



The Rockcliff News

October 2015

Rockcliff 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

OCTOBER

- 6** Tuesday 7 to 9 pm.....Community All-Candidates Meeting, Queen Juliana Hall, Rockcliff Park Public School, 350 Buena Vista Road (Entrance to Hall is off Springfield Road behind the Community Police Centre)*
- 7** Wednesday, 6 to 8 pm..City Budget Discussions with Councillors Tobi Nussbaum and Mathieu Fleury, St. Laurent Complex*
- 7** Wednesday, 7:30 pm....Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall
- 14** Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: Her Excellency Sharon Johnston on "Matrons and Madams," Community Hall*
- 17** Saturday, 10:00 amRockcliff Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library to 1:30 pm Open House and Fun Day, 380 Springfield Road*
- 20** Tuesday, 7:00 pm.....Ashbury College Admissions Information Session, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Avenue*
- 17, 24** Sunday.....Volunteer Clean-Up Days at McKay Lake and the Pond*
- 21** Wednesday, 7:15 pm....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 24** Saturday, all dayElmwood School Fall Open House, 261 Buena Vista*
- 28** Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: Kevin Newman, Emmy Award-Winning Network News Anchor and Correspondent, on "All Out," Community Hall*
- 29** Thursday, 7:30 pm.....Rockcliff Park Garden Club: The Square Foot Gardener: Carolyn Klickermann, Local Certified Instructor, on raised bed organic gardening, Community Hall*

NOVEMBER

- 6, 7, 8** Friday to Sunday..Rockcliff Park Book Fair, Queen Juliana Hall*
- 7** Saturday 10 am to 3 pm..Something New Edinburgh Craft Show, Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road at Mackay Street*
- 7** Saturday 1 to 4:00 pm...St. Bartholomew's Annual Bazaar and Tea Room, St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street*
- 11** Wednesday, 8:00 pmSpeakers Program: John Ibbitson, Globe and Mail Political Writer, on "Stephen Harper," Community Hall*
- 18** Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 25** Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: Dr. Jack Kitts, Dr. Duncan Stewart and Dr. Rebecca Auer on "Today's Medical Revolution," Community Hall*
- 26** Thursday, 7:00 pm.....Rockcliff Park Garden Club: Creating Lush Seasonal Outdoor Planters: Candace Mallette, owner of Candace Mallette Landscape and Garden Design; Miryame EG, owner of Bouquet Plaisir, showcases her flower cupcakes, Community Hall*

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although the Board of Directors of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) does not meet in July and August, RPRA Directors have been busy over the summer working on a number of issues.

The first is the draft Heritage Conservation District Plan. I mentioned in the last newsletter that the draft plan is now complete and was discussed at the June RPRA Board meeting. I also noted that a link would be added from the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, to the draft plan so that residents could become aware of its content and, should they wish, make comments to the City. The link has been added and I would encourage residents to review the draft text. By the time this newsletter reaches you, a statutory public meeting to discuss the draft, scheduled for September 24, will have taken place. City heritage staff will, however, receive further comments and suggestions until October 15. The RPRA intends to submit additional comments in an effort to improve the text and provide as much protection as possible to the heritage district. Once the document has been finalized, it will be submitted for the consideration of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee, Planning Committee and City Council. Print copies of the draft plan are available at the Rockcliffe Park Library.

In previous newsletters, I have also raised the issue of lot severances. Some time ago, an application was filed to sever a lot on Old Prospect Road which would result in two lots that are deficient in size under the Zoning by-law, one significantly so. I reported earlier that this application was opposed by adjacent property owners and by the RPRA. Although the Built Heritage Sub-Committee rejected the application, it was subsequently approved by the Planning Committee and City Council, as well as by the Committee of Adjustment, which deals with severances and minor variances. Because the RPRA considers that this issue is important for the whole community, the Board decided to join the concerned residents in an appeal of this decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. The hearing was scheduled to take place the week of September 21.

As regards the Pond, we are pleased that the City once again funded and oversaw the Monitor Program. We assisted with a brief training session. There can be no doubt that this program is essential in managing the very large number of visitors and swimmers, and in helping to protect the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area. In other respects, however, this was a bad year for the Pond in terms of an alarmingly low water level, overuse and shoreline erosion. The low water level creates a "beach" area that attracts more visitors who stay longer, create erosion and trample the shoreline vegetation. During one summer morning, one vigilant resident counted 200 people at one time, which suggests that the daily total could be in the range of 600 or more.

We recently met with our Councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, and **Bruce Hoskin**, Area Manager, City Operations, Public Works Department, to discuss these issues, including the possible use of a reserve pump to raise the water level. This pump was installed in the early 1980s, successfully tested, but never subsequently used. The meeting was very positive in terms of sharing information and concerns, as well as identifying next steps. For a start, it was agreed that if the RPRA could identify the location of the well, the City would extract the pump and decide whether its possible use or replacement is an option. Tobi agreed that his office would look into the procedures that would be required in order to reactivate the pump. We also agreed to review whether improved signage at the Pond would be useful.

There is, however, less positive news with respect to follow up to the consultants' Report on Bank Stability and Erosion Assessment. Funds had been allocated by the City for a bank stabilization project this year, but because of a budgetary deficit at City Hall, there has been a freeze on all discretionary spending, which includes the Pond project. We hope it will be possible to carry out this project in 2016.

Finally, in advance of the federal election on October 19, the RPRA has been working with neighbouring community associations to organize an All-Candidates meeting on October 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Rockcliffe Park Public School's Queen Juliana Hall. Similar events have been held prior to recent municipal elections and proved to be extremely popular. Please mark your calendars.

With best wishes for the fall season.

Brian Dickson

September 20, 2015



THE VILLAGE FOUNDATION

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

The Village Foundation Update

Who We Are

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a unique organization established at the time of the amalgamation with the City of Ottawa. It manages an endowment (\$677,274 as of August 31, 2015) set up to help fund community projects and activities. Its 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 Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, as well as the rehabilitation of the soccer field.

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

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

The Foundation also accepts 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. 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 also include a communication or outreach plan. For more information, check the website www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

Did You Know...

On January 31, 1908, the County of Carleton created the "Police Village of Rockcliffe Park" under By-law 525. It was not meant to prevent crime but rather to "police" fire prevention in the area, which was such a threat at that time. It gave authority to three annually elected trustees to raise funds for community improvements such as lighting, road improvements and establishing parks, to name a few.

The first election took place on February 22, 1908 and resulted in the election by acclamation of **Charles Keefer, William Snelling** and **Frank Gouldthrite**. Their first project was postal delivery in 1913, which involved naming streets and allocating numbers to houses. This busy threesome also made agreements with the City of Ottawa to provided electric street lighting, hiring the Village's first constable and continuing with the tradition of only allowing single detached dwellings which were to follow deed and land use restrictions and excluding businesses from the community.

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 for \$49.50 from Books on Beechwood.

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

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



Save the Date!

Rockcliffe's 90th Birthday Bash on Saturday, September 17, 2016

Aly Abdulla and **Jane Panet**, along with their enthusiastic team of merry party planners, are organizing a party to beat all parties in celebration of the Village of Rockcliffe Park's 90th anniversary. If you would like to join Aly, Jane, and their group – **Sarah Baxter, James and Nancy Carr, Peter Lewis, Anna Muira, Marc Tanguay, Lori Timmins, Marilyn Venner, Gerry Wall, and Jacqui** and **Michael Wilson**, please email janepanet@sympatico.ca.

COMMUNITY

All-Candidates Meeting

Queen Juliana Hall • Rockcliffe Park Public School • Tuesday, October 6, 2015 • 7:00 to 9:00 pm

In the upcoming federal election, to be held on October 19, 2015, MPs for various ridings across the City will be elected.

As has been the case in past elections, it has been decided to hold an All-Candidates Meeting and to invite the candidates for MP for Ottawa-Vanier 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. These meetings have traditionally been very informative and well attended.

The date has been set for Tuesday, October 6, 2015, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in Rockcliffe Park Public School's Queen Juliana Hall. The school's address is 350 Buena Vista Road, but the entrance to the Hall is just behind the Community Police Centre, which is located at 360 Springfield Road.

The five candidates have been invited to attend. They are: the incumbent, **Mauril Bélanger**, Liberal; **David Piccini**,

Conservative; **Emilie Taman**, NDP; **Nira Dookerman**, Green Party; and **Coreen Corcoran**, Libertarian.

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 meeting's Chair. There will also be a microphone on the floor so that audience members can ask questions directly.

Seating is expected to be available for an anticipated audience of approximately 200 residents from neighbourhoods in our riding. Ashbury College students will be on hand to assist attendees with seating.

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

Alexander Macklin Past President, RPRA

Save the Date:

The 54th Rockcliffe Book Fair Runs November 6 to 8!

The Rockcliffe Book Fair draws thousands of book lovers each year, who come to browse through more than 50,000 donated titles in every genre. They also find magazines, DVDs, CDs, vinyl, puzzles and board games – all at terrific prices. Many Village families make a day of it: there's a Craft Corner to keep the kids busy, and a Café offering tasty snacks as well as delicious lunch and dinner options.

This three-day event is Rockcliffe Park Public School's main fundraiser. The proceeds flow not only back to RPPS, but also to other Ottawa-area schools in the form of grants to support their literacy programs. Book Fair is also a highly anticipated community event in every sense of the word. Tireless volunteers donate more than 3,500 hours of their time, some working year-round to collect and sort the donated books.

How Can You Help?

SORT: Come help during the two weeks of set-up – sort, price and shelve books in preparation for Book Fair.

SUPPORT: Come work as a volunteer during Book Fair, or donate baked goods or hot dishes to the Café.

SHOP: Come browse and buy – find your new favourite book and enjoy a snack, drink or meal at the Café.

SHARE: Help spread the word about Book Fair – invite friends and family, and share your finds on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Join us for the 54th Annual RPPS Book Fair • November 6 to 8, 2015 • Rockcliffe Park Public School Gymnasium (Queen Juliana Hall – enter off Springfield Road near Buena Vista) For more information on hours, location, or to volunteer, visit rockcliffeparkbookfair.com.



SPEAKERS PROGRAM

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. All events are held at **Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road.**



Her Excellency Sharon Johnston

“Matrons and Madams” Sharon Johnston will speak about her debut novel in which she recounts the struggles of veterans adjusting to life in Canada after the Great War. Carla Durling is a British widow of the war who arrives in Canada as the new superintendent of the Lethbridge Hospital just as wounded soldiers are streaming home. Lily Parsons is a young widowed school-teacher who ends up in the same city, managing a brothel called The Last Post.

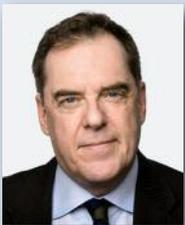
Wednesday, October 14 at 8:00 pm



Kevin Newman, Emmy Award-Winning Network News Anchor and Correspondent

“All Out” Kevin Newman will speak about the new book he co-authored with his son, Alex. More than just a coming out story, it is a searingly honest tale of how they confronted the fearful gulf that often separates fathers and sons in public and private. Confessional and provocative, their memoir is also a touching meditation on ambition, absence and family that will resonate with every parent and child who has ever struggled to connect and understand each other.

Wednesday, October 28 at 8:00 pm



John Ibbitson, Globe and Mail Political Writer

“Stephen Harper” John Ibbitson, one of the most respected voices in journalism, will speak about his new biography of Stephen Harper – the politician and the man. He explains how this shy, introverted loner united a fractured Conservative movement, defeated a Liberal hegemony, and set out to reshape the nation. He presents an intimate portrait of a man who has remained an enigma to supporters and enemies alike.

Wednesday, November 11 at 8:00 pm



Dr. Jack Kitts

Dr. Duncan Stewart

Dr. Rebecca Auer

“Today’s Medical Revolution”

We’ve entered the era of robotic surgery and personalized medicine. Futurists predict we will see more change in the next ten years than we have seen in the past 200. **Dr. Jack Kitts** (*photo, top left*), President and CEO of the Ottawa Hospital, will share his insight into the challenges and opportunities created by this medical revolution. **Dr. Duncan Stewart** (*photo, middle*), Executive Vice-President of Research at the Hospital and CEO of the Research Institute, will discuss how groundbreaking research is fueling advances in patient care. His own world-first clinical trials of stem cell therapy for heart attack patients could someday allow caregivers to literally rebuild the human heart. **Dr. Rebecca Auer** (*photo, right*), researcher and cancer surgeon at the Hospital, will speak about her research into the use of viruses that attack cancer cells while leaving healthy cells intact.

Wednesday, November 25 at 8:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

The Square Foot Gardener

Thursday, October 29 at 7:30 pm

Speaker: Carolyn Klickermann
Local Certified Instructor



Photo: www.lpopularmechanics.com

A unique and very simple method of vegetable gardening has been taking the country by storm.

Carolyn has been speaking to garden groups and enthusiasts about raised bed organic gardening.

She will talk about how to grow your own vegetables using methods that save water, seeds, space, money and work.

Creating Lush Seasonal Outdoor Planters

Thursday, November 26 at 7:00 pm (*note special time*)

Speaker: Candace Mallette, owner of Candace Mallette Landscape and Garden Design

As one of Ottawa's top professional gardeners, Candace specializes in garden rejuvenation, design and four season outdoor plant arrangements. She was one of the 2012 garden designers for the CHEO Dream Home. We will raffle off some of her fabulous creations that evening and she will also bring finished product and planter accessories to sell so you can create outdoor showstoppers for your home. Contribute to our Holiday table – bring an item to donate and then purchase items to take home.



The owner of Bouquet Plaisir, **Miryame EG**, will be there to showcase delicious cupcakes decorated to look like flowers, which will be available for purchase. Watch how she creates her designs. Don't miss out on our most entertaining evening of the series. Bring a friend!

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$7 for guests.

Please contact **VeraCody**, jcody1@rogers.com, for additional information.

ENVIRONMENT

Volunteers Needed to Help Clean Up the Lake and Pond Area

This year's invasive species removal at McKay Lake and the Pond will soon wrap up. We started the season with help from University of Ottawa Days of Service student volunteers, and we will close the season with their help on Saturday morning, October 17 (rain date October 18), and again on the afternoon of Saturday, October 24 (rain date October 25).

Can you spare an hour or so to join us for one or both of these half-days? We are inviting Rockcliffe residents and families to help out with trail clean-up, path edge renewal, and possibly some buckthorn removal. Bring a garden rake and gloves – we will supply bags and anything else you might need for these days of fun and light outdoor exercise. High school students are especially welcome and we will sign for volunteer hours.

Between May and August, our volunteers contributed over 120 hours removing Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard and Dog-strangling Vine. We would like to exceed our record 135 volunteer hours set in 2013. The Buckthorn removal efforts are working – we can now see into the woods from most parts of the path, and Garlic Mustard has been 95% eliminated from many parts of the woodlot and prevented from occurring at the Pond. We have some Buckthorn removal work to do at the Pond next to the fence to improve visibility and to ensure that all of the berries are removed so that further infestation doesn't happen.

Please join us! Email me at environment@rockcliffepark.ca to sign up, or drop a note with your name and telephone number in the RPR mailbox outside the Library so that I can alert you to date changes if the weather turns nasty.

Iola Price

More Greenspace for Rockcliffe Park

Now that the road and sewer reconstruction is finished in the southeast sector, an old piece of road has been removed.

In its place, a new stone dust path linking Mariposa, Lansdowne South and Lakeway to the "Dogwalk" along the west side of McKay Lake has been created and new sod laid at the triangle. It's nice to see a project that has been a gleam in our eyes for almost a decade finally come to fruition. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen.





WILDLIFE NOTES

This is a very quiet period in the world of our local birds. Helping to clear buckthorn in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area in early mornings in late August, the only bird sounds I could detect were from a single Warbling Vireo in the branches overhead. Walking the trail through that area early on September 11, I startled two Green Herons at the inlet beside the boardwalk. They were juveniles, a likely sign of a successful nesting in one of the trees overhanging the lake or pond. No other waterbirds were visible at the lake that morning, or in brief visits on September 13 and 14.

Of the four nesting boxes for Chickadees in the gardens of 563 Fairview and 245 Sylvan, one had a successful nesting this summer – all eggs hatched and all young flew. In one of the others, Chickadees had ‘excavated’ the wood chips that I had provided – their programmed digging out of a nest hole. But instead of a complete nest, the birds had installed an inch of moss, with no sign of actual nesting.

During the night of 22 August, **Iola** was awakened by a fluttering close to her head. With the light on, we found a Big Brown Bat circling the room. After several misses with a landing net, we captured the bat and released it out the window. We were delighted to see our first bat here this summer, because their numbers have been so reduced by a fungal disease.

On August 25, I found a dead White-footed Deermouse in the garden. Passing by a little later, I noticed a pair of inch-

long carrion beetles – shiny black backs with two orange cross bands – pushing at the carcass. The slightly larger beetle then grappled with the smaller one, apparently mating. Then the two went to work with astonishing power and speed, first pulling the mouse under the surface leaf litter, and then pulling it further into the soil so that it was completely out of sight within an hour.

Raccoons foraging for garden fruit at 563 Fairview at night use one location for defecating. In the last few days, the site had something different, small piles of regurgitated fresh fruit. The dark purple ones proved to be buckthorn. This regurgitation may be due to the known vometic quality of this fruit. So here we have buckthorn seeds in top condition being dispersed by Raccoons, adding to the dispersal of



these seeds by fruit-eating birds. This helps to explain the constant spread of these invasive shrubs, introduced from Eurasia, that are so good at displacing native flora. In addition to the

buckthorn fruit were separate piles of a red fruit with orange flesh and a large cherry-like seed. Nearby, **Susan d’Aquino** found the same regurgitations at 400 Lansdowne (*see photo*). If anyone can identify the fruit, please let me know.

Anthony Keith, 14 September 2015

Photo: Susan d’Aquino



Rockcliffe Park Library Fun Day Returns!

Your library is here for you! On Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm, the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Road, welcomes you and your family to a complimentary Open House and Fun Day. Enjoy a musical show from Polka Dot Door’s **Cindy Cook**, face painting, refreshments, crafts and a contest to win local prizes.

Library staff will be on hand at the Open House to answer questions and demonstrate the new RFID technology. Tours of the new library renovations, completed last October, will go on throughout the event.

Our library is a local treasure, full of community spirit. Please join in the celebrations and share in a love of reading.



OPINION

The proposed Rockcliffe Park Rink is a project that has sparked some controversy in the neighbourhood. An insert in this issue details the history of and future plans for installing and maintaining a chilled rink, summer sports court and fieldhouse. The following was written by Iola Price, former Secretary of the RPRA Board. Please note that the views presented here do not reflect the opinions of the RPRA Board or The Rockcliffe News.

Why I Oppose the Rink Project

This is the issue that led me to resign from the Board of Directors of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association. I believe the RPRA Board is misguided in its support of this project, and I agree with the sentiments and content of the blue flyer recently distributed throughout the Village.

The rink will be a commercial operation in a heritage conservation district that is zoned residential. Apart from the three schools and the tennis club, which have been here for decades, there are no other commercial operations in Rockcliffe Park. I believe that this could be the ‘thin edge of the wedge,’ opening up zoning to other commercial enterprises.

Is a million-dollar or more construction sustainable in the long run? The rink and fieldhouse will be owned by the City but operated using donations and rental monies, with needs possibly exceeding \$25,000 per year now, and more in years to come. There are currently three other long-standing, popular Rockcliffe fundraisers – Dining with the Ambassadors and the two Book Sales – that raise less than that amount even with extensive planning, time and effort. Will a fourth fundraising effort succeed? I don’t think so. What happens in the event of capital cost overruns – who pays? The same question applies to annual operating costs. To succeed, the rink and summer sports court must be rented out to groups who will end up parking on narrow streets, which are even narrower in the winter, and who will use the rink during times when it should be available to residents.

Why has the City not run an information session to which all residents are invited and at which an objective cost-benefit analysis is presented? The proponents did hold two public meetings, both in winter and both on short notice – and both not well attended by residents other than Hosers. A survey was conducted using students who were to ask residents questions or, if no one was home, leave an explanatory flyer. Judging by the number of people who have told me they were not contacted and did not receive the flyer, I question the results that indicated that there is an overwhelming desire for this facility among residents.

Thus, for all of these reasons and more, I do not believe this rink should be built.

CITY HALL



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

Updates on the Pond

In September I met with representatives of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) and City staff to discuss some concerns and express feedback that I have been receiving from residents in respect to the Pond. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a few updates.

Water Levels

Thanks to engineering reports provided by the RPRA, we have confirmed that a test well with a pump was drilled in the early 1980s adjacent to the Pond. City staff have agreed to examine the state of the test well and determine functionality of the existing pump. Should they prove viable, we can then explore whether, in future years, the well could be used to manage water levels. That would require permits and approvals from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; nonetheless, it is important to see whether this is possible should we face low water levels in future years.

Minimizing Erosion

The City commissioned an erosion assessment of the bank and shoreline of the Pond. The report, received in 2014, identified corrective measures that could be taken to stabilize the armour stone wall (at the northeast side of the Pond) to minimize future erosion. The City had originally thought the work would be completed this year, but due to budgetary pressures, this is no longer possible. These measures will be considered again when funding becomes available and will be reviewed in the context of the 2016 budget.

Signage Clarity

It was agreed that City staff, working with suggestions from the RPRA, will look at the existing signage marking the entrance of the Pond, to see whether more clarity is required with regard to the use of the Pond during authorized hours.

Many thanks to those residents who wrote to me with ideas and concerns about the Pond. I will continue to provide updates on progress throughout this process.

* * *

It’s City Budget Time: Join Councillor Mathieu Fleury and me on Wednesday, October 7 at the St. Laurent Complex between 6:00 and 8:00 pm. You will get a better understanding of this year’s budget process, explore and consider trade-off preferences, and identify your priorities based on this year’s budget directions.

QUEENS PARK / CITY HALL



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

Improving Retirement Security

for Working Ontarians

Across the country, people are anxious about retirement. Too few people have workplace pension plans. Experts agree people are not able to save enough. The Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) – paying out just \$6,900 annually on average – is simply not filling the gap.

Our government is determined to improve retirement security for all Ontarians. By 2020, the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) will ensure that all Ontarians have the security of a pension plan beyond the CPP.

Between 2017 and 2020, every employee in Ontario without a comparable workplace pension plan will become a member of the ORPP. For those Ontarians who have a defined contribution or defined benefit workplace pension plan of a certain level, nothing will change. They will continue to enjoy peace of mind knowing that there are savings waiting for them in their retirement.

If you are currently without a workplace pension plan, you will contribute a modest amount each month towards your retirement future, just like you do for the CPP. Your employer will match that amount, effectively doubling what you have contributed. Your investment will be there for you when you retire. Just like the CPP, you will receive a regular pension for the rest of your life based on your income and how many years you contributed to the pension plan.

We consulted widely on this approach, listening to employers and employees, nonprofits and unions, experts and actuaries. We are putting forward a smart, sensible solution to the retirement savings challenge.

Economists like former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge and the Federal Ministry of Finance's own internal analysis have confirmed that greater retirement savings would help people in retirement and have long-term gains for our economy.

The ORPP is forward-looking, making Ontario a better place to work, invest and age. We are taking steps to make sure the next generation – our children, and our grandchildren – can retire with the security they deserve. After a lifetime of hard work, we all deserve a secure retirement.



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

Keeping Taxes Affordable

My Council colleagues and I have tried to find the balance between being fiscally prudent today while making the necessary investments for tomorrow – all while doing so in a way that is reasonable and predictable for Ottawa's residents.

We wanted to ensure that tax increases did not far outstrip the rate of inflation. We also didn't want to promise tax cuts which, while sounding great, would mean cuts to the essential services that residents deserve and expect.

What I first ran for Mayor in 2010, I committed to not raising taxes by more than 2.5% in any year. This past year, I was once again elected as Mayor and I furthered my commitment to affordable living through lowering this cap to 2.0%.

Paired with this tax cap was a change I brought to the budgeting process whereby if an elected official wanted to add something to the budget, they had to find a corresponding offset. Previous Councils would table a budget, then add, add, and add some more, without reductions, and suddenly a 4 or 5% tax increase was now being passed.

Forcing this kind of discipline on ourselves, and on the City's department heads, has kept this Council accountable and causes us to scrutinize the City's spending more closely. The result is lowered tax rate changes and a Council that has learned to live within its means.

We have also changed our consultation process to give you, the taxpayer, a more accessible and prominent role in our budget process to ensure your priorities are heard. To that end, we hosted public consultations in the East, West, South, and Central parts of our City. We also introduced a "Tele-Town Hall" where residents were able to call in to voice their priorities and concerns before the budget was tabled.

City Council has set a solid fiscal framework when it assumed office last year and will continue on our promise of prudent financial management. We will continue to deliver a predictable tax rate that also allows us to provide high quality services and opportunities for Ottawa families to flourish.

I will be encouraging my colleagues to stay the course, keeping taxes below 2% and making the necessary changes to ensure our City remains in good financial health.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Ashbury's 124th School Year Begins

Ashbury College welcomed nearly 700 students from 53 different countries to its campus on September 10 as its 124th school year in the nation's capital opened (*photo above*).



Chill Day: New students experienced a fun-filled orientation day on September 9 as they were introduced to the school.

Prior to the first full day of classes, 188 new students, many of them boarders, participated in an orientation day where they met faculty, each other, found their way to classes and learned about co-curricular opportunities.

The school itself had many updates over the summer break – both physically and personnel-wise. Several new teachers join the faculty,

while interior painting and renovation work readied a new fitness centre and science ahead of student use.

While the start of school is always a busy and exciting time, many in the Ashbury community remained active during the summer break. Several junior students travelled to the Dominican Republic for a service trip, while senior IB Biology students visited New Brunswick to study marine life on the east coast. The summer school academic, athletics and artistic programmes were filled and many of teachers went back to school and took courses and workshops.

Seeking Ted Talkers

TEDxAshburyCollege is taking place on November 26, featuring the unique TED-style talks where individuals deliver speeches on interesting ideas in a span of nine to 18 minutes. It is an initiative taken by several Ashbury College students to help spark conversation and connection within the Rockcliffe Park community. Examples of TEDx talks can be found online at TED.com.

The TEDxAshburyCollege organizing team is currently seeking individuals from the Rockcliffe neighbourhood who are interested in presenting a TEDx talk. The theme of the event is "Pursuit of Progress," and we hope to bring together speakers from across different disciplines on topics relating to the theme. Topics for talks may involve examining different aspects of society and demonstrating how certain fields have progressed, and will progress. Contact TEDxAshburyCollege@gmail.com for more information.



Admissions Information Session, October 20

Are you curious about Ashbury's admissions policies, academic programming, athletic offerings or financial assistance options? Join us on October 20 at 7 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!

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

SCHOOL REPORTS



Elmwood School



On the first day of school (from left): Christine Blackadar, Deputy Head, Junior School; Mayor Jim Watson; Cheryl Boughton, Headmistress; James Whitehouse, Deputy Head, Middle/Senior School; and Brooke Mierins, Head Girl.

Centennial Year Off to a Great Start!

Mayor **Jim Watson** was on hand to help us kick off the first day of Elmwood's centennial year – he spoke to students and staff at the opening assembly about Elmwood's important role in educating the girls and young women of Ottawa. We were also thrilled that he presented us with a proclamation from the City of Ottawa in honour of our 100th anniversary.



From left: Elizabeth Moloney, Eryn Lundrigan and Lucy Whichelo enjoy the Centennial Kick-off Carnival.

Then, after a day packed with activities to commemorate this grand occasion, alumni, students and their families and Elmwood's faculty and staff gathered in the field for the Centennial Kick-Off Carnival. Organized by parent **Catherine McLaughlin** and her team of volunteers, this fun-filled event was a fitting start to a year filled with celebrations. If this first day was any indication, this is going to be quite an exciting year at Elmwood School!

Happy Campers

After a few days of traditional classes, Middle and Senior students and faculty headed to the Haliburton area for our

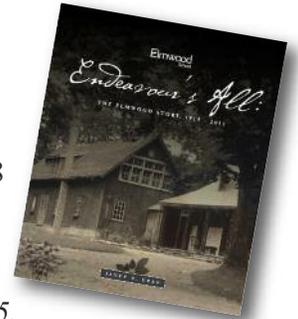
annual Camp Elmwood, September 16 to 18. It's an opportunity for students to build leadership skills, take their learning outside the classroom, and get to know each other and their teachers better. With beautiful weather and a record number of girls attending, this year's camp was a great success!

Endeavour's All: The Elmwood Story, 1915 - 2015

Elmwood Alumnae **Janet Uren '68** has beautifully captured the history of Elmwood School in the soon-to-be published volume, *Endeavour's All: The Elmwood Story, 1915 - 2015*.

The book will be launched at Elmwood's Centennial weekend festivities, and available for purchase starting October 2. If you would like to buy a copy, please contact Elmwood Communications at **613 749-6761, ext. 232**.

Above: The cover of Janet Uren's book features the School's original building.



Save the Dates:

Fall Open House Saturday, October 24

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 or contact the Admissions Office at **613 744-7783**.

Holly Tea and Art Fair Saturday, December 5

An old Elmwood favourite, the Old Girls' Art Fair is returning to Elmwood this year as part of the annual Holly Tea. After many years, we are so happy that these two treasured Elmwood traditions will join together to be the "can't miss" event of the holiday season! Please visit our Centennial website, elmwood100.ca, where you will find complete details about the event.

END NOTES



Timely Tips from Constable Walter Duhme, Rockcliffe Community Police Centre

More Residential Break and Enters Due to Unlocked Doors

The Ottawa Police Service Break and Enter Unit has noticed a recent increase in reports of residential break and enters in the Rockcliffe Park/Lindenlea/New Edinburgh area in which the suspect(s) enter by an unlocked front or rear door, including patio doors. Residents are reminded to keep their doors locked, even when at home, and to ensure any access point from the garage into the main area of the home is also locked.

Note: Anyone with information regarding Break and Enter investigations is asked to call Ottawa Police's Break and Enter Section at **613 236-1222, ext. 4533**. Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers toll-free at **1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)**, or by downloading the Ottawa Police iOS app.



It's Tea Time!

St. Bartholomew's popular Annual Bazaar and Tea Room will take place this year on

November 7 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street.

You'll find a great selection of books, jewellery, attic treasures, toys and baked goods. And don't forget our most well-known tradition: afternoon tea and sandwiches in our lovely Tea Room.

Visit www.stbartsottawa.ca/events.html for more information.

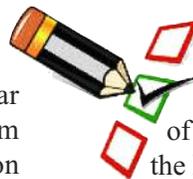
"Something New Edinburgh" *Craft Show*

What happens when you combine a vibrant urban community, local artisans and one-of-a-kind craftsmanship? Ottawa's newest craft show – Something New Edinburgh – is born. Meet us at Memorial Hall (39 Dufferin Road at Mackay Street) on Saturday November 7 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Admission is free.

Shop over 30 local artisans like Matthew Hinthier Photography and Seedling Yarn, enter raffles of local wares from the best of Beechwood Avenue, or pre-order some holiday cheer with live, handmade wreaths from Briggs Trees. With sponsorship from realty icon Sezlik.com and new kid on the block Muckleston & Brockwell Fine Butchery, it's dynamic, it's local, and it's happening here.

The event will assist the Ashbury College Junior School World Issues Club contribute resources to rural school Les Enfants pour Christ in the hills of the Dominican Republic.

For more info, email somethingnewedinburgh@gmail.com.



Your Opinion Counts!

A survey was distributed with the August issue of The Rockcliffe News, asking for opinions on how the RPR can improve communications and dissemination of information to Village residents. Your opinion counts! Fill out your survey and deposit it in the RPR mailbox just outside the Library or go to the Rockcliffe Park website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, to fill out an electronic version (on the home page under the "Latest Newsletter" headline). Please submit your survey by October 15.

Karate in the Neighbourhood

Did you know that there is a Shotokan Karate club right around the corner from Rockcliffe Park?

The Ottawa Shotokan Karate Club holds classes twice a week – Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and Saturday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 pm – in the basement of the St. Columba Anglican Church, 24 Sandridge Road (across from the RCMP stables). All ages and skill levels are welcome – it's a great family activity! For more information, go to ottawakarate.org or drop by a class to check it out.

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS

VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 5

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The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPR), 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.