

ROCKCLIFFE NEWS

ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

APRIL/ MAY 2024

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Spring arrived early this year, as evidenced by this pair of cardinals photographed on March 14 at the backyard feeder of Rockcliffe resident Nancy Richardson.

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

Committee Heads

Community

Lisa Cogan, Community VP

Heritage

Michele Hayman, Heritage VP

Heritage Outreach

Susan d'Aquino, Chair

Environment

Patrick Blanar, Environment VP

Board Executive

Scott Heatherington, President
John Butterfield, Treasurer
Anna Blauveldt, Corporate Secretary
Lisa Cogan, Community Vice President
Michele Hayman, Heritage Vice President
Patrick Blanar, Environment Vice President
Russell Gibson, Past President

Board Members

Chris Barker
Susan d'Aquino
Linda English
Mary Gooderham
Leo Grant
Kay James
Peter Lewis
Kim Ratushny
Natalie Runoff
Gouhar Shemdin

Please Note: See page 15 of this newsletter for email addresses for the Board Executive, VP Committee Heads and other RPRA staff.

Rockcliffe Park Foundation

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation is a registered charity that fundraises and stewards the investment fund that provides the grants for the programs and events that the RPRA organizes and manages.

These programs and events make a real difference in our community. In 2023, the Foundation granted \$34,077 to the RPRA via the City of Ottawa, supplanted by \$9,823 from the previous year's grant, totaling \$43,900 for 2024 programming. These programs and events are organized by our three shared mandate areas: environment, heritage and community. Please see the Chair's Report on our website for a breakdown of this and Foundation work.

To help keep the investment fund strong and sustain vital community programming, the Foundation organizes the biennial Dining with the Ambassadors and conducts an Annual Appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Appeal in 2023 (see page 4 of this newsletter).

The Foundation has been an important part of Village life for more than 25 years and we would love to have your help. Please email us at info@rockcliffeparkfoundation.org if you would like to get more involved in our community.

rockcliffeparkfoundation.org

Board Members

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



It is my honour to join you as the new president of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association. I want to thank outgoing president Russell Gibson for his tireless work for the residents of our community. Well done, Russ!

We are fortunate that both past presidents – Russ Gibson and his predecessor, Peter Lewis – will continue as directors of the Association. Their experience will assure continuity and support for us as we move forward in serving residents and their diverse interests.

The RPRA also wishes to thank outgoing directors Mark Willcox, Jean-Guy Dumoulin and Martin Perras for their devoted service. Patrick Blonar is our new Environment VP, joining Lisa Cogan (Community VP) and Michele Hayman (Heritage VP). Stalwarts John Butterfield, Treasurer, and Anna Blauveldt, Corporate Secretary, continue their vital work. We thank all of them enormously for their dedication to our community.

The Association now numbers over 300 members and includes many volunteers who help plan, organize and implement our community events and programs. On February 28, prior to the RPRA's Annual General Meeting, we were pleased to hold our annual reception to thank volunteers for contributing their time, energy and expertise – all crucial for the success of the RPRA's many activities. Guest attendee Councillor Rawlson King expressed his appreciation for their work in advancing community building.

One of our most outstanding volunteers, Linda Macdonald, was recognized for her many years leading the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale in support of our local branch of the Ottawa Public Library. A special presentation included remarks from Rockcliffe resident Michael Mirsky, a volunteer himself and the son of Barbara Mirsky, who was a community leader in both fundraising and lobbying to establish the Village's Rockcliffe Park Library.

Spring is in the air these days; crabapple trees will soon be blooming in the Rockeries, the Jubilee Garden and by our bus stop on Maple Lane, signalling the start of very welcome warmer weather. Annual upcoming RPRA events are also a sure sign of the beginning of the spring/summer season.

Thanks to current Book Sale chair Carolyn Brereton and her hard-working team, an 'in person' Sale will return for the first time since the pandemic. Mark your calendars for the two-day event – April 27 and 28.

The long-running Speakers Program, organized by Susan d'Aquino, offers two excellent speakers in May: Mark Carney, Chair, Brookfield Asset Management and UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, on May 8; and Sean Silcoff, journalist and author of 'The Spectacular Rise and Fall of Blackberry,' on May 29. See page 7 of this newsletter for details.

We continue to support the protection of our beautiful natural community. Our area will be constantly visited by walking groups, cyclists and Heritage Ottawa tours as they appreciate the colourful gardens and 'country life' atmosphere of our neighbourhood.

And we are also carrying on with our efforts to protect the heritage character and attributes of Rockcliffe Park. This year promises to be no less demanding, and to this end we met with senior members in the Ottawa city planning office in mid March. Forging a shared understanding of the objectives of our Heritage Plan is a continuing challenge.

Finally, please join us for the annual Village Spring Clean-up on May 4. See details below.

I look forward to working with you and seeing you at the Spring Book Sale and at our many other Rockcliffe Park events.

Scott Heatherington, President
scottheatherington@gmail.com
613-404-2387



Save the Date!

Annual Village Spring Clean-up
Saturday, May 4, 10:00 am to noon

The Village needs your help to slough off the dirt and debris from winter. Can you lend a hand? Please come on Saturday morning and meet your neighbours behind the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road.

Bring a rake and gloves if you have them, but we do provide gloves as well as leaf bags, garbage bags and, of course, some well-deserved refreshments. The event will wrap up by noon. Student volunteers are welcome. Please spread the word!

(Rain date: May 5, 1:00 to 3:00 pm)



The Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRRA) are our two key neighbourhood organizations, linked in practice, history, and by shared values. The Foundation works closely with and provides grants that support the RPRRA, whose volunteer board manages and coordinates our community programs and initiatives, in addition to representing the interests of our residents. These are divided into three core mandate areas: community building, heritage and environment.

More information on these important neighbourhood organizations may be found on the websites rockcliffepark.ca and rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

The Rockcliffe Park Foundation Thanks Our 2023 Annual Appeal Donors

Thank you to the following individuals who generously donated to our community's 2023 Annual Appeal and to those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous. The Rockcliffe Park Foundation's annual appeal has raised \$27,887 to date (March 2023). And it is not too late! If you would like to donate, please mail your cheque to 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe, Ontario K1L 5A8 or donate online on the Foundation's website, rockcliffeparkfoundation.org.

Joseph & Sara Addelman
David & Sharon Appotive
Colin Arnold
Stephen & Sandra Assaly
Colin & Rachel Baxter
Cynthia Baxter
James & Sarah Baxter
Charles Belanger & Michele Lejars
Blattel Family Fund OCF
Jean Boivin & Claudia Lahaie
Michael Borish & Julie Vanderschot
Maureen Boyd & Colin Robertson
Jonathan & Heather Bramwell
Robert & Carolyn Buchan
John & Fruji Bull
Keith & Cynthia Butler
Diana & Mark Carney
Louis & Lucille Caron
Anthony Carty & Valerie LaTraverse
Elly & Bill Clarke
Douglas & Liisa Cochen
Lisa & Fred Cogan
Robert & Marilyn Collette
Kevin Craft & Shannon Lundquist
Brian Crane & Clara Wong
Conrad Cripps
Cynthia Cusinato & Guy Jammes
David Cuthbertson & Neva Bruce
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Barbara Donihee & Robert Graham
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Nancy Dorigo & John Davis
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Dean & Rina Renske-Eyre
Ziba Feizi & Amir Mirzaei
Patricia Fortier
Whitney Fox & Dan Goldberg
John & Louise French

Patsy Fyfe
Pamela Gibb-Carsley
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Alan & Sevilla Gill
Karen Ginsberg & Edward Ramsay
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Carol Henderson
Nicole Henderson
John Hewitt & Diana Sheng
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Alice Hunt & Malcolm McCulloch
Peter & Beverley Hyde
Andrew & Janet Johnston
Nancy Johnson
Michael & Sheila Kelen
Joan & Anthony Kellett
Joan Matthews Khan
Ryan Kilger & Lucie Martin
Roslyn & Arnie Kimmel
Victor & Marilyn Lanctis
Timothy Lane & Rosemary Cureton-Lane
Dennis & Andrea Laurin
Douglas Lazier & Mary Ellen Fitzgerald
Patrick Leblond & Costanza Musu
Lejla Levy
Luigi & Patricia Logrippo
Ariel & Vince Lyons
Anne Macklem
Kent Mandeville & Kim Ratushny
Elder & Teresa Marques
Denise Martel & David Bryden
James & Dawn Maxwell
Linda McDonald & Assen Stefanov
Robert McElligott & Micheline Berthel
David & Kyle McRobie
Michael & Jennifer Mirsky
Paul & Mary Mirsky
John Morales & Kirsten Crain
Rob & Joanne Nelson
Jane Newcombe
Marie Newton

Recap: Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Honours its Volunteers

Scenes from the RPRVA Volunteers Reception, February 28. Photos: At right: RPRVA board member Natalie Runoff, event organizer. Second and fourth rows: RPRVA volunteers and board members mingle while enjoying refreshments. Third row, left (from left): RPRVA past president Peter Lewis, current president Scott Heatherington and past president Russ Gibson with Councillor Rawlson King. Third row, right (from left): Michael Mirsky honours Linda Macdonald, former Spring Book Sale chair, as Councillor King looks on.



- Sandra Ng
- Lise Ouimet & John McPherson
- Claire & Roger Ouseley
- Jane Panet
- Julianne Parfett & Roy Williams
- Gordon & Wendy Peters
- Moira Phillips
- Kieu Phung & JanTop Christensen
- Sandy Pollack & Steven Poleski
- Guy & Mary Pratte
- Iola Price & Anthony Keith
- Maria Ralelich Rajjic
- John & Lillian Richard
- Nancy Richardson
- Bob & Donna Roberts
- William Rock
- Marg & Ken Ross
- Carol & Hojjat Salemi
- Greg & Tani Sanders
- Drew Shantz & Semiha Cantas
- Susan Smith
- Gordon Southam & Sehrab Grewal
- Paul & Lorna St. Louis
- Kate & Alexander Struthers
- Heather & Brad Sweeney
- Jim Taggart
- Fabiano & Donna Taucer
- Si & Mary Taylor
- Karen Treleaven
- Turnbull Family Community Building Foundation
- Annegret Uthhoff
- Marilyn & Gordon Venner
- Joan & David Waiser
- Sarah & Michael Waters
- John Watson & Maria Gutschi
- Marc Andre Way & Sarah O'Conner
- John & Arlene Weekes
- David & Debbie Weinstein
- Earl & Elena Weybrecht
- Catherine Willis-O'Connor
- Marilyn & Allan Wilson
- Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties
- Michael & Jacqui Wilson
- Anna Wright
- Adam Zaret & Jodi Weinstein





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Eblast and Email List Coordinator
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Website Coordinator
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 leogrant@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

Recap: Speakers Program January 3, 2024: Tobi Nussbaum, NCC Head

Tobi Nussbaum, head of the National Capital Commission (NCC), gave a very stimulating talk to a full house at the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall in January as part of the RPR’s popular Speakers Program. He outlined the role of the NCC – past, present and future. **Of particular interest to Rockcliffe was his very welcome statement that the Mile Circle, which borders Sandridge Road, will not be developed for recreation or other purposes, as previously suggested.**

Other Points

- The NCC is working on remediation at 24 Sussex as part of its responsibilities for the six official residences, but what it will be used for is up to the government.
- The original site proposed on Hillsdale for a new Enbridge natural gas pressure regulation station has definitely been shelved.
- Restored River House: No further parking spaces will be provided. The NCC is working on the introduction of a water taxi service connecting to downtown.
- Sixth bridge across the Ottawa River: The NCC is no longer involved in either gathering information or giving advice.



- The Alexandra Bridge: Will definitely be demolished.
- Work on Kiweki Point (formerly Nepean Point) is impressive. There will be a footbridge connecting it to Major’s Hill Park and the possibility of a connection to the National Gallery.
- The NCC will develop green (ecological) corridors for wildlife movement, mostly on the Quebec side, and there will be more park areas along both sides of the Ottawa River.

Some Interesting Statistics

The NCC is responsible for 11 percent of all land in the National Capital Region; six official residences and 49 secondary buildings; Gatineau Park, Greenbelt, and 23 urban parks; 145 bridges, including two interprovincial bridges; over 220 km of pathways; 75 km of waterfront and 50 lakes.

Thanks to Tobi for this informative talk. Please check out the Speakers Program events coming up in May (on the next page of this newsletter).

Susan d’Aquino, Program Coordinator

Photos: Above: Tobi Nussbaum with Susan d’Aquino. Below: NCC’s proposed Kiweki Point redevelopment; for details go to ncc-ccn.gc.ca/projects/kiweki-point-redevelopment.



Speakers Program

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

RPR Upcoming Events and News



The Award-winning Self-guided Heritage Walking Tour Returns

In 2022, the RPR organized a self-guided weekend walking tour of many of Rockcliffe Park's historic sites, providing maps, signage and detailed historical information to participants. The event was popular and well-attended, and in February 2023, the Walk's organizing committee was recognized by the City of Ottawa with an Ottawa Heritage Award for outstanding achievement in heritage conservation in Ottawa.

The initial walking tour was imagined as a biennial event. Planning is underway for the 2024 tour, which will be expanded to three days, starting on a Friday and ending on Sunday. The date has yet to be decided, but will likely be in September. Stay tuned for updates in both the Rockcliffe News and our weekly eblast to RPR members.

Lisa Cogan, Community VP

May 8, 2024

Mark Carney
 on 'Reflections on the New
 Macroeconomy'



Rockcliffe Park neighbour and former Governor of the Banks of Canada and of England, chair of the Financial Stability Board, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action, chair of Brookfield Asset Management and of Bloomberg Inc., will join us again to share his reflections.

May 29, 2024

Sean Silcoff
 on his book 'The Spectacular
 Rise and Fall of BlackBerry'



Award-winning journalist Sean Silcoff will speak on the book he co-authored about one of the most spectacular technological upsets of the 21st century, and which became the inspiration for the 2023 film 'BlackBerry.' Sean currently writes about technology and innovation for the Globe and Mail.

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.

Photos: Mark Carney, brookfield.com; Sean Silcoff, thestar.com.

Update: The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale April 27 and 28

With less than a month to go, activity at the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale is in top gear! Books are streaming in and the team of dedicated volunteers is culling and sorting. There is still time to drop off your donations before the cut-off date of April 13, but please, no textbooks, magazines or encyclopedias.

We are happy to report that we have already received lots of excellent material. Recent donations have included some of the latest books in excellent condition by contemporary writers, with some signed first editions. While fiction and mystery remain the largest and most popular sections, there will be lots of literary treasures waiting to be discovered in the other sections – biography, history, philosophy, cooking, lifestyles and gardening, to name just a few. And don't forget that we have a sizeable selection of books in French, both fiction and non-fiction – all at bargain prices! We encourage the use of debit and credit cards, (particularly debit as this costs us less) but we will also accept cash.

Whether you're a bookworm, a casual reader, or just looking for a good read, the Sale is not to be missed! Help support your local library and literacy in your community and come to the Community Hall at 380 Springfield Road on April 27 and 28.



Sad News

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of former volunteer Di Bethune (photo below), who was actively involved with the Spring Book Sale for more than twenty years.

Di, together with the late Sheila Nelles, helped to organize the first-ever Book Sale under the supervision of Barbara Mirsky, Village librarian from 1983 to 2001. Barbara started the Sale to raise money to purchase books for the new Public Library (the current Rockcliffe Park Branch), which opened in 1994. From that modest beginning, when a few hundred second-hand books, mostly fiction, were all spread out on tables in the Community Hall by Di and Sheila, the Sale has grown into a major undertaking involving dozens of volunteers, several thousand donated books, and the renting of a big tent to hold the overflow.

Di brought her life-long passion for books and reading to the Sale. For many years she oversaw the Classics and Collectors' Items, but she was knowledgeable about books of all kinds, and had a special love of children's literature.

Though she had stepped down from volunteering at the Sale before the pandemic, we can still remember the expertise she shared with us. We miss her presence and experience and, most especially, her eagle eye when it came to checking that all the titles in a box of books read in the same direction!

Carolyn Brereton, Book Sale Chair

Spring Programs at the Rockcliffe Park Library

The Rockcliffe Park Library, located at 380 Springfield Road, has lots of exciting programming for you to enjoy this spring, such as the recent presentation by artist Wendy Feldberg on making inks from native plants (photo below). Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale. Registration, where required, can be done in person, by phone or online at bibliootawalibrary.ca/en.

Upcoming Family Programs

Family Storytime at the Library (English program) Every Monday morning at 9:30 am. Stories, rhymes and songs for children and a parent or caregiver. All ages. Drop-in.

Upcoming Adult Programs

Rockcliffe Park Book Club First Tuesday of every month, 1:30 to 2:30 pm. May 7: *Hamnet and Judith* by Maggie O'Farrell. Drop-in.

End of Life Options Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 pm. Dying With Dignity Canada discusses options for mitigating suffering at life's end: Palliative care, treatment options and MAID. Registration required.

Staff Recommendations: Looking for your next great read? Come in to have a look at our display of staff picks or chat with our knowledgeable staff to learn of their favourite titles, which just might become yours as well! **Martha Hodgson**



Go 'So Chic' for a Good Cause

You are invited to attend the 'So Chic!' fashion show on Saturday, April 27, starting at noon at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, 1405 Aylmer Road.

Celebrate all the new colours of spring. Not every invitation promises all this – a great venue, a delicious lunch, a wonderful introduction to spring colours and styles, AND a chance to contribute to an important cause – the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families.

For just \$60, you will be offered an elegant luncheon and a beautiful show, at the same time making a contribution to the welfare of Inuit children in our community.

The Inuuqatigiit Centre was established in August 2005. Today, it is a multi-service Inuit organization that provides cultural, educational, recreational and social support services to children, youth and families of Ottawa's growing Inuit community. It serves as a major hub of early years and youth services for Inuit families in Ottawa.

IODE Laurentian Chapter will be staging a fashion show featuring all the latest from Three Wild Women, a locally owned boutique known for its wide range of comfortable, flattering and stylish clothing. Clothes will be available to purchase on site.

Seats are limited, and tickets are already selling. Mark your calendars and register at Eventbrite (\$60 plus tax) or call Elizabeth at 613-745-4677 (tax-free).

We look forward to seeing you!

Liz Heatherington and Heather Lewis



Dean Saul

Dean Saul, a longtime resident of Bittern Court, died in Ottawa on December 8, 2023. Dean enjoyed the endless love and very strong support of Joy, his wife and best friend of more than sixty years.

Dean and Joy were the parents of three sons: Craig (predeceased), Douglas (Jill) and Mark (Christina), and the grandparents of five bright and active grandchildren: Ella, Miles, Oscar, Jed and Magnolia, of whom they were very, very proud.

Dean, the youngest of three children, was born on September 15, 1937 near Red Deer, Alberta. After his family moved to Windsor, Ontario, Dean completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario. It was there that he met Joy, and also was elected head of the student body. Following graduation, Dean and Joy moved to Toronto, where Dean completed his law degree at Osgoode Hall.

Dean practiced law in Toronto for several decades before moving to Ottawa to continue his very active practice in transportation law, as a partner with Gowlings LLP (now Gowling WLG).

Dean was first and foremost a family man, known for his generous spirit, boundless good humour, and unflinching kindness. He was also a fine athlete.

Dean was active in our community; to name a couple examples, he served as president of his condominium corporation, and as a longtime, dependable neighbourhood newsletter delivery volunteer. He was a good friend and a great neighbour. We will miss him.

Bob Buchan



Polly King

Polly and Charlie King moved to their lovely home on Lisgar Road across from Rideau Hall sometime around 1980. When Charlie died five years ago at age 93, they had shared their lives for over 70 years. Charlie was well known to us as a news reporter, editor and broadcaster in Canada and overseas. He was very much part of the Rockcliffe community and was the key person in putting together our earliest newsletters.

Polly died in her home on February 24, five days short of her 99th birthday. Shortly after coming to Rockcliffe, the Globe and Mail asked her to write a weekly social column, The Ottawa Whirl, which later moved to The Ottawa Citizen as Polly's People. Given these tasks, she necessarily was a wonderful party-goer! I am told that friends in the diplomatic community called her the 'Queen of Rockcliffe.' And, I will simply add, she was a lot of fun. She was also an avid tennis and bridge player, loved gardening, and was a talented practitioner of the art of ikebana.

In the wider Ottawa community, Polly was a very active volunteer – serving as president of the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, as president of the Ottawa chapter of the Japanese cultural organization Ikebana International, on the boards of the Ottawa Congress Centre and the National Gallery Association, and as a volunteer with the Riverside Hospital Auxiliary, the Women's Committee of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, the May Court Club, the Theatre Ballet of Canada and Girl Guides of Canada.

Many among us shall miss a good friend and good neighbour.

Susan d'Aquino



ONEC 2023 Recap

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) finished its 2023 season with a bang! On the evening of September 14, ONEC celebrated its 140th anniversary in style. Guests arrived to the spirited sound of live swing music, attendees looking glamorous and ready for a step back in time to honour the era in which the historic boathouse was commissioned and built by the club – the Roaring Twenties.

Beautiful late summer weather meant the outdoor balcony overlooking the Ottawa River and Gatineau Hills was in full use (photo below). As people mixed and mingled, an elegant canape-style menu was set out and served by Bytown Catering, starting with a cocktail table laden with an assortment of cold and warm canapes, and closing with a sweets table complete with a massive '140th Anniversary' vanilla buttercream cake.

Entertainment was in full swing as the doors to the ballroom opened. Peter Liu and the Pollcats' five-piece band looked and sounded amazing as they performed vintage numbers for guests who spilled out onto the expansive dance floor. The experience was made even more exciting by having Ottawa's own Bytown Strutters dance troupe highlight the style of swing, including two special performance pieces with acrobatics.



Being back in the River House after an extensive five-year restoration project by the National Capital Commission (NCC) is so exciting and feels right for ONEC; we're planning to resume all watersport activities from the River House location in 2024. What makes this boathouse so special is that it has continuously served the National Capital Region community for the past 100 years. "Community is at the heart of everything we do at ONEC. We want to create a space where everyone feels welcome," said ONEC's communications director, John Moore.

ONEC Partnerships

ONEC, through exciting new partnerships, has been able to raise over \$115,000 for free community outreach programming for equity deserving youth and adult populations over the past three years. This collaborative process has showcased the power of sport and recreation to foster inclusivity, social connections and a sense of belonging. "Our community continues to grow and we can't wait to see what the next few years holds for ONEC," said Mike Hardstaff, club president.

ONEC Volunteers

What makes any club special is its passionate community of volunteers who work tirelessly to create an atmosphere of empowerment and support that benefits the health and wellness of their community. It is through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers (photo above) that ONEC has thrived. Want to join us? Go to onec.ca/volunteer for details and to sign up.

ONEC's 2024 Season

We're ready for another great season of Tennis, Sailing, Rowing and Paddling at ONEC.

Memberships: Interested in making new friends out on the tennis courts or on the Ottawa River? Then join the ONEC community! Memberships start at just \$228, with many options available. Go to onec.ca/membership for details and to register.

Summer Day Camps: ONEC has been operating youth programs for over 50 years. Check out our summer day camps for kids aged seven to 16 – all four sports are on offer with pricing starting at just \$337 for a full week of sports instruction and summer fun, with a 10 percent discount when booking two or more weeks of camp. Go to onec.ca/onec-camps for details and to register.

John Moore, ONEC Communications Director

Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC)
504 Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway
Ottawa, Ontario K1M 2K7
Phone: 613-746-8540; Email: info@onec.ca
Website: onec.ca



Ashbury College is proud to offer summer programs in June and July 2024 for children and youth of all ages. Participants in Ashbury's summer programming will have the opportunity to enjoy the full Ashbury experience, including access to our world-class facilities and teaching faculty/camp instructors. A delicious and nutritious hot lunch prepared by Ashbury's food services team is provided for all summer program participants who are enrolled in a credit course or camp program.

Academic Credit Courses

Ontario academic credit summer school courses begin Monday, June 24, and end on Friday, July 19. Classes run from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 8:30 am to 11:45 am on Wednesdays. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to student study or to access teacher support. Grade 9 to 12 credits will be available in many subject areas, including humanities, sciences, math and technology.

Academic Prep Workshops

Ashbury's preparatory workshop programs help children and teens learn key skills in an academic environment. Students aged eight to 17 can choose to develop proficiency in areas of interest such as mathematics or French and English language skills.

Day Camps

Camps for students aged nine to 13 feature a variety of engaging games and exciting activities planned by highly qualified instructors. Art, drama, multisport, robotics, Explore Ottawa, photography, gardening, wilderness first aid and debate camps are offered.

For more information, visit ashbury.ca/summer, call us at 613-749-5954, or send an email to summer@ashbury.ca.

Spread the news to your friends and neighbors – the fun is at Ashbury this summer!

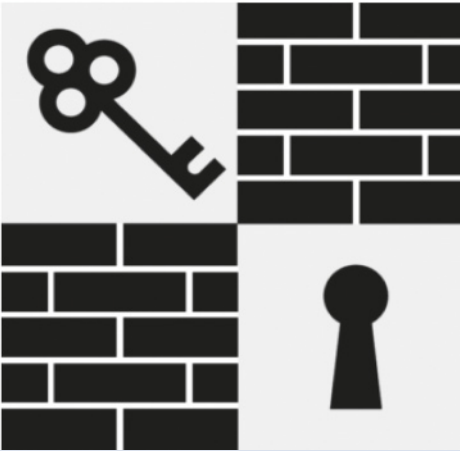
Addressing 'demolition by neglect' is crucial for preserving the cultural and historical fabric of Rockcliffe Park. Demolition by neglect is the deterioration and decay of buildings and infrastructure due to neglectful maintenance and lack of investment. In the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District, this phenomenon poses significant challenges and risks to the integrity and vibrancy of the neighbourhood. Homes in the Village hold significant architectural, historical and cultural value, serving as tangible links to the past and contributing to the community's identity. If Rockcliffe Park's built heritage is allowed to deteriorate, we risk losing irreplaceable pieces of our cultural heritage. Neglected properties become eyesores, blighting our neighbourhood, while concurrently lowering property values and posing safety hazards to residents. In response, the City of Ottawa has committed to escalating its response to demolition by neglect and has introduced a proactive approach aimed at preventing this decay in order to safeguard the city's architectural and cultural heritage.

Under a revised bylaw that took effect in November 2022, owners of vacant properties are required to obtain an annual permit, paying a fee of \$1,703, which funds proactive inspections by two dedicated bylaw officers. The new permit regime applies to buildings and lands that have been unoccupied for 120 days or more. The revised bylaw requires owners or their agents to visit properties every two weeks to check for problems. They also must post a phone number on the building so residents can reach an owner about issues. While the city cannot compel a landowner to develop a property, the municipality does have the power to ensure that an empty building remains in good condition. Under the revised bylaw, the city will be able to order work to sustain property standards. If a property owner does not comply, the municipality can intervene to repair a building and bill the work to the property owner by way of their property tax bill. Those who contravene the bylaw can also face fines between \$500 and \$100,000.

The city also continues to maintain its Heritage Watch List. The list was created in 2016 as a tool to monitor designated heritage buildings that are vacant or at risk. Buildings are monitored through the city's property standards bylaw, which includes specific standards for designated heritage properties. A property standards officer visits each property on the Heritage Watch List biannually and issues orders for board-up, graffiti removal, repair, restoration or property maintenance as required. The list includes all vacant heritage buildings, as well as occupied buildings, that are deemed to be at risk due to neglect or deterioration. There are several buildings on this list that are currently under development and will be removed from the list once construction is complete and the buildings are occupied.

It is important to note that the revised bylaw represents a proactive shift towards addressing demolition by neglect, emphasizing prevention rather than reaction. With dedicated bylaw officers conducting regular inspections, the city aims to intervene early, ensuring that vacant properties are kept in good condition, minimizing the risk of further deterioration. Additionally, the new fines and penalties serve as deterrents, reinforcing the importance of responsible property ownership and maintenance. In essence, Ottawa's revised approach towards combating demolition by neglect reflects a commitment to preserving the city's cultural heritage, fostering sustainable urban development, and ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents. By taking decisive action to protect neglected properties, this shift in city policy not only safeguards its past but also paves the way for a vibrant and prosperous future for neighbourhoods like Rockcliffe Park by reclaiming derelict spaces for productive use for present and future generations.

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All work guided by the
Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation
District Plan

Demolition Updates

Another Troubling Demolition!!

In the last newsletter, we reported on the city's approval of the demolition of the duplex at 1 Maple Lane due to its condition after decades of neglect, and to the unlawful demolition of the residence of the High Commissioner of Uganda at 235 Mariposa. Now, passersby were shocked on February 28 to see the scant remains of the classic Grade I house at 280 Thorold – the rest having been demolished (before and after photos at right). The house is familiar to many residents as the former McTavish/Southam residence.

In disbelief, we immediately sent photos to our councillor and the city's heritage staff. City staff have told us, with strong apology, that this drastic destruction resulted from an error in judgement on the part of their heritage staff.

The story is this. A heritage permit was issued in January 2023 to allow for additions to the house and garage. The central part of the house was to be retained as is. In November 2023, the applicant applied for an amendment to the building permit to reconstruct the roof trusses and floor joists in this part of the house. The reason cited was the excessive cost of retaining the original. In an 'error of judgement,' a heritage planner wrongly agreed with the applicant that this was acceptable as 'a minor design change' and would not require a new heritage permit. We have been told that the demolition and replacement of the roof structure and dormers should not have been approved as a minor design change and that these changes were not reviewed or approved by the relevant managers, as is the usual practice. Although of small comfort, they will be reviewing their practices and business processes to avoid such situations in the future.



The city quickly directed that the tall chimney structures left standing at each side of the demolished house be stabilized. This has been done. The replacement roof/upper storey structure will replicate what was destroyed in height, style and dormers.

Update on Unlawful Demolition at 235 Mariposa

We reported in the last issue of this newsletter on the unlawful demolition of the residence of the High Commissioner of Uganda at 235 Mariposa, and that we would be strongly opposing the proposed new residence, as it was significantly greater in mass and height than the demolished residence, using brick veneer and manufactured wood instead of natural materials as required by our Heritage Plan. The city agreed to require natural materials, but instead of dealing with the excessive mass and height, it directed that the house be moved back on the property – by four metres, we are told – so it would not appear so large.

(Demolition Updates continues on the next page)

RPR Blindsided by City Heritage Staff on RLTC Tennis Court Lighting

The meeting of the city's Built Heritage Committee on February 13 where the replacement residence was considered was very interesting. In addition to the RPR's comments urging rejection of the application, a number of neighbours spoke. There were comments on bad personal experiences with the house and its occupants over the last 10 years. One stated that the applicant came to the committee with 'blood on their hands'; that this application should not be rushed through a scant month or two after the demolition and before the outcome of legal proceedings were known. Others reported that conversations with persons working on the site revealed, in one instance, that the High Commissioner told them to demolish the whole house, and in another that they were to 'take it down to the basement.' In contrast, as reported in our last newsletter, the Ugandan High Commissioner, in a letter to the city, pointed to their consultant and contractor, saying that the unlawful demolition that had occurred was caused by an 'oversight in missing the technical aspects related to the preservation of said building.'

For its part, Heritage Ottawa joined us in recommending that the application be rejected, stating that approval would only reward bad behaviour and signal to others that it is open season for demolitions in Ottawa. It also joined us in recommending that any new structure should be limited in massing, dimensions and footprint to the demolished house. Heritage staff did not support us. The Built Heritage Committee itself was divided – six voted to approve the application with conditions, four voted against it. Heritage staff has told us that they will keep us informed about legal proceedings against the contractor.

Susan d'Aquino, Heritage Outreach Chair

Top photo on page 12 from christiesrealestate.com.

As many of you will know, a public meeting was held by the RPR and the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club on February 15 at which the club explained their new proposal to install a Tweener light system on existing fences to light Courts 1 and 4 until 10:00 pm throughout the playing season. Their claim that the lighting would be 'almost invisible' was met with strong skepticism and opposed by the majority of residents at the meeting. Several residents advocated that the club consider making an arrangement with the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) – only a five minute walk away – to have their members play after dark at that club, where the courts already have lighting. This suggestion was rejected out of hand.

Repeated at the public meeting was our city councillor's oft-repeated assurance that any new proposal for lighting would have to be considered by the city's Built Heritage Committee, where it would be evaluated on the basis of our Secondary Plan and Heritage Plan. It would require a heritage permit.

Then, out of the blue, on March 13 we received a shocking communication from the city's heritage staff. After conferring with city legal staff, they had decided that the club would not require a heritage permit after all because no construction is needed to install the lighting system and the lighting 'will not involve the disturbance or alteration of the heritage attribute.' They have informed the club of this decision.

We immediately informed our councillor that we have been blindsided – that the community has been entirely excluded from this decision-making. We believe that the position taken by city staff is a gross error of judgement – one that disregards everything our Secondary Plan and Heritage Plan says about lighting in Rockcliffe Park. Subdued lighting is a heritage attribute and an integral part of the cultural heritage landscape of Rockcliffe Park.



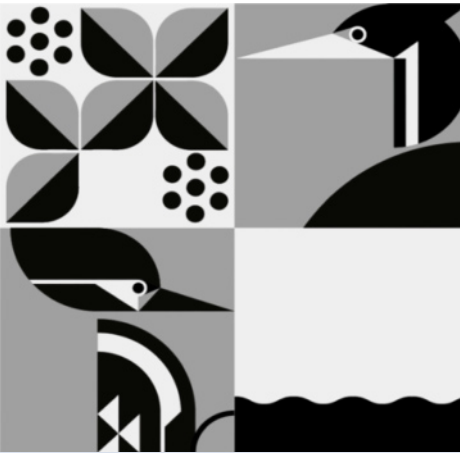
We asked for an emergency meeting with our councillor, the city's heritage and legal staff, and the mayor's chief of staff. This proved most unsatisfactory. Legal staff stated that a heritage permit application cannot be required with respect to the tennis court lighting solely because no 'development' or 'alteration' is entailed in the installing of the lighting system. This was inconsistent with the city's earlier statement that its decision rested as well on its assessment that the lighting would cause no disturbance or alteration of heritage attributes.

We believe that we made a compelling case that the type of lighting to be installed by the tennis club – both its intensity and its colour – will indeed negatively affect the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. The picture painted by the tennis club, and apparently accepted uncritically by the city – that the lighting will be 'almost invisible' – does not stand up to scrutiny. It had earlier been rejected at the public meeting we held with the club.

In a follow-up letter to Councillor King, I stated: "The fact that the lighting will be installed on existing fences cannot erase this reality [i.e., the negative affect on heritage], and its impact on residents. A narrow legal analysis that maintains that this installation does not qualify as 'development' or 'alteration,' and that this should govern decision-making here is unfathomable. This is a heritage matter. A heritage permit should be required." We await a response to my letter.

**Scott Heatherington, President
Rockcliffe Park Residents Association**

Photo above: An example of a Tweener lighting system, from the tweenerusa.com website.



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Pond Working Group
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Activities
 Invasive Plant Control
 The Pond
 Village Clean-up
 Village Green and
 Jubilee Garden Maintenance

Trees in the 'Hood

In response to a tree damage complaint by a former resident, I accompanied the city's Forestry Inspector on a tour of the Village Green in early February. We looked at a number of trees, some of which needed immediate attention. One of the large sugar maples on the Springfield Road side had damaged branches overhanging the sidewalk; he ordered those to be removed immediately, including one whole major stem. But he did indicate that this maple was on its way out and would need to come down in the future. Some of the other maples, especially the ones in the Stone Circle, are also in need of dead branch removal and he put them on the work order for later this season.

We also looked at the white pines growing near the cedar hedge of the Jubilee Garden. One of them had a dead top and he said he would have the tree removed. A second one on the Mariposa Avenue side was also to be taken down. The Village Green is now on a Forestry 'watch list' so we can expect more branch trimming in 2024.

The third tree we discussed was a very old apple tree with many woodpecker excavations on the west-facing side of the trunk. I asked him if it could just be topped and left as a 'wildlife tree,' and he agreed. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches will all find the trunk useful for either food or lodging, or both. This venerable trunk now has signs on it indicating its 'Wildlife Tree' status (photo above). It joins a similarly designated tree in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area. It is a pity that more dead trees on our private properties can't be left as tall stumps to provide food and shelter, via the woodpecker holes drilled into them.



Tree removals in the Caldwell-Carver Conservation area on the east side of McKay Lake are done or almost done. The very large Manitoba maple clump at the entrance on Hillsdale has been removed and a grey dogwood (pretty white flowers, and in winter white berries against red stems) will be planted as a replacement. And as soon as the city issues the annual Consent to Enter permit and the ground thaws, invasive plant removal, including buckthorn, will start again.

In January of this year, changes to Ottawa's tree protection bylaw (2020-340) came into effect. The threshold for Distinctive Tree protection was changed from 50 cm to 30 cm diameter at breast height (130 cm) across the entire urban area of the city. It means that you will need a permit to remove, or have cut down, any tree of that size on your property, if the property is one hectare (10,000 square metres) or less. This is an important milestone that will protect many more trees in our heritage conservation district/village. On properties that are greater than one hectare in size, the threshold for which a permit must be obtained is 10 cm diameter. Tree protection guidelines such as barrier placement, root protection, prohibitions against placement of debris within the critical root zone, etc., during landscaping or construction are also outlined in the bylaw. These measures will help Ottawa meet its canopy cover targets.

Iola Price, Environment Committee Chair

Wildlife



Ravens are nesting atop the tall communications tower by the school for the first time since 2018 (photo, top right). One was sitting on the nest on February 19, and the next day one brought a stick to add to the nest. The last Village nesting I recorded was in 2021 in the Stornaway pines. Why do Ravens nest so early, with snow still around? My guess is that it is because Ravens are carrion feeders, and late winter may be the most reliable time to find carcasses of winter-killed mammals such as deer. The accepted concept is that birds time their nesting to coincide with the extra food needed for both adults and young.



Iola and I have taken advantage of the frozen lake to walk to check last summer's activity at the nesting boxes we've placed around the shores for Tree Swallows: The ones by the Swiss and 194 Lansdowne weren't used. The box on the Gill-Garel-Jones fence had a successful nesting. Susan d'Aquino reports that there were no nestings at the two boxes on her frontage. Let's hope for more swallows this spring!

Five handsome Turkeys, one with a beard, wandered up Fairview on 22 February, pecking at grass heads sticking out of the snow, completely unafraid of those of us standing around watching (photos, left). Wonderful to see their glittering multicoloured feathers up close.



My first geese of spring flew east very high above Fairview on March 5, a sunny, calm but cold morning,

Anthony Keith, 11 March 2024

Photos: Left: Wild turkeys were spotted enjoying a delicious lunch at the 'Edmond spa/restaurant,' followed by a post-prandial stroll down Fairview Avenue. The bearded male can be seen to the right in the 'stroll' photo. Photos from Martha Edmond and Tara-Leigh Mierins. This column, top: A Raven's nest atop the communications tower; note the raven head poking out beneath the angled strut. Second photo: A Tree Swallow box and nest.



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

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APRIL

17 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

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

18 THURSDAY 6:00 PM

Library Program: End of Life Options, presented by Dying With Dignity Canada; registration required; Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 8 of this newsletter

27 SATURDAY, 12:00 PM

'So Chic' Fashion Show and Luncheon, a fundraiser to benefit the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families; Royal Ottawa Golf Club, 1405 Aylmer Road; details on page 9 of this newsletter

27 SATURDAY

Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 8 of this newsletter

28 SUNDAY

Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 8 of this newsletter

MAY

04 SATURDAY, 10:00 AM to NOON

Annual Village Spring Clean-up; meet behind the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; all are welcome
RAIN DATE : Sunday, May 5, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

07 TUESDAY 1:30 to 2:30 PM

Library Program: Book Club: Hamnet and Judith by Maggie O'Farrell. Adult drop-in program; Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 8 of this newsletter

08 WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM

Speakers Program: Mark Carney on 'Reflections on the New Macroeconomy'; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; 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

29 WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM

Speakers Program: Sean Silcoff on his book 'The Spectacular Rise and Fall of BlackBerry'; Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road; details on page 7 of this newsletter

JUNE

19 WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

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

24 MONDAY

Ashbury College's summer programs begin; Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Avenue; details on page 11 of this newsletter

The Rockcliffe News is published six times a year, on or about the beginning of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions are welcome by mid-month before publication. Copy may be edited for clarity or length. Paid advertising is not accepted. Send comments, questions and submissions to editor@rockcliffepark.ca. The Rockcliffe News is supported by grants from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. Many thanks to the proofreaders and to the newsletter delivery volunteers. Editor: Cynthia Hamady.

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