

**ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019**



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

February 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm | Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

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Cover: As the Village's Centennial project in 1967, Village architects Humphrey Carver, Andrew Hazeland and Don Graham transformed the area north of Mariposa Avenue and east of Springfield Road from a vacant plot of land into the Village Green. The two parts of the Village Green include the Jubilee Garden to the East (a formal square) and the Centennial Garden to the West (designed as a circle), with the two parts separated by a cedar hedge. They embellished a grove of Black Locust trees and created a central stone circle from glacial boulders on the site, surrounded by concentric rings of flagstone paving, benches and sugar maples. The boulders were formed into a druid's circle facing two central stones – the taller one named "Humphrey" after Humphrey Carver, and the horizontal one named "Henry" for its resemblance to a Henry Moore sculpture. This work of art is an excellent example of Modern Landscape Architecture and has heritage significance.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It gives me great pleasure to present the 2019 Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association.

On December 6 of this past year, our community came together for the second annual Community Get-together, the launch of our annual fundraising campaign in support of Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC) and its many programs to help needy families. Attendees were treated to Prosecco, excellent catering by **Yasmin Syrian Cooking**, gorgeous harp music from **Susan Sweeney-Hermon** and a performance by young violinists who attend free music classes each week at RRCRC. Watching the children play was a

moving experience and reinforced the value of the services that RRCRC provides. Thank you to **Nicolas Temnikov** and his team of volunteers, including many from outside Rockcliffe Park, who worked hard to bring this event to fruition. A big thanks, too, to all the businesses in the region who contributed items and gift certificates for the silent auction. This event marked the fourth year that we have had an annual campaign for RRCRC and I am delighted to report that our community raised over \$30,000 in support of the Centre's work.

A few days later, our annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing attracted a large crowd, including many young children who were delighted by the fresh snow. A couple of intrepid youngsters thought the Christmas tree was intended for more than simply gazing at and decided that it ought to be climbed and, acting on their convictions, proceeded to do so. The accidental unplugging of the lights alerted me to their activities and the young explorers were encouraged to seek alternative arboreal adventures. For many years, this event has been opened by the **Elmwood Junior School Choir** and **The Salvation Army Citadel Band** has provided music and carol sheets for the carol singing. I thank these groups for their long-standing and continued support. Many thanks also to **Jim** and **Nancy Carr**, who, over the last few years, have generously hosted this event, providing decorations, biscuits, hot chocolate and warm cider.

Our annual Children's Christmas Party was another great success this year. Many thanks to **Mirelle Boulos** and her crew of volunteers who pulled this together. We are also very grateful to **Shawn Steinburg**, store manager at **Metro Beechwood**, who generously sponsored the event.

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**, assisted by dozens of enthusiastic volunteers, ensured yet another record-breaking Sale in support of the Ottawa Public Library, grossing over \$50,000 – an increase of 14 percent over last year. This is a remarkable achievement involving a lot of people over the course of the year and everyone deserves a huge thank you. In the week following the Book Sale, we held the annual Village Clean-up. Although this event was hardly as well attended as the Book Sale, we were able to spruce up the grounds around the Community Hall and the Village Green. Many thanks to **Councillor Rawlson King**, who attended and wielded a rake for a few hours, and to the other volunteers and students who came out and helped.

Our Speakers Program continues to be a popular draw in the community, under the able stewardship of **Susan d'Aquino**. Last year, we held seven such evenings with popular speakers drawing good crowds. Many thanks to Susan and her team of volunteers for continuing to provide compelling speakers, and special thanks to **Nancy Hooper** for her delicious homemade cookies.

Our summer Outdoor Movie Night continued this past year, finally screening *The Maltese Falcon*, which we thought we were showing last year (but received a different Bogart film by mistake). The evening was very well attended. We had hoped to screen a newer film in early September, but weather and volunteer availability were a challenge. We hope to continue with this program as it is a popular event when we can hold it.

Our newsletter, currently sponsored by **Chartwell New Edinburgh Square**, continues to be published six times a year and delivered by hand to each household in the Village. Many thanks to our editor of many years, **Cynthia Hamady**, for her expertise, hard work and commitment, and to former RPRA secretary **Marilyn Venner**, who remains a critical link in the overall communications work. I also want to acknowledge the network of volunteers who defy the weather to get the newsletter delivered to each door every two months. To all the young people whose

eyes no doubt roll when their parents ask them to help out with deliveries: Thank you, your efforts are recognized and appreciated.

The situation with the Pond continues to cause concern. The few years of pumping water into the Pond yielded no appreciable improvements in maintaining higher water levels. The emergent shoreline becomes a popular lounging spot as the area of exposed sand increases, fundamentally changing the way in which the Pond is used by the public – encouraging picnics, playing, digging, etc. Although new signage and guide ropes have been improvements over past years, problems remain with users accessing the eroded banks.

The Pond is a conservation area to which the general public is most fortunate in having limited access for swimming, the idea being to come, swim for a while for exercise or refreshment and then leave. The RPRA has been working closely with the City to try to find solutions to this and other problems concerning the Pond entrance and shoreline erosion. I am delighted to report that the City has embarked on a project that will see the Pond entry completely reconstructed. More details on the full scope of the project will become available in the coming weeks but I would like to extend our gratitude to former RPRA president **Brian Dickson** for his work with a few other dedicated volunteers over the past few years, and to **Jim Lethbridge** at the City of Ottawa, who has been a supportive partner in our quest to maintain the Pond in the best possible condition and ensure its appropriate and sustainable use. This is a good example of how your RPRA works behind the scenes in close partnership with the City to ensure neighbourhood treasures are protected and well maintained.

The RPRA's focus on heritage conservation and outreach continued to be a significant aspect of our work in 2019. Some of the recommendations generated in the Smith Report of 2018 were accepted into a *Heritage Action Plan* published by the City. The City initiated a pilot project whereby three heritage conservation districts – Rockcliffe Park, New Edinburgh and Sandy Hill – will have community heritage representatives and City heritage staff meet together with development proponents to discuss and comment on proposals at an early stage. The idea is to provide a single common set of recommendations to proponents and City Council, as opposed to the separate comments and recommendations that have been the *modus operandi* in the past. This process is to become more formalized in 2020.

A major heritage event in Rockcliffe Park was the rendering of a decision by the Ontario Municipal Board concerning the 2016 appeal of our Heritage Plan. Aside from a few changes stipulated by the tribunal, the Plan remained largely intact; unfortunately, however, the demolition of the house at 270 Buchan Road was approved. Supported by Heritage Ottawa, we pressed the City to appeal the decision allowing demolition, but the City declined to do so.

The final decision by the Ontario Municipal Board now paves the way for us to issue an update of our *Heritage Plan in Brief* booklet for the benefit of residents, which has been some years in the planning. The final hurdle is an agreement on definitions. Our Heritage Committee has spent much time with heritage staff to arrive at an agreed interpretation of a number of the provisions of the Plan. Once this is complete, a planned community meeting on heritage can take place and the *Heritage Plan in Brief* update can be completed.

Another positive outcome was the City's acceptance of the well-researched and articulate submission by residents **Michael Kelen** and **James (Si) Taylor** requesting a change in the zoning by-law to reinstate former pre-amalgamation setbacks relating to accessory buildings. The City had mistakenly changed the setback allowances sometime after amalgamation in contravention with the agreement by which the Village of Rockcliffe Park became amalgamated with the City of Ottawa. This measure, when finally approved in early 2020 by City Council, will restore the correct setback allowances for accessory buildings. Our gratitude to both Michael and Si for their work on this case.

In the first few months of 2019, our attention was consumed by the municipal by-election in Ward 13. A roster of 17 candidates created a very complex situation for both voters and community organizers. It quickly became apparent to us and our colleagues in the neighbouring community associations that we, collectively, needed to find a way to help residents learn as much as possible about the candidates. A huge effort by representatives of Rockcliffe Park, New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, Manor Park and Cardinal Glen was undertaken to interview the candidates and post the results of the interviews in the various community newsletters and on the RPRA website. The communities also worked together to hold an All Candidates Forum, with some additional novel touches that attempted to highlight differences between the candidates. We learned a lot from that event and applied some of the lessons for the Federal All Candidates Forum that we held in October, which was very well received by both

candidates and attendees alike. Our newly elected municipal councillor, **Rawlson King**, has hit the ground running and has been extremely supportive to our community. We continue to have a strong and close relationship with his office at City Hall.

The activities of the RPRA could not take place without the financial support of **The Rockcliffe Park Foundation**. In 2019 the RPRA received a grant of over \$26,000 to carry out activities in support of the Foundation's key priorities: Community Building, Heritage and Environment. Also, for the first time, the RPRA and The Rockcliffe Park Foundation held a joint Board meeting on October 15. We found this to be a very useful exercise and hope to make it a regular event going forward. On behalf of the RPRA, I would like to thank the Foundation and its chair, **Bonnie Robinson**, for their continued critical support, and look forward to building on our relationship in the years ahead.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday February 26, 2020. Due to new by-laws introduced at the 2017 AGM limiting the terms of executive officers to five years, both **Angelica Bolitho** and I are required to step down as treasurer and president, respectively. Angelica has been a first-rate treasurer, porting our accounting system to industry-standard commercial software and keeping our accounts in flawless condition in spite of significant personal challenges, making the task for our new incoming treasurer a simple one.

It feels like only yesterday that I was writing my first Annual Report and, as required, this will be my last. It has been an honour to have served as president of the RPRA for the last five years. We have seen many changes in this time and I am proud to have been associated with the many positive developments that have taken place. Challenges continue to face us: continuing to negotiate a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with the City, continuing to defend the heritage characteristics of Rockcliffe Park and promoting understanding of those same characteristics, and continuing to find ways to build and promote a sense of community in Rockcliffe Park. I am confident that our residents and our Board members will face these challenges and I encourage all residents of Rockcliffe Park to support your residents' association by ensuring that you are fully paid up as an RPRA member, and by considering volunteering your time and skills. You may pay your for membership online at rockcliffepark.ca/shop. I hope to see many of you at the AGM this year.

Finally, to my colleagues on the RPRA Board, it has been my great pleasure to have worked with you over the past years. I am looking forward to staying involved with the residents' association and helping to continue our efforts in building our community, protecting our environment and conserving our heritage in 2020.

Peter Lewis, President

HERITAGE AND PLANNING

Heritage Outreach

The heritage character of the Village of Rockcliffe Park was unusually well protected from the time of its creation in 1864 until amalgamation with the City of Ottawa in 2001. Its development rested in the hands of its engaged and knowledgeable residents and the local oversight bodies they put in place. It was formally made a heritage conservation district under Ontario legislation in 1997.

Last year saw the coming together, for the first time, of representatives of 16 of Ottawa's heritage conservation districts, together with Heritage Ottawa and the distinguished heritage architect and conservationist **Julian Smith** to share concerns about heritage conservation in Ottawa. The result was the "Smith Report": *Ottawa's Heritage Conservation Districts at Risk: Report and Recommendations*, which called for much better protection of Ottawa's heritage. In concert with other heritage conservation districts, the RPRA continued throughout 2019 to seek implementation of the recommendations of the Smith Report.

As a result of this advocacy, the City published a *Heritage Action Plan*, accepted some of the Smith recommendations in part, and initiated a pilot project whereby three heritage conservation districts – Rockcliffe Park, New Edinburgh and Sandy Hill – are part of a pilot project that sees community heritage reps and City heritage staff meet together with development proponents to discuss and comment on proposals at an early stage. The goal is to arrive at shared advice to proponents and shared recommendations to City Council.



A significant heritage event in Rockcliffe Park in 2019 was the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board, after a long wait of 18 months, on the appeal of our Heritage Plan by Richcraft Properties. As a result of the OMB decision, some changes were made to our Heritage Plan and the demolition of the important heritage house at 270 Buchan Road (*photo at left*), owned by Richcraft, was approved. Supported by Heritage Ottawa, we pressed the City to appeal the OMB decision allowing demolition, but the City declined to do so.

As part of Rockcliffe Park's long-standing Speakers Program, **Julia Gersovitz, OC**, joined us in 2019 to talk about how heritage is protected in Westmount, Quebec, and elsewhere in the world. The following day, Ms. Gersovitz held a seminar in our Community Hall with representatives of Ottawa's heritage districts and with City heritage staff. The lesson from the seminar is that Westmount, having regained its status as an independent municipality from Montreal, is "light years" ahead of Ottawa in protecting its heritage.

Of note also was the ceremony held in June by the Government of Canada at 400 Lansdowne Road to unveil a plaque designating the Hart Massey House a national historic site. An iconic, understated mid-century modern house dating from 1959, this is the first property in Rockcliffe Park to earn this significant designation.

In 2019, the City started its public consultations on a new Official Plan for Ottawa. The RPRA has submitted comments to the City on the significance of heritage to the nation's capital, and how to better protect it. These comments have been shared with our City Councillor and other heritage districts.

Susan d'Aquino and Linda Dicaire



The Hart Massey House in Rockcliffe Park was formally recognized as holding a special place in the history of Canadian architectural achievement. At the unveiling of an Historic Sites and Monuments Board ('HSMB') Plaque (from left): Thomas d'Aquino (current owner, along with his wife, Susan d'Aquino); Dr. Richard Alway, Chair of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada; Susan Peterson d'Aquino; and prominent Canadian artist John Massey, who, at the age of eight, lived in the newly-built house designed by his father, architect Hart Massey II. John is also the grandson of the first Canadian-born Governor General, Vincent Massey.

Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton

The FCA is the forum for community associations and similar non-profit volunteer groups in Ottawa to share information about issues facing their communities and, when appropriate, take joint action. The FCA includes associations from the City centre, the inner suburbs, the suburban communities outside the Greenbelt and rural Ottawa. The RPRA has been a member of the FCA since amalgamation. The 35+ member FCA meets monthly.

In 2019, FCA priorities included review and renewal of the Climate Change Master Plan, the Transportation Master Plan and the Waste Management Master Plan, among others. The federation recommended the City grow its healthy forests by funding and implementing strategies to maintain, protect and renew tree planting programs. FCA membership also made recommendations on how proposed changes to pedestrian, cycling, public transit and road networks in the City's Master Transportation plan could be improved to better serve our communities. Federation members also urged the City to take steps to address the critical lack of affordable housing in Ottawa.

The RPRA welcomes volunteers who are interested in wider community issues and would like to attend FCA meetings and report back to us. As the FCA meetings conflict with RPRA Board meetings, it is difficult for Board members to attend the FCA meetings regularly.

Bea Hampson and Chris Barker

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Treasurer's Report

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

In 2019, the RPRA received \$26,372 in 2019 grants plus \$39,045 in 2020 grants from The Rockcliffe Park Foundation. The fiscal year ended with 2019 net assets \$42,902 higher than the previous year, mainly due to the early receipt of 2020 funding. Full details of the RPRA's financial report are found in Appendix A of this annual report on pages 17 to 19.

Angelica Bolitho

Membership

Membership in the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association provides critical support for the Association's work in representing the community's interests at City Hall, and membership dues help finance the special community events and communications that connect us and enrich our neighbourhood. There were 204 paid memberships in 2019.

RPRA membership remains at \$25 per household, per calendar year, with the option of paying in advance for an additional year. Reminders were sent out in February. Steps will be taken to welcome and sign up new residents, who receive free membership for the remainder of the year.

Online registration is available, including secure payment via PayPal. It is accessed via the website at rockcliffepark.ca/shop. For those who prefer paper forms and payment by cheque or cash, membership forms may be found in the February issue of *The Rockcliffe News*, on the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, or by contacting membership@rockcliffepark.ca.

Kay James



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Speakers Program

This was the 19th year of our community's popular Speakers Program. Held in the Community Hall on Wednesday evenings periodically throughout the year, these events bring neighbours together over interesting speakers and topics. Afterwards, the Q and A discussions are lively and everyone is invited to enjoy tea, coffee and homemade cookies. In 2019 we were pleased to welcome the following speakers:

J.D.M. Stewart, author and history teacher, spoke about his new book, *Being Prime Minister*.

Julia Gersovitz, OC, Canada's leading conservation architect and professor at McGill's School of Architecture, shared lessons learned from her experience with major heritage projects and in protecting the heritage character of her town, Westmount, Quebec.

Richard Fadden, OC, former Director of CSIS and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, spoke about cyber threats, terrorism, espionage and other foreign influences threatening our security, institutions and way of life.

Perrin Beatty, PC, OC, head of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce spoke about *Job One for the New Government: Finding Canada's Place in an Unfamiliar World*.

Barry Padolsky, architect, heritage and urban design professional, outlined the fascinating history of the Château Laurier Hotel and addressed the contentious Larco addition to it under the title *The Sorry Saga So Far*.

Thierry Mesana, MD, PhD, head of the Ottawa Heart Institute, described the unique model of this greatly respected institution as well as the evolving landscape of cardiac diseases and the pressures on cardiac care and research.

Andrew Cohen, award-winning journalist and best-selling author, gave us his reflections on the presidency of Donald Trump, the process of impeachment, and what it means for the U.S. presidential election of 2020.

Susan d'Aquino

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

From many perspectives, the 2019 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale was another resounding success. We raised enough revenue to donate well over \$40,000 to the Ottawa Public Library (OPL). Revenues increased significantly (14 percent) over 2018, which itself was a banner year with a revenue increase of 12 percent.

Over the past ten years, our Sale revenues have quadrupled. Looking back, the Sale is now larger, with a wonderful tent, our publicity program has grown from strength to strength, volunteers have made it a priority to categorize the books and AV material, and signage has improved remarkably.

In 2019 – April being April – the weather challenged us once again. Saturday, April 27, was very cold and somewhat rainy. That did not deter the hundreds of book lovers who lined up for the opening. Overall, in the less than two days of the Sale, we welcomed at least 3,200 patrons, two-thirds of whom joined us on Saturday. Indeed, Saturday posed some traffic flow challenges, since between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, almost 50 percent of the total number of Sale patrons had arrived and were anxiously trying to purchase their favourite books. Saturday sales accounted for the total increase in revenue in 2019 over 2018, so the increased traffic was essential to our success this year.

We believe that the increased numbers resulted from a number of factors: our Sale is becoming better known as a quality Sale; **Jane Dobell** and I were invited to do a CBC Radio interview the morning before the Sale (attracting many new patrons); we enhanced our social media presence (there is still more to do); our poster campaign was significantly better (thank you to all who helped hang posters throughout the City); Kanata Book Sale volunteers handed out almost 1,000 of our Sale bookmarks; our new sponsor, **Guardian New Edinburgh Pharmacy**, was very active promoting the Sale; and we increased the number of and enhanced the articles prepared for various community newspapers.

This past year marked the first year we accepted debit and credit cards for purchases. Card sales accounted for over 30 percent of sales. We hope to increase that number further in 2020. This is a critical factor from a security perspective and means fewer bank runs for volunteers.

So what will the Library do with the funds this year? Approximately 70 percent of the funding remains with the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the OPL; however, the staff at the Branch are increasingly innovative with the programming funds. As ever, funds are directed towards increased adults' and children's collections at the Branch, including the enhanced Express, Magazine and Large Print Title collections. New this year is the "Music in the Stacks" program, where the community is able to listen to and chat with guest musicians, such as violist **Kathryn**



It takes a lot of volunteers to create The Spring Library Book Sale. Here they all are on opening day, April 27, 2019. Photo: Mireille Boulos

Cobbler and Celtic harpist **Susan Toman**. Professional Development Days have included musical programs, including **Derek McKinnley** and an Indigenous group, **Twin Flames**. The Rockcliffe Park Branch hosted a Storytelling Day, which involved a writing workshop for youth by **Timm Holmes**. And in October, the Branch held an Open House to welcome newcomers and thank the community for its patronage. Children were entertained by **Monkey Rock Music**, balloon animals, crafts and refreshments.

Of particular note is the Branch's new outreach programming to seniors in the area. One session featured Victoria poet **Tom Barton** reading from his poetry, inspired by the art and life of **Emily Carr**. An upcoming event will feature a reading from *The Voyage of the Yacht, Dal*, describing an incredible voyage in a wooden sailboat from Poland to Chicago in the 1930s. Village residents **Iola Price** and **Tony Keith** will be on hand, with Tony doing the reading as it was his stepfather who accomplished this feat and then wrote about it. And finally, several intergenerational programs have been enjoyed by seniors and children alike, featuring, for example, storytelling and parrots!

Our funds continue to support Indigenous programming throughout the City, including Manor Park and York Street Public Schools. A Science Day at Manor Park Community Centre featured a program about parrots, science experiments, a 3D printer and a lichenologist from the Museum of Nature. Additional programming is directed towards York Street Public School.

OPL has continued the "One School, One Book" program, which was developed by **Philip Robert**, Managing Librarian, and initially implemented throughout our Library region. This year OPL itself introduced the program to four schools (including Manor Park), where children will read the same book (*Lost in the Backyard*) and then enjoy programming and discussions related to the book's theme.

We experienced some significant changes this year. In particular, in autumn, our Supervising Librarian, **Sonia Doyon**, accepted a new assignment at the Gloucester Branch of the OPL after 13 years with the Rockcliffe Park Branch. Sonia was a huge supporter and contributor to our Spring Book Sale and she will be missed. We wish her the best of luck with her new position. We are happy to welcome our new Supervising Librarian, **Martha Hodgson**, who brings with her a world of experience and many new and innovative ideas. We look forward to working closely with Martha.

Although we have said this many times, the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale truly reflects a profound sense of community. Many thanks to our extraordinary sponsors, **Chartwell New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence**, **Guardian New Edinburgh Pharmacy** and **Dymon Storage**; to local businesses for support (**Epicuria Food Shop and Catering** for feeding our volunteers during the Sale, **Bridgehead** and **Books on Beechwood** for advertising support, and **Metro Beechwood** for donated bags); our dear book donors; our patrons; staff of our Library; the many, many volunteers who work throughout the year (about 40) or those who come to help during the Sale (well over 100); and, of course, **Philip Robert**, who provides exceptional cooperation to us all year long. His summary of program activities as input to this report highlights the incredible reach of the Book Sale proceeds. All participants are essential ingredients to a wonderful event that provides funding for such a good cause and helps our Library be the vibrant place that it is.

Linda McDonald

Spring Village Clean-up

Every spring, the RPR organizes a clean-up effort that spruces up neighbourhood roads and public spaces. On May 3, though few in numbers, 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 joined us in raking and cleaning up, and to all the resident volunteers who came out to keep our common areas well tended.

We look forward to drawing larger crowds next year. Please consider joining us – a few hours from volunteers makes a noticeable difference to our community.

Marilyn Venner



2019 Village Clean-up volunteers (left to right):
Rawlson King, Peter Lewis, Robert Graham and Iola Price.
Photo: Rawlson King



Political Candidates' Meetings

The RPRA organized two candidates' forums in 2019 with the associations of Cardinal Glen, Lindenlea, Manor Park and New Edinburgh. These events, held in Queen Juliana Hall at Rockcliffe Park Public School, generally attract close to 300 people from Rockcliffe Park and surrounding neighbourhoods. The

first forum on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 pm, was in preparation for the municipal by-election of April 15. We had 17 candidates running for councillor! To offer a better understanding of so many candidates, the presidents of the community associations interviewed all candidates with five questions. We then posted the interviews on our website and notified RPRA members by email so that they could go online to review and compare those answers. On Tuesday, October 8, a more customary panel of four federal candidates came to Queen Juliana Hall to debate the issues, in preparation for the October federal election held on October 21.

Marilyn Venner

Outdoor Movie Night

The RPRA screened *The Maltese Falcon* on Saturday, July 6, in the Jubilee Garden – a perfect spot to enjoy a summer evening. Approximately 40 people showed up to watch the movie, and enjoy popcorn and refreshments. We had planned to show a second movie, *Aquaman*, on September 7, just after school started, but the weather was against us. Thanks to **Rhodes Barker**, who graciously sponsored our Movie Nights, and **Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre**, which provided the movie screen and sound system.

Marilyn Venner

Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

Every year and at least since the 1980s, the Village has held a Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing. Traditionally, **Elmwood's Junior School Choir** leads residents to the Christmas tree, which is ceremonially lit, followed by **The Salvation Army Citadel Brass Band** leading a carol sing. This year, our councillor, **Rawlson King**, lit the tree. The event drew a good crowd, with a large number of Elmwood School students and parents in the mix. All appreciated the hot chocolate, warm cider and cookies. At the end of the evening, RPRA president **Peter Lewis** presented the band with a cheque in support of the work they do in our greater community. As well, residents brought donations in support of Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, the focus of the RPRA's holiday fundraising efforts.

Jim Carr



Carolers celebrate the season. Photo: Terry Milewski



Community Get-together and Fundraiser

The RPRA held its second Community Get-together on December 6 to launch its annual fundraising campaign for Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC; www.crcrr.org/en/ or in French at www.crcrr.org/fr/). The Centre's food bank and programs provide assistance to residents of the community who need a helping hand. The Centre has relocated from Donald Street to the new Rideau Community Hub at 815 St. Laurent Blvd., where the former Rideau High School was located.

At left: The music teacher at RRCRC led the children in a violin concert at our community fundraiser.

The event, held at St. Bart's Parish Hall, attracted over 150 people and was very well received. **Yasmin Syrian Cooking** supplied delicious Syrian-Mediterranean food and dessert, **Susan Sweeney-Hermon** provided delightful harp music, and young violinists who attend free music classes each week at RRCRC enthusiastically played a selection of Christmas songs.

We thank **Rawlson King**, councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward, and **Elizabeth McAllister** from Manor Park Community Association for their participation and generous support, and warm thanks also goes to **Nina Lepage** and her team for putting together an amazing silent auction. Kudos also go to the team of wonderful volunteers and donors who made this an especially successful event, raising over \$20,000 in one evening.

Nicolas Temnikov

Children's Christmas Party

As a long-standing tradition each holiday season, well over 100 children and their families joined in the fun at the RPRA Children's Christmas Party, held on a beautiful, sunny afternoon, the second Sunday of December, at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall.

Children were treated to the famous 'sleigh' rides with Santa by **John Cundell's** horse-drawn carriage, to the popular balloon twisting by **Goopee's** Christmas elf, a festive-themed photo booth, and creative holiday crafts, gingerbread houses and a selection of treats, which kept everyone happy and entertained for two hours.

All the delicious treats, holiday cookies, gingerbread crafts and food supplies were made possible this year due to very generous funding from **Metro Beechwood**.

Much appreciation goes to the neighbourhood families who attended with their lovely children and brought thoughtful gift cards and new toys as a donation to Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. Many underprivileged children and youth will be happy and grateful for their generosity.

This event could not have been successful without the extra helping hands of a dedicated group of volunteers and community leaders. Huge thanks go to **Miwa, Alia, Isabelle, Ayaka** and **Julia** from the Community Service Program at Ashbury, **Sydney** from the MJCGCE Program at uOttawa, **Valerie** from the RRCRC, and **Catie Baxter** from the neighbourhood. A round of applause goes to **Darrin Reesal** for keeping a jolly face under his new Santa beard and distributing candy canes to children throughout the carriage ride. Special thanks also to RPRA members and community leaders **Angelica Bolitho, Michele Collum Hayman** and **Marilyn Venner** for their silent work in the background to make this party a success.

Hats off to amazing event co-leaders **Lindsay Schubert** and **Imbaw Storer** for their efficient guidance and organization. Last but not least, much gratitude and thanks to **The Rockcliffe Park Foundation** for their support and sponsorship.

Mireille Boulos

Scenes From The 2019 Annual Children's Christmas Party



Photos: Alison Green

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Soccer Field and Running Track

Community youth soccer players and runners of all ages continued to enjoy last year's rebuilt soccer field and track at Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS), thanks to **The Rockcliffe Hosers'** lead effort. Primary stakeholders remain the RPRA, the RPPS School Council and the Lindenlea Community Association (RPL Soccer).

Despite the harsh winter, the turf came back strong, due to the field's much improved crown and drainage.

Thanks to the crew of volunteers that showed up for an early season cleanup of gravel that ended up on the field from snow clearing operations. Maintenance to the field included spring and summer rehabilitation involving aeration, reseeding and fertilization, performed by **Mountain View Turf**. Future maintenance work should include top dressing and track regrading every few years.

Track and field use by over 450 RPPS students and the community was strong following last year's modifications. **All Sports Contracting** provided line-painting service for the field on a regular basis, and lanes were painted on the track for sprint training prior to the OCDSB regional meet. Exploration of additional sporting opportunities continues, with potential for track and field clinics in the spring.

The Rockcliffe Park-Lindenlea Soccer league continued to use the field, as they have for years. Thanks go out to the Lindenlea Community Association for managing the program, to their general manager, **Seanna Kreager**, for her coordination efforts, as well as to all the parent volunteers who make the program the success that it is.

Darrin Reesal and Imbaw Storer



Field House and Rink

After a successful opening of the Rockcliffe Rink and Field House last year, the rink has seen an enormous amount of community engagement and social gathering. The Rockcliffe Hosers continue to maintain the ice of both the hockey rink and Jubilee skating rink during the winter. The City of Ottawa is responsible for ongoing maintenance and clean-up of the Field House.

Please be an engaged neighbour and pick up after yourself to help keep our facility clean and ready to use! Thanks to our volunteers who come out on cold nights to shovel, scrape, hose and perfect the ice

for a successful skating season. To become a Hoser, contact therockcliffehosers@gmail.com. *Please Note:* No parking is allowed on the driveway up to the Field House, as it must remain clear for emergency vehicles.

Field House Hours:

Monday to Friday 4:00 to 9:00 pm; Saturday and Holidays 9:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

New Family Skate Hours: every Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 to 5:00 pm, and every Saturday and Sunday 9:00 to 11:00 am. No sticks allowed on the ice during this time. No skating during weekday school hours (8:30 am to 3:30 pm) due to school restrictions.

Louise Malhotra, on behalf of The Rockcliffe Hosers



ENVIRONMENT

Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area: Environmental Remediation 2019

The McKay Lake woodlot ecological remediation program of removing Buckthorn and other invasive plants continued in 2019, albeit at a somewhat reduced level due to weather conditions and work/travel requirements. Nevertheless, between May and October, we accumulated almost 130 hours of removal and replanting work. There were intensive efforts placed on *Euonymus*/spindletree, and Norway Maple seedlings and saplings removal. Buckthorn removal is now focused on young plants – seeds that had lain dormant in the ground for years are now sprouting as the older shrubs and trees have been removed. Garlic Mustard is now confined to one or two locations and Dog-strangling Vine is now seldom seen. Minimal work around the Pond was conducted this year because of the worry that buckthorn removal would further destabilize the shoreline.

We planted a White Oak, scattered acorns of Bur Oak, Black Walnuts and Chokecherry seeds, and Sugar Maple keys. A delight was to see that the Cardinal Flowers transplanted from **Susan d'Aquino's** garden in 2018 survived the very high spring water levels and bloomed – we look forward to the expansion of this beautiful native flower.

The cold fall weather meant that we could not take advantage of the uOttawa Days of Service program to clear the paths of leaves and move brush to the central pit. We hope that there might be opportunities in both the spring and the fall for student assistance.

Thanks to **John Brooks, Anthony Keith, Michael Little, M. Bijl** and **S. Meyer** for assistance over the 2019 season.

Iola Price

The Pond: Water Quality

The RPRA continued its long-term monitoring of Nitrogen and Phosphorus levels in the Pond by sampling water three times throughout the swimming season. Thank you to **Jane Newcombe**, who collected the water samples and sent them to a local laboratory for analysis. The laboratory results found that Phosphorous and Nitrogen levels were well within the range of values of previous years. The pumping of water from the aquifer into the Pond and the historic low water levels do not appear to have had a significant impact on Phosphorous and Nitrogen levels. If problems were apparent, the RPRA would notify the City and seek advice on steps that could be taken to ameliorate the issue.

Iola Price and Jane Newcombe



The Pond, showing erosion. Photo: Yuan Xie

Pond Committee Report: Water Levels and Conservation

Over the course of 2019, members of the RPRA's Pond Committee worked with City representatives and our councillor to address environmental issues relating to the Pond. Erosion is of particular concern, especially at the access point to the Pond. To stabilize this, the City proposed building a wall and steps composed of natural rock, such as exists now. The City will 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 consider extending the rip rap to other eroded areas. The City has recently begun this work.

Other issues discussed with City representatives 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. We have developed a collaborative relationship with the City in which they take into account our concerns and proposals.

It is heartening that the City pays attention to the Pond and over the years has been taking incremental steps to protect it.

Additionally, the RPRA worked closely with the City to introduce signage that promotes responsible use of the Pond as a conservation area and also worked with the City on the water 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 pilot project to pump water into the Pond was to include a year of no pumping for comparative purposes, we do not anticipate pumping in 2020.

Brian Dickson

Jubilee Garden and Village Green



With generous funding from The Rockcliffe Park Foundation, we maintained the Jubilee Garden (*photo at left*) and its flower beds. The grass was mowed on a weekly or bi-weekly basis as needed throughout the growing season. The sprinkler system was checked with the opening in spring and at fall closing. Cedar hedges were pruned this year. A Lilac tree, four Hydrangea and four Hosta were added to the Community Hall gardens to create a more inviting space. Thanks to volunteers who helped water the new plants throughout the summer. The wildflower garden at 380 Springfield Road received only minimal attention as it is self-sustaining.

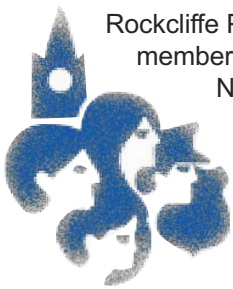
Volunteers also cleaned the debris in the Village Green (*photo at right*) around the Stone Circle and removed deadwood on the junipers and yews. There was much less weeding to be done thanks to the two applications of horticultural vinegar applied to deter weeds. These applications have proven to be beneficial. After quite a lot of discussion with the City, City staff agreed to do some spring cleaning in the Village Green to remove debris.

Mark Willcox



ROCKCLIFFE PARK SAFETY AND SECURITY

Neighbourhood Watch



Rockcliffe Park is a Neighbourhood Watch community. Neighbourhood Watch membership is included with membership of the RPRA, and residents who are not members of the RPRA are also free to sign up for Neighbourhood Watch. There is minimal signage in the Village due to heritage considerations.

Neighbourhood Watch encourages residents to be mindful of security and safety issues, both physical and digital. Block Captains are asked to be especially security conscious, to look out for new residents and join RPRA Board members in welcoming them. All Village residents who have provided email addresses receive notification in case of a police alert or emergency in the community. Security tips, warnings of Internet and phone scams, and summaries of police crime reports for Rockcliffe Park are posted in the newsletter.

Residents are asked to report any incident, however minor, to police so that patterns of criminal behaviour can be tracked and resources allocated appropriately. Non-emergency incidents that did not involve violence, or where loss or damage was less than \$5,000, may be reported online at www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp or by calling **613 236-1222, ext. 7300**. Call **911** for life-threatening emergency or crime in progress, and for other police emergencies. Our Community Police Officer is **Cst. Vianney Calixte (613 236-1222, ext. 5823)**. The Community Police Centre for Rockcliffe Park and surrounding areas is located at 252 McArthur Avenue. Contact the Centre for opening hours.

Kay James



Community Policing

Community Policing is the process by which police and other community members partner to improve community wellbeing, safety and security through joint problem identification, analysis, response and evaluation.

Community Police Officers strive to be:

- a primary focal point for problem solving in their assigned neighbourhoods;
- a primary location of the community crime prevention initiatives and partnerships; and,
- a hub for information dissemination and referrals.

Our Community Police Officer is **Constable Vianney Calixte (613 236-1222, ext. 5823)**.

The Community Police Centre for Rockcliffe Park and surrounding areas is located at 252 McArthur Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1L 6P4. *Please Note:* the Centres are not staffed full-time. Call in advance for opening hours.

The following is a message from Constable Calixte:

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

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

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

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

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

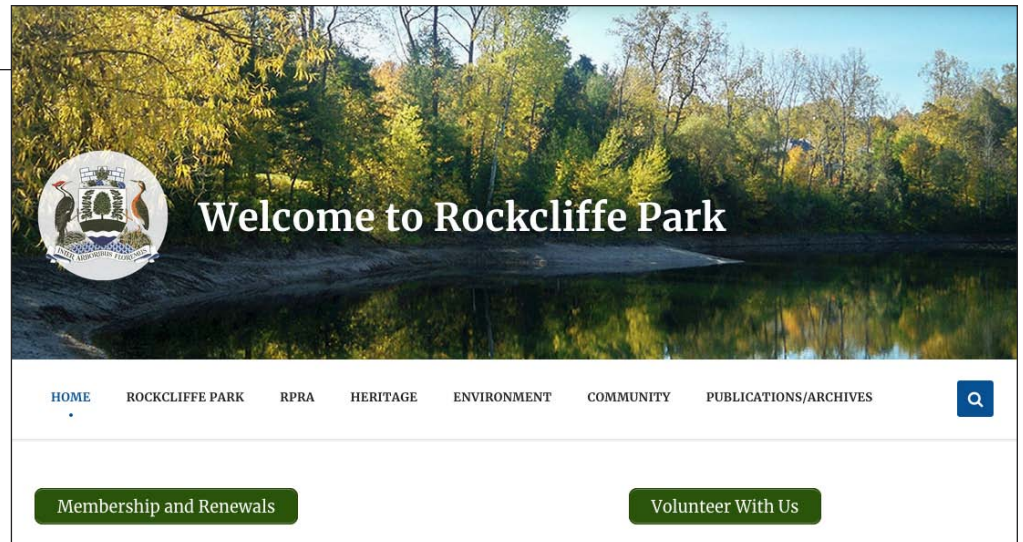
- **911** for crimes in progress and life-threatening emergencies
- **613 230-6211** for non-life-threatening emergencies (i.e., suspicious activity)
- **613 236-1222, ext. 7300** to report crimes that are not in progress
- Online reporting at **<http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>**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

Constable Vianney Calixte, Community Police Officer

COMMUNICATIONS

Website and Email Communications

The RPRRA keeps its members informed of community issues, events and activities through its newly redesigned website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, through the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Rockcliffe News*, and with regular email updates.



The website has benefitted from guidance, editorial support and photographic and design expertise from **Cynthia Hamady**, **Mireille Boulos** and **Caroline Gingras**. We also gratefully acknowledge financial assistance from **The Rockcliffe Park Foundation**.

We are always keen to receive photos of Rockcliffe Park to post on the site. We also welcome stories about life in Village, both for our website and our newsletter. Please send any photos and stories to communications@rockcliffepark.ca. Please be sure to include contact information, plus captions and credits for photos.

The RPRRA communicates via email with the membership regularly, but not too often, to advise of neighbourhood events as well as urgent and more general issues, such as security alerts, City news and missing pets. More than 300 RPRRA members receive these emails. If you are not receiving these notices and wish to do so, please check with membership@rockcliffepark.ca to see if your membership needs to be renewed.

Marilyn Venner

Newsletter Team

Many thanks to our editor and graphic artist, **Cynthia Hamady**, for producing six issues of *The Rockcliffe News* in 2019 as well as this Annual Report and other graphic materials. A full-colour web version of each newsletter is posted online at www.rockcliffepark.ca, often before the print version is delivered.

Thanks to **Mark Schwartz** of **Yard Butler** for sponsoring the April issue of *The Rockcliffe News*, and thanks to **Catherine Strevins-Bourque** of **Chartwell New Edinburgh Square** for sponsoring our newsletter for the rest of the year and into 2020. Special thanks to **The Rockcliffe Park Foundation**, whose continuing financial support helps to defray newsletter printing and production costs.

Thanks to our proofreaders, **Iola Price** and **Marilyn Venner**. Thanks to **Iola Price**, **Jane Newcombe**, **Louise Meyer**, **Marilyn Venner**, **Brian Dickson** and **Paul St. Louis** for organizing newsletter volunteers and distribution, and thanks to **Iola Price** for organizing delivery of newsletters to non-resident RPRRA members.

Finally, the newsletter would never reach your door without a large and dedicated team of delivery volunteers. We are grateful to:

Chris Barker, Stephanie Barker, Cynthia Baxter, Rachel Baxter, Ben Baxter, Catie Baxter, Thomas Baxter, Mireille Boulos, John Brooks, Alexandra Colt, Brian Dickson, Jean-Guy Dumoulin, John Edmond, Linda Forrester, Alison Green, Walter Grego, Bea Hampson, Sue Harcourt, Heather Hickling, David Jenkins, Nancy Johnson, Anthony Keith, Joan Kellett, Ana Klar, Ling Lu Langley, Peter Lewis, Sheila Macmillan, Ainsley Malhotra, Kent Manderville, Louise Meyer, Yomna Marzouk, Rodney Moore, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, Jane Panet, Moira Phillips, Iola Price, Blake Radley, Gregory Sanders, Claire Schofield, Karen Shigeishi-Waite, Paul St. Louis, Mary Ann Smallwood, Imbaw Storer, Heather Sweeney, Si Taylor, Mary Taylor, Dean Saul, Kate Struthers, Hans Uhthoff, Marilyn Venner, Mark Willcox and Maggie Zhu.

Cynthia Hamady and Marilyn Venner

APPENDIX A: RPRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2019 (with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2019	2018
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	60,541.87	22,184.99
Short-term investments	57,484.86	56,575.47
Other receivables	3,635.94	—
Total Assets	<u>121,662.67</u>	<u>78,760.46</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Prepaid memberships	3,700.00	1,350.00
Accounts payable	940.08	3,348.56
Deferred 2020 funding	41,045.00	—
Total Liabilities	<u>45,685.08</u>	<u>4,698.56</u>
Fund Balances		
Restricted net assets – Library	14,111.39	10,100.35
Restricted net assets – other	16,028.68	20,357.99
Unrestricted net assets	45,837.52	43,603.56
	<u>75,977.59</u>	<u>74,061.90</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>121,662.67</u>	<u>78,760.46</u>
Schedule – Accounts Payable		
Library	211.05	836.12
Communications and social events	593.62	2,467.90
Other	135.41	44.54
Total Accounts Payable	<u>940.08</u>	<u>3,348.56</u>

Statement of Income and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2019
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2019	2018
Restricted Funds – Library		
Income		
Sponsorships	2,450.00	1,750.00
Book Sale	51,788.90	45,008.70
Total Income	<u>54,238.90</u>	<u>46,758.70</u>
Expenses		
Grants to Ottawa Public Library / Friends of OPL	40,000.00	36,000.00
Expenses	10,227.86	11,376.45
Total Expenses	<u>50,227.86</u>	<u>47,376.45</u>
Change in net assets	4,011.04	(617.75)
Net assets – opening balance	10,100.35	10,718.10
Net assets – closing balance	<u>14,111.39</u>	<u>10,100.35</u>
Unrestricted Funds		
Income		
Memberships	5,100.00	5,300.00
Investment income	909.39	680.42
Donations	100.00	123.50
Booklet sales	52.00	63.00
Total Income	<u>6,161.39</u>	<u>6,166.92</u>
Income		
Annual report	954.85	932.25
Events	1,229.35	1,901.26
Contribution to soccer field / track upgrade	–	5,000.00
General administration	631.63	874.71
Insurance / filing fees	674.48	674.48
Credit card fees	104.27	–
Bank charges	172.85	201.71
Membership dues	160.00	155.00
Total Expenses	<u>3,927.43</u>	<u>9,739.41</u>
Change in net assets	2,233.96	(3,572.49)
Net assets – opening balance	43,603.56	47,176.05
Net assets – closing balance	<u>45,837.52</u>	<u>43,603.56</u>

Statement of Income and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2019
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2019	2018
Restricted Funds – Other		
Income		
The Rockcliffe Park Foundation	26,372.00	25,863.00
Communications and Social Events		
Speakers Program	206.00	372.00
Newsletter sponsorship	5,000.00	1,000.00
Soccer Field and Running Track		
City of Ottawa Minor Capital Grant	–	10,000.00
Contribution from RPPS and Lindenlea	6,650.00	6,000.00
Contribution from RPRA	–	5,000.00
Total Income	<u>38,228.00</u>	<u>48,235.00</u>
Expenses		
Heritage		
Heritage Management Plan	1,501.56	2,828.79
Heritage Plan booklets	–	1,735.86
Environment		
Jubilee Garden / CH gardens maintenance	8,286.30	10,842.97
Sprinkler upgrade / maintenance	197.78	2,075.47
Pond water analysis	82.32	150.40
Communications and Social Events		
Newsletter	7,573.52	5,499.91
Christmas Tree Lighting and Children’s Party	2,864.19	2,687.72
Movie Nights	207.92	578.77
Speakers Program	1,311.51	2,355.51
Website	1,853.63	3,180.19
Soccer Field and Running Track		
Upgrade and maintenance	<u>18,678.58</u>	<u>23,875.75</u>
Total Expenses	<u>42,557.31</u>	<u>55,811.34</u>
Change in net assets	(4,329.31)	(7,576.34)
Net assets – opening balance	<u>20,357.99</u>	<u>27,934.33</u>
Net assets – closing balance	<u>16,028.68</u>	<u>20,357.99</u>
Schedule – Restricted Net Assets – Other		
Heritage	4,414.72	3,416.28
Environment	1,982.85	927.25
Community events	1,072.38	–
Communications	2,097.41	524.56
Sports	<u>6,461.32</u>	<u>15,489.90</u>
Total Restricted Net Assets – Other	<u>16,028.68</u>	<u>20,357.99</u>