

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS



ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

JUNE / JULY 2023

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The Rockcliffe Park Foundation's popular Dining with the Ambassadors was held this May for the first time since the pandemic. Photo: Leah Mowers Photography

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, except July, August and December. Meetings are in the evening and are open to all.

rockcliffepark.ca

2023 Committees

Community

Chair: Lisa Cogan, Community VP

Heritage

Chair: Michele Hayman, Heritage VP

Heritage Outreach

Chair: Susan d'Aquino

Environment

Chair: Mark Willcox, Environment VP

2023 Board Executive

Russell Gibson, President
John Butterfield, Treasurer
Anna Blauveldt, Corporate Secretary
Lisa Cogan, Community Vice President
Michele Hayman, Heritage Vice President
Mark Willcox, Environment Vice President
Peter Lewis, Past President

2023 Board Members

Chris Barker
Patrick Blнар
Susan d'Aquino
Jean-Guy Dumoulin
Linda English
Mary Gooderham
Leo Grant
Scott Heatherington
Kay James
Martin Perras
Kim Ratushny
Natalie Runoff
Gouhar Shemdin

Please Note: Email addresses for the Board Executive, VP Committee Chairs and other RPRA administrators may be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

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 Rockcliffe Park Foundation relies on the generous contributions from neighbours and local businesses to support the many priorities that make our community thrive.

Thank you to our diplomatic community and our neighbours, Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Christie's International Real Estate, The Minto Group and Foundation WCPD for their support of Dining with the Ambassadors 2023, our biennial fundraiser, which was held this year on May 12. You can read about it on pages 11 to 14 of this newsletter.

rockcliffeparkfoundation.org

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

Please Note: To learn more about the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, visit our website or email us at info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.



With the arrival of warm weather, several local community summer activities are well underway. I applaud the ongoing work of the environment committee of the RPRP to control invasive species activity in and around the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area, McKay Lake and the Pond. Other summer activities that should be mentioned include the Rockcliffe Park/Lindenlea soccer program and summer coffee/tea events hosted by our elected representatives. The details of these events and more will be shared with residents in our eblasts to members of the RPRP.

Please also watch for signs and email notices confirming the date for Movie Night in the Park (Jubilee Garden), which is tentatively being planned for the evening of Friday, August 11.

The RPRP recently discontinued emailing non-current members our eblast notices. Those who wish to receive our email communications must renew or take out a membership in our community association. A resident brought to our attention an issue with membership renewal forms on our website, which is being remedied. It is not too late for residents who have not yet renewed their memberships to do so for 2023 and 2024.

As discussed in the last edition of the newsletter, the National Capital Commission (NCC) is consulting residents with respect to the federal lands adjacent to our community, including the Mile Circle and along the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway. Watch for the next round of resident engagement in the fall, which will focus on policies and sector plans. This process is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2024. RPRP directors Leo Grant and Jean-Guy Dumoulin are following the NCC's public pronouncements, news releases and consultations with the community.

I have been advised by the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) that the RPRP has been selected as a community leader organization for the purpose of providing feedback, opinions and survey responses to evaluate OPS's neighbourhood resources strategy. It is my intention to consult with residents at our RPRP board meeting on September 20, 2023, and then to respond to the OPS with the feedback and opinions that I have received from residents. Please consider attending our September board meeting, which will start at 7:00 pm in the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. All residents are welcome.

I received correspondence from Ski Heritage East/Est, thanking our community and the RPRP for its sponsorship and donations in support of the riverfront trails along the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway. I am told that next year we may expect better trails with the acquisition of a major new piece of grooming equipment. A Mueller tiller will enable Ski Heritage East to groom consistently, including when melted snow turns to ice, which will result in better groomed trails all season long, and which will add weeks to the season.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Rockcliffe Hosers for their many hours of work spent maintaining our community rinks this past winter, and to its board of directors and many volunteers for tending to the programs and activities that took place at the Rockcliffe field house this past winter.

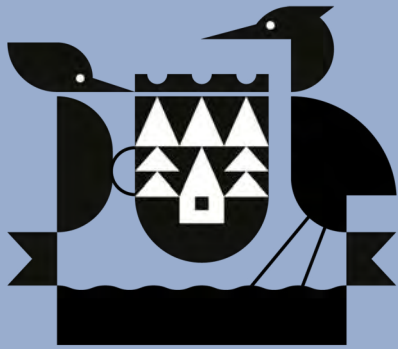
The RPRP does not have board meetings scheduled in July or August; however, we will be updating the website over the summer to provide better contact information for directors. We would love to hear from you.

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



Thank You...

...to the dozen volunteers who came out on the afternoon of Saturday, May 6, for the annual Village Spring Clean-up. We filled lots of leaf bags and tied up branches and collected garbage from the Village Green, Jubilee Garden, Community Hall and some of our main roads. And thank you to city waste crews who collected everything the following week. The Village looks lovely!



The Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPR) 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 RPR, 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.



Leo Grant

What motivated you to join the RPR board?

I joined the RPR board because I am deeply motivated to preserve the look, feel and heritage of Rockcliffe Park. I believe in the importance of maintaining the neighborhood's unique character, architectural integrity and historical significance. By actively participating on the board, I can contribute my skills, knowledge and experience to ensure that Rockcliffe Park retains its distinct charm and remains a cherished community for generations to come. Together with fellow board members, I am dedicated to upholding our shared vision of preserving the beauty, heritage and overall quality of life in Rockcliffe Park.

What do you like best about Rockcliffe?

What I love most about Rockcliffe Park is the harmonious blend of a park-like setting and city living. The abundance of green spaces, mature trees and scenic landscapes create a serene and tranquil environment. It's truly a haven where I can enjoy the beauty of nature while still being close to the vibrant amenities and cultural attractions of Ottawa.

What other board/professional experience have you had?

Apart from my involvement on the RPR board, I have served on the Professional Standards Committee of the Ottawa Real Estate Board. This experience allowed me to actively contribute to maintaining high professional standards within the real estate industry. Additionally, as a property investor, I am involved on various condo boards, gaining insights into condominium management and governance.

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



Martin Perras

What motivated you to join the RPR board?

We moved here four years ago and I really enjoy it! I have always believed that a great way to meet people is to work together on a common goal. I look forward to connecting with more people in our neighbourhood through social events.

What do you like best about Rockcliffe?

This will sound strange but the sound I get coming from the birds in the early mornings is a sound that never gets old to me. I find it very relaxing to go for a walk early in the morning. Rockcliffe Park is filled with mature trees, beautiful plants and gardens. Before coming to Rockcliffe, our family lived in Centretown in a busy commercial area. We would often hear lots of noise from traffic, people and construction. It is really refreshing to live in such a peaceful environment.

What other board/professional experience have you had?

As an acupuncturist, I have had the pleasure of sitting on the board of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO). During my time serving for the CTCMPAO I was involved in the complaints and reports committee, and the discipline committee, reviewing public complaints, then investigating the allegations and determining the appropriate discipline. I found it very rewarding and it gives me a bigger appreciation for protecting the public.

What stories would you like to share?

While dating Emilie, who eventually became my wife, I recall that on one of our dates we took a drive around Rockcliffe Park, admiring the neighbourhood. We were young dreamers. Emilie was looking at the homes and I was looking at the cars (I'm a car guy). Who would have known that one day we would be here raising our family! We are very blessed.

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Executive Board 2023 -2024

The following volunteers are the current members of the RPR Executive, which consists of positions with differing responsibilities. In brief, as stated in the RPR by-laws: The president presides at all association meetings and is responsible for the general and active management of the affairs of the Corporation, seeing that all orders and resolutions of the board are carried out. The treasurer supervises the financial well-being of the association and is tasked with disbursing funds and keeping full and accurate accounts of all assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the association and deposits all monies, securities and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in a bank. The secretary attends the meetings of the association and acts as clerk and records all votes and minutes of all proceedings in the association's books. The VPs carry on activities requested by the board, including functions pertaining to the three pillars of the association (community building, heritage and environment). The past president offers advice to the current president and assists with the continuity of the executive as the executive evolves and changes over time.

The full text of the by-laws is available online at rockcliffepark.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/2013-RPR-BY-LAW-No.-1-signed.pdf.



John Butterfield
Treasurer

John moved to Rockcliffe with his family 15 years ago from England. He served on the RPR board as a director from 2010 to 2013, then rejoined as Treasurer in 2020. After a career in Europe in banking and strategy consulting, from 2010 to 2019 he was the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Ottawa start-up online political news website iPolitics.ca, and is now a freelance management consultant. He is also on the board of the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) as Treasurer.



Michele Hayman
Heritage VP

Michele and her family moved to Rockcliffe Park in 2004. She has been involved in various community initiatives, including many years as a volunteer at RPPS, eventually becoming chair of its Book Fair. She has been a member of the RPR since 2014, first as Secretary for three years, and since then as Heritage VP, in order to advocate for the protection and preservation of Rockcliffe's heritage, and to ensure that it remains a cherished oasis for generations to come.



Anna Blauveldt
Corporate Secretary

Originally from Fredericton, Anna has been a Rockcliffe Park resident for 14 years. A former ambassador, public service executive and justice of the peace, she is also the published author of three novellas, half a dozen short stories and a children's picture book. She and husband John Brooks, an international consultant (and RP invasive species removal team member!), are proud parents of Katya, an Elmwood School and University of Ottawa graduate.



Mark Willcox
Environment VP

Mark and his wife moved to Rockcliffe in 2014, captivated by its heritage, environment and sense of community. He retired from a federal department dedicated to the protection of the environment, and carried that passion with him to work in the community to conserve the unique environment of Rockcliffe Park. He is also a board member on his cottage association in Quebec, which is dedicated to the preservation of the water quality and the environment.



Russ Gibson
President

Russ joined the board in 2008-09. A young parent at the time, he was encouraged by lola Price to help out with community activities for kids, so he volunteered to organize the annual children's holiday party and continued to do so for many years. In time, he took on various other responsibilities, becoming RPR president in 2020. He is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the many dedicated volunteers who help make Rockcliffe such a wonderful place to live.



Lisa Cogan
Community VP

A profile in the September 2022 issue of this newsletter described Lisa's family life and past community work. As Community VP, she sees the role as a way to move forward with some new initiatives while ensuring that Rockcliffe's well-loved neighbourhood activities continue to flourish. The energy, the spirit – and the many willing volunteers – help create a community intent on maintaining its treasured Village lifestyle for all to enjoy.



Peter Lewis
Past President

As an RPR board member for the past 12 years, including five as President, Peter finds it to be a great way to keep on top of what is happening both in Ottawa generally and, more specifically, in Rockcliffe Park and the neighbouring areas. Rockcliffe, as a recent full member of the City of Ottawa, faces constant challenges in striving to retain the unique characteristics that make it such a special place. Peter hopes to continue working on behalf of the community far into the future.



RPR Community Committee

Lisa Cogan, Community VP

Volunteers Registrar

Kate Struthers
volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca

Membership Database

Peter Lewis
membership@rockcliffepark.ca

Eblast and Email List Coordinator

Kay James
communications@rockcliffepark.ca

Website Coordinator

Jean-Guy Dumoulin
webupdates@rockcliffepark.ca

Rockcliffe News Editor

Cynthia Hamady
editor@rockcliffepark.ca

Activities

Speakers Program
Rockcliffe News and Events Email Blast
The Rockcliffe News
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

Report on Community Activities

As the first half of 2023 draws to a close and two months of summer break begin, the following is an update on activity during the months of April and May.

2023 Membership Drive

The membership drive has drawn to a close; it was a very successful campaign and I extend many thanks to our hardworking and diligent volunteers. With membership renewals still dribbling in, updating of the membership database and eblast list is expected to be complete by the end of the summer. If your RPR membership is not current, you will no longer be eligible to receive the weekly email news bulletin (eblast). For questions or concerns about membership, send an email to membership@rockcliffepark.ca. For info regarding the eblast, email communications@rockcliffepark.ca. For rights and privileges of an RPR membership, please check the by-laws, accessible by a link in the introductory text of the RPR page on our website, rockcliffepark.ca.

Fundraising by the RPR

In early May, a meeting was held to discuss and draft the conditions under which the RPR can organize some limited fundraising, with Peter Lewis, John Butterfield, Natalie Runoff and Lisa Cogan attending. By way of explanation, there are circumstances whereby the Rockcliffe Park Foundation is not permitted to fund certain RPR events (e.g., political) so our association from time to time requires the flexibility to raise money. Within very clear and specific parameters, it is our aim to ensure that there will be no 'double dipping' of prospective donors, that established fundraising categories as set by the Foundation will be honoured, and that every effort to ensure there is no conflict that could risk the work of the Foundation will be made. Additionally, strategy conversations with the Foundation will be arranged prior to any attempts to raise funds.

Drafting of the guidelines continues, as do discussions with the Foundation. The goal is to have a final draft presented to the RPR board at its June 21, 2023 meeting. Once approved by the board, the fundraising policy will be posted on our website in the same section as the by-laws.

The Pond

Very, very early in the spring, a few hardy souls dared brave the frigid temperatures and began to swim well before the gate was unlocked. With more summer-like weather, many are enjoying the opportunity to swim, increasing traffic in the neighbourhood and creating parking issues. Some immediate neighbours are monitoring the situation on a daily basis.

RPR Website

Jean-Guy Dumoulin, our website monitor, has been hard at work updating our site. Many long overdue changes have been made and some new material has been added. The full list of our board members has a new presence, the current issue of The Rockcliffe News will now be the first to pop up when there is an online search for the newsletter, and the A to Z Rockcliffe Park booklet will be included once the final version has been approved. The PayPal option for membership payments has been tidied up and the opportunity to volunteer for community events has been made clearer through a dedicated page.

Hillsdale Road NCC Park

This wonderfully large space is thoroughly enjoyed by scheduled soccer games, off-leash dog walking, joggers, winter cross country skiing, and, recently, by an elegant Coachman motor home. A Northwest Territories family of two adults and two dogs recently made use of the space to give their dogs a good run, take a long walk down to the river and then enjoy the overnight serenity of our neighbourhood, quietly luxuriating in warmer-than-home temperatures.

(continued on page 7)

Report on Community Activities

The next morning, at the crack of dawn, the extended walls contracted, the dogs had a quick outing and off they all went. Another version of the pleasures of Rockcliffe Park.

RPRA Volunteers Registrar

Kate Struthers, a Rockcliffe resident on Old Prospect Road, has graciously agreed to take on the challenge of monitoring and updating the volunteers database. Mark Willcox, now VP Environment, set up the initial format and has passed on all the files and the related email address, volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca, to Kate. Please direct any questions or concerns to her at that address.

Summer/September Community Events

The traditional neighbourhood movie night is tentatively scheduled for mid August. Details will be sent out in the RPRA's eblast notices.

For September, our environment group, headed by Lola Price, is organizing a tree forest walk around McKay Lake, to be followed by a BBQ at the Community Hall. Stay tuned – the date and further details will follow by eblast and neighbourhood signage.

I sign off by wishing you all a wonderful and fun-filled summer. Stay safe, enjoy the all-too-short season and plan to join us for upcoming RPRA-sponsored neighbourhood activities.

Lisa Cogan, Community VP

Rockcliffe Park Eblast

Each weekend, an email entitled 'News and Events in Rockcliffe Park' is sent out to current members of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association. It covers local matters that may be of interest or concern to residents of the Village. While taking care not to bother members with too many emails, we also send occasional special communications or emergency notifications.

Non-residents who would like to subscribe to the mailing list can now do so by signing up for RPRA membership on our website, rockcliffepark.ca – click 'JOIN US!' on the home page's navigation bar to access the membership page. You will be registered as a non-resident, non-voting member of the RPRA. The fee is \$25 per calendar year.

If your weekly emails are no longer arriving, there are several possible reasons:

- Have you changed your email address?
- Is the email address you gave us no longer operational? (If delivery fails three times, the account will automatically become delisted.)
- Did you accidentally click the 'unsubscribe' link?
- Is your email program rejecting the RPRA emails because they are from a mailing list?

If you're a paid-up RPRA member but you're not receiving the weekly emails and would like to, contact me at communications@rockcliffepark.ca. And please let me know if there are items not being covered that you think would be of interest to residents.

Kay James

RPRA CONTACTS



If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding activities or policies overseen by the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, please send an email to the appropriate RPRA member listed below.

Russ Gibson, President
russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca

John Butterfield, Treasurer
treasurer@rockcliffepark.ca

Anna Blauveldt, Corporate Secretary
secretary@rockcliffepark.ca

Lisa Cogan, Community VP, Chair
vp.community@rockcliffepark.ca

Michele Hayman, Heritage VP, Chair
mmcollum@gmail.com

Susan d'Aquino, Heritage Outreach Chair
spdott@gmail.com

Mark Willcox, Environment VP
vp.environment@rockcliffepark.ca

Iola Price, Environment Chair
iola.price@outlook.com
environment@rockcliffepark.ca

Peter Lewis, Membership Database
membership@rockcliffepark.ca

Kate Struthers, Volunteers Registry
volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca

Kay James, Eblast and Email List Coordinator
communications@rockcliffepark.ca

Jean-Guy Dumoulin, Website Coordinator
webupdates@rockcliffepark.ca

Cynthia Hamady, Rockcliffe News Editor
editor@rockcliffepark.ca

The St Barts 'Actual In-Person' Bazaar Returns!

We're thrilled to announce that the popular St Barts Bazaar fundraiser will be held in person this year for the first time since the pandemic.

Please plan to join us on Saturday, November 4 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at 125 MacKay Street to raise funds for our Church and its Ministries, including our Refugee Programme, Cornerstone Housing for Women and our Mission to the Garry J Armstrong Centre for long-term care.

While November may seem far off, we are presently seeking donations of items for the Bazaar. As in the past, tables will include quality gifts, books, jewellery, condiments, baking, attic treasures, toys and games, crafts and Christmas decorations. If you have any items in good condition that you may no longer need, please consider donating them.

Contact co-conveners Linda Assad Butcher at Lassadbutcher@gmail.com or Liz Heatherington at Elizmaryh@gmail.com if you have donations.

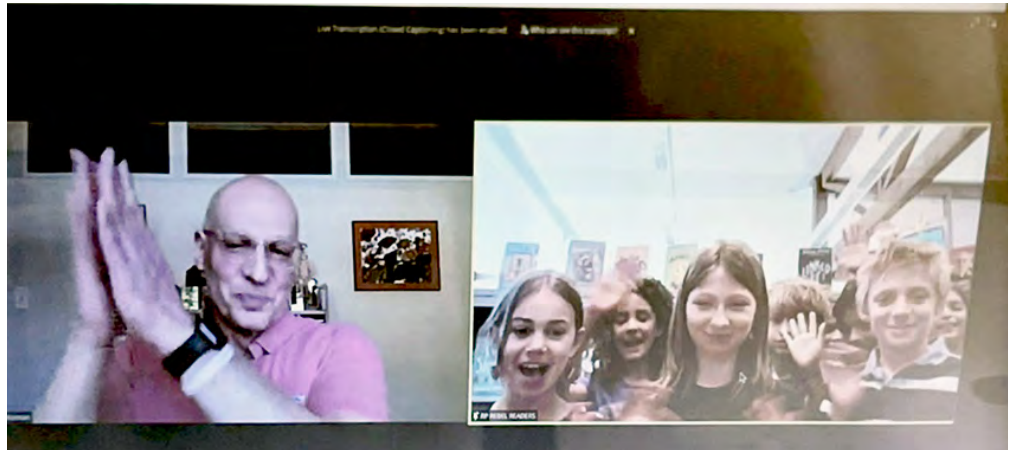
Details of the event will follow in future issues of this newsletter. We thank you in advance and look forward to seeing you after all these years!

Liz Heatherington

An antique washstand from 2022's virtual St Bart's Bazaar.



Recap: Rockcliffe Park Rebel Readers Book Club Virtual Author Event



Gordon Korman with hosts Florence, Ori, Anna, Elizabeth, Ayden, Charlotte, Jack, Leo and Clara at the Virtual Author Event.

This year, the Rockcliffe Park Library hosted its first monthly children's book club at the branch. Our keen readers came together from many different community schools and had lots of fun talking about the books they read and the authors they liked.

Rockcliffe Park Rebel Readers Book Club chose to read three Gordon Korman books this year, and that prompted library staff to reach out to this super-popular author to see if he'd be interested in talking about his amazing career with an audience of Ottawa elementary students. He said yes! It turns out he remembers speaking in Ottawa, because this was where he presented his very first out-of-town author event, back when he was a teenager. Gordon Korman published his first novel, *This Can't be Happening at Macdonald Hall*, when he was 14 years old. He was invited to Rockcliffe Park Public School to read from his novel to the students there and our current prime minister, Justin Trudeau, was a student at RPPS at that time, so it must have been memorable!

Mr. Korman has now published 101 books for kids and teens, and along with having been translated into 30 languages and sold across the world, his books have also won awards and made multiple best seller lists.

The kids in the Rockcliffe Park Library book club are amazed by all these facts, but mostly they like Gordon Korman's novels because "they are really, really funny!"

The Rockcliffe Park Book Club kids were pleased to host the Ottawa Public Library Virtual Author Event with Gordon Korman on Friday, May 26 from 9:30-10:30 am. They were joined by hundreds of school classes and individuals across the city (which means thousands of kids tuned in!) to welcome Mr. Korman back to Ottawa. He gave a wonderful presentation about life as an author and shared writing tips and inspiration with the audience. Classes were able to ask questions and Mr. Korman answered as many as time allowed. We learned that his mother typed his first manuscript on an old-fashioned typewriter, back when he was still an elementary student! His 102nd book will be published this summer.

Rockcliffe Park Library thanks the RP Rebel Readers for doing such a great job hosting this event for the Ottawa Public Library, and the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale for providing extra funds to support this kind of meaningful programming for kids all across our city.

Martha Hodgson

Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale: Where Proceeds Go

Regular patrons of the Rockcliffe Park Library will be familiar with the wide variety of events offered at the branch. Much of this programming is made possible by proceeds from our annual Spring Book Sale, not yet back to 'normal' but still raising money through our periodic Book Drives and our first ever, successful Children's Book Sale, held recently at the Community Hall.

"The Library wants to ensure that programming reflects the community we serve so that everyone feels included," says Martha Hodgson, Public Service Supervisor at the branch. Programs across the wider Ottawa Public Library system supported by Spring Book Sale funds include:

- Programs to increase awareness of indigenous culture and history with a focus on the residential school experience, through the purchase of books and classroom Skype visits with the authors.
- The One School, One Book initiative, where children from different schools across the city read the same novel and then enjoy programming related to the themes in the book.
- Purchase of board books for Rockcliffe Park staff to distribute when doing early literacy outreach in vulnerable communities.
- Outreach by Library staff to various seniors' residences in our community.
- A series of art workshops created by the staffs of the Rockcliffe Park branch and CHEO during the pandemic for young people living with mental health challenges.
- A Virtual Author Event hosted by RPPS students with author Gordon Korman and streamed to over 143 schools (see story on the previous page of this newsletter).



Visitors to the Rockcliffe Park branch can enjoy world-class musical performances, free of charge, through the Sale-funded *Music in the Stacks* series; in April, the NAC String Quartet gave a spirited performance of Mendelssohn's String Quartet (photo above) and on June 15, Celtic harpist Susan Toman and guitarist Andrew Mah played music from the 17th and 18th centuries. Authors making presentations in the Library's Speaker Series have included Irene Tomaszewski, who spoke about her experiences as a child, travelling with her family as refugees during WWII "from the snows of Siberia to the snows of Kilimanjaro."

Thank you to Martha and her team at Rockcliffe Park – Suzanne, Elizabeth, Amber and Tim – for making all this happen. But none of this would be possible without the continued support of this community; it starts with your donations of gently used books, so please keep them coming.

Now that summer is here and many people are away (including a number of our hardworking volunteers), we will not be holding another Book Drive until the fall. We still welcome your donations over the summer, however; you can bring them into the Library during opening hours or, if you have a sizeable donation, you may contact Jane Newcombe at janenewcombe08@gmail.com or Carolyn Brereton at cbrereton@mac.com to arrange a pickup.

Carolyn Brereton



Dr John Henderson

Dr John Henderson was a Rockcliffe resident for over 50 years and had a long and distinguished medical career in Ottawa after immigrating to Canada from the UK in 1959.

In 1968, he moved to Ottawa from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and was the only respirologist in the city for many years. His medical colleagues described him as an extraordinary diagnostician and teacher, yet many of his accomplishments were unknown to his family and friends, such as when he admitted Ottawa's first AIDS patient after he was rejected by other hospitals, and how he led a dedicated team to save the life of the Hon. Jeanne Sauv , allowing her to serve a full term as Canada's first female Governor General.

Dr Henderson often remarked how grateful he was to have lived in Rockcliffe, and long family walks with his dogs were always deeply cherished occasions. He would often pause to notice the vivid colours of autumn, or appreciate the serenity of the Village, or take a moment to have a pleasant chat with fellow residents. He had a marvelous capacity to notice fleeting moments of beauty, no matter the weather, and he would often complement those encounters by reciting a poem or sharing a witty anecdote, which elevated the prosaic into a moment filled with grace and wonder.

On a clear spring morning, amid the chorus of birds chirping and the first signs of crocus and daffodils visible in the garden after a long winter, Dr Henderson died at home on Easter Monday, surrounded by family and to the sound of his beloved antique clocks striking ten o'clock.

A funeral celebrating the long, accomplished life of Dr Henderson will be held at St Bartholomew's Church on MacKay Street on the morning of Monday, July 24. All are very welcome.



Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC)

Kids' Summer Day Camps Start July 3, 2023

This year, the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) is proud to be celebrating 50 years of summer camps along the Ottawa River. Since 1973, ONEC has been providing community youth camps that offer an exciting outdoor experience from their beautiful heritage boathouse and red clay tennis courts. This means you can often find campers whose parents also attended the same great ONEC camps when they were young, creating a multi-generational community sport and fitness for life experience.

Every year, ONEC introduces the youth community to tennis, sailing, rowing, kayaking and paddling. The club strives to provide a safe and inclusive space while emphasizing fun, participation and skills acquisition in sport. Kids gather out on the tennis courts or head out along the beautiful Ottawa River to learn and play, while taking in the sights of the nation's capital and lush forested shoreline.

To mark its 50th year of summer camps, ONEC wanted to find a way to give back to the community. Through reaching out and forging a special partnership with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC), a local non-profit organization that empowers at-risk youth through inclusive community-based programming, a special plan was formed. The partners are offering 30 free camps spots to financially-at-risk youth, with transportation costs generously funded by Budget Rent-a-Car. The program really gained traction following support from community leaders including the Honourable MP Mona Fortier, Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe and Councillor Rawlson King.

ONEC and its partners foster inclusivity, connection and empowerment through rowing. Photo: rowingcanada.org

"Sports have the power to bring people together, foster connections and create a sense of belonging," explained John Moore, ONEC's communications director. "Our aim is to introduce the Ottawa at-risk youth community to the joy and adventure of summer camp, and ensure they feel included and supported throughout their journey."

ONEC is excited to be making a difference for the community. Their Jumpstart Camps are the latest in a growing line of community-based programs designed to remove barriers and increase participation in sport for equity-deserving and under-represented populations. As part of this movement, ONEC is excited to be one of the first multi-sport clubs to have adopted a club-wide 'Safe Sport' policy that fosters a culture where everyone can thrive in sport at all levels of participation, free from mistreatment.

The club was recently featured during Pride month by Rowing Canada Aviron for introducing a transformative rowing initiative, bringing together the national capital's 2SLGBTQQA+ senior community, in partnership with the Ottawa Senior Pride Network (OSPN). See the full story at rowingcanada.org/ottawa-new-edinburgh-club-fostering-inclusivity-connection-and-empowerment-through-rowing.



ONEC is excited to be a place where everyone feels welcome and can enjoy the beautiful outdoors. "Ottawa is incredibly lucky to have such an incredible river, perfect for summer outdoor recreation. Our outdoor spaces are meant to be shared and enjoyed by all," continued Moore. "We're excited to be a part of the Jumpstart family."

ONEC's summer day camps are filling up fast! For kids ages 7 to 17, they provide a chance to learn and perfect skills while having fun outdoors with old and new friends. Here's what ONEC camps have on offer for 2023:

Tennis Camps:

ONEC's tennis program aims to provide your child with the basic fundamentals of tennis, to build his/her co-operation skills, court etiquette, self esteem and confidence – all while creating an environment that fosters an appreciation and enjoyment of the game.

Sailing Camps:

ONEC's sailing program teaches and promotes water safety, the sport of sailing, and encourages skill development in a safe environment. The program emphasizes the enjoyment and lifetime benefits of active participation in sport.

Rowing and Kayaking Camps:

ONEC's rowing and kayaking programs' enrollment is kept small to give your child enough attention for them to truly hone their skills. It focuses on developing basic techniques so that campers can safely and confidently power a variety of boats under different conditions, and on fostering an enjoyment of the sports that will last a lifetime.

For complete details and to register online, go to ONEC's new camp website, onec.ca/camps. Join us for some summer fun!

John Moore
ONEC Communications Director

Recap: Dining with the Ambassadors 2023

Scenes from the Pre-Dinner Reception



With a very enthusiastic crowd of 160 neighbours, the stars aligned for Dining with the Ambassadors



The Rockcliffe Park Foundation's beloved spring event roared back to life on Friday, May 12 with a triumphant in-person return. With the help of our Rockcliffe diplomatic hosts and our event partners, the Foundation raised more than \$30,000 to support programming that keeps our community thriving. More importantly, the event allows us to come together to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

From the moment guests gathered under the tent at the Community Hall for the pre-dinner cocktail reception, the evening air was abuzz. Presented by Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Christie's International Real Estate, the reception in honour of the heads of mission featured catering by Fraser Cafe and music by Ashbury students.

- Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Kanji Yamanouchi and Madam Yukiko Yamanouchi;
- High Commissioner of Cyprus, His Excellency Giorgos Ioannides and Mrs. Christina Panayiotou;
- High Commissioner of the Bahamas, His Excellency V. Alfred Gray and Mrs. Bessley Gray;
- Ambassador of Switzerland, His Excellency Olaf Kjelsen and Mrs. Carine Kjelsen.

Foundation chair Sarah Baxter commented that "we are incredibly proud of the success of this event and touched by the support we received from our diplomatic neighbours and our event partners including The Minto Group and Foundation WCPD. The funds raised support the programs and events in our community."



A key highlight of the evening is the 'big reveal' – the moment when guests learn where they will be dining that night. This year, 12 missions shared their traditional hospitality with neighbours:

- High Commissioner of New Zealand, His Excellency Martin Harvey and Mrs. Sarah Harvey;
- Ambassador of Thailand, His Excellency Kallayana Vipattipumiprater, represented for the evening by the Chargé d'Affaires and Counsellor;
- Ambassador of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Ines Coppoolse and Mr. Alexander Verbeek;
- Ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Patrick Van Gheel and Ms. Isabelle Van Goethem;
- Ambassador of Spain, His Excellency Alfredo Martínez Serrano and Mrs. Rosa Pañeda Usunariz;
- Ambassador of Israel, His Excellency Ronen Hoffman and Dr. Michal Arad;
- High Commissioner of Barbados, His Excellency High Commissioner Gline Arley Clarke;
- Ambassador of Algeria, His Excellency Dr. Noureddine Bardad-Daidj and Mrs. Mounya Bardad-Daidj;

Event co-chair Fiona Murray said, "while Dining with the Ambassadors is just one night, it is months in the making. Thank you to our amazing group of volunteers: Marilyn and Robert Collette, Joseph Cull, Cynthia Cusinato, Jill Dickinson, Marianne Feaver, Kristen Healy, Jane Newcombe, Sarah Waters and Marilyn Wilson."

While traditionally a biennial event, Dining with the Ambassadors will be back in the spring of 2024. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy these photos of from the cocktail reception. To view more photos from this neighbourhood event, visit rockcliffeparkfoundation.org/events.

Photos by Leah Mowers Photography, except where otherwise noted.



Photos: Top: The DWA 2023 map. At left, top to bottom: Kristen Healy, Marianne Feaver, event co-chair Sarah Baxter and Marilyn Collette prep for the event. Photo: Joseph Cull | Reception presenting sponsors Marilyn Wilson and Reba Wilson | Foundation vice-chair Ryan Kilger offers welcoming remarks.

Recap: Dining with the Ambassadors 2023

Scenes from the Pre-Dinner Reception



“ Thank you for returning this wonderful event to the community. It was a triumph! It is a privilege to be able to participate in this interesting and stimulating event which is one of the highlights of our community social calendar. ”

Hilary McCormack and Vic Duret



Photos (all from left to right): Top: Guests Beverley Hyde, Peter Hyde, Scott Heatherington, Liz Heatherington, Jim Taggart, Joseph Cull and Nancy Cook Johnson. Second row: Sean Murray and Ian Engelberg | Pam Murray and Janet Pigott. Third row: Bingxin Chen, Lei Wei, Tingting Liu and Ye Chen | Councillor Rawlson King and Linda Grussani | Mark Steeves and Brian Murray. Bottom row: Patricia Woods and Jean-Guy Dumoulin | Sarah Harvey, Lucie Martin and Ryan Kilger.

Recap: Dining with the Ambassadors 2023

Scenes from the Pre-Dinner Reception



“ We enjoyed very much being able to share this special evening with our guests. In Rockcliffe, we have found our home in Canada and we feel part of the community. It was a real pleasure to contribute to the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. ”

Rosa Pañeda Usunariz, Spain



“ In addition to contributing to a good cause, we had the benefit and privilege of meeting very interesting and kind neighbours. ”

Ambassador Olaf Kjelsen, Switzerland



Photos (all from left to right): Top: Mrs. Rosa Pañeda Usunariz and H.E. Alfredo Martínez Serrano, Spain; Thai Counsellor Pam Thitiporn Chuchinnawat and Chargé d’Affaires Mr. Thanapol Wang-Om-Klang; Mrs. Christina Panayiotou and H.E. Giorgos Ioannides, Cyprus. Second row: H.E. Patrick Van Gheel, Belgium, and H.E. Martin Harvey, New Zealand | H.E. Ronen Hoffman and Dr. Michal Arad, Israel. Third row: H.E. Gline Arley Clarke, Barbados; and Mrs. Bessley Gray and H.E. V. Alfred Gray, Bahamas | Mr. Alexander Verbeek and H.E. Ines Coppoolse, the Netherlands. Bottom row: Mrs. Mounya Bardad-Daidj and H.E. Dr. Noureddine Bardad-Daidj, Algeria | Mrs. Carine Kjelsen and H.E. Olaf Kjelsen, Switzerland. The ambassador of Japan, H.E. Kanji Yamanouchi and Madam Yukiko Yamanouchi were unable to attend the pre-dinner reception.

Recap: Dining with the Ambassadors 2023

Scenes from the Pre-Dinner Reception



“ WOW.... a great experience and wonderful memories from our evening with the Ambassador of Japan and Madam Yamanouchi. An absolutely brilliant evening. ”

Dennis and Andrea Laurin



Photos (all from left to right): Top: Members of the Dining with the Ambassadors 2023 Organizing Committee: Jane Newcombe, Marianne Feaver, Marilyn Collette, Sarah Waters, Jill Dickinson, Fiona Murray, Robert Collette, Marilyn Wilson, Cynthia Cusinato, Joseph Cull and Jill Dickinson; absent from photo: Kristen Healy, Sarah Baxter. Second row: Event partners Anabel Bane and Peter Nicholson | Julie Dumas and Brett Knowles. Third row: Reception presenting sponsor Marilyn Wilson with Joseph Cull | Event partners Sarah and Michael Waters | Ashbury musicians entertain the guests. Bottom row: Fraser Cafe employees, hard at work | Guests at the gathering, with Maria Burrows at left.



Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC)

Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club Displays Davis Cup Trophy

On Sunday May 7, 2023, Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) welcomed the iconic Davis Cup trophy as part of its cross-Canada Champions Tour. This event also kicked off the year of celebrations for RLTC, which turns 100 years old in 2023.

Last November, Team Canada won the Davis Cup – the World Cup of tennis – in Malaga, Spain for the first time in our history. Team Canada was comprised of players Félix Auger-Aliassime, Denis Shapovalov, Vasek Pospisil, Alexis Galarneau and Gabriel Diallo, led by captain Frank Dancevic.

To celebrate Canada’s historic triumph, RLTC hosted its own mini Davis Cup tournament, along with an exhibition doubles match featuring some of the best players in Ottawa.

This special exhibition match included Marc Abdelnour, who was on the Syrian Davis Cup team in 2013 and was their number one player for 10 years. His doubles partner was John Wins Purdy, who was a semi-finalist in the RLTC tournament in 2022.

On the opposing team were RLTC’s head tennis pro, Zhenya Kondratovski, and Pierre Tafelski, Director of Tennis at the Rideau Sports Centre.



Our members and the public enjoyed watching elite tennis and seeing the prestigious Davis Cup trophy. We are looking forward to hosting more centennial events like this throughout the summer, including our Centennial Social on June 22.

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 license 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



Photos: Left: RLTC member and board member Nicolas Fortier poses in front of the Davis Cup. Above: RLTC Head Pro Zhenya Kondratovski and Rideau Sports Centre Tennis Director Pierre Tafelski play in the mini Davis Cup exhibition match at RLTC on May 7, 2023. Photos: rltennis.ca.

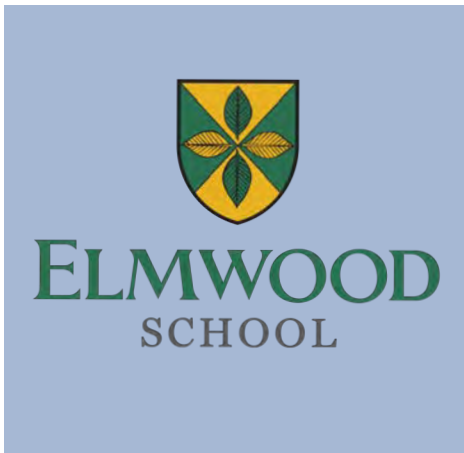


The Rockcliffe News is published six times a year, on or about the 15th of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions are welcome by the first day of the publication month. Copy may be edited for clarity or length. Paid advertising is not accepted. Send your comments, 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 the Rockcliffe Park Foundation: To volunteer or find out more about any of the RPR committees and sub-committees, please contact volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca. To become involved with the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, email 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,' which is sent exclusively to Rockcliffe residents who are members of the RPR. To join the RPR (\$25 per household/year), please either go online to rockcliffepark.ca and click on JOIN US! or email membership@rockcliffepark.ca.

Renew Your Annual 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.



Social Saturday

On Saturday, June 3, Elmwood hosted its 'Social Saturday,' which included a plant and garden art sale, self-guided tours as a part of Doors Open Ottawa, and an alumni reunion reception. The day kicked off with a plant and art sale, with local artisans selling their work and plants kindly provided by Green Life Landscaping, with all proceeds from the sale of plants going toward the Elmwood Old Girls Scholarship. Historian and author Janet Uren '67 presented a History of Elmwood that beautifully encapsulated Elmwood's rich past. The day concluded with an alumni reunion, a beautiful opportunity to catch up with old friends and reminisce about years spent together in Elmwood green.

Gala

The 2023 Elmwood Gala – Branches of Success – held on May 6, was an incredible celebration of our students, staff, families and community. Headed by Gala Committee Chair and parent Clara Francis Nehme and made possible with the help of our Gala Patron Jamilah Taib-Murray '82, the night was one filled with dancing, delicious food, generosity and joy. The school gymnasium was completely transformed into a magical space with hints of gold twinkling lights and swathes of greenery on the tables and hanging from the ceiling. The delicious food was prepared by Elmwood's very own Bistro team, led by Chef Candice Butler. After dinner, guests were invited to bid on auction items and donate to the Gala's cause for the year – the reimagining of our Kinder play yard, and a new play structure for our Junior and Middle School students. After reaching the fundraising goal of \$300,000, guests danced the night away to the tunes of Montreal's Elektrik. Thanks to all the sponsors and supporters who made this night a success, including Rockcliffe's own Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties and Jacobson's Fine Foods, as well as Dentons Canada LLP, Rogers Communications and Otto's BMW and Otto's Subaru.



Kindergarten Spring Tea

On Friday, May 12, Elmwood's Kindergarten classes hosted a Spring Tea for parents and families. It was an afternoon filled with songs, dance, delicious snacks and, of course, tea! Students wanted to show their families how appreciated and loved they are, and the event was perfectly scheduled for just before Mother's Day. The tea opened with some beautiful musical performances in both English and French. Following the performances, families had the opportunity to enjoy the food prepared by our Bistro team and mingle, all while revelling in the fact that spring has sprung!

CAIS Conference

In late April, Elmwood students embarked on a three-day trip to the 2023 CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools) Senior School Leadership Conferences. The conference is designed to build students' understanding of themselves as leaders and agents of change by engaging students in meaningful discussions and group activities. Hosted by Rothesay Netherwood School, located just outside of Saint John, New Brunswick, it was three days filled with team and individual leadership skill-building activities, from Model UN simulation and guest speakers to rock climbing and games.

Model UN Conference

In late April, the Senior School Model UN Club (photo at left) travelled to Toronto to participate in the 50th annual Southern Ontario Model United Nations Assembly (SOMA). SOMA is a conference that gives students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of International Relations and learn more about the inner workings of the UN General Assembly. Run by and held at the U of Toronto, the conference also gives students the opportunity to interact with like-minded peers from schools all over Ontario. Almost every Elmwood delegate was able to sponsor their own legislation in their committees, a big Model UN accomplishment. Kudos to Naila Moloo '24 and Mia Cheng '24, who were awarded honourable mentions in their committees.

Elmwood Eagles Excel

In early June, Elmwood's rowing team (photo below) travelled to St. Catherine's for the CSSRA Championships, hosted at the Royal Regatta Course, and won Elmwood's first-ever Canadian championship medal. Gabby Jennings '24, M-E Hickey '24, Dahlia Rostom '23, and Maia Hembruff '23 in the senior 4x brought home bronze! And Elmwood's rugby 10s (photo at top) took home gold last week, defeating the number one-seeded Longsfield-Davidson in a captivating and history-making final. Congrats!





Recap: Rockcliffe Park Public School Centenary

Rockcliffe resident Joan Matthews Khan addressed the crowd at the Rockcliffe Park Public School Centenary.



At the Centenary for the Rockcliffe Park Public School, held on May 13, 2023 in the Jubilee Garden, Joan Matthews Khan gave a lively account of the Village and Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) during the years she attended the school – from 1939 to 1945. These are her recollections of that time:

The Village, being outside the City of Ottawa, was classified as a rural area. As such, it boasted a Reeve and six Councillors, its own school board and a prominent school – RPPS. Those were war years and many people came to Ottawa to contribute to the war effort. Many of these families lived in Rockcliffe and sent their children to the public school. There was food rationing for all Canadian families and many fathers patrolled the Village at night to spot houses that were letting light out through curtains or blinds in case of feared air raids. The Village Constable, Mr. Fish, patrolled the area and was on the lookout for any mischief. He was greatly feared by the students and if caught by him, you were in fact ‘toast.’ All the misbehaving children scattered if he was seen coming!

The school followed the Ontario government’s curriculum closely and examinations were sent down from Toronto each year for the graduating class, grade eight. The school was dominated by the principal, Miss Jean Austen, who had been with it since its beginning. Her word was law and she held in her power the strap, which was given out rarely and only when needed. Parents who found that their child had been given the strap were liable to administer additional severe parental discipline.

Miss Austen was feared by all students until one reached grade eight, and then one came to love her as she was an excellent teacher, especially of English Literature. She also taught art throughout the school and brought into the school experts from the National Art Gallery and the National Film Board for special events. She also drilled the grade eight pupils on English grammar and made them use the 1911 Ontario grammar book, disdaining the modern grammar books. Those who graduated from the school knew their grammar well. Once a week she called the whole school together in the auditorium and did the announcements and/or explained the latest rule, which was to be adhered to in no uncertain terms.

Being a rural school, woodworking was taught to the boys and domestic science to the girls in grades seven and eight in special basement rooms equipped with lathes, stoves, sewing machines, etc. CBC farm broadcasts were also listened to and in grade eight a farm animal was chosen by that class for special study. As well, studies of the major breeds of the main farm animals and of common weeds and tree identification were also taught.

Supplies were given to each student at the beginning of the school year, consisting of a ruler, eraser, pencil and a ‘scribbler,’ all supplied by the school board, along with all the art and music supplies. Grade eight students were also supplied with bookbinding material, tools for block printing, paper mache and pottery clay materials for fashioning into objects in the art classes, all taught by the principal.

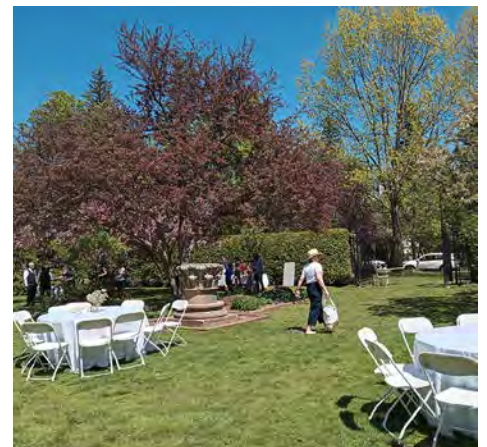
Music singing was taught to all classes, with an Ontario song book designed for each class. A rhythm band was formed for the junior grades and they performed while the teacher (Miss Burrell) played the main piece on the piano and students chimed in with their instruments on cue.

The girls marched into the school on the girls’ side while the boys marched on the boys’ side at 9:00 am to the music of a Sousa march. This 78 rpm record was played on the Victrola in the middle of the entrance hall and was handled by one of the grade eight students. A hymn was then sung in each classroom, a short Bible story or lesson was read, and the school life began.

The special highlights of the school year focused around the Victory Garden, Sports Day, the Christmas Concert and the arrival of royalty – Princess Juliana of the Netherlands and her daughters, seeking refuge from war-torn Europe.

Sports Day was held each June: the teachers organized elimination heats, invitations to parents were crafted in the art classes, and many went up to the school grounds to watch the events – high jump, broad jump, 100-yard dash and the obstacle race. Prizes were given out to all the winners and consisted of small silver spoons until replaced by War Saving Stamps.

(continued on page 18)



Rockcliffe Park Public School’s Centenary was held on a lovely, sunny day in May in the Jubilee Garden.

RPPS Centenary



The Victory Garden: each class from grade six on had a garden on the north side of the school. Pupils drew out the garden plan to scale before they were allowed to start cultivation, and then the gardens were laid out by rows and the planting began. If one had learnt the 20 new words for spelling for the week, he/she was let out early Friday afternoon to cultivate his/her garden. This was a great incentive to learn the weekly spelling.

The Christmas Concert: the whole school was involved in this and practicing for it began in mid-November. Each grade performed and it was held in the evening so parents could attend if they were able. In my graduating year, grade eight performed a play in costume and a selection of class choral reading, and the grade sevens performed two shadow plays based on Scottish ballads. Each class performed on the stage in costume in the auditorium.

Royalty: Princess Juliana and her daughters came to live in the Village to escape the war in Europe and there was even more excitement when she enrolled her children in the Rockcliffe School. Each class did something special for the Netherlands, Princess Juliana and her family.

Looking back, it was a 'magical' time – but not so magical if you were a pupil! Discipline was always enforced and pupils were by and large obedient to the teachers' leadership and control. The threat of being sent to the principal's office if expelled from the class was a major source of power held by the teacher and very large disgrace for that student!

But all in all, in retrospect, it was a wonderful time. I admire the teachers greatly. They were well trained, able to adapt quickly to the their students' needs and, in particular, were able to control the classrooms. I hope all RPPS students will be able to look back fondly, as I have.

Joan Matthews Khan

It has been a very busy spring, and I am pleased to share the following updates on my work to champion the rights and well-being of the citizens of Ontario and, more specifically, the constituents of Ottawa-Vanier.

Ottawa Funding

I have used various channels, including questions, statements, petitions and press conferences, to express concerns about the inadequate funding in Ottawa from the province. The recent announcement of a \$24.1 million funding from the province for a supportive housing project in Vanier definitely strengthens my determination to continue being a strong voice on your behalf at Queen's Park.

Healthcare

After hearing feedback from residents, I have spoken in opposition to the passage of Bill 60, a controversial legislation that introduced a for-profit healthcare component.

I firmly believe that it disregards the needs of Ontarians and exacerbates the shortage of healthcare professionals, compromising the quality of care provided that every Ontarian deserves.

Education

I successfully proposed amendments to the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, which were passed in the committee to which it was referred.

Francophonie

During Francophonie Month, I had the privilege of participating in a gathering of women parliamentarians from several francophone countries. This significant event offered an opportunity for meaningful discussions on important global matters impacting women, as well as potential solutions.

One of my top priorities during my time in the riding is to engage with members of our community. My purpose as your representative is to address any concerns you may have, which is why I make it a point to attend numerous local events. Additionally, I am actively organizing various community events that I invite you to join. With my team, I have successfully organized a Mother's Day celebration, an introductory Nordic walking session and interactive coffee chats. These events were well received by the community.

Moving forward, I will continue planning and hosting various community events, and I invite you to participate in these upcoming activities. By signing up for our newsletter, you will stay informed about future events and receive updates on the progress of my work. Go to my website, lucillecollard.onmpp.ca, for more details and to sign up.

I am committed to continuing to work with you to strengthen our social bonds and ensure that everyone in Ottawa-Vanier feels welcomed and included.

Lucille Collard, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier
lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Photo: Bia Media



On March 1, City Council adopted the 2023 budget, a transitional ‘placeholder’ plan that supports Council’s commitment to fund ongoing operational needs by maintaining residents’ services as Council begins determining its priorities for this new Council term.

Under this year’s budget, the average urban homeowner will see their property tax bill rise by \$104. The urban water fee is going up \$38 and the police levy is increasing by \$17.

City staff spent countless hours developing a financial plan designed to increase transit affordability, respond to climate change, conserve our environment and enhance community safety. Consequently, I supported several measures in this budget, including a transit fare freeze, an annual \$5 million commitment to implement the city’s climate change plan, and \$52 million in new climate investments. The budget also included measures to hire 14 new paramedics, and an additional \$1.5 million for affordable housing, allocating \$16.5 million in total capital funding for housing this year.

As the Council Liaison for Anti-Racism and Ethnocultural Relations Initiatives, I was pleased that an additional \$400,000 was allocated in the budget for equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives to aid in adopting the city’s Anti-Racism Strategy, Women and Gender Equity initiatives and Indigenous relations. The first phase of the Strategy officially launched in May.

I expect to hold consultations for the 2024 budget earlier than in previous years to provide residents with ample opportunity for more meaningful input.

As Chair of the Built Heritage Committee, I was happy to congratulate city staff along with members of the heritage community for the incredible effort in making Heritage Day and Ottawa Heritage Awards in February a huge success. Heritage Day was celebrated with an in-person event on February 21. This was the first time that the city and Capital Heritage Connexion gathered together since 2020 and we are thrilled that the event returned to City Hall. As part of Heritage Week, the City of Ottawa recognized outstanding contributions to heritage conservation with the 2023 Ottawa Heritage Awards. Winning projects representing Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward included the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Walk Committee.

I am also pleased that the city’s heritage staff will bring a strategy forward to Built Heritage Committee and Council to implement changes necessary due to Bill 23. The strategy will outline how staff will deal with heritage-listed properties, the heritage registry and new heritage designation criteria, which changed since the Ontario Heritage Act and the Planning Act were amended by Bill 23 on January 1.

As part of the City of Ottawa’s annual infrastructure maintenance cycle, road resurfacing will occur along Crichton Street and Springfield Road. The City of Ottawa will be resurfacing roads as preventative maintenance aimed at extending the city’s roadway network lifecycle. On Crichton Street, work will involve milling or pulverizing of the existing surface, possible granular material placement, adjustment of maintenance hole and catch basin grates, concrete repairs and roadway resurfacing. Increased noise levels are to be expected to facilitate the work.

This work on Crichton Street was expected to start the week of May 29 and completion is anticipated by summer 2023. The road will remain open to traffic with lane closures expected. Traffic control personnel will direct traffic through the site. Crichton Street from Dufferin Road to Beechwood Avenue and from Charles Street to Keefer Street will be resurfaced during the day and evening and will involve minor lane interruptions. Weekend work is anticipated for all locations and traffic interruptions may also be experienced due to flagging operations.

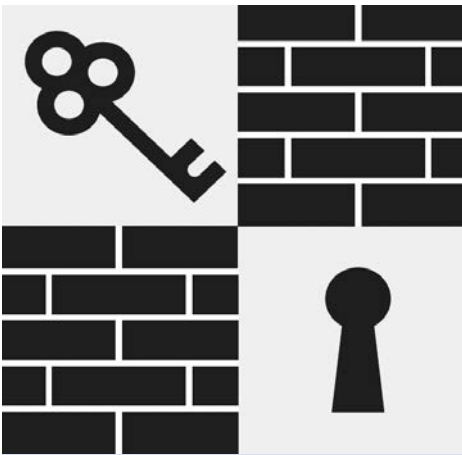
Due to labour and supply chain challenges that delayed construction work across the city last year, road rehabilitation work will resume on Springfield Road, also beginning the week of May 29, with completion also anticipated by the summer.

To date, budget allocations for road renewal have totaled \$1.51 million for these projects, including \$300,000 on Crichton Street between Charles and Keefer streets, \$430,000 on Crichton Street between Dufferin Road and Beechwood Avenue, \$570,000 on Springfield Road between Beechwood Avenue and Maple Lane, and \$210,000 on Stanley Avenue from Sussex Drive to Union Street.

As continued investment in well-designed, well-maintained, and efficient road networks is essential for creating livable, vibrant and prosperous neighbourhoods, my office will continue to have discussions with residents and community organizations on enhancing our streetscapes, including Beechwood Avenue.

For more information and updates about Ward initiatives, visit www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca and sign up for my weekly newsletter.

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

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Gouhar Shemdin

All work guided by the
Rockcliffe Park Heritage
Conservation District Plan

Proposal to Sever the Former Stanfield Property at 136 Acacia

In January, the new owners of the large property at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Maple Lane applied to the City of Ottawa's Committee of Adjustment to sever the property to create an additional residential lot. The property was formerly owned – for close to 50 years – by the Right Honourable Robert Stanfield and his wife, Anne, who died two years ago. It is a Grade I property under the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan (RPHCDP) – which states that "Existing larger lots with Grade I buildings shall be preserved." This is the first time this clear language of the Heritage Plan has been challenged.

In accordance with the RPHCDP, the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association has strongly opposed this severance. As well, nearby residents Patricia Logrippo and Angela Yuan Wu went door to door with a petition informing others of the proposed severance of this important heritage property and of special concerns about the safety of the intersection of Acacia and Maple that would be worsened by an added obstruction to the already poor view lines at the corner. They were surprised and heartened by the strong community response – over 100 neighbours signed the petition opposing the severance. Patricia and Angela express their heartfelt thanks to everyone who signed and who shared their concerns so willingly. They also warmly thank Philip Smith, Marg Ross, Darlene Boileau, Yves Dallaire, Joanne Stanley, Linda English, Alexandra Colt and Colin McCartney, who all helped in important ways.

A little history: The property at 136 Acacia had been added to when, in 1961, the then-owner acquired a rear adjoining parcel of land that had formerly been part of the Ottawa tramway line. The odd-shaped piece of land had been released when the tramline was closed down. 136 Acacia has been lived in, cared for, taxed and evaluated for heritage purposes as one property since that time.

The new owners of 136 Acacia, who bought the property in 2022, engaged legal counsel to pursue severance of the property. The initial legal opinion stated that the tramline parcel had merged on title with 136 Acacia. Subsequently, we were told by city staff, legal counsel for the applicant relied on the Planning Act of 1960 to make extended efforts to convince the city's legal staff that this tramway parcel of land had never merged on title with 136 Acacia. This would have meant that, ignoring several changes to the Planning Act since 1960 and the adoption by the city of our Heritage Plan, the tramway piece of land could be sold off without even seeking permission to sever the property from the Committee of Adjustment. The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association decided that this challenge could only be met by engaging our own legal counsel – something that had not been done before.

After an initial hearing at the Committee of Adjustment on February 1, three adjournments were granted at the request of the applicant and/or city staff in order to further study the issues raised. For the most recent hearing on May 17, our legal counsel submitted a strong and clear document setting out why the proposed severance should be rejected. City staff also clearly recommended rejection of the application. In addition, the petition signed by the many residents added to the opposition. Faced with this, the applicant avoided consideration of the matter by seeking an indefinite adjournment of the hearing. We were disappointed that the adjournment was granted and the matter left unresolved. It was noted by the applicant's representative that one option would be for the applicant to withdraw the application, but this remains unknown.

Michele Hayman, Heritage VP

Ambassador of Spain Hosts Special Luncheon at Lindenelm



A portrait of Wilson and Henrietta Southam with their first five children (left to right): Margaret, Cargill, William, John and Jean, clearly at Lindenelm. (Son Hamilton was not born for another two years.) Photo from *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village*, by Martha Edmond.

On a beautiful day in May, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Wilson and Henrietta Southam were warmly welcomed to their ancestors' home, Lindenelm, on Crescent Road. The Ambassador of Spain, Alfredo Martinez Serrano, and his wife Rosa Pañeda, were excited to host them at a luncheon to mark a special anniversary in the history of Spain's diplomatic presence in Canada: it was 70 years ago that Spain purchased the property from the Southams to make it the residence of its ambassadors.

Designed by noted architect Allan Keefer, a descendant of Rockcliffe's founders, Lindenelm was built in 1911 for Wilson Southam, publisher of the *Ottawa Citizen*, and his wife Henrietta. The same year, Wilson's brother Harry had the house next door built for his family, now the residence of ambassadors of Austria. These were the first houses on Crescent Road, which was then a private gated road.

Hamilton Southam, the father of guests Michael, Peter, Gordon, and Henrietta on this sunny day, had grown up in Lindenelm. Margot Gualtieri, the mother of guests Eric and Inger, had spent much time in Lindenelm as a grandchild. Margot's mother Jean was Hamilton's sister.

The genesis of this remarkable gathering was the ambassador's wife's response when Susan d'Aquino mentioned to her the recent death of her friend Margot Gualtieri, and Margot's ties to Lindenelm. She asked if Susan could reach out to Margot's children with the idea of a lunch for Southam descendants.

At lunch, the ambassador touched his guests with his warmth and his declaration that "Spain is committed to preserving what you started." Michael Southam spoke in response, saying that his father, Hamilton, who had been born in Lindenelm, had become friends with several of the ambassadors who had lived there, adding "He's probably here with us, smiling."

Guests brought old photo albums and read from Hamilton's reminiscences. They were invited to tour all rooms in the house, from the attic to the basement, recalling how little of the architecture and layout of rooms has changed; they strolled through the gardens, noting that tennis had been played in the front and croquet in the back, and that the kitchen garden had shaped the seasonal meals in the house. They recalled that the much-loved Rockeries, located down a steep hill below the house, had been the route of the old streetcar service and that the Southams had donated part of their property to enhance the setting when it became a public pathway. They remembered the auspicious meetings that had taken place at Lindenelm with Graham Spry, another old resident of Rockcliffe Park, that contributed to the formation of the Canadian Radio League, forerunner of the CBC – the birth of public broadcasting in Canada. It was also clear from the tour how much Ambassador Martinez and his family feel at home in Lindenelm.

The ambassador delighted his guests with paintings he commissioned depicting the map of Rockcliffe Park by the great Spanish artist Teresa Esteban, who travelled to Canada and was impressed by the beauty of Rockcliffe Park and its natural surroundings. It is another contribution to the 70th anniversary of the acquisition of this historic property by the Kingdom of Spain.

And it was a particularly joyful moment when Gordon Southam and his wife Sehrab Grewal were joined after lunch by their five-year-old daughter Harcharan (in the photo at right), enchantingly decked out in colourful flamenco attire for the special occasion. The arrival of this young Southam was a glimpse of the future that added to the poignancy that guests were feeling as they looked back in time to the Southam family history imbedded in the walls of Lindenelm.

Ambassador Martinez and his wife said goodbye to their guests with the gift of a publication, *Together in History: Maps of Canada in Spanish Collections*. It tells the oft-forgotten story of our shared history and Spain's legacy in Canada.

This memorable occasion is a story not only of the Southam family, but of Rockcliffe Park and its history, and of the graciousness of the family representing Spain in Canada.

Susan d'Aquino





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Nic Fortier, Chair
Pond Working Group

Activities

- Invasive Plant Control
- The Pond
- Village Clean-up
- Village Green
- Jubilee Garden Maintenance

Wildlife

A snapping turtle took a swim in Tara-Leigh Mierins’s pool before being rescued and relocated to McKay Lake.



The big excitement on our street this spring was the arrival and nesting of a pair of Merlins. This member of the falcon family is intermediate in size between the Peregrine Falcon and the American Kestrel. Like the Peregrine, it feeds on smaller birds but it is occasionally known to catch and eat small mammals. John Cadham once sent us a photo he took in the Rockeries – the Merlin was eating a squirrel.

We first heard and saw the Merlin pair on 26 April atop one of the trees on our verge. They chose to nest in an old Crow’s nest in a nearby spruce tree. We could easily distinguish between the calls of the male (higher pitched) and the female, and Iola was delighted to witness a courtship transfer of food from the male to the female. This would help prove to her that he would be a good provider when it came time to feed their young. Tara-Leigh Mierins noticed feathers of prey on her driveway, but we all took that philosophically as being part of the cycle of nature.

We’ve seen interesting chases, the most recent being of a Great Blue Heron that flew in the direction of the Merlin nest: the heron reversed and flew at top speed, squawking, while repeatedly dive-bombed from behind by one of the Merlins. In another chase, an approaching Crow made an abrupt u-turn and took off at top speed with a Merlin almost riding its back. We regularly see one of the pair flying about, calling, and occasionally sitting in and calling from a tree in front of our house on Fairview. At 6:00 am on June 2 one of the pair drank from our bird bath. It appears that the female is incubating eggs or perhaps brooding young. As of the evening of June 4, I saw movement in the nest while a second bird was circling the area. We will continue watching.

We helped Tara-Leigh Mierins rescue a snapping turtle from her swimming pool and took it to McKay Lake. Every year about this time the female turtles leave the lake and the Pond and seek out sandy soil in which to lay their eggs. Most likely, they return to the same place their mother laid her eggs so many years ago. So, keep on the lookout over the next month for small snappers heading for McKay Lake or the Pond.

And that was just the start. The next day, an urgent knock on the door led us to our second ‘rescue’ of the week. A mother Wood Duck and 18 newly-hatched ducklings were swimming round and round in a pool across the street. Wood Ducks nest in cavities in trees and when ready to leave the nest, they leap out and flutter to the ground. Being light, they bounce upon landing and the female leads her ducklings to water. With four of us standing around the pool, nets and a box at ready, the adult vanished into the hedge at the back of the property. One observer had the brilliant notion to use one of the deck chairs as a ramp out of the pool and it wasn’t long before one adventuresome duckling got the message, clambered up the ramp and the others followed suit while we watched from indoors. A female duck returned and led the brood back into the shrubbery. We hope they made their way to the relative safety of McKay Lake. The normal clutch size is 10 to 15 so 18 ducklings might be from eggs laid by two females.

Anthony Keith, 4 June 2023

Mosquito Fogging: Consider the Alternatives

With the recent return of warmer weather, you may have already been ‘bugged’ by mosquitos and biting bugs disrupting your outdoor experience. Before calling a licensed pesticide applicator to ‘fog’ your yard with chemicals, give some thought to the impact this decision has on other very important life in your garden, as well as on your neighbours and their gardens.

Synthetic pyrethroids (such as Permethrin) are frequently used by applicators to kill mosquitos. They affect the central nervous system and have a profound effect on a very broad spectrum of beneficial insects as well as those bothersome mosquitos. So before you ‘fog’ your yard, consider these unintentional effects:

- These insecticides kill not only mosquitos, but over 75 different species of other insects, all playing an important role in our ecosystem. Honeybees and other pollinators are especially susceptible and are directly affected. They are also toxic to fish and other aquatic insects.
- You may be destroying a potential food source for many birds such as tree swallows, chimney swifts, cardinals, chickadees, robins and goldfinches that depend on those insects in your backyard to feed their young and to survive. Their food source may be eliminated, and they have to work harder to find food.



- Drift onto a neighbour’s property can cause discomfort and anxiety, especially around vegetable gardens and to those who are sensitive. At a minimum, ensure the applicator informs those who are potentially affected, such as your next door neighbour. Note: Canada’s Pest Control Regulations require such notification. Visit laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2006-124/FullText.html for details.

Instead, consider alternatives – eliminate all standing water, wear mosquito net hats and jackets, use fans to blow the mosquitos away. Try personal repellants, mosquito coils and candles with Citronella, citronella plants, or devices such as rechargeable mosquito repellent machines or bug zappers.

June 19 to 25, 2023 is National Pollinator Week. While it highlights the importance of attempting to do much better, actions we take throughout the year can have a profound effect on pollinators and the diverse insect populations that underpin all that depend on them.

Biodiversity loss is a critical issue. Firefly meadows are going dark. The beauty of butterflies is fading from our gardens and parks. Darting dragonflies are absent from our ponds and creeks. The hum of bees is being lost. We are losing animals at an astonishing rate. We must all do our part.

To find out more, go to ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/wildlife-and-plants/pollinators or the website pollinator.org.

Mark Willcox, Environment VP

Photos: Left: Foggers using toxic chemicals may kill mosquitos but using them for temporary relief may come at a much steeper price. Top: Pollinators could be lost forever because of mosquito foggers.

CALENDAR



JUNE

21 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

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

JULY

01 SATURDAY

Happy Canada Day! Check out all the events happening on the day in Ottawa at canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/canada-day.html

01 SATURDAY 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Chief Pinesi Day; celebrate the area’s Algonquin Anishinaabe history at this annual New Edinburgh event; for details and full schedule visit newedinburgh.ca/event/chief-pinesi-day-2

AUGUST

11 FRIDAY

RPR Movie Night in the Park (tentative); details to come in the RPR eblasts

Rockcliffe Park Shows its Spirit at the Ottawa Marathon!

Dear Neighbour,

I want to give you a heads up that this Sunday Morning (May 28th) thousands of Runners are expected to grace and glide through our neighbourhood as they run through Rockcliffe on Lisgar Road/Mariposa.

I do hope you will come out and cheer these amazing folks as they realize a "Bucket List" item, (not one of mine but I am uber happy for those who rise to the challenge!)

Dress Code: COLOUR BE ROCKCLIFFE!
(Sunday, May 28th, 8:15 a.m. onward)

Music will be playing to encourage Runners onward!
SPREAD THE WORD & hope to see you!

Joseph Cull
(1198 Lisgar Road at Mariposa)
613-293-9860
jicull@rogers.com

In advance of the 2023 Ottawa Marathon, neighbours received this email (above) from fellow Rockcliffe resident Joseph Cull, inviting them to join him at a neighbourhood cheering station for the marathoners, set up at the corner of Lisgar and Mariposa. Word spread through a Rockcliffe Park eblast, and by the time runners appeared there were throngs of enthusiastic neighbours to cheer them on. Joseph (at right) provided music and lively commentary for over three hours, full of fun and kindness. At the race's almost 29 km mark, runners surely appreciated the emotional boost, and the Rockcliffe Cheer Squad enjoyed grooving the morning away!

