

# The ROCKCLIFFE NEWS



*Rockcliffe Park Residents Association*

*April 2021*

## **RPF Annual Report**

*Chair's annual report to the community for 2020.*

*Page 4*

## **Events Calendar**

*Useful dates, activities and online events.*

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## **Trees, Shrubs & You:**

*An interactive guide to choosing a suitable native plant.*

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## ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) is a community-based membership organisation run by volunteers.*

*Our mission 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 volunteer board of directors meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month (except July, August and December). Meetings are open to the public.*

*Correspondence to Board members and any enquiries for administration purposes may be addressed by email to [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).*

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

### **Board Members**

Russell Gibson (President), Daniel Goldberg, (Vice President), John Butterfield (Treasurer), Michele Hayman (Secretary), Peter Lewis (Past President), Chris Barker, Susan d'Aquino, Jean-Guy Dumoulin, Kay James, Louise Malhotra, Gouhar Shemdin, Susan Taylor, Mark Willcox, Jeff Bell, Patrick Blonar, Matthew Henderson, Elizabeth Cogan, Linda English, Bea Hampson, Linda Dicaire

### **Heritage Committee**

(volunteers needed)

Linda Dicaire (Chair), Michelle Hayman, Daniel Goldberg, John Cook, Michael Kelen, Marianne Feaver, Bea Hampson

### **Heritage Events Committee**

Kay James (Chair), Patrick Blonar

### **Heritage Outreach Committee**

Susan d'Aquino (Chair), Gouhar Shemdin

### **Traffic Committee**

Kay James

### **Social Committee**

(volunteers needed)

Christmas Party / Christmas Tree Lighting:

Peter Lewis, Michele Hayman

Fundraiser:

Peter Lewis, Nicolas Temnikov

Outdoor Films:

Chris Barker

Welcome Committee:

Susan Taylor

Speakers Program:

Susan d'Aquino, Marilyn Venner, Karen

Leslie, Nancy Hooper

Library Book Sale:

Linda MacDonald, Chair + others (see p.10)

Trash Bash / BBQ:

(volunteers needed)

### **Sports/Recreation Committee**

Soccer Field Maintenance

Soccer Program Coordination

Village Green, Jubilee Garden:

Peter Lewis, Mark Willcox, Matthew Henderson

Hoser Liaison:

Louise Malhotra

### **Regional Liaison Committee**

FCA Bea Hampson

RRCRC Nicolas Temnikov

RRCRC Jeff Bell

### **Membership Drive and Database**

(volunteers needed)

### **Environment Committee**

Iola Price (Chair), Marilyn Venner

Village clean up, Invasive species removal, liaison with the City:

Iola Price

Community Hall Maintenance:

Russ Gibson, Michele Hayman

Pond Sub-Committee:

Nicolas Fortier, Marilyn Blattel, Cali

Thomson, Jane Newcombe, Kate Dickson,

Nicolas Temnikov, Mark Willcox, Patrick

Blonar

### **Communications Committee**

Email blast:

Kay James

Newsletter/Welcome pack:

Daniel Goldberg, Russ Gibson, Susan Taylor,

Louise Malhotra

A-frame signs:

Imbaw Storer

Website:

Patrick Blonar

### **Newsletter Delivery Team**

see last page

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*by Russell Gibson*

Spring has arrived and with it the hope of a release from the pandemic once our current lock-down has passed.

This newsletter is in a new format and with some new volunteers involved. The newsletter was paused late in 2020 until the new format was presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting of our community association on February 17th, 2021. Far from having fewer members attend the AGM, more members attended virtually than have traditionally attended "in-person" at the Community Hall. Perhaps a "hybrid" meeting may be considered for the 2021 AGM next year?

With the AGM, a new board of directors was elected by the members of the Association who are listed in this newsletter, together with the names of many individuals who collectively contribute to our community association as volunteers for the committees, tasks and events listed on page 18/19. The names and contact particulars of the directors will be posted on the website, as they are received.

You may note from the list in this newsletter that there are a number of volunteer roles and tasks with our association which could benefit from volunteer help. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me, or email [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca). Although the newsletter is new in appearance, we have retained the letters to the editor feature, the contributions from the schools, and many other elements.

However, the articles and reports in The Rockcliffe News are now focused on the RPRA's core values of conservation of our natural environment, promoting a sense of community in Rockcliffe Park and preservation of the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park.

Our annual report of 2020 Activities followed this same theme and can be found on-line by going to our website. In subsequent newsletters I expect that we will be including reports from volunteers in each of these areas of activity.

The current official plan consultations included a request that our association work with planners from the City of Ottawa to update the Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan so that it is in conformity with the proposed Official Plan for the City of Ottawa, which is expected to be adopted by Council later this year. A Secondary Plan provides more detailed plans than those contained in the Official Plan and may, for example, implement density and building heights that differ from those in the parent Official Plan.

Our board has worked hard to take into account the community at large and focus on preserving the elements of the existing Secondary plan that supports the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan and the park-like setting of our community.

For those of you who may not have had an opportunity to do so, I encourage you to renew your membership in the RPRA on-line by visiting ([www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca)). I also encourage those who are not already members of the RPRA to our

website ([www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca)) , or by sending the membership fee of \$25.00 to the address on our mast head (380b, Springfield Road, marked to the attention of the Secretary to the Board) and complete the membership form enclosed with this newsletter. Members may also enroll for two years for \$50.00. As a membership based organization, your support encourages and informs our volunteer work.

If you have a suggestion for an activity or program for our association, or would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact us, or speak to a director.

Russell Gibson, President



# ROCKCLIFFE PARK FOUNDATION

## CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FOR 2020

*The Rockcliffe Park Foundation 2021  
Board members:*

*Sarah Baxter, Chair  
Ryan Kilger, Vice-Chair  
Dennis Waite, Treasurer  
Jane Newcombe, Secretary  
Anthony Carty  
Alexandra Colt  
Heather Hickling  
Fiona Murray  
Jane Panet  
Paul St. Louis  
Donna Taucer*

*by Sarah Baxter*

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation (RPF) is a registered charity, established by residents in 1996 when the Village of Rockcliffe was amalgamated with the City of Ottawa. Its role is to build and manage an endowment fund that financially supports programs and services in our community. The mandate of the RPF is to provide funds in three areas, our three pillars: conservation of our environment; preservation of the history and heritage character of Rockcliffe; and, support of community-building initiatives. The RPF works closely with the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA), which plans and implements the projects and activities and shares these same three pillars as guiding principles.

### **Disbursements and Development**

For 2020, through the City of Ottawa, the RPF approved a \$39,045 annual grant to the RPRA. These funds were to be used by the RPRA for the following initiatives:

In the area of the environment:

- The maintenance of the public gardens, including Jubilee Lawn and Gardens, and sprinkler upgrade and maintenance;
- The stabilization of the retaining wall and bank at the Pond;
- Pond water testing; and,
- Signage renewal at the Pond and the Village Green, supplies for annual invasive species clean up in these conservation areas.

In the area of history and heritage:

- The restoration of the "Dogwalk" and plaque;
- The development of a self-guided

heritage walking tour;

- The update to the "Welcome to Rockcliffe Park" booklet; and,
- Printing of an updated "Heritage Plan in Brief" booklet.

In the area of promoting a sense of community:

- Community events such as the popular Rockcliffe Speakers Program; the Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Party; and outdoor movie nights in the summertime;
- Communications such as The Rockcliffe News, signage for promoting community events, and the RPRA website; and,
- Contribution to the annual upkeep of the RPPS soccer field and running track maintenance and upgrade.

Some of these projects had to be tabled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The RPF board would like to thank the RPRA, as well as thank our wider community, for their hard work and creativity in managing through the new challenges: the Lindenlea Community Association (LCA) who partnered with the RPRA to run virtual events for families in both neighbourhoods to enjoy, and the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC) that has done such vital work in our neighbouring community.

In 2020, the RPF worked to build up its endowment through its Annual Appeal. While it was somewhat scaled-down due to our recognition of the pressing needs of many frontline charities, the generosity



### Did you know?

...The Manor House, located at 724 Manor Avenue, was the home of Cairine Wilson, who in February 1930 was appointed Canada's first woman senator. Today, the Manor House is the residence of the Papal Nuncio (Apostolic Nunciature in Canada).

...Chickens and cows were permitted on Rockcliffe property until banned by law in 1971.

...Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, who lived on Lansdowne Road, was a dog lover with a golden retriever named Happy. The former prime minister was an active advocate for the creation and maintenance of the Rockcliffe DogWalk along McKay Lake. Diefenbaker lived on Lansdowne until his death in 1979.

of our neighbours brought in over \$23K to the endowment.

### Financial Management

The RPF board conducted its annual review of the endowment fund's investment performance in June. Mark Ellis from RBC Dominion Securities, a Rockcliffe resident and the fund's investment advisor, assisted the RPF board in this review. The endowed fund was \$830,075 of Dec 31, 2020. Roy Williams, Treasurer in 2020, presented ongoing financial reports and guided the RPF board's attention on financial matters. Ouesley Hanvey Clopsham Deep LLP was re-appointed as public accountant.

### Other Committee Work

The RPF Board continued to focus on the financial management of the endowment and began work on two areas of review: a disbursement policy review led by Anthony Carty and an investment management review led by Paul St. Louis.

In keeping with the strategic priorities identified in 2019, the RPF board focused on how to more clearly communicate the role of the RPF to our neighbours. We believe both the RPF and the RPRA benefit from clearer communication and look forward to working with the RPRA on these efforts. To date this has included ongoing communication with the RPRA and its sub-committees on the development of a new RPRA and RPF graphic identity, inspired by the Rockcliffe coat of arms; an expanded newsletter; and the new "Rockcliffe A-to-Z" booklet. A website sub-committee, led by Heather Hickling, was created to develop a new

RPF website, one that can be easily updated and that can communicate more effectively with Rockcliffe residents.

The Development sub-committee prepared a review of all current and past fundraising programs, with a view of developing recommendations for a clear and cohesive fundraising and development policy.

The Historical Plaque sub-committee's installation of the second plaque was delayed due to the pandemic but the plaque will be installed in 2021 at the Hillsdale entrance to the conservation area.

And recognizing that the biennial Dining with the Ambassadors would not be possible in 2021 due to the pandemic, the DWA committee maintained its outreach to our diplomatic community and began an ongoing recipe series for the newsletter featuring recipes provided by diplomatic neighbours.

The Nominating committee, responsible for identifying and recommending members for the RPF Board and led by Ryan Kilger, recruited Donna Taucer in 2020. During the year, the board lost Nancy Carr with her move to Europe and Bonnie Robinson, stepped down as Chair after more than a decade of service. The RPF board has greatly benefitted from Bonnie's leadership. Her dedication to Rockcliffe has enhanced the RPF's ability to support our community.

With the end of 2020, Bonnie, Roy Williams, and Alison Green have left the board and moved onto new projects. On behalf of all of us, thank you for your contributions to our community.

Looking back at 2020 and the unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic, one would be hard-pressed to find a single neighbour who did not feel comforted by and grateful for our beautiful natural environment and our shared public spaces. Our lovely treed streets allowed for socially-distanced walks, and the pond, dog parks, and this December, McKay lake, were all the busiest they have ever been.

One can't help but be grateful for the foresight of the neighbours who first established the RPF and its endowment in order to conserve these shared spaces and the natural beauty all around Rockcliffe, as well as preserve the heritage character of this conservation district, and sense of community: our three pillars.

Finally, thank you to a dedicated Board of Directors who persevered through Zoom meetings and generously continued their volunteer work all while responding to the new challenges of 2020: thank you Anthony Carty, Alexandra Colt, Alison Green, Heather Hickling, Ryan Kilger, Fiona Murray, Jane Newcombe, Jane Panet, Bonnie Robinson, Paul St. Louis, Donna Taucer, and Roy Williams.

Sarah Baxter  
Rockcliffe Park Foundation

# THANK YOU TO THE 2020 RPF ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS



The traditional heraldic Rockcliffe Park coat of arms: In the early 1990s, on application to the Governor General, the Chief Herald of Canada liaised with Rockcliffe's Mayor Patrick Murray, councillor Marianne Feaver, and others to design the armorial bearings for Rockcliffe Park. Subsequently, Rockcliffe was granted the "armorial prerogative" in 1994. Rich in colour and detail, the armorial bearings are to be used on "seals, shields and municipal regalia".

*by Jane Newcombe*

It is no secret that 2020 was challenging for many people - but it did help to remind us what a special community we live in. Your generosity made it possible for us to make investments in re-focused community activities and recreation that can be carried out distanced or virtually, to preserve the environment and parks, and to support and improve communications within the community.

Thank you to the following individuals who generously donated to the 2020 Annual Appeal of the Rockcliffe Park Foundation and to those other donors who have chosen to remain Anonymous. The appeal has raised \$ 23,352 to date (March 2021).

It is not too late! If you would like to donate please mail your cheque to:

Rockcliffe Park Foundation  
25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park,  
Ontario K1L 5A8

or donate online on:  
[www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org)

Beverley Armitage  
Colin Arnold  
Stephen & Sandra Assaly  
Cynthia Baxter  
Sarah & James Baxter  
Blatell Family  
Ranjan Bose  
Mireille Sabbagh & Elie Boulos  
Maureen Boyd & Colin Robertson  
Adrian Burns  
John Bull  
Kenneth Campbell & Maureen Conway  
Anthony Carty & Valerie LaTraverse  
Elly & Bill Clarke  
Elizabeth Cogan  
Robert & Marilyn Collette  
Brian Crane  
David Cuthbertson & Neva Bruce  
John Davis & Nancy Dorigo  
Suzanne Dawes  
Brian & Kate Dickson  
Pamela Dilawri  
Jane Dobell  
John & Louise French  
Dr Robert & Dagmar Forget  
Boyd Fuller & Sandra Ng  
Philip Garel-Jones  
Robert K Graham & Barbara Donihee  
Alison Green  
Margot Gualtieri  
R.Scott & Elizabeth Heatherington  
David W & Nicole Henderson  
Sara Hradecky  
Peter & Bev Hyde  
Hon. Michael & Sheila Kelen  
J.A. Keith  
Joan Matthews Khan  
David & Laura Kilgour  
Mrs Joan Kingstone

Vic & Marilyn Lanctis  
Dennis & Andrea Laurin  
Doug Lazier  
Patrick Leblond  
Lejla Levy  
Luigi Logrippo  
Linda McDonald  
Joanne & Rob Nelson  
Jane Newcombe  
Jane Panet  
Gordon & Wendy Peters  
Moiria Phillips  
David Pigott  
Iola Price  
Maria Raletich-Rajicic  
Hon. John Richard  
Bonnie & Andy Robinson  
Dr. William Rock  
Ken Ross  
Anda Sipolins  
Dr Susan Smith & Dr Matthew Suh  
Philip Smith & Alexandra Colt  
Anne Stanfield  
Paul & Lorna St-Louis  
Kate & Alexander Struthers  
J H & Mary Taylor  
Donna Taucer  
George Tawagi  
John Tener  
Annegret & Hans K Uhthoff

# A VISUAL IDENTITY FOR THE RPRA AND RPF

by Daniel Goldberg

In October 2019, the RPRA and RPF held a joint board meeting in the community hall, which started a conversation about how to better communicate what the two organisations do and represent.

The twin organisations are linked by history and shared values: both were launched around the time of Rockcliffe's amalgamation with the City of Ottawa in 2000 to maintain the charm and character of the Village; both share mandates to foster community spirit and to work as stewards of our neighbourhood, its environment and its rich history.

The RPF oversees and works to fundraise for the endowment, which then provides the grants that support our community programs and initiatives as managed and coordinated by the RPRA.

The two boards agreed to more clearly communicate their roles and the relationship of the RPRA and RPF, visually express their shared mission, and engage the community with a graphic identity that could be shared and adapted.

This aim was the beginning of a design process that started with a simple question:

What is the "essence" of Rockcliffe, and how can we translate this unique spirit into a visual language?

The new logo is a tribute to the heraldic Rockcliffe Park coat of arms which will continue to represent Rockcliffe Park as the geographic place. Complementing the richness of the traditional heraldic crest, the new RPRA/RPF logo is abstract and minimal, but refers to the symmetry and language of traditional coats of arms. The Pileated Woodpecker and Green Heron continue to be the "supporters", representing trees and water as the defining landscaping features of Rockcliffe Park.

Through an evolutionary design and consultation process, a simple response emerged - a visual identity that tells the story of Rockcliffe :

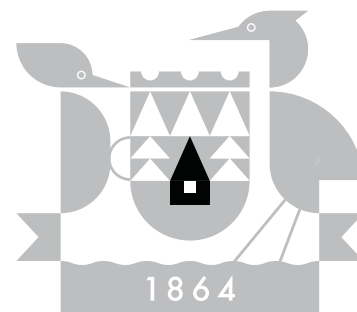
A collection of homes  
Set amongst trees  
In a village community  
Surrounded by nature  
In a historical setting.

The result is a new logo that unifies simple geometric shapes into a balanced composition that encapsulates the "DNA" of our community (Community - Heritage - Environment).

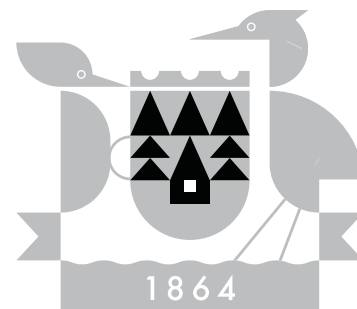
Importantly, the new visual identity is a versatile system comprised of different components, rather than just a fixed, singular logo. Shapes and elements can be extracted or combined allowing for great flexibility and easy reproduction at different scales and for various applications.

The new design was inspired by the great tradition of Canadian "placemaking" graphics in the mid-twentieth century: the Montreal City flower, the trillium logo of Ontario, or the Canadian Maple Leaf have become treasured icons that are timeless in their simplicity.

The launch of this new visual identity comes with the hope that it serves as an emblem of Rockcliffe's community spirit for years to come.



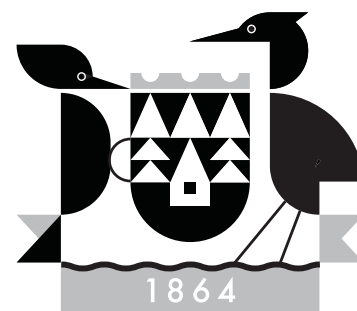
A collection of homes



Set amongst trees



In a village community



Surrounded by nature



In a historical setting

# DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS

## DR. EAMONN MCKEE, IRISH AMBASSADOR TO CANADA

*by Fiona Murray*

One of the many gifts of life in Rockcliffe are the diplomats who make it their homes away from home. And for many, their lives in Ottawa are the highlight of their long and storied diplomatic careers and result in lifelong friendships. Over the years, our biennial Dining with the Ambassadors (DWA) soirées have become a favourite event in their calendars and in ours, a fun and culturally enriching gathering with old friends and new.

Like so many things, Covid has put DWA, the Rockcliffe Park Foundation's (RPF) most important fundraiser, on hold for another year. Over the decades, along with the elegant hospitality of our diplomatic hosts, the DWA event has shared culinary wonders of the world. We continue our culinary adventures here with a series of recipes from our distinguished international friends.

This is the third such recipe in our series, and in this issue, we welcome H.E. Dr. Eamonn McKee, the new Head of Mission to Canada, representing the Republic of Ireland, who arrived with his wife Mary McGillis-McKee and family in October 2020, just before the second Ottawa lockdown. When asked whether Dr. McKee had a favourite meal or recipe that he and his family might like to share, his reply was swift with the delicious dish below, complete with interesting and historical facts and an added bonus that it would pair, quite beautifully, with a dark ale, Stout, Guinness OR a glass of dark, rich, ripe and spicy Merlot. Give it a try...we made a large pot and it is comfort food heaven (personally, I think it's the porcini mushrooms that send it over

the top!). Enjoy and many thanks to our new neighbours Dr. Eamonn McKee and Mary McGillis-McKee and their family.

### **GUINNESS STEW**

by Dr. Eamonn McKee  
Irish Ambassador to Canada

While this recipe uses beef, Irish stew is traditionally made with mutton when older sheep past their prime were slaughtered. The slow cooking meant that the meat would tenderize. Sheep were and are an important part of Irish agriculture, second only to cattle. Cattle were farmed from the arrival of agriculture into Ireland about 8,000 BCE. In ancient Gaelic Ireland, wealth was measured in cattle, not land. Dairy products were a vital part of the diet.

Cattle have been the back-bone of our economy right up until the modern era. For hundreds of years Ireland exported beef, butter, tallow, and leather to Britain and the colonies. Cattle were so critical to the economy that the British gave up their attempts to ban their exportation in the 1660s. We have continued our love affair with cattle and Ireland today produces the finest butter and beef from a herd of happy, grass-fed cows. Check out Bord Bia recipes ([www.bordbia.ie/recipes/](http://www.bordbia.ie/recipes/)) for more great ideas.

Guinness has been brewed at St James Gate in Dublin since 1759. The removal of the British ban on the importation of foreign hops into Ireland, designed to reduce the competition in the lucrative beer market, was removed in the 1780. The rest is history. Today, the Guinness

brand is worth US\$ 4bn. Iveagh House, the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs, was donated to the state by Rupert Guinness in 1939 and renamed in his honour Iveagh House.

Some claim that orange carrots were bred from their original red and yellow hues by the Dutch to honour their founding father William of Orange who revolted against the Hapsburgs in the 16th century. His direct descendant, William of Orange and King William III of England, fought at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, assuring the victory of the Protestant Ascendancy in Ireland. To this day, unionists in Northern Ireland celebrate his victory with parades organised by the Orange Lodges, so named in his honour.

So, you see, there's a lot of history in this stew!

This is my own version, based on a hodgepodge of sources and personal experiments. The hours in the oven bring their magic to the final product and most times you have should have a silky, dark brown sauce with great depth of flavour, the tenderest of meat, and meltingly sweet carrots. If you want, add in potatoes a half-hour or so before the end and cook until done. Personally, I like to serve it with potatoes (skins on), roasted in duck fat and rosemary, with some sourdough bread lathered in Irish butter on the side. Enjoy with Guinness or red wine!

# GUINNESS STEW

## Preparation

Get your beef and vegetable stock ready. Cut up your onions, not too finely, as they tend to dissolve; and your garlic and carrots. Add the beef and vegetable stock, some herbs de province, dried porcini mushrooms (crunched or cut up) and bay leaves into two cups of boiled water. Leave to soak for a bit. Use paper towels to dry off the chunks of beef; the beef can be cheap cuts as the cooking tenderizes it. In a bowl, toss the beef in some flour so that they are covered. Toss in salt, pepper and paprika, to taste. Sweat the onions in your pot on a medium heat, adding in the garlic at the end so it does not burn. Remove the onions from the pot and use the pot to fry the beef with olive oil; you just want to brown them nicely. Remove the meat from the pot and deglaze with some red wine. Throw everything back into the pot at this stage, including your chunks of carrot, the more the merrier, and add in a hunk of butter, about a tablespoon. Add in a can of Guinness, half or the whole lot depending on how big the stew is. Give it a good stir and bring to a simmering boil for a few minutes. Then cover the pot and put in the oven at 350F or so. Check every so often on the level of liquid, stirring when you do so that meat is not stuck on the bottom. If at any point, it looks like the liquid is evaporating too fast before cooking is complete, simply throw in some boiling water and stir. It should be done in or around two hours.

## Ingredients

(serves four)

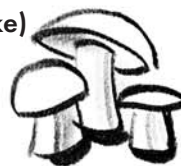


**Beef, cubed, one pound.**

**Two large onions**

**Two Bay leaves**

**Four gloves of garlic (more if you like)**



**Four carrots**

**Half a cup of dried porcini mushrooms (optional)**

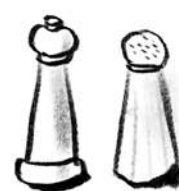
**Beef and vegetable stock (two cups in total)**



**Red wine (to deglaze)**

**One can of Guinness**

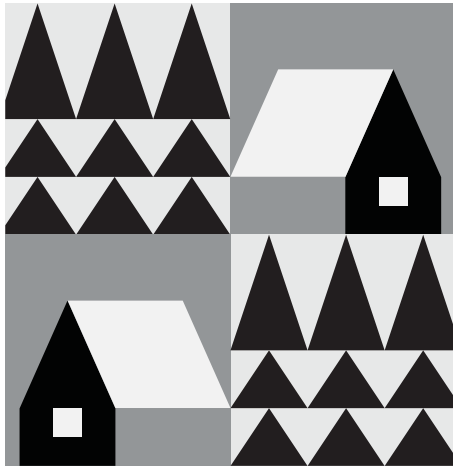
**Flour**



**Olive oil**

**Tablespoon of butter**

**Salt, pepper, paprika (tablespoon), pinch or two of Herbs de Provence**



## COMMUNITY

*Library Book Sale Committee  
List of Year-Round Volunteers  
2019/2020*

*Linda McDonald (Chair), Jane Newcombe, Kevin Phillips, Carolyn Brereton, Eva Schlussel, Philip Robert, Jane Dobell, Barbara Barker, Claire Ouseley, Michele Loewen, Gill Kirkwood, Imbaw Storer, Dilshad Macklem, Bill Cameron, Richard Simison, Claire Schofield, Valerie de Montigny, Joan Kellett, Valerie Sirois, Moira Phillips, Carole Vallerand, Monique Coupal, Michelle Benson, Brian Johnson, Ted Ramsey, Deborah Dunton, Patricia Fortier, Karen Ginsberg, Susanna D'Arcy, Carol Kerfoot, Jackie Snyder, Sheila MacMillan, Sheila Paterson, Karen McClure, Bea Hampson, Laurie Kirkwood, Jane Davis, Helen Heighrington, Corrie Pyl, Iola Price, Jane Brammer, Tony Kellett, Norman Morgan, Kathleen MacKay, Jenni Barberi, Sue Daugherty, Patricia MacDonald, Angie Bolitho, John Butterfield, Ben Schlussel, Mary Anne Smallwood, Karen Shigeishi-Waite, Morna Paterson, Elizabeth MacDougall.*

## LIBRARY BOOK SALE

*by Carolyn Brereton*

In response to the many requests received from residents looking to donate their unwanted books, the organizers of the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale were planning to hold a second contactless book drive at the end of April, however due to the current stay at home order this has been postponed.

When the drive does happen, it will be held in the parking lot of the Community Centre at 380 Springfield Road.

When we are able to proceed, we can only accept donations of gently used books in English and French – please no AV materials. Please pack your donations in wine-size boxes (FACE DOWN to protect the books) for ease of handling.

Our first contactless book drive, held last November, was very successful. We collected about 400 boxes of used books which were sold to raise funds to support Library programming and literacy in our community.

While we hope to be equally successful with this Spring donation drive, it is sadly no substitute for the real Spring Book Sale which we were forced to cancel again this year due to the pandemic.

When will the Sale return? Unfortunately, we can't answer that question with any certainty. We hope to be able to hold the "Spring Book Sale" in September 2022. It takes at least six months to organise and, with the restrictions still imposed by the pandemic, we cannot start our preparations anytime in the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, please hang on to your gently used books. Confirmation of the date of the next book drive will be posted in the weekly RPRA e-newsletter and will also be announced through the neighbourhood list serves.



## ATTENTION ALUMNI: RPPS IS TURNING 100 IN 2022!



Stay connected and learn about special events, meet-ups, and fundraising activities being planned by Rockcliffe Park Public School, the School Council and fellow RPPS alumni. Please drop us a note:

[rpps100th@gmail.com](mailto:rpps100th@gmail.com)

Facebook Group  
(RPPS 100th Anniversary)

Volunteers will be needed to help make this an unforgettable celebration.  
Spread the word!

Contact us to share your stories, memories and photographs of RPPS.

*The original RPPS building was constructed in 1922; a gymnasium and auditorium were added in 1928.*



In 2020, due to Covid protocols, RPPS had to put its highly anticipated Fall Book Fair on hold. Since 1961, Book Fair has been a mainstay in our community calendar, bringing people together from across the city to share in a love of reading. We have missed our amazing local community volunteers, and hope that we can welcome you all back for our next Book Fair. At this time, we are still unfortunately not permitted to access the school building, and have been unable to collect book donations.

Please keep visiting our website [www.rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](http://www.rockcliffeparkbookfair.com), Facebook Group (Rockcliffe Park Book Fair), Instagram page ([rppsbookfair](https://www.instagram.com/rppsbookfair)), or Twitter ([RPPSBookFair](https://twitter.com/RPPSBookFair)) for updates, and consider holding on to your books a little bit longer so we can collect them as soon as it's possible!

## SCOUTING DURING A PANDEMIC

*by Real Lambert*

Every month, the team of Scouters that lead 63rd Ottawa's Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers meet virtually to take stock of recent activities and plan for the next ones. With the host of public health orders in place to protect us from the spread of COVID-19, the team of Scouters has had to take much of the scout program on-line. Yet, every month the Scouters from each Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (8-10), Scouts (11-14), Venturers (15-17) relay what they've done to engage the youth in these trying times. Despite keeping our distance, we can still work toward our Personal Achievements, our Outdoor Activity Skills like building shelters or quinzhees in our very own backyards, or just getting together weekly, albeit remotely, to work on a common project, conduct a science experiment, or play some on-line gaming. 63rd Ottawa is your local scouting group and covers New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, Manor Park, Wateridge, Vanier, Rockcliffe, Cardinal Glen, Castle Heights, and Overbrook. The area is also covered by 23<sup>e</sup> Marie-Médatrice (la Fédération des Scouts du Canada), and the St. Peter and Paul Group which serves the Arabic Catholic community. 63rd Ottawa has a long history in our area and has provided countless outdoor adventures, activities, and community support services over the years. If you are interested in gaining further information about 63rd Ottawa, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact our Group Commissioner, Réal Lambert, at [63rdottawa.gc@gmail.com](mailto:63rdottawa.gc@gmail.com). If you have history, or a story to tell about your experience with 63rd, we'd love to hear that too.



## SPEAKERS PROGRAM

*by Susan d'Aquino*

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of our Speakers Program.

Over those two decades it has brought our community together on 138 occasions to spend evenings with wonderful speakers on politics, government, prime ministers and presidents; on Syrian refugees, Northern Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan, Rwanda, al-Qaeda in the Sahara, and prosecuting war criminals; on NAFTA, foreign policy, our justice system, international affairs, national security threats, and patronage; on health care, home care, the medical revolution, palliative care, and assisted dying; on science, stem cell research, climate, space, and the environment; on world heritage, architecture, fiction, the National Gallery, Nazi art loot, the National Arts Centre, the War Museum, the Chateau Laurier, and garden making; on business and the economy, Enron, Shopify, and internet governance; on great figures and events in history; on journalism and broadcasting, our universities and local schools, and vintage cars.

**Mark Carney**

**"Value(s): Building a Better World for All"**



**Wednesday  
April 28, 2021  
8pm, via Zoom**

Our neighbour and former Governor of the Bank of England and the Bank of Canada will speak to us on his new book which asks the question "What do we value and why is it that often the things we value the most seem of little importance to economic markets?"

By one of the great economic thinkers of our time, his book is described as a fantastic read for anyone interested in the most pressing issues facing the world.

Join us on ZOOM to hear what he has to say and to engage in questions.

To join the meeting, please go to [zoom.ca](https://zoom.us) using these access details:

Meeting ID: 952 1386 7619

Passcode: 084486

Or write to [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca) for a digital link.

Diana and Mark Carney -  
Welcome back home to Rockcliffe!



# 20 YEARS

*The Speakers Program is an initiative of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, with support from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. Hosted and curated by Susan d'Aquino since 2001, and assisted by a small team, the Program has become a beloved Rockcliffe institution. The curation of the high-calibre list of speakers reflects a deep appreciation for excellence, leadership and community.*

*Susan: thank you for all your work! Rockcliffe Park is looking forward to the next 20 years of the Speakers Program under your guidance.*

*The Speakers Program is suspended during the pandemic until it is possible to get together again for our enjoyable evenings at the Community Hall. This talk is an exception given the high interest in Mark Carney's new book and the fact that we do not know how long it will be until we can resume our usual evenings together.*

*Further information on the Speakers Program can be found on: [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca).*

The complete list of guest speakers from 2001-2021:

Senator Landon Pearson  
Madame Justice Louise Arbour  
David Levine  
Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli  
Peter Herrndorf  
Andrew Cohen  
Mayor Bob Chiarelli  
Hugh Winsor  
Arthur Kroeger  
The Honourable David Anderson  
Marc Garneau  
Charlotte Gray  
Shirley Thomson  
Thomas d'Aquino  
The Honourable Flora MacDonald  
David Runnalls  
Senator Wilbert Keon  
L.Col Pat Stogran  
Hugh Segal  
Don Newman  
Paul Heinbecker  
Charlotte Gray  
Senator Sharon Carstairs  
Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin  
John de Chastelain  
Graham Fraser  
Victor Rabinovitch  
Major-General Andrew Leslie  
Mary Taylor  
Mike Duffy  
Christina Cameron  
Huguette Labelle  
Keith Boag  
Louise Reynolds  
Michael Pantazzi  
Joe Guerts  
David Halton  
Kate Taylor  
Rosemary Thompson

Dr. Michael Rudnicki  
Eddie Goldenberg  
Jack Granatstein  
Elizabeth May  
Catherine Clark  
Gordon Pimm  
Alan Cumyn  
Roy MacSkimming  
Ambassador Alan Baker  
Ambassador Nabil Barto  
Derek Burney  
Barry McLoughlin  
Ambassador David H. Wilkins  
Dr. Robert Roberts  
The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson  
Marc Mayer  
John English  
Senator Mike Duffy  
Allan Rock  
Robert Fowler  
Sarah Jennings  
Tim Murray  
Nik Nanos  
Roy MacGregor  
Barbara Clubb  
Grete Hale  
Dan Gardner  
David Berks  
The Right Honourable Joe Clark  
Jim Watson  
Allan Thompson  
Anabelle Kienle  
Julie Jacobson  
Terry Milewski  
Jeffrey Simpson  
Eric Friesen  
Barry Padolsky  
Tim Cook  
Dr. Clarence Epstein  
Bob Plamondon  
Charlie Hill  
Cheryl Boughton

Norman Southward  
Paul Wells  
Michael Chong, M.P.  
Mark Kristmanson  
Evan Solomon  
Her Excellency Sharon Johnston  
Kevin Newman  
John Ibbitson  
Dr. Jack Kitts  
Colin Robertson  
Maureen McTeer  
Paul Lang  
Susan d'Aquino  
Ron Cohen  
Fen Hampson  
Harley Finkelstein  
Robert Fife  
Arif Virani, M.P.  
Lori Rosove  
The Honourable Peter Harder  
Julian Smith  
Stephen Bleeker  
Kristine McGinn  
Helen Antoniou  
Christina Cameron  
Barry McLoughlin  
J. D. M. Stewart  
Julia Gersovitz  
Richard Fadden  
The Honourable Perrin Beatty  
Dr. Thierry Mesana  
John Ivison



## LIBRARY & COMMUNITY HALL

### FIELD HOUSE

*Located in the heart of the Village, the Rockcliffe Park Library and Community Centre opened in 1994.*

380 Springfield Road  
K1M 0K7

613-842-8578



#### Did you know?

*...Joanne Woodward, Academy Award winning actress, was nominated for her performance in Mr. & Mrs. Bridges (Merchant Ivory 1990) which was filmed in Rockcliffe Park. Rockcliffe Park was chosen for its beautiful tree-lined streets, beautiful homes and abundance of snow!*

#### Ottawa International Authors Festival

Ottawa Public Library in partnership with the Ottawa International Writers Festival offers engaging evenings with authors and moderators chosen by the Writers Fest to provide stimulating conversations.

Discussion themes include health care, climate change, feminism, and a frank memoir. Most events will be on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm. Watch for additional events as they are scheduled. Register to attend on Zoom, and for reminders.

You can also attend on OPL Facebook. No account is needed.

#### André Picard

##### **Neglected No More: The Urgent Need to Improve the Lives of Canada's Elders**

Monday, March 22, 7:30 pm

#### Darrel J. McLeod Peyakow

##### **Reclaiming Cree Dignity**

Monday, March 29, 7:30 pm

#### Michael E. Mann

##### **The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back our Planet**

Monday, April 12, 7:30 pm

#### Seth Klein

##### **A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency**

Monday April 19, 7:30 pm

#### Nora Loreto

##### **Take Back the Fight: Organizing Feminism for the Digital Age**

Monday, April 26, 7:30 pm

#### Imagine your April break!

Join us for an April Break bursting with creativity where you can let your imagination run wild. A variety of programs await you online: yoga and dance, arts and crafts workshops, writing and reading, plus a fun show for the whole family every day at 3:30 pm

Check out the library's website for the full calendar of April break events:

<https://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/kid-zone/april-break>

#### Field House News:

##### **Pedal Head Camps**

Pedal Heads Bike Camps will once again be operating out of the Rockcliffe Park Field House this summer, making great use of our year-round sports pad. They will offer summer camps for kids ages 2-12 year old from June 28th to August 20th.

Pedalheads is a learn-to-ride bike camp known for taking kids from training wheels to two wheels. They combine a fun group setting with specialized equipment, tailored cycling lessons, and incredible instructors to build confidence and get some of the most tentative kids biking on their own. They also offer advanced bike lessons that focus on road safety, including exciting trail riding camps.

Registrations are now open on their website: [pedalheads.com](http://pedalheads.com)

## KNOCK DOWN HUNGER AT RPPS



*by Heather Mace, Principal*

There is an expression “individually we are one drop, together we are one ocean”. With Covid protocols and routines presenting a challenge this year for schools to have activities together, Rockcliffe Park PS found a way for students to work together in support of a project for the Ottawa Food Bank.

With 368 students attending in-person this year, the school identified a way to have students feel connected to each other. In March, Rockcliffe Park PS became an ocean of cereal boxes. Students were challenged to donate one cereal box each towards the Ottawa Food Bank. Over a period of 1 week, over 185 cereal boxes were donated. Boxes were stored in the school’s library to allow for a “resting period” before they were positioned by student organizers into a domino pattern down the main hallway.

a domino pattern down the school’s main hallway and around a corner. Classes were able to attend a virtual assembly to see the domino layout and through a school wide countdown, the domino course was started and all classes followed the falling cereal boxes real-time as the camera moved down the hall. The RPPS Knock Down Hunger event is part of the school’s Big Five where RPPS students are challenged to show five big things daily to be a good student and to make a strong school community:

- Think-Try-Do
- Be creative
- Stay active and eat healthy
- Be yourself
- Take care of others

Through an emphasis on how our daily actions reflect who we are as people and how this connects to the culture of the school, RPPS students show caring for others, even at times where they are standing apart.

*Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) is a JK-grade 6, dual track school. It is celebrating its 100th anniversary next year! RPPS has an enrollment of approximately 390 students (460 in non-Covid times), representing over 20 countries and languages. It offers programs in English and Early French Immersion.*

*RPPS draws from the Village of Rockcliffe, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh, Sandy Hill and Lower Town. The school office is located adjacent to the Police station and the Library. The Village and the school share the use of the grounds and the ice rink in winter. The Rockcliffe Child Care Center which opened in 1998 is attached to the school.*

*RPPS staff is comprised of 45 staff members including teachers, early childhood educators (ECE), and educational assistants (EA). We also have a Library Technician, office and custodial personnel and administrators. Our staff is a highly-skilled, hard-working and dedicated group of professionals who endeavour to provide child-centered and authentic learning experiences based on the Ontario Curriculum, while ensuring that literacy and numeracy continue to be a primary focus for our school.*

350 Buena Vista Rd  
K1M 1C1  
[www.rockcliffeparkps.ocdsb.ca](http://www.rockcliffeparkps.ocdsb.ca)





## ASHBURY COLLEGE

### PLURALISM PROJECT



*Ashbury College was founded in 1891 by George Penrose Woollcombe, an ambitious Oxford University graduate and a new Canadian, who served as Ashbury's Headmaster for 42 years. The three-room school for boys was originally located on Wellington Street in downtown Ottawa, moving to larger quarters also on Wellington Street and then on to Argyle Street in 1890 near the present Museum of Nature. In 1910, the school - called Ashbury College after Woollcombe's English home - moved to its current 13-acre location in the heart of Rockcliffe Park.*

*Today, Ashbury College is an independent school for boys and girls in Grades 4 to 12. Ashbury is an IB World School with students from over 60 countries, average class size of 17.*

362 Mariposa Avenue, Ottawa  
K1M 0T3  
(613) 749-5954  
[www.ashbury.ca](http://www.ashbury.ca)

Ashbury's commitment to fostering inclusivity, embracing pluralism and condemning all forms of racism and discrimination continues. In the summer of 2020, Ashbury's pluralism project began to ensure the inclusive, safe and respectful environment that we seek for all in our community. This has been a collective effort involving over 80 students, staff, alumni, parents and board members working on five design teams focused on various aspects of school life. This work is part of a continuum of dialogue and improvement that will support Ashbury's strategic goal of fostering an inclusive school community that builds on the strength of its diversity and school motto Probitas, Virtus, Comitas – Honesty, Courage and Kindness. This work continues and the design teams will be bringing forth recommendations at the end of the school year.

#### **On-campus ice rinks**

Students across all grade levels enjoyed two new outdoor rinks on campus this winter. The surfaces provided space for students to learn to skate—a brand new experience for some of our international students—play hockey and ringette and generally enjoy some fresh air. The rinks were made possible by generous contributions to Ashbury's annual giving program.

#### **Community service at the food bank**

Several Ashbury students regularly spend Wednesday afternoons volunteering at the Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre food bank, food truck and fresh food box. The experience is a great way to build empathy and engage with our neighbours.



## ELMWOOD SCHOOL



As the weather warms up and we look towards the final months of school, Elmwood has been celebrating some of our most anticipated events and cherished traditions- albeit with a slightly different look. On March 2, we celebrated the Class of 2021 by marking the beginning of their last "100 Days" at Elmwood- in what we hope will be the first of many closing events. The in-person luncheon held many of the event's beloved traditions- including receiving their class ring designed by Elmwood Alumna Joanna Rozanski '03 of Goldart Jewellery Studio Inc. Our Junior School has been engaged in monthly STUDIO sessions this school year- a wellbeing activity based on the many benefits of creating. On March 25, students were inspired by Mary Blair, a commercial artist for Disney.

and has enhanced our collaborative environment. The week of March 29, our Middle School students were engaged in Elmwood's Lead Like A Girl conference- an entirely student-led event, providing senior students with leadership experience and middle school students with leadership training. This year's theme was "leadership through a Canadian Indigenous lens."

Finally, congratulations to middle school students Rowan Parkinson, Amy Zou, Safal Kaur Bhullar, Elizabeth Chen-Baker, Sarah Di Silvestro, Rund Hajjaji, Khaliya Thawer, Hannah Vermeij, Isabella Furu and Emma Beaudoin who will represent Elmwood at the Ottawa Regional Science Fair.

*Elmwood School has been an institution in the Village of Rockcliffe Park for over one hundred years. It was founded in 1915 as the "Rockcliffe Preparatory School" by Theodora Philpot. The School opened in 1915 with only four students, aged four to seven.*

*Elmwood School is one of the most innovative girl schools in North America teaching girls from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.*

*Elmwood is a girls' schools and ranked as one of the top 25 private schools in Canada. It is the only school in the region offering all three levels of the International Baccalaureate Programme and one of a handful of schools in Canada to receive the Apple Distinguished School designation.*

261 Buena Vista Road  
K1M 0V9  
(613) 749-6761  
[www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca)



*Top: Grade 12 student (and Rockcliffe resident) Aviva Gerring.*

*Bottom: A Junior School student taking part in the STUDIO session.*

# APRIL

## 19

APRIL

### MOBILIZING CANADA FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

at 7:30 pm, online

#### Please support our local businesses

Neighbours! Let's give our local small businesses a shoutout ... share your favourite local business with us at ([secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca)) and why. Over the course of the next months, we can then highlight your favourites by including them in turn in our RPRA-community-wide emails. Help us show our local businesses some love! And be sure that your family is on our email list by joining the RPRA community.

The Ottawa Public Library hosts an author visit with Seth Klein. Registration required.

[bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en)

## 21

APRIL

### RPRA BOARD MEETING

7 pm, online

Monthly directors' meeting.  
Zoom link available through [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca)

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

# MAY

## 02

MAY

### VIRTUAL HIKE FOR HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE

Hike for Hospice Care Ottawa is an annual tradition that raises funds and awareness for Hospice Care Ottawa.

Register online for a virtual 5km walk. You can walk around your neighbourhood, walking trail or hop on your treadmill! Any day on or before Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Martha Beltran 613-591-6002 ext. 232  
[hike.info@hospicecareottawa.ca](mailto:hike.info@hospicecareottawa.ca)

## 08

MAY

### ROCKCLIFFE LAWN TENNIS CLUB OPENS

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

# 22

APRIL

## POLLINATOR GARDENS

6 pm, online

On Earth Day, Ecology Ottawa hosts a webinar on how to champion biodiversity in your own backyard. Registration required.

[ecologyottawa.ca](http://ecologyottawa.ca)

# 23

APRIL

## OTTAWA JAZZ FESTIVAL

7pm, via Zoom

The 33z play Dolly Parton in a virtual benefit concert and live auction  
Tickets - \$75 incl. concert, auction, food and drink; \$50 – concert and auction

[www.ottawajazzfestival.com](http://www.ottawajazzfestival.com)

# 28

APRIL

## SPEAKERS PROGRAM

8pm, via Zoom

Mark Carney: "Value(s): Building a Better World for All"

[rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca)  
see page 12 for details

# 09

MAY

## MOTHERS DAY

# 24

MAY

## VICTORIA DAY

# 26

MAY

## GARDENING WITH CHILDREN

12 pm, online  
[bibliottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en)

The Ottawa Public Library hosts a webinar featuring master gardener Judith Cox. Registration required.  
8pm, via Zoom



## OTTAWA NEW EDINBURGH CLUB

### MULTI-SPORT SUMMER DAY CAMPS: FUN, FRIENDSHIP, FRESH AIR!

*by Cynthia Hamady*

*The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club is one of Ottawa's oldest sports clubs. The historic boathouse is located just off the banks of the Ottawa River, and our red clay tennis courts are set amid the greenery just off the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway.*

*Tennis — Seven real red clay courts, four hard courts, in a relaxed environment ideal for singles, couples and families.*

*Rowing — Offering a variety of rowing opportunities for members using club owned boats as well as providing space for privately-owned boats.*

*Sailing — Providing sailing and instruction for members on club owned boats and mooring for privately owned boats. Use of club owned boats by certified members is included with membership.*

*Social — Prefer to just enjoy our facilities without the sports? There are great opportunities for social members to participate in events or just hang out on the tennis pavilion or boathouse decks (once renovations of the waterfront facility have been completed).*

*Day Camps — Tennis, sailing, rowing or for full days or half days during the summer.*

504 Sir George-Étienne Cartier Pkwy  
[www.onec.ca](http://www.onec.ca)

Kids ages 7 to 17 can build skills while enjoying fun and friendship at Ottawa New Edinburgh Club's unique multi-sport summer day camps, located right next to Rockcliffe Park on the beautiful Ottawa River. Tennis, sailing and rowing will be offered July 5 through September 3 in one- or two-week sessions taught by certified instructors, with extended drop-off and pick-up times available. ONEC offers a 10% discount for paid bookings received by May 31.

Note: Full refunds (less credit card fees) will be given if camps are cancelled by ONEC (including for COVID-related reasons).

For full details and online registration go to [www.onec.ca/day-camps](http://www.onec.ca/day-camps) or phone 613 746-8540.

And check out memberships for adults of all skill levels at [www.onec.ca](http://www.onec.ca).



# ROCKCLIFFE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

## 2021 SEASON



by Louise Malhotra

We officially welcome the start of the 2021 season on Saturday May 8th. As usual, the opening of the clay courts will be weather dependent, so our fingers are crossed for an early start. Hard courts will be available on opening day.

Club Manager Chris Hannant is continuing in his role this year, having successfully navigated the challenges of the 2020 COVID summer. Chris is ready to greet members and ensure everyone is set for a safe, healthy, and active summer tennis season. We expect COVID protocols established last year to still be applicable for the upcoming season and ask for vigilance in following all club directives.

This year, RLTC is pleased to have Zhenya Kondratovski as Director of Tennis and Senior Tennis Professional, alongside Dan Vila, the new Senior Tennis Professional. These two highly experienced and well-regarded instructors have created all new programming for the 2021 season, with expanded clinics, lessons, and workshops to suit all levels and ages.

Program details and registrations are available on our website. Zhenya and Dan offer an impressive level of experience and will ensure the club provides an excellent season of tennis programming.

We continue to embrace our new on-line platform for functions such as membership renewals, program registration, court bookings, and clubhouse purchases. The new system has greatly expanded our capacity to manage bookings and member programs, ensuring we have accurate accounting of all members present throughout the day.

As glimpses of spring peek out through March weather, we look forward to welcoming returning members and hope to see new faces on our courts. It's shaping up to be a fabulous season.

*Established in 1923, the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club, is located in the wooded heart of the Village of Rockcliffe Park. The club has been a central gathering space for almost one hundred years, bringing tennis enthusiasts together in the spirit of congeniality and positive sportsmanship.*

*This private-members club has four premium grade Har-Tru clay and four hard-surface courts nestled under an abundant tree canopy. The attractive clubhouse has a food and liquor licence to provide light snacks and beverages, and social events are offered throughout the season.*

*The RLTC offers a wide range of programming for all ages and skills, including private lessons, weekly clinics, round robins, ladders matches, tournaments, and junior programs at both a recreational and competitive level.*

*Throughout the years, the RLTC members have included historically distinguished Canadians such as RH Lester B. Pearson, HRH Princess Juliana (later Her Majesty the Queen Juliana of the Netherlands,) and the RH John Turner. Our club continues to draw a wide range of fascinating members, many with significant global presence, yet an undeniable connection to our local community club.*

*The RLTC is a welcoming, family-friendly club dedicated to embracing the sport of tennis, encouraging active living, and enhancing our sense of community.*

465 Lansdowne Rd N  
K1M 0Y1  
[www.rltennis.ca](http://www.rltennis.ca)



### IT'S ODD, THE THINGS ONE REMEMBERS A BOOK BY NINA ANN SMITH



*by James Smith*

The book traces the life of Nina Ann Bentley (later Nina Ann Smith) from an idyllic childhood in 1920s England, through her service in the Royal Air Force during World War II, and on into the far more challenging decades of the second-half of the twentieth century in Canada, America, and Mexico. While her life parallels that of many thousands of women who moved across the Atlantic in search of a better life after the Second World War, there are a few extra angles - 'the darts which fate aimed at me and adventures on which I was led' - including the birth of two disabled children, and the struggles to deal with new countries and ways of life. There is the excitement, and frustration, of living in Washington during the Kennedy years; and the sustained tension of being on the front lines of the cold war with a husband serving on the Defence Research Staff. There is the unexpected joy of a third stage of life in the mountains and coastal villages of Mexico; followed by the challenges of caring for a paralyzed husband and an ageing disabled daughter. And woven throughout, is the story of a young love that shadows her the rest of her life....

A portion of the proceeds of each book sold will go to support the Ottawa-Carleton Association of Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

#### **About the Author**

Nina Ann Smith (Bentley) was born in Sutton Valence, in Kent, in 1924. She served as a Radar Operator in the WAAF during World War II. After the war she immigrated to Canada, an odyssey that led her to Quebec City,

Hamilton, Ottawa, Washington, and Mexico. The mother of two disabled children, she has been active for over 60 years in championing services for the developmentally disabled. Ann Smith now lives in Ottawa, Canada. Although she has written throughout her life, this is her first book.

#### **From the Foreword**

Recently I read a book whose dedication was "To the Vanishing Generation". I am one of that generation - the one whose youth and maturing years were shaped indelibly by the second world war of the twentieth century, and whose adulthood has been spent in constant thankfulness that there has not been - will not be? - a third such war.

Vanishing we certainly are, and thus are tumbling over ourselves to record our memories. Indeed, I wonder if any more personal accounts are really needed of air battles, of the bombings of cities, of food rationing or the traumas of displacement and evacuation; of the enormous impact which the life of military service made on ordinary young lives?

So I have tried to place that part of my own life, essential though it be, within a wider context of the idyllic childhood which preceded it, and particularly the far more complex and challenging decades which came after the war. My story is largely typical of thousands of women like me, but there are perhaps a few extra angles - darts which fate aimed at me and adventures on which I was led - to justify my critical mother's grudging admission -

"You have had an interesting life!"

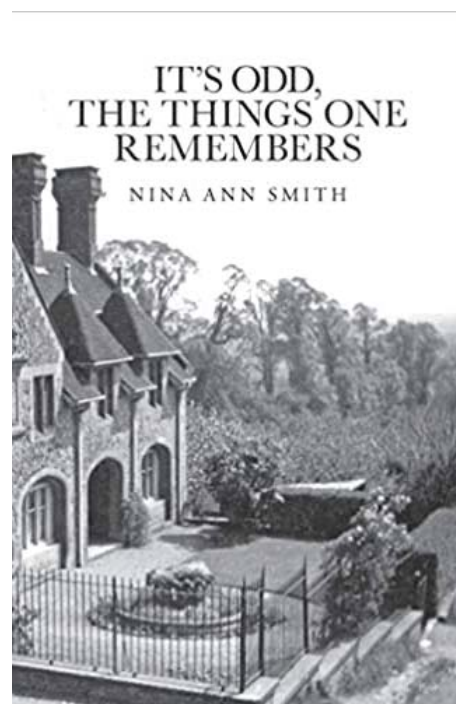
And from my father:

Promise me that if and when you write, you don't write "for effect".

What did he mean - for effect? "I mean, how you think it will look to other people, maybe at the expense of factual accuracy or your own true meaning."

So my father's caution led me to watch, edit, condense, and constantly revise my writing.

On the other hand my mother's example in her own thinly disguised fictional autobiography urges me to write "what is true". Not just what is acceptable, careful or inoffensive. "Tell it how it was!"



# AN ASTONISHING, WONDROUS WINTER ON MCKAY LAKE

*Andrew Cohen is a journalist, a professor at Carleton University and author of Two Days in June: John F. Kennedy and the 48 Hours That Made History.*

*Andrew is a long-time resident of our village, and frequent guest speaker at the Rockcliffe Park Speakers Program.*

*This article first appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on 17 March 2021.*

*by Andrew Cohen*

In the autumn of 1983, I was sitting in a cinema in Aviemore, a town in the highlands of Scotland. Before the feature film, there was a short but memorable documentary.

It captured a community on a loch in winter. Everyone was on the ice, skating and curling, talking and imbibing. Wrapped in colourful lambswool scarfs and sweaters, their cheeks were ablaze, what Nordic mothers used to call “good colour” without fear of cultural reprisal.

They were celebrating a natural oddity. The loch froze once a generation. And when it did, it was a sensation.

Where is the loch? Does it still freeze in the age of climate change? I don’t know. But the riotous townsfolk on that boundless sheet of clear, hard ice, like peasants cavorting in a Bruegel painting, was something to see. There is no association between Loch Myth – let us call it that – and McKay Lake, in Rockcliffe Park. None at all, except that this year, our lake froze too, mysteriously and mercifully, a phenomenon unseen in decades.

It isn’t that McKay Lake froze, which is normal, but how it initially froze, without snow, becoming a virginal expanse of ice. Around New Year’s Day, word spread quickly: You can skate, free and far, on McKay Lake!

Thomas d’Aquino, a wise man who has lived on the lake since 1977, says he’s seen this happen only three times in 44 years, and certainly not for the last 20.

But this winter – in the season of the pandemic – it did. And the good burghers revelled in it. They skated, played shinny, towed toddlers in sleds. They talked, stumbled and laughed, the bonhomie of community.

And then it snowed. That should have ended the party. But then – spontaneously, protectively – people started to shovel. Clearing the snow, they created narrow circuitous channels around and across the lake, as if sketched by a graphic designer.

Soon there was a spider’s web through the snow, opening to squares for group skating, surrounded by well-worn paths for walkers and cross-country skiers. Some days, recreationists brought folding chairs, propped them on the snow, and sipped from steaming flasks, recalling Rockcliffe in the 1960s.

I assumed the skating would not survive the first big snowstorm. It did. One day a few yellow long-handled shovels appeared, deployed strategically around the lake. An army of shovellers, of all ages, got to work.

When the thaw came in February and the ice turned soft, chipped and indented with footprints, again we thought it was over. But then, stubbornly, water flooded the cleared surfaces and the ice reconstituted itself.

McKay Lake thrived for most of the season while the Rideau Canal opened late and closed early, in time for 10 days of cold. For the skaters and strollers of McKay

Lake, there was no help from the city; in fact, we worried that if our congealed secret were discovered, it would surely be closed.

And so, this was the winter of our astonishment. In the teeth of the pandemic, the residents of Rockcliffe Park and beyond found a way through, like Canadians everywhere. We understand winter. We don’t fuss or fret.

Now spring has caught up to McKay Lake. The chain-link gate is locked and a slender yellow tape screaming “caution” is strung between trees where the shore opens up, as if this were now a crime zone. The lake is empty, silent and incandescent.

A flight of wooden steps from the dog path to the shore beckons. Deferring to the danger, I wear a mask.

The snow is gone, again. The ice is clear, again. Only the outline of the skating channels remains. The surface is studded with crystalized peaks, like dancing mountains seen from an airplane. Or foamy surf breaking on the beach.

It is wondrous. I circumnavigate the lake three times, resting occasionally on a bench near the frozen marsh. I revel one more time in this lonely, icy dominion that I may never see again.

## IN MEMORIAM

### PETER COLIN DOBELL 1927 - 2020



*Please email the newsletter editor on:  
editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca  
if you wish to celebrate and commemorate  
the life of a family member and longtime  
Rockcliffe Park resident.*

*This article first appeared in the Globe and Mail.*

PETER COLIN DOBELL In Ottawa, on December 18, 2020, having lived a full and rewarding life. Survived by Jane (Matthews), his wife and co-adventurer for sixty-nine years. And by his son Colin, daughter-in-law Gail (Hughson), and grandson Reid. Born March 31, 1927, the eldest son of Sydney Hope Dobell and Mary Macintosh of Montreal, he was predeceased by his brother William and cousin Anthony Dobell, but is survived by his cousin Colin Dobell. At Selwyn House and Trinity College School, he played soccer, hockey and ran track. Graduating from University of Toronto (Trinity College) in 1949 with a degree in History, he then completed a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at New College, Oxford in 1952. Peter always said that he decided to become a diplomat when he was eleven. Summers during his university years were spent in France and Germany in the immediate aftermath of the war. He entered the Department of External Affairs in 1952, serving in Prague (1954-7) and at the Canadian Mission to the United Nations in New York from 1960-5. In 1968, in a move he later admitted was riskier than he understood, he founded the Parliamentary Centre, an organization with which he was involved for the rest of his working life. Initially focused on supporting parliamentary committees in their analysis, consensus-building and report-drafting activity, the Centre gradually developed expertise in the practice of parliamentary democracy, working around the world. He also piloted innovative programs designed to expand the perspectives of members of parliament so that they could be more effective, including exchanges between

members of parliament and members of US Congress, private industry, and government bureaucracy. Peter also served as secretary of the Canadian delegation to the Trilateral Commission and of the Institute for Research on Public Policy. He was honoured to receive the Order of Canada in 1991 and an honorary doctorate at Trinity College in 2003. Peter was a builder. He erected a modernist home in Ottawa, cottages on Lake Eda outside Ottawa and on Georgian Bay, followed by 8 houses near Eda that he rented to friends over many years. He dammed two valleys to create lakes which these cottages overlooked. Later, he ventured into community building, founding a cooperative of cottage-owners called Peterswood that outlives him. Throughout his life, he also built and nurtured a worldwide web of friendships that were very important to him. He loved the outdoors. Cross-country skiing trips, trail cutting, tapping trees in the maple syrup bush, canoe trips, sailing, fishing and hiking in the Rockies, and the gatherings that accompanied these activities, were where he connected most happily with his family and friends. His many trips abroad with Jane were usually combined with walking or hiking. His family wishes to thank the staff at The Edinburgh in Ottawa that cared for him at the end. A celebration of life will be held when COVID allows it. In the meantime, in lieu of flowers, donations in honour of Peter's name may be made to the Ottawa Food Bank.

## MICHAEL KIRKPATRICK MACKLEM 1928 - 2021



*This article first appeared in the Globe and Mail.*

MICHAEL MACKLEM was born in Toronto on the twelfth of July 1928, the son of Hedley Macklem and Mary Kirkpatrick, and brother to Douglas and John Martin. He spent his early years at Upper Canada College, at the prep and the upper school, before going on to study English literature at Trinity College in the University of Toronto. In 1950 he graduated with the highest average in the history of the university, and won a full scholarship to Princeton, where he completed both an AM and a PhD in only three years. His thesis was published as *The Anatomy of the World: Relations Between Natural and Moral Law* from Donne to Pope. He went on to teach at Yale from 1954 to 1955, before deciding he didn't want to live in the United States—the beginning of a long career as a Canadian nationalist.

In Ottawa, he signed on as a writer for the new *Encyclopedia Canadiana*, a landmark publication for a country looking to tell its own story in its own voice, and once the encyclopedia was published went on to become part of the early development of the Humanities Research Council of Canada. In the nineteen-sixties he wrote *Liberty and the Holy City: The Idea of Freedom in English History*, followed by *God Have Mercy: The Life of John Fisher of Rochester*, a very successful biography of the sixteenth-century Bishop of Rochester who was executed, like his friend Thomas More, for refusing to admit that Henry VIII could become head of the church in England.

In 1967 with his wife Anne Hardy, Michael founded Oberon Press, one of the first of the new wave of independent Canadian publishing houses devoted to giving

Canadians books of their own. Over the next fifty years, Oberon published the work of people like Raymond Souster, David Adams Richards, Wayne Johnston, David Helwig, Elizabeth Brewster and W.P. Kinsella, whose native and baseball stories—later made into the films *Dance Me Outside* and *Field of Dreams*—made his name a household word. The company became generally recognized as Canada's leading publisher of short fiction. Altogether Oberon published more than seven hundred different titles—many of them typeset in its own hot-metal printshop—and its books won almost every prize in the country, including the Governor General's Award. In 2006 Michael Macklem was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of his work with the press.

For most of Oberon's fifty years, Michael and Anne spent two months of every fall travelling thousands of miles by car from one coast of Canada to the other, visiting every major bookstore and library on their route to show off the new titles and take orders. Out of those road trips was born the national restaurant guide *Where to Eat in Canada*, edited by Anne Hardy, which sold almost 200,000 copies through fifty annual editions from 1971 to 2020. Its independent and impartial reviews—the book's watchword was "Nobody can buy his way into this guide and nobody can buy his way out"—contributed more than any other single publication to the development of the restaurant industry we know in Canada today.

Away from the publishing company, Michael's great passion was for Lake Muskoka, where he spent 92 summers, always working, always building—

cottages, boathouses, docks, decks, even furniture. He planted thousands of pine trees and spent the rest of his life watering them. Today Michael's acres in the middle of the lake are some of the greenest and most beautiful in Muskoka. He had his parents' antique mahogany launches painstakingly restored, and was elated when they won prizes. In the winter he and Anne skied in the Alps and sailed in the Caribbean, and every spring they visited England, over and over again, where Michael loved climbing in the Lake District as much as the music, art, theatres and restaurants of London.

He had an enormous enthusiasm for everything he found beautiful—from boats and water and trees to paintings, porcelain and the works of George Frederick Handel. And for the world of books and ideas—he read every spare minute of the final years of his life. Wherever he was, he was always involved—the conversations carried by his energy, his interest, his understanding, his delighted laughter. But his greatest love was for his family, for his wife Anne, to whom he was married for more than seventy years, for his son Timothy and daughter-in-law Gail, for his son Nicholas and daughter-in-law Dilshad, and for his three grandchildren, Elizabeth, Oliver and John. His last word, just before his death, was the name of his wife, Anne.



## APPLYING FOR A HERITAGE PERMIT? FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### HERITAGE

*Rockcliffe Park was envisioned as a "park for private residences" in the mid-19th century. Today, our neighbourhood features approx. 750 homes set into a green landscape with mature trees, ample private gardens, lakes, and informal winding roads.*

*The lack of defined edges, fences and hard landscaping creates a sense of a visual continuity and natural setting that is the key characteristic of our cultural heritage landscape.*

*As only one of three surviving 19th century communities in North America (and the only one in Canada) that were designed as neighbourhoods in a park, Rockcliffe Park is protected by the provincial Heritage Conservation District Plan.*

*Residents are encouraged to refer to the Heritage Plan which can be found on the RPRA website: [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca)*

#### **What is a Heritage Permit?**

Rockcliffe Park has been a designated Heritage Conservation District since 1997. Significant landscaping/construction works therefore require a Heritage Permit issued by the City of Ottawa.

Applications for a Heritage Permit should follow the guidelines laid out in the official Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation Plan (The "Heritage Plan") which seeks to "conserve, retain and enhance the qualities that contribute to the cultural heritage values of Rockcliffe Park". The Heritage Plan was approved by City Council in 2016.

#### **Do I need a Heritage Permit?**

A Heritage Permit is required for alterations, demolitions, removal and new construction work relating to any part of all properties in Rockcliffe Park—regardless of age, type or style. Alterations that require approval include, but are not limited to construction of additions, window replacement, partial demolition, and porch replacement or restoration.

The City Heritage Branch is able to offer further guidance. The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee is also happy to answer any questions on an informal confidential basis whenever possible. ([secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca))

#### **Do all works require a Heritage Permit?**

Interior alterations, gardening, insulating, weather stripping, caulking, planting/gardening and minor landscaping that is in character with the streetscape, painting/paint colour, building maintenance do not require a Heritage

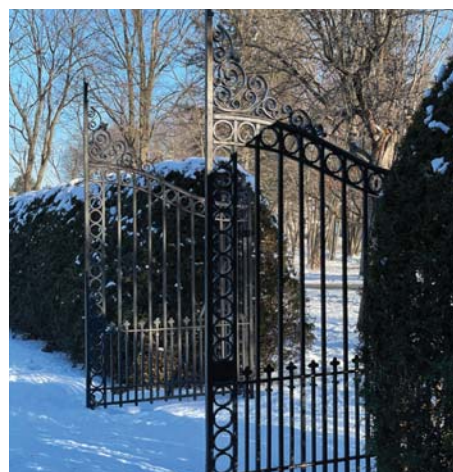
Permit, as defined in the Heritage Plan. Unless the works are specifically listed as exempt from the Heritage Permit requirement, a Heritage Permit is required (and a separate Building Permit might be required in addition).

#### **How do I apply for a Heritage Permit?**

The City requires that applications for Heritage Permits must include sufficient information for the City of Ottawa to be able to make informed decisions. Applicants should discuss their proposal with staff in the Heritage Branch, who are able to assist in determining the information required for an application. The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan sets out minimum requirements regarding the design information, including: survey, project description, elevations of all sides at a minimum scale of 1:50, site plan showing building location, fencing, plantings, and other significant features, including the driveway, landscape plan showing existing landscape with grades and all trees, with those proposed for removal clearly marked, and showing all proposed landscaping, coloured front elevations showing the buildings on either side (if applicable), grading plan, perspective renderings, project data (site area, coverage, FSI calculations etc., materials, cultural Heritage Impact Statement (where required)).

#### **How does the process work?**

The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan and the City of Ottawa strongly encourage applicants to consult with the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee from the outset to receive comments which



should accompany the Heritage Permit application. The City references the Heritage Committee's comments in their report.

### **What is the pre-consultation pilot project?**

As part of a successful pre-consultation pilot project, the City of Ottawa and the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Committee offer joint consultation meetings with the applicant/their architect, and coordinated feedback to the applicant, prior to any formal application being submitted. In April, the 18-month pilot project will end, but hopefully become a permanent process. The pilot project gave the RPRA Heritage Committee the opportunity to collaborate with City heritage planners early in the design process before official applications were submitted. This allowed for coordinated feedback to be provided earlier to applicants, thereby avoiding redundant design work and time spent, since any concerns the city or the heritage committee may have are raised early.

### **How does the pilot pre-consultation work?**

Pre-consultations are not mandatory and are confidential. In the pre-consultation pilot, applicants are asked to provide by email, a site plan, preliminary elevations, and any other information available, before meeting with the City Heritage Planners and the Heritage Committee. This allows for the preparation of questions and meaningful discussion to inform the meeting with the applicant. While meetings took place at City Hall prior to the pandemic, the meetings now

happen via Zoom. Through an exchange of emails and phone meetings, Heritage planners and the Heritage Committee work together to offer joint comments to the applicant. Additional comments are occasionally provided. The comments were then issued by the City to an applicant allowing them to respond with an adapted proposal that satisfies the guidelines of the Heritage Plan. Once the issues are resolved, applicants proceed to apply for a Heritage Permit.

### **How are Heritage Permit applications processed ?**

Upon receipt, the Heritage Branch is required to send a Notice of Receipt to the applicant and Ward Councillor confirming that the application was received and is being processed. The Program Manager of the Heritage Branch then decides how the application will be processed and reviewed. There are two options:

#### **A. City Council Decision**

The default route for Heritage Permit applications.

#### **B. Delegated Authority Decision**

Some minor applications can be dealt with by City Staff in the Heritage Branch

#### **Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan, 4.0**

##### **Heritage Permits:**

"Depending on the scale of the project, approval may be delegated to staff. If the project is large (such as demolition, new construction or a significant addition) the property owner will require the approval of City Council prior to the issuance of a heritage permit."

### **What is Delegated Authority?**

Where the application is for a minor project, and either meets the definition of an emergency application or meets certain criteria, the Program Manager (of the City's Heritage Branch) can allocate the application to a Heritage Planner/File Lead to process the application within the Branch and grant a Heritage Permit.

### **What happens after a Heritage Permit is granted?**

The Ontario Heritage Act requires that decisions on applications are made within 90 days of the issuance of the Notice of Receipt. If the application is not processed within the 90 days, it is deemed to be approved. Once an application is submitted and deemed complete, Heritage Permits under Delegated Authority are typically issued within a month. The decision can be appealed as set out in the Ontario Heritage Act. An applicant typically needs to apply for a Building Permit (+ other special permits might be required) following the receipt of a Heritage Permit, before any works can be carried out.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*Adventurous residents back in 1920s and 30s used to ski out the door, down Buena Vista across Cloverdale, down Prospect to McKay Lake! Going the other direction, the run out and jump led you to the Ottawa River. While today we don't have a ski jump any longer, this past winter a few residents did create an amazing McKay Lake skate loop/track that was unforgettable!*

*Check out some vintage footage of the Rockcliffe ski jump on "Suicide Hill":*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik57Lnq\\_x9Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik57Lnq_x9Q)



## GRADE I OR GRADE II?

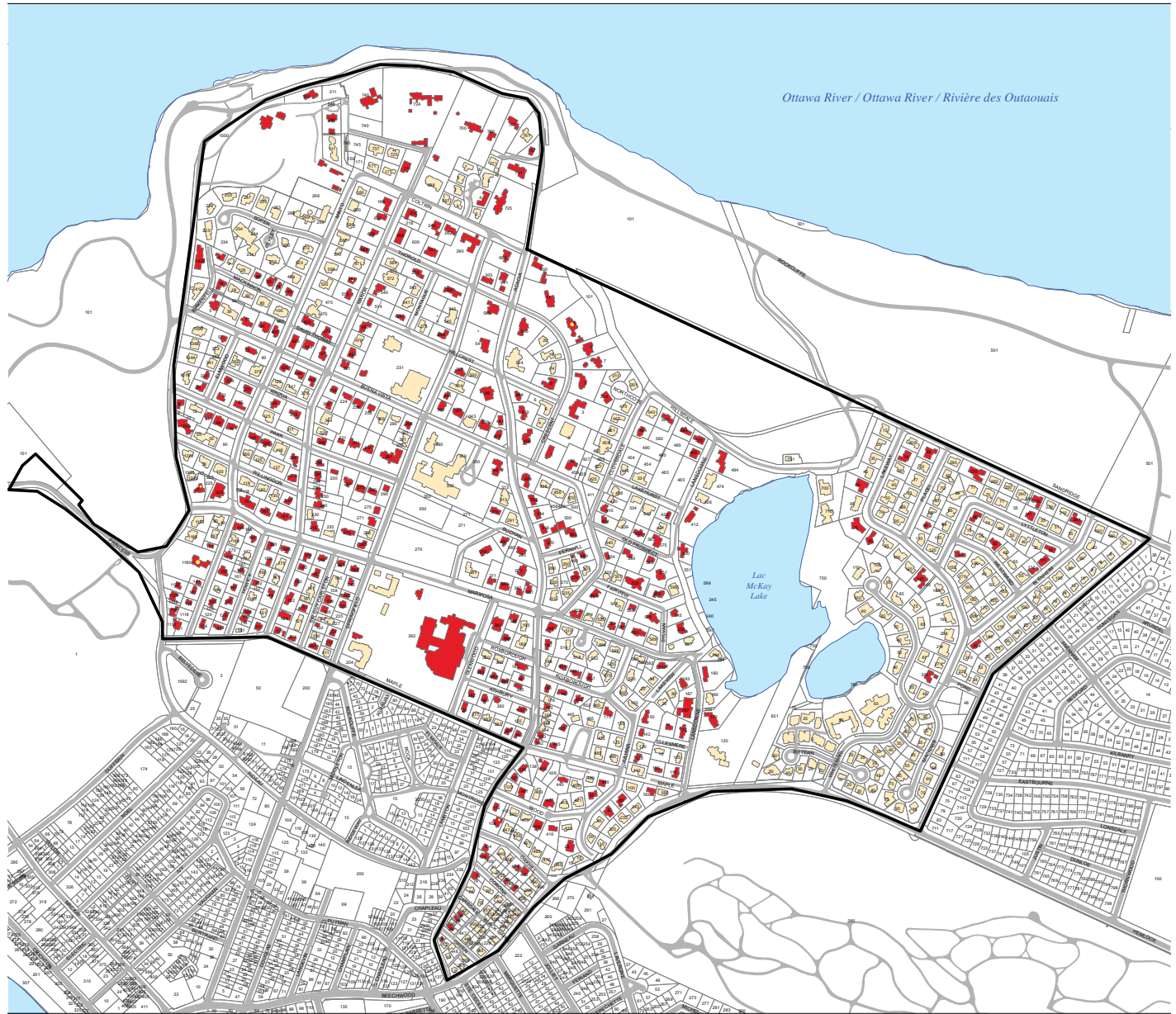
## CHECK THE HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF YOUR HOME.

The entire Village of Rockcliffe Park is designated as a Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act. The special heritage character of our village is defined by its green spaces and park-like setting, narrow curving roads, generous lots and gardens, and houses set unobtrusively within a visually continuous green landscape. For our Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCDP), all properties in Rockcliffe Park were evaluated as part of a Heritage Survey, and classified based on a point score that

takes into account each property's history, design and landscape. Properties that score 50 and over were categorized as "Grade I" those below 50, as "Grade II".

"Grade I" properties contribute most significantly to the cultural heritage value of Rockcliffe Park through their landscaped setting, architecture and history.

Residents are encouraged to refer to the Heritage Plan which can be found on the RPRA website: [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca)



### Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District (Part V of OHA)

### District de conservation du patrimoine de Rockcliffe Park (Partie V de la Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario)

— Heritage Conservation District Boundary /  
Limite du district de conservation du patrimoine

● Individually Designated Buildings Part IV of OHA /  
Édifices désignés individuellement selon la Partie IV de la Loi

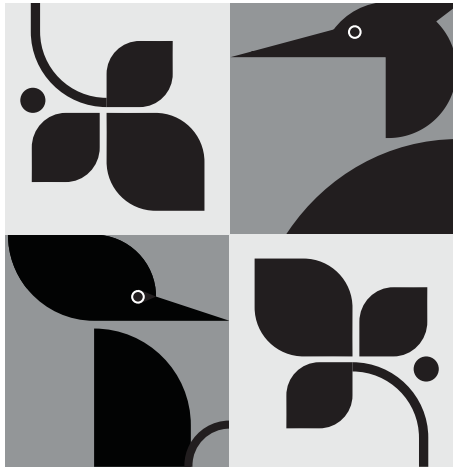
■ Grade I / Groupe I

■ Grade II / Groupe II

"This map is for information purposes only. In the event of a discrepancy between this map and the heritage survey form held by the heritage services section, the heritage survey form shall prevail."

"Cette carte est fournie à titre d'information seulement. Advenant une différence entre cette carte et le formulaire d'examen et d'évaluation du patrimoine détenu par la Section des services du patrimoine, ce dernier prévaudra."





## IT IS GARDENING TIME AGAIN

by *Iola Price*



Common Ninebark - an alternative

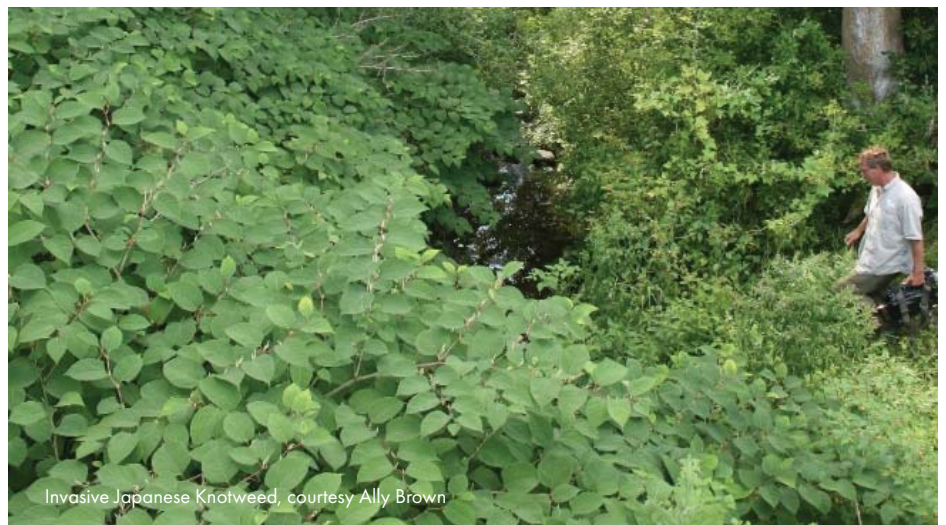
## ENVIRONMENT

The Ontario Invasive Plant Council's popular Grow Me Instead booklet has been revised, updated and expanded with 40 additional invasive plants and their alternatives for your garden. Free to download, look for it at <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Southern-Grow-Me-Instead-1.pdf>. The guide provides useful information on groundcovers, wildflowers, water garden plants and ornamental grasses as well as trees and shrubs. Additional suggestions on trees, shrubs and vines can now also be found on the RPRA's interactive native trees database at [www.rockcliffepark.ca/environment](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca/environment) (select "native trees, shrubs and vines" in drop down menu).

Join the 70,000 gardeners in Ontario and beyond who have used this guide as a fixture for invasive-free gardening.

Why do we promote native, non-invasive plants? They have evolved and adapted to our climate and soil along with our butterflies and other insects and the birds that, in turn, use them to feed their nestlings. Invasive plants like Japanese knotweed, yellow archangel and goutweed have a tendency to escape. If they reach natural areas (all three are present in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area) they tend to take over and crowd out our native plant and can permanently alter ecosystems by altering soil chemistry. Many insects are plant-specific specialists – meaning they only feed on one or a small number of related plants. A garden with only exotic plants doesn't provide food and shelter for our native insects and in turn, may be devoid of bird life.

So, please take a look at Grow Me Instead and support our native wildlife and biodiversity. Ask for these plants at your local nursery and then plant something that will encourage butterflies – adding some native beauty at the same time.



Invasive Japanese Knotweed, courtesy Ally Brown

# GYPSY MOTH CONTROL

by Iola Price

## Home/Local control of gypsy moth egg masses on individual trees

Remember the flights of gypsy moth adults, mating and laying eggs in our neighbourhoods this past summer? Many of us went out and scraped egg masses from the trunks of trees but we probably didn't get them all. With the leaves gone, it is now easier to see those egg masses. It is not too late to inspect the trees in your yard and the walls of your house and garden shed. You could even dig snow away from the trunks of trees to look for egg masses. As a food source, gypsy moths prefer oaks but the moths will lay eggs on, and the caterpillars will eat, aspen/poplar, beech, black locust/acacia, birch, butternut, elm, maple, cherry, apple, pine, spruce, hemlock, tamarack and balsam fir. When the caterpillars hatch in the spring, they will climb upwards in search of leaves. Left untouched, a tree can be defoliated but, that is not necessarily fatal to a deciduous tree.

## What to look for and where

The egg mass is a fuzzy tan- to beige-coloured flattened blob, about 2 to 2.5 cm (3/4 of an inch) wide and slightly longer. Look for them on the tree trunk, especially in crevices from right at ground level up as far as you can see, on the undersides of lateral branches, on rocks, lawn furniture and the sides of buildings and wall underhangs. The dark brown spots on the right are pupae and they too should be removed if you find them unsightly but at this time of year, they are probably empty.

## What you need

To collect and safely dispose of the egg masses you will need a margarine/yogurt

tub, a dull knife or palette knife, an old toothbrush or stiff small paint brush, a flat "tray" of plastic with a lip on edge (see the picture) and later, when home, liquid dish detergent.

## Egg mass removal

Holding the flat edge of the plastic "tray" directly under the egg mass with the lip edge outward, insert the knife at the bottom of the egg mass and gently work the knife upward, lifting the mass away from the tree. Be careful not to damage thin-barked trees such as cherry, beech or birch as this opens the tree to the possibility of infection. With luck and practice, the egg mass will come off as a complete unit and be held in place by the lip of the plastic tray. Tip the egg mass into the yogurt tub. Then go back and with the toothbrush, gently brush any remaining eggs onto the tray. Eggs that fall to the ground may survive under the snow and hatch out in the spring so pick them up if possible. Put the egg masses into a strong mixture of dish-washing detergent and water and leave covered for two days to kill the eggs and then dispose of them in the green bin. Teachers and parents – is this a fun outdoor environmental education opportunity?

## What happens next spring

Caterpillar stage: Gypsy moth eggs that do hatch into caterpillars will crawl toward the leaves and start eating. They will descend from the upper branches of the tree, hide at ground level during the heat of the day and then climb back up the trunk to begin feeding on leaves again. At chest level, wrap a tree trunk with a 45 cm strip of burlap. Tie a string around the middle

of the burlap and fold the top portion down to form a skirt to trap the caterpillars as they climb upwards. Carefully collect them every day and shake into a detergent and water solution and leave them for two days until they are dead. The long hairs on the caterpillar contain histamines that can cause allergic reactions so wear gloves if you think you will contact the caterpillars.



Credit: USDA Forest Service



Credit: Iola Price



Credit: Hopatcong Regional News and City of Toronto



Credit: Hopatcong Regional News and City of Toronto

# TREES, SHRUBS & YOU:

## AN INTERACTIVE GUIDE TO CHOOSING A SUITABLE NATIVE PLANT

*by Iola Price*

The spring planting season will soon be upon us. If you are thinking of planting a tree or shrub, please consider making it a species native to our area. Rockcliffe Park is well known for its extensive tree canopy cover and private trees and shrubs contribute to our wonderful green heritage.

### **Why Select Native Trees and Shrubs**

Native plants are adapted to our ecosystem and, over the years, have adapted or evolved to cope with our Canadian environment. Our local birds and mammals have also learned how to use them for food, shelter and nesting habitat. In some cases, our native insects and butterflies, birds and mammals cannot or will not use exotic plants for either food or shelter.

By choosing to plant native trees and shrubs, you can help to restore local ecosystems to a state where they are most useful to other native plants and animals. Those grown from local seed sources can better cope over the long run with the climatic conditions in Ottawa. They should require less care and less water than a southern species that needs special attention.

### **Suggested Native Trees and Shrubs**

Years ago, Sandra Garland of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and I developed a database describing about 150 trees, shrubs and vines. A colleague wrote the computer program to make it interactive. The revised and updated database is now on the RPRA website at [www.rockcliffepark.ca/environment/](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca/environment/). For each plant species on the list, you

can see if it is a tree or shrub (some can be either) or a vine and its general shape (round, pyramidal, upright etc.). Sometimes space in a garden is limited, so you can check to learn how large the tree or shrub will be: its height and width at maturity (diameter at 100 cm above ground). Other information such as soil type, salt tolerance (sensitivity to road salt), pollution tolerance, usefulness as food or cover for wildlife (or as a guide what not to plant if you don't want wildlife), ease of transplanting and data on flower and fruit colour and edibility are also given for most plants.

You will first see the information organized as a table. Click on 'Sort' in one of the columns (English, French or Botanical name) or any of the topics at the top of the table and the plant names will self-organize from A to Z or Low to High. Additional information on each tree or shrub can be obtained by clicking on the plant's English, French or Botanical name such as the names of the beautiful butterflies whose caterpillars depend on the leaves for sustenance and, in turn, serve as food for the young birds in our gardens.

### **Tips for Planting**

We have used symbols as follows:

Light requirement:

☀ means full sun required or desirable;

☁ means the plant will grow in or requires partial shade;

the dark ☁ means the plant will grow in or requires full shade.

Water requirement: one rain drop indicates a low water requirement or

will live in a low water availability environment and five rain drops means the plant requires a high amount of water or will live in a wet environment.



Credit: Christine Hanrahan

# WILDLIFE NOTES

*Did you recently spot any animals in our neighbourhood?*

*Email your pictures to the Environment Committee on: [iola.price@outlook.com](mailto:iola.price@outlook.com)*

*by Tony Keith*

**Wild Turkeys** have been in the Village again this past winter. Mary Taylor told me on November 13 of up to ten at one time in her garden; not interested in the bird feeder, pecking away at the lawn. I saw seven at the Manor/Buena Vista intersection on December 27. On New Year's Day three turkeys strolled across Fairview, and in mid-February John Tener reported that from six to eight "have been living in my garden" on Minto Place. From their droppings, they had been eating fallen crab apples.

On February 23, Phil Garel-Jones 'phoned to say that there was a **Great Horned Owl** on his land at 120 Lansdowne. Across the road are the woods of the Beechwood Cemetery, good owl habitat.

On my walks around the Village this winter I have frequently seen or heard **Ravens**, and on March 8 one flew to the top of the white pines at the Hillcrest/Acacia intersection carrying a stick – usually a sign of nest-building. Ravens were there again on the 18th.

**Cardinals** are singing more frequently now, another sign of approaching spring. They are overwintering this far north because of the food in birdfeeders – the snow covers their normal food on the ground. This underlines the importance of keeping your bird feeders supplied with seed until the snow cover is gone.

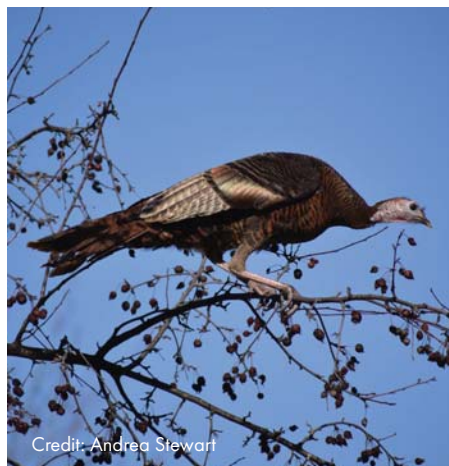
My early morning walk today was made by a flight of **Canada Geese** overhead – gabbling the approach of spring.



Credit: Alexander Healy



Credit: Jerzy Komorowski



Credit: Andrea Stewart



Credit: Alexander Healy

## BIRDS OF ROCKCLIFFE PARK

Spring offers great opportunities for birdwatching, nature journaling and field sketching in our Village.

The "cut and collect" cards on these pages featuring artwork by Arthur Singer hopefully serve as inspiration for exploring our neighbourhood, and paying closer attention to our feathered friends.

Considered one of the greatest ornithological artists, Arthur Singer (1917-1990), painted all bird species of North America, Europe and the West Indies. He published more than twenty books that were translated into eight languages.

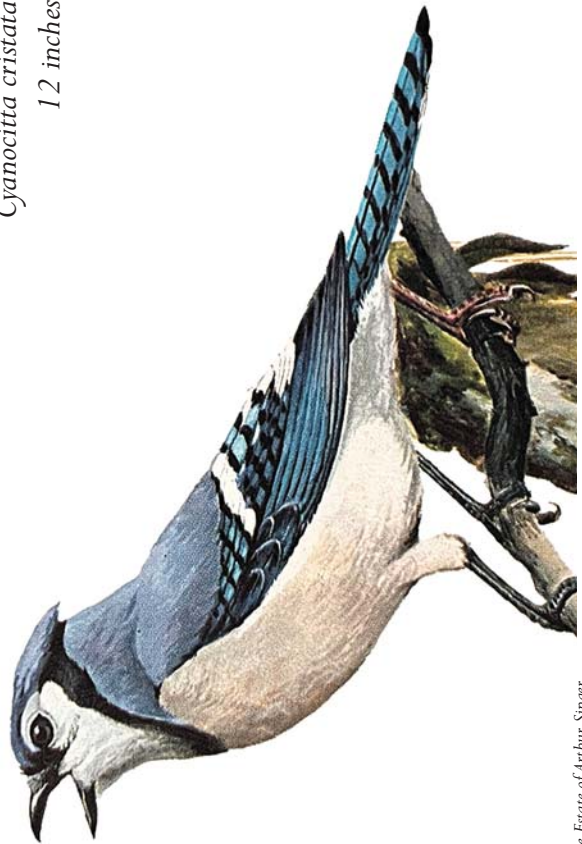
The Estate of Arthur Singer kindly permitted the RPRA to reproduce Arthur Singer's artwork for the Rockcliffe Newsletter.

A great resource for hobby ornithologists is the Bird Academy website run by Cornell University ([www.academy.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.academy.allaboutbirds.org)). The Academy offers online courses and live events.

Also hosted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) - one of the largest biodiversity-related science projects and database with over 100 million bird sightings contributed annually by "eBirders" around the world.

### BLUE JAY

*Cyanocitta cristata*  
12 inches



Credit: The Estate of Arthur Singer

### RAVEN

*Corvus corax*  
26 inches



Credit: The Estate of Arthur Singer

## CARDINAL

*Cardinalis cardinalis*

8 inches

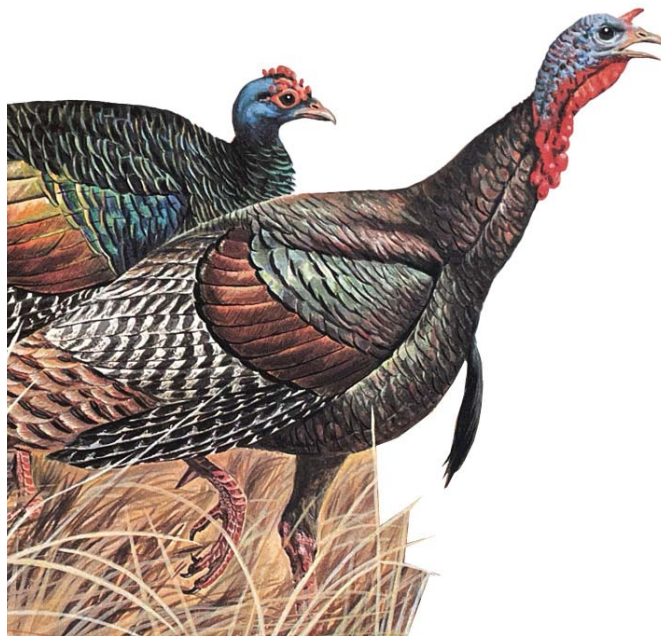


Credit: The Estate of Arthur Singer

## WILD TURKEY

*Meleagris gallapvo*

48 inches



Credit: The Estate of Arthur Singer

## GREAT HORNED OWL

*Bubo virginianus*

25 inches



Credit: The Estate of Arthur Singer

## CANADA GOOSE

*Branta canadensis*

22-43 inches



Credit: The Estate of Arthur Singer

## BECOME A RPRA MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your RPRA membership helps support the activities that enhance our community, our communications to you and our ability to represent your interests. Please join us!

Annual (per calendar year) RPRA membership fees are \$25 per household, or \$50 for two years. You can join or renew your membership by paying online ([rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca)) or fill in the downloadable membership form and send it with your cheque to 380-A Springfield Rd Rockcliffe Park, ON K1M 0K7 or drop it in the free-standing RPRA mailbox outside the library.

New residents receive free membership for the remainder of their first year here, but we still need a completed, submitted membership form so we know who you are and so you can receive our communications.



### Did you know?

...Did you know that during the 1986 Rockcliffe Park Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Mayor Patrick Murray buried a time capsule on the grounds of Jubilee Garden? The time capsule is slated to be unearthed and opened in 2026 as part of Rockcliffe Park's 100th Anniversary.

## THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS IS LOOKING FOR AN EDITOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Are you interested in editing the content of the Newsletter?

Our Newsletter appears six times a year, and is a team effort by many from within the community. The editor's role is key to the concept and content. The role entails collating articles from contributors, defining new content and focus areas, and coordinating and checking content.

The graphic designer role includes formatting images and text to suit the layout template using Adobe InDesign software, creatively organising content, as well as liaising with the print company.

The two roles could be separate or shared by one person. Please get in touch with us on [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca) if you would like to get involved. A small honorarium is available.



*The Rockcliffe News is the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA). Please email [editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:editor.rockcliffenews@rockcliffepark.ca) for information. 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](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca).*

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