue may be found off Springfield Road, behind the police station.

The six current candidates for Mayor, including **Jim Watson**, (who has agreed to attend) plus the six candidates for Councillor for Ward 13, including the current incumbent, **Peter Clark**, (who has also agreed to attend), have been invited to attend.

An organizing committee has been formed with representatives from Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh and Manor Park to handle the various aspects of the meeting.

In view of the large number of candidates running in Ward 13, they will be invited in groups of three to address the audience and will be monitored by Co-Chairs speaking in both official languages.

Some key questions will be prepared and distributed to the candidates in advance of the meeting. It is also anticipated that there will be an opportunity for questions from the audience to be submitted in writing to the candidates during the course of the meeting through the Co-Chairs.

Seating is expected to be available for an anticipated audience in the order of 250 residents from the four communities representing Ward 13.

It is anticipated that volunteers from Ashbury and Elmwood Schools will be in attendance to assist attendees with their seating accommodations and with the coordination of the meeting.

In order that the meeting start and end on time we recommend that all those planning to attend the meeting be in their seats in the hall by no later than 7:15 pm.

*Alexander Macklin  
Past President, RPRA*

## Speakers Program Upcoming Speakers Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

Join your neighbours for informal evenings with distinguished speakers. Presentations will be followed by questions, coffee and cookies. Admission is free. The Speakers Program is an initiative of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and is supported by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.



### **Michael Chong:** “Reforming Your Parliament: Why It Matters”

Member of Parliament Michael Chong discusses the Reform Act he introduced in April to give greater power to members of Parliament to hold their party leaders to account, and so strengthen our democracy.

**Wednesday, October 8 at 8:00 pm**



### **Andrew Cohen:** “Two Days in June:

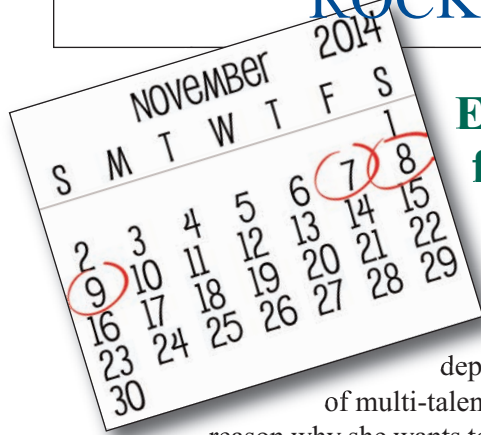
**John F. Kennedy and the 48 Hours That Made History”**

Andrew Cohen, author, professor and Postmedia columnist, discusses his new book, the untold story of two momentous days in which President Kennedy pivots boldly on the two biggest issues of his generation.

**Wednesday, November 26 at 8:00 pm**



# ROCKCLIFFE PARK BOOK FAIR



## Empty Your Shelves and Fill Your Freezers for Book Fair!

**Joni Hamlin** knows that one person can't organize a successful event alone, but depends on a large group of multi-talented people. That's one reason why she wants to get students and staff more involved in the annual Rockcliffe Park Book Fair.

"I want to make Book Fair more fun for the kids and the staff at RPPS, and for them to be more involved in it," explains Joni. "Having them come up with the theme is just the beginning."

This is Joni's first year at Book Fair's helm. She is a familiar face in our community. She has coordinated various playgroups, volunteered with the Lindenlea Community Association and NECTAR Centre, helped organize the 2014 Lumière Festival and has been involved in numerous activities at Rockcliffe Park Public School, where all of her three children will be enrolled this fall.

Over the years, the Book Fair has come up with a theme to encourage students within the school to get more excited about their annual used book sale. This year's overwhelming top choice for theme was "comic books." Students can expect to see many comic book-related events and activities in the run up to the November 7, 8 and 9 Book Fair.

Book Fair is the school's main fundraiser. It is one of the few times parents and the community are called upon to show their support, be it through donations of books, cash, food, or a few hours of heavy lifting or book sorting. The event's energy and community spirit is unique and infectious. The volunteers are a friendly and welcoming bunch – a mix of first-time school parents, experienced folks and members of the neighbourhood. And as much as Book Fair relies on community involvement, it always gives back. A portion of the funds raised gets shared with other schools across

Ottawa for literacy programs.

So if you find yourself filtering through your bookshelves, amassing boxes of books you no longer need, please consider donating them to the RPPS Book Fair (don't worry: the comic book theme doesn't mean they are only collecting comic books!).

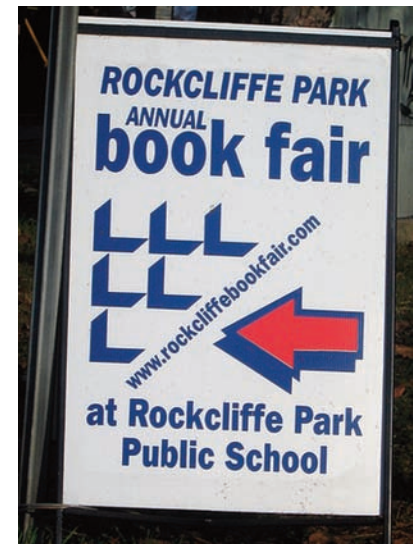
There are two book bins located by the front doors of Rockcliffe Park Public School on Buena Vista Road, where donations can be made 24 hours a day. If you find yourself with too many boxes of books for you to bring yourself, contact the school to arrange for the transportation team to come collect them.

Book Fair is a three-day event that encourages repeat visits. Admission is free and books are replenished on a daily basis. There is also a craft table for children and the popular café. The menu ranges from coffee and snacks, like muffins, to more substantial meals, including sandwiches, chili and pasta.

The café is already looking for your support. If you feel an urge to do some baking or cooking, consider making a few extra batches and freezing portions to donate to the Book Fair!

So mark your calendars for November 7, 8 and 9 for the Rockcliffe Park Book Fair. Visit [www.rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](http://www.rockcliffeparkbookfair.com) or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

*Christina Leadlay*  
RPPS Book Fair Secretary  
and Managing Editor of the New Edinburgh News



# HOUSE OF COMMONS / QUEENS PARK



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

## The Public Service Sick Leave System

In the October 2013 Speech from the Throne, the federal government undertook to “reform disability and sick-day entitlements and work with employees to get them back to work as soon as possible,” almost implying that it was an entitlement rather than illness that kept workers away from their desks.

Minister Tony Clement has now proposed replacing the current system of banked sick leave with a new short-term disability plan and has warned that annual sick leave may be limited to five days a year, which is a draconian cut from the 15 days currently allowed through negotiated collective agreements. Paid sick leave is not a perk that can be given or taken away at the discretion of the employer, but a contractual benefit of employment negotiated over time and representing, along with salary and other forms of leave, the mutually agreed worth of the work provided by employees.

A Treasury Board report has warned of a heavy fiscal liability that the government’s obligation to provide sick leave apparently represents, but the report is mistaken or misleading in several respects. To start with, a theoretical liability is meaningless when a great number of public servants do not use all their sick leave entitlements. Furthermore, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) has noted that the so-called liability includes work-related injuries and unpaid sick leave, which are not relevant to the current discussion and negotiation. The PBO has also argued that the incremental costs of paid sick leave are minimal when departments do not backfill sick employees, which is the case with most departments and agencies. Finally, numbers are skewed when individual sick leave days are placed in the same basket as the forced draining of an employee’s banked sick leave immediately prior to long term disability.

The current system serves an important purpose: workers should not be going to work sick as this would impede their own recovery and may put co-workers – or the public – at risk of illness as well. We should be promoting healthy workplaces.

Let us hope that this situation will be resolved by good faith negotiation and not by another piece of legislation embedded in yet another omnibus bill.



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

## Interprovincial Tunnel

As our vibrant City grows and flourishes, we are constantly reminded of how important transportation and infrastructure are to our livelihoods, opportunities and routines. Last month, the government finalized a plan with the City of Ottawa to investigate whether we can address the problem of heavy interprovincial truck traffic by constructing a tunnel in the downtown core.

Sometimes we are the victims of our own success. While this traffic is integral to our economy, we are also left with a backlog – the constant bumper-to-bumper that we find in the downtown core during rush hour. The City estimates that each weekday, almost 3,750 trucks pass between Ottawa and Gatineau, with more than two-thirds using the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge to reach Hwy. 417. What’s more, the truck traffic is growing at about two to three per cent a year.

I am committed to helping find a real, sustainable solution to the heavy truck problem in downtown Ottawa, and am glad that the province and the City are working towards that goal together. This proposed tunnel could be the answer we are looking for, as it eliminates non-local trucks from the City core and King Edward Avenue. We are looking for a permanent alternative – not just to reduce the number of trucks, but to eliminate them altogether. This is the first step to finding such a solution.

As our cities grow, we have a responsibility to find feasible solutions to keep people, goods and services moving. We will continue to work with the City to keep both our downtown core and our economy moving while keeping our community safe.



*Photo: [www.ottawacitizen.com](http://www.ottawacitizen.com)*



# VILLAGE HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The Village of Rockcliffe Park, home to approximately 800 families, predates Confederation and is unique in Canada.

In 1864, Thomas Coltrin Keefer, a visionary promoter of railways, canals and water works in Ottawa, carved the Village of Rockcliffe Park out of the 1,000-acre estate belonging to his father-in-law, Thomas McKay, who built Rideau Hall, now home to the Governor General. Rockcliffe Park is a rare surviving example of an early planned community in Canada. In the United States, only two examples survive, both national historic landmarks and known to planners world-wide – Llewellyn Park, New Jersey (1855) and Riverside Park (1868), just outside Chicago.

In contrast to Thomas McKay's gridiron street plan for nearby New Edinburgh, Keefer worked with the existing rugged topography of Rockcliffe Park to create a new kind of community. To preserve the rural character and scenic qualities of the area, he instituted several important innovations – open space and parkland, generous lots, houses set back from the road, no sidewalks or curbs, hedges instead of fences, and a network of meandering roads that follow the natural contours of the land, rarely connecting at right angles. Profuse naturalistic landscaping was key and tree planting on road fronts was an immediate requirement when one purchased a lot.

The informal, green, park-like quality of Rockcliffe Park has been preserved through creative, and persistent, planning initiatives by each successive generation since 1864. The fact that the general pattern of Rockcliffe Park remains strongly intact is, in large part, thanks to Keefer's foresight in planning, which created a strong, lasting framework.

That framework was carefully preserved by engaged residents throughout the time that the Village of Rockcliffe Park was an independent municipality, from 1926 to 2000. Residents served as unpaid reeve/mayor and councillors, manned Village committees, drew up by-laws to guide development, and developed the first Official Plan in 1972, and the second in 1985. Of equal significance was the designation of the entire Village as a heritage conservation district under provincial legislation in 1998.

When Rockcliffe Park was amalgamated with the City of Ottawa in 2001, its Official Plan became part of the City's Official Plan and the heritage guidelines which are meant to protect it as a heritage conservation district remain intact. Those guidelines explicitly encourage the retention of existing larger lots, the protection of generous open space and the dominance of the soft landscape, and respect for existing buildings, settings, natural topography, and tree canopy.

Those heritage guidelines also contain a warning: "Rockcliffe Park is vulnerable to losing its character [and to decline] through indiscriminate public and private actions." Heeding this warning, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association has adopted a policy opposing the severance of lots that would result in lots that do not meet the size specified in the zoning by-law.

An unprecedented proposal has been submitted recently by a developer to infill by severing an existing lot in the heart of the Village into smaller ones that do not meet the zoning by-law. As Rockcliffe Park is a heritage conservation district, this application has to go through two City processes. The first, which culminated July 9 with a vote at City Council to approve the application, was intended to consider heritage matters. The second, which considers the request to sever the existing lot and the several variances to the zoning bylaw that are also being sought, is yet to be considered. If approved, this proposal would open the door to others doing the same thing, eroding the essential character of the Village of Rockcliffe Park – the very reason for which it was designated a heritage conservation district, and the reason we all enjoy living here.

In the recent past, and with the help of our Councillor, Peter Clark, advances have been made in the area of heritage conservation. However, we need to update and strengthen the Heritage Conservation bylaw which, along with the infill bylaw passed by Council this year, will help us preserve the Village atmosphere.

*This article was submitted by Susan d'Aquino, a long-time Village resident. She and her husband, Thomas d'Aquino, are the owners of Hart Massey House, an exceptional example of mid-century modernist architecture in Canada.*

Further information on the history of Rockcliffe Park and its heritage architecture may be found in two publications. *Rockcliffe Park – A History of the Village*, by Martha Edmond, was a community millennium project sponsored by the Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation. It is available at Books on Beechwood. *Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park, Volume 2*, is a booklet that was first published in 1982 and was recently updated thanks to a City of Ottawa Cultural Program grant awarded to RPRA's Heritage Committee. The pocket-sized booklet describes four self-guided tours of the Village, with a centre spread map of the entire area. Copies are available at the Community Police Centre, or email [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca) for more information.

# SCHOOL REPORTS



## Ashbury Opens New Creative Learning Centre

Ashbury College celebrated a new addition to its campus – and a new school year – with the official opening of a new Creative Learning Centre on Wednesday, September 3. The school's 680 plus students, faculty and staff gathered on the front lawn of the school to commemorate the occasion. Special guests included **Mayor Jim Watson**, who welcomed Ashbury's international students – representing 48 countries around the world – to their new city and encouraged them to get involved in the community.



*From left to right: Chris Teron, Ashbury College graduate and Life Governor, Jayne Watson, CEO of the National Arts Centre Foundation, Meena Roberts, Vice-Chair, Ashbury Board of Governors and Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson joined students and staff to officially open the school's new Creative Learning Centre.*

The mayor was joined by his sister **Jayne Watson**, former Ashbury parent and board member, now CEO of the National Arts Centre. Ms. Watson spoke about the many years of work and planning that went into the new building

and encouraged students to make use of the new space to think and learn creatively.

The Watsons, together with two Ashbury Board members, cut the ribbon on the new building and opened the doors to students, who flowed through on their way to the first classes of the year.

Ashbury's \$10 million, 27,000 square foot Creative Learning Centre includes flexible learning spaces with technology-enhanced classrooms, a sound studio, gallery exhibition space, ceramics workshop, light-filled art rooms, digital media wall and a spacious learning commons.

So far the new spaces have proved very popular with students in all grades who have made use of the open classrooms and communal study areas.

## Ashbury Information Evening October 21, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Are you curious about Ashbury's admissions policies, academic programming, athletic offerings or financial assistance programs? Join us on October 21 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm to learn more about the advantages of an Ashbury education. Tour the school, chat with students, teachers and parents, and see learning in action in our exciting classroom displays.

Everyone is welcome! Find out more at [ashbury.ca](http://ashbury.ca) or by emailing [info@ashbury.ca](mailto:info@ashbury.ca).

**Ashbury**  
COLLEGE

Experience the  
Ashbury Advantage  
Grades 4-12 | Coeducation  
International Baccalaureate

Information Evening  
Oct. 21, 7-9 PM  
All welcome

[ashbury.ca](http://ashbury.ca)  
613.749.5954  
[info@ashbury.ca](mailto:info@ashbury.ca)



# SCHOOL REPORTS

## Elmwood School

### Introducing... the Fab Lab!

There's a new space on the main floor of the Middle/Senior School where Elmwood's aspiring designers can build, tinker, invent, experiment and create whatever they can imagine using a variety of state-of-the-art technologies, tools and fabrication techniques. The new "Fab Lab" includes a laser cutter, a 3D printer, sewing machines, shop tools, and so much more. The Fab Lab was made possible as a result of the 2013-2014 Annual Campaign's \$100,000 challenge – thank you to everyone who contributed.

### The Countdown to the Centennial is On!

Only one year left until Elmwood turns 100 years old – we are excited to celebrate this important milestone starting in September 2015. Please mark your calendar with the following events:

- Welcome Back Festival and Centennial Kick-Off: September 9, 2015
- Homecoming Weekend – Founder's Day, Fall Festival, Class Reunions: October 2-4, 2015
- Holly Tea: December 5, 2015
- Father Daughter Dance: February 6, 2016
- Elmwood's Centennial Gala: April 23, 2016
- Centennial Finale: June 17, 2016

We have an incredible group of volunteers and staff who are working very hard to plan the events, activities and celebrations that will mark this occasion. The following members of the Elmwood community make up the Centennial Steering Committee:

**Sarah Murray '79** and **Nancy Greenley**, Co-Chairs  
**Norma Davies '42** and **Nancy Chance**, Honorary Members  
**Cheryl Boughton**, Headmistress  
**Denise Carruthers** and **Teresa Stirling**, Communications Committee  
**Beth Ellison** and **Elise Ayles**, Alumni and Community Engagement Committee

**Elizabeth Heatherington '63** and **Janet Uren '68**, Historical Committee

**Gayle McClelland**, Events Committee

**Ellen Ewert** and **Tanja Mackin**, Fundraising and Finance Committee

**Joan Sun McGarry**, Member at Large

We are also collecting memorabilia to display during our Centennial celebrations. If you have any items you would like to donate, please contact **Elise Ayles**, External Relations Coordinator, at [eyales@elmwood.ca](mailto:eyales@elmwood.ca) or **613 749-6761 x 241**.

### Save the Date: Experts@Elmwood Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 pm

Elmwood is pleased to welcome **Dr. JoAnn Deak**, author of *Your Fantastic Elastic Brain* and *How Girls Thrive*, among others, as part of the School's annual speaker series. Dr. Deak, an educator and psychologist, has an unparalleled ability to demystify the complex issues of child development, learning, identity formation and brain research. This event is open to the community, and there is no charge to attend.

### Fall Open House Saturday, October 18 Doors Open 9 am; Presentation 9:30 am

Come visit our campus, take a school tour and learn more about our unique approach to educating girls and young women. If you can't attend this event but would like to schedule a private tour, please call the admissions department. For more information about applying to Elmwood, please visit [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca) or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.





## WILDLIFE NOTES

Standing at the edge of McKay Lake in the quiet early daylight of August 4, I was suddenly aware of a movement at a dock close to me. A River Otter pulled itself out of the water and shook so that its water-flattened fur now stood on end, sparkling in the fresh morning light. It then rubbed both sides of its chest slowly and luxuriantly on the rough boards. It hadn't noticed me. Then it dove off the dock in my direction, bubbles marking its approaching route. Its head surfaced some three metres from me. We looked at each other, the otter snorted in surprise, sank, and put up its head a little further away to take another look at me. I didn't move. It repeated this surfacing-to-look several times, but showed no alarm. Finally a longer dive took it past me and it continued in the direction it had been going, hunting under water, interspersed with momentary surfacing for air, in the manner of a porpoise.

**Susan d'Aquino** saw an otter swimming and diving off 400 Lansdowne a number of times between July 27 and September 1, and I caught sight of one in the Pond on July 28. So apparently an otter has found useful hunting here this summer. My recollection is that sightings in previous years were in winter.

The evidence in early May was that two pairs of Wood Duck and three pairs of Mallard were nesting around the lake, but during the summer I've not seen, and not had reports of, large ducklings. So, if the ducks did nest, they apparently lost their eggs or young to predators, such as the large Snapping Turtle I saw floating with only its head above water on August 18. Of our small herons, I've noticed presumed-breeding Green Herons often this summer, but fewer sightings of the Black-crowned Night Herons for whom the lake is a feeding territory, not a place to nest.

Red Fox daytime sightings have again been frequent west of the lake. On August 19 at about 11 am, **Iola Price** was standing at the top of Fairview when a fox walked by unconcernedly on the other side of the road, continued down Fairview, sniffed at a green bin, and continued down Sylvan. On an earlier occasion, a fox followed the same route with a squirrel in its mouth. On September 13, as **Gouhar Shemdin** drove down the Mariposa hill at 6 pm, she was following a fox until it turned off into a garden opposite Sylvan. This fox was distinctly smaller than one she had seen two months ago, supporting our sense that a pair raised young in this area this year.

Cleaning out Chickadee nest boxes, the one on **Diana Rowley's** land below the Dogwalk proved to be in use by



*A new student at Elmwood School? Magalie Dubé captured this photo on September 15 of a fox as it crossed the Montagu/Hillcrest intersection to slip under the Elmwood fence.*

White-footed Deermice on September 1. As I took down the box from its tree, an adult hopped out. When I opened the box, three young, about three-quarter-sized, left reluctantly. The clean and neat small nest was of wood fibres. No evidence of earlier nesting by Chickadees. Of the nest boxes in my garden, broods were successfully fledged in two, and the third contained four abandoned eggs on June 20.

The Fairview/Sylvan Phoebe's were feeding young by the Dogwalk on June 13. Early on July 28, when it was barely light, I noticed at least three Phoebe's active near the Hillsdale pumping station. The birds were exploiting the security light still lit above the door, swooping in to pick off insects attracted to the light. This may contribute to the success year after year of the Hillsdale nest site.

Chimney Swifts once again used the three chimneys I have been monitoring. My first sighting was of a swift high over Cloverdale at Fernbank on May 12, and my last sighting was on August 2 of a flock of at least fifteen birds hawking insects over Fairview for many minutes, then drifting east over the lake. Two years ago on August 4, twelve to fourteen swifts did the same thing, hawking over my garden while I lunched. These sightings could have been of the local family groups hunting together before migration.

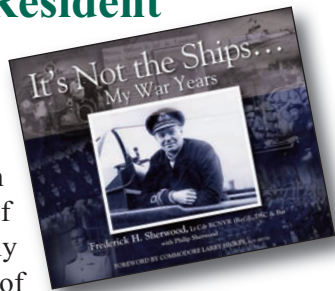
*Anthony Keith  
15 September 2014*



# UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

## Wartime Memoirs of Long-Time Rockcliffe Park Resident “A First”

The Rockcliffe branch of the Ottawa Public Library is hosting a book reading/signing with **Philip Sherwood**, co-author of *It's Not the Ships*, the recently published wartime memoirs of long-time Rockcliffe resident **Frederick Sherwood**. The event will take place Saturday, October 4, 10:30 am to noon.



*It's Not the Ships* recounts the experiences of the late Frederick H. Sherwood, Lt Cdr RCNVR (Ret'd), DSC & Bar, from the time he joined the RCNVR in 1933 until 1946. During World War II, he served in the Royal Navy's submarine service for five years and became the first Canadian to command a RN "boat." Sherwood holds the distinction of being Canada's most highly decorated submariner. He lived in the Village almost continuously from 1921 until 2003.

*It's Not the Ships* is being hailed as a first by naval historians and submariners. "Only a few Canadians have commanded a submarine during wartime," explained **Commodore Larry Hickey** RCN (Ret'd), a former submariner. "As such, Sherwood is an important part of Canadian submarine history. His memoirs fill a void – it's the first one ever of a wartime Canadian submarine commander, and it's well told." "My father often said that the war left its stamp on him," said publisher and co-author Philip Sherwood. "He liked to talk about his experiences, and as he was an engaging raconteur, we eventually persuaded him to commit his story to print. We supplemented his manuscript with material gleaned from several primary sources – his wartime correspondence, patrol and log reports from the UK Archives, photos from the Imperial War Museum and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, and newspaper reports. It all comes together as an engaging account of one of the trailblazers of Canada's submarine service."

### Two Additional Book Signings Scheduled:

Philip Sherwood will be in Ottawa to promote the book in early October. On October 4 at 2:30 pm he will be at The Edinburgh Retirement Residence, 10 Vaughan Street, his father's home for many years. The following day, October 5, Books on Beechwood will host a signing at their store on Beechwood Avenue from noon to 2:00 pm. For more information, visit [www.its-not-the-ships.com](http://www.its-not-the-ships.com).

## Recreation News

*"Come my friends, 'tis not too late to seek a newer world..."*

– Tennyson

...and Rockcliffe Park Community Centre can help get you there. \* You can arrive at a peaceful place with the assistance of **Sharon Collins** and her Mindful Meditation class Friday mornings, or perhaps enjoy the journey to healthy aging with **Leonard Shore** and his yoga and meditation class on Monday nights. \* Want to get in touch with your creative side? We offer a Beginner to Teacher Ikebana class on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. \* Keep your mind sharp with bridge. We have a variety of Bridge Lessons as well as a Duplicate Bridge Game every Friday and Saturday afternoon. \* Still not finding something you're interested in? Please email [candice.donovan@ottawa.ca](mailto:candice.donovan@ottawa.ca) or call **613 842-8578**, and let us know what you would like to see offered at our community centre.

### Hall for Rent

The Rockcliffe Park Community Centre is available for rent most weekends. Consider us when planning a birthday party, event or reception. For more information, call **613 842-8578**.

*Candice Donovan, Recreation Supervisor  
Rockcliffe Park Community Centre*



## Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

### *The Adventures of a Garden Tour Planner*

**October 30 at 7:30 pm**

Join us for an entertaining evening as **Margaret Daley Plouffe** of Heatherington & Associates ([hnatravels.com](http://hnatravels.com)) tells us about some of her favourite tours.

### *Seasonal Décor:*

### *Wreaths, Urns and Centrepieces*

**Thursday November 27th at 7 pm**



Watch as celebrity florist **Elizabeth Young**, owner of Flowers Talk and Flowers Talk Tivoli, designs gorgeous holiday pieces. Elizabeth has designed flowers for Oprah and Hilary Clinton. She will have items for sale and a raffle will be held. Come early and buy a gift from our popular Holiday Table.

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$7 for guests. For information contact **Vera Cody**, [jcody1@rogers.com](mailto:jcody1@rogers.com).



# END NOTES

## Tea Time

St. Bartholomew's Annual Tea and Bazaar will be held on November 8 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street.

Everyone welcome, barrier-free access. For more information, please go to [www.stbartsottawa.ca](http://www.stbartsottawa.ca).



## September's Lumière Festival was Wet but Wonderful

This year's annual Lumière Festival, held on September 16, was definitely wet but wonderful. Thanks to **Joni Hamlin**, volunteer co-ordinator, for inviting the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association to be part of the festival for the first time.

We're already looking forward to next year's event.



*Standing, from left: Joni Hamlin, Lumière Festival volunteer co-ordinator, Joan Kellett, RPRA Board member, and Sheila Perry, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward 13 City Councillor candidate, with volunteers at the RPRA table.*

## 12th Annual Homes for the Holidays Tour

Hospice Care Ottawa has launched its new and expanded Homes for the Holidays 2014 tour that takes place on November 14, 15 and 16. During this period, owners of eight beautiful homes in Kanata, Island Park/Wellington West, the Glebe and Rockcliffe Park will open their doors to the public. Each home will be seasonally decorated by prominent florists and interior designers located in and around Ottawa.



Homes for the Holidays 2014 will continue to feature its very popular Holiday PopUp Shop. More exclusive and unique gifts have been added together with a selection of specialty foods. Visitors will be able to get a head start on their holiday shopping when they browse the children's corner, jewelry, holiday décor, arts and crafts and a delicious array of preserves from some of the region's top food purveyors. The Holiday PopUp Shop will be located this year in the residence of the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, located on the corner of Park Road and Springfield Avenue in Rockcliffe Park.

Tour ticket booklets are now on sale at \$50 each at over 20 locations across Ottawa. Ticket holders can visit each home, the Holiday PopUp Shop, "Tables to Dine For" at the Orange Gallery and the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in any order over the three days. Tickets are also available through PayPal via the Hospice website at [www.hospicecareottawa.ca](http://www.hospicecareottawa.ca).

For more information on Homes for the Holidays 2014, including ticket vendor locations and Hospice Care Ottawa, visit: [www.hospicecareottawa.ca](http://www.hospicecareottawa.ca).



## Save the Date – Sunday, December 14 – for the RPRA Annual Children's Christmas Party

Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Hay rides, Santa and so much more. Additional information to come in the next issue. Stay tuned!



## Newsletter Deliverers Needed Starting February 2015

The RPRA is looking for volunteers to deliver the newsletter six times per year, starting February 2015. Take a leisurely stroll around your area every other month (you can multi-task and walk the dog at the same time!) and deposit the newsletter in your neighbours' mailboxes. If you are interested in helping out, please contact **Iola Price** at 613 746-6145 or [iola.price@distributel.net](mailto:iola.price@distributel.net).