

April 2013

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Mayor Watson Talks Tough on Derelict Buildings

By Jane Heintzman

Over the course of nearly two decades, our community has become inured to the depressing spectacle of a lengthy stretch of vacant and now derelict buildings along Beechwood in the heart of our shopping area. As the surrounding small business operators know all too well, this unsightly strip is not only an ugly scar on the face of our community's "main street," but also a major drain on the commercial health of the area as

a whole, acting as a barrier to the growth of new businesses and residential development to enliven the Beechwood corridor.

After many years of looking on helplessly as the situation continued to deteriorate and local businesses struggled in this unchanging commercial wasteland, we were recently heartened by the first signs of hope when, thanks to the hard work of our Councillor

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Banner announcing the development at Beechwood and Mackay.

Photo: Louise Imbeault

Public Meeting on Minto Redevelopment Project

By Jane Heintzman

On the evening of Tuesday, March 19, a crowd of close to 150 area residents braved the snowy weather to gather in the St. Bartholomew's Church Hall to take advantage of the last opportunity for general public comment on Minto's Zoning By-law Amendment Application for the Beechwood site, prior to its consideration by City Council's **Planning Committee on March 26** and by full **Council on April 10**. The meeting was the first official City-sponsored public consultation on the Minto project, two months after NECA's extremely successful public meeting on January 16.

In reporting on this lively forum, it's worth noting at the outset that when the public consultation was scheduled, City planning staff had assumed that Minto's Site Plan Application would have been submitted in advance, thus allowing for public analysis and discussion of many of the detailed aspects of design, building materials, streetscape, parking and transportation—which were of particular concern to the community at the initial NECA-sponsored gathering on January 16, and on which many of the 40 subsequent submissions to the City were focused. In any event, Minto's Site Plan Application had not in fact been filed at the time of the meeting, so the majority of the issues raised by participants in the discussion will have to be revisited in greater depth by City staff and the Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) at a later stage in the process.

Background: City Staff Report and Recommendations to Planning Committee

As many of those in attendance at the meeting were

already aware, having received the Staff Report and Recommendations on the Zoning By-law Amendment Application in advance, **City planning staff recommended approval of the by-law amendments requested by Minto** on the basis that all were in conformity with the letter and spirit of the multi-layered planning framework applying to the site, ranging from the **Planning Act** and Provincial Policy Statement at a macro-level to the Official Plan, the Zoning By-law, the Urban Design Guidelines for Traditional Mainstreets and the Beechwood Community Design Plan (BCDP). Interested readers will find the full Staff Report and Recommendations, along with the rationale for these recommendations, on the community website at www.newedinburgh.ca.

The bulk of the significant amendments in Minto's application related to **building height, setbacks, and parking provisions**. The report found that the requested height increase to eight storeys, with a partial ninth floor, was consistent with the objective of the BCDP to "create a distinctive node at the corner of MacKay Street and Beechwood Avenue," and directly reflected the language of the Beechwood Avenue Revitalization Project of 2002 (a precursor to the BCDP) which called for "intensification...in the range of 4 to 6 storeys, with greater

height allowed at nodes."

Staff rationale for its approval of the overall design of the building referred specifically to Section 2.5.1 of the Official Plan, addressing Urban Design Compatibility. The section in question describes compatible development as building which is "not necessarily the same as, or similar to, existing buildings in the vicinity, (but) nonetheless enhances an established community and co-exists with existing development without causing undue adverse impact on surrounding properties." In supporting its conclusions with respect to the adequacy of the parking provisions in the Minto zoning amendment application, the report emphasized the City's strong commitment to the objective of encouraging reduced dependence on private cars, and promoting increased use of public transit, cycling and walking.

Meeting Summary:

Representing the City at the March 19 meeting were the two hosts of the evening, Councillors **Peter Clark** and **Mathieu Fleury**, supported by City Planning staff **Bliss Edwards** and **Josh White**. Minto's team was headed by **Brent Strachan, Senior Vice-President Housing**, accompanied by project architect **Prishram Jain, of TACT Architecture Inc.**; **Ron Jack of Delcan** transportation consultants; and **Miguel**

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Report from NECA Acting President David Sacks

Heritage homes and redevelopment are two related issues that have preoccupied the NECA board this winter. The March 15 fire damage to the beautiful 87 MacKay Street home of **Barbara Laskin** and NECA board member **Tim Plumptre** has meant not only a dire personal loss for two people who are pillars of our community, but a stark reminder of how fragile New Edinburgh's physical material can be. Our hearts go out to Barbara, Tim, and family—also to **Stephen and Judy Woolcombe**, who have been displaced from their house next door on Union Street since it was flooded by the water used to fight the fire. We wish both families Godspeed in making their recovery and in resettling, and we count our blessings that no one was badly hurt.

After the fire, the Burgh showed itself (as ever) a cohesive and supportive place. NECA took initiative to contact both families, as did NECTAR and the local "Moms" listserv and many other residents individually. Both families have spoken gratefully of the offers of help that immediately started coming in.

Twilight Zones

NECA continues to be engaged with at least two important local development proposals, which both involve rezoning requests. "19 Beechwood" is the name given by the developer (Minto) for its planned 157-unit, nine-storey condominium, with retail ground floor, at the Beechwood-MacKay fire site. Following the NECA-sponsored, packed

public meeting of January 16 (where the building plans were unveiled to us), a second, City-sponsored public meeting was held on March 19 at St. Bartholomew's Church. The March meeting was meant to discuss the developer's requests for relief from the zoning by-law—that is, (a) to present the slightly revised building plans and (b) to explain those aspects which exceed the zoning allowances and for which the developer must receive City Council approval. During the meeting's generously allotted public-question period, a number of local residents, including some current and former NECA board members, voiced concern over aspects of the plans that exceed the zoning allowances, especially the building's height (27.3 and 24.3 metres, versus the zoning's maximum 20) and the height of the Beechwood-and-MacKay street walls, which for the major part are not set back until the fifth storey (versus the zoning's required third storey). In a replay of January 16, more than one community resident commented that the proposed building would look fine at Tunney's Pasture or on Toronto's Bloor Street but that its height and showy use of glass would put it out of place in New Edinburgh. Other comments, not strictly related to zoning, criticized the parking-and-driveway configuration as likely to create traffic snarls. For fuller details, please see **Jane Heintzman's** report on Page 1 of this issue.

At this writing, Minto's

zoning-relief requests will be heard by Planning Committee of City Council on March 26; if passed (as seems likely), the requests will go before full Council in April. NECA is organizing several presentations to Planning Committee, to object to aspects of the zoning requests.

The second zoning-related proposed building—much smaller than 19 Beechwood but in ways more troubling—is at 61 Queen Victoria Street. Please see the related article by NECA's Heritage and Development Chair **Michael Histed** on the important issues involved in this (to my mind) unacceptable building proposal. NECA is preparing presentation for May 14, when this request goes before Planning Committee.

A strategic plan?

On other fronts, NECA's board intends some "housecleaning" this spring, seeking to devise a NECA strategic plan that might clarify our priorities and help address certain needs (for example, board recruitment). One discussion topic will be pros and cons of NECA doing some fundraising—a region where NECA has not previously gone. Our thanks to board members **Simon Ford**, **Tim Plumptre**, and **Paula Thompson**, and to cherished advisor **Cindy Parkanyi**, for spearheading this planning project.

From all of us on NECA's board, best wishes for a pleasant spring. May the snows of April weigh lightly on you.

Get Ready for an Escalation of "RUSH HOUR" on New Edinburgh Streets !!

A Guest Editorial by
Crichton Street Resident
Larry Delaney

The City of Ottawa has selected St. Patrick Street (from King Edward Ave. to the Vanier Parkway) as the sole recipient for infrastructure funding from the Province of Ontario for the coming year. If approved, reconstruction will commence in 2014. The formal announcement was confirmed recently by Mathieu Fleury, City Councillor for Rideau-Vanier Ward. When contacted, Peter Clark, City Councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward, commented: "I believe that St. Patrick Street is in abominable condition, and desperately in need of repair." Makes you wonder if he has never travelled on the streets in his own ward.

While most every street in Ottawa requires and deserves to be upgraded, one has to wonder why a thoroughfare that is used primarily by Quebec-based commuters as their main route to and from their place of employment in Ottawa and the surrounding area, receives this special attention. Not one of these non-resident commuters pays one cent of property tax in the City of Ottawa or is subject to taxation levied by the Province of Ontario, other than any taxable purchases made while in the city. There are few, if any, residential tax-paying addresses on St. Patrick Street (from King Edward to the Vanier Parkway) who will benefit from this proposed work. Quebec-based commuters will however be given a smoother ride for their daily journey.

Beware of vehicles with no license plates on their front bumper!!

There is an even greater concern for New Edinburgh residents. No doubt the St. Patrick St. upgrade project will proceed as planned... So, during the reconstruction, what will be the City of Ottawa's plans to divert the out-of-province traffic that would normally use that street? Surely the City will not allow additional traffic, to and from Quebec, to flow through New Edinburgh streets (mainly Crichton, Stanley and MacKay). There has for many years been an excess amount of this type of non-local traffic making use of these streets to commute back and forth from Quebec. This problem has already reached dangerous levels with Quebec licensed drivers (easy to identify since they do not have plates on the front of their vehicles), speeding through our streets and failing to make proper stops, etc. during their daily commute. The commuter traffic from Quebec starts at 5 am on weekdays with return trips from 3:15 to 6 pm. They really do put an exclamation mark on the term *rush hour* !!

Very little action has been taken by the City of Ottawa to alleviate or eliminate this ongoing non-resident commuter traffic problem on New Edinburgh's streets... Will the situation escalate further with the planned St. Patrick Street reconstruction in 2014? When contacted on the matter, Councillor Fleury's office commented: "...during construction, a proper re-routing of traffic will take place."

That, I am afraid, does not sound too promising for New Edinburgh residents.

NECA MEETINGS: All Welcome

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the **third Monday of each month at 7:30 pm**. No meetings in July, August, or December.

Our April and March meetings will be held at **St. Bartholomew's Church at 125 MacKay Street**, by kind permission of the church board and warden.

Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact David Sacks in advance to arrange scheduling. Our next meetings are:

April 15, 2013, 7:30 pm, at St. Bartholomew's
May 13, 2013, 7:30 pm, at St. Bartholomew's

PLEASE NOTE: May's date comes earlier in the month due to the Victoria Day holiday. Any changes to this schedule would be posted in advance on the New Edinburgh website, www.newedinburgh.ca.

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Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

61 Queen Victoria – Why All the Fuss?

By Michael Histed
Chair, H&D Committee

Originally built in 1873, the yellow house at 61 Queen Victoria Street is a fine example of an early New Edinburgh gable-end home, probably first used as a workman's cottage during the industrial heyday of New Edinburgh. The back yard is L-shaped and exits onto River Lane, which on paper is what has made this property attractive for developers. In 2012, the NECA Heritage and Development Committee was sent a proposal to redevelop this site and many months of discussions with the city and the developer (Doyle Homes) followed. This property highlights many of the challenges our neighbourhood faces when dealing with development. In this article we will try to unravel some of these challenges and why they are sometimes confusing to residents of New Edinburgh.

The Proposal

The existing yellow house at 61 Queen Victoria will remain. In the heritage district it is not permitted to demolish a home, so the developer proposes to renovate and update the house, but maintain its heritage look and character. NECA fully supports these efforts. The house is worth preserving for future generations to admire.

The part to which both NECA and the immediate neighbours object is the proposed new home to be built facing River Lane. Doyle Homes propose to build a three-storey modern home with access off the lane.

Supporters of the development may suggest that NECA is opposed to development in general, fights intensification at all cost, and is against anything modern. Nothing could be further from the truth; however, it is important to understand why we stand against this particular development and others like it.

Preserving the Heritage Conservation District (HCD)

In 2001, the City of Ottawa designated an area bounded by Stanley, Sussex, Dufferin and MacKay a Heritage Conservation District. It is an area that has been specifically

recognized due to its significant number of historic houses, churches and other structures, as well as its back lanes and impressive "streetscapes". It is really suggestive of a village with schools, shops, parks, tree-lined streets and children playing in the lanes—and all this within earshot of Parliament Hill. We do not have 20-storey high rises, nor do we have the monotony of the real estate typically found in modern developments in Orleans or Barrhaven. I believe for most residents of New Edinburgh, ours is a way of life worth preserving.

Having said that, does this mean we are against residents expanding or renovating their homes? Absolutely not. Residents in the HCD must, however, try to comply with certain rules as set out by the city. In other words, additions must be scaled appropriately to both the existing home and surrounding homes, as well as respectful of the materials typically used in the neighbourhood – no one expects a full replica of a nineteenth century home.

Why Can't I Build on the Lane?

The lanes are an important part of the historic fabric of New Edinburgh and were originally used for horses, carts and cattle. Since the 1800s, the lanes have obviously evolved for use by cars, bikes and foot traffic. They are, however, a very fragile part of our neighborhood. No doubt anyone living on the lane as I do experienced the frustrations of winter this year with the larger and more frequent snow storms, the large build up of ice and the reduced sightlines backing out of our driveways and garages due to the large snow piles. The



Proposed River Lane infill.

city, it would appear, could not keep up with the snow removal along the lanes in particular.

Of course, the lanes are no longer just used by residents. They are also used by city garbage trucks, Para-Transpo, courier companies, etc. They do an admirable job considering the narrow conditions they are faced with.

Adding parking and increased traffic along the lanes just doesn't make sense, not to mention the fact that it contravenes the HCD.

The City Does Not Seem to Object, So Why Should We?

The relationship with the City's Planning Department seems to be one of the most puzzling these days. First a couple of facts:

- The City of Ottawa designated parts of New Edinburgh as a Heritage Conservation District in 2001.
- Heritage is part of the planning parameters within the zoning and planning by-laws of the city.

You would think life would be simple. A resident or developer puts in an application to renovate or add to their property to the City and it is then assessed against the respective city by-laws and zoning provisions. The resident is advised accordingly. Sadly this is not how it actually works in reality.

One of the most confusing terms the city has right now is one called "a minor variance". Before I became involved in the H&D Committee I would have considered this no big deal—must be something so minor that it wasn't worth even discussing. I have since found out that this term can mean fairly major changes to the size and mass of a proposed addition that contravenes almost every by-law.

In the case of the proposed new home at 61 Queen Victoria, it would actually contravene so many clauses of the Heritage planning requirements (minor variances), the developer has requested a complete re-zoning that would lift the Heritage zoning completely. For some strange reason, the city planning department is supporting this application.

NECA has formally objected to the new development at 61 Queen Victoria.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and I make no claim to be the arbiter of beauty. However, history is part of the fabric of this community and, whether you like older buildings or not, they and the people who lived in them through the years should be treasured and celebrated.



61 Queen Victoria.

In closing, it was with great sadness that we watched one of the true treasures of the neighbourhood partially destroyed by fire. The owners of 87 MacKay Street, other-

wise known as the Frêchette House, have vowed to rebuild. We wish them well on the long road to reconstruction. All the best to owners Tim and Barbara.

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Fréchette House Fire: A Neighbourhood Tragedy

By Jane Heintzman

Less than a week after fire swept through a six-unit apartment on Barrette Street, a second devastating blaze struck the heart of our Heritage Conservation District in the early morning hours of March 15, ravaging the roof and upper storey of the historic **Fréchette House** at 87 MacKay Street. It plunged the lives of its owners, **Barbara Laskin** and **Tim Plumptre**, into a state of turmoil and profound sadness at the loss of so many of their treasured family possessions.

Thankfully, Barbara and Tim escaped the fire without injury, and managed to rescue their two cats in the process. While Ottawa Fire Services estimated the damage to the house at a minimum \$1 million, in fact the extent of the loss is incalculable, as the legacy of personal memorabilia simply cannot be replaced.

Barbara and Tim are well known in our community, and have lived in the house for close to 25 years, maintain-

ing and enhancing its splendid heritage character with immense care and devotion. In addition to its being their family hearth, Fréchette House has been the home base of both the **Sylva Gelber Music Foundation** supporting the careers of talented young musicians, and **Tim Plumptre and Associates, Inc.**, a consulting firm specializing in public policy issues.

Tim currently serves on the Board of NECA, and Barbara is a longstanding supporter of the work of the NECTAR Centre (formerly the CCCC) and an active contributor to its ongoing fundraising efforts. In response to the tragedy, many members of the community have chipped in to lend them a hand as they get their bearings and begin the monumental task of recovery.

As the simple gift of food is among the time-honoured expressions of care and consolation in times of crisis, arrangements have been made with two of our wonderful local

gourmet food establishments to provide some tasty prepared meals for Barbara and Tim, and for their immediate neighbours on Union Street, **Judy and Stephen Woollcombe**, who were also displaced by the fire when the interior of their home partially collapsed due to water damage.

The NECA Board has collaborated with **Tracey Black of Epicuria** to supply a generous gift certificate to Barbara and Tim, while Paula Thompson and the Moms' list network, along with several members of the NECTAR Centre Board, have made a similar arrangement with **Susan Jessup of 42 Crichton** to provide gift certificates for both displaced couples. The NECTAR Centre's **Melanie Davis** was also quick to offer temporary office facilities with an internet connection in one of the studios at New Edinburgh House.

The Fréchette House is perhaps the finest heritage building in New Edinburgh, and is greatly prized not only in our immediate neighbourhood, but in the heritage conservation community throughout the city. The splendid Gothic revival house was built in 1877 and for 40 years, between 1881 and 1921, it was home to one of Ottawa's premier literary couples of the day, novelist and writer **Annie Thomas Howells** and her husband **Achille Fréchette**, a poet and translator for the House of Commons. The house has special significance in the history of Ottawa's francophone community, and we are pleased to include in this edition a separate article on its importance in this context.

Heritage Ottawa President **Leslie Maitland** was among the first to arrive at the scene of



March 15 fire at 87 MacKay Street. Photo: Elizabeth Jorgensen

the fire that morning and made clear the building's importance from a city-wide heritage perspective, lamenting the catastrophic damage to its upper storeys, but expressing the hope that it can eventually be restored to its former glory. Both Ms. Maitland and Ottawa Fire Services spokesman **Marc Messier** were reasonably confident that the house is salvageable, despite the fact that the interior will need to be gutted due to massive fire, smoke, soot and water damage. While Tim and Barbara are also committed to restoring their home if at all possible, at press time, they were awaiting a report from the Office of the Fire Marshall before making definitive plans.

While the cause of the fire remained to be finally determined when we went to press, Ottawa Fire Services' spokesman Marc Messier reported that his office had ruled it accidental, quite possibly the result of an ember from the fireplace igniting a cedar shake on the roof. Our community is extremely grateful to the fire crew, who did a masterful job of containing the blaze and

dousing the flames, despite the challenges posed by the intense heat on the upper storey, and the sturdy construction of the interior walls.

Although the neighbouring house on Union Street was flooded in the process, causing the partial collapse of the upper floor, the tenants, Judy and Stephen Woollcombe, were thankfully unhurt, and it appears that most of their possessions escaped serious damage. The Woollcombes are currently housed temporarily in the nearby home of **Ken and Noreen Watson**, which was formerly the New Edinburgh Bed and Breakfast.

The thoughts of our community are with both couples as they begin the long road to recovery of their homes and their lives. Their heartbreaking loss is a great loss to us all, and we hope to find ways of supporting them through the rebuilding process. We encourage readers to keep an eye on the community website at www.newedinburgh.ca for further news of the aftermath of the fire, and ways to lend a hand in the recovery effort.

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Le feu ravage la maison patrimoniale Fréchette

Par Michel Prévost, archiviste en chef de l'Université d'Ottawa

C'est avec très grande tristesse que nous avons appris l'incendie qui a sérieusement endommagé, dans la nuit du 15 mars dernier, la Maison Fréchette, puisque le chic quartier de New Edinburgh cache peu de patrimoine bâti lié aux francophones d'Ottawa. En fait, la Maison Fréchette, située au 87, rue MacKay, s'avère une exception. En effet, l'élite de langue française de l'époque préférerait surtout s'établir dans la Côte-de-Sable.

Ce bâtiment historique, construit vers 1877, révèle bien l'influence néogothique de la fin des années 1870. En effet, le frontispice en sailli avec son pignon central couronné en bois et l'agencement des masses du bâtiment exposent fort bien

Achille Fréchette

Cette maison patrimoniale appartient à Achille Fréchette, un traducteur à la Chambre des communes, bien connu à Ottawa pour ses talents de poète. En 1877, Fréchette épouse la romancière Annie Howells, la fille du consul américain à Québec. Le couple publie des romans, des essais, des articles et des poèmes dans de nombreuses revues de l'époque. Achille Fréchette s'avère également très actif au sein du mouvement littérature francophone de la nouvelle capitale. On dit que le premier ministre canadien, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, fréquentait les lieux.

Le couple bien en vue dans la capitale loge dans la maison, qui est maintenant désignée monument historique en vertu de la *Loi sur le patrimoine*



La maison Fréchette avant l'incendie.

Photo: Musée Bytown

la symétrie de la façade. Les lucarnes et pignons de diverses grandeurs rappellent aussi l'asymétrie qui caractérise le style néogothique de l'édifice. Le bâtiment se distingue également par ses belles briques rouges et ses jeux d'angles en briques jaunes.

En réalité, il est bien difficile de résister au charme de la somptueuse demeure de ce quartier huppé de la capitale. Plusieurs la considèrent d'ailleurs comme la plus belle de la rue. Il faut dire que les propriétaires actuels en prenaient grand soin.

de l'Ontario, pendant quarante ans, de 1881 à 1921. Cette désignation s'avère importante puisque les travaux de restauration devront respecter les attributs patrimoniaux de l'extérieur de cette résidence située juste en face des magnifiques jardins de Rideau Hall. Cela dit, comme le propriétaire, M. Tim Plumptre, est un ami du patrimoine, la restauration devrait se faire selon les règles.

On peut joindre l'archiviste en chef de l'Université d'Ottawa au 613-562-5825, michel.prevost@uottawa.ca.

New Listserv for New Edinburgh!

Encouraged by the success of the popular "Moms" and "Lindenlea" listservs, there have been a number of requests that a new, general New Edinburgh listserv be created. Meant to complement and not replace the busy Moms' list, a few local residents banded together, with the support of NECA, to create two listservs: **New Edinburgh Announce** and **New Edinburgh Discussions**, both hosted by Google Groups.

In the wake of the devastating fire at Maison Fréchette and the re-development of Beechwood Avenue, it is important that New Edinburgh residents have easy access to the latest com-

munity news, and be able to discuss these issues with their neighbours.

New Edinburgh Announce, or <new-ed-info>, will be a low-volume listserv. It will not accept replies or posts from individual subscribers. The listserv manager will post announcements from community organizations such as NECA, the NECTAR Centre and the Crichton Community Council.

New Edinburgh Discussions, or <new-ed-talk>, will receive the same announcements as <new-ed-info>, but subscribers will be able to reply to messages and post their own messages to the list.

Subscribers need only sign up to one listserv, whichever format and/or volume they prefer. Community announcements will be sent to both, as well as to the Moms' list.

Invitations to join the listservs will be sent out in early April, if not late March. Those interested in subscribing can also visit www.newedinburgh.ca to learn more.

Thanks to Cindy Parkanyi, Dave Rostenne, Mark Baker and Paula Thompson for getting these groups up and running.

We look forward to chatting with you on New Edinburgh Discussions soon!

Learn to Grow Organic – in a Plot or in a Pot

Grow a little or grow a lot, grow in the earth or in a pot, but grow organic herbs and vegetables with us and enjoy the many benefits of organic gardening!

By Rob Danforth, COG OSO Supporter/volunteer

The Ottawa – St. Lawrence – Outaouais Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers (COG OSO) is increasing its many offerings to the people of this region. In addition to its established Growing Up Organic program (farm-to-school education), Farmer Outreach services (learning resources for organic farmers), and its many regional events (Eco Farm Day, Organic Farm and Garden Tours, and more), COG OSO is adding a new Senior Organic Gardeners (SOG) program to its roster.



COG OSO is also doubling its spring workshop offerings.

The eight **Organic Gardening in the City**

Workshops 2013 will be held through the month of April in a new location: the National Archives building on Wellington Street. Prices are reduced, discounts are available for students and seniors, package deals are offered, and registration and payment are easier. Choose, register and pay online through the COG OSO website: <http://cog.ca/ottawa/organic-gardening-workshops/>.

The workshops address urban organic gardening from planning and planting to harvesting and winterizing. Through the workshops, we offer information, demonstrations, and advice to the beginning gardener who would like to make a start, and to the experienced gardener who might like to try a new organic technique or solve a nagging garden problem.

Workshop contents cover in-ground gardens, raised beds and container gardening, and offer timely advice on the do's and don'ts to help urban organic gardeners make informed choices. Topics include using plants to protect plants, principles of organic gardening and soil management, vegetables and herbs in containers suitable for small spaces, backyard and community gardening (from

choosing seeds to storage of produce, as well as organic solutions to weeds and bugs), the benefits of growing organic herbs, the why and how of composting, and organic yard management.



Urban, organic vegetable and herb gardening is easy and affordable, and leads to many benefits: fresh and nutritious food, healthy activity, relaxing therapy and personal satisfaction—to name a few!

Get a pot or a plot and grow your favourite vegetables, herbs, edible flowers, berry bushes, fruit or nut trees—here in the city! Try it on a rooftop, balcony or patio, or in a backyard or community garden space. Improve the view, the fragrances, the tastes, the soil and your health—and do it all organically.

Please visit www.cog.ca/ottawa and explore the 2013 offerings provided by the COG OSO volunteers.

LAC ST. GERMAIN LAKEHOUSE FOR SALE

Former MacKay Street residents Ed and Amy Browell have purchased in Lockeport, Nova Scotia and are selling their 3 bed, 3 bath, 25 foot octagonal great-roomed lakehouse they designed on prestigious and pristine Lac St. Germain, one hour from New Edinburgh. \$585K or \$575 with this ad. **Call (819) 457-9941.**

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Derelict Buildings ...

Continued from page 1

Peter Clark, City Council agreed in February to petition the province for changes in the *Property Tax Act* to put limits on the 30-35% annual tax rebate available to owners of vacant properties. (A full report is included in the NEN's February, 2013 issue, p. 4.)

Now there is a second, and we hope significant, reason for optimism that change may be on the horizon. In early March, Mayor Watson made a forceful announcement that the City is planning a crack-down on derelict properties in Ottawa, including those which have graced our commercial landscape for some two decades. On Thursday, March 7, Mayor Watson, flanked by Councillors Hume and Fleury, held a press conference on Beechwood directly in front of 84 and 86 Beechwood, announcing in no uncertain terms that he intends to hold owners of vacant buildings in the city to the toughest property standards now on the city's by-law books. Required would be, at a minimum, for example, that wood siding be kept painted, roofs maintained in good condition, windows properly boarded up and the surrounding properties kept tidy and in good order.

The Mayor's tough stance on the issue was undoubtedly triggered by a recent libel action launched by the Lauzon Group against Councillors Fleury and Hume for their public allegations that the group had been derelict in the proper maintenance of its properties. A notable example is the collapsing heritage girls' school in Lowertown that is itself the subject of a court action involv-

ing the City and the Lauzon Group.

As most of us have seen at first hand, 84 and 86 Beechwood have long been a sorry sight, described in some detail by *Ottawa Citizen* columnist **David Reevely** as a spectacle of peeling stucco, bulging outside walls and discoloured plywood covering the windows. Reevely noted in particular that "it looks as though 86 Beechwood was

property standards, including possible new charges for permits to leave buildings vacant for extended periods. A recent *CBC Ottawa Morning* report suggested that other municipalities such as Hamilton, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba have had considerable success with much tougher regulations governing derelict properties (including provision for expropriation and resale or redevelopment in some intractable cases). We hope that City staff



Photo: Louise Imbeault

A sorry state of affairs on Beechwood.

guted, but the workers walked away before they tidied up" ("Derelict Building Battle is On," *Ottawa Citizen*, Friday, March 8, 2013, pp. C1 and C7)

In addition to the Mayor's announced resolve to ensure that existing property standards by-laws are enforced to the letter (with owners of derelict buildings warned to expect "more and nastier visits from city by-law officers," according to the Reevely article), City staff are now examining measures to further tighten up

are looking closely at these models in their current review. The proposed new rules are scheduled to be considered by City Council's Community and Protective Services Committee at a meeting on April 18.

The Mayor concluded his March 7 Press Conference with the assertion that: "No one wants a run-down property in their neighbourhood. No one wants a building that is an eyesore detracting from their own property value or business potential." Amen to that!

From the Desk of Mayor Jim Watson



The Older Adult Plan

In less than 20 years, the number of seniors in Ottawa will double. In that time, there will be more seniors than children under the age of 15 for the first time in our city's history.

This means even more seniors will be taking transit, visiting libraries and registering for recreation programs. It also means that our city will enjoy the priceless benefits of the skills and knowledge that come with older adults who volunteer their time in community activities.

Looking ahead, the key will be building an age-friendly city, one that puts issues that matter to seniors at front of mind. We need to set the right priorities to help older adults reach their full potential.

This is why the City of Ottawa has recently launched its Older Adult Plan, a set of actions that we will take to create a more age-friendly city.

It is the product of about two years of hard work and consultations with older adults and service providers. Our work began in 2011 when I hosted the Mayor's Seniors Summit at City Hall, which was a commitment I made in the last election. The event was the first in a series of valuable discussions about how the City can better serve older adults and how we need to plan for the future.

The Older Adult Action Plan commits the City of Ottawa to 74 concrete actions over the next two years in priority areas

such as outdoor spaces, transportation, housing, communication, recreation, civic participation and social inclusion.

For example, work has already begun on installing more accessible features in City facilities. We have also published an Older Adult Activity Guide to connect residents with recreation programs. You will soon start to see improvements made for pedestrian safety, access to volunteer opportunities and a wide range of other areas to enrich the lives of older adults.



Photo courtesy Mayor Watson
Mayor Watson launches the Older Adult Plan at the Council on Aging in Ottawa.

This is just the beginning, but we are on the right track. In fact, we were recently recognized by the World Health Organization, which added Ottawa as a member of its Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities.

If you are interested in reading the Older Adult Action Plan, printed copies are available by calling 3-1-1 or e-mailing seniors@ottawa.ca. You can also find out more by visiting ottawa.ca/seniors.

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Update on The Kavanaugh: Canada Lands Rockcliffe Airbase Redevelopment

Shovels in the Ground this Spring

By Jane Heintzman

In early March, Domicile Vice-President **David Chick** reported that the company had closed on the purchase of the property at 222 Beechwood from Rupert Kavanaugh, and had worked out all the site plan details for the project with the City. The underground storage tanks, pumps and fuel handling equipment have been removed. As soon as the natural gas line to the station has been capped, the City is expected to issue the demolition permit to trigger the launch of the demolition process in the coming days.

By the time this edition of the NEN is in circulation, David predicts that shovels will indeed be in the ground and that "work will be well underway when spring returns." As the construction process unfolds, Domicile plans to erect a more permanent hoarding around the site to replace the chain link enclosure now in place. There is as yet no news on the retail side, but David reports that the company's leasing agent has been busy fielding numerous enquiries about the commercial space, among them, we hope, expressions of interest from some of those businesses on our community's "Wish List"!

In early March, Domicile released two new two-bedroom layouts at about 1,000 square feet per unit as an option for prospective purchasers interested in a larger space than those originally on offer. The Domicile sales team is reportedly enthusiastic about the new configuration, which was created by merging three units

into two. In keeping with the company's promotional theme Bigger is Better, there are also even larger 1,300 to 1,600 square foot two-bedroom units available, ideal for partial downsizers who aren't yet ready for a dramatic reduction in their living space.

Kavanaugh's Garage
2013: Watch for an April 1 Opening at 145 Marier

In early March, **Terry Kavanaugh** reported promising progress in the final stages of obtaining City approvals for his new auto service and car detailing business at 145 Marier (at Père Blancs). The rezoning of the area to permit a commercial operation of this kind had been approved, and Terry was expecting to hear back from the City very shortly on his reapplication for an operating permit. If all goes as planned, the garage will be open for business by the time this edition is out in early April, so interested readers should keep an eye out for the bold OPEN sign when they pass the Marier/Père Blancs corner. Terry and his crew have been busily at work setting up the premises, and he reports that they have already received numerous visits from prospective customers dropping by to check on progress. You can still reach Terry et al. at the former Kavanaugh's service station number—**613-746-0744**—so feel free to give them a call for a first hand status report. We wish them well, and look forward to reporting on the launch of the business later this spring.

New Community Needs a Name

Put on your thinking caps and come up with a new name for the new community that will replace the old Rockcliffe Airbase. Submit your ideas by way of: clrockcliffe.ca in the next couple of weeks.

Here are some name selection criteria: the name must work in French and English; ideally the name should have the same spelling in both official languages; and the name could

- have clear links with Algonquins (Algonquin words are ok, perhaps about myths or legends)
- have links with the defence or aviation heritage of the site
- have a strong link with nature and the natural history of the Ottawa Valley
- be the name of a bird/animal/tree, stars or constellations
- be something in mythology to do with flight
- look towards the future
- be something pan-Canadian.

Avoid typical or generic developer-style or marketing-style names, or names appealing to snobbery.

Here are some name suggestions already received: "A Place for All", "Aviation Heights", "Aviation Park/Village", "... Barracks", "Billy Barker", "Billy Bishop", "Featherstone Park", "George VI", "... Green/Heights", "Heritage ...", "Hugh Campbell", "Jeanne Sauve", "Lancaster

Heights", "Lancaster Landing", "Montcalm", "Mont Concorde", "Montfort Heights", "Mynarski", "Northstar", "... on the River", "Place Aviation Place", "Place Cliffside Place", "Plateau Concorde", "... Point", "Rockville Heights", "... Station", "Un Trou de Verdu", "Verdu Village".

Can you do better than this? Submit your ideas by way of clrockcliffe.ca.

OPEN HOUSE - Everyone Welcome!

**Saturday, May 25, 2013,
from 9 am to 5 pm
Hampton Inn on the Vanier Parkway**

Come for a few minutes, an hour or come for the whole day—there will be workshops and displays with planners and designers to talk to. Input

your ideas and/or concerns.

There will be site plan drafts to critique and the new name will be revealed.

Also, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is establishing a tree nursery on the property this spring to grow local native tree species, which will be used in the final landscaping of the project. This year they are starting with one hectare and will add three more hectares to the nursery next year. They would like volunteers to collect tree seeds from native trees in your neighbourhood this spring. Trees such as maples (not Norway or Manitoba maples), ash, elm, oak, birch, basswood, white pine are good candidates. If anyone is interested let Roslyn Butler know by phone at 613-746-8037 or by email at butlerroslyn2@gmail.com.



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Annie et Germain Brunet

Books on Beechwood Buzz

By Jane Heintzman

The transition to new ownership at **Books on Beechwood** took place seamlessly at the beginning of February, following a joyous celebration at the store on the evening of January 31. Marking the occasion new owners **Brian Sullivan** and **Peter Dawson** were introduced to many of B on B's stable of regular clients from the neighbourhood. Apart from the installation of a new carpet and the removal of a couple of tables and a bookshelf, it's business as usual at the store, with a steady influx of book-loving customers still recovering from the near loss of this favourite haunt.

Jill Moll's B on B Book Club is not only alive and well, but also growing rather rapidly in its new location in the Penthouse of The Edinburgh Retirement Residence at 10 Vaughan Street. It meets at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Jill reports that there were more than 20 participants at a recent session,

including a number of new members; some of them from a slightly younger demographic than in previous years. While the discussion is unstructured, it is invariably lively, with the majority of those present pitching in to express their opinions on style, plot, author, character development and overall assessment, be it thumbs up or down. Ironically, according to Jill, the sessions are most animated when the book is not popular with the majority of members!

Although the details have yet to be confirmed, we gather that plans are underway to split the book club into two groups in order to accommodate the growing numbers in the community. To keep parties interested, and at the same time, sufficiently small to allow for active participation is quite the task. The second "splinter" group, which is expected to gather in New Edinburgh Square, would be led by **Antoinette** and would tackle the same literary agenda as the

first. Watch for details on the B on B website www.bookson-beechwood.ca, or drop in at the store for an update on book club plans.

Coming up on the roster for this spring are *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by **Edmund de Waal** on **March 27**; the Scotiabank Giller Prize Winner *419* by **Will Ferguson** on **April 24**; *Rules of Civility* by **Amor Towles** on **May 29**; and *Doing the Continental: A New Canadian-American Relationship* by **David Dymont** (with a Foreword by **Bob Rae**) on **June 26**. In the latter case, the club is planning a slight departure from its normal format. The author will be present at the meeting to collect feedback on the book as a basis for making revisions over the course of the summer for a revised edition to be published in the fall.

Another B on B tradition, **Story Time** for the younger set, may be making a comeback in the coming months, and interested readers are wel-

come to call Jill at **613-742-5030** or email staff@bookson-beechwood.ca.

Coming up in April is a series of **Book Signings at B on B**, the first of these scheduled to take place on **Saturday, April 13**, when B on B will host two back-to-back events. First up, **from 11 am to 1 pm** will be sleep researcher, psychologist and author **Judith Davidson** signing copies of her new book, *Sink into Sleep: A Step-by-Step Workbook for Insomnia*. The work is based on decades of research into the perennial phenomenon of sleeplessness, and for those of us who are chronically challenged in this department, it is a must read!

Later in the day, **from 1 pm to 3 pm**, author **Ray Rivers** will be on hand at the store to sign copies of his new work of fiction, *The End of September*. Is an imagined account of a Quebec sovereignty referendum in which the Yes side prevails, and the Quebec premier receives a strong mandate to begin negotiations with the federal government on terms for the separation of the province from the federation. With

the recent revival of parliamentary debate on the *Clarity Act* and the election of a PQ government in Quebec, Mr. Rivers' tale has touched on a timely topic.

The following week, on **Saturday, April 20, from noon to 2 pm**, author and meteorologist **Cindy Day** will be at B on B to sign copies of her new book, *Grandma Says: Weather Lore from Meteorologist Cindy Day*, a collection of 80 weather-related quotes that Cindy recalls from her grandmother, with an explanation of the science behind this traditional weather lore.

On **Saturday, April 27, from noon to 2 pm**, cancer survivor and women's advocate **Linda Morin** will visit the store to sign copies of her recently published book, *The Courage to Look Beyond*. Linda's harrowing experience with the disease, which resulted in her undergoing both a double mastectomy and a total hysterectomy within the space of a year, drove her to an active search for mental, and physical healing. Following her ordeal, a healing that she ultimately achieved came from a special course of intensive health at the Hippocrates Health Institute in Florida.

It was here that, after baring her scars to a room full of people, she came to terms with the loss of what she had mistakenly understood as the essence of her womanhood, and arrived at a state of self-acceptance and peace of mind. She hopes to impart to others in her position the lessons absorbed in her new book. Since its publication last October, *The Courage to Look Beyond* has garnered considerable attention from local media. Not only due to its arresting cover page on which Linda is pictured bare chested as a forceful expression of her new-found acceptance but also is a positive embrace of the physical changes occasioned by her surgeries.

On **Thursday, May 2, from 7 to 9 pm**, B on B will host a book launch, complete with refreshments for participants, when Ottawa-based mystery writer **Mike Martin** will be on hand with copies of the second work in his Sergeant Windflower series, *The Body on the T*. In case you missed the inaugural book in this series, *The Walker on the Cape*, set in Mike's home province of Newfoundland, the central character **RCMP Sergeant Winston Windflower** is a Cree Indian from a reserve

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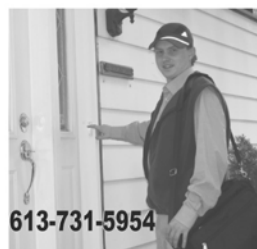
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in Alberta. He works with his trusted sidekick Eddie Tizzard to solve the mystery of a suspicious death in a small fishing community.

In addition to its busy calendar of in-store events, Books on Beechwood participates actively in a variety of literary events around Ottawa. On **Tuesday, April 16, from 7 to 9 pm, at Library and Archives Canada** is a joint Book Launch featuring mystery writers **Barbara Fradkin** and **Victoria Abbott** (a pseudonym for the duo **Victoria Maffini** and **Mary Jane Maffini**). These well-known members of the local crime writers' scene will be on hand to introduce their newest works, *The Whisper of Legends* by Barbara Fradkin and *The Christie Curse* by Victoria Abbott. Books on Beechwood will attend the launch to sell copies of the new thrillers.

Later in the week on **Thursday, April 18**, B on B will participate in an evening organized by Crime Writers of Canada, *A Celebration of Canadian Crime Writing*, featuring a "no-nonsense debate on crime fiction" and the announcement of the nominees for the 2013 Arthur Ellis awards. Participating authors will include many of B on B's long-standing connections in the Canadian crime fiction world, including **Barbara Fradkin**, **R.J. Harlick**, **Mary Jane Maffini** and **Linda Wiken (Erika Chase)**. The event will take place in the Auditorium of the Main Branch of the Ottawa Public Library.

In our next issue in June, we look forward to bringing you Books on Beechwood's annual list of staff picks for Summer Reading. This is a popular tradition that we thought to our sorrow had come to end with the threatened closure of the store last year. Thankfully that list remains alive and well, and soon to be released in time for summer holidays!

From the Desk of...



Mauril Bélanger
Member of Parliament for
Ottawa-Vanier



The Expanded Wabano Centre Le Centre Wabano agrandi

Le français suit
The word "Wabano" is an Ojibwe term which is used to express the brief moment between the night and the dawn – a time of endless possibility and renewal in the Ojibwe culture. One could say that never before in its 14 year history has Wabano's name captured the Centre so well than at this moment in time.

Since the Spring of 2011, our community has watched Wabano grow from a two-storey Aboriginal health centre serving over 10,000 people each year, to a stunning social and cultural landmark. As the bricks were laid, and the stunning glass panes were hoisted on this Douglas Cardinal-designed building, the sense of anticipation in the riding of Ottawa-Vanier was palpable.

At the time of writing this note, I am told that the construction work for the expanded Wabano Centre is now 95% complete and that the Opening Ceremony will be on May 9. This stunning architectural landmark will be a lasting symbol of the beauty of Aboriginal cultures, and a gathering place for all members of the community.

Wabano's management informs me that there is \$3.9 million left to raise of the \$9.6 million community campaign to finance the expansion. Do not miss the chance

to celebrate the vibrant beauty of Aboriginal cultures at Wabano's annual "Igniting the Spirit" Gala on June 20 (National Aboriginal Day) at the Hampton Inn on Coventry Road. For more information about the Centre and this event, I invite you to visit the following website: www.wabano.com.

* * *

Le mot « Wabano » est un terme ojibwé qui désigne le bref moment entre la nuit et l'aube – un moment rempli de promesses et de renouveau dans la culture ojibwé. On pourrait dire que dans ses 14 années d'histoire, le nom du Centre n'a jamais été aussi représentatif que maintenant.



Deadline

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New Edinburgh News

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Depuis le printemps 2011, nous avons observé la transformation du Centre Wabano, qui est passé d'un centre de santé autochtone à deux étages et desservant plus 10 000 personnes par année, à un magnifique monument social et culturel. Au fur et à mesure que les briques étaient posées et que les imposants carreaux de vitre étaient installés sur cet édifice conçu par l'architecte Douglas Cardinal, la fébrilité était de plus en plus palpable dans la circonscription d'Ottawa-Vanier.

Au moment où j'écris ces lignes, on me dit que les travaux de construction pour l'agrandissement du Centre Wabano sont maintenant exécutés à 95 % et que la cérémonie d'ouverture aura lieu le 9 mai. Cette icône architecturale sera un symbole durable de la beauté des cultures autoch-

tones et un lieu de rassemblement pour tous les membres de la collectivité.

La direction du Centre Wabano m'a indiqué que sur les 9,6 millions de dollars à recueillir dans la collectivité pour financer l'agrandissement, il reste toujours 3,9 millions de dollars à amasser. Ne ratez pas la chance de célébrer la beauté éclatante des cultures autochtones à l'occasion du gala annuel du Centre Wabano, « Igniting the Spirit », le 20 juin (Journée nationale des Autochtones) au Hampton Inn du chemin Coventry. Pour de plus amples renseignements sur le Centre et sur cet événement, je vous invite à visiter le site Web suivant : www.wabano.com.

*Hon. / L'hon. Mauril Bélanger, M.P. / député
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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- By Jane Heintzman -

New Edinburgh Pharmacy: Here to Stay

While the rumour mill is an age-old method of communication within communities, small and large, it can be notoriously unreliable as a source of factual information. Such appears to be the case on Beechwood at the moment, as the staff at the New Edinburgh Pharmacy is reportedly peppered with questions about an impending closure of the pharmacy in the context of Minto's redevelopment of the fire site. Just to set the record straight, and to reassure the pharmacy's many local clients, **owner/pharmacist Frank Tonon and his crew have absolutely NO plans to close or to move** when Minto launches its new development. Indeed they will remain in operation in their present space for the long haul, serving our community as they have for several decades. In fact, with the recent recruitment of Frank's son **Matthew** as a pharmacist, and daughter **Marla** as Manager/Buyer, the Tonon family has put down even deeper roots in our community, and we look forward to their continuing presence as an island of continuity in what is shaping up to be a sea of change on Beechwood.

Farewell to the Last Businesses at the Beechwood Fire Site

Following a welcome one-month extension of their

occupancy on Beechwood, **Bread and Roses Bakery** and **Hamie's Diner** closed their doors for the last time at the end of February, completing the sweep of the Beechwood businesses displaced by the disastrous fire of March 2011. Both the bakery and the diner were kept hopping in the weeks prior to their departure, as regular clients flowed in to take advantage of these familiar and cherished neighbourhood haunts, and in the case

lage", with larger, higher-end chain enterprises taking the place of the small, independent operators who comprised our commercial landscape before the fire, and to whom we have developed strong loyalties over the years.

As we reported in previous editions of the NEN, while **Hamie** and **Line Saikley** are off to pursue new ventures, **Bread and Roses** will remain on the relatively local scene, in Manor Park at St. Laurent and



Photo: Bread and Roses

Chris Green and his team say goodbye to beechwood.

of Bread and Roses, to stock up on supplies in anticipation of a month-long hiatus while construction is completed at the new location at 323 St. Laurent Blvd.

Beechwood is a very different place without them, and many of us fear that their departure may mark the beginning of major change in the character of our shopping "vil-

Hemlock, between **Cat's Fish and Chips** and **Le Saint Ô**. Owner Chris Green is providing his regular clientele with progress reports on the refitting of his new premises, but as so often happens in major renovation projects, Chris has faced some unwelcome delays related to the permit process (not to mention an unanticipated \$10,000 charge from Ottawa



Forty-Two Crichton's Susan Jessup welcomes you to drop in.

Hydro to hook up added capacity from a pole right in front of the store).

At the time of writing, he was not expecting to reopen until late March or early April. While the construction is underway, Chris and company have moved their equipment (minus some now obsolete ovens and broken freezers) into temporary storage. When we spoke in the second week of March, Chris reported that "we start drywalling today, and mudding next week. I feel like I am watching grass grow at times, but today there are plumbers, drywallers and gas workers (on site). It still has about three to four weeks to go."

With luck, by the time this issue is in circulation, the doors will be open at 323 St. Laurent and the bakery back in operation, although probably not in time for the Easter holiday weekend. One way or another, it's almost certain to be a less stressful Easter for the Bread and Roses team than last year, when they were threatened with imminent eviction and Chris was obliged to sleep in the store to keep the bailiff at bay! We look forward to introducing readers to the spanking new, more spacious Bread and Roses headquarters in our next issue in June.

42 Crichton: Local, Seasonal, Sustainable and Beyond Delicious!

Since the launch of **42 Crichton Fine Foods** several years ago, owner/executive chef **Susan Jessup** has stuck firmly to her first principles in establishing this remarkable business: to support local agricultural producers and food providers; to feature fresh seasonal ingredients in the preparation of her gourmet fare; and to play a key role in building connections between residents of the community and the food producers on whom they depend, but who, in the urban context, tend to be "out of sight, out of mind".

Susan has pursued this latter objective in a number of ways, notably through the weekly deliveries of fresh organic produce from the local C.S.A

operation, **Ferme Lève-Tôt**, which take place through the summer months from June to mid-October each Thursday afternoon. The program has been immensely popular in our community and residents can look forward to renewing their acquaintance with farm operators **Charlotte Scott** and **Richard Williams** when they sign up for another season in the coming weeks **fermeleve-tot.ca/sign-up-online**

A second tradition at 42 Crichton designed to strengthen the bonds between producers and the community is Susan's monthly **Kitchen Party**, which normally takes place on the last Saturday of the month. One of Susan's local suppliers is featured each month, bringing along samples for area residents to try out, and chatting with Susan's clients about exactly how the food in question gets from the field to the store shelves. An added bonus at the Kitchen Parties coming up this spring is the anticipated addition of a **beer tasting/food pairing** dimension to these events, with a representative of the **Muskoka Brewery** scheduled to be on the scene with samples of his product line. Interested readers should check the 42 Crichton website for notice of upcoming Kitchen Parties **www.42finefoods.ca** or keep an eye on the sandwich board in front of the store when you drop in for a gourmet treat.

For reasons that will be obvious when you try their mouth-watering salads, slaws, chilies, soups, flatbreads or legendary "hippy cookies", 42 Crichton has become a popular lunch destination for employees at government buildings in the area, including a sizeable contingent from Foreign Affairs. To better serve this group, Susan is in the process of setting up the **Sussex Lunch Club**, offering weekday lunch deliveries to groups working in buildings in the immediate vicinity, including 125 and 111 Sussex, as well as to local embassies and private homes. All that's required is one day notice, and a pre-selection from 42's tasty luncheon menu.

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If you aren't familiar with the fare at 42 Crichton, you may want to take note of the weekly culinary dinner roster so you can make a point of dropping in when your favourites are the order of the day:

- **Tuesday's** specialty is a beef feature, often Beef Brisket (consumed in our house with frightening alacrity), and a du Puy lentil/mushroom dish for the vegetarians in the family;
- **Wednesday** is lamb day (typically a ragout or a beautifully seasoned lamb rillette), along with Mac and Cheese (veggie) and flatbreads;
- **Thursday's** offering is from the feathered fowl category, frequently split roasted chicken and duck or pheasant confit;
- **Friday** is meat pie day, but by no means your average meat pie: Susan's fare features artfully seasoned wild boar, rabbit, lamb or beef and mushroom. There are also fish cakes on offer every Friday, along with flatbreads and side veggies;
- **Saturday's** feature is chili (black bean or wild boar), along with freshly baked bread, muffins and scones.

In addition to being among the finest, most imaginative chefs in the Ottawa Valley, Susan has long been actively involved in the food policy scene in our area. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Savour Ottawa, and is a member of Just Food, the Canadian Culinary Federation and the newly established **Food Policy Council for Ottawa**.

She is particularly enthusiastic about the new Food Policy Council which draws its membership from a broad range of sectors, including City staff and Councillors; school boards; community groups; farmers; university researchers; food-related businesses; health experts and anti-poverty advocates. The aim of the Council is to develop a co-ordinated approach to food policy issues, and to engage the community in addressing such critical issues as food security and sustainable production. We look forward to reporting more fully on the activities of the new council following its official launch this spring.

New Edinburgh Square

New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence (N.E.S.), at **420 MacKay Street** in the heart of our Beechwood shopping area, is home to just over 100 permanent residents, as well as to two of our cherished Beechwood businesses, **Books on Beechwood** and **Scone**

Witch. As of March 1, the residence acquired yet another commercial tenant when **ICL Academia Language Training** relocated its operations from across the street at 6 Beechwood Avenue (above the Bank of Montreal) to the 3rd floor of New Edinburgh Square, no doubt piquing the interest of those residents with an inclination to upgrade their skills in another language.

As many readers are aware

and Program Manager **Caroline Proulx**, a graduate of the University of Ottawa who was formerly on the staff of the Elisabeth Bruyère Centre, has been working hard to create a comprehensive Life Enrichment Program. One need only glance at the ambitious monthly calendar to conclude that her work is well advanced!

Residents can keep physically active with regular exer-

tail hour, evenings of musical entertainment, film nights and other gatherings. Among the recent notable family occasions at the residence was a splendid celebration of resident **Connie Elton's** 102nd birthday in early February. Her daughter **Jo-Ann Robertson** reports that the event was a great success, and that "the residence staff (did) a marvellous job of decorating, planning yummy eats and putting out the best cups and saucers to set the mood for an elegant party."

Every second Friday, the Reverend Robert Meagher leads a Spirituality Group in the Chapel at the residence, and Caroline reports that there are also regular Relaxation periods, in which participants learn to use imagery and basic relaxation techniques. As the name implies, the N.E.S. Life Stories program affords residents an opportunity to share their life experiences and in some cases, inspires them to create a written record in the form of a journal.

Readers who would like to better acquaint themselves with the facilities at New Edinburgh Square are welcome to attend the upcoming **Open House, on Saturday, April 28**, or for more information, can call General Manager **Christine Clare** or Marketing and Sales Director **Pina Bernardi** at **613-744-0901**.

No profile of New Edinburgh Square would be complete without reaffirming the gratitude of our community to residence owners **Chartwell**

REIT Seniors Housing for extending the lease and saving the life of our beloved community bookstore!

Place for Paws: Under New Ownership but Steady as She Goes

As we reported in our last issue, **Place for Paws Boarding Camp for Cats and Dogs** changed hands early this year when **Margo Ledoux** sold both her home and her business to her long-time colleague **Angela Zorn**. Since the business was launched in 1998, which I am proud to say it made its media debut in this very column and never looked back, Place for Paws has been the kennel of choice for countless devoted pet owners in New Edinburgh, Rockcliffe and the surrounding areas. Over the years, it has become a second home for many of our beloved critters, my Labrador family included.

For 12 of its 15 years of operation, Angela has shared the load with Margo at Place for Paws, and has made her mark not only as a warm-hearted and superb dog-handler, but also as an efficient administrator/organizer, helping to keep the operation running smoothly and to ensure that the four-legged campers are healthy and happy. Like Margo, Angela has the gift of appreciating each of her charges as an individual character with his or her own quirks, charms and often comic habits, a gift which is both reassuring and gratifying to the owners who entrust their cherished pets to her care.

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Photo: Louise Imbeault

(l to r) New Edinburgh Square General Manager Christine Clare and Resident Service Manager Isabelle Sanchez.

if they attended the community meeting last October, the impressive facilities at N.E.S. include a remarkably spacious dining room with large windows facing Beechwood, as well as a bar and a private dining room adjacent to the main room. According to Marketing and Sales Director **Pina Bernardi**, the private dining room is ideally suited to the family parties of residents, particularly those in which young children are involved, as the area can be safely closed off and the kids given the run of the place.

N.E.S. management and staff also take special pride in the recently renovated lobby and banquet room. With a capacity of up to 50 people, the banquet room affords another gathering space for friends and family of the residents, as well as members of the community, who are welcome to reserve the banquet room for a party or special event. The suites in the residence come in a variety of sizes and configurations, some of them extraordinarily spacious (up to 1,300 square feet with two bedrooms and two bathrooms), and many on the higher floors have a glorious view of the city and the Gatineau Hills.

N.E.S. residents are offered a schedule chock full of events and activities, each of them designed to address one of the six dimensions of overall wellbeing: physical, emotional, social, cognitive, spiritual and vocational. N.E.S. Lifestyle

classes, as well as with Chartwell's signature "rhythm and moves" program, which incorporates simple dance moves executed to the familiar tunes of the old standards. There are "Brain games", board games, bridge, scrabble and other activities to keep residents' minds active and memories honed, and countless opportunities for socializing, both informally at meals or afternoon tea, and at parties, birthday celebrations, cock-

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Continued from page 11

Angela first came to Ottawa in October 1999, emigrating from the New Orleans area where she had worked as a veterinary technician and Animal Control Officer for the parish. She arrived here with no fewer than three dogs in tow, and shortly thereafter went to work as a volunteer with the Humane Society's Development Office. When the need for a boarding kennel eventually arose, she undertook an exhaustive canvas of the available options in and around Ottawa, ultimately honing in on Place for Paws, which she ranked head and shoulders above the others. She recalls saying to her companion as they left the kennel at pick up time, "I'm going to work here one day".

Two years later, when she returned to Place for Paws to drop off her dogs, she found Margo and an assistant struggling, not altogether successfully, to give an insulin injection to a recalcitrant cat. Thanks to Angela's background, this challenging operation was a routine matter for her, and when she offered to take over the task, her offer was eagerly accepted. A grateful Margo then invited her for a cup of tea and floated the possibility of Angela joining the team at Place for Paws. Needless to say, she eventually did just that about a month later, after completing an Education Program for the Humane Society.

As we indicated in our last report, Angela has no plans to make major changes in the daily routines at Place for Paws. As many readers know from their own experience, these routines include at least six 30-minute outdoor play periods for the canine campers each day, with allowances

made for older, frailer dogs who are no longer up to the hurly burly of the lively exercise area. New arrivals at the kennel are introduced very gradually to their fellow campers to guard against any incompatibility problems, while long-term boarders (often on 6- to 8-week stays) are given the added bonus of trail walks around the farm. And by some miracle of organization, all the different feeding and medication protocols of the resident dogs and cats are followed to the letter to minimize the dislocation of being away from home.



Place for Paws new owner Angela Zorn with Manon.

If you happen to be a cat owner, Angela reports that the cat room comfortably accommodates up to six felines, and the doors are always open so your kitty has the free run of the place. Outside of office hours, the door from the cat room to the office is also left open, so there's yet more opportunity for exploration and adventure. When your time is at a premium, Place for Paws' door-to-door pick up and drop off service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday can also be an invaluable asset.

The only slight adjustment since Angela took over the business is in the office hours, which are now Monday to Friday mornings, 8-11:30 am; Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 3:30-5:30 pm; and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, 3:30-6:30 pm. Weekend hours remain the same: Saturdays, 8 am -12:00 pm and 3-5:00 pm; and Sundays 3-6:00 pm.

We wish Angela well as the new owner of this wonderfully successful business, and look forward to providing readers with regular reports on activities at Place for Paws (including possible Margo sightings when she drops in to visit from her new home across the road from the farm).

Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club: New Members Welcome!

At the venerable age of 90, the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club (RLTC) is a longstanding social and athletic institution in Rockcliffe, where over the years, many of Ottawa's leading lights have honed their skills on the courts and hobnobbed with their friends, neighbours and colleagues. In 1923, the club was incorporated and the property at **465 Lansdowne Road North** (opposite MacKay Lake) was leased from Charles H. Keefer for the princely sum of a dollar a year, with the option to purchase. The purchase option was eventually exercised in 1956, and the current club house Lindal Cedar Home was erected in 1972. The Club House operates from mid-April to mid-October, and is the centre of the RLTC's regular social activities.

In the course of its nine-decade history, the membership of the RLTC has includ-



Photo courtesy RLTC
Game in progress at the Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club.

ed countless distinguished Canadians, including numerous senior members of the diplomatic corps and three Prime Ministers: the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, the Right Honourable John Turner, and the current incumbent, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper. Her Majesty Queen Juliana of the Netherlands (then Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana) was also a keen RLTC player in her years in Ottawa during the Second World War.

The club has eight courts, including four top-quality clay courts considered to be among the best in Ottawa. Throughout the season, it runs an active tennis program of twice-weekly round robins, tournaments, private and group lessons for both juniors and seniors, after-school programs and junior summer camps. In addition to its role in cultivating the love of the game, the RLTC also has an active social dimension, with regular weekly barbecues taking place at the Club House, which has both a food and a liquor license, and an annual June Social.

This year the RLTC is making a special effort to recruit new members, and in particular families with children and teenagers keen to participate in its youth programs. As an inducement to sign up, the fee schedule has been redesigned to eliminate the initiation fee, and to drop the rates for all categories of membership, with the most dramatic fee reduction offered in the family category. Social memberships are also available. And after decades sticking to the "Wimbledon Rules" on

tennis clothing whites only-for the first time this year, junior RLTC members (under 18) will be permitted to wear coloured tennis attire. While in its early years the club's membership was limited to residents of Rockcliffe, this rule has long since been abandoned, and members are warmly welcomed from all parts of the city and region.

At the time of my interview with club President **David Adam**, the RLTC was gearing up for the coming season, with the hard courts opening up in mid-April and the clay courts following a few weeks later, weather permitting. The club is in the process of hiring two tennis pros, a senior pro and a junior assistant to coordinate summer tennis camps, group lessons and individual instruction. A new club website has just been launched at **www.rltennis.ca** where interested readers can find detailed information about the new fee structure, as well as schedules for the after-school programs for juniors in May/June and September with the summer tennis camps from late June to the end of August for players in the 5 to 14 age bracket.

For a first-hand look at the RLTC and its facilities, you can drop in at the spring **Open House on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 am-6:00 pm**, try out the courts, and meet some of the members and the club Manager **Elaine Courteau**.

The Works Manor Park

The Works gourmet burger chain has come a long way since its modest beginnings in a tiny building at Putman and Beechwood in the late 1990s. As most readers know, its entrepreneurially ingenious founder **Ion Aimers** (owner of **Zazaza Pizza** and partner in **Fraser Café**) sold the business several years ago, and it has since become an extensive franchise operation with outlets throughout Ontario in Toronto (three locations), London, Oakville, Waterloo, Guelph, Kingston, Peterborough, as well as in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Here in Ottawa where it all began, there are now seven locations, with our local Manor Park



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operation playing a key role in the network as the home of the founding clientele and the focus of Works' pilot projects as menu and service innovations are test run before going chain-wide.

Manor Park Works Manager **Megan** reports that one such innovation, is a major reduction in the copious list of burger menu options. Briefly introduced late last year in response to complaints from clients who were overwhelmed by the sheer number and complexity of choices. After less than a month, however, the streamlined menu was swiftly withdrawn in the face of strenuous objections from Works regulars whose favourites hadn't made

the cut, so the restaurant's legendary cornucopia of choices has been reinstated. Another welcome innovation which has stuck, however, is the introduction of a **lunch time reservation system** (Monday through Friday, 11:00 am-3:00 pm) to serve those with only limited time for their mid-day burger fix, and aren't able to deal with the long line ups, which tend to characterize Works' operations everywhere.

While the burger basics remain the same, Megan reports that there are frequent menu updates to add interest for regular clients, including the recent introduction of a new beer, the 8th Sin black lager by the Hop City Brewing

Company, as well as some new additions to the milkshake lineup and an overall maple theme to celebrate the spring season. Traditional favourites at the restaurant include the ever popular Tower of Rings, the Roughrider burger (spicy barbecue sauce, caramelized onions, cheese and bacon); the Smokey Mountain burger (a classic bacon cheeseburger with smoky barbecue sauce) and the Sparta Cat Special (gouda cheese, avocado and bacon).

In keeping with the tradition established by original owner Ion Aimers, The Works continues to maintain an active community outreach program, collecting over \$4,000 for the

Ottawa Food Bank over the Christmas season through its sales of festive burgers and shakes. Megan anticipates that another charitable effort will be introduced later this spring. If you happen to be one of the small handful of area residents who has not yet had The Works' experience, you may want to take advantage of the new reservation system and make a date to savour your first juicy Worksburger.

Kimberley Wilson Bridal and Fashion Outlet

Since opening her doors at 77 Beechwood, **Kimberley Wilson** has seen countless prospective brides, bridesmaids, debutantes, graduates and party-goers come through her store to engage in the exhilarating, if occasionally daunting, process of selecting the perfect, transformative gown in which to mark a momentous occasion. While many of her clients are residents of the area, including a regular contingent of charming local Elmwood girls in search of sparkling dresses for the annual Father/Daughter Ball, Kimberley's bridal emporium has become a destination business, attracting clients from as far afield as Pembroke, Cornwall and even Calgary, Alberta (wedding Stetsons anyone?).

When we spoke in February, she had just had a visit from a television crew shooting an episode of "My Teenage Wedding", a reality TV show aired on SLICE TV. The teen-aged bride-to-be was cutting it close, arriving at the store on a Wednesday in search of a gown for her Saturday wedding. Fortunately for all concerned (not least Kimberley), as the cameras rolled, the young bride managed to find the dress of her dreams, so presumably all went well at the wedding. Interested readers can watch the episode on SLICE TV in early April, and catch a glimpse of Kimberley facilitating the selection process.

While there are as many special preferences and approaches to bridal wear as there are individual clients at Kimberley's store, a common thread linking all of them is a determination to stick within an affordable price range when making their choices. Kimberley has established a cap of \$1,999 for her bridal gowns, and many are well below this threshold to the point that some clients are moved to purchase a second dress in addition to the choice for the wedding day.

Although style prefer-

Continued on page 14



The team at The Works, Manor Park.

Photo courtesy of The Works

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Continued from Page 13

ences vary widely, she notes that a typical pattern among her prospective brides is to arrive with one idea in mind, often a declared intention to avoid anything too elaborate, but to leave with a gown at the opposite end of the spectrum, much closer to the fairy princess range than originally intended. In the case of second marriages, Kimberley has also observed an established pattern, with the brides-to-be aiming initially for a modest

their cavaliers go through their elegant paces, and are featured (often in one of Kimberley's dresses) on the pages of the local papers.

And in case you thought the store was all about gauzy white gowns, you'll be happy to learn that Kimberley supplies a full range of simpler, colourful cocktail dresses, as well as shoes, gloves, tiaras and all the accessories you might need for a special occasion. If you have a special event coming up and are eager to minimize the amount of time and money you invest in properly equipping yourself for the occasion, you may want to drop by 77 Beechwood and let Kimberley advise you on the perfect pick to meet both your beauty and your budgetary requirements. She is open Monday and Tuesday (for appointments only); Wednesday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday and Friday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm; and Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

New Edinburgh Spa

Over the years since she first launched her business at the corner of Crichton and Keefer Street, **New Edinburgh Spa** owner **Vessna Pavik** has been witness to significant changes in the neighbourhood. One is the built landscape, where newer houses and infill development have steadily replaced many of the older homes. Another is the local population, where increasing numbers of young professionals and families have arrived on the scene. In the course of the last decade, Vessna's clientele has reflected these demographic



The New Edinburgh Spa team.

Photo: Louise Imbeault

ic changes, with busy young professionals now comprising the majority of her regulars, while many of the older clients of her early years have moved into local retirement residences with their own in-house hair salons.

This new demographic mix has led to some attendant adjustments in Vessna's regular schedule, with an increased volume of business after office hours during the week, and a packed schedule on Saturdays when hair colouring, highlights, cuts and blow drying are in especially high demand. In serving this younger generation of clients, Vessna has found that her old-fashioned helmet-style driers are all but obsolete, with blow drying taking over as the finishing touch of choice for contemporary hair treatments. While her business was briefly affected by the city-wide chill in the immediate aftermath of the government cutbacks, she reports that things are now gradually returning to normal, and no doubt will get a further boost from the fast-approaching wedding season.

Like many of their predecessors at Rideau Hall, their Excellencies **the Governor General** and **Mrs. Sharon Johnston** are Vessna's regular clients at the New Edinburgh Spa, often exchanging news

of their respective families of multiple young women (four in Vessna's case, and five in the Johnstons').

Vessna has recently acquired a new assistant hair stylist, **Tatiana**, who is a graduate of the Ottawa Academy, and had been working in a salon in the Orleans area. Tatiana is passionate about her new profession, and a keen participant on the hairstyling competition circuit. She has her eye on the latest trends and techniques on display at the Allied Beauty Association (ABA) shows in the area, and is delighted to be getting daily experience under the tutelage of a skilful and knowledgeable stylist as Vessna.

In recent months, Vessna has acquired a new business partner at the spa, with esthetician **Linda Champagne** taking over ownership of the esthetics side of the operation. Linda has two decades of experience as an esthetician, and is proficient in many of the latest facial techniques, including microdermabrasion. In addition to her practice at the spa, she works two days each week (Monday and Wednesday) as an esthetics instructor at Algonquin College. For a complete list of her esthetics services, check out the website at www.newedinburghspa.com or call the spa for an appoint-

ment 613-749-2116.

Beechwood Canada Auto Service

As it approaches the 40-year mark at its current location at 188 Beechwood (at Marier), **Beechwood Canada Auto Service** is now among the longest-standing businesses on the northern stretch of the Beechwood corridor, and while owner **Pierre Fortier** plans to remain in operation for some time to come, he is well aware that the street is on the cusp of major changes as new development moves into the area. Pierre takes pride in having created a one-stop shop for vehicle owners, offering a comprehensive and highly personalized maintenance and repair service for all makes and models, imports and domestic alike.

While his shop handles car care services of all descriptions, from brakes to heating and cooling, electrical, transmission, collision repair and internal engine service, he places special emphasis on regular preventive maintenance as a means of warding off acute but avoidable problems down the line. Conscientious car owners may be interested to check his website at www.beechwoodcanadaautoservice.com for tips on a recommended maintenance schedule which cover the gamut from regular oil filter changes to checks on fluids, tire inflation, battery fluid, cables and posts; engine tuning; and chassis lubrication.

Pierre and his team of two certified technicians and an apprentice keep up to date with the continuously evolving world of auto technology through monthly training sessions at the Cité Collégiale, learning about the latest innovations and receiving both written material and DVDs as a guide to dealing with the newest vehicles off the assembly line.

Over the years, Pierre has developed expertise in dealing not only with the needs of the cars that come through his shop, but also with those of the owners, many of whom have neither the time nor the interest to deal with auto repairs or maintenance. They are happy to commit their vehicle entirely to his care. As a result, while there a number of services which are not done on site at 188 Beechwood, including for example detailing, body work, transmission replacement, and some repairs or part replacements done under warranty, Pierre will make all the necessary arrangements to have the work done by the appropriate specialist or by the dealer, and

Photo: Louise Imbeault
Kimberley Wilson Bridal studio.

costume, while the groom lobbies in most cases successfully for the traditional dazzling bridal gown.

In addition to her bridal business, Kimberley thoroughly enjoys outfitting her younger clients for graduations, dances, formal parties and perhaps most notably, the annual Viennese Opera Ball when beautiful debutantes with



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Photo: Louise Imbeault

Beechwood Canada owner Pierre Fortier and his two certified service technicians, Denis (left) and Carl (right).

will even see that the car is delivered to the shop in question without the owner having to make that trek. In the case of those repairs that are contracted out, he makes a point of dealing with smaller, well-established family-run businesses like his own, with similar values and efficient service. Needless to say, he is not a fan of the super-store model and avoids them whenever possible!

Pierre's approach is in part analogous to the role of the family doctor in the sense that he develops a detailed background knowledge of the particular quirks of his clients' vehicles. He stresses that unlike the family physician, he is by no means simply a referral service, but rather handles the bulk of the required maintenance or repairs at his own shop with the help of his team of skilled technicians. While he is approached on a regular basis by prospective purchasers of his increasingly valuable property, he has no intention of selling and closing down his business, because for now at least, "It's fun!!"

BUSINESS BITS

Arturo's and El Meson:

André Cloutier, a two-horse rider as owner of the popular eateries **Arturo's** and **El Meson**, reports that chef **Jamie Urie** has recently become a partner in the ownership of **Arturo's** and will be taking over the bulk of the operations of the restaurant, leaving

André free to focus more of his energies on **El Meson**. Despite the rigours of the winter weather, El Meson has remained a busy spot, with diners now offered slightly lower prices on some items and a selection of tapas options to keep their visits within an affordable range. The interior of the restaurant has been recently repainted and some bar stools added, ideal for those dropping in to for a drink and tasty tapas snack.

André and his wife **Marla Tonon** have recently returned from a blissful food and wine sampling trip to Spain and Portugal, so don't be surprised to find some new inspirations turning up on the menu at El Meson. Future plans also include a tapas night with flamenco music on Thursdays, and renovations to the rooftop patio to create another lively gathering spot for the neighbourhood. Stay tuned for more news of events and innovations



André Cloutier and his wife, Marla Tonon, overlooking Porto, Portugal, on their Spain/Portugal trip in March.

at El Meson coming up in our June issue.

Second Cup:

We welcome **Lester Gracez's** son **Christopher Gracez** who has taken over from his late father as owner/manager of the **Second Cup** at Springfield and Beechwood. Christopher launched his own Second Cup store in Orleans two years ago, but is happy to divide his time with the Beechwood outlet, where he feels right at home, having worked in the store since his early teens.

Sushi-Me:

The Sushi-Me expansion previewed in our December 2012 issue is in fact going ahead, and is currently at the interior design stage and progressing

gradually. Owner **Sue Jung** reports that when the project is completed, the seating capacity of the restaurant will be doubled, and while there will be no major departures from the current look and layout of the interior, she is planning to add a bar (for sake lovers) in the new section. Sensibly, Sue is making no predictions about a target completion date, but we wish her success in taking this ambitious step to expand her business.

Beechwood Businesses among the Top Picks on the Ottawa Food Scene:

Early this year, *Ottawa Magazine* produced the premiere issue of a new publication, *Eating and Drinking: The Ottawa Food Lover's*

Guide to Everything. The glossy new magazine is billed as a "culinary go-to guide for the city" and includes a listing of the city's Top 80 Restaurants and 80 Fantastic Food Shops. Happily, our neighbourhood is well represented in this new compendium, and many of our locals have "made the list": **Farb's Kitchen and Wine Bar; Scone Witch; Fraser Café; El Meson; Jacobson's Gourmet Concepts; Epicuria Fine Foods and Catering; and Nature's Buzz**. While most of us are well aware of the culinary riches in our community, it's gratifying to know that this fine reputation is now city-wide, and we congratulate all on being numbered among of the town's top eateries and food suppliers.

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Minto Project...

Continued from page 1

Tremblay of Fotenn planning consultants.

Following Councillor Clark's welcome and introduction, Minto architect **Prishram Jain** gave a brief presentation focusing on: Site Plan Overview; Zoning Changes; and Minto's Responses to Community Comments and Concerns.

While the majority of participants at the meeting were familiar with the **Site Plan** as presented at the January 16 meeting, Mr. Jain reviewed a number of the highlights of the current proposal:

- The height of the L-shaped building is 8 storeys with a partial 9th mechanical floor;
- The building mass is vertically articulated as well as horizontally divided, with changes in materials between the upper and lower storeys;
- The street level material is stone, followed by sandstone-coloured brick ("Indiana limestone buff") for the next 4 storeys, with glass and metal on the top floors;
- In keeping with the guidelines for the MacKay Sector in the BCDP, the MacKay

Street/Beechwood corner is given special prominence in the design;

- Shoppers will have multiple entry points to retail outlets along Beechwood;
- Most of the MacKay Street frontage will also be devoted to retail outlets at ground level;
- The garage ramp (and commercial vehicle loading and unloading) is internal to the site;
- Minto will be working with the City to create an attractive streetscape accented with urban furniture; and
- Existing street trees on MacKay (with one exception) will be preserved and new trees planted on the Beechwood frontage.

On the issue of Minto's requested **Zoning**

Amendments for the site, Mr. Jain summarized the most significant of these:

- An increase of 4.3 metres in building height based on the "node" or "gateway" location of the site, identified in the planning framework as suitable for a mid-rise (5-9 storey) structure;
- An increase in the step-back level along Beechwood and a portion of MacKay to 5 storeys from the required 3; and

- Relief from by-law requirements for retail and visitor parking.

In response to comments from participants at the public consultation on January 16, Mr. Jain noted that Minto had adjusted its initial plans in a number of respects:

- Sidewalk width is to be maintained and extended at the Beechwood/MacKay corner to maximize public space around the project;
- Ground floor commercial entrances at street level will be slightly set back from the sidewalk and defined with awnings to create the impression of multiple small shops;
- The Beechwood/MacKay corner is to be dedicated space for outdoor public use, with a 560 square foot patio, 6 or 7 tables and seating for at least 25. The Patio will be directly linked to the adjacent interior retail operation; and
- The building materials on the lower storeys have been fine-tuned to reflect public concerns about a cold façade, with a rich, sandstone-coloured brick for the first 4 residential storeys and stone at the street level. (Mr. Jain specifically noted that in its initial consulta-

tion with the Urban Design Review Panel, the latter group had strongly recommended that building materials *not* be the same as or similar to those of existing buildings on Beechwood, but rather should provide an understated but complementary contrast).

Delcan transportation consultant **Ron Jack** presented a brief overview of the **Traffic and Parking** considerations relating to Minto's application, noting in particular that:

- The site is favourably located on a major transportation corridor with excellent bus connections, and within walking or cycling distance of shopping, recreational and other amenities;
- The planned retail space in the Minto building is equivalent to that of the previous development, and can be assumed to generate about the same traffic volume;
- The major change will be the condominium development, which, when added to the anticipated retail traffic, is expected to generate about 60 vehicles per hour at peak times in the morning and late afternoon;
- While the Beechwood/Vanier Parkway intersection is admittedly already

at failure during rush hour, the intersection at MacKay and Beechwood provides "a good level of service";

- Overall, the new project is expected to add 3-4% to the traffic volume at the Beechwood/MacKay intersection, and 1% to Beechwood/Vanier Parkway intersection.

Question and Answer Period

To the credit of the City organizers, much of the meeting was devoted to an open discussion, with City staff and Minto representatives responding to questions and comments from the public. As in the case of the January 16 meeting, the latter were primarily addressed to three broad topics:

- **Building height and design**
- **Traffic and parking, and**
- **Retail mix at ground level.**

Building Height and Design:

There were a number of recurring themes throughout the evening, and there appeared to be a strong consensus among those present that the proposed height, mass and design of the building in its present form are at odds with the village-like character of our community. At the same time, however, there was also evidence of support for Minto's proposal, subject



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to the fine-tuning necessary at the Site Plan stage, and broad agreement, that the building design itself has merit, albeit perhaps in another context.

In a nutshell, comments and responses were as follows:

Nancy Hooper presented a Position Statement on behalf of her fellow residents in the Beechwood Village condominium complex on Charlevoix Street, emphasizing that:

- As the defining development at the Gateway to the Beechwood Corridor, the proposed building is out of step with the village-like character of the surrounding communities;
- The structure is too tall, cold and formal; is out of scale with the existing streetscape; looms over the street; and is lacking in the casual, low profile, neighbourly feel of the traditional Beechwood shopping area;
- Step-backs to the upper storeys are too narrow, and should be at least 3 metres;
- The tall, 15-foot ceilings at ground level are likely to attract large-scale retail operations, as opposed to the small businesses valued by the community;
- The outdoor corner café is unlikely to have the light and sunshine needed to be a really people-friendly environment; and
- While admittedly elegant, the building would be more suitably located in downtown Toronto or in a high rise complex such as Tunney's Pasture.

Many of Nancy's comments were echoed by other participants. In particular, the "elegant but alien" theme applying to the building design.

- **Step-backs on Beechwood and MacKay should be at the 3rd storey**, as opposed to the proposed 5th story level, to create a more "human scale" of development. In response, architect Prishram Jain argued that from a design perspective, the 3rd storey step-back would create a far more awkward, top-heavy appearance in the building, with very limited benefit from a pedestrian perspective, and no benefit in terms of additional light gained at the sidewalk level. He expressed the view that on the whole, pedestrians and shoppers engage with only the ground level of a building, and seemed confident that at the Site Plan stage, measures could be taken to warm up and enliven the building frontage at street level.

- The **West Façade** facing

the St. Patrick Street Bridge lacks detail in the existing models, and there is concern that the building will present a faceless blank wall at the gateway to Beechwood. Architect Prishram Jain is well aware of this concern, and was confident that through the imaginative use of materials, an interestingly articulated façade appropriate to the location can be created at the Site Plan stage.

- **Dale Smith**, a BVA Steering Committee member and long-time resident and business owner in the community, expressed support for Minto's design plans, and was encouraged by the company's attempt to respond to a number of the community concerns voiced at the January meeting. While recognizing that the scale and design of the project marks a departure from the character of Beechwood as we have known it, she felt that in time, the community will adjust to the new building, and expressed the hope that Minto would take seriously its pivotal role in creating a model for future development along Beechwood.
- The requested **height increase** for which City staff is recommending approval will set a precedent for all future developments along Beechwood, effectively establishing a 9-storey floor for prospective new buildings. It is unclear that the increase is adequately

supported by the rationale provided by planning staff, since significant intensification should be possible within the 6-storey limit of the zoning by-law. Planner Bliss Edwards noted in response that the BCDP allows for mid-rise (5-9 storey) buildings at significant "nodes" such as the Beechwood/MacKay corner.

- One resident questioned whether **Section 37** of the *Planning Act* might be applicable to Minto, should the requested height increase be approved by Council. This section may be triggered in some cases, when increases above by-law limits in the height and/or density of a development, entail the compensatory provision of "community benefits" by the developer to specific capital facilities in the community of the project. In response, Bliss Edwards indicated that the section would not apply in this case, as the requested height increase falls below the 25% threshold.
- The façade facing Beechwood might be made to appear less homogenous and urban cookie-cutter by retaining the two small buildings which housed **Hamie's Diner** and **Bread and Roses Bakery** as part of the new development, giving it added character and continuity with the past.
- More effort should be made to design a vertically articulated façade that creates the impression of a series of

buildings constructed over time.

- None of Minto's current models show the new building in the context of the existing streetscape on Beechwood and MacKay, but rather set in isolation on an "island" unrelated to the community. Symbolically, at least, this is an important omission, and an impediment to an accurate assessment of the building's "fit" in the existing streetscape.
- The ground level commercial frontage appears cold and poorly differentiated, and in general, there is too much glass on the Beechwood/MacKay corner by the outdoor patio. Minto's Brent Strachan stressed that these details would be addressed at Site Plan stage, and that individual retailers would themselves supply the warmth and character to the building façade conveying community atmosphere.

Traffic and Parking: Not surprisingly given the scale of the residential intensification proposed by Minto, with 157 condominium units replacing a handful of modest apartments in the pre-fire development, the traffic and parking impact issues of the project were a major concern of meeting participants.

Specific comments and ques-

tions included the following:

- The **traffic impact of the impending Canada Lands Development** on the former Rockcliffe Air Base, expected to involve a massive intensification of thousands of new area residents, has not been taken into account in Minto's traffic analysis. Delcan's **Ron Jack** acknowledged that the new Canada Lands development would have a traffic impact, but stressed that the whole point of intensification was to reduce dependence on the private automobile and create self-sufficient, sustainable communities. He noted that with the city's population approaching the one million mark, the overall traffic situation will, in any event, almost certainly get worse, not better.
- Minto's requested zoning by-law amendments relating to both **visitor and retail parking** spaces would involve significant reductions in both categories which could have a major impact on the area, and put added pressure on the already inadequate supply of on-street parking available on Beechwood and MacKay. Whatever the merits of encouraging the use of other transportation modes, climate considerations and

Continued on page 18

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Minto Project...

Continued from Page 17

- demographic factors dictate that a major portion of the shopping public will continue to be in cars. In response, Minto noted that based on past experience, most new developments have scaled back visitor parking, and the City may be reassessing its requirements in this category.
- The City needs to address the **intersection at MacKay and Beechwood** where the absence of a left-turning lane already leads to significant back-ups, existing prior to the introduction of the new development. Added traffic associated with the project, can be expected to deteriorate even further, particularly if nothing is done to address the compounding impact of emergency and delivery vehicles that pull up in front of New Edinburgh Square. **Ron Jack** noted in response that while no physical change in the intersection is contemplated, the light cycles can be adjusted to facilitate the traffic flow off Beechwood on to MacKay.
 - NECA's Acting President **David Sacks** was concerned that the **width of the driveway at the MacKay Street entrance** was to be reduced below current zoning requirements, noting that even now, exiting the parking area can be perilous when sightlines are compromised by a line of parked cars along MacKay. In response, Minto point-

ed out that the width of the entry/exit point on the driveway is in fact fully in compliance with the by-law (6.7 metres), Delcan's Ron Jack acknowledged that routine violations of City rules about the proximity of parked cars to driveways and entrance ways may be creating a serious visibility problem at that location.

- A resident of the townhouse development on MacKay Street next door to the Minto project expressed concern about the potential parking and traffic impact of the new development, noting that exiting her driveway is already a treacherous business due to the long lines of parked cars along MacKay Street. She asked that the City consider a **ban on on-street parking on MacKay Street from Electric Street to Beechwood**. Bliss Edwards responded that the issue could be considered at Site Plan stage, but noted that there seemed to be mixed messages from the community, with some calling for more on-street parking and others opposing it.
- No provision appears to have been made in the Minto proposal for **parking spaces for retail employees**. If you assume a minimum of six retail outlets with approximately 15 employees each, it's not clear where they would be expected to park, short of occupying all the retail spaces intended for shoppers. Minto indicated in response that indeed, no special allowance for employees had been made, and that

this is standard practice in commercial buildings.

Retail:

At the January 16 meeting, the community was absolutely clear, specific, and virtually unanimous in its preferences with respect to the kind and number of retailers engaged to occupy the nearly 17,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor of the new development—as many as possible; small independents; and suppliers of goods, services and amenities of the kind available before the fire, such as hardware, dry cleaning and baked goods. At the March meeting, **BVA leader Tobi Nussbaum** reinforced these views, stressing in particular that:

- Every effort should be made to **maximize the number of retail outlets** on Beechwood and along the retail portion of the MacKay frontage;
- Priority should be given to the type of retail operation that will draw shoppers to the area, contributing to the overall liveliness and level of activity on Beechwood;
- The outdoor patio area should be directly tied to an adjacent interior business which would generate a regular clientele;
- In fine-tuning the features of the façade, the design of the shop entrances should be such as to avoid limiting the number of possible businesses that could be accommodated;
- The City should take the opportunity afforded by the new development to square the rounded corner

at Beechwood and MacKay, and making it safer for pedestrians.

NECA Board member **Catherine Lindquist** endorsed Tobi's comments, and stressed the need to create the vertical distinctions in the design of the façade that will attract small, village-style stores, and re-establish "the finer grain of retail" that was lost in the fire.

The "Lane":

Several of the meeting participants expressed concern about the fate of the unofficial "lane" between the former Hamie's Diner and the New Edinburgh Pharmacy building—a passage which has long served as an access from the street to the retail parking area. Brent Strachan reported that Minto's plan is to build up to the lot line, leaving a comparatively small space between the two buildings, but he agreed that public access to the parking lot could be provided by individual retailers opening a rear entrance to their respective stores.

Next Steps:

In light of the City planning staff's recommendation for approval of Minto's Zoning By-Law Amendment Application, it seems probable that by the time this paper is in circulation, the application will in fact have received approval by Planning Committee and be on its way to Council on April 10. Assuming that there are no hurdles at Council, the next step will entail the submission to the City of Minto's Site Plan Application. It is at this stage when project details relating to design, architectural features, landscaping, streetscape, traf-

fic and parking impact will be given further analysis by planning staff and presented to the Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) for detailed consideration. As Bliss Edwards highlighted at the meeting, **UDRP sessions are open to the public**, and she encouraged interested community members to attend the discussions. Meeting notices will be sent electronically to those attending the January and March consultations, but if you weren't able to be present at either one, you can keep up to date by checking the community website at www.newedinburgh.ca where you will find public meeting schedules, along with other documents and links providing background information on the Minto project.

Editor's Note: NECA's Heritage and Development Committee (HDC) did not support the majority of the requested zoning by-law amendments. For example, the committee recommended that the height of the building along Beechwood be reduced to 2-3 storeys at street front, as opposed to the 5 storeys at street front proposed by Minto and approved by planning staff. A number of NECA Board members and associates are scheduled to speak at the March 26 Planning Committee meeting to express the comments and concerns of the community. The committee will continue to participate in the process of analysis and consultation at Site Plan stage when project details are fleshed out in greater depth.



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Social Column Of Outstanding Persons Today

“Sir” Peter Dalton has been SCOOPT!

By Louise Imbeault

Greetings NEN readers, the “In Our Midst” column has just undergone a makeover—we hope you’ll enjoy it, and please pass along first impressions and feedback to the Managing Editor.

I just couldn’t resist sharing with you this interview with Peter Dalton after hearing from a neighbour and close friend that a very special man resides on Rideau Terrace and is so deserving of acknowledgement. Peter is very active in the community, accessible, generous and hilarious—all of which I can confirm are true after meeting him in the flesh.

His charm, warmth and eloquence kept me totally under a spell, enthralled by his every word, listening attentively to each delicious and amazing story with bated breath, all the while cracking up with explosive laughter punctuated by his own brand of British humour throughout the candid interview. The encounter lasted much longer than anticipated and to my surprise, ended way too soon. Given the opportunity, I could fill a book or two about this most accomplished, polished, cultivated and well-read worldly gentleman.

One of Peter’s initiatives is an exclusive “members only” gentlemen’s club called **BNO** (Boys Night Out) for which he is the self-appointed President holding on tightly to the hilarious “club rules” he implemented. Their not-so-secret meetings are held on a monthly basis usually at the ClockTower Brew Pub, where these active philanthropists devise, plan and organize the next good deed they will embark upon.

Peter is a “mover and shaker” and when it comes to his favourite charity nothing stands in his way, lavishing upon the lucky recipients his fervour. He is especially devoted and fond of the War Veterans residing at the **Perley and Rideau Veterans’ Health Centre** on Russell Road. Charting his course and waiting on no one, Peter has rallied family and friends to contribute toward this humanitarian cause and

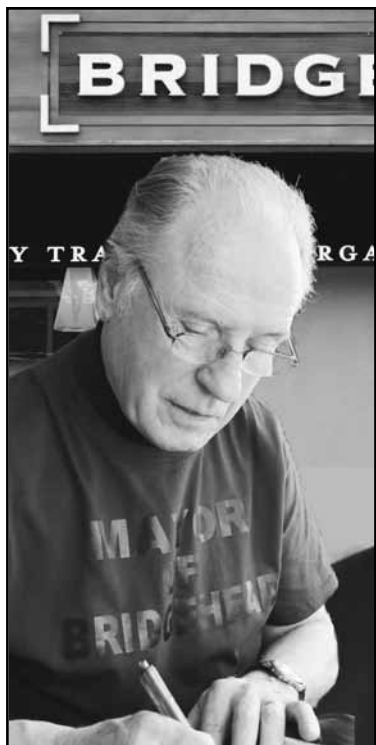


Photo: Louise Imbeault
Peter Dalton, affectionately known as “The Mayor of Bridgehead”.

organized Christmas surprise baskets for his fellow veterans.

These past three years, Peter and his generous BNO club members have contributed single-handedly to making our Veterans a very happy bunch at Christmas time, offering everything from brand new facial razors one year, to a crate-load of CDs featuring wartime and military band songs and music for each veteran the sec-

ond year. This third year, the gang really outdid themselves. Having collected more dosh, Peter purchased and presented on behalf of the BNO, a magnificent tapestry of a Lancaster Bomber in memory of hero and pilot **John Sheardown**, who sadly passed away in January 2013.

The gift was so moving to the Perley’s Foundation staff that they decided to hang it in the residents’ wing and organize a small but official “unveiling” with family, friends, staff, volunteers and residents on Friday, March 22, 2013. Fortunately I was invited and present for the intimate ceremony capturing this precious moment.

A war veteran himself, just like his Canadian father, who was a Royal Artillery Officer in WWII, Peter served in the CAF as a Radio and Communications Officer from 1959 to 1971 and, for the next 20 years, Peter held a high ranking position with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG). Even though he is now retired, he still works three full days per week as a consultant for the CCG. What an impressive ongoing career!

His love of water and boats dates back to his youth. Peter’s mother was a WAAF in the Air Force Auxiliary detachment and a war bride and gave birth to her son in regal surroundings—Pentillie Castle Hospital in Cornwall, England.

The family moved back to Nova Scotia near Halifax when he was about seven years old. Accustomed to open spaces and addicted to the sea air, Peter’s ultimate dream finally came true when he acquired a 39-foot sloop named JAFTICA (acronym for *Just Another F...’en Thing I Can’t Afford*), docked in the same spot where he grew up. It sleeps six people



Photo: Louise Imbeault
Tapestry unveiling at the Perley and Rideau Veterans’ Health Centre March 22, 2013. (l to r) Ron Hodgson (member of BNO), Peter Dalton (Mayor of Bridgehead, BNO President) and Dan Clapin (ACFRE) Managing Director of PRVHC.

in comfort and luxury and Peter hosts guests and tourists, doubling as Captain at the helm of this sleek maiden of the sea. Every opportunity he gets he sets sail with his passengers around the Maritime seaway during the summer months.

When in town, he accompanies groups of children to sail on a friend’s tall ship from June to August, a Brigantine called the Fair Jeanne docked at the locks over the winter months. He then welcomes adult groups in May and September (when the kids are at school) for trips down the Rideau locks system. Hear this matey, this local adventure should be on all our bucket lists.

Affectionately known as the “**MAYOR OF BRIDGEHEAD**”, Peter conducts his business from the

Bridgehead Coffeeshop on Beechwood where bright and early, every morning, he holds an informal pseudo Council Meeting, concocting new ways to make a difference in people’s lives and discussing Burgh issues and ideas for improvements, all the while holding his faithful notebook of to-do lists, as he passionately tries to solve the world’s problems over a cup of bold coffee or savoury tea.

So folks, if you are an early riser and in need of cheering up or just want to shoot the breeze, His Excellency Peter Dalton’s cabinet opens between 6:30 and 8 am on Mondays and Fridays—please, just drop in to shake his hand and let him know he’s doing a great job!

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Travel Tales from the Burgh

We're delighted to present the inaugural article in the NEN's new Travel Tales series! **David Horley** of Stanley Avenue has contributed highlights of the fantastic trip in the Arctic that he and his wife, **Cecile Latour**, embarked on last summer. I'm especially glad to begin the series with this article, as an Arctic adventure is a dream

trip for me. David and Cecile have generously offered to share their experiences one-on-one with readers, and as they took a great many pictures on their journey, I think a slideshow might be included in that offer.

We look forward to other submissions from our travelling friends. I currently

have three possibilities in mind for future issues—architecture in California; adventurous travel in Indonesia; and an extended tour in India—and would love to hear of other ideas. So please don't be shy about contacting me. I'd love to hear from you, and if you're not sure you would be able to write an article yourself, we can work on it together. — **Vicki Metcalfe** 46metcalfe@sympatico.ca

Into the Northwest Passage

By David Horley

Captain John Franklin spent years seeking the Northwest Passage and it eventually cost him his life—and those of his crew. In contrast, my wife and I made the delightful trip in only two weeks and never felt at risk. Of course, we were just passengers on a modern steel vessel, *Clipper Adventure*, and there were a few devices, such as radar and detailed maps, which Franklin could not even dream of.

How did we get started? My wife, Cecile, was the motivating force and began researching on the Internet. She noticed that a Toronto-based company, Adventure Canada, was a primary organizer of such travel. During the relatively short navigation season in the Arctic (mid-August to mid-September), the company operates

east and west tours of two weeks duration.

In our case we went east to west. This entailed taking a charter flight from Toronto to Kangerlussuaq, a small town on the west coast of Greenland. There, on August 19, we boarded the *Clipper Adventurer*—a modern, well-appointed passenger ship which takes a maximum of 108 passengers. In addition, Adventure Canada had on board a team of eight experts and four Inuit to enrich our appreciation of the physical environment that we were visiting and the Inuit people whom we met at various landings, among them an ornithologist, a botanist, a geologist, an ethnologist and a filmmaker who has created six films on the Arctic.

Initially, the ship journeyed along the coast of Greenland to

visit three magnificent fiords. What a beautiful introduction to the North! Then we crossed Davis Strait to begin our tour of Canadian territory. During the 24-hour crossing we were treated to a degustation of raw minke whale and narwhal together with seal liver—also raw, of course—dipped in soya sauce like sushi.

Starting with Pond Inlet, on the north end of Baffin Island, en route we visited three communities where we were warmly received, and experienced demonstrations of Inuit culture, such as throat singing. The massive financial chal-



Photo: Cecile Latour

the seven various types of ice? On one of these excursions our timing was impeccable: large chunks of ice broke off the face of the glacier, falling into the bay just ahead of us. We were also able to see polar bears and walrus, not to mention a seal and many Arctic birds.

Between these stops, the Adventure Canada experts briefed us on board as to what we were about to see or had just seen. But it wasn't all study—there were no exams at the end—for we were entertained by a singing guitarist, with



Photo: Cecile Latour

lenge for the territorial governments became evident when we spoke with the housing official in Pond Inlet. He revealed that the average cost of utilities per dwelling is \$3,000 per month! In a community where few families have a regular job, the inhabitants are charged a hugely reduced fee according to their gross "income". For example, for a family in which the father had suffered from incapacitating depression for some years, the charge was reduced to only \$60 per month.

At various times, we disembarked into motorized inflatable dinghies and went ashore or cruised up to the face of a glacier. Where else can one get a 2-hour introduction to

On a hike on the tundra, it was immediately clear that winter travel on a snowmobile would be easier than trying to stumble across the tough scrub in summer. At the same time, I reflected that even if global warming continues to advance, the total absence of topsoil means that any type of agriculture would be difficult to introduce.

Another privileged experience was a visit to a 2-million-year-old fossil site at Port Epworth with three-dimensional "cabbage-like" domes called stromatolites. This is destined to become a UNESCO site as one of the best preserved occurrences of fossils of this vintage.

sing-alongs and an exhibition of the award-winning photographs of Michelle Valberg, an Ottawa professional who was making her 26th trip to the Arctic!

Like all good things, it had to come to an end when we disembarked at Kugluktuk, formerly Coppermine. Cecile and I had a wonderful firsthand exposure to the challenges and wonders of the North, and gained a rich appreciation of the culture and challenges for the Inuit inhabiting it. The Arctic, we discovered, is more than a journey; it is an initiation. Cecile and I would be happy to talk with anyone interested in the trip.

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Hockey Day in New Edinburgh!!

By Debra Conner and Catherine McConkey

The idea for Hockey Day in New Edinburgh was born one cold day in February 2012, after a fun time playing shinny at Stanley Park. Going into the Fieldhouse to get warmed up and have some hot chocolate, we spotted this small, lone sign declaring that it was Hockey Day in Canada. The light bulb went on: "We (the Crichton Community Council) should be doing something for this. After all, we manage the rinks here at Stanley Park—this would be a natural fit for us." And so, on February 9, 2013, on a beautiful, cold, sunny day, the Crichton Community Council (3Cs) held its first annual **Hockey Day in New Edinburgh**. Despite stiff competition from Winterlude, a Sens game and many other Hockey Day in Canada events throughout the city, we got a good crowd of enthusiastic hockey players, anxious to play shinny and compete in the skills competitions. Congratulations to the win-

ners: **Sue** in the **Elimination Shootout**; **Ross** in the **Pylon Stick Handling Challenge** and **Thomas** in both the **Shot Accuracy Challenge** and **Shoot to Win Challenge**. Congratulations also to **Michel** as winner of the jelly bean count and **Tara Redmond**, winner of the hockey helmet raffle.

As always, an event like this wouldn't have succeeded without the help and talents of the many volunteers who pulled this together. Many, many thanks to **Sue Hall of NECTAR** for organizing and running the skills competition with her crew of volunteers, including an official referee, top-notch goalie, and rink attendants **Martina** and **Aiden**; the **New Edinburgh Pub** for graciously donating hot dogs and hot chocolate; the **City of Ottawa** for the loan of equipment for the skills competition and for the donation of the helmet for the raffle; **Mary Grainger** for getting the Fieldhouse and kitchen in order; **Caroline Matt** for help-

ing out everywhere and for lending a sympathetic ear to my many questions and concerns; **Cathy McConkey** for organizing the raffle, jelly bean contest, running the cash and, especially for donating the puck piñata (the kids loved bashing it with their sticks); **Michel Giroux** and **Brian Torrie's** crew of hosers for getting the ice ready; a special thank you to hoser **Steve Grabner** for going over at 7:00 am on Saturday morning to shovel off the last of the previous night's snowstorm; the kitchen crew **Paula Pincombe**, **Matt DeWolfe**, and **Gillian Campbell**; and **Jerry Turchyn** for his sign-painting skills, for manning the sound system and keeping the hockey tunes blasting. Thanks to all who came out and played; we'll see you all again next year!

Canada Summer Jobs

The 3Cs has applied to the **Canada Summer Jobs** program again in order to hire a student for the summer months. Last year, we were able to open the field house for 35 hours every week during July and August, providing access to the snack bar and the toilets, as well as a place to cool off during a heat wave. If you are a high school student looking for work this summer; we are currently accepting applications for the position of **Fieldhouse Manager**. If you are interested,



Photo: Caroline Matt

Norah DeWolfe takes her shot in the shoot-to-win skills competition.

please email **Caroline Matt** at caroline@lectern.ca for more information.

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11, from 8 am to 4 pm we are hosting the **New Edinburgh Annual Plant Sale**. As always it will happen at the **Fieldhouse at 193 Stanley Ave**. The flower bas-

kets will be beautifully refreshing at this time of year and make a great gift for Mother's Day. Once again, by special request, we will have tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, lettuce starter packs and herbs—all local, all fresh, and all supplied by **Ferme Lève-Tot**. Thank you to **Mary Grainger** for organizing this great event each year.

New Edinburgh Cheering Station

Joseph Cull has agreed to organize **New Edinburgh's Cheering Station** during Ottawa's Race Weekend. He just loves this so much, and the neighbourhood and the 3Cs are certainly the beneficiaries. **Sunday, May 26** is the date and **about 8:00am** is time to come to the Fieldhouse to watch this amazing event. This year we are positioned at the **36 km** mark, and with six km to go before the participants reach the finish line, they really need every one of us in the neighbourhood to cheer them

through the last kilometers. Come on out and help raise their spirits to "get it done"! Morning coffee will be supplied as well as a few other goodies. This is truly an exciting event to watch!! See you then!

Let's talk a bit about volunteering with the 3Cs. If any of you reading this article has an interest, please contact cjmccconkey@sympatico.ca or phone **613-746-0303**. If you have any experience in organizing events, are family oriented, we have a place for you. If you would like to be a

volunteer at an event "on the ground", we have a place for you too. If you have a wish list for events that you would like to see happen, please contact us and we can discuss them. We meet on the second Monday of the month at the Fieldhouse at 7:30 pm. Come and join us; we are very friendly!!

The Fieldhouse will be available for rent starting May 1 for your next birthday party or family event. Contact Caroline at caroline@lectern.ca or 613-741-3128 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend New Edinburgh Cheering Station

Please join Crichton Community Council—on **Sunday, May 26, 8:00-11:30 am**—in welcoming thousands of Runners as they travel through our wonderful neighbourhood.

New Edinburgh will mark the 34-kilometer point for runners from around the world.

We need you to dress in your "Sparkling/Be-jeweled" or "New Edinburgh Tartan" finest so we can bedazzle the runners as they pass through the Burgh!!!

Please be at the Fieldhouse on Stanley by 8:15 am to socialize with your neighbours and help prepare for our HUGE community welcome. Join us in cheering on ALL the runners.

Coffee and some breakfast munchies will be provided, and yes folks, music will be playing to encourage and inspire all these brave folks to continue onward to realize their dream!!

We can help make a difference in their journey and showcase the vibrancy of our community.

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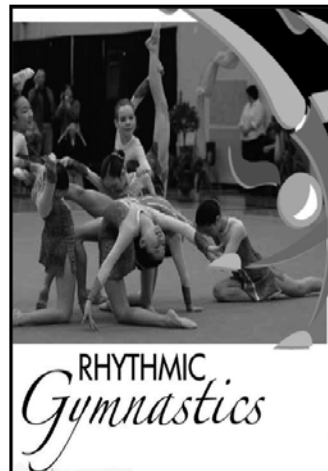
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Two Exceptional Concerts Complete the MacKay 2012-2013 Music Series

By Carolyn Bowker

An Evening of French and Spanish Music—Sumptuous and exquisite! Music that sweeps from passionate love to tormenting heartache! Music of irresistible seduction, deep kinship with nature, music that explores the depths of the soul and its complex emotional tapestry! That is the French and Spanish music that will be performed by two exciting artists, **Julie Nesrallah** and **Parv Eshghi**, in the next concert in the MacKay United Church Chamber Music Series on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 pm.

The program includes songs that are staples of the repertoire by composers such as

Debussy and Granados, and others by lesser-known composers such as Reynaldo Hahn, Fernando Obradors and Xavier Montsalvatge. What these composers share is an equal commitment to both instruments—the human voice and the piano—that combines sublime vocal melodies with truly intricate treatment of the piano part.

Julie and Parv bring this outstanding music to life in performance, but they also show us the real people who wrote it. It is “like people watching through music,” says Julie. The best artists are able to embody that private life, that tenderness, the pain, the joys and agonies of being alive and channel it with their whole being to everyone in the audience.

As Ottawa audiences know well, mezzo-soprano Julie Nesrallah is an extremely versatile singer and actress who dazzles audiences with her rich tone, engaging personality and communication skills. She is well known nationally as the host of “Tempo,” CBC Radio’s flagship national classical music program, and as the host of “Solo” for CBC television. Last summer, she delighted her fans with her participation at the Ottawa Jazz Festival. And just recently she returned from an engagement with the Bogota Philharmonic Orchestra, performing a concert version of Bizet’s opera, *Carmen*.

Julie and Parv have known each other for almost 20 years. As students at the universities in Ottawa, they had developed a deep appreciation for each other's talent. Two years ago they deepened their collaboration as artists in the hip, exciting production of *Carmen on Tap* directed by Brent Krysa. Both had lively, exhilarating temperaments and when they made music together, it was sensational!

Parv and Julie are excited to be sharing their wonderful well known to MacKay concert audiences through its performances over the last few years beginning with the piano fundraising concerts. As one regular MacKay concertgoer has observed, “Every performance by these superb string players balances more familiar compositions with what is commonly used to describe jazz—the sound of surprise!”

When Bridge and Vaughan Williams wrote their first string quartets, they were still young composers finding their own musical vocabulary. Vaughan Williams had not yet begun to travel around the U.K. collecting the folk songs which would become a cornerstone of his musical style. Bridge was still influenced by Romantic composers, but he followed the advice he gave his students,

and its performance demands. Parv has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at the Château Laurier, the National Gallery of Canada, the Ottawa Chamber Festival, as well as at St. Brigid’s church and in the MacKay United Church Concert Series.

Parv Eshghi aims to reach the height of creativity and freedom while respecting the composer’s personal and stylistic intentions. She wishes to bring a more natural atmosphere to the classical music scene, where imagination, originality and open communication can thrive, while remaining faithful to the music



Parv Eshghi.



Julie Nesrallah.



(left to right) Paul Casey, Leah Roseman, Mark Friedman, and Leah Wyber.

program with the audience at MacKay. They hope that the audience “will come out of the recital inspired, wanting to know more about these brilliantly gifted composers and poets, and seeking to enrich their lives further with glorious music.”

An English Spring—On Sunday, May 5, at 7:30 pm, a very different, but no less beautiful and lively concert concludes MacKay’s 2012-2013 series with a celebration of spring in a performance of string quartets by Vaughan Williams and Frank Bridge. **Leah Roseman, Mark Friedman, Paul Casey, and Leah Wyber** make up this very talented and engaging string quartet, which has become

including Benjamin Britten, to “try to find yourself and be true to what you found.” In these early compositions there is both a youthful exuberance and the lush string writing that we associate with British composers.

As spring comes to Ottawa, the performers are looking forward to sharing with their listeners this music by great composers in the springtime of their careers.

Tickets for each concert, \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students, will be available at Books on Beechwood, Compact Music, through MacKay United Church (613-749-8727) and at the door.



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The Year Begins with Spring

By Doug Cornish

March 20th was the most important day in the Canadian calendar, more important even than July 1st (please excuse that rather un-Canadian and unpatriotic statement). It marked the first official day of spring. It is nature's official opening of the spring season. Of course even nature isn't always on time (sometimes early, other times late), but that day a few weeks ago was a significant day in the hearts of Canadians. Those of us in the Ottawa area have been weaned on legislation, so anything official (even if it hasn't been sanctioned by the House of Commons) somehow feels correct. The spring equinox marked the journey all Canadians dream of taking each year, a journey towards the sun. It marked the end (officially, anyway) of the winter sojourn and the beginning of three of the most glorious seasons known to humankind: the young, gentle daughter called spring, the rebellious teenager in all her regalia called summer, and the more mature, wise and perhaps civilized autumn daughter.

It's telling that the first three seasons are generally associated with the female gender; they're soft, gorgeous, provocative, mysterious and unforgettable, whereas the fourth season, winter, is usually the "old man", fierce and rough, generally lacking in civilized manners.

Spring is soft, kind and although a yearly occurrence, it's an annual period of renaissance, a literal re-birth: out of the cold, white, windswept, barren landscape is breathed life. The birds return, and sing. The trees transform themselves from skeletons, to elegantly green, clothed creatures. Spring flowers (probably the loveliest flowers of any season) miraculously bursting from the cold, dark earth. Nature's creatures are suddenly busy. There's so much to do after the deadness and inactivity of winter.

Spring is nature's incredible way of telling everyone that the winter isn't the final say on the way things will be. Spring is the eternal optimist, bringing forth hope and optimism. Akin to a new-born child, spring is the hope of humankind. Out of chaos comes order and beauty. Out of despair comes light and hope. Spring is the new order. Spring is the new world. Spring is the new way.

For me the miracle of spring is the "softness". There's no other way to describe it. The hurly-burly gusts of winter have finally petered out. Winter has (not always gracefully) succumbed to spring. Winter has been laid to rest. The youthful spring has been declared the victor. There seems to be more time in the spring. The days are longer, the sun is stronger, the walks are longer, and the chats in open door cafés linger. The doors of business establishments and homes are left ajar. This "softness" is welcomed freely. This soft air is never questioned, nor is it a cause for anger. Like a soft, pure and innocent baby, no one shows malice towards the spring season. No, not even the ski-tow operators, for they know that their off season is a time to reflect and build for next year.

Without spring there would be no progress. Without spring there would be no inspiration. A world without spring would not be liveable. Spring is our second chance. We can re-plant our dreams. We can begin anew.

We can renew old acquaintances. Neighbours have been hibernating. In springtime they meet again by the neighbourhood fence, or leaning on the car in the driveway, or stopping half way in the middle of a quiet out of the way street for a chat. Time seems to lengthen in the spring. There's more activity in the spring. There's a whole new, expansive sky spread out before. The sunrises are inviting, the sunsets warm

and longing.

Spring is for cleaning and clearing and moving and changing directions.

The beginning of spring also marks the beginning of doubt. Is it really spring? Is spring really here to stay? Weather patterns, especially these days, aren't predictable. Is there a

point where one can definitely say, without the shadow of a doubt, that yes, we are in the season of spring? Would future snow on top of tulips constitute spring? Does the collective will of the people influence these matters? Can we assume it's spring just because the date on the calendar says so?

You bet! The spring equinox began on March 20th. Makes no difference if Mother Nature

sticks to her schedule or not, for the spring equinox signals the beginning of the beginning. It's an important mental road mark. It's all smooth sailing from here.

I've always thought that the calendar year should begin with spring, because it's a good place to start. "The year began with spring" would be a good slogan! Let us begin our wonderful journey.

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2013 Flood Risk in the Burgh: Not Great, But Not Negligible

By Jane Heintzman

For most of the year, residents of the Burgh have little reason to concern themselves with the condition of the Rideau River, which forms the natural boundary of our community. In late winter and early spring, however, the river can be a source of both widespread excitement as the ice is chopped and blasted, and also spectacular beauty as the powerful current surges past our park and over the falls, hurling great chunks of ice into a frothy vortex in the Ottawa River below. And, as those of us who are the river's nearest neighbours are acutely aware, in some years, the spring runoff in Rideau River can also pose a serious risk to the properties in the New Edinburgh flood plain zone.

Readers who are new to the community may not be aware that there is a sizeable Flood Plain Zone right here in the

Burgh. The zone lies within the sector bounded by **Sussex Drive, Stanley Avenue, MacKay Street and Queen Victoria Street**, encompassing the majority of the houses in the segment bordered by **Stanley, Charles, Alexander and Thomas Streets**, and a sizeable chunk of the area bounded by **Charles, River Lane and Stanley**, almost to **Union Street**. Interested readers will find a detailed map of the Flood Plain Zone on the community website at www.newedinburgh.ca.

Five years ago, in the late winter of 2008, residents of the flood plain zone—in particular those on Stanley Avenue within a few metres of the river—spent a harrowing few weeks when an epic snow pack began a rapid melt, causing water levels to rise to within a few inches of the river bank. Our area, along with many

other communities up river, was placed under an official Flood Watch by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and residents were warned to “activate their response plans.”

Happily for those of us unskilled in the art of sandbagging, catastrophe was ultimately avoided in 2008, thanks to a total absence of rainfall and moderate temperatures resulting in an elegantly gradual melt. But it could have been otherwise. When the RVCA issued a media release in early March this year, warning that “**Snowpack Water Content Makes Spring Flooding a Possibility**”, alarm bells went off in many households in the flood plain. The warning was occasioned by the exceptionally high water content of this year's snow pack, reportedly the second highest since snow surveys were started in 1974.

When I spoke with the RVCA's Senior Water Resources Technician **Patrick Larson** in mid-March, he reported that in the weeks following the “Flood Awareness” media release on March 7, the continuing cool temperatures and lack of precipitation have significantly reduced the risk of flooding in our area this year, barring the onset of torrential rains followed by a sharp spike in temperatures. However, while we may, once again, have dodged a bullet, it remains the case that many properties in our community are vulnerable to spring flooding, and it's unclear (and unlikely) that adequate “response plans” exist at either the city or the individual household level.

As the owner of a large number of the properties in the Flood Plain zone, including his own home on Thomas Street, Burgh resident and **Domicile** owner **John Doran** took the

initiative to actively explore potential measures to reduce the flood risk in this area, and ward off the kind of near calamity that threatened this corner of the Burgh in 2008. Several years ago, John retained the professional services of an experienced local consulting engineer, **Lawrence Erion**, who undertook a detailed survey of the area in question along the river.

proposal, and John undertook to pursue discussions with the City, the NCC and the RVCA. While these authorities were indeed alerted to the problem, and Lawrence Erion's proposed solution, to date there has been no further progress in the attempt to deal with this very real threat to a portion of our community. As things now stand, in the event of a flood,



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Ice blasting on the Rideau River.

Erion ultimately came up with a comparatively simple and cost-effective means of protecting the flood plain zone in New Edinburgh in years of exceptionally high water levels during the spring runoff. In a nutshell, his plan entailed a slight elevation of two sections of the bicycle path in the park between Charles and Queen Victoria Streets. The two sections would total about 360 metres in length and at no point on the stretches in question would the elevation exceed 380 mm (or about 15”).

At the time, the NECA Board passed a Resolution endorsing further exploration of the

it's strictly “*Sauve qui peut!*” Let's just hope that those torrential rains and temperature spikes don't materialize in the weeks ahead!

In the new world of advancing climate change, with its attendant increase in the frequency of extreme and often catastrophic weather events, it may be time to go back to the City to urge action for protecting flood vulnerable communities such as ours, and request plans for the day the Rideau River once again threatens to burst its banks.



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Beechwood Working Groups Update

Dale Smith reports that the Steering Committee of the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA) has been meeting regularly to receive updates from the working groups created following the seminal community gathering at New Edinburgh Square last October.

According to Dale, the Better Neighbourhood Program group is scheduled to meet with **Julie Lapalme's** Public Art Committee in late March to discuss plans for a Beechwood Village gateway public art project. Thanks to the enterprising work of BVA founder **Tobi Nussbaum**, the

organization has received a Fulbright Grant for \$6,000 to pursue this project. The two committees will examine ways to top up that amount as a basis for putting out a call for proposals to artists for designs which create a welcoming entrance to the Village.

Peter Lewis' Political Action Committee is scheduled to meet again in early April, but in the interim, is putting the finishing touches on a letter to the High Commissioner for Pakistan, requesting a meeting to discuss Pakistan's long vacant property on Beechwood.



By Gemma Kerr

It's that time of the year again—spring. New grass, April showers, river flooding, and the arrival of quite a few items that we don't want on the banks of our river. This year Urban Rideau Conservationists will be running its Riverbank Cleanup, as usual, on Mother's Day Saturday. That's May 11. Please mark the date on your calendars, and come out and help get our shoreline cleaned up ready for summer.

Our meeting point will be the same as last year, the Fieldhouse at 193 Stanley Avenue. Crichton Community Council is holding their annual Plant Sale the same day, and will use the area in front of the building. You will find us under the overhang at the back, near the spray pad, along with NECA's Friends of the Park, who will be working on cleaning up our park areas on

Saturday May 11.

Our joint Cleanup event will run from 10 am until 1 pm. Please stop by the back of the Fieldhouse to get your garbage and recycle bags provided by the City of Ottawa. Hopefully, the City will also be able to lend us some pickers for tweaking garbage out of hard-to-reach spots under bushes, etc. We will be providing snacks and juice at the Fieldhouse to help keep people energized.

The cleanup will focus on the shoreline of the river between the water and the bicycle and walking paths. We urge you to be very careful, as parts of the riverbank are quite steep and may be slippery from floods or rain. Dress for mucky conditions and bring work gloves if you have them. We will supply disposable gloves for people who need them.

As we get everything final-

ized, new information will be posted on the NECA website at www.newedinburgh.ca. Please come out and help on May 11. We are lucky to have a wonderful park and river right where we live. Let's get everything clean and tidy now so we can enjoy it during summer.



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A Zumba Infection

By Liba Bender

It had to be about the end of September 2011 when I found out. It was on a Tuesday. I looked outside my window at the piles of leaves already forming and I could see the snow banks appearing in the not so distant future. Winter in Ottawa is not for the light hearted. I wanted to go south for some sun, but was looking for a trip that inspired me. I'd tried this exercise phenomenon called Zumba and was hooked. One of the women in my class at the Rockcliffe Community Centre recommended that I check out the trip offered by Zumbamamas.com out of Winnipeg, Manitoba. I recognized the Zumba teachers, Sharon and Lana, from one of my trips to the Rady Jewish Community Centre in Winnipeg. They were advertising a health and wellness retreat. I signed up then and

there.

Zumba, for those not familiar with this form of exercise is dance aerobics accompanied by Latin Music. In other words, it is a big dance party. Your heart, body and mind benefit from it. Created by dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez in Columbia during the late 1990s, it involves hip-hop, samba, salsa, mambo, cha cha, reggae, flamenco, tango and even some middle-eastern moves. Throw in squats and lunges and it definitely gives the body a workout. All Zumba classes are taught by licensed instructors, and are about an hour long.

I knew that we'd be doing different kinds of Zumba during the week in Mexico, but I really did not know what to expect.

Fast forward to the middle of January 2012. Snow banks were even higher than I imag-

ined as I took off from the Ottawa winter. Destination—Barcelo Beach Resort, Mexico. All week we sweated up a storm Zumba-ing on land and in water and also relaxing and stretching with daily yoga classes. There were additional incredible Zumba instructors that joined our group at times. It was a fantastic women-bonding experience for sure. Not only did we eat, drink and be merry, we danced, did yoga, and boogied around the resort for the entire week. EVERYONE knew about us!

We were there to get healthier and well—that is exactly what we did. Of course sitting in the sun and going swimming in the warm ocean was great. Bonding was fantastic. Salt does heal.

And when I returned to Ottawa, I continued the momentum of a healthy mind, body and soul through to the fall of 2012.

I arranged to go back for Health and Wellness



Zumba gals Liba Bender and Barbara Clegg.

Week 2013 organized by Zumbamamas.com again. This last January, I brought my sister Sherna along. Because in 2011 there was a set of sisters from Winnipeg, I thought this would be a great time for sis-

ter bonding. As it turns out there were three pairs of sisters this past January at the retreat. And that is how I met Barbara Clegg.

Some of you may know her through her career with the Ottawa Public Library. Others might know her from choir or Winnipeg where she spent her formative youth. I just know her as a Zumba Gal.

And wow, can she take great pictures and movies with her iPad. We have met here in Ottawa to either Zumba or enjoy good food and conversation, while planning ways to continue being healthy.

Barbara and I are still talking about the time we spent in Mexico, and all the great things that happened to us as participants of a group who all had the same desire to take care of their bodies and minds through Zumba. Now, returning once again to Ottawa, I Zumba with Ximena Puente who has got to be the most inspirational Zumba teacher in this city.

If you love Latin music, and want to keep your heart and body in shape, try Zumba. You might get infected the way I did.



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Empathy, the Greatly Good and Climate Change

By Gaye Taylor

In an essay published in 1821 titled *A Defense of Poetry*, Percy Shelley argues that “the great instrument of moral good is the imagination.” According to Shelley, to be “greatly good” we “must imagine intensely and comprehensively” putting ourselves in the place of others such that “the pains...of our species become our own.” In a working paper published in April 2012, economists with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)—an independent international research institute now approaching its 25th anniversary—effectively endorse Shelley’s claim, urging that our *only* hope to avoid catastrophic climate change lies in implementing policies that are the result of “intensely and comprehensively” *imagining* ourselves in the place of others: “A society that cares deeply about the well-being of future generations will embrace a very different climate policy than a society that can’t see past the current economic crisis. The longer we take in reducing emissions, the more likely we are to...bequeath serious economic damages from climate change to future generations.” Unfortunately, as the authors of the SEI paper demonstrate, most climate-economic models are singularly lacking in empathetic foresight.

That there should exist such an empathy “deficit” on the climate action policy front reflects a broader social problem. As Hugh Robertson suggested in last month’s issue

of the *New Edinburgh News*, we do seem increasingly to live “in a world of social silos and ideological echo chambers,” a situation of cognitive and experiential bunkering. No doubt it is difficult to fully imagine what it is like for the elderly inhabitants of the small Pacific atoll of Tuvalu watching their island disappear as ocean levels inexorably rise, or what it *will be* like for children born into escalating cycles of drought and consequent famine in East Africa. Those of us who do not tune out entirely, may be overwhelmed with despair, and indeed, as George

up. We are not, as yet, the deer in the headlights: we are still the ones at the wheel. We yet have the time and the power to act, to be in Shelley’s words, “greatly good.” As Shelley suggests, action begins with a leap of the imagination.

Admittedly, such a leap can be very difficult to make, especially when weighed down by anxiety and doubt. One place to begin would be with one very good book that shows how some people had the courage to “imagine intensely and comprehensively” the actual suffering of others, and then acted upon their conviction

negative. Widely feted for his achievement, Clarkson could have rested on his laurels, considering his essay merely an “academic” achievement. But he did not. Haunted by what he had learned over the course of preparing the essay, Clarkson grew determined that “someone must see this calamity to its end”—and bravely took the task upon himself. Fortunately, he was not alone, linking up with a number of kindred spirits, including a group of nine Quaker businessmen, whose considerable business acumen did not interfere with their consciences. That is, they had the moral courage to confront the fact that the matter of the sugar

century England, sugar was king and the slaves brutalized in the production of such sweet riches were but the cost of doing business. Just as Canada now depends on fossil fuel extraction to float its economy, Britain in the 18th century benefited tremendously from the West Indian plantations: custom duties were a huge source of revenue, and many tens of thousands of sailors, shipbuilders and merchants depended on the slave trade itself. Many a Member of Parliament (often with personal financial stakes in West Indian sugar plantations) urged that continued maintenance of the slave industry was a “no-brainer,” economically. And these men were, if one applies a strictly economic calculus, correct: as Hochschild notes, abolishing slavery “cost the British people 1.8 % of their annual national income over more than half a century.” But empathy won out; ethics trumped economics. The nation did survive, immeasurably enriched by its decision to be guided by ethical, rather than strictly economic, imperatives.

If we decide that our response to climate change will be guided by empathy rather than by panicky self-interest, we might draw inspiration from the courageous and forward-thinking men and women who worked to end slavery in the British Empire. And our children and grandchildren will have cause to rejoice in our efforts to be “greatly good.”

«If we decide that our response to climate change will be guided by empathy rather than by panicky self-interest, we might draw inspiration from the courageous and forward-thinking men and women who worked to end slavery in the British Empire.»

Monbiot has said, “sit back and view the deteriorating climate scene with the impotent fascination with which we might watch a good disaster movie.” That we might feel impotent is hardly surprising. Fossil fuels *do* currently underlie our economic well-being significantly. Powerful voices loudly invoke the spectre of economic ruin should we even attempt to wean ourselves off carbon. Trapped by this conundrum, we may intermittently peek around the pillow we have placed between ourselves and the horror show of climate change beginning to unspool its havoc. That we are growing glassy-eyed with “impotent fascination” is understandable. But it is both premature and ethically unacceptable to give

tion that this suffering must be ended: Adam Hochschild’s *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free An Empire’s Slaves*. Published in 2005, Hochschild’s brilliant popular history tells the story of the fifty long years it took to end slavery, which was finally abolished throughout the British Empire on August 1, 1838. It is a complicated story, but one might say that it all began in early June 1785, when a young man named Thomas Clarkson won first prize in a Latin essay competition at Cambridge. The essay question to be answered was “Is it lawful to make slaves of others against their will?” and Clarkson’s reply (in perfect Latin) was a resounding

industry and the slave trade was *not* merely one of economy. Hundreds of thousands of captive Africans died on the Middle Passage en route to the West Indies and hundreds of thousands more were worked to death on the sugar-cane plantations. Responding with open hearts to these abominations, Clarkson and the other abolitionists began a campaign of door-to-door solicitation, petitions, boycotts and public rallies that in turn inspired millions of ordinary Britons to become themselves involved in “see[ing] this calamity to its end.”

As Hochschild makes clear, however, the odds were decidedly against emancipation for many years because in 18th-



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News from the House

Issue #7



April 1, 2013

Lumière Festival Is Lucky Recipient of Winterlude's Jinju lanterns

Winterlude is the Capital's winter celebration of Canadian traditions, culture and all things cold and frosty. This year's Winterlude festival featured dazzling ice sculptures, captivating performances and a very exciting display of unique and colourful lanterns. The lanterns were donated by the Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival in Jinju South Korea to commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and South Korea.

Lumière Festival organizers were thrilled to receive an exploratory call from the National Capital Commission's Guy Laflamme when the Commission went in search of a permanent home for the lanterns. Several calls and

truckloads later, the lanterns have settled into their new home at the Lumière Festival Warehouse located at The Healthiest Home on Laperrière Avenue. Many thanks as well to the NCC team, Morné DuToit, Mathew Smith, Pierre Lalonde, Benoit Brunet Poirier and the volunteers Richard Cliff and Jonas Ptasinski who helped with the heavy lifting.

Lumière's Lead Visual Artist, **Rachelle Carrier** is delighted with the donation. The 15-foot high leopard, the life-size cranes, and the group of kite flyers and sleds have ignited her creativity, and set in motion some larger than life plans for this year's Lumière Festival in August.

This unanticipated but welcome donation served as an ideal kick start to preparations for this year's Lumière Festival. Our Leadership team is comprised of an exciting interdisciplinary group of artists. Alongside Rachelle as Lead Visual Artist and Curator, the team also includes **Roger D. Wilson** as Film Curator, **Andrew Alexander** as Photography Curator, and **Laura Astwood** as the Festival's Performance Curator. This dynamic group is already at work, planning new exhibitions and performances that invite the community to celebrate and create with us.

The Lumière Festival is above all a Festival of Light. Since its inception a decade ago, it has celebrated and illuminated the cultural and creative energy in Ottawa. Over the past ten years, it has become one of Ottawa's preeminent arts festivals, having commissioned over 100 new works of art, and featured 1,500 artists from our community.

We are thrilled to add the Jinju Lanterns to our collection of lanterns and integrate them into our presentation. The Lumière Festival's Evening of Light will be held on August 17, 2013. Stay tuned for more details in the June edition of the NEN.

Invest in Your Community: Buy a Stake, Pick Your Picket Today!

As we reported in the February edition of the NEN, the NECTAR Centre has launched the "Buy A Stake" campaign. The aim is to raise funds to support the work of the Centre as a lively community and arts hub, and at the same time, engage the community in the creative task of decorating and building a fence to enclose the garden at New Edinburgh House.

At press time, we had just passed the one-quarter mark on our fundraising goal of \$15,000, and we thank all those who were swift to come forward and stake their individual claims. We couldn't do what we do without you! From friends such as **New Edinburgh Pub** who bought two stakes, to an anonymous family who so generously bought 10 for our children's program to paint, every little bit helps!

But there is still a long way to go. We're counting on ALL those in the community who care about the future of our unique community and arts centre, in its distinctive heritage home, to take part in this community effort. If you're artistically challenged, don't be daunted! You can purchase your stake(s) and leave it to our resident artists to ensure that they are artfully decorated to enhance the soon-to-be created fence.

Don't have your stake yet...

No problem! Call the NECTAR Centre at **613-745-2745** or stop by to pick yours out. Speak to or email one of our Board members who will be delighted to make all the arrangements for you. Contact **Bethann Robin** (badrbn1@gmail.com), **David Horley** (horlat@magma.ca), **Isobel Bisby** (ibisby@gmail.com), **Jane Heintzman** (janeheintzman@hotmail.com), **Jenni Barbarie** (anghiari@hotmail.com), **John Jarrett** (jjarrett@sympatico.ca), **Joseph Cull** (jicull@rogers.com), **Paula Thompon** (paula.thompon@rogers.com), **Sean Flynn** (sflynn@gmail.com).

NECTAR's *Buy a Stake* campaign is all about you staking a claim on your community by helping us build a fence made up of stakes featuring your very own artistic touch—the sky is the limit – draw it, paint it, name it, it's yours! The fence will enclose the north and west sides of NECTAR's property where we are poised to begin work on a new Community Garden with the help of Green Thumbs of all ages throughout the neighbourhood.

Just think, when we achieve our goal, you'll have a permanent stake in the ground of our community's future!

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Farewell and Thank You to Johan Rudnick and Colin Goodfellow

Two of our long-serving and highly valued Board members, **Johan Rudnick**, Past Chair, and **Colin Goodfellow**, former Treasurer and ace fundraiser, recently resigned their positions on the NECTAR Centre Board. We wish them well as they focus their energies on tackling the formidable pressures of their respective professions. However we are delighted to report, however, that both Johan and Colin have agreed to serve on our Advisory Council, as we look forward to having the benefit of their experience and advice in developing our organization.

As most readers are aware, Johan was among the original founders of the Crichton Cultural Community Centre, and was instrumental in leading the organization through its first tumultuous decade at 200 Crichton Street. His hard

work, patience, intelligence and commitment to the Centre were critical to its survival in difficult times, and to its eventual growth into the flourishing organization it is today. We are deeply grateful for his contribution and look forward to maintaining our connection with him in the challenging years ahead.

Colin, too, has been invaluable as a knowledgeable, lively and talented entrepreneurial presence on the Board. This formidable skill in fundraising with a penchant for rational risk-taking proved to be a critical factor in the successful relocation of the organization to its new headquarters at New Edinburgh House. We are greatly reassured by his willingness to remain as an Advisor through the next crucial phase of our organizational development.

New Name, New Programs at NECTAR

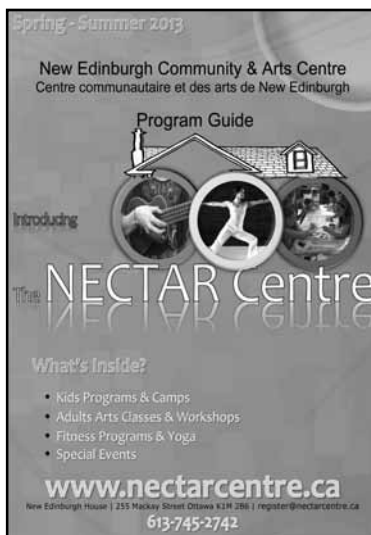
Everyone's talking about it...our new name, our new website, our new faces and programs. If you haven't seen the new site, visit us at www.nectarcentre.ca and explore. We have worked hard to ensure that you can find the information you need to register for programs, see what is happening at the Centre or find out about community meetings that are important to you. We hope you like it!

The New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre has just opened its **Spring-Summer Registration**. Highlights include:

- **Tanya Robertson**, a skilled yoga and personal trainer with over 20 years experience, will be instructing two yoga classes: an evening 'Yoga Fit' and a lunchtime 'Express Yoga';
- Local Fitness Instructor and recent winner of Ottawa's

Mayor's City Builder Award, **Joseph Cull** is offering a **seated Fitness Class**, designed for older adults who are motivated to maintain their mobility and activity levels;

- **Carol Bell**, Bridge instructor, will instruct a beginners' Bridge class;



- **For Kids (5-12 years)**, we're delighted to introduce **Artist-in-Residence Claire Ellis** of Contemporary Dance, offering a 'Creative Dance Class' where children will explore movement in ballet and contemporary styles; learn methods of choreography; and develop skills to create their own dances.

- Also for the younger set, **Tony Marr** will instruct a **children's Zumba class** called **ZumbAtomic**.

For further details and registration information for all NECTAR Centre programs, please check out our website www.nectarcentre.ca or refer to the Spring-Summer 2013 Program Guide. The Guide is available at Books on Beechwood, Metro and the NECTAR Centre, and is distributed with the April *New Edinburgh News*.



After-School Care Coming in September!

Beginning in September 2013, the NECTAR Centre will offer an enriched After-School Care program operated out of Memorial Hall. Our goal is to create a fun, safe and bilingual after-school program in our community that will appeal to all neighbourhood children, Grades 1 to 6, and their parents.

We have listened carefully to the wants and needs of parents, and are pleased to offer an after-school program that will:

- Promote and foster literacy
- Keep the kids physically active
- Promote and foster a love of the arts
- Promote bilingualism & support the development of French language skills
- Include homework or quiet reading time.

Here's how we plan to do it:

The after-school program will be managed and programmed by a fully qualified bilingual Early Childhood Education Educator (ECE). We hope to introduce the new manager in

the next edition of the NEN in June.

Student counsellors from arts-focused De La Salle High School will offer bilingual arts-based classes (e.g., dance, painting, creative writing, drama, voice, etc.).

Kids will stay active by participating in regular outdoor (and seasonally appropriate) sports and activities (e.g. soccer, Frisbee, skating, tag, tennis, etc.).

Student counsellors from De La Salle (and possibly from other high schools) will spend 30 minutes per day (quiet time) assisting the children with reading and other literacy-based homework (e.g. dictée).

Further details: The program will be competitively priced and will offer optional March Break and PD Day coverage. The program will operate from **3:15- 5:45 pm, Monday to Friday**.

For RPPS students, the NECTAR Centre is located within the busing zone. This should mean that students liv-

ing outside the busing zone, but who identify the NECTAR Centre as their after school care provider, should qualify for busing. We are in the process of confirming this arrangement.

We are excited about this program and look forward to providing further information to parents. Please plan to attend the second of our **two information sessions at New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street**. (The first took place on Wednesday, March 20). The second session will take place on **Wednesday, April 10, at 7 pm at NEH**. Childcare will be provided.

Please register your children **EARLY** by calling or emailing **Sue Hall** at **613 745 2742**, suehall@nectarcentre.ca. If you have questions you would like answered before or after the information sessions, feel free to contact Sue or **Paula Thompson** at paula.thompson@rogers.com.

Doors Open Ottawa at NEH: June 1

In keeping with the tradition established when the Centre was operating under its original moniker, the Crichton Cultural Community Centre, the newly named New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre will throw open its doors this year to greet members of the public during the annual Doors Open Ottawa weekend in June.

Drop in between **10 am** and

4 pm on Saturday, June 1, to visit our Artists-in-Residence and our studio artists, and take time to view the Ottawa Calligraphy Society's annual exhibition in our Community Room Gallery. Also on display will be the plans for our upcoming renovations, along with historical pictures and artifacts related to the house and the community.

This promises to be an action-packed weekend at New Edinburgh House, and once you've toured the house, you can join us as we build our Community Fence in the garden, a work of art that will be comprised of individual stakes hand-painted by children, artists and members of the community. Refreshments will be available.

Latin Dance Night a Sweet Hit

On the evening of February 15, a crowd of enthusiastic participants enjoyed a lively evening of Latin dancing at the NECTAR Centre. From novices to experts, we all tapped our feet and wiggled our bodies, following the lead of our most talented teacher **Ximena Puentes**. Fine food was served, thanks to the generous donations of **New Edinburgh Square, the Rockcliffe, and Governor's Walk** retirement residences, and raffle prizes were generously supplied

by **Books on Beechwood, Bread and Roses, Culinary Conspiracy**, and the **Scone Witch**... all on a "sweet" theme in keeping with Valentine's Day. Our gratitude also goes to our volunteers who, as always, helped to make the evening a resounding success, providing childcare next door in New Edinburgh House, so that all members of the family could have a fun time, and the parents could enjoy a romantic evening without the kids...



Barrette Street Fire Leaves at Least 8 Homeless

By Jane Heintzman

Not quite two years to the day following the devastating Beechwood fire that gutted the commercial core of our community in March 2011, another raging fire swept through a three storey, six-unit apartment building at **144/146 Barrette Street**, directly behind St. Charles Church between St. Charles and Marier. The fire started in the early morning hours on March 9, and when it was all over some 16 hours later, at least eight people were left homeless, and damage to the building was conservatively estimated at one million dollars, with initial reports sug-

gesting that the structure may be unsalvageable.

The fire apparently started on the ground floor of the red-brick building shortly after midnight, and swiftly spread up the back of the apartment and into the attic. Thanks to an efficient rescue operation by Ottawa Fire Services, there were no serious casualties, although we understand that sadly, some family pets may not have survived the blaze. Two of the apartment's residents, **André Desjardins** and his partner **Catherine Macdonald**, had to be hospitalized for smoke inhalation. Both were later released, and

despite the devastating loss of their home, they were greatly relieved to find that Ottawa Fire Services had managed to retrieve André's wallet and Catherine's purse from the smoldering ruins.

The resourceful fire crew also managed to rescue a wedding dress belonging to one of the young tenants, who is reportedly planning to tie the knot with her fiancé in May. Unfortunately, her partner's guitar collection—his prize possessions—did not fare so well, and the couple had no insurance. As in the case of the 2011 fire on Beechwood, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army swiftly came to the rescue, providing shelter to those residents with nowhere else to go.

Ottawa Fire Services did a masterful job of containing the blaze, although the neighbouring houses were temporarily evacuated as a precaution. Spokesman **Marc Messier** reported that the building's balloon-frame construction was a significant factor in the rapid travel of the flames from the ground floor to the roof, noting that the fire crew was forced to fight the stubborn fire from the exterior due to the collapse of an outside wall. Nearly a million litres of water were required to douse the blaze. It was late afternoon before the street was reopened and the fire crew was able to pack up its gear and call it a day.

Most of the tenants displaced by the fire had no insurance and lost virtually all their possessions. In response to the crisis, the Vanier Community Association has been actively working with the Salvation Army to help them out through

the collection of cash and preferably, gift cards for the purchase of food and household necessities. Several local businesses have stepped in to serve as depots for donations: in our immediate neighbourhood, **Monson's Deluxe Cleaner's at 110 Beechwood; Bobby's Table at 255 Montreal Road** (close to Marier), and **CSCV at 290 Dupuis Street**. The gift

to purchase gift cards. For more information about how to help out, readers can contact the Vanier Community Association at **vca.acv@gmail.com**, Attention Mike Bulthuis.

The cause of the fire has yet to be identified, but Marc Messier reports that Ottawa Fire Services has now completed its own investigation,



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Damage to the Barrette from the recent fire was estimated at a million dollars.

cards and cash will be delivered to the Salvation Army, which is distributing donations directly to the tenants.

Bobby Leblanc, owner of Bobby's Table and a moving spirit behind the aid operation, told CBC's Ottawa Morning that he was strongly motivated to lend a hand due to his own experience as a youth, when his family lost everything in a fire. Donations can be dropped off at his restaurant between 6 am and 8 pm, along with empty pop cans or beer and wine bottles which will be redeemed

and is leaving the detailed follow up to the building owner and his insurance company. A recent CBC report suggests, however, that the Office of the Fire Marshall for the province has also been notified and, given the extent of the damage, it's anticipated that an investigation by the Fire Marshall's Office may be in the cards. We'll keep you posted on the community website **www.newedinburgh.ca** if more information becomes available.

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Update from Friends of the Park

By Marci Surkes, Chair,
Friends of the Park

Well, spring has certainly arrived in our Park with a bang! Now that the ice blasting and breaking is complete, there can be no doubt that warmer weather is just around the corner!

As reported in the last issue of the NEN, garbage pick-up continued to be irregular and unreliable through the winter months. Sadly, this messy situation cast a pall on park use and has left many residents dissatisfied. The Friends of the Park Committee pressed officials continuously on this matter,

and has raised concerns with NECA. The park's maintenance manager is well apprised of the issue and is working towards a resolution so that the situation is not repeated next winter. The Committee also continues to push for the addition of specific dog refuse cans with covers to reduce the eyesore of overflowing bins.

I would like to thank residents and Friends of the Park members who helped over the course of the winter by providing green garbage bags and collecting dog refuse. These efforts certainly helped to keep the park tidier than it otherwise would have been. And of

course, we all hope that everyone continues to be vigilant in cleaning up after their own dogs.

In other news, as we turn to spring, the annual park and river clean-ups are slated for Saturday, May 11. If you would like to volunteer in the planning of the event—or in the actual cleaning of the park—please contact me by email, **marci.surkes@gmail.com**.

As well, a group of dog owners would like to take action on the proliferation of burrs around the off-leash area. If this is of interest to you, please let me know.

Stilt-walking in New Edinburgh

By Guy Marsan

If you've been to the Lumière Festival in the past few years, you may have seen some tall creatures livening up Stanley Park. Or you may have witnessed a magical theatrical performance with stilts and acrobatics. This is all part of the regular work done by local stilt-walking theatre company the Ottawa Stilt Union (OSU for short), and the New Edinburgh community might come across these tall people a bit more often this year. Since January 2013, the Ottawa Stilt Union has joined the Artist-in-Residence groups at the New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre (NECTAR). Their residency includes space for rehearsals as well as a community engagement project that will culminate in a procession to be created for the much anticipated 10th anniversary of the Lumière Festival next summer.

The OSU was founded in 2007. It is a bilingual theatre company, using stilts, acrobatics and other forms of extreme physical action to tell stories. Since 2007, the OSU has created seven original productions, the last one being *La Toilette*, an acrobatic clown extravaganza that was performed all over the city last summer, including

at the last production of the Lumière Festival, and even in Yellowknife.

There are seven stilts (as they call themselves) in the core group and two musicians. These core members work collaboratively to create the shows. Each show is unique, in that it is created using the talents of each member, highlighting the strengths and unique capabilities of each, to find the best way to tell the story.

Now entering its seventh year of creating theatre, the company is excited about its new projects. For their community project at Lumière Festival, the OSU will be offering workshops to members of the community, leading up to a perfor-

mance/procession during the August festival.

Laura Astwood, artistic director of the company, is looking forward to the community project. She says "I am hoping to help to create and then to experience that amazing feeling of being part of something magical that is much bigger than me. Community performance, when it works, is like a big wave that you can ride. There can be chaos and imperfection but it doesn't matter because the feeling of togetherness and shared experience and desire is the most important thing."

The OSU will also be spending time this spring working on creating a new piece for SubDevision, a theatrical event where ten independent theatre companies will come together to create site-specific performances at Arts Court during the Magnetic North Theatre Festival in June.

But the company is getting particularly excited about their very first fundraising event. On May 10, everyone is invited to Memorial Hall for a performance of their show *Kleo's Wake* as well as an evening of carnival-type activities. "I hope that people will get a chance to experience the sheer, physical pleasure that we get out of our



Photo Credit: Julie Laurin

The Ottawa Stilt Union posing as the company *Circus Different* Size Peoples, the characters of the show *Kleo's Wake*.

work," says Astwood. "And a bit of the thrill that one can have from doing something one didn't know one could do; which is to say, I hope people will have fun!" And fun they should have. After paying their entry, the participants will get a chance to be coached doing acrobatics and stilts, they can do crafts, play musical instruments and participate in all kinds of carnival games. There will even be a kissing booth!

After listening to Laura Astwood talk about stilt-walking, there is no doubt there is something magical about the company and the work they do.

"I love stilts because they create instant theatricality. I like my theatre to be as far from ordinary as possible and stilts are a great tool for that. I love the sense of the improbable thing actually happening: stilts are so odd and unexpected and yet, there they are. There is a whimsy in it that makes me happy."

For more information about the company, the workshops, or the fundraiser, check out the OSU's website at www.ottawastiltunion.ca or their Facebook page. You can also reach Guy Marsan at 613-600-6241.



Photo Credit: Julie Laurin

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XIX The State of the Planet

Editor's Note: The following is the nineteenth in a series of meticulously researched and compelling articles on climate change by local environmentalist Hugh Robertson. This penultimate article in the series laments the role of the narrow, political imperatives of the nation state in undermining the global or planetary perspective that is essential to addressing the current climate crisis. All of Mr. Robertson's earlier articles have been published in past editions of the New Edinburgh News (NEN), and can be found at www.newedinburgh.ca where previous issues of the NEN are available online.

By Hugh Robertson

We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations. . . We will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God.

President Obama, Inaugural address, January 2013.

These stirring words gave hope to millions around the world who were despairing for the future of the planet. At last, a major international leader was taking a stand. But facing Congress a few weeks later, the president was more muted about the environment in his State of the Union address. A brief reference to combating climate change "for the sake of our children and our future" was tucked away in the middle of his speech, sandwiched between the need for energy self-sufficiency and curbing climate change through economic growth based on market solutions.

Why had the lofty sentiments about the state of the planet dissipated in a matter of

weeks? Was it the reality of dealing with a fractious legislature who opposes action on climate change? Was it the need to placate the business community and the fossil fuel lobby? Perhaps he was pandering to consumers who also happen to be voters.

In Canada, however, there were no stirring words about the state of the planet in the last Speech from the Throne in 2011. There was no ennobling vision for the future of our children and grandchildren. There was not even a reference to the dangers of climate change.

The monotonous mantra of low taxes, jobs, prosperity and economic growth dominated the address, punctuated with depressing references to the need for law and order legislation and eliminating the gun registry. Mention of the "natural environment" was limited to the creation of parks and to the importance of developing our natural resource wealth which would take place under "improved regulatory and

environmental assessment."

The Throne Speech is a major address that outlines the focus of the government's policy and legislative priorities. The War of 1812 merited mention but not the rapidly deteriorating climatic conditions across Canada and especially their impact on our indigenous people in the North. We spent more money in 2012 commemorating the bicentennial of a minor war than we spent on climate change. Strange priorities.

All three speeches, which could be described as "State of the Nation" addresses, offer an interesting contrast. The presidential inaugural speech included some inspiring words about the plight of the planet but the details of the State of the Union address lacked the passion of the earlier speech. The Canadian Throne speech simply made no pretence about planetary concerns and the subsequent legislation has confirmed that position.

How can the president pledge to speed up new oil and gas permits in his quest for energy self-sufficiency when they will involve the destructive process of fracking which will lead to cheaper prices, more consumption and sky-high greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions? Market-based solutions, another initiative mentioned in the State of the Union address, always favour the wealthy, and the wealthy pollute more than any other socio-economic group.

The Speech from the Throne was still echoing on Parliament Hill when the Budget eliminated virtually every existing environmental protective measure, proclaiming "open season" on our resources and unleashing potentially disastrous ecological outcomes.

The resource and energy development programs of the Canadian and U.S. governments are not consistent with the long term protection of the planet. There is nothing "ethical" about fracked oil and tar sands bitumen and there is no scientific basis to "clean coal." Furthermore, programs that promote lower taxes, economic growth, prosperity and more consumption will simply exacerbate environmental problems.

Our most important – and

urgent – societal challenge in North America is to shift the focus from the "state of the nation" to the "state of the planet."

An unlikely ally

A powerful message on the precarious state of the planet is coming from a most unlikely quarter: the business and financial community. Prominent individuals and organizations are looking beyond narrow national interests to the concerns of the larger world. How ironic that we may be looking to business and finance to provide enlightened and inspiring leadership on environmental issues.

A number of reports have been issued over the past three months by major international organizations alerting us to the dangers of ecological degradation. The first of these, by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the world's largest professional services firm, warned in November, 2012, that global society may have passed a critical threshold: unless we "decarbonize" our economies immediately, we cannot restrict temperature increases to two degrees C. If uncontrolled, ghg emissions could propel the planet to a six degree warming by 2100.

Also in November, 2012, the World Bank issued its groundbreaking report: *Why a four degree warmer world must be avoided*, prepared by the Potsdam Institute, one of the top climate research bodies in the world.

According to the report, ghg concentrations in the atmosphere are higher than at any other time in the past fifteen million years. Emissions are projected to hit 400 parts per million (ppm) by 2020 which will push us over the two degree C. temperature increase ceiling agreed to at the Copenhagen conference in 2009. The report actually questions whether human adaptation to a four degree increase is even possible.

The World Economic Forum meets in Davos, Switzerland, each January. It is a gathering of top business leaders, bankers, politicians, intellectuals and journalists. This year's get-together was remarkable for the outspoken comments on our troubled planet by a number of prominent individuals.

Selected comments from Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, during the conference clearly illustrate her concerns:

- "The science is sobering – 2012 was among the hottest years since records began in

1880."

- "Unless we take action on climate change, future generations will be roasted, toasted, fried and grilled."
- "Without concerted action, the very future of our planet is in peril."

Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank, who commissioned the Potsdam report, had an op-ed column published in the *Washington Post* during the Davos meeting. He appealed to governments and people world-wide to concentrate on reducing emissions, focusing on low carbon growth and building resilient societies. "The world needs a bold global approach to help avoid the climate catastrophe it faces today. The planet, our home, cannot wait."

Lord Nicholas Stern, former chief economist for the World Bank and renowned for his report in 2006 warning about the dangers of a warming planet, admitted in an interview at Davos that he had underestimated the risk of rising temperatures. He acknowledged that ghg emissions are increasing at so rapid a pace that the planet is losing its ability to absorb the escalating carbon dioxide concentrations. He fears that we are on track for at least a four degree rise in global temperatures.

How refreshing to hear the candour of the world's business and financial elites calling for action on global warming. They have the courage to level with us in plain language about the gravity of our situation. Yes, their warnings may be seen as self-serving, but their central message that economic well-being, human health, social stability and biodiversity are all dependent on a vital and vibrant planet is undeniable.

Our governments in North America, beholden to their electorates and focused on power, do not have the same courage to level with us. We are still rooted in an age of narcissistic nationalism where the interests of the nation-state trump the needs of the global community. Globalization is merely a market and trade term, not an ethical imperative.

Annus horribilis

Queen Elizabeth popularized the term "annus horribilis" in a speech in November, 1992 when she used the Latin phrase to describe a series of family events that had attracted negative public attention. "Annus horribilis" can be aptly used to describe the weather events of 2012 which, due to our conveniently short memories, may already have been forgotten.

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rienced its hottest year in history, and every state had above average annual temperatures. July was the hottest month ever in the U.S. Drought covered almost two thirds of the country and crop yields were down significantly. The record year culminated with the onslaught by Superstorm Sandy, fueled by warmer ocean water and violent winds loaded with extra water vapour, a phenomenon that was almost certainly caused by anthropogenic activity.

- Canada is heating up faster than nearly every other country on the planet. The summer of 2012 was the warmest on record. Remarkably, our winter average temperatures have risen over three degrees since 1950, a period that has coincided with the most dramatic increases in ghg emissions since the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century.
- Perhaps the most alarming event of 2012 was the collapse of the Arctic ice sheet. Summer sea ice has been declining for years, but warmer winters are now inhibiting winter refreezing and, consequently, the overall volume of the ice cover is down dramatically. The

summer sea ice will probably be gone in a decade and the heating of the exposed water will expedite a feedback process that will reinforce the warming trend with unpredictable weather and climate consequences.

- The global oceans are in triple trouble. Plastic pollution is choking the Pacific and acidification of surface water due to excess atmospheric carbon dioxide is leading to world-wide "osteoporosis" of shellfish

"Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground – the unborn of the future Nation."

–Great Law of the Iroquois

and coral reefs. Now mercury concentrations, primarily from coal-fired power plants and gold mining, are on the rise, exposing coastal communities to a reappearance of the scourge of "minamata disease."

- Changes in precipitation patterns and temperature ranges are having a devastating effect on global biodiversity as numerous species disappear because they cannot make the necessary biological adjustments to rapidly changing natu-

ral conditions. Ecosystems, such as the coniferous forests of British Columbia and Alberta are falling prey to the invasion of beetles that are now able to survive the warmer winters.

The crowning climax to 2012 – and the crowning irony – was the UN Climate Conference in Doha, the capital of Qatar, which happens to be the world's biggest polluter in per capita ghg emissions. Once again there was no agreement on collective action to control

emissions; the only winner was the fossil fuel industry.

Kyoto, now a ghost agreement on life support, survived the conference but only fifteen percent of global emissions are covered by the remaining signatories. If North American concern for climate change is measured by our commitment to Kyoto, the only international agreement on ghg emissions, we are in deep trouble. Because Canada and the U.S. are both major league petro states now, the lack of commitment is understandable but

nevertheless reprehensible.

Canada has been actively undermining Kyoto for the last few years and finally walked out last year. The U.S. has never ratified Kyoto and it has been actively sabotaging the negotiations in recent years, including Doha, according to international activists. Yet, President Obama in his victory speech in November, just weeks before the Doha conference, declared: "We want our children to live in an America . . . that isn't threatened by the

destructive power of a warming planet." You cannot isolate America from a warming planet. Geography 101.

If our governments are using the international stage to play to the home crowd for votes, then we have to challenge them, otherwise we are complicit in the charade. If our countries are not committed to a global climate agreement due to narrow national interests, how serious is our commitment to the future of the planet? We do need inspiring and uplifting speeches but we also need

honesty. Empty words merely create cynicism.

"Securing the future" is not a catchy election phrase or another ephemeral political issue – it is a moral matter. As voters, it is our ethical responsibility to persuade our politicians of their obligation both to the global community and to future generations. To reinforce this message, we need only remember the Kenyan proverb: We have not inherited this land from our ancestors; rather we have borrowed it from our children.

To initiate change, we first have to transform our own hearts, as Gandhi reminded us. We have to build personal lifestyles that are sustainable before we demand changes of our governments. How we cast our votes is also a reflection of the state of our hearts. We must use the privilege of our vote, not for short term self-interest or ideological reasons, but for the benefit of those without a voice. Let us not forget that we hold the proxy votes of unborn citizens.

Our lawmakers must heed the age-old counsel of the Iroquois nation: consider the well-being of our progeny seven generations into the future when making decisions.



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Art Auction and Social to Raise Funds for Strays in Cuba

By Kiki Cliff

On Saturday, May 4, there will be a fundraiser for APAC-Varadero (All for Progress in Animal Care), a Canadian-based not-for-profit committed to helping stray animals in Cuba. There will be a silent auction of Cuban artefacts, a live auction of artwork, Cuban snacks (included in the ticket price), a cash bar (serving, of course, Mojitos and Pina Colodas!), live music and much more!

Best of all, ALL funds raised will go directly to helping stray animals in Cuba.

If you have ever visited

this beautiful island in the Caribbean, you could not have helped but notice the large number of stray cats and dogs roaming the streets and hanging around the hotels. APAC-Varadero, working with the CCVC-Matanzas (Cuban Scientific Veterinary Council) and a team of volunteers, helps Cubans control the overpopulation of homeless animals through spay/neuter clinics and public education. All funds raised go to purchasing the necessary veterinary medications, often not even available in Cuba, and getting them to APAC's team of veterinarians

who then run spay/neuter clinics in small towns and rural areas all over the northern part of the island. Any animal coming into APAC's care also gets any other medical treatment it needs, such as de-worming, de-fleaing and treatments for mange or other skin conditions.

For example, in one single clinic last November, APAC's veterinarians, working with students from the Agrarian University of Havana, spayed and neutered over 40 animals in one day in the town of Madruga in the Mayabeque Province. Already this year, in January, 51 animals were neutered in a one-day clinic in Matanzas City. These animals now stand a much better chance of living longer, healthier lives as they will not be constantly reproducing. Furthermore, many hundreds of animals will now not be born into the hard and hungry life of a stray!

APAC's volunteer teams also work in schools and with community organizations to educate the population about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets and about being a responsible pet owner. They have also recently had great success working cooperatively with some of the hotels



Roaming strays a common sight in Cuba.

in the Matanzas region to get the populations of dogs and cats roaming the beaches under control.

Saturday, May 4, 7-10 pm
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Tickets: \$10 available from Books on Beechwood and the NECTAR Centre (255 MacKay) or by calling **613-203-6617**.

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Am I My Neighbour's Keeper?

By Liba Bender,

Last month, while on a trip to Boston, a tourist asked me for directions to a place I did not know. After a brief exchange of words, we decided to walk around the Harvard University Campus looking for that building. Of course, we learned a little about each other during conversation. When he told me that he was a private detective in his country, my ears perked up. When he also told me it was an illegal profession in his country I asked why. He came from a country where private enterprise is very unusual and where it is illegal to gather information about others.

Information is power, and put in the right or wrong hands,

can benefit or damage.

So how does that relate to keeping our neighbourhood safe? Clearly I cannot be my neighbour's keeper without being responsible for him. And I am not. You are responsible for your house, property and your relationship with your neighbours. You can be a good, mediocre or bad neighbour; in the end it is always your choice.

Open Garages Invite Thieves

If your neighbour's garage door is open, and there is no reason that it should be that way all day or night, mention it. Maybe it is a system malfunction, or perhaps too much ice has built up under the door. If they don't know it, they can't fix it. If they don't fix it,

there is definitely a problem. Open garage doors invite professional thieves who observe what is worthwhile to take, plan when to do it, and return with a vehicle to do just that. I have even witnessed someone taking a picture of an open garage, presumably for future reference. Garage doors are there for a reason; let's be sure to use them.

Is Your Car Safe?

Recently, on Ivy and Noel, there have been cars broken into and contents removed. Items stolen were reported to the police by the owners so that if they showed up in a pawn shop, they could be linked to the owner. These items need to be identified by their model, code number, and could even be IDed (by the ID burner that the police will happily loan you for this purpose). The same can be done for items of

value in your home.

While You Were Out

When you are planning to be away, consider letting trusted neighbours know so they can keep an eye out. And it's amazing what timers and outdoor porch lights can do to deter theft!

Remember: Safety first, second and third. Stand up to the plate and be a neighbourhood keeper, catcher and player.



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For the Birds



By Jane Heintzman

As I write in early March, the spring migration in our part of the world has yet to begin in earnest, although there are isolated reports of small numbers of **American robins**, **red-winged blackbirds**, and **white-throated sparrows** on the periphery of the city. Soon, however, the migrant songbird population will be flooding back into the Ottawa Valley to join the **Northern cardinals**, **black-capped chickadees**, hardy **winter finches** (**goldfinches**, **house finches**, **purple finches**, **common** and **hoary redpolls**), **Bohemian** and **cedar waxwings**, **nuthatches**, **woodpeckers**, **blue jays** and **pine grosbeaks** that have stuck with us over the winter months.

Hundreds of thousands of these intrepid avian migrants are currently in mid-journey; many of them on the Atlantic Flyway where once again this year, our birding and travel reporter **Vicki Metcalfe** is keeping track of their arrival from her vantage point on Jekyll Island, Georgia (see her report below). As we've noted

- widespread destruction of habitat on both wintering grounds and stop-over locations as a result of clear-cutting, urban encroachment and commercial agriculture;
- environmental contamination;
- storms and turbulent weather, now occurring with increasing frequency and intensity;
- urban hazards such as deadly collisions with skyscrapers; and
- in recent years climate change, which threatens to upset the balance between the birds' time of arrival on northern breeding grounds and the emergence of the insects which are their primary food supply. The birds' bodies are hard-wired to respond to the length of daylight hours with the hormonal changes that trigger migration and ultimately breeding behaviour. As the annual average temperature creeps up, however, this light-related timetable often fails to coincide with the early emergence of the insects that sustain the birds in the nesting season.

In Ontario, there is a glimmer of hope that steps may be taken to mitigate one of these hazards. A recent ruling by Ontario Court Justice Melvyn Green is being hailed in the ornithological community as a



Photo: Gillian Mastromatteo

Wildlife paparazzi line up for a shot of great gray owls.

in previous spring editions, the annual spring migration process is a miracle of physiological adaptation and physical endurance on the part of the song bird population, as it heads north on epic journeys of often thousands of kilometres, flying at much higher speeds than those recorded on the trip south in the fall, thanks to the power of the breeding imperative.

At the same time, however, migration is a ritual fraught with serious dangers and each year, there are thousands of casualties en route. Foremost among these hazards are:

significant legal precedent that will help to protect migratory birds from collisions with high rise office towers. Between March and November 2010, close to 1,000 birds were killed or injured when they struck the highly reflective windows of Cadillac Fairview's Yonge Corporate Centre in Toronto. Although the company was ultimately acquitted on the grounds that it had made serious efforts to address the problem, Mr. Justice Green agreed that in such cases, charges are appropriate under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the federal *Species at Risk*

Act.

BirdLife International: A Global Partnership of Conservationists

Needless to say, birds in general and migratory birds in particular are no respecters of national boundaries. Serious conservation efforts inevitably involve international collaboration, both in the form of international treaties and conventions among governments, such as the *Convention on the Protection of Migratory Birds* signed nearly a century ago in 1916 by Canada and the U.S., and through the work of non-governmental organizations and conservation groups.

In the latter category, **BirdLife International (BLI)** is well known as the world's largest and most broadly-based partnership of over 100 conservation organizations, and thousands of local groups working collectively to meet both regional and global conservation targets. BLI has over 10 million members and supporters, with regional work programs on every continent, and owns or manages more than two million acres of land for environmental protection purposes. Its educational role is a central aspect of its overall mission, and each year, more than 2 million children take part in BLI programs.

BLI programs are addressed to a number of key conservation objectives, including:

- preventing species extinctions
- protecting migratory birds and their flyways
- protecting significant bird and biodiversity locations
- preserving forests, and
- addressing the impact of climate change.

From **June 19 to 22**, the **BirdLife International Congress** — a major event held every five years — will take place at the Westin Hotel here in Ottawa, where it will be hosted by **Bird Studies Canada** and **Nature Canada**. On hand to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the organization and to preside over a gala fundraising dinner will be Her Imperial Highness, **Princess Takamado of Japan**, Honorary President of BLI, along with Canadian literary luminaries **Margaret Atwood** and **Graeme Gibson**, both avid and highly knowledgeable birders who are Honorary Joint Presidents of BLI's Rare Bird Club. Conference topics will include Conserving Natural Capital, Biodiversity Conservation and Combatting Climate Change.

For more information about the Congress, interested read-



Photo: Louise Imbeault
Hairy Woodpecker snacks on a Suet Feeder.

ers can contact **Jodi Joy**, jjoy@naturecanada.ca, 613-562-3447 Ext. 240; or **Sue Robertson**, srobertson@naturecanada.ca, 613-562-3447 Ext. 229.

Guess Who's Coming For Dinner: Absolutely No One!

For the past two and a half months, our garden has been all but abandoned by the bird population, with only an occasional, fleeting visit from a handful of skittish **American goldfinches**, rosy **house finches** and **black-capped chickadees** to relieve the monotonous spectacle of empty feeders. I have, however, vicariously enjoyed seeing winter finches as I pass by my neighbour **Philip MacAdam's "Avian Bistro"** on my daily dog walks.

Philip's feeders are invariably packed with **goldfinches** (feeding upside down), **house** and **purple finches**, **black-capped chickadees** and **hairy** or **downy woodpeckers**, and it's hard to resist the conclusion that his beautifully protected feeding stations are infinitely more attractive to birds than our much more exposed feeding area with its vulnerability to predators swooping down from the tall pines, and regular infestation of pushy squirrels.

Northern Cardinal: Once a Rarity, Now a Regular

There is, however, one loyal species which has not abandoned our garden this winter, although it rarely if ever ventures on to the feeders, prefer-

ring to forage discreetly on the ground behind our scrub evergreens. A pair of **Northern cardinals** has remained a regular presence in our backyard throughout the winter, and in recent weeks, the male has begun the annual spring ritual of melodious morning song as the breeding season fast approaches.

When I was growing up in Toronto, some years ago when the earth was still cooling, the cardinal was a rarity, and indeed, until I was in my teens, I had never actually seen one. In recent decades the picture has changed dramatically to the point that cardinals are now ubiquitous in the Ottawa area on a year round basis. It's virtually impossible to take a walk in the Burgh without encountering at least one cardinal chipping or singing in the shrubbery, though interestingly enough, you're not nearly as likely to spot one in wooded areas such as Pine Hill, as they prefer an open urban streetscape to a forest.

Throughout the 20th century, the cardinal's range steadily expanded to the north and east in North America. In Ontario, the earliest recorded sighting was in 1859, and in 1901, the species was first spotted at Point Pelee, the birding mecca of the province. By the 1980s, the cardinal's range had spread east and north, and was well established in the Ottawa area where its population has become increasingly robust, reportedly rising by an average of 11% per year between 1981 and 2005.

There are a variety of reasons why this magnificent creature has flourished in our part of the province, not least because of its notable ability to adapt to the urban and suburban landscape, with its attendant human activity. It's only a slight stretch to suggest that cardinals are actually quite sociable (though not as bold in human company as the famously gregarious **black-capped chickadee**). In my experience, the male of the species appears to deliberately court attention



Photo: Mike Leveillé

Common Redpolls forage at Macoun Marsh.

as it displays itself freely on prominent perches in full view of passers-by, and many of us are lucky enough to have “resident” cardinals that thrive year round on our properties, often within metres of our houses.

Another compelling reason for the cardinal’s burgeoning population is the explosion in the numbers of backyard feeders in recent decades, a development which ornithologists believe has been a critical factor in increasing the survival rates of many over-wintering species. Finally, of course, the phenomenon of climate change has resulted in warmer, shorter winters, which (despite their longer-term, ominous overtones) have created a more congenial habitat for the cardinal and the winter bird population in general.

Reports from the Region

While my own list of interesting bird sightings this winter has been paltry at best, the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club website at <http://www.ofnc.ca/breports.php> has helped to keep me up to date on the bird life in our area on a daily basis. In addition to the **common** and **hoary redpolls**, **Bohemian waxwings**, **pine grosbeaks**, **juncos**, **mourning doves** and other regulars of the winter landscape, there have been numerous reports of **owl** sightings around Ottawa, including **barred owls**, **great horned owls**, **northern hawk owls**, **snowy owls** and **great gray owls**.

An “irruption” of **great gray owls** took place in Ottawa this winter, with reports coming initially from the east end of the city (Green’s Creek area) and shifting more recently to the west, where the owls are still in evidence in Kanata and Carp. According to local birder **Bruce Di Labio**, these irruptions seem to occur about once a decade, with previous recorded incidences in 1983-84; 1995-96; and 2004-05.

The great gray owl is an imposing creature, up to 34” long with a wing span of nearly 5 feet. Beneath the “fluff”, however, they are considerably less substantial than their counterparts, such as the **great horned owl** or **snowy owl**, which outweigh them by a wide margin. These owls are a magnet for local wildlife photographers, and the unfortunate creatures that lighted at Green’s Creek were beset by an army of camera-wielding zealots who, in some cases, attempted to “bait” them into a dramatic dive using live mice. Moral of the story: if you are lucky enough to spot an owl,



Great gray owl.

Photo: Bruce Di Labio

do NOT reveal its exact location!

Another species in the large bird category that has been regularly reported this winter is the **wild turkey**. These ungainly creatures appear to have made themselves right at home in the Nepean area, where they have on occasion caused traffic chaos and discomforted local residents.

Reports from Our Readers:

Amy Jane Lawes:

Following a promising start to the winter when she spotted—and photographed—massive flocks of **Bohemian waxwings** on River Lane and Union Street, as well as sizeable groups of **American goldfinches**, **house finches** and **common redpolls** on her window sill, my neighbour **Amy Jane Lawes** has also noted a distinct absence of winter finches in recent weeks, although she was lucky enough to spot a flock of 9 twittering **pine grosbeaks** nearby at the Minto Bridges.

The highlight of recent weeks, however, was her memorable encounter with an **owl** on School Lane as she was leaving her home one morning at the ungodly hour of 5:20 am. Although it came to rest briefly in a tree in my neighbour’s backyard, because of the early hour the visibility was poor, Amy was not able to positively identify it, except to note that it was relatively small and resembled the **Little Owl**, which she has encountered in the U.K. Her best guess at this point is a **barred owl** (the most common owl in Ontario according to the results of a recent survey), but another possibility is a **long-eared owl**, which is considerably smaller (15” vs. 21”) and which was in fact spotted around the corner

sen nesting cavity, they plaster their chosen nesting hole with sticky resin from nearby conifers—if you can’t lick ‘em, gum them up! These little critters are also known to steal nesting materials from chickadees, a nasty habit which possibly explains why the black-caps joined the fray.

Phil’s Avian Bistro:

As noted earlier, Alexander Street resident **Philip MacAdam** has played host this winter to a steady stream of **American goldfinches** (some of them now beginning the morph back to their yellow breeding plumage), **house finches**, **purple finches**, and **black-capped chickadees**, along with an occasional **common redpoll**. Philip’s feeders are beautifully protected by a sheltering cedar tree close to his house, and they appear to have a lock on the local finch population of the neighbourhood. His suet feeder has also been a magnet for **hairy** and **downy woodpeckers**. In a recent ramble near Pine Hill Woods, Philip and Jean spotted a small **hawk**, which they described as “smaller and bushier than a **sharp-shinned hawk**”. The bushiest hawk I know is the **red-tailed hawk**, which can look like the legendary Phyllis Diller on a really bad hair day, but at 19” long, it’s definitely not small!

Macoun Marsh:

Once again this winter, a large flock of **common redpolls** (with one **hoary redpoll** thrown into the mix) has turned up at the Macoun Marsh, where St. Laurent Academy Science teacher **Mike Leveillé** managed to capture the feeding frenzy in another of his magnificent photographs. We’re looking forward to hearing news of the spring migrants as

they descend on the Marsh in the coming weeks!

Dave Collyer:

Our Alberta correspondent **Dave Collyer** reported in early March that the spring migration was not yet fully underway in his part of the world, but that plenty of birdlife was still in evidence on his property, notably a **snowy owl** and a **bald eagle**, along with numerous **black-capped chickadees**, **blue jays**, **hairy**-, **downy**- and **pileated woodpeckers**, **magnpies** and **common redpolls** (with 2 **hoarys** in their midst).

Vicki Metcalfe: Report from Jekyll Island

As always at this time of year, Vicki is logging prodigious numbers of bird species as she takes advantage of the limitless birding possibilities on Jekyll Island, Georgia. Vicki’s complete catalogue of 2013 Jekyll sightings will be posted on the community website at www.newedinburgh.ca.

Readers may, however, be particularly interested to hear about some of the migrating species that she is currently observing (which should be turning up in our area in the coming weeks), notably: **bald eagles**, **osprey**, **juncos**, **Eastern bluebirds**, **mourning doves**, **turkey vultures**, **yellow-rumped warblers**, **black and white warblers**, **gray catbirds**, **willets**, **dunlin**, **killdeer**, **black-crowned night heron**, **great blue heron**, **great egret**, **ruby-crowned kinglets**, **pine warblers**, **hooded mergansers**, **pied billed grebe**, **cormorants**, **Northern mockingbirds**, **chipping sparrows**, **white-throated sparrows**, **hermit thrush**, **brown thrashers**, **herring- and ring-billed gulls**, **sanderling**, and **red-winged blackbirds**. Bring them on!

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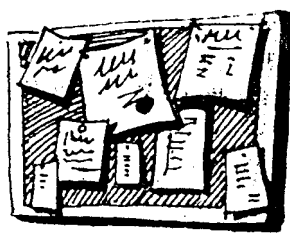
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Burgh Bulletin Board

April

Thu, Apr 4, 2:30 pm

ANNUAL DAFFODIL TEA fundraiser in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Entertainment will be provided by harpist and pianist; Joanna Griffin and refreshments will be served. So step into spring with a bunch of beautiful daffodils and know that your contribution will go a long way for the fight against cancer. To RSVP call 613-564-9255 or for more information ask

for Tara or Milly. Governor's Walk, 150 Stanley Ave.

Beginning Wed, Apr 10

MOM DESERVES THE BEST CONTEST One lucky Ottawa-area mom is in for a real treat this Mother's Day. Will it be yours? Enter to win for your mom from Concierge Home Services, CELADON Salon & Spa and many other sponsors. Be sure to "Like Us" on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to receive updates on



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Ongoing until Tue, Apr 16

LE CENTRE D'ARTISTES VOIX VISUELLE presents Du soleil et des ombres, an exhibition by Johanne Lafrenière. A silent animation and video excerpts showcases a return to the essence of the image: the fragility of the contact between light and the surface which allows it to exist. In continuity with the artist production, the project reflects her fascination for light and the visual phenomena surrounding us; these create, build and deconstruct imagery. Thus, shadow and light seem to translate the different mindscapes of a young girl on a swing, lost in her thoughts. The exhibition allows us to perceive the metaphorical scope of light, movement and time. The gallery is located at 81 Beechwood Avenue and is open from 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Information: Shahla Bahrami (613) 748-6954 or info@voix-visuelle.ca.

Sun, April 21, 3 pm

OTTAWA BRAHMS CHOIR SPRING CONCERT - Along the Blue Danube, songs by Johannes Brahms, Johann Strauss, Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, as well as lesser known works by German, Austrian, Hungarian, and Romanian composers; under direction of Denise Hawkins and Accompanist Ioulia Blinova; the concert takes place at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2345 Alta Vista Drive; for information please contact: 613-749-



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Dog/Cat Walking and Sitting Your house plants are also safe with me!. Emergency and regular daily walking. References. Liba Bender: 613-746-4884.

HOUSECLEANING by longtime Burgh resident. Good references in neighbourhood. Available immediately. 613-744-8449.

LOST: Silver bracelet with curly links. Lost when I fell and crawled out of the park on January 5, between Queen Victoria entrance and off-leash field. Bridget Barber. 297-8235.

2391 or 819-568-8169. www.OttawaBrahmsChoir.ca.

Sat, April 27, 9 am - noon

FREE QIGONG WORKSHOP, taught by Master James Foo, at Macies Hotel (Best Western) 1274 Carling Ave. For information, reserving seats, or healing consultations please contact Angela Fung 613-762-8893 or email afung46@hotmail.com.

May / June

Sat, May 4

UMPIRE CLINIC - Become a Softball Ontario Certified Fast Pitch or Slo-Pitch Umpire. This Level 1 clinic will be held at the Carleton Heights Curling Club. For those that are already certified a refresher clinic will be held on Saturday April 27 at the RA Centre on Riverside Drive. To register, contact George Findley at 613-722-2620.

Fri, Jun 21 and Sat, Jun 22, 10 am - 4 pm

52ND ANNUAL IODE LAURENTIAN HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR - A tour of the homes and gardens of Rockcliffe Park. Tickets will be available at retailers across Ottawa as of mid April. For more information contact: Jo Brodie at 613-842-5304.

Ongoing

CHOW QIGONG CLASSES every Tuesday 9:15 - 10:45 am, and every Wednesday 6 - 7:30 pm at 180 Percy Street, McNabb Community Recreational Centre in Centretown. For info please consult our website: www.ottawachowqigongassociation.com.

Directory of Resources for Senior Citizens of Ottawa is now available. This bilingual directory includes a description of all the organizations in the Ottawa region where seniors can get helpful advice geared to their special needs. The Senior Citizens Council of Ottawa publishes the directory. It is available at the Council offices, 670 Albert Street, Suite 019, for \$6 (\$5 for individual members of Council) or one can be mailed to you for an additional \$4 charge to cover postage. Call 613-234-8044 for more information.



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NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

April 1

New Edinburgh Groundhog's Dark Day in Spotlight

Edin B. G-Hog suffered a crushing disappointment on February 2, the day that was to have marked the groundhog's successful challenge to the hegemony of the increasingly senile Wiarton Willy as Canada's forecaster-in-chief. The Burgh's cherished mascot, a two-year-old native of Rideau Hall, trained intensively all winter, arising each day at dawn to predict the weather six weeks on.

He achieved a near-perfect record, his one misstep being on the garbage day after Christmas, when he succumbed to a surfeit of fruitcake.

Alas, shortly before sunrise on February 2, as he was positioning himself for the much-awaited pronouncement, the unfortunate rodent was overwhelmed by the discharge of a passing salt truck. An alert driver, noticing his distress, whisked Edin to the SPCA. Eye drops were administered in time to prevent loss of vision, but as a precaution the patient

was confined to a dark box for the remainder of the day. His prediction came as no more than a blind guess.

Edin is currently back in residence at Rideau Hall, but as NTNEN went to press, Burgh MP Bauril Mélangier was drafting a private member's bill to resurrect the recently shut down Parliament Hill Cat House as a safe, permanent home for the talented rodent.

Lucky for Edin, Ottawa residents are more forgiving than our neighbours to the south. The Associated Press reports that Edin's Pennsylvania cousin, once removed—Punxsutawney Phil—has recently been indicted in Ohio over his erroneous spring forecast earlier this year. Phil's lawyers have vowed to fight any extradition attempt by Ohio authorities and Canadian officials have unofficially indicated they would "turn a blind eye" if Phil were to make his way to this country to avoid extradition to the Buckeye state.



Edin B. G-Hog.

Photo: D. Gordon E. Robertson



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Zippping around the Burgh: The scaffolding of Moshe Safdie's never-quite-finished tower at the former Ottawa City Hall (now the John G. Diefenbaker Building) will finally be put to good use once the proposed New Edinburgh Aerial Adventure Park gets off the ground. The tower will serve as a launch point for this highly-anticipated urban transit option and tourist attraction. Another possible launch point that is being explored is from Philosopher's Hill atop the Birchwood National Cemetery. This magnificent viewshed would allow visitors a quick way to zip back to town after spending some quiet time on the hill.

The Buzz on Beechwood: From Zip Lines to Casinos, with Traffic in Between

With the approach of spring, rejuvenation activities on Beechwood are in full bloom, with a host of imaginative ideas from our resourceful residents pouring on to the agenda to beautify and liven up our erstwhile corpse of a shopping area.

Work is already well underway on the installation of a state of the art zip-line between the intersection at the Vanier Parkway and *The Kavanaugh* at 222 Beechwood—a real zinger of a project, which is certain to thrill local residents as they soar above the Beechwood Corridor taking in an exhilarating view of vacant lots and derelict buildings (and presumably hoping not to collide with the steeple of St. Charles Church). Word has it that **Mayor What's-On** is currently edging out our two local Councillors for first dibs on the zip-line's inaugural run. Rest assured that the NTNEN will be on the scene to bring you some priceless visuals from that little exercise.

Sadly, the pilot project to test the visual impact of installing giant, colourful flower pots at the main intersections along Beechwood produced rather disappointing results. Far from delighting pedestrians and motorists with a plethora of cheerful blooms to relieve the tedium and frustration of traffic congestion, the positioning of the pots produced epic traffic jams and a rash of near catastrophic accidents. Understandably one deeply regrettable incident

involved an OC Transpo bus which failed to negotiate the tricky turn around the pot and smashed into its side, leaving the driver covered with soil and dead bits of geranium. The NTNEN has since learned that he was not amused.

On a brighter note, the NTNEN has received word that a hotly competitive bidding process is now underway among street vendors seeking City permits to serve the multitudes stuck in perpetually snarled traffic as drivers attempt to enter or exit the parking area off MacKay Street. We're not surprised at this entrepreneurial jostling to get a piece of the limitless potential of this captive market. We hope that the City makes seasonally appropriate decisions when granting these permits so we aren't stuck with hot, gooey poutine in July as we're cooling our heels in the MacKay Street gridlock, or for that matter, ice cold gelato in February. (If we had to take an Editorial position, we'd go for espresso vendors just to keep folks awake while they wait...and wait...and wait some more for the traffic jams to clear.)

For some, the recent announcement that a Boutique Target store will be the first retailer to move into the palatial new building at Beechwood and MacKay, was a bit of a blow. Readers will recall the strenuous community lobby to bring back the kind of small, independent operators that have traditionally formed the

bedrock of our Beechwood shopping village. It must be said that a giant, upscale chain operation wasn't exactly what we had in mind. Officials vigorously defend their decision, however, noting that the new Beechwood Boutique Target Manager was expressly chosen for this location, and is indeed small—4'10" to be precise—and strictly independent, living entirely alone (with the exception of his cat). Gives a whole new meaning to the concept of following advice to the letter....

No news yet on the intriguing proposal to set up a casino at the former St. Charles Church, but we'll keep you posted as events unfold. Initial community reaction to the idea is reportedly mixed, ranging from abject disgust to disbelief, with some wild amusement thrown in. We're told, however, that the enterprising team that brought us the zip-line also has stars in their eyes about taking a leaf from our counterparts across the river, by installing a gigantic *jet d'eau* on the lawn in front of the casino, or rather church, to create a truly world-class leisure destination right here in the Burgh. Just how that would work with the zip-line overhead remains to be seen, but possibly wetsuits would be involved...

Stay tuned to the NTNEN for news of yet more bold initiatives to turn our sleepy shopping area into a place of excitement and adventure.

Burgh Breezy Bits

DEADLINE: MAY 10 breezybits@hotmail.com



Stanley Park.

By Martha Markowsky

WELCOME

Welcome back to **Joyce Dubuc** of Vaughn Street who recently returned from her trip to Nicaragua where she worked with local schools and children.

Welcome back to **Charlie Woodcock** who has returned from his travels with **Canada World Youth**.

THANK YOU

The players and parents of the Ottawa East Minor Hockey Novice teams want to thank all the coaches, particularly Head Coaches **Mike MacPhee**, (Novice C Sharks) and **Arun Thangaraj** (Novice C Ninjas), for providing wonderful guid-

ance, dedication and leadership over the season.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to **Barbara Mendel**, her husband **Bob Paquin** and their two children **Nicholas** and **Annie**, on the recent death of Barbara's beloved mother, **Elizabeth Mendel**. Mrs. Mendel was a close family friend of Barbara's neighbours, the **Macklems**—in particular **Nicholas Macklem's** mother **Anne Hardy**, and she will also be deeply missed by family.

We send our sympathies to **Sue Abbott** and her sons **Matthew (Allison)** and **Daniel (Paula)** on the death of Sue's mother **Joan "Bunty" Abbott** on March 4. Mrs. Abbott is

fondly remembered for her lively sense of humour and for her love of nature, dogs, books, and above all family. In the course of her life, she successfully imparted all of these fine qualities in generous measure to her daughter **Sue**, and she will be sorely missed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to New Edinburgh Square resident **Connie Elton**, who celebrated her 102nd birthday in fine style at the residence on February 9. Connie's daughter **Jo-Ann Robertson** reports that Mrs. Elton was feted like a queen at an elegant afternoon tea party, and was particularly delighted by the presence of **Mrs. Peggy Joyce**, the widow of former Ashbury College Head Master **William (Bill) Joyce**, who had originally recruited Jo-Ann's husband **Hugh Robertson** from South Africa to teach at the school. Guests were regaled with an amusing story about Connie Elton arriving at Ashbury to grill the Head Master in advance of the Robertsons' arrival in Ottawa, just to ensure that the school was an acceptable place for her daughter and son-in-law!

Congratulations to our Lindenlea neighbours **Chris** and **Andrea Scott** on the birth of their baby boy, **Aidan Scott** on March 12. Chris and Andrea are close friends of well-known Burgh residents **Marla Tonon** and **André Cloutier**, both of whom are delighted by Aidan's arrival.

Nancy Mayer's daughter, **Adrienne Gaudreault** of Noel Street, was the **bronze** medalist at the 2013 Ontario long track skating championships. She has also been named to the Ontario Long track speed skating team. Bravo! Her brother **Robert** came in **6th in his age class** at the Canadian championship in Winnipeg, and took **silver** in the relay. He also took **bronze** at the Ontario long track championships. There must be something special in the organic maple syrup they



Bond girl, Liba Bender!

Photo: Louise Imbeault

produce...

Congratulations to resident **Gail McEachern**, who received a well-deserved Heritage Community Recognition Award at Community and Protective Services Community on Thursday, March 21.

Thomas Street resident **David Sacks** was surprised by fellow NECA Board Members with a special event on March 9 to celebrate his 60 years on the planet.

Liba Bender of Ivy Crescent attended the ninth annual **FurBall Gala**, the Ottawa Humane Society's signature fundraising event, on February 23 at the National Art Gallery. The theme this year was **Bond**

007 and Liba pulled it off with aplomb in a fabulous crackled bronze satin gown.

BUSINESS BITS

In the heart of the New Edinburgh Community, **Ivania Morales' Family Hair Salon** at Governor's Walk Retirement Residence offers adult haircuts for \$15, children for \$10, perm and highlights are also done. Mon-Tues, 9 am - noon/Thurs-Fri, 5:30 - 8 pm. By appointment only, 613-255-0557.

Restaurateur **Ion Aimers** is set to open his third **ZaZaZa Pizza with Pizazz** location in the trendy Hintonburg, community this spring.

PENNIES FOR PENNY

Since the Government decided to phase out the penny, I have wanted to do a campaign to put to good use the unwanted pennies by donating them to a favourite charity.



The Women's Breast Health Centre has been my charity of choice for a long time, as I lost my mother to breast cancer 26 years ago. Recently, my dear friend **Penny Thompson** was diagnosed with breast cancer.

I am reaching out for your support in donating your pennies to a great friend and a wonderful centre. I will gratefully pick up your pennies and donate them to the Centre in Penny's name.

Marc LaFontaine
marc@marclafontaine.com



Sharks on Ice: Coach Mike MacPhee (center back) with his team.

Photo by Andrew Hamlin