

ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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Annual General Meeting of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

March 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

# Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

To be held on **March 15, 2023**  
 at 7:00 pm, in person at the  
**Rockcliffe Park Community Hall,**  
**380 Springfield Road, Ottawa**

This notice is provided to the membership of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association in accordance with section 1 of BY-LAW No. 1 of the association. In accordance with the BY-LAW, voting Members may vote by proxy. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual report of the directors, the financial statements of the association for the period ending December 31, 2022, and to consider the requirement of an audit, or waive an audit. Paid-up Members on the membership list provided to the Chair prior to the meeting by the membership secretary will be recognized as such at the meeting.

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order, welcome to the meeting and approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Approval of the financial statements of the association to December 31, 2022
4. Consideration of the requirement of an Audit or Waiver of Audit
5. Introduction of Annual Report of Directors, Nominating Committee and Elections
6. Adjournment of AGM
7. Member Question and Answer period (to be followed by a short meeting of the newly elected board of directors)

Dated at Ottawa, February 8, 2023

# 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, which are divided into our three core mandate areas: community building, heritage and environment. The RPRA also represents the interests of Rockcliffe Park and its residents to the city.

The RPRA board meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, except for July, August and December. Meetings are in the evening and are open to all.

**Rockcliffe Park Email Addresses**

- russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca (RPRA President)
- secretary@rockcliffepark.ca
- environment@rockcliffepark.ca
- communications@rockcliffepark.ca
- membership@rockcliffepark.ca
- volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca
- webupdates@rockcliffepark.ca
- editor@rockcliffepark.ca

**rockcliffepark.ca**

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On the cover: The Rockcliffe Park Community Hall and Library at 380 Springfield Road is the hub of Rockcliffe Park's many activities and services. The centre opened in 1994 after a very successful fundraising campaign within the Village. Photo: Cynthia Hamady, taken on January 14, 2023.





I am pleased to present this report to the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRRA).

This past year, RPRRA programs and activities resumed on a regular schedule in the second half of the year. Our activities are now primarily conducted in person. The reports of committee chairs in this annual report reflect the reality of our association adjusting to post-pandemic circumstances. Without the support of residents, members and volunteers, together with the ongoing financial support of the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, the RPRRA would be unable to meet its mandate. Thanks to all our supporters.

The financial support of the Rockcliffe Park Foundation in furtherance of the three foundational pillars of our association, building community, preserving and enhancing our natural environment, and supporting the objectives of the Heritage Conservation District Plan, are detailed elsewhere in this report. For specifics in this regard, I refer you to the financial report of the Treasurer.

Despite being paused in 2020-2021, the activities of the RPRRA remain as varied as ever, and, in several respects, they expanded this past year. With apologies to volunteers for not being able to mention everything that occurred, the RPRRA sponsored in 2022, among other things, the maintenance of the Jubilee Garden, children's soccer league, a campaign to eliminate gas-powered leaf-blowers, established an inaugural Rockcliffe Park Community Tree Day event, supported water testing of the Pond and data collection related to swimmers accessing it, participated in a Public Art Initiative with the City of

Ottawa, held a Heritage Walk to highlight our heritage district, sponsored an all-candidates meeting related to the municipal elections last fall, promoted fundraising for the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre and its food bank, held eight monthly community meetings, organized Movie Night in the Jubilee Garden, a Children's Holiday Party, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, resumed our Speakers Program, published six newsletters, sent weekly eblasts to members, participated in advocacy in support of local causes (e.g., opposing Bill 23), moved the LACAC Heritage/Archive records of the RPRRA to a temporary storage location, supported funding of the Ski Heritage East Trail, worked with the Rockcliffe Park Foundation on a plan to rehabilitate the Stone Circle – not to mention the work of the RPRRA Heritage Committee in providing comments on Heritage Permit applications to the City of Ottawa and in updating the RPRRA Board of Directors on their activities.

The RPRRA also maintained positive working relationships with local officials this past year and supported the establishment of a Built Heritage Committee of Ottawa City Council as a full committee of Council, chaired by Councillor Rawlson King. As a large working board of community residents, with the help of many volunteers, much was accomplished this past year. Thankfully, the RPRRA has many engaged and energetic volunteers who are willing to help.

In the year ahead, there are a number of ongoing plans by the National Capital Commission (NCC) which could impact our community: consultations on the use of the

lands adjacent to the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway, including the Mile Circle, the reopening of the renamed NCC River House (formerly the Boat House), the ongoing spectre of a sixth inter-provincial bridge, as well as the possible opening of commercial cafés or similar establishments in NCC-owned venues near Rockcliffe Park. We will do our best to share information concerning these developments. However, if you wish to make your voice heard, you can access the NCC's online consultation portal at [ncc-ccn.gc.ca/public-consultations](http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/public-consultations).

We currently have a number of openings on various committees of the RPRRA for which we are again seeking volunteers, including on the Heritage Committee. If you are interested, contact our volunteer coordinator at [volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca).

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Executive Director of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, Mr. Sebastian Gaissert, who can be reached at [Sebastian.Gaissert@ccrrc.org](mailto:Sebastian.Gaissert@ccrrc.org). We look forward to working with the RRCRC in the years ahead.

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held in person at 7:00 pm on March 15, 2023 at the Community Hall. I hope that you will join us. If you are not a member of the RPRRA and would like to join, or need to renew your membership in order to vote at this AGM, you may do so by following the directions on our website, [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca).

**Russell Gibson, President**  
[russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca)  
613-858-3391



**RPR Community Committee**

Lisa Cogan, Chair

**Volunteer Coordinator**

Mark Willcox

**Activities**

- Speakers Program
- Rockcliffe News and Events Email Blast
- RPR 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

Spring Book Sale volunteers Claire Sullivan and Kevin Phillips, busily sorting books at a Book Drive in 2022.



**Speakers Program:** Due to the Covid pandemic, we were forced to suspend our popular Speakers Program beginning in March 2020. After a hiatus of almost three years, we resumed our program at the Community Hall in December 2022. During the hiatus, we held one session via Zoom in 2021, given the immense interest in the new book by Mark Carney, a Rockcliffe Park resident and former Governor of the Bank of England and Bank of Canada. He spoke most engagingly about his book – ‘Value(s): Building a Better World for All.’

In December 2022, we were delighted to celebrate the return of our 22-year-old program with journalist, author and professor Andrew Cohen. He tackled the deeply troubling question of just what is going on south of our border in a talk entitled ‘Democracy in America.’ Our program continues in 2023 with our devoted team: Michele Hayman, Nancy Hooper, Joan Kellest, Karen Leslie, lola Price, Imbaw Storer and Marilyn Venner.

**Susan d’Aquino**

**Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale:** 2022 seemed busier than usual, although we did not have a Sale. We hosted three Book Drives in May, September and November, which were very successful thanks to the continuing support of our neighbourhood writ large. We advertise for these Drives in the neighbourhood Listservs, the Rockcliffe Park eblast, with posters in the Library and Community Hall, posters in shops along Beechwood Avenue, and through our Facebook page.

The books collected from these drives are culled by our volunteers and sold to a second-hand book store. We thus are able to continue to raise funds for the Library.

We also have been managing the ‘Shelf Sales’ in the Library. Books for the Shelves come from the Book Drives and will include fiction, mystery, spy, biography and non-fiction titles. We promoted some children’s books during the Christmas season and hope to continue to offer these books in the future. Clients simply take the book(s) of their choice and pay the Librarian.

We held back a number of children’s books and French language titles, as the quality of the books received was quite excellent. We had hoped to launch a ‘mini-Sale’ on the back lawn of the Community Hall for only these selections. Alas, this was not possible in 2022, but we are hoping to organize such a ‘mini-Sale’ in spring of 2023.

Funds from our donation in 2022 allowed the Library staff to add to the collections, continue to fund newspapers and magazines, and provide an enhanced Express program for both books and DVDs.

Programming was somewhat slow during the first half of the year, as Covid-related reticence kept people from group initiatives. The last half of the year, in particular, proved very successful. Staff organized such events as PD Days, Indigenous-related storytelling, Intergenerational Programs, authors for adults, Music in the Stacks (a very successful program which this year drew 52 avid listeners), Music in the Stacks for children, etc., etc. The list is too long to be exhaustive.



John Cundell's horse-drawn 'sleigh' was one of the popular offerings at the Children's Holiday Party.

In 2023, we will focus on Book Drives once again. We will try to organize three or four but this depends on weather and volunteer availability. And time will tell if we are able to organize the 'mini-Sale'; if possible, it will be held in May.

As I will retire from my post at the end of 2023, we are looking for someone to provide managerial oversight to the Sale. Our volunteers are actively engaging in a discussion on moving forward (hopefully in 2024) with changes to the way we organize ourselves, with a view to simplifying the organizational efforts to mount the Sale. If you are interested in assisting, please contact me at olive099@outlook.com.

**Linda McDonald, Book Sale Chair**

**Holiday Events in 2022:** After seemingly endless Covid shutdowns, we were finally able to bring back Rockcliffe Park's two beloved annual winter holiday events, the Christmas Lighting and Carol Sing, and the Children's Holiday Party, both held at the Community Hall in December. The events were supported by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.

On December 11, after opening remarks by Community Chair Lisa Cogan, Councillor Rawlson King and Foundation Chair Sarah Baxter, Rockcliffe resident Jane Dobell lit the magnificent tree behind the Community Hall while the Elmwood School Junior Choir serenaded the spectators with a medley of carols. Following the tree lighting and the presentation of a donation to the Salvation Army by RPRAs treasurer, John Butterfield, the Salvation Army brass band led the

audience in a carol sing. Hot chocolate and Timbits were provided to warm up the crowd. Representatives from Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, the focus of the RPRAs fundraising initiative, were on hand to accept donations from residents.

**Lisa Cogan**

On December 14, the Community Hall was transformed with festive holiday decorations, the joyous sounds of music and children's laughter, and the delicious aromas of popcorn and gingerbread as children and their caregivers enjoyed the Children's Holiday Party. The theme was inclusive — holiday celebrations around the world. The children met with Santa, rode along on John Cundell's horse-drawn 'sleigh,' were dazzled by Steve Warburton's magic tricks, decorated gingerbread cookies and houses, and created holiday crafts. A quiet area by the library offered story readings by volunteers on world-wide holiday traditions.

The event was made possible by additional donations from Mark Motors, Marilyn and Reba Wilson of Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties, and Starbucks on MacKay. We would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped make the day possible; a complete list may be found in the February issue of The Rockcliffe News.

A highlight of the party was the creation by participants of all ages of a 'community bond' multi-coloured garland, which graced the party's holiday tree.

**Natalie Runoff**

**The Rockcliffe News:** A new look and large-size format was introduced in 2022, thanks to Daniel Goldberg and the editorial newsletter team of Sarah Baxter, Michele Hayman and Kay James. Thanks to this group and to the many dedicated volunteers who make sure the newsletter is delivered to every mailbox in the Village. A new editor, Cynthia Hamady, was hired in the fall of 2022.

New features added in 2022: • Gillian Edelson began writing a piece focusing on gardens as of September 2022. • Thanks to Alison Green and Marilyn Venner, the column 'Meet Your Directors' was introduced to help readers learn more about the RPRAs, its members and the board's various functions. • 'Rockcliffe Park Welcomes...', compiled and written by Kevin Craft and Shannon Lundquist, welcomes and introduces new residents to the neighbourhood.

**RPRAs Website:** Board member Jean-Guy Dumoulin has been working to update the content of the website, rockcliffepark.ca.

**Membership:** An initiative to increase RPRAs membership was ramped up in 2022 with articles and sign-up forms included in the newsletters. As well, a 'Welcome to the Neighbourhood,' package was created in September. Hand delivered by Lisa Cogan, it contains a personal welcome letter from the RPRAs board, a copy of the 'Rockcliffe A to Z' booklet and RPRAs membership form. A number of new members and volunteers for community events have been recorded from this outreach program.

**Lisa Cogan**

**RPRA Heritage Committee**

Linda Dicaire, Chair

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

Susan d'Aquino, Chair

**Heritage Committee Members**John 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

## Heritage Outreach

The Village Green is a symbol of Rockcliffe Park's commitment to maintaining a park-like setting that respects the natural typography.

**Historic District of National Significance:**

Last year, based on a comprehensive report by our Village historian, Martha Edmond, we approached the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada seeking recognition of Rockcliffe Park as a Historic District of National Significance. Dating from 1864, Rockcliffe Park has a unique standing in the development of planning in the country. Rejecting the usual rigid grid approach of the time, it was planned entirely as a residential park – houses in a park-like setting that respected the natural typography, with narrow curving roads without curbs or sidewalks, large lots and gardens, all united by a visually continuous green landscape.

Councillor King won City Council's support for our application. A preliminary review was carried out by the staff of the Federal Board, followed by extended research and analysis by a historian who has prepared a report and submitted it to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. If our application is successful, Rockcliffe Park will be the first such designation in Ottawa, and we will have much to celebrate.

Designation would recognize the significance of our Village in the history of Canada – a special place that has been protected and enhanced by the efforts of generation after generation of caring residents. Such designations create no new obligations on residents, the city or the province, but are a singular distinction.

**Ontario's Bill 23, Ottawa's New Official Plan and Rockcliffe Park's Secondary Plan:**

After a lengthy delay, in November 2022, following the provincial election, Ontario approved an amended Ottawa Official Plan, including our Secondary Plan. At the same time, the Ontario government tabled Bill 23 in the legislature. Heritage is seldom, if ever, near the top of the list of priorities for any government, but our heritage is an essential part of who we are as a people, as communities and as a country. We asked that this be recognized and that the protection of our cultural heritage not be compromised as the Ontario government moves forward to tackle very real housing issues.

We worked closely with other heritage conservation districts in Ottawa to make our views known to the province. We made the point that heritage districts are far too small a part of Ontario to make anything more than a minuscule contribution to the province's intensification goals. They need not be threatened. We urged that the statement in the existing Provincial Policy Statement – which is under review – that "Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes SHALL be conserved" be left intact. We asked for a clear, succinct statement to explain what this means, namely: "Heritage designation is intended to ensure that all development is contextually appropriate, not to preclude intensification that meets this test."

## Heritage Walk: Ottawa Heritage Leaders Celebrate with Us

Historian and Rockcliffe resident Martha Edmond awarded a copy of her gorgeous book, 'Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village,' to a lucky draw winner after the conclusion of the Heritage Walk in June.



In order to ensure contextually appropriate development, elements of built form including height, scale and massing of development SHALL conserve the defined cultural heritage value and attributes of the heritage conservation district as set out in its HCD plan." We believe that this clarity would help to prevent varying interpretations of the government's intentions being made by various municipalities, developers and communities – and thereby help to avoid overburdening the Ontario Land Tribunal with disputes about how the protection of cultural heritage is to be weighed alongside other government priorities.

**Ottawa's New Zoning By-law:** In 2022, Ottawa started the lengthy process of rewriting its complex zoning by-law. It will have to accord with Ottawa's new Official Plan and with new provincial legislation. We have asked to be involved in this process, along with the city's heritage staff, with the goal of ensuring that the special measures that will be required to reflect the character of heritage districts is given due regard.

Susan d'Aquino

We were delighted that our councillor, Rawlson King, who chairs the Built Heritage Committee at city hall, Carolyn Quinn, the vice-chair, and others engaged in advancing heritage throughout Ottawa, joined us for a special Heritage Walk that was guided by our resident historian, Martha Edmond. Most of these guests were then welcomed to lunch on the d'Aquinos' balcony overlooking their burgeoning garden and McKay Lake. It was a fine occasion to nurture the links we have developed with others in Ottawa in the shared journey of protecting and enhancing the heritage and history of our communities and city.

Without time for a house-by-house tour of the Heritage Walk, we focused on residences that in many ways highlight the history of the Village, including a few just off the walking route. We saw the homes of T.C. Keefer, who first laid the foundations for Rockcliffe – the Birkenfels Estate and then the Manor House (now the Papal Nunciature). We stopped by the impressive Waterstone, now the Japanese ambassadorial residence, originally built for the lumberman Frederic Bronson. Completed in 1930, the home embodied everything the lumberman hoped to capture in a residence – a symbol of wealth, splendid but not overwrought, tastefully decorated and lined with the finest of woods.

We then rejoined the Heritage Walk on Crescent Road with its two significant Southam houses, currently the embassy residences of Spain and Austria. Homes such as these demonstrate the important role in our capital of diplomats who contribute much to the upkeep and maintenance of our heritage houses, including the expensive

replacement of slate roofs. These two houses showcase the work of architect Allan Keefer, the grandson of T.C. Keefer, who adapted his designs to the country setting of Rockcliffe. We had a good discussion on the central role of the landscape and of the trees, in particular, to the park-like setting of the Village. The tour continued and wrapped up at the Hart Massey House on Lansdowne Road to visit this important contribution to Canadian architecture, a mid-20th-century gem recently recognized as a National Historic Site.

Among those on this special tour, we especially want to mention Bill Price from the Glebe. Irrepressible, he was the one who initially inspired us to think of a heritage tour in Rockcliffe Park – he explained in fulsome detail with all kinds of photos how they went about the well-established and hugely successful heritage tour in the Glebe.

Those from other communities with whom we have worked over the years who joined us were Trina Bolam from Sandy Hill, Nancy Miller Chenier from Lowertown, Gail McEachern from New Edinburgh and Elizabeth McAllister from Manor Park. Katherine Spencer-Ross, the new president of Heritage Ottawa, and Ben Gianni from the Carleton University School of Architecture, also joined us. Those who enjoyed the walk but could not stay for lunch included Stephen Willis, Lesley Collins and Ashley Kotarba from the city staff, with whom we engage regularly, and Heather Thomson and Jasmine Guest from the National Capital Commission's heritage staff.

Susan d'Aquino and Martha Edmond

# Heritage Committee

## Summary of Activities in 2022

The Heritage Committee of the RPRA had a very full year. It and the Outreach Committee collaborated closely on a number of matters of importance to residents of Rockcliffe Park. Below is a report of its 2022 activities.

**Eight Pre-consultations:** Pre-consultations are subject to a non-disclosure agreement with the City of Ottawa which stipulates that the identification of these projects cannot be shared.

### Review of Applications for Heritage Permit:

- 229-247 Beechwood Avenue. Smart Living Homes, Beechwood demolition and new construction. See article 'Heritage Matters Update: Smart Living Proposal for Beechwood Avenue,' in The Rockcliffe News, November 2022, page 20; and see article 'Heritage Matters: City Council Rejects Smart Living Proposal for Beechwood Avenue' by Susan d'Aquino in The Rockcliffe News, September 2022, page 16.
- 480 Cloverdale Road. New construction. City does not grant approval of application. See article 'Heritage Matters: Proposed Construction at 480 Cloverdale' in The Rockcliffe News, November 2022, page 20.
- 619 Manor Avenue. Application for heritage permit, questions about setbacks and issues of landscaping.
- 475 Oakhill Road. Addition over an existing garage, and addition at rear.
- 245 Sylvan Avenue. Addition to the east, a link, a new basement space and renovations.

### Review of Projects which were Approved under Delegated Authority (Planning, Real Estate and Economic Development Department), City of Ottawa

- 470 Acacia Avenue. Accessory garage.
- 60 Juliana Road. Repairs/maintenance.
- 55 Lytleton Gardens. Exterior facade alterations, and roof repairs and alterations.
- 362 Mariposa Avenue. Ashbury College main entrance renovation.
- 54 Park Road. Expansion of an attached side garage, and landscape changes.

### Monitoring upon Notification from the City/Heritage Watch List

105 and 125 Lakeway Drive were placed on the Heritage Watch List.

The following properties were removed from the Heritage Watch List:

- 161 Maple Lane
- 514 Manor Avenue

Both of these properties have been extensively renovated and are now occupied.

### Interpretation of Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan and Related Questions

- On-going discussion with city staff.
- Relevant to the RP HCD Plan: Analysis of provisions in multiple documents re: lots, lot patterns, and definitions of lot.
- Alert to City of Ottawa: Road widening.
- Review hard fence issues and by-laws with city re: 641 Acacia, 125 Willingdon Road and 229 Soper Place/demolition of heritage wall.
- Questions about information contained in realty listings.

### Task Force on Housing Affordability and Bill 23

- See article 'Heritage Matters: Housing and Heritage Policy Matters in Ontario' by Susan d'Aquino, Chair, Outreach Committee, in The Rockcliffe News, July/August 2022, page 18.
- Letter to the Province (See Appendix 1).
- See article 'Heritage Matters: Ontario Bill 23: More Housing Faster Act' by Susan d'Aquino, Chair, Outreach Committee, in The Rockcliffe News, November 2022, page 21.
- Bill 23 can be found at: [ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-23](https://ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-23).

### Review of Provincial Policy Statement in Relation to Bill 23

- (See Appendix 2, letter to the province.)

### City and NCC Plans and Policy Reviews:

- See article 'What to Watch' by Michele Hayman in The Rockcliffe News, September 2022, page 16.
- Reference documents, City of Ottawa: Secondary plan: [ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/official-plan-and-master-plans/official-plan/volume-2a-secondary-plans/former-rockcliffe](https://ottawa.ca/en/planning-development-and-construction/official-plan-and-master-plans/official-plan/volume-2a-secondary-plans/former-rockcliffe). Last updated 2016-12-20.

### Built Heritage now a full committee of Council as of December 7, 2022.

# Heritage Committee Summary of Activities in 2022

(continued)

## Participation in Meetings of the Committee of Adjustment

Preparatory Analysis in 2022: 136-138 Acacia Avenue. Severance of a lot formerly associated with Ottawa Railway, never a building lot. (On CofA agenda in 2023)

531 Lakehurst

## Special Requests from Residents

Request for orientation/guidance on window restoration.

## Related Matters (not undertaken by Heritage Committee but of Considerable Interest and with its Support)

### Monitoring of Work Proposed for Centennial Park in the Village Green

See article by Martha Edmond, 'The Centennial Garden: Humphrey Carver,' in The Rockcliffe News, February 2022, page 12.

Centennial Park – Jane Panet submitted a plan to Rawlson King, March 31, 2022.

Linda Dicaire, Chair  
Heritage Committee of the RPRA

## Appendix 1: Letter from the RPRA to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy re: More Homes Built Faster Act 2022: Bill 23

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association wishes to express its strong objections to many aspects of Bill 23, with a focus on proposed provisions that would radically diminish the protection of this province's heritage and its environment. There is no need whatsoever to undermine these protections in order to meet Ontario's housing crisis.

Dating from 1864, Rockcliffe Park is one of the earliest planned communities in Canada. It is a heritage gem and an asset to the nation's capital. Generations of residents have worked without stint over the last 158 years and we now join others in the province in standing up to Bill 23 which would needlessly erode the character of our communities and what they contribute to the fabric of our city and our country.

### We oppose the following in Bill 23:

Changing **the criteria required for heritage designation** of buildings and districts. The criteria as they stand are valid and there is no reason to make it tougher to protect heritage.

Giving **ministerial power to override heritage protection**. This is offensive.

Eliminating **third-party appeals** of planning decisions to the Ontario Land Tribunal by community organizations and residents – only developers and municipalities will have that right. Community organizations and residents are already deprived of the right to appeal decisions with respect to heritage permits to the OLT. The proposed change will further weight the balance in favour of developers.

Imposing "**gentle intensification**" as of right in places where three units on a single property would conflict with the heritage attributes of a heritage district, as would be the case in Rockcliffe Park.

Repealing the authority for the City to regulate **exterior features, sustainable design, character, scale, design features, and landscaping** and the like through site plan control. This would mean that all communities' desire to ensure neighbourhood character is a cornerstone of planning would be eliminated.

Crippling the Heritage Register by making it impossible to keep a property listed for more than two years.

Weakening the regulatory ability of Conservation Authorities to protect people and property from natural hazards like flooding, erosion and slope failures, and eliminating their ability to address water quality issues.

Reducing wetland evaluations and protections. The proposed amendments risk loss of wetlands, biodiversity and flood attenuation across the province.

# Heritage Committee Summary of Activities in 2022

(continued)

## New regulations

There will be a new process to amend or repeal heritage plans. These plans are the bedrock of heritage protection. We strongly oppose any changes designed to diminish protections.

We support a change, to increase efficiency, that would provide that when a heritage plan is to be amended, only proposed amendments may be appealed, not the whole heritage plan.

## Changes to the Provincial Policy Statement and integration with "A Place to Grow"

The statement in the PPS that "**Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved**" must be left intact if there is to be any hope of protecting the province's cultural heritage. Heritage designation is intended to ensure that all development is contextually appropriate, not to preclude intensification that meets this test. To ensure contextually appropriate development, elements of built form, including height, scale and massing of development must conserve the defined cultural heritage value and attributes of the heritage conservation district.

## General Concerns:

### Impact on affordable housing

Advocates for affordable housing are dismayed by several aspects of Bill 23 – charging that it will undermine municipal programs that create affordable housing, speed up the loss of existing affordable homes, and cut regulations that protect tenants from evictions. This is deeply troubling.

## Housing target for Ottawa

It appears that the province has arbitrarily set a housing target for Ottawa over ten years of 151,000. We are told that this is 70% higher than Ontario's Ministry of Finance's own projection for that time period.

## Burdening taxpayers to favour developers unreasonably

If "growth will not pay for growth", existing taxpayers will. Bill 23 goes far too far in favouring developers at the expense of taxpayers.

In closing, we ask that those whom we elect to the Ontario legislature listen to the considered and balanced comments of the people of this province who oppose aspects of Bill 23, having taken the time, to study it.

Respectfully,

Russell Gibson, President, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association; Michele Hayman, Vice-President Heritage, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association; Susan d'Aquino, Chair, Heritage Outreach Committee, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association; Linda Dicaire, Chair, Heritage Committee, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

## Appendix 2: Correspondence on Provincial Policy Statement

**From:** Susan Peterson

**Subject:** FW: Comment on Provincial Policy Statement from Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

**Date:** November 25, 2022, 3:42:22 PM

**To:** Michael Ford

**Cc:** David Wai, Russ Gibson, Michele Hayman, Linda Dicaire

Dear Minister Ford,

As Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, we understand that you are also responsible for heritage policy. Please see the letter below to your colleague, Steve Clark, who is responsible for the upcoming review of the Provincial Policy Statement. You will see that our concerns relate to the protection of cultural heritage in the PPS. We would like to count on your support.

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association,  
Ottawa

**From:** Susan Peterson

**Date:** November 25, 2022, 3:32 PM

**To:** minister.mah@ontario.ca

**Cc:** Kate Manon-Smith, Russ Gibson, Michele Hayman, Linda Dicaire

**Subject:** Comment on Provincial Policy Statement from Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

**To:** Rockcliffe Park Residents Association  
Mr. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Government of Ontario, November 25, 2022

# Heritage Committee

## Summary of Activities in 2022

(continued)

**From:** The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, Ottawa  
**Subject:** Review of the Provincial Policy  
**Statement:** Cultural Heritage

Dear Minister Clark,

**We ask that the protection of Ontario’s cultural heritage not be compromised in any way in the review of the Provincial Policy Statement.** In fact, we ask for more clarity so that heritage buildings and heritage districts, which occupy only a tiny portion of the land in our communities, are indeed preserved for future generations.

Rockcliffe Park is a heritage conservation district in Ottawa. Dating from 1864, it is one of the earliest planned communities in Canada – one where the park-like setting of the houses is the core of its heritage value. That setting with its abundance of trees and dominating greenscape must be protected. Rockcliffe Park is a heritage gem and an asset to the nation’s capital. Generations of residents have worked without stint over the last 158 years and we now submit our comments on the proposed review of the Provincial Policy Statement as it pertains to heritage protection.

We have learned from long experience that protecting the province’s heritage is not easy – it is a constant struggle.

**The government states that its review of the PPS includes the intent to continue to protect cultural heritage.** With respect to cultural heritage, it says it is seeking to establish “policy direction that provides for the identification and continued conservation of cultural heritage resources while creating flexibility to increase housing supply.”

**Two things are paramount if the province’s cultural heritage is to be protected** and not traded off in the preeminent quest to address the province’s very real housing needs. Heritage buildings and heritage districts make up very little of the land area of Ontario and need not be threatened.

**First**, the statement in the existing PPS that “Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes **SHALL** be conserved” must be left intact if there is to be any hope of protecting the province’s cultural heritage. This means “should” cannot be substituted for “shall”.

**Second**, a clear succinct statement is needed to explain what this means, namely: “Heritage designation is intended to ensure that all development is contextually appropriate, not to preclude intensification that meets this test. To ensure contextually appropriate development, elements of built form, including height, scale and massing of development **SHALL** conserve the defined cultural heritage value and attributes of the heritage conservation district as set out in its HCD plan.”

This clarity will help to prevent varying interpretations of the government’s intentions by municipalities, developers and communities and will thereby help to avoid overburdening the Ontario Land Tribunal with disputes about how the protection of cultural heritage is to be weighed alongside other government priorities.

**Third**, while this pertains to the Ontario Heritage Act and not to the Public Policy Statement, legislation should be changed to permit third party appeals of heritage permits to the Ontario Land Tribunal for the very same reasons that the government has decided to reverse its position and retain third party appeals to the OLT for decisions under the Planning Act. Heritage is seldom if ever near the top of the list of priorities for any government, but our heritage is an essential part of who we are as a people, as a country, and as communities. We ask that this be well recognized and that the protection of our cultural heritage not be compromised as the government moves forward to tackle very real housing issues.

Respectfully,  
 Russell Gibson, President, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association; Michele Hayman, Vice-President Heritage, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association; Susan d’Aquino, Chair, Heritage Outreach Committee, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association; Linda Dicaire, Chair, Heritage Committee, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association



**RPRRA Environment Committee**

Iola Price, Chair

**Activities**

- Invasive Species
- The Pond
- Village Clean-up
- Village Green
- Jubilee Garden Maintenance

McKay Lake, one of many environmental gems found in Rockcliffe Park.



**Pond Working Group:** The Environment Committee’s Pond Working Group thanks the Rockcliffe Park Foundation for the grant to hire two students for the 14 weekends from June 4 to September 5. Their task was to count people at the Pond and classify them as adults, youths or toddlers, and record whether they were sunbathing, swimming, digging in the sand and/or using sunscreen, and the location of each of these activities.

In addition to estimating the duration of visitor stay at the Pond, they asked some of the visitors where they came from and recorded noise levels and temperature throughout their shift. The data were collected at 15-minute intervals from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Community Volunteers collected the same data on a reduced schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 6 until August 25.

On the weekends between June and September, we estimate that 19,992 adults, youths or toddlers visited, swam or sat on the Pond shoreline. August witnessed the highest daily weekend use with 1,347 visitors circulating on August 6, when it was a sunny 29°C. That fell to a low of 382 on August 28, a cloudy, 15°C day. The full report explains the methodology used to arrive at the figures by incorporating the daily hourly count from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm for each week.

A report to the RPRRA, the Rockcliffe Park Foundation and officials in the city has been submitted which includes Observations with the Working Group’s Recommendations regarding each Observation. We will discuss the report with the city this coming winter.

**Pond Water Sampling:** As in the past, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and bacteria (*E. coli*) levels were monitored. The values did not differ markedly from those of previous years and showed no trend over the season: N ranged from 0.36 to 0.65 mg/L; P ranged from 0.014 to 0.08 mg/L; *E. coli* as sampled by us ranged from 0 to 2 colony forming units/100 mL of water. The results from samples taken by Ottawa Public Health represent the geometric mean of three samples taken and 10 cfu/100 mL; it is the lowest possible result that can be reported through the testing, so their results – 10-18 cfu/100 ml – differ from our samples but neither set of data indicates any problem with water quality. The Environment Committee thanks the Rockcliffe Park Foundation for the continued support of this program.

**Environmental Remediation:** 196 hours by nine volunteers at McKay Lake – the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area:

- Invasive Plant Removal: common and glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard, dog-strangling vine, yellow archangel, oriental bittersweet, common burdock, Norway maple seedlings, black knot from chokecherry.
- Planted one paper birch, eight bur oaks, one red oak behind a memorial bench, sugar maple keys (seeds), white trilliums, yellow violets.

**Path Sweeping:** In early November, approximately 25 to 30 people armed with rakes swept the main and internal paths in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area free of fallen leaves, depositing them behind the log path markers to decompose and create new soil. The warm, sunny afternoon finished with juice and apple fritters.



Plein Air artists (from left) Martha Nixon, Ariel Lyons, Linda English and Marianne Feaver, soaking up the atmosphere on the Village Green at the Community Tree Day in September.

**Centennial Garden Weed Control:** Five volunteers pulled and cut weeds, mostly common burdock, and trimmed back goutweed from the asphalt paths. Common burdock is a biennial and is best controlled in year two by removing the noxious and prickly seed stalks. We also trimmed and neaten up a lot of dead yew branches and some of the spruces, too. The previous winter was hard on these trees. A student volunteer from Ashbury assisted in the removal of weeds and small trees (Norway maples and buckthorn) from the cedar hedge surrounding the Jubilee Garden.

**Community Tree Day, September 24 on the Village Green:** Over 50 adults and children turned out to find and identify 10 tagged trees; count rings on large slices of tree trunks and estimate the trees' ages; and, peruse a display of books on trees provided by our Library. Children created Land Art with sticks, leaves, conifer cones and berries using Andy Goldsworthy's art for inspiration, and painted what they saw on materials also provided by Martha Hodgson and Suzanne White from our Library branch.

Local artists, organized by Marianne Feaver, created Plein Air paintings and Peter Lewis distributed T-shirts with a printed map of Rockcliffe Park on the front – you will never get lost while wearing one! The real hit of the afternoon was the free ice cream cones dished out by Deena El-Sawy and her helpers.

**Leaf Blower Campaign:** For several years, members of the 'Campaign to Reduce the Use of Gas-power Leaf Blowers in Rockcliffe Park' have been working with a wider community group, Healthy Neighbourhoods Ottawa, on the same issue. The Rockcliffe Park Foundation provided the funds to purchase a 40V Ryobi Whisper leaf blower, the quietest and most powerful handheld blower on the market. We held a raffle, open to residents of Rockcliffe; at the conclusion of our Community Tree Day in September, the draw was held and Lorraine Groulx held the lucky ticket. We hope that this inspires more residents to ditch noisy gas-powered leaf blowers and insist that their lawn companies do the same.

**The Derecho:** In comparison to some areas of Ottawa, very few trees or branches came down in the May Derecho but there were some giants lost (see the photos in the May/June issue of The Rockcliffe News) and some areas of the Village were without power for a week or more.

**Spongy Moth Control:** The city provided free burlap to control spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) in city parks; trees in the Village Green and along Buchan Road were wrapped and monitored periodically for caterpillars but very few were found. This mirrored the experience in our neighbouring communities.

Why did the population collapse in light of such high caterpillar and adult moth numbers in 2021? A combination of enthusiastic trapping of caterpillars using burlap, and of adult moths using bottle and pan traps in 2021; scraping egg masses from trees and walls; very cold days and nights in late January and February 2022 killing the eggs; predation on egg masses by chickadees and small mammals; predation by tiny parasitic wasps; and the cold and wet spring in 2022 that slowed down hatching, giving time for the naturally occurring lethal virus and fungus to do their work.

**McKay Lake Turtle Study:** We helped a uOttawa student find a suitable site for a two-week study of turtle activity in the lake.

**Fungal Control of Buckthorn:** The city Forestry group agreed to try a federally and provincially registered biological control product, Lalcide Chondro, at McKay Lake, the Village Green and the Hillside Road sewage pumping station. The operation took place in early July.

The fungus, *Chondrostereum purpureum* (Cp), controls growth and resprouting when applied as a paste to the cut stems of shrubs, such as buckthorn. Cp is a wide-spread and naturally-occurring fungus in Canadian forests and one benefit is that it only acts on trees and shrubs through a fresh entry wound, thereby minimizing non-target effects. Fresh leaves that appear after the Cp application will likely be silvery in colour, indicating that the product is working well. We will monitor the efficacy in 2023.

Iola Price

## Treasurer's Report

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association maintains a fiscal and membership year ending December 31. The restricted funds for the Library are controlled by the Spring Book Sale committee. The remaining restricted funds for Environment, Heritage and Community plus unrestricted funds are controlled by the RPRA Board of Directors. Long-term cash is invested in easy-to-cash low-risk government bonds.

For 2022, in addition to funds rolled over from 2021, the RPRA received approximately \$39,000 in grants from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation for a number of projects and activities designed to contribute to the RPRA's mission, particularly in the areas of fostering a sense of community, and preserving and enhancing the Village's unique natural environment and its special heritage character.

For the first time since the pandemic, it was possible to hold a number of events, so the RPRA's expenditure was considerably higher than the previous year with expenditures on the Heritage Walk in late spring, a summer Movie Night, a fall Tree Day event, and the return of the Speakers Program, the Christmas Tree Lighting and the Children's Holiday Party in December. Nevertheless, activity in the first half of the year was below anticipated levels so a portion of the grant funds have been rolled over to 2023.

On the Environment side, as well as the regular garden maintenance of the Jubilee Garden and the testing of the Pond water quality, a significant project was undertaken to monitor attendance at the Pond over summer weekends. This project necessitated the RPRA taking on two part-time summer students as employees to collect this useful data for the future protection of the Pond.

It was again not possible to hold the annual Spring Book Sale. However, a number of successful contactless book drives were held to collect used books for sale to an Ottawa-based used bookstore, raising approximately \$13,000 for the Spring Book Sale fund. A contribution from this fund of \$40,000 was made to support the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library in the spring of 2022.

Overall revenue for 2022 was approximately \$57,000, and expenses (excluding the contribution to OPL) were approximately \$49,000.

The fiscal year ended with 2022 total assets approximately \$59,000 lower than the previous year, primarily reflecting the payment from the Book Sale fund above, but also the resumption of activities (and associated expenses) in the second part of the year. Total assets at year end were \$106,984.

Full details of the RPRA's financial report are found in Appendix A of this annual report.

### **RPRA Membership Statistics**

Membership for the full year for 2022 was slightly down at 162 members compared to 176 in 2021, so a door-to-door fall membership drive was organized very successfully by Lisa Cogan, which resulted in a sharp uptick in membership applications for 2023.

Over 215 members had already signed up for 2023 by Christmas, with more renewals coming in the first few weeks of January. With more targeted renewal reminders to come in February, it is hoped that membership levels will rise to the 250-300 level for the full year.

**John Butterfield**

**Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2022**

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 46,595.71	\$ 107,434.08
Short-term investments	\$ 58,769.06	\$ 57,972.42
Other receivables	\$ 1,619.52	\$ 919.52
Total Assets	<u>\$106,984.29</u>	<u>\$166,326.02</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Prepaid memberships	\$ 6,375.00	\$ 2,125.00
Accounts payable	\$ 4,135.00	\$ 5,314.50
Deferred funding	\$ –	\$ 31,292.00
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 10,510.00</u>	<u>\$ 38,731.50</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Restricted net assets - Library	\$ 25,437.50	\$ 52,603.90
Restricted net assets - other	\$ 20,426.10	\$ 25,667.10
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 50,610.69	\$ 49,323.52
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 96,474.29</u>	<u>\$ 127,594.52</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 106,984.29</u>	<u>\$ 166,326.02</u>

**Statement of Income and Expenses  
and Changes in Net Assets****for the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2022	2021
<b>Restricted Funds - Library</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Book Sales	\$ 12,833.60	\$ 11,728.90
Total Income	<u>\$ 12,833.60</u>	<u>\$ 11,728.90</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grants to OPL	\$ 40,000.00	\$ –
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 40,000.00</u>	<u>\$ –</u>
Change in net assets	\$ (27,166.40)	\$ 11,728.90
Net assets - opening balance	<u>\$ 52,603.90</u>	<u>\$ 40,875.00</u>
Net assets - closing balance	<u>\$ 25,437.50</u>	<u>\$ 52,603.90</u>

**Statement of Income and Expenses  
and Changes in Net Assets  
for the Year Ended December 31, 2022**  
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2022	2021
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
Income		
Memberships	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 4,400.00
Investment income	\$ 796.64	\$ 125.63
Donations/refunds	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
Booklet Sales	\$ 7.00	\$ 341.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,003.64</b>	<b>\$ 5,066.68</b>
Expenses		
Annual report	\$ 880.27	\$ 1,129.31
General administration	\$ 995.03	\$ 828.00
Insurance/filing fees	\$ 1,441.80	\$ 678.00
Bank and Credit card fees	\$ 299.37	\$ 224.21
All candidates forum: municipal	\$ 100.00	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,716.47</b>	<b>\$ 3,606.43</b>
Change in net assets	\$ 1,287.17	\$ 1,459.88
Net assets - opening balance	\$ 49,323.52	\$ 47,863.64
<b>Net assets - closing balance</b>	<b>\$ 50,610.69</b>	<b>\$ 49,323.52</b>

**Statement of Income and Expenses  
and Changes in Net Assets  
for the Year Ended December 31, 2022**  
(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	2022	2021
<b>Restricted Funds - Other</b>		
Income		
Rockcliffe Park Foundation	\$ 38,652.00	\$ 15,165.00
<b>Communications and Events</b>		
Speakers Program donations	\$ 96.00	\$ -
Event sponsorship	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 39,948.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,165.00</b>
Expenses		
<b>Heritage</b>		
Heritage projects (Walk/A-Z booklets)	\$ 5,193.63	\$ 120.00
<b>Environment</b>		
Jubilee Garden maintenance	\$ 7,852.60	\$ 7,231.74
Sprinkler maintenance	\$ 633.13	\$ 539.65
The Pond (water analysis and monitoring)	\$ 5,228.71	\$ 342.53
Tree Day/Leaf blower campaign	\$ 902.31	\$ -
<b>Communications and Events</b>		
Newsletter	\$ 12,004.08	\$ 10,237.86
Christmas Tree Lighting/events	\$ 5,861.81	\$ 2,403.17
Speakers Program	\$ 320.68	\$ 179.67
Movie Night	\$ 1,021.15	\$ -
Website	\$ 512.45	\$ 1,536.52
Ski Heritage East sponsor signage	\$ 500.00	\$ -
<b>Soccer Field/Running Track Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 5,158.45</b>	<b>\$ 3,842.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 45,189.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,433.14</b>
Change in net assets	\$ (5,241.00)	\$ (11,268.14)
Net assets - opening balance	\$ 25,667.10	\$ 36,935.24
<b>Net assets - closing balance</b>	<b>\$ 20,426.10</b>	<b>\$ 25,667.10</b>