

# Guide to April 3 byelection, p. 20-21

April 2017

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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*Photo by Louise Imbeault*

After nearly a year of renovations, Royal Oak Beechwood open its doors in mid-March.

## Corner pub re-opens with heritage details and friendly faces

**By Jane Heintzman**

On March 15—the fateful ides of March!—the main floor of the sparkling new Royal Oak Beechwood opened its doors, starting a new chapter in the history of our longstanding neighbourhood “corner house.” Over the past year, the erstwhile New Edinburgh Pub building has undergone a radical transformation, both inside and out. Now the wraps are off, revealing a strikingly handsome 19th-century-style facade, complete with meticulously designed architectural details, from roofline cornices

and mouldings to gooseneck lamps.

Along the Crichton Street side of the building, both the first and second floors are lined with large multi-paned windows. All of these can open to let the breezes in when the weather is fine, and flood the rooms with natural light throughout the day. It’s hard to imagine a more splendid heritage gateway to Beechwood. Architect Dennis Kane of ARC Associates deserves immense credit for his fine work to recreate this landmark structure. Now that

the glass tower of bygone days is back up and running (in colour!), the Royal Oak will serve as a cheerful beacon on the Beechwood streetscape.

The building’s interior renovation has been every bit as radical as the exterior makeover. Against the backdrop of a newly exposed redbrick wall, the main floor has been completely gutted and rebuilt. It’s now attractively furnished with traditional pub-style chairs, tables and comfortable banquettes. There is an

**Continued on page 18**

## CSST Task Force pushes for analysis of western truck routes

**By Joe Chouinard and Sean Flynn, Co-Chairs, CSST Task Force**

*\*All the available information and reports related to the CSST can be found at [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca).*

The primary objective of the community’s efforts has been to achieve the greatest possible mitigation of the alterable portions of the Combine Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project. A significant part of this effort has been aimed at modifying the City’s plan for the main rock extraction site of the East-West tunnel of the CSST at Stanley Park. The New Edinburgh CSST Task Force continues to pursue the objective of pre-

venting the trucking of this material through the neighbourhood. It’s our view that this objective represents the most significant mitigation that can be achieved for our community. This position was re-confirmed at a Feb. 4 community forum organized and facilitated by community member Ricarda McFalls.

### **Truck routes still under study**

If the tunneling is to start in Stanley Park, the method of removal and disposal of the extracted material from the park becomes critical. The City has always assumed it would be trucked from the park eastward through the neighbourhood, and has con-

sidered a number of possible routes out of the neighbourhood. City consultants discussed these issues at a community Open House on Feb. 22. The City is now evaluating various trucking routes, based on community input. However, this Task Force, in conjunction with the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA), has reiterated our position to the City that the community cannot endorse any of the North or South routes proposed during the Open House.

The City appears committed to its current plan to have our historic neighbourhood become a major truck-

**Continued on page 5**

# NECA board changes result in new president, VP, treasurer



**Cindy Parkanyi**  
NECA President

As those of you who attended the CSST Open House on Feb. 22 may already know, there have been some changes within the ranks of the NECA Executive Board. Tim Plumptre, who guided the NECA Board for the past three and a half years, has stepped away from the Board due to family, work and other

volunteer commitments. I want to thank Tim for his many, many hours of dedicated service to the community. As I am now discovering, it is not a task for the faint of heart; it is not easy to navigate the many varied views, opinions and requests that are presented to the Board. The NECA Board acclaimed

the following slate of new officers at the February meeting:

- **President:** Cindy Parkanyi
- **Vice-president:** David Slinn (a newly-established role)
- **Treasurer:** Ted Bennett

I agreed to take on the role of NECA President in part because I felt that given the level of activity and community concerns concerning a couple of key files—CSST, transportation and safety—my years of experience as a NECA Board member in a number of different capacities may prove helpful. I have been a NECA board member since October 2005, when I became an ex-officio member by virtue of my role as editor of the *NEN*, a position that I held for nine years. In 2014, I became an elected member of the board and joined the Communications and the Transportation and Safety committees. In October 2015, I took over the role of Treasurer from Jim Watson (not the mayor), who retired from the board.

Having experienced many changes in the board's focus over the years, there is one thing that stands out in my mind as key to an effective community association: **communication**. This includes allowing for fulsome debate and expression of views at board meetings (amongst board members and from residents in attendance), assuring timely dissemination of information to residents by way of multiple channels—website, Facebook, listserves, e-newsletters, posters, etc.—and encouraging engagement through open houses, open board meetings, surveys and opportunities to participate in committees, initiatives and special projects.

The NECA Board consists of 15 volunteer members, all of whom have other commitments as well. Participation

from other members of the community is not only a good idea, it is a necessity if we want to achieve our objectives. So please feel free to attend NECA Board meetings to contribute your ideas and perhaps join one of our committees or task forces.

## CSST: Community Construction Monitoring Committee

The Community Construction Monitoring Committee (CCMC), a forum set up to discuss community concerns over the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project, held its second meeting March 20.

The community's representation on this committee includes a core of both NECA board members and community residents. We have also reserved the right to vary our delegation to include subject-matter experts and affected residents as appropriate to the agenda of a particular meeting. We would very much like to hear from any members of the community interested in becoming a member of that core delegation or who would be willing to participate on a more ad hoc basis, depending on the agenda. Membership from the City includes CSST Project Team members and Councillor Tobi Nussbaum.

We will strive to circulate a summary of each committee meeting promptly to the community through established channels, including the [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) website on the dedicated CSST page. We would welcome feedback and comments on those discussions, and would also particularly appreciate hearing about any concerns or questions related to the project that any of you feel should be raised. See page 1 for more details.

## New Edinburgh survey project

This spring, NECA volunteers will go door-to-door throughout the neighbourhood to undertake a joint (NECA, NECTAR and CCC) community survey. The purpose is to gather demographic information and identify the main areas of concern or interest of community members on a broad scale. With this information, all three community groups will be better able to target their limited resources to the things that would

most benefit the community at large.

## NECTAR situation

As most area residents are aware, NECTAR is under increasing financial pressures. In March, NECTAR sent a letter to the community highlighting the principles steps in a forward-looking plan to address the current financial situation (please see page 19 for the full text).

The community is invited to participate in a meeting **April 18 at 7 p.m.** in the Community Room at 255 Mackay St. to discuss this important topic.

## Transportation, safety and streetscape planting initiatives

Based on the initiative taken by New Edinburgh residents Chris Straka and Joana Chelo, NECA is pursuing three improvement projects along the stretch of Crichton Street south of Dufferin:

1. Installing planter boxes (visual street narrowing)
2. Converting asphalt to vegetated verge along Crichton Street south of Dufferin
3. Adding a beacon-marked pedestrian crossing (PXO) at Crichton Street near Electric Street.

NECA sent letters requesting implementation of the above initiatives to Councillor Nussbaum in early March and the Councillor has since responded that efforts to push these initiatives forward are underway (learn more on page 16).

A fourth proposal by Chris, which was subsequently approved by the NECA Board, is to plant trees along the Stanley Avenue bend. Councillor Nussbaum has indicated that he would welcome community support to move this forward as well.

Transportation and Safety Committee interim chair Phillipp-Clemens Nowotny has had to step down due to other commitments—not the least of which is his upcoming wedding. At the recent NECA Board meeting, Stanley Street resident Jeff Smith stepped up to take on the challenge, with the support of NECA Board member Santiago Reyes. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact Jeff at [jsmith@dcml.co](mailto:jsmith@dcml.co).

## NECA MEETINGS

### All Welcome

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the **third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m.** No meetings in July, August, or December. During October, NECA holds its annual general meeting (AGM) and a regular board meeting.

Meetings will be held at the **NECTAR Centre, 255 MacKay St.** Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Tim Plumptre in advance to arrange scheduling. Our next meetings are:

**Tuesday, April 18, 8 p.m.**

**Tuesday, May 16, 8 p.m.**

Any changes to this schedule will be posted in advance on the New Edinburgh website, [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca).

## Your NECA Representatives 2016-2017

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# It's time to talk about the schools we want and how to get them



**Chris Ellis**  
Public School Trustee, Zone 6

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) has finalized the Western and Eastern Accommodation Reviews, which culminated in decisions to close six elementary schools in the west and Rideau High School in the east.

With the closure of Rideau HS, there is no high school from any school board in a community of 20,000 people. Rideau is a prime example of abandonment of an area by a public institution that eventually leads to the loss of that asset to the community.

In the western review, elementary schools were part of the multi-year closure and consolidation process. We will be going through an elementary accommodation review in the East in perhaps four years. In the interim, I would like to explore what the community wishes our schools to be—dual-track, single-track, inclusive—and how to meet community expectations. There is little doubt that Rockcliffe Park Public School and Manor Park Public School will remain open, but how the

English programs at the two schools will be affected is a question.

Currently many students leave the OCDSB at grade 7 to go to other boards or private schools because parents don't feel comfortable with the options at the OCDSB. Unfortunately that leaves neighbourhood schools with shrinking enrolments, which may eventually result in their closure and loss to those who want to attend them. This can be avoided and our community strengthened if we work together to demand quality schools that everyone can be proud to attend.

To this end, **I will be hosting a panel discussion and Q&A on Monday, April 17 from 7–9 p.m. at Queen Elizabeth Public School, 689 St. Laurent Blvd. on the schools we want and how to get them.** It will be a candid discussion of the challenges of the English program taking into account that 70 per cent of students take French Immersion, the high income-low income divides in this area and how we can all work together to build bridges so

all students gain the highest possible education. All are invited.

## OCDSB Budget

It is budget time and again this year the OCDSB is having to reduce front-line staff—teachers, office staff, vice-principals and special education teachers to mention a few—and delay maintenance and reinvestment in needed infrastructure.

Much of the budget is driven by provincial decisions on funding and limits on how money can be spent. One of the challenges is that while funding for Special Education has pretty much remained the same for years, not even keeping pace with inflation, needs and directives from the province to do more keep rising. For example, the need for specialized Autism Spectrum Disorder classes is growing and, in the last three years the OCDSB has added a number of classes. The qualification criteria are rigorous and the cost for staff and support for each class of six is about \$250,000. So just for this exceptionality the board spends \$3.5 million more than it did three years ago, but the province has not recognized the increased need or expense. The board has had to reduce services in other places to meet this critical need.

*Chris Ellis is the OCDSB Trustee Zone 6 Rideau-Rockcliffe and Alta Vista. Contact him at Chris.Ellis@ocdsb.ca or 613-818-7350.*

## Help Wanted!

Does the newspaper business pique your interest? Are you an organized, detail-oriented resident of the community with a few hours to spare every couple of months? Then the *New Edinburgh News* has a volunteer opportunity for you! We are looking for bookkeeping and advertising assistance. Main tasks include preparing invoices, producing cheques and monthly statements, and communicating with advertisers. Excellent community and customer service skills are an asset. If interested, contact Christina at [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com).

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**[www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca)**

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# City CSST project’s disregard for heritage district shameful

**By Paul McConnell, Heritage Working Group, CSST Task Force**

The New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District (HCD) is a valuable and irreplaceable asset for Ottawa and for Canada. Yet the major Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) construction project will take place in the heart of our heritage district without any substantive prior evaluation of potential negative heritage impacts. The HCD, with many structures dating back to the 19th century, is not compatible with prolonged deep excavations and heavy trucking. It cannot sustain such impact and disruption. Yet the City’s approach has been to assume there will be no negative heritage

impacts. It is unlikely that visitors passing through New Edinburgh to Rideau Hall to celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation will agree.

The New Edinburgh CSST Task Force established a working group to examine the heritage-related issues. The full report of this working group is available on the New Edinburgh community website. Here is a summary of its main observations and findings:

- The New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District was created in 2001 to protect the original 19th-century village. City Council adopted a new, strengthened HCD Plan in 2016.
- The City has chosen the

HCD for some of the most prolonged and intensive work on the CSST project.

- The City’s evaluation of environmental effects of the CSST in New Edinburgh did not include any assessment of impacts on built heritage, nor did it acknowledge the existence of the HCD. This is despite stating in the CSST Environmental Study that heritage is a “Valued Environmental Component” to be included in project assessment.
- During the CSST project design phase, neither the City nor its consultants contacted the New Edinburgh community, including NECA’s Heritage and Development Committee, about the

potential heritage impacts.

- Potential heritage impacts include structural damage to historic properties near the excavation sites and along the trucking routes, disruption of streetscapes, and prolonged disturbance of the quiet ambiance of this historic residential neighbourhood close to Rideau Hall and Sussex Drive.
- Adopting a narrow and questionable interpretation of its heritage obligations, the City chose not to examine potential impacts on the physical and cultural landscape of the HCD.
- The City’s approach is based on the hope that the impacts will be “temporary” and acceptable. This rationale is not consistent

with the intent of provincial and municipal heritage regulations and policies, which are designed to protect and enhance the HCD’s cultural heritage values and character.

- Detailed assessment of potential heritage impacts of public works on the HCD would be fully consistent with the intent of these regulations, and would help identify mitigation measures.
- Assessment of heritage impacts should also be an important consideration when comparing potential CSST extraction sites.
- The adverse negative heritage impacts in New Edinburgh would be reduced significantly by relocating the primary extraction site to LeBreton Flats.

Heritage is a fragile, non-renewable asset. Canada’s capital should be ashamed of its total disregard of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District.



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# CSST: City somewhat more responsive to community concerns

Continued from page 1

ing route for this 30-month project. However, in response to community pressure, staff has agreed to review other options to remove the extracted rock and muck from the park using routes to the West across the river. These could involve creating a temporary bridge or a conveyor system, or using barges, or a small-gauge railway across the Minto Bridges.

At a late March meeting with City staff and project team members, community representatives viewed a revised draft assessment of truck route options, to be further refined before recommendations are finalized. We have requested an electronic copy of the revised Trucking route technical memorandum to share with residents, but as of press time, have still not yet received this from the CSST Project team..

## Health risks and mitigation measures

We have repeatedly raised serious community health and safety risks, as well as long-term environmental impacts, and continue to press this case in meetings with City staff. In a March 20 meeting with City officials, Dr. Paul Cappon, a specialist in community health and preventative medicine with extensive clinical experience in industrial medicine, gave a detailed presentation on *Health Risks and Mitigating Impacts Required at Site #5\** (i.e., in Stanley Park).

To date, the City has refused to change its plan. Mayor Jim Watson made the City's position clear when community representatives met with him and some of his senior staff and Councillor Tobi Nussbaum on Feb. 6\*. The main takeaway from the meeting was that the City contends it has followed the baseline set of health, safety, and environmental regulations required to date in relation to the CSST. Specifically, the City does not believe that it was legally compelled to perform a human health impact study, nor a direct consultation with the community most impacted by the project, in advance of its approval by Council.

As a result of the efforts of many individuals, the City has become somewhat more responsive to community

concerns regarding a variety of mitigation issues related to the project.

The City has provided some of its noise management research and plans, such as erecting noise attenuation barriers around some of the tunneling sites. The Task Force has stressed that while the noise management research provided is a good first step, it doesn't completely capture the community's overarching concern. Specifically, this concern is centered on the cumulative noise impacts arising from concurrent construction activities at all three shafts. We believe the noise-engineering firm failed to model this adequately. We continue to press the City to ensure this analysis is completed and provided to the community for further input and consultation.

The City has recently provided lab reports on the contaminated soil in Stanley Park and at other related sites. Our experts will review these reports in conjunction with the City's proposed soil management plans. Dr. Cappon's presentation and report clearly spells out the health risks related to the removal of contaminated soil, and presents a detailed list of *Required Targeted Mitigating Procedures* as a minimum mitigation measure if the project is to proceed.

## Community Construction Monitoring Committee

The Feb. 6 meeting with the mayor has produced one positive development: the City has developed a CSST-

related community engagement strategy. The objective of this strategy is to engage with our community to ensure that information is being shared, and that there are formal mechanisms available to collect and review CSST construction-related feedback and concerns.

An important component of this initiative involves establishing the Community Construction Monitoring Committee (CCMC), composed of community representatives and members of the City's CSST project team staff. At its inaugural meeting March 3, the CCMC ironed out the terms of reference were ironed out and discussed the community's priority issues. Our new NECA President, **Cindy Parkanyi**, invites community members interested in participating on this committee to contact her at [cparkanyi@yahoo.ca](mailto:cparkanyi@yahoo.ca). CCMC expects to hold monthly meetings throughout the lifecycle of the project. Readers can find the Terms of

in both directions. It will also monitor progress in addressing those concerns. It is not intended to be a decision-making body to commit the community to any proposals that the City might bring forward. The City also emphasized that it continues to welcome direct contact from individuals, and has agreed to consider holding further meetings (contact [CSST@ottawa.ca](mailto:CSST@ottawa.ca)).

cussions, and would particularly appreciate hearing about any additional concerns or questions related to the project you feel should be raised at the CCMC. We hope that this committee will be a useful forum for addressing issues at a higher level within the City system. We intend to use the CCMC as a means to hold the City to its commitments regarding ongoing



It's not just humans looking to delay the project...

Cartoon by Roslyn Butler

Reference of the CCMC, along with summary reports of the results of its meetings, on the community website.

The City stressed its intention that the committee be used as a conduit for information, and for sharing concerns

We'll make every effort to circulate a summary of each committee meeting to the community promptly on the community website and through established channels. We welcome your feedback and comments on those dis-

communications, community engagement, and mitigation of the harms brought to our community as a result of this project.

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# New, affordable EquiPass now available for low-income residents



**Jim Watson**  
Mayor of Ottawa

This past October, I was joined by the Chair of the Transit Commission, Councillor Steven Blais, to announce the inclusion of a low-income transit pass in the 2017 City of Ottawa Budget.

Just a short month later, City Council approved our plan for the low-income transit pass in the 2017 Budget.

This was the largest one-time increase in financial support for transit customers in the City's history. The pass is valid for travel on all OC Transpo services, including Para Transpo and the O-Train Trillium Line, as well as on STO services.

The new affordable transit pass, called the EquiPass, is now available to City of Ottawa residents whose household income falls below the low-income cut-off threshold, as set out annually by the Government of Canada. Once approved, eligible customers will be able to purchase the discounted pass for use as of April 1, 2017. It is priced at \$57 per month, providing a 50 per cent discount on a monthly adult transit pass. A single adult using the EquiPass will save \$56.75 each month, or

out.

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With the implementation of the EquiPass, we give a chance to those that are living with a low income to full integrate themselves into the fabric of the City, and we create an even more affordable City for all Ottawa residents.



# Starbucks coming to Minto Beechwood; St. Charles sales centre plans virtual tours soon

By Jane Heintzman

In mid-April, purchasers of the second-floor units of Minto Beechwood will receive their keys, marking the start of a gradual building-occupancy process on the residential floors that is expected to wrap up by the end of June. Minto's Kevin Harper notes that "occupancy" at this stage does not entail owners actually moving into the building right away. Over a longer period through the fall, owners will move in at a rate of about two to three per day. As in the case of The Kavanaugh, early arrivals will settle in while construction work continues in the building to complete the common areas and upper-floor suites.

In anticipation, the community of Minto Beechwood owners gathered at a jam-packed homeowners' event at The Clocktower Brew Pub in early March. On March 11, Minto held an open house in the building to showcase two fully staged suites: "The Elmdale" on the second floor—and "The Manor" model on the third floor. Catering the event: Starbucks, the future occupant of the 1,700 square-foot street-level corner unit beside the Bank of Montreal. BMO is slated to arrive by March 27, and with luck, will be open by early April.

The jury is still out on the question of the occupant (or occupants) of the spacious 11,500 square-foot street-level unit. Kevin reports that negotiations are ongoing with the large national client mentioned in our previous edition, and that a number of smaller operators, both local and national, are still vying for a portion of the space. Well, we've waited six years since the fire to see new businesses at Beechwood and MacKay: another six months won't kill us!

Streetscape work around Minto Beechwood is slated to begin April when warmer weather arrives, and will continue for about eight weeks. The City of Ottawa has finalized its "complete street" design, tweaked to ensure safe passage for cyclists, and a major overhaul is in the plans for Beechwood and MacKay



A peek inside the Elmdale and Manor units at Minto Beechwood.

(see **Tobi Nussbaum's column on page 8** for details).

Kevin reports that 14 condo units are still available: a range of sizes, designs and prices, and on all floors. Sales interest is expected to pick up through the spring now that the building has taken shape and fully staged units are available to view. For more information call 613-696-8188 or visit [mintobeechwood.com](http://mintobeechwood.com).

## Riverpath broke ground March 2

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson recently presided at a ground-breaking ceremony to mark the start of construction on the Riverpath Retirement Residence at 80 Landry St. in Vanier. It will be the sixth Ottawa retirement residence operated by Riverstone Retirement Communities, a local company owned by Claridge Homes, which developed the nearby Edinburgh Commons community along the Vanier Parkway. The Riverpath will offer 157 suites in a nine-story building, with three assisted-living floors and a suite of amenities, including a saltwater pool, rooftop terrace, billiard room, demonstration kitchen and keyless entry. It's slated to be the first bilingual community in the Riverstone chain, and will be ready for occupancy in 2019. Find more information at [RiverstoneRetirement.ca](http://RiverstoneRetirement.ca) or contact Marketing Co-ordinator Lauren Dufort

at 613-233-6030 x 504.

## St. Charles Market sales centre coming soon

Once the building permit-approval process wraps up in the coming weeks, work will begin inside the former church on the St. Charles Market (SCM) sales centre. If all goes as planned, the centre should be ready by May, giving prospective buyers and interested neighbours a first look at the residential units planned for the site. ModBox Director of Sales and Marketing Melissa Reeves is excited about the high-tech sales centre installation, to be designed by lead project architect Andrew Reeves and his associates at LineBox Studio.

"Their approach to the design of this project is entirely holistic," Melissa explains. "Their work doesn't stop with the exteriors. They've taken great care to ensure the design story they're telling is consistent inside and out." The objective is to give visitors a real sense of what living at SCM will be like. The centre will represent the main living areas, including kitchen, bathroom, and living and dining spaces. Prospective buyers will also find a scale model and children's area to keep the younger set occupied while adults browse. But the highlight from Melissa's perspective will be the virtual-reality (VR) studio where people can tour a complete unit or stroll



through the courtyard via VR goggles. LineBox has been making increasing use of VR technology to give clients a robust 3-D preview of their prospective living or working spaces, and finds it a highly effective tool in the design process.

The exterior forecourt at St. Charles Market will still be used periodically for community events after the sales centre opens. The annual Beechwood Market will resume Saturday morning operations beginning June 10 and run throughout the summer until Labour Day. The market will then move to nearby Parc Optimiste in Vanier for the final weeks of

the season. Melissa says that other outdoor events for the spring and summer season will be announced as they are confirmed.

## Claridge property on hold

Across the street from St. Charles Market, the proposed Claridge residential-commercial development remains on hold: there has been no further movement reported on its application to the City Planning Department.

Also in this issue: more news on the Beechwood Corridor in pieces on the new Royal Oak Pub, ongoing renovations at Metro and a sweet new business coming to The Kavanaugh.

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## Beechwood 'Complete Street' work continues, with public art to come



**Tobi Nussbaum**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

We know Beechwood Avenue is an important artery that joins many communities together. With this in mind, the City of Ottawa is in the process of turning Beechwood Avenue into a "complete street," with safer options for all modes of transportation. This is a step toward making the street a safer corridor for all road users and a more thriving main street—priorities local residents expressed during consultations last year.

Last September, crews repainted the lines on Beechwood between Charlevoix-Springfield and Putman-Marier to include bicycle lanes, alternate-side parking and changes to and consolidation of some bus stops. Since many of the lines have worn off over the winter, they will need to be re-painted as soon as possible after the snow season to ensure road users have a better indication of lanes.

The City will complete the next and final phase of this project this summer with minor construction to curbs on sections of Beechwood between the Vanier Parkway-Crichton and Springfield Road. Curbs will be rebuilt in three areas in order to facilitate the addition of raised

cycle tracks, which separate cyclists from vehicular traffic. These sections of cycle track will be linked by painted bike-lanes, completing the east-west bikeway from Hemlock Road to downtown.

A cycle track will be added in the westbound direction between Springfield and MacKay (in front of the Chartwell residence), continuing through in front of the new Minto condominium west of MacKay Street. In the eastbound direction, a small section of cycle track will be added in the middle of the block east of the Vanier Parkway. See plans for these changes on the City's website: [ottawa.ca/beechwoodavenue](http://ottawa.ca/beechwoodavenue).

### Better Beechwood 2017

In September 2016, residents cast ballots for the type of physical infrastructure project they wanted to see on Beechwood in 2017. People were asked to pick among street art, seating and gathering spaces, and celebrating local history, or to submit their own ideas. Street art came out as the preferred option for this project.

"Brighten Up Beechwood" is the winning concept for our Better Beechwood 2017

project. We issued a call for proposals seeking artists' visions to bring this concept to life. A jury of community members, local artists and representatives of the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area and my office will select a winning proposal for implementation in 2017 (pending technical review and City approvals). More details about this project can be found on my website: [tobinussbaum.ca](http://tobinussbaum.ca).

### CSST Update

Site setup for the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project was set to begin in late March. For ease of access, I have set up a page on my website to share all relevant documentation I have assembled from the project team, including the project schedule, maps, memos and public information. Access this information at [tobinussbaum.ca](http://tobinussbaum.ca) by searching "CSST documents." To receive ongoing construction updates from the project team, sign up for newsletters at [Ottawa.ca/CSST](http://Ottawa.ca/CSST) or email [CSST@ottawa.ca](mailto:CSST@ottawa.ca).

Establishing a construction-monitoring committee made up of New Edinburgh residents, NECA board members and senior City officials from the CSST project team, as well as myself, is an important step in working towards mitigating the disruptive elements of this project. This group, which has now met twice, will be crucial to ensure two-way channels of communication between the community and the City.



Sketch by Martha Markowsky

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# A plan for fairer hydro bills



**Nathalie Des Rosiers**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

On March 2, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne announced a plan that will lower residential hydro bills by an average of 25 per cent starting this summer. This significant reduction in rates will go to every household in Ottawa-Vanier with no asterisks, loopholes or exceptions. And your bill won't increase beyond inflation for at least four years.

I don't have to tell you why this is needed. I have heard from people across our community struggling to deal with bills that have gone up too much and too quickly. Household budgets are stretched. Something needed to be done.

What I want to share is how we got to this point, how we're fundamentally restructuring the system to give you

the biggest rate-cut in Ontario history and why you can be certain that this change is going to be lasting.

For a long time, Ontario enjoyed one of the best electricity systems around. But for decades, governments of all stripes stopped investing.

*In effect, we put the \$50-billion cost of the rebuild onto the hydro bills of just one generation. That was a mistake.*

About 15 years ago, those quick fixes caught up with us. Brownouts, blackouts like the one in 2003 and dirty coal plants were a danger to our health, our environment and our economy.

So we closed all of Ontario's coal plants, built new transmission lines and invested in

renewable energy. We now have a clean, reliable system that is going to benefit us for decades. But that came at a price. And the terms we set to finance these necessary renovations weren't fair.

In effect, we put the \$50 billion cost of the rebuild onto the hydro bills of just one generation. That was a mistake. It meant high bills because you were paying for past neglect and subsidizing ratepayers who will benefit from these energy assets for years to come. By stretching those costs out over a timeframe that better reflects the lifespan of the assets

we're paying for, we can lower everyone's bills today and keep them from jumping back up. That's the fairer way forward.

We have also been asking ratepayers to pay for things that should really be part of the province's budget. Our program to help low-income

families afford hydro is one example.

But I want to highlight the Rural or Remote Rate Protection program. The RRRP helps subsidize the high cost of delivering electricity to 350,000 rural residential customers. We're taking the cost of the program off bills and enhancing it so that now about 800,000 homes will qualify for lower delivery charges.

As you can imagine, these huge and lasting structural fixes do come with a cost. We can afford it because of Ontario's strengthening economy, which is the fastest growing in Canada. After a decade of deficits, the provincial budget will be balanced this year. Our recovery is on track, but it hasn't been evenly shared. Many families I speak to, whether in Sandy Hill, Manor Park or New Edinburgh tell me they aren't any better off than they were before the recession. It is why our team is determined to make sure growth in our economy means more opportunity and security for people in our community and all across Ontario. Using the province's newfound fiscal

strength to give everyone the break they need on their hydro bills is the right thing to do for the province and the fair thing to do for your family.

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# BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- By Jane Heintzman -

## Chef Clunie new owner at Gastropub

By early March, the news was out: local restaurateur **André Cloutier** had sold the buzzing Beechwood Gastropub to **Harriet Clunie**, the executive chef at the restaurant for the past year. Harriet has a stellar reputation on the Ottawa culinary scene. She's been the opening chef at Das Lokal on Dalhousie Street, chef de cuisine at the former Navarra, and worked gigs at such notable eateries as Murray Street and Sweet Grass Aboriginal Café, where she worked closely with her new Beechwood neighbour, Warren Sutherland.

Harriet says the sale began taking shape shortly after her arrival in mid-2016. She credits André with skilful mentoring through her early months at the Gastropub, when she made her mark with appealing menu innovations focused on local and seasonal fare. Harriet admits being daunted initially by the prospect of restaurant ownership. But over time, she found her feet, working closely with manager **Michelle Comeau**, still her business partner and right-hand-person as Harriet takes the helm.

Harriet's priorities for the Gastropub include a fresh coat of paint throughout, as well as an update to the cocktail, wine and beer menus. In keeping with the "pub" moniker, she's particularly eager



Photo courtesy David Clunie

Gastropub chef and now owner Harriet Clunie.

to expand the range of bottled beers on offer. She plans to source a new brand of coffee and has already arranged for The Tea Store in the ByWard Market to sole-source tea goods. Harriet's menus will continue to evolve with the seasons and locally available produce, but it's safe to say diners can count on continued high-quality cuisine.

Far from being wistful about the transition, Gastropub creator André Cloutier is delighted with the new arrangement. "Harriet is a star and she's well respected on the res-

taurant scene," he says. "I couldn't be happier about the team. I am passing the torch to two people that have been in the industry for years and I have no doubt they will make the Gastropub a culinary destination in Ottawa." André's future plans? He admits to "having a few irons in the fire, but definitely *not* another restaurant," but he'll focus his energies on The Clarkstown and take advantage of any free time to enjoy his young family.

On **April 6, from 4-9 p.m.**, Harriet and Michelle will

host an Open House, inviting any and all to drop by and join them for a glass of wine and a nibble at the restaurant. Harriet is eager to meet the neighbours and personally welcome them into her newly acquired (and with luck, freshly painted) premises. We wish Harriet every success in her new venture and look forward to more news from her thriving local gathering place.

## Anytime Fitness coming soon

At the time of writing in early March, work was well underway on a fit-up of the second floor of 350 Crichton St. (former home of the Physical Therapy Institute) for a soon-be-launched Anytime Fitness facility. If the name sounds familiar, that's no surprise: there are more than a dozen **Anytime Fitness** locations throughout Ottawa, and more than a staggering 3,500

world-wide, making it the largest gym franchise in the world.

As the name implies, the signature benefit of Anytime Fitness membership is having 24/7 access to the facilities. No matter how hectic or erratic your schedule, you can always make time for a workout. Find more information about Anytime memberships, locations and facilities at [anytimefitness.com](http://anytimefitness.com). If all goes as planned, the Crichton Street location will be open by mid-April so you can drop in for a look.

The franchise formula promises a fully equipped gym with top-of-the-line cardio equipment such as treadmills, elliptical machines, rowing machines, spin bikes and stair climbers. The gyms are also equipped with training gear such as medicine balls, dumbbells, resistance bands, battle ropes and much more. Anytime Fitness personal trainers are available to provide members with one-on-one or small-group training, as well as fitness assessments and specialized classes.

Staffer **Brian Nelson** reports that all new members are entitled to two personal training sessions free of charge to help create a focused workout routine. While the new location on Crichton Street will initially operate during staffed hours only, Brian says that after a brief transition period, members will receive their keys and be able come and go freely 24/7. After 30 days, members also gain access to Anytime Fitness locations worldwide: great news for busy travelers.

Brian encourages neighbours to drop by the Crichton Street location as soon as it is up and running. If you'd like to sign up in advance, he



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Photo by Louise Imbeault

### Metro's long-planned facelift is on target for summer completion.

suggests you visit the nearby location at 96 George St. in the ByWard Market. Stay tuned for more news on New Edinburgh's new Anytime Fitness operations.

### Metro renos to end by summer

For the past two months, shoppers at the Beechwood Metro have navigated section closures and merchandise musical chairs as work proceeds on a major overhaul of the store interior. Parking spaces are also at a premium while a large section of the lot remains blocked off for construction equipment. Store hours have been temporarily abbreviated, with a 10 pm closure in effect to permit some work to proceed overnight. Metro has long been planning this facelift and we're pleased to report that work is progressing on target for completion by summer.

Metro head office reports that shoppers can expect a reconfigured sales floor, opened up to improve the overall flow of the store. There will be major upgrades to counters and floors (already visible in some spots), and a new open-ceiling section comparable to a large skylight. Several sections will be expanded: organics, artisanal cheeses, prepared foods, hot foods and pizza, and cut flowers and plants. Wider aisles will improve two-way navigation, the meat counter will be expanded and the bakery section relocated.

In response to many neighbourhood residents' desire to buy locally produced items whenever possible, Metro Beechwood plans to participate in a Local Purchasing Program. This initiative will bring more locally sourced products into our store than any other Metro location

in the Ottawa region. "We understand that this is important to Beechwood customers," explains Metro representative **Mark Bernhardt**, "and we want this store to reflect that commitment."

While there are as yet no details, Mark says the renovation plan includes improvements to the parking lot and sidewalks. Happily, **David Yeatman's** splendid exterior mural depicting an historic Eastview streetscape will remain in place on the west wall.

### Patio problems at Union Street Café

Since opening in mid-2016, the Union Street Kitchen Café at 42 Crichton St. has steadily grown in popularity, both with locals and others beyond the 'hood. Visitors are attracted by the café's reputation for fine fare and exceptional coffee and its warm, welcoming vibe. Owner-operators **Craig Pedersen** and **Christine Garand** make use of virtually every square inch of the space in and around the shop. That includes the modest outdoor spaces on both the Crichton and Union Street sides of the building, which bustled with activity until late fall.

Like all successful restaurateurs, Craig and Christine have worked hard to come up with new ideas to add appeal to their business. If you've set foot inside the café, you'll know that interior expansion is not an option. Patio enhancement, on the other hand, has genuine potential.

In early February, Craig and Christine sent out a graciously worded letter to 250 nearby households, seeking neighbours' opinions on the prospect of operating a licensed outdoor patio with a modest wine and beer menu, and strictly limited hours of operation. Before launching into the costly and time-consuming process of seeking a liquor license and patio permit, the pair wisely chose to test the waters with the folks most likely to be affected by such an innovation. About a third of those surveyed responded, the vast majority strongly in favour of a licensed patio in their midst—Paris without the airfare. But a small number firmly oppose the plan. Not surprisingly, the dissenting group consisted largely of families next-door to the restaurant, and understandably concerned about the potential for disturbances.

In deference to opponents' legitimate concerns, Craig and Christine scrapped their plans for a licensed patio. But they're still investigating the possibility of opening an enhanced "dry" patio in summer. For sun-starved survivors of winter, relaxing out of doors has powerful appeal. But here's the rub: according to Craig, City patio permit fees make it virtually impossible to sustain a financially viable patio operation without serving liquor. Under the current rules, you just can't serve enough coffee and croissants in a season to make a go of it.

In a recent meeting with City officials, Craig inquired about an abatement of permit fees for dry patio operations. He followed up with a lengthy letter to the City, setting out his concerns about the unfairness of the present "one size fits all" regime, and calling for some relief for unlicensed facilities. He also addressed existing rules that make no distinction between businesses regardless of location and relative potential in terms of pedestrian traffic. A comparatively quiet, low-traffic spot such as 42 Crichton is currently subject to the same permit fees as a perpetually bustling tourist haven such as the ByWard Market or Little Italy. A level playing field it is not.

At press time, Craig had yet to receive a response to his appeal to the City Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department. Unfortunately, he's not optimistic about his chances and plans for an outdoor patio operation at the Café

remain on hold indefinitely. If you share Craig's view that changes are needed in the current patio permit regime (a highly lucrative one for the City, incidentally), drop a line to our Councillor Tobi Nussbaum: [tobi.nussbaum@ottawa.ca](mailto:tobi.nussbaum@ottawa.ca).

### Computer help on your doorstep

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Continued on page 12

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Continued from page 11

- purchase advice and support – including help to prepare shopping lists of options for clients buying new or refurbished computers

**Malcolm Harding**, who has taken over from his father **John** as owner-operator, reports that the business has evolved and expanded considerably since its early days. Malcolm recently moved to a new home at Bank Street and Albion Road with a spacious workshop almost triple the size of his previous quarters, and room for new and upgraded equipment. In-home service remains the norm, but Malcolm says that, in the case of complicated fixes, service may actually be faster if clients drop off their computers at the shop.

Compu-Home's staff complement also expanded recently to handle a growing client load. Though Malcolm remains the principal technician, full time technicians **Cory Fraser** and **Dan MacIntyre** now share the load and help keep wait-times to a minimum. Cory is "the shop guy" likely to be the first point of contact for clients. He can often walk callers through a problem over the phone and help decide



Photo courtesy John Harding

The CompuHome team: Cory Fraser, owner Malcolm Harding and Daniel MacIntyre.

on the next steps to address it. This author can personally attest that he does this with reassuring competence and patience!

In some cases, it may be faster and easier for existing clients to have a Compu-Home technician take over their computer remotely to resolve problems via Instant House Call. Service charges for a remote fix are half the normal rate, and there's no charge for follow-up calls to tweak minor problems or ensure that things are running

smoothly.

It's no surprise that many Compu-Home clients are seniors, for whom the ever-evolving world of technology can be a source of bewilderment and frustration. Unlike the generations that have grown up in a digital world, many baby boomers find computers less than intuitive and sometimes positively alien. That's why technicians such as Malcolm, Cory and Dan, who not only resolve problems, but also demystify them in non-technical language, are so valuable. They patiently guide us older folks through the steps to a solution, and build our confidence to cope on our own. Malcolm admits with a chuckle that it's all part of his job to "walk people back from the ledge" or "overcome their fear of updates." Perhaps he should add "therapist" to his professional credentials! For more

information or computer help, contact **613-731-5954** or [info@compu-home.com](mailto:info@compu-home.com).

### Spruce up your feet for Spring

After several decades in business as a skilled esthetician and foot-care specialist, **Sylvie Sauvé** happily proclaims, "I love my profession more and more and more!" Her fully equipped home-based studio in Manor Park is busier than ever. Clients can enjoy a broad range of esthetics services, from skincare to hair-removal (including electrolysis), body scrub and massage, manicures, pedicures and Sylvie's signature Podo-Logic foot-care equipment.

Sylvie says that although most of her pedicures are primarily beautifying procedures, many older clients find her specialized therapies critical to restoring and

maintaining their foot health. Sylvie uses her training and long experience to address myriad conditions, from thick and ingrown nails, to calluses, funguses, and the particular challenges of diabetics suffering from nerve damage and poor circulation.

An initial session to tackle untreated foot problems can last as long as two hours. Clients then typically return for follow-up treatments of about 90 minutes every four to six weeks. In keeping with the strict regulations applying to podologic foot-care, Sylvie takes special pains to keep her treatment room sterile. As a certified Registered Podologist and Pedicurist in Ontario, Sylvie can now issue receipts for insurance purposes as well.

Esthetician **Brigitte Gagné** has recently joined Sylvie to assist her bustling client load of women, men and teens. For spring, they are currently offering a 90-minute body scrub and revitalizing massage for \$90. And it's not just any scrub: the formula is custom-made by Sylvie and Brigitte to suit the client's individual skin type, using ingredients such as sea salt, lavender and a range of oils.

Sylvie takes great pride in her clean, quiet and beautifully appointed premises, noting with satisfaction that her clients deeply appreciate the studio's privacy and serenity. Indeed, the atmosphere is so peaceful that more than once she has heard snores from the waiting room where a drowsy spouse had settled in during his partner's treatment. Retirement plans are out of the question, Sylvie asserts firmly: first, she continues to take delight in her profession, and second, her clients simply would not allow it- and tell her so at every possible occasion! You can reach Sylvie for information or an appointment at **613-748-0352**.

### What's up on the third floor?

Our community is well acquainted with **Books on Beechwood**, **The Scone Witch** and **The Clocktower Brew Pub**, the flagship ground-floor businesses in the New Edinburgh Square building at Mackay Street and Beechwood Avenue. But you'd be hard pressed to find many (or possibly any) that know who occupies the third-floor offices at 35 Beechwood.

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Here's the scoop: it's a thriving group of more than 20 self-employed private practitioners, supported by a core of committed volunteers. The majority practice some form of healing therapy rooted in the broad concept of neuroplasticity—the capacity of the brain to learn new patterns of response and behaviour via a range of physical, psychological and cognitive techniques.

The two moving spirits behind the group are the master leaseholders of the large third-floor space. **Dr. Marna Zinatelli** is a licensed psychologist treating a broad range of conditions from depression and anxiety to eating disorders. Marna's business partner **Jocelyn DeVillers** is a specialist in allergy elimination as well as a practitioner of Shiatsu and Reiki—respectively, Japanese massage and alternative medicine. Marna and Jocelyn became friends and colleagues when Marna fell seriously ill with extreme eczema. She sought Jocelyn's allergy expertise to bring her back from the brink, as she miraculously did. The rest is history.

July 2017 will mark the second anniversary of Marna and Jocelyn's move to take over the third-floor space at New Edinburgh Square, and thereafter to reach out to like-minded local practitioners seeking a niche in which to serve their clients. Marna confesses that the bold operating principle "If you build it, they will come," seemed a little iffy in the early days. But as time went on, the cluster of practitioners grew, collaborative relationships—and friendships—were established, and a small, sustainable treatment centre was born. Most of the current practitioners live nearby and



**Jocelyn DeVillers and Dr. Marna Zinatelli are among the therapists practicing from the third floor of 35 Beechwood Ave.**

*Photo by Louise Imbeault*

are grateful to be able to work in their own neighbourhood.

The list of service providers at 35 Beechwood is long. It includes several psychotherapists; two psychologists; an acupuncturist; two registered clinical hypnotherapists; two Feldenkrais practitioners (including **Lynn Bedbrook**, profiled in an earlier NEN edition); two yoga therapists; Shiatsu and Reiki practitioners; a Qigong teacher and a specialist in using neuro-feedback techniques to address behavioural problems resulting from such conditions such as ADHD. The list also includes Lindenlea resident **Sonja Latifpour**, B.A. Psych., B.S.W., M.S.W., who sees children, teens and their families at Bright Star Counselling, profiled in more detail below.

The third-floor centre also hosts an established support group, led by psychotherapist **Sofia Lopoukhine**, for people living with chronic

pain and illness. The group supports the centre's "Pay it Forward Fund" for people that need treatment but lack the means. When we visited in early March, Marna reported that the fund was nearing the \$500 target established for the first such "scholarship."

Another large group operating at the centre is **Men and Healing**, a private counselling and psychotherapy service led by **Rick Goodwin**, MSW, RSW. The service evolved out of the Men's Health Project that, around the time of the high-profile Cornwall inquiry, established a province-wide network of services for male survivors of sexual abuse.

Marna and Jocelyn are very proud of their refur-

bished premises. The centre is strictly scent-free (essential for Jocelyn's allergy-suffering clients), and replete with healthy greenery to continuously refresh the oxygen supply. The space consists of two large studios for group activities and four smaller offices for one-on-one sessions. Visitors will also find a small self-help lending library, a peace pole to inspire meditation and prayer, soothing music permeating the space, and an array of colourful pieces by local artists including **Lori Fournier**, whose work is currently on display. When NEN photographer Louise Imbeault and the author visited in March, they found the centre's ambiance serene and welcoming—a dramatic contrast to the traf-

fic and bustle of street life below on Beechwood.

To learn more about on the centre's practitioners, contact Marna at [marnazin@web.net](mailto:marnazin@web.net) or 613-233-4222 or Jocelyn at [jdcht.com/meet-jocelyn](http://jdcht.com/meet-jocelyn) or 613-741-7763.


#### Guidance for children, teens and families

Room One in the third-floor treatment centre at 35 Beechwood (profiled above) is home to Lindenlea resident **Sonja Latifpour's** private practice, **Bright Star Counselling** – [brightstarcounselling.com](http://brightstarcounselling.com). Sonja provides counselling and play-based therapy for children from ages eight to 15, as well as guidance and support for their parents and families.

Sonja is a registered social worker with a degree in psychology. She works as a clinical social worker with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, serving clients at several local public schools, including Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park, Vincent Massey and Carson Grove. Sonja was inspired to open her private practice out of growing concern at the lack of local counselling services for children and parents, as well as CHEO's daunting 18-month waiting list for families in distress. At her Beechwood practice, Sonja treats a wide range of conditions from depression to post-traumatic stress, loss and grief, new-school adjustment problems, custody issues, relationship difficulties and step-parenting concerns.

But the overwhelming majority of her clients—

**Continued on page 14**



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Continued from page 13

about 85 per cent—suffer from anxiety, a distressing and sometimes disabling condition rooted in the fast pace and relentless pressures of contemporary life. Many children's lives are heavily programmed, and in Sonja's experience, many suffer from constant pressure to perform and lack of "space to make mistakes." Warning signs of an anxiety problem may include tantrums, difficulties sleeping or eating, aggressive behaviour, social withdrawal, frequent stomach- or headaches and struggles with schoolwork.

Sonja aims to involve parents in the treatment process from the very start, and to "find the strengths in the family" on which to build. She begins with an intensive interview to explore the background to the child's problem, and to engage parents in a collaborative plan to address it. In some cases, she finds that the immediate need is simply troubleshooting; using her professional expertise to offer families reassurance, tips and practical strategies for resolving the situation on their own. Complex cases may require more direct therapy for the child. A typical course of treatment may be six to 10 sessions, with 45 minutes devoted to one-on-one, play-based therapy with the child, followed by a final 15-minute period with the parents present. For more information or to book an appointment, contact Sonja at **613-796-6561** or [brightstarcounselling@gmail.com](mailto:brightstarcounselling@gmail.com).

**Sundae School Inc. coming to 222 Beechwood**

Many Burghers still lament the loss of local ice cream shop **Piccolo Grande**, a casualty of the 2011 Beechwood fire. In the intervening six



**Sonja Latifpour, BrightStar Counselling.** Photo courtesy Sonja Latifpour

years, we've welcomed many small, local suppliers offering everything from specialty teas and coffees to gourmet sandwiches and baked goods—even fresh cuts of meat. But alas, no neighbourhood ice cream shop has appeared to offer an oasis on steamy days and long, leisurely summer evenings.

Lament no longer! In early May, if all goes as planned, area resident **Lindsay Taub** will launch **Sundae School Inc.** next door to Sutherland restaurant in The Kavanaugh at 222 Beechwood. As a local, Lindsay has personally felt the lack of a welcoming, walkable place in the 'hood where people can drop in for a refreshing creamy treat.

While Lindsay claims no special expertise in the culinary arts, she and her husband love good food, and are enthusiastic aficionados of the local restaurant scene. Some readers may have heard her weekly CFRA radio column, in which she and host **Evan Solomon** discuss Ottawa's hottest eateries. But Lindsay's day job is far removed from the world of food. By training and profession, she's a psychotherapist,

currently on maternity leave from her job with a local non-profit. She has every intention of eventually returning to this work, but in the short term, Lindsay is pursuing her dream of creating a welcoming community gathering-place focused on amazing ice cream sundaes.

Lindsay cautions against any expectations of a return to the traditional ice cream parlour complete with soda fountain, floats and basic chocolate or butterscotch sauces. Her ambition is to create a "hip and funky" shop featuring a wide variety of toppings and sauces, and some tempting signature menu items for those who struggle with such cosmic decisions as the ingredients in their sundaes. She's thrilled with the new design for her shop by well-known local architect **Andrew Reeves** of **LineBox Inc.** (lead architect for the St. Charles Market project) and his associate, **Jelle de Roeck**. Lindsay's most recent consultation with Andrew and Jelle included a mind-blowing virtual reality tour of the finished space: a high-tech preview that has fuelled her excitement about the new business.

Stay tuned: we'll have more details about Sundae School Inc. in our June edition. And keep an eye on the all-knowing social media or drop by The Kavanaugh to check on progress as the opening date approaches. Welcome Lindsay: our collective thanks for stepping into the breach to fill a crying need (well, maybe *want*) in our community!

**Big changes coming at pharmacy**

In the coming weeks, New

Continued on page 15

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Continued from page 14

Edinburgh Pharmacy manager **Matt Tonon** promises the *NEN* breaking news about a suite of new services. These services have dictated the design of the interior renovations soon to begin in-store. At the time of writing, the design team was putting the final touches on the planned facelift, working toward a completion target in early summer. Matt stresses that business disruptions will be minimal: work will take place section-by-section and even overnight. We hope to bring you all the details, including photos of the interior upgrades, in our June edition.

Shoppers will have noted, perhaps with relief, that the monitored parking system at the Crichton Street lot was removed after an initial two-month trial. It has been replaced by a combined regime of live monitoring and camera surveillance to restrict use of the perennially crowded lot to customers of the pharmacy, the Royal Oak Pub and the future Anytime Fitness facility on the second floor (see report above).

Matt says that, in response to the opioid crisis that has dominated headlines in recent months, the pharmacy now carries naloxone medication



**Lindsay Taub (and baby Bayley) will open Sundae School Inc. very soon.**  
*Photo montage by Louise Imbeault*

kits. First responders use naloxone as the most effective antidote to opioid overdoses. The cost of the kits is covered by OHIP, and Matt says that anyone interested in acquiring one should book an appointment to review the instructions with a pharmacist. Call **613-749-4444**.

#### Notes from Celadon Salon

On **April 20**, Celadon will host a celebration of Women Over 50. A local Jane Ireland representative will be on hand to demonstrate makeup techniques from the book *The Grace Factor: How to Look and Feel Your Best in Mid-Life*. Participants can pur-

chase the book at the event. RSVP at **613-746-3500**.

Celadon owner **Morna Patterson** is delighted to welcome esthetician **Shannon Dupuis** to her spa team. As an introductory offer, you can book a facial with Shannon at a 20 per cent discount.

Morna adds with relief that the spa's deep infrared sauna is working again! She invites one and all to a book a complimentary 30-minute session to experience the benefits of deep infrared therapy." For more information visit **celadonspa.ca**.

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# Grassroots proposals for making Crichton safer and greener

By Chris Straka and Joana Chelo

The quarter-mile track down Crichton Street from Beechwood Avenue to Dufferin Road has the length, width and alignment to certify as a drag-racing strip. Without street trees or other vegetation impeding the view of spectators, Crichton's long block has the potential to become Eastern Ontario's next motorsports destination, not to mention the potential to build bleachers

on the empty lot at 280–282 Crichton Street.

[Extract tongue from cheek.]

The 1,320 feet of Crichton Street between Beechwood Avenue and Dufferin Road is uncharacteristic of the streetscapes that define New Edinburgh.

Since the summer of 2016, we have championed three initiatives that, if implemented by the City of Ottawa, would calm traffic and improve the public realm along the anomalous

block. Preliminary dialogue between neighbours, City Councillor Tobi Nussbaum and staff showed promise for incremental improvements to the Crichton Streetscape.

On Feb. 21, the NECA Board passed a motion supporting the grassroots effort.

The prospective projects endorsed by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) include: 1) de-paving and vegetating the verge (the space between curb and sidewalk) with trees and perennial native plants;

2) narrowing the roadway at regular intervals with vegetated planters; and, 3) providing a pedestrian cross-over near the access to the Rideau River East Multi-Use Pathway.

One only has to look both ways while crossing Crichton at its intersection with Dufferin to see two starkly different streetscapes: one appealing, the other barren. Toward Sussex, a vegetated verge protects pedestrians from the flow of traffic, slowed by permanent features in the roadway that either pinch or bump drivers into an awareness of their speed. Along the track toward Beechwood, building facades stand in close proximity to the curb, pushing pedestrians across the hard-surfaced verge into the racing traffic.

NECA identified the traffic calming effects of narrowing points along neighbourhood streets in its Community Directed Traffic Calming Study (available at [newed-inburgh.ca](http://newed-inburgh.ca)). Since its publication in 1997, several of the study's recommendations have been implemented in other areas of the neighbourhood, but this most problematic block of Crichton Street has been largely ignored until recently.

Attempts in the last 20 years to reduce the speed of traffic on Crichton's long block include: the installation of a curb bulb-out in front of 281 Crichton St. and flexible traffic calming on the centre line near Dufferin Road. Although helpful, these initiatives have not sufficiently slowed traffic, nor do they effectively protect pedestrians along the whole length of the block. Naturally, the most effective traffic calming solution has proven to be the high snowbanks that appear.

Each of the Crichton Street improvement initiatives currently proposed respond directly or in principle to recommendations made in the Traffic Calming Study.

Recommendation number 10 of the study calls specifi-

cally for "Planter Boxes With Trees" on the long block. Five strategically located pinch-points were proposed for the south side of Crichton by residents, each protecting and enhancing a segment of sidewalk. Although the preference is for a widening of the verge into the roadway creating a 10-foot by 30-foot in-ground planter for a street tree (akin to the two constructed at Crichton's intersection with Keefer last fall), that vision may need to wait for the road's complete reconstruction at some point in the future. However, the installation of four-foot by four-foot above-grade planter boxes, complete with a street tree and other vegetation spilling over its sides, is possible as soon as this year.

Of the three initiatives, the de-paving and vegetating of the verge on the north side of Crichton has been confirmed and the south side is likely to go ahead this spring. Construction last fall under the north sidewalk and verge was done to bury the electrical lines that will power the CSST operations in Stanley Park.

Efforts by Councillor Tobi Nussbaum and his advisor Laura Mueller have ensured that post-construction remediation to occur this spring will maximize vegetation, and replace asphalt where necessary with paving stones that are more permeable and aesthetically pleasing.

With the continued support of NECA, the benefits of street side vegetation could be extended to the south side of Crichton.

*Chris Straka has lived behind three different doors on the long block of Crichton Street in the last 10 years. He and his family currently reside on Dufferin Road. Joana Chelo is an active New Edinburgh community member who volunteers for NECA, NECTAR and CCC projects, as well as initiatives of her own that benefit the neighborhood.*



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# Many fun activities planned to take place at Stanley Park fieldhouse before playground renewal starts



By Debra Conner, chair, Crichton Community Council

This year was an interesting one at the skating rinks in Stanley Park. The rinks were up and running for all of January, closed for much of February due to the unexpected warm weather, then open again in March, as the

colder weather allowed us to open them again through March break. Thanks always to the dedicated group of hosers and rink attendants for providing such great skating surfaces for our community. A special thank-you goes out to the Clocktower Pub for providing hot chocolate for the skating season.

Hockey Day in New

Edinburgh on Feb. 18 was one casualty of the warm February weather. But despite being unable to skate, the kids still had fun competing in the skills competition and playing ball hockey. Thanks to all that helped out: **Paula Pincombe** and **Gillian Campbell** for serving up the hotdogs; **Jerry Turchyn** for serving up the music; **Sam Grabner** for designing the skills competition and **Caroline Matt** for the on-ice assistance in running the skills competition.

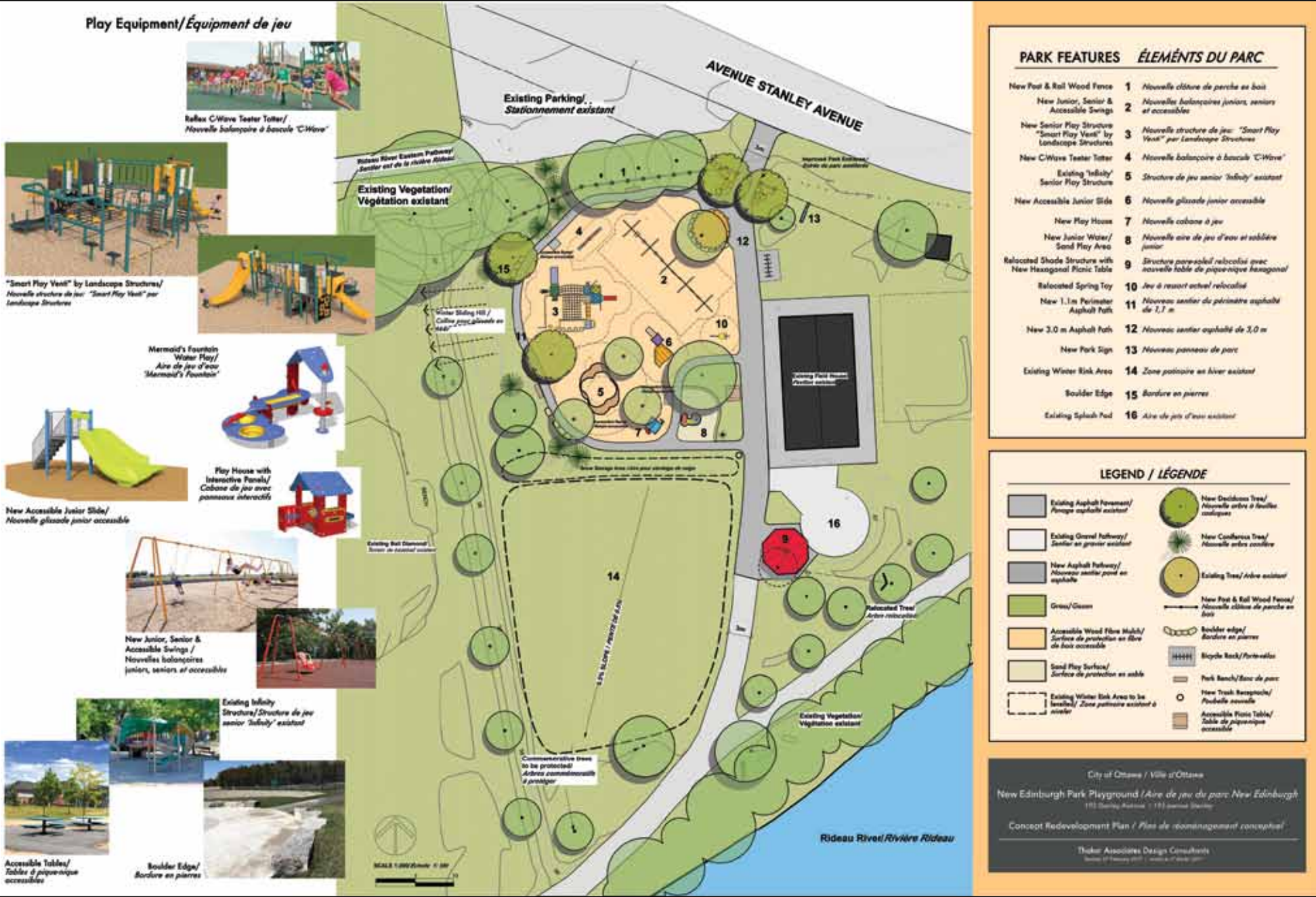
Planning for spring activities has begun. Just ahead of bike season, we're hosting a Bike Rodeo to train children from JK to 4th grade to ride safely. Bring your children to the Fieldhouse along with their bikes and helmets to learn the rules of the road, traffic signs and hand signals through fun activities

and demonstrations. The Bike Rodeo will happen May 6, at 11 a.m. And, while the children are busy, parents can have their bikes checked out by Mobivélo, a full service mobile pro shop, which will be on-site during the Bike Rodeo.

The CCC's Annual Plant Sale will be held May 13, starting at 8 a.m., just in time for Mother's Day. This annual fundraiser is a great opportunity to buy plants for your garden and hanging baskets for the mothers in your life, and to help the CCC continue to provide events for the community. Then on May 28, we will again hold our annual Ottawa Marathon Cheering Station and Picnic. Come out to cheer the runners as they pass through our neighbourhood and to perhaps help us (again) win Best Cheering

Station. Activities will continue into the afternoon, with a barbecue picnic, games and bouncy castle.

Last, but not least, the CCC is happy to report that the long-awaited playground renovation is scheduled to begin in May. Please see the accompanying photo for the final plan. Thanks to all that contributed ideas and input into the plan; we think the children will love the new layout and structures. Work is anticipated to take three months, during which time the playground will, unfortunately, be inaccessible, but we will be anxiously waiting to see it unveiled in early fall. In the meantime, follow its progress through our updates on our Facebook page and on our website: [crichtoncommunitycouncil.com](http://crichtoncommunitycouncil.com).



Stanley Park's playground renovation is set to begin in May, and finish in early fall.



## Pub patio and second floor bar coming soon

Continued from page 1

accessible main-floor washroom in addition to three new washrooms downstairs in the refurbished basement. And at the far end of the main floor as you enter from Beechwood is the spotless open kitchen where kitchen manager and chef Kevin Lararich helms an all-new kitchen staff.

As Louise Imbeault and I discovered on a sneak preview visit to the Royal Oak on the eve of opening day, Kevin L. is one of three—count ‘em: three—Kevins playing key roles in the Royal Oak Beechwood team. (So don’t just call the pub and ask for Kevin!) General manager Kevin Reteff and assistant manager Kevin Ray, the other

two members of the Kevin Triumvirate, look forward to meeting and hosting the community. Behind the shiny new main-floor bar, you’ll find a very familiar face. Terry MacLellan, a mainstay of the former New Edinburgh Pub, is back in the saddle, greeting her old friends from the ‘hood and rapidly making new ones.

Work continues on arrangements to create an extensive outdoor patio on Crichton Street for the summer season. The plan is to create a two-part patio: one section along the Crichton Street windows, and a second, larger area in the bulge-out on other side the sidewalk, which will divide the patio down the

middle. If all goes according to plan, there will be seating for about 80 patrons, giving a radical boost to street life at the Crichton-Beechwood corner.

### One Up Beechwood coming mid-April

The pub’s second floor was still a work in progress at the time of our visit, but is expected to be up and running by mid-April. General manager Kevin Reteff was kind enough to give us a tour of the unfinished premises which will house a high-end cocktail bar: One Up Beechwood. The new bar will be run as a separate operation from the downstairs pub—officially dubbed Royal Oak Beechwood—and will have a separate entrance off Beechwood. The plan is to offer a different menu: gour-



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Former New Edinburgh Pub staff member Terry MacLellan returns, running the bar at the Royal Oak.

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**nectar**  
is community.

Association  
Communautaire  
**Vanier**  
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Association



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Chef Kevin Lararich, general manager Kevin Reteff and assistant manager Kevin Ray.

met tapas-style plates, haute cocktails and an altogether

different vibe from the cozy corner house on the level below. One Up Beechwood will be available for private gatherings, including bachelor and bachelorette parties, and indeed is already booked for a government event in early May.

Kevin R. was lyrical about the view from the large second-floor sliding windows overlooking the park and the river. They catch the sunlight throughout the afternoon and frame lovely evening sunsets. The space will also feature long tables down the centre of the room, with ice wells to keep drinks chilled while you linger to socialize and enjoy some musical entertainment.

In one corner of the room, the flame in the large fireplace changes colour to mimic the exterior glass tower and mark special occasions: Christmas red, St. Patrick's

Day green. In front of the fireplace, the Scotch Lounge will cater to the single-malt set. At the far end of the room is a stage space and dance floor, beneath an expansive mural of the London skyline. Four new washrooms mean patrons need not brave the stairs when the need arises.

April 9 marks one year since the closure of the New Edinburgh Pub. The interior demolition followed swiftly thereafter. It's been a long year, but the finished product is worth the wait and promises to be a lively addition to our community.

A warm welcome to Royal Oak President and CEO Jonathan Hatchell, to all the Kevins, and to the rest of the team at Royal Oak Beechwood and One Up Beechwood.



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## AN IMPORTANT LETTER FROM NECTAR

As some in the community are aware, Nectar and its predecessor organization, the Crichton Cultural Community Centre (CCCC), have always been obliged to operate as non-profit, charitable organizations delivering programming and services for the community without any ongoing operational support from the municipal government. The only City-owned and supported facility in New Edinburgh is the Stanley Park Field House, which is not equipped to host the types of programs and services offered by Nectar, programs and services which are offered with City support in other communities throughout Ottawa.

Almost six years ago, the purchase of 200 Crichton was notionally considered to secure a home for community services and programming, but the process and terms for acquiring the building were simply too costly and onerous to overcome. Faced with the imminent collapse of our organization and loss of community programming when the building was acquired by The School of Dance, the Board worked with its partners at the MacKay United Church to acquire 255 MacKay Street (New Edinburgh House) as the main hub of operations, and to lease Memorial Hall at 39 Dufferin Street to house larger programming classes and events. The Board recognized that this was a costly rebuilding period for the organization, and that New Edinburgh House was really an interim plan to get the organization back on its feet for the next 5 years.

It is now a little over 5 years since that fateful time, and Nectar as an organization has made enormous strides since nearly folding. In addition to a thriving Afterschool Program, Playgroups, and Music Program, there has never been a more varied and extensive catalogue of Fitness and Leisure Programming on offer to the community. However, the transitional reserves the Board set aside for this costly rebuilding period over the past 5 years have now been depleted, and the organization has reached an important crossroads. After numerous discussions with City Parks & Recreation Staff, the City has definitively confirmed that its legal and regulatory framework rules out the possibility of providing operational support to New Edinburgh House, support that Nectar needs to remain financially sustainable.

In January 2017, the Nectar Board agreed to a forward-looking plan to address our current financial situation. The principal steps in our plan are:

**1. MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN:** Launch a new Membership Program to provide Nectar with a consolidated means to reach out to its base of users and stakeholders, and further bolster the Nectar community. This program is already garnering significant support from Nectar program participants and residents via a door-to-door campaign. For a token fee of \$10 single and \$25 family, members receive a monthly E-newsletter and event discounts, and perhaps most importantly, help Nectar continue providing quality programs to over 1000 people a year.

- 2. PROGRAM NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY:** Inform our facilities and staffing plan with the data/information obtained from the NECA-lead initiative to conduct a Community Program Needs Assessment Survey in the spring of 2017 to determine local residents' programming priorities and preferences.
- 3. POSSIBLE SALE OF NEW EDINBURGH HOUSE:** Revisit the need to retain New Edinburgh House in light of our current financial reality. Many in the community would deeply regret the loss of this welcoming, gracious house which has become a much loved community hub and home. Unfortunately, the lack of any roadmap towards ongoing operational support of this facility by City of Ottawa Parks & Recreation has resulted in the Board needing to take action in the coming months to explore a possible sale of this community asset. But before we move ahead with such a major step, we invite community members to join us in a conversation about the future of New Edinburgh House (see details below).
- 4. TRANSITIONAL MOVE TO MACKAY UNITED CHURCH FACILITIES:** Work in partnership with Mackay United Church to explore the possibility of hosting a larger share of Nectar operations within their facilities for a period of transition until a more permanent, sustainable home for our operations is identified. Discussions are underway and to date have been extremely productive.
- 5. EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR A PERMANENT HOME:** Kick-start the process of looking for alternative solutions for a new location for Nectar so that New Edinburgh has a permanent, financially viable community centre and hub. In addition to the residual equity in New Edinburgh House (the result of the generous support from the Nectar community and stakeholders), Nectar presently has \$250,000 of City of Ottawa capital invested in New Edinburgh House. The Board remains wholeheartedly committed to ensuring these investments made to our community remain within the community!

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## THE FUTURE OF NEW EDINBURGH HOUSE: HAVE YOUR SAY!

The community is invited to participate in a meeting on **Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm** in the Community Room at 255 Mackay Street to discuss this important topic.

If you wish to attend, please contact [info@nectarcentre.ca](mailto:info@nectarcentre.ca) or call 613 745 2742.

# Ottawa-Vanier federal byelection April 3

Voters in the federal riding of Ottawa-Vanier will vote April 3 to elect their new Member of Parliament. New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park, Vanier and Lowertown are all within the Ottawa-Vanier riding that had been represented since 1995 by Liberal Mauril Bélanger until his death in August 2016, which neces-

sitated this byelection.

Ottawa-Vanier has been electing Liberal MPs to the House of Commons since the riding's creation in 1935, but has never elected a female candidate. As three of the four main party candidates are women, the April 3 vote will be historic, whatever the outcome.

Ottawa-Vanier is just one

of five ridings across Canada holding byelections on this date. The others include Calgary Heritage, Alberta; Calgary Midnapore, Alberta; Markham-Thornhill, Ontario; and Saint-Laurent, Quebec.

Elections Canada has already posted voter information cards to all registered voters, telling you when and

where you can vote. Visit [elections.ca](http://elections.ca) for more details.

To vote you must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old on April 3, 2017. Bring your voter information card and photo ID with your current address. Acceptable forms of ID include a driver's license, provincial ID card or any other government-issued card with your photo, name

and current address. Your voter information card is not a piece of ID. Passports may be used as photo ID, but you will need another piece of ID that includes your address.

Voting Day is Monday, April 3. Voting places will open at 9:30am. Polls close at 9:30pm.

- Christina Leadlay

## Nira Dookeran, Green Party candidate



"I'm running for the Green Party of Canada because it is the only party that truly addresses the needs of our future generations," says Nira Dookeran, a high school teacher, mother, wife and homeowner who is active

in her community. She was previously the Green Party candidate in Ottawa-Vanier in the 2015 federal general election and taught at Rideau High School.

Nira's priority concerns are: climate action and sustainability, electoral reform, jobs and income security, and health care

Born in Winnipeg, Nira has lived in Ottawa since 1992, and has been a high school teacher with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board since 2000. Nira has a strong track record in bringing diverse people together to build consensus and get things done. She lives these values in her work with community associations and faith groups. She champions work-

ing together for a more sustainable way of living.

--

Je me présente candidate pour le Parti Vert parce que c'est le seul parti qui adresse véritablement les besoins des générations futures," dit Nira Dookeran. Nira est une personne active dans sa communauté, enseignante au secondaire, mère, conjointe, et propriétaire d'une habitation. Elle était candidate du Parti Vert pour Ottawa-Vanier dans l'élection générale de 2015. Elle a enseigné à l'école secondaire Rideau.

Ses priorités seront l'action sur le climat et le développement durable, la réforme électorale, l'emploi et la sécurité du revenu et soins de santé.

Née à Winnipeg, Nira est

résidente d'Ottawa depuis 1992, et enseigne au niveau secondaire à la commission scolaire Ottawa-Carleton depuis 2000. Nira a de solides antécédents en réunissant des personnes diverses pour établir un consensus et faire avancer les choses. Elle porte ces valeurs fondamentales dans son travail et dans les associations communautaires et religieuses auxquelles elle participe. Elle championne le travail d'équipe pour atteindre un mode de vie plus durable.

Contact: [Ottawavanier.greenparty.ca](http://Ottawavanier.greenparty.ca); [www.partivert.ca](http://www.partivert.ca); 613-421-2300.

## Adrian Papara, Conservative Party candidate



I am the only candidate who can hold Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Government accountable for their out-of-control spending, tax hikes and broken promises. Once in office, my first priority will be lowering your taxes and saving your hard-earned

money by supporting lower taxes on families, students, and small businesses.

I will commit to working with community leaders to keep our streets safe for our children and support affordable projects, making New Edinburgh a better place to

live and raise a family.

My background reflects our community. Born in Romania, and raised in British Columbia, I graduated from Simon Fraser University, and earned a M.B.A. from the University of Ottawa. I then worked in financial services and real estate marketing, and enjoying writing, narrated my Masters' experience in a series of blogs for the *Globe and Mail*. I have since worked for various Conservative MPs, most recently as the Director of Operations for one of them.

As your MP, I will work hard for all the residents of our great community. But to do so, I need your help. Join my campaign and help me serve you in Parliament. Please contact me at [email@adrianpapara.ca](mailto:email@adrianpapara.ca), and together we will give New Edinburgh a better option on April 3!

--

Je suis le seul candidat qui puisse tenir le gouvernement libéral responsable de ses dépenses, ses taxes outragantes, ses fausses promesses. Une fois élu, je serai un représentant infatigable, et votre champion de la réduction des impôts des familles, des étudiants et des petites entreprises.

Je m'engage à assurer la sécurité de notre milieu en collaboration avec nos élus municipaux, tout en supportant des projets accessibles qui assureront que Vanier demeurera un endroit de choix où il fait bon vivre et élever nos enfants.

Mon historique est un reflet de notre collectivité. Né en Roumanie, j'ai grandi en Colombie Britannique et complété mes études à l'université Simon Fraser et j'ai obtenu ma maîtrise en administration de l'université d'Ottawa. Depuis, j'ai oeuv-

rés dans les domaines des services financiers et du marketing immobilier. Aimant écrire, j'ai produit un narratif sur mes activités lors de mes études de maîtrise en créant une série de blogues pour le journal *Globe and Mail*. J'ai ensuite travaillé pour quelques députés conservateurs, mon emploi le plus récent étant celui de directeur des opérations pour un d'entre eux.

Comme député je travaillerai sans relâche au profit de notre collectivité. Mais j'ai besoin de votre aide pour m'y rendre. Joignez mon équipe. Faites-moi parvenir un courriel à : [email@adrianpapara.ca](mailto:email@adrianpapara.ca) et ensemble nous pourrions assurer qu'Ottawa-Vanier adoptera enfin la meilleure option dès le 3 avril prochain.



# Ottawa-Vanier federal byelection April 3

## Mona Fortier, Liberal Party candidate



Mona Fortier is a successful local businesswoman and a tireless advocate for families in our community. Born and raised right here in Ottawa-Vanier, Mona brings a proven track record of fighting for local jobs and improved social services.

As the Team Trudeau candidate for Ottawa-Vanier, Mona brings leadership in the areas of health care, education, job creation, and fran-

cophone affairs. Now she is committed to working with Justin Trudeau to grow our middle class, and to support every family working hard to join it.

Mona's roots run deep in Ottawa-Vanier, where she and her husband Olivier are raising their three children: Émilie, Miguel and Isabelle. After working with her mentor Mauril Bélanger on eight different campaigns, Mona Fortier has firsthand experience with the challenges that face middle class families every day, and she understands what it takes to create good jobs. Our community needs a trusted voice at the table that will be a champion for a stronger middle class, and Mona Fortier will never stop working hard to build a better future for families in Ottawa-Vanier.

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Mona Fortier est une femme d'affaires accomplie qui a démontré son leadership dans les domaines des soins de santé, de l'éducation, de la création d'emplois et des affaires francophones.

En tant que candidate de l'Équipe Trudeau dans Ottawa-Vanier, elle a démontré à maintes reprises son leadership dans les domaines des soins de santé, de l'éducation, de la création d'emplois et des affaires francophones. Elle s'engage aujourd'hui à collaborer avec Justin Trudeau pour renforcer notre classe moyenne et soutenir toutes les familles qui travaillent fort pour en faire partie.

Mme. Fortier a des racines profondément ancrées dans Ottawa-Vanier, où elle réside avec son époux et leurs trois

enfants, Émilie, Miguel and Isabelle. Elle est née et a grandi ici, et a travaillé avec son mentor Mauril Bélanger dans le cadre de huit différentes campagnes. Mme. Fortier a une expérience directe des difficultés auxquelles les familles de la classe moyenne font face chaque jour et sait quelles conditions doivent être réunies pour créer de bons emplois. Les citoyens de notre communauté ont besoin d'une personne de confiance qui les représentera et qui défendra avec vigueur les intérêts de la classe moyenne. Notre communauté a besoin d'une personne de confiance qui défendra les intérêts de la classe moyenne. Mona Fortier travaillera sans relâche afin de bâtir un avenir meilleur pour les familles d'Ottawa-Vanier.

## Emilie Taman, New Democratic Party candidate



**Committed to working hard for all the people in Ottawa-Vanier.**

A law professor at Ottawa University, Emilie is a former Federal Crown Prosecutor who fought against corporate tax evasion, human smuggling, environmental and fisheries violations, and fraud.

Like her parents, former Supreme Court Justice, Louise Arbour and former Ontario Deputy Attorney-General Larry Taman, Emilie is dedicated to public service.

With her spouse, criminal defense lawyer Michael Spratt, Emilie is the proud parent of three children, all born at the Montfort Hospital. Together Emilie and Mike host a popular podcast called "The Docket."

Emilie's skill and passion will make her **an effective advocate and a true leader** here in Ottawa-Vanier and for our entire country.

Make the Canada you want happen. Strengthen the progressive opposition.

On April 3 :

- vote for someone who will **stand up for everyone**, not just the well connected
- vote for someone who will **push back against Trump's policies and Trump-style politics** the Conservatives are using
- vote for the best candidate to **hold our government to their commitments** to build a fair and inclusive Canada

**Vote for Emilie Taman. A true leader for Ottawa**

--

**Prête à travailler sans relâche pour tous les gens d'Ottawa-Vanier.**

Professeure de droit à l'Université d'Ottawa, Emilie est une ancienne procureure de

la Couronne fédérale chargée de la poursuite d'infractions comme l'évasion fiscale, le trafic humain, les violations en matière de pêche et d'environnement et la fraude.

Comme ses parents, l'ancienne juge de la Cour suprême, Louise Arbour, et l'ancien sous-procureur général de l'Ontario, Larry Taman, Emilie consacre sa vie au service public.

Avez son conjoint, Michael Spratt, avocat de la défense, Emilie a une famille de trois enfants tous nés à l'hôpital Montfort. Ensemble, Emilie et Mike animent un balado populaire appelé The Docket.

Les compétences et la passion d'Emilie feront d'elle **une excellente leader** pour

Ottawa-Vanier et pour le pays entier.

Pour avoir le pays que vous voulez. Renforcez l'opposition progressiste

Le 3 avril prochain,

- Votez pour celle qui va **travailler pour tous les citoyens**, pas seulement pour les amis du pouvoir
- Votez pour celle qui va **s'opposer aux politiques de Trump importées par les conservateurs** ici au pays
- Votez pour celle qui va **forcer le gouvernement à honorer ses engagements** pour bâtir un pays plus juste et plus inclusif

**Votez pour Emilie Taman. Votre leader pour Ottawa-Vanier**

New Edinburgh News asked the four main candidates to submit short pieces about themselves, their parties and their issues. After our deadline, on March 15, Elections Canada issued the final list of seven candidates.

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number
Nira Dookeran	Green Party of Canada	613-421-2300
Mona Fortier	Liberal Party of Canada	613-216-2650
Adrian Papara	Conservative Party of Canada	613-701-0109
Emilie Taman	New Democratic Party of Canada	613-700-1902
John "The Engineer" Turmel	independent	519-753-5122
Christina Wilson	independent	613-800-8649
Damien Wilson	Libertarian Party of Canada	613-366-3431



# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

As I write in mid-March, we are only now beginning to emerge from a roller coaster of a winter, with extended periods of unseasonable warmth, punctuated by blasts of bitter cold, high winds and heavy snow. Not surprisingly, the spring migration seems to have been slow starting, but by the time this paper is in circulation, it should be moving ahead full throttle as the early nesters return to our area.

Much as I look forward to the influx of returning migrants, I feel a special affection for the hardy crew that braved the winter with us, often brightening a cold gray day with a splash of colour or a cheerful cheep. The companionable presence of bustling **black-capped chickadees**, dazzling **Northern cardinals** and babbling groups of **house-** and **goldfinches** has done much to relieve the tedium of the long, dark season. This year's bumper crop of overwintering **American robins** was another bright spot on the winter landscape, and judging by their ample bellies, food supplies must have been abundant despite the harsh conditions.

Not long ago, **Northern cardinals** were a relative rarity in much of this province, and spotting one of these beauties was cause for intense excitement. Over the past few decades, however, the population in our region has grown exponentially as the cardinal's range steadily expanded north. This sociable species thrives close to human habitation and has flourished alongside urban and suburban development, profiting from the profusion of well-stocked backyard feeding stations.

Cardinals are now such so ubiquitous that we take them for granted, scarcely noticing the brilliant perfection of their plumage or the beauty of their song. But in the depths of winter, they're more likely to catch our eye, standing out as bright red splashes against a snowy landscape. They seem even more dazzling than at other times of the year. As it turns out, they

are at their most brilliant in late winter. When a cardinal grows new plumage after the fall moult, many of its feathers are tipped with gray. As the winter progresses, these tips gradually wear off and the red becomes progressively bright, reaching its peak in the mating season in late winter or early spring.

## Murder mystery

Another year-round avian presence in our community, one that perhaps inspires fewer warm and fuzzy feelings, is the ubiquitous **American crow**. While crows are always around, in winter their presence can be overwhelming. They congregate in massive flocks to spend the nights in communal roosts. In the hours before dark, they converge on these roosts, shattering the stillness with a raucous clamor before settling into their sleeping positions.

In early February, I had several reports of such Hitchcockian murders of crows in the neighbourhood, one from *NEN* contributor **Elizabeth Gray-Smith** who witnessed an evening crow invasion at Crichton and Union Streets, when the sky was literally blackened with a noisy feathered mob.



Great Gray Owl in Flight.

Photo by Francine Ouellette

Spookier still, my husband **Ralph** observed a massive roost at the edge of the Beechwood Cemetery, where every tree branch in the vicinity was thick with squawking crows settling in at dusk. In his *Ottawa Citizen* article "It's Not Your Imagination: Crows Are Taking Over Ottawa" (Jan. 18, 2017) science columnist **Tom Spears** confirms that this winter's crow invasion has extended well beyond our community. It's expanded throughout the city, notably the Ottawa Hospital area, where a roost of up to 10,000 birds has reportedly congregated for several years.

Exactly why crows gather in such extraordinary numbers remains to some extent a matter of (educated) conjecture in the ornithological community. The leading common-sense theories include:

- **protection from predators** – the so-called "wagon train" theory of safety in numbers to guard against predators such as large owls
- **the "information centre" hypothesis** – the idea that individual crows can get useful information about fruitful winter feeding areas by tracking the foraging patterns of the fattest members of their group
- **the "patch-sitting" theory** – the common-sense notion that roost locations are chosen in the most favourable spots, close to large and dependable food sources such as landfills, and affording natural protection from the elements and from predators

In recent years, urban areas have increasingly become the habitat of choice for winter roosts of American crows.

Leading theories for this phenomenon include:

- **the "urban heat bubble"** – cities tend to be warmer than rural areas by a margin of several degrees
- **the dearth of owls** – cities generally have smaller populations of **Great-horned owls** and other large owls, the primary predators of adult crows and their young
- **the bright lights** – many roosts are situated close to sources of artificial illumination such as streetlights or parking-lot lights, which help crows—whose night-vision is poor—to spot sharp-eyed, night-hunting owls
- **the large trees** – many urban areas are still well supplied with large trees for roosting, unlike regions that have denuded by intensive logging operations

To learn more about this avian "murder mystery," visit [birds.cornell.edu/crows/crowfaq.htm](http://birds.cornell.edu/crows/crowfaq.htm).

## Spring's early migrants

At the time of writing, there is still little evidence of a surge in spring migrants, although a small group of **dark-eyed juncos** and **house sparrows** has just turned up in our garden. My scant birding tally to date has been largely limited to winter warriors such as **black-capped chickadees**, **house finches**, **goldfinches**, an occasional **purple finch**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **downy-**, **hairy-** and **pileated woodpeckers**, **common ravens**, **blue jays**, **American robins** and a lone **sharp-shinned hawk**. Despite local reports of significant numbers of irruptive species such as **bohemian waxwings**, eve-



Pileated Woodpecker at work.

Photo Amy-Jane Lawes





Cooper's Hawk at the Macoun Marsh.

Photo Mike Leveille

ning grosbeaks, common redpolls and pine grosbeaks, none of these was on my winter list this year. This may be because our daily rambles have been severely curtailed by treacherous walking conditions.

Activity will soon pick up considerably as milder weather and longer days draw the early nesters back to our area for breeding season. It's time to dig out our field guides and keep an eye out for the first wave of spring arrivals. These will include **red-winged blackbirds, common grackles, European starlings, song sparrows, Eastern phoebes, brown creepers,**

**rusty blackbirds, Northern flickers, fox sparrows, mallards, hooded mergansers, great blue herons, double-crested cormorants, common loons, osprey, turkey vultures, and raptors.** Lots of raptors: including **red-shouldered hawks, merlin, northern harriers, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, and American kestrels.** (The American robin is now around in such large numbers all year long that it's no longer a reliable "harbinger of spring.")

Find out more about which species to watch for, and exactly when they're likely to arrive in the area, at: [ofnc.ca/](http://ofnc.ca/)



Black-backed Woodpecker in Val-des-Monts.

Photo Amy-Jane Lawes

[birding/bbanestdates.html](http://birding/bbanestdates.html) and [mikeburrell.blogspot.ca/2012/04/guide-to-spring-arrival-dates-in.html](http://mikeburrell.blogspot.ca/2012/04/guide-to-spring-arrival-dates-in.html).

#### Reports from our readers

Our Victoria, BC birding correspondent **Vicki Metcalfe** joined a winter excursion on the shores of Oak Bay, where she recorded more than two-dozen species. These ranged from familiar names such as **hooded mergansers, common mergansers, mallards, common goldeneye, downy woodpeckers and northern flickers,** to numerous lesser known types in this part of the world, including **black oystercatchers, black turnstones, pigeon guillemots, harlequin ducks, pelagic cormorants, golden-crowned sparrows and Anna's hummingbirds.** Vicki also reported a returning wave of American robins, arriving in large flocks of a dozen or more from southern wintering grounds.

In a more recent expedition to Swan Lake, a small lake and wildlife sanctuary close to Victoria, Vicki's sightings included **chestnut-backed chickadees, white-throated sparrows, fox- and song sparrows, large numbers of red-winged blackbirds, bald eagles, turkey vultures, a red-tailed hawk, scaup, buffleheads** and several other returning migrants.

Since her move to the west coast several years ago, Vicki has been actively involved in the Victoria Natural History Society. She has recently become the VHNS representative for the **Urban Sanctuary Project**, an initiative spearheaded by the Robert Bateman Centre and a number of grassroots organizations. The aim is to promote the three local migratory bird sanctuaries and to raise awareness of the importance of wildlife protection. Learn more information about the project at [sanctuaryproject.ca](http://sanctuaryproject.ca).

Across the Ottawa River in Val-des-Monts, QC, **Amy-Jane Lawes** was delighted to spot a **black-backed woodpecker** on a recent stroll to her mailbox. The black-backed is an irruptive species much less common in our area than its familiar **downy, hairy and pileated** cousins. In addition to its signature black plumage, the male of the species has a bright yellow splotch on the crown of

its head.

In contrast to our neighbourhood where **Northern cardinals** are a dime a dozen, Amy reports that they are a rarity in Val-des-Monts, so she was especially pleased to spot a brilliant red male, singing lustily.

While the crowd of regulars at her feeders remains active, Amy has had no major winter **finch** invasion this year. She has, however, added a pair of **American tree sparrows** to her visitors' list, along with a **Northern shrike** in search (so far unsuccessfully) of a tasty **black-capped chickadee.** A visiting **barred owl** has had more success hunting in Amy's yard, pouncing on tiny shrews hiding in the snow beneath the feeders. To date, the only returning migrants to her area are **red-**



White-breasted Nuthatch.

Photo by Francine Ouellette

**winged blackbirds,** but that picture will soon change as the travellers arrive.

Over at the Macoun Marsh at the Beechwood Cemetery, **Mike Leveille** reports that raptors abound, with **merlin, Cooper's hawks** and a **barred owl** recently spotted near the feeders. And of course, large numbers of **American crows** are a constant presence at the marsh, as the cemetery has hosted an immense local crow roost this winter.

In an early morning puppy walk to Pine Hill in Rockcliffe, **Philip MacAdam** recently spotted what he initially thought might be a **great gray owl.** Recourse to his field guide appears to have overturned this theory, however. The great gray owl is an exceptionally large creature (up to 33 inches long with a wingspan of close to five feet), considerably larger

than the bird encountered on his morning ramble. It was likely a **barred owl**, a reasonably common species in our community.

Since I walk by several times each day, I can attest that **Phil's Avian Bistro** at Thomas and Alexander Streets continues to be a hive of activity, with **house-, purple- and goldfinches, black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, Northern cardinals** and assorted others busily consuming the top-of-the line fare at Philip's feeding stations.

While Philip's recent owl sighting was close-but-no-cigar in the great gray category, wildlife photographer **Francine Ouellette** did in fact encounter an imposing

**great gray owl** on a recent expedition with her new camera. Francine managed to capture a magnificent photo of the bird in full flight, crediting the "ideal natural illumination and a cooperative subject" for the splendid image. She has entered the photo in the National Wildlife Federation's National Photograph Contest (Bird Category) and it has all the earmarks of a winner. Good luck, Francine!

#### Send us your sightings!

The next six to eight weeks are among the most exciting in the birder's year, as avian migrants flock into the area to begin the nesting season. We'd love to hear what's on your birding list this spring. Please drop us a line: [janeheintzman@hotmail.com](mailto:janeheintzman@hotmail.com) or [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com).



# Learn new skills or improve your game this tennis season

By Sarah Baxter

As the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) gears up for its 95th tennis season, we are excited and admittedly revelling in our history. An Ottawa classic, this tennis club has been a gathering point for families in our community, and a veritable who's-who of Ottawa political and business leaders since the 1920s, brought together by their love for the game and the wonderful setting.

Founded in 1923 on land that is now Lansdowne Road (provided by and later purchased from the Southam family), the RLTC's four

clay courts, four hard courts, practice board and clubhouse are nestled amid tall shade trees between Cloverdale and MacKay Lake. As noted by one of our reviewers on our Facebook page, "just point your bike in the direction of the lake and head out for tennis."

At the club, players of any level can choose from group clinics, lessons with our club pros, round robins and tournaments. And for decades, parents have trusted the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club to help their children develop tennis fundamentals and a lifelong passion for tennis.

The spring Junior After-School Tennis program begins May 15 and runs for six weeks. And back for the summer is coach **Jack Warren**. He'll be running the very popular weekly summer tennis camps starting June 26. Registration is open to junior members and non-members. For more information on programs, email [juniopro@rltennis.ca](mailto:juniopro@rltennis.ca) and to register, visit [rltennis.ca](http://rltennis.ca).

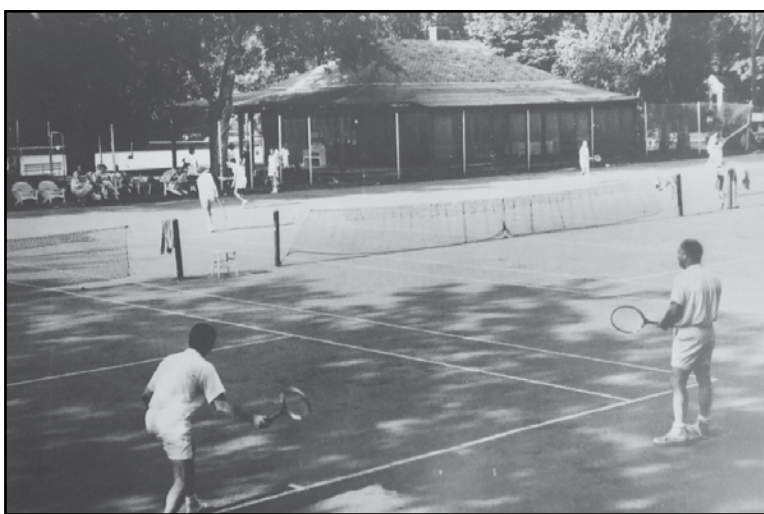
With all this tennis on the courts, there's a plenty of friendship and fun at the club for all. This is where the memories kick in.

There's the annual Diplomatic Tournament in which Club members battle the Diplomats for the title, events such as Breakfast at Wimbledon, barbecue nights, tennis socials and more.

We invite you to join us at the club today and be tempted by the benefits of an RLTC membership. The annual Open House takes place this year May 13 (rain date May 14). Meet our Club manager **Elaine Courteau**, her staff and our Board, enjoy an organized round robin and learn more about our adult and junior tennis programs.



Fun times in the '90s with slightly younger versions of many current neighbours.



The club in 1964, the summer before eight courts and clubhouse were built.



The Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club marks 95 years.

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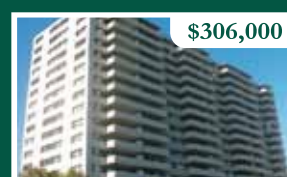
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# Bold and beautiful art projects coming to Quartier Vanier

**By Jamie Kwong, Quartier Vanier BIA**

A major focus our creative efforts this year will be our investments into additional beautification projects for 2017.

At the Quartier Vanier BIA, our approach will be big, bold and creative in the implementation of strategies to make our mainstreets more attractive and welcoming for all. We're always working towards creating an environment where creativity is welcomed.

Here are two exciting projects coming this summer to Beechwood Avenue and Montréal Road:

## Better Beechwood 2017

We're delighted to partner with Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, who spearheaded the Better Beechwood Project. Together we are investing more than \$10,000 in this beautification project for our community. This project aims to enhance public spaces to create more interesting and engaging places for residents to enjoy. It is currently in the concept phase.

Throughout February and March, we asked the public to vote on their favourite concept from among the following broad themes: Nature and the City, Brighten Up Beechwood, or Invention Innovation. Based on the community's input, we will put out a call for artists to submit qualifications. Following the Call for Proposals, a judging panel will select the winning art concept, coming soon to Beechwood Avenue this summer. For more information on Better Beechwood, visit [tobinussbaum.ca](http://tobinussbaum.ca).

## MOZAIK

The QVBIA is also very pleased to partner with House of PainT, Ottawa's largest urban arts organization, to bring MOZAIK to the community. MOZAIK is a mural art project and community event that will animate the heart of Vanier, bringing it to life through the eyes of contemporary artists celebrating Canada's 150th through themes of diversity, inclusion and community.

With the property owner's support, we are excited to pursue the creation of the tallest mural in Ottawa, right in the heart of Vanier at 261 Montréal Road. In January,

we sent out an Artist Callout for design concepts for this mural. The selection committee chose four short-listed mural design concepts from the submissions.

From March 17–30, we're asking the community to vote for their favourite art concept through our online survey at [vanierbia.com](http://vanierbia.com). We look forward to unveiling the winning mural concept for 261 Montréal Road in early April, and we invite the community to join us at MOZAIK. On **June 10, 2017** we'll hold a community event to unveil the tallest mural in Ottawa, and to engage the Vanier community in urban arts while celebrating Canada's 150th year.

Stay up-to-date on all the QVBIA and community news and events – subscribe to The HUB: [info@vanierbia.com](mailto:info@vanierbia.com).



*Images courtesy QVBIA*

The four short-listed mural design concepts for Ottawa's tallest mural at 261 Montréal Rd.



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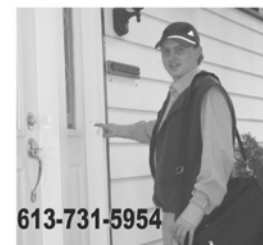
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# All-ages adventure at Children's Festival

By Joni Hamlin

Ready for an incredible family adventure? Join in the fun May 10–14 at the Ottawa Children's Festival! Visit LeBreton Flats and hang out with princesses, pirates, dinosaurs and other special guests. Any show ticket gives you access to our amazing free onsite activities: rock climbing, t-shirt printing, puppet workshops, crafts, activity zones, instrument petting zoo and so much more.

Have you heard about the New Edinburgh connection? The Lumière Festival's lantern caretakers will be there every day offering free lantern workshops.

In honour of Canada's 150th we have many Canadian performances in both official languages. We are showcasing two very special productions from Montreal at two off-site venues: "I on the Sky" at La Nouvelle Scene and "A Heart in Winter" at the Museum of History. (We're planning a free shuttle between these venues and the main festival site.)

Theatre, circus, dance, acro-

bats, puppetry—and let's not forget about music! Ashley MacIsaac, a Canadian legend, will be on stage every day.

Still not convinced? Think this is just for the wee ones? Think again! Check out "Wanted" by eVenti Verticali. Direct from Italy, for their Canadian premiere, witness acrobats perform from ziplines against a screen to a backdrop of music and images beyond imagination. This is visual, vertical comedy.

Oh and *shhhh* (you didn't hear it from me): Mega Bloks is taking over one of our biggest tents with a large activity space and is preparing to make a special announcement. So exciting!

We've packed in more fun than ever before. Pick a show or two and head down for the day. Don't worry about the weather: we have both an outdoor picnic area and a covered food pavilion. Pack your own grub or buy some tasty food from one of our vendors.

Seem overwhelming? Relax: I'll customize your visit to maximize your experience – [joni@](mailto:joni@ottawachildrensfestival.ca)



Photo by Robert Etcheverry

The May 10–14 Children's Festival will feature many Canadian performances, including "I on the Sky" at La Nouvelle Scene.

[ottawachildrensfestival.ca](http://ottawachildrensfestival.ca). volunteers! Visit [ottawachildrensfestival.ca](http://ottawachildrensfestival.ca) "about" section for info on The OCF is looking for [drensfestival.ca](http://drensfestival.ca) and see the volunteering.

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# Expert volunteers help make Rockcliffe book sale one of the best

By Carolyn Brereton



Photo courtesy Carolyn Brereton

(from left) Di Bethune, Sheila Nelles and Barbara Boxer sort through donated books at the Rockcliffe Park library.

Now in its second decade, the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale will take place April 22–23 this year—and how it has grown. In the beginning, a few thousand second-hand books, mostly fiction, were spread out on tables in the Community Hall by two volunteers. Today, the sale is a major undertaking, with more 15,000 donated books and audio-visual material covering tables that overflow into an outdoor tent. The event now has many as 100 volunteers working year-round.

The Spring Book Sale was the brainchild of Barbara Mirsky, the local librarian from 1983–2001. The aim was to raise money to purchase books for the new public library, which opened in the Village of Rockcliffe Park in 1994. Di Bethune and Sheila Nelles, both of whom still volunteer with the sale today, remember that first sale. It was just the two of them, working under Barbara's supervision, with some help from their husbands. Sheila remembers once being interrupted while pricing books by Sheila's husband Mike, who thought the ladies were doing it wrong. But both women were seasoned volunteers with many years' experience sorting, pricing and arranging books for the Rockcliffe Park Public School Book Fair. Back then, they would debate whether they should

charge 25 or 35 cents per paperback!

Another longtime volunteer, Barbara Barker—who still lends a hand in the library two afternoons a week—also has a history of dedication to the library and the Rockcliffe Park community. Barbara, a Foreign Service spouse, spent many years away on posting but was very involved during her years at home. She volunteered at the library back in 1970s when it was housed in a small room at the school; she also served on the Library Board. In those days, the Village of Rockcliffe Park was a separate entity with its own Reeve (Mayor) and Council. Sheila was an elected councillor and was also a member of the Rockcliffe Park Library Board. Like Barbara, Sheila continued to volunteer at the library until very recently.

Sheila recalls that the timing of the sale was somewhat random in those early days. "Barbara would hold a sale when enough books had been donated by residents and friends," she says. In the days leading up to the sale, Sheila and Di sorted and priced books at a desk in the librarian's office. Barbara Barker, who joined the team a little later, recalls it was very hard to argue with Barbara Mirsky: "She was definitely the boss." Everyone agrees, however, that without Barbara Mirsky

there would be no library. She was a driving force behind the campaign to build the new library and community hall.

Books run in Di Bethune's blood. In addition to her many years volunteering, she worked in a variety of bookstores for more than 30 years. She and her husband Don owned two used bookshops in Ottawa back in the 1980s, first on Kent Street and then on Beechwood next to the old Towne Cinema (now the pharmacy). Although Di no longer collects children's books, she is still the proud owner of a complete set of *Swallows and Amazons* books by Arthur Ransome, in their original dust jackets. Di worked for several years with Joan Askwith at The Bookery on Sussex and at Books on Beechwood. She puts all that expertise to good use at the sale, where she oversees the Classics and Collectors' Items.

One of the biggest changes Di has seen in the sale over the years is in the quality of the books. "People don't keep books the way they used to. There was a time when people in Rockcliffe had huge, wonderful libraries, including leather books and we were given many of these." Today, the sale gets a lot of self-help books, for example, which Di doesn't care for personally but, as she acknowledges rue-

fully, "they do sell."

Today, the sale is coordinated by another leading light in the community: Jane Dobell. She and Joan Askwith started the Rockcliffe Park School Book Fair back in 1965, and she has been a literacy champion ever since. Jane's tenacity and leadership have taken the Spring Book Sale to the next level and it is now considered one of the best in Ottawa. This increasing success translates to major contributions to both the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library as well the broader library system. More programming and ser-

vices are being offered and literacy is being well served!

Thanks to the commitment of these dedicated volunteers, our local library is thriving. Thanks are also due to librarian Sonia Doyon and other library staff for their patience and good humour in dealing with the disruption associated with a steady stream of donations and very little storage space.

The Rockcliffe Park Library Spring Book Sale takes place April 22 from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and April 23 from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Rd.



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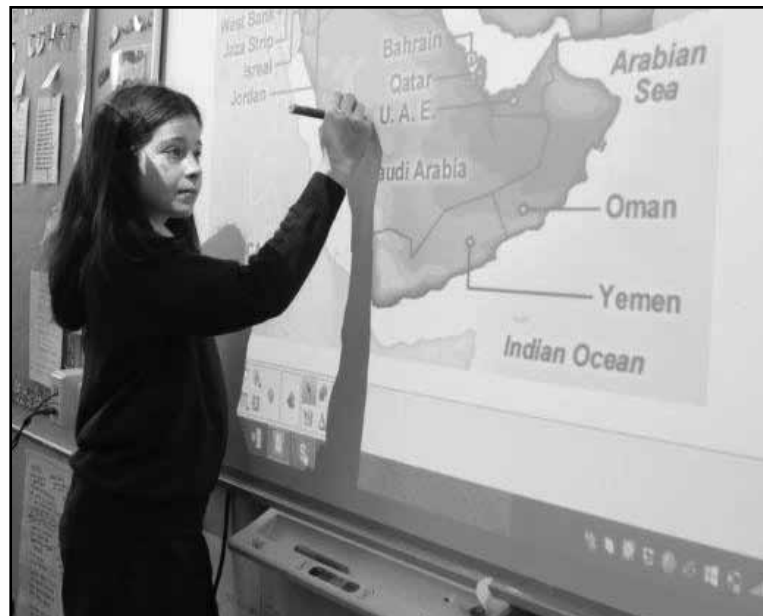
# Fern Hill School to offer grades 7 and 8 this fall

By Christine Minas

Originally established in 1981 as a preschool, Fern Hill School expanded to grade 6 in the 1990s. Now the independent school on Vaughan Street is expanding to Grades 7 and 8, launching a new Intermediate Program for 2017–2018.

Interacting with Fern Hill students, one quickly learns that they have been attending the school for many years, some from as early as age two. They're familiar with the unique environment, one that develops a foundation for learning in a caring atmosphere. New students joining the school for the Intermediate Program will enjoy small class-sizes with low student-to-teacher ratios, and enriched programs including extended French.

The New Edinburgh area includes many school, but no English-language middle school option. In 2017–2018, Fern Hill will help to fill this community need, offer-



Photos courtesy Deborah Gutierrez

Responding to a community need, independent Fern Hill School will introduce a middle school for the 2017–2018 school year.

ing students the option to remain in the neighbourhood and attend school close to home. For many, this will mean reduced travel time and more time for extra-curricular activities such as math and Spanish-language classes, Jiu Jitsu, dance, piano and drama.

Grades 7 and 8 represent an important transition between elementary and secondary school. Recognizing this phase, Fern Hill School will develop an Organizational and Study Skills component in the curriculum to prepare students for the indepen-

dent work required in high school. Overnight excursions throughout the year will also help students foster independence.

Beyond the school setting, the intermediate curriculum will include a community involvement component linking formal studies with the local environment. Grade 7 and 8 students will participate Ottawa Independent School Athletic Association tournaments and extended gym activities at the Ottawa Athletic Club, Corona Gymnastics and the Rideau Tennis Club for racquetball, martial arts, tennis, golf, and gymnastics.

While this curriculum extension represents a change, Fern Hill's key leadership program—the house system—will remain. Elementary and intermediate students belong to one of four houses named after Canadian National Parks: Yoho, Banff, Grasslands, and Terra Nova. House members collaborate to achieve goals and students remain in the same house as they advance academically, which provides a sense of continuity from grade to grade.

*Fern Hill School is located at 50 Vaughan Street. Visit [fernhillottawa.com](http://fernhillottawa.com).*



The Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation is hosting a Flea Market and Food Truck Social on May 20, 2017 at 1500 Alta Vista Drive AND we are looking for vendors!

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# Coconut Lagoon's top chef on the power of helping people

By Patricia Kirby

The Coconut Lagoon restaurant has hosted the Friends of Jagruti Benefit Buffet every year since 2011, and will do the same on April 24. Friends of Jagruti raises funds to help provide educational, medical and other services to needy women and children in Pune, India.

Coconut Lagoon's owner and executive chef Joe Thottungal supports various charities. In addition to hosting benefit dinners for Friends of Jagruti, Joe has supported Bon Appetit's hunger and poverty relief, Savour the Moment for the Children's Wish Foundation, and Taste of the Glebe.

Joe has won many awards, including gold at the invitational Gold Medal Plate competition in 2016. This year he won silver in the Canadian Culinary Competition. He was also featured in the Anne Desbrisay's widely acclaimed book *Ottawa Cooks*.

I sat down with Joe to find out more about this Kerala-born, Madras-trained chef.

## You support a lot of charities—why is that?

I'm just that way. Even when I wasn't making much money, I gave gift certificates to anyone who asked. Because you can't get anywhere without the help of people. So I'm happy to help when there's some connection with food or Indian cuisine.

## Why support Friends of Jagruti in particular?

I know Pune, where Jagruti operates, because I went through there often on the train from Kerala on my way to Mumbai where I began my career as a chef in India. Jagruti Seva Sanstha helps women and children there, and that helps everyone. If we empower women, it helps every household in India.

## Why is it important to help women in India?

Women are often dependent on men in India, who mostly run things. If the man doesn't take care of his family, then the women have trouble supporting themselves and their children. So empowering women helps improve life in every way. When I go on culinary tours, I always visit



Photo courtesy Patricia Kirby

**Joe Thottungal, owner and executive chef at Coconut Lagoon, will host a fundraising dinner on April 24 for Friends of Jagruti.**

places in Kerala to support the women who have gotten together to run small cafés.

## But that's likely not why you came to Canada in 1998....

I came because it was appealing—different than India and full of opportunity.

## Is true you introduced South India cuisine to Ottawa?

Thirteen years ago, when I started the Coconut Lagoon, I did a lot of work to promote Kerala cuisine. Some customers thought Coconut Lagoon wasn't Indian because the menu didn't have butter chicken or naan bread. Kerala is surrounded by ocean on three sides, so our cuisine is mostly seafood.

## What are your future plans?

I'm keeping the personal touch at the Coconut Lagoon. Cuisine is a human creation, and I want our food to be consistent.

So now I'm renovating the restaurant to help revitalize the St. Laurent area. For the moment I'm very happy with the results.

We are going to have a great event on April 24.

For buffet tickets (\$40), call or text 613-806-9642 to reserve for the 5-7 p.m. sitting or the 7-9 p.m. sitting. Or send a message via [friendsofjagruti.org](mailto:friendsofjagruti.org).

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# Ottawa Brahms and Harmonia Choirs celebrate the 150th

By Gretel Harmston

Joining in this year's festivities for Canada's 150th anniversary, the Ottawa Brahms Choir and Harmonia Choir of Ottawa will present a concert, "Canada 150" on April 30 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2345 Alta Vista Dr. It will include music from across the country, both serious and light-hearted, and featuring the premiere of a brand-new arrangement of Ontario's own "The Black Fly Song."

Ottawa Brahms Choir will present works by several of Canada's finest composers, including "A Prairie Song" by Howard Cable and "Paradise" by Eleanor Daley from Parry Sound, ON. Composer Ruth Watson Henderson's arrangement of the Ontario folksong "On the Banks of the Don" will delight the audience, as will Dr. Healey Willan's dedication "To Music – A Song" and "A Hymn to the Muses." French-Canadian works to be featured include Montreal composer Donald Patriquin's setting of "Ah! Si mon moine voulait danser."

Harmonia's artistic director Kurt Ala-Kantti says that Harmonia will perform a beautiful tribute to those from the Newfoundland regiment lost in the WWI battle of Beaumont-Hamel by Ottawa composer Matthew Larkin. The group will premiere a new work by choir member Quinn Redekop: "Moonset," based on a text by E. Pauline Johnson. Harmonia will also perform the choir's first commission "To Hope," composed by Kingston native Mark Sirett, on the tenth anniversary of its premiere. Also on the bill: the rousing BC anthem "Royal Hudson" and a new arrangement by Kathleen Allan of the Newfoundland folksong "Come and I Will Sing You," commissioned by the choir earlier this year.

Together the choirs will perform the much-beloved song "Un Canadian Errant," written in 1842 after Lower Canada's rebellion by Antoine Gerin-Lajoie, and arranged by Mark Sirett. A challenge will be the aforementioned world premiere of "The Black

Fly Song," originally composed by Wade Hemsworth, in a new setting for choir by Christopher Askwith, conductor of the Brahms Choir and composer-in-residence of Harmonia. The song is a reminder of Ontario's spring, when the beautiful winter with its clear air has disappeared and nature awakens. Finishing the concert in a celebratory style will be "Song for Canada" by Paul Halley, formerly of Ottawa, now residing in Nova Scotia.

A reception will take place in the church hall after the concert.

*Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, \$10 students, young people accompanying parents are free. Available at Leading Note at 370 Elgin, Compact Music 206 and 785 Bank, St. Thomas the Apostle Church Office (613 733-0336), and from members of both choirs. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Parking is free. Learn more: [OttawaBrahmsChoir.ca](http://OttawaBrahmsChoir.ca), 819-568-8169; [HarmoniaChoir.com](http://HarmoniaChoir.com), 613-833-1812.*

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# Local composer to conduct special Vimy concert at War Museum

By Robin Nelson

On April 9, Canadian composer Andrew Ager will be conducting *The Unknown Soldier* as part of a concert at the Canadian War Museum commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. “Vimy: A Commemoration in Words and Music” starts at 7 p.m. and is organized by the Friends of the Canadian War Museum, a volunteer organization that helps support the Canadian War Museum.

This has been a busy year for Andrew. He was commissioned by the Toronto Symphony, and by Ottawa’s Cantata Singers to write works celebrating Canada’s 150th anniversary.

I had a marvelous opportunity to listen to Andrew’s music at the Southminster United Church on Bank Street south of the Glebe. He occasionally spends a morning there playing on the historic Heintzman grand piano—an instrument once played by famed Russian pianist and composer Sergei Rachmaninoff.

**You live in Rockcliffe, so this seems like a long way to travel to play the piano. Why Southminster?**

I’m liking very much exploring Rockcliffe and Lindenlea and living on Rideau Terrace, especially dining at Arturo’s—it’s become the place where I do business. And you’ve got [organist and choir director] Parv Esghi’s great series over at MacKay United Church. I’m planning several concerts at a number of venues in the area.

Roland Graham, a colleague of mine, is the artistic director of the renowned Music at Southminster concert series. He has a huge audience turning out each week for his Wednesday shows: it’s quite something. Now and then I head down to spend a morning playing the piano before I have a coffee at the Black Squirrel Books and Espresso Bar. Sometimes one sees [Organist and Director of Music for Christ Church Cathedral] Matthew Larkin driving by.

**Tell me a bit more about your inspiration for the work**

Both my grandfathers were veterans of the First World War and my father was a veteran of the Second World War.

These wars were always in the background of our childhoods, as baby boomers. My grandfather, who saw action at Vimy, was also a professional musician. I wrote this piece more or less in memory of him.

This music and the words of *The Unknown Soldier* take the listener back to the time of the Great War and invoke the era and the sentiments of the soldiers who fought on both sides in that conflict. I find this theme haunting and I wanted to express it. It is a kind of nostalgia for me. Audiences at the premiere performances in Toronto last year were moved to tears.

**From what I understand, the April 9 performance of *The Unknown Soldier* involves local musicians handpicked by you. Who will be performing?**

The work is for choir, chamber orchestra and baritone solo.

Let’s start with the choir. It is about 35 of the top singers in Ottawa who are very dedicated to the performance. We have had a few rehearsals and it already sounds fantastic. We’re going to fill LeBreton Gallery with music. We have a chamber orchestra of wind and band instruments. And *lots* of drums. These are top-end freelance players in Ottawa. The baritone soloist, Gary Dahl, has a voice like a god and it’s going to fill the space.

The performance also includes five readers from the Ottawa area. One is Kevin Reeves, conductor of [local choral chamber ensemble] Seventeen Voyces, whose grandfather was a Vimy vet. Kevin will be reading from his grandfather’s war diaries.

A note of interest: the bugle that was played at the dedication of the Vimy Monument in 1936 will be played that night—it’s owned by Ottawa trumpeter Alan Ridgeway.

I am really looking forward to conducting this show.

**In addition to the musicians, who else is involved in the event?**

First of all, we have an amazing team putting the concert together, organized by the Friends of the Canadian War Museum. Before the main concert, OrKidstra will be playing in the lobby. We also have CBC’s Lucy van



Canadian composer and Burgh resident Andrew Ager.

Oldenbarneveld as the host and the eminent Canadian historian Margaret MacMillan will give a talk on Vimy to set the stage.

All of this in a space dedicated to the theme of historical conflict.

**The Museum’s LeBreton gallery is a large space filled with tanks. How will this setting influence the concert?**

It is going to add to the atmosphere of the piece. I could not think of a more appropriate

place for it unless it was at Vimy Ridge itself.

**Any last thoughts on the performance?**

The piece will be performed in November 2018 as part of the centennial of the armistice in the United States. Plans are also underway for a repeat performance in Ottawa. I think it’s going to become Canada’s go-to piece for Remembrance Day.

“Vimy: A Commemoration in Words and Music” takes place April 9 at 7 p.m. Following the performance guests are invited to visit the temporary exhibition on Vimy. Tickets are on sale through the Canadian War Museum Website (Adults \$30; Students \$20; Children Under 12 \$1). For more information call 819-776 8618 or visit friends-amis.org. The Canadian War Museum will also be offering programming and free admission on April 9.

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# Dale Smith curates “Mélange” at Saint Brigid’s

by Karen Bailey

Dale Smith recalls her delight, as a five-year-old child, in poring over the contents of a cardboard box filled with reproduced images of famous paintings. Her mother studied art history at Memorial University of Newfoundland and the images were from her class material. Today, Dale acknowledges: “The reproductions were terrible!” But as a child she thought them magical.

That early childhood interest in art developed into a passion, leading Dale to major in Art History at Carleton University. Though encouraged to pursue graduate work, she felt compelled to do something more hands-on in the field. Noting there were many artists looking for representation in Ottawa but a dearth of galleries, in 2003 the Dale Smith Gallery on Beechwood (at the corner of



New Edinburgh artist Dale Smith (left) curates a seven-artist exhibit at Saint Brigid’s from May 2–6. Works by Karen Bailey (right) will be part of the display.



Photo by Karen Bailey

Putman) was born. She and husband Bruce moved from Hintonburg to New Edinburgh as they were committed to living near the new business. For eight years, Dale represented a who’s-who in the Ottawa art scene. Though she closed the gallery in 2011, Dale and Bruce continue to live in their MacKay Street home.

Since then, Dale’s curatorial skills haven’t been idle. Her latest exhibition is “Mélange,” a celebratory display by Rectory Art House artists at Saint Brigid’s Centre for the Arts on St. Patrick Street in Lowertown. The exhibition kicks off with a vernissage on May 2, 5–9 p.m., and continues until May 6. All are welcome.

“Mélange” refers both to

the storied 150-year history of the mixed inhabitants of Lowertown and to the divergent work of the seven artists that create from the Rectory Art House on Murray Street in the present day: Tiffany April, Karen Bailey, Gwen Frankton, Sharon Lafferty, Jeannie Polisuk, Karen Rasmussen and Lori Victor.

In the Kildare Room, a gargantuan, stonewalled expanse in the basement of Saint Brigid’s, Dale has selected paintings, installations and video for “Mélange.” “One of my roles is to highlight the conversation between pieces without allowing one artists work to dominate,” she explains.

“Saint Brigid’s has a history to it. The space is atmospheric, the art shown here

is nestled in the context of the past and people can comfortably spend time in this place,” Dale says.

What does the “Mélange” conversation look like? Lori Victor, celebrating her recent MFA graduation from Vermont, creates environmentally themed installations that include video and found, repurposed and handmade objects. Sharon Lafferty balances a light-hearted look at the past with a more serious look at present day by presenting her fun take on old masters’ paintings alongside darker works. Karen Bailey shows images of guide dogs dancing and work from her recent residency on Fogo Island. Karen Rasmussen sets us afloat in a three-dimensional vessel that evokes our

essential navigational fears and desires. Tiffany April paints her fascination with reflection and psychological perception. Jeannie Polisuk’s paintings and installation work explores memory and identity through the use of the ubiquitous stuffed toy. Gwen Frankton explores the liminal zone in her water paintings: the ocean’s transient edge, a place that is both the beginning and the end, neither land nor sea.

Six years ago, visionary Patrick McDonald—owner of Saint Brigid’s Centre for the Arts and newly opened pub Brigid’s Well—converted the historic Rectory into artists’ studios. With affordable studio space at a premium across the city and as rare as hens’ teeth in the bustling ByWard Market, the launch of this initiative has become a magnet for Ottawa’s leading artists and designers. Best of all, McDonald has provided a space next door in St. Brigid’s for them all to exhibit.

Integrating the work of seven artists together is a tall order for any curator, but Dale triumphs with “Mélange.”

“Mélange” runs May 2–6 in the Kildare Room, Saint Brigid’s Centre for the Arts, 310 St Patrick St. (use the Cumberland Street entrance). For details contact [therectoryarthouse@gmail.com](mailto:therectoryarthouse@gmail.com), Facebook: **The Rectory Art House** or on Instagram: **therectoryarthouse**.



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# Alta Vista homes and Rockcliffe gardens to see and visit

By Elanor Brodie

This year's IODE House and Garden Tour, on May 27, concentrates on four homes in the post-war suburb of Alta Vista, and two fabulous gardens in Rockcliffe Park.

The first home: **French antiques in a modern setting.**

This new-build, designed by Gord Weima in 1999, sits on an acre lot with many mature trees, an in-ground pool and an adjoining pergola. Winding stone pathways showcase colourful plants and a small waterfall trickling into a koi pond. The house has two storeys and four bedrooms, with a curved staircase leading off a majestic entry hall. The house also boasts a large, step-down living room, a dining room that can seat 12 at an antique table, and a family room with adjoining book-lined study.

The second home: **Living inside out.**

This award-winning design by Wheeler and Associates in 1994 has it all—inside and out—including an attached “granny flat,” a recently enlarged front porch and a hot-tub in the back garden, protected by an overhang, where the family can enjoy a soak—rain or shine.

The third home: **a Dazzling reno.**

A few years ago, Cada Construction took over a problematic renovation and transformed a vintage dwelling into a light and airy home with all the bells and whistles,



The homes taking part in the May 27 House and Garden Tour.

including a magnificent wine-room in the basement. The treed lot changes over the seasons to provide an always-delightful setting.

And the fourth home: **a Bungalow transformed.**

This house looks like a 1960s bungalow from the outside, but has been completely renovated within. The tiling in the two bathrooms is up-to-the-minute, and is matched in quality by the detailing of the open-concept kitchen and living room.

This year's garden tours are in Rockcliffe Park and feature garden designers and landscapers Afsoon Kayvani and Robert Miller, who worked on these two beautiful gardens and will be present to answer questions and to explain the design.

Along with the houses and gardens be sure to visit

Rideau Park United Church: a central hub of our tour. Here you will find our Bake Sale where you can enjoy free lemonade or water, buy home baking and purchase ticket booklets. Here, you may also be able to enjoy the music of the Kiwanis IODE prize-winner in the Senior Violin category. Stay tuned.

The proceeds from this year's tour will be going to the Diane Morrison Hospice

at the Ottawa Mission.

*56th Annual IODE House and Garden Tour takes place May 27 from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and are available at [laurentian.iode.ca](http://laurentian.iode.ca). As of late April, you may also purchase tickets at Books on Beechwood, Mood Moss Flowers and Jacobson's Gourmet Concepts. For details visit [laurentian.iode.ca](http://laurentian.iode.ca) or call Jo at 613-842-5304.*

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# Two books on history of St. Bart's church coming May 7

By Janet Uren

In 2017, part of New Edinburgh history comes into focus with the impending publication of two very different books on the history of the Church of St. Bartholomew. Some four years ago, the parish—with the support of donors—hired historian Glenn J. Lockwood (archivist for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa) to prepare a major scholarly work as a finely bound, limited edition. The result is *The Parish of Saint Bartholomew, Ottawa, Canada....* At the same time, the church contracted myself, Janet Uren, to work with Lockwood to write a colourful, large-format, hardcover book for a general readership. The result of that endeavour is *Faithful: St Bartholomew's, Ottawa, 1867-2017*. Both works will be launched at the church in New Edinburgh on May 7.

St Bartholomew's, established as a parish in 1867, was the earliest of six churches erected in the village of New Edinburgh. It was the creation of some 15 Anglican families that settled here in the wake of 1866, when civil

servants began to move from Quebec City to the new capital in Ottawa. Strangely, even after nearly 40 years of life, New Edinburgh at the time had no church of its own. The new arrivals began to attend services in the local schoolhouse, given by a curate from Christ Church downtown. They wanted a church of their own, however, and for a while they even contemplated renting a disused brewery at Rideau Falls as a place of worship. In 1867, they were encouraged instead to accept a donation of land from community booster Thomas Keefer and a loan from the McKay family—founders of New Edinburgh—to build their church. It was a huge financial commitment for such a small group, even with the participation of the governor general at Rideau Hall. It was Thomas Keefer, however, who was key to the founding a new parish. As son-in-law to the late Thomas McKay, he was working hard to sell the land left to the family in 1855, and the creation of an Anglican church in the community would, he thought, encourage sales. So that is how it all began: with

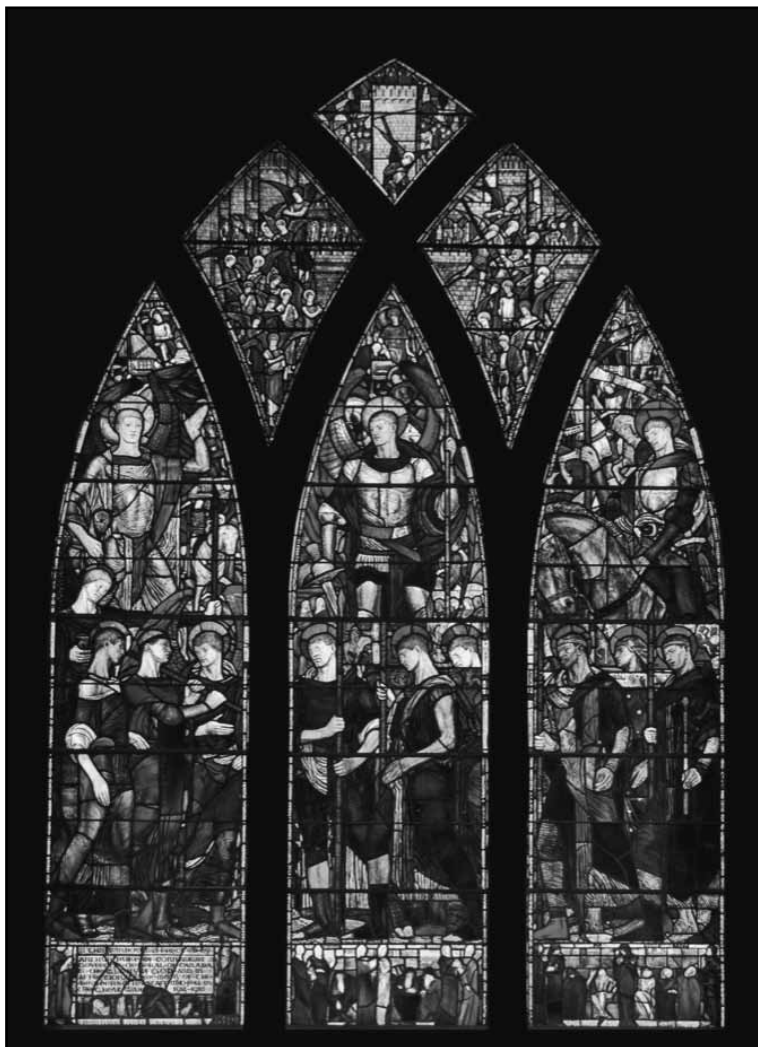


Photo by Brian Glenn  
Ten of Governor General Lord Connaught's staff died in the First World War, and he commissioned a glorious stained-glass window as a memorial from Irish artist Wilhelmina Geddes. Unveiled in 1919, the window shows the company of heaven welcoming the slain soldiers.

real estate.

The story of the church is a very human one, tracing the struggles of a community that over the years has faced schism, impending bankruptcy and the dreadful death of parishioners at war, and has somehow survived and even thrived. The stained glass windows and memorials in the church—including a window that is recognized as an internationally important work of glass art—are visible reminders of a community made up from every level of society, from royal princes and Supreme Court justices down the scale to carpenters and milkmen. Many of the families that built New Edinburgh—for instance, engineer Robert Surtees, physician and surgeon Ralph Bell, carpenter Henry Avery and members of the Powell family, including the beautiful organist Lola—attended this church. As well as their stories, the books contain some 160 and 230 pictures respectively, including many wonderful images from the 19th- and early 20th centuries and others taken especially for the history project.

The books will be launched at St. Bartholomew's Church (125 Mackay St.) at noon on May 7. Refreshments will be served, and the public is welcome. Thereafter, both books will be available for sale in the church office, Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am–12.30 pm. *Faithful* will also be sold at Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood Ave.

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# Small gallery continues to grow its core group of artists

by Elisabeth Arbuckle

Some things just go well together: Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, hot chocolate and marshmallows, art galleries and New Edinburgh!

Artists at **the Crichton Street Gallery** are keeping the momentum alive. The windows sing with colour and vitality, and the shows keep coming, as new artists are introduced to this neighbourhood gallery. The energy around the Crichton Street Gallery is growing, and the space, though small, is warm, bright and hums with a particular vibe. Clean and simple décor enhances the variety of works offered by the permanent artists. Visitors will find intricate glass works by **Jennifer Kelly**, delicate photography by **Mary Pratte**, mixed media and a touch of whimsy by **Elisabeth Arbuckle**, and internationally photographs by **Louise Tanguay** all on display.

Earlier in February the gallery hosted **Mary Ann Varley's** show, "My Manhattan Project." The imagery resonated with

many people that have experienced New York City at one time or another. They came to see the work and ended up sharing their own fascinating New York stories. Visitors spent time investigating all the details of each work, fascinated by location and technique, and many of Mary Ann's works found new homes. Mary Ann was pleased to join us, and has since agreed to be one of the gallery's permanent artists.

The gallery continues to grow its core group of artists. We're delighted to welcome **Pat Carboneau** to the group. As a retired psychologist living in Ottawa, Pat has been involved with art in various ways for many years. She has experimented with oils, acrylics, watercolour, collage, Japanese black ink sumi-e brush painting, and gyotako—the art of printing using real fish. Today, Pat works mainly with mixed media, encaustics, and collage in a contemporary or abstract style. She is looking forward to her own show with us later in the year.

**Barbara Saville's** "Oil and

Easel, Canadian Landscape Painting" was the focus show during the month of March. Barbara's work is alive with colour and texture. Her striking Canadian landscape paintings show a strong affinity with and love for the world around her. Barbara graduated from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Art and a minor in Graphic Design. Ten years ago she started painting again at the Ottawa School of Art with notable Canadian abstract artist Blair Sharpe. Barbara also brought her oils and easel into the gallery one day to paint onsite. A blank canvas transitioned to a beautiful forest and pond scene, and gallery visitors were able to watch the fascinating process. We hope to see Barbara's work in the gallery again!

What's next? The gallery is very excited to be featuring local artist and photographer **Harry Nowell**. Harry is an Ottawa area educator, fine-art photographer, assignment photographer and speaker. With close to 20 years' experience as a working



Photo by Barbara Saville

In March, Barbara Saville turned a blank canvas into a forest and pond scene, as visitors looked on.

photographer, Harry's work has appeared in *Canadian Geographic*, *Canoe & Kayak*, *Explore*, *Canadian Sportsman*, *Ottawa Life*, *Equinox*, the *Ottawa Sun* and the *Ottawa Citizen*, and he is a regular feature photographer for *Ottawa Magazine*. His show "Watershed" will run from April 7–29.

And our own **Jennifer Anne Kelly** will return with

a beautiful display of new glasswork from May 5–27, entitled "choices."

Learn more about the gallery, its artists and upcoming shows by going to **thecrichtonstreetgallery.ca**, visiting their page on Facebook, and by signing up for their informative newsletter. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.–4 p.m. every Saturday.



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# Bird expert will have short walk to Rideau Hall on May 12

By Elizabeth Gray-Smith

Richard Ian Guy Morrison (known to his friends as Guy) won't have to walk far to attend the much-anticipated Order of Canada investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall on May 12. A long-time resident of New Edinburgh, his front door looks directly onto the gates of the grounds, at the corner of Dufferin Road and Rideau Terrace.

Morrison is being named to the Order of Canada for his four-decade dedication to the study of Arctic shorebirds.

He found out about the honour in June 2016. While he has his suspicions about who nominated him for the honour, he humbly recounts getting the call from the Governor General's office. "I was trying to think of something coherent to say...it takes your breath away when you get news like that," he says. "And, they ask if you accept."

Guy is well known around the globe in the field of Arctic shorebird conservation. Having launched his career in ornithology at the

Canadian Wildlife Service at Environment Canada in the 1970s—a time when the organization was primarily focused on waterfowl and hunting—Guy was instrumental in expanding Canada's reach in research to include shorebirds.

"When I first started, there really wasn't a lot known about where shorebirds went during the winter," he says. "One of the large projects we did back in the 1980s was the South American Shorebird Atlas Project. This involved myself and my colleague, Ken Ross, basically flying over the coast of South America."

"It took us four years of surveys. We flew 28,000 kilometres in a light aircraft at a height of 150 feet counting shorebirds." Guy gears up for a laugh. "And we lived to tell the tale."

From the data collected, he and Ross proved that shorebirds are not, as many used to believe, distributed evenly during their migration north or south. As the duo discovered, the birds moved along a



Photo courtesy Guy Morrison

Long-time New Edinburgh resident Guy Morrison (pictured here in Alert, Nunavut) will receive the Order of Canada in recognition of his 40 years' researching shorebirds.

set chain of sites where they would refuel for the next leg of their journey.

"For conservation to be successful, you need to protect each link of the chain. If you

break the link in the chain, you break the whole thing," says Guy.

From this model of shorebird migration mapped out by Guy, the Western Hemisphere

Shorebird Reserve and Network (WHSRN) was born. Once a concept of international shorebird migration to protect the "sister parks" that act as migration light-houses along a shorebirds' journey, WHSRN is now a prominent non-governmental organization which oversees a network of more than 96 reserves stretching from Alaska to the most southern tip of Chile. It is this international conservation tool that Guy is proud to say will allow him to wear the Order of Canada pin.

A classic National Geographic issue, dated August 1979, dedicated to the Mysteries of Bird Migration shows Guy knee-deep in water, carefully removing semipalmated sandpipers from a net in James Bay. The six-page spread follows Guy as he bands the shorebirds, using a design that helped him record the date they were marked.

"The most numerous shorebird in the James Bay area are the semipalmated sand-

Continued on page 37

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Guy Morrison at Rio Grande, Argentina. Photo courtesy Guy Morrison

“Weighing about an ounce or 25 grams... they winter on in Suriname and French Guyana.”

“Back then, we could count half-a-million shorebirds easily.... There was some-

thing like a 1.1 million along the north coast of South America,” Guy says. “We’ve repeated some of those surveys in recent years and there were only 20 per cent of the numbers. That means an 80

per cent decline.”

That same Shorebird Atlas Project, which once served as the baseline of numbers of shorebirds, is now helping to calculate and identify the massive declines in many species of shorebirds over the years.

One of Morrison’s favourite birds to follow is the red knot, a shorebird that also flies through James Bay. He first met the red knot on an expedition through the middle of Iceland in the 1970s, before he entered the field of ornithology professionally.

“[Red knots] were doing quite well until the year 2000,” he recalls. “There used to be about 50,000 in Tierra del Fuego but in the next 10 years the population went over the cliff edge and dropped to 10,000-15,000.”

Even in retirement, Guy recently travelled down back down to Tierra del Fuego in



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January 2017, only to find those numbers hovering at 13,000. The red knot is currently on the endangered species list.

Guy believes that four decades of following the red knot and other shorebirds, of shining a light on shorebird migration patterns and populations, of ensuring the links in the chain of “sister sites” remain healthy, and most

importantly, of setting the stage of conservation data, will help us understand and support these shorebirds in the future.

“Being recognized by the Order of Canada, I am thrilled beyond measure. I feel honoured and humbled,” Guy says. “But to have the conservation field recognized in this way, it draws attention to environmental issues.”

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— OTTAWA-VANIER —

L'ÉQUIPE TEAM **TRUDEAU**

Autorisée par l'agent officiel de Mona Fortier.

«

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— JUSTIN TRUDEAU, CHEF • LEADER  
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# EVENTS CALENDAR

## March

**March 31 – All-candidates meeting** at Unitarian Church, 400 McArthur Ave. 7 p.m. Ecology Ottawa, Citizens for Public Justice and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa host an all candidates meeting on the environment with Mona Fortier (Liberal), Emilie Taman (NDP) and Nira Dookeran (Green). Adrian Papara (Conservative) is unable to attend.

## April

**April 7 – Ukulele Jam** at Heartwood House, 404 McArthur Ave. Doors open 6:30p.m. \$15. heartwood-house.ca. Heartwood House hosts a sing-along ukulele jam featuring Jamie Anderson. Bring your ukulele or bring your voice for an evening of musical fun. Ticket includes two slices of pizza, a song-book, and entry into a draw for a new ukulele.

**April 8 and 9 – Spring Sale** at Tea Tyme, 81 Beechwood Ave. 613-741-8360. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Tea Tyme hosts a

Spring Sale featuring books, cards, gifts and international snacks. All are welcome!

**April 9 – “Music of the Americas”** at St. Joseph’s Church, 174 Wilbrod St. 3 p.m. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, \$10 for students. Info: tix@uottawachoir.ca; uottawachoir.ca. The University of Ottawa Choir will perform works from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday and recognize our common history. The repertoire includes everything from madrigals and jazz to traditional songs and Indigenous culture.

**Holy Week services** at St. Andrew’s Church, 82 Kent St. Info: standrewsottawa.ca/easter. All are welcome as we celebrate new life in the resurrection. Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 6 p.m. for dinner and worship. Good Friday, April 14 at 11 a.m. for a service of music and readings. Easter Sunday, April 16, worshipful celebrations at 11 a.m.

**April 14 – Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*** at Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper St. Info:

thirteenstrings.ca. Thirteen Strings presents Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, a beautifully thoughtful way to commemorate the Easter season on this Good Friday.

**April 17 – Discussion on “The schools we want”** at Queen Elizabeth Public School, 689 St. Laurent Blvd. 7–9 p.m. Public School Trustee Chris Ellis will host a panel discussion and Q&A on “The schools we want and how to get them.” All are welcome to this candid discussion about working together to build bridges so all students gain the highest possible education.

**April 19 – Spring speaker event** in the chapel, Garry J. Armstrong Long Term Care Home, 200 Island Lodge Rd. 7 p.m. The Garry J. Armstrong Administration and Family Council host a spring speaker event for those caring for loved ones with dementia. Four guest speakers from The Royal will speak on hospital’s behavioural outreach support at Garry J., and geriatric assessments and behavioural support. Learn and ask questions. Refreshments provided.

**April 20 – Celebrating women over 50** at Celadon Salon and Spa, 373 St Laurent Blvd. RSVP 613-746-3500; celadonspa.ca. Celadon celebrates women over 50 with help from our regional Jane Iredale educator who will demonstrate make-up techniques from the book *The Grace Factor-How to Look and Feel Your Best in Midlife*. We will also be demonstrating the NuFACE mini facial toning device.

**Starting April 22 – Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea Soccer** at Rockcliffe Park Public School soccer field. soccer@manaiakoru.com. Register at lindenlea.ca. Registration for the 2017 season of Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea Soccer is on now until April 6. The season opens April 22 for PeeWees, ending June 15. Junior, intermediate and senior levels available. Coach and referee volunteers needed!

**April 22 and 23 – Rockcliffe Library Book Sale** at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Rd. April 22: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; April 23 from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. One of the area’s best book sales returns, with more than 20,000 used books and media for sale.

**April 24 – Friends of Jagruti Benefit Dinner** at Coconut Lagoon, 853 St Laurent Blvd. Info: friendsofjagruti.org. \$40; sitting at 5p.m. and 7 p.m. Reserve: 613-806-9642. The Coconut Lagoon hosts the Friends of Jagruti Benefit

Buffet, raising funds for educational, medical, and other services to needy women and children in Pune, India. See page 29 for details.

**April 27 – “Celebrating Canada’s 150th”** exhibit at Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, 100 Island Lodge Rd. Vernissage: 6-9 p.m. The Ottawa Garden Club presents an art exhibition, “Celebrating Canada’s 150th.” Twelve professional artists will display art in a variety of media including pastels, oils, acrylics, water-colours, encaustics, jewelry, photography and quilting. On through May 7.

**April 28 – Book signing with Amelia Curran** at Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood. 613-742-5030. St. John’s singer-songwriter Amelia Curran will sign copies of her new book *Relics and Tunes: The Songs of Amelia Curran*.

**April 30 – Canada 150 concert** at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2345 Alta Vista Dr. at 3 p.m. Info: ; 613-833-1812. Tickets: \$25 at door; \$20 in advance; students \$10, (young people accompanying parents are free. The Ottawa Brahms Choir and Harmonia Choir of Ottawa present music from across the country and the premiere of an arrangement of Ontario’s own “The Black Fly Song.” See pg. 30.

## May

**May 3 – Israel exhibit** at 50 Sussex Dr. Info: ncc-ccn.

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gc.ca. Throughout the year, 50 Sussex Drive welcomes 10 diplomatic missions to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. From May 3-25, Israel is the featured country.

**May 6 – Bike Rodeo** at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse. 11a.m. Free. The Crichton Community Council hosts a Bike Rodeo to teach children to ride safely through fun activities and demonstrations. For kids from JK to grade 4. Bring your own bike and helmet.

**May 7 – Launch of two books** at St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 Mackay St.

Noon. The public is welcome to the launch of two new books on the history of St. Bartholomew's: *The Parish of Saint Bartholomew, Ottawa, Canada* by Glenn J. Lockwood, and *Faithful: St. Bartholomew's, Ottawa, 1867-2017* by Lockwood and Janet Uren. Refreshments will be served. See page 34 for details.

**May 13 – Mother's Day Plant Sale** at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. The Crichton Community Council will hold its annual Plant Sale, just in time for Mothers' Day. Choose from

a great selection of annuals, hanging baskets, flats organic vegetables and herb seedlings. Funds raised help support the fieldhouse and CCC events. Rain or shine.

**May 27 – IODE House and Garden Tour** at various locations. 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. \$35. Tickets: [laurentian.iode.ca](http://laurentian.iode.ca). 613-842-5304. This year's tour concentrates on four homes in the post-war suburb of Alta Vista, and two fabulous gardens in Rockcliffe Park. See page 33 for details.

**May 28 – Beechwood Cheering Station** at 99 Beechwood Ave. 8 a.m.–

noon. Contact: [info@nectarcentre.ca](mailto:info@nectarcentre.ca). As part of the Ottawa Race Weekend, Nectar and the Vanier Community Association will organize a cheering station. The theme is Canada 150, so wear all things red and white, and bring your flags! Bring your family and enjoy morning coffee on us.

**May 28 – Cheering station and family picnic** at Stanley Park Fieldhouse, 193 Stanley Ave. 8 a.m. start. The Crichton Community Council will host a marathon cheering station. Drinks and snacks available. The family picnic

starts at 11:30 a.m., with a barbecue, drinks, snacks and games with prizes for children.

## June

**June 10 – A Taste of Spring** \$75. 5-8 p.m. Contact: [info@nectarcentre.ca](mailto:info@nectarcentre.ca); 613-745-2742. The Nectar Centre hosts "A Taste of Spring" – visit six New Edinburgh homes for six delicious food and wine pairings. One delightful evening! Tickets at Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood Ave.



Photo by Manny Garcia

The Clocktower Pub's Jackie Morphy, patrons Andrea Hughes and Roxane Pothakos caught up with Liberal candidate Mona Fortier (right) and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during a neighbourhood visit on March 24.



For the second year in a row, students from **Rockcliffe Park Public School** placed third out of 13 schools entered in the regional **Kids Lit reading competition** held at Ashbury College on Jan. 26. Principal **Shari Brodie** (who will be retiring in June) is a proud supporter of the competition, and grade 6 teacher **Alex Alexopoulos** has been team coach for the past two years.

## Condolences

Our thoughts are with NECA board member **Gail McEachern** whose partner **Bernard Blishen** passed away in early February, aged 98. Bernard received the Order of Canada in 2011 for his work in field of sociology, including creating the socio-economic index widely known as the Blishen Scale.



**Braden Malcolm-Lawrence** passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Feb. 18, just days shy of his 26th birthday. Braden leaves behind his best friend and father **Keith Lawrence** (former shopowner of A Better Frame of Mind on Mackay at Beechwood, which was lost in the 2011 fire), his dearest nana **Diane Malcolm**, his mother **Karen**, sisters **Blair** and **Taylor**, extended family and an extensive circle of friends across the country. He will be missed more than words could ever describe.



On March 14, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother **Aase Wöldike** (née Fenger) passed away peacefully, aged 94. She will be remembered for her strength, love of gardening, knitting skills and years of nursing. She had exceptional courage and many achievements, including helping others for decades as a nurse. Having moved to Canada and the Ottawa-Carleton district from Denmark in the 1950s, Aase leaves behind an extensive family who will miss her dearly, here and abroad. Rest in eternal peace.

Continued on page 40

## UrbanOttawa.com



**793 Hemlock Road - \$539,000.**

**Manor Park:** A perfect Urban Ottawa package! This home is truly "turn key". Sunny, airy, open spaces. Gorgeous vista through the south facing front window. Lovely treed, very private yard. Open concept living- dining room. Efficient kitchen with eat-in option. Three bedrooms upstairs and a family bathroom as well as a well finished lower level with family room, another full bathroom, laundry and storage. Loads of renovations and upgrades. A must see!



**711 Hemlock Road - \$699,000.**

**Manor Park:** Rarely available opportunity to develop and build in Urban Ottawa's Manor Park neighbourhood. There is a funky, retro, three bedroom house on the property which is completely liveable until you are ready for the next step OR, maybe think of doing a major renovation on a fabulous 100X116 lot. Fabulous community. Property is on the north-east corner of Hemlock and Birch overlooking the woods of the Beechwood cemetery.



**720 Lonsdale Road - \$899,000.**

**Manor Park:** Absolutely unique in Urban Ottawa and environs. This mid-century custom built Manor Park home boasts a two storey five bedroom home with a main floor, completely separate granny suite, originally designed as a doctors office. Totally rebuilt from head to toe in 2014, this home is turnkey. Perfect for an extended, multigenerational family or for someone who would like to work at home but not IN the home. As a bonus, you get a double garage, a huge oversized lot, and of course, the best of all, a wonderful bucolic community to call home.



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*Not the...***NEW****EDINBURGH  
NEWS***April Fools Edition***Clean sweep at 2017****Fake News Awards**

For a second consecutive year, *Not the New Edinburgh News* was the big winner at the annual Community (Not) Newspaper Fake News Awards ceremony, leading the pack in all categories, and earning special commendation from top judge **Lye N. Phule**.

In the all-important **Flagrant Disregard for The Facts** category, “this spunky little paper just blew away the other contenders,” enthused Lye N., “and when it came to **Creative Distortion**, they were second to none, even shaming some of the profes-

sionals in the biz like *Vixen News*.”

But the proudest achievement of all was the team’s record-breaking performance in Photoshop Fakery, a first for the *NTNE* and a personal triumph for our hard-working fake photographer, **Shut R. Fraud**. Judges singled out Shut R.’s stirring image of a beaming Mayor Jem Watson at the controls of a giant rock drill in Stanley Park for special commendation. Congrats to the whole team at our creative little local paper. You make us proud!

**New president vows to make the  
Burgh great again****By George Parkanyi**

In an unexpected turn of events last month, Cindy Parkanyi suddenly became President of the New Edinburgh Community Association, again showing anything can happen in the dark, murky world of volunteer community politics. And she’s vowing to “make New Edinburgh great again”.

Security is high on the agenda for the incoming president. “Terrorists are blowing up our rivers as we speak!” Parkanyi further vows to build a wall along Stanley Street to stop engineering-migrants and their trucks from illegally entering the neighbourhood.

In a flurry of executive

orders this week, Parkanyi has commissioned a new pub at Beechwood and Crichton “to create jobs,” directed the Minto bridges to be re-opened, stopped all traffic-calming initiatives—“my husband has slow-driver road-rage issues”—and banned snow in Spring. When someone pointed out at the last press conference that it had snowed heavily on March 24, President Parkanyi became visibly upset and insisted that was just “fluffy rain” and that she had no time for “fake news.”

Already there is controversy. Parkanyi has been criticized in some quarters for appointing an ex-British ambassador to her cabinet as “overkill”

for what is, essentially, a small neighbourhood association. “I need good people to make good deals for the people of New Edinburgh!” she retorted angrily in one of her now-infamous 9 p.m. way-past-bed-time tweets. Also, a shadowy Manor Park operative known only as “M” compiled and leaked a dossier in which was it is suggested that the Russians had hacked into the Moms’ List to interfere with the acclamation. Parkanyi vehemently rejects this notion as paranoid nonsense: “... It was LeBreton.”

*George Parkanyi is the “First Guy” of New Edinburgh, and an infrequent contributor.*



New NECA president: “Terrorists are blowing up our rivers as we speak!”

Photo by Derrick Stewart

**Burgh**  
*Breezy*  
**its**

Continued from page 39



Photo by Breathe Photography

Studio One owner **Craig Adams** and his wife **Leslie** welcomed daughter **Joy**, who was born Jan. 24. Arriving one month ahead of her due date, Joy weighed a compact 5lbs. Three-year-old big brother **Griffin** is thrilled with his baby sister.



Congratulations to **Quinn** and **Owen Hall** of Ivy Crescent for earning their black belts in TaeKwonDo in December. They have trained for over five years to reach this achievement.

Happy birthday to **Oliver Leadlay**, who turns nine years old April 9. Best wishes from your family and friends!

**DEADLINE: MAY 10**  
[newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com)

Congratulations to PTI owner **Pam Siekierski** who is over the moon about the arrival of her new granddaughter **June**, born March 10. June is the first child of Pam’s son **BJ Siekierski** and his wife **Jocelyn**.

Congratulations to local chef **Ross Fraser** and his wife **Laura Argument** who welcomed their first child, **Clive William**, in early February. Clive and his parents are thriving.

Best wishes to NECA board member **Phil Nowotny** and **Kelly Cobey**, who will soon travel to Phil’s hometown of Vienna, Austria, where they will be married April 15.

In celebration of its 25 years, English Language Tutoring for the Ottawa Community held a panel discussion “The Fabric of Society” and fundraising silent auction March 2. ELTOC would like to thank: Books on Beechwood,

Elmwood School and Jacobson’s Gourmet Concepts for their gifts to the auction. ELTOC is seeking volunteer tutors. If you can help, please call 613-232-8566 or email [esl@eltoc.ca](mailto:esl@eltoc.ca).

In collaboration with several close neighbours, Alexander Street resident **Andrew Fyfe** tapped seven maple trees in

the immediate vicinity in hopes of producing another crop of fine “New Edinburgh Gold” maple syrup. Between Feb. 19–25, Andrew was able to produce a litre of early-run syrup. The process slowed down during March’s frigid weather, but hopes remain high for an abundant harvest.



**Joseph Cull** and friends **Gloria Connelly** and **Peggy Cork** celebrated St. Patrick’s Day in grand style at the new Royal Oak Pub.