

**ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018**



**Annual General Meeting of the RPRA and
The Village Foundation's Report to the Community**

February 27, 2019 at 7:00 pm | Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

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Cover: *This charming bronze sculpture sits outside the east entrance to the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall and the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Though the artist is not identified, the work is strongly reminiscent of 'The Secret Bench of Knowledge' by Czech-born Canadian sculptor Lea Vivot. Rockcliffe's sculpture features two young children enjoying a book together, a tribute to the pleasures of reading.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It gives me great pleasure to present the 2018 Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association.

On a lovely winter afternoon in mid-December, it was my privilege to attend the grand opening of the new skating rink and the Rockcliffe Park Field House. The rink was packed with children of all sizes and assorted parents, as well as other residents who turned out in great numbers to witness the opening. This marks the completion of a project more than a decade in the making that was entirely driven by local enthusiasts. Ideas and vision changed over the years, and what we have been presented with is a magnificent four-season outdoor facility available to the entire community. Rockcliffe now sports two fantastic skating surfaces for winter fun, a fully reconstructed soccer pitch, a 200-metre running track and a summer sports pad for games such as basketball and pickleball. A project this size is complex, and there is much more to it than drafting plans and pouring concrete. It took a lot of goodwill, cooperation and coordination among several stakeholders, and I am delighted to report that it has all come together in a splendid fashion thanks in no small part to the efforts of **Imbaw Storer**. Many people contributed their time and money over the years, and I would like to extend our thanks to those who did. However, this project could not have reached completion without the skills and resources of **Shawn and Louise Malhotra**. On behalf of the residents of Rockcliffe Park, I wish to recognize and thank them for their efforts and generosity.

This was a busy year for the Board. In a significant transition, we welcomed six new members. They have settled in and we look forward to a productive 2019. We also saw the launch of our redesigned website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, which we hope will be appreciated and well-used by our residents. A new online payment system will bring our small organization firmly into contemporary times by allowing residents to pay for membership dues with their credit cards. Speaking of membership, annual dues are an important source of revenue for our association, facilitating activities not specifically funded by The Village Foundation. We note that our 2018 membership numbers dropped below the 2017 levels; with the new tools at our disposal, we hope to bring those numbers up in the coming year.

Building on last year's success of our Outdoor Movie Night, the RPRA, with Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, screened two films over the summer. The 'Bogart' night on August 24 was particularly popular and suggests an interest in timeless classic films. We plan to have at least two film nights in 2019 focusing on teen and adult classics to complement Lindenlea's focus on movies for kids.

The 2018 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale in support of the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library was an outstanding success, seeing a 12 percent increase in revenues and a larger turnout over 2017. Improvements in tent size and quality – including a clear roof allowing for a brighter atmosphere inside – and a pleasant change in the weather contributed to another banner year. This year's Sale allowed for grants of \$36,000 to be given to the Ottawa Public Library system. It takes a huge team of dedicated volunteers working throughout the year to create a successful event such as this, and big thanks go to **Linda McDonald, Jane Newcombe** and **Kevin Phillips**, and to the crew of volunteers who contribute their time, knowledge and back muscles. The annual Book Sale is well supported by the community at large and, aside from punters who come from all over the City, we recognize the generous support of sponsors **Chartwell New Edinburgh Retirement Residence, RBC Wealth Management | Montgomery Asset Management** and **Dymon Storage**. Thanks also to **Epicuria Food Shop and Catering** for providing the volunteers with much-needed sustenance on the Sale days.

The ever-popular Speakers Program continues to draw large crowds, sometimes spilling out into the hallway. We had two speakers addressing heritage matters as part of a programme to talk more in the

Village about heritage issues. Many thanks to **Susan d'Aquino** for her continued efforts in providing the community with interesting and topical speakers. We look forward to an exciting programme in 2019.

The annual Spring Village Clean-up was also well-attended, producing more than 50 bags of garden waste and six bags of garbage. Many thanks go to the volunteers who clearly made a contribution to the attractiveness of our community.

This past year also saw the first commercial sponsorship of an issue of *The Rockcliffe News*, a move that The Village Foundation has encouraged. We hope to continue this practice in 2019 with issues sponsored by local businesses. They will be restricted to a single sponsor for each newsletter and the revenue will allow us to continue to improve and build sustainability of the newsletter. Many thanks are due to editor **Cynthia Hamady** for the countless hours she puts into the production of each issue, and to the group of volunteers who proofread, edit, collate and hand deliver the newsletter to every residence in the Village.

In April of 2018, the Ontario Municipal Board ceased to exist, replaced by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. This change has done nothing to expedite the decision from the September 2017 hearing at which the challenge to our Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCDP) was heard. As of this writing and in spite of many queries, no decision has been rendered and we remain in a legal limbo wherein the City is applying the HCDP as a matter of policy alongside Rockcliffe's earlier heritage protection provisions. The RPRA will continue to liaise with City officials to push for a resolution of this matter. **Susan d'Aquino** stepped down as Chair of the Heritage Committee (with **Linda Dicaire** taking on the role) and refocused her energies on an outreach programme that saw three workshops held with representatives from Heritage Ottawa and 16 heritage conservation districts in Ottawa. Renowned heritage architect and conservator **Julian Smith** provided expert leadership and summarized the findings of the three workshops in a report published by the RPRA. We continue to work with these heritage districts to engage the City in protecting and enhancing its heritage.

The RPRA's annual fundraising campaign, this year for the food bank at Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC), was launched at a special community gala and silent auction held at the end of November in the community hall of St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church in New Edinburgh. Local businesses and individuals generously provided over 60 silent auction items. Many thanks to RPRA Board member **Nicolas Temnikov**, along with **Elizabeth Heatherington**, **Lauren Touchant** and a host of others who worked for months to make this event a success. We set an ambitious goal – to raise \$25,000 – and by the end of December we received donations of about \$18,000. We expect to continue to support the efforts of RRCRC in helping those in need in our adjacent neighbourhoods.

There was plenty of snow for the 2018 Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing. An unfortunate glitch in the lights meant that only half the tree lit up during the singing by the Elmwood School Junior Choir, much to the embarrassment of your intrepid president, whose job it was to ensure everything was working! Many thanks to the **Salvation Army Brass Ensemble of the Ottawa Citadel Band** and the **Elmwood Junior Choir** for their music, and to **Jim** and **Nancy Carr** for hosting the event with cookies, hot chocolate and hot apple cider. In my report last year, I mentioned a group of us merrily singing with **Diana Rowley** until the band's fingers froze. Diana was greatly missed this year as she passed away in September at 100 years of age.

Our Children's Christmas Party was, as ever, very well attended. Santa came and, as in previous years, the children were treated to horse-drawn 'sleigh' rides and gingerbread house-making. Many thanks to **Imbaw Storer** and his crew of volunteers for pulling off another great party.

The activities of the RPRA could not take place without the financial support of **The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation**. In 2018, the RPRA received a grant of over \$30,000 to carry out activities in support of the Foundation's key priorities: Community Building, Heritage and

Environment. On behalf of the RPRA, I would like to thank the Foundation and its chair, **Bonnie Robinson**, for their continued critical support of Rockcliffe Park. We look forward to building on our relationship in the years ahead.

In the final weeks of 2018, we learned that our councillor, **Tobi Nussbaum**, after resoundingly winning re-election, had been named CEO of the National Capital Commission. This came as quite a surprise and it means that we will be hosting two candidates' debates later this year as we face both a municipal by-election, probably in the late spring, and a federal election in the fall. On behalf of the RPRA, I would like to thank Tobi for all the work he did for our ward and wish him success in his new and challenging role.

The Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Wednesday, February 27; I hope to see you all there. As a result of one of the bylaws that was introduced at the 2017 AGM that established five-year term limits for executive positions on the Board, **Marilyn Venner** will be stepping down as Board Secretary and the first order of business will be to nominate a replacement. I wish to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution Marilyn has made over the years as our secretary. The RPRA would also like to recognize the efforts of all the volunteers who have selflessly contributed their time and expertise to keep our neighbourhood ticking along. To this end we will again host a volunteer appreciation reception ahead of the AGM, a tradition that was begun last year, and I look forward to thanking everyone in person.

In closing, to all residents of Rockcliffe Park, I encourage you to support your residents' association by ensuring that you are fully paid up as a member, and also to consider volunteering your time and skills. As is so often the case in a neighbourhood organization, we need to recruit more volunteers. If you have an interest in getting involved and helping out with various activities, either one-time or ongoing, please let us know at secretary@rockcliffepark.ca. To my colleagues on the RPRA Board, it has been my great pleasure to have worked with you over the past year and I look forward to continuing our efforts in building our community, protecting our environment and conserving our heritage in 2019.

Peter Lewis, President



Current and past presidents of the RPRA gathered for the unveiling of the Presidents' Circle plaque. From left: Anthony Keith, Jane Dobell, Peter Lewis, Brian Dickson and Alexander Macklin.

Presidents' Circle

On Wednesday, November 21, 2018, the RPRA unveiled a plaque to honour its four former presidents: **Jane Dobell** (2001-2004), **Anthony Keith** (2005-2007), **Alexander Macklin** (2007-2008) and **Brian Dickson** (2009-2016). We are grateful to these four for their exemplary leadership and dedication to our community.

The RPRA was established in 2001, upon amalgamation with the City of Ottawa, to be the interface between the Village and the newly-enlarged City, and to continue to protect its heritage character, its natural environment, and encourage a sense of community.

HERITAGE AND PLANNING

Heritage

The RPRA's Heritage Committee reviews and advises the City on development applications for alteration or additions to, or demolition of, existing Rockcliffe Park properties, and construction of new houses in Rockcliffe Park. The objective is to protect the special heritage character of our area by ensuring that the provisions of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan and Secondary Plan (part of Ottawa's Official Plan), as well as Canada's conservation standards, adopted by Ottawa, are respected and applied consistently and transparently.



This historic Rockcliffe residence was featured in Linda Dicaire's article, 'Pride of Place,' in the August 2018 issue of The Rockcliffe News.

Photo: Linda Dicaire

In 2018, the Heritage Committee reviewed or commented on 29 applications or issues. Five applications were for demolition/new construction. We received 12 applications for additions/alterations, one for severance, and delivered opinions on 11 zoning or by-law issues. The Heritage Committee invites any resident who is considering alterations to consult with the committee for early advice. Contact secretary@rockcliffepark.ca AND **Linda Dicaire** at linda.dicaire@gmail.com for more information.

The RPRA is grateful to the following committee members for generously donating much of their time and professional expertise: **Linda Dicaire** (Chair), **John Cook**, **Marianne Feaver**, **Daniel Goldberg**, **Michelle Collum Hayman**, The Honourable **Michael Kelen** and **David McRobie**.

The RPRA's Heritage Outreach team invited **Julian Smith**, leading heritage architect and planner, to hold workshops with representatives of Ottawa's heritage conservation districts and Heritage Ottawa to share perspectives on the state of heritage protection in Ottawa. His report, *Ottawa's Heritage Conservation Districts at Risk: Report and Recommendations*, details the fundamental issues shared across Ottawa and recommends a greatly enhanced role for communities' heritage experts in the City's decision-making process. The report was shared with City councillors and staff, and distributed with December's *Rockcliffe News*. To engage residents in heritage matters, Julian Smith also addressed our Speakers Program in March, and **Christina Cameron**, world expert on heritage, spoke in October. *Heritage Matters* articles on various topics relating to the Village appear regularly in *The Rockcliffe News*.

NB: After more than a year, the Ontario Municipal Board has not rendered a decision on the Richcraft appeal against the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan. We have raised this issue with our MPP.

Linda Dicaire and Susan d'Aquino

Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton

The FCA is the forum for community associations and similar non-profit volunteer groups in Ottawa to share information about issues facing their communities and, when appropriate, take joint action. The 35+ member FCA includes associations from the City centre, the inner suburbs, the suburban communities outside the Greenbelt, and rural Ottawa. In 2018, FCA priorities included traffic calming, spot zoning and development/heritage issues, and the municipal election. The FCA issued reports on such topics as City governance, new forest management rules and tornado relief. The RPRA has been a member of the FCA since amalgamation. We welcome volunteers who are interested in wider community issues and would like to attend the monthly FCA meetings and report back to us. As the FCA meetings conflict with RPRA Board meetings, it difficult for Board members to attend the FCA meetings regularly.

Chris Barker and Bea Hampson

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Treasurer's Report

The RPRA maintains a fiscal and membership year ending December 31. The restricted funds for Library and Heritage are controlled by the respective committees. The remaining restricted funds for Environment and Community plus unrestricted funds are controlled by the RPRA Board of Directors. Long-term cash is invested in easy-to-cash, low-risk government bonds. A separate Finance Committee oversees the RPRA's financial activities.

In 2018, the RPRA received \$30,363 in grants from The Village Foundation and \$5,300 from membership fees. The fiscal year ended with 2018 net assets \$11,767 lower than the previous year. Full details of the RPRA's financial statements may be found in Appendix A on pages 17 to 19 of this report.

Angelica Bolitho

Membership

Membership in the RPRA provides critical support for the Association's work in representing the community's interests at City Hall, and membership dues help finance community events and communications. Our membership total at the end of 2018 was 212, a slight decline from the previous year's numbers. To facilitate and encourage membership, online registration is now available. The system, including secure payment via PayPal, may be accessed on our website at rockcliffepark.ca/shop. For those who prefer paper forms and payment by cheque or cash, membership forms may still be downloaded from the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, or obtained by contacting secretary@rockcliffepark.ca. Forms are also issued to all residents in the December issue of the newsletter.

The annual fee remains at \$25 per household per calendar year, with the option of paying in advance for an additional year. Starting in 2019, complimentary membership will be given to new residents for their first year or partial year.

Kay James

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Speakers Program

This was the 18th year of our community's Speakers Program. Held in the Community Hall on Wednesday evenings periodically throughout the year, these popular events are an opportunity for friends, neighbours and newcomers to hear from outstanding individuals, engage them in discussion, and enjoy coffee and homemade cookies afterwards. Admission is free.

In 2018, we were pleased to welcome the following speakers:

Bob Plamondon, author and historian, spoke about his book on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, aptly entitled *The Shawinigan Fox*.

Julian Smith, one of Canada's leading heritage architects and planners, gave us a compelling account of why Ottawa's heritage, including its heritage districts like Rockcliffe Park, is at serious risk.



Barry McLoughlin enchanted us with impersonations of political leaders, November 14, 2018.

Photo: Laura Peck

Stephen Bleeker and **Kristine McGinn** from Assurance Home Care outlined in detail the key issues and the options available if one wishes to age in one's own home.

Helen Antoniou came from Montreal to talk about her frank and engaging book, *The Story of Eric Molson: Back to Beer and Hockey*.

Andrew Leslie, Member of Parliament, held everyone's attention during a difficult and sensitive time when he spoke about NAFTA in the Canada-US relationship.

Christina Cameron, past chair of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, told us the fascinating story of world heritage sites and the various reasons they are threatened.

Barry McLoughlin, well-known political and leadership consultant, kept us engrossed with his account of politics and media in the disruptive world in which we live.

Andrew Cohen, celebrated author, columnist and former Washington correspondent, shared his insights into the turbulence of Trump's Washington, post mid-term elections.

Special thanks to **Nancy Hooper** and **Karen Leslie**, who so graciously provide the warmth of coffee, tea and cookies, and to **Jane Dobell**, **Bea Hampson**, **Joan Kellett**, **Peter Lewis**, **Imbaw Storer** and **Marilyn Venner** for organizational support.

Susan d'Aquino

Spring Book Sale and Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library

It was a year of change for the Spring Book Sale. In 2017, **Jane Dobell** retired as head of the Library Committee. Under her guidance, the Sale had grown from its modest beginnings to the extravaganza we know today. The Book Sale Management Team of **Linda McDonald**, **Jane Newcombe** and **Kevin Phillips** inherited the challenge, and 2018 marked their first full year in the lead.

Although Sale preparations during the year were more or less uneventful, the week before the event was fraught with freezing rain, snow storms, high winds and cold, damp weather. The installation of the tent was delayed due to wind; we fretted about how the week would unfold. Would there even be a 2018 Sale?

Luck was with us. The tent company gave us a larger, stronger tent to withstand the wind. It had a see-through ceiling which would allow sunlight to shine on the books... and by Sale Saturday, the sun did shine! It was so lovely and bright, we even heard that it was too warm in the tent! Coupled with the new signage that **Claire Schofield** arranged with Kelly Signs, the wonderful weather and our A-one tent, new excitement was in the air.



It takes a crew of dedicated, tireless volunteers, both on Sale days and year-round, to produce a successful annual book sale. Pictured here, our 2018 Sale Day volunteers, ready for action!



Book Sale patrons especially appreciated the cheery natural light streaming through the clear roof of the tent.

Our client numbers increased only slightly but those who came purchased more. And our final sale figures exceeded last year's; we donated \$36,000 to the Library, 70 percent of which remains with the Rockcliffe branch.

Philip Robert, the supervising librarian, reports that our funds enhanced Rockcliffe Park's collections for children, teens and adults, as well as magazine and Express (including large print). And, according to Philip, our funding allowed a variety of programs which otherwise would not have been available. Professional

Development Day programs included programs on topics such as parrots, dance and art. Swampy Cree author **David Alexander Robertson** visited with 337 students from two neighbourhood elementary schools. Storyteller and author **Frank Sylvestre** gave four days of diversity programming in the Cumberland, Vanier, St-Laurent and Rosemount branch communities. Ottawa children's author **Catherine Austen** gave a class presentation, and planning proceeds for a French workshop on creating *Bandes dessinées* with **Eric Peladeau**.

Our funds have supported Ottawa Public Library-wide awareness of Indigenous culture and history with a focus on the residential school experience. Many copies of the book *Fatty Legs*, along with its translation, *Les bas du pensionnat*, and its sequel, *A Stranger at Home*, were purchased. Classes and community groups can read the book, create questions and then have a one-hour Skype visit with the authors, residential school survivor **Margaret Pokiak-Fenton** and her daughter-in-law, **Christy Jordan-Fenton**. The books are currently with schools and community groups. Skype visits are being scheduled. The *One School, One Book* initiative continues, where children from two different City schools read the same novel, *Lost in the Backyard*, and enjoy programming related to the themes in the book.

None of the special events would be possible without the skills and dedication of **Sonia Doyon**, the Rockcliffe Park branch librarian, and her team. The Book Sale itself puts an extra load on the library staff year-round, and we are extremely grateful for their good humour, support and expertise.

The Book Sale represents a true community event. The Sale volunteers – 35 to 40 year-round, and more than 100 the week of the Sale itself – make it all possible. They are drawn from Rockcliffe, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Manor Park, Vanier and other areas surprisingly far away. Above all, we are all grateful to those who donated an estimated 33,000 books and AV material for the 2018 Sale. So as long as you keep donating books and then buying them back, the Spring Book Sale will be a success! And we are grateful to our sponsors, **Chartwell New Edinburgh Retirement Residence**, **Brian Montgomery | RBC Wealth Management** and **Dymon Storage**, whose ongoing support gives us the feeling that we must be doing something right. Thanks also to **Epicuria Food Shop and Catering** for providing our volunteers with the sandwiches and beverages that got them through those long Sale days.

Linda McDonald

Soccer

Community youth soccer players and runners of all ages were thrilled to see a completely rebuilt soccer field and track at Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS). This project was carried out in partnership with the Rockcliffe Hosers, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, the RPPS School Council, the Lindenlea Community Association and the City of Ottawa (Minor Capital Grant). Improvements to the field included a properly crowned pitch, a new irrigation system and age-appropriate permanent goalposts.



The soccer field under construction in summer 2018. Photo: Imbaw Storer

The stone dust running track oval was modified to a useful 200-metre distance with improved perimeter drainage. An extension to create a 100-metre running straight and long jump pit was completed just as winter arrived. Additional sporting opportunities are being explored, including track and field clinics provided with the support of the Ottawa Lions.

The RPL Soccer League continued to use the field, as most of the work was completed over the summer. In 2018, the league offered programming to 221 children aged 4 to 14 in late spring and to another 12 children for soccer skills development in fall. Thanks to **Katherine Hall** and **Bruce Covington**, who lead the volunteer league, and to the many parent coaches.

Imbaw Storer

Field House and Rink

After many years of fundraising, the Rockcliffe Park Field House and sports pad officially opened in December 2018. The facility is located at the east end of the Village Green and Rockcliffe Park Public School, accessed from Buchan Road. The Rockcliffe Hosers, under the leadership of **Shawn Malhotra**, wish to acknowledge the generous support of many Rockcliffe Park residents, local businesses and the City of Ottawa in the completion of this project.

The Hosers continue to maintain the ice of both the hockey rink and Jubilee skating rink during the winter. Thanks to our many volunteers who come out on cold nights to shovel, scrape, hose and perfect the ice for a successful skating season.

Current Field House Open Hours: Monday to Friday: 4:00 to 9:00 pm; Saturday and Holidays 11:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. *Please Note:* No parking is allowed on the driveway up to the Field House, as it must remain clear for emergency vehicles. Skating during weekday school hours (8:30 am to 3:30 pm) is not permitted.

Louise Malhotra



Grand opening, December 2018.

From left: Madison Malhotra, Brian Montgomery, Louise Malhotra, Jacqui Wilson, Dylan Malhotra, Mike Wilson, Kathryn Tremblay, Shawn Malhotra and Councillor Tobi Nussbaum.

Photo: Caroline Phillips, Ottawa Business Journal

Candidates' Forum



From left: Clive Doucet, Hamid Alakozai, Tobi Nussbaum and Peter Heyck at the municipal forum, October 15, 2018. Photo: Bea Hampson

With the community associations of Lindenlea, Manor Park and New Edinburgh, the RPRRA organized two successful candidates' forums in 2018. Both events were held at the Queen Juliana Hall of Rockcliffe Park Public School.

The first forum on Tuesday evening, May 29, was to hear from Green, Liberal, New Democrat and Progressive Conservative candidates for our riding in advance of the June 7 provincial election. The event attracted about 250 people. The second forum, held on Monday evening, October 15, attracted about 200 people who gathered to hear from the ward's municipal councillor candidates and mayoral candidates in preparation for the October 22 municipal election.

Special thanks to forum organizers **Ted Bennett, Ann Davis, Bea Hampson, Sebastien Larochelle-Côté** and family, **John Leefe, Jacques Legendre, Peter Lewis, Elizabeth McAllister** and **Stelios Togias**.

Marilyn Venner

Spring Village Clean-up

Approximately 16 volunteers came out on a sunny Saturday morning in May to rake and pick up litter, and collect fallen branches. In just two hours, the crew filled 50 bags of garden waste, bundled about ten groups of branches, and filled another six or so bags of garbage.

A big thank you to the volunteers who gave generously of their time and muscle to make our community even more beautiful.

Chris Barker and Marilyn Venner



Iola Price and Anthony Keith at the 2018 Spring Village Clean-up.

Movie Night

The RPRC hosted two outdoor movie nights in 2018 in our Jubilee Garden. We showed *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* on Saturday, June 30 to a cheerful group of about 40 in number. On Friday, August 24, a larger crowd gathered to view *The Maltese Falcon*, only to realize shortly into the film that we were watching *The Big Sleep* instead! Nonetheless, it was an enjoyable evening and an enthusiastic crowd. The Jubilee Garden is a perfect venue for outdoor movie nights.

Thanks to our sponsors, **Rhodes Barker Luxury Real Estate** and **The Kingsway Health Centre**, and to **Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre**, which arranged for popcorn and movie set-up. Thanks, too, to the volunteer team who put these events together: **Aly Abdulla, Jim and Nancy Carr, Peter Lewis, Emily Moyo and Lauren Touchant.**

Marilyn Venner

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing



The Salvation Army Brass Ensemble entertained the crowd. Photo: Terry Milewski

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing was held on a lovely snow-covered Wednesday evening, December 5, at the Community Hall.

We drew a crowd of over 100, with a large number of Elmwood School pupils and parents, and a good number of residents participating. Hot chocolate and cider, along with a good selection of cookies, was on hand for the hungry choir, brass ensemble and carol singers.

The event began with the Elmwood School Junior Choir singing *O Christmas Tree* to coincide with lighting of the Christmas tree. Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC) director **Yacouba Traoré** lit the tree. Following the Elmwood School Junior Choir,

the community carol singing began, led by the Salvation Army Brass Ensemble of the Ottawa Citadel Band, which played requests from the carolers, who sang with gusto!

At the end of the evening, RPRC president **Peter Lewis** presented the band with a cheque in support of the work they do in our greater community. Another element of the evening was the fundraising to support the programs of RRCRC.

In summary, it was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

Jim Carr



Merry carolers at the 2018 Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing. Photo: Terry Milewski

Children's Christmas Party

As has become the norm the past several years, over 100 children and their families stopped by the Community Hall for the RPRC Children's Christmas Party, which was held on the second Sunday in December.



Soooo many gingerbread houses!!

Photo: Mireille Boulos

Children were treated to **John Cundell's** horse-drawn 'sleigh' rides, **Goopee's** balloon twisting,

Christmas elves, outdoor ball hockey, Christmas crafts and treats, and the incredibly popular gingerbread house construction (made possible with support from **Metro on Beechwood**). New this year was the inclusion of a Christmas photo booth where families could 'dress up' and snap a pic in front of a festive Christmas scene. Thanks to all who came, and to those who contributed to the toy collection for Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre.



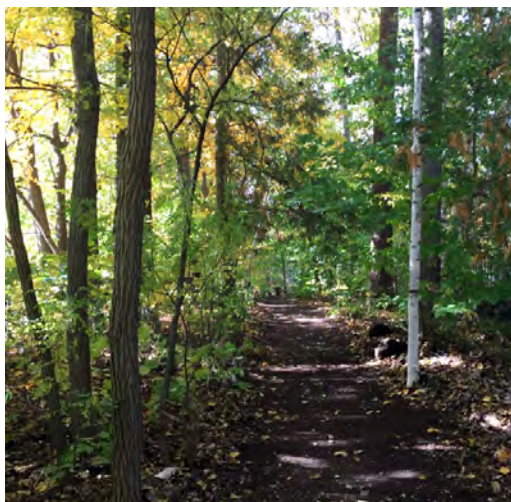
The ever-popular horse-drawn 'sleigh' ride.

There was a bit of sadness this year with the passing of team member **Inta Sipolins-Zobs** not too long before the event. However, her joyful spirit lived on through one of the largest crews of volunteers ever. Thanks to **Shobhit, Dean, Jasmin** and **Christina** from uOttawa's Days of Service Program, and **Riyaz** and **Valerie** from the RRCRC. From around the neighbourhood, siblings **Thomas** and **Catie Baxter, Adrian Burns, James Gilbert** and **Emily Torrens** joined us. Special thanks to co-leads **Mireille Boulos** and **Lindsay Schubert**, and **Darrin Reesal** (aka Santa). And an extra special thanks to **The Rockcliffe Park Foundation** for making this event possible.

Imbaw Storer

ENVIRONMENT

Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area: Environmental Remediation 2018



The conservation area looked trim and tidy after extensive efforts by volunteers, October 2018.

Photo: Yuan Xie

With the help of two stalwart and enthusiastic invasive plant removers, we continued the program of ecological remediation by removing Buckthorn. As in the past, we cut off berried Buckthorn branches, marking the cut stems for later removal.

Two major areas for removal this year were at the intersections of the paths around the Pond and the main lake trail, and along the lake shore between the fence and the water. As a result, walkers can now see more of the lake from the main path. The lake water level was too high to safely work down the slope on Hillsdale Road. All in all, we accumulated almost 350 hours of removal work.

Other volunteers helped with Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard and Dog-strangling Vine removal as their time permitted. We planted understory ground-cover (Virginia Waterleaf, Ostrich Ferns and Cardinal Flowers), rooted stems of Grey Dogwood, plus two additional Bur Oaks. And, mimicking Mother Nature,

we spread seeds of Sugar Maple, Grey Dogwood, Aquilegia and other flowers in places where there might be enough light for them to grow.

We want to express our thanks to **André Levert**, Western Supervisor, Roads and Park Maintenance, and his colleague, **Richard Carisse**, for arranging for the removal of loads of Buckthorn roots and branches over the summer. The look of the area is much improved thanks to them and the **Pond Monitors**, who did much of the hauling.

Once again, we arranged for students from the uOttawa Days of Service program, **Halima Isse**, **Yuan Xie** and **Shaoping Zhou** to come and dig up some Buckthorn, sweep the paths clear of leaves and move Buckthorn brush to the central pit. Thanks also to **John Brooks**, **Anthony Keith**, **Irene Knoepfel** and **Marilyn Venner** for helping to make the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area look more and more like the upland forest it once was.

The White Pine trees planted so many years ago by **Ewan Caldwell** continue to thrive and some are reproducing. The Trembling Aspen, Eastern Cottonwood, young Sugar Maples, Red Oaks and Chokecherry, among others, are all doing well and, in spite of the loss of the ash trees to Emerald Ash Borer, the woodlot is well on its way to recovery. We only need to keep at the Buckthorn removal and its replacement with seeds of native shrubs and trees.

Iola Price

The Pond: Water Levels and Quality

Jane Newcombe graciously took over collecting water samples from the Pond and delivering them to a local laboratory, as **Derek** and **Pat Chase** have moved to Toronto. Derek had been our volunteer water tester for many years and we thank him for his longstanding commitment and contributions to the Pond, the conservation area and to our community.

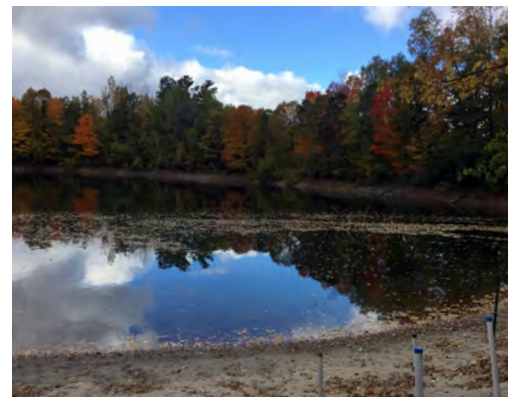
The contract laboratory analysed the Pond water test samples for Phosphorus and Nitrogen. This year, two water samples were collected – in August and September. The Phosphorous and Nitrogen levels were well within the range of values of previous years. It does not appear that the pumping of water from the deep well into the Pond had any significant impact on Phosphorous and Nitrogen levels. Next year, we will start earlier and increase to five or six the number of samples taken.

Additionally, the RPRA worked with the City to introduce signage that promotes responsible use of the Pond as a conservation area and also actively encouraged continued water pumping and erosion control. We recently met with City officials to discuss lessons learned from the summer of 2018 and to develop a plan of action for the coming year.

Brian Dickson and Iola Price

Jubilee Garden and Village Green

Thanks to generous funding from **The Village Foundation**, the RPRA was able to fix up the cedar hedging surrounding the Jubilee Garden, having the dead trees removed and new ones planted. We also replaced two crabapple trees, one that had died and one that was vandalized. A small team of volunteers planted and watered these new trees. To protect the cedars at the south end, we arranged for a soaker hose to be installed around the perimeter of the hedging. Neighbours who strolled along the Village Green paths would have admired the begonias planted beside the Centennial Garden. Thanks to



The Pond, October 2018. Photo: Yuan Xie



Pulling weeds and dead brush from the Jubilee Garden, October 2018.

Margot Gualtieri for the gift of these flowers. Then, later in October, energetic students **Jade Fernetich**, **Yuan Xie** and **Shaoping Zhou** from uOttawa's Days of Service program helped us trim the Oriental Bittersweet climbing the decorative pillars of the Jubilee Garden pavillion. This invasive vine grows quickly each summer and it is important that it not be allowed to reach the roof, where it may creep under and lift up the new shingles.

Once the vines had been cut back, the volunteers set to work doing a general fall cleanup, removing invasive Norway Maples from the cedar hedge and cutting out deadwood from the ornamental shrubs outside the Garden.

Marilyn Venner and Iola Price

ROCKCLIFFE PARK SAFETY AND SECURITY

Neighbourhood Watch



Rockcliffe Park has been a Neighbourhood Watch community for many years. Now that new security issues are arising and policing strategies are becoming more response-based, the program is being updated to be more proactive and less formal. RPR membership now includes membership in Rockcliffe Park Neighbourhood Watch. The role of local representatives – block captains – is also being revised; there is no longer a requirement to have people fill out membership forms, and no restrictions on how to communicate. Starting in 2019, block captains will be asked to join RPR Board members in welcoming new residents.

Neighbourhood Watch encourages residents to be mindful of security and safety issues, and to report any incident, however minor, to police so that patterns of criminal behaviour can be tracked and resources allocated appropriately. Non-emergency incidents that did not involve violence, or where loss or damage was less than \$5,000, may be reported online at www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp, or by calling **613 236-1222, ext. 7300**. Call **911** in case of life-threatening emergency or crime in progress (which could include seeing strangers lurking around your car or property); for other police emergencies, call **613 230-6211**. For additional contact information, see the report on the next page from the Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre.

All RPR members who have provided email addresses will receive notification in case of a police alert or emergency in the community. Starting in 2019, a quarterly summary of police crime reports for Rockcliffe Park will be posted on our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. As of March 2018, our Community Police Officer is **Constable Vianney Calixte (613 236-1222, ext. 5823)**. Also please note: The Community Police Centre for Rockcliffe Park and surrounding areas is now located at 252 McArthur Avenue. If planning to stop in, call in advance to ensure that someone will be available to assist you.

Rockcliffe Park is currently putting together an Emergency Preparedness plan, with a view to providing an information resource for the community and for emergency responders in case of events such as ice storms, flooding, loss of communications etc. The plan is being prepared in coordination with surrounding communities and the City of Ottawa's Office of Emergency Management, and will be posted on the Rockcliffe Park website.

Kay James

Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre



Our community safety officer, **Constable Jonathan Kenney**, stepped down in his role as community police officer for our area in 2018. We would like to express our thanks to Constable Kenney and we wish him the best going forward. We would also like to welcome **Constable Vianney Calixte**, who has replaced him.

The following is a message from Constable Calixte:

I would like to take this opportunity to share some information with RPRA members. The link below to the Ottawa Police Service Online Crime Mapping Tool will give statistics for your neighbourhood. The Ottawa Crime Map can display the last 14 days of data for selected crime categories. You can also change the date selection and crime categories to customize a search to display up to 30 consecutive days' worth of data within the last six months.

<http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/crime/crime-mapping-tool.asp>

I have also provided here some links to our Crime Prevention and Safety programs, our News Releases (if you would like to register for news updates), the Crime Prevention Ottawa Neighbourhood Tool Kit, and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services Home Security Audit Guide:

- **<http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/Crime-Prevention-and-Safety-Programs.asp>**
- **<http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/news/search.aspx>**
- **http://toolkit.crimepreventionottawa.ca/index.php?g_int_AppLanguageId=1**
- **<http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/stellent/groups/public/@mcscs/@www/@com/documents/webasset/ec076626.pdf>**

Reporting incidents to the police is important and provides us with the information needed to identify crime patterns. Please encourage all your neighbours to report any crimes in progress, suspicious activity and all other crimes to the police to assist us in addressing crime in the community.

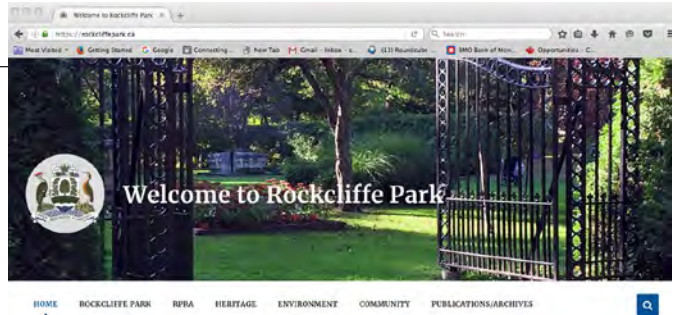
- ***911 is for crimes in progress and life-threatening emergencies***
- ***613 230-6211 for non-life-threatening emergencies (i.e. suspicious activity)***
- ***613 236-1222, ext. 7300 to report crimes that are not in progress***
- ***Online reporting at <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>***
- ***613 236-1222 for Community Police Centres and all other enquiries***
- ***Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-8477 or <http://crimestoppers.ca>***
- ***Contact Us link: <http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Contact-Us.asp>***

*Constable Vianney Calixte, Ottawa Police Service, 613 236-1222, ext. 5823
Community Police Centre, 252 McArthur Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1L 6P4. Please note that the Centres are not staffed on a full-time basis; please call in advance to ensure that someone is available to assist you.*

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications

This past year saw the launch of our beautiful new website, www.rockcliffepark.ca. Shortly after, we added online membership payments to offer our residents more options for paying their membership dues. Through the website, the bi-monthly *Rockcliffe News* and regular email updates, the RPRRA keeps its members informed of community issues, events and activities, and also provides local history, interesting facts and photographs.



The website has benefitted from the guidance, editorial support, and photographic and design expertise of **Mireille Boulos, Susan d'Aquino, Cynthia Hamady, Iola Price, Imbaw Storer** and **Marilyn Venner**. We also thank our advisors, **Glenn Crawford** and **David Rostenne**. We gratefully acknowledge financial assistance from **The Village Foundation**. We are always keen to receive your photos of Rockcliffe Park for our website; please send them, including photo captions and credits, to secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

The RPRRA aims to communicate via email with our members regularly, but not too often, to advise of special events and breaking news, such as security alerts, missing pets and political concerns. Approximately 300 RPRRA members receive these email notices. Last year, the RPRRA issued about 30 email notices to its members.

The *Welcome to Rockcliffe Park* booklet has confirmed sponsorship by five real estate companies, in addition to the support of The Village Foundation. The booklet has been updated and will be reissued this spring. Once published, it will be delivered with the newsletter to all Rockcliffe Park households.

Marilyn Venner

Newsletter Team

Thanks to editor **Cynthia Hamady** for producing another year's worth – six issues – of *The Rockcliffe News* in 2018, as well as this annual report. A full-colour web version of each newsletter is posted online at www.rockcliffepark.ca, often before the print version is delivered. We are always interested in your comments, suggestions, stories and photos; send them to editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca. Publication dates and submissions deadlines are listed in the newsletter.

Thanks to our eagle-eyed proofreaders, **Iola Price** and **Marilyn Venner**. Special thanks to **Ling Lu Langley** for organizing newsletter volunteers and distribution, to **Brian Dickson** and **Paul St. Louis** for ensuring that our volunteer deliverers receive their bundles on schedule, and again to **Iola Price**, who ensures that non-resident members receive their newsletters. And, of course, thanks to **The Village Foundation**, whose continuing financial support helps to defray printing costs.

Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers who delivered your newsletters in all kinds of weather in 2018: **Chris Barker, Stephanie Barker, Catie Baxter, Cynthia Baxter, Rachel Baxter, Sarah Baxter, Thomas Baxter, John Brooks, Brian Dickson, John Edmond, Linda Forrester, Chantal Gobeil, Alison Green, Walter Grego, Sue Harcourt, Nancy Johnson, Anthony Keith, Ana Klar, Ling Lu Langley, Sheila Macmillan, Ainsley Malhotra, Kent Manderville, Yomna Marzouk, Colin McCartney, Linda McCartney, Louise Meyer, Rodney Moore, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, Jane Panet, Iola Price, Twyla Ruta, Paul St. Louis, Gregory Sanders, Tani Sanders, Dean Saul, Mary Ann Smallwood, Inta Sipolins-Zobs, Imbaw Storer, Kate Struthers, Brad Sweeney, Mary Taylor, Si Taylor, Hans Uhthoff, Marilyn Venner, Mark Willcox** and **Maggie Zhu**.

Cynthia Hamady and Marilyn Venner

APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2018 (with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2018	2017
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	22,184.99	34,111.11
Short-term investments	56,575.47	55,895.05
Other receivables	—	4,500.00
Total Assets	<u>78,760.46</u>	<u>94,506.16</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Prepaid memberships	1,350.00	3,825.00
Accounts payable	3,348.56	4,852.68
Total Liabilities	<u>4,698.56</u>	<u>8,677.68</u>
Fund Balances		
Restricted net assets – Library	10,100.35	10,718.10
Restricted net assets – other	20,357.99	27,934.33
Unrestricted net assets	43,603.56	47,176.05
	<u>74,061.90</u>	<u>85,828.48</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>78,760.46</u>	<u>94,506.16</u>
Schedule – Accounts Payable		
Heritage	14.09	—
Library	836.12	—
Environment	30.45	2,723.30
Communications and social events	2,467.90	1,993.67
Administration	—	135.71
Total Accounts Payable	<u>3,348.56</u>	<u>4,852.68</u>

Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2018
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2018	2017
Restricted Funds – Library		
Revenue		
Sponsorships	1,750.00	2,213.80
Book Sale	45,008.70	41,349.75
Total Revenues	<u>46,758.70</u>	<u>43,563.55</u>
Expenses		
Grants to Ottawa Public Library / Friends of OPL	36,000.00	33,000.00
Expenses	11,376.45	8,335.83
Total Expenses	<u>47,376.45</u>	<u>41,335.83</u>
Change in net assets	(617.75)	2,227.72
Net assets – opening balance	10,718.10	8,490.38
Net assets – closing balance	<u>10,100.35</u>	<u>10,718.10</u>
Unrestricted Funds		
Revenue		
Memberships	5,300.00	6,850.00
Investment income	680.42	451.59
Donations	123.50	164.00
Booklet sales	63.00	32.00
Total Revenues	<u>6,166.92</u>	<u>7,497.59</u>
Expenses		
Annual report	932.25	1,036.80
Events	1,901.26	2,162.86
Environment	–	1,164.29
Contribution to soccer field / track upgrade	5,000.00	–
General administration	874.71	690.59
Insurance / filing fees	674.48	674.48
Bank charges	201.71	163.97
Membership dues	155.00	155.00
Total Expenses	<u>9,739.41</u>	<u>6,047.99</u>
Change in net assets	(3,572.49)	1,449.60
Net assets – opening balance	47,176.05	45,726.45
Net assets – closing balance	<u>43,603.56</u>	<u>47,176.05</u>

Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2018
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2018	2017
Restricted Funds – Other		
Revenue		
Village Foundation	25,863.00	26,300.00
Communications and Social Events		
Speakers Program	372.00	603.36
Newsletter sponsorship	1,000.00	–
Soccer Field and Running Track		
City of Ottawa Minor Capital Grant	10,000.00	–
Contribution from RPPS and Lindenlea	6,000.00	5,000.00
Contribution from RPRA	5,000.00	–
Total Revenues	<u>48,235.00</u>	<u>31,903.36</u>
Expenses		
Heritage		
Heritage Management Plan	2,828.79	348.82
Heritage Plan booklets	1,735.86	898.35
Environment		
Jubilee Garden / CH gardens maintenance	5,989.62	5,678.33
Village Green / JG hedges maintenance	4,853.35	1,378.60
Sprinkler upgrade / maintenance	2,075.47	321.67
Pond water analysis	150.40	238.31
Communications and Social Events		
Newsletter	5,499.91	4,932.36
Children’s Christmas Party	1,449.80	1,307.49
Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing	1,237.92	1,290.32
Movie Nights	578.77	–
Speakers Program	2,355.51	2,055.55
Website	3,180.19	1,612.88
Soccer Field and Running Track		
Upgrade	23,000.00	–
Maintenance	875.75	452.00
Total Expenses	<u>55,811.34</u>	<u>20,514.68</u>
Change in net assets	(7,576.34)	11,388.68
Net assets – opening balance	<u>27,934.33</u>	<u>16,545.65</u>
Net assets – closing balance	<u>20,357.99</u>	<u>27,934.33</u>
Schedule – Restricted Net Assets – Other		
Heritage	3,416.28	5,980.93
Environment	927.25	3,983.09
Communications and social events	524.56	2,354.66
Sports	15,489.90	15,615.65
Total Restricted Net Assets – Other	<u>20,357.99</u>	<u>27,934.33</u>