



The Rockcliffe News

August 2018

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

www.rockcliffepark.ca

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Board meetings are held monthly and are open to all. See calendar for dates and times. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Correspondence to Board members and any enquiries for administration purposes may be addressed by email to secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

- 24** Friday, 8:30 pmRockcliffe Park Outdoor Movie Night, Jubilee Garden*
- 25** Saturday, 5 to 10 pm ...Lumière Festival, Stanley Park – see lumiereottawa.ca for details

SEPTEMBER

- 5** Wednesday, 8:00 pm.....Speakers Program: Andrew Leslie, Member of Parliament, on “NAFTA in the Canada-U.S. Relationship,” Community Hall*
- 12** Wednesday 7:00 pm.....Neighbourhood Watch Block Captain Orientation Meeting, Community Hall*
- 19** Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 20** Thursday 5:00 pm.....Opera Picnic on the grounds of the Residence of the German Ambassador, 290 Coltrin Road*
- 27** Thursday, 7:30 pmRockcliffe Park Garden Club: Owen Clarkin, Chair of Conservation for the Ottawa Field Naturalist Club, on “The Shrubs of Eastern Ontario,” Community Hall*
- 29** SaturdayClothes for a Cause Sale to benefit the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, St. Bartholomew’s Church, 125 MacKay Street*
- 30** Sunday, 1:00 pmUnveiling of the Village Foundation’s Inaugural Historical Plaque, Village Green, corner of Springfield Road and Mariposa Avenue, with reception to follow at the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road*
- 30** Sunday, 2 to 3:30 pm ...Heritage Ottawa Walking Tour: Village of Rockcliffe Park, led by Martha Edmond; meet at the intersection of Lisgar Road and Princess Avenue*

OCTOBER

- 10** Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: Professor Christina Cameron on “World Heritage: Today and Tomorrow,” Community Hall*
- 17** Wednesday, 7:15 pm....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 20** Saturday, time TBAElmwood School Fall Open House, 261 Buena Vista*
- 24** Wednesday, 6:30 pm....Ashbury College Information Evening, 362 Mariposa*

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

*Be sure to check out the new Rockcliffe Park website, rockcliffepark.ca.
We welcome your comments and suggestions!*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I hope this letter finds you all well and still firmly in family vacation mode. As is my wont when I write these reports, I will often review the previous year's letter from the same month to see what issues were at the forefront at that time. And there have been a couple of developments since then that I am really pleased to discuss.

First, after so many months of work, our new website – rockcliffepark.ca – is up and running, and I urge you to check it out and let us know what you think. We update it pretty regularly and are learning the ins and outs of website maintenance so that we can keep it current and relevant. Over the next few months, we will shift some of the regular newsletter columns over to the website to allow us to add new content to the newsletter. Last year we were also talking about the rink and field house project; by now you will have seen that the talking is done and the machines are doing their work. In addition to the rink and field house, there will be a new and improved soccer field. The rink should be ready for this winter and the soccer field should be finished in time for the fall season.

Summertime also brings us to discussions of the Pond. This year we have been working with the City to continue the pumping programme as well as trying to mitigate the erosion effects of large numbers of people hanging out on the beaches. City staff installed ropes to encourage bathers to swim and move on rather than “making a day of it” and camping out on the shoreline. On hot days, it is difficult to ignore the allure of the refreshing Pond but we do need to bear in mind that it is first and foremost a conservation area. To remind bathers of this, new signage with positive inclusive messaging has been erected. We hope folks will understand and get on board with protecting this unique resource.

Our June 30 Movie Night went off without a hitch. A small crowd of 20 or so came out to enjoy *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and the free popcorn and soft drinks. Our next show, on August 24, will appeal to film noir enthusiasts as we show *The Maltese Falcon*. Come at 8:30 pm for a drink (a wine and beer cash bar is planned), bring friends, see neighbours, settle into your lawn chair, bring a blanket (or perhaps a fur stole for women and jacket and fedora for men). The show starts at 9:00 pm.

Those of you who walk or drive along Springfield Road past RPPS will remember that the space beside the kindergarten play area and the new equipment bunker had become unsightly. Together with the school council and the principal, the RPRA sought to improve that area by cleaning it up, resetting the boulders and planting trees that will hopefully grow to disguise – if not completely obscure – the bunker. Many thanks to **Imbaw Storer**, **Julie Storer**, the **RPPS School Council**, **Iola Price** and **Marilyn Venner** for getting this done.

As I was taking our hound through the Village on her evening walk, I came across a road barrier at Mariposa and Manor Avenues. Down the road I saw neighbours out having a street party, apparently an annual event organized by **Mary Lapner**. This is a terrific idea and I encourage other groups to do the same. We have all the information you need to organize your own event, and it can be found on our website! Check it out under *Community/Events and Issues*. On this same page, you will also see examples of “Children at Play” pop-up signs that can be used to warn traffic that kids are out there playing street hockey, basketball or whatever. If you are hosting a birthday party or just want to rest easy while your kids are playing outside, you may borrow these signs from RPRA Board member **Michael Crystal** at mcystal@crystalcyrlaw.com. A big thanks to Michael for acquiring these signs and making them available.

Under *Events/Issues* on the website, you will also find content concerning the upcoming municipal election. Currently there is a link to a disturbing article that shows that the riding of Ottawa/Vanier has the highest child poverty rate (three in ten) in the City and the 18th highest rate in all of Canada – a shocking statistic. This will be something worth talking about with our councillor and mayor during the candidates' forum we hope to hold in October.

Although much has been said about our new website, we still send out alerts and timely bulletins by email. If you find that you are not, or are no longer, receiving such notices, it may be that your membership has lapsed. If such is the case, check your membership status at secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

Finally, a huge “Happy Birthday” goes out to Rockcliffe resident Diana Rowley, who celebrated her 100th in June. We hope to include a feature on Diana in the October issue of the newsletter.

By the way, I will be channeling Bogart and pouring wine at *The Maltese Falcon* on August 24. Hope to see you all there.

Peter Lewis, July 11, 2018



THE VILLAGE FOUNDATION

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

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

Is there a Conservation, Heritage or Community Building project you think the Foundation should be considering? We welcome your ideas. Contact Bonnie Robinson at **613 749-5297** or by email at bonnie@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

*You are Invited to Attend the Unveiling of the Community's
Inaugural Historical Plaque
on Sunday, September 30 at 1:00 pm on the Village Green*



Please join us to celebrate the official unveiling of the first historical plaque under the Village Foundation initiative to honour noteworthy places and events considered significant in the development of Rockcliffe Park and/or Canada. The inaugural plaque recognizes the founders of Rockcliffe Park and describes their roles in the earliest days of the future Village.

The ceremony will be held on the Village Green, at the corner of Springfield Road and Mariposa Avenue, after which you are cordially invited to a celebration reception at the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. So mark your calendar and be sure to join your friends and neighbours on this exciting occasion.

THE 2018 VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD

Executive: Bonnie Robinson, Chair | Ryan Kilger, Vice-Chair | Roy Williams, Treasurer | Jane Newcombe, Secretary

Board Members: Sarah Baxter, Nancy Carr, Alexandra Colt, Jean-Guy Dumoulin, Alison Green, Jane Panet and Paul St. Louis

AMID THE TREES WE FLOURISH

In 1994, the Village was granted a distinctive coat of arms that is registered in the Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada. It is displayed in the Springfield Road entrance. The crest depicts our environs of water and trees and two locally-found birds, the Pileated Woodpecker and the Green-backed Heron. The motto, *Inter arboribus floremus*, meaning "Amid the trees we flourish," reflects how our lives are nurtured by our natural environment.

Rockcliffe Park is a place of landscaped beauty. Though our motto is "Amid the trees we flourish," sadly, the inverse has



not always been true – our trees have not all flourished. In fact, we have lost many of our special trees in recent years. Heritage trees have been felled while maples in the 40-60 year range are dying all over eastern Ontario.

During these hot, dry spells, please remember to water your trees to keep them healthy. If you are using a sprinkler, water at night and set a timer to water long enough to fill a tuna can to the brim.

*Iola Price and
Marilyn Venner*



HERITAGE MATTERS

Pride of Place and the “Public Face”

In addressing an international audience, realtor extraordinaire **Marilyn Wilson** speaks of Rockcliffe Park as “the most prestigious real estate in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.” She further writes about the “sense of the beauty and spirit of this unique community and its wonderful quality of life.” The late **Patrick Murray**, Mayor of Rockcliffe Park, described Rockcliffe Park as one the most “attractive residential communities in Canada.” In relation to Rockcliffe Park, the late **Humphrey Carver**, a founding father of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, wrote that the “combined qualities of architecture and landscape are its great attraction.” (See excerpt on next page.)

These statements and many others underpin an unwritten contract of collaboration between Rockcliffe Park residents which has resulted in a rare, beautiful neighbourhood and cultural landscape that blends design, history and nature, and that speaks to “pride of place.” As individuals, residents ardently defend a perspective, but as a collectivity let there be no doubt that residents consistently come together to ensure that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Sadly, amidst the larger and smaller properties that ably display this “pride of place,” there are some that intimate that their long-term plans, possibly for new construction, give them license to be in a state of temporary abandon or home to mediocre installations visible from the street, for example tent garages, well into the summer months when Rockcliffe Park should be at its very best. Interim, temporary tent garages should be removed between April and December. They should be located where they are not visible to the public. Installations such as these are inconsistent with the overarching character of Rockcliffe Park as “residences in a garden.”

A proposed series of articles on “Pride of Place and the Public Face of Rockcliffe Park” is intended to gently remind residents to turn their attention towards ensuring their properties make a positive contribution to the public face of Rockcliffe Park. Here are a few photographs that illustrate examples of properties that are wonderful expressions of “pride of place” – and one showing a state that is inconsistent with our unspoken agreement to celebrate our special neighbourhood, and not to neglect it or take it for

granted. We have been careful to avoid identifying the exact location of properties in need of remedial action.

In the photograph at the bottom of the previous column, landscape brought nearly to the street edge creates an elegant foreground to this residence.



This striking composition (*left*) of well-tended ornamental fence set above an expertly built stone wall, with a high-quality walkway, all within a well-cared-for garden of perennials and mature trees, creates a vignette that is memorable and that conveys landmark qualities.



A bold and elegantly simple garden (*left*) reinforces the architecture and addresses the street with dignity.

There is a difference between a wild garden and an abandoned garden (*below*), and in Rockcliffe Park the distinction is readily understood. During periods without occupancy, grounds should be cared for.

Neglected properties fail to deliver “pride of place” and may even deter would-be purchasers from considering nearby real estate.



This corner landscape treatment (*below*) delivers in spades to “Pride of Place and the Public Face.” A “transparent” fence is accompanied by plant materials in a range of colours



and textures that provides seasonal delight. The addition of a sculpture amidst the planting provides artistic and visual interest while contributing to the enjoyment of passers-by.

*Linda Dicaire, Chair
Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee*

HERITAGE

PRIDE OF PLACE (continued)

The late **Humphrey Carver**, architect and founding member of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and recipient of an Honorary Doctorate, wrote the following in 1985. His perspective remains relevant to Rockcliffe Park residents. Here is an excerpt from his book, *The Cultural Landscape of Rockcliffe Park*:

WHAT SHOULD BE CONSERVED ?

A public commitment to protect and conserve the good things in the Village calls for some reasonable answer to the question: "What are the good things in the Village?" Of course, there are bound to be great varieties of personal opinion about the merits of domestic architecture and about the beauties of the landscape. It is as difficult as agreeing on the merits of pictures, or music, or literature. The difficulty is inherent in the whole idea of conservation. So a study, resulting in the pages of this book, was undertaken as a first sketchy accounting of "the good things" in the Village. At the same time the committee (LACAC) embarked on an inventory of all the houses in the Village, to record their history and what is interesting about them.

To identify "the good things" in the Village and to explain the quality of the cultural landscape is not an easy thing to do. But, like other works of human art, the cultural landscape clearly does have value in the market-place that translates into money. All property-owners in the Village share in the present value of the Village's landscape and architecture and they would suffer from its deterioration or destruction. So though anyone may disagree with the particular choices of "the good things" included in this review of the Village's treasures, yet, as shareholders in the estate, everyone benefits from conserving the treasures.

In the market-place, Rockcliffe Park is perceived as a green and spacious place where, through the years, people have built the houses that are now our heritage. Fragmentation of the spaciousness and careless disregard for the character and individuality expressed in the architecture is a loss to the whole community and to each property-owner. We all have a stake in the Village scenery.

If the effectiveness of a conservation policy depends very much on the clarity of the objective ("What is it we want to conserve?"), it certainly also depends, just as much, on the system of "estate management" in the Village.

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SPEAKERS PROGRAM

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. Details may be found at www.rockcliffepark.ca.



Andrew Leslie

Member of Parliament

"NAFTA in the Canada-U.S. Relationship"

Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, retired General Andrew Leslie has special responsibilities for Canada-U.S. relations. He will speak about the turbulence in this complex relationship and his role in it.

Wednesday, September 5 at 8:00 pm



Professor Christina Cameron

"World Heritage: Today and Tomorrow"

Past chair of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and presently Canada Research Chair in Built Heritage, Dr. Cameron will tell us about the severe challenges facing world heritage and bring us up to date on Canada's world heritage sites.

Wednesday, October 10 at 8:00 pm

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club

Please join us for our September kickoff evening on Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 pm at the Rockcliffe Community Hall, featuring naturalist and chemist **Owen Clarkin**, the Chair of Conservation for the Ottawa Field Naturalist Club, a group that works to conserve Canada's biological history and monitor existing species and species at risk. His love and knowledge of trees extends to shrubs and his topic will be the Shrubs of Eastern Ontario – how to identify them, plant them and make them part of your greenscape. Owen is a tree-loving activist and educator whose expertise is sought out by Friends of the Farm, for whom he leads Arboretum walks. Come share in our hospitality, and sit back and listen to a presentation that will open your eyes about the nature that surrounds you. For more info please contact **Vera Cody**, President, at jcody1@rogers.com.



Photo of Owen Clarkin: eatonrapidsjoe.blogspot.com



*From the desk of Mona Fortier
Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier*

Investing in our Future through our Children

Welcome to summer! I hope that you have been able to beat the heat and stay cool during the past month. Canada Day was particularly hot, but I managed to keep cool with all of the wonderful people I met at events throughout the day. From Pineview to Beacon Hill and all the way to Parliament Hill, it was a wonderful celebration of the things that make our country a place I love to call home.

As I spend time with my family this summer, I am reminded of how lucky I am and how precious that time is. Thanks to initiatives such as the Canada Child Benefit, many more families in Ottawa-Vanier are able to afford that time with their families. This year, two years ahead of schedule, our government increased the amount given for each child. This means that it is keeping pace with the cost of living, and making sure that even more children are lifted out of poverty, because investing in our children is investing in Canada's future.

This future was on display at the many high school graduations I attended. These bright young graduates will shape our communities and our country for years to come, and I was proud to sign certificates for close to 900 students. I wish you all success in your future endeavours. Congratulations!

Lastly, I am very excited to share with you that Canadian Heritage recently announced nine million dollars in funding for the next three years for community-led projects that support the needs of Black Canadian Youth. This fund will aim to empower them in their communities by promoting Black history, culture and identity; developing leadership skills; and encouraging local community involvement. Those interested in applying for funding under this new initiative should contact Canadian Heritage at pch.jeunescanadiensnoirs-blackcanadianyouth.pch@canada.ca for more information.

As always, my staff is here to support your interactions with the federal government. My office is located at 233 Montreal Road and is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Thursday and from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on Friday. If you would like to get in touch with my office, please call **613 992-4766** or send an email to mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.



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

Rockcliffe Park News New Pedestrian Crossover and Cycle Track on Beechwood

I am pleased to report that construction began in July on a new pedestrian crossover (PXO) and a raised, separated cycle track along Beechwood Avenue between Jolliet and Corona Avenues as part of the Beechwood Complete Street Project. The addition of an improved pedestrian crossing along with a new section to the East-West Bikeway corridor expands transportation choices and improves safety for all road users.

Area Traffic Management Study

In response to concerns about cut-through traffic in Rockcliffe Park, I had City staff undertake the first step towards an Area Traffic Management Study. This process was completed in mid-June when staff conducted a series of traffic counts on various streets. The selection of streets was based on consultation with the Community Associations for New Edinburgh and Rockcliffe Park. Staff are now processing the data to determine if the counts warrant an Area Traffic Management Study. I will make sure to discuss the results with the communities once I have received them.

East Feast 2018 is Coming Soon!

We look forward to seeing you on September 7 at the third Annual East Feast on Beechwood Avenue! Last year there was plenty of entertainment for event goers to enjoy, and it was a fantastic opportunity to close out the summer in our community. Keep an eye out for updates on my website and email my office (Tobi.Nussbaum@Ottawa.ca) with suggestions on how we can improve this year's event.

Pond Update

City staff have worked with my office and the RPRA to develop a series of improvements to further minimize erosion around the Pond. These new initiatives have been in place since the opening of the Pond and have been helping to improve communication around how best to enjoy this community gem. You will note there is now a clearly demarcated shoreline protection area with newly installed visual identifiers around the large sandy area at the public access point, and signage to identify where the public is allowed and requesting people respect the protected shoreline areas. The City also continues its pumping program to help mitigate the declining water levels.

CITY HALL / QUEENS PARK



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

We can be Proud of Ottawa

For years, Ottawa was thought of as a sleepy government town, but I'm proud to say that this misconception is no longer what comes to mind when people think about Ottawa. Today, our City is recognized among some of the world's most sustainable, cycling-friendly cities, and as one of the most business-friendly places, with one of the most diverse tech hubs in North America and the most stable employment rate among major Canada cities. The latest unemployment numbers show that the national capital region has hit a thirty-year low, down to 4.2 percent in April.

For the past two years, *MoneySense Magazine* has ranked Ottawa the best place to live in Canada, and it has been featured as a travel destination in *The L.A. Times* and *The New York Times*. It was THE place to celebrate Canada's 150th in 2017, generating over \$320 million in economic activity and engaging Ottawa residents and visitors from around the world like never before. We also saw the success of City-building projects like the revitalized Lansdowne Park, the Innovation Centre at Bayview Yards, and the newly expanded and redeveloped Ottawa Art Gallery and Arts Court.

Ottawa is also known as the City of Festivals, generating important economic and tourism activity, and enriching our cultural scene. RBC BluesFest, Glowfair, CityFolk, Dragon Boat Festival, Canadian Tulip Festival, the Carp Fair, Fringe Festival, Animation Festival, TD Jazz Festival, Winterlude and Capital Pride are just a sample of the many festivals and fairs that return to our City – bigger and better every year.

Later this year we will launch the first stage of our O-Train LRT system. Construction for the second phase, Stage 2, will start in 2019, bringing light rail farther west to Algonquin College, Bayshore Shopping Centre and Moodie Drive, farther east to Place d'Orléans and Trim Road, and farther south to Bowesville and Limebank, with a link to the Ottawa International Airport. We have also started Environmental Assessments to bring LRT to Kanata/Stittsville and Barrhaven. We invested a record \$80 million in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in this Term of Council, and increased the City's 2018 road resurfacing budget to a total of \$45.2 million. These infrastructure improvements complement our green and environmental initiatives, such as the conversion of 58,000 streetlights to LED technology, plant-

ing nearly 400,000 trees in the last four years and keeping the Ottawa River Action Plan on track to offer future generations clean environment and water to drink. Ottawa's transformation is truly something we can be proud of. I look forward to seeing the bright future of our City.



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

Advocating for the Community

I am honoured to continue to represent the residents of Ottawa-Vanier at Queen's Park. As your representative, I will continue to advocate for our community and for all of its residents. I will continue to support and encourage our dynamic associations, our schools, hospitals, post-secondary institutions and multiple businesses and economic actors.

My priorities are to ensure that seniors and vulnerable people have access to the services they need; that we create good and affordable housing; ensure access to jobs and opportunities for all, regardless of origins, handicap, race or religion; protect our environment; and support the bilingual character of our community.

On June 29, the new government was sworn in and **Doug Ford's** cabinet was announced, and I have been assigned the following critic responsibilities: Municipal Affairs and Housing, Women's Issues, Attorney General, Environment, Conservation and Parks, Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, Community Safety and Correctional Services.

On July 13, the Throne Speech was read by the Lieutenant Governor General of Ontario, **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, at Queen's Park. This Speech presented a glimpse of the new government's priorities. It gives us all an opportunity to see whether or not the government's priorities align with the issues that are most important to us. Now more than ever, we need people's voices to be heard as we adapt to changes and decisions made by this new government.

I look forward to hearing from my constituents with regards to the issues that matter most to them and to bring forward their concerns and struggles at Queen's Park. My door is always open. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have suggestions or ideas for the future of our community and of Ontario. See my website, www.nathaliedesrosiers.onmpp.ca, or contact my office by phone at **613 744-4484** or by email at ndesrosiers.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

SCHOOL REPORTS



The Class of 2018 gathered in Elmwood's historic front hall for their graduation photo.

Congratulations to Elmwood's Class of 2018!

"At Elmwood, we are given the opportunity to try out all of our interests. Whether it was being on the rugby team, trying robotics, learning an instrument or Mandarin, Elmwood gave us a safe environment to freely experiment in our passions. Elmwood has taught us to act, taught us to speak, and taught us to think like never before," said Head Girl **Bronte Assadzadeh '18** as part of her valedictory address at Elmwood's Senior School Closing Ceremony on June 15.

The Class of 2018 is an incredibly impressive group of young women. Eighty-six percent of the class were offered entrance scholarships to university, for a total of over \$1.2 million. In addition, 94 percent are considered Ontario Scholars because they had a final average of 80 percent or greater.

The graduates will be studying a diverse range of subjects in the fall – everything from behavioural neuroscience and mechanical engineering to marine biology, medicine and architecture.

Many will be studying at excellent schools across Canada, and some are going even further, studying in the United States and the United Kingdom. No matter the path they

choose, we are confident that these graduates will go on to change the world.

Congratulations, Class of 2018, and best wishes as you start your next chapter!

Take a Bow!

Members of Elmwood's senior theatre program were thrilled to win four trophies at the recent Capital Cappies Gala, for their production of *Oliver Twist*.

Leen Zagloul '18 won Best Supporting Actress; **Diya Dadlani '18**, **Carine Ladki '18**, **Cindy Li '20** and **Paige Saunders '20** won Best Costumes; **Abigail Butler '19**, **Zaina Khan '19** and **Jagnoor Saran '19** won Best Lighting; and Elmwood's Cappies Team won Best Marketing/Publicity. All in all, Elmwood Theatre was nominated for thirteen Cappie awards this year – we are so proud of our actresses, the crew, our critics, and **Mrs. Boychuk** and **Ms. Marquis** for this wonderful achievement.



The Elmwood Cappies Team celebrates their win at the Capital Cappies Gala.

Fall Open House – Saturday, October 20

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**.

SCHOOL REPORTS

ASHBURY COLLEGE



From left to right: Mohamed Ebsim, teacher Adam Drenth, Brandon Just, Will Waters and Alec Donovan just before the launch.

Ashbury College Students Launch Weather Balloon to Stratosphere

Four Grade 11 students at Ashbury College launched a weather balloon 100,000 feet into the atmosphere on June 14 to collect data and images of the curvature of the Earth.

The balloon, built entirely by the students, had a GoPro camera on board to capture 180° footage of the launch. Additional equipment, purchased with help of Ashbury donors, will record data such as temperature, air pressure, and will provide a gas analysis.

The students initiated the project as a way to test their own construction and scientific collection skills, but also to inspire STEM-related curiosity in younger students as the school prepares for construction of its new Centre for Science & Innovation.

“We basically wanted to see if we could send something into space,” says student **William Waters**. “But we also wanted to show that scientific exploration is about more than just robots.”

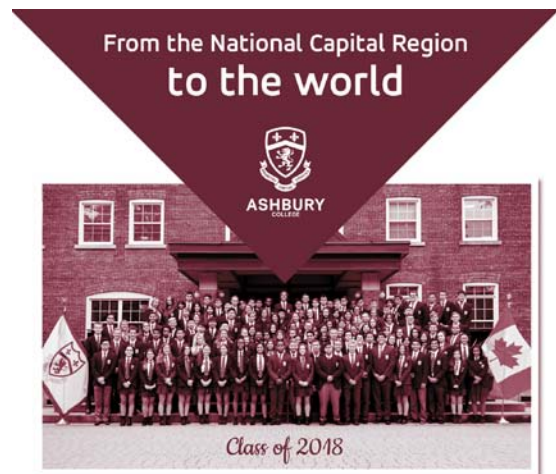
Waters says the group’s longer-term goal is to provide their experience as a model for other students and schools who may be interested in developing a launch of their own. “We learned a lot doing this and we could share those lessons with others,” he says.

The students – Waters, **Alec Donovan**, **Mohamed Ebsim**, and **Brandon Just** – launched the balloon from Ashbury’s

athletic field at just after 8:30 am. The flight took several hours, eventually landing in Lac des Deux Montagnes, Quebec. All the equipment was recovered and the students are reviewing the data collected.

Admissions Information Evening, Wednesday, October 24

Interested in discovering the Ashbury advantage? Join us on October 24 at 6:30 pm to learn more about our admissions process and financial assistance opportunities. Tour the school, chat with faculty, parents and students about our academic and athletic programming and co-curricular offerings, and see our exciting 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. Contact admissions@ashbury.ca for more information.



Félicitations | Congratulations

to the 137 members of our 126th graduating class,
and to the global universities that will welcome them this fall.



Grades 4–12 | Coeducation | IB | ashbury.ca
Financial assistance available
Now accepting applications for 2019–20



WILDLIFE NOTES

The Canada Goose female that incubated its eggs for weeks brought off four goslings on May 17. The nest was on the mound of sticks at the entrance to the lake inlet, across from the wooden footbridge and within metres of people walking the path every day. Her grey form was hard to distinguish from the large surface of old sticks, and when walkers approached she held her head down, facing them, so hardly any white plumage was visible.

With my head down, in the conservation area early on June 19, I realized a Redstart was singing persistently overhead. I stopped to look up and spotted a tiny nest on a slim tree stem some four metres away. A Redstart adult arrived and settled on the nest, so I backed off and stayed away from the site. On succeeding mornings, I checked the nest from a distance. It was attended. On June 24, when adults arrived with food, the head of only one nestling appeared above the nest edge. Usually there would be four small Redstart heads



reaching up for food. What is striking is the size of the nestling. Its head appears larger than that of the adults, and there seems only room in the tiny nest for that one nestling. My guess is that the nest was parasitized by a Cowbird laying an egg. The larger Cowbird nestling would have outcompeted the Redstart nestlings, and they would have died.

Woodland-nesting Redstarts are susceptible to parasitism by open-country Cowbirds where they occupy the same landscape, such as the Ottawa area mix of patches of woodland in open country with agriculture. Rates of parasitism in such landscapes have been found between 16 and 42 percent. Where Redstarts nest in large tracts of forest, parasitism drops to zero.

On July 2, two juvenile Redwings were hunting on their own through the tree branches above the lake inlet in the conservation area. They were skillful and speedy, clearly experienced. Nearby a juvenile but full-sized Grackle on the ground successfully conned an adult into feeding it. By July 12, only a few Redwings or Grackles remained around the

marsh, so the rest of the adults and young had left to flock with others, feeding and roosting in the countryside.

Around the lake, the Tree Swallows that nested in boxes had all left by about June 28. I first saw one perched on a box on May 2. A two-month presence. At least five boxes have been occupied, results to be confirmed in winter when ice will allow inspection. The evening of July 10, **Susan d'Aquino** watched a female Wood Duck and two half-grown young feeding in the lake. Since the young cannot fly, they must have been hatched within walking distance of the lake. Since I had taken down the duck nesting boxes at the lake edge, this family nested in a hole in a tree. Many years ago, **Iola** and I helped a brood of just-hatched Wood Ducklings get to the lake from Roxborough and Juliana. They can walk quite a distance.

Garden Events:

A Robin pair built their second nest on June 19 in one of our lilacs. They are now feeding small young. Their first nest was in the garden behind us, but our garden is part of the territory that the male defends by singing from our street trees in front of us, facing across the road. The male in the opposite garden sings back, also facing the road. So the two males face each other, with occasional skirmishes in which one flies across the territorial line, namely the road, to razz the neighbour. The air space above the perch-free road forms a practical boundary zone, yet both families may search the road surface for insects that fall from overhanging trees.

Most unusually, no Chickadees fledged from our three garden nest boxes. Two contained nests, but only one had eggs – six, abandoned at mid-incubation.

Yesterday, working in one of our wild borders, as I approached a dogwood it erupted with flying Song Sparrows, adults and young, stridently noisy. For the rest of the day, if I set foot in the garden an adult would confront me, persistently calling. Evidently a newly-fledged brood was being protected.

Anthony Keith
14 July 2018

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 4

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join Us on September 12 for Updates to the Neighbourhood Watch Program

Rockcliff Village has been a Neighbourhood Watch community for many years. Now that new security issues are arising and policing strategies are becoming more response-based, Neighbourhood Watch is as important as ever but needs to be updated. We're making the program more pro-active, less formal, and better integrated with RPRA membership. And it's now easier than ever to join – simply check the box when you fill out your RPRA membership form, or send an email to rpranw@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Watch members are encouraged to be mindful of security/safety issues. Security tips specific to our community are available as well as "All Valuables Removed" cards to leave in parked cars, and "Operation Identification" to protect valuables. It's important to know when and how incidents or suspicious activity should be reported, since identifying crime patterns helps make police efforts more effective. Your Block Captain can help, or email rpranw@gmail.com.

The role of Block Captain is being revised. There is no longer a requirement to have people fill out membership forms, and no restrictions on how to communicate. We will also be asking them to help welcome new residents to the Village – more about that at an orientation meeting at the Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road, on Wednesday, September 12 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. All Rockcliff Park Block Captains are invited. Our Community Police Officer, **Cst. Vianney Calixte**, will be there. If you're not currently a Block Captain but are thinking of volunteering, do join us. We'll discuss the new strategies for the Neighbourhood Watch program, and look for further suggestions. If you're a current or prospective Block Captain but won't be able to come to the meeting, please contact **Kay James**, Coordinator, Rockcliff Park Neighbourhood Watch, by email at rpranw@gmail.com.

Opera Picnic in Rockcliff Park

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Canada is honoured to invite Ottawa residents to a special opera picnic featuring performances of favourite opera arias and more by artists from the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio on the grounds of the Ambassador's Residence in Rockcliff on Thursday, September 20 at 5:00 pm.

Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio is Canada's premier training program for young opera professionals. Since 1980, the program has provided more than 230 emerging Canadian artists with their first professional opera experience and served as an important platform for sharing the breadth of Canada's opera talent.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a lovely and very entertaining evening! For more information go to <http://sogerman.ca/events/opera-picnic-rockcliff>.



Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio for 2017/2018. Photo: Gaetz Photography

Rideau-Rockcliff Community Centre Fundraisers

Clothes for a Cause – Encore!

Saturday, September 29

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

St. Bartholomew's Church

125 MacKay Street, New Edinburgh

Sale of vintage and good quality men's and women's pre-loved clothes and accessories to raise funds for the food bank at the Rideau-Rockcliff Community Resource Centre. Cash only. To donate items for the sale before September 15, please contact communications@crerr.org or phone 613 745-0073, ext. 145.



Community Get-Together

Friday, November 30

6:00 to 8:00 pm

St. Bartholomew's Church

125 MacKay Street, New Edinburgh

In support of the Rockcliff Park Residents Association's annual fund drive for the Centre. Cash bar, food, silent auction, featuring a performance by the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. Tickets: \$40, which includes a glass of Prosecco. For more info please contact communications@crerr.org or phone 613 745-0073, ext. 145.



END NOTES

Congratulations to longtime Village resident Diana Rowley on celebrating her 100th birthday in June with a reception attended by family and friends at the Community Hall.



Save the Date – September 30 – And Ready Your Walking Boots

As part of its Walking Tour series, Heritage Ottawa presents “The Village of Rockcliffe Park” on Sunday, September 30, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, led by local historian **Martha Edmond**, author of *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village*. Learn about the history of the Village and the role the MacKay and Keefer families had in determining its layout and the design of many of its homes. You will not want to miss this fun and informative event! Meet at the intersection of Lisgar Road and Princess Avenue. Heritage Ottawa members: \$5; non-members: \$10 (payable by cash at start of the tour). For more information on this and other walking tours and lectures, go to www.heritageottawa.org.

Spring Tea Fundraiser Helps Ottawa Newcomers

Spring was definitely in the air at the Spring Tea Fundraiser hosted by ELTOC (English Language Tutoring for the Ottawa Community) on May 26 at St. Bartholomew’s Church in New Edinburgh.

ELTOC is a not-for-profit organization which provides one-on-one English language tutoring to newcomers who are unable to attend regular English as a second language classes. The tutoring is provided in the students’ homes by volunteer tutors who are trained and supported by ELTOC.

The event was organized by **Liz Heatherington**, a volunteer tutor and member of the ELTOC Board of Directors. Net proceeds will go towards the purchase of teaching materials. As well as being a fundraiser, this event was a celebration of ELTOC’s Executive Director, **Mita Basu**, who is retiring after 24 years. ELTOC was very pleased to have Rideau-Rockcliffe City Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum** say a few words in recognition of Mita’s contributions and the valuable service that ELTOC provides to newcomers in the community.

ELTOC would like to thank St. Bartholomew’s Church for providing such a fine space, and **Linda Assad-Butcher** and her team of great volunteers, who helped to keep things running smoothly.

To learn more about ELTOC and/or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor you can go to the website at www.eltoc.ca. Donations are always welcome.



The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association is looking for someone who can take minutes at our Board meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:15 pm at the Community Hall. Occasional or monthly help is welcome. For more info contact secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

Calling All Classic Movie Fans: Join your neighbours, friends and family on Saturday, August 24 in the Jubilee Garden (corner of Mariposa and Buchan) for a free outdoor screening of the timeless film noir classic *The Maltese Falcon*, sponsored by the RPRA. Arrive at 8:30 pm to visit the wine/beer cash bar and get settled – bring your own lawn chair or blanket and a wrap for when the temperature drops (and possibly some bug spray). The show starts at 9:00 pm. See you at the movies!

