

## The Rockcliffe News

June 2019

#### **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

1	Saturday	Fletcher Wildlife Garden's Annual Native Plant Sale,
		Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre

9 Sunday ......Heritage Ottawa's Walking Tours season begins: go to https://heritageottawa.org/heritage-ottawa-walkingtours for details and the complete schedule

JUNE

18 Tuesday, 7:00 pm.......RPPS Book Fair meeting, Rockcliffe Park Public School library, 350 Buena Vista Road\*

19 Wednesday, 7:00 pm ....Heritage Ottawa Lecture Series: Saul Svirplys on "Modernism for the Masses," Orange Art Gallery, 290 City Centre Avenue; for details go to https://heritage

ottawa.org/events/modernism-masses

19 Wednesday, 7:15 pm .....RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall

22 Saturday, 2:00 pm ......June Tea for ELTOC, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista\*

25 Tuesday, 6:30 to 9 pm ...One World Grannies fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign, 90 Park Road, Rockcliffe Park\*

26 Wednesday ......Rockcliffe Park Garden Club's Annual Garden Tour\*

#### JULY

2 Tuesday, 9:00 am ......Ottawa New Edinburgh Club Summer Day Camps begin\*

4 Thursday, 3 to 6 pm .....Inaugural Beechwood Market mini market at Chartwell New Edinburgh Square, 240 Mackay Street; to run every Thursday through October 10\*

#### SUMMER 2019

Summer Break! Looking for fun activities during the summer months? Check out these free annual events:

#### RCMP Musical Ride and Canadian Sunset Ceremonies

June 27 to 30, Thursday to Sunday at sunset, Musical Ride Centre, RCMP Rockcliffe Stables, 1 Sandridge Road

The event features a performance by the Musical Ride and, as the sun sets, the silhouetted Mounties of the Musical Ride line up to take part in the flag lowering ceremony and the entire audience takes part in the singing of our national anthem. For more information, go to www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/canadian-sunset-ceremonies.

#### Northern Lights: Sound and Light Show on Parliament Hill

July 9 to September 8, various start times, Parliament Hill

Combining bold digital technology with the architectural splendour of the Parliament Buildings, this bilingual show illuminates Canadian stories of nation-building, partnership, discovery, valour, pride and vision at the heart of our country. For more information, go to www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/sound-light-show.html.

...and find lots more ideas on how to enjoy summer at www.ottawatourism.ca/events.

<sup>\*</sup>Additional information on these events may be found in this newsletter.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



There is a well-known admonition to be careful for what one wishes. Since October 2017, I have been speculating about a decision from the Ontario Municipal Board concerning the appeal to the Heritage Conservation District Plan and the demolition of the Grade 1 house at 270 Buchan Road. On April 29, the OMB rendered its decision allowing the demolition. We are deeply disappointed by this decision. We did make representations to the City to ask for an appeal on a variety of substantial grounds. It was presented to us that, on balance, a request for an appeal would not be successful and therefore the City would not pursue one. While we dis-

agree with this finding, we are relieved that the decision also upheld the Heritage Conservation District Plan – albeit in a slightly modified form, which is now a matter of law. The Grade 1 buildings in Rockcliffe now have a much more robust set of guidelines protecting them. Our Heritage Committee is working with the City to ensure that the modified version is translated and published as soon as possible. We will send out an email notice as soon as the updated version has been uploaded onto our website.

On a brighter note, the biennial fundraising event for the Village Foundation, *Dining with the Ambassadors*, was held on May 3 and was again by all accounts an overwhelming success. My wife **Ricarda** and I had the pleasure of being hosted by the Ambassador of Slovenia, Dr. Melita Gabrič, and her husband, Michael Benson. We had a delightful evening, and in addition to learning about Slovenia and Slovenian-Canadian relations, we also found out that Michael is an accomplished photographic artist with an exhibition currently at the Canadian Museum of Nature (see the notice on page 16 of this newsletter). Congratulations to Sarah Baxter and her team of Village Foundation volunteers for organizing yet another fabulous event. See the centre spread in this newsletter for highlights of that evening.

In April, you read about the Herculean efforts made by a number of people from Rockcliffe Park and neighbouring communities to create some order and clarity in the Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward by-election. Many volunteer hours went into preparing one of the largest and most complicated Candidates Forum we have ever run. On April 5, over 300 curious and, in many cases, confused folk crammed into Queen Juliana Hall to listen to 17 candidates for Ward Councillor give their pitches. It was impossible to run the same format that we had used in the past, and although some of the elements we tried out may not have worked as successfully as we had hoped, people were generally happy to have had the time to meet oneon-one with the candidates who interested them most. Warm congratulations to Rawlson King, who won a difficult race with a number of viable candidates. A huge thank you to all the volunteers from Manor Park, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Cardinal Glen and Rockcliffe Park who made this event possible.

Barely has one by-election finished when we learn of another impending. The imminent departure of MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers suggests a provincial by-election later this year. Finally, this being a federal election year, we will again be hosting a candidates' meeting likely sometime in early October. These events take a lot of planning and a certain amount of money; the money that funds these events comes from membership dues. The majority of comments I received indicated that attendees found the recent Candidates Forum to be worthwhile. This is but one example of the value of RPRA membership. Currently there are 144 fully paid members, down from over 220 paid members two years ago, so there is room for improvement. We are not sure why there has been a drop in numbers – there may be some confusion about the term of the membership. Our auditors require that memberships be based on a calendar year, meaning that the membership is only valid for the present year or, if buying a two-year membership in 2019, the present year ending December 31, 2019 and all of 2020. If you are unaware of your status, please send a query to **secretary@rockcliffepark.ca** and we can update you. If you have not yet paid for 2019, please consider doing so. It is still only \$25 per household per year, and every membership payment helps.

Aside from members, we also are in constant need of volunteers. For example, we are putting out a call for help with a potential archaeological dig project hosted by the NCC and planned for this summer on the shores of the Ottawa River. Please see the article on page 11 of this newsletter for details.

Finally, we are again planning two outdoor movie nights, in June and August. Details to come soon, so keep an eye on your email and our website for the latest updates.

Wishing everyone a fun and safe summer holiday season.

Peter Lewis, 20 May 2019

## HERITAGE MATTERS

## **Local Planning Appeals Tribunal Approves Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan**

On April 29, 2019, the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board) issued a decision approving the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan unanimously adopted by City Council in 2016. The RPHCD Plan will be posted on the City's website shortly in both official languages.

The Plan describes the heritage values and attributes of Rockcliffe Park including its buildings and landscape. It provides direction on heritage issues and on applications.

The Plan must be read together with the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada which apply.

In addition to the Plan, City Heritage Staff and the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee are embarking on new initiatives aimed at increasing our collaboration in protecting Rockcliffe Park's unique heritage together. These are:

The first is the Heritage Community Liaison program, which provides the RPRA with its own single point of contact for heritage issues at City Hall: Lesley Collins is the liaison for the RPRA for heritage issues including enforce-

ment and property standards; Linda Dicaire is the liaison for Rockcliffe Park.

The second is a pilot project related to consultation on heritage applications which is anticipated to begin in June. This pilot project will see the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee involved early in the application process and working closely with City staff to provide joint comments to the applicant at the pre-consultation stage.

For the pilot project, the City Heritage staff and the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee aspire to achieve clarity and consensus not only at the pre-consultation stage, but at all stages of the municipal process.

This will require that all parties use the guidelines and policies in the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan as the basis for their comments and ensure that there is an open dialogue to explain to each other the foundation of their comments. In this way we will learn from one another. The City and the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee will seek to respectfully work together as mutually

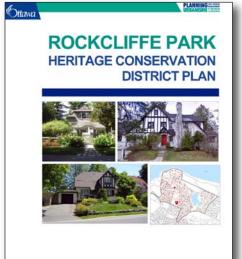
> complementary, dedicated experts. As the French say: 'Il faudra à l'occasion mettre de l'eau dans son vin.' (Occasionally, it will be necessary to put water in your wine.) This seems a positive step towards the fulfillment of a recommendation in the "Smith Report."

> Rockcliffe Park and City Heritage staff are discussing methodologies informed by standard practices in other heritage communities such as Westmount, which ranks in the top two districts in Canada for real estate values – it is definitely not compromised by stringent heritage requirements: far from it!

> We are hopeful that these initiatives will

help foster a strong working relationship between City staff and the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee, and help achieve the objectives of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan. To see the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan, go to www.rockcliffepark.ca/ heritage-conservation-district.

Lesley Collins, MCIP RPP, Heritage Planner II, City of Ottawa Heritage and Urban Design Branch, and Linda Dicaire, Fellow, CSLA MOALA MICOMOS, Chair, Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee



#### THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 3

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. Newsletter editor: Cynthia Hamady, editor:rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca.



## Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale Breaks Previous Records Once Again!



Our 2019 Sale Day volunteers.

Congratulations to everyone involved with this year's Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale. The extraordinary preparation and hard work by the management team of Linda McDonald, Jane Newcombe and Kevin Phillips, supported by the able assistance of dozens of enthusiastic volunteers, ensured yet another record-breaking sale in support of the Ottawa Public Library.

The inclement, near freezing weather early on Saturday, April 27 did not deter hundreds of booklovers who lined up in the cold waiting for the sale to open. And this was just the beginning; by the end of the day on Sunday, well over 3,000 visitors had come through the doors of the Community Centre.

"We are thrilled that the numbers are up yet again, despite the weather," said Linda. "This is wonderful news for the Library and demonstrates that the improvements we try to introduce every year make a difference. Debit and credit card sales this year contributed significantly to a 14 percent increase in revenue."

Other recent innovations, such as the improved signage and the tent with a transparent roof, clearly encouraged shoppers to browse and buy more. We were very active this year on social media, with regular and informative posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. An added bonus on Saturday morning was a CBC Radio interview with Linda and former Chair Jane Dobell, who continues to play an active role in the Sale she directed for so many years.

Our new City Councillor, Rawlson King, and his wife, Linda Grussani, dropped by to show their support, as did Mathieu Fleury, Councillor for Rideau-Vanier. They were joined by our corporate sponsors: Catherine Strevens-Bourque of Chartwell New Edinburgh Square, Frank Tonon of Guardian New Edinburgh Pharmacy, and Tim Miller of Dymon Storage, Coventry Road. Their support plays a vital role in our continued success.



Event sponsors and local politicians with sale organizers. Back row: (from left) Linda McDonald, Sale Manager; Frank Tonon, Guardian New Edinburgh Pharmacy; Timothy Miller, Dymon Storage, Catherine Strevens-Bourque, Chartwell New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence; Councillor Rawlson King; Jane Dobell, Sale Co-founder. Front row: (from left) Kevin Phillips and Jane Newcombe, Sale Managers; Councillor Matthieu Fleury.

Special thanks also go to other local businesses for their support: Epicuria, for keeping our volunteers fed during the Sale; Metro Beechwood, for their donation of bags; and to Books on Beechwood and Bridgehead for help with publicity.

Of course, no post-sale wrap-up would be complete without acknowledging the importance of all our volunteers, whose Herculean efforts make it all possible. We are also grateful to everyone who donated over 39,000 books and AV materials this year. So as long as this community keeps donating books and then

buying them back, the Spring Book Sale will be a success!

Carolyn Brereton, with photos by Mireille Boulos

## RPPS BOOK FAIR

Spring is Here...

...So it's time to clean out those bookshelves! Please donate gently used board games, books, puzzles, video games

and vinyl to the Rockcliffe Park Public School Book Fair (RPPS Book Fair). Our donation bin can be found outside the school's main entrance at 350 Buena Vista Road.

Did you know that you do not have to have a child at RPPS to become a volunteer? We are looking for people with a wide variety of skills to help make this year's Book Fair the best yet! Do you bake? Love to sort or organize? Have a knack for appraising used books? Enjoy meeting and working with friendly people in your community? If any of these apply, you would be a perfect fit for our team! Come join the many members, new and old, who make this event our main source of fundraising for RPPS students.

RPPS students look forward to Book Fair every year. The money raised supports and expands learning opportunities for the children in our school and others. Our students are inspired when they see our neighbourhood come together to encourage the love of reading and the power of community spirit.

Our next Book Fair meeting will be held June 18 at 7:00 pm in the RPPS school library. If you are interested in becoming a member of our team, please come out or contact us!

See our website, rockcliffeparkbookfair.com; email info@ rockcliffeparkpsbookfair.com; find us on Facebook at RockcliffeParkBookFair or Twitter at @RPPSBookFair.

## June Tea for ELTOC at Elmwood School, Saturday, June 22, 2:00 pm

#### (Supporting English Language **Tutoring for the Ottawa Community)**

Please join us on Saturday, June 22 for a special tea at Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road, to raise funds for English Language Tutoring for newcomers to Ottawa. There will be a Silent Auction, entertainment and a sumptuous tea. Tickets are only \$30 and include a partial tax receipt. Ask your friends and wear your favourite fascinators! To reserve tickets please call ELTOC at 613 232-8566 or email at elizmaryh@gmail.com.

## **GARDEN CLUB**

#### Rockcliffe Park Garden Club:

#### June Garden Tour

Date: Wednesday, June 26

Our popular June garden tour is scheduled for June 26 to visit the Kenmore garden of Mary Anne Schmitz of Artistic Landscaping (at right). This



trip is self-guided with driving directions and essential information provided after contacting Sandra Ferguson at 613 746-8259 or j\_s.ferguson@sympatico.ca. Please indicate if you require transportation. The afternoon can be spent lunching and shopping in the charming Village of Manotick, a 20 minute drive from Kenmore, which is a 45 minute drive from Ottawa. This is an easy day with no up-front charges, you drive yourself, you decide where and what to eat.

Lunch suggestions: Black Dog Bistro, 5540 Manotick Main (inside or outside dining), 613 692-3779; Khao Yum Thai Restaurant, 5562 Manotick Main (inside or outside dining), 613 692-8588; Bebbos Italian Restaurant, 1160 Beaverwood Road (Manotick Mews), 613 692-6100; The Millers Oven 1137 Mill Street, 613 692-4304; Kellys Landing, 1980 River Road (inside or outside dining), 613 692-1243.

Shopping: Mill Street Florist, 1136 Mill Street; NIN Collection Boutique, 5528 Manotick Main; Lasting Impressions Gift Shop, 5556 Manotick Main Street; Lindsay & McCaffrey Ltd. Clothing and Mansfields Shoes in Manotick Mews.

Best Parking: 1160 Beaverwood Road (Manotick Mews).

We hope you can join us!

## Rockcliffe Park Garden Club **President Vera Cody to Retire**



This June's Garden Tour will be the last presentation by the Rockcliffe Park Garden Club. Vera Cody, who has served as its president for the last 17 of the club's 25 years, is stepping down, and with no one to fill the position and in light of

declining attendance, the club will shut its doors after this month's event. Thanks, Vera, for your many years of work – we will certainly miss both you and the club!



## WILDLIFE NOTES

Migrant birds have been as slow to arrive as the spring has been slow to unfold.

The first Robin I heard or saw on my street, Fairview, was on 25 March – a male calling just for a moment from the same tree-top position facing across the road that last year's male used. The males always come first. Then no Robins until a pair started building a nest under our carport on 20 April. By mid-April, Cardinals were giving partial songs, migrant Juncos and White-throated Sparrows came in to our garden, as did a pair of resident Song Sparrows. Around the lake male Grackles and Redwinged Blackbirds trickled in; their numbers slowly built up. I first saw females on April 20.

Two pairs of Canada Geese were disputing property rights on the ice at the south end of the lake's large cattail marsh on 11 April – and also protesting a walker following the usual path across the ice. One female settled on the nest site used in recent years – at the entrance to the inlet across from the boardwalk nearest the Pond. I saw eggs on 28 April and she was still sitting on 11 May.

Between the main cattail marsh and the path entrance to Pond Street is a stand of flooded trees. With the lake completely covered with ice on 14 April there was just one spot with water – under those trees. As I walked by on the path above, a movement caught my eye – I froze – a male Wood Duck was swimming back and forth urgently under the trees with small stems between us, his eye fixed on me. In the low dappled light at this close range his red eye ring glowed with extraordinary brilliance, as did his other gorgeous colours. We eyed each other for a minute or two until I quietly moved away.

My first glimpse of Tree Swallows was a pair on an east marsh nestbox on the warm morning of 22 April, so I rushed to put up boxes at 245 Sylvan and at 400 Lansdowne - where Susan d'Aquino saw five swallows fighting over one box 20 minutes after installation. But since then it's been cold and I've seen only the occasional swallow. They haven't settled in yet.

The inappropriately-named Fishers, large arboreal weasels, have appeared again in the neighbourhood. Carmen Porter saw one climbing down a tree at her place on Elmdale just south of Maple Lane on April 6.

One pair and a band of five or six female Hooded Mergansers fished the Pond and Lake in the last week of April and the first days of May. The gorgeous male vigorously drove off a second female that tried to join him and his chosen.

Starting on 2 May, Pied-billed Grebe calls have echoed across the Lake from the east marsh. It is an amazingly loud call from such a small bird. The most recent nesting there may have been 2013.

As the snow level dropped in the semi-wild border between our door and the road we found large patches of Eastern Cottontail rabbit droppings. I was reminded of this last Sunday when pulling out small maple saplings along that border because many saplings had their tops clipped with the clean angled bite of a rabbit: Winter food. The clipping of the stems ranged from six inches to five feet above ground, so the rabbit may have been around there all winter.





A number of excavations of tree trunks have appeared this winter, the holes characteristically taller than wide. This shape is the trademark of Pileated Woodpeckers, the largest North American woodpecker and an indicator species of extensive wooded terrain with large trees.

As we drove through the Buena Vista/Parkway intersection the other evening there was a flash of wings: a Raven chasing a Marsh Hawk from a Muskrat-sized carcass on the busy roadway.

Anthony Keith, 15 May 2019 with photo (above right) by Vic Lanctis

Village Clean-up Wrap-up... On May 3, though few in numbers, our energetic volunteers managed to fill just under 30 bags of garden waste and multiple piles of branches for later collection by the City. Many thanks to our newly elected councillor, Rawlson King, who stopped by to lend a hand, and to all the volunteers who came out to help keep our common areas well tended.



"We had a wonderful evening at the Royaume des belges. Our bosts were superb, Junny, entertaining, and the group was great. Our bosts went all out including decorating the table with true Belgium iconic miniatures including Tintin and Milou. They served a true and delicious Belgium meal, pairing Belgium beer and/or Belgium wine with every dish..... Lots and lots of laughs. " - Robert and Marilyn Collette



Above: Representing pre-dinner Reception Presenting Sponsor: Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Christie's International Real Estate (left to right): Allan, Reba & Marilyn Wilson, Amy Pedersen. Below: Representing Friends of the Village sponsor The Minto Group: Michael and Sarah Waters.

On May 3, Rockcliffe's Dining with the Ambassadors, the Rockcliffe Foundation's principal fundraising event, was held and raised more than \$30K to support community projects and initiatives. Perhaps more important, the biennial gathering brought together longtime neighbours and friends and introduced them to the Village's newest arrivals.

The highly anticipated pre-dinner cocktail reception at the Village Community Hall was presented again this year with the generous support of Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Christie's International Real Estate. From the moment the first guests arrived, it was abuzz with anticipation for the "big reveal" that tells those gathered where they're headed to dinner. The reception also celebrates our hosts, the heads of mission, and over the years it has grown into a favourite neighbourhood tradition. After our long, hard winter hibernation, there



Representing Friends of the Village sponsor Foundation WCPD: Anabel Bane and Peter Nicholson.



Above: Ambassador of Finland, H.E. Vesa Ilmari Lehtonen and Mrs. Pirjetta Julia Manninen. Below: Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Kimihiro Ishikane and Mrs. Kaoru Ishikane.



At left: Some of our Dining with the Ambassadors Hosts (from left): High Commissioner of Cameroon, H.E.Anu'a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi and Mrs. Mercy Azoh-Mbi; Mr. Michael Benson and Ambassador of Slovenia, H.E. Dr. Melita Gabrič; High Commissioner of the Bahamas, H.E. Alvin Smith; Ambassador of Tunisia, H.E. Mohamed Imed Torjemane and Mrs. Ihssane Torjemane; Ambassador of Spain, H.E. Enrique Ruiz Molero; Ambassador of Korea, H.E.Maengho Shin; Mrs. Janka Koziakova; Mrs. Kokan Sangiampongsa; Ambassador of Slovakia, H.E. Vit Koziak; Ambassador of Thailand, H.E. Maris Sangiampongsa; Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Johan Verkammen and Mrs. Kathleen Billen.



"We were bonoured and delighted to experience our first Dining with the Ambassadors, thanks to our neighbour Marilyn, who invited us to join her. It was a wonderful evening! The Rockcliffe community is so incredible: my wife and I feel how lucky we are to be part of it."

- Jérôme and Fanny Bresson



Ambassador of Tunisia, H.E. Mohamed Imed Torjemane; Mrs. Mercy Azoh-Mbi; Mrs. Elbia Meghar; Ambassador of Algeria, H.E. Hocine Meghar; and Mrs. Ihssane Torjemane.

was such revelry this year that it was hard to leave.

But the dinners were calling and by all accounts the ensuing soirées were amazing! Each of our diplomatic hosts treated their guests to never-to-be-forgotten dinner parties. New friendships were made over spectacular dinners prepared by some of the City's best personal chefs.

Many thanks to our this year's diplomatic hosts: High Commissioner of Cameroon, His Excellency Anu'a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi and Mrs. Mercy Azoh-Mbi; Ambassador of Algeria, His Excellency Hocine Meghar and Mrs. Elbia Meghar; Ambassador of Finland, His Excellency Vesa Ilmari Lehtonen and Mrs. Pirjetta Julia Manninen; Ambassador of Israel, His Excellency Nimrod Barkan and Dr. Shlomit Shulov Barkan; Ambassador of Korea, His Excellency Maengho

(Continued on page 9)



Bob Buchan, Dean Eyre and John Bull.



Above: Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Johan Verkammen and Mrs. Kathleen Billen. Below: Adrian Burns and Carolyn Buchan.





Some of the Dining with the Ambassadors Organizing Committee members including (from left): Sarah Baxter, Fiona Murray, Marilyn Wilson, Robert Collette, Marianne Feaver, Alexandra Colt, Andrea Laurin.



"It was an honour and pleasure hosting the event Dining with the Ambassadors 2019. We shared a delightful and pleasant evening with a cheerful and enchanting group of guests with whom we have begun new and exciting friendships.

The evening will for us remain a memorable experience."

- High Commissioner of Cameroon, His Excellency Solomon Anu'a Gheyle Azoh-Mbi and Mrs. Mercy Azoh-Mbi



High Commissioner of Ghana, H.E. J. Ayikoi Otoo; Ambassador of Korea, H.E. Maengho Shin; and Mrs. Kokan Sangiampongsa.



Fruji Bull, Wendy Peters and Joanne Nelson.

Shin and Ms. Dongmin Lee; Ambassador of Spain, His Excellency Enrique Ruiz Molero and Mrs. Leticia Herberg Carrera; High Commissioner of Ghana, His Excellency J. Ayikoi Otoo and Mrs. Patricia Ayorkor Hanson-Mettle; Ambassador of Tunisia, His **Excellency Mohamed Imed Torje**mane and Mrs. Ihssane Torjemane; Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Kimihiro Ishikane and Mrs. Kaoru Ishikane; High Commissioner of Bahamas, His Excellency Alvin Alfred Smith; Ambassador of Thailand, His Excellency Maris Sangiampongsa and Mrs. Kokan Sangiampongsa; Ambassador of Slovakia, His Excellency Vit Koziak and Mrs. Janka Koziakova; Ambassador of Slovenia, Her Excellency Dr. Melita Gabrič and Mr. Michael Raymond Benson; and Ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Johan Verkammen and Mrs. Kathleen Billen.

(Continued on page 10)



Above: Ambassador of Slovakia, H.E. Vit Koziak and Mrs. Janka Koziakova. Below: Whitney Fox and Jill Dickinson.



Peter Lewis, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Board President.



Ambassador of Slovenia, H.E. Dr. Melita Gabrič and Mr. Michael Benson.



Dining with the Ambassadors guests, from left: Adnan Hadziomerovic, Claudine Michaud, Jacob and Jeannie Polisuk, Hanna Sjoeborg, Henry Storgaard, Donna Taucer, Francine Belleau, George Tawagi, Fabiano Taucer.



"It was a privilege to be a part of the excellent initiative, and lots of Jun! We truly enjoyed our guests' company and hope we will have a chance to further our acquaintance."

- Ambassador of Slovenia, Her Excellency Dr. Melita Gabrič and Mr. Michael Benson



High Commissioner of Cameroon, H.E. Anu'a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi and Mrs. Mercy Azoh-Mbi.

Shahram Akhavan and Pam Murray.



Engaging hosts, great food and appreciative guests are all that are needed for a successful evening, but our Friends of the Village supporters give Dining with the Ambassadors a boost on top of this. Many thanks to The Minto Group and Foundation WCPD.

And while Dining with the Ambassadors is just one night, it is months in the making. Thank you to our amazing group of volunteers who put this one-of-a-kind neighbourhood event together and to Sonia Doyon of our community Library, who gives our volunteer committee extra support, helping us kick off the evening on such a high note.

Dining with the Ambassadors will be back in the spring of 2021. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy these photos of neighbours from the cocktail reception, by **Leah Mowers**. To view more photos from this neighbourhood event, go to http://rockcliffeparkfoundation.org/DWA.



Ambassador of Thailand, H.E. Maris Sangiampongsa and Mrs. Kokan Sangiampongsal.



Patricia Wood, Anne Stanfield and Jean-Guy



Photo at left (left to right): Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Johan Verkammen and Mrs. Kathleen Billen: Mrs. Janka Koziakova and Ambassador of Slovakia, H.E. Vit Koziak; Sarah Baxter; Mrs. Elbia Meghar and Ambassador of Algeria, H.E. Hocine Meghar.

#### Dining with the Ambassadors 2019 Committee:

Sarah Baxter and Robert Collette (co-chairs), Leticia Herberg Carrera (diplomatic liaison), Alexandra Colt, Marianne Feaver, Andrea Laurin, Fiona Murray, Jane Newcombe, Jane Panet and Marilyn Wilson.

© Leah Mowers Photography leahmowers.com



Dining with the Ambassadors Organizing Committee members Jane Panet and Marianne Feaver.

## **SPORTS**



## **ONEC Switches Up** in 2019!

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) is opening its new season with some exciting changes.

The historic Boathouse, from which ONEC operates its watersports programs, is being renovated by the National Capital Commission (NCC). While the building is closed, these sports will be moved to a bay west of the Boathouse, where temporary facilities are being installed to accommodate the sailing and rowing equipment, workshops, training and meeting space, and bathrooms.

"The Boathouse will be spectacular when it's finished," said ONEC president Brigit Knecht. "In the meantime, we're confident that our programs will run smoothly from their new location." The renovation will be completed in 2020.

Registrations for ONEC's Summer Day Camps, offering tennis, sailing, rowing, big canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), are up well over last year. Operating from July 2 to August 23, half or full-day participation is offered with pre- and post-camp supervision.



ONEC has just started a new Junior Tennis Program for kids aged seven to 15 years of all skill levels, organized by the newly-appointed tennis coach, Chris Field (photo at right). "His 25 years' experience as a Junior Program

Director and Performance Coach in Toronto and Miami, and of working with adults and kids of all levels, is excellent for us," said Andre Barnes, ONEC's Tennis Director. Adults will also benefit from clinics and private lessons.

**ONEC Rowing** is offering two additional Learn to Scull sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings starting June 10. Other refresher courses will also be available. ONEC Sailing is attracting more young professionals. Training is provided at no charge in CL16s or single-handed Lasers. Once members are "checked out," they can participate in the racing programs on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Finally, **Paddling**, introduced in 2018, is continuing. Big Canoe Adventure Excursions (hosted by ONEC) organizes guided tours that explore historical, Indigenous and natural sites around Ottawa. Renowned canoeist Max Finkelstein will also be giving a Big Canoe course on June 15, 2019. See www.onec.ca/forms.

ONEC dates back to 1883 and is one of Canada's oldest multi-sports clubs. For more information, visit www.onec.ca.

## **VOLUNTEER**

## Dig that Summer Fun!

This summer the NCC, in partnership with the RPRA, will be hosting archaeological  $\angle$ digs at a site in Rockcliffe Park just downriver from Governor's Bay and the Prime Minister's residence. One component of the site, by the water, has turned up Indigenous artifacts from 2,000 years ago in preliminary digs. A second, slightly up the slope, has revealed artifacts from 5,000 years ago. The area where the Ottawa, Gatineau and Rideau rivers meet was known to be a summer gathering place for Indigenous communities and it is believed the planned dig locations saw activity as a landing and launching campsite when portaging canoes between the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers.

Come join us in this adventure! Under the direction of NCC Archaeologist Ian Badgley, volunteers will have the opportunity to learn about archaeology in the most direct way possible – by getting their hands dirty. We are also fortunate to have Alex Elvidge, Queens University Masters student of Classics and Archaeology, join us this summer. All NCC digs are managed jointly with the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and Pikwakanagan. Email secretary@rockcliffepark.ca to find out how you can help. All are welcome!

## **ADVISORY**

#### Ticked Off!

With the spring weather, Ottawa Public Heath encourages everyone to review ways to prevent Lyme disease: Apply an approved insect repellent containing DEET or icaridin; wear long pants and tuck them into your socks; check your pet daily for ticks, especially if it spends time in wooded or overgrown areas; and remove ticks as soon as possible. If you find a tick on your body, using fine-pointed tweezers, grasp the tick's head as close to the skin as possible and pull slowly until the tick is removed. Do not twist or rotate the tick. Do not use a match, lotion or anything else on the tick.

See your doctor if a tick has been attached for 24 or more hours or if it appears partially or fully engorged, or if you are not sure. Also see your doctor if you develop a fever and other symptoms of Lyme disease within 32 days of having had a tick attached. Residents are also encouraged to reach out to Ottawa Public Health via www.ottawapublichealth.ca/ lymedisease or call OPH at 613 580-6744 with any concerns. Have fun this summer, but stay safe!

## **CITY HALL**



From desk of Rawlson King Councillor, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward

#### A Message from **Your New Councillor**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Rideau-Rockcliffe for entrusting me with the honour and responsibility of becoming your new representative at City Hall. My grassroots involvement, community experience and love of our City means I will endeavour to effectively represent you and the interests of our ward.

As an experienced, result-based community leader, I've lived in Ward 13 for 15 years and have been an active volunteer for ten years on a wide range of civic issues. I ran for public office because I believe Ward 13 needs experienced leadership to address issues of a fairer and more communityfocused development process, public safety, and more affordable and accessible transit and transportation at City Hall.

We have serious issues, including lack of infrastructure investment in road maintenance and transit, issues with spot development, along with increasing crime rates and a lack of economic opportunities.

Rest assured, I will apply a progressive approach towards resolving these problems that afflict our ward. My early priorities include: i) making improvements to public transit and enhancing road maintenance; ii) working with communities to bring more openness and transparency to the planning and development process; iii) working on a poverty reduction strategy for our ward's most impoverished neighbourhoods; and iv) developing a comprehensive City-wide climate change policy.

Concerns that will have my immediate attention will also include protecting the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District and improving traffic calming measures in the Village, along with establishing a Ward Council to provide recommendations on local issues.

I also had the opportunity to participate in two annual Rockcliffe Park events during my first two full weeks in office with visits to the Spring Book Sale and the Spring Clean-up.

I look forward to participating in more events over the coming weeks. Due to the rapid transition period, my office is continuing to establish itself, but we can always be contacted by phone at 613 580-2483 or by email at rideaurockcliffe ward@ottawa.ca.



From the desk of Mayor Jim Watson City of Ottawa

## **Ottawa Finds Strength** and Resiliency in the Midst of a Natural Disaster

In May 2017, the National Capital Region was hit by significant floods that devastated hundreds of homes along the Ottawa River in West Carleton, Cumberland, and in Gatineau. What was presumed to be a once-in-a-hundred years natural disaster came back to ravage those very same communities only two short years later.

Tragically, the community of Dunrobin was still recovering from the devastating tornadoes that hit in September 2018 when the current flooding occurred. When the tornadoes touched down, many residents lost their home in an instant. Thankfully, no one lost their life, but the impact of two natural disasters occurring less than eight months apart has taken an important toll on our community.

On April 25, on the recommendation of City Manager Steve Kanellakos and his team, I declared a State of Emergency in the City of Ottawa. The projections from the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board showed that the river peak levels in some areas would reach dozens of centimetres above May 2017 levels. It was clear that the City of Ottawa would need the assistance of the provincial government and the help of the Canadian Armed Forces to mitigate the floods and offer some relief to the homeowners, volunteers, City crews and first responders who had been working around the clock for weeks to save homes in the affected areas. Over the last few weeks, thousands of dedicated City employees, volunteers and military personnel have shown incredible acts of courage and determination as they tried to save as many homes as they could from the rising Ottawa River. My heart goes out to the homeowners whose homes have been affected by the floods, and to the 155 households who had to evacuate their residence and leave their belongings behind.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the nearly 16,000 volunteers and 700 members of the Canadian Armed Forces who came out to help our residents in need. These incredible men and women filled over 1.6 million sandbags, brought hot beverages and food to the volunteer centres, and provided emotional and moral support to those working on the front lines and to the impacted residents.

Once again, in the midst of a natural disaster, our City has shown that it is caring and compassionate. I am touched by the generosity and kindness I have witnessed during this difficult time. As we move into the post-floods recovery stages, I encourage our residents to keep their spirits up and our sense of community strong.

The City of Ottawa and its disaster relief partners will continue to provide help and resources so that flood victims can start to rebuild their homes and bring normalcy back to their lives. The latest information on the flooding situation can be found at www.Ottawa.ca.

## **HOUSE OF COMMONS**



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

## Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

May marked the three-year anniversary of our government's introduction of the Canada Child Benefit (CCB). Increased annually to keep up with the cost of living, the CCB helps parents spend less time worrying about making ends meet and more time enjoying life with their children. This benefit will be increasing once again in July this year to help even more families.

As a result, the CCB will now have a maximum annual benefit of \$6,639 per child under age six and \$5,602 per child ages six through 17 years. Thanks to the CCB, nine out of ten Canadian families have more money to help pay for things like healthy food, sports programs, books and music lessons.

It has also helped achieve the lowest level of poverty in Canada's history, with nearly 300,000 children lifted out of poverty since 2015. Our government is committed to ensuring that all children have the best possible start in life and a fair shot at success.

The CCB has helped families across Canada and in our own community of Ottawa-Vanier. Over 10,000 children in Ottawa-Vanier benefit from over three million dollars in payments each month. The upcoming increase is sure to help even more families within our riding.

As always, my constituency office is available to help you with any interactions with federal services. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Friday from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Give us a call at **613 998-1860** or send an email to mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

## SCHOOL REPORT



## ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

RPPS Education Week, May 6-10



We know spring has come when the Ottawa Carleton District School Board celebrates Education Week, inviting families into the schools to share in the success of their children. Rockcliffe Park Public School's annual Open House, held on May 7 this year, is an ever-popular event that brings many parents and

family members to the school. Families were invited into their children's classrooms to watch their children learn or take part in other special activities. Parents were treated to drama presentations, project displays, dance performances, or even family game centres for all to enjoy. In addition, RPPS's annual art showcase, Art in Bloom, is held during the week. Student artwork graced the school's hallways, and families took their time wandering through the halls admiring a wide variety of art. The week capped off on Friday, May 10, with Grandparent's Day, when grandparents were invited to join their grandchildren in the school to share the love of reading. This event is a perennial favourite, and the school was full with the sound of reading on Friday afternoon. Everyone had a wonderful time - students and their families are already looking forward to next year!

#### **Jeremy Fisher Comes to RPPS**

Two of Rockcliffe Park Public School's Kindergarten classes are in for a treat! If you happen to walk by the school library on a particular June day you may hear what sounds like a live jam session full of dancing feet, singable lyrics and groovy melodies, when Ottawa-based musician Jeremy Fisher comes to share his collection of songs for young listeners. In the spring of 2018 Jeremy released Highway to Spell, featuring songs he created while spending days with his own daughter; created by narrating the events in their days and wondering out loud about the world around them. Full of rhyme and rhythm, Jeremy will be per-

forming these songs live to students, thanks to a funding opportunity provided by the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. This one-time visit will be used as a first step toward mapping out a long-term and meaningful interaction between students and local musicians. We can't wait!



## SCHOOL REPORT

# **ASHBURY**



#### Student Book Launch at CHEO

Ashbury art students celebrated

the launch of the book they created in consultation with physicians and staff to help ease anxiety around children's experience at the hospital. Jasper's First Visit to the Hospital was written and illustrated by Ashbury students; it tells the story of a bear who is admitted to hospital after experiencing trouble breathing. The activity and colouring book aims to teach children about what they might expect from a hospital visit, including treatments and what different departments do. The book was several years in the making, involving many students, some of whom have now graduated. Students worked closely with medical staff at CHEO to ensure accuracy in the story, and consulted with CHEO patients about content. The book is provided to new patients at CHEO, and is available for access at the hospital's Family Resource Library.

#### **International Day**

With students from over 60 countries, Ashbury is truly an international school. This year's International Day held the theme of 20/20 Vision: Empowering Youth and the notion of opening our eyes to the world around us. Peter Shiefke, Canada's Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Youth), was the day's guest speaker, and he spoke to students

about his journey into public life and his portfolio dedicated to young people.



This much-anticipated day provides the opportunity to come together as a school to look at some hard issues and also enjoy the cultural traditions and culinary delights of some of our diverse nationalities. Led by students, a respectful dialogue ensued on some core issues that are both interconnected and timely, given what we are confronted with in the media each day: sustainable development, borders and immigration, and reconciliation in divided societies.

#### **Springfest**



Parents, students, alumni, and faculty celebrated Springfest on May 11. The campus was bustling with our annual Colour Run, rugby, plant sales and a barbecue lunch. The sunny day ended with an alumni reception, where grads mingled with teachers to reminisce.



#### Elmwood Welcomes Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović

We were delighted to welcome the President of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, to Elmwood on May 13. President Grabar-Kitarović is a remarkable leader, having been



elected the first female President and the youngest President in Croatia's history. She recently became Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, an organization of current and former women Presidents and Prime Ministers. During Monday's visit, she spoke with our Grade 8 and 9 girls about believing in yourself, seizing opportunities and challenging stereotypes.

Above: The President of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, is greeted by Elmwood students.

## SCHOOL REPORT

#### Elmwood Gala a Record-Breaking Success!



2019 Gala Committee co-chairs Antonia Betts and Aileen Conway with Elmwood's Head of School, Cheryl Boughton.

Photo: Lindsay Ralphwood

On Saturday, May 4, we welcomed over 250 guests to our 30th Anniversary Gala, raising a record-breaking \$450,000 to support our scholarship program and to renovate our Visual Art Studio. This incredible event would not have been possible without the dedicated support of our 2019 Gala Committee, led by co-chairs Antonia Betts and Aileen Conway. And we would also like to thank our Gala Patron, Jamilah Taib Murray, for her unwaivering support of the School; our Cash Call Matching Families, Kelly and Peter Hudson, and Whitney Fox and Dan Goldberg; and our Diamond Sponsors, Janice and Tim Saunders.

#### Inaugural *Lead Like a Girl* Conference **Inspires Students to Dream. Dare. Do.**

On Tuesday, April 30, Elmwood hosted its inaugural Lead Like a Girl conference. Created by Head Girl Grace Goldberg and led by a dedicated team of senior school students, this groundbreaking new event offered middle school girls from across the City the chance to develop and strengthen their leadership skills. We were thrilled to welcome nearly 100 students from ten local schools, who joined our own middle school girls for the day. The Student Planning Committee put together an impressive range of events, including fun leadership activities and inspiring keynote speakers. Thank you to our wonderful guests, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau and Samra Zafar, for joining us and sharing your experiences with our students. This event would not have been possible without the dedicated leadership of our Head Girl and the ongoing support of Elmwood's Head of School, Ms. Boughton, who helped guide our students through the entire planning process.

#### Elmwood Unveils State-of-the-Art Science and Innovation Wing

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Elmwood's new Science and Innovation Wing. These state-of-the-art new facilities were specially designed to promote transparency of learning, cross-disciplinary teaching and educational best practices. To accomplish this, the Wing has been outfitted with glass-walled innovation labs, a new lab prep area and a central collaboration hub, as well as moveable furniture that can be rearranged at will to suit the needs of each class. The Science and Innovation Wing also A peek into one of the newly offers several new cutting-edge renovated science classrooms.



technologies including a custom virtual reality room, which will help to ensure Elmwood's longstanding tradition of excellence in STEM education continues. This project would not have been possible without the generosity of over 110 donors. Thank you to everyone who helped make this dream a reality!

#### **Junior School Musicals**



The cast of Elmwood's Grade 3 production, Rats!

Our Junior School students took centre stage this past month, performing a series of musical productions for their parents and peers. Up first was the Grade 1/2 production of Stone Soup on April 17. Next, we were

treated to the Grade 3 production of Rats! on May 7. Based on The Pied Piper of Hamelin by Robert Browning, Rats! offered up a modern twist on an old favourite. Our Grade 4 class closed out the season on May 23 with their show, Shake It Up with Shakespeare!, a musical introduction to one of English literature's most famous writers.

Thank you to our music teacher, Ms. Evelyn Pike, for directing each of these productions, and to Ms. Alli Mac-**Dougall** for assisting with the choreography.

#### **Elmwood Theatre Earns 12 Cappies** Nominations for The Light Burns Blue

It was another incredible year for Elmwood Theatre, with the girls staging a brilliant production of Silva Semerciyan's The Light Burns Blue in March. Now, the team is once again being recognized for their hard work, earning an amazing 12 nominations from Canada's Capital Cappies, including for Best Cappies Team, Cappies Critic, Marketing and Publicity, Hair and Makeup, Lighting, Costumes, Ensemble in a Play, Featured Actress in a Play, Comic Actress in a Play, Supporting Actress in a Play, Lead Actress in a Play and Best Play.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this production, and special thanks to our director, Mrs. Angela Boychuk, who did a remarkable job putting this show together. This year's winners will be announced at the annual Cappies Gala, held at the National Arts Centre on Sunday, June 9.

## **END NOTES**

## Our June Sponsor Celebrates the Season and the Neighbourhood

'In a summer season, when soft was the sun...' After a long, cold winter, these words from **William Langland**'s *Piers Plowman* never sounded so good. They remind us to enjoy the best this time of year has to offer.

The **Beechwood Market** is part of what makes our area so special. It has become a go-to destination for shopping, tasting and mingling, and might be one of the nicest things about a summer Saturday morning in our neighbourhood.

Chartwell New Edinburgh Square will provide some of this same charm starting on July 4, when the Beechwood Market sets up a mini market on our MacKay Street terrace (420 MacKay Street at Beechwood). You can stock up on essentials such as free range eggs, maple syrup, honey, and much, much more. There will be seasonal fresh and local produce, of course, plus food, music and refreshments. The mini market will run every Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 pm until October 10.

Good neighbours, supporting good business. Please drop by and say hello!

Catherine Strevens-Bourque csbourque@chartwell.com, 613 744-0901

#### The Music of Our Lives

Who wouldn't be tempted to listen to stories under a bower of mature trees in a gracious garden on a summer evening?

On June 25, One World Grannies is presenting its sixth annual *Stories in the Garden* and a fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign, which has raised more than \$33 million since its launch in 2006 for projects that support the courageous grandmothers of Africa and the vulnerable children in their care.

In addition to tales from seasoned Ottawa storytellers on the theme *The Music of Our Lives*, you will be enchanted by the music of the Acacia Lyra Harp Duo, enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and, if Lady Luck is with you, you might win one of our door prizes.

The evening is sponsored by local businesses including Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, Books on Beechwood, and Jane Davis and Mary Jane McKendry of Faulkner Real Estate.

Mark your calendars: June 25, 6:30 to 9:00 pm (rain date June 26), 90 Park Road, Rockcliffe Park.

Tickets are \$25.00, available through Eventbrite, by phone at **613 864-6442**, or by email to **vswinton2@icloud.com**.

To learn more about the Grandmothers Campaign, visit www.grandmotherscampaign.org. Ottawa StoryTellers provides tellers and listeners of all ages with opportunities to share and enjoy stories. Visit www.ottawastorytellers.ca.

#### Artists from the 'Hood

# Michael Benson's *Otherworlds: Visions of our Solar System* at the Canadian Museum of Nature, May 17 to September 2

The stunning beauty of our solar system is presented through 41 spectacular images by American artist and writer – and Rockcliffe resident – **Michael Benson**, with an accompanying soundscape by British ambient-music composer **Brian Eno**. Otherworlds embodies the symbiosis between



art and science; you'll feel as if you've travelled through outer space and viewed the planets with your own eyes! Access to the exhibit is included with regular museum admission. The Museum is located at 240 McLeod Street (at Metcalfe). Visit *nature.ca* for hours and fees. *Photo: nature.ca* 

#### **Rockcliffe Resident Shows in Heathrow Airport, England**



Rockcliffe resident and former RPRA director **Robert B. Gougeon** has a five-year curated exhibition of eight large paintings in his *Striking a Balance* series at the Air Canada Maple Leaf lounge in Heathrow Airport, England. He will also have a solo exhibition, entitled *Signature*, at MIFO's Galerie Eugène-Racette (*www.mifo.ca*) from December 3, 2019 to January 5, 2020. Robert has a selection of his works at the Galerie Côté Créations (*www.cotecreations.com*) in Westboro. Visit his web site, *www.robertgougeon.com*, which documents his art and journey.