

A B C D E

ROCKCLIFFE PARK

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FROM A TO Z

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# Rockcliffe Park from A to Z



**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association**  
**Rockcliffe Park Foundation**

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# Introduction

Rockcliffe Park, a Heritage Conservation District, is a neighbourhood in a beautiful park-like setting with strong community spirit and a rich history dating back to 1864.

It is this remarkable community, history and environment that the Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRRA) are committed to supporting. While these two key neighbourhood organizations are distinct, they are linked in practice, history, and by shared values. Board members of both organizations are volunteers. The Foundation works closely with and provides grants that support the RPRRA. The RPRRA manages and coordinates community programs and initiatives, and represents the interests of Rockcliffe residents. These are divided into three core mandate areas: community building, heritage and environment.

More information on these two neighbourhood organizations can be found on the websites [rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://rockcliffeparkfoundation.org) and [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca).

Rockcliffe Park A to Z is an introduction to Rockcliffe and the community resources in and around the neighbourhood. Compiled by the RPRRA and funded by the Foundation, we hope you will find it both an informative resource and one that reflects some of the many reasons we are fortunate to call Rockcliffe Park home.

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A



## Art and Artefacts

Rockcliffe Park's rich history is evident in the many works of art and artefacts displayed inside the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall at 380 Springfield Road and outside in the public gardens around the community.

### Coat of Arms

In 1994, the Village was granted a distinctive coat of arms that is registered in the Public Register of Arms, Flags, and Badges of Canada. It is displayed in the hall. The crest depicts our environs of water and trees, and two locally found birds, the Pileated Woodpecker and the Green Heron. The motto, *Inter Arbores Floremus*, meaning 'amid the trees we flourish,' reflects how our lives are nurtured by our natural environment.

### Second World War Honour Roll

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a plaque and an honour roll were placed in the hall to commemorate the men and women from Rockcliffe who served our country. Twenty percent of Village residents served in the war, approximately twice the national average. The honour roll book is permanently on display.

### Ship's Bell and Crest of HMCS Rockcliffe Park

During the Second World War, HMCS Rockcliffe Park, an Algerine Class minesweeper, saw action on the Atlantic patrol. Residents of the Village took part in the national program and adopted their namesake, agreeing to supply 'comforts' for the ship's company. In October 1994, one of the ship's two bells and crest, a painting of the ship by Ross Helwig, and a description of the ship were presented to the Village for safekeeping. These hang in the northwest corner of the hall. More recently, the RPRC obtained a photo of the crew of the HMCS Rockcliffe Park, which also hangs in the hall, courtesy of The Memory Project, Historica Canada.

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### Tapestry of McKay Lake

In 2004, H el ene Tolmie, who lived at 597 Mariposa Avenue, presented the RPRC with a tapestry she had created and which hung in her house for many years. It was her expression of delight in having lived, observed, swum, skated, skied and painted at McKay Lake for 45 years. It is also a testimony to the efforts of all Village residents who fought so hard from 1963 to 1983 to protect the east side of the lake from shoreline development. Her design depicts the water depth and bottom contours of the lake, with a border of vegetation and animals found in and around the lake. It is displayed above the fireplace in the hall, with her description of the tapestry beside it.

### **Public Sculpture**

In the Village Green, at the corner of Springfield Road and Mariposa Avenue, there is a charming gift to the children of Rockcliffe from the children of Wilson and Henrietta Southam. Whimsically perched on two boulders are the tiny Squirrels and Birds, created by local sculptor Art Price in 1967. Nearby is a small memorial sundial, installed in 2003 and restored in 2023 with the financial assistance of the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.

### **Pine Cones**

At the Jubilee Garden's west entrance, close to the southeast corner of Mariposa Avenue and Buchan Road, are three large metal pine cones by sculptor Floyd Elzinga, titled Regeneration. The sculpture was donated in 2009 by the Gualtieri family to honour their mother, Margot, a longtime contributor to the community.

### **The Sundial**

The Sundial, by Bruce Garner, is a 1997 gift from the Ambassador of Kuwait. The sculpture stands on the lawn of the Community Hall, on the south side of the library.

### **Interrupted Circle**

Interrupted Circle is a bronze sculpture on the lawn east of the Community Hall. It was created and donated in 1996 by the artist, former Rockcliffe resident John Matthews.

### **McKay Lake Markers**

For almost 90 years, two engraved concrete markers have graced the Village, close to McKay Lake. In 1930, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club placed one, fashioned from concrete to look like real stone, on the grassy slope in the Hillsdale Triangle just beyond the lake, and the second to the west of the Hillsdale Bridge. The Hillsdale Triangle marker reads: "The level of McKay Lake stood at around the level of this marker a few thousand years ago..." – referring to the marl beds composed of freshwater shells deposited in the lake. This marker was damaged and replaced by one of granite. The other marker, west of the Hillsdale Bridge, records that the lake dates from the close of the submergence of the Ottawa Valley by the post-glacial Champlain Sea. A third, also in real stone, sits on the north side of Hillsdale Road, marking the 1996 restoration of the original bridge built in 1905 by the Ottawa Improvement Commission over the stream that is the exit of McKay Lake.

### **Poets' Pathway**

On the north side of the Hillsdale Bridge stands a boulder displaying a plaque inscribed with a poem, entitled Indian Summer, by Canadian poet William Wilfred Campbell. The Poets' Pathway project donated the plaque in 2015.

## **Birkenfels Gates**

The handsome gates at the Buchan Road entrance into the Jubilee Garden, restored and erected in 2007, originally stood at the north end of Birkenfels Road. They were the main gates of the Birkenfels estate and probably date from the period of construction of Birkenfels, which began in 1864. The house was demolished in 1991 and the land subdivided into the lots surrounding Soper Place and Perley Court.

## **Village Entrance Markers**

In 2000, the former Village Council placed bronze plaques on large boulders to mark the nine principal road entrances to the Village and its 1997 designation as a Heritage Conservation District. The boulders came from the area of the Village Green and the plaques were cast in Merrickville, Ontario.

## **Historical Plaques**

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation, to commemorate Canada's Sesquicentennial, introduced a historical plaque program to honour noteworthy places and events considered significant in the development of Rockcliffe Park and/or Canada. The inaugural plaque, unveiled in 2018 at the Village Green, recognizes the founders of Rockcliffe and describes their roles.

## **Plaque to Patrick J. Murray, Mayor of Rockcliffe Park**

On the Village Green is a plaque marking the dedication of the nearby maple tree to the last mayor of Rockcliffe Park, Patrick Murray. He served as mayor for the last 15 years prior to amalgamation, and resided in the Village for over 40 years. As was always the practice, mayors and councillors volunteered their services to the community.

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The dedication ceremony took place on September 17, 2011 as part of the Village's 85th anniversary celebrations. Pat's family was joined by other family members from England and Ireland to mark the occasion. Ottawa's mayor at that time, Jim Watson, former Rockcliffe Park councillors, and hundreds of Rockcliffe residents also attended.

## **Aviation Museum**

The Canada Aviation and Space Museum ([ingeniumcanada.org/aviation](http://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation)) is Canada's national aviation history museum. The museum is located at 11 Aviation Parkway at the Rockcliffe Airport, just minutes from Rockcliffe.

The Rockcliffe Airport and the museum are located on the former Canadian Forces Base Rockcliffe, previously known as CFB Ottawa North. The airport is now used and maintained by the Rockcliffe Flying Club.

B

## Beechwood Cemetery

Designated as a National Historic Site, Beechwood Cemetery is the National Cemetery of Canada. Canadians buried here include Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn, Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, and Tommy Douglas, MP and father of Canadian universal healthcare. It is also the National Military Cemetery of Canada and the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery. Walking paths throughout feature plaques that highlight historical figures, with a Sherman tank in the military section. Tours are available; go to [beechwoodottawa.ca/foundation/tour-beechwood](http://beechwoodottawa.ca/foundation/tour-beechwood).

## Birds

Two locally-found birds, the Pileated Woodpecker – the largest North American woodpecker – and the Green Heron, can be found on the Rockcliffe Park coat of arms. This speaks to the rich bird life in the Village, which includes strong and repeated Cardinal songs, Chipping Sparrows and American Robins in gardens collecting food for their nestlings, Tree Swallows nested in boxes around McKay Lake, Great-crested Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadees, Pied-billed Grebe on the lake, and Common Ravens calling from above. Reports of Wild Turkeys wandering down streets and through gardens are a Rockcliffe Park tradition.

## Book Fairs

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### Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale

The Spring Book Sale, organized by the RPRA Library Committee, comprises over 25,000 donated books in more than 25 categories. Since the pandemic, donations have been collected through periodic book drives. Normally held the last weekend in April at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road, the two-day Sale involves over 100 volunteers and attracts approximately 3,000 patrons from various Ontario communities. Funds raised support services and literacy programming at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) and the wider OPL system.

### Rockcliffe Park Book Fair

The Rockcliffe Park Book Fair is held on the first weekend of November in Rockcliffe Park Public School's Queen Juliana Hall, 360 Springfield Road. It is organized by the elementary school staff, along with tireless school parents and neighbourhood volunteers. Book Fair is Rockcliffe Park Public School's main yearly fundraiser.

These two important events represent an opportunity to contribute to the community and get to know neighbours by donating, buying – or volunteering. Check the Rockcliffe News or contact [volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca) for Spring Book Sale details; visit [rockcliffeparkbookfair.com/volunteer](http://rockcliffeparkbookfair.com/volunteer) to sign up for Book Fair.







C

## Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area

The Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area includes McKay Lake, the Pond and Corridor of Public Passage (COPP) footpaths around the eastern shore of McKay Lake and the Pond. The Conservation Area was named in honour of two longtime residents, Ewan Caldwell and Humphrey Carver, who were active in environmental work and who planned the restoration after damage caused in the late 1960s and 1970s to the eastern shoreline of the lake, and to the bird and fish habitat. A Management Plan, commissioned by the former Village Council, guides the city's and residents' activities there. Current restoration projects include removal of invasive plants, and trail marking and management. Students may earn volunteer hours by helping in this restoration work. Watch the Rockcliffe News for volunteer opportunities or email [environment@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:environment@rockcliffepark.ca) to volunteer. Adult volunteers are also welcome. The area of McKay Lake and the Pond is now Urban Natural Area No.176 in the city's inventory of ecologically valuable places.

McKay Lake (formerly Hemlock Lake) is a natural spring-fed lake. The Corridor of Public Passage's (COPP) footpaths around the eastern shore of McKay Lake and the Pond wind through the Conservation Area. The lake and the Pond are home to a wide range of birds, fish, frogs and turtles; an otter periodically takes up residence and muskrats once inhabited the marsh area of the lake. On the west side of McKay Lake, joining the north and south parts of Lansdowne Road, is a walking path locally called the Dog Walk. The shoreline on this side of the lake is private property. To protect McKay Lake as a conservation area, public access to the eastern side of the lake is not permitted. The Pond, just east of McKay Lake, was originally a sand and gravel pit, excavated over the period from 1890 to 1949. The Sandpits, as it was called then, filled with water over time. Even during the time of sand extraction, it was a popular swimming hole, and remains so today. See: *Swimming in this booklet*

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## Camps, Summer and March Break

See: *Ottawa New Edinburgh Club, Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club, City of Ottawa Recreation Program; and under Schools: Elmwood School, Ashbury College*

## Centennial Park

At the heart of Rockcliffe is an important piece of landscape art that was designed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Canada: the Centennial Park, part of Rockcliffe's Village Green. The 1967 circular flagstone- and river rocks-paved space, also known as the Stone Circle, is anchored in the centre by two boulders and ringed by maple trees. It had as its lead architect Humphrey Carver, a longtime Village resident and founding member of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.



## Christmas and Holiday Celebrations

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing is held outside the Community Hall in December for residents and neighbours. Traditionally, the Elmwood School Junior Choir performs, the Salvation Army Brass Ensemble of the Ottawa Citadel Band accompanies the carol sing, and a dignitary or noted resident lights the huge spruce tree behind the Community Hall.

The RPRA also organizes the popular annual Children's Holiday Party, which typically features horse-drawn carriage rides, seasonal crafts, gingerbread house-making, holiday treats and, of course, Santa Claus. It is held at the Community Hall.

These events are free and open to all; reservations are not necessary. See the Rockcliffe News or the RPRA website, [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca), for details. Volunteers are welcome; find these and other volunteer opportunities on the RPRA membership form, in the Rockcliffe News, or send an email to [volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:volunteers@rockcliffepark.ca) for more information.

## City Hall Contact Information

Contact the city by phone at 3-1-1, by email at [311@ottawa.ca](mailto:311@ottawa.ca), or online at [ottawa.ca/en/3-1-1](http://ottawa.ca/en/3-1-1) to report any of the following issues, or request assistance with:

- Garbage and Recycling (calendar, request new bins, report a missed collection)
- Noise (alarms, barking dogs, loud music, shouting)
- Animals and Pets (cats, dogs, prohibited exotic animals)
- Claims to the city
- Road maintenance (potholes, ditches, gravel shoulders, catch basins, street lighting)
- Parks and trees (park maintenance, tree maintenance, tree health; to plant a tree on the municipal right of way, seek a permit to remove a tree on your property that exceeds 10 cm in diameter, or to report a sick or dead tree on municipal property)
- Health and Safety (water testing, etc.)
- Parking (parking zones, fire hydrants, etc.)
- Property damage or maintenance (graffiti, uncontrolled grass/weeds, junk or debris on a property)

## City of Ottawa Recreation Program

The City of Ottawa offers a selection of Rockcliffe Park-based recreation activities, held in the Community Hall, with some children's camps held during the March break and summer holidays. For information, listings, or to register, go to [ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks/recreation-facilities/facility-listing/rockcliffe-park-community-centre#](http://ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks/recreation-facilities/facility-listing/rockcliffe-park-community-centre#).

## Community Hall

The hub of Rockcliffe Park's many activities and services is the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall at 380 Springfield Road. Notices of events and information about services are posted on the RPR website, [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca), or listed in the Rockcliffe News. There is also an RPR bulletin board at the Springfield Road entrance, as well as the RPR's freestanding mailbox. The Rockcliffe Community Hall and Library opened in 1994 after a very successful fundraising campaign within the Village.

RPR board and committee meetings, various club meetings, Speakers Program and special events are held here. This welcoming room is perfect for birthday parties, events, meetings or receptions. It is wheelchair accessible, has a kitchen, and may be rented for private events. To rent the facility, contact the City of Ottawa Recreation Coordinator at 613-842-8578 or go to [ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks/recreation-facilities/facility-listing/rockcliffe-park-community-centre#](http://ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks/recreation-facilities/facility-listing/rockcliffe-park-community-centre#).

## Community Police Centre *See also: Neighbourhood Watch*

The Community Police Centre for Rockcliffe Park is located at 252 McArthur Avenue, between St. Laurent Boulevard and the Vanier Parkway. To get in touch with our Community Police Officer, email [neighbourhoodpolicing@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:neighbourhoodpolicing@ottawapolice.ca).

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For emergencies, call 9-1-1. Call 613-230-6211 to request police response to non-life-threatening emergency situations, such as collisions without injuries, or disputes.

Ottawa Police Services requests that residents report all crimes or suspicious activity to assist them in addressing crime in our community. Phone 613-236-1222, ext. 7300, seven days a week from 10:00 am to 8:45 pm, or make a report online at [ottawapolice.ca/en/reports-and-requests/file-a-report.aspx](http://ottawapolice.ca/en/reports-and-requests/file-a-report.aspx).

## Cycling

The City of Ottawa has over 980 kilometres of multi-use pathways, bike lanes, off-road paths and paved shoulders. The Capital Pathway network offers scenic routes connecting world-class museums, art galleries and other attractions. It is also known for its two showcase pathway systems: the Rideau Canal Western and Eastern Pathways, which hug the Rideau River and the Rideau Canal, and the Ottawa River Pathway. The Canal is both a National Historic Site of Canada and Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. Every weekend from May to October, the parkways in Ottawa are open in the mornings and afternoons for active pedestrian use. Over 50 kilometres of car-free parkways in Ottawa and Gatineau Park are reserved during those times for cyclists, inline skaters, runners and walkers.

D

## Dining with the Ambassadors

For more than two decades, Dining with the Ambassadors has been a celebrated signature spring event; it is the Rockcliffe Park Foundation's principal fundraiser. Proceeds support events organized by the RPR, including the Speakers Program and Heritage Walk. Funds also support the Foundation's commitment to ongoing environmental and conservation programs in Rockcliffe Park. Dining with the Ambassadors is equally a celebration of neighbours, bringing new and old residents together and introducing the newest diplomatic arrivals. The biennial event includes a pre-dinner cocktail reception for all the guests and hosts, followed by dinners at the official residences of our diplomatic hosts. To learn more, go to 'Events' at [rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://rockcliffeparkfoundation.org).

## Dogs *See also: Pets*

There are off-leash areas for dogs in parks adjacent to Lisgar Road (the dog park known as Pine Hill), at the bottom of the Rokeries at Hillsdale Road, and at Sandridge Road (Mile Circle). The city requires dog and cat registration licenses, which may be purchased and/or renewed annually at Ottawa City Hall or online at [ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/animals-and-pets](http://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/animals-and-pets). Proof of pets' rabies vaccination is required. Pets must be on leash in the NCC Rokeries and in the Conservation Area. For environmental, health and safety reasons, dogs are not permitted to swim in either McKay Lake or the Pond. Please do not let your cats roam free as they kill large numbers of songbirds.

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## Donations

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation funds RPR events and programs in Rockcliffe Park. The Foundation relies entirely upon donations from our community, which are collected during an annual appeal that takes place at the end of each year, as well as through planned giving, online donations and the biennial Dining with the Ambassadors fundraiser. Donations fund the Rockcliffe News and conservation initiatives, including water testing at the Pond, maintenance of the sports field at RPPS, landscaping of the Jubilee Garden, and community events throughout the year including Outdoor Movie Night and the Children's Holiday Party. To learn more or to make a tax-deductible donation, go to 'Donate' at [rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://rockcliffeparkfoundation.org).

Donations are also encouraged to support the important work of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC), 815 St. Laurent Boulevard. The RRCRC covers New Edinburgh, Manor Park, Rockcliffe Park, Wateridge, Overbrook, Lindenlea, Viscount Alexander Park, Quarries, Cardinal Glen, Rockcliffe Mews, Forbes, Castle Heights and part of Carson Grove. The RPR's annual campaign each December encourages neighbours to support the RRCRC. Please visit [crrc.org](http://crrc.org) for information.



E

# Electoral Districts

## Municipal

Rockcliffe Park is part of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward, a municipal ward of the City of Ottawa, and is represented by an elected councillor. Further information about the Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward can be found at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca/ourward](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca/ourward).

## Provincial

Rockcliffe Park is part of the Ottawa-Vanier riding, a provincial electoral district in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and is represented by an elected Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); visit [ola.org](http://ola.org).

## Federal

Rockcliffe Park is part of the Ottawa-Vanier riding, a federal electoral district in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and is represented by an elected Member of Parliament (MP); visit [ourcommons.ca/members/en/constituencies/ottawa-vanier\(792\)](http://ourcommons.ca/members/en/constituencies/ottawa-vanier(792)).

## Environment *See also: Flora and Fauna*

Beautiful landscapes distinguish and define the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. These include a profusion of trees, hedges and shrubs on public and private property, open parkland, including the Centennial Garden of the Village Green, and the more intimate spaces of the Jubilee Garden. Winding roads and generous spacing around houses, and such features as McKay Lake, The Pond and Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area add to the park-like setting.

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## Trees, Hedges, Fences and Roadside Verges

The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan encourages residents to plant and maintain trees on their private property, as trees contribute substantially to the Village's park-like ambience. Trees on the verges of roadways are city property and are cared for by the City of Ottawa's Forestry Services. The width of the verges may vary from five to 25 feet. Before planting trees on the verge, please consult the city by calling 3-1-1 to obtain the required permission from Forestry Services.

Residents are encouraged to maintain native biodiversity on their own property by planting trees and shrubs native to the Ottawa Valley region. See [rockcliffepark.ca/NativeTreesAndShrubsDatabase.html](http://rockcliffepark.ca/NativeTreesAndShrubsDatabase.html) for further information. When offered a tree by the city to plant on the municipal verge, residents are encouraged to request a species from the Rockcliffe Park Trees and Shrubs Database.

On corner lots, the heights of hedges, fences and gates built on the lot lines and within 40 feet of the corner are restricted. Fence height is controlled by a city by-law. For information on permissible fence heights, please consult the Heritage Conservation District Plan on the RPRA website, [rockcliffepark.ca](http://rockcliffepark.ca).

Please maintain the roadside verges in front of your house by cutting the grass and raking the leaves. Be careful not to damage the bark of trees planted near the roadway; young trees will die if their bark is damaged by cord-type grass trimmers or lawnmowers.

A recent revision to the Right of Way by-law permits the planting of flowers (native species, please, and no invasive plants) on the municipal right of way but does not permit hard landscape features.

## Events

*See also: Book Fairs, Dining with Ambassadors, RCMP Stables, Speakers Program*  
The RPRA organizes a wide range of programs with funding from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. Community events and activities are held in the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall and at the Jubilee Garden for children, families and adults. These include, among others, the Speakers Program, Heritage Walks, Spring Village Clean-up, Outdoor Movie Nights, Children's Holiday Party and the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing.

Favourite annual family events that take place near the neighbourhood in February are the Winter Celebration at Rideau Hall ([gg.ca/en/visit-us/rideau-hall/what-see-and-do/winter-celebration/winter-celebration-activities](http://gg.ca/en/visit-us/rideau-hall/what-see-and-do/winter-celebration/winter-celebration-activities)) and the RCMP Musical Ride Open House and Food Drive at the RCMP Rockcliffe Stables on Sandridge Road. The annual RCMP Musical Ride, in June, is not to be missed. Go to [rcmp-grc.gc.ca/corporate-organisation/musical-ride-carrousel/index-eng.htm](http://rcmp-grc.gc.ca/corporate-organisation/musical-ride-carrousel/index-eng.htm) for details.







F

## Fire

Call 9-1-1 for emergencies only. The City of Ottawa Fire Services (613-580-2860) provides additional services, including public fire safety education, application of fire safety standards and enforcement, Fire Code compliance, investigations, fire inspections and risk assessments, recruitment outreach, community engagement campaigns and more. Phones are monitored during office hours. For after-hours non-emergency support or assistance, please dial 3-1-1. Fire stations and other information can be found at [ottawa.ca/en/health-and-public-safety/ottawa-fire-services](http://ottawa.ca/en/health-and-public-safety/ottawa-fire-services). Email: Fire Prevention: [FirePrevention@ottawa.ca](mailto:FirePrevention@ottawa.ca); Public Education: [FireEducation@ottawa.ca](mailto:FireEducation@ottawa.ca); General inquiries and complaints: [FireRequests@ottawa.ca](mailto:FireRequests@ottawa.ca).

## Flora and Fauna

Many species of birds (85-90), mammals (about 25), amphibians and reptiles (frogs, toads, snakes and turtles) have been sighted in the Village over the decades. The mammals range in size from chipmunk to black bear, and the birds from Ruby-throated Hummingbird to Great Blue Heron. You may often glimpse them on the roads, in your yard, or around McKay Lake and the Pond in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area. To date, approximately 40-50 species of birds have been recorded as breeding in Rockcliffe Park. We see up to 40 other species on migration – warblers and other songbirds, ducks and geese, shorebirds, swallows and others. An additional 116 species breed or are seen in the Ottawa area, and many might be seen in Rockcliffe by keen birders. Complete lists (English, French and Latin names) will be posted on the RPRA website as the names are verified. At some point, it would be fun to build lists of butterflies, moths and bees, and other interesting insects.

Our motto, *Inter Arbores Floremus*, is well deserved, as our tree canopy is especially welcome during the hot summer months. The city's Forestry Services maintains a database of street trees: [open.ottawa.ca/datasets/tree-inventory/explore](http://open.ottawa.ca/datasets/tree-inventory/explore); locations of Rockcliffe Park trees are included. An earlier inventory and an analysis of our street trees indicated that almost three-quarters of our trees are deciduous (they drop their leaves in the fall) and of those, maples are the most abundant (just over one-third of the total tree population). One-quarter of our maples are sugar maples, and some residents have been known to tap them for maple syrup. Eastern white-cedar and white spruce are the two most abundant conifers, each comprising eight percent of the total tree population. In all, we have approximately 70 different species of trees gracing our streets, and there are undoubtedly others on private property.

