



ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2023

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Inspired by National Tree Day, Rockcliffe resident Linda English created this stunning 'land art' after attending an event at the Rockcliffe Park Library. Details, page 18.

## 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 Park 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](http://rockcliffepark.ca)

### 2023 Committee Heads

#### Community

Lisa Cogan, Community VP

#### Heritage

Michele Hayman, Heritage VP

#### Heritage Outreach

Susan d'Aquino

#### Environment

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 Blonar  
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 Heads and other RPRA staff may be found on page 15 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.

Our Annual Appeal is now on! To make a tax-deductible donation to our annual appeal, please see the insert included with this newsletter and read more on pages 4 and 5.

[rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://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](mailto:info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org).



News organizations recently reported that the National Capital Commission (NCC) is considering relocating the Prime Minister's official residence from 24 Sussex Drive, which served Canada's prime ministers from 1951 to 2015, to a new build in Rockcliffe Park.

The residence at 24 Sussex is in a state of disrepair after decades of neglect. Other locations have been identified where a larger, safer and more accessible residence could be built.

The possible Rockcliffe Park site identified in news reports is the NCC park accessible from the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway near the intersection of Lisgar and Buena Vista Roads. This park is approximately 100 acres in size and encompasses the historic Rockcliffe Pavilion that overlooks the Ottawa River.

The Prime Minister's residence was, of course, a major sightseeing attraction that drew countless visitors before our current prime minister, Justin Trudeau, moved into Rideau Cottage on the grounds of the Governor General's residence shortly after he was elected in 2015. He relocated so that the NCC could make much-needed upgrades to 24 Sussex Drive. Instead, the building and its grounds have fallen further into disrepair.

Before that time, though, many will remember the traffic from tour buses along Sussex Drive slowing to view the historic residence, media holding press conferences outside its gates, and onlookers gathering to catch a glimpse of the home, its grounds and its occupants. Could that congestion be coming to Rockcliffe Park?

For more details on the proposed relocation and the RPRA's position on this issue, please see my report on page 13 of this newsletter.

The NCC has not, to date, confirmed the news reports regarding the Prime Minister's residence. However, the NCC continues to consult with our community association regarding other NCC projects under consideration for lands located in, or adjacent to, our community.

As the year end approaches, the RPRA board is planning for 2024 with applications and proposals for funding for RPRA activities from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. If you have an idea for a community activity, please feel free to share your idea or suggestion with a director of the board or our treasurer, John Butterfield. You will find contact information on page 15 of this newsletter or on our website, [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca).

Planning is underway for the RPRA's annual Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, to be held outside the Community Centre on December 7, and for the Children's Holiday Party at the Community Hall, which is scheduled for December 17. See details on pages 6 and 9 of this newsletter. The RPRA's annual appeal in support of our local Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre and its food bank will be publicized via our eblasts to members in the weeks ahead.

The Rockcliffe Hosers will soon be compiling a list of crew members to tend to the maintenance of the rinks at the Field House and in the Jubilee Garden. If you are a new resident and wish to become involved, you may contact the Hosers at [therockcliffehosers@gmail.com](mailto:therockcliffehosers@gmail.com).

The RPRA recently experienced some technical difficulties with its accounts; some emails from and to residents were delayed as a result. Service has now resumed. If you have contacted us by email and have not received a response, please reach out to us again!

Our next regular community/board meeting will be held on October 18 at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, starting at 7:00 pm. Board meetings are open to all; I hope you will consider attending to find out what is happening in our community, and perhaps to become involved.

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

Below: The Rockcliffe Pavilion, constructed in the Arts and Crafts style in 1917, is owned by the NCC and is situated on NCC land that is being considered for the relocation of the Prime Minister's official residence. The structure was recognized by the Government of Canada as a Federal Heritage Building in 1994.

A report regarding this issue may be found on page 13 of this newsletter.

Photo: [ottmem.blogspot.com/2018/12/rockcliffe-pavilion.html](http://ottmem.blogspot.com/2018/12/rockcliffe-pavilion.html)





Each year, our community organizations, the Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA), reach out to residents with their Annual Appeal and Membership Drive.

In this issue of the Rockcliffe News, we explain the two – why there is both an Annual Appeal and a Membership Drive, how they differ, and how your contributions and membership help the community.

Rockcliffe Park has two key community organizations: the Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association.

While these two organizations are distinct, they are linked in practice, history, and shared commitment to support Rockcliffe.

#### Rockcliffe Park Foundation

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation, as a registered charity, funds the programs and events that the RPRA organizes and manages.

These programs and events make a real difference in our community. In 2023, the RPRA organized and managed, and the Foundation funded, thanks to your donations, just over \$46,000 in various programs and events in our neighbourhood.

In 2023, these included:

- Ongoing programs that work to conserve and maintain our shared public spaces including water-quality testing at the Pond, the maintenance of the sports field at RPPS, and the maintenance of Jubilee Garden.
- New projects including work on the Dog Walk, the restoration of the memorial sundial in the Village Green, and renting a unit at a storage facility for the Rockcliffe archives.
- Updating and new printing of a Heritage in Brief booklet and the Rockcliffe A to Z welcome booklet.
- The neighbourhood newsletter, with six issues every year, printed and distributed to every home in Rockcliffe; and
- Events that bring neighbours together including Outdoor Movie Night, the Speakers Program, the Children's Holiday Party, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, and Heritage East ski trail sponsorship.

## Rockcliffe Park Foundation Annual Appeal

### Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Membership Drive

To help keep the endowment strong and sustain vital community programming, the Foundation organizes Dining with the Ambassadors and conducts an Annual Appeal where it reaches out to neighbours, asking them to donate. Please consider giving to your community now and see the Annual Appeal insert included with this newsletter on how to donate.

#### Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA)

In addition to planning the programs and events in our neighbourhood, the RPRA has the role of representing Rockcliffe Park's interests with our councillor and at City Hall. A robust membership is essential in supporting these very significant outreach efforts.

We hope that you will show your sense of community and ensure that your household has its annual membership. Details on membership can be found in the shaded box on the facing page. With your membership, you will also receive a weekly RPRA email with news relevant to the community.

Rockcliffe is unique in having these two community organizations, working together, and while the Rockcliffe Park Foundation's Annual Appeal and the RPRA Membership Drive are separate, they are both essential to keeping our community strong.

Every membership and every dollar raised helps the community you love.

**Sarah Baxter, Chair**  
Rockcliffe Park Foundation

**Lisa Cogan, VP Community**  
Rockcliffe Park Residents Association

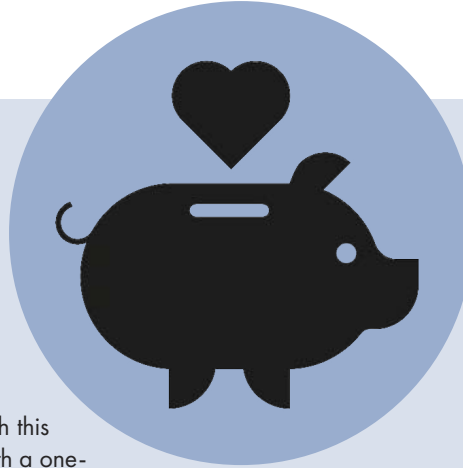
## You Have Questions... We Have Answers

### Give to the Foundation's Annual Appeal

Thanks to donations from neighbours like you, the Rockcliffe Park Foundation has provided the funds to support our community's programs and events for over 25 years.

Please see the Annual Appeal insert included with this newsletter on how you can contribute – online with a one-time or monthly contribution at [rockcliffeparkfoundation.org/donate](http://rockcliffeparkfoundation.org/donate) or by cheque made payable to Rockcliffe Park Foundation and mailed to 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe, ON K1L 5A8. If you have questions, contact Jane Newcombe at [info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org).

Donations are tax-deductible. A tax receipt is mailed to donors and a list of the Annual Appeal donors will be included in the spring issue of the Rockcliffe News.



How does my donation to the Rockcliffe Park Foundation Annual Appeal differ from the \$25 fee for the RPRA Membership? Donations to the Foundation strengthen the endowment that provides the grants for the programs and events within Rockcliffe Park. These fall within the RPRA's and Foundation's shared mandate areas of community building, environment and heritage.

Your RPRA membership fee supports administrative expenses outside the mandate of the grant-making Foundation and the costs of any political activities, such as co-sponsoring, along with other community associations, last year's mayoral debate at the Horticultural Building at Lansdowne Park.

Does the Rockcliffe Park Foundation ever have capital campaigns for designated projects? Yes. While support for the RPRA's undertakings have been the priority for the Foundation, past special projects have included building the garden pavilion for the restored Jubilee Garden; funding for a history of Rockcliffe, which resulted in the book 'Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village' by Martha Edmond; and rebuilding the sports field next to the Rockcliffe Park Public School.

If I have paid my membership to the RPRA, should I also donate to the Rockcliffe Park (and vice versa)? Yes. The RPRA Membership Drive and the Foundation's Annual Appeal are separate, but both keep our community strong. You do not need to join the RPRA to donate to the Foundation and you do not have to donate to the Foundation to join the RPRA. We hope you choose to both be a member and support our programs. We truly are stronger with your support.

What if I don't remember if I have already paid my RPRA membership? No problem. Just send an email to [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca) and we will let you know.

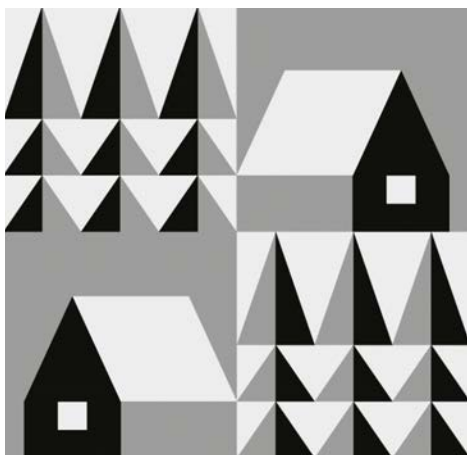
### Become an RPRA Member

Please see the membership form insert included with this newsletter to renew your membership or, if you are new to the Village, to join our community's Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA). The completed form, along with your \$25 membership, can be dropped off at the mailbox in front of the entrance to the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall at 380 Springfield Road.

Alternatively, find and complete the form online at [rockcliffepark.ca/shop](http://rockcliffepark.ca/shop). Include the email addresses of all the adults in your household so that everyone will have access to the weekly RPRA members-only eblasts detailing timely notices, events and issues.

Your privacy is important to us, and email addresses will not be shared. Please note that memberships paid now will carry through to December 2024.



**RPR Community Committee**

Lisa Cogan, Community VP  
 vp.community@rockcliffepark.ca  
 ejcogan@gmail.com

**Volunteers Registrar**

Kate Struthers  
 volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca

**Membership Database**

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  
 Rockcliffe News Newsletter  
 RPR Website  
 RP Spring Book Sale  
 Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing  
 Holiday Children's Party  
 Outdoor Movie Nights  
 Heritage Walk  
 Welcome Committee  
 RPPS Soccer Field  
 RRCRC Food Bank Support

As we welcome the fall season with all its glorious colours, I am pleased to report on a number of our community activities and events.

**RPR Membership**

It is that time of the year again! Please renew your current membership, or, as a first-time member, please join. With the ongoing support of our community's membership, we – among other things – produce a newsletter, send out eblasts, organize community events, support our local food bank, assist with the water testing of the Pond, organize spring and fall clean ups, work with the city on traffic control, assist student volunteers with community hours, and help monitor the application of our heritage plan within our community's boundaries. It is very important to have your support through membership.

A membership form is included with this newsletter. The option of renewal through PayPal is also available on our website, rockcliffepark.ca. Questions? Contact Lisa Cogan at vp.community@rockcliffepark.ca.

**August Outdoor Movie Night**

The showing of Ghostbusters was a huge success! Thanks go to Leo Grant, Martin Perras and his two sons, and to RPR president Russ Gibson. On a lovely summer evening, approximately 50 residents came out to the Jubilee Garden to enjoy the movie, along with cold drinks and complimentary popcorn. It has been suggested that a BBQ would be a welcome addition to the evening. It was also suggested that in 2024 the event be moved to September as the shorter days would better suit our younger families by having the movie start at an earlier time. RPR board member Leo Grant has enthusiastically agreed to lead the team and although it might seem early to be thinking about a year from now, it is not too early to sign up to help. Those interested in volunteering may contact Leo at leogrant@rockcliffepark.ca.

**Food Bank News**

As we are all aware, with the increasing need for the services of food banks throughout the city, these centres are not only straining under the ongoing demand, it is now being reported that some facilities are experiencing empty shelves. Today's high prices have slowed the usual volume of contributions, many centres have already fully drawn on their slim financial reserves and, with an increase in the number of families requiring help for the colder months, the need for greater financial help has become critical. We as a community donate annually to the food bank through the RPR, but clearly more is needed.

The Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC) on St. Laurent Boulevard offers food bank services in our ward. In order to help accurately determine their respective monthly budget for making necessary food purchases, some of our residents have elected to commit to an annual amount, payable in monthly instalments, which is greatly appreciated by the food bank. To make a one-time or ongoing donation, go to crccr.org. The needs of those requiring assistance only continue to escalate and we have been told by RRCRC's director, Sebastien Gaisert, that this demand is now classified as urgent. He can be contacted directly at Sebastien.Gaisert@rrccr.ca for additional information.

When our community activities were being regularly held, in pre-pandemic times, part of the set-up included a food bank donation box at various events. We intend to reactivate this initiative by making the donation box clearly accessible. There is no charge for RPR events, thanks to funding from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, so it is the hope that those who attend will contribute in this way.

**Tree Lighting at our Community Centre**

Save the date – Thursday, December 6 at 6:00 pm. Scott Heatherington, RPR board member, has agreed to be this year's team leader for our beloved annual December neighbourhood event. Carols performed by the Elmwood School Junior Choir, a holiday sing-along concert by the Salvation Army Brass Band, hot chocolate and treats will follow remarks from our councillor and other dignitaries, with the lighting of the magnificent tree by a prominent community member. Please bring a donation for the RRCRC food bank – cash or cheque is preferred but non-perishable food items will be gladly accepted.

**Children's Holiday Party**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, when our popular annual event will be held at the Rockcliffe Community Hall under the guidance and superb organizational skills of RPR board member Natalie Runoff. Natalie and her team of hardworking 'elves' have already begun to arrange for special features such as holiday crafting stations, the building of gingerbread houses, a magic show – and much more. And, of course, Santa will make an appearance with candy canes in hand! Volunteer elves are most welcome; contact Natalie at childrensparty@rockcliffepark.ca. Please bring a donation for the RRCRC food bank – cash or cheque is preferred but non-perishable food items will be gladly accepted.

(continued on page 7)

Rockcliffe Park Book Club

Organized by Martha Hodgson, head of our library branch, meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 pm in the library at 380 Springfield Road.

The books to be discussed in November and December, respectively, are 'Jennie's Boy: A Newfoundland Childhood' by Wayne Johnston and 'Women Talking' by Miriam Towe. A complete list of the 2024 books is posted at the library, in our Springfield Road display cases, and at Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood Avenue. Everyone is welcome. Please register at martha.hodgson@biolioottawalibrary.ca. This is an excellent initiative – an opportunity meet with fellow lovers of reading and be part of in-depth discussions of well recognized books.

Update on Enbridge Pressurization Station Relocation See page 15 of this issue.

Update on Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club's Lighting Proposal See page 16 of this issue.

I hope you enjoy the gorgeous fall weather and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming community events.

Lisa Cogan, Community VP



Take a Break and Come Help Rake!

If you enjoy spending time outside on a beautiful fall day and don't mind a bit of raking, please lend a hand for two hours on Saturday, November 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm to clear leaves from the paths in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area.

We will meet at the Hillsdale Road bridge entrance to the Conservation Area (beside McKay Lake). Please bring a rake and wear gloves. Refreshments will be provided after the work is done. Students are welcome; we will sign student volunteer forms. Rain Date: Sunday, November 5 at 1:00 pm.

For additional information, contact Lola Price at environment@rockcliffepark.ca.

Speakers Program

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

November 8, 2023

Charlotte Gray: Award winning historian and author



Charlotte Gray will discuss her new book, 'Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt.' A captivating biography of two famous women whose sons, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, would change the course of the 20th century, it offers a portrait of how leaders are not just born but made.

November 22, 2023

Stephen Poloz: 'These Turbulent Times'



Stephen Poloz, the frank, plain-speaking former Governor of the Bank of Canada and author of 'The Next Age of Uncertainty: How the World Can Adapt to a Riskier Future,' will speak on the turbulent times we live in.

The Speakers Program presents engrossing evenings with presentations by distinguished speakers, followed by questions, coffee and cookies. Admission is free.

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

Further speakers will be announced in the next newsletter.

Photo above left: nsb.com. Above right: Enbridge Inc.

## Rockcliffe Park Library: Summer Recap and Upcoming Events

While summer may be a distant memory, staff at the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library still look back fondly on a very successful Summer Reading Club. The theme at the branch was 'Breakfast on Pluto.' Kids were each given their own Space passport, taking them through the solar system from the Sun all the way to Pluto. They tossed asteroids (bean bags) into worm holes (corn holes) and received a colouring page to display on our Space Wall. Readers worked as a team to progress through space. The more Space Art on the wall, the closer to Pluto Rockcliffe Park readers got! (See photo below.)

The library also had special guests. This year we partnered with the Rockcliffe Park summer camps and had daily visits from the campers and their counselors. Campers got library cards, learned how to search the OPL catalogue and participated in some of our branch programming.

All of our summer programs (Games Week, Science Meets Art, Space Workshop, Making Stars with Tie-Dye, and so much more!) were well attended, especially our end of summer party (Breakfast on Pluto!) where we had a balloon twister and a green screen for kids to have their pictures taken with a space backdrop of their choosing.

While it's always sad to see summer end, Rockcliffe Park Library has plenty to keep the community busy this fall. Both the adult and kids' book clubs have returned, one Tuesday a month. Weekly pop-up kids' challenges that started in the summer continue through the fall, with word games, puzzles, science experiments... and maybe even an ocean's club in partnership with Ocean Wise. For adults we will have music in the stacks again, as well as interesting speakers to keep us engaged and informed.

**Upcoming Children's Programs:**  
**Family Storytime** (Drop-in)  
Mondays at 9:30 am

**Rebel Readers Book Club**  
October 24 and November 28  
3:30 to 4:15 pm  
Registration required

**Weekly Pop-up Activities** (Drop-in)  
Every Thursday 3:30 to 4:30 pm

**PD Day Program** (Bilingual)  
November 24, 2023 (Registration required)  
Workshop – The Sock Project

**Upcoming Adult Programs:**  
**Rockcliffe Park Book Club** (Drop-in)  
First Tuesday of every month, 1:30 to 2:30 pm  
November 7: 'Jennie's Boy: A Newfoundland Childhood' by Wayne Johnston  
December 5: 'Women Talking' by Miriam Toews  
(  
**Stargazing in the Park** (Drop-in)  
(in the Dog Park near Hillside)  
October 16, 8:00 to 9:00 pm  
(Rain date: October 18)  
Presented by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, with telescopes and local astronomers

Keep an eye on the OPL website for details and for more programming to come!

Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, on hiatus but still raising funds through periodic book drives. Come in and visit us any time or join us for any of our programs. Please note that registrations can be done in person at the library, by phone at 613 580-2940 or online at [bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en).

**Martha Hodgson**





## Spring Book Sale: We're Back! (Soon)

The success of our Children's Book Sale in June has encouraged us to start planning for a return of the full Spring Book Sale in April 2024. This will be welcome news to all those who have really missed the event, but we are not there yet and a lot of work remains to be done. Many of the concerns that made us reluctant to proceed with a full Sale this year remain: COVID is still circulating in the community, most of our volunteers are older and, given the popularity of the Sale, our event space gets very crowded.

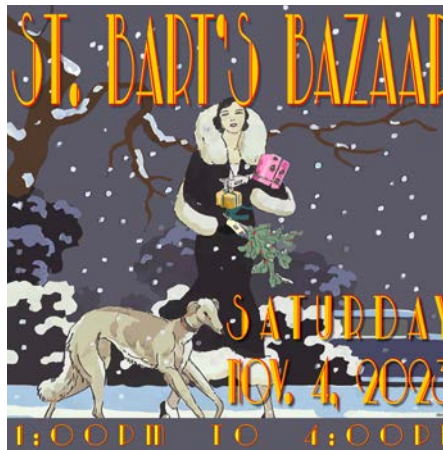
After a four-year hiatus (if you recall, we were all ready to go in 2020 when the first COVID lockdown closed everything), we are looking to re-launch the Sale. We do not anticipate that it will be exactly like the enormous sales of the past. We hope that we can achieve the same energy, enthusiasm and strong sense of community, even with a pared-down event.

Historically, we used to cull and sort books from September to March in the window bay in the Library, but that was less than satisfactory and is no longer possible. We are hoping to use the Community Room on a bi-monthly basis both to collect and sort your donations. However, a major problem for us is the lack of on-site storage – once we have sorted the books, where do we put them until the Sale? Then, how do we manage our limited space during the Sale itself? We are exploring all our options, together with our Librarians, as we look for the best solutions.

So, while we cannot say in this newsletter exactly how we are going to collect, sort and store your donations, we expect to start asking for your gently used books in a big way in November, possibly with another book drive in the middle of the month. Stay tuned! Please watch for notices in the weekly eblasts and on local Listserv websites. We have just over seven months until the launch of what we hope will be the 2024 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale.

Carolyn Brereton

## Don't Miss the St Bart's Bazaar November 4



Please join us on Saturday, November 4 for this year's first in-person bazaar since 2019, at St Bart's, 125 MacKay Street, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. You will find all the usual classic tables – gifts, jewellery, books, preserves, baking, attic treasures, Christmas decorations, toys, games, crafts, knitting – and our fabulous tea room!

Bring your gift list to buy quality items at low prices, and you will help us support the work of the Church, including our Refugee Programme, Cornerstone Womens' Shelter and our mission to the Gary J. Armstrong Home.

Please remember to bring cash and your own bags.

To keep everyone healthy, we will maintain smaller numbers in the hall this year. Thank you for understanding if we ask you to wait a few moments for entry if the hall is full.

For further details, please contact either Liz Heatherington at [elizmaryh@gmail.com](mailto:elizmaryh@gmail.com) or Linda Assad Butcher at [lassadbutcher@gmail.com](mailto:lassadbutcher@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you!

## Save the Dates:

### Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

Thursday, December 7, 6:00 pm  
Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

A cherished holiday tradition! Featuring the Elmwood School Junior Choir and the Salvation Army Brass Band, with song sheets, hot chocolate and plenty of holiday cheer provided!



### Children's Holiday Party

Sunday, December 17, 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

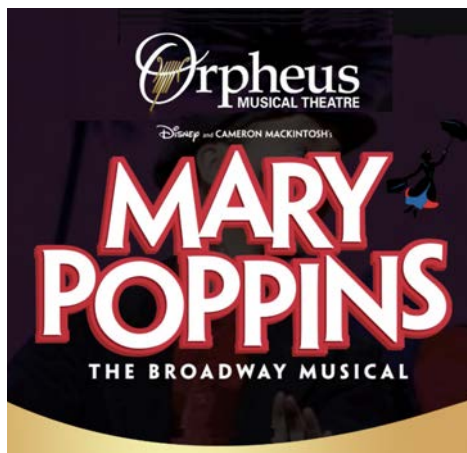
Calling all kids, parents and caregivers! Join your neighbours at the RPR's annual Children's Holiday Party, featuring horse-drawn sleigh rides, special time with Santa Claus, outdoor activities, hot chocolate, holiday treats, music arts and crafts... and much more!



**PLEASE NOTE: For both events:** No registration or admission fee is required and all are welcome. Please consider bringing a donation of cash, cheque, or one or more non-perishable food items for the food bank of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. (Funds are preferred but canned goods will be gladly accepted.)

The Rockcliffe News is published six times a year, on or about the first of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions are welcome by the 15th day of the month preceding publication.

Copy may be edited for clarity or length. Paid advertising is not accepted. Send your comments, questions and submissions to [editor@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:editor@rockcliffepark.ca). The Rockcliffe News is supported by grants from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. Editor: Cynthia Hamady.



Don't be alarmed if, when out and about, you suddenly catch the sound of this familiar refrain: 'SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS...'

It's probably only David Lurie, James Baxter, John Litster or one of a number of actors, singers and dancers from in and around the Village who have been cast in 'Mary Poppins, the Broadway Musical' being staged by the Orpheus Musical Theatre Society. Elmwood School's Juliette 'Jet' Kearns plays Jane Banks in the production, which runs from November 17 to 26 at Centrepointhe Theatre in Nepean. She is one of several impressive young actors in the show.

For David, it's a triumphant return to one of the passions of his youth. "After many years of putting everything else first, I am really enjoying being back on stage," he said. David is performing in his third musical with Orpheus in just over a year. He sings, dances, and even waddles as a maniacal penguin as a member of the show's ensemble. For James, who took up acting at the Ottawa Little Theatre when he stepped back from a long career in journalism, Mary Poppins is his first musical. He has a few fleeting moments on stage as the Policeman, but sings in many of the most memorable numbers as a member of the pit chorus, which sings from off stage. "There's a lot of joy in working together, singing, acting and dancing," he says. "That's the real beauty of community theatre." James served on the not-for-profit's board of directors through the pandemic, but being in the show is an entirely different experience. "There are all sorts of people in the show. What they have in common is they're all working hard to put on a great show and make some wonderful memories." David, who recently joined the Orpheus board, promises that Mary Poppins will be highly entertaining, adding, "If you can't believe a maniacal penguin, who can you believe?"

For details, schedule, and to purchase tickets go to [meridiancentrepointhe.com/en/mary-poppins](http://meridiancentrepointhe.com/en/mary-poppins) or call 613 580-2700. **James Baxter**



## RLTC Celebrates its 100th Birthday

On September 8, 1923, Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club received its letters patent. On October 28 of that same year, the club's current location was leased from Charles H. Keefer to H.S. Southam at an annual rent of \$1.00, with an option to purchase the property for \$2,250.

One hundred years later, RLTC celebrated this historic moment with a Wooden Racket Tournament and the unveiling of a historical plaque. For the tournament, players used traditional wooden rackets and wore all white clothing (as seen in the photo at left of a few of our stylishly-attired participants enjoying a break in the action). The day was beautifully sunny, with members showing up early to meet their doubles partner and get in some practice with the vintage rackets. Our members really appreciated this unique style of tournament and a great experience was had by all.

Following the matches, the RLTC hosted a ceremony in the courtyard to unveil its 100th anniversary plaque. David Clendenning, Chair of the Historical Plaque Committee Chair, and Laurie Maybury, RLTC president, unveiled a beautiful bronze plaque with stone and installation donated by Beechwood Cemetery (photo at left). The event featured speeches by Gord Cudney, RLTC member and Southam family descendant, who reflected on the importance of this historical milestone. Nicolas McCarthy from Beechwood Cemetery spoke about the historical connection between the club and the cemetery. RLTC would like to thank Beechwood Cemetery for their donation of the stone and the labour to install the plaque.

We look forward to the next 100 years at RLTC!

**Laurie Maybury, President**  
Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club  
[rltennis.ca](http://rltennis.ca)



## ONEC – Celebrating a Milestone Year

ONEC recently marked a milestone year with a gala in our historic boathouse and a new lease for the future. We actually reached a number of key milestones in 2023: 140 years as a club offering watersports on the Ottawa River; 100 consecutive years on the current site at the base of the Rockeries; and 50 years of running our summer camps for youth.

In September, we celebrated with our Milestone Gala, held at the newly reopened NCC River House (originally built by club members in 1923) – so, fittingly, our theme was ‘Let’s Party like it’s 1923.’ More than 250 people enjoyed a fabulous evening of drinks and canapés, with dancing to a swing band, followed by a DJ.

### Celebrating Sports Opportunities for All

ONEC has had a very successful summer both on the tennis courts and in keeping the Ottawa River active across three watersports – sailing, rowing and paddling.

In 2023, we saw record levels of uptake in activities, with over 600 members in total (which included nearly 100 multi-sports members). Tennis membership reached over 375 and watersports members totalled over 250.

We run classes and clinics in each of our sports that are open to all residents of the region on an à la carte basis: Learn-to-Row, Learn-to-Sail, Paddle Canada kayaking and paddleboarding clinics, and tennis clinics for beginners and intermediate players. Over 100 non-members participated in ONEC classes in 2023 on this basis.

Across eight weeks in July and August, we welcomed up to 75 kids a week in our summer camps (in tennis, sailing, kayaking and rowing), totalling over 500 campers across the summer from nearby neighbourhoods and beyond. This year we were delighted to partner with Jumpstart and the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre to offer six free camp places each week to local financially disadvantaged families.

We have been delighted to offer great summer job employment and experience to local youth and young adults: this year we hired 14 camp sports instructors, 7 tennis pavilion staff and a club administrative assistant to work alongside our experienced manager. We hope to see many of these young staff back next year, as well as hiring new faces to give them meaningful and responsible first jobs.

ONEC is proud to have also been active across all of our sports in engaging their wider communities. For example, in tennis across the summer we expanded our successful series of lessons for beginners and intermediate players open to non-members. In rowing, we hosted the Canadian Sculling Marathon and also led a Sport-for-all Learn-to-Row programme for the LGBTQ+ community. In paddling, we worked with Ashbury College to take 40 junior school pupils out canoeing in Big Canoes to view the Rideau Falls from the Ottawa River. We were also pleased to welcome members and non-members alike to our weekly social BBQs.

In September, ONEC members in kayaks helped the Nature Conservancy of Canada in cleaning up the Kettle Island shoreline – removing several kilograms of garbage including an old refrigerator, a rusty bicycle, several metres of metal cable, an abandoned recycling bin (ironically), several shoes, beer bottles, cans, plastic water bottles and a plastic chair.



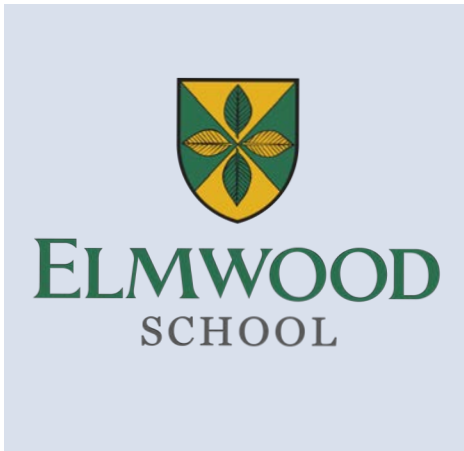
### Return to the Boathouse/NCC River House

In July we signed a new five-year lease for the west half of the lower floor of the River House, although we are still waiting on completion of the handover of the space from the NCC after ongoing building construction throughout the summer. We are also negotiating the use of the decking area under the building (which was unfortunately not included in the renovation project undertaken by the NCC) and we hope to have our docks reinstalled at the site in time for next season in May – so that we can begin the next hundred years of watersports from the River House.

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC), your community non-profit multi-sports centre, offers tennis, sailing, rowing and paddling both to members and also to the general public, and to kids through our popular summer day camps. Visit [onec.ca](http://onec.ca) for more information.

### John Butterfield

Photos: Guests at the Milestone Gala channelled the 1920s; ONEC members, including this intrepid kayaker, helped clean up the Kettle Island shoreline.



### Early Years Playground

Elmwood's Early Years Playground has been revamped! Each element in Elmwood's new kinder yard was thoughtfully chosen and designed with purpose to meet the developmental and learning needs of the school's youngest learners. Adjacent to the Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms, the play yard is the perfect place for Elmwood's youngest students to play, explore, use their imagination and learn. A huge thank you goes to Bytown Paving and the individual donors and corporate partners of the 2022-23 Elmwood Fund and the 2023 Elmwood Gala for their generous contributions to this project.

### Holly Tea

We are excited to invite the Rockcliffe Park community back to Elmwood School for our annual Holly Tea and Marketplace! This event has always been a highlight of the holiday season, filled with festive cheer. We will kick things off on Friday, December 1, with a Sip n' Shop event for our alums. The Holly Tea and Marketplace will be open to all on Saturday, December 2. Please check the Elmwood website for more details.

### Friends of Elmwood

Now in its sixth year, the Friends of Elmwood program is accepting new members. Friends of Elmwood is a networking and mentorship program for organizations or individuals who want to support the school, connect with members of the Elmwood community, and inspire the next generation of leaders. We are grateful to our current Friends of Elmwood for their support: 4Office Automation, Adaptek Systems Inc, Bytown Paving, Dr. Luc Ducharme and Associates, Nila Matthews Real Estate, Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties, Mark Motors Group, Nicholas Caragianis Architecture, Nicole Li Realty, and Smith Petrie Carr & Scott Insurance Brokers Ltd. Visit [elmwood.ca/giving/friends-of-elmwood](http://elmwood.ca/giving/friends-of-elmwood).

### Linden House Theatre: 'Italian American Reconciliation' by John Patrick Shanley

Linden House Theatre, founded by alum Janet Uren '68, returns to the Elmwood stage this November with John Patrick Shanley's 'Italian American Reconciliation.' The play hilariously recounts the lives of four young people as they explore love and relationships, guided by the advice of Aunt May at the local diner.

Performances will be held in the Elmwood Auditorium at 261 Buena Vista Road, on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from November 3 through November 12. Tickets are available at Books on Beechwood or through Linden House's website, [lindenhousetheatre.ca](http://lindenhousetheatre.ca).



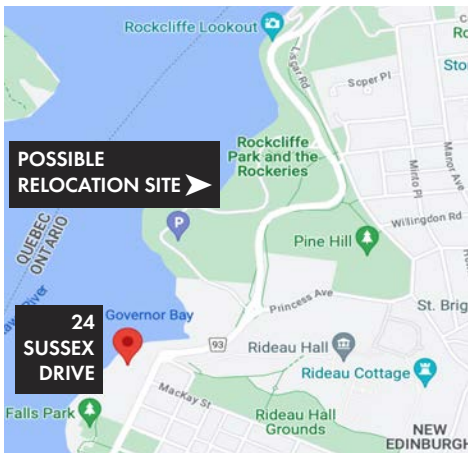
### Ashbury College Opens the Wilgress Archives

During the last school year, the Ashbury College community came together to celebrate the opening of the Wilgress Archives. This historic space in Rhodes Hall was named in honour of the Wilgress Family, whose time at Ashbury spans the better part of the last century. Long-standing staff member and Ashbury Ambassador Vicky Wilgress spoke on behalf of her family and was thrilled to see this dedicated historical archive come to fruition. Within this space, people will see items such as cricket bats and historical uniform items, and documentation that further explains the significant role Ashbury College has played within Rockcliffe Park.

The archives also serve as a reminder of the evolution of the school from its modest beginnings in 1891 at Victoria Chambers on Wellington Street to the 13-acre Rockcliffe campus it sits on today. In 2023, Ashbury College serves over 730 students from 60 different countries. With over 110 boarding students living on campus, school life remains active and engaged in the life of the National Capital Region.

Celebrated milestones over the years include: 1910: Ashbury Campus established in Rockcliffe Park; 1912: Construction of Rhodes Hall; 1924: The addition of the Memorial Gym; 1940: Ashbury College shelters 55 young Abinger Hill boys from Britain; 1953: The completion of the Argyle Wing; 1975: The introduction of the International Baccalaureate Programme; 1982: Ashbury College introduces all gender education; 2004: Maclaren Hall and the new Double Gymnasium Open; 2014: The Creative Learning Centre Opens with a focus on Arts; and 2020: The Centre for Science and Innovation is unveiled.

These are just a few of the examples of the information available to visitors of the archives. If you are interested in learning more about this space or scheduling a tour, please reach out to [info@ashbury.ca](mailto:info@ashbury.ca).



## Prime Minister’s Residence: Relocation to Rockcliffe Park?

At the September 2023 board meeting of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, a motion was passed opposing a relocation of the Prime Minister’s residence from 24 Sussex Drive to one in Rockcliffe Park.

This decision was based on news reports that the National Capital Commission (NCC) is considering alternative locations for the PM’s residence on park lands adjacent to the Heritage Conservation District of Rockcliffe Park. Development of park lands for such purposes is inconsistent with the Heritage Conservation District Plan for Rockcliffe Park, and violates a fundamental pillar of the Association’s purpose, which is to support the retention of green spaces and park lands in and around Rockcliffe Park.

News reports could not specify the location under consideration by the NCC, if any, and the NCC did not confirm the news reports. The location floated as a possible site is the NCC park in the drawing above on the north side of the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway (beside the Ottawa River).

News reports have long noted that the Prime Minister’s residence is in need of substantial renovations, for which the NCC has a legal duty to maintain, repair and improve it, as required. Aside from various outbuildings, the main building is just 11,000 square feet, of which the NCC estimates that 20 percent is reserved for prime ministers and family, and the rest is allotted to other support and governmental functions.

For decades there have been known official pressures to relocate some official functions. In accord with various international practices, state events are frequently held by heads of state. In the British Parliamentary model, this means the Crown (e.g., at Rideau Hall, which is equipped for such functions). However, some officials seem to prefer the PM’s residence, based on a more presidential model. The current location at 24 Sussex Drive is the residence of the prime minister as specified in section two of the Official Residences Act (‘the Act’).

It appears that there are three factors being taken into account in the decision as to whether to relocate the Prime Minister’s residence, according to Historic Ottawa Development Inc. (HODI), a non-profit corporation founded in 1979, for “rehabilitation and restoration of heritage buildings throughout the city.” (HODI discloses that it is funded with modest endowments from the Province and City, and its board consists of land developers, architects, and business people). HODI has been active in opposing the demolition of 24 Sussex Drive and supports the RPPA in its opposition to alternative sites for the PM’s residence in Rockcliffe Park.

In addition to the argument that currently 24 Sussex is not functional, officials have advanced two further arguments: the first is the cost of the rehabilitation of 24 Sussex and the second is security concerns.

In 2009, a rehabilitation plan was suggested by officials with a cost of 10 million dollars. Recently, some published rehabilitation estimates are in excess of 36 million dollars, a figure which has been challenged by HODI as flawed because the known rehabilitation costs for the entire building are around 10 million dollars, with the other 70 percent of the 36 million dollar estimate for contingencies, cost allowances, etc.

Security considerations were also part of the 2009 plan with the 24 Sussex location not considered an optimal distance from Sussex, but still manageable, assuming the installation of proper walls, etc. Some believe that these measures could still be an appropriate answer to security concerns arising from its close proximity to Sussex Drive. Further, HODI has responded that security from water attack is visibly better at 24 Sussex (namely, a cliff) than at Rockcliffe Park and security considerations from an airborne attack are no different at 24 Sussex compared to Rockcliffe Park.

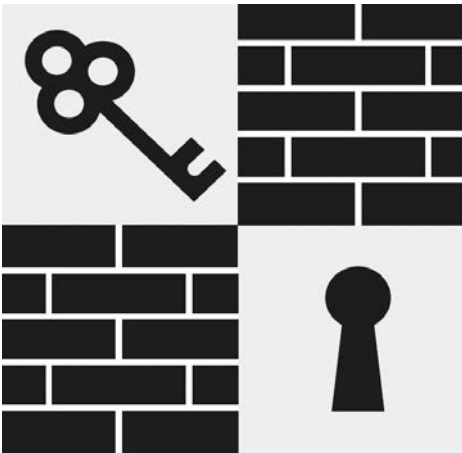
The park lands in Rockcliffe Park that are under consideration are in excess of 100 hectares and contain an important historical and recreational site. The Park’s high, rocky land once belonged to Thomas McKay, master stonemason of the Rideau Canal and the builder of Rideau Hall. Rockcliffe Park opened in the late 1800s and is one of the Capital Region’s first recreation parks. In author Martha Edmond’s historical account, ‘Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village,’ she writes:

[In the 1860s] “...at the Intersection of Buena Vista and Lisgar Roads was the bustling entrance to ... [an] attraction .... a forerunner of today’s Rockcliffe Park [where] eventually [was] installed the world’s first electric merry-go-round. Thousands flocked to the park.”

Today, many use and enjoy this park, and the Rockcliffe Park Pavilion, a popular location for weddings and picnics.

For these reasons, the RPPA opposes the loss of this park land for a residence for the Prime Minister.

**Russell Gibson, President**  
Rockcliffe Park Residents Association



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mmcollum@gmail.com

**RPR Heritage Outreach**  
Susan d'Aquino  
spdott@gmail.com

**Heritage Committee Members**  
John Cook  
Marianne Feaver  
Bea Hampton  
Michael Klein  
Sarah Richardson  
Sharda Young

**Heritage Outreach  
Committee Members**  
Linda Deciare  
Scott Heatherington  
Kay James  
Gouhar Shemdin

All work guided by the  
Rockcliffe Park Heritage  
Conservation District Plan

## 1 Maple Lane: Demolition by Neglect!

An application to demolish the historic semi-detached house at 1 Maple Lane/1112 Lisgar Road is expected to be heard by the city's Built Heritage Committee on November 6 and by City Council on November 8. Constructed in about 1925, the Tudor Revival-style residence is a Grade 1 house – among the most important heritage structures in Rockcliffe. Our Heritage Plan is designed to strongly protect Grade 1 houses – demolition can occur very rarely: it “will only be permitted in extraordinary circumstances including, but not limited to, fire or natural disaster.”

The circumstances at 1 Maple Lane have nothing to do with fire, natural disaster, or anything extraordinary. They have to do with long years of neglect by its owners, leaving the house unoccupied and uncared for much of the time. Engineering reports, including one commissioned by the city, reach the same conclusion – that the structure has been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that it is beyond saving. This is a method used by some owners to circumvent heritage protections that prevent demolition of historic structures.

The city maintains a ‘Heritage Watch List’ which is intended to stop ‘demolition by neglect.’ It is a means for the city to monitor designated heritage buildings that are vacant or at risk – such as 1 Maple Lane. The city states that a property standards officer visits each property on this list quarterly and issues orders for board-up, repair, restoration or property maintenance as required. For whatever reason, this has not been effective for 1 Maple Lane.

The heritage character of places is usually eroded gradually over time, step by step. Rockcliffe Park is under particular pressure given that it is considered a desirable place to live with many seeking to build larger and larger homes at the expense of our unique and unifying park-like setting – and in this case, at the expense of an historic Grade 1 home. It is a startling fact that of the 33 buildings on the Watch List for the entire city, 10 are in Rockcliffe Park. (Three of these are foreign embassy residences; see the list following this report on the next page.) And there are in fact more than 10 at risk.

(continued on page 15)



## 1 Maple Lane (continued)

While having a Watch List is a good start, the RPR Heritage Committee and Heritage Outreach Committee are asking the city to take further action to protect these properties from demolition. We believe that more rigorous enforcement of property standards is needed. Harsh financial penalties must be considered. If strong steps are not taken, we will be facing more demolitions by neglect in Rockcliffe Park and the rest of Ottawa. Important heritage properties that are part of our communities and part of our history will be lost.

Is the city ready and willing to do more – much more – to stop property owners who by inattention or calculation are allowing heritage properties to decay? The RPR certainly hopes so.

**Michele Hayman, Heritage VP**  
RPR Heritage Committee

**Susan d'Aquino**  
RPR Heritage Outreach Committee

### Rockcliffe Park Residences on the City's Heritage Watch List

1 Maple Lane/1112 Lisgar Road  
200 and 235 Mariposa Avenue  
187 and 190 Lansdowne Road  
40 and 75 Lyttleton Gardens  
105 and 125 Lakeway Drive  
7 Crescent Road

## Enbridge Pressurization Station Relocation: Update

Our last newsletter reported on a public meeting held at our Community Hall on July 12 where Enbridge Gas presented their plans to locate their new and greatly expanded pumping station on NCC land at the junction of Sandridge and Hillsdale Roads. It was followed up by a letter from RPR Vice-Presidents Michele Hayman and Mark Willcox to NCC head Tobi Nussbaum, telling him of the vociferous opposition to the proposed site, and identifying another nearby site – the well-hidden NCC workyard – that would be widely acceptable.

The good news from the NCC is that the location at Sandridge and Hillsdale is no longer being pursued.

We had been informed by a director at the NCC that when they met with Enbridge on July 22, Enbridge was very honest about the community perspective expressed at the public meeting. They asked Enbridge to go back to basics to come up with the absolute minimum footprint needed for the new station, while they looked into the workyard option.

The latest update from the NCC is that both the workyard option and the option of keeping the station in the ravine where it is currently located are being considered. The Sandridge-Hillsdale option is not.

**Susan d'Aquino**  
RPR Heritage Outreach Committee



The RPR welcomes your input. Send your comments, questions and concerns to the appropriate RPR member listed below.

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russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca

John Butterfield, Treasurer  
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## Lighting at the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC): Update

In late August, we learned that RLTC would be taking a vote of their members on whether to proceed again with an application to the city to install lighting at the club. The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) would like to thank the RLTC for meeting with us in September to discuss this. We appreciate the opportunity to have an open dialogue, especially given how contentious this subject has been in the past.

We have asked the club to circulate an information document to its members so they can consider a number of important facts before a vote is taken. As part of its responsibilities, the RPRA is bound by its mandate to preserve and enhance Rockcliffe Park's unique natural environment and uphold the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan which, among many requirements, recognizes the importance of subdued nighttime lighting. Among the points included in the information document are the following:

### Background: Heritage and Environment

Rockcliffe Park is one of 21 heritage conservation districts in Ottawa. RLTC has been a valued part of our community for 100 years. It is recognized in our Heritage Plan as one of the community's heritage attributes and has a noteworthy history of good relations with neighbours and our wider community.

Rockcliffe Park is unlike any other heritage district in Ottawa. Here both structures and the park-like setting are protected. As described in the Heritage Plan, subdued lighting is part of its heritage character. Streetlights are purposely of a lower intensity, of a lower height, and spaced further apart than in the rest of Ottawa in order to maintain its park-like setting.

The Heritage Plan also states that brightly lit facades, soffits, pathways, trees and landscape features are incompatible with the cultural heritage landscape. The Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan (part of Ottawa's Official Plan) also reinforces subdued lighting as important to its heritage character. It states: "Lighting in Rockcliffe Park should be configured to be sensitive to the context of the street."

Given that RLTC is sited in a particularly sensitive location within the heritage district, special consideration needs to be given not only to the heritage impact but also the environmental impact. RLTC is closely bordered by residences on two sides and across narrow streets from residences on the other two sides. It is also close to the totally dark areas of McKay Lake, the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area, and extensive parkland.

It is generally acknowledged that nighttime light is detrimental to the environment and contributes to the decline of bats, insects (such as moths), Monarch and other butterflies, and pollinators. Nighttime light also has a negative impact on migrating birds.

### Community Representation

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association represents our community. Our membership numbers indicate that an impressive 50 percent of households (excluding diplomatic residences) are members of the RPRA. At the time of the last lighting proposal, over 100 households in Rockcliffe, including some past and present members of the tennis club, expressed, via email and letters, opposition to the glare and light pollution that could be generated by the proposed lighting at RLTC. This is an unprecedented scale of engagement among residents.

In order to understand the views of residents of Rockcliffe, in 2021 the RPRA undertook a survey of all residents. The response rate to the survey was very strong. (See the July 2021 Rockcliffe News on the RPRA website, rockcliffepark.ca.) It indicated that a significant majority of respondents opposed lighting at RLTC (58 percent opposed versus 16 percent in favour).

### Going Forward

The RPRA's past decision not to support lighting was based on what may now be an outdated proposal, which consisted of six 30 foot poles with 24 light fixtures of 220W. In making the decision, we were then, and are now, always guided by the provisions of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan and Secondary Plan.

The RPRA board is aware that the RLTC is now exploring new lighting technology. If this proves feasible technically, and the club were to decide to proceed with this lighting plan, the RPRA would be interested to learn more and evaluate whether it would accord with the intent and provisions of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan and Secondary Plan.

If the club were to decide to proceed, it would have to apply to the city for a new heritage permit. Councillor King has indicated that the permit would not be issued under delegated authority as it was in the past. Instead, the application would have to proceed through the Built Heritage Committee and then to City Council for approval. This way, there would be full opportunity for community engagement.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue with RLTC in advance of any decision to apply for a heritage permit.

Michele Hayman, Heritage VP  
Mark Willcox, Environment VP  
Lisa Cogan, Community VP  
Russ Gibson, RPRA President





I am pleased that several community partnership capital projects were recently approved in Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward. The city's community partnership capital program is an initiative to implement major capital improvements to parks and recreation facilities on a cost-shared basis with community partners. The objective of the program is to develop capital projects that respond to priority needs identified in the city's Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The program is devised to support community initiatives in developing and improving facilities that serve the community and develop cost-effective capital projects that leverage funding from multiple sources.

In October, City Council approved in principle a \$150,000 contribution toward improvements to the Centennial Garden in the Village Green. Working in conjunction with the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) and the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, the city will work collaboratively to restore and rehabilitate Rockcliffe Park's garden to its original state.

During the 2023 construction season, the city completed road resurfacing of Springfield Road from Beechwood Avenue to Maple Lane, valued at over \$570,000. Work on completing sign installation and street markings were completed at the end of September. With the installation of a new cycling lane on Springfield Road, which is in accord with the city's Complete Streets Policy, parking enforcement has now come into full effect. It is important to remember that absolutely no parking or stopping will be permitted in the cycling lane at any time and that those restrictions will be enforced through By-law Enforcement Services. It is my intention to have flex stakes installed as temporary traffic calming measures, where permissible, along the Springfield Road cycling lane next season. Additionally, my office worked with city staff to have a pedestrian crossover flex stake installed at Putnam Avenue and Springfield Road.

Rockcliffe Park residents continue to be proud of the Village's built heritage and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association should be lauded for their efforts to protect the only heritage designated 'park neighbourhood' in Canada. Under the Ontario Heritage Act, changes to designated heritage properties require the approval of the City of Ottawa. An application for permit under the Act is required when the scope of work includes demolition, new construction in a heritage conservation district, or alterations that are required to go to the Built Heritage Committee and Council for approval. City approval is required before any work on a heritage property that will affect its heritage attributes can be undertaken. City by-laws also clearly state that no person shall erect permanent surface encroachments within a city right-of-way. To ensure our quality of life and safety, it is imperative that heritage and right-of-way rules be followed and to note that those rules will be enforced by the city.

As always, you can contact my office by email at [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) or by phone at 613 580-2483. Please subscribe to my newsletter at [www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca).

**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward  
[rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca)



I hope you are doing well and have had the opportunity to enjoy the summer. For me, it has been marked by meaningful interactions and productive discussions regarding our community's challenges and aspirations.

With the resumption of the parliamentary session, the inaugural week unfolded smoothly, marked by heartfelt moments as we extended a warm welcome to my esteemed colleagues, Andrea Hazel and Karen Micromini. Both have shown unwavering dedication to their respective communities and are ready to take on crucial roles in our shared mission to create a fairer Ontario. I eagerly look forward to our upcoming collaborative efforts, aimed at advancing the best interests of our province.

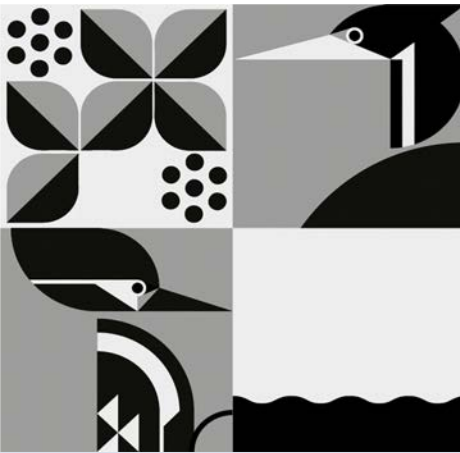
**Bill 41: An Essential Measure Toward Protecting Human Trafficking Survivors**

Bill 41, aimed at safeguarding survivors of human trafficking from debts incurred in their name by their traffickers, reached a significant milestone. The Standing Committee on Justice completed its review of the bill and sent it back to the House for final debate. It required very persistent, extensive effort to garner support from all parties at Queen's Park for this bill, which, if passed, could provide tangible assistance to human trafficking survivors. Clearly, additional measures are needed to combat this global scourge, and I am also involved in this work at an international level through the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie.

**In the Community:** As I strive for greater community engagement through upcoming events, I look forward to meeting you and hearing your concerns. Our coffee discussions continue regularly, and I strongly encourage your active participation. Subscribe to our newsletter to stay abreast of upcoming activities.

**Lucille Collard, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier**  
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Photo: Bia Media



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Nic Fortier  
Pond Working Group

#### Activities

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

## Recap: Celebrating National Tree Day at the Rockcliffe Park Library

This year's National Tree Day, September 20, was observed locally with events organized by Martha Hodgson and Suzanne White of Rockcliffe Park's library. The day began with a video featuring the work of the English sculptor and photographer Andy Goldsworthy, followed by a guided exploratory walk by Iola Price through the mini-woodlot surrounding the Library and Community Hall.

Iola pointed out the trees and shrubs, explaining which ones were native to the Ottawa Valley (sugar maple, chokecherry, eastern white-cedar, red pine and white pine) and which ones were introduced (Norway maple, black locust (a.k.a. acacia – a tree with sharp anti-predator thorns and possibly invasive) and common buckthorn. She described the ongoing removal of exotic and invasive herbaceous plants such as garlic mustard and dog-strangling vine, and their replacement with Virginia waterleaf, false Solomon's seal, ostrich fern and other native species.

Replacement is being done because there is a long-standing relationship between birds, insects and native plants going back to the retreat of the glaciers. Insects lay their eggs on plants; birds, needing high protein and calorie-filled food to feed their newly hatched young, use the caterpillars to fill that need. Most native insects have developed a strong bond with specific plants, laying their eggs on those plants alone. When we remove those native plants from our gardens and other places, many of the insects cannot switch to the introduced plant and they go elsewhere or do not lay eggs at all.



In another instance, if Monarch butterflies mistakenly lay their eggs on the introduced dog-strangling vine, which is a relative in the milkweed family, the Monarch caterpillars do not survive because of a toxin in the leaves. As we go up the food chain to the birds seeking caterpillars to feed their young, gardens consisting of introduced plants may be devoid of caterpillars and hence unchewed, but of no value to our songbirds.

Following this short introduction to native plant ecology, Suzanne and the workshop attendees gathered sticks, stones, leaves, conifer cones, etc. and then created their own land art in the Goldsworthy style. The artwork was photographed and is on display at the library, along with land art created by Rockcliffe Park children in a summer library program.

#### Iola Price, RPR Environment Committee

Above: Land art on display at the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Photo by Suzanne White. An additional example is shown on the front cover of this newsletter.

## Wildlife Sightings



The first Monarch butterfly I noticed this summer visited milkweeds in our garden on July 20, but not long enough to lay eggs. On August 14 my first Chimney Swifts seen this season hunted high above our garden, and three days later my first hummingbird sampled our flowering shrubs. Susan d'Aquino reported on September 1 that there were no swallows at the nesting boxes around the lake this summer. Another eater of insects, a Phoebe flycatcher, found that the tiny weedy pond in our front garden is a worthwhile hunting ground, and used it all summer. It sits on an overlooking perch, then darts to catch its quarry either in the air above the water or on the water surface; getting a little wet each time. The last sighting of the Merlins that I reported in the previous newsletter was on July 19. I've only noticed one hummingbird this season, on August 17. Around 5:00 pm on October 3, a steady movement of tiny wood warblers came through the tops of the tall trees in our garden; all feeding energetically. I expect they were putting on as much fat as possible to fuel a long-distance night flight south. This migratory fat may approximate their lean weight. They breed in the insect-rich northern forests and winter in the insect-rich forests of central and south America.

Anthony Keith, October 2023

Photo: [blog.cincinnati.zoo.org](http://blog.cincinnati.zoo.org)

## Miscellany...

### Heritage Sundial Restored

In 2005, a group of friends installed a sundial in the Village Green to honour the memory of Sheila Lilis MacTavish (Eberts), a habituée of the park whose family on both sides were fully engaged in life in Rockcliffe Park and Ottawa. Sadly, the sundial was vandalized, but with the assistance of a grant from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, a new gnomon and faceplate were purchased from the original supplier in England, Haddonstone Ltd. The restoration was completed in October by members of the Environment Committee, with the expert help of Suzanne White, B. Eng., of the Rockcliffe Park Library staff.

### Also Recently Spotted in Rockcliffe Park...

These neighbourhood residents (photo, right) were found waiting impatiently for the library to open its doors. We're wondering where they keep their library cards... Below, another crowd of winged Villagers joined a lone skateboarder in admiring the view at McKay Lake. Photo by Rockcliffe resident Doug Taylor.

### Winter is Coming so Roll Those Rocks!

The snowplows will soon be out so move those rocks – and iron and plastic road edge markers – back from the pavement edge – at least 12-18 inches (30-45 cm). Snowplow operators need a place to deposit the snow and our rocks and iron stakes cause damage to their snowplow blades. If you install T-bars or markers to guide snowplow operations, they should be placed 12 inches (30 cm) from the edge of the pavement. Please ensure they are not so deep as to puncture a gas line. Contact Ontario One Call, 1-800-400-2255, or online at [ontarioonecall.ca](http://ontarioonecall.ca) for a free underground utilities locate.



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER ►

**16 MONDAY 8:00 to 9:00 PM**

**Library Event: Stargazing in the Park;** Rockcliffe Park Dog Park near Hillside; rain date October 18; see details on page 5 of this newsletter

**18 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM**

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

**24 TUESDAY 3:30 to 4:15 PM**

**Library Event: Rebel Readers Book Club;** Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; see details on page 5 of this newsletter

### NOVEMBER ►

**03 FRIDAY to 05 SUNDAY Various times**

**Rockcliffe Park Public School Book Fair;** Queen Juliana Hall (behind the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall); go to [rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](http://rockcliffeparkbookfair.com) for complete schedule and details

**03 FRIDAY to 12 SUNDAY Various times**

**Elmwood School Event: Linden House Theatre presents 'Italian American Reconciliation';** Elmwood Auditorium, 261 Buena Vista Road; see details on page 12 of this newsletter

**04 SATURDAY 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Fall Clean up;** Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area; rain date November 5; see details on page 7 of this newsletter

**04 SATURDAY 1:00 to 4:00 PM**

**St Bart's Community Bazaar;** Church of St Bartholomew, 125 MacKay Street; see details on page 9 of this newsletter

**07 TUESDAY 1:30 to 2:30 PM**

**Library Event: Rockcliffe Park Book Club;** Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; see details on page 5 of this newsletter

**08 WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM**

**Speakers Program: Charlotte Gray, historian and author, discusses her new book;** Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; see details on page 7 of this newsletter

**15 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM**

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

**17 FRIDAY to 26 SUNDAY Various times**

**Mary Poppins: The Musical;** CentrepoinTE Theatre, Nepean; see details on page 10 of this newsletter

**22 WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM**

**Speakers Program: Stephen Poloz, former Governor of the Bank of Canada;** Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; see details on page 7 of this newsletter

**24 FRIDAY Time TBA**

**Library Event: PD Day Program: The Sock Project Workshop;** Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; see details on page 5 of this newsletter

**28 TUESDAY 3:30 to 4:15 PM**

**Library Event: Rebel Readers Book Club;** Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; see details on page 5 of this newsletter

### DECEMBER ►

**02 SATURDAY All day**

**Elmwood School Holly Tea and Marketplace;** Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road; see details on page 12 of this newsletter

**05 TUESDAY 1:30 to 2:30 PM**

**Library Event: Rockcliffe Park Book Club;** Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; see details on page 5 of this newsletter

**07 THURSDAY 600 PM**

**Tree Lighting and Carol Sing;** Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; see details on pages 7 and 9 of this newsletter

**17 SUNDAY 2:00 to 4:00 PM**

**Children's Holiday Party;** Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road see details on pages 7 and 9 of this newsletter

**25 MONDAY**

**Happy Holidays from the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association**

### JANUARY ►

**01 MONDAY**

**Happy New Year from the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association**