

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS



ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2023

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Rockcliffe Park
Residents Association

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) is a volunteer-run membership organization. The RPRA implements and manages our community's programs. These programs are divided into our three core mandate areas: community building, heritage and environment. The RPRA also represents the interests of Rockcliffe and its residents to the city.

The RPRA board meets on the third Wednesday of the month, but for July, August and December. Meetings are in the evening and are open to all.

rockcliffepark.ca

Community Committee

Chair: Lisa Cogan
Volunteer Coordinator: Mark Willcox

Heritage Committee

Chair: Linda Dicaire
Vice Chair: Michele Hayman

Heritage Outreach

Chair: Susan d'Aquino

Environment Committee

Chair: Lola Price

2023 Board Executive

Russell Gibson, President
Daniel Goldberg, Community
Michele Hayman, Heritage
Patrick Blonar, Environment
John Butterfield, Treasurer
Anna Blauveldt, Corporate Secretary
Peter Lewis, Past President

2023 Board Members

Chris Barker	Matthew Henderson
Patrick Blonar	Russell Gibson
John Butterfield	Daniel Goldberg
Lisa Cogan	Kay James
Susan d'Aquino	Peter Lewis
Linda Dicaire	Kim Ratushny
Jean-Guy Dumoulin	Natalie Runoff
Linda English	Gouhar Shemdin
Bea Hampson	Mark Willcox
Michele Hayman	

Rockcliffe Park Contact Email Addresses

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Rockcliffe Park
Foundation

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a registered charity that works to raise funds and stewards an endowment that provides the grants for our community's programs, events and initiatives. Our mandate is to support activities in three core areas: community building, heritage and environment. The Foundation grows the endowment through donations and event fundraising. Each year we report to the community on the specific projects funded.

rockcliffeparkfoundation.org

To learn more visit our website or email us at info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

For **Dining with the Ambassadors** go to rockcliffeparkfoundation.org/events.

2023 Board Members

Sarah Baxter, Chair
Ryan Kilger, Vice Chair
Dennis Waite, Treasurer
Jane Newcombe, Corporate Secretary
Marilyn Collette
Cynthia Cusinato
Kristen Healy
Fiona Murray
Jane Panet
Paul St. Louis

**Fundraising
Fund Management
Grant Making**



At this time of year, board planning is underway for our Annual General Meeting of Members (AGM), set for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. A nominating committee of the Board of Directors has been struck to identify new directors for the board to fill several openings. As readers may recall, we amended our articles in 2021 to expand the board of directors to 21 individuals.

In addition to thanking departing directors Linda Dicaire and Matthew Henderson in the last newsletter, I would like to thank outgoing board members Daniel Goldberg and Bea Hampson, who will be leaving the board at the next AGM.

Daniel Goldberg, with his many talents as an architect, served as 'architect' for Rockcliffe Park's updated branding and newsletter redesign, as well as being the impetus behind the revamp of our welcome booklet for new residents, 'Rockcliffe A to Z.' Daniel served on the Heritage Committee and he is vice president of Community Building and Engagement as well. Bea Hampson also serves on the Heritage Committee and was RPRA's board representative on the Federation of Community Associations (FCA). Thanks to you both for your devotion and commitment to these community activities as directors, and we look forward to your continued involvement as volunteers.

In the months ahead, the RPRA will be updating our website so that it reflects our current activities, directors, etc. In a related item, work is underway to create a database to match volunteers with community chairs of events, based on the volunteer's specific interest. The new volunteer coordinator may be reached by email at volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca.

In other news, on March 8 the Speakers Program at the Community Hall will feature Thomas d'Aquino speaking about his recently published memoir, 'Private Power ~ Public Purpose.'

We have also received word that possible recognition of Rockcliffe Park as a 'Historic District of National Significance' is under consideration. A departmental staff report has been submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board for review, along with our application. Some readers will recall that the previous city council passed a motion supporting this initiative.

This coming spring, notices will be sent out by the City of Ottawa to residents along Carsdale Avenue, Corona Avenue and Oakhill Road, advising of public works to be completed this summer, including resurfacing work. Some residents will recall that surveying and related public works occurred last year along these roadways. At our last meeting the board adopted a motion of support for the Wateridge Village Transit Initiative, based on a request to restore transit service to the Wateridge community, which will hopefully result in a reduction of cars along Beechwood Avenue and Hemlock Road.

After the next AGM, our provincial and federal elected representatives are planning consultations with the RPRA on initiatives of importance to our community. In setting these meetings, we would like to hear from you regarding the priorities that Rockcliffe Park residents believe the RPRA should pursue in its advocacy with respect to local issues. If you know a director of the board, please reach out and share your views, including any feedback that you may have with regard to our programming and other activities. Alternatively, please contact me (russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca) or Anna Blauveldt, secretary to the board, at secretary@rockcliffepark.ca. If you are able to attend an upcoming meeting of the RPRA Board of Directors, Councillor Rawlson King is regularly in attendance and available to answer questions and receive feedback.

Finally, for those of you who have not had an opportunity to do so, the Ski Heritage East trail near Rockcliffe Park and along the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway is now open from the Aviation Airport eastward to Orleans. A trail map is available at skiheritageeast.ca.

Please plan to join us at the AGM on March 15. All are welcome to attend and it's a perfect opportunity to learn about the workings of your residents' association.

Russell Gibson, President
russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca
613-858-3391



Mark Your Calendar

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association
Annual General Meeting
March 15, 2023, 7:00 pm
Rockcliffe Park Community Hall
380 Springfield Road**

The meeting will be held in person.
Out of respect for all, we strongly urge
that masks be worn.



The Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) are our two key neighbourhood organizations, linked in practice, history, and by shared values. The Foundation works closely with and provides grants that support the RPRA, whose volunteer board manages and coordinates our community programs and initiatives, in addition to representing the interests of our residents. These are divided into three core mandate areas: community building, heritage and environment.

More information on these important neighbourhood organizations may be found on the websites rockcliffepark.ca and rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation Invites You to Dine with the Ambassadors

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation is excited to announce the return of its celebrated signature spring event, where neighbours dine with diplomatic hosts from our neighbourhood: Dining with the Ambassadors, Friday, May 12.

Dining with the Ambassadors has been a favourite Rockcliffe event for more than two decades. The 2023 co-chairs, Sarah Baxter and Fiona Murray, remarked on how fortunate our neighbourhood is to have the support of the diplomatic community "...who make Rockcliffe their home away from home. We are grateful to the more than a dozen ambassadors and high commissioners who are joining us this year by generously hosting dinners for our fundraiser. Dining with the Ambassadors is really a celebration of neighbours. It is a special evening of neighbours gathering, and memorable and unique dinner parties."

Event Details

Festivities begin at 6:00 pm with the cocktail reception at the Rockcliffe Community Hall for guests and hosts. It is the biggest party in Rockcliffe. Presented once again by Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties / Christie's International Real Estate, it is only at the cocktail reception where dinner hosts are revealed to their guests.

Following the reception, guests depart and are welcomed into the homes of their diplomatic hosts. What follows are elegant dinners prepared by the embassy chefs, great conversation and – inevitably – more than a few spontaneous travel plans are launched!

Buy Your Tickets Now

Tickets are \$200 per person and are available for purchase now. The ticket order form can be found as an insert in this newsletter or may be printed from the Foundation's website, rockcliffeparkfoundation.org, under the 'Events' tab. This popular event sells out quickly so don't miss your chance to attend.

Deliver or mail the completed ticket form along with your cheque, payable to the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, to: Dining with the Ambassadors, c/o Jane Newcombe, 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park, ON K1L 5A8.

If you are unable to mail the ticket form and cheque, please send an email to 2023DWA@gmail.com for support with your registration and payment methods.

Once your ticket form and payment have been received, the organizing committee will reach out to request a short biography and inquire about any food restrictions that will be shared with your dinner host.

Proceeds from Dining with the Ambassadors fund the many priorities that make our community thrive. And thanks to our incredible diplomatic neighbours as well as community sponsors including The Minto Group and Foundation WCPD, Dining with the Ambassadors is the principal fundraiser for the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. If you are interested in sponsorship, email 2023dwa@gmail.com to learn more about opportunities to connect and contribute to a truly memorable night with neighbours.

See you on May 12!

Dining with the Ambassadors 2023 Organizing Committee

Sarah Baxter and Fiona Murray (2023 co-chairs), Marilyn Collette, Robert Collette, Joseph Cull, Cynthia Cusinato, Jill Dickinson, Marianne Feaver, Kristen Healy, Fiona Murray, Jane Newcombe, Jane Panet, Sarah Waters, Marilyn Wilson

Dining with the Ambassadors is an event for residents of Rockcliffe. More information on Dining with the Ambassadors is available at rockcliffeparkfoundation.org/events.

Rockcliffe Park Foundation: Join Us

Would you like to get more involved in our community? The Rockcliffe Park Foundation would love to hear from you.

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation has been an important part of Village life for more than 25 years because of committed neighbours like you. The Foundation offers the chance to meet and work with neighbours, stewarding the Village endowment and working to provide the funds for our community's programs and events.

Put your name forward for board membership or consider joining one of our standing committees or working groups. There are standing committees for Finance and for Communications, which ask a year commitment; and there is a new working group to make recommendations for an updated policy and framework for fundraising and development. Email us at info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org to talk about ways you can contribute.

Sarah Baxter
Chair, Rockcliffe Park Foundation

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) Membership and Volunteer Opportunities

Membership

Now that the membership drive is in its final stages, I'm delighted to report that we have had a good response. In our neighbourhood, not counting embassy residences and vacant houses, there are approximately 600 households. The goal of this drive is to have RPRA membership of at least 300 – half of our residents. If you have not yet taken the time to become a member, please take advantage of the form included in this newsletter to register. The fee for family/single membership is only \$25.00 per year. You will then be an engaged community member, and you will also receive our weekly news eblast to your email address, should you choose to provide it.

Building a strong association is critical in these challenging times. We must guarantee a strong voice as the move towards densification is pushed forward. Through membership in the RPRA, you will be supporting our association in all its efforts, both in terms of our annual community activities and, as importantly, in its efforts to restrict multiple dwellings in the neighbourhood we all very much enjoy.

Now is the time to sign up!

Lisa Cogan, Community Chair

RPRA Website Updates

Board member Jean-Guy Dumoulin has been tapped to post updated information on the RPRA's website, rockcliffepark.ca.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments regarding content on the website please contact him by email at webupdates@rockcliffepark.ca.

Jean-Guy is looking forward to hearing from you.

Welcome Volunteers!

The Rockcliffe Park community thrives largely because of its large network of dedicated community volunteers who are instrumental in assisting the community in meeting its goals. We can't do it without you. But we can always do more, and the more volunteers we have, the better, stronger and more effective our community can become!

The RPRA has recorded a new and significant number of volunteers this year. Participation by residents is the backbone of our community so it is especially heartwarming to see so many of our neighbours offer their time and energy to help better our community's efforts.

Many thanks to those volunteers who have put their names forward to help on important committees. If not already, you may soon be contacted by committee chairs seeking your assistance.

To this end we have set up an email address – volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca – to better connect those wishing to volunteer. This is a very fluid, dynamic approach; names will be forwarded to committee chairs as we receive them.

We hope that you will consider volunteering. If you have not already selected one or more committees, you can easily do so via email to volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca or click on the 'Volunteer with Us' button on the rockcliffepark.ca website's homepage and we will be sure to get you connected. Simply provide your name, phone number, email address, and the committee(s) in which you wish to be involved.

Happy volunteering!

Mark Willcox, Volunteer Coordinator



RPRA Community Committee
Lisa Cogan, Chair

Volunteer Coordinator
Mark Willcox

Activities

Speakers Program
Rockcliffe News and Events Email Blast
RPRA Website
RP Spring Book Sale
Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing
Holiday Children's Party
Outdoor Movie Nights
Welcome Committee
RPPS Soccer Field
RRCRC Fundraiser



Kay James

What motivated you to join the RPRA board?

While sitting in on a few RPRA meetings as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, I became aware of the range of activities and responsibilities undertaken by the Board and realized there were areas where I could contribute.

What do you like best about Rockcliffe?

The green space, the trees and the idiosyncratic streetscape – the way that the layout of the roads and placement of houses are determined by the contours of the landscape, rather than the land being tamed to fit a conventional layout.

What other board/professional experience have you had?

In the 1980s, I taught Mathematics, Computer, and IB Theory of Knowledge at Elmwood. I subsequently worked on AI software research and software research analysis, first at NRC and subsequently in other areas of government, as a consultant, and at Deloitte.

What stories would you like to share?

I remember flying a small plane over the Village, looking down and seeing just trees, with a few rooftops poking through, and then the lake and the Pond. This really is a park.

On my first trip to Ottawa, before we emigrated from the UK, my husband brought me to see the Village in its winter glory, to convince me that this was a place I could learn to love. He was right.



Kim Ratushny

What motivated you to join the RPRA board?

Prior to joining the RPRA board, I had an opportunity to gain an understanding and appreciation of how Rockcliffe Park is served by outstanding dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of the community to enhance, protect and promote the special attributes of Rockcliffe Park. When I was asked and agreed to join, I recognized that my professional background and experience could be of service to the community. I am motivated by a desire to contribute to past and ongoing collective efforts of the RPRA board to conserve nature, heritage and the neighbourhood for everyone within Rockcliffe Park.

What do you like best about Rockcliffe?

The interconnectedness of nature, heritage and community, day to day and season to season. For over a century, efforts to conserve and enhance that interconnectedness have been ongoing.

What other board/professional experience have you had?

I am a lawyer with the Department of Justice Canada. I've advised on a wide range of matters involving the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, privacy, constitutional, administrative, regulatory, criminal, immigration and customs law.

What stories would you like to share?

Although I am originally from Ottawa, I spent over a decade outside of Canada before my husband and I chose to plant roots back in Ottawa. We had lived and experienced enough different places in the US and overseas to be attracted immediately to the magic of Rockcliffe Park's open green spaces, magnificent trees, wildlife, idyllic lake, wonderful library, schools and community centre. Here was a place that promised community and long restorative walks in nature. Two decades later and Rockcliffe Park continues to delight.

Photo: Couvrette/Ottawa



Natalie Runoff

What motivated you to join the RPRA board?

As a community we share living in Rockcliffe Park and therefore it is up to us to cherish and nurture this unique place. Joining the RPRA allows me to make a positive difference by being better informed, involved in decision-making, and giving back.

What do you like best about Rockcliffe?

The international community of motivated people, the great schools, the history, the location and the park setting! What's not to like?!

What other board/professional experience have you had?

My life, business and volunteering background has been diverse and gives me a broad perspective. I have experienced socialist and capitalist systems, observed and learned from the wisdom of customs in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and North America, studied economy, finance and human resources, and developed businesses in Europe and North America. As a volunteer I have been a member of a small business board, business development focus groups and a member of every parent committee at the schools my kids attended.

What stories would you like to share?

This tale is a reminder not to dwell on the past in a way that interferes with living in the present:

Two monks were travelling together. They came to a river with a strong current where a young woman was waiting, unable to cross. She asked the monks if they would help her across the river. Without a word and in spite of the sacred vow he'd taken not to touch women, one monk picked her up, crossed, and set her down on the other side. Hours passed as the monks travelled on. Finally, the other monk asked "Why did you carry that woman despite our vows?" The other monk replied, "I set her down hours ago by the side of the river. Why are you still carrying her?"



Gouhar Shemdin

What motivated you to join the RPRA board?

We moved here in 2012. Neighbours knew of my expertise in architectural conservation and asked me to join the board. Since Rockcliffe Park is a heritage conservation district, I thought my background could be helpful. We had lived in the Glebe and I had worked with the Glebe Community Association in saving the historic 1912 Bank Street bridge and on the restoration of Patterson Creek Pond's stone walls.

What do you like best about Rockcliffe?

I am fascinated with its history and development as a residential park. I admire thinkers who plan projects beyond providing shelter, serving the human need for stimulation by nature. Gaudi's Park Güell in Barcelona is another example contemporary to Rockcliffe Park. Here we enjoy green spaces, the lake, quiet neighbourhoods, diverse architectural styles, views, fauna and flora. We enjoy photographing birds and animals and reporting our sightings to neighbours Lola Price and Tony Keith for Tony's newsletter column.

What other board/professional experience have you had?

I was a conservation architect with the federal government for 25 years, and also worked internationally on heritage initiatives with UNESCO and the Getty Conservation Institute. I have served on the boards of the Association for Preservation Technology International, the International Council of Monuments and Sites, Heritage Ottawa and LACAC. I am currently on the Board of Historic Ottawa Development Inc. and the Advisory Council of the Iraqi Institute for Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraqi Kurdistan.

What stories would you like to share?

We had the good fortune to be neighbours of the late Diana Rowley, and enjoyed attending her annual parties marking winter's end. The meal always included caribou or smoked arctic char shipped for the occasion by friends in the North.



Mark Willcox

What motivated you to join the RPRA board?

My wife and I moved into the neighbourhood in the fall of 2014. That winter I was appalled by the poor condition of the winter roads and the minimal snow-clearing the city was doing, so I set about trying to find out who to complain to and what could be done about it. Soon I was on the phone with the president of the RPRA, who was right on top of the issue, and informed me that the RPRA had already taken steps to resolve it. I learned about and was impressed by the diverse committee structure and the dedication of the board members as well as the community at large. The RPRA gets a lot of stuff done! What a community! I had to get more involved.

What do you like best about Rockcliffe?

The heritage, environment and community. What an incredible combination! Not only does Rockcliffe Park possess all three attributes, but it also has such a large number of dedicated volunteers who devote their time to preserving and enhancing the beauty of this fine community.

What other board/professional experience have you had?

I retired from a federal department dedicated to the protection of the environment, including minimizing the spread of invasive species, and I carry that passion with me to work with the community to preserve and protect the environment of Rockcliffe Park. I am a board member on our cottage association, which is dedicated to the preservation of water quality and the environment. Being part of community associations makes one feel more a part of the community.

Meet the RPRA Board: Members respond to questions designed to reveal their motivation for living in Rockcliffe Park and volunteering for the RPRA board. Compiled and edited by Alison Green and Marilyn Venner.

Hockey Documentary Screening to Benefit Carleton University Indigenous Students

On Wednesday, February 22 at the ByTowne Cinema in Ottawa, audiences will have the opportunity watch a feature-length documentary film about the greatest hockey series ever held while contributing at the same time to a Canadian diplomatic scholarship fund for a graduate student of indigenous background to study international affairs at Carleton University.

'IceBreaker: The 1972 Summit Series' tells the story of the eight-game Canada-USSR Summit Series of 1972. White Pine Pictures of Toronto and Adobe Productions International of Montreal (the film co-producers of IceBreaker) have teamed up with the Canadian Ambassadors Alumni Association and the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers (sponsors of the scholarship) to make this special event possible. The film is based in part on the national best selling book, 'Ice War Diplomat: Hockey Meets Cold War Politics at the 1972 Summit Series,' written by a former Canadian career diplomat and ambassador, Gary J. Smith. He, along with Peter Raymont, president of White Pine Pictures and the film's executive producer, and the film's director, Robbie Hart, will be in attendance at the screening.

The scholarship in the Faculty of Public Affairs at Carleton University is named after the late Deborah Chatsis. A member of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation in Saskatchewan, she was one of the first Indigenous women to join the Foreign Service. Deborah passed away in 2022 after a long and distinguished career.

Tickets for the screening are \$15 each; all proceeds plus book royalties from the evening will go to the scholarship fund. They can be ordered online from the ByTowne Cinema or purchased at the box office. Doors will open at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 22, with introductions at 6:45 and the screening at 7:00, followed by a question and answer session. For further information, please contact Elizabeth Heatherington at 613-745-4677.

Upcoming Programs at the Library

Rockcliffe Park Library, located at 380 Springfield Road, has exciting programming for you to enjoy this winter! Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, on hiatus but still raising funds through periodic book drives. Come in and visit us any time or join us for any of our free programs. Please note that any registrations can be done in person, by phone, or online at bibliooottawa.library.ca/en.

PD Day Programs: We offer lots of fun and educational programming on many school holidays. On a recent PD Day in January, we had an enthusiastic group of children (and adults, too) turn out for 'Science is Everywhere.' Our guest presenters, Connor (Grade 2) and Avery (Grade 4), showed us some super cool science demos in chemistry and physics, and then all participants completed an experiment exploring the scientific methods, using balloon rockets.

On Friday, February 17 at 10:30 am, join us for 'Sound in Living Colour,' a painting and music workshop with musician Kathryn Patricia. Children will make connections between music and painting. While listening to different musical pieces played by Kathryn on her viola, students will paint landscapes and reflect on people, places and images that inspire them to tell their life stories. Participants will learn painting techniques and reflect on the music and the imagery it inspires.

March Break: We will be offering programs throughout this year's March break week (March 13-17). On Friday, March 17 we will have storyteller Tess McManus and harpist Susan Toman to entertain us with songs and tales from Ireland!



Other Programs: Adults in the community may be interested in the presentation of 'The Voyage of the Dal' coming up on February 28 at 6:30 pm. The Dal was a small yacht sailed by three Polish men in 1933-34 from Gdynia to the World's Fair in Chicago. The book was a best seller in Poland in the 1930s. When Stalin came to power, sailing was banned and even leaving one's village required special papers, so the book itself was banned.

It was republished in 1957, in Polish, and although again a huge success in Poland, the book was largely unavailable outside of that country until the author's stepson, Rockcliffe resident Anthony Keith, had it translated by Ottawa author Irene Tomaszewski and it was published in English for the first time in 2019.

And finally, in April we will offer 'Music in the Stacks,' an evening with a quartet of musicians from the NAC orchestra!

For more information on these and other events, check out the program and event calendar on the Ottawa Public Library website, bibliooottawa.library.ca/en/programming-calendar.

Martha Hodgson

Above: The children's section at the library. Below: Balloon rockets at a recent PD Day 'Science is Everywhere' demo.



The Future of the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale

Book lovers and patrons of the Spring Book Sale are no doubt disappointed that there will not be a Sale at the Community Hall in April this year. Although life in the city is returning to 'normal' and many events have started up again, Covid remains an ongoing concern for holding large gatherings in crowded indoor spaces and for the volunteers preparing for such events.

Many of our volunteers are over 65 years of age, if not older. We have not yet determined how we can hold our pricing sessions safely. Furthermore, the Sale itself poses a huge challenge – pre-pandemic, over 1,500 people would pass through our small space in the first few hours of the Sale – and we have not yet found a solution to manage these numbers in a safe manner.

That said, Sale coordinators and long-time volunteers are actively engaged in a discussion on how best to bring back the Sale – perhaps next year in 2024? Now is the perfect time to look at how we have done things in the past and see what changes we can make to streamline and improve our process. To give one example, we could change the way we price our books. Strong arguments can be made in favour of standardized pricing (\$X for a hardback, \$Y for paper) as opposed to our current system of individual pricing for each book. Such a change would reduce, if not eliminate, the need for crowded pricing sessions. We are looking at all aspects of the Sale, from how we cull, sort and store inventory to management of the Sale itself.

The recent retirement of Linda McDonald from her leading role in managing virtually all aspects of the Sale presents us with another challenge. Linda never wanted to be considered 'Chair'; rather she saw herself as part of a triumvirate of Sale coordinators alongside Jane Newcombe and Kevin Phillips. But she will be hard to replace – we will miss her indefatigable enthusiasm for all things Book Sale, her boundless energy and superb organizational skills. Thank you, Linda, for everything you've done for this community over the years. Fortunately, Linda has agreed to continue volunteering with us and is willing to brief and mentor any possible successor.

So what's next for 2023? At a minimum, we can continue to hold contactless Book Drives once the weather improves, and there is the possibility of a 'mini-Sale' of children's and French books in the spring. (See details in Linda McDonald's report in the RP Annual Report included with this newsletter.) In the short term, we will continue our discussions on the future of the Sale. If you are interested in helping us ensure that this wonderful community event continues, or would like to be part of the discussion, contact me at cbreteron@me.com.

Carolyn Brereton



Speakers Program

Wednesdays at 8:00 pm
Rockcliffe Park Community Hall
380 Springfield Road

March 8, 2023

Thomas d'Aquino:
'Private Power ~ Public Purpose'



Based on his newly published memoir – 'Private Power ~ Public Purpose: Adventures in Business, Politics, and the Arts' – long-time Rockcliffe Park resident Tom d'Aquino will offer personal insights on four decades of private sector leadership at the apex of power with the Business Council of Canada. He has been hailed as a transforming voice in redefining the role of business and the shaping of responsible capitalism, and as a champion of Canada's place on the world stage. Beyond business and public policy, he tells tales about his lifelong love affair with arts and culture.

The Speakers Program presents engrossing evenings with presentations by distinguished speakers, followed by questions, coffee and cookies. Admission is free. **Out of respect for all, we strongly urge that masks be worn.**

The Speakers Program is an initiative of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and is supported by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. For more information visit rockcliffepark.ca.

Photo: National Gallery of Canada



Recap: Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

On a glorious winter evening in December, neighbours gathered behind the Community Hall to celebrate the season with the Rockcliffe Park Resident Association's (RPRA) annual Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, the first since pandemic shutdowns.

After the initial welcome by RPRA Community Chair Lisa Cogan, Councillor Rawlson King offered seasonal greetings and remarked on how heartwarming it was to once again be part of the traditional holiday gathering. Rockcliffe Park Foundation Chair Sarah Baxter followed with warm wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. Long-time resident Jane Dobell then had the honour of lighting the tree while the Elmwood School Junior Choir enthusiastically performed a selection of carols for the audience.



The evening concluded with a lively carol sing, accompanied by the Salvation Army brass band. RPRA Treasurer John Butterfield presented a donation to Salvation Army representative Linda Colwell in appreciation of the band's participation. The Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre's Ahmet Kapici and Ron Long also attended, and were grateful for attendees' donations in support of the centre's food bank.

The RPRA wishes to acknowledge the Rockcliffe Park Foundation for its support of this community event. Special thanks goes to Marilyn Venner for her assistance in organizing the event; thanks also to Liz and Scott Heatherington for their help during the evening.

Lisa Cogan, Community Chair



Photos: Top, from left: The lighted tree, in all its glory. Community Chair Lisa Cogan with the festively attired Jane Dobell. Middle: Elmwood School Junior Choir serenades onlookers. Bottom, from left: Offerings of Timbits and hot chocolate were big hits with the crowd. The Salvation Army brass band lead the audience in the event's traditional carol sing.



Recap: Children's Holiday Party

On Sunday, December 11, a festively decorated Rockcliffe Park Community Hall was filled with children's laughter, joyful music and the inviting smell of popcorn. The longstanding tradition – RPRA Children's Holiday Party – was finally back after the pandemic shutdown.

Kids had lots of choices: meet with Santa, ride along on John Cundell's horse-drawn 'sleigh,' be dazzled by Steve Warburton's magic tricks, decorate gingerbread 'ugly sweaters' or houses and families (including pets!), and/or work on various holiday crafts and a special, made-for-the-occasion colouring book. A quiet area by the library offered story readings by volunteers and the chance to learn about different traditions celebrated around the world including Bodhi Day, Hanukkah, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Kwanzaa, the Indigenous Sun Solstice celebration, Midwinter Day in Antarctica (which is held in June!), Santa Lucia and Yalda Night.

Popcorn, varieties of cookies, vegetables, fruits and hot chocolate with marshmallows kept the crowd in the holiday spirit.

Our many thanks go to the neighbourhood families who attended the event and for their donations to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre in support of its food bank. Our gratitude and appreciation go to our major donor, the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, and to Mark Motors, Marilyn and Reba Wilson of Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties, and to Starbucks on MacKay Street for their additional support and sponsorship.

This event's success is a combined effort of a dedicated team of volunteers. Thanks to students Dean, Leah, Raluca, Clara, Ori and Katherine, volunteers Madalina Voina, Liviu Voina, Emilie Perras, Martin Perras, Emily Jamieson, Imbaw Storer and Marilyn Venner. Thanks also to Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre's Caryn Lafreniere, and to Ashbury reps Todd Lamont and Bryan MacKinnon.



Special thanks to RPRA community leaders Lisa Cogan, Jean-Guy Dumoulin (Santa!), Russ Gibson and John Butterfield. And even Mother Nature contributed with a dusting of fresh snow!

Children and adults worked together to create a 'community bond' (a multi-coloured garland, pictured on this issue's front cover) which brought the community together and became the centrepiece of the party's tree decorations.

Natalie Runoff, Event Coordinator

Photo at right, courtesy of James Cohen
Graphic below by Natalie Runoff



Parking in Rockcliffe Park: Your Questions, Answered

Even as we hope and trust that the Village will continue to be protected by the Heritage Plan, it's clear that the City of Ottawa's New Official Plan will inevitably bring new pressures and changes to surrounding neighbourhoods. We don't yet know the extent to which increased traffic and high-rise construction will change the local landscape, reduce tree cover and affect wildlife, but it's already clear that something not even addressed in our Heritage Plan has the potential to affect the Village significantly: an increase in non-resident traffic, a consequence of the lack of parking in adjacent communities.

Developers are now not just allowed but encouraged to build multi-unit properties with little or no provision for resident parking, in the hope or expectation that the new occupants will turn to alternate methods of transportation. Unfortunately, the reality is that for many people it is impossible, or at least very inconvenient, to manage without a car – and those people will be looking for places to leave their vehicles. There are already residential units in the area whose occupants have nowhere to park, and more are under construction. There are no public parking lots. Property managers advise potential occupants that 'street parking is available.'

Vanier has already recognized this potential problem and taken steps to minimize the impact there by making their streets 'Resident Parking Only.' There's little parking space available on the streets of Lindenlea and New Edinburgh, where density is higher and lots are narrower than in the Village.

Which leaves Rockcliffe Park. The Village has lots of parking space, as frontages are wide and residents rarely leave their cars on the street. Traffic is light, it's a low-crime area – and it's free parking, just a short walk from Beechwood.

The panhandle area is already being affected, and as new residential buildings are occupied, people in need of a convenient parking spot will have to look a little further afield. Juliana, Lakeway, Maple East, and the lower part of Wood are quiet, level roads with no parking restrictions and convenient pedestrian access from Beechwood. As intensification produces similar pressures further along Hemlock, other parts of Rockcliffe Park will become attractive.

Is parking permitted in the Village?

In the absence of signage, parking is permitted on any city road for up to three hours at a time during the day, Monday to Friday, and six hours on weekends and statutory holidays. The clock is reset by moving to a new spot at least 300 metres away. There's no restriction on overnight parking, 7:00 pm to 7:00 am. In effect this means a car could legally be parked on your street most of the time, provided it gets moved once or twice during the day.

Other restrictions: parking is prohibited within nine metres (30 feet) of an intersection, three metres (10 feet) of a fire hydrant, 1.5 metres (five feet) of a driveway, or on a roadway that is six metres or less in width. By-law officers do not monitor parking outside of the downtown area; they act only in response to complaints. Residents should call 311 to report illegal parking.

Could some streets be made 'No Parking'?

Street parking is entirely under the jurisdiction of the City of Ottawa. Village streets, like the rest of the city, are public highways, and no one has the right to prevent parking in front of their house. Gone are the days when residents of a street could get together and file a petition for their street to be made 'No Parking,' which would be granted if two-thirds of them approved. Now it's entirely the city's decision, although they may consult residents, as happened in the vicinity of the Pond.



Is 'Resident Parking Only' an option for the Village?

Ottawa's Residential Parking Permit Program bans parking, except for permit holders, on designated streets or portions of streets. The program is intended for areas where many of the residents have nowhere else to park except on the street, and residents with garages or driveways are not eligible for permits so it wouldn't work for Rockcliffe Park.

Should we learn to live with it?

This is a much wider issue than inconvenience and disturbance of residents; it goes to the essence of what Rockcliffe Park stands for. The qualities that define the Heritage Conservation District (currently up for consideration as a District of National Historic Significance) are incompatible with a secondary use as a free car park. The Heritage District is an amenity for visitors as well as residents.

There's also the safety issue. Residents and visitors are accustomed to strolling freely through the Village, and local drivers expect to share the roads with walkers – Rockcliffe Park is effectively a 'pedestrians first' area. Adding parked cars and non-residents looking for a good overnight spot into the mix would inevitably change the balance and make our (dimly-lit) streets more hazardous. As there are no sidewalks, parked cars force pedestrians to use the middle of the road – extremely risky, especially in winter.

If you have thoughts, concerns or suggestions, please share them with the RPRA at secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

Kay James



Arthur Blair Adams

On December 19, 2022, Arthur Blair Adams, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away too soon following a heart attack. Blair was born in London, Ontario to Roy and Elizabeth (née Miller) and grew up in Ottawa. A graduate of Lisgar Collegiate Institute, he completed his bachelor's degree at Carleton University before studying dentistry at the University of Western Ontario and specializing in orthodontics at Tufts University. He established a successful orthodontic practice in Ottawa; his patients and peers will remember him for his eye for detail and his infectious love of learning. Friends knew him for his passions for skiing, cycling and travel, his sense of humour, and his unending quest for barbecue perfection.

Blair was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 45 years, Kathryn 'Joselyn' (née Sweeney), their daughter Nicola (Craig Williams), grandchildren Leo, Margaret and Audrey, sister Nancy, and nieces Kate and Lesley. He will be fondly remembered by his sister-in-law Alyson (wife of the late Dr. Ed McLelland).

In memoriam, donations to the Canadian Red Cross, the Ottawa Humane Society or the University of Ottawa Heart Institute would be appreciated by the family.

From The Ottawa Citizen, December 2022



Margot Carol Gualtieri

Margot Gualtieri was a woman of warmth, grace and kindness. She was energetic and curious about the world.

Margot was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was much loved by her extended family. She was a dear friend. She was a generous supporter of her community and the arts. (A memorial to Margot from her family occupies a place very close to the centre of the Village Green in Rockcliffe Park, north of Mariposa Avenue between Springfield Road and Buchan Road. The memorial consists of a sculpture of three large pine cones, entitled 'Regeneration,' along with a plaque.)

Margot died at home aged 93, in the house she lived in for most of her life and where she raised her family. She is predeceased by her husband Roberto and leaves her children Eric (Linzi), Inger and Dominic (Dasha), and grandchildren Anders, Miranda, Imogen (Matt), Luciano and Marcello.

Margot lived a full and rich life. She worked for External Affairs in Ottawa and Geneva. She was a diplomat's wife in Belgrade. She was an adventurous traveler, from hiking in the Himalayas to spending time with family in Europe and South Africa. She loved the arts and was well read. She loved her house and her garden. She volunteered widely. While she faced some hardship, tragedy and physical health challenges, she always retained her positive outlook and indomitable spirit. All in all she lived a remarkable and giving life.

A celebration of her life will be held when her garden blooms in the spring.

From The Ottawa Citizen, January 2023



Norma Young

Norma Young, 76, of Ottawa, passed away on December 23, 2022, having lived with cancer for one year. She is survived by sons Calvin and Ryan (Marion), and her granddaughter, Iris.

Born on July 26, 1946 in Montreal to the late Sarah 'Sadie' Samms and Frederick Young of Codroy, Newfoundland, Norma attended the Thistleton Regional Centre (Child Care Counseling Program) and St. Paul's University (certificate in Ethics, summa cum laude). After raising her sons, Norma continued working as a childcare specialist until her cancer diagnosis.

She will be remembered as a loyal friend and passionate storyteller.

In keeping with Norma's studies and work, donations can be made in her honour to Children's Mental Health Ontario (cmho.org) in lieu of donations to Thistleton Regional Centre, which was closed by the Government of Ontario, thereby displacing 400 children, youth, and families receiving services and support for complex mental health, behavioural and developmental challenges.

From The Globe and Mail, January 2023



The Yan Family

We joined Penny Yan, her daughter Abby and their four-year-old pup, Buttercup, at their beautiful home near Ashbury College on a snowy winter afternoon in early January. The Yans moved to Rockcliffe Park last September to be near Abby's new school, Ashbury, after 10 years in the east of Ottawa.

The striking 1940s house is straight out of an Edwardian novel, situated on a tree-filled corner lot adorned with an inspired sunroom and second floor balcony. Their large, impeccably landscaped yard offers refuge and play for all seasons, and in their welcoming living room we learned about Abby's spacious studio, which occupies the entire third floor (complete with a secret room!) as well as the wonders of a classic industrial fireplace design (after some misadventures...).

Penny is a mortgage development manager with the National Bank/Banque Nationale. Abby is enjoying her first year at Ashbury and is now an expert on the local economy and all things Beechwood Village. Her favourite: Mr. Luko, as it has the best donuts.

The Yans have been surprised by the variety of walking options in the neighborhood, with so many trails and so many places to explore, from the Governor's House down to the lake, across to the river and beyond. They love the history of Rockcliffe and are amazed every day with all that there is to discover. Although Halloween was a bit of a disappointment (Penny was ready with a large inventory of the city's best treats, but received no more than five or six takers), they are thankful for the warm welcome from their neighbours and for the friendliness of the community.

Compiled and written by Shannon Lundquist and Kevin Craft. If you and your family are interested in being featured in Rockcliffe Park Welcomes..., send us an email at slundquist@deloitte.ca or kevincraft@hotmail.com.



The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) is busy preparing for the upcoming summer season. This year ONEC will be celebrating two key milestones in our history:

Celebrating 50 years of summer camps at ONEC: We have been providing the best possible opportunity for each and everyone of our campers for 50 years. Our goal is to provide a happy, supportive and safe environment for kids to learn, grow and become outdoor adventurers. We offer full day camps in tennis, sailing, rowing and kayaking in the months of July and August. Booking is now open at onec.ca – early bird discounted pricing is available on all our camps until April 30, while places remain. Summer camps fill up early so don't miss out!

We are now recruiting for summer student jobs (camp instructors for tennis, sailing, rowing and kayaking, and also tennis pavilion staff) as well as volunteer counselors-in-training (CITs) for high school students interested in becoming instructors in future years. More details are available at onec.ca/onec-camps.

Celebrating 100 years of sports activity at the current ONEC site, at the bottom of the Rockeries: In August 1923, the Ottawa New Edinburgh Canoe Club, ONEC's predecessor, opened its newly built boathouse to coincide with the club hosting the national Canadian canoeing championships. Since then ONEC has been promoting sports activity on the Ottawa River from the current site for an unbroken 100 years.

We had been hoping to celebrate the centenary by moving back into the newly renovated boathouse, but the NCC still has further work to complete on the exterior of the building and docks, so at least for the start of the season we will again be operating from the same temporary shoreline facility as last year.

Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC)

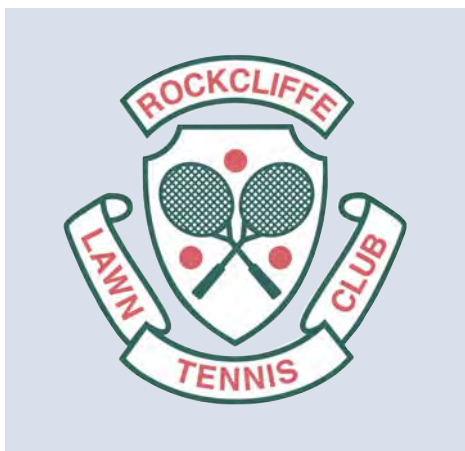
Membership registration is now open at onec.ca. The club is offering memberships in its sports of tennis, sailing, rowing and paddling (kayaking and SUP – stand-up paddleboarding). Members can sign up for a single sport or a number of sports (at large discounts for additional sports).

Early bird membership discounts are available for those registering by April 30. This year the club has special rates for young adults (ages 18 to 30) at 50 percent of the normal adult rate and youth memberships for children under age 18 at 25 percent of the normal adult rate. There are also family membership packages available at excellent rates.

As well as memberships, ONEC also offers clinics and courses for non-members wishing to learn these sports. More details will be available on the website later in the spring.

John Butterfield





Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC)

The Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Many events are planned, including an elegant social on the grounds, tennis tournaments and regular BBQs throughout the season. The 2023 season begins in early May. Opening of the clay courts will be weather permitting. The season often lasts into November.

This year we welcome Michael Bowen as our new club manager. With a master's degree in management, he has a breadth of experience in the tennis industry. Michael worked for Grand Slam Tennis Tours in the USA, helping with the representation of top tennis professionals such as John Isner, Cameron Norrie, Caroline Garcia and more.

Under the guidance of our tennis professionals, we offer a wide range of programming for all ages and skills – private lessons, weekly clinics, round robins, ladders matches, tournaments, and junior programs at both a recreational and competitive level.

Our new online platform handles membership renewals, program registration, court bookings and clubhouse purchases.

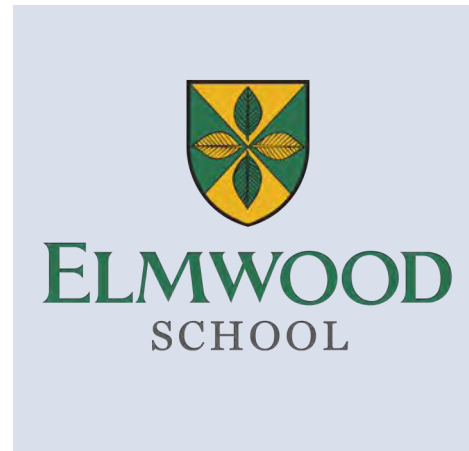
An early bird special on membership rates is offered through the month of February.

Established in 1923, the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club is located in the wooded heart of the Village of Rockcliffe Park. 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.

RLTC is a welcoming, family-friendly, private-members club with 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.

The club is dedicated to embracing the sport of tennis and enhancing our sense of community. RLTC is located at 465 Lansdowne Road North in Rockcliffe Park. For more information go to www.rltennis.ca.

Laurie Maybury, RLTC President

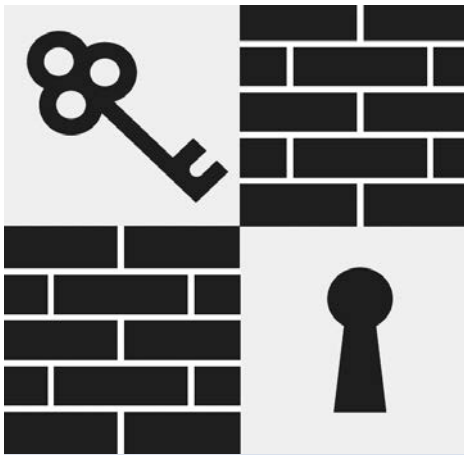


Beaver Computing Challenge Results: The Beaver Computing Challenge, through the University of Waterloo for students in Grades 6-10, is a way to introduce computer science to students and is designed to get students with little or no previous experience excited about computing. It's a problem-solving contest with a focus on computational and logical thinking. Questions are inspired by topics in computer science but only require familiarity with concepts found in mathematics curriculum common to all provinces.

Elmwood students scoring in the top 25 percent of those who took the contest include Georgie Dickson, Charlotte Portengen, Emily Cai, Lakshmi Krishnamoorthy, Rain Liu, Catherine Delaney, Jet Kearns, Elaine Li, Alice Zhao, Madeleine Garner, Charlotte Ogilvie, Naomi Baird, Zoe Goshko, Eva Li, Sadie Hanley, Yaxuan (May) Wang, Clarissa Lauzon, Ava Minnes, Hannah Vermeij and Raluca Voina. Four students in Grades 9/10 received perfect scores of 90; congratulations to Aya Al Khalili, Alexandra Denison, Rowan Parkinson and Madeline Petit.

March Break Camp, March 13-17: Elmwood's popular March Break Discovery Camp is back, combining engaging activities with our usual winning blend of arts, crafts, games and sports. The dynamic program will be served up by our talented, caring counsellors, together with daily outdoor fun and mugs of hot chocolate! This year's camp will be held from March 13 to 17 for students from SK to Grade 6. Visit our website, elmwood.ca, for more details.

Campus Tours Day, February 25: Students and families considering Elmwood for the 2023-24 academic year are invited to join us for a Campus Tour Day on Saturday, February 25. During an in-person, student-led campus tour, which typically takes an hour, you will have your questions answered, visit our facilities, and learn about the Elmwood community. To register visit elmwood.ca.

**RPRA Heritage Committee**

Linda Dicaire, Chair

Michele Hayman,
RPRA Heritage Vice President**RPRA Heritage Outreach**

Susan d'Aquino, Chair

Heritage Committee MembersJohn Cook
Linda Dicaire
Marianne Feaver
Bea Hampson
Michele Hayman
Michael Kelen
Sarah Richardson
Sharda Young**Heritage Outreach
Committee Members**Susan d'Aquino
Linda Dicaire
Kay James
Gouhar ShemdinAll work guided by
The Rockcliffe Park Heritage
Conservation District Plan

RP Heritage Walk 2022 Nominated for City of Ottawa Heritage Award

The City of Ottawa recognizes outstanding achievements in heritage conservation with its biennial Ottawa Heritage Awards. There are awards given for projects in categories such as best restoration or addition to a historic building. In addition, one community award is presented to a group or individual who has had a positive impact on heritage conservation in Ottawa.

Last fall, the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Walk project was nominated for a community heritage award. Readers may recall that on the weekend of June 24 and 25, 2022, Rockcliffe Park hosted a self-guided outdoor walking tour of significant heritage houses.

People were invited to obtain maps at the Community Hall and then follow the route. Signage in front of selected houses described characteristics and included colourful stories of past residents – legendary civil servants and politicians, a few prime ministers, inventors, war heroes, founders of local and national businesses, an Arctic explorer – even a pet bear!

The goal was to bring in and educate residents, neighbouring communities and their associations, Ottawa's heritage districts, heritage officials, city officials and others on the architectural features and history of Rockcliffe Park and the engaging stories of the former homeowners who advanced the development of our Village and our nation.

The Heritage Walk Committee members also wanted to raise awareness and appreciation for the contribution these houses make to the heritage of Rockcliffe Park and to the larger City of Ottawa. The group believes that the more today's residents and others know about the history and what makes up the special character of Rockcliffe Park, the more they will want to join in continuing to nurture, protect and enhance that special character.

The tour was such a success that the Heritage Walk team has resolved to organize this self-guided heritage walk every other year, with additional historic houses added each time.

The Ottawa Heritage Awards will be announced on February 21 at an evening ceremony.





I am proud and honoured to continue to represent the residents of Rideau-Rockcliffe. Our ward is rich in history. With two heritage conservation districts, including Rockcliffe Park, and individually designated homes throughout the ward, heritage and history is interwoven within the fabric of our neighbourhoods. This is why I am proud to have worked with Council colleagues to create a full standing Built Heritage Committee for this new term of Council. Bill 23 includes changes to the Ontario Heritage Act, which will require the city to be more agile to protect its heritage resources. I believe that the creation of a new standing committee demonstrates our collective will as a municipality to protect, promote, and preserve our city's built heritage.

For the 2022-2026 Council term, I was appointed chair of the new Built Heritage Committee and will serve on the Finance and Corporate Services Committee, Environment and Climate Change Committee, and the Community Services Committee. I was also appointed to the boards of Ottawa Public Health, the Ottawa Public Library and Quartier Vanier BIA. I will also continue to serve as Council liaison for the city's Anti-Racism and Ethnocultural Relations Initiatives, leading the implementation of the City of Ottawa's Anti-Racism Strategy.

Working with Council and the community last term, our city created an Anti-Racism Secretariat that consulted with more than 1,000 Ottawa residents and community stakeholders to create a broad and comprehensive plan that has identified concrete actions to remove systemic barriers in city programs, services and policies. Council must also work to deliver the poverty reduction strategy and food security policy that it started last term.

Council must also work to address the growing threat of homelessness by advocating for more affordable housing and improving social services. Despite the challenging economic headwinds we are encountering, we must continue to invest in people and policy innovation. This includes enabling land trusts, helping diverse communities to provide culturally responsive affordable housing, investing in non-market public housing, ensuring that we reduce the cost of transit, and making recreational activities more accessible through lower fees.

It will also be important that we focus on improving the health of our communities. I believe Dr. Vera Etches and the team at Ottawa Public Health should be commended for all the incredible work they undertook to keep our city safe over the past three years. While our public health agency performed in an exemplary fashion, the pandemic has revealed racial and socioeconomic disparities that need to be addressed. We have begun some of that critical work through investment in preventive health measures such as Neighbourhood Health and Wellness Hubs, but we will need to do more.

As we move forward, it will be imperative that we take more action to protect our environment against the existential threat of climate change. This will mean working to ensure that we implement our climate change master plan, to implement the conversion of our transit fleet, and pursue the deep retrofit of buildings. Council will also need to be diligent to deliver a fair and transparent urban planning process in the face of provincial changes that aim to remove planning powers from local government and the public participation of residents. We therefore will need to consistently work to improve democracy and accountability at City Hall in an effort to address the massive fiscal and LRT oversight challenges that confront us, and fight climate change to create a greener, more livable city.

I am excited to pursue the concerns of residents who are seeking more housing, more green space, the protection of our built heritage, significant investments in affordable housing, in traffic management, snow removal, road and pathway maintenance, in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, in reliable transit, and in parks. In order to achieve these investments, I believe we will need to make realistic investments in transit, infrastructure, affordable housing and social services. Consequently, I voted against the 2023 budget direction that proposed tax increases that are drastically less than the inflationary pressures which the city faces.

The city's 2023 draft budget will be considered for adoption by council on March 1. The public can provide input on the draft budget at Committee budget meetings. I will also hold two public consultations on the development of the city's draft budget. Learn more at rideau-rockcliffe.ca/ward_13_budget_consultation.

Rawlson King
City Councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward
rideau-rockcliffe.ca

**RPRA Environment Committee**

Iola Price, Chair

Activities

Invasive Species

The Pond

Village Clean-up

Village Green

Jubilee Garden Maintenance

Wildlife

A Red Squirrel searched the sunflower seed cases on the snow surface beneath our bird feeder early this morning, occasionally finding a seed. Then I realized that there were no squirrel tracks in the snow leading to the spot, but there was a hole in the snow. So the squirrel had spent the night under the snow below the feeder. Red Squirrels in winter usually nest in tree cavities for the night; safe from nocturnal ground predators. This squirrel took a risk, but the benefit would be ownership of the food store at daybreak.

The lake ice has been too thin for walking on to check all of the Tree Swallow nest boxes we have installed around the lake edge. Of the two we have checked, each had a successful nesting. Three other boxes may have had nestings. We will know later this year.

As usual, this winter local Crows are flocking at evening to roost for the night in the trees of the cemetery hill above Hemlock Road. I assume that mass roosting tightly together reduces risk to any single crow of being grabbed by a large owl, such as a Great Horned. On the other hand, owls could hardly miss noticing so large an aggregation.

Anthony Keith, 27 January 2023

Ontario Red Squirrel. Photo: Terry Milewski



On Gardening

We're in the depths of winter at the moment, but when the snow starts to recede and spring fever strikes, here are a few ideas to get your garden off to a good start. My first bit of advice: exercise restraint! Weather patterns have lately become increasingly erratic and unpredictable. Leaving plants standing a bit longer will allow a possible late snowfall to gather around them and insulate the root zone. Also, cutting down plants with hollow stems too early may permit water to enter the cut stem/stalk and freeze at the centre of the plant, leading to damage or death.

Many beneficial insects including native bees over-winter in the natural detritus of the garden. Wait until late spring, around mid-May, before starting garden clean-up to allow hibernating insects a chance to emerge. Exposing them to fluctuating weather conditions and working your garden beds too early may cause harm to local wildlife, including birds that use the garden detritus to build their nests. Refrain from working the soil when it's wet, as this risks compacting and/or harming the soil structure.

When spring fever hits, there are some things that you can safely do in your garden. First, give your tools and garden pots a thorough cleaning and disinfection. Sharpen your garden tools and lawnmower blades. Use a stiff broom to clear the grit off your lawn and driveway. Remove any tree wraps, burlap or tree guards that you may have used. Leaving these in place too long (past early April) could injure the tree's trunk or invite pests and disease. Finally, this is a good time to do any necessary pruning, when plants are dormant. Some conifers (like yew and cedar) can benefit from a light shearing in late winter or early spring before any new growth appears. Perennials with evergreen leaves should be trimmed back before spring growth begins. Pruning is an enormous and important topic. If you have questions about what, when, why or how to prune, I recommend 'A Practical Guide to Pruning' and 'Pruning Made Easy,' both by Peter McHoy. **Gillian Edelson**

National Capital Commission's Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park Plan

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is in the midst of public consultations on its Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park Plan. The NCC is in the third stage of a five-stage planning process ending in the spring of 2024. The RPRA has been represented in both of the Public Advisory Committee meetings to date. At this stage in the planning process the NCC is discussing 'Preliminary Concepts and Goals' for the park with the public. The next stage of public consultation is scheduled for the fall of 2023, at which time 'Strategies, Policies and Sector Plans' will be addressed.

NCC's website includes maps and presentations on the plan (see NCC Link 1 in the box below). The Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park has been divided into three sectors, with a number of nodes within each sector. Sector A includes five nodes within our neighbourhood. Landmarks, along with the NCC's goals for each node, are listed here and marked on the map below:

- **Node 1: Rockcliffe Park Lookout**
Improve river access and development of skiing
- **Node 2: Rockcliffe Park Pavilion**
Four-season use, recognize cultural heritage and showcase archeology
- **Node 3: Pine Hill**
Create river view, introduce interpretive elements and enhance trail entrances
- **Node 4: Rockeries, ONEC Tennis Courts, NCC River House**
Skating rink, introduce sporting facilities, in-river swimming, and enhance Rockeries experience
- **Node 5: Mile Circle**
Four-season use, medium-scale outdoor entertainment, flexible infrastructure and spaces, and the addition of a cultural facility

The plan will bring some welcome enhancements to the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park including revitalization of the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club's rowing, sailing and paddling facilities in the NCC River House (formerly the Boathouse).

However, there are some aspects of the plan that will require input from residents of Rockcliffe Park.



At this stage it is evident that the NCC plans to create facilities in the Mile Circle to include four-season use, medium-scale outdoor entertainment, flexible infrastructure and a cultural facility. These will be dramatic changes to the current green space. In addition, there are no plans to address transportation to or parking near this area, which would presumably result in overflow parking throughout the neighbourhood.

The Mile Circle is habitat for butterflies and other pollinators, provides nesting habitat for ground-nesting birds such as sparrows, and shelter for foxes and wild turkeys. When the NCC proposed the Mile Circle as the site for a new US Embassy in the 1990s, Manor Park, Rockcliffe Park and the other neighbouring communities, led by the late Humphrey Carver (a noted Canadian urban planning theorist), worked together to defeat the proposal on numerous grounds, including that this was a magnificent open space and should remain so in perpetuity.

The NCC planning team was asked about the implications of a possible interprovincial bridge across the Ottawa River and confirmed that this is outside of the scope of the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park planning process.

Matthew Henderson, with Lola Price

Map: ncc-ccn.gc.ca/our-plans/sir-george-etienne-cartier-park-plan; Photo above: from ncc-ccn.gc.ca



SHARE YOUR VIEWS: The NCC has recently opened a 'PlaceSpeak' portal for online public consultation on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park Plan (NCC Link 2 below). Please review the details of the plan, then log into PlaceSpeak on the NCC website to share your views.

NCC Links

- 1 ncc-ccn.gc.ca/our-plans/sir-george-etienne-cartier-park-plan
- 2 ncc-ccn.gc.ca/public-consultations

FEBRUARY

07 TUESDAY

Ticket for Dining with the Ambassadors go on sale for the Rockcliffe Park Foundation's popular biennial fundraiser, May 12, 2023; details on page 4 of this newsletter or at rockcliffeparkfoundation.org

17 FRIDAY 10:30 AM

PD Day Program: 'Sound in Living Colour,' a painting and music workshop with musician Kathryn Patricia; Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 8 of this newsletter

22 WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM

'IceBreaker: The 1972 Summit Series,' the screening of a documentary film to benefit the Canadian diplomatic scholarship fund at Carleton University for an indigenous graduate student; ByTowne Cinema, 325 Rideau Street, Ottawa; details on page 8 of this newsletter

25 SATURDAY

Elmwood School Campus Tours Day, Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road; an in-person, student-led campus tour for those interested in attending the school; details on page 15 of this newsletter

28 TUESDAY 6:30 PM

'The Voyage of the Dal,' the incredible journey by sea undertaken by three Polish adventurers in 1933-34 from Gdynia to the World's Fair in Chicago, presented by Anthony Keith; Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 8 of this newsletter

MARCH

08 WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM

Speakers Program: Thomas d'Aquino: 'Private Power ~ Public Purpose'; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 9 of this newsletter

13 MONDAY TO 17 FRIDAY

Elmwood School March Break Discovery Camp; Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road; details on page 15 of this newsletter

15 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

RPR Annual General Meeting; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; all are welcome; details on page 3 of this newsletter

17 FRIDAY

Library Program: storyteller Tess McManus and harpist Susan Toman entertain with songs and tales from Ireland; Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 8 of this newsletter

APRIL

19 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

RPR Board Meeting; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; all are welcome

MAY

05 FRIDAY

Boutique Cornerstone Pop Up Sale to benefit Cornerstone Housing for Women; Thyme & Again, 1255 Wellington Street West; note that donations of gently used women's clothing and accessories are welcome; details at cornerstonewomen.ca or see the April 2023 issue of this newsletter

06 SATURDAY

Boutique Cornerstone Pop Up Sale to benefit Cornerstone Housing for Women; Thyme & Again, 1255 Wellington Street West; note that donations of gently used women's clothing and accessories are welcome; details at cornerstonewomen.ca or see the April 2023 issue of this newsletter

12 FRIDAY 6:00 PM

Dining with the Ambassadors, Rockcliffe Park Foundation's biennial fundraiser; the evening begins with a cocktail party at the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, followed by dinners hosted by our diplomatic neighbours; details on page 4 of this newsletter or at rockcliffeparkfoundation.org

17 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

RPR Board Meeting; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; all are welcome

The Rockcliffe News is published six times a year, on or about the 15th of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions are welcome by the first day of the publication month. Copy may be edited for clarity or length. Paid advertising is not accepted. Send your comments, questions and submissions to editor@rockcliffepark.ca. The Rockcliffe News is supported by grants from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. Editor: Cynthia Hamady. Thanks to the newsletter team: Sarah Baxter, Michele Hayman, Kay James, Lola Price and Marilyn Venner, and to the newsletter delivery volunteers.

Join Us: RPR and Rockcliffe Park Foundation: To volunteer or find out more about any of the RPR committees and sub-committees, contact volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca. To become involved with the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, send an email to info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org. **Welcome New Neighbours:** We hope you enjoy this issue of The Rockcliffe News, and all that Rockcliffe has to offer. Don't miss the weekly email, 'News and Events in Rockcliffe Park,' sent exclusively to Rockcliffe residents who are members of the RPR. To join the RPR (\$25 per household/year), go to rockcliffepark.ca/shop or email membership@rockcliffepark.ca. **Renew Your RPR Membership:** Your membership helps the RPR represent your interests and signs you up for our communications. If you're not sure if your membership is up to date, send an email to membership@rockcliffepark.ca.