

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Artist's rendering of proposed Minto development.

Courtesy of Minto

## Books on Beechwood: An 11th Hour Reprieve and a New Lease on Life

By Jane Heintzman

Shortly before Christmas, as faithful clients flocked to **Books on Beechwood** to stock up on reading material and say a wistful farewell to owner Jean Barton and her staff as the dreaded closure date loomed ever closer. At the 11th hour the community learned in a surprise announcement that a group of purchasers had emerged to buy the business and keep the store operating in its existing location—inventory, staff and all. The collective sigh of relief and delight in the neighbourhood must have been audible for miles around, and for many of us, it seemed that the “Christmas miracle” of legend had actually materialized in our own bailiwick on Beechwood.

After several weeks of tantalizing speculation about the identity of the consortium of white knights who had stepped in to save this treasured local institution, it was announced on January 9 that the new owners are **Brian Sullivan, Peter Dawson** and **George Laframboise**. All three are members of the senior management team at **Iridian Spectral Technologies**, a successful

local high tech firm specializing in the manufacture of optical thin film filters and coatings for application in a variety of industrial and research sectors, ranging from telecommunications and spectroscopy to the entertainment industry (including glasses for 3D cinema).

In addition to his internationally recognized expertise in optical thin films, Iridian founder **Brian Sullivan** is a resident of the neighbourhood and a committed book lover. For many years he and his now 12-year-old son Nicholas (an erstwhile participant in Books on Beechwood’s popular Story Time sessions in his younger days) have been regular clients at Books on Beechwood; as a part of their Saturday morning routine. Faced with the distressing prospect of its imminent closure, Brian swiftly moved beyond the helpless hand-wringing state in which the rest of us were mired, and initiated the purchase proposal, ultimately enlisting the participation of his colleagues.

In early December, the group began hush-hush discussions with building own-

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## The Community Response to Minto Design Plans for Beechwood Fire Site

By Jane Heintzman

After nearly two years of paralysis at the site of the fire on Beechwood, as unresolved insurance claims and leasing controversies hobbled any prospect of an early redevelopment, the logjam has at last been broken. The Minto Group is poised to proceed with a major mixed residential/commercial project at the heart of our commercial area. While at press time, the sale to Minto had not officially closed, the change of ownership is expected imminently and the company has been forging ahead with work on design plans for the site.

### Project Overview:

Here’s a quick snapshot of the broad lines of Minto’s proposal to date:

- Mixed-use commercial/residential building, with 8 storeys and a partial 9th storey (to a maximum 27.3 metres in height);
- Upper storeys set back from the sidewalk at the 5th level along the Beechwood front, and at the 3rd to 5th level on MacKay Street to create a transition to existing low rise residential townhouses;
- 1,622 square metres of ground floor commercial use (retail) space, with stores

on Beechwood Avenue only and multiple entrances along Beechwood;

- A public patio space at the MacKay/Beechwood corner;
- 157 condominium units above ground level, with a main entrance off MacKay Street;
- 26 surface public parking spaces and 162 underground spaces for condominium residents, with access to both via a two-way porte-cochère off MacKay Street;
- 88 bicycle parking spaces;
- Modifications to existing

ties, Minto has made a serious effort to open lines of communication, and to engage in consultations with community representatives. Preliminary discussions were held with a special sub-Committee of NECA shortly before Christmas, and on **Wednesday, January 16**, a public meeting organized by NECA took place at Memorial Hall, where a capacity crowd of close to 180 was given a closer look at project plans, and had an opportunity to address their comments to Minto representatives.

By any standard, the meeting

## Public comments on the Minto development are due by Feb. 4

Zoning provisions, including 7 metres above the existing height limit to accommodate a 9th storey; smaller setbacks from the property line; and slightly fewer parking spaces than would normally be required (a Zoning By-Law Amendment Application was filed by Minto in December).

### Community Consultations:

In response to the intense interest in the project on the part of residents in New Edinburgh and the surrounding communi-

ties, Minto has made a serious effort to open lines of communication, and to engage in consultations with community representatives. Preliminary discussions were held with a special sub-Committee of NECA shortly before Christmas, and on **Wednesday, January 16**, a public meeting organized by NECA took place at Memorial Hall, where a capacity crowd of close to 180 was given a closer look at project plans, and had an opportunity to address their comments to Minto representatives.

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Photo: Louise Imbeault

This mural was erected on Beechwood at the fire site in December by Beechwood Village Alliance volunteers. See article on page 17.





# Report from NECA Acting President David Sacks

## NECA Acting President David Sacks Reports

December and January have been busy months at NECA. Some readers will have attended the NECA-sponsored January 16 public meeting in Memorial Hall of the MacKay United Church, where 180 area residents crowded in to hear about and to discuss Minto Group's plans to redevelop the Beechwood Avenue fire site. (See Jane Heintzman's in-depth meeting coverage, page 1.) The two-hour event went beautifully: It typified efficient planning—and it typifies NECA's commitment to keeping this community informed and involved. Our strong hope is that Minto's executives, before finalizing their building plans, will have the time and inclination to consider some of the public's comments from January 16.

At this time, Minto reportedly is completing its purchase of the site, with its building plans already drawn up (although perhaps not fully finalized) and with the City's approval process already in gear. Residents wishing to comment on Minto's published plans must do so *now*, by **February 4**: Please email City planner **Bliss Edwards** at [bliss.edwards@ottawa.ca](mailto:bliss.edwards@ottawa.ca).

NECA's decision to hold the public meeting came in late November, amid rumours that Minto had bought the site. Knowing how fast the City's approval process can move,

and knowing that local residents too often are kept in the dark until a developer's building plans are set, we decided that NECA's duty lay in trying to bring Minto representatives to a public meeting. The meeting's purpose would be (a) to inform the public of Minto's building plans and (b) to try to *influence* aspects of those plans, through public comment. But time was of the essence, we knew.

A NECA committee was formed, of board members **Sarah Anson-Cartwright**, **Michael Histed**, **Catherine Lindquist**, **Tim Plumptre**, **Paula Thompson**, and myself. This group devoted simply hundreds of hours, from early December to mid January, to pull together the January 16 event.

For the evening's first half, a packed house watched several presentations, including an essential one on the proposed building by its architect, **Prishram Jain** of TACT Architecture in Toronto (part of the Minto team), and a most informative one by Catherine Lindquist, on the City planning and approval guidelines for the site. Then the agenda moved on to public discussion, as the audience converged onto six "discussion tables" where comments were traded informally on the newly explained Minto building plans; the focus-aspects were (a) the building's design, (b) retail plans, (c) parking and transportation

concerns, and (d) "green" or sustainability facets. While residents expressed gratitude that the site is being redeveloped, comments naturally gravitated to items of concern: Overall, there was criticism of Minto's planned building in regard to its height and mass on the Beechwood side, its non-brick cladding material, its allowance for perhaps only four retail spaces (and only on Beechwood), and its reliance on a single entrance-exit for cars, on MacKay, with obvious possible bottlenecking.

For now, the discussion-table comments have been distilled into a 2,200-word report, written by Tim Plumptre, to be delivered to Minto in late January. Minto's Vice President for Development, **Brent Strachan**, has graciously agreed to meet with NECA about the report. Again, it is our hope that these proceedings might bring the community's concerns to Minto's serious consideration, before the building plans are finalized.

### Our gratitude

Credit for January 16 goes partly to **Councillor Peter Clark**, who gave his blessing to the idea of a public event and who quietly advised Minto to get involved. Much credit is due to Minto's Brent Strachan, who back in December agreed to confer with NECA representatives and who listened, saying yes to a public meeting (and providing much of the audiovisual equipment).



*Letters to the Editor are always welcomed.*

Opinions are the writer's and do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Please be sure to include your name and contact information for verification purposes.

### Dear Editor –

I was highly amused to read the piece by Larry MacDonald, "My Small Role in the Cuban Missile Crisis." He is accurate in his description of my father, Charles Jennings, and the orders that he and Larry and other CBC staffers received to spend a weekend in the Diefenbunker as part of a civil defense exercise, which was supposed to protect the top leadership of the country in case of nuclear war. Dad was horrified at having to leave his adored wife, family and dogs, not to say his comfortable abode in the countryside near Aylmer on the Quebec side of the river, to spend sev-

eral cold comfort days underground in Carp and, like Larry, thought the whole idea was ludicrous. It is correct that they fortified themselves with proper rations for the ordeal, but I find it hard to believe that Charles would not have shared whatever "hot coffee" they had in their thermoses as he was very fond and proud of both CBC reporters Norman Depoe and Larry MacDonald.

Many thanks for this historical report from a well-loved New Edinburgh resident. I have equally fond memories of Mildred MacDonald with whom I had the pleasure of working, also at the CBC.

**Sarah Jennings**

Our special thanks to six area residents who volunteered to be discussion-table "facilitators," guiding the tables' talk and then summarizing in brief public addresses at the meeting's end: Here, a simply excellent job was done by Sarah Anson-Cartwright, **Gemma Kerr**, **Barbara Laskin**, **Kathleen Lauder**, **Philip MacAdam**, and **Tobi Nussbaum**. And a sincere thank-you to Vanier **Councillor Mathieu Fleury** and City planners **Bliss Edwards** and **Don Morse**, who donated time to attend the meeting and be on hand to take questions; thanks also to Peter Clark being there and for

his well chosen introductory remarks.

In other news: Thank you and farewell to **Michael Larrass**, who has recently, reluctantly stepped down from the NECA board due to persistent scheduling conflicts from his business. Michael joined the board in 2009 and currently was serving as chair of our **Traffic** committee. We will miss his good cheer and gentlemanly presence around the table; we wish him all success going forward.

To all readers, best wishes from NECA for a pleasant winter. See you in April.

## NEN Needs Your Help!

The New Edinburgh News is on the hunt for help in getting copies of the paper delivered to the commercial establishments along Beechwood and the Rockcliffe Crossing commercial plaza at Hemlock and St. Laurent Blvd. Vehicle

required.

So, if you are willing to put in an hour or so, every couple of months, please contact Managing Editor, Cindy Parkanyi at [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com) or by phone at 613-745-8734.

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## 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 February 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:

**February 11, 2013, 7:30 pm, at St. Bartholomew's**  
**March 18, 2013, 7:30 pm, at St. Bartholomew's**

**PLEASE NOTE** that February's date comes earlier in the month than is usual. Any changes to this schedule would be posted in advance on the New Edinburgh website, [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca).

# Joseph Cull Receives Mayor's City Builder Award

By NEN Staff

Congratulations to **Joseph Cull** who was recently honoured with the **Mayor's City Builder Award** for his tireless work as a volunteer group fitness instructor for the Older Adult Program at the YMCA/YWCA, and also for his volunteer work and fundraising efforts for the Maycourt Hospice and innumerable other charities in Ottawa. The award was created by Mayor Jim Watson to recognize individuals or groups for "outstand-

ing volunteerism or exemplary action" demonstrating "an extraordinary commitment to making our city a better place." It was presented to Joseph by Mayor Watson and Councillor Peter Clark at the Ottawa City Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

Joseph needs no introduction in our neighbourhood, where we have always been proud and grateful to claim him as our own, despite the fact that his volunteer activities extend

well beyond our Burgh boundaries to encompass the wider Ottawa community. He is well known in our midst for his irrepressible wit, his personal warmth, his dedication to a myriad of community causes and, as the award citation so accurately states, "his exceptional ability to inspire others to get involved, volunteer and donate to various causes." Anyone who has ever served on a volunteer committee with Joseph (and there must be hundreds of us here in the Burgh alone!) will know that his presence can transform a hard slog into a sheer delight, with plenty of laughter and good cheer to lighten the load and boost flagging morale.

As a long-serving member of the Board of the Crichton Community Council (CCC), Joseph has played an active role in organizing innumerable family events and perhaps most notably, has been the moving spirit behind the annual Cheering Station at the Field House on Ottawa Race Weekend. The event is a stunning success which he

has groomed to such heights that for the fifth successive year, the group received top honours in the city in the judging for the 2012 Community Spirit Award. The \$2000 award boosts the winnings of Joseph's stellar Cheering Station to a grand total of \$10,000 for the community over the past 5 years. Now that's worth cheering about!!

For a number of years, Joseph was a leading volunteer and memorable performer at the Crichton Cultural and Community Centre's annual fundraising Auction (can anyone forget his epic portrayal of Mama Morton of jazz age fame?!), and more recently, has joined the Board of the CCCC where he now

plays an active role on the Programming Committee. Nor has he neglected the New Edinburgh News, to which he has been a regular contributor over the years, most frequently focusing his efforts on paying tribute to others in the community to whom he feels recognition is due.

Well Joseph, it's your turn, and we are thrilled that the Mayor and the City have recognized your extraordinary contribution to the community with this richly deserved award. Delightfully funny though you are, your commitment to "making our city a better place" could not be more serious, and we are all the grateful beneficiaries.



Joseph Cull Receives City Builder Award from Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Peter Clark

## From the Editor's Chair



It has been a very busy winter so far; the tide appears to be turning on the Beechwood redevelopment front, with Minto's proposed development of the fire site and the wonderful turn of events at one of our local landmarks, Books on Beechwood.

We have had to say a few sad farewells, including at the gathering of community and friends that took place on Christmas Eve to say farewell to Kavanaugh's Service Centre, and the very sad passing of the Second Cup's Lester Gracez in January. Lester was

a wonderful part of the fabric of this community and bore witness to the growing families (like mine) that paraded through the doors of his warm and inviting coffee shop over the years.

One area that we may want to keep an eye on is the recent kerfuffle regarding the reopening of one of our neighbourhood's "invisible" lanes (see article on page 20). Although it may be argued that this is now, for the most part, a "neighbour's issue," there are wider implications of this case, and the way it was initially handled by the City, that merit further inspection.

And finally, our thoughts and prayers are with Penny Thompson, recently retired President of the Manor Park Community Association and a valued friend and colleague to many in our community. Penny was obliged to temporarily withdraw from active service in the community to deal with a serious illness, and we wish her well in confronting this challenge. Her courage, generous heart and positive spirit are certain to be powerful assets in the months ahead, and we look forward to her full recovery and return to active engagement in community life.

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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## Ottawa City Councillor Peter Clark Reports



## MPP Ottawa-Vanier Madeleine Meilleur Reports

### Interprovincial Crossing Environmental Assessment What's New from the NCC

#### Selecting The Preferred Corridor

The Evaluation Committee will conduct the evaluation of the three corridors in the New Year (2013).

Each corridor will be subject to a comparative analysis process identified in the Study Design Report to determine the preferred corridor.

Following public and expert comments received during Round 2 of public consultations held last summer, the consultant has worked on refining the technically preferred alignments within each of the three corridors.

#### Round 3 Public Consultations are Scheduled to Take Place this Spring

The preferred corridor will be brought forward for public consultation and feedback in the spring of 2013.

The results of the evaluation will also be presented for information to the National Capital Commission Board, the City of Ottawa Transportation Committee and the Ville de Gatineau Comité Plénier.

The subsequent preliminary design will be the basis for the fourth and final round of public consultations, immediately prior to completing the Environmental Assessment Study.

**The NCC and consultants are not giving any indication as to where they want to take this...I would ask that all members of the community request that they provide the decision-making criteria before going to the next stage. We have not been given any reason to believe that they are paying attention.**

### Healthy Homes Reno Tax Credit for Seniors

As a senior 65 years or older in Ontario, you could qualify for a tax credit to help with the cost of making your home safer and more accessible.

This tax credit is a permanent, refundable personal income tax credit for seniors and family members who live with them. If you qualify, you can claim up to \$10,000 worth of eligible home improvements on your tax return. The amount of money you get back for these expenses is calculated as 15 percent of the eligible expenses you claim. For example, if you spend and then claim \$10,000 worth of eli-

gible expenses, you could get \$1,500 back.

To qualify for the credit, you need to be 65 years old or older by the end of the year for which you are claiming the credit, or living with a family member who is a senior.

**Your income doesn't matter** — seniors and their family members at all income levels are eligible. You have to claim your total expenses on your personal income tax return. To do this, you will have to complete Schedule ON(S12) of your tax return and put the amount you spent on eligible renovations next to box

6311 on form ON479.

For the 2012 tax year: you can claim expenses related to work done between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012.

**Please note that not all** renovation work qualifies for this tax credit. Before you start any improvements, check to see that the work qualifies so you can claim the expense.

Some examples of work that qualifies:

- certain renovations to permit a first-floor occupancy or secondary suite for a senior
- grab bars and related reinforcements around the toilet, tub and shower
- handrails in corridors
- wheelchair ramps, stair/wheelchair lifts and elevators
- walk-in bathtubs
- lowering existing counters/cupboards

For more information about the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit, call: 1-866-668-8297 or visit [Ontario.ca/healthyhomes](http://Ontario.ca/healthyhomes).

*Madeleine Meilleur MPP Ottawa-Vanier*  
613 744-4484

### FEDCO Votes to Seek Limit on Provincial Property Tax Rebate on Vacant Commercial Properties

By Jane Heintzman

Councillor Peter's Clark's motion to petition the province to curb property tax rebates on commercial properties has been unanimously approved by the City's Finance and Economic Development Committee (FEDCO), and is wholeheartedly endorsed by Mayor Jim Watson. Under the current system, property owners can continue to apply for an annual tax rebate of 30-35% on properties that have been vacant for over three months until a tenant is found.

Not only is the system costly to City coffers, at up to \$7.2 million in foregone revenue annually, it has also proven a scourge in neighbourhoods such as ours, where commercial properties have remained derelict, in some cases for decades, at untold cost to the community as a whole but significant financial benefit to the landowners. Mr. Clark's motion proposes a three-year limit on eligibility for the rebate. Allowing a reasonable time for property owners to redevelop or find tenants

for vacant properties, it cuts short the free ride that has led to the long-term deterioration of commercial areas such as in our own backyard on Beechwood.

The "fix" is not expected to be immediate as the necessary legislative amendment will need to be considered and approved by the province. However, the ball is now rolling, and we're grateful to Councillor Clark for his pivotal role in pressing for this much-needed change.





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Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

# Challenges Facing Heritage & Development

By Michael Histed  
Chair, NECA H&D Committee

The January meeting of the Heritage and Development Committee clearly demonstrated the breadth of challenges facing our neighbourhood in the coming months and years ahead, such as:

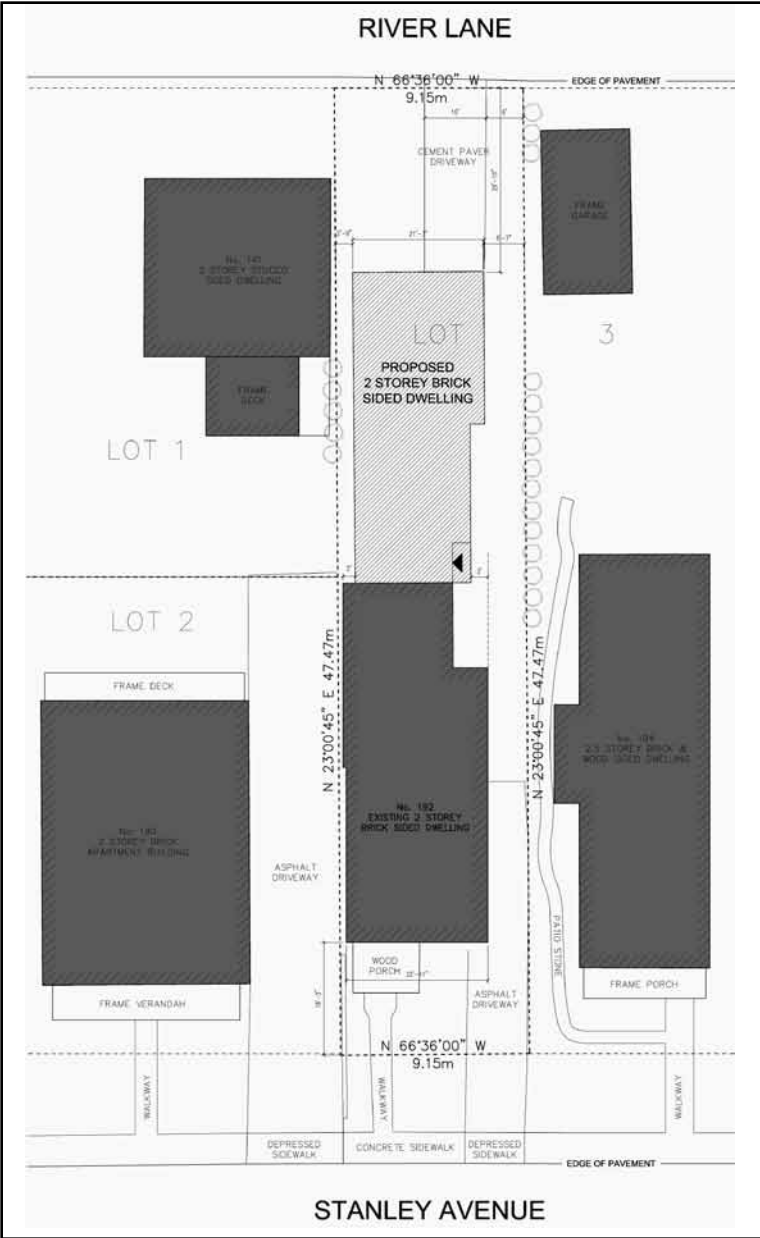
- Lanes in New Edinburgh (reopening them, increased access and traffic);
- New construction in a heritage district;
- Additions and buildings that replace and eliminate green spaces;
- New development along Beechwood (ensuring it is appropriate);
- City of Ottawa zoning and heritage guidelines (how to

increase the level of compliance)

For some, these issues may not seem relevant, particularly against the daily struggles of getting the kids to school and putting food on the table. Yet they are all important issues that will define the type of neighbourhood we have all chosen to live in: a historic village-like area with easy walking to stores and schools, tree-lined streets, beautiful lanes, a wonderful park along the river—all within walking distance to downtown Ottawa.

The challenges come from many fronts:

- Residents who would prefer to replicate a suburban home (large and modern with large front-facing garages)



Site plan for 192 Stanley Ave. Courtesy of the City of Ottawa.

## Zoning and Setback Variances being sought by Minto

Criteria	Zoning By-law Provision	Proposed Development
Maximum Building Height	20 metres (up to 6 storeys) May not project above a 45 degree angular plane measured at 15 metres high from a point 7.5 metres from rear lot line	27.3 metres (8.5 storeys) Remove 45 degree angular plane measurement requirement
Minimum Rear Yard Setback	3 metres for up to half the lot width and 7.5 metres for the remaining lot width, first 3 storeys 7.5 metres above 3 <sup>rd</sup> storey	1 metre for first 3 storeys 3 metres for 4 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> storey for first 24 metres
Minimum Front Yard Setback	0 metres for first 3 storeys 2 metres more than first 3 storeys' setback above 3 <sup>rd</sup> storey	Additional 2 metres setback above the 5 <sup>th</sup> storey
Minimum Corner Side Yard Setback	1 metre for first 3 storeys' setback above 3 <sup>rd</sup> storey	0.5 metres for first 3 storeys Additional 2 metres above 5 <sup>th</sup> storey
Maximum Permitted Projection into Required Yards	0.6 metres, but not closer than 0.6 metres to lot line	0 metres
Minimum Width of Landscape Buffer abutting a residential zone	3 metres, 1 metre where minimum 1.4 metre high opaque fence provided	0 metres
Minimum Communal Amenity Space	471 square metres	454 square metres
Minimum Width of driveway to a parking garage	6.7 metres	6.2 metres
Minimum Width of Aisle within parking garage/lot	6.7 metres	6 metres
Minimum Visitor Parking Space rate	0.2 spaces/ unit above 12 units	0.0034 spaces/unit above 12 units
Minimum Retail Parking Space rate	2.5 spaces per 100 square metres	1.59 spaces per 100 square metres

but who want to live close to downtown;

- Developers who wish to maximize their return on investment by filling the entire lot with building;
- The false notion that older homes cannot be energy-efficient or sustainable homes;
- Misconceptions about what is a heritage district; and
- Confusion over terms used by the City of Ottawa Planning Department, such as “minor variance”.

Despite these challenges, there is still much support for heritage in the neighbourhood. A recent survey conducted by the University of Waterloo in New Edinburgh received the highest participation rate out of all surveyed communities in Ontario. Thank you to those who participated.

Over the next couple of editions of the *New Edinburgh News* we will shed more light on some of these challenges, and look at how they can negatively affect the fabric of our neighbourhood. For now however, we will focus on two very current proposals that will impact our neighbourhood: 192

Stanley Avenue and the Minto Development on Beechwood.

**192 Stanley (City of Ottawa file # D08-01-12/A-00388)**

The NECA H&D Committee received notice of intention to add a two storey addition at the rear of the property on 192 Stanley, which is located within the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District. The variances being sought are as follows:

1. A “minor variance” from the Zoning By-law to permit an increased gross floor area of 66 % of the building. The Heritage Overlay requires a maximum of only 30%. As a result the building would cover in excess of 75% of the lot.

2. Another “minor variance” to permit zero setback from the existing building. It is required that additions be set back a minimum of 60 cm.

3. Elimination of green space. The City of Ottawa Official Plan encourages “minimizing the loss of landscaped green space.”

4. Increased size and mass. The City of Ottawa Official Plan includes the following stipulation: “...ensure that the proposal is compatible by

respecting the massing, profile and character of adjacent to, or across the street from, heritage buildings”

5. Addition of a third parking space off of River Lane in addition to the two spaces off of Stanley Ave.

The Committee will be meeting again on January 23, to prepare a final review of this proposal in preparation for the Committee of Adjustment meeting on February 5, 2013.

### Beechwood-MacKay Fire Site Redevelopment

On January 16, NECA held a very successful public engagement meeting with Minto Construction to go over the design, parking issues and retail stores selection. The role of the H&D Committee will be to review the zoning and setback variance being sought by Minto, as per the following table.

The H&D Committee plans to meet and prepare a response on behalf of NECA. If you have any comments, please let us know at NECA-HD@hotmail.com.

**Continued from page 1**

ers **Chartwell REIT Seniors Housing** to negotiate a new lease for the premises, and the rest, as they say, is history. Our landmark store will remain in its familiar headquarters for the foreseeable future, with the new owners at the helm but with all seven part-time staff members remaining on the scene to greet us, guide our selections, and handle daily operations.

The new Books on Beechwood owners, and indeed our whole community, are extremely grateful that Chartwell was open to the possibility of negotiating a new, ongoing lease for the bookstore, especially since we had been led to believe that the premises had been leased to an audiologist and would no longer be available for retail purposes. Throughout the late fall, community representatives had continued to earnestly press their appeal to Chartwell to reconsider this leasing decision, and to open discussions on preserving the ground floor space for a retail use of service to the community at large. Until the moment of revelation just before Christmas when the B on B purchase was announced, however, there was only slim hope that Chartwell might change course, less still any hint that the bookstore would remain on the scene. To say that those of us engaged in this rescue attempt were surprised as well as thrilled by the announcement would be an understatement of major proportions!

Iridian co-founder and former President **Peter Dawson**, a seasoned veteran of the high tech sector with many years' experience on the Boards of technology companies and research organizations, plans

to manage the transition when the new owners officially take over on February 1, 2013, and remain the principal contact for ongoing operations at the store. Since embarking on this new venture, he has been immensely impressed by the strong community support for Books on Beechwood, and by its knowledgeable and committed staff. Both of these factors, along with brighter prospects on the Beechwood horizon, combined to convince the high tech triumvirate that the

units. Like the rest of us, he is hopeful that these much anticipated projects, and potentially others on the south side of Beechwood, triggered by the extension of hydro servicing to *The Kavanaugh* site, will inject new life into the area, and boost walk in pedestrian traffic.

Former owner **Jean Barton**, who makes no secret of her complete delight at this fortuitous turn of events, expects to remain on the scene in the immediate future to guide the

process, and readers can look forward to her continuing presence at the store in the months ahead.

Books on Beechwood **Book Club** participants will be delighted to hear that the Club will resume its regular monthly sessions, organized by B on B staffer **Jill Moll**, beginning in January. This year, the venue has been shifted to **The Edinburgh Retirement Residence, 10 Vaughan Street**, with meetings starting at **7:30 pm on the**

With a reprieve for our beloved community bookstore, 2013 promises to be a much happier New Year than we had anticipated two months ago, and we are extremely grateful to new owners Brian, Peter and George for lifting a black cloud from the Beechwood landscape, and investing in our community. We're confident that area residents will continue to support their efforts through regular visits to the store and ongoing engage-



Photo: Phil Mirsky

**From Left, Di Bethune, Jill Moll, Brian Sullivan, Jean Barton, Peter Dawson, George Laframboise, Antoinette Fracassi, David Rostenne.**

store should indeed be a viable operation for the foreseeable future.

Peter is particularly heartened by the prospect of an emerging renaissance on Beechwood, as developments unfold up the street at *The Kavanaugh*, and at the site of the fire where the Minto Group is about to embark on a major commercial/residential project with more than 150 condominium

new owners through the transition process, and perhaps to play some form of continuing role on the book purchasing front. It is an area in which she has special expertise given her two decades of experience in the community and virtually encyclopedic knowledge of her clients' tastes and interests. Although retirement (of a sort) remains part of the plan, Jean expects it to be a gradual

**last Wednesday of the month (January 30; February 27; March 27; April 24; May 29 and June 26).** The January session will focus on *The Winter Palace* by **Eva Strachniak**, and the picks for forthcoming months will be chosen by participants at this first gathering of the year. Interested readers can drop in to the store to speak with Jill, or email **staff@booksonbeechwood.ca**.

ment in its outreach activities from book signings to Book Club sessions. Thanks also to Chartwell for its vitally important role in preserving this important institution for the benefit of our community, and indeed for the residents of New Edinburgh Square. Here's to a bright future for Books on Beechwood, *the Little Bookstore that Could... and Did!*

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## From the Desk of Mayor Jim Watson



### Green Initiatives in Ottawa

As City Council enters its third year we can look back on years one and two and be proud of what we have accomplished. One file of which I am particularly proud is the work we have done to make Ottawa a greener city. Some highlights include:

- After years of fits and starts we signed the agreement that will bring Light Rail Transit (LRT) to Ottawa and reduce the number of cars and buses on the road. This \$2.1 billion project will make it easier to get around our growing city and when completed the redesigned transit system will save the City up to \$100 million in annual operating costs, while eventually reducing our carbon emissions by some 94,000 tonnes.
- We have implemented weekly green bin collection and biweekly garbage collection, which means 20% fewer collection vehicles on the road and savings of \$10 million per year. While it is still early in the program, initial results for November and December of 2012 show a significant increase in diversion rates since the

start of bi-weekly collection. We have also distributed 7,000 new green bins to residences in the rural areas of Ottawa, making it a truly city-wide program.

- 2012 saw the lowest level of combined sewer overflows into the Ottawa River in years as the first phases of the Ottawa River Action cut overflows by 82% since 2006.
- We are continuing with our Green Fleet strategy, and in 2012 the City of Ottawa won the Green Fleet Award that is presented annually by Fleet Challenge Ontario.
- We installed an electric vehicle charging station at City Hall in partnership with Hydro Ottawa allowing us to collect valuable data on the demand and cost-efficiency of this technology and purchased a Chevrolet Volt for the City's fleet.
- Last year, we stepped up the fight against the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) with the approval of a \$1 million investment in additional funds as we added even more funding in the 2013 budget. Ottawa is also now

one of only two cities in Ontario to test a new form of injection against EAB – Confidor.

- We have continued with the expansion of cycling infrastructure across the City and our Council has invested a record \$26 million into this effort over the course of our mandate.
- We ordered new O Trains, allowing us to effectively double the service time on this increasingly used system. Modifications to the tracking will be done in 2013 to prepare for the arrival of the new trains.
- We will complete putting into service the new double-decker buses at OC Transpo that will move more people, more efficiently and sustainably.
- In the first quarter of this year the City will host a roundtable to review the way forward for our Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan and GHG control in our city.
- Ottawa's drinking water systems earned a perfect inspection record for the third year in a row.

This is only a sampling of the work we are doing to make Ottawa greener. The work will be hard as the problems are great but we owe it to the residents of today and the children of tomorrow to do all we can to make Ottawa a more environmentally friendly place.

## State of the Park

By Marci Surkes, Chair of Friends of the Park

Happy New Year! We trust that everyone is enjoying the wonders of winter in our park!

The NCC has started what we hope will be a lasting tradition of plowing the bicycle and walking paths on the off-leash area side of the park. This has made getting around, especially with dogs, sleds and strollers, far easier and safer.

Unfortunately, as many readers will have noticed, trash

from park maintenance authorities that collection will occur at regular intervals for the rest of the winter. It is inappropriate that residents have been required to supply green garbage bags for dog refuse collection, although we thank all those who have participated in the grassroots efforts to keep the park clean.

Due to the slow pace of removal, many dog owners seem to have simply stopped picking up poop. We would



Photo By: Friends of the Park

### Garbage galore in the park.

collection around the off-leash area has been dismally slow this season. As a result, overflowing garbage cans have become an unpleasant and unsanitary eyesore, and sitting on adjacent park benches has become entirely unappealing.

Hopefully by the time this edition is published, the trash accumulated in December and January will have been removed. Still, the Committee is pressing for a commitment

urge everyone to help reverse that trend by always collecting your dog's waste and asking others to do the same.

The Committee will continue to make this issue its top priority and will provide updates in the next edition.

If you have suggestions for the park or want to report an issue, please contact me by email at [marci.surkes@gmail.com](mailto:marci.surkes@gmail.com).



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## From the Desk of...



**Mauril Bélanger**  
Member of Parliament for  
Ottawa-Vanier



## Revue de l'Année 2012 In Review

**From the office of Mauril Bélanger, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier**

**Du bureau de Mauril Bélanger, député fédéral d'Ottawa-Vanier**

Looking back over the past year, we can denote a number of noteworthy initiatives. You will find below a quick overview of some of the 2012 projects, as well as what may be expected in 2013.

Un regard sur l'année 2012 montre que des initiatives notables ont été prises. Voici un survol de certaines réalisations et dossiers de 2012, de même que ce qui est entrevu pour 2013.

**Le congrès biennal du Parti libéral du Canada**

Sous le thème de la reconstruction du parti libéral du Canada, j'ai co-présidé le Congrès libéral biennal 2012 qui s'est tenu au nouveau Centre des congrès d'Ottawa, dans la circonscription d'Ottawa-Vanier, du 13 au 15 janvier. Les plus de 3000 délégués, dont le tiers étaient de jeunes personnes âgés de moins de 30 ans, firent de l'événement un succès, tant par le brassage d'idées nouvelles qui y eurent lieu, que par le dynamisme qui y régnait. J'ai également eu le privilège d'être co-président du comité organisateur de ce congrès rassembleur.

**Two omnibus budget implementation bills**

The first omnibus bill (C-38) in the spring and the second (C-45) in the fall have shown once again the Harper government's desire to defy the democratic process. It forced Parliament to pass unpopular and far-reaching measures, including some that had nothing to do with the budget, at top speed and with minimal review. I opposed these bills and will continue to oppose any undemocratic initiative.

**Les coupures dans la fonction publique fédérale**

Le budget présenté en mars dernier prévoit l'abolition de 19 200 emplois et annonçait que la région de la capitale nationale allait assumer un lourd fardeau. Ces compressions touchent la vie des fonctionnaires; leurs répercussions se font non seulement sentir sur ceux-ci, mais aussi sur leurs familles et leurs communautés. Il faut comprendre que non seulement les employés syndiqués de la fonction publique seront touchés par ces réductions générales continues, mais aussi qu'un certain nombre d'employés occasionnels et contractuels non syndiqués perdront, ou ont déjà perdu, leur emploi. Tout cela aura un effet négatif sur l'économie de notre région et entraînera d'autres pertes d'emploi.

**Advocate for Cooperatives**

### NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

In May 2012, I was asked to take on new responsibilities: to become the Advocate for Cooperatives for the Liberal Party of Canada. This new role focuses on promoting openness, cooperation and awareness. Furthermore, it is not a partisan position. Shortly after I took the job, I proposed to the House of Commons – since 2012 has been declared the International Year of Cooperatives by the UN – that it create a special parliamentary committee to study the role and needs of Canada's cooperatives. My motion was adopted unanimously. The committee held many hearings over the summer and heard from representatives of cooperatives from every part of Canada. Its report was presented to the House of Commons on September 17, and the government should issue a response in mid-January. In addition, in early October, I attended the International Summit of Cooperatives in Quebec City. This event brought together 3000 representatives of the cooperative sector from all regions of Canada and around the world.

**La bourse d'excellence pour la communauté haïtienne**

Je suis très heureux d'avoir initié, sous le haut patronat de la Très honorable Michaëlle Jean, la première édition d'un cocktail dinatoire dont l'objectif était de lever des fonds pour la création d'une bourse d'études accessible aux Canadiens d'origine haïtienne. Le cocktail, qui a eu lieu le 25 mai 2012, fut co-présidé par Madame Mireille Apollon, conseillère à la ville de Gatineau, et moi-même. Les quelques 26 000 dollars de profit généré par cette première édition du cocktail dinatoire ont été versés à la création d'un fonds d'études à l'Université d'Ottawa. L'an prochain, nous comptons faire la même chose de l'autre côté de la rivière afin de créer une bourse semblable

à l'Université du Québec en Outaouais.

**Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals**

A commemorative medal was created for the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. To receive a medal, candidates must have made a significant contribution to their community or been responsible for an achievement abroad that brought credit to their community. I established an independent selection committee that rigorously reviewed the many candidacies submitted from Ottawa-Vanier based on merit criteria. For more information, please visit my website at [www.mauril.ca](http://www.mauril.ca).

**Voyages en Afrique**

Dans le cadre de mes fonctions de co-président de l'Association parlementaire Canada-Afrique, j'ai participé en janvier 2012 à une délégation de députés et sénateurs canadiens au Kenya et au Soudan du Sud. En novembre 2012, j'ai également pris part à une délégation au Cameroun. L'Association a pour mission de favoriser les échanges entre parlementaires africains et canadiens, de mieux faire comprendre les défis auxquels le continent africain est confronté, de proposer des initiatives susceptibles de faciliter la coopération dans tous les domaines de l'activité humaine.

**United Way Champion**

In September, I attended the launch of the United Way's 2012 Community Campaign to show support for our fellow citizens' well-being. The fundraising goal this year was set at \$30 million. I agreed to be one of the eight campaign champions. Together, we have made the community more aware of the United Way's three focus areas: Growing Up Great, Belonging to Community and Turning Lives Around. You can still

February 2013

contribute to the United Way by visiting [unitedwayottawa.ca](http://unitedwayottawa.ca).

**Some issues to watch in 2013 / Quelques dossiers à suivre en 2013**

In closing, I encourage you to watch for developments on some hot issues in 2013. Locally, three matters will be particularly important: the future interprovincial bridge, the impact of the federal public service cutbacks on our region and the development of the former Rockcliffe airbase lands. At the national level, we will take a close look at protecting Canada's parliamentary system, the contribution of cooperatives to Canadian society, the growing gap between the public's needs and the government's ability to provide services, the increasing inequality between the rich and the poor, and finally, the Liberal Party of Canada leadership race, which will hold our interest until its conclusion in mid-April.

En terminant, je vous invite à surveiller le développement de quelques dossiers chauds pour l'année 2013. Localement, trois dossiers seront prioritaires : Le futur pont interprovincial; l'impact des coupures à la fonction publique fédérale sur notre région; le développement du terrain de l'ancienne base de Rockcliffe. Au niveau national, nous nous préoccupons de : protéger le parlementarisme canadien; de la contribution des coopératives à la société canadienne; de l'écart grandissant entre les besoins de la population et la capacité du gouvernement à offrir des services; des inégalités grandissantes entre les riches et les moins nantis; finalement, la course au leadership du Parti libéral du Canada nous gardera intéressé jusqu'à son dénouement à la mi-avril.

*Bonne Année! Happy New Year!*

*Mauril Bélanger*

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# Update on The Kavanaugh: Ready to Roll!

By Jane Heintzman

Our community has become so inured to delays, setbacks and disappointments on the commercial development front, that it's refreshing to learn that *The Kavanaugh* mixed commercial/residential project at 222 Beechwood appears to be moving ahead right on schedule. Domicile Vice-President and *Kavanaugh* Project Manager **David Chick** reports that pre-sales of the condos have remained strong, and buyers were informed before Christmas that the demolition and construction operation would be launched by late January 2013. The company anticipates that from the start of excavation, it will be about 20 months before purchasers can begin to move in, or in effect, the fall of 2014.

At the time of writing in mid-January, Domicile was expecting City approval of their application for demolition permits to remove the remaining service station facilities on Joliette and Marquette Streets



within a couple of weeks. Once the buildings are demolished, shovels will be well and truly in the ground and excavation underway. While a hoarding will be erected around the construction site, Domicile hopes to relieve the visual impact with some artful signage. The Sales Centre will also be relocated nearby once excavation begins, though it's as yet unclear precisely where the centre will go.

Readers will recall that one of the major hurdles at the start of the project involved the costly process of extending hydro service to this end of Beechwood. With Domicile biting the bullet and agreeing to cover the upfront costs of the work—with the expectation of recouping a portion of these costs from future developments benefiting from the service—Ottawa Hydro is scheduled to begin the infrastructure work this spring, with completion anticipated by the fall of this year. Although it's probable that this work will have a temporary impact on local traffic (and not in a good way), this would seem a price we have to pay to unlock development on the south side of Beechwood, which for decades has remained in a state of paralysis.

Although Domicile has as yet no firm news on the commercial leasing front, leasing efforts continue to be actively pursued, and it's anticipated that commercial tenants will begin to move into the building at about the same time as the condo owners in the fall of 2014.

## Kavanaugh Family Farewell

As many readers know, there was a nostalgic gathering at the gas station on Christmas Eve, when Manor Park resident and lifelong Kavanaugh's customer **Frank Koller** called together longstanding clients to enjoy a morning coffee break and bid a fond farewell to **Rupert, Clarence, Joey** and all our friends at the station. Throughout the week before closing day, grateful customers dropped in with cards of appreciation and goodies of all descriptions, including an amazing chocolate cake in the shape of a gas pump! And when the station pumped its final tank of gas on December

27, Rupert was presented with a splendid trophy by the gas company, in recognition of his epic 55 years in the business. I'm certain I'm not alone in dreading the post-Kavanaugh era, with its joyless prospect of pumping one's own gas in a faceless, impersonal self-serve station, with no friendly smile or joke from Clarence to brighten the day (and soften the blow of gas prices), after having been looked after for 30 years by this irreplaceable family team. They will be sorely missed!

## Last Minute Hiccup in Plans for Terry's Garage and Car Wash

Meanwhile, the last member of the Kavanaugh family to remain in business on Beechwood, **Terry Kavanaugh**, recently encountered a bureaucratic hiccup in his plans to relocate his auto service operation and car wash to **145 Marier** (at Des Pères Blancs), when it was discovered that the previous occupants of the garage had failed to renew their business license when it expired several years ago. As a result, the City had no official record of a business operating on that corner, so that under the Zoning By-law, the non-conforming right to a commercial use in a residential area had lapsed, and Terry's license application was turned down.

When we spoke in mid-January, however, Councillor Matthieu Fleury's office had stepped in to sort things out, and Fleury's assistant was reasonably confident that the problem could be resolved without undue delay, and that Terry would soon be able to acquire the license required to launch his new enterprise on Marier. In the meantime, as

I write in mid-January, Terry and company continue to operate the garage in their old haunt at 222 Beechwood, which remains intact (though without the familiar gas bays) until Domicile acquires its demolition permits later this month.

Stay tuned for more news on Terry's relocated Garage and Car Wash, which we hope will be operational by the time of our next report in April!



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# BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- By Jane Heintzman -

## Bread and Roses Bakery: One More Month on Beechwood

After roughly two decades as our local community bakery, **Bread and Roses** will close its doors on Beechwood at the end of February and move its operations to **323 St. Laurent Blvd.** (at Hemlock) in Manor Park—one neighbourhood's loss is another's gain! As most readers may know, bakery owner **Chris Green** has had a tumultuous two years since the fire, struggling to avoid eviction from the Beechwood store and to arrive at a settlement with the property owners that would adequately compensate him for the years remaining in his lease and the significant costs of relocation. When an agreement was finally reached in late fall under the auspices of close judicial supervision, Chris was able to sign the lease for his new premises and at last shake off the yoke of the protracted dispute with the Beechwood landlords, which had drained so much of his time and energy, and seriously hampered from his ability to focus on the growth and health of his remarkable business.

While the future looks bright in the bakery's new, more spacious headquarters, Chris is currently contending with a whole new set of challenges—notably a wholesale redesign and renovation of a former construction company office at 323 St. Laurent. This process was already well underway when we spoke in early January; the walls had been demolished, floors prepped

and heating and air-conditioning systems installed. If all goes as planned, the production side of the business will be first to make the move later this month, followed by

of tempting treats from artfully iced gingerbread people to sparkly Christmas cookies, fruit cakes, shortbreads, raspberry bread pudding and a myriad savoury pies. I can report



Photo: Louise Imbeault

**Members of the Bread and Roses team: (left to right) Meagan St-Jean, Chris Green, Conner Robillard and Candice Pouliotte.**

the storefront retail operation. When the doors on Beechwood finally close on February 28, Chris' aim is to make the transition as seamless as possible, with only a minimal period of closure while the set-up is completed.

In the interim, while the renovations and preparations for the transition are underway, Chris and his hardworking and capable team are pulling out all the stops to maintain normal operations at the Beechwood bakery and keep us supplied with the household staples and goodies upon which we rely. If you were unlucky enough not to make it to the store over the Christmas period, you missed an amazing cornucopia

that our household consumed more than its share of virtually all of these delicious offerings (we're on our third bread pudding in as many weeks), and that Bread and Roses' delectable fare contributed greatly to the pleasure of our holiday if not to our waistlines!

Chris reports however, that in comparison to recent years, business was much slower over the holiday period, largely due to the absence of a nucleus of other stores nearby to draw busy Christmas shoppers to the area. He is hopeful that the new location, with its close proximity to a dense residential area, as well as to the shopping mall at Rockcliffe Crossing, will attract new cli-

ents and of course, continue to draw the old guard from our community, for whom it will be only a brief five-minute journey. Once installed in the new premises, Chris is planning to provide seating for about 4-6 customers and install a specialty coffee bar. So while you're there to lay in your supply of bread and baked goods, you can take a break to enjoy a freshly brewed cup of coffee and catch up on the latest news at the bakery.

In the meantime, we hope readers will drop in at the bakery over the next few weeks to say a fond farewell, and wish Chris and his team the best of luck in their new location. Beechwood won't be the same without Bread and Roses, but we're grateful for its two wonderful decades in our midst.

## MITLA: Open for Business!

Shortly before Christmas, our community's new and much anticipated Mexican catering and take-out food establishment **MITLA** opened at doors at **62 Barrette Street** (the blue house directly behind Metro), and has since been supplying local residents with tasty fare rooted in the distinctive culinary traditions of the Oaxacan region of southwest-

December issue of the magazine. In mid-December, CBC aired a delightful interview with Ana and *All In a Day* host Alan Neal. Interested readers can find both stories on MITLA's website at [www.mitla.ca](http://www.mitla.ca). More recently, MITLA was featured in an *Ottawa Citizen* article presenting "13 top things to whet your appetite in the first months of 2013."

With luck, this early city-wide exposure will help to attract clientele from throughout the Ottawa area to Ana's new establishment, and secure for MITLA the coveted status of a "destination business" of the kind so badly needed in our sadly depleted Beechwood commercial landscape. Indeed, Ana reports that there are already promising signs on this front, as customers from as far afield as Kanata, Orleans and Gatineau have been turning up at the store to sample her home-cooked fare. Fare, which she hopes, will help to establish once and for all that Mexican food goes far beyond the stereotype of tacos, burritos and fajitas.

In case you haven't yet found your way to Ana's door to banish the winter cold with a taste of Mexican cuisine, the first thing you need to know



Photo: Louise Imbeault

**Ana Collins is the proud owner of MITLA, the new authentic Mexican bistro at 62 Barrette Street.**

ern Mexico. As chronicled in a wonderfully comprehensive article by **Marilyn Hart** in the October 2012 edition of the NEN, the MITLA project is the brainchild of Vanier resident **Ana Collins** who has a strong personal and family connection to Oaxaca (pronounced "wah-haak-kah"). She has worked long and hard to bring a sampling of its rich culinary culture to her own neighbourhood, and indeed, to the wider Ottawa community of Mexican food lovers.

Nor did MITLA emerge quietly onto the Ottawa food scene. *Ottawa Magazine* Food Editor **Shawna Wagman** published a glowing profile of the new business in the November/

is that MITLA offers the finest, most authentic tortillas in town, made from organic, non-GMO, preservative-free whole grain white corn flour. This is a point of pride with Ana, who reports that many, if not most, of the tortillas produced in Mexico are made from poor quality white flour which significantly alters both the taste and texture. MITLA tortillas can be purchased by the kilo, and are slightly undercooked so that they remain moist when you reheat them.

While there are two seats in the store for friends and neighbours who drop in for a cup of freshly brewed coffee made with locally roasted Happy Goat beans,

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or a Oaxacan hot chocolate and perhaps a breakfast treat of *pan de yema* (egg bread), the bulk of MITLA's business is focused on prepared take-out foods, as well as on their catering operation which got underway over the holiday period. *Quesadillas*, *memelas* (small, corn-based tortilla pizzas with zesty toppings) and home-made soups are always available at MITLA. The Daily Special changes each day, and Ana reports that it has frequently sold out quite rapidly. If you're hankering for a flavourful Mexican supper, you are wise to call ahead (613-842-9058) by mid-morning of the day in question, or check the MITLA Facebook page [www.Facebook.com/mitlaottawa](http://www.Facebook.com/mitlaottawa).

Readers who were lucky enough to catch Alan Neal's interview with Ana before Christmas won't fail to have noted her encouraging words about why she chose to locate her new enterprise in this somewhat improbable spot at the corner of Barrette and Loyer Streets. Ana was forthright about both her attachment to the corner of the community where she lives, and her desire to do her bit to inspire hope and optimism about the future revitalization of the area in the wake of the dispiriting years since the fire. Since its earliest beginnings in the summer of 2012, the MITLA project has done much to mobilize community engagement and support, as friends, neighbours and even well-meaning strangers chipped in to help with the renovations. We share Ana's hope that her store will soon become a lively gathering place in the months ahead, and help to fuel a long-awaited rebirth of community life and activity in the Beechwood commercial core.

Be sure to join MITLA's **Grand Opening** event on **Saturday, February 2nd**, when the annual Festival of Candelaria will be celebrated with traditional Oaxacan foods



**Irene Martin of Retire-At-Home Services, receiving the Better Business Bureau 2012 Torch Award for outstanding Business Ethics.**

prepared by Ana and her co-chef **Kim**. Keep an eye on MITLA's website or Facebook page for further details, but don't miss the chance to welcome Ana to the Beechwood business community and wish her well in the New Year.

#### **Retire-At-Home™ Services**

We warmly welcome **Irene Martin** and her team at **Retire-At-Home™ Services** who have recently rejoined the NEN's advertising roster. By any standard, Retire-At-Home™ Services is a remarkable local success story in the home care field, having been launched nearly two decades ago from the living room of founding President Irene Martin's own home in Nepean. It has blossomed in the intervening years into a flourishing award-winning business with 130 employees here in Ottawa, and 30 franchise operations spread throughout Canada. As our society grapples with the combined realities of a rapidly aging demographic, a ballooning "sandwich generation," and ongoing significant gaps in the healthcare system, the types and quality of services offered by Retire-At-Home™ are likely to be in even greater demand in the years ahead.

As an RN for over three decades, and at one time, caregiver to her own aging parents,

Irene has built her business with the objective of offering professional help with a "personal touch" to seniors, or those with health problems, who wish to remain independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. Her overall approach is based on a concern for her clients' "total well-being," encompassing both their physical and emotional health, with a particular emphasis on preserving their personal dignity despite the challenges and limitations they may be facing. Retire-At-Home™ takes pride in its success in forging strong, longlasting relationships with its clients. This success has been recognized in the community over the years through a series of awards, most recently the **Better Business Bureau 2012 Torch Award for Ethical Business Practices**.

For detailed background on the services offered by Retire-

At-Home™, interested readers should check their website at [retireathomeottawa.com](http://retireathomeottawa.com) or call **613-798-5111**. Very briefly, these services run the gamut from companionship and light housekeeping help on the one hand, to nursing and palliative care on the other, and can include:

- **Care Management**, including a free in-home assessment and consultation to determine a client's requirements and provide the basis for development of a personal care plan; regular supervisory visits; design, implementation, monitoring and updating of a personal care plan; advocacy services to help navigate the healthcare system; coordination and delivery of medical supplies and equipment; and 24-hour on-call support for questions and emergency care.
- **Home Support** services tailored to individual circumstances, possibly including kitchen and bathroom clean up; general cleaning of other rooms; bed changing; laundry; help with pet care.
- **Personal Care** provided by a qualified and carefully matched caregiver, including morning and bedtime care; help with exercises, bathing, toileting, dressing and grooming; medication reminders and some Home Support services.
- **Companion Care**, including respite or overnight care in the home or in a hospital; light meal preparation and supervision; grocery lists and shopping; accom-

paniment on outings or to appointments; and regular home safety inspections.

- **Nursing Care**, including administration of medications; monitoring of vital signs; wound care and dressings; catheter care and foot care.
- **Palliative Care**, offered by an RAH team of professionals with established links to a palliative care outreach program in Ottawa staffed by experienced doctors and specialists, with services including daily monitoring of a client's condition; pain management; bathing and personal care; regular communication with physicians; arrangements for in-home medical supplies and equipment.

Retire-At-Home also offers a range of care "Packages" including

**Hospital Discharge; Respite Care; Caregiver Support; Live-In Management** and the "**Peace of Mind Package**" designed expressly for the sandwich generation who are juggling the combined responsibilities of children at home; full-time jobs; and aging or ailing parents in need of care and attention. This package includes both Care Management and Personal Care Services, along with a Personal Emergency Alarm System with 24-hour monitoring; a monthly review visit by a Client Care Manager; arrangements for medical supplies and equipment; 24-hour on-call support for emergencies and inquiries; and commu-

**Continued on page 12**

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**Continued from page 11**

nication with other healthcare professionals.

Not surprisingly, given the sensitive nature of their work and the vital importance of establishing a relationship of trust with clients, as well as offering a high standard of care, Retire-At-Home™ employees are carefully selected through a rigorous interview process, and must undergo a police check on a yearly basis. Apart from its exemplary standing with the Better Business Bureau, as attested by its recent receipt of the BBB Torch Award for 2012, Retire-At-Home™ is officially accredited by Accreditation Canada and as such, is acknowledged to meet or exceed national standards in all aspects of the services it provides.

We wish **Irene**, Community Relations Manager **Marie Melvin**, and the whole Retire-At-Home™ team in Ottawa continuing success in providing these much-needed services in our community, and thank them for their renewed support of the NEN.

**Lino's on York**

We wish a belated welcome and a very happy New Year to seasonal advertiser **Lino DiSipio**, owner/operator of **Lino's on York Hair and Colour Salon**. Lino has been in the hairstyling business for more than three decades, and over the years has acquired numerous regular clients from our area, including Rockcliffe and New Edinburgh, as well as from other downtown neighbourhoods. He has a large clientele from Foreign Affairs, many of whom come and go on postings, but who invariably return to his salon when they are back in Ottawa. While ear-

lier in his career, he worked in larger salons in the Esplanade Laurier, on George Street and on Murray Street, five years ago he launched his first solo operation at **180 York Street** (close to Cumberland), and is currently enjoying the independence of running his own enterprise.

Needless to say, over the course of his 35 years in the business, Lino has seen a multitude of styles and colour trends come and go. In his early days working in the late 70s, the unforgettable Farrah Fawcett style was all the rage, when women of all ages strove to emulate the long, luxuriant and artfully windswept tresses of this Hollywood icon. And as many of us remember all too well, Big Hair was the signature of the 80s, giving way in the 90s to emerging punk styles (an antidote, perhaps, to Big Hair!) According to Lino, however, the dominant 90s craze was the Jennifer Aniston look, which exploded on to the hairstyling scene with her appearance on the fabled TV sitcom *Friends*. More recently, Lino has noticed a renewal of interest in asymmetrical haircuts, particularly for the older crowd, while his younger clients tend to favour long, soft waves.



**Lino DiSipio of Lino's on York.**

In addition to his prowess as a hair cutter, Lino has special expertise in the realm of hair colouring, a skill of special importance to those of us in the rapidly "maturing" baby boom generation who choose to resist the signature gray of our age bracket. Apparently, the younger crowd are also increasingly turning to eye-catching hair colour changes as a form of adventurous self-expression.

To keep up with the rapidly evolving trends in hair design, Lino makes a point of attending the two major shows presented each year in larger cities throughout the country by the Allied Beauty Association (ABA). The first takes place in March, when spring and fall styles are on display, and the second in September when the focus shifts to winter fashions. Lino finds these events to be fruitful sources of inspiration, and draws on these latest trends to offer new ideas to his clients. Should you be looking for a fresh start in the hair department to start off the New Year, be it a really good cut, a touch of colour, or both, give Lino a call at **613-241-5466** or drop in at his studio at **180 York Street** to arrange an appointment.

**Hamie's Diner**

After 17 years in operation at 7 Beechwood Avenue, next door to Bread and Roses, **Hamie's Diner** will close its doors for the last time when its lease expires at the end of this month. Proprietor **Hamie Saikaley** reports that he is hoping to negotiate a slight extension of his occupancy to the end of the first weekend in February, as the new property owner, the Minto Group, appears to be in no rush to have the remaining buildings

vacated, and indeed, plans to renovate Hamie's premises and convert them to a Sales Office for the 157 condominiums planned in the new development at the site of the fire.

Over the years, Hamie's has attracted a faithful clientele to enjoy a tasty breakfast or lunch in the cosy, relaxed atmosphere of the diner, and his presence will be missed by many residents of the area. In recent years, he has noticed a significant slump in busi-

ness, not simply as result of the fire which decimated our commercial hub, but also as a consequence of turbulent economic conditions in general, and the Ottawa public services cutbacks in particular. Like the rest of us, he is anticipating major changes on Beechwood as the *Kavanaugh* and Minto developments proceed in the coming months, but not before the area undergoes the disruption and upheaval of these major construction projects.



**Photo By: Louise Imbeault**

**Farewell Line and Hamie, it was great while it lasted.**

Hamie and his wife **Line** have no definite plans for the future. Apart from a couple of months' break following the closure of the diner, they have no intention of retiring at this point in their lives when they remain active and energetic. Hamie expects that he may initially play a role in his sister's business in the downtown core, and who knows, if the opportunity presents itself, we may soon find them operating a new restaurant, though sadly it's not likely to be in our area

of "January Joiners" at local gyms and fitness institutions suggest that these resolutions are nonetheless alive and well, and very much a part of our lives in the early days of each new calendar year. Perhaps the key to **Alex MacDonald's** success at **Studio A Fitness**, now into its second year of operations at **429 St. Laurent Blvd.**, is her ability to develop a roster of classes and top flight instructors that take the grind out of sticking to these resolutions, and afford participants the chance to "*Sweat, Stretch and Laugh*" while pursuing their myriad goals of fitness, weight loss, strength, flexibility and even pain relief. In a word, the classes are designed to be joyful and fun as well as challenging and effective in their respective domains.

And speaking of joyful and fun, on the 2013 Winter Schedule at Studio A (January 2-March 31) you'll find two new **Disco Fit** classes, one



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Photo By: Michelle Valberg

### Studio A Disco Fit instructors Joseph Cull and Kathy Godding.

led by Alex and her partner **Martin Clary** (who by the way has the distinction of being the "Best Disco Moves" winner at the YMCA's *Just Dance* fundraiser in 2012), and the other by **Joseph Cull & Friends**, notably **Kathy Godding**, his lively collaborator and dance partner in the *Just Dance* events. Joseph is well known in our community for his many talents, his generous heart and his completely irresistible wit. It's difficult to imagine a more delightful way to get a vigorous workout without the pain, toil and monotony we so often associate with physical

effort. If Disco Fever is in your blood check out the Studio A website: [www.studioAfitness.ca](http://www.studioAfitness.ca). While it may be too late to enrol in the Winter term, chances are the classes may be offered again in the Spring, so you can have your chance to "Get down, get down, get down, get down tonight baby!" or, as the website promises, "Boogie your way into health and have a cardio blast while you do it!"

If you're musically motivated, two other Studio A classes you might want to investigate are **Socaramba**, a fast-paced aerobic workout featuring

up-beat **Caribbean** music, led by instructor **Alex Eloise** (who heads up his own fitness company "*Alexercise*") and **Zumba** with **Ximena**, which offers a fun but exuberant Latin-inspired workout that even non-dancers and non-exercisers can enjoy and profit from. Ever popular, and indeed in some cases Sold Out in the current session, are Alex MacDonald's own legendary specialties, **Dance Fit** and **Stretch and Strength**. After running for two decades in the community, these classes have lost none of their lustre and continue to attract a faithful following.

Regardless of your age, stage, physical condition and possible limitations, there's likely to be a class on the Studio A roster to suit your needs and aspirations, whether it's a vigorous aerobic workout, a chance to enhance your strength and flexibility, or a moment of tranquility in your stressful routine with **Relax and Renew Restorative Yoga**, **Relax and Align** with Somatics specialist **Richard Hudspith**, or (new on the scene) **Candlelight Yoga** on Monday evenings. Check out the Studio A website for schedules and class descriptions. While the Winter term is well underway as we go

to press, if space is available you can still join classes in mid-stream with fees pro-rated accordingly. Better still, if you bring along a friend, your fee is discounted by 25% and you have twice as much fun!

Studio A's Spring term will run from **April 1 to June 30**, starting off with an Open House on **Sunday, March 24**, beginning at 1:00 pm. Since Studio A was launched in September 2011, these regular Open Houses have become extremely popular with prospective clients, and as Alex describes them, have proven to be "the best way to speed-date the classes and the instructors." If you're interested in attending the March event, you'd be wise to book early as they fill up very rapidly.

Following up on the great success of the Sold Out **CPR Workshops** held at Studio A this past Fall, Alex is planning several more Workshops over the next six months related to **First Aid**, **Heart Health** and **Managing Stress**. If you'd like to be notified when the exact dates are nailed down, you can sign up for the Studio A newsletter on their website at [www.studioAfitness.ca](http://www.studioAfitness.ca).

### Magpie Jewellery: Twenty Years on the Ottawa Scene

In the twenty years since

**Magpie Jewellery** emerged somewhat modestly on the Ottawa scene, the company has blossomed into a thriving enterprise with three locations in the downtown core at **430 Richmond (Head Office)** in Westboro, **299 Bank Street** in the Glebe and on the second floor of the **Rideau Centre**, as well as a growing online business at its web store at [www.magpiejewellery.com](http://www.magpiejewellery.com). As we have reported in previous issues of the NEN, Magpie owner **Martin Wright** is a native of the Burgh, and continues to live in the Wright family home on Stanley Avenue with his wife **Erin** and their two children **Oliver** and **Lily**. Over the years, Martin has been extremely loyal to his community roots, and we're happy to say, is a faithful supporter of the NEN where Magpie's eye-catching ad appears on a regular basis.

As you'll discover when you visit Magpie's web store or drop in at one of its downtown locations, its merchandise is designed to appeal to a broad range of ages, tastes and budgets. If you're shopping online, or simply looking for inspiration before you visit the store, the Magpie website offers **Gift Ideas** which are helpfully sort-

Continued on page 14

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## Continued from Page 13

ed by price point, ranging from the modest (\$100 or less) to the munificent (\$2,000 or more), and if you're wide open to

traditional but very beautiful." Notable among these are **Andrea Mueller**, a native of Ottawa, **Ann Sportun**, **Caelen Ellis** and **Megan Thorne**.

For those who may be in the



**Magpie Jewellery owner Martin Wright and jewellery designer Walter van der Molen (seated).**

suggestion, you can browse their full collections of rings, bracelets, charms, earrings and necklaces.

Magpie's impressive roster of designer collections includes such well-known lines as **Georg Jensen** and **Pandora**, along with numerous Canadian designer lines, which Martin reports are increasingly popular among his clients, including **Hilary Druxman**, **Ann Sportun**, **Pyrrha**, **Tashi** and **Mimi and Marge**. For younger readers who may be planning to take the matrimonial plunge in the coming months (our eldest son included), Magpie's collections boast several popular designers of "alternative bridal" lines, which Martin describes as "slightly non-

market for something entirely distinctive, or perhaps for a modern adaptation of a family heirloom, Magpie's multi-talented gemologist, goldsmith, jewellery designer and watchmaker **Walter van der Molen** is on hand to undertake custom work, and indeed will be the principal craftsman in a new **Custom Work Studio**, which will be opened up on the second floor of the Richmond Road location at the end of June. Along with Andrea Mueller, Ann Sportun and Caelen Ellis, Walter's work was featured in a lively **Arts Nest** celebration held at the Westboro store in late November. In keeping with the "Support Local" theme of the event, close to 200 revelers were treated to beer from

the Kichesippi Beer Company and the Clocktower Brew Pub, and munchies provided by TacoLot, with music supplied by local groups Winchester Warm, the Umbrella Protest and Jon Reilly-Roe.

Magpie is very much a family affair in the Wright household, with Erin playing a major role in everything from purchasing and advertising to web content (including Blog postings), social media presence, and fine-tuning of the overall "look" of the stores, where Martin relies on her "great eye for beauty." Chances are she will ensure that as Valentine's Day approaches, the website is fully equipped with gift suggestions and blog advice on the latest styles and emerging trends in the jewellery realm, so be sure to check it out, or drop in at one of the stores to feast your eyes on the options for your sweetheart (or yourself, for that matter!)

#### **CELADON Salon and Spa: The Healing Power of Touch**

Regardless of our age and stage, most of us have at some point in our lives experienced the restorative, healing and soothing powers of massage therapy. **CELADON'S Registered Massage Therapist James Pickard**, who has more than 20 years' experience as an RMT in a clinical setting, emphasizes that, "the benefits of massage for those of us of a certain age are just as important as they are for athletes or injured clients—it stimulates circulation, releases endorphins and keeps our range of motion intact." Based on his experience, James is firmly convinced of the enduring value to older clients of regular visits to the spa to receive the benefit of the healing power of touch.

When clients of any age come in for a treatment, the CELADON Staff collects as much information as possible



**Local artist Simon Moor's paintings are on display at CELADON Salon and Spa.**

on its registration form so they are fully conversant with their clients' health issues and expectations. Before proceeding with a treatment, they will make clear what the client can expect from the massage or other procedure, and how it can best be adapted to the client's specific needs. From the outset, CELADON, was designed as a barrier free facility, and can readily accommodate clients with walkers or in wheelchairs.

In other news from CELADON, proprietor **Morna Patterson** reports that the spa's **Jane Iredale's** cosmetic line recently hit the big time when its Eye Gloss in Champagne Silk was named "Best Natural Wonder" in the *Allure* Best of Beauty Awards for 2012. Smooth Affair Facial Primer is another popular Jane Iredale product, and if you need assistance in making a selection that best suits your complexion, CELADON'S resident make-up artist **Brittany** is happy to help you out at no charge. For a fee, she will also give you a valuable lesson in how to properly apply the products.

The spa now offers a new

regime from Esthederm de Paris to treat both brown spots and wrinkles. The **White System** is reportedly a powerful antioxidant that lightens complexions while synthesizing collagen. As a bonus, esthetician **Jenny** will include a free eye treatment with any CELADON facial this month.

Not to neglect our crowning glory, hairstylist **Isabel** is certified to offer CELADON clients the **Zerran Natural Hair Straightening** system—a 100% vegan system which is designed to safely, permanently and naturally straighten hair without the use of harsh chemicals.

**Art in the Spa: On Friday, February 1, from 6 to 9 pm**, CELADON will host a vernissage for an exhibition of the works of local artist **Simon Moor**. The community is cordially invited to attend the vernissage and to meet Simon, who grew up in Manor Park and still lives nearby.

#### **BUSINESS BITS**

##### **Epicuria**

Owner **Tracey Black** reports that Epicuria's first Christmas season in its new home on St. Laurent Blvd. was a great success, as clients flocked to the store to load up on the fruitcakes, plum puddings, holiday shortbreads, chocolates and myriad treats tantalizingly displayed throughout the store. As usual, Epicuria's splendid turkey dinners sold out completely, while its busy catering department operated to maximum capacity throughout the holiday season. Needless to say, after the seasonal whirlwind, Tracey and her staff are looking forward to a slightly slower pace over the winter months when they can turn their attention to new culinary offerings, as well as to their ever-growing catering business and the launch of a new web-



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**Le Saint-Ô now offers heated outdoor dining all year long.**

site. Tracey herself is looking forward to resuming the “semi-sabbatical” she had planned just before the catastrophic fire, and hopes to spend more time with her young family and start work on some new projects. If you’re planning an intimate dinner at home as opposed to a pricey excursion to a gourmet dining establishment on Valentine’s Day, you may want to drop by the store and impress your beloved with Epicuria’s usual superb Valentine’s Day supper (check the website for details [www.epicurica.ca](http://www.epicurica.ca)). We wish Tracey and her team a very happy New Year, and continuing success in their new location.

### Second Cup

Our community was greatly saddened by the news of the death of **Lester Gracez** in early January. Lester was the proprietor of the **Second Cup** on Springfield Road for close to two decades, and will be sorely missed by his many friends and acquaintances in the neighbourhood. We extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues at Second Cup.

### Place for Paws: Under New Ownership

As most regular clients of **Place for Paws Boarding Camps for Cats and Dogs** are already aware, this popular business changed hands early this year when longtime proprietor **Margo Edwards Ledoux’s** house and kennel operation were purchased by **Angela Zorn**, Margo’s capable second-in-command for the past 10 years. When we spoke in early January, Angela

had moved into the house and taken over daily operations, while Margo and her husband **Jim Ledoux** have relocated to their newly-built home by the river, just across the road from the Clarence Creek farm.

Proceeding from the time-honored principle “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” Angela plans virtually no major changes in the operation of the business as we know and love it, with Place for Paws’ high quality care, individualized attention, and worth-its-weight-in-gold Pick Up and Delivery service continuing as usual. Nor does Angela anticipate that Margo will entirely disappear from the scene after all those years of devotion to her furry charges and their owners. It’s entirely possible that you

may catch a glimpse of this much-loved novice retiree on one of your next visits.

Stay tuned for a profile of Angela and her newly-acquired enterprise in our April issue. In the meantime, we wish her the best of luck at the helm of Place for Paws, and send our sincere thanks and best wishes to Margo for her consummate care of our beloved critters over the past 15 years.

### Le Saint-Ô: Heated Terrace Officially Open for Winter Diners

On December 1, Manor Park’s well known gourmet establishment (featured in our last issue) officially opened its heated terrace to diners eager for a refreshing touch of the outdoors without the discom-

fort of the winter chill. Thanks to a brand new heating system, the Terrace can be maintained at a comfortable temperature in all but extreme winter conditions, and on its inaugural day of operation, diners enjoyed their sumptuous French cuisine while outdoor temperatures dipped to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . As an added incentive to dine *en plein air* (well, more or less), in the month of January, the intrepid outdoor crowd was treated to a discount of 10% on their meals. Due to the unpredictability of winter weather conditions, **Le Saint-Ô** owner **Germain Brunet** suggests that interested readers call the restaurant about three days before their planned visit to the restaurant to reserve their terrace table (**613-749-9703**).



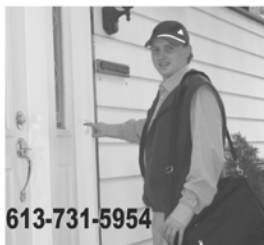
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Photo By: Caroline Matt

**Three Winter Carnival participants and their 10-Minute Snowman Challenge creation.**

Happy New Year to everyone in the neighbourhood! 2013 started out with an event that has a long history in the Burgh, but with a bit of a twist.

#### Annual Winter Carnival

For the first time ever, the annual **Winter Carnival** was held on New Year's Day. Over 200 New Edinburgh residents joined Council for a delicious pancake brunch with all the trimmings. While the weather

leading up to the event was not quite cooperative enough to get the rink ready, it couldn't have been more perfect the day of the Carnival. People lingered outside in the sun, joined in the games and went on a sleigh ride around the neighbourhood. Skating games were replaced by a more traditional version of tug-o-war and the first annual 10-minute Snowman Challenge. The resulting creations ranged from

a vertical snowman and a turtle, to a narwhal, a snowy owl, a bunny rabbit and a snowball shop! It seems that this may have been the start of a new tradition in New Edinburgh.

As always we couldn't have done it without the help of our many volunteers and contributors: **Paula Pincombe**, **Jill Hardy**, and **Melodie Salter** (a.k.a. the Kitchen Crew); soundman extraordinaire **Jerry Turchyn**; **Cathy McConkey**, whose delicious hams were everyone's favourites; **Roxan Clark** for lending us her beautiful Snow Queen **Grace** and manning the sleigh ride in the cold; **Brian Torrie** and **Gillian Campbell**, and their oven; **Debra Conner** and **Caroline Matt** for being up to organizing any event that fosters community spirit; and, last but certainly not least, the Hosers who worked so very hard on the rinks: **Michel Giroux**, **Steve Grabner** and **Bruce Sherry**. Special thanks also to the person who donated the delicious sausages and to **Prestige Catering** for letting us borrow their equipment. This event was generously supported by the **City of Ottawa Civic Events Funding Program**.

Having the Winter Carnival on New Year's Day put the Fieldhouse's new and updated kitchen to the test. It passed and we want to again thank **Paul and Tracy Williams** at the **New Edinburgh Pub** for their very generous sup-



## Hockey Day in New Edinburgh

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port this year. CCC was the recipient of the Pub's annual fundraiser in the summer and we decided to put the funds to updating the kitchen; it looks really great. And thank you to **Jill Hardy**, who coordinated the whole thing. We even added a new Tassimo single serve coffee maker, a really nice addition.

Michel Giroux and his team of volunteers have been working every night as they clear the snow and water the rinks again. At the moment, the rinks are in really good condition. The Council is very lucky to have volunteers like Michel and his team of Hosers. All of the Hosers and rink attendants are very proud of the work they do for the community each winter. The rinks are open seven days a week, so come on down and check it out. Conditions are amazing!

## Hockey Day in New Edinburgh

We are all anticipating that the good skating conditions will last as we host **Hockey Day in New Edinburgh**. Debra Conner is organizing this first-time event being held at the **Fieldhouse on Saturday, February 9, from noon to 4 pm**. Come on down, have a game of shinny and participate in some skills competitions. Hot dogs and drinks will be available to buy. See you at the Fieldhouse!!

Other events to look forward to this year include the **Plant Sale**, held at the Fieldhouse on Saturday, May 11, 8 am to 4 pm. And, of course, always the neighbourhood favorite, the **NE Marathon Cheering Station** will be held on Marathon weekend, Sunday, May 26, early in the morning. Watch for more details!

Council meets every second Monday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the Fieldhouse. If you are interested in joining or volunteering please drop by. We meet again Monday, February 11, at 7:30 pm. Also, the Fieldhouse is available for rent for your next event. Please contact Jill Hardy at 613-746-1323 to reserve in advance.

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# Update on Beechwood Working Committees

By Jane Heintzman

As we reported in our last issue, a number of Working Committees were launched in the community following the seminal October 29 Public Meeting on the future of Beechwood. Since then, several of these groups have forged ahead in their respective areas of interest, while one of them—**Isobel Bisby's** bookstore rescue team—has happily been able to fold up its tent and declare victory, thanks to the 11th hour purchase of **Books on Beechwood**.

**Political Action Sub-Committee (PASC) Chair Peter Lewis** reports that his group is focusing its efforts primarily on gathering information and establishing contacts with key players on the planning and development front. The Committee has met with a number of the architects of the Beechwood Community Design Plan (BCDP) to familiarize its members with both the details of the plan and its limitations. Some of the members also have plans to enrol in City of Ottawa Planning courses to be more informed about the process, and better able to participate in planning reviews. Peter's team now has had what he describes as a cordial discussion with **Lise Lauzon**, whose family owns many of the commercial properties on the south side of Beechwood, and has made contact with other community associations. Also the PASC has been in communication with a municipality outside of Ontario which has had great success in a program to manage derelict and unoccupied properties. We look forward to hearing more details on that one!

As most readers will have noticed, **Julie Lapalme's Public Art** group swung into action at the time of the *C'est Chill* event in December, erecting colourful murals and chalkboards on the faceless hoardings along Beechwood. The CCCC's headquarters in New Edinburgh House opened its doors to offer the artists in Julie's group a warm and sheltered venue in which to create the murals before hoisting them on to the hoardings, along with accompanying chalkboards. Titled **My Beechwood Includes/Ma Beechwood Inclut**, invited passersby to post their suggestions for future amenities on the street. Recurring themes in

the ensuing weeks have included a hardware store, an LCBO and the return of our bookstore—one mission accomplished! While Julie notes that the chalkboards have recently not fared well in the soggy weather, the murals have significantly brightened up the overall aspect of the hoarding, as has the cheerful coat of red paint applied to the surrounding boards by the Quartier Vanier BIA.

**Alexander Macklin**, leader of the working group tasked to investigate the fate of **St. Charles Church** on the south side of Beechwood, reports that he and BVA founder Tobi Nussbaum, along with our local M.P.P., **the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur**, met with Monsignor Beech at the office of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa shortly before Christmas. The latter made clear that St. Charles had been declared surplus to the Church's needs in the area, and some time ago had ceased to be a parish church. It is currently anticipated that the church property will be offered up for sale early this year. As the building has no heritage designation, it remains to be seen whether any part of it will be preserved in a future redevelopment. Stay tuned for more news on prospective purchasers of the St. Charles property and their develop-

ment plans.

**Natalie Belovic's Market Sub-Committee** is moving ahead to organize a **weekday evening farmers' market** in the Beechwood corridor, with a mix of organic and non-organic growers participating. Their aim is to begin with a simple formula that can be further developed over time in the light of community response and producer participation, as opposed to starting with "too big a bang," which is unsustainable in the longer term.

If you'd like to get involved in the community effort to rejuvenate Beechwood, it's not too late to join one the Working Committees. Just drop a line to the leader of the following groups of most interest to you and join the work party!

- **Farmers Market for Beechwood** - (Lead: Natalie Belovic [Natalie@nataliebelovic.com](mailto:Natalie@nataliebelovic.com))
- **Promoting public art/streetscape** - (Lead: Julie LaPalme [everything1966@hotmail.com](mailto:everything1966@hotmail.com))
- **Neighbourhood Program funding grants** (Lead: Dale Smith [dale@dalesmithgallery.com](mailto:dale@dalesmithgallery.com))
- **Business development** - (Lead: George Haddad [contact@geohaddad.com](mailto:contact@geohaddad.com))
- **Political Action** - (Lead: Peter Lewis [plewis42@yahoo.com](mailto:plewis42@yahoo.com))
- **Community future for St. Charles Church** - (Lead: Alex Macklin [alexander.macklin@sympatico.ca](mailto:alexander.macklin@sympatico.ca))



## News from the Quartier Vanier BIA

By Suzanne Valiquet

**Executive Director, QVBIA**

The Quartier Vanier Merchants Association (BIA) Board of Directors held their visioning session at the end of the year and identified the programs that the BIA will undertake in 2013. At that time, a draft budget was approved by the board, which will be presented to the membership at our upcoming Annual General Meeting in February.

We are nearing completion of our new **Marketing Kit** which will be used to attract new businesses to our commercial zone. We really appreciate the comments we have received from residents of the area as to what types of shops they would like

along our mainstreets.

We look forward to the new developments that are being planned, and some are to commence this year in our commercial zone. The BIA looks forward to working with our new merchants from the Beechwood sector as together we will make the area a more viable place to live and work in Ottawa.

We are also pleased to inform our new members that they are now entitled to graffiti removal services. We encourage them to contact **Jean-Michel Rousseau**, our Manager of Operations at 613-745-0040, if they spot tags on their respective buildings.

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### Continued from Page 1 Minto meeting ...

ity of the Hall), the following is a brief summary of the proceedings, and of the next steps in the process as Minto's Zoning By-Law Amendment Application proceeds towards consideration by the City's Planning Committee on March 26, 2013.

### Public Meeting Summary January 16, 2013, 7 pm, Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road.

#### Introduction:

**David Sacks** introduced the discussion by emphasizing that the meeting was not an official, City-sponsored public consultation, but rather had been organized in comparatively short order by a hard-working and efficient sub-Committee of NECA. David expressed the hope that a City-sponsored consultation would be scheduled in the coming weeks before the closure of the public comment period on **February 4**. He encouraged meeting participants to submit their individual comments to the City prior to this date, recommending that they address them to City planner **Bliss Edwards** at [bliss.edwards@ottawa.ca](mailto:bliss.edwards@ottawa.ca), with a copy to Councillor **Peter Clark** [peter.clark@ottawa.ca](mailto:peter.clark@ottawa.ca).

Representing Minto at the session were **Brent Strachan**, Vice-President, Development; project architect **Prishram Jain** of TACT Architecture Inc. of Toronto;

and **Wells Baker**, Minto's **Manager of Sustainable Developments**, while the City of Ottawa delegation included **Councillors Peter Clark** and **Mathieu Fleury** (along with Fleury's Assistant **Matt Genest**), and City planners **Bliss Edwards** and **Don Morse**.

#### City of Ottawa Planning and Approvals Framework:

As background to a review of the Minto proposal, NECA Board member **Catherine Lindquist** provided a masterful overview of the City's multi-layered Planning and Approvals Framework, within which the project is being developed, and in relation to which it should be assessed. Interested readers will find more details related to the framework and its application to Minto's proposal on the City of Ottawa website at [ottawa.ca/devapps](http://ottawa.ca/devapps). Using the City's Development Application Search Tool, input **File Number D02-02-12-0130** to access all the available plans and assessments of the project prepared by Minto consultants, including **Planning Rationale; Environmental Site Assessment, Site and Landscape Plan and Transportation Brief**. A link to the site will be posted on the community website at [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca).

Very briefly, Catherine's overview encompassed:

- the macro-level, or City and Ontario Municipal Board approved Official Plan

(OP), designating the site of the project as Traditional Mainstreet (TM), with the additional application of a policy (OP amendment) protecting the "view corridor" from Poets' Hill and the Tommy Douglas Memorial in the Beechwood Cemetery to Parliament Hill;

- the more detailed Zoning By-Law level which classifies the site as Traditional Mainstreet Subzone 8 (TM8);
- the City's Urban Design Guidelines for Traditional Mainstreets, and
- the Beechwood Community Design Plan (BCDP), which is specific to our community, and sets out a detailed planning framework for the MacKay Sector in which the project is located.

The TM8 Subzone allows for a broad mix of uses from retail to residential, office, service commercial and institutional, and calls for mid-rise development with limited set back from the street. The Urban Design Guidelines for Traditional Mainstreets, which are closely mirrored in the area-specific BCDP, include low to mid-rise development with smaller scale storefronts, vertically articulated by changes in colour, materials and texture; continuity of character and scale along the streetscape; pedestrian amenities; windows creating visual interest at ground level, and increased density at specific "nodes" in the development area.

The BCDP gives special emphasis to maintaining the "urban village" character of the MacKay Sector of the Beechwood corridor, and to the enhancement of a compact, pedestrian-oriented environment, with trees, wide sidewalks, protection of sunlight to sidewalk areas, and the use of warm colours in new construction, reflecting the predominant red brick of the existing commercial area. Section 2.5.2 of the BCDP specifically calls for colours "that contrast well with the traditional colours, and add a fresh, warm, lively feel to the visual environment....Neutral or bland colours such as beige or grey should only be used as accents to other colours."

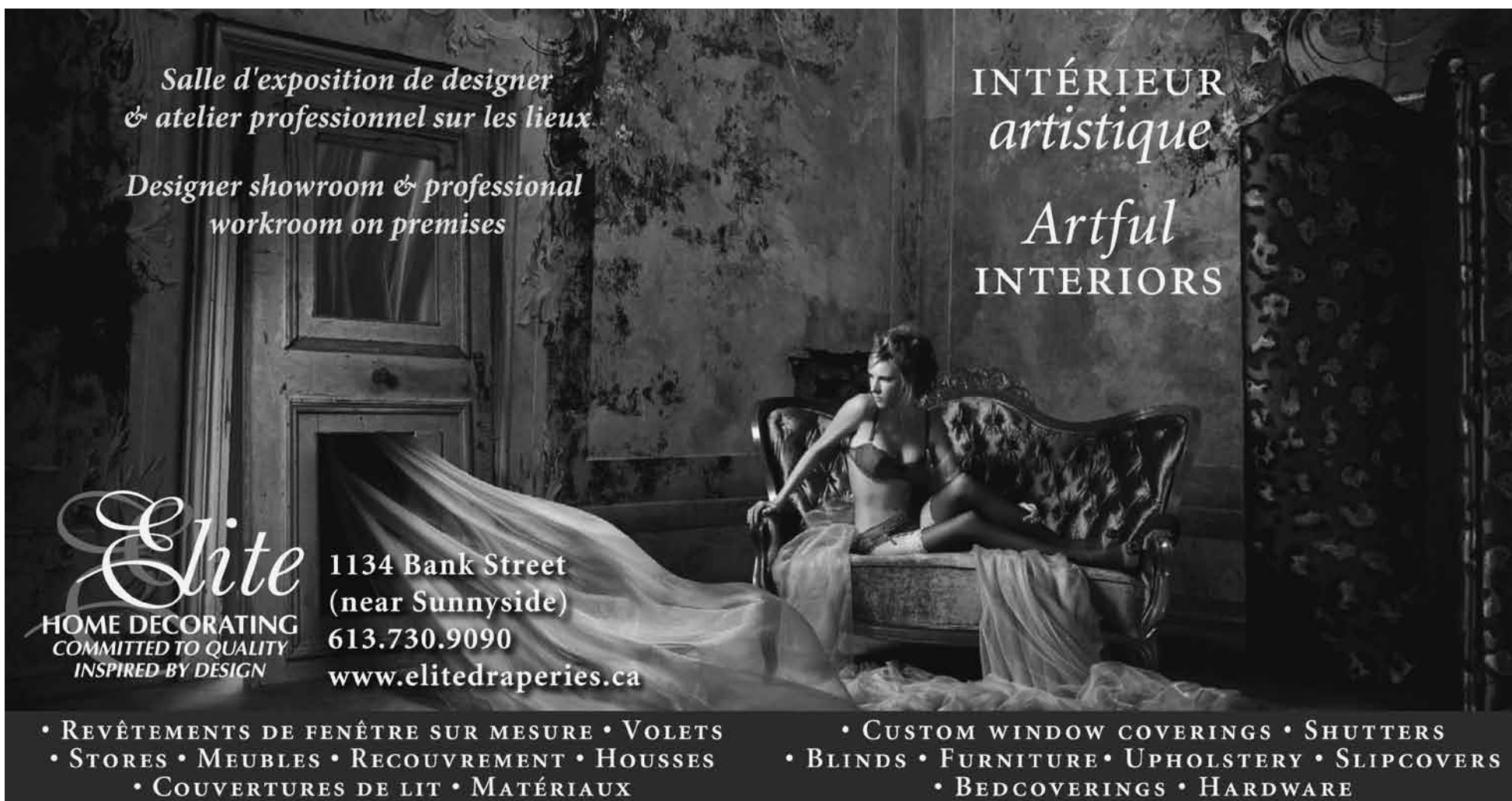
Interested readers will find links to the applicable City planning framework documents, and to the PowerPoint presentation shown at the January 16 meeting, on the community website ([www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca)).

#### Minto Presentation:

Following a brief introduction by **Brent Strachan**, who noted that Minto had not yet filed a Site Plan Application with the City, but was still in the process of gathering feedback on its preliminary plans, project architect **Prishram Jain** presented Minto's design plans for the site as they have evolved to date. (Interested readers will find detailed design drawings of the proposal on the "Planning Rationale" link of City website listed above: [ottawa.ca/devapps](http://ottawa.ca/devapps) File Number D02-02-12-0130).

Among the highlights of Mr. Jain's presentation were the following:

- primary influences on the design of the site included the Beechwood Community Design Plan, with its specific prescription for the MacKay Sector in which the MacKay/Beechwood corner is designated as a "node" calling for increased intensification, as well as the Beechwood Cemetery View Shed protection By-law which circumscribes both the height and the massing of the building;
- the current proposal does not encroach on the view from the Tommy Douglas Memorial to Parliament Hill, (although in fact, the mechanical penthouse and a small portion of the 9th floor do extend into the designated view corridor, but only where it is already obstructed by the 9th storey of New Edinburgh Square);
- while in excess of the 6-storey limit stipulated in the TM8 Sub-zone and in the BCDP, the height of the proposed Minto building (8 storeys, with a partial 9th floor) is comparable to that of both New Edinburgh Square (9 storeys plus mechanical penthouse) and The Edinburgh Retirement Residence (8 storeys plus mechanical penthouse);
- Minto's design proposal has been well received by the



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Photo: Catherine Lindquist

Over 180 participants attended the NECA-sponsored meeting with Minto on January 16. Presentations were made by NECA, Minto, and the project's architect. Participants provided feedback during discussion groups.

City's Urban Design Review Panel, and at the recommendation of the Panel, graduated set-backs of the upper storeys at the 5th and 3rd levels on the MacKay front now have been included in the design to create a smooth transition to the low rise residential townhouses next door on MacKay Street;

- ground level retail spaces are designed with high ceilings, and will be accessible to shoppers via numerous entry points along Beechwood;
- the Beechwood/MacKay corner has been designed to "assert itself" as a point of emphasis in the building, and will include an outdoor public patio space with outdoor seating;
- Minto envisages a pedestrian-friendly streetscape with trees, benches, lamps and a wider sidewalk at the Beechwood /MacKay corner;
- Minto's overall objective is for the building to "fit into, not stand out in, the neighbourhood."

Wrapping up the Minto presentation, **Wells Baker, Manager of Sustainable Developments**, spoke very briefly of Minto's leadership in the field of environmental design, and indicated that while as yet no specific targets have been set in terms of LEED certification standards for the building, environmental features—including a green roof and pedestrian- and cyclist-oriented amenities—will be key components of the project as planning proceeds in the coming months.

#### Community Response to Minto Proposal:

Following the presentations

by Minto, participants at the meeting divided up into Discussion Groups to address four specific aspects of the project: **Design** (two groups); **Retail** (two groups); **Parking and Transportation**; and **Environmental Impact**. After collective deliberations of about half an hour, facilitators for each of the groups presented a summary of their conclusions.

Very briefly, the highlights were as follows:

#### Design (Facilitators: Gemma Kerr and Kathleen Lauder):

- While the building design has definite merit and might be well suited to a downtown setting, it does not seem an appropriate fit with the historic, village-like character of the MacKay Sector of Beechwood;
- Specific concerns included building height (2-3 storeys above the 6-storey limit in the BCDP); use of cold, sterile building materials as opposed to the warm red brick typical of existing streetscape and specified in the BCDP; lack of detail at street level, including number of retail spaces and store front design; lack of information on shadowing impact of building in relation to sidewalks;
- Set-back of upper storeys should be at a lower level on the Beechwood front, as the building in its existing form appears to loom over the street, and transition to the lower rise building on the Beechwood/Crichton corner should be less abrupt;
- The side of the building facing the St. Patrick Street Bridge, which forms part of the Gateway to the

Beechwood Corridor, is currently slated to be a blank wall, but could be enhanced by the addition of architectural elements, a green wall or some form of art work.

#### Retail (Facilitators: Barbara Laskin and Tobi Nussbaum):

- Number of retail spaces unclear, but appears very limited (3 or 4);
- Group consensus was in favour of multiple small, independent stores opening on to the street;
- Community guidelines for selection of businesses would include small independent stores that complement those already in operation on Beechwood, and offer essential services such as hardware (which is "key"), bakery, dry cleaners, LCBO and in general, amenities comparable to those lost in the fire;
- Leasing rates will need to be reasonable to attract businesses on this scale;
- NO chains; NO big box stores; NO ground level medical offices;
- Ideally a Retail Plan should be developed reflecting the needs of the surrounding communities;
- Store fronts should open on to the sidewalk, not be deeply recessed at entrances along Beechwood;
- Some retail should be considered around the Beechwood/MacKay corner, mirroring the pattern on the opposite corner in New Edinburgh Square;
- Outdoor patio should be associated with an appropriate business (café, restaurant etc.) to provide a focus for the public;
- Commercial/Office space could be considered for 2nd Floor to accommodate medical or other services to the community.

#### Transportation and Parking (Facilitator: Philip MacAdam):

- Single MacKay Street entrance to public and underground parking areas, as well as loading area, could create a perpetual log-jam on MacKay Street;
- While the number of retail (public) parking spaces may be adequate, the width of those spaces is narrower than the norm established by the City, and could create problems with larger vehicles;
- The impact of the dramatic intensification associated with the project is likely to further exacerbate Beechwood traffic congestion and could compromise pedestrian safety.

#### Environmental Impact/Green Design (Facilitator: Sarah Anson-Cartwright):

- Minto's overall commitment to environmental design is to be applauded, but it remains unclear to what extent it will be pursued in the case of this project;
- More detail is needed on environmental features (including green roof) and LEED certification targets;
- Cause for concern is the potentially negative environmental impact of the massive amount of glass in the building and lack of shading;
- Building height (at 8/9 storeys) has the potential to create a wind tunnel at the Beechwood/MacKay corner;
- Pleased by concept of trees on Beechwood and possibility of wider, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, but these are City of Ottawa decisions;
- Roadway corner at the Beechwood/MacKay intersection should be sharply angled, not curved as in the current design, to slow traffic and make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists (also a matter for the City of Ottawa);
- Would like more detail on a water collection system for the building.

#### Next Steps: NECA Report in the Works

David Sacks wrapped up the session, noting that NECA would shortly be producing a report summarizing the public comments gathered at the meeting, and would submit the report to Minto as the basis for a possible further consultation. The NECA report will be posted on the community website ([www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca)) and will be emailed to all those who provided their contact information at the meeting or beforehand. Stay tuned to the website for notice of possible further community consultations, and for news of

developments related to this vitally important project.

#### For More Information on the Project:

- **Contact** Heritage and Development Committee Chair **Michael Histed** ([mhisted@uottawa.ca](mailto:mhisted@uottawa.ca)); or a member of the Beechwood-MacKay Redevelopment Sub-Committee, **Sarah Anson-Cartwright** ([sarah.ansoncartwright@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.ansoncartwright@gmail.com)); **Catherine Lindquist** ([catherine.lindquist@rogers.com](mailto:catherine.lindquist@rogers.com)); **Tim Plumptre** ([tim@timplumptre.com](mailto:tim@timplumptre.com)); or **Paula Thompson** ([paulalthompson@gmail.com](mailto:paulalthompson@gmail.com)).
- Check out the City of Ottawa website at [ottawa.ca/devapps](http://ottawa.ca/devapps). Using the City's Development Application Search Tool, input **File Number D02-02-12-0130** to access all the available plans and consultants' assessments related to the project, including **Planning Rationale** (which contains detailed design drawings of multiple elevations of the proposed building); **Environmental Site Assessment**; **Site and Landscape Plan**; and **Transportation Brief**.
- For additional background on the Planning Framework applying to the project, check out the links to relevant City Planning Framework documents, and to the PowerPoint overview of the framework presented at the meeting, on the community website ([www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca)).

**To Register Your Comments:** Email City Planner **Bliss Edwards**, [bliss.edwards@ottawa.ca](mailto:bliss.edwards@ottawa.ca) **BEFORE FEBRUARY 4, 2013**, with a copy to **Councillor Peter Clark**, [peter.clark@ottawa.ca](mailto:peter.clark@ottawa.ca).

NECA Acting Chair **David Sacks** would also appreciate being copied on these comments to keep the Board and its Beechwood-MacKay Redevelopment Sub-Committee informed of your views, [dsacks1776@aol.com](mailto:dsacks1776@aol.com).

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# The Invisible Lane: A Story of Neighbours, Infill and NIMBY

**Editor's Note:** The following article was submitted at the request of the NEN to inform readers of the concerns of many of the residents of the 26 lots on the block bordered by Ivy Crescent, Bertrand Street, Vaughan Street and Putman Avenue. As spokesman for the group, Vaughan Street resident Dave Mennier makes clear their concern at the prospect of a reopening of the long untravelled lane abutting 24 of these properties, with the attendant loss of cultivated gardens, mature trees, garden sheds and backyard amenities that have gradually filled in that dormant space over the

course of more than 40 years. The issue arose when the new owners of 169 Ivy Crescent applied to the City and were granted permission for rear access to their property via the "open" but largely invisible lane in order to be able to park and recharge their electric car.

Our attempts to obtain clarification from the City on its position in relation to the case met with only limited success. We were, however, informed by Alain Miguelez of the Planning Department that the existing City policy on laneways, which is a patchwork of approaches relating to lane classification for maintenance; lanes with

pipel infrastructure; real estate's procedure for divestiture of City property; maintaining laneways as a public right of way, and urban design guidelines for residential infill, is currently under review, and that a comprehensive policy framework on lanes is expected to be completed for consideration by Planning Committee later this year.

Although the outcome of the review remains to be seen, a recent CBC Ottawa Morning feature on this issue highlighted the City's current emphasis on fostering "front porch neighbourhoods" in which garages are discreetly posi-

tioned at the rear of the property, rather than at the front dominating the streetscape, a fact which suggests that the City policy that finally emerges is likely to promote the reopening of dormant lanes such as the one now in dispute.

As things now stand, the new owners of 169 Ivy have permission to reopen a 25-metre stretch of the "invisible" lane to secure rear access for their vehicle, while the residents of the 24 properties abutting the lane are considering the possibility of an application to the City to have the remainder of the lane permanently closed. The latter process is costly and

slow (up to two years to fruition), and if successful, these residents would then bear the significant costs of purchasing the City property that has long been incorporated into their backyards.

Regardless of the merits of the case on either side of this regrettable dispute, it seems fair to suggest that reasonable advance notice and a serious public consultative process should precede any change with so significant an impact on the lives and properties of the residents directly affected. It's our hope that the City takes note that this is a step it can ill afford to skip in future.

## By David Mennier

Between the north block of Ivy and Vaughan, a once-silent ghost is making a ruckus as it awakens from a long slumber. This is the story of the invisible lane—and how it may have implications for many people not only in New Edinburgh but citywide.

First, the facts: from the turn of the last century up to the mid-1960s, there was a typical, 12-foot wide gravel lane running through the middle of the block. Over the years, it had fallen into disuse. Unlike other historic lanes in New Edinburgh, nearly all the houses on this particular block had driveways at the front or sides of their properties, so the lane was not needed for rear parking. It had become neglected; it was littered with old tires and debris, and the City had not shown any interest in maintaining it. So, one fine summer when Lester B. Pearson was still the PM, long-time resident Herb Boutilier recalls that he, Martin Welch and a few others banded together in a sense of civic duty and—with their own money and sweat—cleaned up the area. As it had ceased functioning as a lane, the block owners collectively decided to simply make more green space. Everyone on the block moved their rear fences back a few feet, and voilà—au revoir unsightly nuisance, bienvenue lush and bigger backyards. Hence, the invisible lane.

That was over 40 years ago. Families have since come and gone and no one has missed the lane. Indeed, the City recognizes such invisible lanes, and notes on its website that "while these lanes or roads are shown on a registered Plan of Subdivision, they often have not been maintained by the City. Although still legally 'open', they may be overgrown

with trees and encroached upon by gardens, fences and garages so that it is no longer possible to use them for through passage."

And so it was, with our invisible lane causing nary a problem for decades. Then, infill fever hit Ottawa; especially the

went unsold for months on the MLS® listings. However, it was in a great neighbourhood, close to the downtown core. Sure, the small brick house on the lot would have to go, but look: it had an 'open' lane at the rear of the property. And urban designers and archi-

Subdivision: yes, it was classified as 'open'. So, the building permit folks stamped the plans and granted them rear access. No public notices were required, no letters to abutting owners, no hearing with the Committee of Adjustment. And all in accordance with the

they do not intend to maintain this lane.

Neighbours on the block were not even aware of the intended change in function of the long-idle, invisible lane until mid-November, when a resident happened to notice some workers assessing some mature trees in his backyard and was informed that the trees were going to be removed to make way for the lane. Not surprisingly, metaphoric fireworks quickly followed. Residents instantly formed an ad hoc committee and, since late November, we have been working with City planning manager Alain Miguelez, local Councillor Peter Clark and the new owners to figure out a reasonable way to deal with what we consider a significant change to the fabric of our cherished block, our modest but adored slice of New Edinburgh.

We held a public information exchange meeting on the December 20, polled block residents on their opinions on the matter, and are—at the time of printing—finalizing an application to the City to formally close the lane, something that arguably should have been done back in the 1960s when earlier generations of neighbours made their fateful decision to change the lane to its current invisible status. It would have been simpler back then, and the costs would have been a relatively paltry sum for each family to purchase their portion of the lane.

However, in today's context, it's a bit of a conundrum. At one end, the new owners have official permission to park their car via the rear; at the other end, Gordon and Alice Hilchie's 100-year-old house sits uniquely landlocked (another hidden gem in our neighbourhood) and the only



November 27, 2012 Neighbours Meeting.

Image by: Martha Markowsky

sought-after neighbourhoods. In mid-2012, while Tobias Lütke, CEO of Shopify, a leader in Canada's e-commerce industry, and his wife Fiona McKean were looking for a more family-friendly neighbourhood to call home, their architect Andrew Steeves of LineBox Studio suggested the lot on 169 Ivy Crescent. It had sat vacant for a number of years, was run-down, and

fects love lanes. They offer all kinds of design and functional options.

What happened next is at the core of the frustration of abutting block owners and residents. When Tobias and Fiona purchased the lot and started working on their infill plans with Andrew, they approached the City to enquire about rear access to their new home. The City checked the Plan of

rules.

However, the City left all the uncomfortable details involved—clearing the trees and encroachments, creating a graded 25-metre stretch of usable lane, and dealing with upset neighbours—to the new owners. The City has made clear that they are obligated to grant access to any owner if a street or lane is legally open. But they have also made clear





November 27, 2012 Neighbours Meeting.

Image by: Martha Markowsky

way to access it is through a narrow footpath, the only remnant of the traveled lane from long ago. So, the City might be inclined to consider only a partial closing of the lane. To this end, the majority of block owners have recently indicated their support of an application to close the lane, but this process will only come to fruition if we agree to purchase the small strip of land at the rear of our lots, now valued at the princely price of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per lot.

With a long-awaited City of Ottawa policy paper dealing with laneways due later this year, this case is being watched closely by City managers, local lawyers and the media (the story has featured recently on CBC Ottawa—radio, online & TV—and in print in the EMC Ottawa East).

As I reflect on the tribulations

of the last couple of months, I have a few points to make on behalf of our ad hoc committee of concerned residents. Foremost is that we feel that the City should inform abutting owners of any development that could reasonably be seen to impact a lane, whether travelled or *untravelled*, and that this notice should be sent before building permits are issued. We also believe that the City should maintain the laneways it owns or, if it chooses not to, acknowledge that abutting owners' long-term encroachments have a degree of legitimacy, and that these

abutting owners should be part of any conversation regarding an intended change of function of a laneway. Finally, for owners throughout the city, we urge you to check your property survey. If it notes 'rear passage not travelled' or other similar wording, be aware that any owner at any time could request to park their car via your rose bush.

*David Mennier lives at 87 Vaughan Street with his wife Kathryn and their boys Samuel and Elliott, and is the chair of the residents' laneway committee.*

## Visit The Burgh Online!

For the most up-to-date news of the neighbourhood

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# Minto Bridge Rehabilitation to Wrap Up in February

By NEN Staff

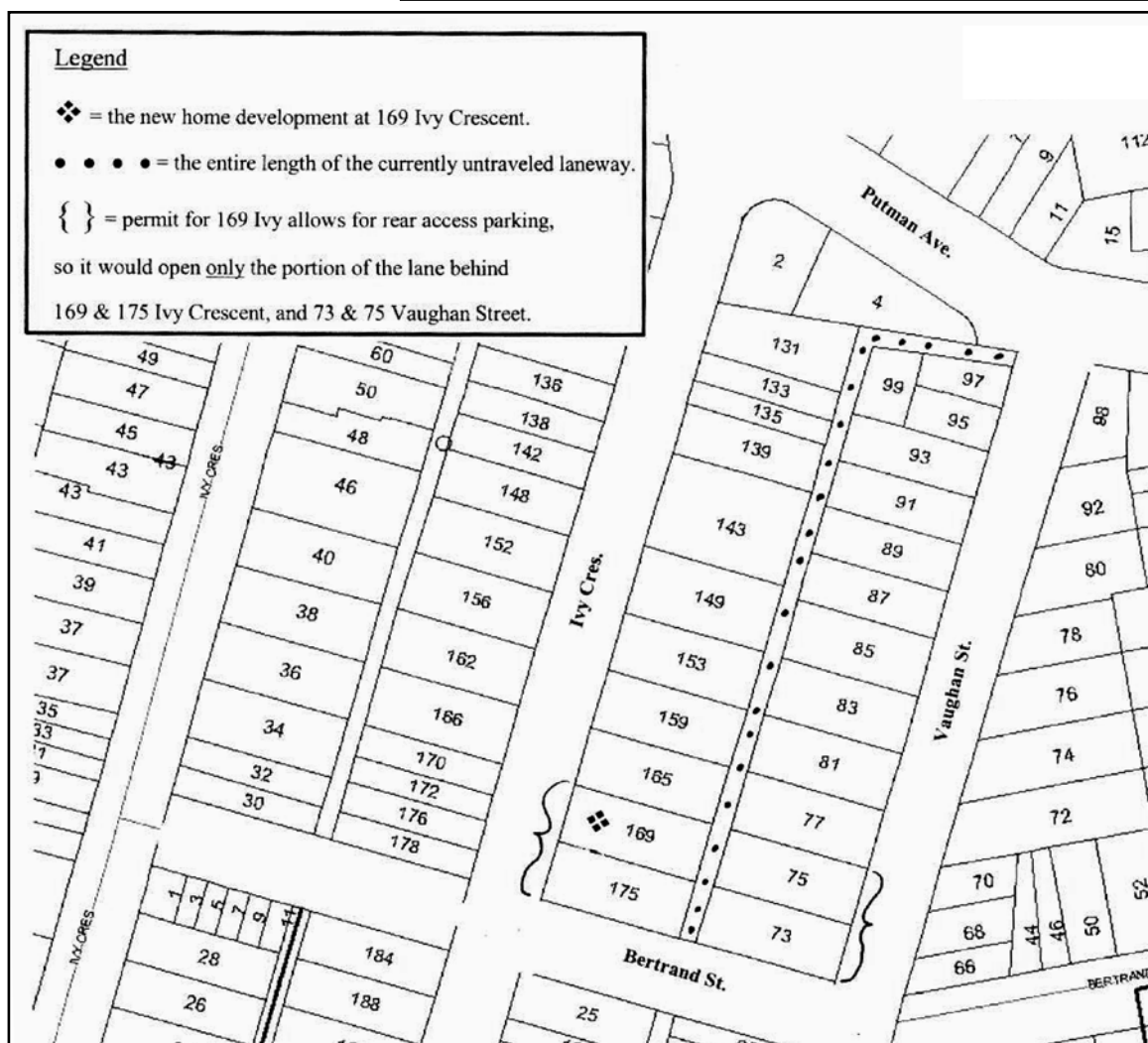
As most readers are aware, the December 21 target date for reopening the Minto Bridge has long since come and gone, and it now appears that it will be early February before the first phase of the rehabilitation project is completed and the bridge reopened to traffic. The repair work currently underway is focused on the 53-metre span of the bridge from Green Island (home of the former City Hall) to King Edward Avenue. While the rehabilitation project will ultimately extend to the other two spans connecting the bridge to Union Street, this work has yet to be scheduled.

An excellent overview of the \$2.5 million project was recently provided by **Maria Cook** of the *Ottawa Citizen*, (Historic Minto Bridges to be restored, January 8, 2013), who pointed out that the graceful, heritage bridges formed part of the first ceremonial route from Rideau Hall to Parliament Hill when they were constructed in the first years of the 20th Century, and were named in honour of the Governor General of the day, the Earl of Minto. They were reportedly among the earliest projects of the Ottawa Improvement Commission established by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1899 to transform the capital into "the Washington of the North" (close, but still no cigar 110 years later).

In case you're curious about exactly what is going on at the site right now, one of the major components of the current project involves the replacement of the steel grate deck with a new state-of-the-art fibreglass and wood deck designed to better protect the steel trusses of the bridge from corrosion by reducing salt splashes from passing vehicles.

As a side benefit, it will also cut back the noisy rattle created by traffic on the steel grate, as well as provide a more user-friendly surface to cyclists. While matching (and in fact exceeding) steel in terms of strength, the new fibreglass deck will also be lighter, thus reducing the weight of the deck on the underlying bridge structure and allowing heavier vehicles, such as fire trucks, to cross.

In addition to the installation of the new deck, expected by the end of January, work continues on the steel components of the bridge trusses, which are being repaired or replaced and covered with a protective coating, while stone masons are repairing and repointing stone abutment walls. Bridge pedestrians will also be pleased to learn that the sidewalk is being replaced by a new wooden sidewalk and curb, and new lighting installed. Stay tuned for news of the timetable for work on the remainder of the project.



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# Dief's Foray into the World of TV

**Editor's Note:** The following comic tale of a Prime Ministerial tangle with a teleprompter is another delightful reminiscence written by **Larry MacDonald**, a former leading CBC broadcaster and a resident of New Edinburgh from the late 1950s until the time of his death in the late 90s. Mr. MacDonald's account of his experiences at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis appeared in our December 2012 edition and we look forward to publishing more of his witty vignettes in future editions of the NEN. We are extremely grateful to his daughter **Alex MacDonald** for sharing these memories with our readers.

would grace our studio with his presence. He would be the speaker on the program, "The Nation's Business". The program is designed to give the various political parties a chance to tell the country how great their party is.

During the course of this memorable evening, CBC employees were able to reduce The Chief to helpless anger and frustration, not once, but twice, all in the space of less than an hour.

The Nation's Business has nothing to do with news. I was working on a piece for the National, and, having some time in hand, wandered down to the lobby to see the arrival

testier when he was introduced to the Teleprompter. His wattles wiggled. Someone told him that the machine would make him look great on TV and endear him to the hearts of millions of Canadians. All he had to do was...et cetera, et cetera. He gave in.

We hit the air. The announcer intoned the introduction. Mr. Diefenbaker was cued. He opened with his standard, "My fellow Canadians" and the Teleprompter stopped cold.

The Chief glared at the machine telling it to start or else. The machine just sat there. The hapless technician made some frantic but useless moves to get the machine started. No luck.

Looking at one of the monitors, I could see thousands of votes being cast for some other party. You don't glare on TV. You look happy; even if you're not.

Dief, being the old political troupier that he was, recovered and grabbed the script off the table and carried on to "Good Night."

The old boy was furious. Heads would roll, someone would hear about this, ad infinitum. I could see various lightning bolts being launched from Mount Olympus on the morrow.

But the evening was not quite over. As Dief was looking for his coat and briefcase, CBC types and nervous aides followed in his wake like those tiny fish that clean the teeth of sharks. I thought there was a good possibility that they all would be eaten and never again see the office, wives, children, the mortgage or that thirty-five year pension.

Mr. Diefenbaker called for his hat—that homburg that was known from coast to coast. Now some men try to wear homburgs, but they just don't have the style.

Dief did. He was a natural homburg wearer. His hat was beautiful piece of the hatmaker's craft. That evening, by some mischance, it had been placed on a chair. Someone had sat on it—for some time.

A white faced CBC type handed the Chief his hat—or what was once a hat. Mr. Diefenbaker looked at the crushed mass. He looked at the tech. The tech looked at his toes. Dief let out a sigh. His hat looked like some sweat-stained piece of headgear worn by the cowhands of the 1900s.

At that moment I could see all those involved cutting trees in the Ottawa Valley for a living.

of the Right Honourable John G.

He was dressed in his usual PM gear, dark suit, quiet tie and his permanent blue-black homburg. Dief was escorted to the studio with great ceremony. Aides followed in a flutter. All that was needed was a row of trumpeters.

That evening, for the first time, we had a new piece of equipment called the Teleprompter. The machine was controlled by a technician. And on that evening, it was also controlled by that Great Technician in the Sky. The tech's job was to keep the blown up copy of Dief's script, which was just below the camera lens, rolling at the reader's speed.

Dief was in a testy mood when he arrived. He was even



Photo Courtesy of Alex MacDonald  
Larry MacDonald in the Chateau Laurier Studios of the CBC.

## By Larry MacDonald

In the course of forty years there are bound to be stories, many apocryphal, but then again, many true.

There were times in the Looney Tunes world we inhabited that things took such a comedic turn, that one was able to regale the cocktail circuit for weeks.

Many of the stories involved unsuspecting guests or performers, who, on entering the studio also walked Through the Looking Glass and into our own Marx Brothers world. Nothing was ever planned. Things just happened.

One day, during the summer of 1957, word came down from Mount Olympus, home of the Gods (head office), that none other than the late prime minister, John Diefenbaker,



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## We're Getting Social

### By Constable/Agent Ryan Pierce

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) website ([www.ottawapolice.ca](http://www.ottawapolice.ca)) provides updates on various crime prevention programs, news releases and general information on police related issues. Recently, a number of OPS accounts have been added to Twitter and OPS now has an official Facebook and Pinterest presence. These new social media accounts are providing another avenue for residents and police to interact in a meaningful and productive way. It's also providing insight into what we as police do on a daily basis.

Interested in engaging with us on these social media platforms? Here are a few of the OPS accounts currently using Twitter. Give us a follow and let us know what you think of

this initiative.

- **Chief Charles Bordeleau:** @ChiefBordeleau
- **Ottawa Police:** @OttawaPolice
- **Inspector Chris Rheume (responsible for Central District):** @InspRheume
- **Ottawa Police Youth Advisory Committee:** @PoliceYAC

And of course yours truly can be found @RockcliffeCPC, where I am regularly sharing crime prevention tips and public safety issues affecting your community.

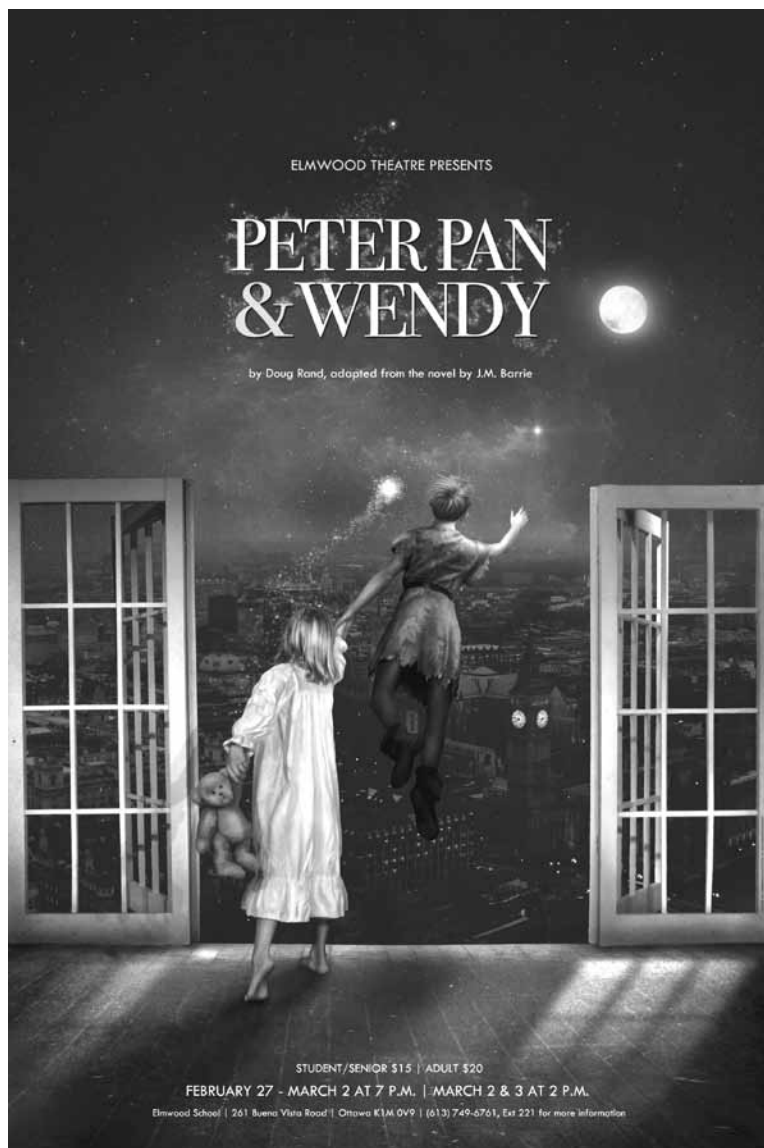
Have a great winter, and I'll chat with you in the "Twittersphere".

As always, feel free to contact me with any community safety concerns either by phone at **613-236-1222 ext. 8520** or email at [piercer@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:piercer@ottawapolice.ca)

For about three days the floors at CBOT were littered with chewed off fingernails. I thought if this keeps up, the staff would soon look like reincarnations of Venus de Milo.

Finally, some brave soul phoned Dief's office. There would be no action, all was forgiven.

Fingernails started to grow again.







**Peter Pan cast (from left to right):** Louisa James-Beswick (Wendy), Camille Beaulieu (kneeling in top hat - Michael), Dania Rida (Peter Pan), Tennyson Kainz-Potter (Peter Pan), Megan Russell (Wendy), Eleanor James-Beswick (Hook), Anne-Marie Tremble (with white wings - Tinker Bell).

## Biodiversity Awards Gala

By George Willis and Shaylyn Hewton

**Grade 7 students from St-Laurent Academy**

"The next award goes to..." That's what the people gathered for the Biodiversity Awards Gala at St. Laurent Academy were hearing the morning of November 26, 2012. Organizations love to see biodiversity strengthened and were given awards to acknowledge its' work in our community, as well as nationally, and internationally. Individuals from Devonshire Public School, St Patrick's High School, Notre Dame Catholic School, and

one day of the 365 we have in a year and reflect on their lives and the life of the tree. Dayna Noltie from the Toronto area, works with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. She attended the ceremony to receive the Youth Biodiversity Award.

Gloria Grow won the Excellence in Animal Welfare Award for her work with Fauna, a Chimpanzee Sanctuary near Montreal, Quebec. The audience was treated to a Skype session with Gloria as she described one famous chimp named "Dr. Tom". The chimps



**Award winner Dayna Nolte from the Global Youth Biodiversity Network with assisting students.**

L'école élémentaire publique Des Sentiers also took part in the event. All the recipients honored at the gala have taken special initiatives in an attempt halt the loss of biodiversity.

Biodiversity is the degree of variation of life forms. For example, one award recipient, *Growing Up Organic*, is focused on planting school gardens so students can pick fresh vegetables and then have a class on cooking them, so when they grow up they will know how to cook and look after themselves.

Another recipient was Royal Galipeau (MP for Orleans), who created *National Tree Day*, which falls in the last full week of September. He would like everyone to take

were given sanctuary after many difficult years in various medical labs and zoos. "Dr. Tom" was known to act as a doctor with the other chimps at Fauna.

Michael Leveillé, the science teacher at St. Laurent Academy, created the idea of the awards gala for his Grade 7 class to organize and host. Together the students and Mr. Leveillé researched, nominated and voted for award winners. Even the awards themselves were designed and decorated by the Grade 7 class.

The awards gala is intended to raise awareness of biodiversity among the school community, and highlight what we can do to help halt the loss of it.

## Elmwood Presents Peter Pan & Wendy

**February 27 – March 2, 2013** Elmwood School's senior theatre program is proud to present Doug Rand's *Peter Pan and Wendy*, adapted from the classic novel by J.M. Barrie.

Despite Nana's efforts to protect her young charges, the Darlings' canine nursemaid cannot prevent Wendy and her brothers from following

the spirited (and motherless) Peter Pan to Neverland. It is there—in underground hide-outs, swampy lagoons and cabins aboard ships—that their real adventures begin. When Captain Hook turns his deadly attention on the boy, Peter Pan, only one tick-tocking creature can bring down the seafaring pirate.

Join this ensemble of magical characters as they transport you to a world that only children can remember. Performances run from February 27 to March 2, at 7:00 pm and on March 2 and 3 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$15 for students and seniors. 261 Buena Vista Road, Rockcliffe Park. Telephone (613) 749-6761.

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## Polished Brass – February 24 Concert at MacKay United Church



Photo credit: Fred Cattroll

Lawrence Vine, Karen Donnelly and Donald Renshaw to perform in Polished Brass at MacKay United.

On Sunday, February 24, *Polished Brass*, the first concert of 2013 in MacKay's concert series, will feature Karen Donnelly, Principal Trumpet in the National Arts Centre Orchestra. She will be joined by two of her NACO colleagues, Donald Renshaw, Principal Trombone, and Lawrence Vine, Principal Horn, and by pianist Frédéric Lacroix.

The warm acoustics of MacKay United allow the brass instruments to play with a full and vibrant sound while giving the audience an up-close look at the instruments normally hidden in the back row of the orchestra.

The program will showcase the wide range and variety of serious music for brass. Each player will perform a solo piece with Frédéric Lacroix at the piano. Then all three will team up for the Francis Poulenc Sonata for brass trio.

Excerpts of this piece were recently presented on the NAC Orchestra's northern tour as part of the educational and community outreach program. The trio gave master classes, sectionals

and private lessons to students in Iqaluit, Yellowknife and Whitehorse. The brass students from Inukshuk High School in Iqaluit were given a special concert by Lawrence, Karen and Don, which included one of the Poulenc sonata movements which was very enthusiastically received by the excited young brass players.

Karen Donnelly will perform the Hindemith Trumpet Sonata, one of the major works for trumpet and piano. It is a great show piece for both instruments allowing the trumpet to show off its powerful sound while demonstrating sensitivity in the high and low ranges of the instrument. The piano part is well known for being a devilish workout for the performer—one that will give Frederic

Lacroix an opportunity to show his virtuosity.

Karen started playing the trumpet in her elementary school band in Regina, Saskatchewan, and went on to further study at the University of Regina and then McGill University. She joined the NAC orchestra in 1996 and says, "I still enjoy it every bit as much as I did in my first year."

Karen is also an active member of Capital BrassWorks which has performed with many of the local Ottawa choirs and recorded its four CDs in the sanctuary of MacKay United Church. Karen and Don are also colleagues in the Rideau Lakes Brass Quintet where they frequently visit Ottawa area schools through

the NAC Music in the Schools program.

Donald Renshaw, Principal Trombone with the NACO since 1987, has chosen two pieces of uniquely different styles. One is a romantic-styled piece, *Fantaisie* by Sigismond Stojowski and the other is *Ballade* by Eugene Bozza.

Don hails from Montreal. He started playing trombone at West Hill High School in an excellent band program, but it was quite by chance that he ended up with the trombone. The trombone was the only brass instrument left when he came into the program! He then went on to study trombone at McGill and later completed his Master's degree at the Julliard School. Before coming to Ottawa, he played in the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra London and taught at the University of Western Ontario. He is a founding member of Capital BrassWorks (1999), the Rideau Lakes Brass Quintet (1987) and the Ambassador Brass Trio (2005).

Lawrence Vine will perform Emmanuel Chabrier's *Larghetto for Horn and Piano*, a wonderfully lyrical showpiece whose soaring melodies reveal the very soul of the instrument.

Lawrence has been Principal Horn with the NACO since 2002. Born in Hamilton, Ontario, he began playing the horn in his Grade 7 band class, continued through high school, and later studied at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. Before coming to Ottawa, he served as Principal

Horn with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. A much sought-after chamber musician, he has performed with Lynn Harrell, Anton Kuerti, David Schiffin and Pinchas Zukerman, and at numerous festivals.

Pianist Frédéric Lacroix will perform the second movement from Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1 in E Minor, the dreamlike, lyrical Romance, in an arrangement for solo piano by Mili Balakirev.

Frédéric Lacroix is well-known in Ottawa as a soloist, collaborative artist, teacher, adjudicator and composer. A graduate of Université de Montreal and the University of Ottawa, Frédéric teaches at the University of Ottawa and is completing a doctorate at Cornell University in keyboard performance practice. He has special interests in period keyboard instruments, and in new music and composition.

Tickets, \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students, are available at Books on Beechwood or through MacKay United Church (613-749-8727) and on February 24 at the door.

Looking ahead to the remainder of the season, readers may want to note the following date in 2013: April 6: Julie Nesrallah and Parv Eshghi in Recital: an evening of French and Spanish music; and An English Spring: string quartets by Vaughan Williams and Frank Bridge with Leah Roseman, Mark Friedman, Paul Casey, and Leah Wyber.

## Local LLADS Celebrate at Knees Up Event

**Talk about impressive local representation!**

The LLADS (Liquid Lunch Alumni of Dunelm Society), an Ottawa and Kingston area group of about 30 alumni and associates from England's

Durham University, held their latest reunion (really just a great excuse for a lively and entertaining party!) at the Burgh residence of Gavin Murphy on Saturday, December 8, 2012. Over half of those present were from either New Edinburgh or Lindenlea.

LLADS was formed in 2003 to help promote friendship and camaraderie among area Durham alumni and it now holds two reunions every year, a summer barbeque and a potluck dinner to help kick off the Festive Season.

Paul McConnell, who is well known in the Burgh for his heritage preservation expertise, and Gavin are both Durham graduates. As well as Paul and Gavin, the local contingent at December's "knees up" (Brit speak for party) consisted of associate LLADS



Photo Courtesy of Gavin Murphy

LLADS (from L to R) Frank Smith, Gavin Murphy, Paul McConnell and Martin Yates. In front is Roger Stacey.

Bev McConnell, Burgh resident Marion Haunton and Lindenlea's Sally Arsove.

The LLADS membership spans alumni from the 1960s to the present and all local Durham alumni are encour-

aged to join. The next reunion will take place later this year at Bob's Lake, near Perth.

For further information please contact Gavin at [gmmurphy@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:gmmurphy@dunelm.org.uk) or telephone 613-741-4029.



Photo credit: Gavin Murphy

Associate LLADS (from L to R): Marion Haunton, Bev McConnell, Judy Smith and Sally Arsove.



## Feb 10: A Little Scottish, A Little Irish - A Celtic Imbolc Celebration!

Robbie Burns day will have passed but there are other celebrations in the Celtic year. *Imbolc* is also known as *The Feast of the Bride*, or Brigid, the Celtic goddess who is now a revered Christian saint. The Celtic festival ushers in the return of spring. In the Isles, as in Canada, February is a harsh, bitter month but small signs



Abigael Le will perform highland dancing this February at MacKay United Church.

of new life begin; and so, we celebrate!

On Sunday, February 10, 2013, MacKay United Church and the Harmelodic Music Club will join together to bring you *A Celtic Imbolc Celebration*, a wealth of Scottish, Irish, and other Celtic folk music from across the years. From Robbie Burns' and Yeats; poems are put to music, to O'Carolan harp tunes, plus a good ole piper and a first class highland dancer—all are guaranteed to warm the heart and spirit during the waning days of winter.

The concert will highlight both MacKay and Harmelodic musicians and singers who love Celtic lore and music: a few Gaelic pieces, such as the 400-year-old, Scottish Gaelic (Gàidhlig) song *Coisich A Rùin*, and original compositions and classics like Loch Lomond. Some songs will have traditional arrangements, while

others will be modern compositions. Listen to instrumental piano duets, harp ensembles and celtic guitar. A world premiere arrangement of *My Ain Folk* will be performed by an ensemble from the Harmelodic Music Club.

You will be enchanted by harpist, **Mary Muckle**, known in the region for her musical storytelling, which features the Irish composer O'Carolan as well as her own compositions. Mary is an Ottawa harp teacher, performer, arranger and composer, who graduated with a music major from the University of California, Berkeley. She holds associate diplomas from The Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto and Conservatory Canada and completed her B.Ed. at the University of Toronto. She is director of the Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble and an adult harp choir, The Hearts' Desire Harpers.

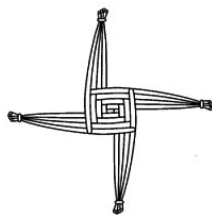
Those attending will also be treated to a 12-year-old world class highland dancer. **Abigael Le** has competed extensively, including in the World Championships in Dunoon Scotland two years ago, and performed at Stirling Castle. This year, Abigael placed 2nd runner up in the 10-12 age category at the Canadian National Championships.

We are thrilled to have the gifted baritone Garth Hampson join the concert. It would be difficult to describe Mr. Hampson and his accomplishments in only a paragraph. He sang as soloist with the Savoy Society of Ottawa. After 34 years in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, many of them as soloist with the RCMP Band, Garth retired from police work. He continues to perform, however, and is equally at home singing opera, operetta, music hall, or oratorio repertoire.

Once the concert is over, attendees will follow the piper into Memorial Hall for a reception, sponsored by the two presenting organizations and the

**Scottish and Irish Store**, with a traditional ceilidh, and music provided by **Mostly Bows**.

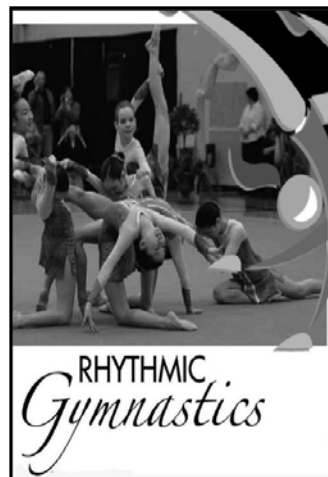
The February 10 concert, *A Celtic Imbolc Celebration: Scottish and Celtic Folk Over the Years*, will be held at 2:30 pm at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Road (at MacKay Street). Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, and are available in advance from the Ottawa Folklore Centre, Leading Note and the MacKay United Church Office, or at the door. For more information, please visit [www.mackayunitedchurch.com](http://www.mackayunitedchurch.com) or the church office at 613-749-3727.



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# Turn Over a New Green LEAF in 2013

## By LEAF (Local Eco-Action Families)

It may be February, but it's never too late to turn over a new leaf. Or rather, in the spirit of LEAF (Local Eco-Action Families), it's still a good time to make a green resolution for 2013.

Here's what LEAF members are resolving for 2013:

### Waste less food

We resolve to throw away less food in 2013. We've always felt a tad guilty about throwing out unused, uneaten, unloved food, but over the past year the burden has become heavier as we've grown increasingly aware of exactly how bad it is for the environment (not to mention our wallet) to waste food.

Did you know that in developed countries roughly one-third of all food is wasted, and a good chunk of that hap-

pens in our homes? When you throw away food you are not just wasting the food, but also the resources (the energy, fuel, time and water) that went into growing, harvesting, storing, transporting and preparing the food. And to cap it all, if your food ends up in landfill, it will emit methane, which is a greenhouse gas.

So, how to achieve this resolution? Well, happily there is help at hand. We're big fans of the U.K. initiative, Love Food, Hate Waste, which offers all sorts of tips about portion control and what to do with leftovers <http://england.love-foodhatewaste.com>.

We need to plan ahead more effectively and look at what we've got in the cupboard and in the refrigerator BEFORE going shopping. We have also had considerable success recently by just throwing leftover ingredients into a Google

search and coming up with a new recipe idea.

Who knew that leftover cranberry sauce, yoghurt and over-ripe bananas would make such a fabulous smoothie?

We're looking forward to 2013 with relish, and less food waste!



### Cut down on how much meat you eat

Meat production is a major contributor to climate change. It is estimated that livestock production accounts for around 70% of all agricultural land use and uses around 30 percent of the planet's land. Livestock produces masses of greenhouse gases such as methane—up to 18 percent accord-

ing to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is also very inefficient as a source of food, requiring approximately 5 to 7 kilograms of grain to produce one kilogram of beef. Each kilogram of this grain takes lots of energy and water to produce, process and transport.

Since most meat production is done factory-style using antibiotics under less than compassionate conditions, why not start reducing how much you eat now?

Even better, for any meat you do buy, choose organic, locally-reared livestock from farmers that you trust.

Cooking with less meat takes some practice, but small gradual changes can make it easier. For example:

- Eat one less meat-based meal a week.
- Go entirely meatless, one day a week.
- Go vegetarian/vegan on weekdays and eat meat at weekends.
- Ask for smaller amounts of meat from your butcher/supermarket, or divide a larger amount up when you get home and freeze what you don't need for another time.
- Consider grains, vegetables and beans as the mainstay of your meal with meat and animal products as garnishes, flavour-enhancers or a treat.

### Resolve to use fewer resources

Using fewer resources means doing the things you know you should do (like turning down your heating when you are out, turning off lights, using public transport more), but also buying less.

One way to do this is by active sharing. Imagine how many power drills there are in households across the country,

for example, and how little they get used.

Creating a dedicated sharing /trading list in the neighbourhood would be the best way to really encourage this type of behavior. Many folks in Lindenlea, for example, use the listserv for that purpose – to offer free stuff, or to seek recommendations from their neighbours. The "Moms List" in New Edinburgh serves a similar function. The list is run and managed by Dave Rostenne, to join this community listserv, contact him at [dave@theconsultant.net](mailto:dave@theconsultant.net).

Think how great it would be to make our area into Ottawa's lending and sharing hub. Is there a volunteer?

### Other members' resolutions:

- "I resolve to hang up more laundry on my laundry racks. I love my outdoor clothesline and hang out every load in the summer, but my resolve falters when faced with my rather depressing basement laundry room. [But the dryer is an energy hog, and some extra humidity is not a bad thing.] Courage!"
- "Put studded winter tires on my bike."
- "Make car grocery-trips a neighbourhood affair...sharing with my neighbours on the pick-up of large necessities like laundry soap, cat litter, dog food and other heavy items."

**LEAF (Local Eco-Action Families)** is a local environmental group formed in 2008 by residents of Lindenlea, Rockcliffe Park and New Edinburgh who wanted to think globally and act locally on environmental issues. Email: [local.ecoactionfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:local.ecoactionfamilies@gmail.com), or visit Local Eco-Action Families (LEAF) on Facebook.




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## When Are We Really Safe?

By Liba Bender

After being in Washington D.C. last week, and returning through Reagan Airport, I wondered, are we too lax in keeping our surroundings secure?

As you approach the security area, there have to be about 20 different signs to read, which, indeed I did. It was obvious I did not qualify to not have to take my light coat off (born before 1937,) or not have to remove my boots (under 12 years old), but when it started talking about Venezuela I pondered the points. After all, what is going on in that country and why should Home Land Security have that sign up? I read it, and I pondered. No one could answer my question, so I moved on and started preparing to go through to my gate.

After making it through their scanning, and not having to be patted down, I wondered why eight-inch metal tongs with inside a stainless steel ice bucket I had purchased made it through. After all, when you leave Canada they confiscate your little metal tweezers, your little scissors, and anything else they think you might force your way to the front of the plane with and take it over. Oh well, *c'est la vie*.

Back here in our small corner of New Edinburgh, I walk around the streets and ponder life and security while making

sure hanging ice doesn't fall on me.

**Don't let them know you are away**

Many households inadvertently indicate that they are out of town, forgetting to arrange to have the snow shovelled, or to have a neighbour stick a bag of garbage out after Christmas and New Year's.

**Use an ID burner**

Until you have a theft in your house, or a neighbour loses something when their backs are turned, you won't worry. When it happens you will. Then you call the police. Why? Mostly to make a report for insurance purposes. It's hard to get those things back unless you have identified them with an ID burner, which the police will gladly loan you.

**Upgrade your mailbox**

And what about identity theft? Just the other day a woman lamented the fact that someone had taken her name, from a letter that was not forwarded to her new address. They opened a Costco account, and then used that to obtain an American Express card. So I ask you: how many of you have those lovely little mailboxes without a key to lock them, thinking that no one can take your mail? They can and do. Sure, it is theft, but it happens ... a lot.

A slot through the door, or a

mailbox with a key lock will go a long way in preventing this kind of theft.

So Happy "13"! I know it is going to be lucky for me, and I hope you are blessed with health, happiness, prosperity and above all, good sense. As the Roman court philosopher Seneca once said, "It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, who is poor." Maybe it sounds better in Italian. Safety first!



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# News from the House



Issue #6

February 1, 2013

## New Year, New Energy, New Name, New Logo!

**Have you heard?** We have a new name...Over the next couple of months the Crichton Cultural Community Centre (CCCC) will be fully transitioning to our new name: **The New Edinburgh Community & Art Centre**, or **NECTAR Centre** for short. References to the CCCC will continue where appropriate through the coming transition months.

We are also in the process of creating a new website at [www.nectarcentre.ca](http://www.nectarcentre.ca). It will be live by mid-February, so stay tuned for a great new, more responsive and dynamic site. Once the site is launched, you will be automatically forwarded to the new site from our current site.

We invite you to show off your creativity and design skills. The NECTAR Centre is pleased to announce the launch of its **logo design contest**. The

logo selected to represent the New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre "NECTAR Centre" will be unveiled in the next issue of the *New Edinburgh News*! The logo will be used online, in print, on marketing materials and in other media. The NECTAR Centre will display all logo contest entries from March 11 to 29.

The logo design should be submitted as a scalable vector graphic in EPS format or as a JPEG. The design, which must contain "NECTAR Centre", should be flexible in size so that it may be used large or small, in color or black and white.

**Entries are due by March 4 to Melanie Davis at [melaniedavis@nectarcentre.ca](mailto:melaniedavis@nectarcentre.ca).** Artists must include their name, and contact information with their logo design.

## The NECTAR Centre Launches "Buy a Stake" Community Campaign:

Calling all 'invaders' and 'artists at heart'!

Own a piece of NECTAR by staking your claim on our property, literally. We invite you to invade our lawn, grab a stake, build a fence ...and make your creative mark.

NECTAR's *Buy a Stake* campaign is all about you making 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, including a new community garden, and will be put together at a special event on Saturday, June 1.

Not creative enough? No problem! After attending one of our *decorating workshops* you'll have all the tools and inspiration you need. You can pick up your stake and art supplies and decorate during the workshops, mingle with your neighbours, and get artsy tips from artist Zaneta Pernicova, a real pro! Or you can take your stake and do the decorating at home.

So grab a friend, a spouse, a family member, a neighbour or your kids and get creative! **Stakes go on sale on February 1.** Quantities are limited, so don't wait.

About the stakes:

- 100% cedar with rounded tops, \$50 each (charitable receipts will be issued)
- On sale February 1 at NECTAR, in person at 255 Mackay Street or over the phone 613-745-2742, Monday – Saturday.

About the decorating workshops:

- Saturday, February 16, 1 - 4 pm
  - Saturday, March 2, 1 - 4 pm
  - Saturday, April 6, 1 - 4 pm
  - Saturday, May 25, 1 - 4 pm
- Volunteers will be on hand to

help decorate, if needed.

About the *Buy a Stake* campaign:

- With your help, we hope to raise \$15,000.
- Charitable receipts of \$40 per stake will be given.
- All proceeds going to ensure NECTAR's New Edinburgh House meets safety and regulation codes as a your community and arts centre.

Questions?

- 613-745-2742 (Monday – Saturday)
- [www.nectarcentre.ca](http://www.nectarcentre.ca)



## Upcoming Events and Workshops

**Latin Dance Night—Friday, February 15**

Being so close to Valentine's Day, make Latin Dance Night your date night destination. Ximena Puente will lead this engaging and entertaining evening of dancing.

**Tickets:** \$25 per couple & \$15 per person

**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

**Location:** Memorial Hall (39 Dufferin Rd)

**2013 Friday NFB Movie Nights:**

**February 8:** "The Making Of"—Local Filmmakers speak and present clips from behind the scenes.

**March 22:** Short Films for Short People.

**Time:** Doors open at 6:30 pm, films start at 7 pm.

**Tickets:** Suggested donation of \$5 per person.

**Location:** Memorial Hall (39 Dufferin Rd)

**Body Reboot Seminar with Personalized Approach:** Simple steps to get back

the body you used to have or finally achieve the body you've always wanted

**Saturday, February 16, 1 - 3:30 pm**

Join Personal Trainer and Holistic Nutritionist **Tanya Robertson** for a seminar on how to achieve a healthy, strong, fit you. Tanya will give participants the tools they need to achieve a body they'll feel good in, whether it means losing stubborn pounds, or just toning up. All participants will walk away with a do-it-yourself nutrition, exercise and yoga handbook to help them incorporate Tanya's tips into their daily routine. During the seminar, participants will also learn and perform simple workouts that can be done right in your own home.

**Fee:** \$45 per person

**Location:** Memorial Hall (39 Dufferin Rd)

**Gravity in Motion: An Introduction to Contact Improvisation**

**Saturday, March 2, 2:30 - 5:30 pm**

This workshop, open to movers of all levels, will introduce the basic principles of contact improvisation, a fun and accessible dance form. Moving alone or with a partner, we will explore gravity, momentum and weight exchange through games and exercises, leading to a sense of freedom and connection. Hosted by Artists-in-Residence from **Collective (gulp)**.

**Fee:** \$45 per person

**Location:** Memorial Hall (39 Dufferin Rd)

**New Edinburgh Community Gallery – Opens its Doors**

In November 2012, the CCCC completed the first stage of renovation to New Edinburgh House and hosted its first art exhibition and vernissage in the newly built Community Gallery. The works presented were a collection of portraits and figure drawings from par-

Continued on page 29

**LATIN DANCE NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, FEB 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**7PM-9PM**

COME AND SHARE THE RHYTHM OF LATIN DANCE MUSIC. XIMENA PUENTE WILL HOST A SHORT LESSON THEN LEAD THIS ENGAGING AND ENTERTAINING EVENING OF DANCE.

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Photo Credit: Melanie Davis, NECTAR Centre Vernissage at the New Edinburgh Community Gallery.

#### Continued from Page 28

ticipants of the Wednesday morning Figure Painting and Drawing Workshop.

On display at the exhibition was the work of artists and art students: **Margaret Beauchamp, Inez Berg, Margo Blackwell, Dianne Breton, Tara Conroy, Steve Fick, Norman Goddard, Robert Gougeon, John Jarrett, Olaf Krassnitzky, Rosemary Landry, Luis Guillermo Leigh, Pina Manoni-Rennick, Marlene Munroe de Montigny, Barbara Patterson, Dawn Paterson, Grey Rokosh,**

**Paul Schibli, Karl Schutt, Ingela Stromberg, Wendy Tretheway and Norma Young.**

The opening night vernissage was a grand social occasion with over 80 guests! Response from the guests was overwhelmingly positive, with one enthusiastic visitor describing it as a "great, great show" that "honoured the human form exquisitely."

The New Edinburgh Community Gallery is an exciting new feature at New Edinburgh House. It is an open-concept area with 70 feet of vertical hanging space. The Gallery welcomes visitors at

set hours during the week. The NECTAR Centre intends to host monthly exhibitions featuring the work of regional artists.

#### Upcoming Artists February – The Way of the Brush

Don't miss this exhibition of contemporary ink paintings and calligraphy by students in Oriental Painting & Calligraphy, given at the Ottawa School of Art. Curated by **Heather MacDonald**, OSA Sumi-e instructor.

The study of Asian brush paint-

ing poses a unique challenge to western students, the majority of whom are totally unfamiliar with the tools and techniques which have been used for centuries in China and Japan. But the lure of the beauty and mystery in creating ink paintings using a contemporary Canadian approach becomes an exciting journey of discovery, both of oneself as well as of one's environment. Please join us at our **Opening Vernissage on Friday February 1, from 5 to 8 pm** in the main floor Gallery, New Edinburgh House, 255

The Board and Staff of the NECTAR Centre are extremely grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for this

important contribution to the future of our organization and to the community as a whole. A leading granting organization in Canada, the OTF strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investment in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF strives to build healthy and vibrant communities. For more information, please visit the website at [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca).

Mackay Street.

#### March/April – Art Blooms in the Burgh

In late March/April, the NECTAR Centre will host an art exhibition featuring the work of students in **Susan Ashbrook's** art classes at the Centre. This will be the first exhibition of student work held in the new gallery space, and the students are thrilled to be participating. Exhibited works will include a variety of media, subject matter and styles from realism through abstract... a

Continued on page 30

## GRADUATION IS NO TIME TO LEARN YOU HAVEN'T SAVED ENOUGH FOR EDUCATION

Whether your child is in first grade or 12th, post-secondary education is just around the corner. Fortunately, Edward Jones can help you put together a plan to pay for post-secondary education. Using our education calculator, we can estimate future expenses at over 1,700 schools, and then recommend a financial strategy based on your unique needs. Because the longer you put off preparing for college or university, the harder it may be to pay for it.

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[www.mcademy.ca](http://www.mcademy.ca)

**Continued from Page 29**

little something for everyone's pleasure!

The students range from beginner to more advanced skill levels, and Susan says, "I'm always amazed by the quality of work that my students produce. They are an inspiration to me and my own art!"

Please join Susan and her students for the **Opening Vernissage on Thursday, March 28, from 6 to 8 pm**, to view the work, meet the artists, chat about art and enjoy refreshments. The exhibition will remain open until April 25.

**April - Ottawa 8**

From April 26 until May 30 an exciting art show by the **Ottawa 8** is being presented at the New Edinburgh Community Gallery. The Ottawa 8 is a group of *plein air* landscape painters that was founded in 2009, but go

back some 25 years in experience. They have had successful shows at the Cube Gallery and continue to bring together a wonderful collection of art.

The **Ottawa 8 Vernissage is on Friday, April 26, from 6 to 9 pm**. Artists will be present on weekends. Be sure to join the **Encore Party, Friday, May 3, from 6 to 9 pm**.

Please visit our website for information on upcoming shows and special events ([www.nectarcentre.ca](http://www.nectarcentre.ca)). The new website should be up and running by mid-February. In the meantime, we have included a full listing of programs on our current website [www.crichtonccc.ca](http://www.crichtonccc.ca).

**Programming and Camps at the NECTAR Centre: Choose Local!**

Over the past year, the CCCC has been providing accessible, innovative programs and camps to families across New Edinburgh, surround-



Photo By: Roy Whiddo

Ottawa 8 artists John Jarrett, Karl Schutt, Olaf Krassnitzky, Paul Schibli, Pina Manoni-Rennick, Bernard Levesque, and Jay Anderson. (Artist names not in order of appearance in photo.)

ing communities and Ottawa. Classes like Oil and Acrylics, Watercolour, Drama, Dance, Martial Arts, Ukulele, Bridge, Get Together with Technology and Yoga and Fitness are offered on a regular basis.

By choosing NECTAR Centre programs and camps, you're directly supporting the continuation of community festivals, year-round performances, events and programming, AND ensuring that we have a vibrant community hub and gathering place for all. So thank you, not only from our programming staff, but from everyone who enjoys the New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre throughout the year.

We'll need patience, perseverance, hard work and imagination to become the best we can be, and to continue developing new programs, activities and events that appeal to

all our friends and neighbours. But most importantly, we need YOU! We simply couldn't do it without you and we look forward to welcoming you and your children to another inspiring year at the Centre!

**Music Comes to the New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre**

Starting this February, the NECTAR Centre will be offering a range of music classes for students of all ages.

Would you like to learn to play a new instrument or improve on your technique? We have many highly qualified instructors who specialize in a wide variety of instruments. We offer private and group lessons on the following instruments: cello, ukulele, violin, piano, guitar, bass and percussion and hand drums. We are also offering **Introduction to**

**World Music**, in collaboration with the Ottawa Folklore Centre, where kids will learn a variety of musical instruments from around the world.

Our instructors include Irish violinist **Micheline Kinsella** who began her musical education at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama in Dublin. Upon completing a bachelor degree, she moved to Norway to undertake post-graduate studies at the Grieg Academy of Music in Bergen, and worked as a violinist in the West Norwegian Opera Company. Now living in Canada, Micheline completed a master degree in music performance at the University of Ottawa in 2008, is a member of the Ottawa and Gatineau Symphony Orchestras, and also plays with the Kingston Symphony and other chamber music and orchestral projects in the area.

Aside from performing, Micheline is a dedicated violin teacher and strongly believes that music-making has the power to heighten awareness, promote creative development, and evoke a new form of expression and communication. In collaboration with the NECTAR Centre, violin lessons are offered, to all age groups, as a means of encouraging music education, and building and enhancing the cultural foundations of the community.

If you have an interest in an instrument or genre not listed, please contact us as we have a large roster of instructors ready and qualified to teach in many different areas. We can be reached at: **613-745-2742**.

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# Robert Hough Regaled at NECTAR Centre Benefit

Award winning Canadian author Robert Hough regaled a full house at the New Edinburgh Community Arts Centre on Friday, January 11, with stories about writing, Mexican radio and virility treatments during the Great Depression (hint: it involves goats).

Rob's reading was laugh-out-loud funny and though he did eventually read a passage from

his latest novel, *Dr. Brinkley's Tower*, the greater part of his thoroughly captivating presentation was about the life and times of Dr. John R. Brinkley—the real-life American medical doctor of questionable credentials who rose to fame with a cure for male impotence that involved transplanting slivers of goat glands into humans. Brinkley built a one-million-

watt radio tower in a Mexican border town to promote his various medical treatments. Rob's novel tells the stories of the townspeople whose lives are forever changed after the erection (pun intended) of this immense tower.

A Toronto-native, Rob has written four novels. *Dr. Brinkley's Tower* was long-listed for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize and a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction.

Rob generously waived all fees and expenses. He directed all proceeds from the reading to NECTAR Centre (formerly the Crichton Cultural Community Centre) and ALSO, the Alternative Learning Styles and Outlooks, an Ottawa-based adult and family literacy organization. The event was a part of the once monthly author readings organized by NECTAR in its Friday Night in the 'Burgh program.

Rob is a long-time friend of new New Ed residents **Robert Young** and **Joelle Martin**. Many thanks to **Mark** and **Isobel Bisby** for hosting Rob during his stay.



Robert Hough relaxing before breakfast with his good friends and River Lane residents the Young-Martin family. Robert and Joelle helped organize the rich and engaging Literary for Literacy evening at New Edinburgh House on January 11.

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# How I Spent my Christmas Vacation: Adventures in Belize

By Vicki Metcalfe

Tubing through river caves, sailing a kayak in the ocean, snorkelling the world's second-largest barrier reef, having a jaguar lick my forehead – that's how I spent my winter vacation.

I travelled to Belize over Christmas and New Year's with Island Expeditions ([islandexpeditions.com](http://islandexpeditions.com)), a Vancouver company that has clearly earned its excellent reputation. I was met by a friendly driver at the Belize City airport and the care never stopped. Our group of 21 people met up poolside at a hotel in Belize City and were driven to the Tropical Education Centre near Belmopan, where we stayed two nights in cabins and had trips to the river caves and to the Belize Zoo—both

amazing experiences—as well as sojourns to the grocery store to load up on rum and snacks for our trip to Glover's Reef.

## Glover's Reef

The Hummingbird Highway took us through the mountains to the city of Dangriga, where we acquired our life jackets for the hour-and-a-half trip in an open boat to the remote reef. Then there was kayaking and snorkelling. And reading in a hammock. And yoga on the dock. We encountered an amazing array of aquatic life, including nurse sharks, rays and colourful fish, coral, and other growth. Who knew that algae came in fantastic shapes and colours? The staff at Glover's Reef included a young American marine biologist, as well as local Belizeans who were knowledgeable, gentle and confident. We had two

cooks who turned out delicious buffet meals, including conch soup, coconut cakes, fresh biscuits, and even a turkey for Christmas dinner.

It seemed as if this life could go on forever; it was a shock to learn it was over at the end of the sixth day. My group consisted of families from California, Virginia, Illinois (Chicago), B.C. (Vancouver) and Alberta (Calgary), as well as from Australia. We melded incredibly well, with the teens getting along wonderfully and the adults finding lots to talk about. The Australians included Gus, a nine-year-old who amazed us all. He was up for absolutely everything, even the yoga. The other kids included him in their activities, and he became an honorary teenager on this trip, a little to the consternation of his mother.



Photo by: Vicki Metcalfe

## Accommodations on the beach at Glover's Reef, Belize.

### Mayan Adventure

After Glover's Reef I took an optional "Mayan Extension" with Island Expeditions for three days in northern Belize. There I stayed at the modest but lovely **Birds' Eye View Lodge** ([www.birdseyeviewbelize.com](http://www.birdseyeviewbelize.com)) and saw two sets of Mayan ruins—Altun Ha and the larger Lanamai. Lanamai was reached in zigzag fashion by driving 30 miles north, boating almost the same distance south, boating back north and driving south again. Luckily

for me, my driver and the boat driver were accomplished birders so not only was the trip enjoyable on its own terms but the birding was fantastic.

The next day I had a private bird guide on the **Crooked Tree Lagoon**. My guide Michael found the lesser **yellow-headed vulture**, all five **kingfishers**, an elusive **technicolour heron** (the Agami), and a group of 10 or more **Jabiru** (a black and white stork with a broad red collar that stands almost five feet tall). Everywhere I looked there were northern **Jacandas**, called the Jesus Christ Bird because their incredible feet make it look as though they're walking on water. Overall, I clocked more than 101 species, 55 of which were new to me (the complete list will be posted on the community website at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)).

Belize is a fascinating country. They are largely self-sufficient for food (a small Mennonite population is responsible for 70 percent of food production), and they produce all their own rice, sugar and oranges. There seems to be little export of food. It's a lush country in many areas, with papaya and mango trees in every garden. Belize is increasingly dependent on tourism and the unemployment rates rise to 40 percent in the off season. Impressively, they're trying to protect their natural assets, with large areas set apart for conservation and a lot of caution with development. Mangroves in coastal areas, for example, are protected for their role in shoreline protection and as nurseries for so many types of aquatic life, and Glover's Reef itself is largely protected from fishing and other types of exploitation.

Why Belize, you may ask. It was challenging; but now I can put "sailed a kayak in the ocean" and "travelled by inner tube through river caves" on my CV. At the risk of sounding like an advertisement, I can highly recommend the experience.



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# New Book: *Daughters, Mothers and Grandmothers*

*Editor's Note: This article initially appeared in the January issue of the Manor Park Chronicle.*

Jennifer Cook has just published her sixth book, *Daughters, Mothers and Grandmothers*, which is about a subject close to her heart; the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Jennifer is an active member of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to

Grandmothers Campaign. In May 2010, she and forty-one other Canadian grandmothers travelled to Swaziland to participate in a boisterous gathering of five hundred African grandmothers. The Canadian 'grandmothers' have raised more than \$9 million for this important cause. Jennifer is donating a portion of the proceeds from her latest book to the Foundation.

Recently, a group of these grandmothers gathered in the House of Commons Visitor's Gallery hoping to witness the passage of Bill C-398. This bill was designed to make Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR) easier to use. As one of the Canadian grandmothers commented, "We need to send generic, life-saving, quality, low-cost drugs to the developing world as soon as we can."

The grandmothers say the millions of HIV/AIDS deaths are preventable. How depressing that this bill was defeated by the slim margin of 148 to 141. This will only fuel the 'Grandmothers' determination to raise more of the funds necessary to support this endeavour.

Jennifer's book is a real "page-turner". She presents the sensitive topic of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in her fictional account of two young teenagers as they deal with the realities of this disease in a town on the edge of the

Kalahari Desert in contemporary South Africa.

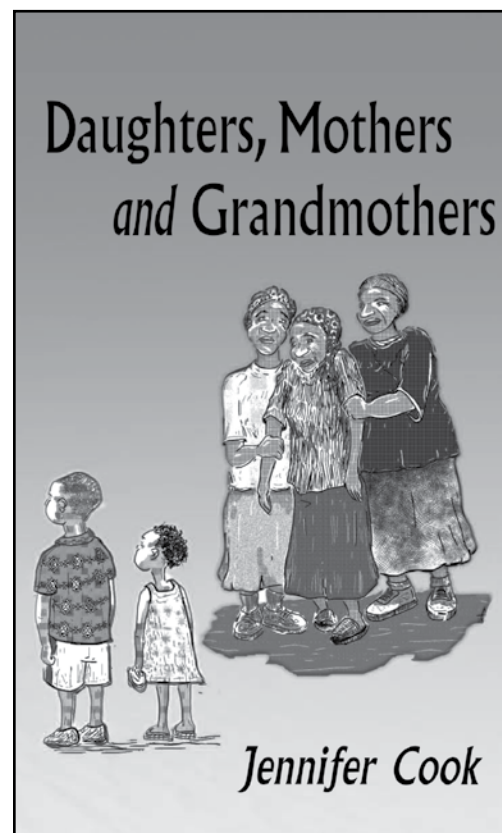
The strength and determination of the African *gogos* (grandmothers) inspired the Canadian grandmothers dur-

to fifteen children in a single household. They also deal with abuse and rejection, and one can only imagine the psychological struggles of orphaned infants, children and teenagers.

This novel would be an ideal choice to help introduce middle and high school students to the dire consequences of this disease. The book draws many parallels between the life of teenagers in western society and those of South Africa. The reader will easily empathize with the fears and uncertainties that the young people encounter as they deal with one woman's HIV/AIDS experience.

George Chouchani's evocative illustrations capture the book's mood perfectly. The richly textured images contribute to both the character development and the compelling settings.

The sharing and support offered by Canadian grandmothers to these courageous African *gogos* was a life-changing experience for Jennifer. Her sensitive book is an effective way to educate readers about this devastating reality.



## Introducing the NEN Travel Report

In this inaugural issue of 2013, the NEN is delighted to introduce a new regular feature which we hope will give readers a chance both to share their own travel adventures and discoveries, and to gather ideas and inspirations from those of others. Our veteran traveler and birding reporter **Vicki Metcalfe** has generously agreed to produce a regular NEN Travel Report, drawing on both her own travel experiences and on those of friends and neighbours who'd like to pass along reports and photos of their own travel highlights, be they thrilling adventures, spectacular beaches, splendid

(or not-so-splendid) hotels, memorable restaurants, magnificent landscape, glorious galleries or churches, fascinating glimpses of other cultures and traditions- you name it, we'd like to hear about it!

Focused as we are in the NEN on our local community scene, a fresh and lively perspective from faraway places is certain to be a welcome addition to the paper in the months to come. We're extremely grateful to Vicki for taking on this new role, and encourage our roving readers with travel tales to share to contact her at [46metcalfe@sympatico.ca](mailto:46metcalfe@sympatico.ca).

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# Climate Change: The Barriers to Mitigation

**Editor's Note:** The following is the eighteenth in a series of thought-provoking and powerfully expressed articles on climate change by local environmentalist Hugh Robertson. All of the earlier articles have been published in past editions of the New Edinburgh News, and can be found at [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca).

**By Hugh Robertson**

"My daughter and her generation have been given a life sentence for a crime they did not commit." Mark Hertsgaard

During the three U.S. presidential debates, there was just one fleeting reference to climate change. Clearly, the state of the planet was not a major issue with voters. One month later, with Washington gripped and gridlocked and alarm bells sounding all over the country, the U.S. inched towards the "fiscal cliff." Inexplicably, nobody seems to care as the country sleepwalks over the "climate cliff." Lemmings, at least, go over the cliff with their eyes wide open.

Likewise in Canada, the environment is a political non-issue. Prior to the last election, a well-known political advisor remarked in the National Post

that the major parties had all concluded that "the environment is quite possibly a dangerous issue." It must have been "dangerous" because the environment hardly came up for air in the election campaign.

There is no perceptible difference between Canada—its moral monopoly long gone—and the U.S. regarding environmental values, greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions and ecofootprints: only indifference. The inertia is overwhelming and the lethargy is pervasive continent-wide, punctuated only by lame lamentations about the impact of global warming on our privileged lifestyles.

George Monbiot describes the public paralysis in his inimitable way: "We sit back and view the deteriorating climate scene with the impotent fascination with which we might watch a good disaster movie."

The silence and the somnambulism is not only surreal, it is stupefying.

## Peer Pressure: The Paralyzing Impact of Social and Cultural Norms

Both climate scientists and social scientists are baffled by this nonchalant, even defiant,

public response to the threat of global warming in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence. Psychologists are now suggesting that changing contemporary cultural conditions in the form of social media, saturation advertising, rampant consumption, peer pressure, income disparities and polarized politics are transforming our world views.

Our individual subjective world views have, to a great extent, been shaped by our personal life experiences. Family, friends, education, religion and careers have all left their imprint that, in turn, influences our beliefs and values. This process of socialization or cultural conditioning tints the spectacles we all wear, which then filter our perceptions of reality. We are, to a large extent, captives of our upbringing.

Sociologists contend that as we grow up, we are increasingly gravitating to groups with similar world views. Because social status and approval is such a powerful driver of behavior, we are defining ourselves by our socio-cultural group. As we conform to the lifestyle of our group, we silently absorb the prevailing

views and values.

An unspoken group solidarity discourages individuals from breaking ranks and risking social isolation. Even fewer will speak out publicly on pressing environmental issues because messengers of bad news have often met a messy end. Such is the power of social networks and peer pressure in shaping our ideological views and, ultimately, even our thinking processes.

Widespread disapproval of smoking, as well as drinking and driving, and the subsequent public pressure, forced the government to legislate changes. It is socially unacceptable to smoke today, but oddly, it is still socially acceptable to practice an extravagant lifestyle that is endangering the health of the planet. The consumer culture of our age—characterized by high-end cars, homes, cottages, travel, clothing and entertainment—has shaped a web of values that has neutered the popular pressure so essential to initiating political action.

Increasing income disparity in North America is reinforcing social stratification and further entrenching divergent values and beliefs. The top

twenty percent of the socioeconomic pyramid contribute a disproportionate share of ghgs and virtually every other form of pollution. Major decision-makers, such as corporate and media executives, senior bureaucrats and politicians are part of this influential segment of society, further militating against the enactment of environmental legislation.

A complex interlocking of sociology, psychology and ideology is helping social scientists understand the complexity of our task of mitigating climate change. Mitigation is not simply a matter of publishing detailed "menus" of environmental tips. Mitigation is deeply mired and wired in the mind.

## Political Polarization: The Impact of Ideological Solitudes

Jonathan Haidt in his recent book, *The Righteous Mind*, suggests that there are six basic impulses or intuitions, shaped by our socio-cultural backgrounds, which drive the political behaviour of liberals and conservatives alike. The six intuitions or traits are: Care, Fairness, Loyalty, Authority, Sanctity and Liberty.

Haidt's analysis, although focused on the moral founda-



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tions of political behaviour, is useful for understanding the competing ideologies behind the climate confrontation. The gulf between the progressive left and the conservative right is so wide and so deep, and the environmental positions so unyielding, that one wonders how the political process can ever reconcile the differences.

Haidt's six basic traits are given different weight and interpretation by the ideological right and left. In applying his theory to the environment, it is "Sanctity" that especially divides liberals and conservatives. For the latter group, "Sanctity" represents the flag, the constitution and "God and country," whereas the liberal left regards nature as the paramount symbol of sanctity.

Increasingly in North America, we are living in a world of social silos and ideological echo chambers where our world views and personal identities are bound up with our socio-cultural group and our values are defined by our political party affiliations.

Our "ideological solitudes" have major environmental policy implications. For example, progressive groups argue that free market capitalism promotes ecological destruction and that only decisive government intervention can stem the downward spiral. On the other hand, conservatives whose ideology is rooted in individualism, oppose any regulation of the economy. Some extreme conservatives even believe that global warming is a socialist plot. There is no common ground for discussion and if one group's value stance clashes with the other group, there is no chance of resolution. Mother Nature must weep at the shenanigans in the sandbox.

Equally disturbing is Haidt's contention that our deeply embedded socio-cultural intuitions can derail our cognitive processes and direct our reasoning. Not only are we captives of our upbringing, we may also be trapped by our thoughts. He suggests that we jump to conclusions on the basis of our intuitions and sentiments, and we then use our cognitive skills to rationalize our decisions. Consequently, we are often selective in our listening and reading; we cherry pick what we need to support our arguments and then conveniently tune out the rest. We believe what we are conditioned to believe.

Prejudging is prejudice. Consciously selecting information, even though guided by subconscious forces, to sup-

port a preconceived position is bias. This disturbing process is often referred to in the media today as biased assimilation or confirmation bias. Sadly, it is intensifying the increasingly rigid mindsets around climate change.

We are faced then with the irony that information and knowledge, such as solid scientific data, is actually a barrier to mitigating global warming. Dispiriting indeed; our belief systems contort the evidence, facts fail to motivate us, and logical arguments backfire. No wonder efforts at mitigation come to a dead end.

What has happened to the role of education? The same discipline, the social sciences, that is helping us unravel the mysteries of the mind regarding our behaviour and thought processes, claims as its objectives: critical thinking, problem solving, informed decision-making and logical argumentation. These attributes are crucial weapons in the battle against climate demagoguery; but how effectively are they taught in our schools and universities?

## **"We sit back and view the deteriorating climate scene with the impotent fascination with which we might watch a good disaster movie."**

Chris Mooney, author of *The Republican Brain*, quotes a startling statistic: better educated Republicans are more in denial regarding the science behind climate change than their less educated colleagues. We are in deep trouble if the institution tasked with opening our minds, encounters minds that have already shut down.

Perhaps education itself is a major barrier in resolving our ecological problems. Education is hardly living up to its universal claim that it overcomes ignorance. North America, possibly the most educated continent, is home to a range of antediluvian environmental views despite the impact of extreme weather conditions of recent years.

The pedagogical problems might not just be in the area of knowledge and skills but, of more concern, in the area of attitudes and values. Are our schools and universities focusing on beliefs and notions that conform to the dominant socio-cultural values, such as consumerism, entitlement and competitive self-interest rather than on community, cooperation and empathy?

We may be entering an anti-science age characterized by a contempt for evidence, rational discourse and experimentation and stoked by the climate deni-

## **NEW EDINBURGH NEWS**

al industry. More ominously we may be entering an age of anti-intellectualism characterized by a fear and distrust of education and learning. What a tragic paradox: the most educated generation in history leading the charge into a new Dark Age.

### **The Gender Divide: Man's Inhumanity to Nature**

According to the World Meteorological Organization and virtually every other major scientific body, global warming is primarily manmade. It is doubly manmade, however. Not only are ghgs largely anthropogenic in nature, but global warming is largely a function of gender. Generally, women are greener than men.

The research of Aaron McCright, a sociologist at Michigan State University, demonstrates how education can reinforce the gender divide on environmental issues. He suggests that boys learn that masculinity emphasizes detachment, control, mastery and competence, while the feminine identity stresses attachment, empathy, care and

environmental risks to health

- Recycle more and use energy more efficiently
- Buy smaller, more energy efficient vehicles
- Are more concerned about the long term risks of climate change, and
- Are more likely to make lifestyle changes.

A study with a different focus, from the University of Oregon, demonstrates that in countries where women have a more prominent political status and a greater participation in public affairs, the carbon emissions are lower and these countries also ratify more environmental treaties.

Both the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament are male dominated. The upper echelons of the North American corporate world are also largely male and the various groups appearing at Congressional hearings are overwhelmingly male in composition. We should ask ourselves how many women are lobbyists in the Canadian fossil fuel industry, and how many women work in the gas frack-

Behavioural change flows from the heart, not the head.

Studies, polls and surveys are never conclusive, but all the results show a disturbing pattern in the way men and women confront the dangers of climate change and the many other ecological problems facing the planet at the beginning of the 21st century.

Among the major barriers to mitigating climate change are ideology, wealth and gender and possibly education. They are all outgrowths of our cultural conditioning, and all are interconnected to varying degrees and, in many ways, they are also self-reinforcing.

As a sentient species, we can shed and shred the shackles that bind us to our upbringing. We have to confront our consciences and challenge our beliefs – we cannot be held captive by outdated values that are inimical to the very foundations of life. Breaking through our behavioural barriers is a barometer of our moral maturity.

Government is not a barrier to combating climate change in a democracy. To blame government for inaction on the climate file and for anti-environmental legislation is to absolve ourselves, both individually and collectively, of the ethical responsibility for initiating and promoting change. Governments are not deaf; they will become proactive overnight when we, the electorate, give them a clear message – at present our environmental message is barely audible.

cooperation. These qualities play a major role in shaping our environmental behaviour.

It is not just qualities and behaviour patterns that are different between men and women but also levels of knowledge. Men, certainly those of a more conservative bent, will often read the science explaining global warming and then cherry pick the information that will reinforce their denial stance. Many men, according to polls, rate their knowledge of climate science above women's. But Professor McCright has shown that, although women underestimate their scientific comprehension, "their beliefs align much more closely with scientific consensus."

Studies and surveys done recently in the U.K. and the European Union indicate a greater environmental concern and awareness among women than men as indicated below.

Women:

- Support environmental initiatives and increased spending
- Are prepared to pay higher taxes to protect the environment
- Volunteer more for environmental projects
- Are less likely to support geo-engineering projects
- Purchase more green products
- Are more concerned about

ing business in the U.S.

Women are generally more in touch with their feelings and emotions than men, and they are also more protective of Mother Earth, as the research shows. Although science can explain climate change, the environmental crisis can only be solved at the emotional not the intellectual level.

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# For the Birds



By Jane Heintzman

Unlike the winter of 2011/2012 which essentially failed to materialize, to date this year the weather has proven to be much closer to the “classic” winter of skiers’ dreams, with plenty of snow and cold temperatures, albeit intermittently moderated by brief forays above the freezing point. From a birder’s perspective, one obvious effect of this return to more normal conditions has been the absence of some of the species that lingered in the area throughout the mild winter months last year, notably **American robins**, which were featured in this column in February 2012. They are few and far between this snowy January. Despite the early onset of cold weather, however, our traditional waterfowl regulars on the Rideau, including **hooded mergansers**, **common goldeneye**, **black ducks** and **mallards** stayed around until early December when the freeze up had begun in earnest.

Sadly, my personal journal of bird sightings has been decidedly scanty in recent months, largely due to the virtual abandonment of our backyard feeding stations. I regret to say that the most frequent visitors to our feeders since the fall have been of the furry, four-legged, long-tailed variety—a non-avian species, which appears to have no trouble outwitting our carefully positioned squirrel baffles and consuming the nourishment intended for over-

wintering birds. In fact, I’ve come to the conclusion that the squirrels in our backyard are actually escapees from the *Cirque du Soleil*, schooled to superb efficiency in acrobatic techniques to enable them to maraud our precious bird seed, often hanging upside down from no apparent point of suspension while clutching the tube feeders in a deathless embrace.

While the effect of these consummate pests has been to deter many prospective avian visitors, from time to time, our cast of winter regulars does turn up for a brief appearance: notably our resident **Northern cardinal** pairs (which prefer to dine solo in the early morning and late evening); the ever present and dauntless **black-capped chickadees**; **American goldfinches**; **house finches**; **common redpolls**; the occasional **downy** or **hairy woodpecker** and of course, the ubiquitous **European house sparrows**.

So far, the timing of these visits has been impeccable, with a beautiful mixed flock of rosy house finches, goldfinches and redpolls turning up at our feeders on Christmas morning and again on New Year’s Day as if to mark these seasonal milestones with us. This particular little group appears to stick together in their food-seeking travels. **Amy Jane Lawes**, my neighbour in the lane behind our house, reports that her seed-laden window sill has also been visited periodically by a hungry collection of; five American goldfinches; two common redpolls; four house finches; a **white-breasted nuthatch** and **black-capped chickadees** waiting in the wings to take over when the

finches are scared off by pushy **house sparrows**, the avian scourge of every season.

Another less common winter visitor to our garden was an **American tree sparrow**, a hardy, rusty-capped little fellow with a smooth gray breast (often with a dark blob in the middle) which breeds in the far north near the treeline, and can often be found overwintering in our part of the world. As the tree sparrow needs to take in a daily diet representing about 30% of its body weight in food, and an equivalent amount in water, it is reportedly a frequent visitor to backyard feeders where it forages industriously on the ground, often battling through blizzards to consume its daily quota.

Ubiquitous though they are in all seasons, **black-capped**



Wild Turkey track, from Alderleaf Wilderness College.

**chickadees** continue to have a special place in my affections, not least because they are virtually “domesticated” but are not in the slightest intimidated by the presence of humans. Quite frequently, a chickadee will appear on a nearby branch to supervise as I replenish the feeders, chirping with cheerful encouragement as if to speed up the process and get the feeding show on the road. During the winter, you may notice them engaged in decidedly woodpecker-like behaviour, pecking away at the bark of a tree or foraging in a knothole where they have stashed away a tasty morsel in the course of their elaborate food-caching operations in late fall. Thanks to a seasonal increase in the size of the hippocampus, or seat of memory, in the chickadee’s brain each fall, these remarkable little birds are able to remember the location of their food caches for up to a month, helping to keep them nourished through the coldest weeks of winter. On chilly winter nights, they can sustain a drop in body temperature of up to 10 to 12° centigrade, or in effect temporarily “hibernate” in order to conserve energy. They are



Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Photo: Louise Imbeault

truly miracles of physiological adaptation to their environment!

One highlight of our winter walks this year was the discovery of **wild turkey tracks** (though regrettably no wild turkeys) on the snow-clad stretch of the Rockcliffe parkway behind the Rockcliffe Pavilion, where the road is closed to traffic each winter and the dog walking is magnificent. The turkey track consists of three long toes pointing forward, with one much smaller protuberance at the back, though in many cases this was missing altogether in the imprints we came across. The most striking thing about the tracks was their sheer size, which can be up to 7 inches long in the case of the tom, and 5 inches for the hen. In several locations, there were also prominent “swishes” in the snow behind the tracks, suggesting that the bird may have flourished its sizeable tail at some point in its travels. During the winter, female tur-

accurate about winter finch “irruptions” in our part of the world, as significant numbers of **bohemian waxwings**, **common redpolls** and **pine grosbeaks** have, as predicted, been reported throughout the area. Also with smaller numbers of **hoary redpolls** (usually in groups with their common redpoll cousins), **evening grosbeaks**, **pine siskins** and **red-breasted nuthatches**.

We were lucky enough to spot a sizeable group of **pine grosbeaks** in a tree at the entrance to the Rockeries, largely thanks to the clear, repeated calls of one of its members, which was perched in full view at the top of the tree. They are large birds (about 9 inches in length), and the male has a striking rosy-red head, chest and neck. The female is more muted in colouring, with greenish-yellow splotches on her head and rump. Closer to home, a flock of **Bohemian waxwings** has made frequent appearances in the lane behind



Common Redpoll.

Photo: Amy Jane Lawes

keys reportedly hive off from the males and form flocks with other females and their broods. As I write in mid-January, there are still reports of wild turkeys throughout the area, including a group of bold jay-walking birds causing havoc on the roads of Barrhaven!

**Ron Pittaway’s Winter Finch Forecast**, which was featured in this column in the December edition, appears to have been astonishingly

our garden, often remaining clustered in a tall tree for quite long periods as if in waiting for directions to the nearest available food supply. While I have yet to observe more than 20-30 birds at a time, my neighbour **Amy** has had better luck, spotting a major gathering of 80 or more close to her home on Union Street where the berry picking is reportedly good.

As always, the winter has been marked by the presence



Photo: Amy Jane Lawes

Bohemian Waxwing picking berries.



of numerous **downy, hairy** and **pileated woodpeckers** throughout our neighbourhood, helpfully signaling their presence by the staccato drumming of their busy foraging activities, as well as by their distinctive calls. We recently encountered two particularly charming **downy woodpeckers** flitting about in the Rockeries, both of whom appeared extraordinarily tiny. While the downy is the smallest of the woodpecker family—typically about 6 inches in length—this tiny pair could scarcely have measured 4 inches, or in effect, **kinglet** length. At the opposite end of the size spectrum is the imposing red-crested **pileated woodpecker**

B. Pearson building, and later atop the “tower” at the former City Hall, from which vantage point it appeared through her telescopic lens to be staring angrily back at her! Interestingly enough, *Ottawa Citizen* Birding columnist **Elizabeth Le Geyt** recently received a report of a peregrine falcon consuming a pigeon on the roof of a car right in the middle of downtown Ottawa, so perhaps Amy’s beady-eyed fellow is still in the vicinity.

Peregrines are powerful, fast-flying raptors which were almost wiped out by pesticide use in the mid-20th Century, but which have since rebounded strongly in the wake of the ban on DDT and many other

thoroughly delighted her.

Alexander Street resident **Philip MacAdam**, owner/operator of *Phil’s Avian Bistro*, has had plenty of avian traffic at his three feeders this winter, including **American goldfinches** feasting on his nyjer feeders (invariably upside down), **house finches**, **purple finches**, two pairs of **Northern cardinals**, a **white-breasted nuthatch** and a **downy woodpecker**. Although his recent excursions have been temporarily curtailed by a bout of the flu, Philip also saw and heard a **pileated woodpecker** in the vicinity of Pine Hill Woods in Rockcliffe.

Over at the **Macoun Marsh**, St. Laurent Academy teacher **Mike Leveillé** reports that there is plenty of bird life this winter, including; **pine grosbeaks**; **common redpolls**; **American tree sparrows**; **American goldfinches**; **Northern cardinals**; **black-capped chickadees** and **slate-coloured juncos**.

With a few exceptions, the avian cast of characters around **Dave Collyer’s** property in Central Alberta is very similar to that in our neck of the woods, and includes **downy** and **hairy woodpeckers**, **pine grosbeaks**, **black-capped chickadees**, **blue jays** and **common redpolls**. He was also lucky enough to spot two **great-horned owls**, a **snowy owl**, a



Female Pine Grosbeak.

Photo: Mike Leveillé



Photo: Amy Jane Lawes

Goldfinch on the windowsill.

(the “woody” of cartoon fame) which is about 18 inches long (crow-sized), and can be readily seen and heard throughout Rockcliffe this winter.

If you’re feeling adventurous about attempting a birding excursion this winter, you can check out the **Ottawa Field Naturalists’ Club Birding Reports** online at <http://www.ofnc.ca/breports.php>. The site provides an up-to-date log of bird sightings around the Ottawa area, and can be a helpful guide to promising birding locations, as well as a useful reference point if you’re attempting to confirm an ID in your own backyard.

#### Reports from Our Readers:

As mentioned earlier, my neighbour **Amy Jane Lawes** has had a stellar start to the winter birding season, beginning in early December with the sighting of an adult **bald eagle** in full, glorious flight over the Rideau Falls, ultimately circling over the National Research Council before disappearing in the direction of downtown Ottawa. These majestic raptors remain around the region as I write in early January, with most recent sightings reported in the Dunrobin area.

Very shortly after Amy’s eagle sighting, she was sharp-eyed enough to spot and photograph a **peregrine falcon**, initially perched on the Lester

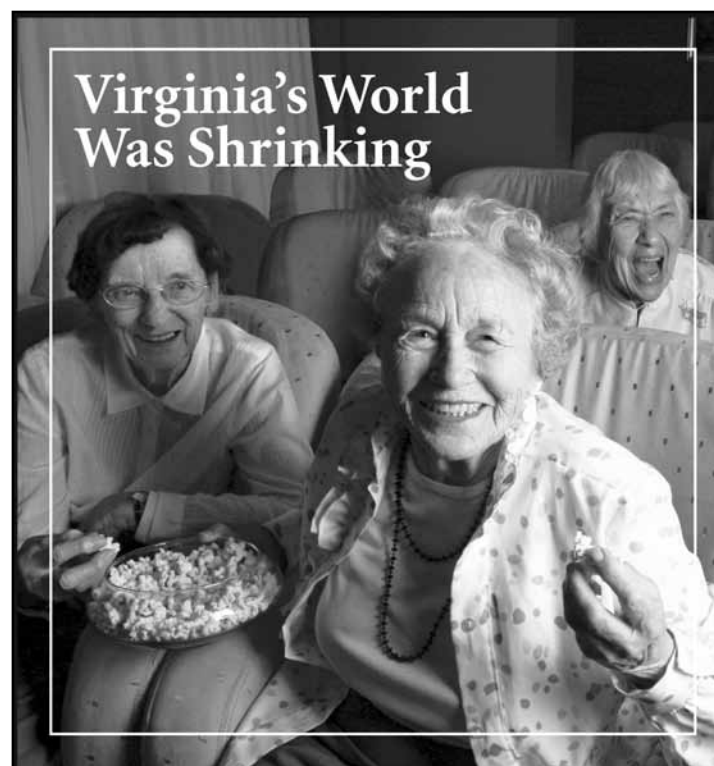
pesticides. They are prodigious hunters, preying on as many as 450 North American bird species, including birds as large as the **sandhill crane**. Their hunting technique involves spectacular deep dives or “swoops” at speeds of up to an astonishing 320 km/hr. They typically perch or nest on manmade structures such as water towers, power pylons, skyscrapers and, it would appear, architectural follies like the Safdie tower at the old City Hall. True to their name *peregrine*, which means “wanderer” or “pilgrim,” these falcons have one of the longest migrations of any North American bird species, often travelling up to 25,000 km in a year as they fly between their summer nesting grounds in the Arctic tundra and their wintering habitat in South America.

In addition to her other local sightings mentioned earlier, including a massive flock of **Bohemian waxwings** on Union Street and a mixed flock of winter finches on her window sill, Amy had a fruitful visit to Gatineau Park in early January, spotting **downy** and **hairy woodpeckers**, **black-capped chickadees**, **red-** and **white-breasted nuthatches**, **blue jays**, a solo **common redpoll** and her first ever **evening grosbeaks**, whose striking yellow, black and white plumage

**golden eagle** feasting on road kill, and a large flock of **snow buntings**, as well as countless **magpies** which appear to be common in Alberta though seldom (never?) seen in these parts.

Our peripatetic birding reporter **Vicki Metcalfe** has recently returned from an excursion to Belize where she encountered an impressive list of 102 bird species, 55 of which were “life birds” for Vicki. To name just a few, her list included the **laughing falcon**; **snail kite**; **agami heron**; **jabiru**; **Muscovy duck**; **Mexican chachalaca**; **olive throated parakeet**; and **mangrove warbler**. The latter is a close approximation of

our familiar **yellow warbler** in both song and plumage, but with a clearly-defined chestnut-coloured hood. But in addition to these more exotic types, Vicki logged many migrating species familiar in our area in the summer breeding season, including the **yellow warbler**; **magnolia warbler**; **black and white warbler**; **common yellowthroat**; **red-winged blackbird**; **gray catbird** and **great blue heron**. You can check out Vicki’s complete list of birds, aquatic life and Belize flora and fauna on the community website at [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca), and enjoy her delightful report on her Belize adventure in a separate article in this issue.



## Virginia's World Was Shrinking

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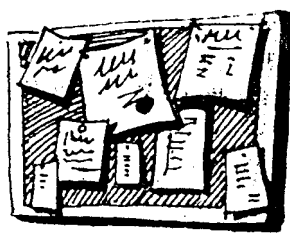
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## Burgh Bulletin Board

### FEBRUARY

**Fri, Feb 1, 6 - 7 pm**

**ART IN THE SPA: CELADON** Salon and Spa, 373 St. Laurent Blvd. You are invited to a vernissage of the work of local artist, Simon Moor, which currently graces the walls of CELADON spa. Come and discuss the works in the exhibition with the artist and others. You may also want to reminisce with Simon about the good old days, as he grew up in Manor Park and still lives nearby.

**Thu, Feb 7, 6 - 9 pm**

**WINE & CHEESE PHOTO EXHIBIT** at the Gordon Harrison Gallery in support of the Canadian Hunger Foundation (CHF). Join us for an evening of fun, entertainment, delicious food and wine, while enjoying CHF's project photos. Photos at this exhibit are part of a silent auction and proceeds raised at this event will go towards CHF's international programs, where every dollar donated is matched with \$3 more, thanks

to the Canadian International Development Agency. Gordon Harrison Gallery, 495 Sussex Drive, Ottawa.

**Fri, Feb 8, 7 pm**

**THE MAKING OF...** Filmmaker and photographer Kelly Ann Beaton will be the featured artist for the film series, sponsored by Crichton Cultural Community Centre's Friday Night Movies on February 8, 2013. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the event starts at 7 pm. For more information on Kelly Ann Beaton's work, please visit [www.pinkslippers-productions.com](http://www.pinkslippers-productions.com).

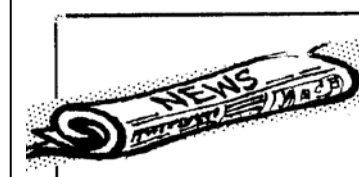
**Sun, Feb 10, 2:30 pm**

**CELTIC CONCERT** - MacKay United Church and the Harmelodic Music Club presents *A Celtic Imbolc Celebration: Scottish and Celtic Folk Over The Years*. From Robbie Burns' and Yeats' poems put to music, to O'Carolan harp tunes plus a good ole piper and a first class highland dancer. Join us for Celtic and Gaelic music, original compositions

and classics, traditional and modern arrangements. A reception, sponsored by the Scottish and Irish Store, will follow with a traditional ceilidh, and music provided by Mostly Bows. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and student, and are available from the Ottawa Folklore Centre, Leading Note, MacKay United Church or at the door. For information please visit [mackayunitedchurch.com](http://mackayunitedchurch.com) or call 613-749-3727. See article on page 25.

**Ongoing until Tue, Feb 19**

**LE CENTRE D'ARTISTES VOIX VISUELLE** presents artwork by Valérie Boivin, Gail Bourgeois and Élisabeth Dupond. With *Le coeur net*, a series of 19 digital prints, Boivin plays with the ambiguity of human relationships. Her prints combine uneasiness and joy and explore different feelings such as solitude, comfort and play. They present the human being like a beast prisoner of itself. Dupond invites the viewer to take a second look at the objects surrounding him. Photos inspired by unusual details are worked on with various techniques and material, prompting the observer to add his own mental imagery and to make the legend his own. Bourgeois works with the material potential to create an



## Classified Ads

**RATES: \$10, first 25 words; \$5, each additional 25 words, payable on submission of ad. Public service ads (such as lost & found) free. Call Cindy Parkanyi, 745-8734 or email [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com).**

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

indefinite pictorial space. By taking away the context, she places the observer on unknown territory. The artwork is thus difficult to comprehend since it oscillates between concept and representation. 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@voixvisuelle.ca](mailto:info@voixvisuelle.ca).

**Thu, Feb 21, 7 - 9 pm**

**WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL.** Join Ottawa Riverkeeper for an evening of adventure-packed films that celebrate our natural world. The evening includes a silent auction and door prizes. Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. All proceeds support Ottawa Riverkeeper initiatives, including the purchase of water quality test kits for our Riverwatch Program. Tickets: \$12 General Admission, \$50 VIP pass (1 ticket with reserved premium seating and admission to the VIP reception from 6 - 7 pm). Tickets are available online and at Delilah, Mountain Equipment Co-Op and Trailhead. Visit [ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://ottawariverkeeper.ca).

**Sun, Feb 24, 7:30 pm**

**MACKAYUNITEDCHURCH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES** - "Trumpet en Vedette," features music by Hindemith

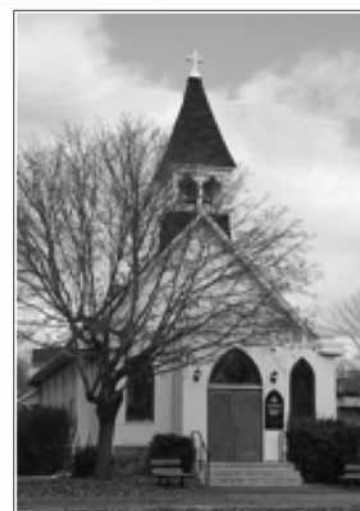
and Bernstein performed by Karen Donnelly and Frédéric Lacroix. Tickets, \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students, are available at the door, at Books on Beechwood (until they close) or through MacKay United Church 613-749-8727.

### ONGOING

See article on page 24. **NEW RESPITE/PERSONAL CARE PROGRAM** for seniors! As part of the Champlain LHIN's community investment strategy, a new initiative has been developed to support seniors in our community. This new service will provide the following assistance to eligible seniors and their families:

- Respite care to provide relief for family caregivers
- Assistance with personal care, such as bathing, grooming, dressing and exercise programs
- Assistance with meal planning and preparation
- Supportive Care through companionship, motivational activities and socialization
- Assistance with household management such as laundry and light housekeeping
- Maximum of 2-3 hours per week / \$9.00 per hour

In the New Edinburgh area, VHA Health & Home Support is now providing this service. Please call 613-238-8420 for more information.



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# Annual Bazaar Funds Outreach Programs at St. Bartholomew's

By Jane Heintzman

The **Annual Bazaar** at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church on MacKay Street (affectionately known as St. Bart's) is legendary in our community, marking for many the unofficial start of the Christmas season and attracting eager buyers in hundreds to sharpen their elbows and have their pick of the cornucopia of treasures on offer. Needless to say, an immense amount of labour and advance organization is invested in this event by a team of committed volunteers appointed by the church's Nominating Committee. Over the years their efforts have been richly rewarded as the artfully displayed merchandise flew off the display tables, making funds available for several of the charities supported by St. Bart's extensive Outreach Program.

This year was no exception, as the November 2012 Bazaar—which was officially opened by **Mrs. Julie Pocock**, wife of the outgoing British High Commissioner, His Excellency Dr. Andrew Pocock—raised funds to support three charitable enterprises. They are: **Cornerstone Women's Shelter**, offering an emergency shelter and supportive housing for women

in difficult life situations; **Bales for the North**, a project launched by the Anglican Church over 90 years ago to collect bales of new clothing, household supplies, toys and other goods for shipment to remote Northern communities; and St. Bart's ministry to the **Garry Armstrong Long Term Care Home**, where for over 25 years, a team of volunteers coordinated by Nancy Millson has paid regular visits to the residents. With the help of **St. John's Lutheran Church**, St. Bart's also funds an Ecumenical chaplain at the Armstrong Home.

Local businesses, including **A.J.'s Catering**, **Bridgehead on Beechwood**, **The Edinburgh Retirement Residence**, **Goodie's Catering**, **Todric's Catering** and **Shad's Unique Catering**, stepped up to sponsor the 2012 Bazaar and lend their support to the church's fundraising efforts.

Popular though it is, the Bazaar is only one component of St. Bart's broader Outreach Program. Thanks to a generous bequest received by the church about six years ago, St. Bart's established a **Social Outreach and Christian Education Fund** open to the wider community. In the past five years, it



Pictured here are many of the one hundred Bazaar volunteers along with Mrs. Julie Pocock, Canon David Clunie (Rector of the Church), and Mary Capson and Liz Heatherington, Co-Conveners of the Bazaar.

has disbursed close to \$450,000 to support such groups as **the Youville Centre** for teenaged girls; **Cornerstone Women's Housing**; **Hippy Canada**; **Watercan**; **the May Court**; a **Milk Fund** at Robert E. Wilson School in Overbrook; a **book program** in Ghana; **Centre 454** in Ottawa; and an **Aboriginal Suicide Prevention program**.

St. Bart's rector **Canon David Clunie** points out that Anglican churches in Ottawa

are in a somewhat unique situation due to the relationship between the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and the City government. While social programs such as the Ottawa Women's Shelter; Cornerstone Women's Housing; The Well (women's drop-in centre); and Centre 454 were all initiated by Anglican churches, the City recognized both the need for and the value of these programs, and for over 20 years has funded more than 90% of their costs, while the Anglican diocese continues to

supply the administrative and volunteer support required to run them.

Next year, as you line up with the throngs at 125 MacKay Street to stake your claim to the tempting offerings at the St. Bart's Bazaar, you can be doubly gratified by the knowledge that the proceeds from your purchase will be devoted to the support of those in situations far less fortunate than those we are blessed with in our remarkable community.



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## CONDOLENCES

It is with immense sorrow that we announce the passing of **Lester Gracez** on January 4, 2013. Lester opened the Second Cup on Beechwood Ave in mid 1996 and was a mainstay in the community ever since. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family and everyone (and there are so many) who have been touched by Lester's quiet grace and charm. He will be sorely missed by the entire New Edinburgh community and beyond.



Peter Roberts

On January 16, long-time resident of Rideau Terrace **Peter Roberts** passed away, after a brief illness. Following a successful career in broadcasting in New York City, Peter moved back to Canada to enjoy his retirement years near family. Peter will be dearly missed by his wife, Anna with whom he shared 30 years of blissful marriage. His cherished company will also be missed by his cousins, nieces and nephews, near and far. Peter's unique sense of humour and warm, genuine and powerful voice will live in our hearts forever.

## GET WELL SOON

We wish Manor Park luminary **Penny Thompson** a complete and speedy recovery. We look forward to hearing that you are back in the pink!

## WELCOME

Welcome back to Ottawa and to the Burgh to **Geordie Montgomery** and **Naila Parsons**. Georgie and Naila have taken up residence on Dufferin and it is great to see their smiling faces about the neighbourhood again.

**Marco** and **Mia Tocchi** of Putman Ave would like to welcome their grandparents **Nick** and **Monika Tocchi** to the Burgh. They recently moved to Rideau Terrace.

## BON VOYAGE

**Joyce Dubuc** of Vaughn Street left January 12 for Nicaragua where she is delivering and distributing school supplies to children. She'll be back at the end of March...and hopefully will bring spring with her!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to former long-time Burgh resident **Elizabeth May** on her election as Parliamentarian of the Year for 2012. Elizabeth, who is the leader of the Green Party of Canada and the M.P. for Saanich-Gulf Islands, is the first woman ever to be elected Parliamentarian of the year. She is widely respected for her exceptional work as a "caucus of one" in the House of Commons where she is arguably the most knowledgeable, dedicated and effective M.P. on the national scene. For many years, Elizabeth



Elizabeth May

and her daughter **Victoria Cate** were residents of Rideau Terrace and parishioners at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church. Her father **John May**, a resident of Margaree Harbour in Cape Breton, remains a faithful reader of the NEN, and keeps up with the news in his daughter and granddaughter's erstwhile community. We send him our congratulations on Elizabeth's latest accomplishment, and wish him a Happy New Year!

Congrats to **Martin Clary** of MacKay Street. **Martin** has become a Fitness Instructor at one of the hottest new Fitness Studio Spaces in our neighbourhood, Studio A Fitness on St. Laurent Blvd. The studio is owned by Alex MacDonald who formerly worked for many years teaching classes at the Crichton Cultural Community Centre.

Congratulations to **Gail MacEachern** who received the Ontario Heritage Trust's 2012 Heritage Community Recognition Award for Built Heritage. In addition to her productive years as President of NECA, Gail has been a long-



Dan and Joanne Hughes at C'est Chill. Photo: Louise Imbeault

serving and tireless member, and former Chair, of NECA's Heritage and Development Committee, and she continues to play an active role in its ongoing efforts to preserve the unique character of this historic neighbourhood. Well done Gail, an award richly deserved!

On December 19, 2012, **L.A. (Sandy) Smallwood** was appointed by City of Ottawa Council to the Ottawa Police Services. A long time resident of Rockcliffe Park, Sandy is Council's citizen representative on the Board, effective December 31, 2012 to November 30, 2014.

*This just missed the last edition...*

Belated congratulations to the Ottawa East Novice A Icebreakers for two recent tournament wins: the B championship at the Perth-Lanark Minor Hockey Association tourna-



Bill Ross and his wife Lisa.

ment on November 24, 2012, and the A championship at the Carleton Place Minor Hockey Association Novice A tournament on December 28. Well done to the Burgh's **Wolfie S., Fahed H., Parker L., Sam G.**, and all their Ottawa East teammates and coaches.

Photo by: Liba Bender

to **Marilyn Cutter, Brian Dixon, Michael Histed, Elizabeth Jorgensen** and **Gracie** for their friendship and care during Bridget's convalescence and Dickon's temporary homelessness.

For the third consecutive year, **Bill Ross** and his team at **Da Bombe** opened their doors on Christmas Eve to host a full Christmas dinner, offering turkey and all the trimmings, as well as "comfort and joy," to any and all who are down on their luck, or simply alone and in need of cheer. Well done Bill; thanks to your generous heart, the spirit of Christmas is alive and well on Beechwood!

## RUNNING CLUB

**Ottawa Running Club at Beechwood Bridgehead**

The Ottawa Running Club (ORC) is leading runs at the Beechwood Bridgehead on Sundays at 9:30 am. ORC's experienced leaders and coaches offer Learn to Run, 5k and 10k groups.

ORC is volunteer-led, and every cent of the \$60 annual membership fee goes to charity. Each year the ORC raises over \$10,000 which is then donated to help those in need near and far. For full details, including online registration, visit **OttawaRunningClub.com**.

## THANK YOU

**Bridget Barber** and her sidekick **Dickon** are very grateful for the sanctuary provided by **Cathy McConkey** and **Bruce McLaurin** when she crawled out of the park to their door late one night with a broken ankle. Also thanks to **Hariot** and her people for the condolences and extra special thanks



Ottawa East Novice A Icebreakers.