



The Rockcliffe News

October 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

- 7** Friday, 11 am to 2 pmBook Signing – Anna Blauvelde's "Kat and the Meanies," Coles Bookstore, Billings Bridge Shopping Centre*
- 19** Wednesday, 7 pmAshbury Info Session, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa*
- 22** Saturday, time TBA.....Elmwood School Fall Open House, 261 Buena Vista*
- 25** Tuesday, 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 27** Thursday, 7:30 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Andre Boyer on "Bonsai," Community Hall*

NOVEMBER

- 1** Tuesday, 7 to 9 pmOttawa School Board Public Meeting – Eastern Review, Rideau High School, 815 St. Laurent Boulevard*
- 2** Wednesday, 8:00 pmSpeakers Program: Ron Cohen, World Expert on the Writings of Winston Churchill, on "Churchill: A Man for All Seasons," Community Hall*
- 4,5,6** Friday to SundayRockcliffe Park Book Fair, Queen Juliana Hall, entrance behind the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield*
- 5** Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm...Something New Edinburgh Craft Show, Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road at MacKay Street*
- 5** Saturday 1 to 4:30 pm...St. Bartholomew's Annual Bazaar and Tea Room, St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street*
- 12** Saturday, Noon to 2 pm ..Book Signing – Anna Blauvelde's "Kat and the Meanies," Chapters Bookstore, Rideau Centre*
- 16** Wednesday, 7:15 pmRPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 19** Saturday, 5:30 pm2016 Ashbury Ball, Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa*
- 23** Wednesday, 8:00 pmSpeakers Program: Fen Hampson, Co-Director, Global Commission on Internet Governance, on "Look Who's Watching: Losing Faith in the Internet," Community Hall*

DECEMBER

- 1** Thursday, 7:00 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Karen LeRoy on "Holiday Tablescape," with holiday shopping, Community Hall*
- 2,3** Friday, SaturdayElmwood School Holly Tea and Old Girls' Art Fair, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road*
- 3** Saturday, Noon to 4 pm...Christmas Bazaar, MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin*
- 7** Wednesday, 7:00 pmChristmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Community Hall*
- 11** Sunday, 2 to 4 pm.....Children's Christmas Party, Community Hall*

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

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



On Saturday, September 17, over 380 folks came out to Rockcliffe Park's 90th Anniversary Village Fête for what turned out to be an extraordinary event. The weather delivered its worst but the spirits of the partygoers could not be dampened. It's a rare thing to find me at a loss for words but I am unable to think of enough or the right kinds of words to express my gratitude to all who made this event an unqualified success – to all the organizers who worked on this project for the past 15+ months, the amazing sponsors, the various foreign missions who contributed to the Taste of the World, the musicians and entertainers, the volunteers, and all the participants who came out to see what it was all about – the simple words "Thank You" seem hardly adequate.

The Labour Day weekend saw an unprecedented number of vehicles parked along the road adjacent to the Pond. Over 110 vehicles were counted at one point. The drop in the water level has led to unintended consequences the likes of which I don't think we have ever seen before in Rockcliffe Park. Not only do the added vehicles pose a potential hazard for residents but we do not yet know just how much the heavy usage of the Pond affects the quality of the water and the erosion of the shoreline. Our Pond committee is looking at these as well as the other issues facing the Pond. We are now in receipt of the consultant's report and our group will be looking at this, digesting its recommendations, and charting a way forward in the coming months. More details are provided in the report on page 11 of this newsletter.

Further to our June 15 public meeting on coach houses and residents' strong opposition to them, I am pleased to report that the City's planning staff has recommended that Rockcliffe Park be exempt from secondary residences in back yards. The report and its recommendations, "Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments – Secondary Dwellings," will be considered by the Agriculture and Rural Committee on October 6, 2016 at 10 am and by Planning Committee on October 11, 2016 at 9:30 am. You may listen to the meetings via audiocast at [Ottawa.ca](http://app05.ottawa.ca/sirepub/agendaminutes/index_en.aspx) by accessing http://app05.ottawa.ca/sirepub/agendaminutes/index_en.aspx after the meeting's start. Our councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, will be guiding this matter through the City's approval process.

In order to keep Rockcliffe Park residents informed about this and other relevant developments in a timely manner (such as the Town Hall meetings that were recently held on electoral reform and climate change), you must be a member of the RPRA and we must have your email address. We will only use it to inform you of what is happening in the Village. If you did not receive email notices in September about various goings-on from secretary@rockcliffepark.ca, it's time to renew your membership or consider joining the RPRA by contacting secretary@rockcliffepark.ca. A one-year membership is just \$25 per household, and for next year and beyond, we are accepting \$50 payments for two-year memberships. We are also looking into Interac e-transfers as a payment option, in addition to accepting cheques.

Meanwhile, as a small incentive, we are able to offer a unique opportunity available only to RPRA members. We have secured a limited number of the new "Canada 150 Tulips," which were released as a special edition earlier this year. This is a hybrid white tulip with a red flame, designed to mimic the Canadian flag. Available in bags of 15 bulbs for \$10, we are offering these hard-to-find beauties to our members while supplies last. If you would like to purchase one or more bags, please email **Michelle Collum-Hayman** at mmcollum@gmail.com. The tulips will be available for collection early in October.

Finally, although it seems a long time until the winter holiday season, I would like to take the opportunity now to advise everyone about our Seasonal Fundraising Campaign. We have mentioned before the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre as being an institution in serious need of support. This upcoming holiday season we will be launching a major fundraising drive for the Centre. Details of this drive will be available on our website and in the next newsletter. I hope that you will consider including the RPRA drive for the RRCRC in your charitable giving plans this year.

Wishing you and your families a joyful Thanksgiving and autumn season.

Peter Lewis, 23 September 2016

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 16 • 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. 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.

ROCKCLIFFE VILLAGE FÊTE RECAP

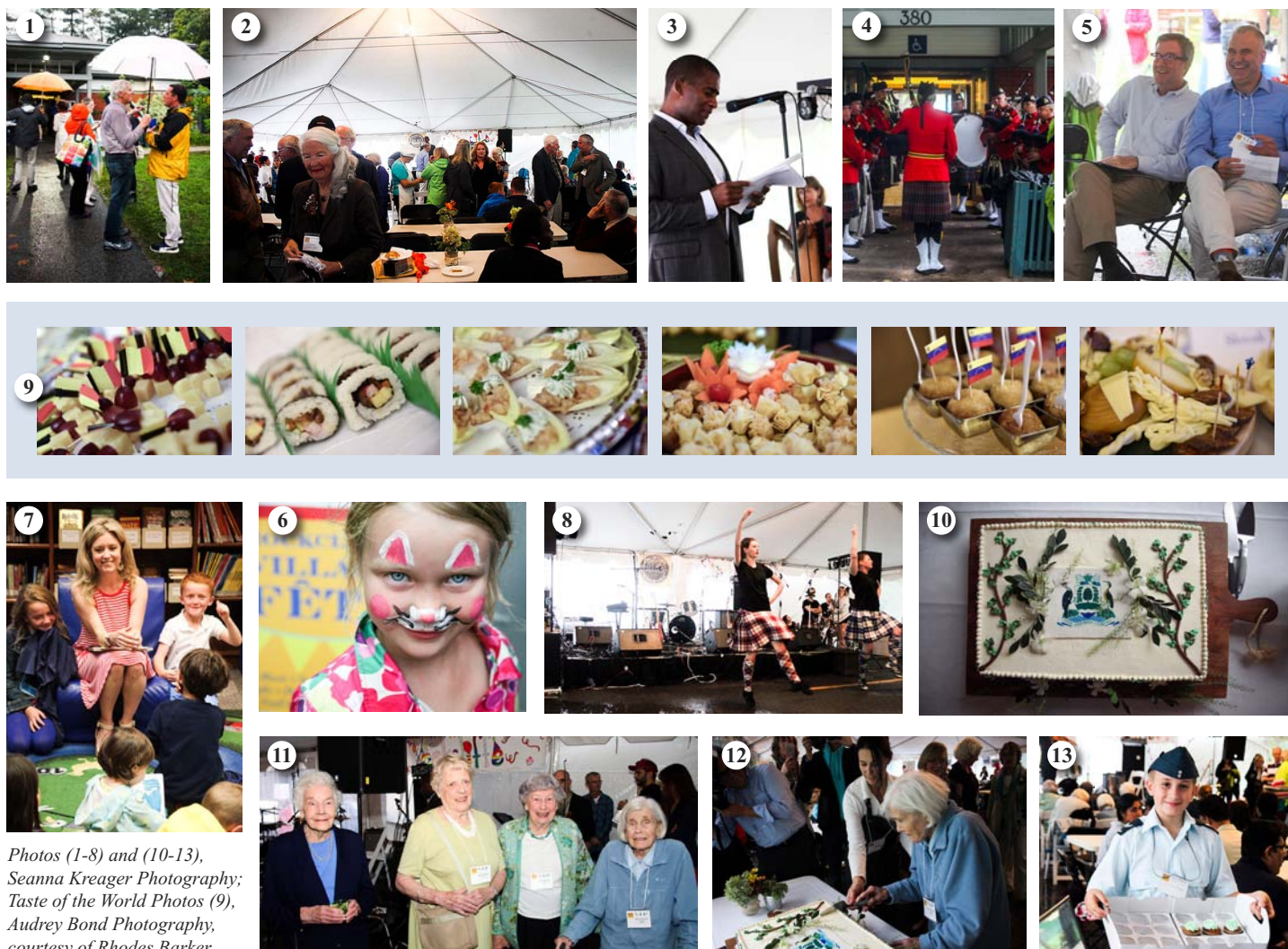


Rockcliffe Village Fête – A Wet But Wonderful Affair

The weather didn't cooperate (1), but nothing could dampen the spirits of those who turned out to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Village of Rockcliffe Park. Under the big tent (2), Emcee **Adrian Harewood** (3) of the CBC opened the festivities (with the help of the **RCMP Pipe Band** (4) and **RCMP Musical Ride**). He introduced VIP speakers including **Mayor Jim Watson** and **Councillor Tobi Nussbaum** (5), and then the festivities began in earnest. Children enjoyed, among other activities, face painting (6) and a book reading in the library by CPAC-TV host **Catherine Clark** (7). All enjoyed entertainment by various musicians and dancers (8). The event featured a dazzling sampling of international cuisine, donated by 32 **Rockcliffe Diplomatic Residences** (9).

There was even a cake-cutting ceremony, with a special "Rockcliffe" cake (10) created by **Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering**. **Tracey Black**, owner of Epicuria, assisted Village residents at least 90 years old (11) – (from left) **June Lindsay**, **Barbie Barker**, **Beryl Phillips** and **Diana Rowley** – in cutting the cake (12), while volunteer **Air Cadets** helped out (13) all throughout the event. Finally, attendees danced the night away and a good time was had by all!

Thanks to our generous sponsors, **Tracey Black** of **Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering**, **Chris Barker** of **Rhodes Barker Luxury Real Estate**, and **Walter McGinn** of **Allegra Marketing • Print • Mail**. Thanks also to the **Diplomatic Residences of Rockcliffe Park**, event chair **Aly Abdulla** and his hard-working volunteers, and to all our participants.



Photos (1-8) and (10-13),
Seanna Kreager Photography;
Taste of the World Photos (9),
Audrey Bond Photography,
courtesy of Rhodes Barker.

VILLAGE NEWS



Rockcliffe Resident Anna Blauveldt Authors Children's Book

Rockcliffe Park resident **Anna Blauveldt** (pictured at right) wants everyone to know that her children's picture book, "*Kat and the Meanies*," was published on September 27 by Under The Maple Tree Books of Atlanta and London UK. Illustrated in rich, vivid colours by artist **Stephanie Hill** of Wakefield, Quebec, "*Kat and the Meanies*" is the first book in Anna's new "*Kat's World*" series.



Lots of kids (and ex-kids) are sure to identify with young Kat, whose Mom and Dad have too many rules for her to follow... in fact, she's sure they belong to a Meany Club. What's a girl to do? Kat dreams of slipping away to find fun in all sorts of places. Her imagination runs wild, and there's a surprising twist in the end. Anna's inspiration for the series has been her daughter, **Katya Brooks**, a former Elmwood girl now attending the University of Ottawa.

"*Kat and the Meanies*" is available from Indigo/Chapters, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Waterstones. **Book signings** are scheduled for October 7, 11 am to 2 pm at Coles Bookstore in the Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, and November 12, noon to 2 pm at Chapters on Rideau Street. Plans are underway for a book launch at Books on Beechwood, and for a book signing at the Wakefield library on November 5. This book could be an ideal gift under the Christmas tree for the enjoyment of kids and their meany parents alike!



Save the Dates:

Wednesday, December 7, 7 pm:

RPRA Annual Christmas
Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

Sunday, December 11, 2 to 4 pm:

Annual Children's Christmas Party

*Santa Claus, horse drawn 'leighb' rides, Goopee the Clown,
outdoor hockey, food, music, arts and crafts gingerbread
house making, hot chocolate and more!*

Community Hall, 380 Springfield; free admission, all are welcome
Sponsored by the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

RPPS BOOK FAIR



May The Force Be With You: The 55th Annual RPPS Book Fair, November 4 to 6, Promises a Weekend of Star Wars Mania!

The annual campaign to choose the Book Fair theme is always exciting for the students of Rockcliffe Park Public School. The themes they suggest aren't always obviously literary. Sometimes a theme is just in the air, like an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together. Yes, it's STAR WARS! We're looking forward to a weekend of cool costumes, amazing decorations, maybe even a Death Star piñata...

The RPPS Book Fair attracts thousands of avid readers each year 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 great prices. Many folks make a day of it: kids settle in at the Craft Corner and families drop in to the café for tasty snacks and even hot lunch and dinner options.

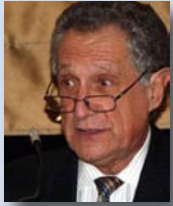
Book Fair is one of the community's most anticipated annual events. Dedicated volunteers give more than 4,000 hours of their time, many working year-round to collect, sort, store and price donations. The proceeds from Book Fair flow not only back to RPPS, but also to other area schools in the form of grants to support literacy programs.

Mark your calendars for the best Book Fair on twelve systems! Join us for the 55th annual RPPS Book Fair, November 4 to 6, 2016, in the Rockcliffe Park Public School gymnasium (Queen Juliana Hall, entrance located behind the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield Road). For more information or to volunteer, go to rockcliffeparkbookfair.com.

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

FALL 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.



Ron Cohen World Expert on the Writings of Winston Churchill

“Churchill: A Man for All Seasons”

A wonderful speaker – who can imitate Churchill’s voice – Ron Cohen will paint a portrait of the author, Nobel Laureate, wordsmith and leader who was Churchill, and his connection with Canada.

Wednesday, November 2 at 8:00 pm



Fen Hampson Co-Director, Global Commission on Internet Governance

“Look Who’s Watching: Losing Faith in the Internet”

Fen Hampson, Director of the Global Security and Politics Program at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), will talk about his new book, “*Look Who’s Watching: Why the World Is Losing Faith in the Internet*” – big brother, crime, cyber-warfare – and you.

Wednesday, November 23 at 8:00 pm

Important Notice Regarding Possible Changes to School Districts

Over the next five years, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) will be conducting student learning and pupil accommodation reviews that will cover most geographic areas across Ottawa. Recommendations may include changes in grade structure at a particular school, changes in program offerings (e.g. adding or removing Middle or Early French Immersion), changes in school boundaries and, in some cases, school closures.

The first two reviews began in September. One of those affects our area – the Eastern Secondary Review, which includes Gloucester, Colonel By and Rideau High Schools. On September 7, staff presented a report on each review area, which included a recommended plan for change. The full reports may be found at www.ocdsb.ca/sch/as/Multi-Year%20Student%20Learning%20and%20Pupil%20Accommodation%20Planning/Pages/default.aspx.

Parents, students, staff and community members will have an opportunity to learn more about the recommended plan and provide feedback. For each review area, there will be an advisory committee made up of school council representatives, and **there will be two public meetings. For the Eastern Review, the first meeting will be held at Rideau High School on November 1 from 7 to 9 pm and the second will be held at Gloucester High School on January 11, 2017 from 7 to 9 pm.** There will be opportunities to provide feedback electronically as well. The Board of Trustees will consider all input and make a final decision in February/March 2017.

Trustee Chris Ellis, Zone 6, Alta Vista and Rideau-Rockcliffe, addressed possible boundary changes for high schools in our area in a recent article in *The Manor Park Chronicle*. He wrote that he would like to see included in the discussion the possibility that Rockcliffe and New Edinburgh students might be sent to Gloucester High School instead of Lisgar.

Rockcliffe students have attended Lisgar for over 90 years with a high level of satisfaction. It is an academic school with a focus on students who wish to continue their education at a college or university. Its tradition of high academic achievement and its downtown location with a diverse student body have provided a stimulating environment for our students. If you wish this arrangement to continue, it is important that you make your views known to the school administration and to Chris Ellis. He can be reached through his website, www.SchoolZone6.org, or by phone at **613 818-7350**.

ADVISORY

Be Wary of Possible Scams!

Canada Revenue Agency Scam

The Ottawa Police Organized Crime Unit warns that various scams based on messages that appear to come from Canada Revenue Agency are once more emerging in Ottawa. There are many types of fraud, and new ones are being invented daily, but these stories fall into one of two broad categories: either there's an unexpected refund or benefit payment, or money is owing that must be paid immediately to avoid huge fines or charges of tax evasion. In either case, this is a scam! The caller asks for personal information such as date of birth, social insurance number, bank account information, driver's licence or credit card numbers, which enables them to access the victim's bank or credit accounts or commit identity fraud.

What's new is the growing sophistication of these scams. The communications are well-prepared and can be very convincing. They arrive in many ways – by phone, email, text message, or by regular mail, and can look and sound just like the real thing. CRA recommends treating with caution any unexpected request for personal information that claims to come from them. Never respond to a suspicious communication, and never *ever* click on any of the links. Don't trust phone numbers or addresses that are provided in the communication – if you're in any doubt at all, look up the contact information yourself. On the phone, no genuine CRA person will be offended if you hang up and call back to a number you can trust.

See CRA's website, www.cra.gc.ca/fraudprevention, for further info. If you believe you may be the victim of fraud or have given out personal or financial info by mistake, contact Ottawa Police Service at **613 236-1222, ext. 7300**.

Paving Scam

The Ottawa Police Organized Fraud Unit is warning the public about a new scam that has emerged in Ottawa.

The Ottawa Police has received complaints from people who have "hired" paving contractors who come to the door with promises of an inexpensive paving job for their lane. No paperwork is exchanged, a verbal price is agreed upon, and when the work is complete, they charge a much higher amount and pressure the purchaser to pay. The "salesmen" appear to be young white males who speak with an Irish accent. The Ottawa Police Organized Fraud Section wants to remind the public that any contractor work should come with a signed hard copy contract, and that if any deal appears too good to be true, it probably is.

CITY HALL



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

How Your City Budget Works

As we prepare for the nation's excitement and attention to fall upon Ottawa as the centre of celebrations for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, it is easy to forget the complexities and fiscal discipline required to build an affordable, caring, sustainable and prosperous city.

One of our guiding principles as a council this past year is to find the balance between being prudent and transparent with taxpayer dollars in the present while making the necessary investments to ensure our City's enduring prosperity. In order to shed light on the budget process and how these decisions impact your individual property taxes, the City of Ottawa has developed new and innovative tools available in the Understanding Your City Budget section of Ottawa.ca and includes:

How Your City Budget Works: A four-minute video that uses plain language and easy-to-understand graphics that describe the development of the City budget.

Get Involved in the Budget Process – The City of Ottawa's Budget Process Made Simple: A printable info-graphic that describes the budget and consultation process and highlights when and how residents can have their say.

Budget Planning Tool – Citizen Budget Consultation: This online tool provides you with the opportunity to play the role of politician or administrator and determine what areas of City services and programs require increases, decreases or status quo funding, and gives you the opportunity to provide comments. To show the impact of your decisions, the tool will also show how your changes will affect the budget rate and your individual property taxes.

The 2017 simulated budget exercise is a pilot project. Although the feedback received will not directly inform the creation of the proposed budget, your feedback will be consolidated in a report and provided to Council during the budget process. The tool will remain live until the budget is tabled on November 9, 2016.

To ensure your opinions are heard, I encourage you to attend a public consultation that will take place from mid-September to mid-October. For a schedule of public consultations or online consultation tools, visit Ottawa.ca to have your say in Budget 2017.



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

Issues of Note to Rockcliffe Residents

Pond Update

To understand why water levels at the Pond at the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area have been decreasing and to investigate possible solutions, an engineering consultant was hired by the City earlier this year and the report has now been completed.

The engineer's report suggests that the water level decline is due to less local water absorption and more rain water being directed towards the storm sewer system, resulting in reduced replenishment of the ground water regime. It also outlines a number of possible remediation options.

The consultant's report can be viewed on my website, tobi.nussbaum.ca. It has been shared with the appropriate City staff for review and I will be meeting with them and members of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association to discuss feasibility of the options and possible next steps.

This report is a first step. Many details and funding would still need to be secured before any action can be taken. I will share any further recommendations for comment from the community at large. To receive updates on this, please send an email to tobi.nussbaum@ottawa.ca.

Beechwood Transportation Study

Beechwood Avenue is an important main street and transportation link used by many residents for many different purposes. During two public consultations, attended by over 200 residents, two priorities were identified – providing safe travel options for all modes of travel, and working towards a more thriving main street. With this in mind, first steps were taken earlier this month towards this “complete street” project.

There are now new traffic lines on Beechwood between Charlevoix/Springfield and Putman/Marier. The new configuration includes bicycle lanes, alternate-side parking, and changes to and consolidation of some bus stop locations.

This first phase will be followed in spring of 2017 by construction to portions of the curb in the section between the Vanier Parkway/Crichton and Charlevoix/Springfield. The plans can be viewed at Ottawa.ca/BeechwoodAvenue.

#BUDGETSPEAK 2016

I invite you to join me and four of my colleagues representing urban wards for BudgetSpeak, a consultation focused on moving resident-identified priorities forward.

In preparation for both the 2015 and 2016 budgets, I co-hosted a series of consultations with residents to get a better sense of their priorities – and the funding options – for the municipal budget. The hundreds of residents who participated in these sessions consistently ranked transit affordability, provision of social services and safe mobility for all modes of travel as their top priorities.

With these priorities identified, this year's consultation will focus on the “how” instead of the “what.” It will consist of short plenary presentations on all three issues, roundtable discussions and the opportunity for residents to offer advice on what specific initiatives could usefully be considered for inclusion in the 2017 municipal budget.

The consultation will take place in the near future. Please visit my website, tobinussbaum.ca, for more info and details on date, time and location, and RSVP to receive updates.



*From the desk of the Hon. Andrew Leslie
MP Orléans, Chief Government Whip*

Dear Constituents of Ottawa-Vanier,

I would first and foremost like to offer my sincere condolences for the passing of our dear friend and my fellow MP, the Honourable **Mauril Bélanger**. Like so many of you, I was witness to and beneficiary of his generosity, knowledge and kindness.

Until such time as a new MP is elected in a forthcoming by-election (at a date to be determined), as Chief Government Whip, I will ensure that the Ottawa-Vanier riding office continues to serve its constituents.

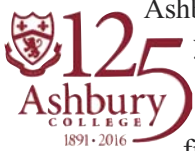
If I can be of assistance, please call me at **613 947-7961**, or visit my website, aleslie.liberal.ca.

FYI: At the current time, the riding of Ottawa-Vanier is without both an MP and an MPP. According to Elections Canada rules, the federal government is required to announce a date for a by-election by February 19, 2017. Information will be made available on candidates in future issues of this newsletter.

SCHOOL REPORTS



Ashbury College Officially Opens its 125th Year in the Nation's Capital



Ashbury College officially opened its 125th school year in the national capital with a full school assembly on the campus lawn on September 7. This year, Ashbury is home to 700 students from 60 countries around the world.



Ashbury officially opened its 125th school year in the nation's capital on September 7 with a full school assembly on the campus grounds.

Friday, September 16 at 9:30 am marked the day and time the first Ashbury class began, 125 years ago.

The international IB World school has celebrated its milestone anniversary throughout the year, but this year offers special reflection for Ashbury's current students.

"We want our students to know and appreciate the legacy that predates them," says Ashbury's Head of School, **Norman Southward**. "Our culture of excellence has deep roots here in the nation's capital, and our history, which parallels that of the country, is one of which we are incredibly proud."

Ashbury College was founded by **George Penrose Woollcombe**, an ambitious Oxford University graduate and new Canadian, who served as Ashbury's Headmaster for 42 years. The three-room school for boys was originally located

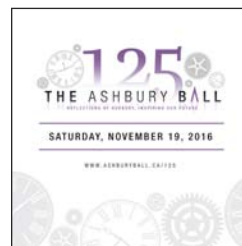
on Wellington Street in downtown Ottawa, and moved several times before the turn of the century. In 1910, the school, called Ashbury College after Woollcombe's English home, moved to its current 13-acre location on Mariposa Avenue.

For more on the school's history and anniversary celebrations, visit ashbury125.ca.

Admission Information Session, October 19

Are you curious about Ashbury's admissions policies, academic programming, athletic offerings or financial assistance options? Join us on October 19 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 classroom displays. Everyone is welcome!

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



2016 Ashbury Ball: Reflections of Ashbury... Inspiring our Future

**Join us in marking Ashbury's
125th on Saturday, November 19**

The 2016 edition of the Ashbury Ball is a true milestone celebration. Coinciding with Ashbury College's 125th anniversary, the Ball will commemorate "Reflections of Ashbury" – celebrating the College's storied past and rich history as one of Canada's most prestigious academic institutions.

Enjoy an elegant cocktail hour and gala dinner prepared by **Thyme & Again** before dancing the night away to the sounds of the band **Electrik**. Take home a fabulous trip or other prize in our silent and live auctions supporting Ashbury College and its students.

The 2016 Ashbury Ball will take place on Saturday, November 19 at Ashbury College, with a cocktail hour commencing at 5:30 pm. Please do not delay in purchasing your tickets today by visiting ashburyball.ca/125.

Let's make our birthday year one to remember!

SCHOOL REPORTS



Elmwood School

Standing Ovation for Elmwood Theatre

Elmwood Theatre presented “*Miss Bruce’s War*” as part of the Ottawa Fringe Festival on June 18 and 25. The play, written by **Jean Duce Palmer** (who was in attendance for both performances), was sold out well in advance of the first show, and those who were able to get a seat were not disappointed. The young cast performed at a level well beyond their years, and the whole production earned rave reviews.

“*Miss Bruce’s War*” is the story of a fledgling teacher sent into the hills of Alberta to supervise a one-room schoolhouse. It is WWII and Miss Bruce’s pupils are the children of German immigrants. Despite warnings not to fraternize with the ‘enemy,’ she is gradually won over by the community through their steadfast love for music and song. This gentle narrative looks at a period in history when times were hard but ultimately transformative.

Congratulations to all the members of Elmwood Theatre, and to our wonderful director, **Mrs. Angela Boychuk!**



Left to right: Sophia Swettenham, Sonja Swettenham, Lauren Jane Hudson, Madighan Ryan, Niamh Hurley, Ciara Hurley and Aviva Gerring in Miss Bruce’s War.

A Great Start to our New Year

Elmwood welcomed students back to school on Wednesday, September 7. After a day full of getting to know teachers and classmates, a rousing game of bubble soccer, and an

opening assembly featuring Olympic medalist and Elmwood alumna **Natasha Watcham-Roy** ’09, everyone gathered in the field after school for the Welcome Back Festival. Organized by parent **Gayle McClelland** and her team of volunteers, this fun-filled event was a hit with our students and their families.

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 14-16. 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!



Left to right: Grade 12 students Eryn Lundrigan, Elizabeth Moloney, Lucy Whichelo and Allegra Richter enjoy the gorgeous surroundings at Camp Elmwood.

Fall Open House – Saturday, October 22

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.

Save the Dates – December 2 and 3 – for the Holly Tea and Old Girls’ Art Fair

After last year’s wonderful success, the Old Girls’ Art Fair will once again be held in conjunction with the annual Holly Tea. These two treasured Elmwood traditions are sure to be the “can’t miss” event of the holiday season!

The Art Fair vernissage will be held on Friday, December 2 and the Holly Tea and Old Girls’ Art Fair will take place on Saturday, December 3.



WILDLIFE NOTES

Swifts have always intrigued me. In the evolution of bird families, they are the most developed towards living in the air. Not only do they feed entirely on aerial insects, but most of their living is on the wing. Their legs are greatly reduced.

At 8 pm on August 14, I returned to one of the locations where I had watched a few Chimney Swifts entering a chimney flue in early summer, presumably nesting. At that time, the returning swifts would zoom at full speed towards the open flue top and, just above it, execute a 'stop and tumble' manoeuvre, dropping into the flue. The manoeuvre happens so fast that if you blink, you miss it. Very business-like; the birds would have been coming back to incubate eggs or feed young. The tiny ledge-like nests are made of twigs plucked in flight from trees and glued to the flue lining with saliva.

But on this August evening, a quite different behaviour unfolded. At first, one or two birds swung past the flue tops and away from the building. More birds joined in until by 8:15 at least seven birds were swinging by with increasing tempo in a circular pattern about twice the diameter of the building. Now, instead of just circling around, some birds began to fly directly at the chimney wall, aiming five to seven feet below the top, at the last moment executing the 'stop and tumble' manoeuvre, dropping a few feet at the chimney face then swinging away to join the swirling flock. Some birds also separated from the swirl to fly directly at the open flue top, feinting to one side at the last moment instead of entering. The circling birds steadily increased their speed so that by 8:30 they were a blur of swirling black shapes in the gathering dusk. Then suddenly it was over: Within a minute or so all the swifts had dropped like stones down the chimney flue to roost on the interior chimney walls.

What was all that about? Clearly social behaviour: If the birds just wanted to go to roost, each would have plummeted into the chimney as it arrived. To me it seemed to be ritual group behaviour, with its increasing tempo and synchronized movements. Bonding of the family group before migration? Were the birds that flew at the chimney face and then executed the 'stop and tumble' young ones practicing for the difficult feat of dropping into a flue from full flight? This very visible flocking, extending for nearly a half hour, must be sufficiently valuable to the birds to offset the risk of attracting a predator, such as a falcon.

Snapping and Painted Turtles inhabit McKay Lake and the Pond. Females come on land in summer to search out soft sand or soil where they can dig a hole and lay eggs. **Margo Roston** lives on the ground floor of the condos facing the Pond and has very kindly sent me this report:

"Three years ago a tiny black speck moving along the path in front of our condo by the pond caught my eye. Nothing recognizable from my deck chair but moving closer it turned out to be a very tiny turtle. And then close behind came another one. And then another, all hurrying along, going who knows where, but not in the direction of the water, which was to their west, but definitely heading south. Time to take action to save them from human feet, birds, dogs and whatever else might be coming their way.

I grabbed a pail and a little water, a pair of rubber gloves and took the babies down to the pond, releasing them near a weedy patch of water. Returning I found two more and eventually, after depositing those, found another two. Swimmers kept their distance. I had no idea how many may have already hatched and moved on but I knew immediately that they came from **Fruji** and **John Bull's** garden next door where we had watched a large turtle depositing her eggs. Snapping and painted turtles have been nesting on the grounds at 55 and 65 Whitemarl for many years but it is rare to find their offspring. And these days rarer to find nesting turtles at all.

Two springs ago mama returned, unbelievably, to the same spot in the Bulls' garden, this time to our great delight producing at least fourteen tiny babies with **Charles Kent** and I watching as some of them pushed through the earth between the flowers. Ominously, as I slipped them into the pond, a seagull stood by on the sand, studiously watching, and perhaps waiting, until I left.

I have only bad news to report this summer. Yet again mamma came to nest in her favorite spot, but sadly we found a pile of empty eggs shortly after she left. Seems a raccoon or a skunk was watching and the game was up. But hopefully she didn't notice that her babies were lost and she'll be back next spring. We'll be waiting."

*Anthony Keith,
15 September 2016*

Please Note: Volunteers Needed! Next year is Canada's Sesquicentennial. If you would like to help plan and celebrate Rockcliffe Park's history, please email secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

ENVIRONMENT

The Pond Update

Pond Pump Test – July 2016

Over the years, the water level in the Pond has fluctuated, but since 2010 there has been a drastic drop in water levels.

A well was drilled in the 1980s to replenish the Pond; however, the City determined that the pump in the well no longer worked (due to vandalism) so it couldn't be used and to repair it would be expensive. There were, however, persistent claims that the pump had worked in the past and that, when needed, it automatically fed water from the well into the Pond.

Enquiries to the Ministry of the Environment in 2010 confirmed that the 1981 water quality analytical data could not be used to support a re-start of the well. The City requested a permit to pump and test the well and have new water quality data provided to the Ministry.

The long-awaited test of the well took place over July 13-14. Water was drawn from a depth of approximately 30 metres and at rates that varied from 10 to 40 gallons per minute over the 24-hour test period. The water was discharged to the Pond but filtered first through straw bales and the shoreline sand. It does not appear that the water level in the Pond changed appreciably in the 24 hour test, in spite of an additional heavy rainfall.

The final report, with options regarding water level remediation, has been issued; we have reviewed it and will be sending comments and questions to Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum** and City staff. As the Pond has steep banks, we are also interested in pursuing with the City what can be done to stabilize the banks in light of the heavy foot-traffic around the perimeter of the Pond when the water level is low as it has been recently.

Please see Councillor Nussbaum's report on page 7 of this newsletter for additional information.



Heavy usage of the Pond, along with dropping water levels, has led to concerns for its sustainability.

HERITAGE

Review Committee for Development Applications under the New Heritage Plan

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) is putting in place a new committee to review applications to construct new houses in Rockcliffe or, in the case of existing houses, to build additions, make alterations, or demolish. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the terms of the new Heritage Plan and the Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan (part of Ottawa's Official Plan). The committee will meet with applicants to discuss proposals and give feedback. Its advice will then be conveyed to the City's heritage planners. The goal is to ensure that all changes to houses and their landscape settings protect and enhance the heritage character of the Village.

Over the summer, a small new transition team has been developing a deep understanding of the Heritage Plan and has considered two applications for new houses. Three members of the RPRA Board have been part of this team. The other members of the committee are long-time Rockcliffe residents with outstanding experience and a mix of expertise. **David McRobie** is an architect with broad understanding of urban design and municipal planning policies who, during the period of amalgamation, served on the RPRA Board and its Site Plan Committee. **Michael Kelen**, a lawyer and retired judge of the Federal Court, served as chairman of the Village's Committee of Adjustment for 12 years prior to amalgamation. **Vic Lanctis** is a former senior officer with the Canadian Forces health services and was closely involved in the work of Village committees that led to the designation of Rockcliffe Park as a heritage district. We are fortunate to have such residents of unquestioned integrity who will give their time to serve our wonderful community. The membership of our new committee will be augmented with two or three others with complementary expertise and experience. Organizing support for other heritage issues will be determined later this year.

Check Out Heritage Ottawa's Fun and Informative Sunday Walking Tours:

Stroll through some of Ottawa's most interesting neighbourhoods with knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteer Tour Guides. Tours begin at 2 pm, rain or shine, and last approximately 1.5 hours. \$5.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members, payable at the start of the tour. There's no need to pre-register. Go to heritageottawa.org/sunday-walking-tours for more information.



END NOTES



Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

Bonsai: Thursday, October 27, 7:30 pm
Speaker: Andre Boyer

Learn about this intriguing and beautiful Japanese art form of growing trees in containers.



**Holiday Tablescapes –
Getting Back to Nature:**
Thursday, December 1, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Karen LeRoy

Our most popular night of the year. Come early to shop the tables of local artisans.

Karen LeRoy, co-owner of Alta Vista Flowers, will demonstrate how to create stunning holiday arrangements. She will also have products for sale and you can win one of her creations in our raffle.

Meetings are held at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Free for members and \$5 for guests. For information, contact **Vera Cody**, jcody1@rogers.com.

Calling All Curlers!

**Teens to Nineties, Male and Female;
Beginners Welcome, Full Time or Spares**

Come join a friendly and fun league close to home. The St. Columba Curling Club is looking to add members for the 2016/17 season. It's a small, informal curling club that has been playing at the RCMP Rink (corner of Sandridge and St. Laurent) for more than 50 years. Saturday mornings 10:30 am, October to April.

About Us: The details of the club's origin are shrouded in the mists of time, but the name comes from its start years ago by members of the St. Columba's Church on Sandridge. A plaque on the wall of the RCMP rink implies a start in 1958. If this is correct, the 60th anniversary will be coming up soon.

Club President **Tanya Sprowl** says, "Perhaps there are not any founding members still amongst the ranks, but we are checking that out..." In any event, some new blood is needed. For more information contact Tanya by email at me@PhiveDesign.com.

Upcoming Holiday Markets and Craft Fairs

Saturday, November 5 • 10 am to 3 pm • Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road (New Edinburgh)

Something New Edinburgh is back, and year two promises to be even better – local artisans, a vibrant urban community, and one-of-a-kind craftsmanship once again team up. Admission is free. Browse the wares of fantastic local talent and well-curated artists and crafters, then grab lunch with **The Flatbread Pizza Company**. Last year's show brought together over 30 local vendors, more than 500 attendees, and over \$500 in fantastic door prizes from local artisans and businesses! Check us out here: www.facebook.com/somethingnewedinburgh; somethingnewedinburgh@gmail.com; [instagram.com/somethingnewedinburgh](https://www.instagram.com/somethingnewedinburgh).



Saturday, November 5 • 1:00 to 4:30 pm • 125 MacKay Street (New Edinburgh)

St. Bartholomew's Annual Bazaar and Tea Room is where 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.

Saturday, December 3 • Noon to 4:00 pm • MacKay United Church • 39 Dufferin Road (New Edinburgh)

Christmas Bazaar returns after a hiatus of a few years. Featuring a bake table, preserves, books, CDs and vinyl records, attic treasures, accessories, vintage/retro/couture ladies clothing, Christmas decorations and much more.



Note: New Rules for Pedestrian Crossings Be aware that there are new types of pedestrian crossings where new rules apply. Drivers – including cyclists – must now stop and yield the whole roadway when people cross at “pedestrian crossovers,” which are crosswalks identified by specific signs and pavement markings (there's one on St Laurent near the Highlands condo complex). Some, but not all, have overhead lights and warning signs. The rule also applies at school crossings and other locations where there is a crossing guard. It's no longer permitted to drive on once the way is clear – only when pedestrians and crossing guards have completely crossed and are on the sidewalk may drivers and cyclists proceed.