

The ROCKCLIFFE NEWS



Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

July 2021

Community Survey Results

Find out the results from the community survey.

Page 8

Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan

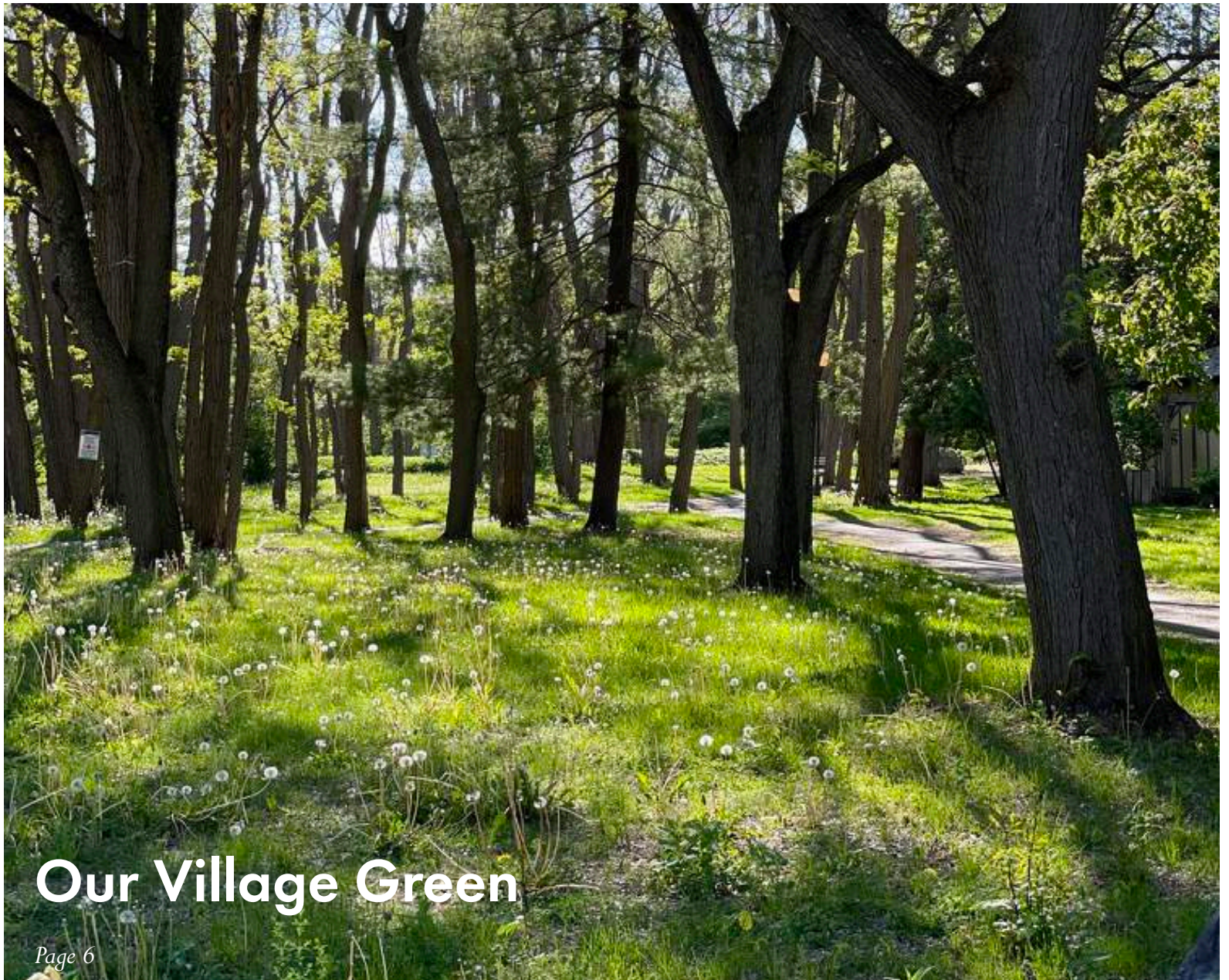
An Unexpected Setback.

Page 22

Tackling the Moths

Communities come together to protect the trees.

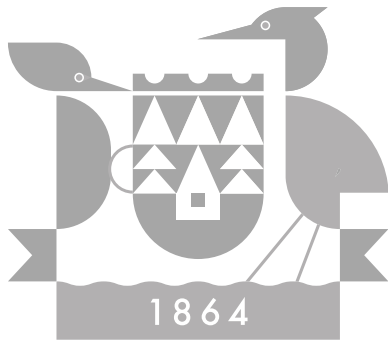
Page 30



Our Village Green

Page 6

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.

www.rockcliffepark.ca

Board Members

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

Membership Secretary and Database coordinator

Lisa Cogan
Membership Drive
Vacant

Communications Committee and Newsletter Editorial Board

Daniel Goldberg, Susan Taylor, Louise Malhotra, Michele Collum Hayman, Russ Gibson, Sarah Baxter

Website Patrick Blamar **Email blast** Kay James
A-frame signs vacant

Federation of Community Association - Regional Liaison Committee

Bea Hampson

Community Hall Maintenance/key agreement/insurance

Russ Gibson, Michele Hayman

Social, sports and Recreation Welcome Committee

Susan Taylor

Social Committee

Lisa Cogan, Russell Gibson

Christmas Party / Christmas Tree Lighting

Peter Lewis, Michele Hayman

Fundraiser

Peter Lewis, Nicolas Temnikov, Jeff Bell

Speakers Series

Susan D'Aquino, Marilyn Venner

Library Book Sale

Linda MacDonald (Chair), Bea Hampson, Jane Newcombe

Soccer Field Maintenance / RPL Soccer Program Coordination / Village Green, Jubilee Gardens

Matthew Henderson, Peter Lewis, Mark Willcox, Russell Gibson

Rockcliffe Park "Hoser" Corp. Liaison

Louise Malhotra

Outdoor Films

Chris Barker, Russell Gibson

Trash Bash / BBQ, Village clean-up

Vacant

RRCRC Fundraiser

Nicolas Temnikov, Jeff Bell

Environment Committee

Iola Price (Chair, Invasive species removal Liaison with City)

Pond Sub-Committee (of Environment):

Nicolas Fortier, Marilyn Blattell, Cali Thomson, Jane Newcombe, Kate Dickson, Nicolas Temnikov, Mark Willcox, Patrick Blamar

Heritage Committee

Linda DiCaire (Chair), Michelle Collum-Hayman, Daniel Goldberg, John Cook, Michael Kelen, Marianne Feaver, Bea Hampson, Sarah Richardson

Heritage Events Committee

Kay James (Chair) Patrick Blamar

Heritage Outreach Committee

Susan d'Aquino (Chair), Gouhar Shemdin

Working group re: Centennial Gardens Circle

Jane Panet (Chair), Matthew Henderson

Traffic Committee

Kay James

Newsletter Layout Coordinator / Graphic Design / Illustrations

Daniel Goldberg, Amanda Shore
(Amanda Shore Studio)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



by Russell Gibson

The RPRA is planning a social event as soon as circumstances will safely permit, perhaps in early October if our governmental and local health regulatory authorities advise that it is appropriate for us to do so. Suggestions regarding the format of this event would be appreciated, via email directly to me, or to a director, or in the form of a letter to the editorial board of this publication (please note we will soon be reachable at newsletter@rockcliffepark.ca).

Perhaps this summer we will also be able to hold a "Movie Night" in the Jubilee Gardens, so if you are not already a member of our community association, I encourage you to join the RPRA to receive notice of this event (our event calendar and details for joining as a member are available at www.rockcliffepark.ca).

The RPRA Spring Book Sale will be organizing another contactless book drive as soon as Ottawa Public Health guidelines permit 25 individuals to gather outdoors. This event will be organized to receive gently used books. This event will also be announced by email notification to members.

We are also hopeful that the Rockcliffe Park- Lindenlea ("RPL") soccer league for children will be permitted to resume a "spring program" this coming fall – please watch for updates regarding this activity as the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions continue with declining safety concerns. Some may have noticed that The Rockcliffe Hosers are setting up for the highly successful "Pedal Heads" summer camp for children, which first operated in Rockcliffe Park in 2020 at the Rockcliffe Park Fieldhouse. We hope to be able to announce in the next edition of the Rockcliffe News that many "in-person" activities are resuming.

In other developments, RPRA board meetings are open to residents who would like to attend our virtual board meetings. The virtual link is open to all who wish to attend and for those who do not have the link, you can watch

for an email a few days before the meeting, contact a director to obtain it, or visit the website of our association. Also published on the web-site for our association are the board meeting agendas and the approved minutes of our meetings.

Although Rockcliffe Park's Heritage Plan may on occasion seem to create complications for some residents when renovating their homes or building new ones, it appears that the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan will remain the most important planning policy to guide the evolution of Rockcliffe Park's "park-like" setting. The proposed Official Plan for the City of Ottawa, together with the Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan, is expected to be adopted by Ottawa City Council later this year. Some readers may recall that a "secondary plan" provides more detailed plans than those contained in the Official Plan and may, for example, implement development rules which differ from those in the parent Official Plan. Our board has worked hard to consider the views of the community at large (including a survey of residents). Although the City of Ottawa's official plan consultations have closed, a working group of the board (comprised of Daniel Goldberg, Peter Lewis, Susan D'Aquino, and myself) continues to advocate with respect to the proposed secondary plan for Rockcliffe Park to encourage Planners to draft the Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan so that it conforms with the Rockcliffe Park Heritage District Plan.

The RPRA received notice from Constable Vianney Calixte that the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) will be officially closing the Rideau/Rockcliffe Community Policy Centre and a new centre will be opening in a Byward Market location, yet to be named. The space at the old Rockcliffe Park location was rarely, if ever used by the OPS, and is now sometimes used, I am told, by the City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation branch.

The RPRA and the Rockcliffe Park Foundation

has struck a joint working group lead by Jane Panet (see the article in this newsletter) to work on the rehabilitation of the Jubilee Gardens Centennial Circle, which has fallen into disrepair in recent years. RPRA Board Members Matthew Henderson and Mark Willcox will assist Jane Panet.

A team of biologists will be sampling water in McKay Lake and for educational purposes, namely to assist second-year undergraduate ecology students with a laboratory course at U. of O. The sampling will take place 1 to 3 times between July and September to measure chlorophyll and phosphorous concentrations, measure water clarity, and collect phytoplankton (algae) in the lake. This will be conducted from a canoe to be launched into the lake from a private dock, arranged in part by the RPRA Environment Committee and Lola Price.

Recently, Jane Dobell, who is known to many, and a previous president of this association, was awarded by the Mayor with a Senior of the Year honor, a new provincial award from the Province of Ontario. Lola Price, chair of the RPRA environment committee, was recently named an award recipient in the inaugural Ottawa-Vanier awards for her dedicated work to preserve and enhance the natural environment of our community.

For a future report, I expect to report on our June Board meeting discussions, which included a discussion of the role of the RPRA Heritage Committee in our community.

Finally, I would like to thank Jean-Guy Dumoulin who recently left the board of directors for his dedicated service to our community association in the role of director. If you have a suggestion for an activity or program for our association, or would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact me, or speak to a director.

Russell Gibson, President



ROCKCLIFFE PARK FOUNDATION DINING WITH THE AMBASSADORS

H.E. JORGE LONDOÑO DE LA CUESTA COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA

by Fiona Murray

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a registered charity established by residents at the time of amalgamation with the City of Ottawa to manage an endowment, the interest from which is used to fund our community programs and projects.

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

Summer is almost upon us and we're still navigating our way through the Covid-19 pandemic. For yet another year, we are unable to hold our neighbourhood favourite: Dining with the Ambassadors. The evening raises funds for the Rockcliffe Park Foundation with dinners hosted by our generous diplomatic neighbours. In the absence of being able to gather together, we are happy to bring you the latest in our recipe series, sharing international delights from our visiting neighbours.

This month, we are pleased to introduce you to Jorge Londoño de la Cuesta, the newly arrived Ambassador of Colombia. Prior to his Excellency's appointment, Amb. Londoño de la Cuesta was CEO and general manager of Medellin Public Enterprise

Groupe. Accompanying the Ambassador to Ottawa are his wife Monica Echavarria and daughters Luciana and Raquel. Patrons and admirers of art, music, dance and literature, our newly arrived neighbours also love horseback riding and are looking forward to discovering the beauties of Ottawa and Canada.

Amb. Londoño, together with his daughter Luciana, have shared their family's favorite dessert, in hopes you might try it out, stretch your culinary muscles, with this simple yet delicious treat. The layering technique reminds me of a trifle or a tiramisu. Serve it as an "anytime sweet" to your family or with friends, around the pool, with seasonal berries and a late harvest Vidal or Ice Wine... buen provecho!



Did you know?

With over 1900 avian species - more than any other country in the world - Colombia is a birder's paradise waiting to be discovered. Explore the mountains, dry forest, paramo, and coastal habitats in search of an array of tropical avifauna, including flycatchers, hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, and more.



MILO DESSERT

*Courtesy of the Londoño de la Cuesta/
Echavarría family*

This sweet Colombian recipe has been in our family for as long as we remember. As a family, we serve it at our dinner table at least once a month. The main ingredient for this recipe is "Milo". Milo is a malted chocolate powdered beverage very common in Colombian homes. Colombian children enjoy it served as a hot or cold chocolate milk for breakfast or dinner, and we all love it.

This is a dessert which is very easy to prepare, and is so delicious that we are sure it will delight your taste buds and leave your heart and belly very happy. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

Ingredients

1 cup condensed milk
1 cup heavy cream
1 ½ cup milk
4 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup Milo beverage powder
Ducal crackers

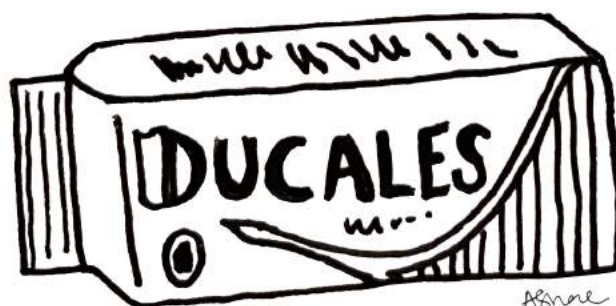
Milo beverage powder and Ducal crackers can be purchased at Loblaws SuperStores (international food aisle), the ADONIS grocery store, and at most Latin grocers such as Mercado Latino 67 at 67 Montreal Rd, in Vanier.

Directions

On the stovetop at medium heat, combine the condensed milk, heavy cream, and 1 cup of the milk in a pot. Add the cornstarch to the remaining ½ cup of milk and stir until it is well dissolved. Add this then to the pot. Mix very well until thick and without lumps. Remove from heat and put this milk mixture aside.

In a mold or deep serving dish, begin the layering process. Start with a layer of the Ducal crackers, then spread a layer of Milo on top, then a layer of the milk mixture (about 2 cm high). Repeat this layering until

the dish is full. Decorate the final layer with some Milo spread on top. Place in fridge for about 2 hours or until it cools completely and firm. Enjoy!!!





THE STONE CIRCLE

by Jane Panet

COMMUNITY

Probably the most famous Stone Circle in the world is Stonehenge in England, but Rockcliffe Park Village has its own Stone Circle, too. It is located towards the west side of the Village Green bounded by Springfield Rd. on the west and Mariposa Ave. on the South. It may be hard to recognize these days. Over 50 years of neglect and abuse have taken a toll on what was once a beautiful space.

Humphrey Carver, a long-time, well-loved resident of Rockcliffe Park and a founding member of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, was the lead architect of the Circle. He designed it to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Canada -- a circular flagstone and river rocks-paved space, anchored in the centre by two glacial boulders, and ringed on the outside by ten maple trees. A representation of ten provinces and two territories? No reference to this exists in the Stone Circle archives, but it certainly would have reflected Canada in 1967.

The land to the east of the Stone Circle had once been the Village bowling green. These two very different spaces were a nice complement to each other, each a form of designed landscape. One full of activity and laughter, the other a place of contemplation and quiet gatherings. In 1977, to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee the bowling green was transformed into the Jubilee Garden, again with input from Humphrey Carver. The two garden rooms, which commemorate and honour chapters of history, still work well together.

Clockwise from top left:

The Stone Circle Garden, built to commemorate Canada's Centennial; intricate stone detailing as part of the landscape design; protective measures during wintertime; native fauna thriving in the Stone Circle Garden; damaged bench requiring repair; one of three recently cut down maple trees encircling the Stone Circle.

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects has confirmed the significance of the design.

Although the Jubilee Garden has received care over the years, the Stone Circle has not and it is in state of disrepair. Of the original ten maples, five remain. Given the fresh sawdust, it looks like three of ten were cut down this past winter. Over the years, paving stones have been dislodged by city snowplows. Tree roots have pushed up the pavement in some areas. Commemorative benches around the circle are showing their age.

A lot of work has gone on towards doing something to give new life to the once magnificent, commemorative Stone Circle. Linda Dicaire, Peter Lewis, Marilyn Venner, Lola Price, Bonnie Robinson, Peter Lewis, among others have devoted countless hours to writing reports, participating in community consultations, and meeting with local officials.

They have laid a strong and solid base for moving this project forward. Now is the time to pick up what they have started.

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation and Residents Association welcome your comments and ideas on how to bring new life to the Stone Circle - please email us on:

info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.



Did you know?

Before the purchase and development of the area around the Pond, the pond was a popular (if unapproved) swimming spot. At the time, it was known as 'The Pits' as it was the site of extensive excavation during the building of the Chateau Laurier.



Credit: Jane Panel

ROCKCLIFFE PARK SURVEY RESULTS

Every 10 years the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) undertakes a survey of residents of Rockcliffe Park to understand the changing demographics of the village (and use of different village activities / services) and to identify the key issues that are concerning residents. The last such survey was done in 2011 and so earlier this year the RPRA conducted a survey of all residents. 217 responses were received – a very good response rate of over 30%, well ahead of the 15% response rate in 2011 and above the 25% response rate generated in 2001 at amalgamation.

by John Butterfield

Section 1 Demographic details

A total of 591 people were resident in houses covered by the responses: 470 adults and 121 children. 28% of responding households contained children. Older long-established residents are potentially over-represented in the survey and families may be under-represented in the survey, as a result of self-selection in the response rate, although Rockcliffe clearly has high proportion of older residents. This should be borne in mind in reviewing the results.

Section 2: Recreational

The Library remains the most used facility in the Village, although the Caldwell Carver Conservation area, the Pond and the NCC dog parks are also used by over half of respondents. The rink and, to a lesser extent, the soccer league are also well-used by families. The most popular Community Hall activities (currently unavailable due to COVID) were (by number of mentions): Exercise / aerobics (20), Bridge (14) and Yoga (8). In terms of desired additional services and events, community gathering events like BBQs, community yard sales and evening adult social events are overwhelmingly of interest. There is also significant interest from families in additional children's activities. Awareness of RLTC plans to install tennis court lighting was high (over 90% aware) with a significant majority opposed (58% opposed versus 16% in favour).

Section 3: Events

The Speaker Series, the Spring Book sale and All candidates Debates are the most well attended events. The Xmas tree lighting is also popular, as is the Kids' Christmas party for families.

Section 4: Communication

The newsletter is very widely read with 79%

saying they always read it and 16% saying they usually read it. The survey related to the old newsletter sections of which the most read were Dates to Remember, the Environment Report and the Heritage Report (all in excess of 80% readership), with the Notes from Local elected representatives the least read (52% readership). There is no real consensus on introducing advertising, although classified/ personal ads (e.g. bikes for sale) are seen as more acceptable than commercial advertising (e.g. realtors). More than half of respondents would like to see more personal news. Although it is too early to consider moving to a (purely) electronic version of the newsletter as most still prefer paper copies, there is strong interest in receiving the RPRA e-mails about news and upcoming events in the Village (over 85% interested or already signed up). However, use of the RPRA website is very low (with only 70% using only occasionally and a further 25% not using it at all).

Section 5: Heritage

Protection of the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park is seen as very important (5 on a scale of 1-5) to two-thirds of respondents and important (4 out of 5) to another 19%. The park-like ambiance and the abundance of trees are seen as important aspects by over 90% of respondents. All of the aspects in the chart above are seen as important by a significant majority of residents, with the lowest (subdued lighting, use of hedges and roads without sidewalks) still deemed important by approximately two-thirds of respondents. Residents' perception of how well the heritage character of Rockcliffe has been protected by the City of Ottawa is mixed, with 45% rating it poorly (1 or 2 out of a scale to 1-5) versus 28% rating it well (4 or 5 out of 1-5). The process of understanding the Heritage Permit process and the role

The RPRA Board has been using the results to understand residents' concerns, to inform its communication strategy, and to plan events/ activities. The Board will be reviewing in detail all the comments and suggestions made on the survey at upcoming Board meetings. The following is a summary of the responses to selected key questions. A copy of the full results report is available at the RPRA website: www.rockcliffepark.ca. For further information, please contact John Butterfield by e-mail: johnbutterfield@gmail.com

of the RPRA Heritage Committee could be improved significantly with currently under 40% of respondents having a clear understanding.

Section 6: Environment

The protection of the tree canopy and of the Pond are seen as very important aspects by over 80% of respondents. Even for the lowest rated aspect (control of invasive plants) with 58% rating it 5 (on a scale of 1-5), a further 26% rated it 4 out of 5 for importance.

Section 7: Services provided by the City of Ottawa

Satisfaction is very high for Garbage/ recycling service and for the Library, but is very low for Road maintenance and to an even greater extent, the Heritage Dept.

Section 8: Areas of concern for residents

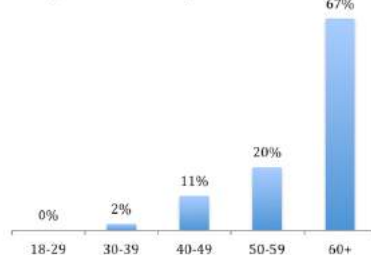
The Use of the Pond, local environmental issues and Beechwood Ave street development are the biggest areas of concern for residents followed by Heritage/ residential construction. On the Village speed limit, 60% of respondents felt the current level of 40 km/h was correct while 34% thought it should be lowered to 30km/h. On the question of the inter-provincial bridge, opinion was divided on the need for any bridge with 25% strongly supportive of a bridge and 20% strongly opposed. On the location of such a bridge, Corridor 5 (Kettle Island) was strongly opposed by 51% and strongly supported by only 7%. Only Corridor 7 (McLaurin Bay) had net support (and only narrowly with 17% strongly in support and 16% strongly opposed). For both corridors 6 and 7, many respondents indicated that they didn't know enough about the proposed routes.

The RPRA would like to thank residents once again for taking the time to fill in the survey. This feedback helps us be better informed in representing all of you as residents of the Village.

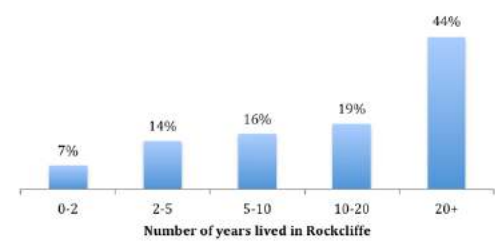
Section 9: Role of RPRA

Approximately one-third of respondents were only somewhat aware of the role of the RPRA, with the remainder aware. The overall median rating of the RPRA was "good" (with 71% rating either a 4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5). However 6% of respondents rated the association poor or very poor and a further 18% only neutral.

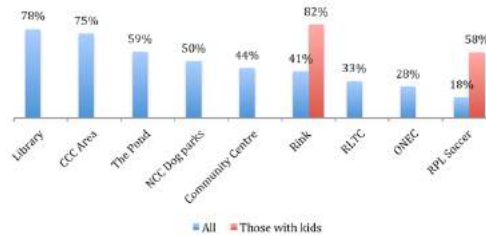
Age of oldest person in household



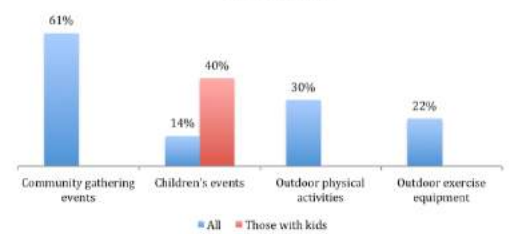
Tenure



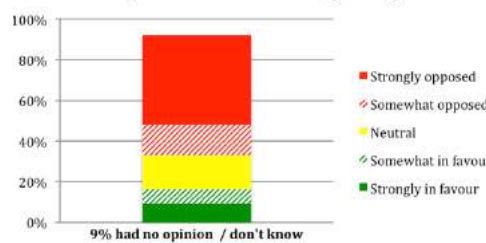
Recreation facilities used in the last five years or likely to use in future



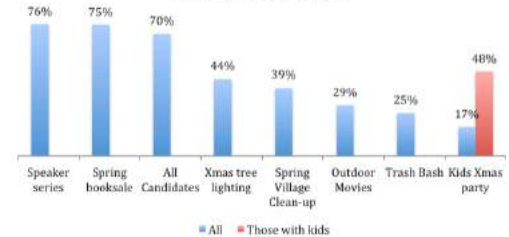
Additional services, facilities or events of interest



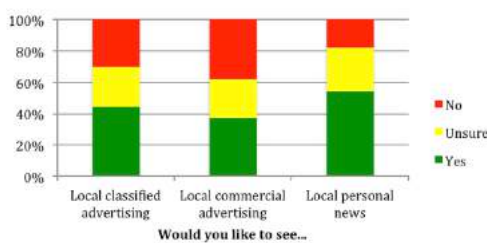
Opinion on RLTC lighting



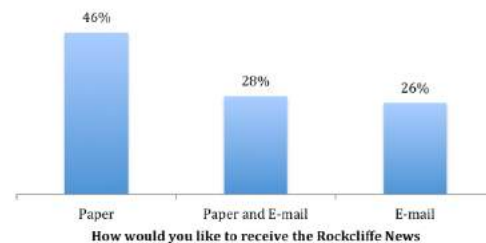
Events attended in the last five years or likely to in future



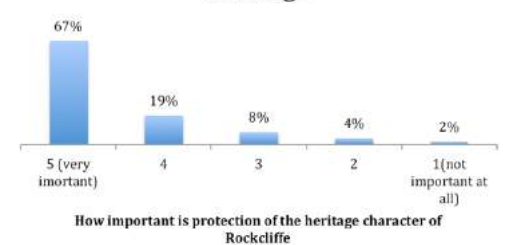
Newsletter Content



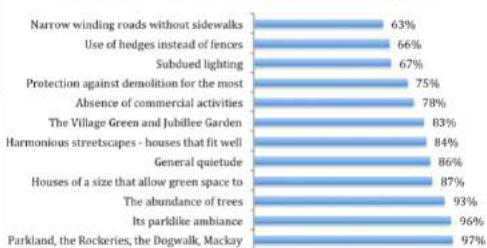
Communication : Newsletter



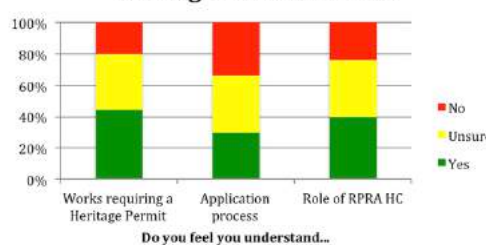
Heritage



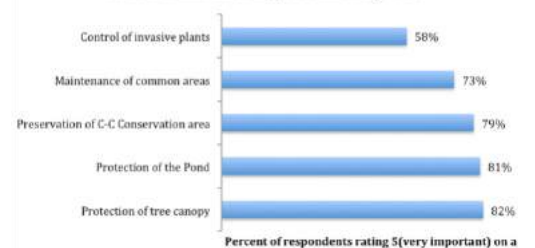
Heritage character: important aspects



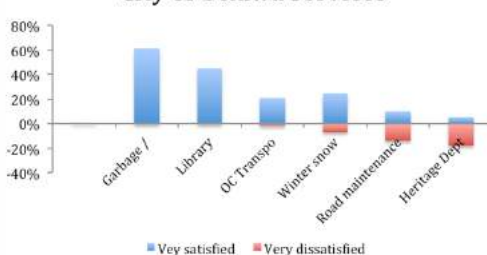
Heritage Permit Process



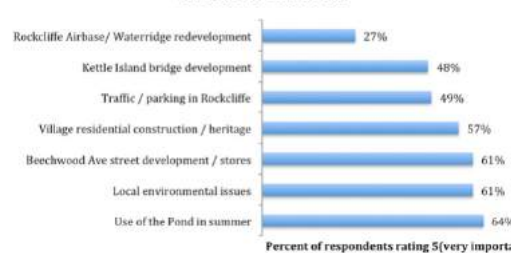
Environment: important aspects



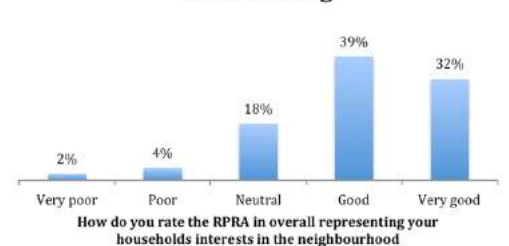
City of Ottawa services



Areas of concern



RPRA rating



A FUTURE VISION FOR ROCKCLIFFE PARK



Did you know?

Rideau Hall was once nicknamed "McKay's Castle" after Thomas McKay who built the grand residence and who was the largest landowner in the area for decades.

Our village has benefited from the foresight, determination and generosity of countless volunteers for the last 155 years. These efforts have created an exceptional neighbourhood. The members of the Residents Association and Foundation continue this tradition in their stewardship roles - the mission of these twinned organisations is clearly defined:

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 recent community survey has brought some of the challenges and changes the community is facing today into sharper focus, but has also highlighted a great community spirit, and shared sense of optimism for the future.

The RPRA aims to collate the various exciting ideas for the future of Rockcliffe Park, and invite residents to put forward their vision for our village. Ideas can range from small, incremental changes to ambitious, long-term and complex projects - relating to the environment, community or heritage.

At this stage, constructive and optimistic "blue sky" thinking without the need to address or resolve inevitable limitations (e.g. time and cost) is welcome.

Below is a list of ideas the RPRA has already received - these suggestions are not in any specific order and most have not yet been considered in any detail by the RPRA. Please send any comments on any of the current ideas, and contribute additional proposals. Please email on secretary@rockcliffepark.ca



ENVIRONMENT

- E1 Replace overground utility poles and wires with underground installations to suit our park-like setting
- E2 Provide more benches throughout
- E3 Phase-in sand/buff coloured asphalt street surfacing (as found in some national parks and historic sites) to better blend the roads with the continuity of the soft landscape
- E4 Allow for flagpoles and banners on the roads around the village green for festive occasions.
- E5 Introduce a "play street" based on the European model with pedestrian priority + cars at walking speed
- E6 Instal traffic calming measures to create safer roads
- E7 Instal "No-thru traffic" signs at the village entrances
- E8 Introduce One Way streets around the school (e.g. Buchan)
- E9 Demolish the unsightly, unused Police Radio Tower next to RPPS gym
- E10 Provide a nature trail in the Carver Caldwell Conservation area with a raised timber boardwalk with lookouts and flora/fauna information panels
- E11 Create a network of walking trails with complementary signage
- E12 Commission an orientation map in form of a 3d bronze model
- E13 Create a butterfly garden
- E14 Create a Tree Planting Programme
- E15 Map the existing Tree Canopy
- E16 Create a birdhouse initiative with a RP specific birdhouse design (locally made and/or as part of a design/art competition)

COMMUNITY

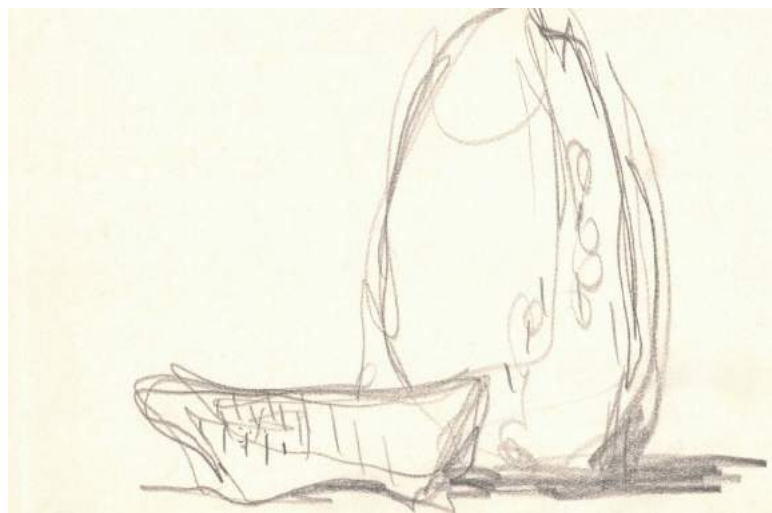
- C1 Create a new playground in RP - there are currently none
- C2 Provide a multigenerational jogging/exercise trail
- C3 Work with the NCC to create a cross country skiing trail in the dog walk area
- C4 Work with the NCC to offer a dedicated kids forest play area (off limits for dogs)
- C5 Provide swings in trees in the Village Green
- C6 Work with the NCC to provide a baseball field in the open dog walk area
- C7 Provide a dedicated police station in RP (we have lost the police post next to the community hall)
- C8 Identify public art locations and an art strategy
- C9 Encourage more Little Neighbourhood Libraries
- C10 Transform the small archive space in the old police station into a Community Cafe
- C11 Centennial Party (1926 - 2026)
- C12 Create an annual summer village picnic
- C13 Create a book festival with lectures, presentations and workshops in tents
- C14 Create a "Artist/Photographer in residence" programme
- C15 Enable local resident artist exhibitions
- C16 Collaborate with RP embassies and High Commissions to create an international fair with stands and events that celebrates diversity and different cultures
- C17 Work with the NCC to transform the natural amphitheatre/crescent cliff north of Lisgar into an outdoor performance stage
- C18 Resume the Davis Cup Garden Competition

HERITAGE

- H1 Record the oral history of RP by interviewing RP senior residents.
- H2 Create a time capsule for the centennial event in 2026 (100 years since RP become an independent municipality)
- H3 Purchase a historic home and create a RP Museum
- H3 Create a Places & People Markers programme identifying where significant, historic residents lived (see Blue Plaque scheme in London)
- H4 Carbon footprint assessment + reduction options
- H5 Initiate "Mile Circle" Car Festival reviving the historic track
- H6 Preserve and Re-instate the charming, historic "Roscoe" Street Signs and acorn posts
- H7 Street Furniture in general (Lighting)
- H8 Replace the uninspiring RP cast iron manhole covers with the toilet icon with a specific RP design
- H9 Strengthen the gateways markers to signal the arrival into the village

Right: Humphrey Carver sketch of rocks for the centennial garden circle, 1966.

Below: Article from *The Ottawa Journal*, Friday, May 19, 1967



VIPs At Unveiling of Rockcliffe's Centennial Project

Hundreds of Rockcliffe Village residents, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Pearson and Opposition Leader and Mrs. John Diefenbaker attended a gala barbecue Wednesday night, and heard the Governor-General officially open the Village Green—the Village's centennial project.

The Pearsons and the Diefenbakers chatted with residents and partook of the barbecued chicken. Following the official ceremonies, the Governor-General and Mrs. Michener had an informal chat with Rockcliffe Village Reeve and Mrs. A. O. Gibbons (centre).

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wide)

The rain stopped and even a bit of the sun came out Thursday in time to cast an auspicious light on the opening of Rockcliffe's Village Green at the corner of Mariposa and Springfield Roads.

Hundreds of village residents encircled the stone-flagged centre to hear the Governor-General — standing on the "Humphrey Stone" — compliment them on the attractive-

ness of their residential area.

"Today Rockcliffe stands as the envy of most Canadian municipalities," the Governor-General remarked.

"I hope that the rest of Canada in time will attain these qualities of beauty and comfort," he added.

Once the formal ceremonies were over, children dashed to where 1,700 pieces of chicken were cooking over a specially-

constructed barbecue while the Governor-General, Prime Minister Pearson and Opposition Leader Diefenbaker and their wives chatted with residents.

Sprinklings of flowers in a natural rock and tree setting give the centennial project village green a simple charm.

The rocks and boulders strewn in clumps on the grass and at the base of trees are original Rockcliffe.

Many of the flower beds, trees and benches, as well as the light standards were donated by interested individuals.

The "Humphrey Stone" in the centre of the green is named after Humphrey Carver, who designed the park.

There was street dancing following the barbecue, with a fireworks display adding a colorful ending to the centennial celebrations.



by Heather Mace, Principal

This has been a turbulent year in education with the word “pivot” becoming ubiquitous. It was a daily unknown whether teaching or learning would be in a classroom or in a living room; unprecedented became the expected. The mere mention of the word ‘pivot’ elicits a cringe in educators and students (not to mention their parents) alike. It means a rapid change of learning and household routines; juggling snack breaks, pencils, laptops and body breaks. The words GoogleMeet, JamBoards, synchronous and asynchronous became part of our lexicon. Here we are in June, and learning has continued despite all the interruptions and deviations the Covid year has thrown at us.

The world of Remote Learning has allowed for creativity and opportunities which would not have been explored otherwise. Take a minute to imagine how you might engage a class full of wiggly kindergarten students, or challenge grade 6 students who are the resident experts at navigating technology. Now picture an ECE (Early Childhood Educator) walking through the aisles of a grocery store with her phone set on a GoogleMeet to shop for ingredients “with students” and the class cooked a recipe “together” later in the week. At Rockcliffe Park PS (RPPS), educators explored the virtual world to add a new dimension to learning.

Even when InPerson, Covid protocols kept students in their classroom pods; virtual assemblies were used to broadcast “live from the Dragon’s Den” - a gathering area in the school - to create a sense of connection and community. A virtual field trip means every student has a front row seat to listen to the speaker. As part of a School Council initiative, students “followed” Mme. Mace, the principal, virtually as she ran around the track dressed up as a super hero - the “reward” after the school had reached

a fundraising goal. These moments were brought to us by the creativity of Covid.

Covid protocols helped educators look at regular gatherings in new ways. The Remembrance Day ceremony was a hybrid virtual assembly with all classes online to hear invited guests, but walking outside silently for Last Post and a moment of silence. While the entire school stood outside, the Snowbirds were thundering overhead, and this never would have happened without Covid challenging our thinking on how we build experiences for students. Watch for RPPS students standing silently on the field again next year to feel the thunder of the planes in our hearts.

Classrooms hosted multiple virtual visitors; whereas a class would have been fortunate to host one guest in pre-Covid times. Students took a front row seat to hear from musicians, Indigenous knowledge keepers, authors or politicians and they joined festival workshops such as the Ottawa Children’s Festival or the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival. Politicians such as City Councillors (Rawlson King), MPs (Mona Fortier) and MPPs (Lucille Collard) spoke with students about their role. Student questions showed their engagement “What will you do to make our community and Canada better for all Canadians?”. Even further, holocaust survivor, Dr. Eva Olsson, who is now in her 90s spoke to students with a key message “it’s ok to be different; it’s not ok to be indifferent” resonated with many students.

As Rockcliffe Park PS heads into July to “break up with Google”, educators will be reflecting on what virtual routines to keep and what screen time routines we can leave behind when we return in the fall. We are excited to see how Covid has changed what we do every day.

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*

OTTAWA NEW EDINBURGH CLUB



NOW OFFERING KAYAKING AND STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING MEMBERSHIP

by John Butterfield

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

ONEC has received an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19. As well as increasing the fleet of COVID compliant beginner-friendly sailing dinghies for the ever popular kids summer camps, the grant has allowed the club to establish a paddling fleet of 8 kayaks and 6 stand-up paddleboards (SUPs).

Paddling is an excellent socially-distanced sport and also allows paddlers to enjoy the beauty of the Ottawa River (and a different perspective on Rockcliffe).

A paddling membership costs \$180 for an adult for the season (with discounts for students and for families) and allows free access to kayaks and SUPs via the club online reservation system. Members also get discounts on the clinics and Paddle Canada courses that ONEC will be running through the summer for all those wanting to learn

paddling or to improve their skills. Members also get access to the club's licensed canteen and garden patio.

There will be club social paddles on Wednesday nights and Saturdays (including picnics or BBQs as public health rules allow). Skills clinics will be held on Tuesday nights in July and August. ONEC is pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to access Rockcliffe's waterfront and we look forward to welcoming new members to join in this activity.

ONEC is situated below the Rockeries (close to the Hillsdale Road dog park) and offers tennis, sailing, rowing and paddling for members from May to October as well as running summer camps for kids in July and August.



ROCKCLIFFE LAWN TENNIS CLUB



by Louise Malhotra

Finally, open! After the challenge of our Province's extended closures, the RLTC is thrilled to welcome home its members and embrace our bustling tennis courts. In the current phase of opening, we offer singles and doubles play on both hard and clay courts, as well as clinics, tournaments, lessons, ladders, and junior camps to suit a variety of levels and interests. Thank you to our dedicated staff and volunteers who worked extremely hard to ensure the Club is in fine form.

Coaches Zhenya and Dan are back in full swing with a well-rounded docket of tennis activities. New adult and junior programs have been introduced to the club and all lessons, camps, and clinics are compliant with current provincial regulations. Please go to www.rltennis.ca for more details on programming and current COVID protocols.

Summer camps for kids will start on June 21st and run weekly until the end of August. Recreational camps are aimed at beginner

and low intermediate juniors with a focus on stroke fundamentals, physical literacy, and learning to love the game. All camps use the progressive tennis approach endorsed by Tennis Canada. For juniors with more experience, we offer Pre-Competitive and Competitive groups to extend the training levels of juniors who are interested in playing in tournaments.

Kicking off the club tournament season we have our popular Mixed Doubles event at the end of June. Best of luck to all participants!

Lastly, RLTC has set up seating areas throughout the property to accommodate groups of four people who wish to enjoy a snack or beverage from our new menu. It makes for a charming place to relax and enjoy the view after a great game of tennis.

Welcome back to the club!

Louise Malhotra
President, RLTC

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.

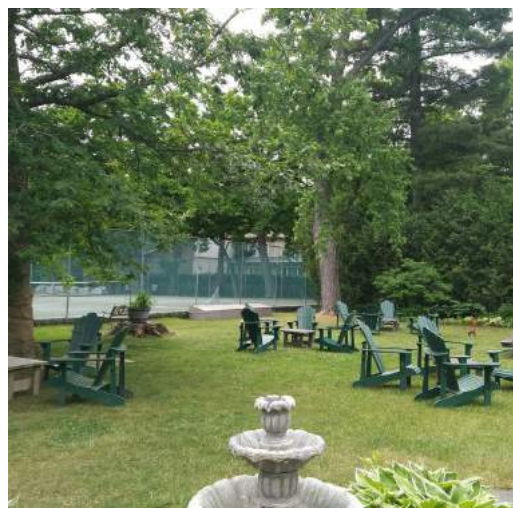
This private-members club has four premium grade Har-Tru clay and four hard-surface courts nestled under an abundant tree canopy. The attractive clubhouse has a food and liquor licence to provide light snacks and beverages, and social events are offered throughout the season.

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



JUL

01

JULY

CANADA DAY

03

JULY

LAUGHS AHOY! THE PIRATE SHIP COMEDY HOUR

from 6:30 - 8:00 pm, \$25.00 / ticket

"New to Ottawa; a one of its kind comedy experience you WONT WANT TO MISS. Come aboard our pirate ship (a real life pirate ship, no joke) as we sail the open waters, have a few beers and enjoy a few laughs courtesy of some of Canada's best comedians..." All Covid protocols will be in place.

Check out Eventbrite for details:
Go to www.eventbrite.ca and search for "Laugh Ahoy! The Pirate Ship Comedy Hour"

AUG

05

AUGUST

BEYOND VAN GOGH

begins today through Sept. 16

An imaginative and immersive experience.

Located at Aberdeen Pavillion. Registration and tickets required.

vangoghottawa.com

11

AUGUST

PRESERVING THE HARVEST

at 12:00 pm, online

"As the summer advances, it is time to talk about preserving some fruits, vegetables and herbs to enjoy and share during the oncoming cold months.

The Ottawa Public Library hosts a webinar with Rebecca Last. Registration required.

14

JULY

THE GARDEN AT NIGHT

at 12 pm, online

"Have you ever wondered what's happening in your garden while you sleep? Your garden is a fascinating and magical place after dark."

The Ottawa Public Library hosts a webinar with Judith Cox. Registration required.

bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/garden-night

22

JULY

CHAMBERFEST

begins July 22 through August 4

Chamberfest is back! Packed with music and culture from around the world.

Livestreaming and outdoor events.

Check out chamberfest.com for events and details.

27-28

JULY

SOUTHERN DELTA AQUARID METEOR SHOWER

"These faint showers are active from mid-July to late-August and are believed to originate from comet 96P/Machholz. The radiant point of Delta Aquarids appears to come from the constellation Aquarius, the shower is named after the third brightest star within the constellation called Delta."

- www.todocanada.ca/astronomy

12

AUGUST

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

"Occurring annually from mid-July to mid-August, the Pereid Meteor Shower occurs when the debris cloud of comet Swift-Shuttle hits Earth's atmosphere. The showers are so-called because they appear to originate from the constellation Perseus."

- www.todocanada.ca/astronomy/

22

AUGUST

FULL MOON

28

AUGUST

ROCK N ROLL NEVER FORGETS PRESENTS: SOS: THE ABBA EXPERIENCE

from 7:00 - 11:00 pm, \$22.23 / ticket

"All the hits! All the fun! Stay and party packages available! Great food, fun and cocktails at Queen St Fare!"

Check out Eventbrite for details:
Go to www.eventbrite.ca and search for "Rock 'n' Roll Never Forgets" presents: SOS: The ABBA Experience

IN MEMORIAM

ANNE STANFIELD 1932 - 2021



*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.*

A warm, vibrant, engaging lady died unexpectedly on April 22 at the age of 89. Anne Stanfield, widow of the Right Honourable Robert L. Stanfield, lived on Acacia Avenue for over 40 years. She was a dear friend.

For 25 of those years, she and Mr. Stanfield together nurtured a beautiful garden – roses and peonies being the stars. They loved living in Rockcliffe Park – its abundance of trees, its friendliness, and its quietude.

Mr. Stanfield had been the much respected premier of Nova Scotia and then Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the House of Commons for eight years, losing the 1972 election by only two seats. Anne told me that Mr. Stanfield had asked her to marry him some time after he had lost his wife Mary, a close friend of Anne's, to cancer. Anne had been a teacher in Toronto, and active in community affairs, including the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. While living on Acacia, she served on the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and engaged happily in Ottawa's social and cultural life.

One of the joys in Anne's life was art. She had quite a collection herself – on every wall in the house. And she was a generous patron of the National Gallery of Canada. She joined us with gusto on dazzling patrons tours to Moscow, St. Petersburg, London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Venice, and Munich. What wonderful company she was! With failing eyesight, she opted out of the last tour before covid struck - to Amsterdam, explaining that the dark Rembrandt paintings would be difficult for her to see well enough to enjoy.

A strong and independent spirit, Anne enjoyed spending her winters on the Riviera in the south of France, where she shared many good times in both Villefranche-sur-mer and the Promenade des Anglais in Nice with her

Acacia Avenue neighbours Vic and Marilyn Lanctis who also retreated there from Ottawa's winters. Anne took great pleasure as well in the time she spent with her granddaughter Laura who lived nearby.

I occasionally helped Anne sort through mountains of paperwork. I recall that on discovering that she was entitled to a sizeable tax return, she quickly decided that, as soon as it was safe to do so, she would have a big lobster party for her devoted friends. That was Anne – she loved to gather people together. That party was not to be, but Anne did join us for a quiet Christmas last year – her last. We and her close friends share so many good memories. We shall miss her.

Susan d'Aquino
With thanks to Vic Lanctis and the Right Honourable Joe Clark

MARY WARD RAYMONT 1917 - 2021



In peace at her home, The Edinburgh Retirement Residence on February 13, 2021, aged 104. She was the loving wife of the late Col. Robert Lewis Raymond, and predeceased by her parents

Sir Ashley Skelton Ward, Hilda Lewis Ward, her son John and daughter-in-law Lindalee Tracey.

She was born in London, England on January 17, 1917 and educated at St John's School, Bexhill-on-Sea and Neuchâtel, Switzerland. She was an accomplished equestrian, pianist, photographer, mezzo soprano, tennis partner and a great walker.

During the Second World War she served as Sergeant-Major with the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) driving military personnel to varied locations within the United Kingdom, usually in the blackout. She was also trained to fix and maintain motorcycles in the dark.

On February 7, 1944 she married Robert Lewis Raymond, and in 1949 they moved to Ottawa, Canada, where her husband continued his military career.

Mary enjoyed the out-of-doors and would lead the family on many day-walks to Gatineau Park and Lac Philippe. She and Rob loved the seaside and took the family to Scarborough Beach, Maine, USA practically every summer.

She was a great caddy and accompanied Rob on his weekly golf games at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, and a keen snowshoer on the course during the winter.

Her work with the IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire), included support for increased secondary education in northern Canada, and in 2007 she was presented with a Citation by Governor General Michaëlle

Jean for her work as the longest-serving member of the Laurentian Chapter. She was a faithful parishioner at St Bartholomew's Church and her projects for the Church Bazaar were constant for over 70 years.

She will be greatly missed by her children Elizabeth (Scott Heatherington), Peter (Nancy Lang) and David (Jane Dinniwel), and her grandsons Robert Ward Heatherington and Liam Tracey-Raymont.

During her long and happy life, she was the most supportive Mum and Gran. Somehow, we always thought she would be there for us - and of course she will still be our 'umbrella in the sky'.

The family is most grateful for the caring and superb support of Luzviminda Guerrero, Mulunesh Yimmesghen and the excellent staff at The Edinburgh Retirement Residence.

Farewell, dear Mum- we will be thinking of you as we continue your walks, and every time we find a sand dollar on Scarborough Beach.

A church service will be planned at a later date. To celebrate her memory, should you wish, a donation could be made to the St Bartholomew's Church Refugee Fund, 125 MacKay Street, Ottawa K1M 2B4.

POEM: THE PANDEMIC

*by Vinita Sikand Watson
Resident of Rockcliffe Park*

The pandemic comes in many ways.
Sometimes it's the sameness of the days
as they file past -- silent, slow;
undistinguished in every way.

Sometimes it is a fiery rage;
burning, raw and red.
Fury that is uncontained,
railing at its helplessness.

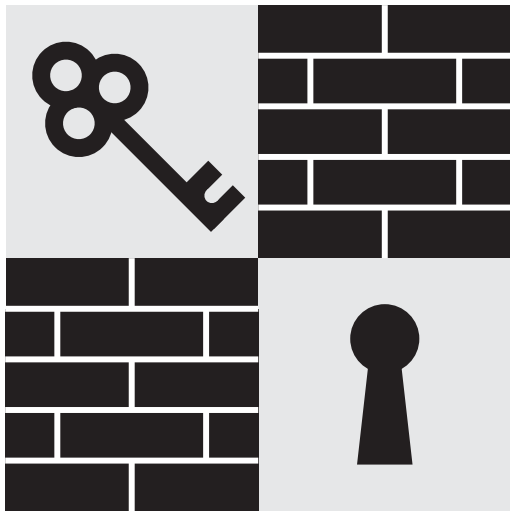
Sometimes it is a darkening gloom
where shadows lurk and memory knows
these are places of the hurts
where it is better not to go.

Yet still there is that burst of light,
the crocus and the cardinal's call,
the river running proud and high;
the nighttime dance of fireflies.

Is this enough to feed a soul,
alone, in want of human touch?
How much more can it sustain?
And when is it too much?

The pandemic comes in many ways.
We mark the passing of our days
living in the what-is-now
and all the could-have-beens.

June 2021



DEBUNKING MYTHS ABOUT THE RPRA HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MYTHS VS. FACTS (M VS. F)

by Linda Dicaire, Chair, RPRA Heritage Committee

HERITAGE

M: The RPRA Heritage Committee is a decision making body

F: The RPRA Heritage Committee is not a decision making body. It makes comments on applications for development in Rockcliffe Park. The City of Ottawa Council approves applications. The City of Ottawa Built Heritage Sub-Committee and the Planning Committee make recommendations to Council.

M: The RPRA HC expresses its own opinions

F: The RPRA HC applies the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan in all matters.

M: The RPRA HC has no business reviewing applications

F: The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan adopted by the City of Ottawa stipulates that "the Heritage Committee provides comments on proposals to alter properties in the HCD that should accompany the final application submitted to heritage staff". Simply stated, this role is legislated.

M: The RPRA HC appoints its own members

F: New members of the RPRA HC are appointed by the board of the RPRA on the recommendation of the RPRA HC.

M: The RPRA HC works independently of City staff

F: The RPRA HC works together with City heritage staff on all pre-consultations and applications.

M: The members of the RPRA HC are remunerated for their work

F: The members of the RPRA HC are volunteers who do not receive remuneration.

M: Only specialists in heritage conservation serve on the RPRA HC

F: Residents serve on the RPRA HC. Ideally they can read a set of drawings, but if they are enthusiastic to join the committee, the RPRA HC will help them understand plans. All committee members must uphold and apply the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan.

M: Heritage is not important to the residents of Rockcliffe Park

F: A recent survey of residents of Rockcliffe Park confirm that an overwhelming majority of residents consider heritage important.

M: The RPRA HC never supports demolition.

F: The RPRA HC evaluates demolition based on the provisions of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan and does support it when the provisions of the Plan are satisfied.

M: The RPRA HC has no business objecting to a change in setbacks.

F: The RPRA HC represents the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan which states "Setbacks, topography and existing grades, trees, pathways and special features, such as stone walls and front walks shall be preserved."

M: The RPRA HC only supports low replacement buildings

F: The RPRA HC represents the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan which states : "Construction of new buildings will only be permitted when the new building does not detract from the historic landscape characteristics of the associated streetscape, (and) the height and mass of the new building are consistent with the Grade I buildings in the associated streetscape".



Did you know?

In 1837 Duncan McNab was the first 'permanent settler' to the area, building his house on the rocky cliffs overlooking the Ottawa River. He purchased the land in 1835 for 200 pounds and named his house "Rockcliffe".

OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE

M: There is no requirement for owners to communicate to purchasers that their property is in the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District

F: Ontario requires that the by-law designating a place as a heritage conservation district be registered on title of all properties in the district. As Ontario states, "Registration provides notice so that current and future property owners within the HCD are aware that their property is within a HCD".

M: Zoning prevails over the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan

F: The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan states that "In the event of a conflict between a heritage conservation district plan and a municipal by-law that affects the designated district, the plan prevails to the extent of the conflict but in all other respects the by-law remains in full force. Thus, when there is a conflict between the requirements of a municipal by-law and this Plan, the requirements of this Plan prevail. For instance, where the Zoning By-law permits a height of 11 metres but the Rockcliffe Park HCD Plan states that the height of a new building shall be compatible with its neighbours and the streetscape which are only nine metres high, then this Plan prevails."

M: The RPRA HC is anti-development and anti-change

F: The RPRA HC represents the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan which has provisions for change in the form of demolition, alterations, additions and new construction that respect the character of the neighbourhood.

M: Real estate values are suppressed by the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan

F: Evidence suggests that, to the contrary, real estate values are strong in well-protected neighbourhoods. Generally, prestigious neighbourhoods across Canada maintain their character, prestige and soaring real estate values because of the consistent application of management plans such as the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan. Example, amongst very expensive real estate, Westmount, Quebec sets out requirements that are more stringent than those of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan; for example, in the case of a roof replacement for a category 1* building the highest score, a type A material (i.e. slate, terra cotta or copper) originally used on the building must be installed. In other words if a resident in Westmount owns a 1* building the roof replacement must be slate, terra cotta or copper; asphalt shingles would not be permitted.

M: Rockcliffe Park has a higher percentage of Grade 1 houses – houses that cannot be demolished except in extraordinary circumstances such as fire or natural disaster - than other Heritage Conservation Districts in Ottawa

F: There are 316 houses in Rockcliffe Park which are Grade 1s out of approximately 700 residences – around 45%. Though using different terminology, approximately 80% of the houses in the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District cannot be demolished except in the same extraordinary circumstances.

The draft Official Plan of the City of Ottawa recently designated the land around the Mile Circle / Aviation Museum as a "Neighbourhood" rather than "Major Open Space" suggesting that this area could be developed.

In a follow-up letter from The Manor Park community association, the NCC now confirmed:

"Under the National Capital Act, the planning authority for these federal lands is the National Capital Commission. The Capital Urban Lands Plan (2015) designates the lands in the subject area as Capital Urban Greenspace, Cultural Institution & Facility, and Other Federal Facility, which is in keeping with their capital functions.

One of the principal comments that the NCC has made in regards to the City of Ottawa's New Official Plan is that the NCC's planning authority, land use designations and policies must be respected where the NCC and City of Ottawa's plans show overlap...

As part of our review, the NCC noted that some lands along the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway – including Mile Circle – had been changed from Major Open Space to Neighbourhoods. We provided written comments to the City, and raised the issue in discussion with City staff. We have received confirmation that this was an inaccuracy and that the appropriate lands will appear as Greenspace in the next iteration of the New Official Plan.

Last, the City is not proposing any changes to the underlying zoning of the lands at this time, and the NCC always remains the land use planning authority for these federal lands."

ROCKCLIFFE PARK SECONDARY PLAN: AN UNEXPECTED SETBACK

Report by Daniel Goldberg, Peter Lewis, Russ Gibson, and Susan d'Aquino

A team of four of us from the RPRA board have been working closely over many hours with city planners on an update to our Secondary Plan. Secondary plans are part of the city's Official Plan (OP) and as such, form part of the new OP that is being drafted and will go to city council for approval in the fall.

We had been making steady progress, but after the two planners presented our collaborative work to their colleagues on city staff, they came back with a revised draft Secondary Plan that removes several of the key provisions that have long established the character of our community and declines to add key updates and clarifications. We are considering next steps, and may turn to residents for help in voicing our concerns.

We are continuing to reach out to City staff to maintain the dialogue. We believe that our Secondary Plan, like our Heritage Plan, should allow for change, but without putting essential qualities at risk - such as the continuity of soft landscaping, open spaces, tree cover, protection of historic homes and streetscapes, soft lighting, and our narrow winding roads largely without curbs and sidewalks.

It is worth noting that every year, there is significant change in Rockcliffe Park. Typically, there are as many development projects approved in Rockcliffe as there are in the other twenty Ottawa heritage districts combined. Our current Secondary Plan allows for growth and change that is in keeping with the character of our historic neighbourhood.

Our community is comprised of approximately 700 homes. It is too small to ever make a meaningful contribution to the city's intensification goals. Far better, we believe, that the city work with us to design a Secondary Plan that recognizes and respects the character of our small historic community and the contribution that it makes to Ottawa, and to Canada, as a special part of the nation's capital.

We will keep residents posted as best we can – the RPRA sends out e-mail blasts on a regular basis between editions of our Newsletter. These blasts are sent to members of the RPRA who have given us their e-mail addresses. If you are not a member of the RPRA and wish to receive these updates, please go to the RPRA website and take out a membership.

As things now stand

Some examples:

Key basic provisions of our current Secondary Plan have been removed. For example, the statements that Rockcliffe Park "has been developed with a sensitivity to scale, massing, and density of housing in a unifying park-like setting." And "It remains the City's intent to protect the present environment and existing characteristics of Rockcliffe Park....."

Commercial uses have never been permitted in Rockcliffe Park. This includes bed and breakfasts and short-term rentals. The city newly categorizes these uses as "secondary commercial uses" of a residential property and permits them in

residential areas. To maintain Rockcliffe Park as a residential community only, our Secondary Plan will have to specify that the ban on commercial uses encompasses what are now called "secondary commercial uses" – to date, this has not been accepted.

"Coach houses" would be permitted. "Coach houses" are detached secondary houses in backyards. When the city held a public meeting on coach houses in our community hall in 2016, the hall was filled to capacity with residents in strong opposition – with the result that they are now not permitted in Rockcliffe Park. They are permitted elsewhere in Ottawa. We opposed coach houses because of the importance of conserving the park-like setting of houses which is central to the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. Toronto has adopted a sensitive policy on coach houses that would serve Ottawa well: it permits coach houses "where it can be demonstrated that it will respect and reinforce the existing physical character of the neighbourhood."

Density limits, which vary in different parts of Rockcliffe, are now an important part of our Secondary Plan that have always been vital in conserving the character of our community. The city proposes to eliminate them. We object to that. (With respect to Ottawa as a whole, in the face of fierce opposition, the city has moved away from its initial proposal to impose minimum density requirements across the city. Instead, there will be density target ranges, intended to provide some flexibility to be more "context-



Did you know?

... Rockcliffe residents, Archibald Crabtree and his artist wife Elvina lived at “Hazel Cottage” at 95 Mackinnon Road. Elvina was a student of John Singer Sargent and she and Archibald often entertained famous artist friends such as Group of Seven luminaries A.Y. Jackson and Lawren Harris.

sensitive”. However, the city says even the lowest range will allow for intensification and redevelopment. It appears that the city has not given thought to the special reasons they have designated certain areas as heritage conservation districts.)

Multi-unit development: Our existing Secondary Plan limits multi-unit development to the existing area located east of the Pond, and the area adjacent to Beechwood Avenue between Acacia Avenue and Oakhill Road. The city’s proposed wording does not limit such development to the currently specified area bordering Beechwood. The removal of existing protections could lead to radical changes in the established character of our community.

McKay Lake and the Pond are first and foremost conservation areas, with limited public swimming currently permitted in the Pond. We are opposing the city’s proposed wording that could compromise this: “The City is committed to protecting and conserving McKay Lake and the Pond as significant natural and **recreational** amenities within Rockcliffe Park.” We have proposed clearer wording.

Classification of roads: Currently, our Secondary Plan classifies all roads internal to and bordering on Rockcliffe Park as local roads with the exception of Beechwood. The draft new OP will change the classification of Birch Avenue, Hemlock, and Beechwood to permit increased intensification and commercial uses. This means that Hemlock, for example, to be designated a “minor

corridor”, could be developed up to six storeys high in principle. Communities neighbouring on Hemlock/Beechwood have proposed to our councillor and the city a new secondary plan for Hemlock/Beechwood. We have proposed, as part of this initiative, that any new secondary plan protect the provisions of both our existing Secondary Plan and our Heritage Plan.

Lighting: The city has declined proposals we have made to clarify the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park, including lighting. While our heritage plan states that bright lighting around residences is incompatible with the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park, and provides for soft street lighting, it omitted to include a general statement. We have proposed this be rectified by including in our Secondary Plan the statement that has been shared some months ago with residents: “Subdued nighttime illumination - a visible night sky, lack of glare, light pollution and spillage, and a dimly-lit visual environment – are part of the cultural heritage landscape of Rockcliffe Park. Bright lighting is incompatible with the cultural heritage landscape and shall not be permitted, including but not limited to bright lighting of buildings, spaces, facilities, roads, trees, walkways, driveways, and landscape features.”

Weight to be given to our Heritage Plan: The city proposes that our new Secondary Plan specify that the city will “have regard to” our Heritage Plan when considering development applications. This is the weakest of standard wording

and is at odds with Ontario’s Provincial Policy Statement that heritage resources “shall be conserved”. We have proposed that the city “will comply with the intent and provisions of” our Heritage Plan.

We agree with city planners on the following changes:

Speed limit: A speed limit of 30 kilometers per hour would be included in the new Secondary Plan.

Secondary dwelling units within houses are not currently permitted in Rockcliffe Park, although some exist. As such units do not negatively affect the park-like setting of our community, we are prepared to support their inclusion so long as such units are not permitted as short-term rentals.

MINTO II PROJECT ON BEECHWOOD APPROVED

By Ian Crain, Lindenlea resident

*Edited and introduced by Susan d'Aquino, Chair,
Rockcliffe Park Heritage Outreach Committee*

On June 10, the city's Planning Committee approved a zoning change that will allow a nine-storey building with 227 units on Beechwood between Loyer and St. Charles Street. Eleven lots will be consolidated. The project was recommended by city staff in spite of widespread concerns expressed by communities along Beechwood, and by Councillor King. The news release from the city described it as "a project that promises renewal in Vanier North". In contrast, here are extracts from a submission made by Ian Crain from Lindenlea which describes concerns with the project.

Ian K. Crain: "This request for rezoning of a large land assembly will have a major irrevocable impact on the surrounding neighbourhoods, and deserves careful consideration by the Planning Committee.

Beechwood Avenue provides the Mainstreet for the communities of Manor Park, Rockcliffe, New Edinburgh, Lindenlea and Vanier. Residents of this "Beechwood Village" have long been advocating for redevelopment of portions of Beechwood Avenue.... The City responded by leading a wide consultative process that resulted in the forward-looking Beechwood Community Design Plan (BCDP), widely supported by the community, and formally approved by Council. This provided confidence that development would take place on a human scale which would enhance the neighbourhood's vitality as a modern family-oriented community.

The zoning change request before you is to enable the construction of what many believe is an out-of-proportion building that detracts and damages the community, and is contrary to established Urban Design Guidelines, as well as the Beechwood Community Design Plan.

During the consultation period, serious concerns were raised by multiple Community Associations, by respected architects and urban planners who happen to live in the area, and by numerous residents from all walks of life. Although there are other issues, the principal concerns are for the height and massive nature of the proposed project, and hence for the shadowing, "canyoning", and significant incompatibility with the current streetscape and surrounding low-rise (but high density) residential neighbourhoods. The Urban Design Review Panel echoed the concerns about "massing" and also recommended a lower height limit, as did the Councillor for the abutting Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward...

.... The subject property occupies the middle of the block on the south side between Loyer and St Charles streets. It will occupy a consolidated land parcel of 0.416 hectares, with frontage on Beechwood of 71 metres – about 45% of the block face. The project will have a larger footprint than any other building on Beechwood, and will be taller than all but one... There are currently no buildings higher than 3 storeys in the block.

City staff have surprisingly recommended approval using justifications that appear to be at odds with City policy and are also logically flawed. Their Planning Rationale does not support the conclusions stated in their Executive Summary:

"... it will complement the existing pattern and scale of development and planned function of the area. The proposed form of development is considered compatible with the surrounding built context and planned function of the area." and "The proposal aligns with the vision set out by the [Beechwood] community design plan."

The city staff's Planning Rationale introduces the principles for evaluating the application as follows (bold emphasis mine):

".. sections of the Official Plan provide direction on urban design and compatibility and state that introducing new development and higher densities **requires a sensitive approach and must have respect for a community's established characteristics**. In general terms, compatible development means development that, although it is not necessarily the same as, or similar to existing buildings in the vicinity, can enhance an established community through good design and innovation and coexist with existing development **without causing undue adverse impact on surrounding properties**."

Regarding Sun Shadows:

...The shadow analysis shows that sunrise will be delayed to as late as 11:00 AM on June 21 – that longest day when the sun angle is highest. There will be less sunlight, of course, on every other day of the year. And very, very little in the winter months. A large number of residences north of Beechwood will have no morning sunlight all through the winter months.

From the Beechwood Community Development Plan:

"The Plan states that proposals seeking additional heights must consider the following:

- The building should safeguard exposure to sunlight along the sidewalk.
- The building should have no significant effects on the surrounding properties regarding noise, **shadowing** and odours."



Regarding Compatibility:

The target for intensification in areas like this has been set at 80-120 units per hectare. With 227 units, this development will have over 500 units per hectare. The surrounding neighbourhood is mainly low-rise, but certainly not low-density, perhaps around 50 per hectare – but the contrast is startling.

The Beechwood Community Development Plan calls for large buildings to be articulated in ways that look more like separate structures, specifically calls for a 6-storey limit on the south side to protect the sunlight, and for lower heights mid-block with taller buildings at selected “hubs” at intersections. The proposed project is the exact antithesis of the BCDP vision. The Urban Design Review Panel observed that none of the comparables presented as justification by Minto were truly comparable – having more generous setbacks, corner locations, smaller footprints, and so on...

The design incorporates very few of the architectural elements that characterize the street, except perhaps the use of brick on the lower level. Although there is great variety, there are a number of common elements in the current streetscape – such as diagonal corner setbacks and entrances, pitched roofs and dormer windows, and other features reminiscent of village houses (as some of them are). The proposed project is aggressively box-like, with only straight lines and 90 degree angles, described by the UDRP as having “too commercial an expression”.

It is hard to see how city staff could conclude that the proposal for this massive block that towers over its surroundings “aligns with the vision set out by the community design plan” or how it could be concluded that “the proposed form of development is considered compatible with the surrounding built context and planned function of the area”.

Regarding the Protection of the adjacent heritage building:

The project as proposed will require deep excavation of the entire assembled property, in order to have a 2-level underground parking garage. This will mean removing all soil and continuing into the bedrock with mechanical diggers and blasting. This will likely cause a lowering of the water table and subsidence of nearby areas. This, combined with the impact of blasting, is highly likely to destabilize the adjacent “El Meson” building only a few metres away. There are no adequate plans to mitigate this risk. The developer declined the suggestion of the UDRP to back further away from this heritage registered property, and has merely indicated that the situation will be “monitored”.

Other Issues:

A number of other issues were raised during the consultative period including the environmental impact, traffic congestion, bird kills, and so on. All of these were dismissed as unfounded in the city staff’s Planning Rationale, except for the environmental concerns, which were, strangely, not mentioned at all. In this regard it should be noted that the consolidation of these 11 lots

will obliterate all of the natural open space mandated in each lot by the current zoning (side yards, front set backs, rear yards, etc.) amounting perhaps to 800 square metres. Every tree, shrub, blade of grass and dandelion will be removed along with the soil. At the same time the proposal is requesting relief from a long list of setbacks, projections and landscaping requirements. One would think that with a land parcel of this size room could be found to abide by these reasonable conditions, and not use every square metre of the space. Most of the proposed landscaping consists of small trees and bushes growing in planters or through small openings in pavement.

It is a source of immense frustration that it would seem that a little bit of creativity and vision could have ensured a building (or buildings) on this site that would meet intensification goals and be an attractive and vitalizing asset to the neighbourhood...”



Sustainable, Repairable

www.archive.nationaltrustcanada.ca/sites/heritagecanada.org/files/magazines/2006/spring/Spring2006_Windows.pdf

Grants program

www.ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/heritage-conservation/built-heritage-funding-programs

An interview by Linda Dicaire, Chair RPRA Heritage Committee with Brian Eagle, Glass conservator, who has been in the stained glass industry since 1978. A member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, CAHP. He has overseen major glass restoration projects including; Parliament Hill, the Museum of Nature, Notre Dame Basilica and Christ Church Cathedral.

Introduction

In her article for the National Trust of Canada (formerly the Heritage Canada Foundation) entitled: *Windows in Historic Buildings: Sustainable, Repairable*, (see link above) Canadian architect Susan Turner wrote:

"Windows are often described as "the eyes of a building." Their size and spacing create rhythm and balance in the façade that may be emphasized by deliberate shadow lines and relief; their materials and operation type may reflect the state of technology for their time. For many building types and styles, windows are a key character-defining element."

And she continues:

"Windows represent embodied energy: raw resources, processing, labour, and shipping energy have gone into their manufacture. Embodied energy is lost when windows are sent to a landfill. When even more energy and resources are invested in replacing them with new windows made of wood, aluminium or vinyl—often with a shorter service life than the old windows—the cost to the environment is substantial."

It makes sense to repair windows.

Windows have several components: glass, frame, construction, operating mechanism, sill profile. In the attempt of improving the understanding about windows and encouraging knowledgeable repair, Linda Dicaire will be speaking to several experts and providing links to useful references.

The repair of glass is one area of specialization; the frame or surround another. This article features highlights from Linda's talk with glass conservation expert Brian Eagle, with a focus on leaded glass which is a signature feature of many Rockcliffe homes.

Context

The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan ('our Plan') has several provisions related to windows and homeowners are encouraged to acquaint themselves with our Plan. Windows are an integral part of the character of a residence. Our Plan indicates that only windows that are beyond repair may be replaced. This is because repair should be considered first. An expert trades person or professional can help guide homeowners.

Brian Eagle, Glass conservation expert:

Windows can last a lot longer than people think. Windows deteriorate over time. Windows that are fixed may have a lifespan of up to 100 years. Windows that open and close may reach 75 years. Diamond and square lead windows can last a very long time. A recent inspection of an Ottawa house revealed 85 year old leaded glass windows in perfect shape.

Bowed and buckled windows have to be removed and rebuilt. These outcomes can happen to any window. Lead fatigue generally occurs between 75 and 100 years. Windows have support bars soldered on to them. If the support bars break away, the window starts to buckle inward or outward. The other strengthening factor in lead windows is that the original windows are puttied along their lead comes (i.e. slender grooved lead rods used to hold together panes of glass) on both sides of the window which adds rigidity to hold the glass in place in the lead lines. The putty waterproofs the window and strengthens the whole thing.

Types of frames

Leaded glass windows are often installed in wood sashes, but sometimes they are applied as storms, sometimes they are part of sashes inside the storm windows. There is a variety of types of windows in Rockcliffe

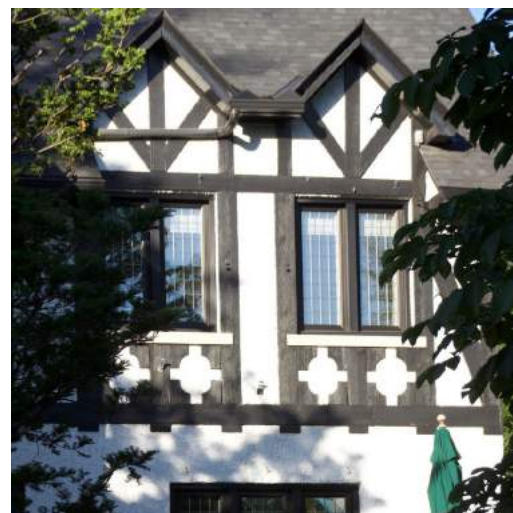
Park. Wood frames are predominant. With wood windows, often the lower part of the sash rots out first. There are many homes that have leaded glass puttied into steel frames. (Brian restores the glass, and a professional with expertise in the restoration of the steel frame may be needed if the frame requires repair.) Steel can be refurbished and repainted. Some windows are mortared right into masonry openings.

Over time there are many factors that can dislodge putty: wind stresses, in the case of a large window the weight of the window itself, or thundering vehicle traffic. Once the putty falls out, the lead becomes a little softer. If the solder joints holding on to the support bars let go then the window is in decline. The windows are in rough shape. Decline may be linked to a series of poor repairs over time, sometimes by well meaning hobbyists, or to neglect.

When the existing windows come out, they can sometimes be straightened and reputtied. The putty process requires removing as much of the old putty from the lead channels as possible, and then reputtied on both sides. That's not something that the average home owner can do. If the original putty is not removed, the new putty will fall out with the old putty that is brittle and falling out.

It can happen that the entire window is in such rough shape that all components must be replaced, including new lead comes and new support bars. Nowadays there is an enhanced lead with additives, notably antimony (2%) which makes the window stronger and more rigid. The same size of lead comes are utilized but with stronger lead. When reputtied and reinstalled properly, one can expect up to 75-100 years of service from the windows.

Clockwise from top left: Exterior leaded glass windows; new replacement leaded glass incorporated into operable new casement windows; beveled leaded glass rectangular in a bay above door; leaded glass round top at Korean embassy on Acacia.



Weatherproofing

Most weatherproofing concerns wood or steel windows. The weatherstripping of wood windows deteriorates and must be replaced. The wood windows are refurbished, the leaded glass is restored if necessary or replaced with brand new leaded glass if repair is not an option, the weather stripping is renewed, and the windows go back into place, delivering up to 75-100 years of service.

Putty, putty, putty

When the putty falls out there is basically no protection from water getting in, or from wind infiltration. Once windows are restored, repotted, and re-instated in or with good storm windows they are in excellent shape. Putty has a linseed oil and turpentine base, which make for a very solid, long term bond.

Privacy or Enhancement

Modifying an existing glass door or window to incorporate leaded or coloured glass.

If privacy is an issue, there is an alternative to curtains, clear glass doors can be modified to include coloured glass or just a bit of textured glass. This will change the visibility looking out or in of a door or window. Most coloured glass has some obscuring quality. Glass colours range from pale to vibrant so depending on the function, the glass can be designed accordingly. There are all types of glass options and leaded glass designs in addition to the traditional square and diamond.

A rain forest between glass elements

The sunny sides of a home absorb more sun. On the sunny sides, the windows are warmer. When windows open on the inside and they have a clear storm window that is caulked into place, or plexiglass which is worse, there is decline because there is a build up

of heat through the clear glass, and there is a moisturebuild-up between the two glass elements. This accelerates the deterioration of the lead. It is akin to a rain forest between the glass, and it takes years off the life of windows.

Leaded windows on the exterior are quite capable of withstanding the elements for many years until the putty starts to go, and until the support bars start to go (there is at least one support bar in smaller windows, and several in larger windows). As the window starts to deteriorate it might pull away: this is the beginning of the end. It may not be noticeable until the window is badly bowed.

Autumn

People often take notice of their windows in late autumn when the wind is blowing in. It is better to make note of problem areas and plan ahead for spring, summer and fall repairs.

Grants

The City of Ottawa has a grant program for repairs to heritage homes in heritage districts. The deadline to apply for the next grant program is in winter 2022 (see link on p. 26).

Professionals

Homeowners may consider seeking a Heritage Conservation Architect or an experienced Conservator to inspect the house, the insulation, and everything pertaining to the requirements to improve condition, performance and longevity. For example, if windows cannot be removed from the inside, there may be scaffolding involved and height certification required.

Time

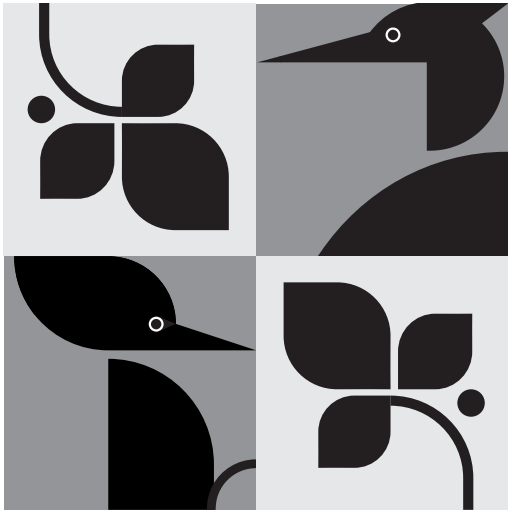
Generally a leaded window can be removed and rebuilt, or a new enhanced windows replaced, within 3 weeks. Lead up time is a

separate matter, however with most projects the leaded windows come in quantities that may take many weeks to complete.

Conclusion:

Many windows are assumed to be beyond repair. The fact is that many windows can be repaired. An approach of repair may be less expensive, less disruptive and more straightforward. All windows, old and new, require cyclical maintenance. To keep windows in top shape, inspection is the starting point, followed by routine maintenance.





WILDLIFE NOTES

by Anthony Keith

ENVIRONMENT

On March 24 a Song Sparrow sang to announce Spring on our street, and the next day Red-winged Blackbirds were doing the same at the lake marsh. On April 3, a Great Blue Heron patrolled the marsh edge, even though the lake was still frozen. Next day Susan d'Aquino watched a beautiful Red Fox strolling along the icy lake edge. By now foxes are rearing their young and can sometimes be seen in daylight hunting to feed them. If you see a fox, just quietly watch and avoid making aggressive movements while backing away. The fox is probably more afraid of you but may also appear indifferent to your presence. Please don't put food out for them or racoons and, as the latter are very clever at opening green bins during the night, put your bin out the morning of pickup if you can.

The first woodpecker I heard drumming was a Downy, on April 9, and the next day I saw my first bat, above the lake. On April 10, Alan and Sevilla Gill saw an Otter on the lake edge, possibly the same one that had a winter burrow on the lake shore. On April 14, there was a Phoebe at the bridge over the lake outlet; they traditionally nest there. On the 16th, Susan d'Aquino saw her first Wood Duck pair of the season at the lake. For my money, Wood Duck males are the most beautiful North American bird. Joseline Beaulieu on Lansdowne South has been watching two Wood Duck pairs that must be nesting nearby. She was also visited by a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A Raven pair exchanged food sitting on a nest at the top of one of the tall White Pines next to Stornoway on April 24. On the 30th,

in the rain, spring peeper frogs were calling; bullfrogs are now adding to the chorus. Painted turtles have taken up their traditional spot on one of the fallen tree trunks in the water on the eastern shoreline of McKay Lake – they can be seen from the path.

On May 8 at the lake a Pied-billed Grebe called in the rain while a Canada Goose sat tight on its usual nest near the footpath bridge with wings half stretched over the nest – was it ensuring that no rain got to the eggs it was incubating? That day I first saw Tree Swallows. On May 17, two Kestrels perched at the very tops of tall conifers at the Acacia/Mariposa intersection, and the next day I saw my first arriving warbler of the spring, a Chestnut-sided Warbler.

A Snipe 'winnowed' over the marsh on May 28. This odd display sound is made with the outer tail feathers during a steep dive from high above the ground.

In neighbouring Lindenlea, a Barred Owl sat in a tree at the corner of Springfield and Rideau Terrace clearly visible during the day on June 1. This dark-eyed owl can be seen during daylight in our area and heard calling at night.



Did you know?

There used to be two riding stables in Rockcliffe: Horace Cunningham's Rockcliffe Riding Club and the Capital Riding School. Along with the stables, Rockcliffe boasted two very popular bridle paths, which included paths around McKay Lake and the Pond, along to Mile Circle, and through the Rockeries.

*Clockwise from top left:
Barred Owl and Red Squirrel; Great Blue
Heron; Painted Turtle; Phoebe*

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

*Email your pictures to the Environment
Committee on: iola.price@outlook.com*



COMMUNITIES COME TOGETHER TO TACKLE GYPSY MOTH INVASION

By Iola Price

In the April 2021 issue of the Rockcliffe News, I explained how and where to look for Gypsy moth egg masses and how to remove and destroy them. By now, most of us realize that the invasive Gypsy moth caterpillars are serious defoliators. In spite of efforts to scrape and destroy the egg masses, it became obvious that many had escaped detection and a massive hatch was underway. This one page summary of the moth's life cycle <https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-gypsy-moth-life-stage-control-options-en-2556x3305-2021-04-09.png> neatly describes what happens when and provides some control option.

By late May, I began to see newly hatched caterpillars (1st instar) and as time progressed and we moved into June, the caterpillars, in the words of residents of Manor Park, Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea and New Edinburgh, were "everywhere". They spun down from high branches on silken threads, dropped caterpillar poop (frass) on patios and crawled on walls, windows, and tree trunks. By mid-June, they were one-two inches or longer and certainly fatter. But residents have swung into action.

Dr. Anne Galipeau in Lindenlea started it off with a tree wrapping party in Lindenlea park, where they attached burlap skirts to the affected trees. Tracey Clark stepped in with an offer of empty Bridgehead coffee bean bags. She delivered two bundles – to Lindenlea and Manor Park where they were quickly put to good use. People then chose trees to adopt, signing their initials on the burlap to avoid duplication of efforts, removing the caterpillars with small paint brushes (or twigs) into containers of water filled a dash of dish detergent. They have been emptying the caterpillars at least daily from underneath the burlap for the last week. Subsequently, all the trees in all the public medians in Lindenlea were wrapped and

adopted by locals. Anne also urged people to walk in Stanley Park, Hillsdale, Pine Hill and elsewhere in public spaces to look for more trees, especially oaks, birches, and flowering trees like crabapples, searching for signs of leaf damage, caterpillars on the trunk, or on the pavement and then adopt a tree: placing a skirt on it, and then emptying it of caterpillars daily.

At time of writing, mid- June, we are about half- to three-quarters of the way through the caterpillars' eating phases and one caterpillar eats up to one square metre of leaf surface between hatching and pupating. It is therefore important to continue monitoring trees and flicking the caterpillars into a bucket of detergent and water. The caterpillars will start to pupate in late June or early July; this is a good time to look for pupae and flick them into a pail of detergent and water along with any remaining live caterpillars. Check any surface: walls, tires, car wheel wells, eaves, undersurface of branches and especially the trunks of trees. The pupae are dark brown, oval-shaped and hard-cased (see picture in the one-page summary). The adults will emerge from the pupal cases in August and the males immediately start to look for females. The females don't fly and once they lay their eggs (up to 300 per mass) in August, they die. But those eggs are well-equipped to over winter, and they will hatch in the spring of 2022. Unless we institute control by removing the pupae or egg masses between August and next April, we will be faced with this problem in 2022.

Health aspects: The caterpillar hairs contain a histamine and people are reporting allergic reactions, rashes and blisters, similar to those caused by poison ivy. As the caterpillar goes from one instar to the next, the cast skins break down and the hairs are blowing around. So wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants

and maybe even a hat when out walking or controlling the caterpillars. Seek medical attention if the blisters are severe.

I have been asked about the utility of spraying our trees. That, of course, is an option for an individual homeowner with a high value tree but at this stage, burlap and or taping are the recommended strategies. The naturally-occurring biological pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* kills all species of caterpillars and very soon other butterfly and moth caterpillars will be hatching, putting our future adult butterflies and moths at risk.

In the meantime, all is not lost for the defoliated trees. WATER YOUR TREES frequently but DO NOT add fertilizer to the water or sprinkle fertilizer around the tree. Leaf loss is a stress and combined with this spring drought, the impact is doubled. Fertilizer promotes new woody growth but you want leaves only. The tree has to 'make a decision' whether or not to use its starch reserves on new leaves and water helps promote re-leaf. The 2021 new leaves will be smaller and from the tree's perspective, that is good. However, conifers, especially pines and spruces, may not survive because their reserves are in the needles which have now been eaten and they cannot replace the needles this year.

If it rains, a naturally-occurring fungus that multiplies in cool, wet weather will start attacking the caterpillars. A naturally-occurring virus may also show up. Caterpillars hanging limply on the tree trunk head down or in a V-shape are being attacked by these diseases. This is normal and is to be celebrated by not removing the infected ones; nature's biological control is in progress.

I urge residents to control these caterpillars, their pupae and egg masses when they arrive.



Did you know?

"Gypsy Moth" is the current official name for the moth species *Lymantria dispar dispar*. It is, however, important to note that the name is derived from a culturally offensive slur and is currently under review in scientific circles.

Top Left: Removing a caterpillar from a tree trunk.

Top Right: A tree wrapped with burlap for protection from the caterpillars.

Bottom: A caterpillar-removal expedition.

Since many people have an overwhelming amount of caterpillars to control, it could be useful to hire young people, who have been unable to find jobs due to covid, to help deal with this challenging problem. This job could also count for volunteer hours for high school students, many of whom are in need of hours to graduate. It is quite a simple job, surveying public or private spaces, putting up skirts / tape as needed and harvesting caterpillars every day. A good job, working outside and enjoying nature. It is quite amazing how a few trees which were black, covered with hundreds of caterpillars, have made a recovery after just one week of steady burlap skirt emptying and many, many containers full of dead caterpillars. This is also an excellent community building exercise which has brought us together, with a common purpose, and provided a sense of togetherness partially lost with recent covid restrictions.

Remember when you wrap your tree that the wrapping be loose enough that you can easily flip the skirt up, look under the skirt and between layers. Hundreds can be harvested from some trees at the beginning, and then fewer as each day goes on. It is not too late to start. If there is a burlap shortage, other breathable types of fabric will do. Black ground cover fabric is being used in Lindenlea and this is working well.

We can continue to live in a leafy green treed environment – all it takes is for each of us to do our part. If you need more information or have a question, email me at environment@rockcliffepark.ca

Iola Price, Chair, Environment Committee
Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (with thanks to Anne Galipeau in Lindenlea and Eugenie Waters in Manor Park for their efforts to rally the troops).



What you can do to help:

- Look at the trees in our public parks: Hemlock Park, London Terrace, Alvin Heights, Anthony Vincent and the Manor Park School grounds
- See which ones are affected by the black Gypsy Moth caterpillars (they can eat all the leaves on our precious trees!)
- Any tree (they prefer oaks, but flowering trees, aspen, and eventually all trees) where there are many partially eaten leaves, or where caterpillars can be seen climbing along the trunk would qualify for help.
- Visit any wrapped tree in the evening, use a stick and flick the caterpillars into a container full of water with a bit of dish soap.

The next few weeks are crucial to protect our trees. Thank you for pitching in!



CONGRATULATIONS TO JANE DOBELL, AND IOLA PRICE

Jane Dobell received Ottawa's 2021 Senior of the Year Award from the Province of Ontario, by Mayor Jim Watson, for outstanding contributions to her community.

Iola Price received an inaugural Ottawa-Vanier award from the office of Rawlson King, for all she has done, and continues to do, for the community.



NEW PLAQUE



A new plaque for the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area, kindly provided by the Rockcliff Park Foundation.

The Rockcliff News is the newsletter of the Rockcliff Park Residents Association (RPRA). Please email newsletter@rockcliffepark.ca for information. Copy may be edited for clarity, length and content. The newsletter is supported by Rockcliff Park Foundation grants; paid advertising is not accepted. Current and past issues are posted on the RPRA website, www.rockcliffepark.ca.

Newsletter Distributors:

Chris and Stephanie Barker, Rachel Baxter, Sarah Baxter, Ben Baxter, John Brooks, Alexandra and Will Colt, Jean-Guy Dumoulin, John Edmond, Linda Forrester, Harry and Maureen Freeman, Alison Green, Walter Grego, Bea Hampson, Sue Harcourt, Michele Hayman, Heather Hickling, David Jenkins, Nancy Cook-Johnson, Anthony Keith, Joan Kellett, Ana Klar, Ling Lu Langley, Peter Lewis, Sheila Macmillan, Ainsley Malhotra, Louise Meyer, Yomna Marzouk, Rodney Moore, Jane Newcombe, Claire Ouseley, Jane Panet, Moira Phillips, Iola Price, Blake Radcliffe, Gregory Sanders, Claire Schofield, Karen Shigeishi-Waite, Paul St. Louis, Mary Ann Smallwood, Imbaw Storer, Heather Sweeney, Si Taylor, Susan and Doug Taylor, Mary Taylor, Kate Struthers, Marilyn Venner, Mark Willcox, Magie Zhu

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) or fill in the downloadable membership form and send it with your cheque to 380-A Springfield Rd. Rockcliff Park, ON K1M 0K7 or drop it

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

A request for any RPRA members who are not receiving the weekly emails from the RPRA:

Please send your current email address to communications@rockcliffepark.ca