

# ROCKCLIFFE NEWS

ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association  
Annual General Meeting Notice  
Page 4

Speakers Program:  
Tobi Nussbaum, NCC CEO  
Page 7

Heritage Issues  
in Rockcliffe Park  
Page 8



The newly restored sundial in the Village Green, placed by her friends in honour of Sheila Liliac MacTavish, is fittingly inscribed "Choose Thine Own Time."

## 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 5 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.

Would you like to get more involved in our community, meet and work with neighbours? The Rockcliffe Park Foundation has been an important part of Village life for more than 25 years. Email us at [info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org) to talk about ways you can contribute.

[rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://rockcliffeparkfoundation.org)

### Board Members

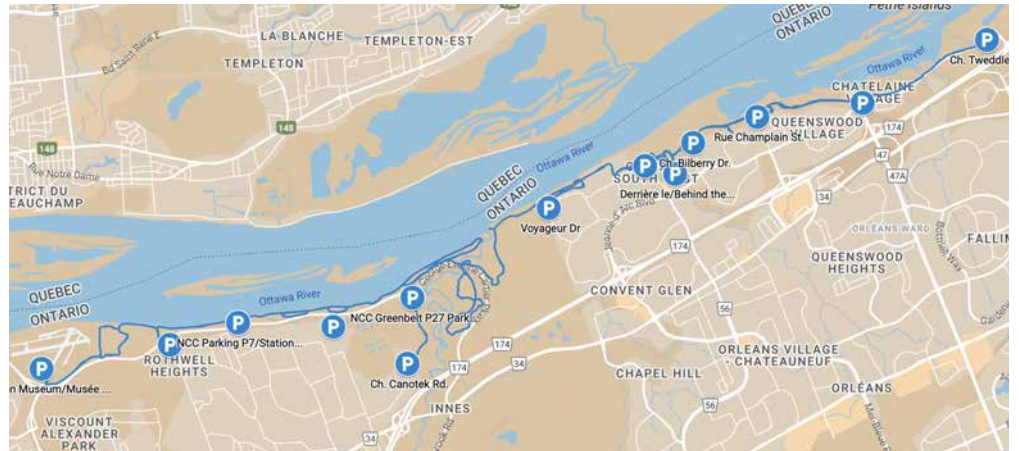
Sarah Baxter, Chair  
Ryan Kilger, Vice Chair  
Sarah Waters, Treasurer  
Jane Newcombe, Corporate Secretary  
Marilyn Collette  
Cynthia Cusinato  
Kristen Healy  
Jane Panet  
Paul St. Louis

### 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).



The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association's Annual General Meeting of Members (AGM) will be held on February 28, 2024, marking my last AGM as president. In 2024, I will be entering my fifth year as president and my eighth year as either a vice-president or president, so it is time to transition to the role of past president.

The AGM will be held in person starting at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, as in previous years, and it will follow a familiar format. The members will receive a report from directors on our 2023 activities, consider the financial statements of the corporation for approval, and elect or re-elect directors. A formal notice of the AGM appears on page 4 of this newsletter. The AGM is open to all. We hope that you will join us.

Our process for electing directors and officers is as follows. At our November board meeting, a nominating committee was established and appointed by the board. Unlike other committees of the board of the association, the nominating committee reports directly to the membership at the AGM with a list of directors willing to volunteer for a term commencing on February 28, 2024. The nominating committee typically operates with terms of reference (TORs), whereas the officers are appointed immediately after the AGM in a short meeting of the newly elected board of directors convened by the president of the board. The officers of the board of directors are secretary, treasurer, one or more vice-presidents, and president. By convention, the past president continues as a member of the executive in order to assist the new president.

Individuals residing in the Heritage Conservation District of Rockcliffe Park are entitled to join the RPRA as members or renew their membership, as the case may be, and to vote at the AGM. Members are entitled to stand for election to the board at the AGM, or if a candidate prefers, she or he may contact the nominating committee of the board for more information. The nominating committee is presently seeking candidates and can be contacted by email through the secretary of the board at [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca).

In the year ahead, I anticipate a busy schedule of RPRA activities. Our application for National Historic Site status still awaits a decision, which we are hopeful will be forthcoming early in 2024. This would be a first for Ottawa and a designation of national significance.

Currently, the RPRA's year-end fundraising for the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC), detailed on page 5 of this newsletter, is underway. The RRCRC operates a number of programs, including a poverty reduction program and food bank, a community fridge and the Baby Cupboard. The RPRA has once again committed to this campaign and our hope is that the community will respond generously, as in the past.

Ski Heritage East continues to fundraise for its winter work of grooming its trails along the parkway adjacent to the Ottawa River on the NCC river paths. The RPRA is again a sponsor of Ski Heritage East trails. This year work will continue on improving the western end of the trail closest to Rockcliffe Park to extend its reach to approximately 40 kilometres of trail. Check out the trail map (shown above); you will find it and much more information on the Ski Heritage East website, [skiheritageeast.ca/wpshe](http://skiheritageeast.ca/wpshe).

The RPRA will not have a board meeting in December, but will meet twice during the month at the Community Hall: once for the annual Tree Lighting and again for the Children's Holiday Party, which are both detailed on page 4 of this newsletter. The Rockcliffe Hosers will continue their annual tradition of creating and tending to the two ice rink surfaces and fieldhouse at the Rockcliffe Field House and in the Jubilee Garden. The Hosers are also seeking new volunteers; email [therockcliffehosers@gmail.com](mailto:therockcliffehosers@gmail.com) for details.

Our next regular board meeting will be held on January 17, 2024, starting at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road. Our meetings are open to all.

On behalf of the board of the RPRA, we extend our best wishes to each of you for a healthy and prosperous 2024, and thank you for supporting the RPRA and the Rockcliffe Park Foundation this past year.

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



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 focus on the RPRA's annual Membership Drive, and its upcoming events.

## Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) Upcoming Events

### Notice of Annual General Meeting of Members

To be held on February 28, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the evening, in person at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, Ottawa.

This notice is provided to the membership of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association in accordance with Section 1 of BY-LAW No. 1 of the association. In accordance with the BY-LAW, voting Members may vote by proxy. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual report of the directors, the financial statements of the association for the period ending December 31, 2023, and to consider the requirement of an audit, or waive an audit. Paid-up Members on the membership list provided to the Chair prior to the meeting by the membership secretary will be recognized as such at the meeting.

**Please Note:**

A Volunteer Appreciation Reception Event, with refreshments, will be held starting at 6:00 pm in the Community Hall, prior to the meeting.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:**

1. Call to Order, welcome to the meeting and approval of agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Approval of the financial statements of the association to December 31, 2023
4. Consideration of the requirement of an Audit or Waiver of Audit
5. Introduction of Annual Report of Directors, Nominating Committee, and Elections
6. Adjournment of AGM
7. Member Question & Answer time

(By tradition, a short meeting of the newly elected board of directors follows the AGM.)

Dated at Ottawa, November 15, 2023

### 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 RPRA'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.)

## RPRA Annual Fundraising Campaign for the RRCRC Food Bank

The RPRA is launching its annual appeal for donations to our local food bank at the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC).

Last year, roughly 900 residents from Ward 13 relied on the food bank at the RRCRC every month, and the numbers continue to grow at an alarming rate. According to an August Global News story, the central Ottawa Food Bank has seen the demand for its services grow to an expected half million visits this year, up from the 400,000 visits last year. This scenario is being played out all over the country and we have the opportunity to provide much needed assistance to our neighbouring communities.

The RRCRC is much more than the food bank. Last year, the Centre served over 27,000 residents. The Poverty Reduction initiative assisted over 10,400 individuals and families. Their Good Food Box and Social Harvest Social Enterprise delivered 20 tons of affordable and nutritious food. The Community Support and Development Team organized some 136 resident-led activities and events, engaging around 12,000 participants in Ward 13 neighbourhoods, and provided essential counselling and social support.

With the Holiday Season approaching, the RPRA invites you to support the Centre with either a one-time donation – or consider becoming a monthly donor, helping to provide a secure cash flow throughout the year. Our target is \$65,000 this holiday season. Donations can be made through the Centre’s website, [crrc.org](http://crrc.org), or via Canada Helps at [canadahelps.org/en/dn/11997](http://canadahelps.org/en/dn/11997). If donating online, you can select a specific program in the “Apply your donation to a fund set up by this charity” window; please select Option 2: Local Food for Local Food Bank.

Cheques made payable to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre may also be dropped off or mailed to the RPRA’s freestanding mailbox at the Springfield Road entrance to the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall at 380 Springfield Road, Ottawa, ON K1M 0K7.

To learn more about the RRCRC, we invite you to go to their website, [crrc.org](http://crrc.org). You can sign up for the newsletter, review the Annual Report, or consider becoming involved as a volunteer.

Thank you for your support.

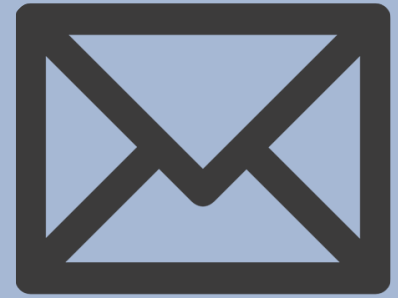
**Peter Lewis, RPRA Past President**

Photo: [canadahelps.org/en/charities/rideau-rockcliffe-community-resource-centre](http://canadahelps.org/en/charities/rideau-rockcliffe-community-resource-centre)



**Connecting Our Community Through Support and Resources**

### RPRA CONTACTS



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

Russ Gibson, President  
[russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:russgibson@rockcliffepark.ca)

John Butterfield, Treasurer  
[treasurer@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:treasurer@rockcliffepark.ca)

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Susan d’Aquino, Heritage Outreach Chair  
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Mark Willcox, Environment VP  
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Iola Price, Environment Chair  
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Membership Database  
[membership@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:membership@rockcliffepark.ca)

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Kay James, Eblast and Email List Coordinator  
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Jean-Guy Dumoulin, Website Coordinator  
[webupdates@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:webupdates@rockcliffepark.ca)

Cynthia Hamady, Rockcliffe News Editor  
[editor@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:editor@rockcliffepark.ca)



**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  
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**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
- Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale
- Tree Lighting and Carol Sing
- Children’s Holiday Party
- Outdoor Movie Nights
- Heritage Walk
- Welcome Committee
- RPPS Soccer Field
- RRCRC Food Bank Support

As the winter sets in and the arrangements for our December events are now finalized, we hope you will join the RPR and your neighbours at our two annual holiday activities.

**Tree Lighting and Carol Sing**

Rockcliffe Park Community Hall  
 380 Springfield Road, at rear of building  
 Thursday, December 7, 6:00 pm

COME ONE, COME ALL as our community gathers to celebrate our annual tree lighting. James H. ‘Si’ Taylor, OC, retired diplomat, former chancellor of McMaster University, longtime Rockcliffe resident and valued community citizen, has graciously volunteered to light our tree. Scott Heatherington, RPR board member, together with community volunteers, has arranged for a concert to be sung by the Elmwood School Junior Choir, for the singing of carols accompanied by the Salvation Army Brass Band, and for refreshments of hot chocolate and Timbits. It is during this celebration that Scott will present the annual RPR donation of \$500.00 to the Salvation Army.

**Children’s Holiday Party**

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

JOIN US FOR THE PARTY, where we celebrate holiday traditions from around the world. RPR ‘elves’ will organize games and crafts, and help with the building of gingerbread houses. And Santa, who arrives by sleigh, will offer rides, and happily share his candy canes with small and big kids alike. Photo ops will be available. There’s always room for more volunteers so if you can make some time to help, please contact Natalie Runoff, RPR board member, at childrensparty@rockcliffepark.ca.

**Food Bank Donations**

As we are in the privileged position of being funded for our community events through the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, the RPR does not require an admission fee for any of its gatherings. In this season’s spirit of hope and sharing, donations to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre Food Bank of a monetary nature (cash or cheque) will be gratefully received. At each of the events detailed above, there will be a dedicated box for such donations. A larger box for the donation of non-perishable food stuffs will also be available. Tax receipts for donations above \$20.00 will be made available by RRCRC. For receipt purposes, please include your full name, address and email address with your donation.

**RPR Membership: For 2024, it’s Time to Join or Renew**

Membership forms – the bright yellow sheets included in this issue of the Rockcliffe News, can be completed and – together with a cheque of \$25.00 per family – be dropped into the RPR freestanding mailbox outside the main entrance of the Community Hall at 380 Springfield Road. The option to register online is also available through our website, rockcliffepark.ca. And please consider volunteering some time and energy; your help is always welcome.

To all, warm wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season, and for 2024 to be a year of many blessings.

Lisa Cogan, Community VP  
 RPR Community Committee



**RPR Membership:  
 Strength in Numbers**

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association represents the interests of residents with our councillor and at City Hall. A robust membership is essential in supporting these very significant outreach efforts. A yearly membership is just \$25 per family. Look for the yellow membership form included with this newsletter or go to rockcliffepark.ca.

## Spring Book Sale: We're Definitely Back!

We reported in the last issue of this newsletter that we were looking to re-launch the Spring Book Sale in 2024 but could not confirm exactly how we were going to proceed, as certain logistical issues had yet to be resolved. We have now found a temporary solution to our storage problems (regular visitors to the Library may have noticed the two U-Haul pods in the parking lot) so we have decided to proceed with preparations for the Sale.

Our dedicated volunteers are busy sorting books collected over the summer, but with April now only five months away, we need more donations! If you are considering a pre-Christmas clear out, now is the time to bring your gently used books (English and French) to the Library during opening hours.

If you have a sizeable donation (more than a couple of bags or boxes), please contact Jane Newcombe at janenewcombe08@gmail.com or me, Carolyn Brereton, at cbrereton@mac.com Please remember: no encyclopedias, magazines or textbooks. Please also consider the condition of the items you are donating; if a book is in poor shape – mouldy, torn, or badly marked – please recycle it at home in your black box.

Many thanks in advance for your contributions – every donation counts. Help us make our re-launch of the Sale another success. Proceeds from the Sale help support our Library.

And save the dates for the 2024 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale: tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28. Look for more details in future issues of this newsletter and in email blasts to RPRA members.

**Carolyn Brereton**

## Rockcliffe Park Library: Upcoming Events

Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road, has lots of exciting programming for you to enjoy this fall and winter! Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, which has just announced tentative dates for its much-anticipated two-day 2024 Sale. (See article at left.)

Come in and visit us any time or join us for any of the following programs. Please note that registrations can be done in person, by phone or online at [bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en).

### Upcoming Children's Programs:

#### Family Storytime (Drop-in)

Mondays at 9:30 am

Stories, rhymes and songs for children and a parent or caregiver. All ages

#### Pop-up Fun for Kids (Drop-in)

Every Thursday 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Join us at Rockcliffe Park Branch for a different self-directed pop-up activity in either art, science, games or puzzle challenges.

Ages 3+ (with adult supervision)

### Upcoming Adult Programs:

#### Rockcliffe Park Book Club (Drop-in)

First Tuesday of every month, 1:30 to 2:30 pm

December 5: 'Women Talking' by Miriam Toews

January 2, 2024: 'Red Notice' by Bill Browder

#### Music in the Stacks: Winter Solstice Edition

Thursday, December 21, 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Susan Toman and Andrew Mah, Celtic harp and classical. (Drop-in)

**Staff Recommendations:** If you are looking for your next great read, come in and chat with our knowledgeable staff, or have a look at our display of staff picks. Whatever your preference, there's a book (or two or three!) waiting for you at your Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library.

**Martha Hodgson**

## Speakers Program

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

**January 31, 2024**

### Tobi Nussbaum

CEO of the National Capital Commission  
**Building an Inspiring Capital**



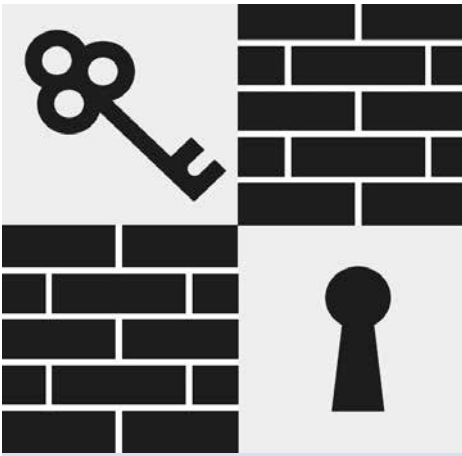
Reflecting the mandate of the National Capital Commission (NCC) – to build a great Capital for Canadians – CEO Tobi Nussbaum will speak to a number of exciting NCC projects, plans and initiatives that are driving an ambitious agenda towards achieving that vision, and address local issues.

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](http://rockcliffepark.ca).

Further speakers will be announced in the next newsletter.

Photo: [ncc-ccn.gc.ca](http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca)



**RPR Heritage Committee**  
Michele Hayman, Heritage VP  
mmcollum@gmail.com

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

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

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

All work guided by the  
Rockcliffe Park Heritage  
Conservation District Plan

## Heritage Issues in Rockcliffe Park

### 1 Maple Lane: Demolition by Neglect

Further to our report in the last newsletter, the city's Built Heritage Committee (BHC) considered on November 6 the application by the owner, Roca Homes, to demolish this historic duplex house at 1 Maple Lane/1112 Lisgar Road, and replace it with a considerably larger duplex house.

The city had commissioned an independent engineering report on the condition of the house. It reluctantly concurred with earlier engineering reports by owners that neglect of the house over decades made it impossible to salvage. The BHC was informed that ownership of the house had passed to the present owner seven years ago, and that it had continued to deteriorate, contrary to the requirements of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan by-laws and Property Standards by-law. Our delegation and the BHC questioned city staff on what steps the city had taken – or failed to take – to protect the house from neglect over the years. It concluded that demolition was unavoidable. One councillor referred to this as “heartbreaking.”

City heritage staff were of the opinion that the proposed new duplex meets the requirements of our Heritage Plan. We strongly disagreed and were ably supported by Heritage Ottawa. In short, we both submitted that when it comes to demolition by neglect, “a line in the sand has to be drawn,” or such calculated neglect will be encouraged. The owner should not be permitted to profit by significantly increasing the footprint, mass and height of the house, significantly reducing setbacks, and failing to reflect the materials and most of the character defining attributes of the existing house.

The lawyer for the owner, Michael Polowin, intervened with the disturbing comment that our Heritage Plan is (just) a set of guidelines, not law. In fact, all heritage plans in Ottawa are by-laws – by-laws are the form that municipal laws take.

The BHC voted for demolition and concluded with a direction to heritage staff that it pursue with the owners a revised plan for the duplex house which reduces the massing on the site so as to increase the soft landscaping – which it noted is a key character-defining heritage attribute of Rockcliffe Park. This was to be done prior to City Council's consideration of this matter on December 6. Thus far, we have heard nothing about any changes and so we will be submitting to Council that it reject the proposed new house and require the owner to make a revised application that reflects the direction from the BHC and Heritage Conservation District Plan by-laws.

### 136 Acacia Avenue: Continued Actions to Sever the Former Stanfield Property

The new owners of this large Grade I property at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Maple Lane are pursuing further steps that would allow them to sever the property. We reported on their past steps, which failed, in the June/July edition of this newsletter. They are now seeking from the city's Committee of Adjustment “to validate the title of the properties,” to be heard on December 12, 2023. Their lawyer alleges that in 1961, when the then-separate lot at 138 Acacia was transferred to the owner of the abutting property at 136 Acacia, the transfer contravened the Planning Act of that time.

We do not know what position the city's lawyers will take. We and the city opposed the owners' previous request to sever 136 Acacia on the grounds that the previous two lots were merged on title long ago and constitute a single Grade I residential lot. Our Heritage Plan does not permit the severing of Grade I properties. The new submission by the owners' lawyer claims that the part of this corner property that at one time was 138 Acacia “is and has always been a vacant lot.” In fact it has long been a beautiful garden, created by the Stanfields within the impressive hedge that surrounds the property as a whole.

(Heritage Issues continues on page 9)





### 235 Mariposa: Illegal Demolition (Photo above)

This house, owned as an embassy residence by Uganda, has been vacant and neglected for a period of time and accordingly is on the city's Heritage Watch List. It had been granted a building permit in 2022 that included the reconstruction and extension of the garage as part of overall alterations. We alerted city heritage staff on October 24 that the house was being demolished – a building inspector went to the site and concluded that the work appeared to be in line with the approvals. The city was alerted again the following day that demolition was continuing. A building inspector attended again the next day, but the demolition of the house continued and was quickly complete.

We have commented to the city that this is a grave violation of our Heritage Plan and shows flagrant disrespect for our community. The city belatedly issued an "Order to Comply" which stops all work and tells us that they are "exploring enforcement mechanisms" as well as "how such situations might be avoided in the future." In the interim, the RPRA has requested the city take action to require that the demolition debris be cleaned up.

### Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club: Lighting Update

In the last newsletter, we provided a fulsome update on the RLTC's intent to take a vote of their members on whether to proceed again with an application to the city to install lighting at the club. We asked the president of the club to circulate an information document to its members so they could consider a number of important facts – and correct some misconceptions – before a vote was taken. We are disappointed that they refused to inform their members of many relevant facts about the community in which the club is situated. We are aware that the club is optimistic that a new type of lighting system may be feasible. If the club does proceed, we look forward to assessing the possible compatibility of the proposed system with the Heritage Conservation District Plan by-laws.

### Increased Height Limits on Hemlock Road: Bad Decision from City Council

On November 22, City Council voted on a motion by Councillor Gower that would see the height limit on buildings on roads classified as minor corridors, like Hemlock Road, increased from four storeys to seven storeys – or up to nine storeys in certain circumstances. Our Councillor King was one of only two who voted against this motion; 17 voted in favour.

Significantly, this was done without any public consultation whatsoever. It reverses the decision made by Council after much public engagement when developing Ottawa's new Official Plan – which provided for a four-storey limit. The story then gets a bit complicated.

Last November, the then Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, Stephen Clark, unilaterally modified the Official Plans of some municipalities by adding additional lands for urban expansion, as well as raising height limits on minor corridors to allow for more intensification. When the Ontario auditor general then found undue developer influence guided these modifications, Clark resigned and the new Minister Calandra brought in legislation to walk back these imposed changes to Official Plans.

What Ottawa's City Council has done in its vote on November 22 is ask the Ontario government to leave intact the increase in height limits imposed by then-Minister Clark!! The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association joined with Ottawa's Federation of Citizens Association and other community associations to strongly object to Ottawa City Council's request, and ask the Ontario government to reject it.

**Michele Hayman, Heritage VP  
RPRA Heritage Committee**

**Susan d'Aquino, Chair  
Heritage Outreach Committee**



### Katherine Beryl Phillips

Katherine Beryl Phillips was born in Nanking, China on December 21, 1921, and spent her final years, until her passing on November 9, 2023, in a retirement home in Ottawa. In the interim, though, she resided for over 60 years at various addresses in Rockcliffe Park.

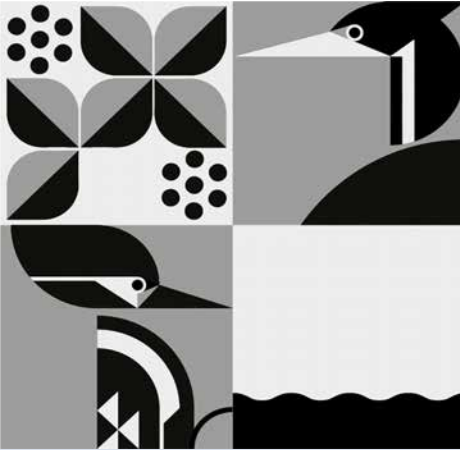
Beryl, as she was known, lived a full and interesting life. She was the younger daughter of Gerald and Katie Courtney. Her father had relocated from County Cork, in Ireland, for employment, and her mother, of Scottish and Venezuelan descent, had also been born in China. Following the declaration of war on Japan, Beryl, her mother and her sister were placed under house arrest. In 1942, they ended up in Mozambique, waiting to board a ship for England in exchange for Japanese students being repatriated.

In 1943, Beryl joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). She became a meteorologist and spent the war years based on various air bases throughout England and Scotland. She met her Canadian husband, Raymond, while teaching meteorology to Canadian naval officers, and after the war they moved to Canada – first to Victoria, and ultimately to Ottawa.

Beryl was a keen bridge player, gardener, and an enthusiastic golfer (along with her husband), and also became involved in many volunteer endeavours. Among other projects, she edited and published a cookbook to raise money for the Save the Children Fund, and worked for many years at the Volunteer Bureau, helping to find a fit between volunteers and places that needed them.

Predeceased by her husband and a daughter, Beryl leaves behind two children: John (Cathy) and Moira; three grandchildren: Kate (Arthur), Michael (Caitlin), and Jamie (Chloé); and four great-grandchildren: Charlie, Tenzin, Tara and Will. A Celebration of Life is planned for spring.

(Photo and some text from The Ottawa Citizen)



RPRRA Environment Committee  
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Nic Fortier  
Pond Working Group

#### Activities

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

## Wildlife Sightings

The first White-throated Sparrow I noticed this fall was an immature on September 20. Most of their breeding range is north of us, so this may well have been a migrant. A crowd of White-throated Sparrows and Goldfinches bathed in the shallow bird bath I had just filled on October 12, so it is worth keeping bird baths going well past summer. A Double-crested Cormorant fished the lake on October 7, and on that day in the tall pines beside Stornoway, seventeen Crows and a Raven were doing a lot of calling. I suspected their fuss might have been directed at an owl or hawk, but I didn't see one.

On November 1, a crowd of Goldfinches were back at our bird bath – but this time the water was frozen and they pecked at the ice to no avail. A few got the message and ate snow on the lawn below. Keith Butler saw two mergansers on the Pond on November 12, and it is time to watch for the annual gathering of Common Mergansers on McKay Lake. In the past, Iola and I have seen as many as two dozen or more at one time. And on November 14, we saw five turkeys in the Village Green moving along the line of rocks beside the school yard. A young girl was delighted to see this wildlife spectacle.

Anthony Keith, November 2023

### Environment Note: 'X' Marks the Tree

Residents who walk the paths at McKay Lake and the Pond will notice that there are many dead or dying trees marked with a red X. They are hazardous and will be removed over the winter.

More information will appear in the next newsletter.

## Pond Use Survey, June to October 2023

The Pond Working Group undertook to provide data and qualitative observations this summer to determine weekday usage trends as a follow-on from the very successful 2022 survey funded by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. In June, a Pond regular swimmer and volunteer made weekday counts of and observations on Pond usage between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. The number of swimmers appeared to be manageable, with the highest count being 303 on Friday, June 23. During July and August, Jane Newcombe collected weekday information. Monday, July 3, witnessed an estimated 650 swimmers, shoreline sunbathers and picnickers. August saw a steady but manageable stream of swimmers and sunbathers at the Pond. It is possible that the newly opened NCC River House was more attractive, as there appeared to be fewer swimmers at the Pond. September 30 to October 3 and 5 experienced record-breaking heat that drew many swimmers and sunbathers. It was also noted that it is important that a city by-law officer visit the Pond at random times after the 2:00 pm closure from April until late October. Without their presence, swimming hours are regularly ignored.

Water level was measured weekly; water quality samples were taken every two weeks. By October 12, the shoreline from the Northeast Boundary Signpost had receded 15' 3". The floating tree stump projected more than three feet above the water. Water quality remained good.

The Working Group has prepared Observations and Recommendations to discuss with the city. The complete report may be found on the RPRRA website at [rockcliffepark.ca/environment-and-outdoor-spaces](http://rockcliffepark.ca/environment-and-outdoor-spaces). Scroll down to the link "Pond Conservation & Monitoring Public Use Survey Report 2023." The RPRRA and Pond Working Group are grateful to the city for its support.

Kate Dickson, on behalf of the  
Pond Working Group: Nic Fortier, Chair,  
Marilyn Blattel, Kate Dickson, Jane Newcombe,  
Iola Price, Tim Stevenson and Mark Willcox



The City of Ottawa’s draft budget for 2024 was released in November. The budget is a crucial document that outlines the financial plans and priorities for our city in the coming year. You can access the full details of the 2024 draft budget by visiting the City of Ottawa website, [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).

The budget’s total operating revenue forecast is \$4.6 billion. The total capital budget forecast is \$1.2 billion. The city is proposing an overall tax increase of 2.5 percent. At 2.5 percent, the average urban homeowner would pay an additional \$105 on their annual property tax bill, while the average rural homeowner would pay an additional \$86.

The city budget will make tangible investments to protect heritage through the hiring of two new employees who will enforce the vacant property by-law and the property standards by-law. The additional by-law enforcement officers will undertake proactive inspections aimed at preventing demolition by neglect. These positions will be paid for through an annual \$1,703 permit that will be levied on vacant properties. Previously, the city only had one by-law enforcement officer assigned city-wide to deal with property standards. This led to one officer dealing with an unsustainable caseload of over 800 investigations a year. Under recent by-law changes, in conjunction with new human resources, the city will more effectively be able to order protective work be undertaken on a property when deficiencies exist. If a building is not in compliance, the city will be able to complete the repairs and recover the costs on the property tax bill, based upon by-law changes approved by City Council in 2022. The changes to the property standards by-law will also allow the city to levy fines for non-compliance to a maximum of \$10,000 for an individual and \$100,000 for a corporation.

While most Rockcliffe Park residents express pride of ownership through proper property maintenance, it is important that the city utilize its mechanisms of enforcement to ensure adherence to building codes and property standards in our heritage conservation district. The new resources allocated in the budget and new tools provided through by-law amendments will aid in this effort.

Concerning transit, in September, I released a position paper focused on improving OC Transpo bus routes in Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward to enhance efficiency and improve the passenger experience. The paper explores the challenges with current routes that serve our area and the importance of route optimization for the main bus routes which serve this ward. Additionally, the position paper showcases the benefits of optimization, such as reduced travel time, improved reliability and increased ridership, and makes recommendations concerning bus route improvements based upon resident input from both a transit survey and virtual town hall session that my office conducted earlier this year. The paper can be accessed at <https://t.ly/89dgK>. The public consultation, survey and position paper led to several positive bus route changes proposed by OC Transpo, including the re-introduction of peak hour bus service and the introduction of 15-minute bus service to Wateridge Village, as well as extended service of Route 9 to Carleton University, with two-way service on Sussex Drive between Boteler Street and Murray Street. The proposed route changes are projected to be implemented April 2024.

You may email my office at [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) or phone 613 580-2483. Please subscribe to my newsletter at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca).

I wish you all a happy, healthy holiday season, as well as prosperous year ahead!

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



As we slowly get into the holiday season spirit, I want to express my gratitude to those who have stood by me and helped me throughout the year in my efforts to bring more fairness in Ottawa-Vanier. This season serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of unity, generosity and communal sharing. It provides us with an occasion to connect with our neighbors, help those facing challenges, and show compassion for the most vulnerable members of our community. I am thankful for the family spirit that people in our community always exhibit, in so many ways.

In my role at Queen’s Park, I am dedicated to working tirelessly for the well-being of everyone in our community. Ottawa-Vanier remains at the forefront of my concerns, and I am intensifying my efforts to engage with ministers to find solutions to the pressing issues that deeply impact us. Housing, drug addictions, health – including mental health and seniors’ care – and support for our businesses all demand special attention. I’ve always counted collaboration as one of the best tools towards achievements, and I am proud to have garnered support from all parties at Queen’s Park for my Private Member’s Bill aimed at assisting survivors of human trafficking. This kind of cooperation is rare in politics, and it would be great to see more.

While in Ottawa-Vanier and throughout my time in the constituency, I actively engage in community events that unite diverse organizations and residents. I strongly believe in the impact of community involvement, and attending these gatherings provides me with valuable perspectives on the concerns and aspirations of our community.

I wish all of you a joyful holiday season and urge you to continue demonstrating unity and solidarity. Together, we can tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

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

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER ➤

**02 SATURDAY All day**  
Elmwood School Holly Tea and Marketplace;  
Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road;  
details at [elmwood.ca](http://elmwood.ca)

**02 SATURDAY 5:00 to 9:00 PM**  
Beechwood Market Holiday Night Market;  
1805 Gaspé Avenue; lots to see, taste and  
purchase, plus Santa; free admission and parking;  
details at [facebook.com/beecewoodmarket](https://facebook.com/beecewoodmarket)

**05 TUESDAY 1:30 to 2:30 PM**  
Library Event: Rockcliffe Park Book Club;  
Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road;  
see details on page 7 of this newsletter

**07 THURSDAY 600 PM**  
Tree Lighting and Carol Sing; Rockcliffe Park  
Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road;  
see details on page 4 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 page 4 of this newsletter

**17 SUNDAY 4:00 PM**  
Seventeen Voyces Holiday Concert; Church of  
St. Bartholomew, 125 MacKay Street; details and  
ticket purchases at [seventeenvoyces.ca/concerts](http://seventeenvoyces.ca/concerts)  
or at the door (cash, credit or debit)

**21 THURSDAY 6:30 to 7:30 PM**  
Library Event: Music in the Stacks –  
Winter Solstice Edition; Rockcliffe Park Library,  
380 Springfield Road; see details on page 7  
of this newsletter

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

### JANUARY ➤

**02 TUESDAY**  
Library Event: Rockcliffe Park Book Club;  
Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road;  
see details on page 7 of this newsletter

**17 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM**  
RPRA Board Meeting; Rockcliffe Park Community  
Hall, 380 Springfield Road; all are welcome

**31 WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM**  
Speakers Program: Tobi Nussbaum, CEO of the  
NCC, on Building an Inspiring Capital;  
Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield  
Road; see details on page 7 of this newsletter

### FEBRUARY ➤

**28 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM**  
RPRA Annual General Meeting; Rockcliffe Park  
Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; all are  
welcome; see details on page 4 of this newsletter

## CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Holiday events abound at this time of year. Right in our neighbourhood, join your neighbours at the annual Tree Lighting on December 7, and bring the kids to the RPRA Children's Holiday Party on December 17. Attend a holiday-themed concert performed by Seventeen Voyces ([seventeenvoyces.ca](http://seventeenvoyces.ca)) on December 17 at the Church of St. Bartholomew to experience a showstopping arrangement of 'You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch' and other unique music. See details in the calendar above.

Get out to skate the Rideau Canal Skateway ([ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/rideau-canal-skateway](http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/rideau-canal-skateway)) or the Rockcliffe rink ([therockcliffehosers.com](http://therockcliffehosers.com)). Or be part of Rideau Hall's 150th skating season ([ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/time-to-lace-up-rideau-halls-outdoor-skating-rink-opens-for-150th-season](http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/time-to-lace-up-rideau-halls-outdoor-skating-rink-opens-for-150th-season)). Ski or snowshoe on the Ski Heritage East trails ([skiheritageeast.ca/wpshe](http://skiheritageeast.ca/wpshe)).

Visit the Northern Lights 2023 — Sound and Light Show on Parliament Hill ([canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/sound-light-show](http://canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/sound-light-show)). For other ideas for holiday outings, check out Ottawa Road Trips ([ottawaroadtrips.com](http://ottawaroadtrips.com)) or Ottawa Tourism ([ottawatourism.ca/en/ottawa-insider/holiday-season-events-ottawa](http://ottawatourism.ca/en/ottawa-insider/holiday-season-events-ottawa)).

So many possibilities! Have a wonderful holiday season, and best wishes for 2024 from the Rockcliffe News.

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