



The Rockcliffe News

August 2020

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Due to the challenges of holding a public meeting during the pandemic, our elected representatives recently held a “virtual town hall” meeting with Rockcliffe Park residents. The town hall participants included our Member of Parliament **Mona Fortier**, Member of Provincial Parliament **Lucille Collard**, and our Ward Councillor **Rawlson King**. Although the format had some limitations, participants were able to pose questions and the discussion was informative. I have encouraged our elected representatives to hold virtual town hall meetings with our community association and Rockcliffe Park residents, particularly if in-person public meetings are not possible.

During the virtual town hall, a question was posed regarding the National Capital Commission (NCC) study of previous interprovincial bridge options. Readers will recall that three sites bordering our community were proposed as possibilities some time ago by government. **Susan d’Aquino** asked each representative for their position on these options, especially since decisions made by government will have potential impacts on the traffic flow in and around our area. I expect that this topic will be the subject of further RPRAs communications with the community. Director **Jean-Guy Dumoulin** will be monitoring developments on the interprovincial bridge matter and updating the RPRAs Board regularly. If you are interested in following this issue, watch for details of the NCC’s public consultations, which, I am told, may start as early as September 2020. Find more information on page 5 of this newsletter.

With the announcement that the City of Ottawa is entering Stage 3 of the province’s pandemic response, our community association will be considering the re-introduction of some RPRAs activities if and when it is safe to do so. In this regard I expect that we will be able to offer a movie night in Jubilee Garden on a date to be determined. We will pass along to residents who are members of the RPRAs, by email, guidance from the City of Ottawa’s Parks and Recreation Department and Councillor King’s office on permitted activities in our parks and related facilities as we receive it. On a related note, the City of Ottawa hired two monitors for the Pond for the duration of the summer with responsibility for encouraging visitors to respect time-of-day attendance rules, as well as the regulations pertaining to the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area bordering the Pond and the eastern shore of McKay Lake. Although it has been a challenging summer, it would be more difficult for neighbouring residents without the help of these individuals.

We are also sharing in this newsletter a background document endorsed by the Board of Directors of the RPRAs on the matter of recreational lighting at the Rockcliffe Lawn and Tennis Club (RLTC). This document contains the facts as they are known to the RPRAs Board of Directors and a summary of the limited unofficial role of the RPRAs in the Heritage Permit granting process. This document notes that Heritage Permits are granted by the City of Ottawa and currently the RPRAs is not aware of any proposed or pending application for a Heritage Permit at RLTC.

Finally, I regret to inform readers that **Cynthia Hamady** is retiring from her role as editor of this newsletter. A graphic arts professional by training, Cynthia established many improvements in this community institution and she will be greatly missed. Cynthia cannot be replaced so for now the Editorial Board of the newsletter will carry on her duties commencing in October. Thank you, Cynthia, for your outstanding contribution to RPRAs communications. To those who may wish to volunteer with the RPRAs to assist with communications, please contact membership@rockcliffepark.ca, or for readers who are not currently members of this association, I encourage you to become a member by emailing us or by visiting our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, and clicking “join.” It’s simple to do and will benefit both you and your community. *Russ Gibson, 20 July 2020*

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

www.rockcliffepark.ca

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To our Readers:

The RPRAs has, since at least as early as 2019, encouraged the Rockcliffe Lawn and Tennis Club (RLTC) and its neighbours to discuss the matter of lighting, and most recently the Board endorsed a background document on this issue at its June Board meeting. For background and a complete timeline on this subject, which was previously emailed to all RPRAs members approximately one month ago, see the Heritage Matters column on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.

Many residents of Rockcliffe Park received a 14-page booklet delivered to each household to communicate views opposing RLTC lighting. This booklet may have appeared to some as being from the RPRAs, but it was not a Rockcliffe Park Residents Association publication. The RPRAs also received a significant number of letters in favour of lighting.

At the time when the 14-page booklet to residents was circulated to the community, the tennis club had already advised the community, approximately one month earlier, that it had paused on its plans to install lighting (and its Heritage Permit was allowed to expire) and that it would consult its neighbours if it decided to revisit this idea. At present, the RPRAs is not aware of an application for a Heritage Permit pending with the City of Ottawa in respect to lighting at the RLTC and it should be noted that the City of Ottawa grants Heritage Permits, not the RPRAs.

Funding from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation was obtained for the purpose of redesigning the newsletter and related messaging, and this update is in process since formal adoption of the strategy was discussed at the RPRAs's May Board meeting. We strive to present information to RPRAs members in a timely and transparent manner. We also strive to have balanced views and to be open to differing points of view in the community. We regularly send out email bulletins, and now post the minutes of our Board meetings and other breaking news on our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca.

The editorial policy of The Rockcliffe News has been published here previously and on the RPRAs website. Submissions which are not in accordance with the policy, whether

due to other similar letters having already been submitted to the Editor and found to be repetitive in the view of the Editorial Board, or due to a lack of space, may not be printed. We always welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to improve our communications to you.

To the Editor:

The matter of tennis court lighting is of significant importance to the residents of Rockcliffe Park. It has been suggested that the booklet circulated in June to our neighbours – explaining why many people were opposing the night lighting project at the tennis club – was intended to have people think that the booklet came from the RPRAs. This was never the case and is certainly untrue.

A number of residents were concerned that very few residents who live in Rockcliffe Park were aware of the proposed RLTC lighting. A booklet was assembled in which letters and the details of a February 2020 petition were reprinted, in a format which would permit space for one letter per page and the full list of petition signatures to be listed on the last page. We wanted residents to hear the voices of those who were opposing the project and from there, be able to make a decision as to whether or not to join us in opposing the lighting.

The hand-delivered booklet was distributed by a great team of volunteers; all 700+ booklets were delivered to households in our neighbourhood (embassy residences excepted). I have heard that due to the booklet's size, a few thought it to have come from the RPRAs. This is truly unfortunate and certainly unintended. The cover page, over which we laboured long and hard, immediately stated that the booklet was from residents who oppose the lighting – there were no words or logo to suggest otherwise. We regret any confusion.

Lisa Cogan



Talk to us! We welcome your letters and comments. Please send submissions by mid-month preceding publication (the 15th of January, March, May, July, September and November) to editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca. Photos or illustrations (with proper credit) may also be included. Please supply contact information. The current editorial policy, along with any additions or updates, may be found on our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca.



Get Ready for Movie Night! (Maybe)

The RPRAs is hoping to host an Outdoor Movie Night in the Jubilee Garden sometime later this summer. We will be posting updates with details on our website, and by email to RPRAs members. See you at the movies!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago, with great surprise, I learned about the proposal by our “Good Neighbour,” namely Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC), to install strong lighting at two of their courts. That idea clearly violates the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan, accepted by the Ottawa City Council at the beginning of 2019.

It is only because of a booklet, distributed by Rockcliffe volunteers, that I became aware of the intended threat. I am grateful for their dedication and great efforts. Such a situation is really surprising because at the same time, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) did nothing in spite of receiving funding from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation “**to develop enhanced communications with its members. As always, our communications and programs support and reinforce the core values of... preservation of the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park...**” [*President’s Letter, The Rockcliffe News, April 2020, p. 2*]. Next, the President requests those who are not already members of the RPRA or who have not renewed their membership to do so and pay.

Accepting additional funding and doing nothing is really surprising to me, to say the least, and requires explanation from the members of the RPRA.

Mrs. Danuta Tymowska

To the Editor:

Recently, a 14-page brochure was received by the majority of Rockcliffe residents featuring a single-sided negative perspective on the lighting plan at RLTC. Surprisingly, the brochure closely resembled the style and formatting of the RPRA newsletter, creating significant confusion among neighbours who were unsure of its origin. Its use of the bolded heading “URGENT” was particularly uncomfortable given the current precarious global situation. A disagreement over tennis club lighting in Rockcliffe is most certainly not urgent. While it is understandable that there will be multiple perspectives and disagreements within any community, we must strive to communicate our grievances and ideas through legitimate channels. Otherwise, we run the risk of alienating our neighbours who have valid opinions on community issues but are hesitant to engage in open dialogue for risk of being publicly criticized without recourse.

In respectful response to Ms. Tymowska’s letter (above), it should be noted the RLTC was granted a valid permit by the City of Ottawa under the Ontario Heritage Act. The permit

affirmed that the RLTC’s plan to light two courts for a few hours a day for four months of the year was not in conflict with the heritage plan. As a direct comparable, our community rink and field house is currently lit up year-round until 11:00 pm and has been a much-needed recreational resource for our neighbourhood.

Let’s focus our attention on positive communication within the neighbourhood and help the RPRA uphold its mandate to “foster a spirit of community within the Village,” which is equally as important as its commitment to heritage.

Louise Malhotra, RLTC President

To the Editor:

We moved to Rockcliffe Park in November of 2019, into a house that backs onto the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area. To our great surprise, we learned, thanks to efforts by many volunteers who hand delivered pamphlets from door to door, that some of the very features we quickly learned to love were at risk of being undermined.

We have since taken some time to understand the issue and how it could have gone unnoticed. We reviewed past issues of *The Rockcliffe News* and were surprised to find not a single mention of this planned work in 2017, 2018 or 2019, and only in the April and June 2020 issues. This is made more disturbing by the fact the lights had apparently already been purchased as of April 2020 (see April 15, 2020 minutes of RPRA meeting of the Board of Directors, <https://rockcliffepark.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-RPRA-Board-Minutes-April-15-1.pdf>) and that as far as we can tell, information on the RLTC website is just as recent (February and April of this year).

Given the above, we would like to voice our opposition to the process that was followed to consult and communicate this project, in addition to our opposition to the project itself.

Jane and Patrick Blonar, 85 Lakeway Drive

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS • VOLUME 20 • NUMBER 4

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

A Taste of Belgium: Vol-au-Vent

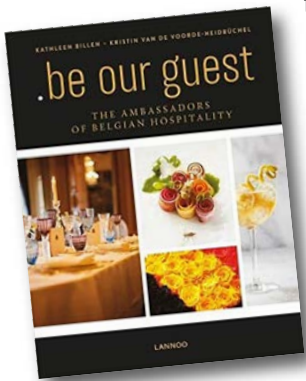
For decades, residents of Rockcliffe have shared in the culinary wonders of the world and the elegant hospitality of our diplomatic neighbours through **Dining with the Ambassadors (DWA)**, our biennial fundraiser for the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. This is second in a series of recipes brought to you by our diplomatic neighbours and our DWA committee.

The Foundation supports the many incredible RPR projects that preserve the natural beauty of our neighbourhood and make our favourite community events possible. While we wait until we can begin having large dinner parties again, our diplomatic friends continue to share their knowledge so that we can enjoy a lovely meal in our own homes.

This issue's recipe has been provided by **Kathleen Billen**, who, together with her husband, **H.E. Johan Verkammen**, Ambassador of Belgium, and their four sons, has lived around the world, sharing Belgian hospitality and friendship at each posting. Insights from these adventures and more can be found in the gorgeous coffee table book, *.be our guest: THE AMBASSADORS OF BELGIAN HOSPITALITY*,

that Kathleen co-authored with her friend and fellow ambassador spouse, **Kristin van de Voorde-Heidbüchel**.

The book covers everything, from etiquette to Belgian chocolate and beer. With great chefs offering menus for spectacular meals, all beautifully documented in stunning photos, many of which were taken in the diplomatic residences around the world, you will be inspired and transported. (Available from Amazon.)



The recipe here is one you can easily prepare at home and is very popular with kids. As Kathleen tells us, it is one of those dishes you can find on any Belgian brasserie menu at any time of the year. Known as *vol-au-vent* (windblown) or *bouchée a la reine* (queen's bite), it is basically a chicken stew made from a whole boiled chicken, a roux and chicken stock, a little cream, small meatballs and mushrooms, served in a round hollow puff pastry case accompanied by rice, fries or mashed potatoes. Serves 4.



Ingredients

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 onion | butter |
| 4 carrots | 6 tablespoons flour |
| 2 leeks | ¾ cup minced meat |
| 1 chicken | 1 egg |
| 4 cloves | 4 tablespoons breadcrumbs |
| 3 sprigs of thyme | 5 oz. cream |
| 3 bay leaves | vermouth/white wine |
| 3 sprigs of parsley | pepper/salt |
| pepper/salt | chopped parsley |
| 9 oz. fresh mushrooms | store bought puff pastry cases |
| juice of 1 lemon | |

Directions

Cut up the onion, carrots and leeks into large pieces. Put the chicken and vegetables in a large saucepan and cover with water. Add the cloves, thyme, bay leaf, parsley, pepper and salt. Bring to a gentle boil and simmer for 50 minutes. Take the chicken out and strain the broth through a sieve.

Mix the minced meat with the egg, breadcrumbs, pepper and salt. Knead well and roll into small balls. Simmer the meatballs in broth until they float. Remove the meatballs.

Fry the cleaned and quartered mushrooms with a drizzle of lemon juice, a spoon of butter, pepper and salt. Cover and cook the mushrooms, then drain.

Melt 5 spoons of butter in a saucepan. Stir in the flour until a cookie scent emerges from the mixture. Remove the pan from the heat, add a drizzle of broth and whisk well to remove all the lumps. Put the pan on the heat again and add the broth (about 50 oz.) little by little while whisking, until you get a smooth sauce.

Remove the skin from the chicken, debone and shred into pieces. Put the meatballs, mushrooms and chicken in the sauce. Add the cream and a drizzle of vermouth/white wine. Let it heat well and season to taste. Heat the puff pastry cases in the oven as instructed. Take them out of the oven and cut the top layer to form the cover.

Spoon the filling into the pastry cases and put the lid on. Garnish with parsley and serve with fries.

THE 2020 ROCKCLIFFE PARK FOUNDATION BOARD: *Executive:* Sarah Baxter, Chair

Ryan Kilger, Vice-Chair | Roy Williams, Treasurer | Jane Newcombe, Secretary *Board Members:* Anthony Carty, Alexandra Colt, Alison Green, Heather Hickling, Fiona Murray, Jane Panet, Bonnie Robinson, Paul St. Louis, Donna Taucer

Meet our Board (by Zoom!):



The RPF Board held its meetings this summer by Zoom. Many exciting things to come, but first we would like to introduce you to your neighbours and 2020 - 2021 RPF Board (left to right starting top left): **Sarah Baxter, Alison Green, Alexandra Colt, Bonnie Robinson, Jane Newcombe, Paul St. Louis, Anthony Carty, Roy Williams, Heather Hickling and Donna Taucer**; not pictured: **Jane Panet, Ryan Kilger and Fiona Murray**.

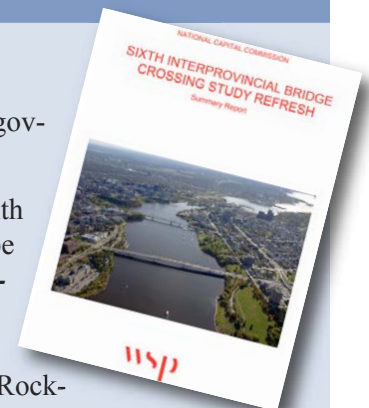
The Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a charitable organization established at the time of amalgamation with the City of Ottawa to manage an endowment, the interest from which is used to help fund community projects and programs in three areas of focus: the conservation of the environment; preservation of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

Interprovincial Bridge Report

A sixth interprovincial bridge for the National Capital Region was raised in the last federal government budget, tabled this past March.

The National Capital Commission has since released, on 8 April 2020, a report entitled: “Sixth Interprovincial Bridge Crossing Study Refresh – Summary Report.” The full report can be accessed via the following link: <https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/news/interprovincial-crossings-refresh-of-technical-studies>. Many will recall controversy arising in 2013 when the NCC circulated a report recommending an interprovincial bridge crossing at Kettle Island. Since that time, traffic congestion has become increased along Hemlock, Lisgar and other streets surrounding Rockcliffe Park. The RPRA has been told that the first community consultation on a new interprovincial bridge could occur this coming September.

Director **Jean-Guy Dumoulin** will be monitoring developments on this matter and sharing them with the Board of Directors of the RPRA. We will pass along to readers information as we receive it. It has been reported that the federal government could make a decision on a sixth bridge as early as 2021. *Russ Gibson*



HERITAGE MATTERS

RPRA Update on the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club Lighting Issue

Context

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association received dozens of letters, emails and calls in April, May and June 2020 from neighbours arguing strongly for and against the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) plan to install lighting. This debate has caused controversy in our community.

On that basis, the RPRA would like to take the opportunity to update the community on the current situation, provide facts, outline actions and clarify the RPRA's role.

Objecting opinions to tennis club lighting can be broadly summarized as follows:

- Concern that tennis club court lighting would add significant light pollution, and accompanying increased noise traffic into the night, which would detrimentally impact the quality of life and property value of all surrounding residential neighbours.
- Concern that introducing bright lighting would be incompatible with the unique and protected night-time character of the Village. Tennis court lighting would not be compatible with the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan.
- Concern over the impact of bright lighting on sensitive wildlife and nature in the area.

In contrast, the RLTC and supporters of tennis club lighting argue that:

- Tennis court lighting would not have a significant negative impact on surrounding neighbours, and the overall night-time character of the Village.
- Tennis court lighting would help the club compete for members with other tennis clubs.
- Tennis court lighting would provide a benefit to the community, by promoting active living and allowing for shared enjoyment and interaction into the evening.
- The Heritage Plan lists the tennis club as a "Heritage Attribute" to the Heritage Conservation District, and does not specifically restrict tennis court lighting.

Community members have offered their views, and have turned to the RPRA for information and guidance.

The RPRA's role is "to foster a spirit of community within the Village, to preserve and enhance its unique natural environment and its special heritage character, and to represent the interests of Rockcliffe residents." The guiding principle of the RPRA is its commitment to the three, linked core values: Heritage, Community and Environment. The RPRA's

articles provide that the purpose of the RPRA is "to provide any service or carry out any activity whatsoever tending to the benefit of the residents of the Heritage Conservation District of Rockcliffe Park, in the City of Ottawa, Ontario.

The volunteers of the RPRA Board and RPRA committees have spent an extraordinary amount of time and effort over the last several months listening to all voices in the community. This document provides a factual overview of the background and current situation.

Timeline

- Consultation with the RPRA Heritage Committee and community prior to submitting a Heritage Permit application to the City of Ottawa is strongly encouraged, but there is no legal obligation for Heritage Permit applicants to do so. The RLTC did not enter into a consultation process with the Heritage Committee or neighbours prior to submitting an application for a Heritage Permit application to the City of Ottawa for tennis court lighting in April 2018.
- The City of Ottawa and the (then) Ward Councillor did not notify the RPRA Heritage Committee of the RLTC application upon receipt. The City of Ottawa also did not notify or consult with the RPRA Heritage Committee during their review and approval process. Note: there is a legal obligation for the City to notify the public of all heritage applications except those that the City heritage staff deem to accord with the conditions under which the City staff can exercise Delegated Authority.
- The RPRA and the wider community therefore only became aware of the application after the Heritage Permit was granted under Delegated Authority on 3 May 2018. The permit was granted on the basis of the 1997 Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Guidelines, not the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan, which only came into full force in May 2019.
- The RPRA became aware of the growing discontent within the community in 2019, and the president of the RPRA sent a letter to the RLTC in early December 2019 asking the tennis club to consider foregoing their lighting plans: "The essential equation, in short, is the long-standing heritage character of our community and the legitimate interests of close neighbours vs. the desire of some members to play later ... than has been the practice in the past."
- Due to the pandemic, a public information meeting planned by the RLTC for 25 March 2020 was cancelled.

HERITAGE MATTERS

RPRA Update *continued*

- In April 2020, neighbours of the tennis club legally challenged the City with regard to the approval process for the Heritage Permit, arguing that the RLTC application did not meet the criteria for Delegated Authority, and that the Heritage Permit was therefore invalid. The City's legal department maintained that their decision was legal.
- The RLTC has committed to the community in an open letter on 2 May 2020 that: "... the (RLTC) Board has decided to hold off on further project development until there has been ample discussion."
- Subsequently, the Heritage Permit expired on 3 May 2020 (two years after approval), as confirmed by the City of Ottawa. Neighbours withdrew their legal challenge.
- A group of individuals distributed a collection of letters on 9 June 2020, asking residents to email the RPRA and state their objection to any future RLTC lighting plans.

Current Situation

The RLTC currently has no Heritage Permit for any court lighting, and it is currently unknown to the RPRA if or when the RLTC will pursue future lighting plans.

As a matter of policy, the RPRA and its Heritage Committee generally do not comment on hypothetical or future applications. Instead, the RPRA (through its Heritage Committee) only provides comments on specific cases, when:

- An applicant approaches the RPRA Heritage Committee prior to the submission of a Heritage Permit application. This is an informal and confidential pre-consultation allowing the applicant to better understand the Heritage Plan, and decide if or how to proceed with a Heritage Permit application to the City of Ottawa.
- The Heritage Planning Branch of the City of Ottawa invites the RPRA Heritage Committee (and Ward Councillor) to comment as part of a coordinated, formal

consultation process upon receipt of an application. Any comments the RPRA Heritage Committee provides are only shared with the City's Heritage Planning Branch at that stage. The City's Heritage Planning Branch is solely responsible for preparing a recommendation to the Built Heritage Sub Committee and City Council.

The RPRA and its Heritage Committee have no decision-making authority in the Heritage Permit process. Only the City of Ottawa can grant Heritage Permits for Rockcliffe Park. The RPRA Heritage Committee fairly evaluates any specific proposal on its own merits, based on the provisions of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan and in line with the above policies.

The RPRA is bound by its mandate and commitment to uphold the Heritage Plan which recognizes the importance of subdued nighttime illumination. The visible night sky, lack of glare, light pollution/spillage and a dimly-lit visual environment are important, defining aspects of our unique neighbourhood that the Heritage Plan seeks to protect. Any lighting that materially diminishes or alters the nighttime character of Rockcliffe Park is in conflict with the purpose and intent of the Heritage Plan.

There are legitimate and fundamental concerns regarding tennis court lighting in the sensitive location of the RLTC. The RPRA had appealed to the RLTC in the past not to pursue future lighting plans in recognition of our protected nighttime environment, and in the spirit of being a good neighbour.

The RPRA has offered assistance in seeking alternative ways of improving the club's membership without the need for court lighting at the RLTC location. The RPRA values the tennis club as an important community facility, and is looking forward to continued dialogue and partnership for the next 97 years.

ELTOC Update: English Language Tutoring for the Ottawa Community (ELTOC) is pleased to announce that we have reached more than 50 percent of our fundraising goal of \$5,000 through the generous support of our donors. With the move to remote learning in response to COVID-19, these much-needed funds will support the new costs for online training, educational materials and technical needs for more than 200 newcomers annually. We would like to thank our donors for their help as we step up to the challenge of transitioning our service model so we can continue to achieve ELTOC's vision for a strong, inclusive multicultural community in these challenging times. Any assistance to help us meet our fundraising goal is greatly appreciated. You will receive a tax receipt for all gifts over \$20, and have the satisfaction of helping Ottawa be an inclusive community to newcomers. Please see our website, <https://eltoc.ca/> or contact **Liz Heatherington** (Volunteer Tutor and Board) at 613 745-4677 for further details.

MESSAGES FROM OUR POLITICIANS

Messages from our politicians – **Jim Watson**, Mayor, City of Ottawa; **Mona Fortier**, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier; **Rawlson King**, Councillor, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward; and **Lucille Collard**, MPP, Ottawa-Vanier – are featured in full on our website, www.rockcliffepark.ca, as we receive them. A full or abridged version, space permitting, of Mr. King’s column will continue to appear in the newsletter.

Check out Mayor Watson’s column on how to submit your nominations recognizing Ottawa’s most exceptional residents into the Order of Ottawa and for outstanding amateur coaches with the Brian Kilrea Award for Excellence in Coaching. Our MPP Lucille Collard details how her office has been working to represent constituents through the pandemic. Mona Fortier’s office did not submit a column this month, but you may find information on her website, <https://monafortier.libparl.ca/?lang=en>. Check out these columns and more on our website.



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

Rockcliffe Park Updates

I hope everyone is enjoying the wonderful summer weather. The slow and cautious reopening allows us to extend our social circle to see friends and family, but I urge all to exercise caution as COVID-19 still poses a real threat to our community.

As most are aware, Council approved a temporary mandatory mask By-law which will be reviewed at the Council meeting scheduled for August, at the end of the legislative break. I anticipate the By-law will continue to be renewed in the foreseeable future, given scientific evidence that demonstrates that masks reduce viral spread.

My office has made inquiries on behalf of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association about best practices regarding organized sport, especially youth soccer. Stage 3 allows for the reopening of all park play structures and sports rentals for organized sports play. In conjunction with Ottawa Public Health, City staff are conducting a thorough assessment

any potential redeployments or retrofits. We expect that more information will be made available through the release of safety guidelines, in advance of school reopening in September. Regardless, everyone is reminded to avoid touching their face, to practice physical distancing, and to wash hands after using park equipment.

The nicer weather has also brought more people back to the Pond. My office has been working closely with By-law staff to assist, educate and, where required, to enforce the rules and regulations around swimming and the associated parking on the street.

I wrote in the last issue of *The Rockcliffe News* about food insecurity amongst many in the Ward. As the pandemic wears on, coupled with a general dip in donations through the summer, it is more important than ever that we support those in our community. Rockcliffe resident **Nicolas Temnikov** started the “Local Food for the Local Food Bank” initiative where food from local businesses go toward those in need in our community, creating a “win-win” situation for all. You can donate by sending a cheque to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre at 815 St. Laurent Boulevard, Unit 3, Ottawa, ON K1K 3A7, or donate online directly at <https://bit.ly/2WSPYFc>.

A Fond Farewell to our Neighbours: Nancy and **Jim Carr** have sold their Rockcliffe Park home and are heading off on a new adventure. We will miss their friendship and active volunteering in the Village! In recent years, Nancy and Jim have hosted both our Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing and the RPRA’s Outdoor Movie Nights in the Jubilee Garden, and they were active organizers of our Village Fête. Nancy is also an outgoing Board member of the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. Their new adventure is taking them to Mille Fleurs, close to Castres, France (an hour east of Toulouse). Built in 1680 and beautifully renovated, the property has 11 bedrooms split between the main house and four apartments, which have their own kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms. Nancy and Jim plan to run their new home as a *gite*, or inn. Their son **Alex**, who has worked as a sous chef at Sutherland and at Jasper, plans to join them next year as their chef. We send them our sincere thanks for their exceptional support for our community and wish them well in their new and exciting projects. To contact Nancy for more information, email MilleFleurs.Castres@gmail.com.

SCHOOL REPORT



ELMWOOD SCHOOL

Elmwood School's First-Ever Virtual Closing



The delivery was different but the spirit was the same! A week-long celebration of Elmwood students and the Class of 2020 began on June 5 with a school-wide Graduate Appreciation Day that saw the Elmwood community sharing videos of

congratulations – almost 400 in total – with the Class of 2020. On June 8, Head of School **James Whitehouse** hit the road, visiting the home of each graduate with a message of congratulations and a sign celebrating their success (*photo above*). And on June 12, members of the Class of 2020 donned their white dresses and came to campus with their families, at staggered times, to have their family portrait taken and receive their diploma and awards, at a distance, from Mr. Whitehouse.

That same week, students in key transition years, Grades 5 and 8, received handwritten notes from faculty members reflecting on their successes and their impact on the Junior and Middle Schools, respectively. Then, from June 10 to 12, Elmwood celebrated the end of this incredible year with our first-ever Virtual Closing Ceremonies. Broadcast as pre-recorded events, the separate Junior, Middle and Senior School ceremonies followed the same format as our traditional in-person events and have garnered more than 2,500 YouTube views to date from around the world. While it wasn't the end everyone had planned or wished for, it was a celebration nonetheless and a wonderful example of the resilience, creativity and innovation of our community.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Despite an unconventional end to their high school career, the Class of 2020 made us exceptionally proud. Ninety-four percent of graduates received university entrance scholarships for a total of \$866,000 in scholarship offers. Their university destinations are as distinct as their passions, with 53 percent of them pursuing STEM programs; 38 percent pursuing Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; 6 percent pursuing Fine and Performing Arts; and 9 percent pursuing

Commerce and Business. The academic excellence, determination and incredible potential of these graduates is reflected by the offers they received from exceptional universities across the country and around the world. A very special congratulations to **Alexis Patrascu**, who will be studying Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Oxford in the Fall.

Introducing Our New Prefect Team



Every spring, Elmwood students, faculty and staff elect the student leaders for the coming school year. Candidates write a letter of intent, create a video and give a speech in hopes of securing a Prefect position. Congratulations to our new Prefects – we know you will do a wonderful job!

Leading Elmwood's student body for the 2020 - 2021 school year are: Head Girl: **Sarah Allam** (*photo above*); Senior School Prefect: **Caitlin Walsh**; Middle School Prefect: **Maggie Fyfe**; Junior School Prefect: **Clare McGuffin**; Nightingale House Prefect: **Aahana Uppal**; Keller House Prefect: **Genevieve Landry**; Fry House Prefect: **Stephanie Atkinson**; Wilson House Prefect: **Grace Brunner**; Community Prefects: **Sophie Barbeau-O'Connor** and **Lori Harris**; Student Ambassador Prefect: **Felicia Dionne**; Sports Prefect: **Grace Charness**; Arts Prefect: **Marika Kors**.

Friends of Elmwood

Our Friends of Elmwood program is a networking and mentorship program for organizations or individuals who want to support the school, connect with members of the Elmwood community, and inspire the next generation of leaders. Many benefits include a listing on our online directory of supporting businesses, the opportunity to mentor senior students to share business expertise and know-how, recognition on Elmwood social media channels, as well as invitations to exclusive networking and school events. Visit our website, www.elmwood.ca/about/friends-of-elmwood, for more info on these generous partners and how to become a "Friend."

Campus Re-Opening – September 2020

We are working diligently to finalize plans for the upcoming school year. We realize that our families are dealing with many unknowns; we continue to work with the latest information provided by the provincial health and education authorities and are confident that we will be able to provide daily on-site care and educational programming for all students as of September 8, 2020. Visit elmwood.ca/september2020 for the latest updates on what to expect.



WILDLIFE NOTES

A marker of the opening of summer for my family is a loud ‘wheep’ from our garden. This is the voice of a Great-crested Flycatcher – a close relative of the Kiskadee, an inhabitant of gardens in Caribbean islands.

The Great-crested never nests in our Ottawa garden, despite the allure of our naturalized pond with insects above it, and of a nesting box I built to the prescribed specifications. Less-fussy Tree Swallows do nest regularly in nesting boxes we put up around the lake, or in our garden. We put the boxes about six feet high on thin metal poles – to baffle cats and other predators.

One of our garden’s Chickadees spent many minutes in a nesting box on May 19, so I assumed it was incubating eggs. That day the wild cherries were in full bloom and a male, but not a

female, Tree Sparrow used the bird bath frequently, so I presumed that the female was also incubating eggs. Each summer, Tree Sparrows at this time come in and out of our garden, but always coming from and going to the garden across the road – so I assume they nest over there. On the evening of June 6, a Chickadee fed young in one of our boxes while a good-condition White-tailed Deer ambled past.

Bonnie and Andy Robinson for the past month have been hearing Merlins calling; now they encountered a young Merlin on their deck. Good to confirm that these graceful falcons breed in our Village.

Anthony Keith
07:47 am, 14 July 2020

ENVIRONMENT

Summer is in full swing and many of us are continuing to work from home. As we approach September, some parents may choose to homeschool their children. Wouldn’t it be nice if we could open our windows or work outdoors or go for a walk without the deafening noise of gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLB) as lawn care companies work in our area? Do we really look forward to the fall when leaves, toxins and dust will be blown thither and yon for hours on end? Especially when there are alternatives such as battery-operated machines, or better yet, rakes and brooms, that are quieter and that don’t emit unburned pollutants?

In addition to the noise, there are other serious health hazards associated with these machines. We are asking you, as residents of Rockcliffe Park, to speak with your yard maintenance company about avoiding the use of gas-powered leaf blowers due to the health hazards listed here:

- GPLB create noise which affects our mental health and well-being and cause hearing damage.

www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/hearing-loss/noise-induced-hearing-loss-in-children

www.science.org.au/curious/earth-environment/health-effects-environmental-noise-pollution

- GPLB emit toxic, carcinogenic particles that are absorbed through the lungs and into the bloodstream of passersby.

www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/banks.pdf

- All leaf blowers (gas powered and electric) create clouds of harmful dust which are carried over large distances and which are hazardous to breathe and lead to lung irritation and inflammation.

<http://canadianaudiologist.com/issue/volume-6-issue-5-2019/leaf-blowers-trying-to-kill-us-feature/>

- GPLB are disproportionately large contributors to smog and air pollution, a known contributor to serious health problems. Air pollution is a suspected risk factor in fatalities from COVID-19.

www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/apr/20/air-pollution-may-be-key-contributor-to-covid-19-deaths-study

You may have signed a contract for 2020 but you can negotiate a quieter option for 2021. Please contact us for a list of landscapers who offer services with little or no use of leaf blowers and for a sample letter or email to send to your landscaping company.

The Healthy Neighbourhoods Ottawa Group: Rebecca Gwyn, Anthony Keith, Julie Lapalme, Mary Lapner, Frances Legault, Peter Lewis, Sheilagh Mclean, Iola Price and Eugenie Waters Email: healthyneighbourhoodsottawa@gmail.com | Facebook: www.facebook.com/HealthyNeighbourhoodsOttawa Illustration: Wall Street Journal



THOUGHTS ON COMMUNITY

Recent correspondence about the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) lighting plan has drawn our community into an increasingly animated conversation. It would seem the issue of illuminating two tennis courts for the summer months is no longer a simple case of lighting; rather, it has sparked a deeper discussion about what we value in Rockcliffe Park.

The current heritage plan distinctly highlights RLTC's deep roots and cultural historical value. For almost a century, the club has been a central social space in Rockcliffe, a family-friendly gathering place promoting a strong tradition of valuing sport and promoting active living at all ages. Not only is the RLTC vital to Rockcliffe's heritage status, it plays a central role as one of few recreational amenities promoting social engagement and sport in our neighbourhood.

As with all sporting and social clubs, there is need over time for improvement, enhancement and change. This does not always come easily. In the club's history, there have been examples of capital improvements that initially provoked heated discussion, including the original addition of clay courts. Only in hindsight were those changes considered one of the most cherished elements of the club.

This project is not new. For more than 13 years, several RLTC Board of Directors and memberships have discussed and worked to advance it. Opponents have lost sight of the fact that the tennis club should indeed work hard to appeal to many of our community residents. We would like to offer playing opportunities for those who work during conventional daytime hours, have busy families or young children, would like to participate in inter-club leagues requiring evening participation, or simply find it too hot on a 40-degree July day to play tennis at noon.

It should also be clarified that the RLTC did receive a valid permit from the City of Ottawa under the Ontario Heritage

Act. There was no obligation for a full neighbourhood public consultation because the use of seasonal lights was deemed to have an insignificant negative impact on the heritage value of the neighbourhood. The lights would illuminate two of eight courts for less than five months of the year and would be on for one to three hours per day. To suggest this limited seasonal lighting would inherently diminish Rockcliffe's overarching heritage value is simply not reasonable. By this same logic, the City also endorsed the year-round lighting at the rink and Field House, which has provided many wonderful family opportunities during dark winter days. Despite due process in obtaining the permit, a few neighbours have chosen to engage in significant lobbying efforts on a community level, with some even threatening legal action against the club.

Rockcliffe residents chose this neighbourhood for a variety of reasons, in addition to its rich heritage character. The moment we allow one element to supersede all other valuable aspects of our community, we lose that undefined quality that makes our neighbourhood special. Rockcliffe is more than the sum of its parts.

Finally, the uncertainty in global affairs and intensity of recent shared human experience during this pandemic has provided us with a natural time for reflection and consideration. Now more than ever we need to cherish our community and that which makes it stronger. We should look to promote and support Rockcliffe's recreational amenities that encourage multi-generational sport and positive engagement with our neighbours. Especially in times of crisis, the extraordinary power of sport cannot be undervalued. Perhaps we should acknowledge that tennis club lighting is no longer the real issue.

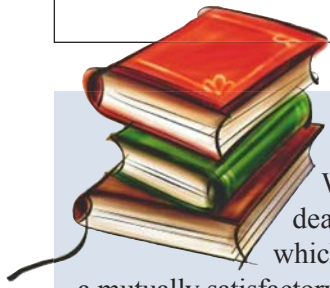
Louise Malhotra, RLTC President

The St. Bartholomew's VIRTUAL Church Bazaar, October - November 2020

For the better part of 153 years, the St. Bartholomew's Church Bazaar has been an annual occasion. And this year will be the first-ever Virtual Bazaar! This event is the main fundraiser of the Church, and supports our Refugee Programme, Cornerstone Womens' Shelter, the Mission to the Gary J. Armstrong Centre and St. Luke's Table (weekly lunches).

We will be posting interesting items online throughout October and November, and they will be for sale on a first-come, first-served basis. Nothing can replace the fun and excitement of the actual fête, which we hope will return in 2021, but for the time being, due to the COVID-19 virus, we will manage online. To do this we ask for your help, as our Church is closed, but services are online at www.stbartsottawa.ca. We have little storage, so should you have a few special treasures to donate, just let us know. And if you are able to keep your donations until closer to the event, that would be a bonus! For pick up or any questions, please contact **Linda Assad Butcher** at lassadbutcher@gmail.com, or **Liz Heatherington**, 613 745-4677 or elizmaryh@gmail.com. Thank you so much for considering this request!

END NOTES



What's Up with the Spring Book Sale?

When the 2020 Spring Book Sale was cancelled, managers of the Sale were left wondering how to deal with the hundreds of boxes that had already been sorted and priced. Keep them for next year, which would entail extra expense for additional storage, or try to find a buyer? We are happy to report that a mutually satisfactory deal was reached with the owners of Black Squirrel Books; they have been a valuable collaborator with the Sale for many years. Not only do the owners line up on opening day to purchase several boxes of books for their used bookstore on Bank Street, but they also help us by removing a significant proportion of leftover stock at the end of the Sale. We are also grateful to the City of Ottawa for letting us store many of our sorted and priced books in their Vanier Depot. This assistance has been invaluable to us.

We are still hoping that our 2021 Spring Book Sale will be a go – just substitute “September” for “Spring.” So please keep those donations for us, if you can. We are unable to accept books and AV material while our Branch remains closed, but rest assured, you’ll be hearing from us as soon as we’re back in business! Regular Library users will know that the Ottawa Public Library is slowly reopening branches for contactless service across the City but sadly, our Branch will remain closed for the summer. The nearest Branch now offering contactless returns and holds pickup service is at St. Laurent. It is anticipated that the Vanier and Rideau branches will be added in early August. Readers who are looking for something new to read will be pleased to learn that customers can once again reserve items; just make sure to change your pickup location to a branch offering the holds pickup service. Please visit the OPL website for all the latest information on holds and returns: <https://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/contactless-returns-and-holds-pickup-service>. *Carolyn Brereton*

Reminder: Mind Your Bikes!

The pandemic has seen a surge in bike activity, and unfortunately this includes bike thefts. Ottawa police are warning cyclists and homeowners to take extra precautions due to a spike in brazen thefts from seemingly secure locations. Non-violent crimes in general have spiked during the pandemic, as thieves have more time on their hands to find innovative ways to get into normally safe spots like garages. The force’s Break and Enter Unit reports a sharp rise in bicycle thefts from sheds, garages and the storage areas of residential buildings. Their recommendations include:

- Don’t leave unprotected bikes on view from the street. Keep sheds, garages and fence gates closed and locked.
- If you have a garage door remote in your vehicle, ensure it is kept out of sight and keep your vehicle locked to prevent access to your garage.
- Invest in a good quality lock. Speak to your local bicycle dealer for advice on the lock that best suits your needs and quality of your bike. Lock up your frame, not just your wheel.
- Record your bicycle make, model and serial number and keep it in a safe place along with a photograph of your bike.
- Register your vehicle on a bicycle registry app, such as project529.com/ottawapoliceservice.
- Report suspicious persons to police. Remember, it only takes seconds for a thief to steal your bicycle.
- For additional theft prevention tips, visit www.ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/Bike-Theft.aspx.

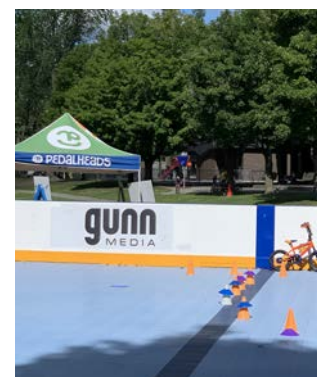
Pedalheads in Rockcliffe Park

Some readers may have seen an email earlier this summer regarding a summer camp held at the Rockcliffe Field House for young children, with bicycles and unique obstacle courses set up on the sports pad at the pavilion. Pedalheads has been able to operate during the pandemic respecting the rules and guidelines issued by public health authorities.

Running throughout the summer months, Pedalheads bike camps offer both half- and full-day options every week until August 21, which will be their last day of camp in Rockcliffe Park. Pedalheads is best known for helping kids ages 2 - 12 get off training wheels and safely ride on the road.

The program includes:

- a progression of six instructional levels for kids, suitable to a wide range of abilities
- small class sizes with maximum 6:1 ratio
- three-hour half-day camps
- seven-hour all-day camps
- private lessons
- before- and after-care options
- appropriate COVID-19 protocols as stipulated by the Ontario Ministry of Health



More information is available at www.pedalheads.com, and by selecting the “Rockcliffe Field House” location.