

April 2014

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

www.newedinburgh.ca



Photo: Louise Imbeault

A mass of ice jammed up the foot of Rideau Falls this past March, yet another testament to the winter that would not quit.

Close Call at MacKay Memorial Hall

By Alan Bowker

On Sunday evening, March 9, there was a minor fire in Memorial Hall at MacKay United Church. That it remained minor was due to both the quick action of Martin Clary and Alex MacDonald, who were in the Hall at the time and smelled smoke, and the prompt and effective reaction of the fire department who tracked the cause to an electrical fault and dealt quickly with it. Sean Flynn, Chair of the Board of NECTAR, Alex, who runs fitness classes in the Hall, and MacKay's Minister, Dr. John Montgomery, took shifts overnight to ensure that nothing more happened.

The next morning, MacKay, with the invaluable assistance of Ross Peterson, who has great experience working with churches and homes in

the area, moved quickly to rectify the problem and fix the damage. There was no smoke damage and the air was tested and declared clean. Permanent repairs will take a little longer, but the Hall was restored to use after only a few days.

That this has become a good news story is a tribute to the cooperation that has developed between MacKay, NECTAR (who have converted the former Manse to New Edinburgh House), Alex and Martin (who were in the church because Martin has been doing repairs on a volunteer basis), and Ross. Last summer, Alex, Martin and a team of volunteers painted Memorial Hall. This teamwork ensures that MacKay will continue to be a spiritual home, a community centre, and a treasured landmark as it has been for the last 137 years.

New Infill Rules: A Ray of Hope for New Edinburgh?

In late March, the City's Planning Committee will consider a set of proposed revisions to Infill By-law 2012-147, the primary purpose of which is "to assist in maintaining and strengthening the established and recognized character of the mature residential neighbourhoods located in Wards 14, 15, 17, and parts of Wards 12 and 13" (the latter includes New Edinburgh). Under the proposed new rules, the starting point for the design of any new infill development, or for renovations/additions to an existing building, will be the character of the surrounding streetscape, and a "Streetscape Character Analysis" will become a prerequisite of all applications for rezoning, site plan control approval, consent to sever, minor variances or building permits.

According to the staff report, the basic principle of the revised By-law can be summarized as "your street gives you the rules." The framework within which the Streetscape Character Analysis is to be carried out will encompass the 21 homes or lots located on either side of and across from the property in question, and will be based on three primary design features that "contribute most to, or could deter most from" streetscape character. Specifically, these include front yard patterns (with a range from complete landscaping to no landscaping); parking patterns, and entranceway patterns.

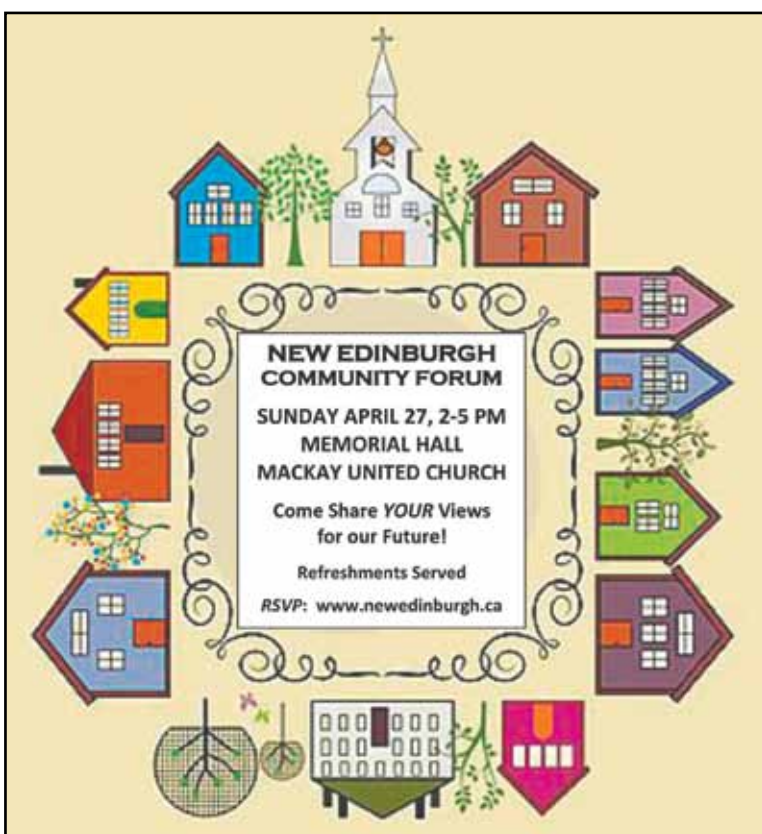
The recommended By-law revisions will accordingly regulate such aspects of an infill development or renovation as

front yard setbacks; vehicular access by driveway or travelled rear lane; parking space type and location; the use and location of walkways; landscaping of front, corner side and side yards; orientation of the principal entranceway to the residence, and the visual prominence of the front wall of a residence. If Council ultimately endorses the proposed new By-law, and the latter is enacted by the Ontario Municipal Board, City planners intend to prepare a detailed guidebook for the public on how to prepare a Streetscape Character Analysis, including an online procedural checklist.

It's no secret that struggles over infill developments remain a dominant theme in the life of our community, and that examples abound of developments which appear to fly in the face of the established character of a neighbourhood streetscape,

but which have, nonetheless, received the imprimatur of City planners. NECA's Heritage and Development Committee has been on the front lines of these infill battles, and is encouraged by the broad direction of the proposed new By-law.

It will, however, be keeping a close eye on the critical issue of the By-law's enforcement, if and when it is finally adopted. The discouraging lessons of the recent history of development in our neighbourhood, and throughout the City, suggest that the approval of rezoning and variance applications has become much more the rule than the exception. Promising though it appears, the adoption of the proposed new By-law will be only a first step towards establishing a new planning regime which supports the preservation of the character of our community, rather than undermines it.



New Edinburgh PLANT SALE



Saturday, May 10, 2014

Stanley Park Fieldhouse

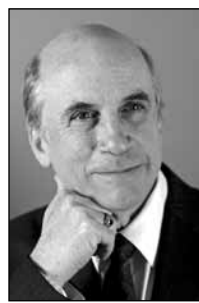
8 am - 4 pm

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Report from NECA President Tim Plumptre

The Forum on the **Future of New Edinburgh** is just around the corner. In my January column I outlined how the three sponsoring organizations — NECTAR, the “3Cs” and NECA — are planning to run this event.

Here's a brief recap:

- It will be held on **Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 5 pm**, at Memorial Hall.
- After a brief opening presentation providing highlights about New Edinburgh, participants will be invited to go to a table to discuss a topic of particular interest to them.
- We recently did an informal survey of some residents to ascertain their interests. As a result, it looks like the topics may include some or all of: traffic and parking; business development — on Beechwood and Crichton; issues related to the National Capital Commission (falls access, Canada and the World Pavilion, etc.); fostering community engagement;

and a vision for the development of New Edinburgh itself (heritage preservation, environmental and cultural issues, green space, etc.)

We hope the Forum will yield insights that will help the sponsoring organizations to plan their priorities for the future, both shorter and longer term, and that it will surface issues for discussion with candidates at the upcoming municipal election.

Organizing a Forum such as this takes quite a lot of volunteer work from your colleagues on the boards of the sponsoring organizations; we hope you'll set aside a Sunday afternoon to join us and help to make this a stimulating and productive session.

Survey of other community associations

An important NECA initiative in the last few months has been a survey of what some other community organizations are doing. Patricia Begin, one of our newer board members, volunteered to take this on.

She's produced a first-rate interim report with interesting insights on what our neighbouring organizations are doing in areas such as recruitment, membership fees, budgets and communication with members. Other associations have expressed interest in seeing the results of her work.

Patricia will be doing a second round of interviews in the spring and we look forward to her final report. Already, she's given NECA lots of food for thought with respect to activities we might undertake and policies we might — or might not! — decide to adopt.

Everyone's been wondering when, or if, this year's endless winter will depart! Perhaps by the time this edition of the NEN is published, it will finally be on the way out.

Getting involved in your community association

As I write this, the autumn, which is when we've been holding our Annual General Meeting in recent years still looks quite far away

But if you think you might be interested, it's not too early to start thinking about membership in NECA's board of directors, or participation in our committee work.

If you've ever wondered whether you might like to contribute to your community organization, please do contact any member of the existing board (they are listed in this publication) to let us know. We'd be very pleased to talk to you about what participation in NECA involves, and about the satisfaction that goes along with it.

Update from Beechwood Village Alliance

By Tobi Nussbaum, Chair

As development begins to pick up on Beechwood—from the Domicile and Minto projects to the recent sale of the Caisse Desjardins to Claridge and likely turnover of the St. Charles Church property—it is not too early to ensure that changes on the street reflect community priorities. One of the key aspects of Beechwood is its dual role as both transportation artery and traditional mainstreet.

Toward the end of 2013, as the Beechwood Village Alliance was planning its successful Winter Solstice Social, important developments were taking place at City Hall. City Council passed the latest Ottawa Official Plan as well as the Master Transportation Plan. Of note was the approved recommendation to adopt a “complete streets” policy, particularly relevant for streets such as Beechwood.

Complete streets are, as the name suggests, streets that are designed for all functions and users in mind. Central to the idea of complete streets is to build the street from the edges in, not from the centre out. This means starting with the experi-

advancing, the need for safe and viable transportation options along Beechwood for residents and commuters will be particularly critical. The complete streets policy offers a useful and promising lens to consider the future of our mainstreet.

Turning to the work of the Beechwood Village Alliance, the arrival of spring means the chance to spend more time outdoors. We have a few events planned over the coming months:

- We are organizing a **Jane's Walk** for the first weekend in May as part of the collection of walks throughout the City that weekend celebrating the life and work of philosopher, writer and urban activist Jane Jacobs. We'll have details on our facebook page closer to the date of the event.
- Given the resounding success of last year's Beechwood Solstice Stroll, we plan to do it again this year. We'll have live music, artists, activities, food and drink and much more on **Saturday, June 21 from 7 to 10 pm** along the whole length of Beechwood.
- The BVA will be looking at different “pop-up” initiatives on Beechwood this summer. Outdoor movies? Ice-cream trucks? Temporary patios? What would you like to see on Beechwood this summer that is easy to organize, improves the street, fills a gap and will bring people together? Feel free to send us your ideas.

Stay tuned for details, visit our facebook page or email us at **beechwoodvillagealliance@hotmail.ca**. All residents who live close to, or care about, the future of Beechwood are encouraged to join our efforts.



ence and safety of the pedestrian walking to the grocery store, or visiting the dentist. It is a recognition of the street as a meeting place and destination not just a thoroughfare.

Building complete streets also means ensuring viable transportation choices for residents. Walking, cycling, bus-riding and driving should all be accommodated. The importance of ensuring safe and viable infrastructure for all modes is made clear when we consider the economic and social costs of different forms of transportation. While the City estimates the cost of driving to be 71 cents a kilometre (a combination of government costs, user costs and social costs such as pollution and congestion), transit comes in at 60 cents a kilometre, walking 20 cents and cycling a mere 16 cents a kilometre.

With the planning of the former CFB Rockcliffe site

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. During October, NECA holds its annual general meeting (AGM) and a regular board meeting.

Meetings will be held in the Activity Room of the **Governor's Walk Retirement Residence**, located at **150 Stanley Ave**. Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Tim Plumptre in advance to arrange scheduling. Our next meetings are:

Monday, April 28, 7:30 pm, Governor's Walk

Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 pm, location TBC (check website)

Any changes to this schedule would be posted in advance on the New Edinburgh website, **www.newedinburgh.ca**.

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Tear Down and Rebuild Starts This Year

By Jane Heintzman

Minto Beechwood Project Moving Ahead On Course

Minto's Kevin Harper reports that the Minto Beechwood project continues to move ahead on course, with condo sales progressing at a healthy pace, and preparations now underway to take full advantage of the typically busy spring sales season with special events and a ramped-up marketing effort. Some readers may have taken part in a well-attended Buyer Appreciation evening in February when participants had an opportunity to meet and chat with their soon-to-be new neighbours.

Minto is making steady progress on the construction drawings for the building, working towards the target of a demolition/construction launch coming up this fall. According to Kevin, dealings with the City on Site Plan details are currently wrapping up, and the company expects to have the final Site Plan Agreement in place by April or early May. There is still no word on the commercial front (not even a rumour that we're aware of) but discussions with potential retail tenants continue apace, and perhaps there will at last be news to report by the time construction begins this fall.

In preparation for the demolition of the fire-damaged building about seven months from now, the Minto Sales Centre will have to be removed from the Beechwood site in the course of the summer, and plans are now in the works for

its relocation and reconstruction. Kevin is as yet unable to supply any details about its future location, but confesses to some regret that this spiffy new facility on Beechwood will be so short-lived! And for those of us who are longstanding residents of the community, the demolition of the structure that for so many years housed **Hamie's Diner** and **Bread and Roses Bakery** may have an added element of finality, and perhaps even melancholy, as this corner of the Beechwood we knew and loved disappears altogether.

Interested readers can keep an eye on news about the Minto Beechwood project, and find out about the special events coming up this spring by checking the project website at www.minto.com/ottawa/New-Edinburgh-new-condos/MintoBeechwood/main.html.

The Kavanaugh: Onward and Upward Despite the Weather

Despite the rigours of this relentless winter with its Arctic temperatures and periodic stormy blasts, Domicile's construction team at the *Kavanaugh* site has defied the elements to move ahead with steady progress on the excavation, site clearing, and preparation of the foundations for the new building. Excavation to the third and final level of the parking garage (about 8.5 metres below grade) wrapped up in late February, and concrete pouring is now underway.

To probe the mysteries of winter construction, *Manor Park Chronicle* reporter **Robert Todd** recently conducted an in-depth interview with **Roch Chevrier, Domicile's Vice-President of Construction**, and has prepared a fascinating account of the techniques the company has employed to keep the project moving ahead despite the less-than-ideal conditions of the past four months. Robert's article can be found in the latest edition of the *Manor Park Chronicle* (pp. 30-31), or online on the Construction Update link on Domicile's blog at www.domicile.ca then click on the link to the blog. Blog postings also include some amazing photographs of the work in progress, and we encourage readers to have a good look at what's going on behind the hoardings on Beechwood.

Suffice it to say that one of the secrets of successfully pouring concrete at temperatures up to 25° below zero is pre-heating the mixture, so the trucks you see delivering their loads to the site are quite literally carrying hot concrete!

Quite apart from the wealth of information Robert assembled on the challenges of site clearance in the season of snow and ice, as well as the technology of preparing concrete for pouring in sub-zero temperatures, he has discovered that by coincidence, Roch Chevrier's own roots are in this neighbourhood, and indeed not far from the *Kavanaugh* site, down the street near the cur-

rent location of **Bridgehead Coffee House**. Needless to say, Roch is reported to be particularly enthusiastic about this eastern gateway to Beechwood project, and looks forward to its impact on the rejuvenation of the street and the community at large.

With luck, as the challenges of the winter weather abate and warmer temperatures set in over the coming weeks, the pace of construction will pick up and the structure of our first major new Beechwood development will begin to emerge above the hoarding.

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Hear Ye, Hear Ye! New Edinburgh Cheering Station 2014

By Joseph Cull

A Call to Cheer is in Order to secure our title as "Best Cheering Station" in the City of Ottawa for Race Weekend 2014!

Our opponents are gathering to take the Crown but we will be ready for them. This year marks our first collaboration with NECTAR, NECA and the Crichton Community Council, all of which serve in a capacity to make our community rich and colourful.

We need your help on **Sunday, May 25**, to come and cheer on the thousands of men and women who make it their goal to complete the full marathon in record time. We help in making that journey fun, especially at our Cheering Station route mark.

The theme this year is "Super Heroes", so dress as your favourite superhero so we can

honour our heroes who take on the challenge to run in our great City!



Cheering Station.

Photo: Garth Gullekson

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Heritage and Development

Editor's Note: The following letter from NECA's Heritage and Development Committee, reviewing the proposed development for 205 Crichton Street, was provided to the City of Ottawa on March 10, 2014. The development proposal is currently scheduled to be presented to the City of Ottawa Built Heritage Subcommittee on April 10, to the Planning Committee on April 22, and to City Council on May 14. These sessions are open to the public.

The Heritage and Development Committee of NECA has reviewed the plans for this project, the list of requested variances, and the Cultural Heritage Impact Statement (CHIS) prepared by Mark Thompson Brandt.

The Committee does not support the redevelopment plan being proposed in this application. The Committee's observations and comments are outlined under the following headings:

- 1) Lack of Adherence to the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation Guidelines
- 2) Dismissing the Value of the Existing House as a Suitable "Gateway" Property
- 3) Misuse of River Lane to Access On-site Parking

1. LACK OF ADHERENCE TO THE NEW EDINBURGH HCD GUIDELINES

The primary aim of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District Plan was (and is) to preserve and enhance the historic village character of New Edinburgh. This was to be accomplished through the application of guidelines that would direct the management of the HCD to ensure the retention and conservation of the district's heritage resources.

The meaning and intent of the words which describe the primary aim of the HCD Plan are not ambiguous. The word 'preserve', as defined in the

Canadian Oxford Dictionary means *to keep safe or free from harm, to maintain something in its existing state, to keep undisturbed for protection*. What do we, as custodians of our HCD, want to keep undisturbed for protection? Primarily New Edinburgh's historic village characteristics, which are:

- Modest small-scale houses
- Rural-style laneways
- Tree-lined streets
- Long narrow lots with landscaped back yards

Guidelines governing additions to existing houses are clear: the height of the walls and height and slope of the roof must not exceed those of the original building; the side yard setback must be 60 cm greater than that of the original building and the size is limited to 30% of the existing structure's gross floor area. **The existing building must remain the dominant presence in the streetscape.**

In this redevelopment proposal, the rear addition is not designed to honor the HCD guidelines pertaining to additions, which specifically address the relationship between the proposed addition and the original building fronting on a streetscape. In this case, the size and form of the proposed addition is based on a 1945 plan which called for the addition of a 2nd storey to the original house, but which was never built.

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REFRESHMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS!

Looking at drawings of an earlier proposal may be interesting, but is irrelevant when considering what is appropriate for this site in its present form. The reality is that for the past 70 years, there has been, and remains, a 1-storey bungalow on this prime corner of Crichton and Dufferin. This indisputable fact must be recognized as the starting point for any proposal for this property. As it stands now, far from respecting the integrity of this modest structure, the 2 proposed additions (one on top of the house and a second in the rear) effectively surround and obliterate the original house.

2. DISMISSING THE VALUE OF THE EXISTING HOUSE AS A SUITABLE 'GATEWAY' PROPERTY

In the CHIS, under the section describing the Surroundings & Adjacent Properties (p.5), it says: "The mix of contemporary and older structures, the mix of street setbacks, the mix of residential and institutional forms, the mix of materials and open spaces, all give this corner a variety of character and delightful lack of cohesiveness, within an overall sense of place." This corner is also important because it marks the entrance into the Historic District. The property in question is classified as a level 2 under the Ontario Heritage Act because of its status as a 'gateway property,' a fact which makes its retention (in its present form) of particular importance.

Despite its recognition of the charms of the eclectic characteristics of this corner, the CHIS contains a number of observations which throw a disparaging light on the bungalow. Under the heading of Property Description (p.3) it states: "This existing residence is characterized by its high-ranch bungalow one-story form which is an ABERRATION in the district." Later in the document, in the section sum-

marizing the Positive/Negative Impacts on Identified Heritage Values (p.12/5.1) the author justifies and in fact promotes the alteration of the existing house in the assertion: "The existing uncharacteristically low building is UNSUITABLE as a 'gateway building', and therefore additional height and volume is appropriate." This is followed by: "Proposal is for two-storey, which is more compatible with the immediate context...and is therefore a better 'gateway building' than the existing INCOMPATIBLE bungalow."

Having celebrated diversity (which is one of the assets in the HCD to protect), the author reflects the view of the proponent of the project, arguing in favour of changing the 'look' of the bungalow, and turning it into something that better 'matches' several larger scale structures in the vicinity.

A critical point is being overlooked here. The bungalow has existed in its present form (with the exception of a roof alteration) since 1945. It has been part of the New Edinburgh HCD since 2000. Whether or not one likes the architectural style is strictly speaking irrelevant. It represents a particular moment in the history of New Edinburgh's evolving streetscapes, and any development taking place on this site must, in the opinion of this Committee, fully adhere to the Heritage Conservation Guidelines which apply to the district. In this context, there is no justification for turning this bungalow into something it is not, or indeed, for extinguishing the character which it has imparted to this corner for seven decades.

3. MISUSE OF RIVER LANE TO ACCESS ON-SITE PARKING

The redevelopment proposal involves accessing the property fronting on Crichton and the rear addition via a new driveway off River Lane. This flies

in the face of years of work by New Edinburgh residents, and supported (in the past) by the City, to limit access to properties abutting lanes, in order to reduce vehicular traffic on the lanes, and prevent the loss of green space as the result of constructing a second building next to a lane.

The proponent plans to divide the existing property into two parts with one dwelling unit fronting on Crichton Street (Part A), and the second dwelling unit (referred to as the rear addition) fronting onto Dufferin Road (Part B). Under Section 59 of the City's by-laws - Frontage on a Public Street - it states: "No person shall develop or otherwise use any lot unless that land abuts an improved public street, and has a means of access to the street that coincides with the part of the lot which abuts that street." In this case, the by-laws dictate that the dwelling facing Crichton should be accessed from that street, and that the second dwelling should be accessed via Dufferin.

The increased demands from developers to access properties from the lanes, and the willingness of the City to acquiesce to these demands, is in our opinion a serious threat to the integrity of the Heritage Conservation District of New Edinburgh, a threat which must be addressed if this neighbourhood is to retain its historic character and charm.

CONCLUSION

NECA does not endorse this

proposal in its present form. It virtually eliminates the existing house by incorporating it into a much larger structure. In combination, the two proposed additions violate the central principle in the HCD guidelines (reinforced by the Heritage Overlay Zoning By-Law) that the existing house remain the dominant presence in the streetscape, and due to its size and massing, the proposed structure creates a wall along Dufferin reminiscent of historic military forts.

In the opinion of the Committee, the original bungalow must remain intact, with no second floor. This is the structure which should present itself to the street corner. If an addition is to be attached to the bungalow, the Heritage Overlay By-law requires that it must be built to the same height as the existing bungalow and have the same roof pitch.

Alternatively, if the developer proceeds with a proposed plan to sever the addition portion of the property from the bungalow so that they are two distinct parcels, this opens up the possibility of having a second house (not attached to the bungalow) built on the rear parcel. This dwelling could be accessed via Dufferin Road so that the issue of access from the lane is not a problem. NECA would strongly endorse this solution, as the bungalow would not be compromised,

and breathing space would be created between the two buildings, thereby eliminating the long unbroken wall which is part of the present proposal.


In conclusion, the Committee is firmly of the view that if the principles and intent of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District, and the guidelines which support it, are to be respected in the assessment of this proposal, **the current proposal will require significant modifications to ensure that the existing structure remains the dominant "character-setting" feature of the site, and the abutting lane is protected.**

Regrettably, the recent history of development decisions in the HCD has threatened to erode these principles and emasculate the heritage conservation guidelines. We strongly urge that this pattern be stopped before the damage to the historic fabric of this community becomes irreversible.

Gail McEachern
Chair, Heritage & Development Committee, NECA





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April Update on Civic Elections 2014

As we reported in our last edition, the Civic Election is coming up later this year on **Monday, October 27**, and in the weeks ahead, the campaigns for City Council are certain to pick up steam. In our own bailiwick, **Ward 13 Rideau-Rockcliffe**, there are currently two declared candidates for Council, with several more expected to join the race as Election Day approaches.

Lindenlea resident **Tobi Nussbaum**, the founder and Chair of the Beechwood Village Alliance, stepped up in early February to be first on the slate in this neighbourhood. Interested readers will find campaign information on the website at **www.votetobi.ca**, on Facebook at / **tobinussbaumward13**, and on Twitter **@tobi_nussbaum**.

On February 19, **Cam Holmstrom** officially announced his intention to run as Councillor in Rideau-Rockcliffe. Cam is a former teacher and public servant, and currently serves as Legislative Assistant to an NDP Member

of Parliament. You'll find more information on Cam's website at **camholmstrom.ca**.

STAY TUNED AND STAY INFORMED: Several more candidates are expected to come forward in the coming weeks, so stay tuned for further announcements on the slate in our Ward. The New Edinburgh Community website **www.newedinburgh.ca** will keep readers up to date and informed on the candidates for Council in Rideau-Rockcliffe as they come forward. You can also keep track of the slate of nominees on the **Elections 2014** link on the City of Ottawa website: **ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/your-city-government/elections**.

We'll bring you a complete rundown on the full slate of candidates and their respective backgrounds in the October edition of the NEN, but in the meantime, please keep an eye on the evolving election scene and stay informed: this is a critically important choice for our community!

From the Desk of...



Mauril Bélanger
Member of Parliament for
Ottawa-Vanier



Bill C-23: Fair Elections Act / Projet De Loi C-23 : Loi Sur L'intégrité Des Elections

Le français suit

On February 4, 2014, the Conservatives introduced Bill C 23, the so-called Fair Elections Act, claiming that it would allow us to "improve our democracy." The Bill contains some good things, such as the creation of a "robocall registry." But it also contains far too many provisions that should not be there, such as:

- 1) A ban on advertising by Elections Canada, effectively preventing the agency from working to increase voter turnouts, particularly among young Canadians.
 - 2) An end to the practice of electors vouching for other eligible voters, thereby likely preventing more than 100,000 Canadians from exercising their right to vote.
 - 3) Moving the Commissioner of Canada Elections to another government agency will reduce this office's degree of autonomy.
 - 4) Increasing various donation limits will only prove beneficial to the more affluent members of our society.
- Three more reasons prompted me to vote against the Bill:
- a) The government's refusal to give the Commissioner

of Canada Elections the power to summon witnesses involved in investigations — which was the most important thing Elections Canada wanted.

- b) The fact that the Conservative government did not consult the Chief Electoral Officer.
- c) The party in power's refusal to amend the *Canada Elections Act* on a consensus basis (the way it has always been done).

Since then, Former Reform Party leader the Honourable Preston Manning has spoken against the Bill: "Conservatives are increasingly not viewed as the party that most champions democratic values," Mr. Manning said (Source: *The Globe and Mail*, March 1, 2014).

Le 4 février, les conservateurs ont déposé le projet de loi C-23, faisant ainsi valoir que leur intention était d'« accroître la démocratie ». Le projet de loi contient de bonnes choses, dont la création d'un registre pour les « appels robotisés ». Toutefois, il contient également beaucoup trop de dispositions qui ne devraient pas y être, notamment :

- 1) Empêcher Elections Canada de faire de la publicité et donc de susciter un taux de participation plus élevé chez les électeurs canadiens, surtout nos jeunes.
- 2) Interdire à quiconque de se porter garant pour un autre électeur admissible, empêchant ainsi fort probablement plus de 100 000 Canadiens de voter.
- 3) Déplacer le commissaire aux élections vers une autre agence au sein du gouvernement, réduisant son degré d'autonomie.
- 4) Augmenter diverses limites aux dons, chose qui ne favorise que les mieux nantis de notre société.

Trois autres raisons m'ont porté à voter contre le projet de loi :

- a) Le refus du gouvernement de donner au commissaire aux élections fédérales le pouvoir de convoquer des témoins impliqués dans ses enquêtes — la chose la plus importante qu'Elections Canada désirait.
- b) Le fait que le gouvernement conservateur n'a pas consulté le directeur général des élections.
- c) Le refus du parti au pouvoir de modifier la *Loi électorale du Canada* de façon consensuelle (la façon de faire depuis toujours).

L'honorable Preston Manning, ancien chef du Parti réformiste, a livré une allocution contre le projet de loi : « Les conservateurs sont de plus en plus perçus comme étant d'un parti qui n'est pas le champion des valeurs démocratiques », de dire M. Manning (Source : *The Globe and Mail*, édition du 1er mars 2014).

Hon. / L'hon. Mauril Bélanger,
M.P. / député
Ottawa-Vanier



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Ottawa City Councillor Peter Clark Reports

NECTAR Centre

An agreement has been reached to designate the NECTAR Centre, 255 MacKay as a Municipal Capital Facility (MCF). On June 11, 2013, the Crichton Cultural Community Centre registered a new corporate name, the New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre (NECTAR). The manse at 255 MacKay was purchased outright in July 2012, and operations were relocated. This new location required extensive renovations to meet building code requirements, and fundraising efforts have been successful to a point.

It was also necessary to remortgage the building to secure the position the City's capital contribution of \$250,000 and allow the centre to qualify for municipal capital grants, tax exemption, and support from the Councillor for the fundraising targets. This has been completed and the City's Finance Committee passed motion to confirm this status on March 4, 2014.

Order of Ottawa

The Order of Ottawa celebrates outstanding citizens. This prestigious civic award recognizes exceptional citizen contribu-

tions in the many areas of city life including arts and culture, business, philanthropy, health care, education, public service, labour, communications and media, science, sports, entertainment or other fields of endeavour that benefit the citizens of Ottawa.

Rockcliffe resident, **Pinchas Zukerman**, was awarded the Order of Ottawa at a ceremony on March 5 at City Hall.

Pinchas Zukerman has remained a phenomenon in the

world of music for over four decades. His musical genius, prodigious technique and unwavering artistic standards are a marvel to audiences and critics. Devoted to the next generation of musicians, he has inspired younger artists with his magnetism and passion. His enthusiasm for teaching has resulted in innovative programs in London, New York, China, Israel and Ottawa. The name Pinchas Zukerman is equally respected as violinist, violist, conductor, pedagogue and chamber musician. Pinchas Zukerman's 2013-2014 season includes over 100 worldwide performances, bringing him to multiple destinations in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia and China.

This will be his 16th and last season at the helm of the National Arts Centre Orchestra.



Photo: Roger Lalonde
Order of Ottawa ceremony, Mayor Watson, Pinchas Zukerman and Councillor Clark.

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From the Desk of Mayor Jim Watson



Reforming the National Capital Commission

By Mayor Jim Watson

I have long been an advocate for reform at the National Capital Commission (NCC) and since being elected Mayor in 2010 it has only become more apparent to me that this is an organization that needs to change or else risk hindering the progress of our great city.

As a first step toward reform Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin of Gatineau and I recently wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to ask that the Mayors of Ottawa and Gatineau be given the ability to each name a directly elected representative to the NCC board of directors, to be nominated by our respective city councils.

The key reason for this letter is that the majority of the NCC's current board members are neither from the National Capital Region nor chosen by its residents and that should not be the case. I understand wanting to bring pan-national representation to the board but those who know Ottawa best are those who live here not those who fly in for board meetings. It would be a common sense

reform towards accountability to make the majority of the NCC board members National Capital residents.

More broadly, I believe that the NCC needs to refocus its mandate. Over the past three years as Mayor, my council colleagues and I have worked well with the NCC but often we are discussing the minutia of city projects such as what types of plants will be planted at our Light Rapid Transit (LRT) stations. These are issues that our city staff members are more than capable to handle on their own while the NCC should be focused on the large-scale issues of national significance for which they are mandated.

Refocusing the NCC's mandate could understandably take some time but I believe that the board of directors of the NCC can be made more accountable and representative of Ottawa's interests immediately should the Prime Minister act on the recommendation of our joint letter to him.

The taxpayers of Ottawa and Gatineau deserve to be represented at the NCC because the organization's decisions have

direct financial implications for them. It is time for their voices to be heard not only at the city council table but also at the NCC board room table and I believe that this would be a welcome first step towards reforming an organization that has lost its way.

Help me convince the federal government to bring greater accountability to the NCC by emailing me your comments at Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca.



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Developer's Position: Proposed Renovation of 205 Crichton

Editor's Note: The article has been submitted by Chris Straka, co-developer of 205 Crichton Street, and presents his rationale for and perspective on the proposed project. Chris and his family have been residents of Crichton Street since 2009, and he is the founding President of Vert Design, a local design/building company with special expertise in green building technology.

By Chris Straka

"Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings." (Jane Jacobs, writer and activist, 1916 - 2006)

Neighbourhood Character

New Edinburgh's history is defined by the constant changes that have allowed the community to evolve into a neighbourhood consistently identified as one of the most desirable places to live in Ottawa. Unlike the urban monocultures more common outside of the city's core, New Edinburgh is characterized by the human-scaled relationships between elements of the public realm and the architectural forms resultant from almost 150 years of development.

The intention of the *Ontario Heritage Act* Part 5 designation of New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation District is to maintain the character of the neighbourhood. The applicable part of the *Ontario Heritage Act* is not intended to preserve individual buildings. (A Part 4 designation would do so.)

Proposed changes to individual buildings within the neighbourhood's historic core are evaluated in reference to the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCD). This document provides limited references to characteristic elements of the neighbourhood, including:

"A lively mix of building types dating from as early as the 1840s until the present... Building types range from... row houses, single family houses and doubles to small apartment buildings."

"The green, tree-lined character... typified the streets... street trees, laneways and large landscaped back yards... create a pleasant green atmosphere."

Existing Building: Historical Context

Since 1945, a brick bungalow has sat unfinished at the intersection of Crichton Street and Dufferin Road. Prior to that date, the property at 205 Crichton had been a vacant lot. Construction of the existing bungalow was undertaken by Leonard Boehmer, an Ottawa contractor and son of August Boehmer, a businessman of considerable importance in the early German and Lutheran

community.

The original architectural plans (circa 1945) call for a multi-unit residential building, including separate dwellings in the basement, and on the first and on the second floors, as well as a multi-story garage and breezeway, with basement below and covered balcony above. These plans were never completed owing to a lack of materials and labour created by the Second World War, and only three feet of the second floor was built before a flat roof was added and construction was terminated. In late 1997, the original flat roof over the building was replaced with a mansard-style roof.

An individual Statement of Cultural Heritage Value is not available for the property, (as it would be if the building was designated under Part 4 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*). Ottawa's Heritage Survey and Evaluation Form describes the building as an "average example" of post-war vernacular design that is "moderately compatible" with neighbouring heritage buildings and a "modest contributor to [the] heritage residential character of New Edinburgh".

Until recently, the property was owned by Hilda Boehmer, wife of Leonard Boehmer, who lived in the building for over 40 years. At the age of 101, Hilda now lives in the Garry J. Armstrong Centre on Porter's Island, within sight of her ancestral home. Her son Ted Mathesius and his wife Bev live in the home on the adjoining property at 201 Crichton Street. Since Chris and Timothy Straka purchased the property in 2011, the residential units in the bungalow have been operated as rental units.

Although the building has been maintained since its construction, elements of the structure and its mechanical systems have seriously deteriorated and are urgently in need of repair or replacement. The condition of the existing building limits its sustainability, both structurally and financially. Although both units are currently occupied, the building's carrying costs remain greater than the rental income. An analysis of market values and carrying costs demonstrates that the existing building is not worth improv-

ing without the opportunity to increase the number of dwelling units on the property from the existing two units to the three units originally intended in 1945.

Design Intentions

The Strakas' objective in their proposed renovation and addition to the structure is to fulfill the original intention for the site, while improving the building's compatibility with adjacent buildings and the heritage character of the neighbourhood.

In addition, the proposed project is designed to show that buildings within a heritage conservation district can be renovated and retrofitted to a standard comparable to new construction, without compromising the heritage character of the building or its neighbourhood. The proposed renovation and addition will demonstrate that ambitious green building certifications such as Passive House and LEED can be attained within a heritage conservation district.

Potential Impacts and Mitigations

The Strakas' project is intended to improve the historic character of New Edinburgh by:

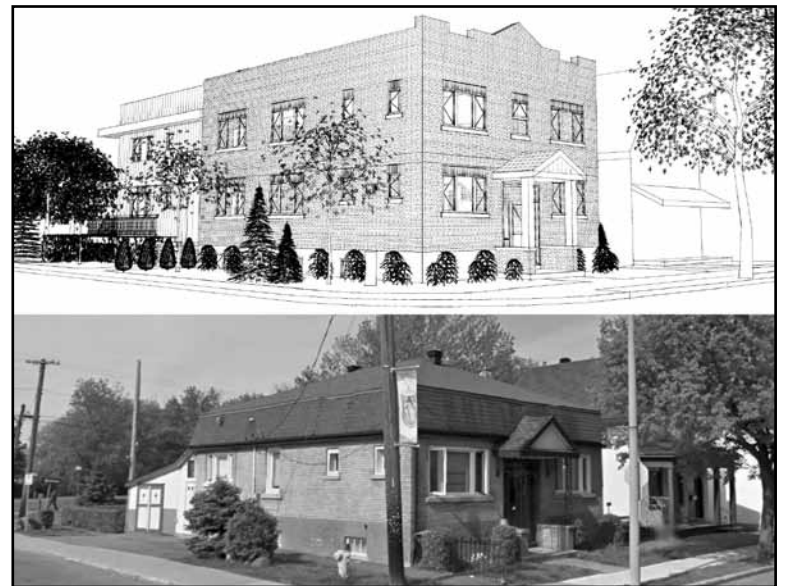
- a) removing an existing roof form that is incongruent with the neighbourhood's architectural typology;
- b) adding a second story with flat roof and parapet typical of neighbourhood buildings, in keeping with the original architectural plans for the property;
- c) limiting the height of the addition to the height indicated by the original building's architectural plans;
- d) limiting the gross floor area of the addition to less than 30 percent of the floor area of the original building's architectural plans;
- e) continuing the neighbourhood tradition of rear yard additions clad in a less noble material (such as wood siding);
- f) subordinating the addition to the originally proposed building by setting the facade of the addition back from the existing building's facade;
- g) limiting the property's vehicular access to an existing asphalt driveway off River Lane;
- g) removing an existing garage door, asphalt driveway and asphalt parking space from the Dufferin Road streetscape that interrupts the established pattern of

front doors (opening onto covered porches, descending to walkways leading to sidewalks) throughout the neighbourhood;

- h) adding a front door, covered porch, walkway, street trees and ground cover to the Dufferin Road streetscape that echoes the established rhythm of the street; and,
- i) retaining the existing mature cedar hedge that screens the existing rear yard (also to be retained) from River Lane and Dufferin Road.

In a letter concerning the project, the President of Heritage Ottawa writes: "A curious and undoubtedly unique situation, indeed! Heritage Ottawa appreciates this innovative approach to enhancing the heritage qualities of a building, and respecting the Heritage Conservation District..."

The heritage permit application for the project required the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Impact Statement (CHIS) by an independent heritage professional. The



205 Crichton's northeast corner, proposed and current.

The proposed project can be viewed as a continuation of the small-scale intensification effort begun in 1945, contributing a contemporary interpretation of New Edinburgh's historic village character to today's urban fabric.

Project Support and Opposition

The proposed project has received support in principle from neighbours on adjoining and adjacent properties, as well as from the City of Ottawa's Heritage Planning staff.

CHIS for 205 Crichton was prepared by Mark Brandt, a registered professional architect, urbanist and conservation consultant with over 30 years of experience. After reviewing the proposed project in great detail, Mr. Brandt concluded that "it is clearly apparent that the proposed alterations to the existing building have significantly more positive impact than negative impact upon the spirit and letter of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District."

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- By Jane Heintzman -

C'est Bon Epicurean Adventures:

The foodies among our readers may have noted the recent debut of **C'est Bon Epicurean Adventures** as a welcome new *NEN* advertiser. Master chef **Andrée Riffou** is the charming and energetic owner of C'est Bon, with stellar credentials in the culinary world as the recipient of Le Grand Diplôme de cuisine et de pâtisserie, the highest accreditation awarded by Le Cordon Bleu Cooking School in Ottawa and Paris. She first launched C'est Bon in 2008, shortly before serving apprenticeships in France and later back in Canada.

Unlike the famously temperamental celebrity chefs who appear to thrive on the intimidation of lesser lights in the kitchen, Andrée's work as a teacher and facilitator of cooking classes is motivated by a genuine love of sharing her own delight in food and food experiences with others, as well as communicating her enthusiasm for home grown, simple cuisine prepared with locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients. While the primary objective of her school is of course to help students master cooking principles and techniques, an equally important aim is to teach them to have fun while they're doing it!

We encourage interested readers with culinary aspirations to check the C'est Bon website for a detailed review

of courses, programs, schedules and rates, but in a nutshell, its ambitious agenda includes:

- **Food Fundamentals**, a six-week program of instruction for Adults, offered at Levels One and Two;
- **Teen Chef**, an intensive five-day program for teenagers aged 15 and over, offering a systematic introduction to the fundamentals of cooking, from the preparation of soups to the basics of cooking eggs, fish, meat, poultry and veggies. The course was offered in both French and English during the March Break this year, and will run again for three weeks in July, so if you happen to have a young family member about to launch into independent living at university in the fall, this could be an ideal way to forestall a wholesale descent into Kraft Dinner dependence (check out the C'est Bon website for course details cestboncooking.ca);
- **Customized Classes**, catering to corporate clients; family reunions; bachelorette parties (a biggie starting this spring); birthdays and anniversaries; book clubs; community events and special occasions of all descriptions. In the case of smaller groups, these sessions can take place in clients' own homes or in C'est Bon's state-of-the-art kitchen facility at **361 Daly Avenue**. For

larger gatherings, Andrée may rent another kitchen in the Convention Centre or in establishments such as the Divino Wine Bar, Grounded Kitchen and Coffee House or The Grange in Cantley. C'est Bon provides one instructor for every five participants, and takes care of all the prep work as well as the clean-up operation. All that's left for the party in question is to cook the meal, with expert guidance from the instructors, and then to relax and enjoy consuming the fruits of their labours;

- **Spousal Gourmet Cooking Classes**, three-hour sessions for the spouses of conference delegates, offered at all skill levels; and
- **Food Walking Tours (May to October)**, guided two-and-a-half-hour rambles through various Ottawa neighbourhoods, with stops at food-related businesses to speak with chefs and owners and often sample their wares. Until the fateful Beechwood Fire of 2011, our own neighbourhood was included among these tours, with scheduled stops at our former locals such as **Bread and Roses Bakery, Epicuria** and **Piccolo Grande**. C'est Bon's current tour roster includes the Glebe, Chinatown, the Byward Market, Preston Street and Eddy Street in Old Gatineau (for details



C'est Bon owner and executive chef, Andrée Riffou.

and schedules for the spring, check out cestboncooking.ca/food-tours.)

We welcome Andrée as a new advertiser, and wish her well in the busy spring and summer season that lies ahead at C'est Bon.

Bread and Roses Bakery: Times Have Been Tough

Despite the tireless efforts of Bread and Roses owner **Chris Green** and his team, the past few months have been a serious struggle for the bakery as the number of regular customers dwindled to a trickle during the winter months, and sales dropped off to unsustainable lows. Chris has been forced to take drastic measures to reduce his costs, cutting three of his staff and trimming expenses to a minimum wherever possible. Bread and Roses' long-time bread-baker Norbert also departed in early February when it became clear that bread sales had plummeted, and overall, times have been very tough.

At one point in late February when the bakery was literally on the brink of closing its doors, we put a call out here in the Burgh urging the community to drop in for a visit and give a boost to slumping sales before it was too late. Bread and Roses has a 25-year history as a much valued fixture in our community, and while it is no longer in the Beechwood core, it remains only a short hop from our neighbourhood at St. Laurent and Hemlock, and continues to offer a wealth of appealing fare from tasty sweet baked goods to breads and tea breads, sandwiches, savoury and sweet pies, granola, oatmeal porridge, pizza slices, and now even home-baked dog biscuits (highly recommended by the canine members of this family).

With Norbert's recent departure after 24 years of baking his signature line of specialty breads, Chris himself has taken over at the ovens and has been trying out some new recipes including oat bran loaf, country white round, egg bread (delicious toasted!), raisin bread and several varieties of sourdough baguettes, including rock salt, fennel poppy seed and orange cranberry. While he greatly regrets the disappointment to those of his clients who depended upon Norbert's familiar breads, he is hopeful that the community will give his new collection a try, and offer their feedback on his efforts.

Thankfully, at last report, our recent alert to the community, combined with slightly more hospitable weather conditions have resulted in a measureable uptick in sales at the bakery, and Chris is currently managing to carry on, though still to some degree on a week to week basis. While the reasons for Bread and Roses' troubles are undoubtedly complex, and include some broader societal trends which are squeezing all small businesses (not least the surging dominance of one-stop mega-stores), it seems clear that its perilous financial situation has resulted from the significant investment required to make the move from Beechwood and retrofitting the new premises at 323 St. Laurent Blvd. Also the impact of a three-month closure during construction and a delayed reopening in late spring last year did not help.

Although its initial sales were excellent as Manor Park responded with enthusiasm to the arrival its first home bakery, the traditional summer slump followed swiftly, leaving barely time for sales to recover in the fall before the early, and

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extraordinarily harsh, winter set in. Compounding the problem was the strangulation of traffic from our neighbourhood along Hemlock as construction reduced this major artery to one lane, creating interminable back-ups and no doubt deterring even the most faithful clients from their regular visits to the bakery.

In short, it was a perfect storm of adverse circumstances which brought this fine business to the brink, and we can only hope that with the arrival of better weather, combined with a heightened aware-

ness in high traffic zones. Needless to say, there is an infinitely wide range in the quality, beauty and market value of these rugs, with some serving simply as well-worn, comfortable fixtures in our homes, while others may be stunning showpieces with a visual impact and appeal equivalent to that of a valuable piece of antique furniture.

In his 30 plus years in the rug business, Manor Park resident **Douglas Mair** has experienced both ends of this spectrum, applying his expertise in rug restoration and repair

between the full cost of a repair (which may be considerable) and the modest market value of a much loved carpet (which may be scarcely more than the true repair cost).

Another important aspect of Douglas' business is appraisal and evaluation. He currently conducts appraisals for numerous major insurance and restoration companies, as well as for individual clients, and makes a point of attempting to educate his clients in this tricky business, supplying tips on what to look for in determining the value and authenticity of a rug. (Some of these tips are posted on his Facebook page, which you'll find linked to his website at orientalrugservices.com.) He is particularly pleased to report that one of his current clients, who had paid an exorbitantly high price for several carpets purchased in Turkey, only one of which ultimately proved upon analysis to be genuine silk, is about to receive a full refund from the vendor on the strength of Douglas' professional evaluation.

Douglas' major project at the moment, as you'll find if you visit his Facebook page chronicling the epic repair process, is the restoration of an immense (10'x20') Armenian-woven Karabagh carpet dating from the late 1600s. The rug reportedly came from an Italian villa and was purchased through Christie's Auction House in London, arriving in Douglas' basement workshop considerably the worse for wear.

Fortunately for the owner,



Photo: Douglas Mair
17th century Armenian Karabagh carpet being restored by Douglas Mair.

Douglas and his Iranian colleague Davoud have precisely the expertise required to restore this masterpiece to its former glory, as well as access to the materials required to properly tackle the job. As luck would have it, Davoud's father (from whom he learned his trade) is a master weaver and dyer in Tabriz who was able to hand weave and vegetable dye the wool needed for the repair to precisely match the samples sent to him from Ottawa.

Davoud is currently working meticulously on the structural restoration of the rug, applying his consummate skill as a weaver at a pace Douglas freely admits he is unable to match, and for which he is infinitely grateful. Douglas' role is in the finishing of the carpet using the hand-spun wool created in Tabriz; and this too is a meticulously painstaking and demanding process which he

estimates will require the better part of two years to bring to completion.

Challenging and exciting though it is, the Karabagh restoration is only one of Douglas' ongoing projects, and he continues to welcome calls and enquiries from those of us in the community who are interested in less heroic but nonetheless important tasks such as routine repairs, fringing, rug hanging, reweaving, proper rug cleaning (including professional washing, pick-up and reinstallation), and appraisals. To request a free consultation, you can reach Douglas at **613-741-7806** or mair@orientalrugservices.com. And if you're a rug fancier, do be sure to check out his website and Facebook page for a good look at the Karabagh project.

Continued on page 12



Photo: Louise Imbeault

NEN Managing Editor Cindy Parkanyi drops in to Bread and Roses Bakery to stock up on yummy baked goods for her hungry family.

ness in the community that "if we don't use it, we'll lose it", Chris will be able to build the bakery back up to a sustainable footing and finally see the fruits of his tireless struggles over the past three years.

Chris and his team would welcome your ideas and suggestions on products you would like to see on the shelves or other changes you might like to see to add to the appeal and convenience of Bread and Roses. Interested readers can drop in to 323 St. Laurent or e-mail your suggestions to info@bandrbakeryottawa.com.

Mair Oriental Rug Services

For most of us, rugs are an important, albeit too frequently neglected, feature of our household décor, providing warmth, colour and texture to our living areas, as well as a practical buffer against wear and tear on our hardwood floors

to everything from small, puppy-chewed rugs of modest monetary value but significant sentimental worth, to the priceless 17th century Armenian Karabagh carpet, which is his current major long-term project. The majority of his clients' jobs lie somewhere in between these two extremes, many of them involving straightforward wear and tear issues requiring a relatively routine restoration or repair.

In most cases, Douglas makes an in home visit to survey the rug(s) in question, and explain to the client the range of available options to address the problem, and their comparative cost. There is no charge for these visits and estimates, and over the years, Douglas has made a point of attempting to keep the cost of repairs within manageable bounds for the client, particularly in cases involving a marked mismatch

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ICL Language Academy

ICL Language Academy (ICL) Managing Director **Antoine Gebeili** has a long-standing connection to our community, both as a former resident and as operator of a business which was originally launched at 6 Beechwood Avenue (above the Bank of Montreal), and recently moved a block down the street to 35 Beechwood, where it currently occupies a spacious 2,000 square foot suite on the third floor of New Edinburgh Square. In his early days in the Burgh, Antoine's children attended St. Brigid School, and while he is no longer a resident, both his mother and his son continue to live in the neighbourhood. Like the rest of us, he is strongly attached to the character, village-like atmosphere and exceptionally convenient location of the community, and looks forward to new life and activity in the area as development along our "Mainstreet" unfolds.

In the early '90s, Antoine began his career in Ottawa as French teacher at the Canada School of Public Service. While he greatly enjoyed his vocation as a teacher, he had acquired an MBA specializing in marketing and management, and developed a serious interest in the business side of the profession, an interest which ultimately led to the establishment of a language school of his own. ICL was launched on Beechwood in 1997, and since its early days, has provided language tutoring services to a clientele of diplomats, individuals and numerous public servants engaged in mandatory language training programs.

Antoine's many contracts with the federal government led to the opening of an ICL office in the downtown core

for the convenience of his public service clients. The downtown campus was initially located on Sparks Street, but later moved to 85 Albert Street where it operated until the end of February when it was closed down to consolidate ICL operations at the Beechwood location.

Here in the Burgh, ICL's third floor office space at 35 Beechwood now includes six classrooms; a large conference room; a reception area, kitchen and bathroom; a resource centre, and Antoine's own private office. He is delighted with the new premises and the easy access to parking in the area, and looks forward to an increasing engagement with the New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence, the management of which has reportedly been extremely welcoming and accommodating since his arrival last spring.

In addition to its small group and one-on-one coaching sessions in the French language, ICL offers private tutoring in Spanish, German, Russian, Mandarin, Arabic and Italian, as well as one-on-one tutoring and coaching for high school and university students. Courses are custom-designed to meet the specific language proficiency objectives of clients, be they engineers, scientists, lawyers, public servants, diplomats or simply ordinary individuals who are keen to enrich their cultural and social lives, as well as sharpen their intellects, by learning a second language.

A new offering at ICL is ESL training for foreign students, many of whom need additional help to boost their language skills to the level required to master their university studies. These ESL programs may also include a homestay with a

local family as well as student activities and trips.

Antoine emphasizes that with the sole exception of La Cité Collégiale, ICL is the only language school in the eastern portion of Ottawa, and our community has the good fortune of having it right on our doorstep! The Academy caters to clients with all manner of work schedules, offering private- and semi-private lessons from Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8:30 pm, and Saturday to 5 pm.

For more information about courses and rates, interested readers can check out the website at iclacademia.com or contact the school at 613-233-8360 or by e-mail at info@iclacademia.com.

Rent-A-Wife Household Organizers

For close to three decades, **Laurel Blackman's** home cleaning and organizing business, **Rent-A-Wife**, has offered its valuable services to clients throughout the city, including many in our community where Laurel has been a faithful *NEN* advertiser for many years. For readers who aren't familiar with this long-running operation, Rent-A-Wife's comprehensive catalogue of services includes:

- regular weekly, bi-weekly or monthly cleaning;
- one-time occasional visits;
- spring and fall top-to-bottom cleaning when the regular routine of dusting, vacuuming and bathroom sanitizing is expanded to include appliances, closets, cupboards, walls, windows, carpets and furniture;
- pre- and post-move cleaning;
- post-renovation cleaning;
- carpets and upholstery; and
- organization services such



Photo: Courtesy of Rent-a-Wife

Rent-a-Wife owner Laurel Blackman.


as de-cluttering, household inventory, preparations for downsizing and "hoarding management" (now we're talking!)

The story of Laurel's early days launching Rent-A-Wife in 1987 has a dominant theme of persuasive parental influence, as well as a direct connection to New Edinburgh. In 1980, her mother had started a Rent-A-Wife operation in Toronto after moving east from B.C. So when Laurel found herself at loose ends and undecided about her career prospects, she was informed by her mother that an apartment had been rented for her in Ottawa and an ad for the cleaning business placed in a local paper. All that remained was for her to get on with it, and attempt to make a go of a new Ottawa-based Rent-A-Wife service- which, of course, she did, with considerable success.

As it turned out, New Edinburgh's Vicky Henry was the landlady of the apartment rented for Laurel on St. Patrick Street, and for her first seven years in Ottawa, she operated her cleaning service from these modest digs. Her first major break in ramping up the business came when she was taken on by a Fire Restoration company to clean up houses and buildings damaged by fire. She earned her spurs in this chal-

lenging realm, and for the next 15 years, continued to provide post-fire services before branching out to focus on her current specialties such as pre- and post-sale cleaning and de-cluttering; post-renovation cleaning; Spring Cleaning and regularly scheduled weekly, bi-weekly or monthly visits. She works closely with many of our local realtors who refer their clients to Rent-A-Wife to ensure that homes are beautified in preparation for sale, and takes pride in being able to achieve the particularly high standards demanded in this aspect of the business.

Laurel's carefully selected Rent-A-Wife team of about 10 cleaners is trained to keep an eagle eye out for chores that need to be attended to, operating on the basis of the general rule of thumb, "when in doubt, deal with it!" For the past 14 years, she has also worked with a contractor who assists with de-cluttering and basement cleaning operations, removing garbage and discarded debris from the site. In the decade ahead, she anticipates with good reason that seniors' downsizing operations will become an increasingly important aspect of Rent-A-Wife's business, and looks forward to being able to help with what is often a difficult and even painful process. She was, she has



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Angela Zorn

concluded, “born to help!”

Pet Sitting: Readers who are pet owners should take note that Laurel has just added another service to her line-up. She now offers pet-sitting for her clients over periods of up to a week, confessing that she is particularly a cat person, but is also open to looking after the canine set. Interested readers can reach Laurel at **613-749-2249** or check out the Rent-A-Wife website for details on rates and services: rent-a-wife-ottawa.com.

New Edinburgh Pharmacy: Farewell to Rexall House Brand, Usher in Atoma and Diem

In this age of astonishingly high prices for what we regard as the necessities of life, many of us have come to rely on the house brands in supermarkets and pharmacies, which offer comparable (in some cases identical) products at considerably lower prices than heavily marketed name brands. In the case of our **New Edinburgh Pharmacy**, Rexall products have traditionally filled this role, but as readers may have noted, this familiar label is currently being phased out at the pharmacy, and will now be available exclusively at Rexall stores. Our pharmacy has recently switched from

the Guardian to the Medicine Shoppe (Canada) banner, and taking the place of the Rexall brand are two new private labels, **Atoma** and **Diem**, whose logos are shown with this column.

Marla Tonon reports that the Atoma line includes all of our routine, everyday requirements



in the realm of hygiene and health, and like its predecessor Rexall, offers high quality products at significantly discounted prices. The Diem brand derives its name from the time-honoured adage “*carpe diem*” or “seize the day,” an enduring legacy of the Latin poet Horace which continues to have resonance (for better and worse!) in the 21st Century. In the pharmaceutical context, the Diem label applies to a line of premium vitamins, minerals and supplements, and is intended to inspire shoppers to take a proactive role in maintaining their own health by supporting their immune systems, warding off the effects of aging, and man-

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

aging chronic conditions.

But the new in-house labels are not all that’s new at the pharmacy. Marla is delighted to report that her brother, pharmacist **Matthew Tonon** has recently become engaged to his girlfriend **Hannah**, a fellow graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston. Hannah is currently working as a pharmacist in New Jersey, but the Tonons are looking forward to welcoming her to Ottawa where she will no doubt join the growing family team at our New Edinburgh Pharmacy. Congratulations to all!

Adding to the excitement in the Tonon family this spring was a memorable first-time trip to Italy, which Marla and her husband **Andre Cloutier** (owner of Arturo’s and El Meson restaurants) embarked on in late February, and which included visits to Rome, Venice, Florence and Bologna. Undoubtedly the patrons of **Arturo’s** can look forward to some interesting additions to the menu inspired by this exciting tour!

Stephan Hair Design and Esthetics

We wish a warm welcome to new advertisers **Anne Émond-Boudreau** and **Philippe Bédard**, co-owners of **Stephan**

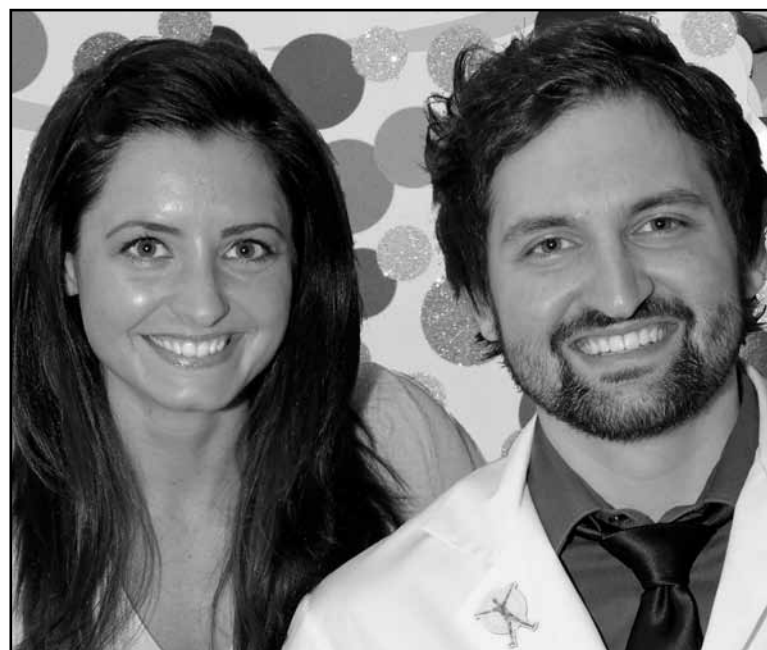


Photo: Louise Imbeault

New Edinburgh Pharmacy’s dynamic brother-sister duo—Marla and Matt Tonon.

Hair Design and Esthetics at 160 Chapel Street (at Rideau). As many of our readers who are faithful clients of Stephan’s are well aware, this highly regarded salon has operated in Sandy Hill for more than four decades, and over the years has acquired a distinguished clientele, including members of Parliament, senators (the legislator variety), retired judges and even former prime ministers.

Anne and Philippe took over

as co-owners two years ago, and both are seasoned stylists with over 30 years of experience in the business. They currently work with seven other stylists, employing top-of-the-line *Wella Koleston Perfect* products in their hair colouring operations. The salon also boasts two experienced estheticians who offer services ranging from skin care and facials—featuring the legendary Paris-based *Sothys* product

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Continued from page 13

line—to manicures, pedicures, waxing and massage.

Stephan's has a substantial regular clientele, many of them from Rockcliffe and New Edinburgh (which, incidentally, is within walking distance of the salon at Rideau and Chapel), and over the years has built its stellar reputation entirely by word of mouth. Indeed, the *NEN* is delighted to serve as the salon's first advertising vehicle in many years, and we hope to be help-

ful in getting the word out about its high quality services. According to Philippe, their clientele represents a cross section of age groups of both women and men, and in some cases, encompasses several generations within a family, with daughters and granddaughters maintaining the family tradition as patrons of Stephan's. Needless to say, the salon is a completely bilingual environment, serving a mix of both French- and English-speaking clients.

Anne and Philippe are particularly proud of their elegant, spacious (1,600 square

foot) quarters at Chapel and Rideau, which are spotlessly clean and bright, with a wall of windows facing on to Chapel. Philippe stresses that while the salon is far from snobbish or pretentious, he and Anne take pride in offering an attractive, welcoming space where clients can thoroughly enjoy their hour or two of beautification.

While as stylists, Anne and Philippe make an effort to keep up to date with trends and techniques in the business, frequently attending courses in



Stephan Hair Salon co-owners Anne Émond-Boudreau and Philippe Bédard.

spring and fall, their primary objective is to cater to the requirements and preferences of each individual client, ensuring that colour and style are well-suited to facial features and body type. Above all, they aim to ensure that their clients leave the salon feeling buoyed up and good about themselves, and judging by the numbers of their repeat customers, they must, as Philippe observes, "be doing something right!"

Interested readers can get in touch with the salon at 613-789-5700, and if all goes as planned, their website at stephanhairdesign.com will

soon be up and running.

Place for Paws: A Day in the Life of the Canine Camper

Exactly a year ago, we introduced **Angela Zorn** as the new owner/operator of **Place for Paws**, our community's immensely popular boarding camp for cats and dogs, which was originally launched 16 years ago by previous owner (now in comfortable retirement), **Margo Ledoux**. Angela was, of course, a veteran of Place for Paws, having been on the scene for 12 years as a capable and trusted assistant to Margo before she purchased the business in early 2013. As she promised at the time of the purchase, Angela has since stuck scrupulously to the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" formula in operating the kennel, and the transition has been comfortably seamless.

Catering to the needs and quirks of her evolving community of pampered canine and feline campers (or perhaps more accurately, of their adoring owners...) is no small feat. Indeed, it's a task that requires an exceptionally high degree of organizational skill, energy, patience and endurance, and fortunately for all of us who are regular clients, Angela has all of these qualities in spades. If you've ever wondered precisely how your beloved canine companion spends his or her days as a camper at Place for Paws, here's the routine:

A Day in the Life at Place for Paws

7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.: Outdoors for an early morning group play in the paddock (weather permitting), with Angela supervising the action

8 am: Breakfast.

8:30 - 11 am: Small pre-selected groups go back out-



Outdoor playtime at Place for Paws.

Photo: Josée Meloche

doors to play on a rotating basis while Angela cleans their kennels (group selections aim to ensure that compatibles go out together, small with small, large with large, etc.).

11 am: Another supervised group play in the paddock, with Angela serving as coach and referee for games of ball, Frisbee and tag.

11:30 am: Treats (or lunch, for those three-meal-a-day types), followed by nap time.

3 pm: Back outdoors for another supervised group play.

5 pm: Supper time.

6 pm: Yet another supervised group play to work off that sumptuous supper.

9 - 10 pm: Final outdoor play before bedtime.

Needless to say, this heaven sent schedule for the dogs involves a rigorous daily routine for Angela, along with her part-time assistant **Josée**, but the good news is that she genuinely enjoys her canine clients, and appears to take real pleasure in their antics and distinctive characters.

Book Your Canine Camper In Now!

As the warm weather approaches, many of us are busily planning holiday travels, but perhaps not attending as swiftly as we should to a top priority: the welfare of our pets while we're away. If you have a trip on the horizon, particularly if it's one that coincides with a long weekend or a statutory holiday, NOW is the time to give Angela a call at 613-446-2280 to book

in your dog(s) or cat, and give yourself the peace of mind that comes with being able to leave your beloved in trusted hands, and in an environment so full of fun and interest. Angela's **Pick Up and Delivery Service** still operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings if your travel day is short on time for a trip to Clarence Creek. We wish Angela and her charges a wonderful spring and summer season.

Beauty Mark Esthetics: Spring Rejuvenation for the Salon and the Clients

Beauty Mark Esthetics is a longstanding advertiser in the *NEN*, and a well-known business in our community, where for many years it has operated successfully in a bright salon at 2 Beechwood Avenue at the Vanier Parkway. Beauty Mark offers a full range of esthetics services from facials and skin care, featuring the Eminence Organic product line, to massage; hair removal treatments, including waxing, electrolysis and most recently, the technique of threading; manicures and pedicures, and spa packages for clients in search of a luxurious day of rejuvenation and relaxation. You can check out all the details on Beauty Mark's new updated website at beautymarkesthetics.ca, and visit the online store to browse their collection of Eminence skin care products and make your purchase online.

Beauty Mark owner **Lee-Ann Zanelli** reports that this



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spring will be a time of rejuvenation, not only for clients receiving refreshing facials, but also for the salon itself. In early March, the entire shop is to be given a new paint job, the first in seven years, and in Lee-Ann's estimation, a timely touch up with the arrival of spring and warmer weather. In mid-March, the salon offered eye lash extension training, an increasingly popular service with busy professionals who

aged to avoid it altogether, Beauty Mark esthetician **Olga Konkolewski** offers the user-friendly alternative of *threading* to remove unwanted hair, a technique that has long been popular with Middle Eastern cultures and has recently been gaining currency in North America.

High on the list of esthetics priorities for the majority of clients are manicures and pedicures, and Beauty Mark's

made the bold move of taking over the shop next door to her original restaurant to create more space for sushi lovers, as well as room for a new sake bar. As she anticipated when she launched the project last spring, the expansion/renovation process proved to be a somewhat lengthy undertaking, but with the completion of the interior fit up combined with the receipt of a liquor license for the new site in late 2013, she is hopeful that the restaurant will come into its own in the warmer months ahead.

Sue now works with four chefs and three servers providing an extensive sushi menu, along with a range of traditional Japanese and Korean dishes, and this spring, she



Photo: Louise Imbeault
(l to r) Hostess Soo Jin with Sushi Chef Ian and SushiMe owner Sue Jung.

plans to update the menu to include more small plates to complement the popular sake bar, as well as an expanded

wine list. She notes that while in the restaurant's early days, the SushiMe clientele came

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Photo: Louise Imbeault
Beauty Mark's Esthetics staff member, Olga, receives a soothing facial from owner Lee-ann Zanelli.

haven't the time or inclination to fuss with make up to perfect their lashes. According to Lee-Ann, the initial set lasts for a full four to six weeks, and thereafter, it's simply a matter of receiving touch ups as needed.

In April, Beauty Mark will feature Eminence Organic Skin Care's new Arctic Berry Peel and Peptide Illuminating System as its Facial of the Month. The product is intended to target aging skin, hyperpigmentation (aka the dreaded brown spots), sensitive and acne prone skin, and given the stellar track record of the Eminence products used at the salon over the past five years, Lee-Ann is looking forward to great success with this new arrival on the facial care scene.

For clients who are less than keen on waxing, or for health reasons may be encour-

four estheticians are well trained and equipped to offer the full gamut of nail care options from simple cut and file to stunning shellac french manicures and pedicures. If your time is at a premium, you may want to consider the express manicure/pedicure, or check the website at beautymarkesthetics.ca to review all the options and their price range.

SushiMe: Renovation/Expansion Project is Complete

Sue Jung, the owner/manager of **SushiMe Restaurant and Sake Bar** at 8 Beechwood Avenue, reports that her ambitious expansion project is now fully completed, and SushiMe's spacious new 1,500 square foot premises are fully equipped to receive up to 66 diners. As we reported last spring, Sue

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Continued from page 15

from areas throughout the city, in recent months her regulars are predominantly from the Burgh and surrounding communities, many of them taking advantage of the convenience of tasty Take-Out meals, while others prefer to savour their Asian feast in a booth or at a banquet table in the restaurant, while sipping a genmaicha tea or a refreshing sake. You can order takeout at 613-741-4777 and check out their menu online at sushimeottawa.com.

Burgh Business Bits**The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence**

Despite the rigours of a long, harsh winter, there has been no shortage of activity at **The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence** in recent months. The spring promises to be even busier. On a frosty Sunday morning in late January, a group of intrep-

id staff from the residence, including Executive Director **Linda Meek** and Marketing Director **Catherine Strevens-Bourque**, participated in the Alzheimer Society's fundraising "Walk for Memories", an event which was sponsored by the Rockcliffe. Residents were invited to "Choose the Shoes" worn by the participants, and the honours went to Linda Meek who completed the walk in leopard print high heels (OUCH!).

Lieutenant General Andrew Leslie, whose legendary grandfather General Andrew McNaughton was Chief of General Staff in World War II and undoubtedly a familiar figure to many of the Rockcliffe's residents, visited the residence this winter to share his thoughts on recent changes in the Canadian Armed Forces.

As in past years, The Rockcliffe is once again an enthusiastic sponsor of the **Music and Beyond Festival**

coming up this July, and both residents and staff are greatly looking forward to a visit in late April from festival director and talented cellist, **Julian Armour**. Preparations are also underway for The Rockcliffe's annual **Art Show on May 30, 31, and June 1**, which will feature the Ottawa Garden Club.

Epicuria: Expansion Plans!

Epicuria owner **Tracey Black** reports that her catering and gourmet food business is on the point of expanding into the premises next door to its current location, a space formerly occupied by **Tao Crystals and Healing Centre**, which closed its doors at the end of February. We'll bring you more details about the expansion in our next edition in June, but at the moment plans include employing the additional space for storage and office use, as well as an enlarged catering department. Epicuria clients should mark their calendars for **Wednesday, April 23, 4:30-6:30 pm**, when the store will participate in the annual *Taste for Life* fundraiser in support of Snowy Owl AIDS foundation and Bruce House. Twenty-five percent of take-out sales on the day of the event will be directed to these enterprises, so be sure to drop by and treat yourself to some tasty meals while helping out a worthy cause.



Photo: Courtesy of The Rockcliffe
Alzheimer Society's Fundraising Walk for Memories: participants from The Rockcliffe are Linda Meek, Lorna Walli, Catherine Strevens-Bourque and Jennifer Milligan.

The Handmade Bride Hosts Ottawa's Indie Wedding Show, April 19, 2014

Meaghan Brunetti, owner of **The Handmade Bride** at 292 MacKay Street (profiled in our December 2013 edition), will serve as Show Curator at the upcoming Indie Wedding Show: "Love, Handmade", a major new event on the indie wedding circuit that will take place on **Saturday, April 19, 11 am to 4 pm, at Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road**.

According to Meaghan, the show is pitched to "alternative brides and grooms looking to customize their weddings through unique and personal details," and will feature a curated collection of products from independent designers and artisans, with a particular emphasis on handmade, local, sustainably created goods from such vendors as the Hearty Bakery, La Mariée Bohème and Everlovin' Press. Tickets for the show are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Interested readers can call Meaghan at **613-355-2540** or check out handmadebride.ca for details or to purchase tickets online.

Bride Ideas: The Ultimate Wedding Showcase, April 26, 2014

A week following the bridal show at Memorial Hall, the

Vanier BIA is hosting **Bride Ideas: The Ultimate Wedding Showcase on Saturday, April 26, from 7 to 10 pm at the Wabano Centre, 299 Montreal Road**. Our own **Kimberley Wilson**, of **Kimberley Wilson Bridal and Fashion Outlet** at 77 Beechwood, along with **Celadon Salon and Spa**, will participate in the event, which features bridal fashions, food, flowers and all the accoutrements of the perfect wedding. For information and tickets check out vanierbia.com.

Pink Diamond Affair Closes on Beechwood:

We regret to report that the premises at **90 Beechwood** are once again empty after **Pink Diamond Affair** closed its doors in early February following an all too brief six months in operation in our community. While we have been unable to contact owners **Elissia** and **Norvinda Medeiros**, it would appear that the destination wedding/travel business has folded altogether as the website has been dismantled, and no contact information was left at the store at the time of their departure. We wish them well whatever their new ventures may be, and can only hope that it won't be long before another new business is installed at 90 Beechwood.

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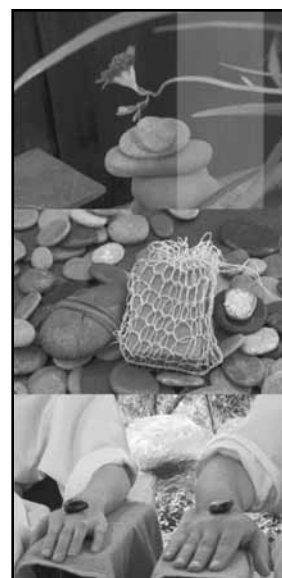
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By Cathy McConkey

What a winter we have had! We are enjoying another great rink season, and thanks to the hard work of **Bruce Sherry** we were able to open the rinks for skating on December 14. It was a spectacular start considering that we usually start making ice only around the 20th. The weather has been with us—for skating, that is. Up through early March we've been closed for only eight days. Thanks to the rink attendants **Aidan, Andreas, Jack, Jonathan, Martina, Matt and Will**. It's been a cold, long

winter, the skaters are loving it and we're making the most of it! Attendance is strong and much appreciated by the hosers. Thanks to the great work of the **New Edinburgh Hosers**, once again we have one of the **best ice rinks** in town.

Hockey Day in New Edinburgh

Organized by **Debra Connor** (who did a GREAT job), the Council's second annual **Hockey Day in New Edinburgh**, which took place on February 8, was another opportunity to come out and

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

enjoy the game of hockey in our community. We had a beautiful day and a good turnout of hockey players, big and small, to participate in the skills competition, play shinny, guess the number of jelly beans in the Zamboni and win a chance for a Karlssen jersey. Congratulations to the winners of the skills competi-



Photo: Steve Grabner
Hockey Day in New Edinburgh - Hockey players lined up to take their turn in the Shoot to Win competition.

tions: Tru for Shoot to Win; Sam M and Connor for Zig-Zag Speed; Ross, Washington and Kieran for Puck Control; Ross for Elimination Shoot-out and Sam G for Hardest Shot. Congratulations also to Jerry Turchyn, the winner of the Karlssen jersey and Lachlan Kerr, who guessed the exact number of jelly beans (816). As usual, this event wouldn't have succeeded without the help of many volunteers: Sue Hall for running the skills competition along with her on-ice crew: Greg, Dana, Jen as the referee and Andrew as the goalie; Cathy McConkey for organizing the jelly bean contest and raffle; Denise Belanger for helping with the sale of hot dogs and tickets; Caroline Matt and Paula Pincombe for serving up the hot dogs and hot chocolate, Jerry Turchyn for handling the sound system and music; and Michel Giroux, Aiden and the crew of hosers for keeping the rinks in perfect condition. Grateful thanks also to the City of Ottawa for the loan of the equipment for the skills competition and the donation of prizes, and to the New Edinburgh Pub for donating the hot dogs and hot chocolate.

New Edinburgh Community Forum

New Edinburgh's three community groups—NECA, the CCC and NECTAR—all in collaboration, are hosting a community forum on **Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 5 pm** at

Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road at Avon Lane. The forum will provide the neighbourhood with a chance to say what they want New Edinburgh to look like in the future. Some of the issues/topics to be covered will include the Beechwood Avenue commercial development, Stanley Park, the NCC (including access to the falls and the pavilion), development and architectural preservation, as well as the environmental and cultural landscape of our community. Another question that will be explored is what do community members want the neighbourhood community associations to focus their attention and programming on.

As a reminder, there is a municipal election this year and so the forum is particularly timely. It will provide residents and neighbours an opportunity to let those running for council hear the concerns and interests of our community. Please join us for a discussion and get engaged in your community; help us plan for the future



Photo: Steve Grabner
Hockey Day in New Edinburgh - Lachlan Kerr, winner of the jelly bean contest.

would like to be a volunteer at an event 'on the ground' we have a place for you too. Or if you have a wish list for events that you would like to see happen, please contact us and we can discuss them. We can be contacted at nfieldhouse@gmail.com. We meet on the second Monday of the month at the Fieldhouse at 7:30 pm.



Photo: David Rostenne
Master Hoser Bruce Sherry at work on the Stanley Park rink.

together.

New Edinburgh Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 10, from 8 am to 4 pm, we are hosting the New Edinburgh Annual Plant Sale. As always it will happen at the Fieldhouse, 193 Stanley Ave. The flower baskets will be beautifully refreshing at this time of year and make a great gift for Mother's Day. Once again by special request we will have tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, lettuce starter packs and herbs, all local, all fresh, and all supplied by Ferme Lève-Tôt. Thank you to Mary Grainger for organizing this great event each year.

Volunteering

How about volunteering with the CCC? If you have any experience in organizing events, are family oriented, we have a place for you. If you

Come and see us; we are very friendly!!

Fieldhouse Rental

The Fieldhouse will be available for rent starting May 1 for your next birthday party or family event. Contact nfieldhouse@gmail.com for more information.

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Travel Tales from the Burgh

Many of us in New Edinburgh and the surrounding area have dogs, and perhaps travel with our dogs. My wheaten terrier Ceilidh has become a seasoned traveller; but here I've written about her first big trip, as a one-year-old. I think we—Ceilidh, my husband and I—learned a lot about each other while crossing this big country.

Please let me know about your own adventures. I'd be happy to work with you to shape your memories for publication. You can get in touch with me at 46metcalfe@sympatico.ca or by phone at 613-747-0714.

Travels With Ceilidh

By Vicki Metcalfe

With apologies to John Steinbeck: In 2003, my late husband and I travelled across the country by car with our dog Ceilidh (pronounced *Kay-lee*). At the time, she was only a year old and I marvel now at our bravery.

We started on the first day of August with a stop at a B&B near Sudbury where our hosts had recently lost their dog and were delighted to have ours to fuss over. The next stop was Wawa, where Ceilidh experienced her first swim of the trip and we experienced mosquitoes in great numbers. Near Thunder Bay we stayed on a farm where Dennis discovered Saskatoon berry bushes, (taking him back to his Saskatchewan roots) and Ceilidh discovered the glories of cow patties, much to our horror. She was clearly ready to go home—she didn't want to return to the farmhouse for the night, but instead sat expectantly next to the car. If only she knew there were weeks still to come.

The next night was in a modern three-storey motel in Minnesota that smelled of chemical cleaning products. I hated it and so did Ceilidh. She refused to stay on the floor and we broke the rule to let her sleep on the second bed. A lack of dog-friendly accommodation on our way through Manitoba left us at a dreary motel in Souris for \$49.50—you get what you pay for.

Continuing across the Prairies, we had great excitement in Eastend, Sask. A storm started to build and we had never seen skies so black. Fire trucks raced off to a grass fire started by the lightning. At dinner, everybody in the restaurant rushed to the windows when we heard the sound of hail with the storm finally breaking. We returned to our seats but then everyone realized at once that the big new noise was from a wall of water and hail inside the restaurant.

Ceilidh did not appreciate the dry grassland around Eastend, and for the first time in her short life refused to walk. On to the Cypress Hills. My Ontario soul yearned for pine trees and

lakes as much as Ceilidh did and we hoped for two nights in one spot. Full up. As we were waiting at the gate, though, a giant trailer backed up into our car. The driver got tired of waiting in our line and decided to change lanes. Of course he couldn't see our car, much narrower than his beast of a trailer.

Dennis dealt with the police, and then it was off to Maple Creek and a body shop where the worker did a quick fix with a crowbar. It was hot. No pines or sparkling lake in sight. Free repair though, and he gave us directions to a more permanent fix. It was true Prairie friendliness of the kind we encountered so many times.

Having zoomed to Medicine Hat on the Trans-Canada at 120 Km/h an hour, we had the radiator and air conditioner fixed by a man who had dire warnings about any speed over 40 Km/h. Then it was around the corner to another body shop where two men reshaped the hood using a sledgehammer, a block of wood, and their hands. They too refused payment.

In Fernie B.C., we had excellent Chinese food—one of the best meals on the trip—and the restaurant allowed us to have Ceilidh on the patio with us. The next stop was the Blackberry Mountain Lodge near Golden, owned by an German couple. We learned

two things about our dog: first, that she was frightened by horses and second, that she barked non-stop when left in our cabin. The second night we tied her to a young tree within sight of our table, but she pulled the tree out of its planting. Neither behaviour endeared us to the owners.

The Columbia Icefields Parkway gave us lots of opportunity for short hikes, and Ceilidh discovered bear scat. Unlike with the savoury cow patty, she shied away from the bear's leavings and refused to continue on that particular path. Smart dog.

The next few days were spent with friends at their farm outside Prince George, B.C. When we arrived, Jezebel, the resident Chesapeake Bay retriever, ran at Ceilidh in a threatening way. Ceilidh was cowed at first, and then went for Jezebel's neck with gusto.

Ceilidh learned to be a farm dog: to bark at cars in the laneway, to roam the fields and explore at will, and to trot along on our horseback rides. Jezebel chased sticks in the fast current of the river; Ceilidh tried once and thereafter stuck to paddling along the shore. It didn't take her long to find the swampy pond, which she preferred to the river, but most often she followed Jezebel's lead.

At the farm, animals aren't allowed in the house and Ceilidh had to sleep in the garage with Jezebel, but she

adapted after looking at us pathetically the first day. We settled into lovely rhythms of riding the horses and gardening and enjoying drinks on the deck, with a little white-water canoeing thrown in. Dennis stripped the last of the peas for freezing; we picked raspberries and made 15 jars of jam. On a previous visit, I noted that everything we had at dinner, with the exception of wine and butter, had been grown, shot or caught by our friends. What a life.

We then left for five days in Seattle, where Dennis had a conference—*sans* Ceilidh. We weren't sure she even noticed we were missing, but she and Jezebel both suffered days of depression after we left the farm to continue our journey. They had become best buddies.

From Prince George, we headed to Kamloops and on to Kelowna, seeing spot fires along the way. We saw the Okanagan Mountain Fire that was to destroy more than 250 houses in the next few days. Staying at the vacation house of Edmonton friends, we weren't entirely comfortable: smoke in the air, windows kept closed against the ash, too hot to walk Ceilidh. We stayed a couple of days and left only hours before the evacuation notice.

We went on to Enderby, a small town in the Okanagan where my father had spent his childhood, and spent time in the local history museum. They had records of the Metcalfe property so we took Ceilidh through the long grasses to explore where the ranch house had been and admire the famous cliffs.

The fires at this point dictated our route and we went north again to Revelstoke where we stayed happily for two nights. We couldn't escape the smell

of the smoke, but all three of us enjoyed canoeing Lake Revelstoke and swimming in its frigid waters.

By now we'd been on the road for 25 days and were beginning to weary of it. It was back from Revelstoke and then on to Calgary, Swift Current, Regina and Katepwa Lake where Dennis had spent childhood summers. The Qu'Appelle Valley truly is extraordinary. Driving through the flattest prairie imaginable, and suddenly you dip into a lush green valley. We climbed



the hills with Ceilidh to admire the views and then headed home. Thirty days on the road.

What did we learn about travelling with our puppy? Firstly, that she's an accommodating and joyful soul, but she does have her limits—no walking the dry prairie for this one! Secondly, that she has separation anxiety and would rather stay in the car if she's not with us, because the car is home. Thirdly, even a non-barking dog will bark when left alone. And finally, that it's sometimes hard to get good accommodation when travelling with a pet, even though we were flexible about B&B, motel, hotel or mountain cabin. We're lucky to have such a great dog and never regretted taking her on that trip.

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For the Birds



By Jane Heintzman

As I write in mid-March, our area remains firmly in the clutches of a long, harsh winter, and there are still few signs of the spring migration which (we hope) will soon usher in waves of returning song birds to go about their annual breeding rituals and begin the process of producing the next generation. There are, nonetheless, some hopeful signs among the overwintering bird population, with **black-capped chickadees**, **house finches**, **Northern cardinals** and **pileated-, downy- and hairy woodpeckers** responding to the lengthening daylight hours by regaling us with their familiar mating songs and—in the case of the woodpeckers—their sonorous drumming activity to stake out breeding territory. *Ottawa Citizen* birding expert **Bruce Di Labio** also reports having observed **common ravens** engaging in the spectacular aerobatics that is a highlight of their spring mating ritual, and has noted the

start of a pairing off process in the **American crow** and **red-tailed hawk** populations.

Birding blogger **Mike Burrell**, “the Nomadic Naturalist”, has developed an interesting methodology by means of which to calculate the approximate spring arrival dates for song birds returning to Ontario. You can check out the list at mikeburrell.blogspot.ca/2012/04/guide-to-spring-arrival-dates-in.html. According to Mike’s analysis, some of the earliest arrivals to which we can look forward in the coming weeks are **red-winged blackbirds**, **turkey vultures**, **song sparrows**, **eastern bluebirds**, **golden-crowned kinglets**, **great blue herons**, **rusty blackbirds**, **Northern flickers**, **eastern phoebes**, **brown creepers**, **fox sparrows**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **common grackles**, **field sparrows**, **sharp-shinned** and **Coopers hawks** (many of which stayed with us this winter to feast on the populations at our feeders), **purple finches**, **pine warblers** and **ruby-crowned kinglets**. It’s definitely time to get our field guides and binoculars ready for action!

Migration Highways: Heavy Traffic on the Atlantic Flyway



American Robin.

Photo: Sami Zeitouni

While at the time of writing it remains comparatively quiet in our neck of the woods, it’s a safe bet that the more southerly portions of the Atlantic Flyway, which is the chosen highway of the song birds returning to our region, is filled with colourful species engaged in the epic spring journey back to their breeding grounds, travelling at speeds that have been found to exceed those recorded on the flight south in the fall, and that range from 15 to 50 mph. Our regular birding reporter **Vicki Metcalfe** is once again spending the early spring on Jekyll Island, Georgia, a prime birding location right on the Atlantic Flyway, where each year she logs an enviably long and varied list of species passing through the area, or stopping for a restorative break to replenish their resources for the remainder the journey. (See her report below.)

The Atlantic Flyway is the most easterly of the four major North American migration routes, extending from the Arctic Circle down the Atlantic coast as far as the Caribbean. Typically the major flyways are rich in undeveloped habitats with ample and accessible food and water sources, as well as sheltered resting places for migratory flocks. Interestingly enough, New York City (though scarcely “undeveloped”) is right on the flyway, and in both spring and fall, millions of birds pass through the Big Apple, with hundreds of species stopping over in Central Park in what has come to be called the “Central Park Effect”. At least 200 species have been recorded in the park, 26 of which are found exclusively in the green roof habitats which are an increasingly prominent feature of the area.

As we look forward to the return of our familiar song bird population when the weath-

er warms up and the snow recedes, many of us may be at risk of taking for granted this welcome annual influx without giving much thought to the absolutely miraculous process which brought the migrants safely back here.

Not only do these tiny creatures martial the resources to fly heroic distances of up to 600 miles per day, vast numbers of them successfully navigate the route back to their breeding grounds by using the position of the sun and stars, along with landforms and geographic features such as rivers, coastlines, and mountain ranges as directional guides to keep them on course. Many species also have special chemicals or compounds in their brains, eyes or bills that allow them to sense the earth’s magnetic field, effectively serving as a built-in GPS system. And travelling in migratory flocks has the additional advantage that young birds can learn the routes from their more seasoned parents, committing the landmarks to memory for the years to come.

As we’ve noted in previous April columns, these intrepid migrants are confronted with innumerable hazards along the route north, including violent storms, collisions with buildings and tall structures, light pollution in cities, which can throw off their navigation systems, and perhaps of greatest importance, habitat loss as a consequence of clear cutting, commercial agriculture, urban encroachment or other human activity.

Climate Change: A New and Growing Threat to Avian Migrants

The timetable for the spring migration process is surprisingly finely calibrated. In scheduling their departure from their winter habitat, these diminutive “bird brains” must

somehow manage to calculate the time required to complete the return flight; attract and acquire a mate; stake out a territory; prepare a nest, and produce a brood while food supplies are sufficiently abundant on their breeding grounds.

Complicating these calculations in recent years has been the impact of climate change, both on flight conditions, which may be rendered hazardous by increasingly violent storms, droughts and turbulent weather, and on the conditions in their habitats along the route as well as on their breeding grounds, where the re-emergence of the plants and insects on which they depend may be out of sync with the light-related cues that trigger migration.

Studies have shown that many species are shifting their breeding ranges north with the advance of warming temperatures. In some cases, these new ranges are ill-suited to the requirements of the breeding birds due to human development or natural geographic features such as large bodies of water. The more northerly ranges may also lack the food supplies and nesting materials needed by the breeding pairs, and can present new hazards such as parasites and unfamiliar predators or competitors. Arctic birds are among the migratory species that are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, as large expanses of their habitat, including tundra and sea ice, are lost as a consequence of global warming. Readers will find an interesting Nature Canada analysis of the climate change impact at naturecanada.ca/climate_change_birds.asp.

As you rejoice in hearing the air filled with bird song this spring, or in spotting bushes and trees filled with warblers, kinglets, flycatchers and others, it’s worth reflecting

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on—and being grateful for—the miraculous survival of so many of these small critters through the long and perilous migratory journey.

The Resourceful Robin

Despite the fact that **American robins** are to an increasing degree year-round residents of our area, it seems safe to say that most of us harbour a special attachment to this cheerful, bright-bellied species due to its traditional role as a harbinger of spring, and a sign of life and hope after a long winter. As resourceful omnivores, however, robins are capable of adjusting their warm weather diet of worms and insects to live on fruits and berries during the winter months, mining the abundant buckthorn and mountain ash berry crops in the Ottawa area, and, in the case of one local overwintering robin flock spotted by naturalist Dan Brunton, feasting on catfish minnows, tadpoles and tiny aquatic insects in a small pool of open water in Mud Lake in Britannia. The pool is reportedly fed by underground seepage that keeps it ice free, and to Brunton's amazement, the robins have learned to stand by the water's edge and adroitly pluck the minnows out of the water—all that's missing

tise and knowledge of habitat en route with their younger, less seasoned companions.

Arctic Lemming Feast Triggers Snowy Owl Irruption

This year's epic snowy owl irruption in southern Canada (the Ottawa area included) and the northeastern U.S., considered by scientists to be the largest such irruption in half a century, has managed to attract international attention, appearing recently as the subject of a feature article in the *Washington Post* (reprinted in the British-based *Guardian Weekly*). The article traces the source of the irruption to a population explosion in the lemming community last summer. Lemmings are a major component of the owls' diet, and about every four years, their population spikes in Arctic regions, affording the owls a rich feast for both the adults and their young broods.

In the summer of 2013, lemming numbers reportedly rose off the charts on Bylot Island in the Nunavut territory, to the point that biologists discovered as many as 70 lemming carcasses arrayed around snowy owl nests by parent providers as sustenance for their broods—compared to

into southern territories has triggered a new study of the species, appropriately dubbed *Project Snowstorm*. The study has drawn together dozens of scientists to investigate the phenomenon and closely examine numerous snowy owl specimens, many of which have been trapped close to airports where the vast expanses of treeless fields serve as ideal hunting grounds. According to Scott Weidensaul, co-director of *Project Snowstorm*, scientists' observations have shown that snowy owls "will eat pretty much anything they can jam down their throats—ducks, gulls, geese, muskrats, great blue heron...They're a very big, very strong, very capable predator."

Sadly, warming temperatures in Arctic regions pose a serious threat to the lemming population, which depends for its survival on a thick protective covering of snow and ice through the winter months. This in turn has caused concern about future prospects for the snowy owl, whose breeding success is dependent on this prolific little rodent, and there are fears that irruptions such the one we have witnessed this year may soon become a thing of the past.

Reports from Our Readers:

Philip MacAdam, our faithful *NEN* birding reporter and proprietor of *Phil's Avian Bistro* on Thomas Street, has been keeping track of an **American robin** flock in the Rockcliffe Pavilion area, where the hardy overwintering group has clearly found adequate supplies of buckthorn and other wild berries to sustain it through the cold, snowy months. In recent weeks, the males of the flock have begun their annual serenade, heralding the start of breeding season and the coming of spring. Not surprisingly, Philip's Rockcliffe rambles have also led to regular sightings of **pileated woodpeckers**, which have been active throughout our area all winter, and are currently ramping up their drumming activities as the breeding season advances.

Back home at the Bistro, Philip reports a regular contingent of **house finches**, **goldfinches**, **black-capped chickadees** and **Northern cardinals** at his feeders, along with some considerably less welcome **pigeon** interlopers, whose presence he has attempted to discourage through the removal of several of his feeders.

Amy Jane Lawes reports that her feeders in Val des Monts have been marauded by squirrels, which managed to leave one of them in such a broken



Cedar Waxwing.

Photo: Sami Zeitouni

and leaky condition that much of the seed now flows on to the ground—"great for ground feeders (including said squirrels), but frustrating for me!" She has also noted a good deal of **pileated woodpecker** action in her environs, marveling at the huge piles of wood chips accumulating under the trees where these industrious critters are at work. She is looking forward to expanding her yearly bird list (to date only 21 species) as the spring migration gets rolling.

Over at the **Macoun Marsh**, St. Laurent Academy teacher **Mike Leveillé** has recently spotted a variety of winter birds, including **black-capped chickadees**, numerous **American goldfinches**, **cedar waxwings**, **Northern cardinals**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, and **hairy and downy woodpeckers**.

Prior to her late February departure for Jekyll Island, Georgia, birder **Vicki Metcalfe** had noted a few of the winter regulars in her neck of the woods, including **white-breasted nuthatches**, **black-capped chickadees**, **house sparrows**, **Northern cardinals** and a **barred owl** in the throes of being driven from its perch in Pine Hill Woods by a flock of angry **American crows**.

While at the time of her last report shortly before we went

to press, Vicki had yet to begin her serious birding activities on Jekyll Island, a preliminary excursion had yielded a fulsome list of species in the area, including **Northern cardinals**, **Northern mockingbirds**, **red-bellied woodpeckers**, **blue jays**, **Carolina wrens**, **double-crested cormorants**, **laughing gulls**, **boat-tailed grackles**, **great egrets**, **snowy egrets**, **brown pelicans**, **black vultures**, **turkey vultures**, **American kestrels**, **hooded mergansers**, **killdeer**, **mourning doves**, **tree swallows**, **red-winged blackbirds**, **great blue herons**, **kingfishers**, **Carolina chickadees**, **yellow-rumped warblers**, **American goldfinches**, **American robins**, **painted buntings**, **yellow throated warblers**, **dunlin**, **willets**, **Northern harriers** and **red-tailed hawks**.

Chirps, Tweets and Trills: Learn Your Local Bird Songs

Beginning in April, the Ottawa Bird Count, a volunteer-based scientific project studying bird habitat in our region, is offering a free six-week course in the identification of the bird songs of 70 local species. The course will run on **Saturday mornings from April 5 to May 10 at the Jack Purcell Community Centre**, 320 Jack Purcell Lane (just off Elgin Street). Interested readers can check out the details at ottawabirds.ca.



White-breasted nuthatch.

Photo: Sami Zeitouni

is the rod and reel!

Just as there are mixed views of winter in the human community, not all members of the American robin population are as hardy as our overwintering crew, and many join the fall migration to spend the winter in areas as far south as Florida and southern Texas. In spring, they follow warm fronts back to their northern breeding grounds, tracking the 37°F isotherm associated with the weather systems bringing rain, thaw and snow melt, and effectively unleashing the supply of earthworms the robins depend on to nurture their broods. Like many species, they travel in large flocks, both to afford protection from predators, and also to facilitate the sharing of older birds' directional exper-

an average of one or two in normal years! Needless to say, large numbers of the young survived to flourish and fatten, and when the freeze up came and the lemmings scurried under the protective snow cover, abruptly shrinking the owls' food supply, the adult owls were obliged to chase the young upstarts off their territories. And as we have seen—and continue to see—in the Ottawa area, many of these well-fed adolescents headed south where they have remained as the local avian highlight throughout the winter months, perched on the roofs of buildings, telephone poles, trees and fences on the lookout for a tasty meal.

The lemming boom and subsequent snowy owl irruption



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Books on Beechwood News: Titles at Table 40

Coming up this spring, Books on Beechwood will launch another series of author events, moving the popular *Books 'n Brew* series around the corner to Fraser Café's **Table 40**, where *Titles at Table 40* will be launched in May. The events will take place on Sunday evenings, and tickets will include a \$20 deposit towards the cost of a sumptuous meal prepared by the Fraser brothers.

The staff at Books on Beechwood is justifiably confident that the move will delight both book lovers and foodies in the neighbourhood, and is now hard at work confirming arrangements with local authors. To date, there is one firm booking on the spring calendar: On **Sunday, May 25, Sandra Gulland**, author of the *Josephine B. Trilogy*, and **Anne Fortier**, author of the bestseller *Juliet*, will be on hand at Table 40 to give readings from their new novels, and join in a discussion with diners. More information about the events will be forthcoming as soon as final plans are in place, so keep an eye on the B on B website (www.bonb.ca).

booksonbeechwood.ca) or better still drop in at the store for details and tickets to one or all of these lively evenings.

Story Time is Back! Beginning in late April, Books on Beechwood will re-launch its monthly **Saturday morning Story Time** sessions (details to come). The sessions will begin at 10 am, and kids will be treated to readings by local children's authors while their parents browse the shelves.

Book Signings Two book signing events were on the B on B agenda when we went to press, with the possibility of more to come so keep a close eye on the website (www.booksonbeechwood.ca).

- **Thursday, April 3, 5 to 7 pm**, Author **Qais Ghanem**, a former physician and professor of medicine, will be at the store to launch his new novel *Forbidden Love in the Land of Sheba*. He will also be available to sign copies of his previous works *Final Flight from Sanaa*, *Two Boys from Aden College*, *From Left to Right* and *My Arab Spring*, *My*

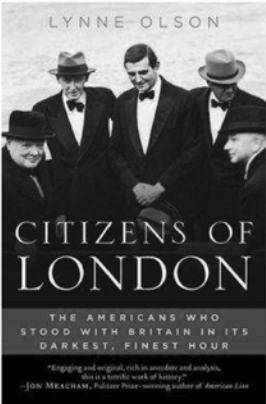
Canada.

- **Saturday, April 5, 12 to 2 pm**, Author **Harry MacKay** will be on hand to sign copies of his book *Church Rebel with a Cause*, a fictional account of his own experiences as a United Church Minister in the 1960s.

Books on Beechwood Book Club

There are three more sessions of Books on Beechwood's Book Club coming up in April, May and June before the summer break, with two choices of date/location for each of these sessions to accommodate the busy schedules of participants. You'll find all the details on the accompanying poster, and you can always drop in at the store to get a reminder from the welcoming B on B team. Special thanks to **Jill Moll** and **Antoinette Fracassi** for so capably leading this popular community institution.

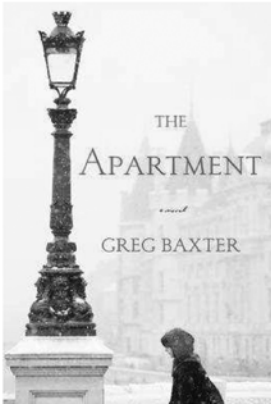
Books on Beechwood Book Club



April 9/30



May 14/28



June 11/25

Books on Beechwood Presents TWO Monthly Book Club Sessions!

Session 1***		Session 2***	
Date:	Second Wednesday of month	Date:	Last Wednesday of month
Time:	7:30pm	Time:	7:30pm
Location:	New Edinburgh Square 35 Beechwood Avenue 2nd Floor Lounge	Location:	The Edinburgh Retirement Residence 10 Vaughan Street Penthouse
Session Leader:	Antoinette Fracassi	Session Leader:	Jill Moll
Schedule:	April 9 – <i>Citizens of London</i> by Lynne Olson May 14 – <i>Stella Bain</i> by Anita Shreve June 11 – <i>The Apartment</i> by Greg Baxter	Schedule:	April 30 – <i>Citizens of London</i> by Lynne Olson May 28 – <i>Stella Bain</i> by Anita Shreve June 25 – <i>The Apartment</i> by Greg Baxter

*** select whichever session is most convenient for you
For more information: call 613-742-5030 or e-mail staff@booksonbeechwood.ca

As your thoughts turn to summer with the arrival of warmer weather, be sure to stay tuned for Books on Beechwood's annual list of **Summer Reading Suggestions** coming up in our next edition.

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Das Lokal - Make It Yours Too!

By Catherine Lindquist

New Edinburgh can lay claim to another great eatery: **Das Lokal Kitchen + Bar**. Foodie New Eddies in the know are already patronizing and raving about Das Lokal (German for “The Local”), but don’t feel badly if you haven’t yet discovered it, as its “locale” is in Lowertown West, **190 Dalhousie Street at St. Andrew Street** (the Casa do Churrasco and KFC in past lives). But in so many ways, it’s our Lokal too.

es together in Ottawa. Clunie gained exposure to German cuisine working with Murray Street Chef Steve Mitton, who lived in Germany, and through her step-sister’s German family. Not surprising then, are the Das Lokal moniker or the elements of German cuisine—from spätzle to sausage—found on the menu.

Launched in the fall of 2013, the 50-seat restaurant, which includes a large “Elmwood Door” table, has been featured in the *Ottawa Citizen* and its

Large windows bring in lots of natural light, bathing white walls and pale grey-washed pine table tops and framing. Grey steel chairs are softened with shearling seat pads. Black soapstone bartop and tables in three large booths anchor the space. Clear glass light fixtures add soft evening light. Food arrives on wooden chopping boards with grey slate plates and cotton tea towel napkins. Contrasting this neutral-natural canvas are accents in ‘Kodak’ pops of colour. A string carrying bright fabric strips crosses the ceiling, conjuring up paper garlands for some and wash on the line for others. An orange VW bus stencil rides the hallway to the restrooms. Red glass light fixtures float above the bar, and blood-orange Doozy candles cast a warm glow throughout. Large red wooden hearts suspended from coarse strings in the windows and a heart-filled pink prose tableau in the entry convey a compelling sense of warm welcome and kinder karma. A shelf nook stocked with bright crayons and paper calls out to the child artist in all of us.

The overall ambience is comfy chic, with a musical “kitchen party” begging to break out. And there are signs it just might.

An old stand-up piano painted butter cream serves as a sideboard weekdays, then serves up tunes Friday and Saturday nights when to diners’ delight, young Kyle Zavitz or Sebastien Romanoutti tinkle the ivories. Thursday evenings, DJ Rob Sherwood is in the house, spinning jazzy vibes from behind the bar. The musical offerings make Das Lokal an evening social hub for lucky lokals. And, Wery says they’re thinking of having an “open piano nite” and bringing in some smaller musical acts.

Outside, a patio lounge features bright coloured steel chairs with shearling pads, red lanterns and Edelweiss-style wood roofed sidebar. In winter, a gas heater keeps guests warm, as does piping hot glühwein with star fruit and cinnamon. An attractive sun spot (especially this long winter), it feels like you’re hillside in Sochi and should line a menu with foil and catch some rays.

For their first upcoming summer season, Tsai-Klassen and Wery-Boole plan to install a restaurant patio including a stammtisch (large, shared table). Also taking shape is an idea for a small outdoor Biergarten with a sausage bar



Photo: Andrew Laporte

(l to r) Das Lokal co-owner Barbara Wery, Executive Chef Harriet Clunie and co-owner Frédérique Tsai-Klassen.

It’s just a nice scenic walk, or quick cycle, bus or car ride away, and offers onsite and nearby parking. And, the trio of talented women that have made Das Lokal an instant success are also well connected to New Edinburgh. **Co-Owner Barbara Wery** and her children live on Crichton Street in New Edinburgh, **Co-Owner Frédérique Tsai-Klassen** is Acting Director of Foreign Policy Communications and Consular Outreach at DFATD on Sussex Drive, and **Chef Harriet Clunie** is the daughter of **David Clunie**, Rector of the Church of St. Bartholomew (St. Bart’s) on MacKay Street.

There’s also the German connection. Many German families settled in New Edinburgh in the 19th century and erected two Lutheran churches here. Wery’s roots are German and she returns home yearly to visit family. Tsai-Klassen’s family lived in Berlin for four years when her husband, retired Canadian diplomat Vince Klassen, was posted there. Both women’s children took German language class-

Style Magazine. It has much to tempt you to visit and then return for more.

The Food:

At just 28 years old, Chef Clunie has a lot of “chef cred” under her apron, with studies in Algonquin College’s Culinary Management Program and experience working with many of the Capital’s top chefs/best kitchens: Steve Vardy/Beckta, Matthew Carmichael/E18hteen, Chris Derache/Wellington Gastropub, Oz Kafe, Murray Street/Steve Mitton, Sweetgrass/Warren Sutherland, and serving as sous-chef and later chef de cuisine at Navarra/René Rodriguez, and chef at Back Lane Café. Her tempting and innovative menu includes a venison goulash main and poached butter-nut squash dessert. And products sourced from recognized regional suppliers like Seed to Sausage and Nat’s Bread. The food is great—garnering good reviews—and the service is eager to please.

The Ambience:

The “very Wery” décor is euro-resto with whimsical accents.

and sandbox for kids.

The Patrons:

Das Lokal is perfectly situated to draw not only local residents, but the lunch and after work crowd in the Market and along the Sussex Drive corridor of embassies and federal institutions, attractions and departments—a world Tsai-Klassen knows well.

Food and style savvy folk have also discovered Das Lokal. Seen on different visits were: New Edinburgh’s **Sarah Jennings** and her daughter **Tegan Schioler**, NAC’s Manager of Meetings and Events; *New Edinburgh News* Associate Editor/Senior Writer **Jane Heintzman**, her husband **Ralph** and friend **Barbara Campbell**; Ottawa Wine and Food Festival owner

Joan Culliton; *Ottawa Style Magazine* Editor **Jennifer Campbell** and her husband, *Ottawa Citizen* arts writer **Peter Simpson**, Viviana Day Spa owner **Viviana Sigurdson**, and New Edinburgh über personality **Joseph Cull**.

The Five Ws:

Hours: Tues-Sat lunch and dinner - closed by 10 pm and later Thu-Sat. Watch for expanded hours to include Mondays and Sunday brunch.

You’ll want to make advance reservations at this popular place. Call: **613-695-1688**.

For more information: facebook or future website: **www.daslokalkitchenbar.com**.

Be sure to make Das Lokal your lokal too. It’s got that glass half full thing happening. And, *das ist gut*.




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Heartwood House Puts Down Roots in Overbrook

By Wendy Dennys, translation by Martine Joly

Reprinted from *Nouvelles d'Overbrook News*, March 2014

How Heartwood House came to open its doors in Overbrook is a story with many chapters based on the collective stories of inspiring people with vision and heart.

The story began in 2001, when a small group of determined and collaborative individuals came together with a common goal—to provide an affordable space in a safe, supportive environment for small charities and the clients and customers they serve.

In 2001, following incorporation as a charity, Heartwood House rented space in the Congregation Beth Shalom's vacant building on Chapel

Street. At this location, Heartwood House made an impact on the community with its 16 or so small non-profits and contracts that made up the co-operative. Anyone who misplaced an item on an OC Transpo bus, or anyone with electronics to be recycled, came to know Heartwood House at this location. But when the Chapel Street building sold, Heartwood House began exploring their dream of buying their own building. It was time to grow permanent roots!

So many things needed to come together to acquire the right building. It had to be on a major bus route, in a neighbourhood accessible to their clients, be large enough to house all their partners, and be priced within their means. Miraculously, the former

Giant Tiger store on McArthur Avenue became available and met all physical requirements. But a co-owner was needed, a partner with similar values. Along came another miracle in the form of the Unitarian Fellowship of Ottawa who was on the hunt for a space to call home. It was a match made in heaven!



Buying the building was one thing, paying the mortgage and covering renovation costs was another. It took teamwork and creativity. At the helm of the endeavour is **Maureen Moloughney**, Executive Director, whose warmth, charisma and can-do attitude adds to the inherent spirit of collaboration evident with its members, while an eight-member Board guides and supports the

work.

Board member **Isobel Bisby**, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, brought boundless energy and creativity to her task. She spearheaded many campaigns—from toonie can collections, to fundraising dinners at Golden India Restaurant, to silent auctions, to selling “one-square-foot” of Heartwood House, to encouraging sponsor donors. Major grants were received from the Trillium Foundation, Project Blue Skies, and the government's Enabling Accessibility Fund, the latter helping to pay for the installation of an elevator. (In an interview, Isobel is quick to point out that crucial fundraising is ongoing and with a click on the *CanadaHelps* button at www.heartwoodhouse.com, people can donate and receive an instant charity receipt!)

With completion of the renovations in sight, it was time for all the members to move in. Amid high drama, the task was accomplished at 4 pm on New Year's Eve!

Asked to characterize their accomplishment, Maureen enthused, “Simple. We did it!”

adding, “We are delighted with our new home and neighbourhood.”

And Overbrook is delighted and richer for the presence of Heartwood House and its member associations, which include literacy training (including deaf), help with anxiety and eating disorders, empowerment of families and individuals with disabilities, work training for immigrants, help with affordable housing, and a community laundry, just to name a few services.

The Heartwood House story is about the creation of an innovative model for social change. Something special happens when people and organizations work on a common goal. An international conference, to be hosted at Heartwood House on May 1, will focus on this unique model of collaboration between small non-profit charitable organizations. Building the community and securing a better future for all of us is what their motto is all about: “Better together!” Because as the saying goes, “Together, we are stronger than the sum of our parts.”



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A Thousand Years in an Icelandic Hot Tub

By Isobel Bisby

Finding the pool was one of those chance discoveries that make travel worthwhile, despite all its worries, hassles and frustrations. An early snowstorm had closed both tracks across the interior of Iceland, ruining our plans to visit the volcanic deserts and icecaps, so instead we were exploring some of the lower-altitude back roads near the coast. After four days of snow, rain, wind and overcast skies, finally it was sunny and mild.

At breakfast that morning I realised that our road map showed the location of hot springs, and now, as we drove along a deserted gravel road through a spectacular valley hemmed in by barren mountains, I noticed a spring was marked a few kilometres ahead, just off the road to the left.

We came to a small grove of birch and conifers, itself an unusual feature, and there was a gate in the fence, with just a hint that other vehicles had stopped here. We walked a short distance up the hillside through the beautiful grove, and coming over a slight rise, we saw a small rockbound pool, steaming in the cool air, surrounded by a lawn of brilliant

green grass punctuated with yellow flowers. The water was clear, the bottom clean gravel, there was nobody for miles; we stripped off and jumped in. At 42C degrees the water temperature was perfect, the sky was blue, the breeze was blowing softly through golden birch leaves, and the silence was intense—an enchanting moment in a magical place.

But this was no ordinary hot spring, we discovered. In the late 10th century, missionaries came to Iceland, and by the year 1000, there was a threat of warfare between Christian and Pagan chieftains. At the annual meeting of Iceland's outdoor

parliament, the Althing, it was agreed to ask the Speaker to decide whether Iceland should become a Christian nation, or remain Pagan. After spending a day and night in contemplation under a fur blanket, the Speaker ruled for Christianity, and this was peacefully accepted by both sides.

Now, of course, everyone had to be baptised. The waters around the Althing are glacial, and the representatives from west Iceland sensibly decided to postpone their baptism until they reached warmer water on their way back home...the very same pool that we enjoyed.

So here's some advice for those involved in religious, sectarian, or political strife: get under a blanket, think about it for 24 hours, then have a long soak in a hot tub. Should solve most problems!



An al fresco, au naturel “selfie” taken by intrepid travelers Isobel and Mark Bisby during their recent gallivant around Iceland.



En Primeur

par Louise Imbeault

Chers lecteurs et chères lectrices, c'est avec joie et fierté qu'aujourd'hui je m'adresse à vous dans ma langue maternelle. Ceci afin d'honorer l'un des nôtres.

Je vous présente sans plus tarder notre invité extraordinaire en ce beau mois d'avril, *qui en passant est le mois de son anniversaire de naissance*, monsieur CLAUDE B. GINGRAS récemment investit de l'Ordre de l'Ontario et résident du quartier New Edinburgh depuis plusieurs décennies.

L'année 2014 commença «en lion» pour Claude qui, le 23 janvier dernier, se trouvait à Toronto (*Queen's Park*) pour recevoir en main propre, le plus grand honneur offert à une personne de la province, *l'Ordre de l'Ontario*.

Saviez-vous que *l'Ordre de l'Ontario* récompense les résidents (ou anciens résidents de longue date en Ontario) qui

ont fait preuve du plus haut niveau d'excellence personnelle et de réussite dans un domaine quelconque, pour le plus grand profit de la population de l'Ontario ou ailleurs dans le monde. Ce n'est pas peu dire. Sincères félicitations Claude de notre part.

Alors, ce «domaine quelconque» de quoi s'agit-il? Et bien, à ma grande surprise, j'ai reconnu le nom de l'entreprise



Photo by: Louise Imbeault
Claude B. Gingras.

Ginsberg-Gingras dont il a confirmé être le cofondateur, actionnaire et président-directeur général de la firme. Je m'en voulais d'avoir oublié le tapis rouge dans la voiture.

Nous avons pu en rire tout en procédant à esquisser les grandes lignes de l'homme, du mari, du père et du grand-père qu'est Claude en plus d'être un voyageur averti ayant posé pied sur chacun des cinq continents même plus d'une fois.

Comme vous savez, j'aime beaucoup découvrir les gens dans leur cœur et dans leur vécu. Monsieur Gingras fut d'une patience d'ange en répondant spontanément et d'une franchise désarmante à toutes mes questions pleines de curiosité. Merci beaucoup Claude de votre candeur rafraîchissante.

Tout ça pour vous dire qu'il est **vraiment**, l'un des nôtres. Quoique que natif du Vieux-Hull (boul. Sacré-Cœur), il habita durant onze années au 299, MacKay ainsi qu'au 36, Acacia plus de 25 ans où il y éleva sa famille avec son épouse Claudette Lauzon (rue Stanley, fille de Marcel Lauzon). Ils eurent deux filles, Chantal et Caroline (toutes deux maintenant mariées). Il est aussi le fier grand-papa d'Olivier, Alexandre et Zoë.

Claude et Claudette sont de vrais «nouveaux Édimbourgeois» puisqu'ils ont pignon sur rue au 295, MacKay depuis son érection en 2007. Nous leurs souhaitons une belle préretraite, santé et longue vie parmi nous. Si vous le croisez dans le quartier,

n'oubliez pas de lui souhaiter - Bonne Fête!

Pour en découvrir plus sur cet homme extraordinaire, prière de consulter le site web au: www.ginsberg-gingras.com

Vos commentaires sont les bienvenus: louise.imbeault@live.com.

THE MACOUN MARSH: The diversity of life at Beechwood Cemetery

Come with your family and friends to Beechwood Cemetery at 1:30pm on Sunday, April 13th for a photographic exploration of the creatures that live at the Macoun Marsh. The Marsh is a unique, protected wetland located in the southeast corner of the cemetery.

Local science teacher Michael Léveillé will speak about his experiences at the Marsh and tell stories about some of the exciting wildlife he's seen, like the encounter between a young red-tailed hawk (pictured at right) and a very nervous gray squirrel!

The lecture is free of charge, and we invite budding naturalists of all ages to join us!



APRIL 13
AT 1:30 PM

The Beechwood National Memorial Centre, 280 Beechwood Ave.
For information: 613-741-9530, www.beechwoodcemetery.com

Enter by Beechwood Avenue entrance.
Lecture and parking are free, and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

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News from the House



Chair's Report

2014 is proving to be an exciting year for the **NECTAR Centre** as we continue to build on the significant investments that the Board, staff, community, and our many volunteers and donors have made in our organization over the past three years. A quick look at our upcoming Spring/Summer Program Guide and all the wonderful activities happening daily in both New Edinburgh House and Memorial Hall, demonstrates this in spades.

Close Call, but a Happy Ending: Late on Sunday evening, March 9, a few of us on the Board received reports that Ottawa Fire Services had been summoned to investigate the smell of smoke in Memorial Hall. As Alan Bowker wrote so eloquently in his report in this

issue, it was a very close call for MacKay United Church, the NECTAR Centre, and the community at large.

In addition to its longstanding significance in the life of the MacKay United Church community and in the heritage fabric of our neighbourhood, Memorial Hall plays a vital role in NECTAR Centre programming, and its loss would have been a devastating blow. We all owe an immense debt of gratitude to **Martin Clary** and **Alex MacDonald** for their quick and decisive actions at the time of the incident, and we continue to be grateful for the support and collaboration we have enjoyed in our partnership with MacKay United Church in this wonderful community facility. Special thanks also to **St. John Lutheran Church** for being such great friends and neighbours, and

providing their Hall for our Fitness programs during the brief closure of Memorial Hall.

Soul Searching: In the depths of this long, cold winter, our Board came together for a much needed **Board Retreat**. With the help of New Edinburgh resident **Nicole Vallée**, we plunged into a true heart-to-heart exchange about who we want to be, how the "mix" of our products and services can best achieve this, and how to build on our successes of the past few years.

With Nicole's help, we were able to focus on how this big picture translates into the nuts and bolts of the organization: our financial picture, our staffing profile, the role of volunteers, and the facilities that we have on hand. We all came away with more answers than questions, and were very grateful to have achieved more clarity for our roadmap in the year ahead.

The Board would like to sincerely thank **Nicole Vallée** for acting as our capable facilitator in this enormously fruitful exercise. It was an absolute pleasure to work with her and we look forward to a continued relationship in the years to come.

One of the outcomes of the retreat was a heightened recognition of the need to work

collaboratively with the other local community organizations that help to make New Edinburgh a vibrant community. For some time now the Chairs of **New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA)** along with the **Crichton Community Council (CCC)** and the **NECTAR Centre**, have been getting together on a regular basis to exchange ideas and support each other. The NECTAR Centre has made this collaboration one of its top priorities moving forward.

Led by NECA, our three groups (all those confusing "Cs" as residents sometimes refer to us!) are currently working on plans for a community forum, both to explore how we can collaborate more closely as organizations, and to take the "pulse" of the community on the ways in which residents hope to see it change, evolve and improve. **The three organizations will host this event at Memorial Hall on Sunday, April 27, 2014, 2 - 5 pm. Everyone is invited!** Our goal is to engage the community at large, and we hope to receive candid and thoughtful feedback from participants about our activities and how we can move forward together.

Another major decision coming from the retreat was the

need for the NECTAR Centre to expand the magic of the **Lumière Festival** and to sprinkle it across the city for all to enjoy. For many years now (10 to be exact!), the **Lumière Festival** has been a NECTAR Centre signature event, taking place in Stanley Park in late August. As the festival enters its second decade, this year we have decided to partner with the **Beechwood Village Alliance** and take our spectacular collection of lanterns to the **Solstice Stroll** on **Saturday, June 21**, when we'll gather to light up Beechwood Avenue storefronts, festooning the street with colour and illumination. So please hold that date and watch for more information on our website (www.nectarcentre.ca) and on the BVA Facebook page.

Board Updates:

We are delighted to announce that long-time Board member **Bethann Robin** has stepped up to take on the critical role of Treasurer for the NECTAR Centre. As anyone who is familiar with the Centre is well aware, Bethann has been involved with the organization since its earliest days when the former CCCC was created at 200 Crichton Street. She has served faithfully in a variety of roles (including every one

TODRICS... *on everyone's lips!*



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- SEASONAL AND REGIONAL CUISINE

of our Executive positions), and most recently served as Chair of the NECTAR Centre Board. We are extremely fortunate to have Bethann as Treasurer, given her extensive background knowledge of our finances and of our organization as a whole, and we look forward to her stewardship into 2014.

Regrettably, 2014 has brought the resignations of two wonderful and highly-valued members of the NECTAR Board: **John Jarrett** and **Joseph Cull**.

John Jarrett has been with the organization since the early days of the CCCC over a decade ago. While his dedication and support for the Centre has been unwavering, it is his guidance and stewardship throughout some of the NECTAR Centre/CCCC's most difficult times (and there have been some doozies!) that have been cherished and will be missed by us all. John has graciously agreed to stay on in an advisory capacity, contrib-

uting to the Building/Retrofits committee, where his background and expertise will be greatly appreciated.

John's involvement with the Mainworks Artists Collective was of special importance to the Board as a window on, and strong connection to, our community of artists. This aspect of his contribution to the Board will also be greatly missed, but fortunately for the community, as a talented artist in his own right, John will continue to create in his lovely studio at New Edinburgh House, where admirers of his artwork can look forward to seeing new and exciting pieces.

While he had long been an active volunteer in events and activities at the Centre (few could forget his memorable performances at our Cocktails for Crichton fundraisers!), we were incredibly fortunate to have been able to recruit **Joseph Cull** to our Board, and we are immensely grateful for all the work he has done over

the past two years, not to mention all the warmth, spirit and mirth he has brought to our organization. Always the life and soul of the party, Joseph added energy, flair and enthusiasm to all the NECTAR Centre events, and was a moving spirit behind some of the wonderful transformations that have happened at the Centre, notably the creation of the Community Fence and the recent renovations to Memorial Hall.

At Board meetings, Joseph brought to the table strong business acumen, and the ability to push through many difficult decisions. He is a deeply committed and tireless supporter of the New Edinburgh community as a whole, and we are confident that while Joseph may be leaving our Board, he will continue to be an active supporter of NECTAR and all our community organizations.

Take Your Turn on the Board: It's Your Centre!

The NECTAR Centre is currently seeking new Board

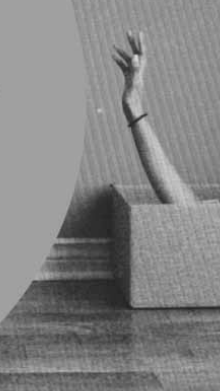
CAPTURING THE POSSIBILITIES
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May 31st & June 7th
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745-2842).

Sean Flynn
Chair, NECTAR Centre

NECTAR Centre Programs and Events:

EVENTS

Third Annual Jane's Walk: May 3

Once again this year, the NECTAR Centre and the Beechwood Village Alliance are hosting the New Edinburgh Jane's Walk on Saturday, May 3, 2014. All are invited to celebrate the ideas and legacy of urbanist Jane Jacobs by getting out and exploring our neighbourhood. Learn what the urban environment can tell us about our history and how our community developed over the generations to acquire the character and ambiance it has today. Please join us as we engage in discussion on how it could be improved in the years to come.

The Walk begins at 10 am at New Edinburgh House 255 Mackay St., and will be led by BVA Chair Tobi Nussbaum.

The annual Jane's Walk is a successor to our two popular and successful walks: **Parks not Pavement** and **Bring Back Beechwood**. Do join us for an opportunity to greet your neighbours, learn more about our community, and enjoy the fresh spring air!

The NECTAR Centre Community Choir hits a resounding note!

Our Community Choir continues to meet every Monday evening from 7:15 to 8:30 pm in the Community Room at New Edinburgh House. We are a growing group, usu-

ally between 10 and 16 people, and are enjoying ourselves immensely, singing our hearts out under the very skilled direction of our young choir director **Erin Puttee**. Her enthusiasm is clearly infectious, and our repertoire is rich and varied. For example, we have just begun to tackle Leonard Cohen's masterful work *Hallelujah!* and while few of us have achieved the perfection of k.d. lang's classic rendition, we're working at it with enthusiasm. Everyone is welcome, so please don't be intimidated: we are an inclusive choir for all ages and skill levels, and we do hope you'll join us to swell our chorus to new heights. For more information pop in or call (613) 745-2742.

Board Games Night:

The NECTAR Centre's Board Games nights are a fun, family friendly activity where neighbours get together to enjoy learning new games, and play old favourites. Board Games Night is held at New Edinburgh House on a monthly basis from 7 to 10 pm. You're welcome to drop in for a brief visit or stay for the whole evening to hone your skills. Upcoming dates are March 21 and April 11. Interested readers can contact joana.chelo@gmail.com or roxanclark@hotmail.com for more information.

NECTAR Centre Family Movie Nights:

Once a month, the NECTAR Centre hosts a **Family Movie Night** which is a great night out for family members of all ages, and easy on the family budget. These delightful occasions are not yet as widely known as we'd like, so *please pass the word on to your friends and acquaintances: the more the merrier!* Years from now those that have attended will recall the fun they had curling up in a blanket in the house to watch a movie with all their neighbourhood pals, and parents will remember the kitchen party that happened between the credits!

Our next movie nights will

take place on **April 25, May 30 and June 30**, and weather permitting, the June 30 showing will be held outdoors. The movie selection will be named closer to the date. Admission is by donation and includes juice and popcorn. Proceeds from the Movie Nights go towards supplies for our children's programs. Youth from the community are encouraged to volunteer and can earn their High School Community Service hours.

Host a "PARTY with a PURPOSE":


Did you know that the NECTAR Centre has an

Empty Seat Program? Empty seats are created when a program runs but is not full to capacity. The Empty Seats are given to individuals experiencing financial difficulties. Individuals are either referred to us through the schools or local social service organizations or inquire on their own. To date, the NECTAR Centre has shared Empty Seats with some wonderful children in our Playgroups, Martial Arts Programs and our After School Program, as well as with a number of seniors living on fixed incomes.

Making sure that everyone can access and benefit from the programs at the NECTAR Centre is a worthwhile cause indeed! You can help to create

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Community leader Tobi Nussbaum recently launched his candidacy for city council. We encourage everyone with an interest in shaping the social, economic and environmental future of our neighbourhoods and Ottawa to visit the campaign website to learn about Tobi's vision and how you can get involved with the team to support his candidacy. Tobi will be actively engaging with Rideau-Rockcliffe residents over the coming months and welcomes your input and ideas.

more Empty Seats by hosting a **PARTY with a PURPOSE**. It's a simple formula: all you need to do is host a party and invite your friends. Each of your guests is asked to bring a donation to buy an Empty Seat. Seats are between \$150 and \$300 – depending on your guest's ability, you can pitch in to buy one together, or each guest can buy a seat. Charitable receipts are issued for all donations of more than \$25.

NECTAR Community Garden: Coming this Spring!

Over the past few years, there have been numerous attempts to plant community gardens in New Edinburgh. So far, none has borne fruit, but this summer the dream will come to fruition in the garden at New Edinburgh House at 255

Mackay Street. Three local residents, **Joana Chelo, Roxan Clark and Adam Hortop** have been awarded start-up funds to plant an organic vegetable garden alongside the house.

In March, the **Community Garden Network (CGN)** approved a \$5,000 grant, which will make the project possible. The construction of seven raised beds is planned for the spring 2014, with six more to follow in 2015. A garden committee member, who will plant, care for, and harvest the season's vegetables and herbs, will tend each raised bed. A detailed information session is planned for the whole community in early spring, so please stay tuned!

Community gardens are increasingly popular in urban

areas all across Canada. They provide fresh, delicious, organic produce. But that's only part of the experience; they also promote a stronger connection to the environment, and a sense of community that benefits all residents of the neighbourhood, green thumb or not. Ottawa is no exception. The CGN has more than 30 community gardens across the city, and is increasing its number annually. We are delighted that the NECTAR Community Garden has been selected as one of the new additions this year, and look forward to engaging community members of all ages and horticultural skill levels in the care and nurture of "our own backyard." For more information and opportunities to get involved, contact: newedinburghcommunitygarden@gmail.com.

NEW ADULT PROGRAMS

MELT METHOD® + STOTT PILATES®

Tues Apr 1 - May 27 (9 wks), 10 – 11 am

This small group class will focus on regaining the smooth movement and vitality of your body's connective tissue, resulting in improved endurance, core strength, and stability while achieving full-range pain-free mobility. MELT® is a simple therapeutic treatment using soft foam rollers and

Hand & Foot Treatment Balls, combined with techniques that rehydrate the body's connective tissue and rebalance the neuro-muscular system. Stott Pilates® includes modern principles of exercise science and rehabilitation – making it one of the safest and most effective Pilates workouts. This MELT® Method and Stott Pilates workout will leave you feeling stronger and rejuvenated!

Instructor: **Michelle Carini**

Fee: \$144 or Drop-in: \$20/class

Location: New Edinburgh House

To Register: mcارين@cor-sanopilates.com / 613-863-3449

ELEMENTS OF LANDSCAPE

Fri May 2, 9, 23, 30, 9:30 am – 12 noon (4 wks)

This course focuses on the various elements of landscape painting individually, so that students can become confident with each. Elements include skies, water, rocks, mountains, trees, bushes, grass and fields. It is excellent preparation for those interested in plein air painting as well as those who enjoy painting natural scenic beauty.

Instructor: **Susan Ashbrook**

Fee: \$75 Material list supplied on registration

Location: Each class will take place at a different location in the Ottawa area. List supplied on registration.

SUMMER PLEIN AIR PAINTING SERIES

Tues Jul 8 - Aug 26 (8 wks), 10 am - 2 pm

This outdoor series of classes is suitable for oil & acrylic painters with beginner and intermediate skills. Students will learn to select views, scale them to canvas, make colour selections, and create depth in their paintings.

Instructor: **Susan Ashbrook**

Fee: \$225. Material list supplied on registration

Location: Each class will take place at a different location in the Ottawa area. Locations supplied on registration.

TAOIST TAI CHI™ –

BEGINNER

Tues Apr 29 - Jun 17, 6 - 7:30 pm (8 wks)

Movements of the Taoist Tai Chi™ set, calm the mind and refresh the body. They help improve balance, circulation and posture, increase strength and flexibility, promote relaxation, and reduce stress. Practitioners, including those who come with specific health concerns such as high blood pressure, arthritis, low bone density, high cholesterol, MS or Parkinson's, have all found benefits through the practice of this ancient Taoist art.

Fee: \$96

Location: New Edinburgh House

To Register: www.nectarcentre.ca

RISE & SHINE to a Swedish Flex Class

Wed Apr 23 - Jun 25 (9wks), 7:30 - 8:30 am

Fri May 2 - Jun 20 (9wks), 7:30 - 8:30 am

Flex aims to move the body in a large, optimal, flexible range of motion with control, balance and stability – it is an active and dynamic movement training. The character of this class is best described as sporty, athletic, flow, energy, focus and presence. It ends with deep relaxation and is good for all levels of fitness.

Instructor: **Nina Lepage**

Fee: \$169

To Register: nina.lepage@gmail.com or 613-290-4285

YOUTH PROGRAMS

It is with great anticipation that we welcome spring and summer at the NECTAR Centre. There is much to look forward to in our agenda of children and youth programming, and we are excited to be welcoming some new faces along with many old favourites for the upcoming season. We hope you will come and check out the many great classes and programs that we will be offering.

Our **After School Program** will continue this spring, and we are delighted to welcome **Fadzai Chiripanhura** as the new ECE for the After School Program. Fadzai is a graduate of



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the Early Childhood Education Program at Algonquin College, and has worked as an ECE for the past year at the Alta-Vista Co-Operative Nursery School. She comes to us highly recommended, and we are looking forward to her joining the After School Program team.

To compliment the After School Program, NECTAR will be offering many new events and classes for young people of all ages in the coming months. Starting this spring, we welcome celebrated Ottawa magician **Michael Bourada**, who will teach a **Magic course every Monday evening** starting at the end of April. We are also excited to have local poet **Ali Alikhani** teach a dynamic and interactive class on slam poetry for teens.

For all you aspiring junior engineers out there, on **Thursday, May 15, "The Lego Guy" Ian Dudley** will come to NECTAR to offer one of his famous Lego Workshops. Children will work on engineering, robotics and building, all through the use of Lego.

We are especially pleased to have many great classes and instructors returning this spring, including our **Intro to Martial Arts** class with **Scott Fitzpatrick**, and **Playgroup** every Monday morning for children under four. The playgroup welcomes **Joni Hamlin** as its new coordinator and is grateful to **Graeme Danko** for leading the music and circle time.

Starting at the end of April, NECTAR music teacher **Mark Nemeth** will offer an all-ages **Drumming class on Saturday afternoons**. This program is for families, individuals and kids! Please refer to the NECTAR Program Guide to sign up for our courses or give us a call at 613-745-2742 for details.

Summer Camps (ages 4 – 12 yrs)

Welcome to another exciting summer at the NECTAR Centre! Camp participants will create and play all day, while making friends, exploring their imaginations and engaging in blend of outdoor active sports! The NECTAR Centre weaves a different theme through the activities each week, and there are lots to choose from for campers of every age. Sign up for one week or join us for all of them. (A 10% discount applies if a camper attends more than one week). All camps are located at the **Fieldhouse in Stanley Park**. Please contact us at **info@nectarcentre.ca** or **(613) 745-2742** if you are interested in signing up.

Young Artists Camp Week 1: July 7 – 11 \$200

From painting to drawing to sculpting to printmaking, get a taste of all the arts during this hands on week of creative arts discovery. NECTAR Centre artists will help guide kids down a pathway of artistic fun and exploration with projects from around the world.

Magic Camp Week 2: July 14 – 18 \$200

Kids will learn how to dazzle and amaze people with the art of illusion. By the end of the week, your friends and family will *ooh* and *ahh* at your newfound magical abilities.

Creative Music Camp Week 3: July 21 – 25 \$200

Get ready to make some music! This session is designed to introduce your child to the exciting world of music, featuring everything from rhythm classes to orchestra to rock and roll to hip-hop and choir. Participants even build their own instruments! Beginners and students new to music lessons are welcome.

Drama Camp Week 3: July 28 – Aug 1 \$200

Make a Scene! This is a special week designed for young performers and children interested in learning about the theatre. Kids will get a chance to develop their love of the stage in this fun-filled camp, and to use their imaginations to make up plays and build their own sets and scenery. This camp includes a special performance for parents and friends on Friday afternoon.

Animalia Camp Week 4: Aug 4 – 8 \$200

The animal kingdom will be explored during this exciting week of hands on fun. Kids, get ready for some special reptilian visitors and a chance to take a walk on the wild side.

Sports Camp Week 5: Aug 11 -15 \$200

Kids of all ages and abilities will have an amazing time, so get ready to play all kinds of awesome outdoor sports. Campers will get expert instruction in tennis, basketball and more during this athletically themed week. Most importantly, they will have fun!

Mad Science Camp Week 6: Aug 18 – 22 \$200

Unleash your inner Einstein as we get ready to do amazing

Summer Camps (ages 4 – 12 yrs)

Welcome to another exciting summer at the NECTAR Centre! Camp participants will create and play all day, while making friends, exploring their imaginations and engaging in blend of outdoor active sports! On top of this the NECTAR Centre weaves a different theme each week and has lots to choose from for campers of every age. Sign up for one week or all of them. (10% discount applies if camper attends more than one week). All camps are located at the Field House in Stanley Park.

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Mad Science Camp Week 6: Aug 18 – 22 \$200

Unleash your inner Einstein as we get ready to do amazing (and safe!) experiments inside and outside and learn about gravity, physics and chemistry with some potentially explosive results.

Looking for After School Care in September?

NECTAR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM 3:30 – 5:45 Monday to Friday + optional PD days

The NECTAR Centre After School Care Program is designed to promote an active lifestyle, to foster literacy, the arts and bilingualism. Part-time and full-time spots available. For grades 1-6.
Contact: info@nectarcentre.ca
Fee: FT \$300/month or PT \$15/day



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(and safe!) experiments inside and outside, and learn about gravity, physics and chemistry with some potentially explosive results.

NEW KIDS PROGRAMS

MAGIC WITH MICHAEL BOURADA

Mon Apr 28 - Jun 23 (8 wks), 5 - 6 pm

Learn Amazing Magic! Michael Bourada, one of the city's premier magicians will teach amazing magic tricks! Ever wanted to amaze people? Now is your chance - don't miss it!

Instructor: **Michael Bourada**
Fee: \$150

SLAM POETRY

Wed Apr 30 - Jun 18 (8 wks), 5 - 6:30 pm

Learn to create verbal works

of art with local slam poet Ali Alikhani. Children will learn how to rhyme and perform, using one of the most vital and energetic arts forms out there. All skill levels are welcome: just be ready to express yourself and have fun!

Instructor: **Ali Alikhani**

Fee: \$150

Location: New Edinburgh House

FLAVOR FACTORY - INTRO TO HIP HOP DANCING

Sat Apr 19 - Jun 21 (10 wks) 4 - 5 pm

Come and learn the dance moves of the streets in this amazing course offered by experienced instructors. All levels welcome as we prepare for a final show at the end of the course.

Instructor: **Flavor Factory**

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Wraps from Around the World

Nina Lepage

Thursday May 22nd 7:30 - 9pm

How to Grow an Edible Garden

Joanna Chelo

Thursday June 5th 7:30 - 9pm

Medicinal Herbs and Salves

Amber Westfall, The Wild Garden

Thursday Jun 26th 7:30 - 9pm

Preregistration for Skills Exchange events is encouraged
Registration Fee: \$12 per person
Register for 3 sessions for \$30 and save \$6
At the Door: \$15.00
Location: New Edinburgh House

Fee: \$170

Location: Memorial Hall

Let's Build! LEGO Adventures

Thursday May 15 4 - 5:30 pm

Ian Dudley is a legend in Ottawa, known for his LEGO parties and classes for kids. He

is coming to NECTAR to teach hands-on robotics and engineering through Lego. Join us for an amazing one-time workshop for children ages 8 and up at the NECTAR Centre. Don't miss it!

Instructor: **Ian Dudley**

Fee: \$15

Location: New Edinburgh House

on and stick to the beat! All students will need a hand drum and one to two shakers.

Instructor: **Mark Nemeth**
Fee: \$135

Location: New Edinburgh House

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC LESSONS (All Ages)

We are welcoming new students in violin, piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, bass and theory. Lessons consist of several components including note reading, technique, music theory, repertoire, and musicianship.

Fee: 30 minute lesson: \$25 | 45 minute lesson: \$35

1 hour lesson: \$45

Location: New Edinburgh House

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www.peterdclark.ca



ALL AGES

HAND DRUMMING (everyone welcome)

Sat Apr 26 - Jun 14 (8 wks), 1 - 2:30 pm

This is a fun group class for participants of all ages who are eager to make some noise! This fun learning class invites participants to get their drum

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Romance Fraud - A Multi-Million Dollar Criminal Activity

By Constable Ryan Pierce

I recently attended a seminar presented by Crime Prevention Ottawa that focused on romance fraud.

This criminal activity is often initiated online by individuals

who might not even reside in this city, let alone this country.

Individuals engaged in this criminal behaviour often use legitimate online social networking sites to find victims. They will often send out numerous requests for interac-

tion (similar to email scams) and focus their attention on those who respond.

After receiving a response, they will be relentless in forming a strong bond with the individual. The victim will usually be taken with the amount of attention and time that the scammer is investing in them and a perception of similar interests. Once trust is established, the fraudster will begin sending requests for money primarily to be sent through an electronic money service. The requests for money are accompanied with excuses that prey upon the strong relationship

that has been built. The trend usually progresses from smaller to larger sums of money being requested, for items such as airplane tickets to visit or urgent medical expenses. The success of these criminals depends upon maintaining a strong bond with their victim.

Often the scam ends when monetary requests exceed the capacity of the individual being scammed. However, individuals may continue to be victimized even after the criminal has been exposed.

We need to support victims of this crime and encourage them to report these scams. The

Ottawa Police Service fraud unit will investigate any complaints of this nature. Victims are also encouraged to contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Center at 1-888-495-8501.

If you would like to obtain more detailed information on this issue, or to discuss any public safety issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at piercer@ottawapolice.ca or @RockcliffeCPC on Twitter. Constable Ryan Pierce Community Police Officer-Rockcliffe Park, Lowertown, Sandy Hill & Byward Market 613-236-1222 extension 8520

New Ed Duo Wins Gold at Canadian Indoor Rowing Championships

A local mother/daughter duo has captured the Gold medal at the 2014 Canadian Indoor Rowing Championships. Michelle Olsheski, with her daughter, Daphnée, took the Gold medal in the Mother/Daughter Event on February 2, 2014, at the Canadian Championships held every year at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.

Daphnée is already a seasoned rower, having rowed for the last five years with local clubs, the Ottawa - New Edinburgh Club, the Ottawa Rowing Club and the Elmwood School rowing team, competing and medaling in numerous regattas locally and internationally.

When the Ottawa River ices over, though, she continues to train indoors on an ergometer, which uses basically the same movement as in a boat.

Strapped into an indoor rowing machine, the goal is to get the best time in a simulated 2-kilometre race.

Indoor rowing is as popular a sport as rowing on the water, if the attendance rate by participants and observers is any indication. This year's Canadian championships had over 60 different events with competitors ranging in ages from eight years of age to over 80, competing in events ranging from "Future Olympians" to paralympians.

The Canadian Indoor Rowing Championships is the meeting place for rowers of all calibres seeking to test their progress before on-the-water races. University crews, high schoolers, national team members and those aspiring to achieve that level, all compete in the events at the Hershey Centre, where 90 "ergs" are

set up on the arena's centre ice, allowing rowers' progress to be captured via computers and fed to the live-feed video screens.

A minute into this year's Mother/Daughter Event, after pouring all their energy out, the judge announced "Stop rowing!" A computer glitch had occurred. The commentator urged the rowers to continue to move their legs so that the lactic acid wouldn't take hold. After regulating the computers so all competitors would be timed, the race began again.

Using the stores of power and energy they had left, the local mother/daughter team took the Gold, following up on Daphnée's remarkable 31st position at the 2013 World Indoor Rowing Championships in Boston.

Visit ONEC and Find an Activity to Last a Lifetime

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) is a convenient, inexpensive and attractive community amenity. The Club, with its unique Ottawa River Boathouse, is located on the Rockcliffe Parkway. Major improvements have been made to the Boathouse, which allows a return to public use of the building for social events and weddings.

ONEC, and its associated children's sports day camps, offers community residents tennis, rowing and sailing opportunities and promises a safe, fun experience and great memories to last a lifetime. ONEC has a friendly and informal atmosphere; and is proud to have a strong membership made up of people of all ages and skill levels.

The Club is a perfect environment to find the right activity. Everybody has a place at ONEC.

A May 10 Open House event is a chance to find out more about the Club. The famous

Boathouse will be open to visitors, there will be a round-robin free to non-members (great opportunity to meet people), a Mill Street rep will serve a variety of their beers, racquet demos will be conducted by Kunststadt, and there will be a barbecue.

ONEC also can be contacted at onecadmin@gmail.com or at (613) 746-8540. Membership forms can also be obtained at www.onec.ca.

Summer Camp

The Club's children's camps have experienced coaches who provide a program for full or half days for all skill levels, with certified head instructors. It caters to the following age groups:

- Tennis - ages 7-16
- Rowing - ages 12-19
- Sailing - ages 9-16.

There are one- to four-week programs that are offered in July and August. Residents can drop in at any time after April 28 and informally learn more about the camps and the Club.



2014 Canadian Indoor Rowing Champions – Mother – Daughter Category. Gold medalists, Mother-Daughter duo, Daphnée with her mother, Michelle Olsheski.

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Placing Climate Change on the Horizon of Our Understanding ... and Affections

"Nature shows us only the tail of the lion. But there is no doubt in my mind that the lion belongs with it even if he cannot reveal himself to the eye all at once because of his huge dimension."

Albert Einstein

By Gaye Taylor

Throughout the first weeks of 2014, temperatures in New South Wales and Queensland, Australia, ranged well beyond 40°C. Within this cauldron, and without recourse to air-conditioning, 50,000 bats and equivalent numbers of other creatures ranging from kangaroos to parrots died from heat exhaustion. Things are equally troubled in many cool and watery realms of the Earth: for the past 25 years, pH levels in waters off the coast of British Columbia have been steadily declining, an acidification taking place as warming oceans absorb more CO₂. As documentaries like *The Acid Test* (viewable online) make tragically clear, an acidifying ocean is a global death sentence for coral and other creatures possessed of carbonate shells or skeletons.

While scientists are cur-

rently cautious about ascribing direct causal links, chances are high that the recently reported deaths of over one billion oysters and scallops in farms off the B. C. coast are linked to a warming, and acidifying, aquatic eco-system. Moving south and far above sea-level, we find Central American coffee growers losing their battle with, and their livelihoods to, the coffee-rust fungus that thrives in a suddenly warmer and wetter world.

The litany of loss arising from a global climate in increasing turmoil thus goes on and on: 50,000 dead in the Russian summer heat wave of 2010. 70,000 dead across Europe in the summer of 2003. And, as we all know, the United Kingdom has suffered the wettest winter in 250 years, while California endured the worst drought in the state's recorded history. One would think that such traumatic events would propel all witnesses, near and far, into meaningful actions to fight climate change. And, indeed, many people around the globe *are* girding themselves for the battle.

Alas, as a people, we

Canadians seem oddly unmoved. And our leaders, fingers ever on the public pulse, demonstrate a corresponding lack of urgency.

The reasons behind our collective apathy are many, and complicated. Distraction, denial and despair each plays its tragic part in our collective non-response to date. But there is another, and not insignificant, reason why Canadians are failing to act collectively to mitigate climate change and that is that *"except as we have loved, / All news arrives as from a distant land."*

These words come from American poet Mary Oliver's *"Beyond the Snow Belt,"* a work that meditates on how our response to the suffering of those remote from us is usually fairly dispassionate. And so it is, for example, that the *"disasters like dark poems / That always happen in the skull of winter"*—a child struck by a snow plow, a skier swallowed by an avalanche, a panhandler frozen at some bitter intersection of urban dark—will be received, except by loved ones left to mourn, as someone else's tragedy, quickly assim-



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lated, and thence, forgotten. And, as Oliver suggests, this is the natural way of things: *"Peacefully from our frozen yards we watch / Our children running on the mild white hills. / This is the landscape that we understand."* What strikes each of us most deeply is what lies nearest and, correspondingly, often dearest, to us. That which lies over the horizon of our experience, but especially over the horizon of our affections, is *"a wild place never visited— so we / Forget with ease each far mortality."*

And so it is that for most Canadians, climate change is still news arriving "as from a distant land." How, then, to bring climate change home?

Well, the first necessity is to make climate change a "landscape" that we *do* understand, intellectually, by forcing ourselves to learn about it. I use the word "force" deliberately, as the facts of climate change consist of a lot of bad news, and bad news is hard to hear.

But provided we have the courage, and foresight, to confront the bad news, there is much good news to be had as well.

It is as such a bearer of bad—and good—news, that I will be at the **Memorial Hall, at 39 Dufferin, on Saturday, April 26, from 4 to 6 pm**, speaking as a member of **Climate Reality Project**, a non-partisan global organization founded by Al Gore in 2011, and whose mandate is to educate the public about the "reality" of climate change. This reality has three core elements: 1) the planet is warming very fast because of human generated greenhouse gas emissions, 2) the catastrophic effects of this warming are already being felt around the globe, and 3) we have many of the solutions to

hand, and need only the public and political will to implement them.

But such information alone may not be enough to galvanize the necessary swift action on climate change because for many Canadians these "realities" of climate change will be readily submerged again under the day-to-day realities of life: its struggles, joys and sorrows. And there is another problem: however much we learn about the "facts" of climate change, we will only ever have hold of the tail of the climate "lion." We will need to *imagine* the rest if we are to register in time the extent of its power and danger. We need to envision, as does Wallace Broecker, an American climate scientist, acclaimed researcher into carbon sequestration technology, and great-grandfather of five, that "Climate is an angry beast and we are poking it with sticks."

If we give it space in our imaginations, climate change will begin to crop up on the horizon of our affections, and intersect with our own hopes and concerns for the well-being of all we love. And, suddenly, because what we love is implicated, reports of what the "angry beast" of climate change is doing to those "in a distant land" will be received more as daily news from the streets where we live.

Recognizing the power of the imagination in getting people to care about climate change while it still seems remote from them, Climate Reality Project recently launched an online initiative called *"What I Love."* The forum will not appeal to everyone, but powerful visuals and cinematic scope do work hard to demonstrate how the abstract narrative of

"climate change" will become, for each and every one of us, the ultimate "dark poem" of loves lost should we fail to mitigate climate change. Check it out, if you like. And please consider coming to my talk / Q & A on April 26, especially if you doubt that 1) Einstein's lion of nature really *is* angry, 2) we are the ones provoking its wrath, and 3) there is anything we can do. There is.

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35 Beechwood Ave., Ottawa

Ottawa Art Gallery's Le Party Auction in 3-D

Of the 65 Ottawa-based artists in the Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG) Art Auction this year, the work of New Edinburgh artist **Lori Brethour-Coulter** stands out, literally, for its use of three-dimensional objects, mounted in a frame.

The artwork, which will be

a unique opportunity for art enthusiasts to see the kind of art being created in Ottawa today. On top of being good exposure for artists, Brethour-Coulter said it's also a chance for the public to see what's going on in the city and, in this case, in New Edinburgh.

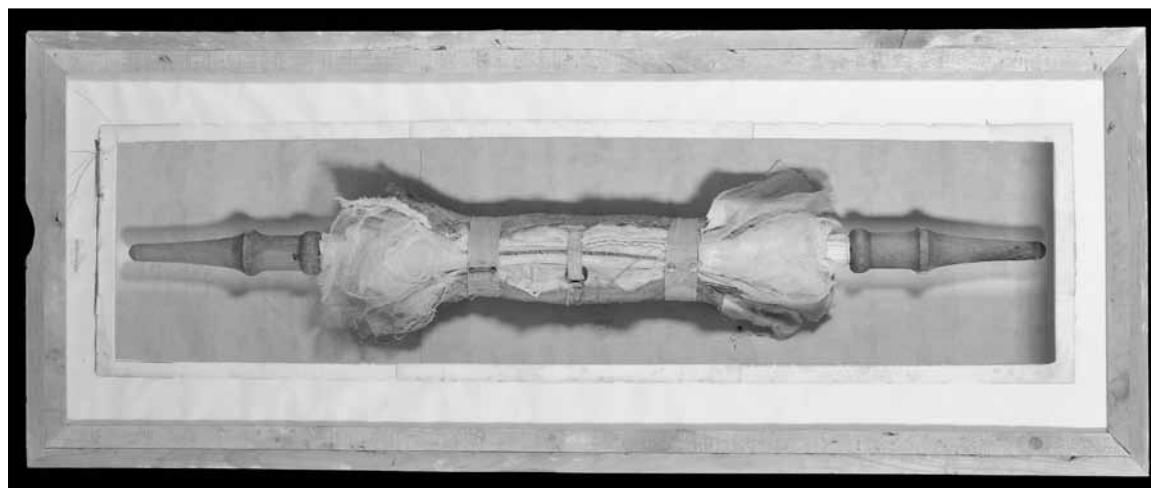


The artist Lori Brethour-Coulter at home in New Edinburgh. Photo courtesy of the artist.

auctioned off on June 19, is titled *How am I to get there?* It combines items like Japanese papers with found and manipulated objects in a sculptural way, but framed to be displayed on a wall.

OAG's Art Auction, called *Le Party* for its fun atmosphere, is

Brethour-Coulter has been making art for more than 25 years and has exhibited at venues in Ottawa, like Gallery four seven nine, Gallery 200 and the former Dale Smith Gallery in New Edinburgh. Being familiar with Brethour-Coulter's practice, art dealer



Lori Brethour-Coulter, *How am I to get there?*, 2013, mixed media, 125 x 50 cm, courtesy of the artist. This artwork will be up for auction June 19 at OAG's Le Party.

Dale Smith suggested that she submit a work to last year's Art Auction. Based on the quality of her work, the artist was invited to submit again in 2014.

New Edinburgh resident **Leslie McKay**, a financial service executive and the chair of the OAG's Art Auction Committee, is happy to be able to include an artist from New Edinburgh among the many talented, emerging and established artists who are invited to participate.

One of Ottawa's premier, springtime social events, *Le Party* is a silent art auction of works by regional artists working in a variety of media, like painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and printmaking. The auction attracts hundreds

of guests who have a taste for local art and food, as the ticket price also includes food and drink samples from a selection of the city's finest restaurants and caterers. As the OAG's signature fundraising event for nearly twenty years, *Le Party* has helped raise a significant part of the Gallery's overall operating budget.

Pictured here, Brethour-Coulter's work in the Auction looks like a bound-up scroll, with many parts hidden from sight. She invites viewers to ask themselves the title question. "It's a question we ask ourselves always, but it's personal, interior," she says. "Should I or shouldn't I open this Pandora's Box?"

This personal quality is also appreciated by interior

designer **Irene Langlois**, who frequently attends the Art Auction. She believes a person's connection to an artwork is extremely important and tells her clients to always "buy what you love."

She says **Le Party** is one of the best ways to learn about artists in Ottawa and get to know their work. Beyond "Buying Local," she thinks, it's more important to recognize that there is excellent work being done in Ottawa. "You don't have to go to New York or Toronto or Montreal."

Le Party happens on June 19, 2014, at the Ottawa Art Gallery, 2 Daly Ave. For tickets and more information visit www.ottawaartgallery.ca.

An Evening with the Vyhovskyi Strings and Friends

On **Sunday, May 25 at 7 pm**, MacKay United Church will open its doors to the community for "An Evening with the Vyhovskyi Strings and Friends." The **Vyhovskyi Strings** is a youth ensemble

made up of young, talented violinists from the Ottawa area ranging in age from 9 to 15 years. The group chose their name in honour of their dedicated and esteemed violin teacher, **Serhii Vyhovskyi**.

Many members of the group have been studying with Serhii and his wife, **Elena Vyhovska**, for close to a decade. The group is accompanied by brilliant and vivacious **Tea Mamaladze** on the piano.

The group members include: **Declan Lavoie, Maria Krstic, Theodore Wang, William Paradine, Samuel Ertel, Isabelle Hebert, Nyah Lavoie, Jonathan Lin, Vincent Beaulé, Jared Lim,**

Serena Knight, Charlotte Amannt, Leonard Paradine and Annika Lavoie.

Ensemble and individual violin and piano performances will feature the works of Vivaldi, Haydn, Dvorak and Prokofiev, just to name a few. Tickets (\$15 adults, \$5 under 12) will go on sale in early May through MacKay Administration Office and local supporters, and will be available at the door, with proceeds donated to MacKay United Church. For more information, see mackayunitedchurch.com or contact the office by email at admin@mackayunitedchurch.com or by phone 613-749-8727. Don't miss this exciting evening of ensemble and individual performances with talented young musicians!



Photo by: Curtis Lavoie

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La Maison Henderson, un rare exemple de bâtiment de style Second Empire à ossature de bois

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

La Maison Henderson située au 34, rue Alexander, dans le secteur New Edinburgh, possède une très grande valeur patrimoniale, puisqu'elle s'avère l'un des rares exemples à Ottawa de bâtiments de style Second Empire construits à ossature en bois.

La somptueuse demeure est construite en 1864-1865, mais les éléments de l'architecture Second Empire, soit le toit en mansarde, les trois pignons en forme de bréchet, ainsi que les denticules et les modillons des belles corniches, seraient sans

doute ajoutés afin de répondre au goût du jour. De plus, les fenêtres à arc à plein cintre du rez-de-chaussée, auraient aussi remplacé les fenêtres plus dépouillées qui étaient là à l'origine.

De plus, on ne sait pas si la véranda du rez-de-chaussée date des années 1860 ou si elle a plutôt été installée à la fin du XIXe siècle. Quoiqu'il en soit, il ne fait aucun doute que cette maison patrimoniale a connu plusieurs ajouts au fil du temps. Cela dit, il faut toutefois reconnaître que ces modifications donnent tout de même une apparence très harmonieuse à la résidence.

Ce monument historique est érigé pour loger la famille de John Henderson, gestionnaire des scieries MacLaren. Par ailleurs, Henderson s'avère le premier trésorier du village de New Edinburgh, constitué en 1865. Lorsque que le village est annexé à Ottawa en 1887, Henderson devient le greffier de la Ville.

Fait plutôt rare dans la région de la capitale fédérale, la propriété historique reste dans les mains de la même famille pendant plus d'un siècle, soit jusqu'en 1969.

Heureusement, cette imposante construction en bois est protégée pour les généra-



Photo: Louise Imbeault

La Maison Henderson est située au 34, rue Alexander.

tions à venir grâce à la Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario.

Michel Prévost offre des visites guidées pour les groupes de 10 personnes et plus du pat-

rimoine bâti franco-ontarien. Vous pouvez réserver au 613-562-5825 ou par courriel à michel.prevast@uottawa.ca



By Liba Bender

On my 64th birthday my (now famous) nephew Ari Posner gave me "The Complete Manual of THINGS THAT MIGHT KILL YOU". It is interesting and informative. However some of you already know that I am a super careful, very informed, safety conscious person. But then again, there are others who are not. And let's not forget about accidents. Life is full of hazards.

For this reason, I now have a list of places to visit before I die.

This year, it was New Zealand and Hawaii. If you want to read all about New Zealand, pick up the 1998 copy of LETS GO NEW ZEALAND at the New Edinburgh Pub. I used it and returned it to the pub library. (Yes, the pub has a library, who knew?). Only the prices have changed since 1998, as the cost of living there is very expensive. The quality of life, however, is great. Better than here. Great water and fantastic air.

As usual, this article's focus is on Neighbourhood Watch or Neighbourhood Support as they call it in New Zealand. "Nobody likes to be watched, so we changed the name," stated the policeman I talked to in Auckland.

We can always learn some things from the way other countries do them. In the end

though, you are in charge of your property, possessions and, as a group, your neighbourhood.

When you travel make it simple. I went over with just carry-on luggage. It worked for a while, but ended up buying a matched set of hard luggage with four wheels so it was easy to move them through airports. For a change they were not black. If you really want to make sure no one will steal your luggage, buy an outlandish colour or printed set of bags. Then put some ribbons, flags or decals on them.

Never leave bags or purses unattended no matter where you are. A lady I know, hung her purse on the hook of a bathroom cubicle. While she was on the toilet someone reached over the top and took it.

Even with a knapsack a person behind you can reach in and take things. Distraction is the name of the game. One person in front may distract you while another behind you steals something out of your purse or pocket. How many phones have been stolen when a person who is asked the time pulls it out to tell the stranger? Think about that one before giving the time of day off your cell phone in the future.

Carry all valuables close to your body. Put money, passports and keys in your pockets next to your chest, tummy or

even under your hat securely attached. Or you can sew a hidden pocket into an inner pant seam.

If there is no safe in your room, sleep with your money and documents in your pillow sack or store them in the hotel vault. Make copies of all your travel documents before you leave: front and back. Keep them separate from your real documents and also in a very

safe place where no one can find them. Identity theft is one of the biggest kind of theft these days. Do not tempt fate.

Thieving is rampant and worldwide. Signs in New Zealand national park parking lots remind people that unlocked cars invite intruders.

Life away is interesting. But it is always great to sleep back in your own bed.

Thank you to my neighbours who watched over my home,

took out the garbage, shovelled and made the house look lived in. It is good to know that things are safe while you are away.

Next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be on May 4, from 12:30 to 1 pm at 255 MacKay. Should be interesting with a few surprise guests. If you cannot be there, please email me your concerns: libabender@yahoo.ca.

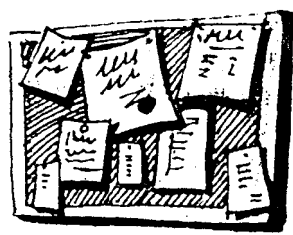
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Burgh Bulletin Board

April

RPL SOCCER LEAGUE UPDATE - Player registration is open til Thursday, April 3 (note the change!). **The season will open April 26** with the PeeWees (4-5 and 6-7 year olds) and close the June 19. Register online at www.lindenlea.ca, or rockcliffepark.leaguetoobox.com. As always, we are in need of both players and volunteers to make it all happen.

Mar 31 to Apr 6

MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL at Muséoparc Vanier – museoparc.ca for more information.

Fri, Apr 4, 6 pm

ANNUAL GALA in support of Helping With Furniture. Savor a great meal, take bids in our silent auction, sit back and enjoy the entertainment. Since 2005, HWF has been transforming houses into homes by free cycling tables, sofas, linens and much more and keeping furniture out of the landfills! Venue: St Elias Banquet Hall. Tickets: \$60.

hwfottawa.org or 613-612-6228.

Sat, Apr 5, 2:30 - 4 pm

SPORTS EQUIPMENT SALE - Have you got any sports equipment to sell? Are you looking to buy some used equipment? Drop off your equipment for sale from 1:30-2:30 pm. Cash only. At Lindenlea Community Centre.

Sun, Apr 6, 2014, 3 pm

GLORIES OF THE ORGAN – at St Bartholomew's Church. Organist Barbara Hallam-Price in recital, featuring works by D. Buxtehude, Bach, Vienne, Medelsson and Lang. 125 MacKay Street. \$25 General, \$20 Senior, \$15 Student. Tickets available at St. Bart's Office and at the door.

Fri, Apr 11, 7-9 pm

CELADON Salon & Spa, 373 St. Laurent Blvd. (at Hemlock) – “Polka Dots and Moon Beams” – an art exhibit by local artist Simon Moor will be on display at CELADON Salon & Spa. Meet the artist and admire his latest works. Refreshments will be served.

Sat, Apr 12 and Sun, Apr 13

BOOK SALE at Rockcliffe Park branch Public Library. Mark your calendars now.

Sun, Apr 13, 1:30 pm

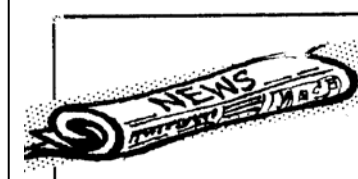
FREE LECTURE: THE MACOUN MARSH - Come with your family and friends to Beechwood Cemetery (280 Beechwood) for a photographic exploration of the creatures that live at the Macoun Marsh. The Marsh is a unique, protected wetland located in the southeast corner of the cemetery. Local science teacher Michael Léveillé will speak about his experiences at the Marsh and tell stories about some of the exciting wildlife he's seen, like the encounter between a young red-tailed hawk and a very nervous gray squirrel! The lecture is free of charge, and we invite budding naturalists of all ages to join us. Lecture and parking are free, and light refreshments will be served afterwards. For information: 613-741-9530, beechwoodcemetery.com.

April 26, 7-10 pm

BRIDE IDEAS - THE ULTIMATE WEDDING SHOWCASE at the Wabano Centre at 299 Montréal Road. An evening of Bridal fashions, accessories, food, flowers etc. put on by the Vanier BIA. See article on page 16.

Sun, Apr 27, 2014, 2-5 pm

NEW EDINBURGH COMMUNITY FORUM - NECA, the CCC and NECTAR are joining forces to host a community forum at Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road (at Avon Lane). The forum will be facilitated and cookies, tea and coffee will be served. Please join us for a dynamic discussion, get engaged in your community and help us plan for



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the future together. Visit www.newedinburgh.ca or call Sarah Anson-Cartwright at 613-745-4194 to RSVP.

Sun, Apr 27, 3 pm

OTTAWA BRAHMS CHOIR presents Schubert Mass in G with guest soloists Sandra Wilson (soprano), Harold Swaffield (tenor), Joel Nordenstrom (bass), and instrumentalists, under the direction of Denise Hawkins, accompanist Ioulia Blinova, at St. Thomas the Apostle at 2345 Alta Vista Drive. Also included are works by Schumann, Mendelssohn, Brahms and more. Reception following. Tickets available from choir members or at Leading Note, 370 Elgin. For info: OttawaBrahmsChoir.ca. Tel: 819-568-8169; 613-749-2391.

Sun, Apr 27, 7 - 9 pm

PARENTS, CHILDREN AND TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP - 21st Century parents will learn how Ottawa author Natalia McPhedran's never-before-shared coaching secrets can improve communication with their children and keep them safe on the Internet. (Best suited for parents and caregivers with children 12 and under). Natalia's new book “Life With

Kids” will be sold for \$10. Avalon Theatre, 738-A Bank Street at Second Avenue. Info: Pre-registration required: \$35 in advance; \$40 after April 1. Info: (613) 229-8955; natalia@nataliacoachingyou.ca or nataliacoachingyou.ca.

Mon, Apr 28, 2014, 6 pm

INDIAN DINNER FUNDRAISER - The volunteers of Friends of Jagruti would like to invite you to a delicious event at the Coconut Lagoon restaurant, 853 St. Laurent Blvd! Friends of Jagruti is a Canadian not-for-profit association aimed at bringing educational support and health care to the women and children of Janawadi slum, home to 300,000 people in the heart of Pune, India. Cost is \$35.

May

Sat, May 3, 6 pm

FIREWORKS 10 DINNER AND AUCTION is being held at the Hampton Inn, 200 Coventry. Monies raised from this event are used by the Bytown Fire Brigade to continue the restoration and maintenance of the antique vehicles and apparatus. The main goal of the Brigade is to acquire, restore, preserve and display



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Saturday, May 31 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



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the artifacts and apparatus that tell the story of firefighting in Canada's capital and the country as a whole. Tickets: \$65 (Full course dinner with wine and music by The Divas). For tickets, please call Peter Ryan at 613-692-7625 or Ken Langille at 613-521-4864 or email us at bytownfb@gmail.com. Donations are also very welcome.

Sun, May 4, 3 – 5 pm

SHAMROCK TEA at the Residence of the Irish Embassy - Please join us for a Fundraising Tea for TIPS- Thinking in Pictures Educational Services, a centre for children, youth and adults with Autism spectrum disorders and/or other exceptionalities. For more information please visit: www.tipes.ca. Your ticket will help TIPS offset the cost of Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) therapy. Celtic music will be performed by Acacia Lyra and PEI artist Teresa Doyle, and delicious refreshments will be available. There will also be a silent auction for some super gift cards! Tickets are \$50 and available from Liz Heatherington at 613-745-4677 (a partial tax receipt will be issued). Hope you will join us, and if you wish, please wear your spring chapeau!

May 4, 12:30 - pm

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH meeting at New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay. Constable Ryan Pierce will be there as will some other special guests.

Fri, May 9

MINERAL MAKEUP EVENT - CELADON Salon & Spa, 373 St. Laurent Blvd.: You are invited to book a complimentary make-up session with the Jane Ireland educator for Eastern Ontario. **BONUS:** Free NUFACE 5-Minute Face

Lift. Call 613-746-3500 for an appointment.

Sat, May 10, 8 am – 4 pm

NEW EDINBURGH PLANT SALE –rain or shine at Stanley park Fieldhouse. Hanging baskets, bedding flats and herbs. See announcement on Page 1.

Sat, May 10, 10 am – 1 pm

PARK AND RIVERBANK CLEANUP – Meet at the Stanley park Fieldhouse. It's a mucky job, so dress for the occasion. See announcement on Page 1.

Sat, May 10, 9 am - noon

RAIN BARREL SALE. This Ottawa Riverkeepers fundraising event is scheduled for at Elmdale Public School, 49 Iona Street. Rain barrels are \$55 each and orders must be placed in advance of the sale, either online at www.RainBarrel.ca/ottawariverkeeper or by calling 613-321-1120.

Sat, May 24, 10 am - 2 pm

MANOR PARK MAY FAIR at Manor Park Public School, 100 Braemar. Face painting, bouncy castle, toys and books, free entertainment. For info contact manorparkschoolcouncil@yahoo.ca or call 613-745-6270.

Ferme Lève-tôt Workshare:

A limited number of workshare positions are available to our CSA partners this summer. Workshare partners receive a reduction of \$270 on a weekly or family-size basket in exchange for volunteer work on the farm. Workshare shifts are 4 hours (half day) every week or 8 hours (full day) every two weeks, ideally on Mondays or Tuesdays. We'll ask you to spend a trial day with us on the farm before the regular season begins. Workshares can expect hard work in all weather conditions!

Volunteering: Casual volunteers are always welcome at our farm. Generally we ask that volunteers visit on weekdays (ideally Mondays or Tuesdays), and that you contact us a week in advance so we can fit you into the workteam. Like workshares, you can expect hard work in all weather conditions. If you would like to bring your family out for a farm visit, please contact us in advance to make sure we can accommodate you.

For more details: (819) 422-2329 or email us at fermelevetot@gmail.com, our website is www.fermelevetot.ca

Sat, May 24, 1 pm

SPRING FASHION SHOW AND SALE with High Tea featuring the unique creations of Judy Joannou Designs at MacKay United Church. www.mackayunitedchurch.com.

Tue, May 27, 4 – 7:30 pm

HEARTWOOD HOUSE GRAND OPENING will be held at 404 McArthur Avenue. "Best Wishes for Heartwood" A CELEBRATION in the presence of Mayor Jim Watson and special guests. Live music and refreshments. Join us!

Sat, May 31, 7:30 pm

STAIRWELL CAROLLERS Spring Concert – Ave Maria - An evening of sacred & secular music of the Renaissance at Church of Saint Barnabas A&M, 70 James Street. Tickets: In advance \$15; At the door \$20.

June

Sun, Jun 8, 7:30 pm

MACKAY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES: Schumann and Stenhammar. Tickets available at the door. www.mackayunitedchurch.com.

EASTER AND LENTEN SERVICES

Below is a listing of the numerous churches in the area that will be offering Easter and

Lenten services. Feel free to contact them to obtain the most current schedule:

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 Crichton St.

613-749-6953

www.stjohnlutheran.ca

stjohnlutheran@bellnet.ca

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

326 Mackay St.

613-749-1731

www.saintlukelutheran.ca

office@saintlukelutheran.ca

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

82 Kent (at Wellington)

613-232-9042W

www.StAndrewsOttawa.ca

office@standrewsottawa.ca

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

125 Mackay St.

613-745-7834

www.stbartsottawa.ca

stbarts@on.aibn.com

MACKAY UNITED CHURCH

MacKay St. at Dufferin Rd.

613-749-8727

mackayunitedchurch.com

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North River Road



\$1,700/Mth

The Highlands



\$199,000.

Queensway Terr. N.



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Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale.

La présente n'est pas destinée à solliciter les propriétés qui sont actuellement inscrites avec un agent immobilier.

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Spring Won't Come This Year

By Douglas Cornish

The much used term “silent spring” is mainly used with reference to toxic chemicals, but the term can also be applied to this year in reality. The verdict is still out (this being still April); but it is possible this year that not only will the spring be silent, but it may also be non-existent.

To cut to the chase here—there won't be a spring this year! It's been cancelled, not due to lack of interest, but due to climate change (or what they used to call global warming, and what they used to call before that, the thinning of the ozone layer). I'm sure other terminology will be introduced, just as “a cold snap” has now been replaced by the term “Polar Vortex”. (Sounds like an evil disaster movie, doesn't it?)

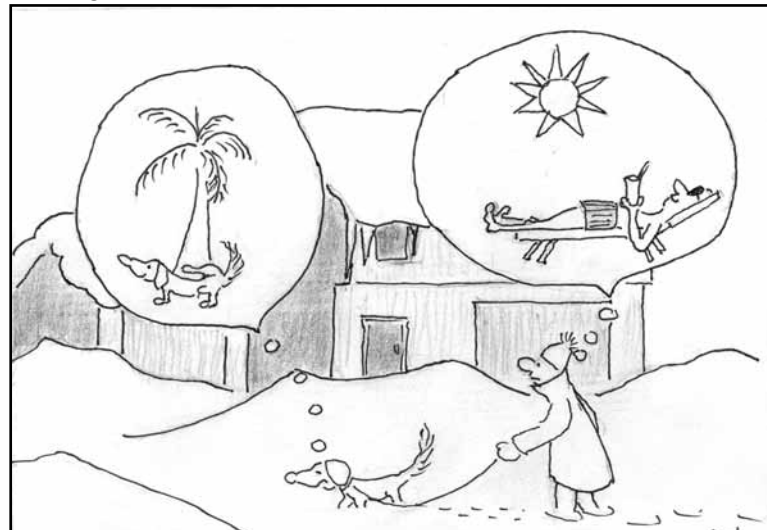
The predictions this year are for a colder than normal March, April, and May (and possibly snow in the latter two months). It can actually snow in any month in this country, and Ottawa is no stranger to snow in May. The thought is repulsive, isn't it? What if they put on a spring and spring didn't show up?

A world without spring is a world without a beginning. The year does, of course, begin in January (thanks to the Romans), but for we Canadians spring is really the kick-off for the year. Everything begins in spring. Hibernation (both physical and mental) ends in spring. People start to come alive again in spring. Spring is an inalienable right in this part of the world. People wait (and wait, and wait, and wait) for spring. Spring is therapy for a cold spirit.

The implications of a cold or non-existent spring, not only means higher heating costs, but a higher probability of going stir crazy, going absolutely

bonkers, going freaking, stark-raving mad.

It's really the not knowing that drives you nuts. Nobody seems to know, not even the people whose job it is to know these things. If we have no spring, that means then that we will have a hot and scorching summer to make up for it, because Mother Nature owes us? Right? Again, your guess is as good as mine. Mother Nature doesn't think on human terms. Mother Nature owes us nothing. Mother Nature doesn't



The Winter of 2013/2014.

Cartoon by John Graham

work with a balance sheet. She dishes out—we receive. That's how it works. Of course people would argue that Mother Nature's ways have been dictated (or have been corrupted by) human activity, and there probably isn't enough time for that argument. Whatever the reality is, the bottom line is that spring might be late this year, spring might be different this year, and spring might not even come.

This doesn't mean that we will continue with winter, but we may just stumble into summer. What kind of summer? Again, it's up for grabs. We really are victims (yes—that is probably *le mot juste*) and what is thrown at us—is thrown at us. End of story.

winter (if it actually is over at this point) was unusual. In fact, they say that if you are under 18 years of age then you've never experienced a winter like this one. Maybe we've been spoiled for a decade or two?

Two questions persist: when will winter finally end; and what is in store for our seasonal future? If I could answer those questions, I could sell the formula and be very rich. There no longer is a formula, though. No predictability now. I wonder if even the animals know now. And the calendars—well, forget about it. Those equinox dates on calendars do not mean a thing these days.

Will we spring from winter into spring this year...who knows?

Madiba and Me

By Jane Heintzman

On December 5, 2013, and in the weeks thereafter, the world was transfixed by the death of legendary South African anti-apartheid crusader Nelson Mandela, a heroic figure revered by millions throughout the world and deeply loved by his fellow South Africans. Not long after Mr. Mandela's death, a makeshift shrine appeared at the entrance to the Chancery of the South African High Commission on Sussex Drive. Several bunches of flowers

were carefully positioned at the base of the Chancery steps, artfully arranged to frame a plasticized image of Mandela, whose dazzling, beatific smile and sparkling eyes couldn't fail to catch the eye of passers-by.

The Chancery happens to be on my dog-walking route, and over the course of the next eight weeks, throughout the depths of this bitter winter, I was able to salute Madiba, as he was popularly known, as I passed by, and to draw warmth and inspiration from his remarkable, beaming face. Our relationship deepened as the winter progressed and I

became self-appointed custodian of the photograph, regularly fishing it out from under snowdrifts, chipping off ice, and doing my best to keep the image straight and readily visible. One day in late February, the photograph disappeared and my daily encounters with Madiba came to an end. But by then I was able to call to mind that compelling image as clearly as on the first day I spotted it in the days following Mandela's death. And I still salute Madiba (albeit silently) each time I pass by: he is more than worthy of this modest tribute.

Burgh Breezy Bits

DEADLINE: MAY 10 breezybits@hotmail.com



Photo: Bruce Sherry
Embedding a lucky Loonie into the Stanley Park Rink.

Seek and Find!

In the early morning, prior to the opening of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, **Kent Sherry** and his father deposited a 2010 Vancouver Olympic lucky loonie in the centre of the ice hockey rink in Stanley Park. Kent drilled a hole three inches deep into the ice, deposited the loonie, covered it with snow and water and the symbolic gesture was done.

It worked! Canadian won not only the Women's and Men's Gold medals, but both genders of the curling teams won gold as well. The coin still rests in the middle of the ice as of March 11. Whoever retrieves it, remember it's lucky.



Photo by: Lindsay Machinski, Whee Works Photography
Everleigh Aura Bohn Straka Greets her new Baby Sister, Maeven Laine Bohn Straka, born on March 10.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Carmen Bohn** and **Chris Straka** on the birth of their second daughter **Maeven Laine Bohn Straka**, who came safely into the world on March 10. Chris is delighted to report that "Maeven brought new life to the family just days after celebrating the second birthday of her sister **Everleigh Aura Bohn Straka** on March 6."



Connie is 103 (center).

Photo: Louise Imbeault

Congratulations to Burgh resident **Kelly Ann Beaton**, an independent filmmaker whose latest short film, *STOP*, premiered at the Galerie SAW Gallery on February 27. The film explores our soci-

etal obsession with the digital devices that rule our lives, and was shot here in Ottawa with an all-local cast and crew. The premiere screening was part of a retrospective of Kelly Ann's earlier works, including

the award-winning short films *Mulberry Road, No. 17, The Organist, 10:11, and My Fur Hat*. Kelly was delighted to announce recently that *STOP* has been selected to be in the Dawson City International Short Film Festival in late April. Congratulations to New Edinburgh Square resident **Connie Elton** who celebrated her **103rd birthday** in early February. Connie was the centre of attention at a lively birthday gathering at the residence, where he daughter, **Jo-Ann Robertson**, son-in-law **Hugh Robertson**, son **Chris Elton**, daughter-in-law **Pam Corcoran-Elton**, grandson **Mark Robertson**, and long-time friend **Mary Phemister** and her son **George** gathered for the festivities. We wish her continuing health and happiness in her 104th year!

Former MainWorks artist, **Karen Bailey**, who for

many years occupied a studio at 200 Crichton in the early days of the CCCC (now NECTAR Centre), has recently made her mark on the other side of the globe where her *Triage* paintings have inspired a group of Australian poets to produce a collection of poetry entitled *In Response to Triage*. As many readers will recall, Karen's *Triage* series of oil paintings documents her 2007 sojourn as a military artist with the Canadian Forces at Role 3 Hospital, Kandahar, Afghanistan (check out www.karenbailey.ca). The launch of the poetry collection took place in Canberra, Australia in late February, and interested readers will find the works online at sompots.wordpress.com/projects/response-to-triage/.

Condolences

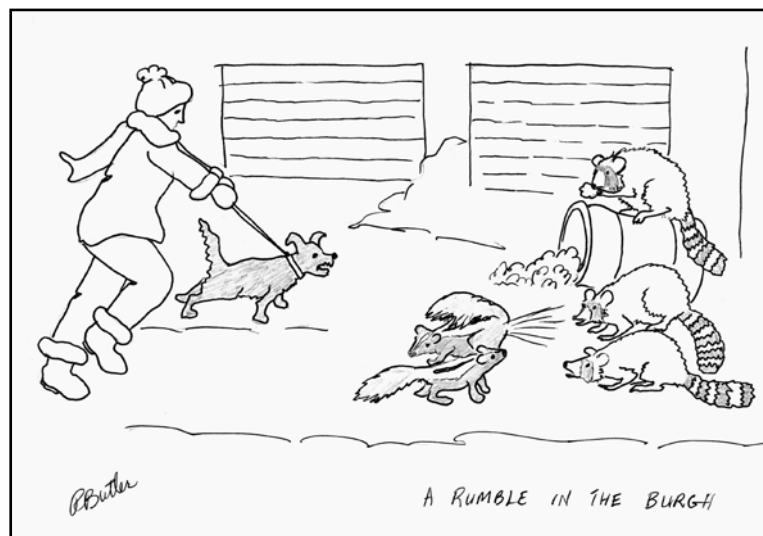
Our sincere condolences to **Peter** and **Anne Ostrom** and their family on the recent death of Peter's mother, **Pamela Ostrom**, a resident of New Edinburgh Square since 2005. Mrs. Ostrom died on March



Ukrainian demonstrations came to the neighbourhood and NEN photographer **Louise Imbeault** was there to capture the event.

16, 2014 at the age of 93, and will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

Condolences to NEN student reporter/photographer **Daphnée Dubouchet-Olscheski** on the recent death of her beloved miniature pinscher **Sugar**. Sugar was pictured in her winter finery in our February Pets in the Burgh feature, and she will be sorely missed by Daphnée to whom she has been a close companion for the past 13 years.



A RUMBLE IN THE BURGH

NEN Welcomes cartoonist Roslyn Butler to its ranks!

Not the... NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

April 1

Burgh Resident to Receive Guinness World Record

The Guinness Book of Records may soon proclaim New Edinburgh resident, Gabriel Warren, “the Most Gullible Person in the World”. The NEN has learned that this unusual distinction may be conferred upon Mr. Warren based on evidence that he has been the victim of elaborate April Fools pranks and deceptions without a break for fifty consecutive years. The gullibility factor as well as the ingenious variety of these operations will be considered by the Guinness judges, who are clearly impressed that despite so many warning signals the victim has been successfully bamboozled over 50 percent of the time.

Because fifty years is an

incredibly long run for an enterprise of this nature, the perpetrators admit that they had to cut some corners. After the twentieth year, the time-limit for execution was extended beyond April 1 to the balance of that calendar year. Also some hoaxes were fashioned not to test the victim’s gullibility, but solely for the dubious Schadenfreude-like joy of causing embarrassment.

This eccentric tradition opened in 1964 at the Canadian Embassy in Havana, where Mr. Warren was Third Secretary and Vice Consul. A telegram from External Affairs in Ottawa was fabricated assigning Warren one year as consular officer in the dingy, distant

provincial capital of Camaguey – away from his Cuban fiancée and next door to an inexhaustibly mothering lady who was the British Vice Consul. Apoplectic, Warren threatened to resign and confronted the Ambassador who knew nothing of the plot. Warren leapt up and down in rage. The result was so satisfactory that the two perpetrators (John Graham and the late Dwight Fulford) decided to keep it going.

While on assignment at the UN in New York for Law of the Sea negotiations, Mr. Warren was informed that the Soviet Ambassador had invited him to a black tie dinner organized to discuss the negotiations. Warren was ecstatic, rented a tuxedo and informed the hugely puzzled Russian that he was looking forward to dinner at the Soviet residence. (On this and many other capers, a key collaborator was Chuck Svoboda.) A ‘Wanted Dead or Alive’ poster with the warning “dangerous when clothed” was attached to lamp and telephone posts around his home, office and Gatineau chalet. The poster contains a touched up, scrofulous looking image of Warren, accused inter alia of Sadojazzochism (he is a jazz aficionado), abducting “La Cubana” and possession of tacky garden ornaments. Another poster, based on an actual photograph of Gaby Warren with a goofy expression on his face standing beside Fidel Castro, was produced for the fortieth anniversary of the pranks. A clue for an April 1 treasure hunt was hidden in the



local theatrical establishment Bare Fax.

Warren’s addiction to jazz and to jazz singing was often exploited over the years as a means of slipping under his guard. A recording of the strange harmonious howling of a neighbour’s Border collie was played on Ottawa FM-93.1 and introduced by radio host Ron Sweetman as a tape of Warren singing in his shower. Last year Warren was shown bogus evidence that pirated compositions from his own recently released CD had gone viral in China.

Forgery had been an essential part of some operations. A fake letter from his then boss, the Deputy Minister of Communications, advised him of his premature retirement; the Head of Entomology at the Museum of Nature wrote to Warren informing him that he had been honoured by the

assignment of his name for a recently discovered member of the cockroach family; the supervisor of Ottawa Water Rehabilitation wrote advising that the Warren family must vacate their apartment due to a water and sewage emergency. To assure verisimilitude, these communications required clandestinely acquired stationery.

Operations of this nature rely on many collaborators. They include Gaby’s wife Annie, most of his family and a legion of others including, on one occasion, the NEN. The paper understands that this tradition could only be sustained because the perpetrators have been dealing with a target of heroic proportions, who once confessed that his disappointment would be greater than the sum of the embarrassments should the tradition be discontinued.

Wildlife Sighting

On a sunny January morning a MacKay Street resident entered her south-facing den and noticed a large hairy object on her windowsill. Closer scrutiny led to the observation of a paw not normally found attached to a cat. Some insistent rapping on the window roused a young raccoon, who retreated a few feet and curled up by the vent on the lower roof. The legal (human) resident of the premises consulted with the SPCA and was told that the raccoon was probably fine and being nocturnal would likely stay put and depart by 10 pm. And this proved to be the case. The raccoon left and did not return. The resident forwarded photos to a few friends who all emailed back admiring the raccoon’s beauty and cuteness quotient and recommending feeding, adopting as a pet, etc. The resident also admired the general beauty and lus-

trous coat of the visitor but her thoughts ran more along the lines of fine hat or collar.

Editor’s Note: Readers recognizing this raccoon on the head or collar of Katherine Arkay are requested to contact the SPCA and the police.



Photo: Katherin Arkay

New Eddie’s H&D Committee Locked in Battle over Union Street Snow Fort Infill

Our tireless warriors on the H&D (Harangue and Disparage) Committee are leading the charge in a bitter confrontation with the City Planning Department and Ice E. Castle Developments Inc. over a recent Snow Fort infill project on Union Street. The project is a flagrant violation of virtually every rule in the by-law book, riding roughshod over setback requirements, devouring green space, and generally disfiguring the streetscape with its brutalist fort-like design. (Worse still, neighbours report that the fort’s owners have been known to crouch behind the ice wall and wing snow balls at innocent passers-by: now if that isn’t a gross interference with the “quiet enjoyment” of one’s surroundings, we don’t know what is....)

H&D Chair Back Wright Off is still in heated negotiations with city planners and Ice E. Castle Vice-President, I. Care Less. So far, progress is slow, but Ms. Wright Off remains

hopeful that some of the heat generated by the discussions will actually take care of the problem, especially if we get a boost from warmer temperatures as the spring unfolds.



Snow fort on Union Street.

Photo: Louise Imbeault