



# The Rockcliffe News

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December 2019

## Rockcliff Park Residents Association

[www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Peter Lewis, President**

613 627-7602 – 1220 Lisgar Road

**Russell Gibson, Vice President**

613 741-8387 – 104 Acacia Avenue

**Angelica Bolitho, Treasurer**

613 745-2325 – 100 Acacia Avenue

**Michele Collum-Hayman,**

*Secretary*, 613 745-5995

**Chris Barker**

613 612-9555 – 35 Blenheim Drive

**Michael Crystal**

613 794-1312 – 550 Fairview Avenue

**Susan d'Aquino**

613 741-9970 – 400 Lansdowne Road N

**Caroline Gingras**

613 744-2058 – 158 Acacia Avenue

**Daniel Goldberg**

613 741-4320 – 550 Maple Lane East

**Beatrice Hampson**

613 748-7391 – 338 Elmwood Avenue

**Kay James**

613 513-6588 – 457 Oakhill Road

**Louise Malhotra**

613 884-4770 – 285 Acacia Avenue

**Darrin Reesal**

613 297-5187 – 40 Whitmarl Drive

**Gouhar Shemdin**

613 232-6286 – 599 Fairview Avenue

**Susan Taylor**

613 842-3417 – 560 Maple Lane East

**Nicolas Temnikov**

613 255-2045

**Mark Willcox**

613 729-2450 – 20 Westward Way

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](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### NOVEMBER

- 29 Friday, 6:30 pm.....Elmwood Art Fair Vernissage, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 30 Saturday, various times...Elmwood School Old Girls' Art Fair, Holly Tea and Marketplace, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road\*

### DECEMBER

- 1 Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm...Elmwood School Old Girls' Art Fair, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road\*
- 4 Wednesday, 7:00 pm....Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Community Hall\*
- 6 Friday, 5 to 7:30 pm.....Community Get-together in support of Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre's services for needy families, Parish Hall, Church of St. Bartholomew, 125 MacKay\*
- 7 Saturday.....Beechwood Market Xmas Edition at Chartwell 10:00 am to 3:00 pm New Edinburgh Square, 35 Beechwood Avenue\*
- 8 Sunday, 2 to 4 pm .....Children's Christmas Party, Community Hall\*
- 11 Wednesday, 8:00 pm ....Speakers Program: Andrew Cohen on "The Impeachment of Donald Trump and the 2020 U.S. Election," Community Hall\*
- 15 Sunday, various times...St. Bart's Mini Bazaar, Church of St. Bartholomew, 125 MacKay Street, see [www.stbartsottawa.ca/bazaar.html](http://www.stbartsottawa.ca/bazaar.html)
- 18 Wednesday, 7:30 pm....Stairwell Carollers Christmas Concert, *An a capella Christmas*, St. Columba Church, 24 Sandridge Road\*

### JANUARY

- 15 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPR Board Meeting, Community Hall

### FEBRUARY

- 12 Wednesday, 8:00 pm....Speakers Program: John Ivison on "Trudeau: Lessons for the Prime Minister," Community Hall\*
- 19 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPR Board Meeting, Community Hall
- 26 Wednesday 7:00 pm.....Annual General Meeting of the RPR and the Annual Report to the Community by The Rockcliffe Foundation, Community Hall

### MARCH

- 11 Wednesday, 8:00 pm ....Speakers Program: Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin on "Truth be Told," Community Hall\*
- 18 Wednesday 7:15 pm.....RPR Board Meeting, Community Hall

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

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



An early snow again this year propelled me into a wintery state of mind and made writing about events in December easier to imagine. After the success of last year's event, the RPRC will be holding a second annual Community Get-together in the Parish Hall of the Church of St. Bartholomew on Friday, December 6 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. This is the launch for our annual fundraising drive in support of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. Community members who attended last year were overwhelmingly enthusiastic in their feedback, and this year promises to be even better! A silent auction will offer many valuable items, all provided by local businesses and individuals. Live music, fabulous Syrian food, sparkling Prosecco and other refreshments will be in plentiful supply. We'll also have a chance to hear about plans to move the Centre to the former Rideau High School, where it will be able to provide more services. I hope you will come out and support this worthy cause. Please see the event poster in this newsletter for details, including where to purchase tickets online. If you prefer to buy tickets the old-fashioned way, please contact [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca). The fundraising thermometer will shortly take up its place beside the entrance to the Library at 380 Springfield Road. Please help us hit our target of \$25,000. In an era of continued defunding of social assistance organizations, it is an important cause – and it is also tax deductible.

To get you into a festive mood, the annual Tree Lighting and Carol Sing will be held on Wednesday, December 4, starting at 7:00 pm. The Salvation Army Citadel band will be on hand to lead our singing efforts, and biscuits, hot chocolate and hot cider will be available to nourish and warm the crowd. As is our tradition, the Elmwood Junior Choir will get things started, singing *O Christmas Tree*. For those with young children, our annual Children's Christmas party will be held at the Community Hall on the following Sunday, December 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. As usual, horse-drawn sleigh rides will be offered and Santa will make an appearance. More information can be found in this newsletter on these and other upcoming events.

Temperatures permitting, the rinks will be opening soon. Skaters last year enjoyed two well-maintained ice surfaces; it was a trial period during which both the RPRC and the Hosers received lots of community feedback. We hope that the new scheduling, including specific non-hockey skating times, will encourage more families make use of the facilities. The field house will be available to schools during the school day, which will make a lot of teachers happy! If you are new to the area and particularly if you have children, please consider joining the Hosers and becoming part of the volunteer crew who do a magnificent job of clearing and flooding the rinks throughout the season. Check the insert in this newsletter for details.

Most of you know that there are two community groups at work in Rockcliffe Park: The Residents Association (RPRC) executes various community activities, tends the public spaces, liaises with the City on heritage and other matters, and generally tries to promote a sense of community in Rockcliffe Park. The Rockcliffe Foundation, headed by **Bonnie Robinson**, manages an endowment fund that finances many of the RPRC activities. Typically, the RPRC Executive meets with the Foundation once each year in November to review RPRC project proposals for the coming year. However, this year the two full Boards met for the first time in mid-October to have a more general discussion about the vision and role of the two organizations in Rockcliffe. We found this to be a useful exercise and hope to make it a more common practice going forward. Both Boards rely entirely on volunteers who give their time and expertise in service to the community. If you have some time available and would like to volunteer, please let one of the Board members know.

In recent months we have been made aware of incidents of minor crime that have occurred in Rockcliffe Park. Common sense practices, such as keeping cars locked with all valuables removed, etc., go a long way toward preventing opportunistic thefts and vandalism. While crime continues to be rare, it is very important that all incidents be reported to the Police. The Police may not be able to resolve a particular theft or act of vandalism, but knowledge of occurrences is important for them in determining where resources need to be placed. Incidents may be reported online at [www.ottawapolice.ca](http://www.ottawapolice.ca) or by phone (non-emergency) at **613 236-1222, ext. 7300**. For crimes in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

As we approach the end of 2019, it is time to remind one and all to renew your membership to the RPRC. The price remains unchanged at \$25 per household/year. A membership form is provided in this month's newsletter, or go online on our website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca) for easy renewal and payment options. Your membership is critical to our continued viability.

I hope you will consider coming out to one or more of the events this December to enjoy the festivities and the company of your neighbours. From all of us on the RPRC Board, best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

*Peter Lewis, 20 November 2019*

## The Annual Community Appeal – Your Donation is Important

Recently you will have received a letter from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation requesting your support for the **Annual Community Appeal**. We need your financial support to increase the endowment, the interest of which is used to help fund projects and activities in our community. We work primarily with the City of Ottawa and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA), which plans and implements projects and activities in the Foundation's mandate areas:

- conservation of the environment;
- preservation of the heritage character of the neighbourhood; and
- promotion of a sense of community.

We all enjoy this unique and beautiful neighbourhood, and by making a donation we support it in a tangible way.

**Donate online at [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org) or send a cheque payable to Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park, ON K1L 5A8.** Donations are tax deductible. Questions? Call **Bonnie Robinson** at 613 749-5297 or **Jane Newcombe** at 613 746-8000.

## Call for Nominations for The Rockcliffe Foundation Board

Interested in serving on The Rockcliffe Foundation's Board of Directors? The Foundation is a registered charity established in 1996 to support projects and activities to protect and enhance the beauty, character and vitality of the Rockcliffe Park community.

The role of The Rockcliffe Foundation Board is to set direction, manage the endowment fund, and make distributions of grants for projects and activities that support its mandate. The Board meets approximately eight times per year. Board governance, investment, financial, marketing and events management experience is appreciated but not necessary as the Board prefers to be diversified with people of many different interests to contribute to our community.

Individuals interested in seeking to serve on the Board are asked to contact **Ryan Kilger**, Chair of the Nominations Committee, at [ryankilger@hotmail.com](mailto:ryankilger@hotmail.com) or 613 746-3541.

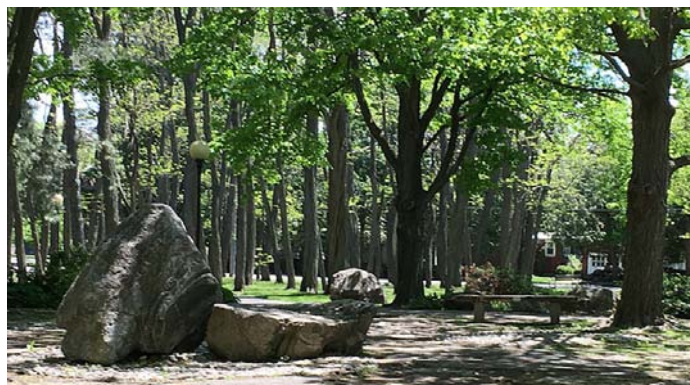


## Mark Your Calendars!

The Rockcliffe Foundation's Annual Report to the Community will be presented on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road.

## Did You Know?.....

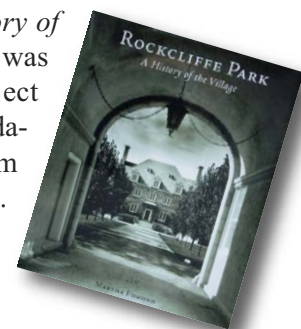
That the Village Green used to be a dumping ground *and* that the boulders in the middle have first names?



In 1967, this vacant plot of land was developed into the present park as the Village's major Centennial project. The design incorporated a grove of black locust (acacia) trees and several glacial boulders that were strewn about the site. The boulders were formed into a druid's circle facing two central stones – the taller one named "Humphrey" after Village architect **Humphrey Carver**, and the horizontal one named "Henry" for its resemblance to a **Henry Moore** sculpture.

**Source:** *Rockcliffe Park – A History of the Village*, by **Martha Edmond**, was the community millennium project sponsored by The Rockcliffe Foundation. It is available for purchase from Books on Beechwood for \$49.50.

This lovely coffee table book makes a wonderful Christmas gift!



*Photo above: The Stone Circle in the Village Green.*

*Credit: Anna Litickle, from [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stone\\_Circle.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stone_Circle.jpg)*

**THE 2019 ROCKCLIFFE FOUNDATION BOARD: Executive: Bonnie Robinson, Chair**

**Ryan Kilger, Vice-Chair | Roy Williams, Treasurer | Jane Newcombe, Secretary Board Members: Sarah Baxter, Nancy Carr, Anthony Carty, Alexandra Colt, Jean-Guy Dumoulin, Alison Green, Heather Hickling, Fiona Murray, Jane Panet, Paul St-Louis**

# SPEAKERS SERIES

**Rockcliffe Park Community Hall | 380 Springfield Road**

Join your neighbours for informal evenings with distinguished speakers. Presentations will be followed by questions, coffee and cookies. Admission is free. The Speakers Series is an initiative of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and is supported by The Rockcliffe Foundation. Details and additional information may be found at [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca).



## *Andrew Cohen*

### **“The Impeachment of Donald Trump and the 2020 U.S. Election”**

Award-winning journalist and best-selling author Andrew Cohen covered the impeachment of Bill Clinton in 1998 as *The Globe and Mail*'s correspondent in Washington D.C.

This evening, he reflects on the chaotic presidency of Donald Trump, the process of impeaching and removing a president from office, and what it means for the presidential election of 2020.

**Wednesday, December 11 at 8:00 pm**



## *John Ivison*

### **“Trudeau: Lessons for the Prime Minister”**

One of Canada's most popular and well-connected political journalists will speak to us about his recent book on Justin Trudeau, and the last election and its significance.

**Wednesday, February 12 at 8:00 pm**



## *Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin*

### **“Truth be Told”**

Based on her recent autobiography, the former Chief Justice of Canada invites us into her legal and personal life, and reveals the hopes and doubts, and the triumphs and losses on and off the bench which have marked her journey.

**Wednesday, March 11 at 8:00 pm**

## **RPRA's Second Annual Community Get-together and Silent Auction**

**Friday, December 6 | 5:00 to 7:30 pm | Parish Hall, Church of St. Bartholomew, 125 MacKay Street**

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association presents the second annual Community Get-together at the Parish Hall of the Church of St. Bartholomew, 125 MacKay Street, in support of Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre's many services for those in need. Please come and join your neighbours to support this worthwhile event. Donations are tax deductible. Enjoy live music by former Rockcliffe Park resident and harpist **Susan Sweeney-Hermon** and a children's violin performance, a silent auction, delicious Syrian food from **Yasmin Syrian Cooking**, complimentary glass of sparkling Prosecco and other refreshments. Tickets are \$50 and are available through Eventbrite, [www.eventbrite.ca/e/2nd-annual-get-together-tickets-74121951753](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2nd-annual-get-together-tickets-74121951753). See the flyer in this issue for more info.



# ROCKCLIFFE PARK LIBRARY

## Rockcliffe Park Branch Library Welcomes Families and Bids Farewell to Our Dedicated Librarian

The recent Library Open House, held on October 5, was another great success, attended by over 60 children and their parents. Funded by proceeds from the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, the purpose of this family-oriented, complimentary event is twofold: to say thank you to the community for its support and to welcome new families to the Ottawa Public Library and the branch.

Kudos to Supervisor **Sonia Doyon** and her staff for their hard work in organizing this fun-filled event, which featured live music by **Monkey Rock Music**. **Kieran**, the guitarist, was a huge hit, especially with the kids who were singing and dancing in the stacks!

Librarian **Suzanne White**, assisted by volunteer **Caroline Barker**, (granddaughter of long-time branch volunteer **Barbara Barker**) managed a craft table where children could make door hangings or a cardboard Bookmobile to take home. The amazing balloon sculptures created by world-class balloon twister **Ian Quick** wowed both children and adults alike.

Staff members **Elizabeth Wood**, **Tim Delyea** and Area Manager **Philip Robert** were all on hand not only to help with the fun, but also to manage the regular business of the library on a Saturday morning. Delicious sandwiches and healthy nibbles from **Metro** were much appreciated, as was the coffee, donated by **Bridgehead** on Beechwood Avenue.



*Sonia Doyon with a flower arrangement presented to her by grateful Spring Book Sale volunteers. Credit: Claire Schofield*

We are sorry to say good-bye to Sonia, who, after over 13 years at Rockcliffe Park, moved to the position of Public Service Supervisor at the North Gloucester branch in November. Sonia has done a truly tremendous job – our branch is now much busier than when she started with a larger staff and greater circulation, the number of school visits has grown, and programming and outreach to the community have increased. Her skill and dedication will be missed by everyone – by members of the public, by her colleagues, and especially by the Spring Book Sale volunteers. The Sale itself put an extra load on Sonia (and her staff) year-round, and we have been extremely grateful for her good humour, support and expertise. We wish her all the best in her new position.

*Carolyn Brereton*

LOOK FOR THE HOLIDAY EVENTS FLYER IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

*Save these Dates:* **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FESTIVE FA-LA-LA:**

*Rockcliffe Park's Annual* Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

**Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm**

*We welcome tax-deductible cheques at this event for donation to Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre as part of our campaign to raise \$25,000 for their work to help families in need.*

**THEN MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MERRIMENT:**

*It's the Annual* Rockcliffe Park Children's Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 8 2:00 to 4:00 pm**

*Santa Claus, horse-drawn 'sleigh' rides, outdoor hockey, Goopee the Clown, snacks, music, arts and crafts, gingerbread house decorating, hot chocolate and more!*

*We welcome new, unwrapped toys or gift cards at this event for donation to needy children from Santa. See flyer for details.*

**Both events are held at Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road | Free admission and all are welcome**

*Sponsored by the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association*





*From desk of Rawlson King  
Councillor, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward*

## Rockcliffe Park Updates

As we enter winter, my office is taking extra precautions to ensure that snow clearing will be dealt with efficiently. Our number one priority for winter maintenance will be to keep residents safe and the transportation network accessible. This winter, we will be positively impacted by the City's change of area boundaries to better address the unique needs of our community. The City will also maintain sidewalks 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in accordance with current Council-approved maintenance quality standards, and will improve communications with residents about winter maintenance.

I'm very happy and proud to announce that in City of Ottawa's Budget 2020, all the key priorities that I asked for have been funded. As this is the first budget I have been a part of, this is a great accomplishment for my office and for the community. We have been listening to you, and have been able to advocate for the things you've identified as important to you, your families and your neighbourhood.

Among the projects to be funded this year, the Anti-Racism Secretariat will receive \$210k, which will help to establish a policy unit at the City of Ottawa to address systemic racism in our community. In addition, \$500k in transition funding has been approved, which will support the community funding framework, and \$180k has been approved for Building Better Revitalized Neighbourhoods, a program to improve the health and livability of priority neighbourhoods.

Specifically in Rockcliffe Park, I am happy to announce an investment of \$42,000 through Budget 2020 to replace the exterior doors and windows at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre and the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Heritage continues to be an important focus in my office – we have some exciting potential projects with street signs, and are keeping a close eye on development files.

My staff and I would like to wish you all the best during the holiday season. We hope you are enjoying time with your families, taking in the festivities in the City – and keeping warm. Have a cheer-filled holiday, and a happy New Year!

As always, feel free to write to my office with any questions or concerns. We'll get back to you as quickly and efficiently as possible!



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

## Taking Care of our Most Vulnerable Residents during the Holidays



The holidays can be a hard time for those living in poverty, in temporary housing and shelters, or even on our streets. Like many Canadian cities, Ottawa has been experiencing a high demand for emergency housing. Our local shelters are struggling, and the vacancy rate of under 1.6 percent makes it hard for individuals and families to find adequate housing.

City Council is committed to helping our most vulnerable residents and to providing safe and affordable housing for all. Last year, we invested \$15 million to build new affordable housing in Ottawa, the first investment of this magnitude in the City's history. This unprecedented investment allowed us to approve the building of 266 new affordable units. I am pleased that we will be repeating this investment with Budget 2020 by investing an additional \$15 million into affordable housing.

Further to securing safe and affordable housing, many families are also struggling to make ends meet and to put food on their tables, particularly during this time of year. In Ottawa alone, more than 39,000 people visit an emergency food bank program every month. This holiday season, I urge you to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate in our City. Each year, several Food Drives are organized in support of the Ottawa Food Bank, including:

- The 35th annual OC Transpo/Loblaws Christmas Food Drive on Saturday, November 30

*(Continued on page 7)*

# QUEENS PARK

## Reminder:

**Our office is open! If you have any questions or concerns relating to provincial government or services, don't hesitate to contact us.**

### Ottawa-Vanier

#### Constituency Office:

**237 Montreal Road**

**Ottawa, ON K1L 6C7**

**Telephone: 613 744-4484**

**Email: [ottawavanier@ola.org](mailto:ottawavanier@ola.org)**

# HOUSE OF COMMONS



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

## A Message from Mona Fortier

Ottawa-Vanier's strength is its diversity, which is representative of the Canadian social fabric. It is these multiple voices that inspire me in my work and that I represent on Parliament Hill. From helping over 15,000 children in our riding every month with the Canada Child Benefit, to reducing the frequency of sewage overflows into the Ottawa River, I am proud of the real change we have implemented over the past two years in our community.

I want to thank the residents of Ottawa-Vanier for giving me their trust and support for a second mandate. While I am proud of what we have achieved so far, I look forward to building on that progress together and working to improve the quality of life in Ottawa-Vanier even more. I look forward to continuing to work on making life more affordable for all Canadians, protect the environment while fighting climate change, promote our official languages and help local businesses thrive.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to encourage everyone to support our local food banks. There are many in our community who must rely on food banks for help getting through this season and the rest of the year. Thanks to the great work of organizations like the Ottawa Food Bank, Partage Vanier and the Gloucester Food Cupboard, many in our community will be able to enjoy a better holiday season.

As always, my constituency office is there 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](mailto:mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca).

### Mayor Jim Watson (Continued)

- The *CTV Morning Live's* Holiday Helpers Food Drive on Thursday, December 5
- My 19th Annual Christmas Celebration at City Hall on Saturday, December 7
- *CBC's* Project Give on Friday, December 13

In addition to these food drives, you can fill donation boxes with canned and non-perishable items at several City of Ottawa facilities, local schools, workplaces or community centres, or make a monetary donation to the Ottawa Food Bank by visiting [www.ottawafoodbank.ca/donate](http://www.ottawafoodbank.ca/donate). I invite you to support the various food drives in our City by donating non-perishable items such as peanut butter, pasta, rice, tomato sauce, canned and packaged soups, any canned food items, baby food and formula and diapers. Visit [www.OttawaFoodBank.ca](http://www.OttawaFoodBank.ca) to consult the Ottawa Food Bank's calendar of events and find out where you can donate.

Last year, your generosity helped the Ottawa Food Bank collect and distribute hundreds of thousands of food and non-perishable items and thousands in cash and food vouchers to those in need during the holiday season. Together, let's try to make an even bigger impact this year.

I am proud to support the Ottawa Food Bank each year and hope that you will join the City in spreading a little bit of holiday spirit. Every donation, whether big or small, goes a long way in helping the most vulnerable in our community.

I wish you all a safe, happy Christmas and holiday season.

### THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 6

The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPR), is published six times each year: February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions pertaining to the Village are welcome by mid month before publication. Copy may be edited for clarity, length and content. Paid advertising is not accepted. Current and past issues are posted on the RPR website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca). Editor: Cynthia Hamady, [editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca).

# SCHOOL REPORT



## ELMWOOD SCHOOL



### Overheard at Elmwood – The Podcast

If you are keen to learn more about the topics we are discussing in our classrooms, hallways and meeting rooms, check out our new podcast series! With this series, we intend to

bring a panel of subject matter experts together – from within the school and the broader community – to have a conversation/discussion/debate on a topic of interest. In our first episode, we discuss the advantages of an all-girls' education with Head of School **James Whitehouse**, Director of Student Success **Katie Fraser**, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools **Megan Murphy**, with **Mark Sutcliffe**, broadcaster and Elmwood past parent, as moderator. Visit [elmwood.ca/podcast](http://elmwood.ca/podcast).

### Visual Art Studio Opening



A 3D rendering of the new space.

Visual art classes have moved back into the Middle-Senior School, into the newly renovated Visual Art Studio. Located in its new home on the first floor, the new studio features an open, industrial design with lots of natural light and space for creativity and collaboration. Please feel free to visit – student art will be on display in the new space during the Art Show, November 30 to December 1.

### Elmwood on Stage and Screen

On November 13, co-directors **Peter Raymont** (brother of **Liz Raymont Heatherington '63**) and **Nancy Lang** of White Pine Pictures hosted a private screening and Q&A of their wonderful new documentary, *Margaret Atwood: A Word After A Word After A Word Is Power*.

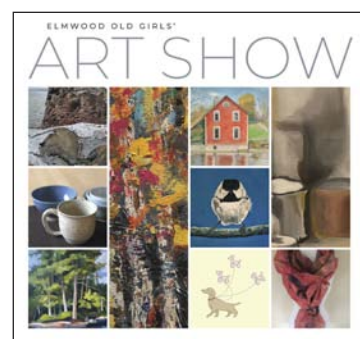


Linden House Theatre Productions wrapped up a very successful run of *The Savannah Tea Sipping Society* with Producer **Janet Uren '68**. This story of four Southern women rediscovering joy, laughter and a lust for life was a treat for parents, teachers, students and friends, with a special performance generating funds for the Old Girls' Scholarship Fund.

### 'Tis the Season

Members of the community are invited to join us for our annual Holly Tea and Old Girls' Art Show! This weekend of events is always a highlight of the holiday season, filled with stunning artistry and festive cheer.

The weekend will begin on Friday, November 29 at 6:30 pm with our Art Show Vernissage. The Old Girls' Art Show will continue through Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm with more than 80 works available for purchase.



The Holly Tea and Marketplace will take place on Saturday, November 30. The Marketplace, featuring everything from holly to jewellery, crafts and baked goods, will take place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Holly Tea will be serving tea and treats from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, and don't miss Santa's visit at the same time! Visit [elmwood.ca/holiday](http://elmwood.ca/holiday) for more information.



Elmwood's Holly Tea servers are ready for action!



# SCHOOL REPORT

## ASHBURY COLLEGE



### Ashbury on the Road

Ashbury's busy fall admissions season has gone global, with recruitment trips to the Middle East, China, Japan, Russia, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic and Mexico in the past few weeks. Ashbury is home to students from more than 60 countries and travel is an important part of the process of establishing a diverse and international student body. Ashbury representatives take pride in meeting prospective families around the world and sharing our school programs and benefits with them.

### We Remember



Ashbury came together for a Remembrance Day Ceremony to pay tribute to those whose lives were impacted by the Great War, the Second World War and subsequent conflicts, which, sadly, still continue to this day. Students were reminded by guest **Mr. Bruce Burrows**, from The Vimy Foundation, of the sacrifices made on the battlefields, behind the scenes and on the homefront, and, in particular, how Canadians came together at Vimy Ridge. The names of Ashbury's

73 fallen were read aloud by students and respect was paid to those lost in conflict zones around the world.

The ceremony also recognized those who have been overlooked for their sacrifices and contributions – and those who were far from home – *loin de chez eux* – caught up in war that could hardly be considered their own. The expansive colonies of European nations pulled a diaspora of soldiers and labour into their ranks from the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, India, Australia, New Zealand, and from within indigenous communities here in Canada. Letters were shared by students to honour the victims of war and the bystanders whose lives were disrupted – including those within our own borders.

### Thank You to Donors

Ashbury feted its annual donors in October with a reception held at the school. Festivities included unveiling a new Scholarship & Bursary Wall. As a not-for-profit organization, Ashbury relies on annual support from our community to provide student financial assistance, to build new facilities like the Centre for Science & Innovation, and to provide the enhancements not covered by tuition that make the Ashbury experience special and unique. Thank you to all our donors for your continued support of our students!



**Reminder:** Please support your neighbourhood association! Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPR) membership fees for 2020 are now due. Membership remains at \$25 per household/year, with the option to renew for two years. This issue contains a renewal notice insert, or you may find the form on our website, [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca). You may renew and pay online, or cheques made payable to the RPR may be deposited in the RPR freestanding mailbox at 380 Springfield Road, or mailed to: RPR, 380-A Springfield Road, Rockcliffe, ON K1M 0K7. Can't remember if you paid? Contact [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca) to find out.

## REC CENTRE

### Want to Keep Active This Winter?

Look for the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre program flyer in this newsletter. You will find a variety of programs with details about each course, registration information and registration office opening hours. Let's get moving!



## NEIGHBOURHOOD

### Winter Traffic in the 'Hood: Slow Down and Take Care!

With the advent of winter weather and the move to Daylight Saving Time, neighbourhood roads have become especially treacherous. Drivers: Please slow things down and share the road! Pedestrians: Please don't walk with your back to traffic.

While it is up to drivers not to run over pedestrians, kids walking home from school are still out at dusk these days and they would be more likely to be able to leap out of harm's way if they walked facing traffic. And, if possible, wear light-coloured clothing, carry a flashlight and/or clothing with reflective tape in the winter traffic. Parents: Advise your kids about winter safety. In fact, everyone could use a reminder and refresher. Be aware, take care and be safe!

### Winter DIY

To keep your street in order during ice and snow season, please shovel the snow off street drains. When we get those winter thaws, the water needs to be able to get to the drain and if it is blocked, the street may flood.

A bit of old-fashioned DIY preventive maintenance is better than waiting several days for the City to come and chip away the ice and snow. You can report blocked drains to the City via **311** but be prepared to wait for an operator and then describe the blocked drain location, giving a street name and nearby house number.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Pond Committee Report

Members of the RPRA's Pond committee met with City representatives and Councillor **Rawlson King** and a staff member in October to discuss environmental issues relating to the Pond.



In response to concerns that the access point to the Pond is eroding and requires stabilizing, the City proposed building a wall and steps composed of natural rock,

such as exists now. The City would look into whether the stairs could be narrowed, consistent with safety, and structured in an irregular pattern.

The City proposed loose rock (rip rap) to protect the shoreline and provide access for the heavy machinery. The rip rap will extend to the low water mark and remain after the project's completion, thus limiting access to the adjacent eroding shoreline. The City will look into extending the rip rap to other eroded areas, bearing in mind the cost and the timing of the project.

Other issues discussed included buckthorn removal, dredging to increase shoreline depth (not possible as part of this project) and the need to replant native plants as part of a Conservation Area.

There are still details to be worked out following which the project will go to tender aiming for work in January/February. March would be too unpredictable.

In our view, this project will result in a big improvement over the current situation. It is heartening that the City pays attention to the Pond and over the years has been taking incremental steps to protect it. It is also positive that we have developed a collaborative relationship with the City in which they take into account our concerns and proposals.

We also raised the issue of pumping. The City measured water levels from May 15 to September 24, 2019, which showed that the pumping has had minimal, if any, impact on maintaining the water level or decreasing its decline over a three-year period. Since the City had told us in previous years that the pilot project would include a year of no pumping for comparative purposes, we did not argue that pumping should continue in 2020.

*Brian Dickson*

## BOOK FAIR

### Another Splendiferous RPPS Book Fair

Though the wind was howling and the sky was scowling, die-hard book lovers dutifully lined up at the doors of Queen Juliana Hall on the morning of November 1, ready to fill bags and boxes with gently used books, vinyl, puzzles, games and more.

All weekend, the Rockcliffe Park Public School Book Fair – with the scumdiddeyumptious theme of “Roald Dahl” – bustled with new and repeat visitors. In the Café, hungry shoppers devoured delicious mac-and-cheese and veggie chili cooked up by local meal service **Dinner By Six** ([dinnerbysix.ca](http://dinnerbysix.ca)). Folks sipped **Bridgehead** coffee and snacked on baked goods from the kitchens of area embassies, RPPS families and generous neighbours.

We’re proud to announce that Book Fair earned gross proceeds of \$53,000 from book and Café sales. As always, funds raised go to the RPPS Parent Council to hold such events as our Author and Illustrator Workshops and Grandparents’ Reading Day; to upgrade technology and equipment; and to fund a field trip and transportation for every class. And the benefits go beyond RPPS. Book Fair proceeds also furnish no-strings grants for five area schools to support their literacy programming and other needful projects.

### We Love Our Volunteers

We want, as always, to thank the wonderful volunteers who worked amid the boxes, behind the scenes, at the cash registers and among the shelves. Book Fair couldn’t happen without them.

### Help Us Plan for Next Year

We’re so grateful to our outgoing Chair **Christina Leadlay** for her years of dedication to Book Fair! We’re now actively seeking a new Chair for Book Fair 2020 – or even two or three people who’d like to work together to lead this essential fundraiser. If you’re new to the school or community – or even if you’re not – please consider joining the Executive Committee or taking on a team role. Steely veterans will help you with advice, support and lots of documentation.

As we’re fond of saying: “*One sale – the book sale.*” RPPS parents need not pester family and friends to buy this or sponsor that. They need only support this single, exciting, exhausting and rewarding event. Mark your calendars for November 6 to 8, 2020! **Learn more:** [rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](http://rockcliffeparkbookfair.com) / [info@rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](mailto:info@rockcliffeparkbookfair.com) / **Twitter:** @RPPSBookFair / **Facebook:** RockcliffeParkBookFair

## LOCAL INTEREST

### The Rockcliffe Tables are Here!

Just over a year ago, in October 2018, a huge 180-year old sugar maple tree was cut down in Rockcliffe Park as a result of storm damage. Arborists spent almost a week removing the felled tree from the backyard of a home on Acacia Avenue. A keen-eyed amateur furniture maker, **Jeffrey Tracey**, scooped up a portion of the tree with an aim to building a series of “live-edge” coffee tables. The Rockcliffe Table Series concept was born! A limited, numbered edition of 15 coffee tables has been produced with an aim to return the tree, table by table, back to the residents of Rockcliffe Park, from whence it came. Each piece is professionally constructed to last a lifetime, with beautiful walnut legs to stabilize these epoxy-filled coffee tables. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of every table will be donated to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Resource Centre, the focus of the RPRC’s fundraising for this holiday season.

The Rockcliffe Tables will be on display at the Elmwood School Holly Tea on November 30 and at the Community Get-together’s Silent Auction on December 6 at the Church of St. Bartholomew. Come see them live – photos just cannot capture the true beauty of these unique works of usable art.



### Get Outside this Winter!



Once the ice becomes thick enough to support people’s weight, the gate to the lake beside Hillsdale will be open to hikers and skiers. So plan to get outside and appreciate nature, and enjoy the beauty of winter in the Village.

Photo: lezumbalaberenjena, [www.flickr.com/photos/14020964@N02/32231520255](http://www.flickr.com/photos/14020964@N02/32231520255)

# END NOTES



## Celebrate the Season at the Beechwood Market Xmas Edition!

Please join us on December 7 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Chartwell New Edinburgh Square, 35 Beechwood Avenue, for the Beechwood Market Xmas Edition.

Our joyful and colourful Yuletide celebration will have something for everyone: Santa, refreshments and music to enjoy; handcrafted jewellery and soaps, beautiful knitwear and other unique handmade wares, perfect for holiday giving. Plus, of course, sweet and savoury treats, all from local makers and bakers.

It will be a surefire way to get into the festive spirit!

The following verse from the poem *Christmas Bells*, by **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**, is our wish and hope for everyone, from all of us at Chartwell New Edinburgh Square.

Happy holidays!

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*



**Catherine Strevens-Bourque**

Chartwell New Edinburgh Square  
35 Beechwood Avenue  
csbourque@chartwell.com, 613 744-0901

## Looking for More Holiday Fun?

There's lots to do and see this season in Ottawa and the surrounding area. Check out these websites for information on upcoming events:

Ottawa Tourism, [www.ottawatourism.ca/ottawa-insider/get-into-a-holiday-season-mood-with-these-activities](http://www.ottawatourism.ca/ottawa-insider/get-into-a-holiday-season-mood-with-these-activities), for a listing of holiday lights, music, shopping and more.

Beechwood Cemetery, [www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/foundation/events](http://www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/foundation/events), for details on their annual Tree of Life Ceremony, Christmas Candlelight Service and Beechwood Winter Market.

## Join us for the Stairwell Carollers Concert, December 18

Every winter, the 30 singers of the Stairwell Carollers bring holiday cheer to the Ottawa area, singing both old classics and new compositions, spreading peace and joy. Please come ring in the season at the Stairwell Carollers Christmas Concert, *An a capella Christmas*, on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm at St. Columba Church, 24 Sandridge Road in Manor Park. Tickets are \$20 at the door or \$15 in advance at Books on Beechwood, or online at [stairwellcarollers.com](http://stairwellcarollers.com).



This year's repertoire features compositions from four choir members. Director and tenor **Pierre Massie** (pictured above), who has been leading this award-winning choir for an astounding 42 years, is an award-winning composer; several of his Christmas carol arrangements are on the program. His original piece, the bilingual *Stairwell Carol*, is a delicate jewel of a song. Tenor **David Rain**, whose pieces have been performed across Canada and Europe, has contributed his version of *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*. And there will be two world premieres this season: bass **Terry Brynaert's** *Christmas Is...* brings together Christmas carols past and present in a wild, rollicking sleigh-ride, and alto **Lyndsay Bolden's** wistful *Mary's Lullaby* paints a portrait of the sweetly aching love between mother and child.

And if you're looking for that perfect Christmas gift, CDs will be on sale, too. You'll be giving twice, as concert and CD receipts have allowed the group to present donations to local charities and music scholarships to local high school students totalling over \$140,000.

If you can't make it to St. Columba, you can still hear the Stairwell Carollers on one of these dates: Friday, December 6 at 8:00 pm at St. Joseph Church, 2757 St Joseph Boulevard, Orléans; Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 pm at St. Thomas Anglican Church, 1619 Stittsville Main Street, Stittsville; or Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm at Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Avenue at Bank Street.

*Katherine Marek (Katherine is a Stairwell Carollers alto and Village resident. You may have heard her singing carols on her walks through Rockcliffe Park.)*