

June 2015

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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



Eastward view of Beechwood, circa 1950s. New Edinburgh's rich history dominates this issue. Seems everything old is new again.  
Photo courtesy of Joyce Dubuc

## Butcher Shop to Open this Summer

By Elizabeth Gray-Smith

Warm wood features, chalkboard signage, menu mapping touch screens, a walk-in cooler, a wall of spices and marinades, and a skilled butcher donning the classic apron and Blundstones – just some notable ingredients infused in the unique butcher shop experience launching soon at 127 Beechwood (next door to Bridgehead). Meat lovers and backyard hosts, get ready: Muckleston & Brockwell butcher shoppe is slated to open during peak BBQ season this summer.

Behind the new business is a trio of entrepreneurial visionaries: Ion Aimers, of The Works Burger and ZaZaZa Gourmet Pizza fame; local hot sauce mixologist Andrew “Andy the Butcher” Muckleston; and, Dawn Collings, the shop’s style and brand curator.

Ion says this latest endeavour is as much about community, and the street outside, as it is about the full-service experience inside. “I’m passionate about Beechwood,” he says. “The street needs good, strong, independent businesses that provide good products.”

*New Edinburgh News* was

invited inside for a sneak peek at the space. In the back room, the meat counter and walk-in cooler will offer the curious carnivore plenty of quality meats, including locally-sourced cuts and house-made bacon. In front, an array of ancillary items – from utensils to marinades – will be available to bring that steak to piquant perfection.

“Muckleston & Brockwell is not just a place to buy meat,” says Dawn. “It is a place where people are invited to come in, stay for a while, and get inspiration for their next meal.”

The trained and talented Andy the Butcher admits, “I was born to cut meat.” Beyond witnessing his expert cuts, customers will also get to savour his saucy creations. Andrew has a thing for all things spicy. After all, it is in his blood. His name, Muckleston, can be traced all the way back to one of the first creators

of the great steak sauce. In the 1840’s his family mixed and bottled Muckleston’s Shropshire Sauce, which was market-trumped by the competitor, Worcestershire Sauce. Andrew’s modern-day plan to diversify his taste offerings is working on hot-sauce

enthusiasts across the city. Muckleston & Brockwell will be a one-stop-shop for his delicious dressings.

So, get your skewers and tongs out New Edinburghers, the butcher shop you’ve been waiting for is about to open its front door.



Photo by Louise Imbeault  
(from left) Ion Aimers, Dawn Collings and Andrew Muckleston are the brains behind the meat.

## Building Blitz a Sign of New Energy and Life

By Jane Heintzman

Curious about what’s going on behind those hoardings at Beechwood and MacKay? Minto’s vice-president of High Development, **Kevin Harper**, is happy to report that all the action on the site is now live on camera, filmed from a nearby roof top, so you can keep up with daily progress by clicking on the “Watch Us Build” link on the project website at [www.minto.com/ottawa/New-Edinburgh-new-condos/MintoBeechwood/main.html](http://www.minto.com/ottawa/New-Edinburgh-new-condos/MintoBeechwood/main.html). And let’s face it, these days few of us leave the pharmacy parking lot without taking a good look through the fence!

Kevin reports that the construction team is now fully staffed under the coordination

and supervision of a site superintendent, and in the course of May, June and July, shoring and excavation of the two-storey hole for the garage will be underway. By late August or early September, the construction crane should be in place, signalling the launch of the building phase of the process.

Immediate neighbours have been alerted that the noisiest stage of the excavation and shoring exercise will take place in May, and the company is currently working on an efficient means of ongoing communication with this ringside group, possibly via a blog or a regular e-mail update, to keep them informed of any temporary extension of working hours on the site (normally 7 a.m.-5 p.m.) or other event-

alities.

Kevin notes that the noise factor during shoring will be mitigated to some degree by the fact that the crew will be drilling (as opposed to driving) the piles. The site also has erosion and sediment control measures, including lining along the hoarding to prevent dust from escaping, rumble strips at the exit to clean off dirt or “drag” from heavy trucks, and lining in the catch basins to collect silt and prevent it from escaping into storm sewers.

Minto’s site administrator **Frances Rutherford** is the community’s first point of contact to field questions that arise during construction. She can be reached at **613-788-7980**.

Continued on page 18

ANNUAL  
**NEW EDINBURGH  
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Events and The Field House







Letters to the Editor are always welcomed.

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

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

## Cleaning up the Annual Damage in Stanley Park

There is good news at last for Stanley Park, which is visited annually by hordes of trucks during the ice breaking exercise. Here is part of the letter I wrote to Councillor Tobi Nussbaum on March 3, 2015:

*The city performs a valuable service for us in New Edinburgh, blasting and breaking the ice to prevent flooding. However, every year, the workers also create an unnecessarily huge amount of environmental damage. Please go and visit the park. It has never been worse. The men – who themselves are very pleasant – take no care to minimize the damage to the grass and soil. They park their vehicles every which way – and not only those that have to approach the water – but transport vehicles as well – on the grassy area. There are paved areas close by: they could park and walk. The soil is beginning to melt and it looks like record damage this year. It resembles Belgium in 1917.*

*At the end of this process, there are three-foot ruts in the ground, and these are repaired*

– at significant annual cost to the taxpayer – in AUGUST. The park is an eyesore throughout most of the summer.

This is pretty much the letter I send every year, and I have never gotten much in reply. This year, I heard from Tobi Nussbaum's assistant within three hours of emailing. Tobi was away, but I heard from him in three or four days. And he took immediate action. He contacted the managers, communicated the issues and got a commitment to remediate "as soon as the spring rains are over" – which promise has been fulfilled as of May 14. Even more importantly, Tobi has been promised that next year, a pathway will be marked with tapes to minimize the damage. The trucks will operate in a narrow lane instead of across a broad field. We can live with it.

I can hardly believe it. A solution to a longstanding problem! A public park that is going to be treated with respect!

Janet Uren  
Crichton St.

### NECA MEETINGS: All Welcome

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the **third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 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 at the **NECTAR Centre, 255 Mackay Street**. Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Tim Plumptre in advance to arrange scheduling. Our next meetings are:

**Tuesday, June 16, 8:00 pm, NECTAR Centre**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 8:00 pm, NECTAR Centre**

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

### Your NECA Representatives 2014-2015

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## Take the Emergency Preparedness Challenge!

By Cindy Parkanyi  
Member of the New Edinburgh Emergency Plan Working Group

The sun was shining, the birds were chirping and the Rideau River flowed smoothly along its banks as the many dedicated volunteers and interested attendees were introduced to the resources, tools and techniques to prepare for almost any calamity. The first annual New Edinburgh Emergency Preparedness Fair, which took place on May 3 at the Fieldhouse, provided area residents with an opportunity to hear from City of Ottawa Emergency Management volunteer Réal St-Amand, who talked to the gathered crowd about the top seven potential emergencies in the Ottawa area (see box) and offered sage advice and suggestions on how to prepare for the first 72 hours. Participants also had the opportunity to practice their CPR and defibrillator skills after an excellent hands-on demonstration by Laura Tracey of the Paramedic Service.

Ottawa Emergency Management, Red Cross, Paramedics, Police and Fire Services were all there providing information and answering questions. As an added incentive, participants were invited to complete an Emergency Preparedness Quiz as they visited the various information tables. (Do you know how many litres of water per day per person you should have in your basic emergency kit?) Feel free to take the full quiz on the [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) website.

### Visit The Burgh Online!

For the most up-to-date news of the neighbourhood  
[newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)



Photo courtesy of City of Ottawa Emergency Management  
Build your family's emergency kit and send us your photos!

### Ottawa's Top 7 Vulnerabilities

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Earthquake                      | 5. Winter Storm            |
| 2. Critical Infrastructure Failure | 6. Terrorism/Public Safety |
| 3. Summer Storm                    | 7. Public Health           |
| 4. Hazardous material              |                            |

Visitors who completed the quiz were invited to submit their names for a prize draw and three lucky winners are now the proud new owners of a first aid kit...and are on their way to building their basic emergency kit!

The Fair was organized and coordinated by an eight-member working group of dedicated community volunteers. The group will be meeting again soon to plot out next steps, so if you are interested in getting involved, send an email to [cparkanyi@yahoo.ca](mailto:cparkanyi@yahoo.ca).

### Summer Challenge – Build an Emergency Kit

What better way to spend the quiet days of summer than by putting together your family's basic emergency kit! Here is what you will need:

- Cash (some smaller bills and change for pay phones)
- Extra keys (for car and house)
- Water (2L pp/per day; include small bottles in case of evacuation)

- First aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries (plus extra batteries)
- food
- Manual can opener
- Emergency plan
- Battery-powered or wind-up radio (plus extra batteries)
- Medications
- Keep any food allergies in mind when selecting food items, and be sure to include pet necessities as well.
- Other good-to-have items include:
- Corded phone that does not require electricity to work (à la "swingline" style)
- Additional water for cooking and cleaning
- Candles and matches
- Change of clothing
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Toiletries; toilet paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags
- Utensils
- Bleach or water purifying tablets
- Basic tools
- Whistle
- Duct tape

Once you have put your kit together, feel free to take a photo and send it in to us. Your family's initiative may be highlighted in an upcoming *New Edinburgh News* or on the community website. Also on the website, you will find emergency preparedness resources and useful links to more information.

So take the first step to getting prepared... If we all take some very simple steps, then collectively we'll be in a better position to manage in the event of a disaster.



**Deadline**  
**for the next issue of the**  
**New Edinburgh News**  
**SEPT 10**  
[newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com)

# An Argument for Keeping the Central Library Downtown

**By Sarah Anson-Cartwright**

Why should Ottawa's new central library be located downtown? Why has every new central library in every major city in Canada and the United States in recent years been located downtown? Halifax, Vancouver, Seattle and others are all downtown.

Central libraries are downtown for a simple reason: that's where people are!

The process toward a new central library in Ottawa is underway. By the time you read this, an important report will have been released and discussed at a public meeting of the Ottawa Public Library Board. The report recommends what size of central library we need and whether to build a new one. But it will remain silent on a larger decision: whether a new central library should be located in the downtown core.

"Bookmark the Core: Citizens for a Central Library in Downtown Ottawa" is a new group that is concerned about the location, size, and design of the new library, and citizen engagement in the process toward those decisions.

Locations such as Bayview Yards in Hintonburg and LeBreton Flats have been mentioned in the media as possible options. It's important to understand why new central libraries continue to be located in the heart of their cities rather than away from the core. (Whatever the merits of LeBreton Flats and whether it could be considered in the core relative to the suburbs, it is away from downtown, below an escarpment that makes reaching it by foot a challenge for downtown residents.)

Central libraries are major

urban assets, located in places where they can serve the largest number of library visitors and tourists. They are in areas that are vibrant with cultural

to the main branch library get there on foot. Another third reach the library via public transit. The central downtown location of the current main



Photo by Halifax Centre Library

The beautiful new library in downtown Halifax, filled with visitors and activity, can serve as inspiration for Ottawa.

attractions, shops, restaurants and public or green space.

In today's globally competitive environment for new business investments, Ottawa's central library should be a high-profile asset. Along with our professional sports teams, museums, galleries, and performing arts facilities, our library will help secure economic development and attract skilled and knowledge-based workers to the nation's capital.

The number of visitors to public libraries in New York City, for example, exceeds the millions of visitors to its major sports, arts and cultural events, and museums combined.

Locating the new central library in the downtown core also supports the City's planning priority of increasing residential density to limit sprawl and foster urban sustainability.

Currently, half the visitors

branch library is in fact its biggest advantage, according to a survey of users three years ago.

If Ottawa's new central library is to serve the many functions we want in it, then a downtown location matters. It matters if we want the library to be extremely well-used and to increase its number of visitors. It matters if we want the library to be iconic (to use Mayor Jim Watson's word), and a civic landmark and tourist destination that makes us feel proud. It matters to have an inspired library design to inspire donors and funders.

The new central library is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. There are no second chances with this kind of multi-million dollar project. The City only has one chance to get it right.

"Bookmark the Core" is focused on contributing to the

process toward that decision. The mission of the group is:

- To advocate for Ottawa's new central library to be located in downtown Ottawa, the heart of the city, for optimal use and enjoyment by patrons, visitors and tourists alike,
- To encourage a transparent public process of sustained engagement with citizens to achieve the best location, size and design, and
- To advocate for an international design process.

Bookmark the Core is a group in formation, seeking to build a broad and engaged coalition by reaching out to individuals,

community associations, and other organizations.

For the future of Ottawa, the decisions on the location, size and design of the new library should benefit from citizens' input.

Take a look at the beautiful new library in downtown Halifax, filled with visitors and activity, to see what is possible for our city.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright is a New Edinburgh resident and contact for Bookmark the Core. To learn more about the group, contact Sarah at sarah.ansoncartwright@gmail.com, or 613-745-4194.

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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## Beep! Beep! Food Trucks May Be Rolling Down Beechwood This Fall

**By Elizabeth Gray-Smith**

From the folks who brought us La Tiffani 1 and 2 comes another project to inject vibrancy into the neighbourhood – this one of the gastronomic kind. Claridge Homes is revving the engine under the hood of the third annual Ottawa Food Truck Rally with hopes to bring the wildly popular festival to New Edinburgh in September.

"The rally is about applauding community," says Neil Malhotra of Claridge Homes. "And that is what we're all

about. It just made sense to jump on board and get behind the driver's seat. I attended last year and the whole family had a great time," he says. "We are pumped to bring this celebration of all things local to the future site of our next development."

Claridge Homes is working with Ottawa Food Truck Rally founder, Sharif Virani, and the City of Ottawa on location logistics. If all runs smoothly, residents could have their pick of tastings from over 20 food trucks in the heart of New Edinburgh on September 26.

Last year the family-friendly rally, then held on Main Street, drew a crowd of 3,500 people.

At the rally, food trucks and carts compete for the coveted Ottawa Food Truck Rally trophy. Gongfu bao took home the prize last year. Funds raised on the day through entrance fees go to the OCH Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that supports tenants, living across the city in Ottawa Community Housing. Stay tuned to [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) when we share the latest details on this exciting and tasty event.



# Thinking about Mental Health



**Madeleine Meilleur**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Sometimes, the most serious illness has the least obvious symptoms.

Imagine an illness so crippling that it leaves you unable to get up in the morning – where the pain becomes so severe that you fall behind on your household responsibilities, on your homework and on your personal relationships. You become trapped in a cycle where falling behind on your life makes the condition harder and harder to cope with – a condition that does not show up on any X-ray or blood test, and will not be solved with crutches or a new cast.

Mental health is a crucial yet often ignored part of overall wellbeing. We have all been touched by mental health and addiction challenges – whether through a friend, a co-worker, a family member, or through our own experiences.

In this regard, our youth have been excellent role models. This Children's Mental Health Week (May 4-10), Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) held their annual YouTube video contest called "Change the View." Youth from across the province competed by making short videos that showed how we can take the stigma out of mental health issues like stress, depression, ADHD, bullying and psychosis. I am proud that of the 230 teams from across Ontario that competed and 20 finalists that were selected, seven were from our very own Colonel By Secondary School. One of these teams took home first place, coming ahead of productions from universities and high schools across the province.

As part of our commitment to supporting Ontarians suffering

from mental health challenges, the government of Ontario launched the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in 2011. The Strategy was launched with a focus on children and youth, and is now expanding to support the transition between youth and adult services and to improve the quality of services for Ontarians of all ages. By 2017, the government will have increased annual funding for mental health and addictions by a total of \$172 million since the strategy was first launched.

Conquering our own mental health challenges and supporting our loved ones through theirs are not easy tasks. Every Ontarian has a place in this conversation – only when we can all talk openly about mental health will we be able to break this cycle.

*If you want to speak to someone, your community is here for you:*

**Ontario Mental Health Helpline (24/7): 1-866-531-2600**

**Kids Help Phone (24/7): 1-800-668-6868**

**Mental Health Crisis Line (24/7): 613-722-6914**

**Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region (24/7): 613-238-3311**



**Mauril Bélanger**  
MP Ottawa-Vanier

## Bill C-50, Another Flawed Election Reform Bill

The Conservative government's latest election reforms risk disenfranchising Canadians living abroad. In Ottawa-Vanier there are historically thousands of voters living abroad; electors previously eligible to vote in this constituency and who do so.

The Conservatives introduced Bill C-50, the Citizen Voting Act, in December 2014 after the Ontario Superior Court struck down provisions last May that barred Canadian expatriates from voting if they had been outside the country for more than five years. The government unsuccessfully tried to stay the ruling, then appealed that case and brought in this new legislation. It is my view they are using the ruling to introduce residency requirement changes and other unrelated amendments – changes that will not enhance the integrity of Canada's voting system.

The country's Chief Electoral Officer, Mark Mayrand, said when appearing before the Standing Committee on

Procedure and House Affairs that the Bill's proposal to eliminate the International Register of Electors will make voting much harder for Canadians living outside Canada.

While members of the military can vote on base, their families and other Canadian expatriates would have to apply to vote after the election writ is issued and provide proof of citizenship in addition to proving their identity and residence. Elections Canada then has to mail them a voting kit and the Canadian living abroad then has to mail it back in time for Election Day.

This is clearly unacceptable. On our side of the House we have compared the level of voter suppression in this Bill to that of the government's previous Bill C-23, the so-called "Fair Elections Act".

Should this bill become law it is my view it will need to be reexamined in order to respect the Charter rights of Canadian citizens to vote.



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**Jim Watson**  
Mayor of Ottawa

## The Order of Ottawa

In 2012, I launched the Order of Ottawa to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of some of Ottawa's most distinguished residents. Each year, up to 15 worthy recipients are recognized for making our city a better place in which to live.

This prestigious civic award recognizes exceptional contributions 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.

I believe that it is important that we take the time to recognize those who do outstanding work in our city; by showing them that their dedication and hard work is being noticed, they are emboldened to continue to push harder and reach greater heights. The group selected each year are role models to those inside and outside their respective fields, and inspire others to work towards making Ottawa a better place in which to live.

The Order of Ottawa allows us to celebrate the incredible achievements of Ottawa's res-

idents, across a vibrant and diverse range of endeavours. From Pinchas Zukerman of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, to Moe Atallah of the Newport Restaurant, to Allison Fisher of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, and many more, we have people achieving great heights in every field and the Order of Ottawa lets us recognize their achievements.

I encourage you to put forward a nomination for somebody who you think would be a deserving inductee. Registration is now open, and submissions can be made until September 11, 2015, at which time nominations are reviewed by a selection panel. For more information on the Order of Ottawa please see the flyers available at your local library branch, community centre, or any Client Service Centre. Alternatively, you can find out more online at [Ottawa.ca](http://Ottawa.ca).

Nominations by immediate family members, self-nominations, and posthumous nominations will not be accepted. Municipal, provincial and federal officials are not eligible to be considered for this award while they are in office.

**By Malachi Handler**

Under blue skies and abundant sunshine, over 75 local residents took part in the fourth annual Jane's Walk New Edinburgh on May 2. Jane's Walks are a global movement of neighbour-led walking tours inspired by the work of urbanist Jane Jacobs. The theme of this year's Jane's Walk in New Edinburgh was "The Village of Our Dreams," with walk participants taking part in activities and discussions confronting the question of how to create the ideal Beechwood Village.

The 2015 version of the walk was especially unique with a combination of speakers and activities to give participants an interactive experience, and the chance to reflect on the future of Beechwood Village. From the development community, walk participants heard from **Kevin Harper**, a development manager from Minto, and **Karen Watts**, sales manager from Domicile, who spoke respectively about Minto Beechwood and the soon to be completed *Kavanaugh*, two projects that will change the character of Beechwood Avenue in years to come.

Walkers also heard from ModBox architects **Andrew Reeves** and **Darryl Squires** who discussed the renovations planned for the historic St. Charles Church, and how the site will be redeveloped as

a mixed residential and commercial space to benefit the New Edinburgh and Vanier communities. The two architects also announced for the first time ever the new name of this development, which is to be known as **Marché St. Charles/St. Charles Market**.

This year's Jane's Walk also featured numerous opportunities for interactive activities, including the opportunity to plant a flower garden on the front lawn of Metro Beechwood using many materials graciously donated by the store. Residents are encouraged to expand the garden over the summer. Anyone interested in helping please contact [info@nectarcentre.ca](mailto:info@nectarcentre.ca) or call **613-745-2743**.

Participants also had the chance to create a mural on the side of the wall by the current Beechwood Farmer's Market, where they could write suggestions on the wall (in aesthetically pleasing colorful sidewalk chalk) about different ways to utilize the space. Many creative suggestions were put forward, including the possibility of transforming the space into a community garden or a location for publicly shared bicycles.

In addition, **Chris Penton**, manager of the Beechwood Farmer's Market, came by to discuss the importance of sustainably produced and high quality food in creating a better Beechwood Village. In that

vein, this year's Jane's Walk featured three different stops featuring free refreshments for all participants. **Jacobson's** opened its doors to offer a full array of tasty gourmet items to sample; **Bridgehead** donated free coffee for everyone to enjoy on the lawn outside St. Charles Church, and the walk concluded at Tea Tyme where more snacks were laid out for all the guests by generous **Tea Tyme** owner/operator **Philly Kingsley**. Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum** was the final speaker of the day, reading from Jane Jacobs' seminal work *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, and discussing all that we can do to help make our local community reach its full potential as a great urban space.

The 2015 Jane's Walk New Edinburgh would not have been possible without the work of community activist and Jane's Walk veteran **Isobel Bisby**, Beechwood Village Alliance president **Julie LaPalme**, and **Malachi Handler** from the NECTAR Centre. Considering the great turnout, it was clear that this year's theme showed how meaningful the topic of preserving and improving Beechwood Avenue is to so many in the community. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and we look forward to seeing even more folks celebrating Beechwood at the 2015 Solstice Stroll on Saturday, June 20.



Back row, from left: Greg Patacairk, Mary Wiggin, Dr. Qais Ghanem, Greg Kane, Q.C., Tom Schonberg, David Gourlay, Jesse Stewart, Ph.D., Glenn McInnes, Gary Sealey, Gilles LeVasseur. Front row, from left: Peter Morel, Barbara Crook, Dr. Angel Arnaout, Mayor Jim Watson, Dr. Tim Aubry, Mariette Carrier-Fraser and Nicole Fortier.

Photo courtesy City of Ottawa

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# Four-Wheeled Concerns in Stanley Park, on Beechwood and Sussex



**Tobi Nussbaum**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

Recently, a number of New Edinburgh residents brought to my attention the damage caused by trucks involved in the annual ice blasting staging at Stanley Park. City trucks travel down the sides of the path and traverse the grass en route to the river. The result is large divots created by truck tires along the path and a wide swath of destroyed vegetation between the sewage station and the river, all of which needs to be remediated each year at considerable aesthetic, envi-

ronmental and economic cost.

In response, I visited the site with city road staff in early May to explore options to mitigate the yearly damage. As a result, staff has agreed that, moving forward, a single vehicle track down to the water will be marked off to avoid the large patch of damage that occurs. As well, ice-blasting crews will avoid driving off the edge of the sides of the paths if they need to drive north of the staging area within the park. This should prevent the large divots I mentioned earlier. I will be monitoring the repair work that was to begin in mid-May and will revisit the site before ice blasting begins next year to see the set up.

Another area in which I've been working with city staff and my council colleague, Rideau-Vanier Councillor Mathieu Fleury, is the Beechwood Avenue transportation corridor. We will need to come together and get creative about how to ensure shared and safe passage for pedestrians, cyclists, buses and vehicles in the future. This exercise will help identify transportation opportunities that arise as new developments come to Beechwood. I also wanted to provide a quick update on lane reductions on Sussex Drive, which could impact the commute for those traveling on four wheels and not two. One lane in both directions is currently closed on Sussex Drive, from St. Patrick Street to King Edward Avenue, from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. These closures are required to complete the installation of new intersection crosswalks along Sussex Drive as well as final road resurfacing. The work is scheduled to continue until mid-August. In addition to the lane reductions on Sussex Drive, traffic will be reduced to one lane on St. Patrick Street from Parent Street to Sussex Drive until late June.

Lastly, with the arrival of the warm weather, I'm looking forward to the uptick in outdoor community events and festivals, starting with the Solstice on Beechwood on June 20 at St. Charles church and the weekly Beechwood farmers' market across the street starting July 4. See you there!

Please contact me with your questions and concerns at **Tobi.Nussbaum@ottawa.ca** or visit **TobiNussbaum.ca**.



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

## Province Applying Pressure to Close Schools

When Ontario's Education Minister Liz Sandals says "We need to make sure the money we are spending on education – which is significant – actually is going to student programming and not maintaining empty seats" and Premier Kathleen Wynne echoes that sentiment, you know marching orders have been given. In addition, the funding of school boards has been tweaked to apply additional pressure on school boards to close schools. At the same time, the province wants expanded community use of schools.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is currently considering how to deal with this reality. Trustees and staff wish to take the time needed to do a full review of high schools and student needs starting with what we – the school board, families and the wider community – want our high schools to be.

The process currently being considered involves several phases, each including consultation with the public:

1. Between now and December 2015, the Board would revisit its current pupil accommodation policies and processes to take into account new provincial guidelines.

2. Between December 2015 and June 2016, the Board would develop the parameters and timelines for a full accommodation review of Board schools.

3. Between June 2016 and an unknown date, the Board would conduct accommodation reviews, including staff recommendations, public consultations and final decisions on any school closures.

The timelines will be challenging. I will be advocating strongly for meaningful public consultation and for a review of schools and their use that goes beyond counting empty seats to ensure the needs of students and communities can continue to be met.

Schools as Community Hubs Premier Wynne has appointed Karen Pitre as Special Advisor on Community Hubs.

"We have a great opportunity

to develop community hubs in a way that coordinates services, meets people's needs and strengthens communities. I look forward to working with the advisory group to support the considerable work already underway to move forward on this complex and important issue," Karen Pitre said in the provincial news release.

Community hubs are any public space offering co-ordinated education, health care or social services. The OCDSB has been supporting Schools as Community Hubs for years, and has a working group that has been looking into expanding this concept. A draft report, "The School as Community Hub: A Framework", was presented to Trustees on March 3, 2015, and a draft policy supporting this expanded use of our schools was introduced on May 19. The policy is slated to be passed on June 22, 2015 following consultation.

The real work starts with the passing of the policy. It will be important to find out from communities the type of services that would best be added to local schools. I look forward to hearing suggestions from you and area organizations, then finding the partners to deliver those services. Once that is done, it will be necessary to come up with the money for the increased cost to the school board for opening up our facilities. These costs include such items as increased cleaning needs – due to budget constraints 23 custodial positions are being cut – wear and tear and supervision.

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# Mobile 'CloudLab' Makerspace Coming to Vanier



By Jamie Kwong

Executive Director, QVBIA

This area has so much to offer: it is a strikingly vibrant and eclectic community, rich in history and culture, diverse and affordable, and made up of citizens who are incredibly engaged in the community, participating in a broad range of groups actively working and volunteering their time for the betterment of the overall community. The work of the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area (QVBIA) focuses on the beautification of its three mainstreets (Beechwood Ave., Montréal Road and McArthur Ave.) and the surrounding area, and on the promotion of the Quartier Vanier area as a whole. The QVBIA encourages locals, and those from outside our area, to learn about all the wonderful assets of this community, and we particularly emphasize the importance of shopping locally.

Another key focus at the QVBIA is championing economic development by attracting new and innovative types of business to the Quartier Vanier area. On April 30, 2015, **prototypeD TEAM Inc.**, an Ottawa-based design firm, and the QVBIA held a soft launch of prototype's **Mobile CloudLab** at the Lexus Bel-Air Dealership at 435 McArthur Ave. Over 50 local stakeholders were in attendance, including **Saad Bashir**, the director of Economic Development and Innovation, and his staff.

CloudLabs are net-zero energy mobile makerspaces/workshops/event spaces which can be transported to anywhere within North America. These mobile environments are self-contained, solar-powered, self-sufficient and loaded with the latest maker technology such as 3D scanners and printers, and virtual reality goggles. Each CloudLab studio is roughly 400 sq. ft., and offer a series of



Photograph by Claude Brazeau  
(from left) Rideau-Vanier city councillor Mathieu Fleury, CEO of prototypeD Janak Alford, QVBIA executive director Jamie Kwong and QVBIA chair Mark Kaluski at the CloudLab soft launch on April 30.

other amenities such as public meeting spaces, planting beds and outdoor patios, and rooftop gardens.

Aiming to open in July 2015, **Janak Alford**, CEO and founder of prototypeD, presented the concept behind the innovative new CloudLab mobile studios –a first in Ottawa– and explained why he chose Vanier as the first destination in Ottawa to locate this innovative makerspace. “For us, the first destination for our CloudLab absolutely had to be Vanier,” said Alford. “We are naturally attracted to Vanier because it is a neighbourhood on the brink of transformation, rich in character and identity, and with an exciting body of artists and innovators. We believe that our CloudLab will complement the many conversations taking place in the neighbourhood around design, architecture, and urbanism, and also introduce new ideas around maker culture and entrepreneurship.”

As executive director of the QVBIA, I am elated by the choice of Vanier as the first CloudLab location. The business community is delighted to hear about this exciting proposal by prototypeD. This Makerspace will be a temporary popup space for creativity and innovation. It will also serve as a platform for social dialogue on urban change and

transformation.

QVBIA chair Mark Kaluski points out “this project truly capitalizes on Vanier’s artistic and eclectic nature, and furthers its development as it undergoes an exciting state of growth and renewal. With support from local business, local government and key stakeholders, this CloudLab will help



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fill an otherwise underutilized space with creativity and social engagement.”

In close partnership with the QVBIA, prototypeD will be offering community design assistance for façade redevelopment, and holding workshops on urban transformation and beautification, and on architectural conceptual design for key properties along Montréal Road and in Vanier and the surrounding area. These services will be offered throughout the summer from the Vanier CloudLab location, alongside prototypeD’s existing offerings of architectural, graphic, and industrial design. prototypeD will also be making space available for drop-in

services, workspace pods, and even a place to cool your feet under the solar panel awnings during the hot summer months.

prototypeD and QVBIA will be hosting the **Official Grand Opening early Summer 2015**. Stay connected to the QVBIA ([www.vanierbia.com](http://www.vanierbia.com)) to receive the latest information on this exciting Mobile CloudLab initiative and many other exciting developments coming soon to the Quartier Vanier region.

For more information on this innovative new partnership, contact: [info@prototypeD.org](mailto:info@prototypeD.org), 1-855-561-4617, [www.prototypeD.org](http://www.prototypeD.org) or [jkwong@vanierbia.com](mailto:jkwong@vanierbia.com), 613-745-0040, [www.vanierbia.com](http://www.vanierbia.com).

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## Come Celebrate International Co-operatives Day

**By Oli Cosgrove**

Ask the average person what a co-op is, and they either draw a blank or say they've heard of co-ops but don't know what they do. Yet 18 million Canadians –half the population– belong to them.

There are 8,500 co-ops nationally, operating in many fields: banking, farming, fisheries, health care, housing, groceries, food production, insurance and transportation, to name a few. And their numbers are growing. Unsettled by the shifting economy, rising prices, diminishing democracy, and erosion of individual rights, people are finding refuge in co-ops which are run by members who have equal voting rights, focus on benefitting the community, and put people ahead of profits.

The co-op movement began in England in 1769, and by 1845 had spread throughout Europe. The first Canadian co-op opened in Stellarton, N.S. in 1861. From there, co-ops not only spread across the country, but have bested survival rates of traditional business enterprises. A 2008 Quebec government survey showed 62 per cent of co-ops surviving after five years, compared to just 35 per cent of traditional operations.

Ottawa's Alterna bank (formerly the Civil Service Co-op and Credit Union), and Women's Credit Union are easily recognized as co-ops; less identifiable co-ops are Mountain Equipment, Desjardins bank, and 18 housing developments in Kanata, Nepean, Ottawa Centre/East/South/West and Beechwood.

On July 4, these co-ops will celebrate International Co-op Day by inviting all Ottawans to join in activities for fami-

lies from 2-4 p.m. at Brewer Park. They will also be welcoming Ottawa's newest co-op, the Funeral Co-op of Ottawa (FOC), which opened in the fall of 2013 on St. Laurent Blvd. near Hemlock.

While there are approximately 50 funeral co-ops in the country, most notably in Quebec and Prince Edward Island, Ontario has only two: one in Sudbury and now one in Ottawa. All co-ops are owned by the residents in their community who can either participate right up to serving on the board, or simply avail themselves of the Co-op's services. Anyone can join.

Planning for the FOC began seven years ago by a small group of individuals who wanted to provide Ottawa with a complete range of highest quality funeral services on a non-profit basis, and which would work with bereaved families on a partnership basis: FOC would advise them of their options, allow them to make all or part of the arrangements, or rely completely on the FOC.

Service ranges from pre-planning, providing executor tools, advising on legal paperwork required after a death, to arrangement and provision of funeral services and burial.

While member-volunteers run the operation, professional funeral directors take care of all funeral matters.

FOC membership recently passed the 1,000 mark, and the FOC board says all indications are that like all co-ops in Canada, it will keep growing. Anyone interested in learning more about them can get a lot of information at the Brewer Park event, along with good food and fun.

*Oli Cosgrove is a resident of New Edinburgh.*

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# Learn More About Us at Our June 8 Annual General Meeting



**By Debra Conner**  
**Crichton Community Council**

A special thanks to everyone who came out to buy their spring annuals and hanging baskets at Crichton Community Council's 15th Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale held at the Field House on May 9, 2015. It was a great success! Lots of people turned out to chitchat, renew friendships, have a great time and buy plants. Mother Nature helped out by watering the plants. The weather was fantastic! Many community volunteers made this event a success, but it couldn't have hap-

pened without Mary Grainger at the helm, ensuring it all ran smoothly. A big thank you to the poster crew: Martina, Caelan, Jerry, Kathryn and Samuel; Paul and the gang at New Edinburgh Pub for the banner space; Paula, Caroline, Charlotte, Pascal, Sylvain, Olivier, Matt, Nathaniel, Nora, Jill, Kathryn, Roxie, Michel, Cathy (aka Caelan), Martina, Jerry and Mary. Our plants all came from Nicole and Denis Lemieux Garden Centre and the organic vegetable and herb plant came from Ferme Lève-Tôt.

Although the snow is now a distant memory, we want to acknowledge the tireless

work of our Hosers and rink attendants in keeping the rinks up and running this winter. With their help we were able to have the rinks open continuously from January 1 until March 9. A grateful thank you to the New Edinburgh Pub for the donation of hot chocolate. With the skating season over, the Fieldhouse is again available for rentals. Looking for a casual venue for a birthday party or other event? Contact us at nefieldhouse@gmail.com to book.

Our next event is our Annual General Meeting on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fieldhouse. All are welcome to come find out what the CCC does for the community and how you can get involved. Other upcoming events include our summer picnic (date TBD) and the Annual New Edinburgh Garage Sale on Saturday, September 19. Visit our Facebook page for updates on these and other events.

The CCC was able to once again secure a Canada Summer Jobs Program grant

## Fieldhouse Manager Wanted!

The Crichton Community Council is currently accepting applications for the position of Fieldhouse manager. This is a **part-time seasonal position (seven weeks, 34 hours/week) for July and August**. The Fieldhouse Manager will oversee the facilities at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse, as well as plan and implement community events including the New Edinburgh Picnic and weekly children's activities.

Successful applicants must be enrolled in high school (age 15+), independent and reliable, comfortable working with children, creative and pro-active

For further information or to submit an application, please email nefieldhouse@gmail.com. The application deadline is Tuesday, June 9.

This job is generously funded by the Canada Summer Jobs Program. Members of visible minority communities are encouraged to apply.

from Service Canada. This grant enables us to hire a Fieldhouse Manager for seven weeks to manage the Stanley Park Fieldhouse and SnackBar, and program family activities throughout July and August. We invite all high school students 15 years or older to apply for this position. If you would like to apply or would like more information about the job, please contact us at nefieldhouse@gmail.com. We particularly encourage applications from members of visible minority communities.

Before we sign off for the summer, we want to take this opportunity to recognize one of our long-term members who recently decided it was time to hang up her CCC hat. Cathy McConkey has been an enthusiastic, dedicated member of the CCC for many years and we can't thank her enough for the countless hours spent organizing garage sales, leading meetings, cheering at cheering stations, selling plants, organizing jelly bean contests and raffles and much, much more. We will miss her!

# Our Green Canopy Crisis and a Campaign for Trees

**By Sarah Anson-Cartwright**

There is a crisis in the city. In every neighbourhood and on every street, a sad spectacle is playing out right in front of us. It's the crisis with our urban trees.

Urban trees are now surviving just seven years. That number is actually an improvement, says master gardener and CBC radio guest Ed Lawrence. The number used to be five years.

This crisis among our newly planted trees is result of neglect – or more specifically, it's a result of a failure to protect trees after they are planted and to choose the right trees to plant in some cases. Ed Lawrence was one of several passionate and informative speakers who spoke about trees at an event hosted by Tree Ottawa on Earth Day, April 22.

It used to be that people would plant trees and let nature take care of the rest. But we know that the environment generally is a lot more hostile to trees than it used to be. From invasive pests to impacted soil during developments to severe storms, trees are under attack. Over the next three to five years, Ottawa will lose about 25 per cent of its existing tree

canopy due to the emerald ash borer.

Thankfully, Tree Ottawa is stepping in to complement the City's tree planting programs with an ambitious new campaign. An initiative of Ecology Ottawa, Tree Ottawa aims to plant one million trees in Ottawa in time for Canada's 150th anniversary in two years.

*If every resident could plant a tree, the million trees goal would be in sight.*

An easy step for many residents is to protect the trees we already have by getting on board with the "Adopt a Tree" project. A web tools helps us with the adoption of newly

planted trees or any tree in Ottawa. Adoption means you commit to water your tree once a week and to contact the City if the tree looks sick or damaged. Simple, but important work!

Planting trees is not as simple, but the City's programs offer many ways to add more trees to our neighbourhoods.

Trees in Trust is the City's most popular tree program. The City will plant a tree in the road allowance in front of your home, at your request. And you have a choice of trees available

from the City.

Once a new tree is planted, Ed Lawrence's advice is to clear out around a tree, then put mulch around the base and water it. You need to put compost or organic matter in the soil to help keep trees healthy.

If every resident could plant a tree, the million trees goal would be in sight. Tree Ottawa is available to help residents, community associations and groups to get involved in tree-planting projects.

A crisis with our trees is a concern for our environment. As carbon sinks, trees are a

natural and integral way to cope with greenhouse gases and mitigate the effects of hot weather, resulting in reduced energy use. Trees maintain biodiversity. And not least of their benefits, as anyone who takes walks among trees, they can help with mental well-being.

This year, we could do more than simply walk among trees. We can take steps to protect and plant them to our benefit.

For more information on Tree Ottawa, including a guide to native trees in Ottawa, visit [www.treeottawa.org](http://www.treeottawa.org)

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# BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- By Elizabeth Gray-Smith, Louise Imbeault and Jane Heintzman -

## Art House a One-stop Shop

When Art House owner **Abed Younes** first opened his doors on Beechwood in mid-March, we were still in the grip of a bitterly cold winter which had put a damper on foot traffic past the store. With the return of warm weather and sunshine, however, area residents are emerging from hibernation and will undoubtedly soon discover (if they haven't already) this new one-stop shop for everything from custom framing to laminations, canvas stretching and print sales. Abed has also been actively introducing his services to local artists in the community, including those in the MainWorks artists' collective, who have been busily preparing for a spring show.

Just how Abed came to establish himself in the custom framing business here in Ottawa is an interesting story. Abed is a Palestinian by birth and emigrated to Berlin, Germany in his mid-teens. Thanks to his facility in several languages (including English, German, Arabic and some Polish), he eventually landed a job with the German Red Cross where he spent 17 years as a social worker managing refugee resettlement programs, dealing with clients from a broad range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and handling all manner of adjustment problems.

Recognizing that he had hit the limits for advancement in this role, he began exploring the possibility of a move to Canada where he hoped to find a much broader range of opportunities.



Photo by Louise Imbeault

**Abed Younes has 20 years' experience in the framing business.**

Despite the questionable timing of his first "test" visit—in the dead of winter!—he fell in love with the country, later travelling and camping from coast to coast, and ultimately settling in Ottawa. Once again, he resourcefully started from scratch, and in the course of the past two decades, has built up an expertise in the framing business and operated a number of local framing establishments, most recently one on Rideau St. where the prodigious daily walk-by traffic was in stunning contrast to the

winter months on Beechwood.

A detailed description of Art House's many services can be found at [www.arthouseottawa.ca](http://www.arthouseottawa.ca), but in a nutshell, the core services include:

- **Custom Framing**, including traditional framing; conservation framing and matting using 100 per cent acid free glass and other materials; portraits; photo collages; matting; frame repairs and three-dimensional shadow boxes for medals and keepsake items of all kinds—most recently, a Montreal Canadiens jersey bearing Ken Dryden's legendary (and now retired) number 29!
- **Laminations** to protect and enhance family photos, diplomas, awards, certificates, posters, significant business documents or works of art.
- **Canvas stretching, canvas transfer and canvas framing**; and
- **Prints for sale**—thousands of them, with a full selection in the store and an online catalogue. Prints have been an important facet of Abed's business, and he prides himself on his encyclopedic knowledge in this area, keeping his prices as moderate as possible to maintain a competitive edge. As an

added incentive to prospective print buyers, Art House also offers a 10 per cent discount on framing and lamination for any print purchased at the store.

Be sure to drop by Art House this summer, and to welcome Abed to our community. The store is at **63 Beechwood Ave.**, and you can reach him at **613-695-2423** or [arthouseottawa@gmail.com](mailto:arthouseottawa@gmail.com) if you have questions about a particular framing or lamination job. *JH*

## Farewell to Beauty Mark Esthetics

After nearly 18 years in its quiet nook at 2 Beechwood Ave., Beauty Mark Esthetics will close its doors in mid-July. Owner **Lee-Ann Zanelli** made the decision to close for a variety of reasons, not least the increasingly burdensome struggle to make a go of her small business in an environment of steadily mounting competition, combined with the marked decline in walk-by traffic on Beechwood since the fire of 2011, a factor that has profoundly affected all the merchants in our area.

Perhaps of even greater importance, Lee-Ann is com-

ing looking forward to her new "liberated" future. While her plans are still evolving, she will be far from idle as she is scheduled to resume part-time esthetics instruction at Algonquin College, a role she has played in the past and greatly enjoys, and intends to continue her esthetics practice independently, serving clients from her home studio. Interested readers can reach her at **613-355-7490** and a new website where you can check out her home services is currently in the works. If all goes as planned, [hintonburgesthetics.ca](http://hintonburgesthetics.ca) should soon be up and running.

For the bulk of her 18 years on Beechwood, Lee-Ann has been a faithful advertiser in the *New Edinburgh News*, and we're extremely grateful for her loyal support for the paper and the community. She in turn is deeply appreciative of the welcome her business has received over the years, and is grateful to her wonderful team of colleagues who have contributed so much to the success of the salon. We wish Lee-Ann farewell, and the best of luck in her new post-Beechwood ventures. *JH*



Photo by Louise Imbeault

**Lee-Ann Zanelli will continue to see clients in her home studio.**

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mitted to spending more time with her growing children, now aged six and two-and-a-half, and is unable to devote her late afternoon and evening hours at the salon (prime time for esthetics appointments for many working women). Hiring staff to cover these hours is, of course, an additional expense which adds still further financial pressure to the bottom line.

Having taken the big decision to close the business, Lee-Ann

## Best Wishes to Benjamin Moore

Another local business will be departing Beechwood this summer. **Benjamin Moore Century Paint and Decorating**, at 176 Beechwood Ave. (beside Pet Valu), will close its doors when its lease expires at the end of June. Although the store's business in our community was reasonably brisk, a prospective





Photo by Louise Imbeault

### Benjamin Moore Paints is phasing out corporate-owned shops.

increase in the leasing cost of the premises proved to be a serious deterrent to renewal, as did a recently introduced company strategy of phasing out corporate-owned outlets (such as the Beechwood store) to clear the way for independently-owned operations.

Benjamin Moore's company history dates back to 1889 when the business was first incorporated in Brooklyn, New York. Shortly thereafter, a rapid expansion program was launched which led to the incorporation of the Canadian company in 1906, when an outlet was opened in Toronto. In the intervening years, it has spread across the country, becoming a household name throughout North America. In 2000, when Benjamin Moore was purchased by the holding company Berkshire Hathaway Inc., the company began actively pursuing a strategy of "supporting and strengthening the independent retail channel," while the corporate-owned outlets such as Beechwood have been steadily phased out.

So we say farewell to Benjamin Moore and wish its staff all the best in relocating to other stores across Ottawa. We understand that the closest outlet to our community will be **Benjamin Moore Decorators' Choice at 1495A Innes Road** at Cyrville (about a 15-20 minute drive from the Burgh, according to Google maps!) *JH*

### El Meson's Metamorphosis

After nearly 30 years in operation as a distinctive, old world fine-dining establishment, specializing in tasty Iberian food and wines, Beechwood's venerable El Meson will close its doors for the last time on August 2, and the metamorphosis to an entirely new restaurant genre will begin. The transformation will be dramat-

ic: new menu, new price range, new décor, new food style, new service style, new staff, new music and new name. The mystery name remained a guarded secret as of press time, but given the efficiency of our community grapevine, it won't be long before headlining the buzz on Beechwood.

In May 2012, our local restaurateur *extraordinaire*, André Cloutier, purchased El Meson from its long-time owners José and Maria Alves, and since then has faithfully maintained the original ambience,



Photo by Louise Imbeault

**El Meson will close on Aug. 2. In its place will come a new eatery inspired by local history.**

menu and service traditions. But change is the law of life, however, and in the intensely competitive restaurant market, adaptation to changing tastes, expectations, lifestyles and demographic shifts is a first principle of survival.

André is enthusiastic about the coming transformation, and has clearly thought long and hard about a formula which will appeal to the community and add new life and energy to the blossoming Beechwood commercial scene, while at the same time, pay tribute to the

history of the enchanting heritage house and the community in which it was built over a century ago in the 1890s.

The St. Charles sector of Vanier, in which El Meson is located, was originally the village of Clarkstown, named after T.M. Clark, a son-in-law of Thomas MacKay and a wealthy industrialist who owned a large tract of land in the area. Clark began dividing up the land in the late 1880s and at that time, the community of Clarkstown was established, inhabited largely by French-speaking workers, tradesmen and farmers, many originally from Quebec. By 1909, Clarkstown had merged with the predominantly English-speaking village of Janeville to the south to become Eastview, the precursor to present day Vanier.

In planning the successor to El Meson, André's intention is to pick up the theme of historic Clarkstown, and to recreate the ambience of a Victorian farm house in a village setting, combining "old world charm with new world energy". As inspiration for the project, he has been poring over old photographs and archival records of the period provided by Vanier Muséoparc so we can look for-

ward to some intriguing historical touches in the redesigned premises.

Apart from the wholesale redesign of the décor inspired by the Clarkstown era, André is planning an ambitious agenda of innovations, including a new menu of fine foods inspired by his recent travels in Italy, France, Spain and Portugal. In a significant departure from the previous format, menu selections will be geared to a wider variety of budgets, with a range of prices to accom-



Photo by Louise Imbeault

### Burgh resident Arthur Masters with his "titillating" meal.

modate both those in search of a casual, moderately-priced night out, and others who look forward to settling in for a full, multi-course gourmet dining experience. The one constant on the cuisine front will be the chef, who is currently the head honcho at El Meson and will stay on after the transition.

Another highlight of the new eatery will be signature cocktails featuring unique liqueurs and distinctive infusions. At the time of our conversation, André was in the process of interviewing "mixologists" to take the lead in this department. His hope is that diners will take advantage of the casual, relaxed ambience of the new premises to enjoy a meal and stay on into the evening for cocktails and good conversation. With a capacity of 120 seats (more than double that of André's other venture, the Beechwood Gastropub), he is looking forward to providing diners with considerably more flexibility in reservation times.

Renovations will begin as soon as El Meson closes its doors on August 2, and will be geared to a tight timeline with a target of reopening about three weeks later in early autumn. Sounds ambitious,

but when you think of the astonishingly quick turnaround André orchestrated with the Gastropub, it would seem that where there's an entrepreneurial will, there's a way! Stay tuned for more details, and the big reveal of the new name. *JH*

### Patio and Mexi-Fun at Ola Cocina

This wonderfully intimate bistro, located on the corner of Barrette and Loyer streets, is not for the faint of heart. When customers walk in, they are immediately greeted like family, drawn in by Chef **Donna Chevrier's** larger-than-life personality and warm smile.

The atmosphere is light, colourful and cozy. While sitting at the counter bar you can see all that happens in your meal's preparation. It's fascinating entertainment, and so is the chatter of the many regular patrons and newcomers dropping in for a meal.

Once the lunch rush had passed, Donna and I sat together and she agreed to share her summer culinary menu à la Mexi-Fun (withholding her secret ingredients of course!).

Her delicious line up includes Yucca fries with chipotle aioli,

**Continued on page 12**

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Ahi tuna and lobster tacos, but the season's home run will be the Mexican style corn-on-the-cob. Imagine a pristine white platter with three of our best locally grown cobs steamed then charred on the grill, dripping with lime/chilli/cilantro butter. I say: "Ola! Please bring me more!"

After our meal (the chef needs sustenance, too) we spoke of the patio and the innovation she's planning. Donna is a great carpenter, builder and woodworker whose spring project is to make a long and thick walnut coffee table for the outside patio. An ingenious idea, as it will accommodate larger parties. She then brings me out the side door where she announces: "The squids are ready. Want to see?" This passionate chef cooks the squid in a special broth and makes her own signature "dusted" calamari. Now that's fresh!

Folks often share their food experience at Ola Cocina on social media. Some tweet

or post photos Instagram or Facebook, but Burgh resident Arthur Masters was eager to describe his platter as a "journey of titillating flavours". In front of him was a **Plato Compesino** tagged "the best of the best". It entails your choice of protein with red rice, beans, pico de gallo, guacamole, sour cream, jalapeño crema, crème fraîche topped with pickled jalapeños served with chips with the mouth-watering taste of Mango salsa in the mix (pictured). Walk the extra block to Barrette Street and you're a step closer to a new culinary and cultural experience. **!Salud! LI**

### Bridgehead: Never a Dull Moment

Bridgehead's indefatigable owner **Tracey Clark**, a resident of our community, has accomplished more in the 15 years since she launched the first Bridgehead outlet on Richmond Road than most of us could aspire to in a lifetime. This entrepreneurial dynamo, with a background in science, an MBA, and work experience in international development, turned her formidable talents to building a stunningly successful coffee house chain based on an ethic of fair trade and environmental sustainability, and now has 15 outlets throughout the city serving over 10,000 cups of coffee or tea each day. Indeed, Bridgehead has

### NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

become a household name, synonymous with high quality coffee, and more recently, with fine baking and light meals.

One of the keys to Tracey's success has been a constant readiness to innovate, and it

chef **Rob MacDonald**, a talented veteran of several local gourmet establishments including the Maple Lawn Café, the National Arts Centre and the legendary Café Henri Burger.

Rob is embracing the chal-



Photo by Jonathan Kuhn Photography  
(from left) Handmade Bride store manager Jenna Brunetti and her sister, owner Meaghan Brunetti.

wasn't long before she added tasty foods to the Bridgehead repertoire, initially setting up a central kitchen in the Wellington West area for the preparation of light breakfast and lunch fare, and more recently opening the Roastery on Preston Street (now the headquarters of Bridgehead operations) where breads and other goodies are baked on site in a giant oven.

Food sales are now a significant item in the chain's annual sales, and Tracey is about to build on that trend by introducing yet another Bridgehead first: beginning on May 12th, the Roastery will launch dinner service between 4-10 p.m., with dinner brought to your table on pottery plates or in Staub skillets. Taking the reins in the kitchen is Bridgehead's new executive

challenge of producing high-quality fine food on a much larger scale than is typically demanded in an up-scale restaurant, and is planning a flavourful menu including such dishes as Bourguignonne-style lamb stew with minted yogurt, rabbit confit in tomato and onion sauce, and vegan options such as roasted vegetable dishes. If all goes well with the pilot project at the Roastery, Tracey hopes to have dinner service in operation on Beechwood and at several other downtown locations by early fall.

Beer or wine with your supper? This too is on the agenda, and after a delay in the licensing process, Bridgehead hopes to have the go ahead by early June, and will begin offering three local craft beers and Niagara's Tawse organic wines, initially at the Roastery and later rolling out to other locations, including— we hope!— Bridgehead on Beechwood.

Yet more innovations are coming soon, including walk-up windows where you can pick up pre-ordered food (an order-ahead app is in the works for release in early fall); fresh-pressed juices and a new nut milk; house-brewed kombuchas; and tasty flatbreads and pressed panini sandwiches, a new departure which has been tried out with great success at the Roastery since December and will soon be available in our 'hood. And there are two new Bridgehead locations on the immediate horizon: one in the west end at Greenbank and Iris, and a second (store number 17!) in the renovated Rideau Centre, opening on to Rideau between H&M and

Simons in 2016. One can only imagine the hordes that will be served at that prime spot. *JH*

### Handmade Bride Evolves with Style

Wedding season is here. And, according to **Meaghan Brunetti**, owner of New Edinburgh's own alternative wedding boutique and self-proclaimed nuptial ninja, this year looks a lot different from 2014.

"I monitor trends on the runway," says Meaghan. "But, I know how those trends adapt to Ottawa brides."

This is what makes The Handmade Bride unique. "We are all about bridal design and making it all fit perfectly," says Meaghan "Since opening, we have evolved to focus more on the fashion aspects of weddings and acting more of a service to customize that style to the individual bride." All samples on the long rack inside the boutique can be tailored to the bride's size and taste. "Many brides pick a dress and say, 'if only'...well, we answer that call." Meaghan's goal with every bride is to create what she calls, "the superdress."

"It is a long and strong relationship with the bride. She sometimes comes in a dozen times with upwards of four fittings, plus, of course, a fun shop for all the accompanying accessories." And, The Handmade Bride has no shortage of everything – en vogue – to complete the bride's vision. From petticoats of all colours, to a chic collection of headpieces, to custom inscribed clutches, to delicate sashes—it is all waiting for that bride-to-be.

Meaghan treated the *New Edinburgh News* to a teaser of what is trending on the wedding aisles this season.

"We are witnessing an evolution of the boho wedding," she says. "Mason jars and burlap are making way for barn-style and woodsy features that are more eclectic-bohemian. While Ottawa is comfortably holding on to the champagne, blush and nude hues, we are slowly witnessing multi-colour bridal palettes."

"The strapless dress is on its way out," says Meaghan. "So, the hot ticket item this season is the lace bolero. It covers the shoulders and wraps beautifully around the dress." The Hand Made Bride picked up on that trend and carries quality boleros in all the hip wedding colours.

"And, the belt. Very in," says Meaghan. "Some call it the sash. It catches the eye to the smallest part of the waist." The boutique's seamstress makes

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sashes in-house. Brides can choose from an assortment of long satin ribbons, each carrying its own beaded appliqué flavour.

And, yes, the headpieces. "These floral crowns are wildly popular," Meghan says. "Brides with longer hair weave it right through. What else... the birdcage veil – just gorgeous." The boutique also carries tulle head wraps which stand as evidence of a subtle 1920s influence around the corner. For those wishing for a quieter style gesture, plumage hair clips are on display.

All of The Handmade Bride's fashion elements stay true to the boutique's name. Meghan prides her business on carrying only handmade products created by quality designers and artists dedicated to their craft. The boutique is located at 292 MacKay Street, at the corner of Dufferin. Find them online at [handmadebride.ca](http://handmadebride.ca). To book a consultation, call 613-695-8247. EGS

#### Local Decorating Advice

Long-time Stanley Avenue resident **Lori Lovett** has joined forces with **Decorating Den Interiors' CPI Decorating Team**, a full-service interior decorating and design business offering a broad range of services from space planning and home organization to full-scale transformations of principal rooms, kitchens, bedrooms,



Photo from [decoratingden.com](http://decoratingden.com)  
Lori Lovett offers design tips.

bathrooms and basements. And of course, between these two extremes, Lori and her colleagues supply expert advice on such beautification touches as interior finishes, window coverings, paint and wallpaper selection and installation, furniture choices and placement of furniture.

Lori is a graduate of the University of Waterloo and began her career working in the high tech sector. When her daughter came along, however, she opted to shift gears, and enrolled in Algonquin College's five-year interior decorating program, obtaining her certification in Residential Décor in 2009. While she began working solo as an independent decorating consultant, she ultimately made the

move to join a larger team with greater marketing resources, links to an extensive network of suppliers, solid ties with several groups of contractors, and a warehouse. And from a personal perspective, she has also greatly enjoyed the camaraderie of working with fine colleagues.

Lori sums up her decorating credo as *Form-* selection of furniture and accessories to scale in a given space; *Function-* optimizing efficiency and use of the space; *Fit-* adaptation of furniture and furniture placement to the dimensions of a space; and *Flow-* creation of a sense of continuity among different rooms. She has tackled projects ranging from traditional to modern, and always takes pains to avoid imposing her own taste on her clients, but rather "to deliver what they want, not what I think they should want."

One of her particular interests is decorating small spaces, a skill which is now widely in demand as increasing numbers of seniors and retirees downsize from larger, possession-laden houses to compact condominiums where space planning becomes essential. In these cases, she enjoys the jigsaw-like challenge of creating a fit between a limited condo space and the client's prize possessions to be accommodated in their new

surroundings. With access to CPI's immense virtual warehouse, Lori is able to have any of a room's contents custom-made to fit a given space, and takes pride in being able "to create a whole room in which everything works."

Another task, which she has thoroughly enjoyed, is guiding clients through the sometimes-choppy waters of turning a child's room into the lair of a teenager. Anyone who has been parent of a teenager will know that this can require a healthy dose of diplomacy and ingenuity to strike a balance between the wild ideas of the teen and the understandable resistance of the parents (who does want black walls with purple stripes in their house anyway?). Lori has had considerable success in mediating these situations, however, and often encourages the young folk to "express themselves" in such inexpensive (and removable) ways as posters and cheap art.

As a resident of New Edinburgh for the past 15 years, Lori is well acquainted with our community centre Nectar, and is currently planning to hold a monthly seminar at 255 MacKay St. to offer information and advice on a variety of topics such as decorating small spaces and design trends. The seminars will be based on packages provided by her company's head office which

feature Decorating Den projects across North America, so if some particular item catches your eye during the presentation, you can arrange with Lori to have it ordered.


For more details, you can reach Lori at 613-599-5564 x 33, [llovett@decoratingden.com](mailto:llovett@decoratingden.com), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/lorilovettdecor](http://www.facebook.com/lorilovettdecor) or company website [www.cpi.decoratingden.com](http://www.cpi.decoratingden.com). Another option is to greet her in the park where she walks each day with her wheaten terrier! We wish Lori the best of luck introducing her services to our neighbourhood. JH

#### BUSINESS BITS

##### Scone Witch Express


The next time you're on a weekend excursion to the east-end big box stores, don't be surprised if you spot the familiar Scone Witch sign amidst the maze of retail behemoths. No, it's not a mirage! Heather Matthews has recently opened a new central kitchen on Cyrville Road, strategically located on the service road to **Home Depot** directly in front of the contractors' entrance. The facility now serves as the headquarters for Scone Witch operations, supplying her bustling downtown locations on Beechwood and on Elgin Street with Heather's signature

Continued on page 14




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scones and light meals.

Until she made the move in March, Heather had been working from a less spacious central kitchen on Marier Street, and is currently delighted with her new, more commodious facility on Cyrville Road which affords much-needed office space, greatly increased food prep space, a large storage area, a proper loading door, and a work room located far enough away from flying flour to facilitate the creation of a line of gift baskets. The Scone Witch baskets are now a popular item with **Givopoli**, a company specializing in gift baskets featuring a range of contents from strictly local Ottawa suppliers.

Thanks to her savvy entrepreneurial instincts, Heather spotted an added business opportunity at the Cyrville location, and established an express Take-Out counter supplying scones and sandwiches to employees and clients of surrounding retail chains such as Home Depot, Sears and Home Sense. She also serves a regular clientele of commuters en route from Orleans to the downtown core, which didn't take long to discover this welcome alternative to the fast food chains.

Scone Witch regularly caters lunches, social events and all manner of large gatherings, so if you have a special occasion coming up, you can call the new central kitchen, where all group events are now coordinated, at **613-744-2585**. And of course, the next time you're heading to Home Depot, be sure to pick up your lunch

at the Scone Witch Take Out counter right next door! We wish Heather and her daughter **Madeline**, now a full-time Scone Witch employee, the best of luck in navigating the construction-riddled streets of Ottawa to carry out their daily deliveries this summer. *JH*

### Lobster Lovers Unite!

The New Edinburgh Pub's long-awaited annual **Lobsterfest** is fast approaching. Lovers of the colourful crustacean won't want to miss out on this succulent rite of summer in our community, which will run from **June 8-14**. Pub owner **Paul Williams** has ordered a staggering 1,000 lbs. of Nova Scotia lobster for the event, and there should be plenty to go round –just remember to bring protective covering for your clean shirt so you can really dig in! Ken and Rob will be providing musical accompaniment for the feast, and it promises to be a rollicking week of great food, tunes and camaraderie with your neighbours.

Next on the pub's summer agenda is the annual **Charity Golf Tournament**, another signature event that over the years has raised thousands of dollars for local charities. Last year, the tournament topped the record of the previous year, raising an impressive \$22,000 for the South East Ottawa Community Health Centre. The competition was undoubtedly fierce, but at the end of the day, Ottawa Senator Corey Cowick emerged the grand winner.

This year's event will take place on **July 27** at **Hautes**



Photo by Louise Imbeault  
**Mathiew Legault, Allison Fletcher and Kelly Wilson help run Sconewitch Express.**

**Plaines Club Link Golf Course** in Gatineau. (en.hautesplaines.clublink.ca) All proceeds will go to the **Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre Foundation**, a cause close to the heart of Ivy Cres. resident **David Tobin** who is currently chair of the Board of the Foundation, and will undoubtedly be on hand at the tournament swinging a club for all he's worth! If you're a keen golfer or simply enjoy a companionable day with good friends and neighbours, all in a good cause, drop by the pub and sign up soon. *JH*

### Zoning Changes at 42 Crichton?

At the corner of Union and Crichton streets sits a landmark of an urban dwelling and storefront. In its history, the building has housed a butcher, a baker and an organic food maker. With so much activity over time at the address and the closing of 42 Fine Foods, residents are left wondering why it sits idle.

"It is a beautiful building...I've been fortunate to be its steward for so many years," says jp, the building's owner and former 42 Fine Foods business partner. "I'm trying to pass it along to the next entrepreneur. People love it when they see it, but there are some zoning hurdles."

42 Crichton currently stands with a zoning status of residential with non-conforming "grandfathered" commercial space allowance.

"It is not ideal for the small business owner," says jp.

Recently, an amendment to zoning by-laws to increase commercial zoning in residential areas was introduced by the City's Planning Committee. It was carried May 26 and is set to appear before Council on June 10.

With 42 Crichton at the tip of the spear to have its zoning status changed, the pending decision by Council could very well be a shot in the arm to the seller and an injection of small business into the area. That is, if it passes.

"I think this decision, fingers-crossed, could help the next eager entrepreneur to set up shop in this incredible area," says Paul Jackson, jp's real estate agent and New Edinburgh resident. "Rather than stare at a for-sale sign, we could soon be walking through the door to meet the next business owner." *EGS*

### Flashback to March 2011

**Marc Clément** and his wife **Isabelle Lamarche**, former owners of our sorely missed **Beechwood Home Hardware**, endured some anxious moments when they awoke on April 10, 2015 to the news of a major fire in the Glebe on Bank Street at Fifth Avenue. Marc's current business, the Capital Home Hardware at 726 Bank at Second Ave., is uncomfortably close to the scene of the raging blaze, which consumed six local businesses before firefighters were able to quell the flames. For Marc and Isabelle, it brought flashbacks to the fateful day in March 2011 when their New Edinburgh store went up in a conflagration that gutted Beechwood's commercial core and permanently changed the face of this community.

In an interview on CBC Radio's *Ottawa Morning*, Marc recalled the powerful impact of the lingering smell of smoke from the Glebe fire –the same menacing smell that permeated our neighbourhood four years ago. With fresh memories of his own horrific loss and subsequent arduous recovery process, Marc is in full sympathy

with the Glebe business owners whose livelihoods were reduced to ashes, and plans to reach out to offer any help and counsel that he can.

One specific caution which he mentioned in the *Ottawa Morning* interview was the need for infinite patience in navigating the complex insurance claim process –a caveat with which all the Beechwood merchants involved in the 2011 fire would undoubtedly agree wholeheartedly. An added complication in the case of the Bank Street fire is that a criminal investigation is now underway to pursue the possibility of arson (ruled out after the Beechwood blaze), but the Glebe merchants affected are reported to be eager to rebuild as quickly as possible. Here's hoping the recovery process moves more swiftly than it has in our neck of the woods, and that the collateral damage to surrounding businesses and shoppers is much less severe. *JH*

### Glebe ZaZaZa Goes British

Indefatigable local restaurateur **Ion Aimers** is once again teaming up with New Edinburgh's culinary kingpins the **Fraser** brothers, **Simon** and **Ross**, to reinvent the Glebe's **ZaZaZa Pizza** as a thoroughly British eatery featuring "casual yet quality dining" focused on modern British cuisine. The new restaurant, to be called the Rowan, is expected to be up and running by mid-June. The primary impetus for the transformation from pizza to pork pies (upscale versions of course!) appears to have been the pressure of increasing competition from casual, mid-priced dining chains such as Jack Astor's, Local Public Eatery and Milestones moving into the area with the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park. While the Glebe's ZaZaZa outlet had been faring reasonably well, Ion and the Frasers spotted the opportunity to significantly boost the business by carving out a distinctive niche, boosting the quality and diversity of the cuisine, and featuring absolutely fresh, strictly local ingredients.

Pizza aficionados in the Burgh can rest easy, however, as Ion reports that there are no immediate plans for any change at our local ZaZaZa Pizza on Putman Ave., the location of his original *Works* restaurant (now a sprawling restaurant chain with locations all across Ontario and Quebec). And indeed, the ZaZaZa formula still seems to be a winning ticket as Ion will open yet another outlet further north on Bank Street in mid-June. *JH*


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# Three Key Conservation Tools Get an Upgrade



**By Gail McEachern  
Chair, Heritage and  
Development Committee**

The phrase “Two’s company, three’s a crowd” usually connotes something undesirable. However, in the case of future development with New Edinburgh’s Historic Conservation District (HCD) and the broader community, “three” may have positive implications. The three mechanisms which have the potential of strengthening the community’s ability to control change are: the upgrading of the HCD Conservation Plan, the expanded mandate for the City’s Built Heritage Sub-Committee, and the City’s new Infill By-Laws (I & II).

The revision of New Edinburgh’s HCD Plan to meet the requirements of the Ontario

Heritage Act is a work in progress, involving members of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance’s Heritage and Development Committee and Lesley Collins, City of Ottawa heritage planner. It is anticipated that the draft plan will be presented to New Edinburgh residents by Fall 2015 and, if approved by City Council, will result in new by-laws to protect the HCD.

The Built Heritage Sub-Committee (BHSC) is a sub-committee of City Council. It is composed of four members of Council: Tobi Nussbaum (chair), Catherine McKenney, Marianne Wilkinson, Scott Moffatt and three citizen members: Barry Padolsky (vice-chair), Sandy Smallwood and Carolyn Quinn, selected for their expertise in heritage advocacy and development. The

mandate of this sub-committee is “to advise and assist council on matters relating to Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act, 1990, and such other heritage matters as Council may specify by By-Law or as specified in the City’s Official Plan”. Its responsibilities would include meeting monthly to review applications under the Ontario Heritage Act, and having authority (pending City Council approval) to recommend to Council, through the appropriate Standing Committee, opportunities to issue notice of intent to designate heritage properties, as well as having the ability to be consulted by staff and/or having matters referred to it by other Standing Committees relative to the built heritage portfolio.

For all its good intentions, the role of the BHSC is limited, as it has no authority to comment on applications relating to the Committee of Adjustment, site plan control, building permits or zoning issues. This means that it cannot advise or comment on the Heritage Overlay Zoning By-Law (Section 60), which is an important tool in preserving the heritage char-

acter of New Edinburgh. It is intended to encourage retention of the existing building by limiting the massing and location of the new construction to the built envelope of the original building. The Heritage Overlay issue has been referred back to the Mid-Term Governance Review for further consideration. We support any steps that can be taken to expand the mandate of the BHSC, and to encourage more on-going consultative communication between city staff and the BHSC.

Infill I and Infill II are the new by-laws developed by the city after several years of consultation with developers, architects, builders and community groups. When fully implemented, they will provide the ground rules for infill construction, additions and re-development of existing homes in mature, established neighborhoods. These by-laws are aimed at preserving the “streetscape characteristics” of older communities and to curtail the current practice of inserting structures that tower over the neighbours’ homes. There are guidelines pertaining to the height and massing

of new houses, and also for landscaping, driveway design and parking.

Hopefully, this will mean that we will have a larger and more effective “tool chest” to use when dealing with the demands of future growth in New Edinburgh, so that the elements in the community we consider most important are retained.

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# From School to Sanctuary: St. Luke's Lutheran Marks 100 Years

By Brad Darch

## Archivist, St. Luke Lutheran Church

High above the altar in a red-bricked church at the corner of MacKay and Noel Streets, lies the following words written in German: "Your Word Is Truth" (John 17:17). While its architectural presence may not quite match that of other Ottawa-area churches, its practical structure represents a testament to the 100-year history of St. Luke Lutheran Church and to the people who have dedicated themselves to preserving a place of worship.

St. Luke's has chosen to celebrate its centenary this year by participating in the Doors Open Ottawa Festival, June 6-7, 2015. During their visit, members of the public will be able to learn about the church's storied history whose New Edinburgh roots stretch back to 1895; a full 20 years before

the church itself was built.

St. Luke's inception took shape through the congregational members of its maternal church, St. Paul Lutheran, which was and is still located at the corner of Wilbrod and King Edward Streets in Sandy Hill. It was not the church building itself that came first, however. St. Luke's began a school for a large number of children whose families worshipped at St. Paul, but who lived in New Edinburgh. In 1895, St. Paul's established a branch school on what is now known as Dufferin Road, just opposite the grounds of Rideau Hall.

As the numbers of New Edinburgh-based families who worshipped at St. Paul grew, so did the frustration at having to undertake the considerable journey from their homes to church in Sandy Hill. It was decided to seek permission from St. Paul to estab-



Photo courtesy of St. Luke Lutheran Church Archives  
St. Luke's church during its construction in 1915.

lish a separate congregation and to build a new church in New Edinburgh. Upon receiving permission, an organizational meeting was held on August 4, 1914, whereupon a constitution was adopted and an official name given to the new Lutheran congregation: "Evangelical Lutheran St. Lucas Congregation Of The Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Ottawa, Canada."

That same year, Werner

Edgar Noffke, an Ottawa-based architect, was chosen to design a church for the new congregation. In hindsight, this was a fortuitous choice given Noffke's subsequent recognition as one of Canada's most skilled architects. Noffke had been operating his own firm since 1908. Previously, he had apprenticed under architect Paul Harvey, who had designed the church attended by the Noffke family: St. Paul's

Lutheran in Sandy Hill. Noffke contributed his own unique sense of architectural design to more than 200 buildings in Canada until his death in 1964. Many of them have been featured in previous Doors Open Ottawa events.

The site chosen for the new church was at the corner of MacKay and Noel Streets. Work began around April 1915 and proceeded throughout the summer. A number of men from the St. Lucas congregation assisted the construction head, Ed Wentzlaf, in erecting the building. In May, a call had been extended to Pastor Albert Orzen, who graciously accepted, becoming the first of eight pastors who have since served the church. By mid-autumn, both the church and the rectory had been finished and on October 24, 1915, the dedication ceremony and installation of Pastor Orzen took place.

Meanwhile, the small brick school that had been established by St. Paul on Dufferin Road in 1845 continued to grow. In 1948, the school was remodelled and renamed the Memorial Hartwick School after its former principal teacher, George Hartwick, who taught at the school for 49 years until his death in 1945. In October 1958, a brand new building, designed by the firm of Noffke & Ingram, was erected at 100 Dufferin Road and renamed St. Luke School (it was at this time that the church was renamed St. Luke as well). Students at the new school followed the provincial curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 8. St. Luke School was maintained and supported entirely by the church. However, rising inflation forced the closure of the school in 1966. Although there is no visible trace left of this remarkable part of the church's history, the vision of the St. Luke School can be easily found in the thriving classrooms and activities of its Sunday school.

2015 is a special year not only for the 100th anniversary of St. Luke's church. It is also a milestone for Rev. Bryan J. King, St. Luke's current pastor, who will celebrate his 25th year of ministry with the church, making him her longest serving pastor.

St. Luke Lutheran Church is located at 326 MacKay St. It will be open to the public on June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of Doors Open Ottawa. The public is always welcome to attend worship service on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please call 613-749-1731.

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# Sculpture of 'In Flanders Fields' Poet Unveiled on Green Island

By Marie Mullally

At the National Artillery Memorial on Green Island, across the Rideau River from New Edinburgh, sits a stunning bronze statue of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae in true contemplative mode. It's as though he has just penned his world-famous "In Flanders Fields".

Fashioned by Canadian sculptor Ruth Abernethy, the statue is one of two in Canada commemorating the 100th anniversary of the second Battle of Ypres in May 1915, during which McCrae wrote his iconic poem.

The statue was commissioned by The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery with the Royal Canadian Medical Service, and was unveiled on May 3 with military honours. An honour guard from McCrae's two wartime units was on parade and reviewed during the ceremony. A military choir, The Army Voices, sang selections from the First World War era.

Gun salutes commemorated the event, and tribute was paid to McCrae's work as a medic, gunner, poet and humanitarian. A mock casualty clearing station or frontline dressing station with medical personnel, equipment, stretchers and analgesic supplies was depicted in a corner of the island. It was while working in such an environment, and after the loss of a good friend, that McCrae was inspired to write his famous poem.

Military regiments, veterans, youth, former and current members of Parliament and prime ministers, Clan MacRae Society of Canada, other invited guests and the general public attended the ceremony.

Although an eminent surgeon and pathologist, McCrae was also a gunner, artist, professor, writer, raconteur, soldier and poet. While best known as a medic and poet, he also had a distinguished career as a gunner in the Canadian Militia-Field Artillery, a career he truly loved and valued.

Born in Guelph, Ont. on Nov. 30, 1872, McCrae became a bugler at age 15, and at 17 enlisted in the local artillery unit commanded by his father, Lt. Col. David McCrae. He received a BA from University of Toronto in 1894, and continued in Medicine, graduating in 1898.

In 1899, while serving as a gunner in the militia, he volunteered in Canada's second contingent to fight in the Boer

War in South Africa, excelling as a competent and courageous troop leader and leading one of three two-gun sections of the Canadian Field Artillery. While there he encountered another reservist, Lt. Edward

McCrae did not go quietly from the artillery, refusing to relinquish his artillery uniform or his war horse, Bonfire, or to move into the medical quarters.

During the second battle



Photo by Marie Mullally

Gun salutes were part of the events celebrating a new sculpture of John McCrae, including tribute to his work as a medic, gunner, poet and humanitarian.

Morrison (then a reporter with the *Ottawa Citizen*) and the two became fast friends. McCrae returned home in 1901.

At the time of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, McCrae was in medical practice in Guelph. He volunteered to fight and asked his friend Edward Morrison, then director of Artillery, to find him a gunner position. Morrison recommended McCrae as an artillery commanding officer, but was instructed following an Order-in-Council to enlist him as a doctor. Morrison invented the position of "Brigade Surgeon and Second-in-Command" of the 1st Brigade which he commanded, and together Morrison and McCrae brought the brigade to England for training, later deploying to France. After the battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the brigade was deployed to Ypres, Belgium.

The military hierarchy eventually caught on to Morrison's ploy, and obliged McCrae to leave the artillery and work within the medical war branch.

of Ypres (April 22-May 25, 1915), Maj. McCrae, as a surgeon with the First Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery, established his dressing station near the frontline. The battle marked the first use of chlorine gas unleashed by the Germans on the Canadian and French troops.

During the battle, German shellfire killed two young artillery officers from McCrae's unit. One was his friend, Lt. Alexis Helmer, a 22-year-old engineer from Ottawa and a 1909 graduate of Lisgar Collegiate. The following day McCrae conducted a funeral service for Helmer, after which he composed the famous poem that led to the poppy's becoming the chief symbol of remembrance throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Though written for Helmer and

all who lost their lives on the Ypres Salient, the poem has left an indelible imprint on the free world's perspective of war.

After the second battle of Ypres, McCrae transferred to No.3 Canadian General Hospital at Dannes-Camiers where he was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel treating casualties from the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Arras and Passchendaele. Sadly, he became an indirect casualty of the war, dying of pneumonia at Boulogne on Jan. 28, 1918 at the age of 46. His warhorse, Bonfire, attended his funeral. He had not married, though descendants of his siblings are current members of Clan MacRae, Canada.

MacRae Clan members took full advantage of the May festivities in Ottawa to hold a four day Clan Gathering. It began in Centre Block on Parliament Hill on April 30 with the unveiling of a stamp and a commemorative coin honouring John McCrae, and included such other activities as a genealogy session at the Library and Archives Canada, a field trip to the Canadian War Museum, and an Annual General Assembly.

At 12:30 p.m. on May 3,

prior to the unveiling of the statue, the Clan gathered on Parliament Hill where Dominion Carillonneuse, Andrea McCready chimed out the melody to "In Flanders Fields", preceded by *O Canada, God Save the Queen* and *I vow to Thee, O My Country*. It was followed by the world premiere of *Red, White and Sorrow*, a beautiful meditation on the poetry of John McCrae commissioned by the Clan MacRae Society of Canada and composed by Matthew Larkin, composer, organist and director of music at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa.

The weekend concluded with Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral where the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, directed by Matthew Larkin, sang a superb series of motets to complement the readings and recitations. Ninety-year-old Second World War veteran Fred Thorp left the congregation spellbound with his deeply moving reading of "In Flanders Fields". The Choir ended the service with a stirring rendition of *The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond* in tribute to the members of Clan MacRae gathered for the reunion. It was the perfect ending to a magical and memorable weekend.

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# A New Meeting Space, a New Name, New Plans and New Neighbours

## Continued from page 1

If she's not able to address the issue herself, Frances will be able to direct the question to the right person, so one way or another, the problem can be swiftly dealt with.

After a brief surge in late February/early March, condo sales have reportedly been a bit sluggish, but Kevin is optimistic that once the physical building begins to emerge, serious interest will again be sparked in the downsizer market, particularly in light of the upswing in development activity and positive change along Beechwood. When the Beechwood Sales Centre was demolished in March, a large portion of the contents, including the full kitchen and bathroom, were sold off, and the centre itself closed down altogether after a company decision not to relocate it to the downtown core. **Sales are now by appointment only**, and deals can be negotiated at any Minto location of the buyer's choosing.

Kevin reports that negotiations with future occupants of the commercial spaces in Minto Beechwood are very close to complete, but he remains uncertain about the possible timetable for any public announcements. *Wait and See* has been the name of this game since the start, and at this stage, our neighbourhood has become pretty proficient at it!

**Perry Hall Opens at 81 Beechwood**



Photo by Louise Imbeault  
(from left) Rideau-Vanier MPP Madeleine Meilleur, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Tea Tyme's Philly Kingsley, archivist Michel Prevost and Rideau-Vanier MP Mauril Belanger celebrate the opening of Perry Hall, Beechwood's newest gathering place.

April 26 marked the gala opening of Perry Hall, a new community meeting and gathering space created at **81 Beechwood**, home of **Tea Tyme** teahouse. The facility is the brainchild of Tea Tyme owner/operator Philomena (Philly) Kingsley, and is named in honour of her late husband **Dr. Malcom Perry**, a distinguished National Research Council scientist who did pioneering work in the realm of vaccines over the course of a stellar career spanning nearly four decades. Philly hopes that the new hall, which accommodates about 30 (seated), will be put to use for courses, lectures, meetings, social gatherings and discussions on everything from exotic travels to poetry, language learning, hobbies or you name it. If it brings people together to exchange ideas, Perry Hall will achieve

its intended purpose. You can drop into Tea Tyme from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. for more information or to book the new facility.

### Marché St. Charles Market

Following an open invitation to the community to submit prospective names for the new ModBox development planned at St. Charles Church, the team has picked a winner, which was announced by ModBox managing partner **Darryl Squires** and project architect **Andrew Reeves** on May 2 during the annual Jane's Walk on Beechwood. The new bilingual name, **Marché St. Charles/St. Charles Market**, is intended as a tribute to the history of the church and its pivotal role as a gathering place and centre of activity in the Francophone community of Vanier, a role that ModBox aspires to recreate in our contemporary context.

In a brief overview of development plans presented during Jane's Walk, Andrew emphasised this core idea of the church as the hub of community life, a concept that is the unifying theme in the overall design of the ambitious project. Far from being daunted by the challenges of working with a heritage building, steeped in still-cherished traditions, Andrew is excited by the prospect of re-enlivening the rich history and heritage of St. Charles Church, and in the process, adding new life and energy to our community. He places high importance preserving the iconic bell tower of the church, which he sees as a visible symbol, readily recognizable to all residents of the neighbourhood as an enduring signature of their home turf.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Vanier's **Mike Steinhauer**, the church was given a heritage designation by City of Ottawa, and in the redevelopment process, the exterior will

remain unchanged. In keeping with its historic role as a public gathering space, the interior of the building will be adapted for use as space for two restaurants, a coffee shop and a number of small retail operations (there was specific mention of a butcher, a baker and a flower shop, but all ideas are on the table), while a Farmer's Market is planned in the forecourt at the main entrance, an area which ModBox has earmarked as a "pure public space." When the Market is not in active operation, the space will be adapted to a variety of other public uses and activities.

The group is currently planning to use the commodious basement space for similar small retail purposes, and hopes to construct a central stairway down the middle aisle of the church linking the two levels. There are also plans afoot to create patios and outdoor seating areas on the Beechwood-facing side of building.

The residential component of the project –between 30 and

and responding to questions from participants. ModBox is well aware of the community's strong interest in the neighbourhood's heritage and traditions, and in the revitalization of Beechwood Village, so the company is making a serious effort to engage the community from the get-go.

Among the additional details that emerged at the community meeting, some highlights include:

- Town house designs will reflect "a modern take on the original architecture", picking up such architectural details as roof lines, colour palette, stained glass, cladding materials and other forms from the church building;
- All the town houses will have a street level front door to connect the new development to the neighbourhood;
- Condos above the town houses will be set back from the street (number of storeys yet to be determined), and will range widely in size and price, though



St. Charles project renderings, courtesy of Modbox.

40 units, with town houses at ground level and condos above– will be located along the Barrette St. side of the building, wrapping around one corner of the church with three doors facing St. Charles St. At the rear of the church, opposite the Pet Valu mall, ModBox plans to remove the existing addition to the building and replace it with new office space, completing the "Live, Work, Play" triumvirate for the development.

ModBox hosted the first community meeting on the project at the church on May 20. Following **Melissa Reeve's** brief survey of the church's history, project Architect **Andrew Reeves** picked up the themes he had presented at the Jane's Walk event, laying out the site's overall vision along with the preliminary drawings,

Andrew stressed that all will be intended as permanent homes rather than way-stations en route to a real home;

- The new buildings (town house/condo complex and the commercial office space at the rear) will be LEED certified;
- A two-level parking garage (entrance off Barrette St.) will be constructed below street level, with spots provided for all project residents as well as a number of additional spaces for employees and clients of the on-site businesses;
- While all options are on the table for occupants of the retail spaces, the ModBox vision is to some degree "food-centric," focusing at least initially on small artisan operations that cre-

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ate a compatible blend in what Andrew dubbed “a more refined St. Lawrence Market”;

- The community’s crying need for a hardware store did come to light, and has been taken on board by the ModBox crew, though development manager Darryl Squires pointed out the complications involved in the storage, shipping and receiving requirements of such an operation;
- Given the scale and complexity of the project, building permit applications and construction will span several years.
- In the interim, ModBox hopes to encourage a variety of community uses on the site, with the **BVA Summer Solstice on June 20**, and a two-day bazaar planned for late July. They welcome ideas and suggestions on other possible events and activities, so if you have an inspiration, contact them at [info@modbox.ca](mailto:info@modbox.ca);
- Another meeting with the community is planned in about a month, so watch for news on the New Edinburgh website ([newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)) or via ModBox. Interested readers can keep track of developments by visiting the ModBox website at [modbox.ca/stcharles/](http://modbox.ca/stcharles/).

On the whole, reaction to the ModBox presentation was extremely positive, though a number of concerns were raised about the adequacy of parking provisions, the impact along Barrette Street, and the potential for “coffee shop overload” at the expense of other much needed community services. These are early days, however, and the energetic project co-ordinators at ModBox do appear to be really listening to community feedback. (Full disclosure: my son Geoff Heintzman is currently working on the ModBox team but it’s nonetheless my intention to retain my full critical faculties as the project unfolds!)

While the devil is in the details, ModBox’s overall plan looks incredibly promising, and responds directly to many of the key aspirations of our community: small shops, increased animation and street life, public gathering places, green spaces, and modest increases in density. So far, so good! And a special thank you to ModBox for including the community in the all-important choice of a new name for this site.

#### Claridge Gets Back in Gear

Things have got back in gear on the Claridge proposal for a



Claridge project rendering, courtesy Chmiel Architects.

redevelopment of the former Caisse Desjardins site at Beechwood and St. Charles. After a six month hiatus following the first round of City and public comments on the initial Site Plan Control Application, Claridge recently submitted a revised application to the City which you’ll find on the City website.

City planner Erin O’Connell said the revisions were open for public comment until May 5, and that thereafter the application will proceed through the next stages of the process, and ultimately to Planning Committee for consideration and approval.

In its response to the Recommendations and Comments of the Urban Design Review Panel, Claridge has proposed what it describes as “minor alterations....to improve (the building’s) street presence, size and character”, including:

- A redesign of the original protruding balconies fronting on Beechwood as less obtrusive “Juliet” balconies;
- A 1.1m step back from the property line of a portion of the fifth and sixth floors on the south west interior side yard;
- A redesign of glazing and materials on the building’s west façade “to better respond to the residential character of Langevin Avenue”;
- Increased masonry returns on the second through fifth floors “to create more relief in the façade”;
- A revision of cladding materials, including the incor-

poration of another brick masonry colour, “to complement the fabric of the neighbourhood”;

- Greater articulation of the retail façade along Beechwood “to better emphasize the vertical breaks along Beechwood”; and
- An overhaul of the exterior landscaping, with the type and location of plantings revised to “further soften the edge of the property” and enhance the public spaces on the site.

We understand that the Lindenlea Community Association was planning to review the proposed changes to the original design, and provide the City with any further comments it may have on the “tweaked” version of the project. Stay tuned for more news as the application progresses, including the timing of Planning Committee meetings to discuss the project. We’ll post these on our website and Counsellor Tobi Nussbaum will also be closely tracking the Claridge proposal. Contact his office at 613-580-2483 or E-mail: [Tobi.Nussbaum@ottawa.ca](mailto:Tobi.Nussbaum@ottawa.ca). You’re also welcome to contact City planner Erin O’Connell directly [Erin.O’Connell@ottawa.ca](mailto:Erin.O’Connell@ottawa.ca).

Claridge will host the **Beechwood Farmers’ Market** on the site, running every Saturday from July 4 until Thanksgiving (see details elsewhere in this issue).

#### The Kavanaugh: Almost There!

By the time our October edition

hits the streets, *The Kavanaugh* should be up and running, with many of the residential units occupied and –we hope– the new retail tenant fully in operation on the ground floor. As of press time, construction was proceeding at full tilt to meet some tight deadlines resulting from the unduly prolonged deep freeze of the winter, and “Jane the Crane” was expected to be dismantled in the near future, along with the hoardings along Beechwood. Domicile anticipates that the removal of the hoardings “will have a major impact on the look and feel of the site as it relates to the street” –a bit like finally unwrapping a birthday present which has been partially exposed by a rip in the wrapping paper!

In a recent construction update on Domicile’s Blog, the company reports that a crew of more than 60 is hard at work, with the masons moving ahead swiftly on the exterior brick work at the front of the building and the metal paneling scheduled to be installed by early June. The interior of the building is also abuzz with activity, with each floor at a different stage of completion. The second and third floor units are very nearly finished, with walls in place, ceilings plastered, first coats of paint applied, and trim, tile, cabinetry and countertops installed. While there is still more to

do on the upper floors, levels five to seven are rapidly taking shape and most of the purchasers have had their framing walk-throughs.

In the building’s common areas, the hallways have been framed and have passed their inspections, while corridors on the lower floors have had their first coat of paint. And the all-important elevators are just about ready for use, as is the parking garage once it’s been cleared out and cleaned. Domicile is especially delighted about the guest suite, which is also nearing completion and reportedly “looks fantastic!” Progress continues on the top floor reading room, and the final electrical and ductwork is about to start on the newly installed indoor-outdoor fireplace.

Condo sales have remained strong, with the bulk of the units sold and plenty of serious buyers for the few that are remaining. And as for that elusive detail –the identity of the retail occupant (there appears to be only one in the offing)– Domicile remains coy but offers the firm assurance that the community will be happy with the choice! We’ll keep you posted on updates on the Kavanaugh on our website and with any breaking news over the summer. Construction updates can be found at [domicile.ca/blog/](http://domicile.ca/blog/).

#### BEECHWOOD CEMETERY’S BILINGUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

### ADVENTURERS & EXPLORERS

Come with your family and friends to Beechwood’s free Annual Historical Walking Tour at 2:00pm on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The tour will celebrate the spirit of exploration and adventure, with a special focus on the people that dedicated their lives to exploring Canada. The tour will include stops at the gravesites of five men who explored hostile and isolated terrain, often alone: pioneering anthropologist and ethnologist Diamond Jenness, who lived with the Copper Inuit for two years; arctic explorer Albert Peter Low; and Canada’s foremost field naturalist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, John Macoun. Costumed actors will bring these historical figures to life.

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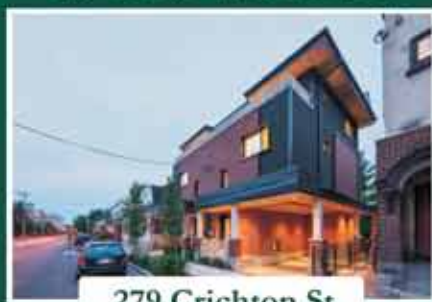
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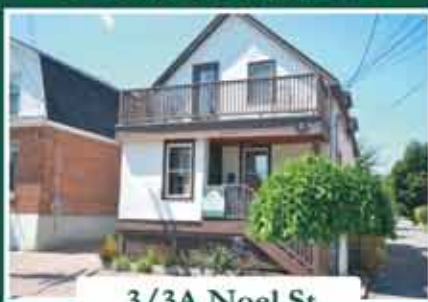
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# Four Area Buildings Win Architectural Conservation Awards

By Jean-Louis Wallace

The City of Ottawa marked Heritage Week from February 16-20, and on February 17, announced the recipients of the **2012-14 Ottawa Architectural Conservation Awards**, recognizing commitment to local architectural heritage. A complete listing of the winners, with project descriptions, is available on the City website at <http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/planning-and-development/built-heritage/2012-2014-award-winners>.

Four buildings within the Rideau-Rockcliffe ward were honoured. These included the Dome Building at Rideau Hall, which received an Award of Excellence (institutional) for an addition. Other Rideau-Rockcliffe buildings honoured with awards of merit were: 73 Crichton Street (addition), 68 Park Road (infill). The Burpee House at 22 Rideau Terrace received a heritage designation plaque. Congratulations to all the winners for encouraging further investment in the community, and for the commitment they have shown to conserving and preserving Ottawa's built heritage. These are additional properties that the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) can add to its walking tour of heritage properties within the neighbourhood.

The awards are presented every two years in categories including: restoration (return

of heritage resources to original form, material and integrity), addition (additions to historic buildings), adaptive reuse (adaptation of an old building for a new purpose, retaining its heritage character), infill (new construction in an historic context), and other (conservation of engineering works, gardens, landscape features).

This year's ceremony and reception was held at the Horticulture Building at Lansdowne Park. Councillors Tobi Nussbaum, Catherine McKenney, Eli El-Chantiry, Mathieu Fleury, and Marianne Wilkinson were on hand to present the awards to the winners in their wards.

The jury consisted of three members: Leslie Maitland, president of Heritage Ottawa, Julie Harris of Contentworks Inc., and Ed van der Maarel of a+LiNK Architecture.

The Rideau Hall Dome Building (1877) was built by the Department of Public Works as a 'gasometer,' which was used to store coal gas for lighting the Rideau Hall site. Currently used as office space, the restoration and addition reorganized the building to better suit programming requirements and provide barrier-free access, while retaining the original character of the building. This addition follows the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, as it is physically and visually compatible with, yet subordinate to



Photo courtesy Jean-Louis Wallace

**73 Crichton St. is one of four renovation projects in New Edinburgh to receive a 2012-14 Ottawa Architectural Conservation Award.**

and distinguishable from, the original historic structure. The jury noted: "The project fully respects the original volumes of the building and its exterior and materials, the placement of its original windows and the shape of its floor plates. The addition frees the original structure from the space-consuming encumbrances of modern services; it also provides views in all directions from which to appreciate the landscapes and structures of Rideau Hall."

Contributors cited for the

Dome Building award were **Robertson Martin Architects, N.C.C. Architect Kristin Pompura and John G. Cook and Associates Ltd.**

68 Park Road was built in 1917, but had fallen into disrepair and required dramatic intervention. The new house sits on the footprint of the previous residence to maintain its relationship to the street. The house is thematically similar to the original structure and is finely executed in traditional materials. The jury noted: "This infill project in

the Rockcliffe Village Heritage Conservation District responds to the District's intention to retain a village atmosphere through respect for landscaping features, such as setbacks and plantings, and for new construction to continue existing built forms, heights, materials and the preference for natural materials."

Park Road project contributors were **Greg Statler**, owner, **ARC Associates**, **S. Grant Design** and **J. Stuart Hall and Associates**.

The building at 73 Crichton Street was constructed in 1905 and is half of a two-storey, semi-detached brick house. The jury noted that the addition "is set back from the original structure and does not dominate it. It is clearly distinguishable from the original structure in its design and materials. It wraps around the house in a subtle manner, reserving the largest portion for the rear yard." The contemporary expression of the addition complements the historic building, the streetscape and lane. The building is located in the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District and is designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Crichton Street project contributors cited for the award were owners **Jean-Louis Wallace** and **Brenda Baxter**, **Colizza Bruni Architecture**, **Gordon Weima Enterprise Inc.** and **Green Roots Landscaping**.



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# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

It was an unusually long, cold winter here in Ottawa, and to all appearances, the chill was felt in the migrating bird population which has been slow to return this spring. With the sudden heat in early May, however, the picture is rapidly changing as the ground thaws, the surging river slows down, and the insect world comes alive to provide sustenance for the hungry migrants.

Among the earliest arrivals that I observed in late March and early April were mating pairs of ducks, the majority of them stopping on the Rideau River en route to their nesting territory farther north. These aquatic transients included pairs of **hooded mergansers**, **common goldeneye**, **buffleheads**, **black ducks**, **double-crested cormorants**, **mallards** and **wood ducks**, though in the case of the wood ducks (and possibly the mallards), some may stay put to make their nests in our vicinity as they did last year.

On one occasion, I spotted a **female wood duck** perched comfortably on the limb of a tree above the river, an incongruous spectacle but not an infrequent occurrence, as wood ducks often make their nests in tree cavities very close to—or directly over—the water. The wood duck is adapted to this unusual arboreal habitat, as it's one of the few duck species that is equipped with claws to hang on to its perch. When the eggs hatch, it's strictly tough love in the wood duck family, as the ducklings are obliged to jump out of the nest without parental assistance (sometimes from dizzying heights of over 50 feet) and find their own way to the water.

Egg dumping, or “intra-specific brood parasitism,” is reportedly common in the wood duck family, with females frequently laying their eggs in another's nesting cavity and abandoning them to be hatched by the rightful proprietor of the nest. The result of this cavalier practice may mean that a single female is saddled with close to triple the number of eggs in her own clutch (typically about 10-11, but ballooning to close to 30), so don't be surprised if you see a mother wood duck with an endless line of progeny swim-

ming in her wake.

Apart from the ducks (and of course, the **Canada geese** which had arrived in droves by early April), the earliest migrant arrivals in my vicinity included my resident **song sparrow** pair, back to regale me outside my window each morning; **red-winged blackbirds** commandeering the shoreline of the Rideau River and protecting their turf with raucous calls and treacherous dive-bombing; **American robins** foraging hungrily on the lawn and belting out their beautiful thrush-like melodies from 4 a.m. until after dark; **turkey vultures** soaring over the Ottawa River; **Eastern phoebes** joining the spring chorus with their trademark nasal “fee-bee” calls; handsome **Northern Flickers** and dozy **mourning doves** (the beautiful but brainless “dumb blonds” of the avian world!).



Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes  
Blue-headed Vireo.

Added to this cast of characters was the stalwart group which had been around through the winter, but which in turn were responding to the breeding season with ramped up vocalizing, nesting activity and, in the case of the males of the finch species, even more brilliant plumage. These included **house finches**, **purple finches**, **American goldfinches**, **black-capped chickadees**, **white-breasted nuthatches** and numerous members of the **woodpecker family**, including **downys**-, **hairys**- and industrious **pileateds**- hammering away at insect-filled tree cavities throughout the neighbourhood.

By mid-April, the influx of migrant species was on the rise, though in my experience, their

numbers were comparatively low in the case of most species. In our immediate environs, I spotted **chipping sparrows**, **white-throated sparrows**, **European starlings**, **common grackles**, stripy **pine siskins**, a **great blue heron** cruising majestically over the Ottawa River, and one of my favourite spring arrivals, **golden-crowned** and **ruby-crowned kinglets**. At a mighty three and a half inches and four and a half inches tall, respectively, these diminutive little characters are in perpetual motion, flicking their wings as they forage for insects in the tree canopy. At one point, I was hopeful that ruby-crowns were planning to nest in my garden, as they turned up each day in the apple tree behind our house, but it now appears they've gone farther afield, making only an occasional appearance in our garden.

The newly revived action in our flower beds and around our feeders caught the eye of a **Northern shrike** in late April, giving me a few anxious moments as it perched patiently at the top of our apple tree casting a hungry gaze over the twittering foragers below. The Northern shrike, with its Zorro-like black mask, has a distasteful habit of storing its prey for later consumption by impaling it on thorn bushes or sharp fence posts, and I was not looking forward to finding a hapless corpse on the spiky holly bush at the back of the garden.

The most dramatic—albeit fleeting—occurrence in the early stages of the migration was an invasion of **dark-eyed juncos**. Groups of a dozen or more took over our garden, foraging frenetically on the ground beneath our feeders and keeping many of the other species at bay. Even our resident **song sparrows** were challenged to get their share of the spill under the feeders, but I was pleased to see the pushy male sparrow hold his ground as he was swarmed by a crowd of these sleek, gray creatures. The juncos' timing seems to have been fortuitous, as they arrived and departed before the annual influx of **white-crowned sparrows**, an even feistier group which in past years has driven away the juncos to gain ascendancy in the garden.

## Tracking the Trills

The distinctive song or call of a species is perhaps the most helpful of all the available tools of bird identification. In the case of the **junco**, however, even this clue can be problematic, as the junco's long,

loud, musical trill is difficult to distinguish from that of the **chipping sparrow**. And with both species in abundance in our area, it was anyone's guess which of the two was holding forth from the top branches.

Early in the second week of May, **white-crowned sparrows** made their debut in the neighbourhood, though to date, they've not yet turned up in our back garden. I discovered a small flock of about half a dozen clustered around a make-shift collection of feeders in a lilac bush along Stanley Ave. close to Sussex Dr. An anonymous bird philanthropist has come regularly to keep these rickety feeders well stocked,

spots as Mud Lake, Mer Bleue and Forêt Boucher in Gatineau Park. If you're keen to expand your warbler repertoire in the city this summer, Di Labio recommends that you explore birding locales around Ottawa such as Vincent Massey Park, the Arboretum, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Britannia Conservation Area/Mud Lake, Clyde Avenue Woods, Merivale Gardens, Gatineau Park, and closer to home, Rockcliffe Park and Stanley Park.

As I write in mid-May, my own warbler sightings in our neighbourhood have been limited to **yellow-rumps** in the shrubs along the Rockcliffe



Mourning Dove.

Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

and it was rewarding to see them put to use by something other than squirrels!

The **warbler** family is among the greatest joys and challenges of summer birding, and their arrival is eagerly awaited each spring. Twenty-four species of warblers come through the Ottawa region in May and June, and several of these species are familiar visitors by the river in Stanley Park, in the woods and Rockeries in Rockcliffe Park, and often in the trees and shrubbery close to Sussex Dr. Most common in our 'hood are **yellow-rumped warblers** (typically the earliest arrivals); **yellow warblers**; **American redstarts**; **common yellow-throats**; **palm warblers**; **pine warblers** and **black and white warblers**.

Ottawa Citizen birding columnist **Bruce Di Labio** reports that despite a slow start, many warbler species are now in the Ottawa Gatineau region, with reports of **American redstarts**, **ovenbirds**, and **yellow-rumped**-, **yellow**-, **Nashville**-, **Palm**-, **Northern Parula**-, **Black-throated green**-, **orange crowned**-, **blackburnian**-, **mourning**-, and **chestnut-sided warblers** trickling in throughout late April and May from such birding hot

Parkway by the Ottawa River, a solo **pine warbler** singing lustily in (you guessed it!) a pine tree in the woods near the Rockcliffe Pavilion, and a **yellow warbler** singing on Green Island. Soon, however, we should have many more arrivals in the 'hood, so keep an eye out for **yellow-rumps**, **palm**- and **yellow warblers** in the trees by the Rideau River in Stanley Park, and **American redstarts** in nearby shrubbery.

Unlike the **finches**, **chickadees**, **cardinals**, **nuthatches** and **woodpeckers** that frequent our feeding stations, warblers are in no sense a “backyard bird”. Rather they are typically found in wooded areas (particularly deciduous forests), shrubbery, parks and open spaces, and along the shorelines of rivers and lakes. Because of their propensity to be in constant motion as they pursue the caterpillars and insects that are the staples of their diet, they can be notoriously difficult to spot, and unless they are males in their brilliant breeding plumage, even more difficult to positively identify.

Bruce Di Labio wisely recommends that when you're out on warbler watch, you temporarily ditch your field



guide when you spot a bird and focus on a few identifying field marks, notably:

- Throat colour
- Wing bars
- Eye rings
- Streaks on the breast
- Tail spots
- Tail pumping

Another useful clue is the distinctive warbler bill which

words. In these cases, Cornell's online guide to bird identification ([www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search)) has been an invaluable tool, providing samples of typical songs for each bird which you can use as a benchmark to help nail down the identity of something you've spotted in your birding travels.



Song Sparrow.

Photo by Louise Imbeault

is typically small, slim, straight and sharply pointed at the tip, ideally adapted to its insect diet. And last but by no means least, (first in my books), is the individual warbler's song which you'll hear throughout the nesting season, and which can be a dead giveaway to its identity, long before you're able to set eyes on it, if in fact you ever do.

Over the years, I've learned these songs in a variety of ways, often with the aid of field guides which supply handy verbal formulae such as the signature "*witchity, witchity, witchity*" of the **common yellow throat**, the "*wee-see, wee-see, wee-see*" of the **black and white warbler**, the "*teacher, teacher, teacher*" of the **ovenbird**, or the "*sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet*" of the **yellow warbler**. In the case of many species, however, the songs are less well-defined and much trickier to capture in

#### Preserving North America's 'Bird Nursery'

The Boreal Forest, the vast stretch of woodland spanning the continent from Alaska to Labrador, is the northern breeding ground for an estimated three- to five billion birds, including 325 bird species and about 80 per cent of North America's waterfowl population. Every fall, a massive wave of song birds migrates south from the forest, tracking the major continental flyways south as far as Central and South America. Unlike forest habitat in other parts of the world, a major portion of the Boreal Forest (close to 80 per cent) remains unspoiled, and a group of leading nature conservation and birding organizations has recently launched a vigorous campaign to keep it that way.

"**Birds Need Half**" is a joint project supported by numer-

ous groups, including the Boreal Songbird Initiative, Ducks Unlimited, the National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Nature Canada, Wild Bird Centres of America and Environment for the Americas.

Their goal is to build on the growing popularity of the birding movement in North America to garner support from industry and petitions from the public aimed at pressuring governments to put safeguards in place to preserve at least half the forest as undeveloped habitat for birds and other wildlife. Over the past four decades, the songbird population has suffered a disturbingly sharp decline brought about in large part by habitat loss resulting from urbanization, industrial development, clear-cutting and climate change. Ornithologists are in agreement that to stem the recent tide of songbird attrition, at least 50 per cent of this critically important "nursery" for North American birds must be protected from oil, gas and mining development, and remain as unspoiled nesting ground for the billions of birds that now depend on it. To sign the petition and find out more about the campaign, visit [www.borealbirdsneed-half.org](http://www.borealbirdsneed-half.org).

#### Bird Houses on Stilts

An intriguing bird habitat protection initiative may have caught your eye if you've driven along Riverside Dr. recently. Six large wooden bird houses have been constructed by the roadway to provide temporary nesting ground for the **barn swallows** which traditionally make their nests on the metal girders under the McIlwraith Bridge connecting Smyth Rd. to Main St. The bridge is currently undergoing a year of repairs and repainting, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources requires that when an endangered species is affected by road or bridge work, the city must provide an alternative nesting site. As the barn swallow population has declined by an estimated 65 per cent over the past 40 years, they are now in the ranks of the endangered species so here's hoping they adapt to their new accommodation this spring.

#### Reports from Our Readers

**Macoun Marsh:** St. Laurent Academy science teacher, environmentalist and naturalist Mike Leveillé has had a busy spring keeping up with the many avian visitors to the feeding stations at the Macoun



Merlin at Macoun Marsh.

Photo by Mike Leveillé

Marsh, our neighbouring urban wetland inside the grounds of the Beechwood Cemetery. By press time, Mike had spotted a **Cooper's hawk**, **merlin**, **Baltimore orioles**, **gray catbirds**, **vireos**, **American redstarts**, **yellow warblers**, **Eastern kingbirds**, **Virginia rail**, **solitary sandpiper**, **black-capped chickadees**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **Eastern phoebes**, **Northern cardinals**, **tree sparrows**, **chipping sparrows**, **American goldfinches**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **red-winged blackbirds**, **common grackles**, **American robins**, **a hermit thrush**, **downy-**, **hairy-** and **pileated woodpeckers**, **yellow-bellied sapsuckers**, **a Northern flicker**, **ring-billed gulls**, **American crows** and a **great blue heron**.

**Amy-Jane Lawes** reported an increased bustle in the birdlife around her home in Val des Monts, with recent highlights including the sighting of a **blue-headed vireo** (a relative rarity in this area, and apparently more tuneful than its cousin, the ubiquitous **red-eyed vireo** that will soon be arriving around here); a **black-backed woodpecker**, also something of a rarity and particularly striking with its bright yellow cap; and a leggy **American bittern** which Amy spotted in Parc de Plaisance as it belted out its "gulping and booming call".

From Central Alberta, our correspondent **Dave Collyer** has been keeping a close eye on a wave of incoming spring migrants almost as massive as the political orange tidal wave that swept the province. Dave's most recent list includes literally dozens of species, but a few of the highlights include: **snow geese**, **white-fronted geese**, **trumpeter swans**, **blue wing teal**, **American coot**, **common goleneye**, **bufflehead**, **ring necked ducks**, **Northern pintail**, **American tree sparrows**, **Northern flickers**, **moun-**

**tain bluebirds**, **American robins**, **horned larks**, **Great horned owl**, **Northern harrier**, **sharp-shinned hawks**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **western meadowlarks**, **yellow-headed blackbirds**, **willet**, **vesper sparrow**, **savannah sparrows**, **yellow-bellied sapsuckers**, **peregrine falcons**, **Cooper's hawks**, **black-necked stilt**, **American avocet**, **sandhill cranes**, **ruddy ducks**, **horned grebe**, **red-necked grebe**, **American white pelican** and **Says phoebe**.

Avian Bistro proprietor **Philip MacAdam** had a recent close encounter with a partially albino **wild turkey** close to the Rockcliffe Pavilion. Philip reports that "the bird decided to walk with me and for a few moments, it felt like something out of a Walt Disney animated film." To his relief, the creature safely navigated the crossing of the Rockcliffe Parkway, parting ways with Philip shortly thereafter. Back home at the Bistro on Thomas St., Philip has logged an interesting variety of diners recently, including a pair of **brown-headed cowbirds**, **tree sparrows**, **chipping sparrows**, **white-throated sparrows**, **purple finches**, **house finches**, **black-capped chickadees**, **American goldfinches**, **downy woodpeckers**, **dark-eyed junco** and **pine siskins**. Earlier in the spring, his feeders were overrun by an invasion of **common redpolls**, but this group moved on to make way for the more recent arrivals.

While the *NEN* enjoys a summer break, keen birders can keep up with bird life in the area by visiting the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club (OFNC) website at [www.ofnc.ca/breports.php](http://www.ofnc.ca/breports.php) and/or checking Ottawa Citizen bird columnist Bruce Di Labio's weekly "World of Birds" reports online at [ottawacitizen.com/category/life/world-of-birds](http://ottawacitizen.com/category/life/world-of-birds). Happy summer to all, and good birding!



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Macoun Marsh. Photo by Mike Leveillé



## A Message to the Community from Nectar's Chair



Is Nectar important to you? Are you a user of the many programs and activities that we provide in the Memorial Hall or in New Edinburgh House at 255 MacKay? If so, this letter is addressed to you. And if not, we urge all members of the community to get involved to play a part in keeping our Centre alive and thriving.

Three years ago, our community centre, now known as Nectar, embarked on an ambitious adventure. Previously known as the Crichton Cultural Community Centre (CCCC), the community organization purchased the MacKay United Church manse at 255 MacKay Street in order to continue delivery of programs and services following the sale of 200 Crichton Street, where it had operated for a decade.

It was a heady three years. We continued to host the annual Lumière Festival first launched by the CCCC in 2004; expanded our recreational and arts programs to include a now well established After School Program, as well as musical activities for all ages including lessons for children; planted a community garden; hosted concerts, Family Movie Nights, Food Talks... the list goes on!

Like its predecessor the CCCC, and unlike most other publicly supported community centres throughout the city, Nectar managed to maintain all these programs, activities and events without ongoing annual operational support from the City of Ottawa or any other public granting organization. Despite grants and generous donations to our capital budget to support the costly retrofits of 255 MacKay to

ensure compliance to building code and fire safety regulations, we continue to grapple with our annual operating budget. In recent years, Nectar has incurred operational deficits which have been covered by reserve funds set aside by the Board to rebuild and grow the organization.

In its first years in the new location, Nectar's Board regarded these operational deficits as investments in the organization to build our extensive catalogue of programming and services to the community. Now that this initial growth phase is completed, we are in a position to start fine-tuning our staffing profile and financial arrangements to put our operational profile on a more sustainable footing in the years ahead and find our way back to a balanced budget.

A huge credit goes to **Tony King**, our general manager, for guiding the Board through this challenging period, and working towards what was initially viewed as an impossible goal: operational break-even. Working with all stakeholders, including **MacKay United Church** and all our instructors, renters, and artists, we have identified operational/organizational efficiencies that will allow us operate with a reduced staffing profile that continues to meet the needs of all users of the Centre.

Needless to say, it is with great difficulty and sadness that we have had to reduce staff hours for the coming year. **Tony King**, our general manager, will be leaving this summer, as will **Malachi Handler** our program manager, who is moving to Tel Aviv. We wish them well, and are extremely

grateful to them both for their excellent work and important contributions to the life of the Centre. **Tony** will be staying on in an advisory capacity to continue to oversee Nectar financials, and provide guidance to the Board on financial and governance matters.

In order to continue to offer programs and events moving forward, we have created a new Program Manager position, which will combine the Nectar Program Manager and After School Program Manager positions. We are delighted that **Lee Benson** has recently accepted this expanded position as our new full time program manager. Many of you know Lee as our After School Program coordinator. She brings valuable knowledge and enthusiasm to the position, and will assume the new role over the summer months. We will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition during the staff adjustment process, with the assistance of our Board and growing team of dedicated volunteers.

### Community Collaboration to Plan our Future

Over the coming months, we will be reaching out to community leaders in the neighbourhood to join a Nectar Development Committee, and invite this group to advise our Board of Directors about possible measures to promote community participation in our programs and activities, and increase the financial sustainability of the organization. It has become clear that if Nectar is to survive into the future to serve coming generations in the community, we must extend our reach, and we will need your help to succeed.

Whether you are able to volunteer your talents and expertise; offer suggestions and advice on our programming, management or financial planning; participate in our programs or community activities; help us to promote our programs and services to a wider network of area residents, or support us financially, your contributions will be welcome as we move ahead to come "back to balance" and build a sustainable foundation from which to continue growing and serving our community.

We welcome all ideas and feedback: you can get in touch with us at 613-745-2742 or drop in at 255 MacKay Street. Thank you and best wishes for a wonderful summer.

*Sean Flynn,  
Chair, Nectar*

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# Summer camps

## It's another exciting summer at Nectar.

Play, explore and have fun while making new friends. Part of each day at Nectar Summer Camps will be dedicated to one of our six weekly themes. Open to children ages 4 to 12, Nectar Summer Camps are held at scenic Stanley Park in New Edinburgh with access to the park field house, soccer field, playground and splash pad.

Each week of camp costs \$225 per child.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

visit [nectarcentre.ca](http://nectarcentre.ca) to register

### YOUNG ARTISTS CAMP

#### Week 1: July 13-17

Whether it's painting, drawing or creating you own t-shirts, get a taste of all the arts during this hands-on week of creativity and discovery. Nectar staff will help guide kids down a pathway of artistic fun and exploration with a variety of exciting projects.

### MAD SCIENCE CAMP

#### Week 2: July 20-24

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

### WATER CAMP

#### Week 3: July 27-31

Make a splash and beat the mid-summer heat at Water Camp featuring great water games and activities. Make sure to bring you sense of fun and of course, a bathing suit.

### CRAFT AND COOKING CAMP

#### Week 4: August 10-14

Grab your oven mitts, your paint brushes and your glue sticks and join us at Nectar's Craft and Cooking Camp! This week will be an opportunity for kids to get their creative juices flowing on paper and in the kitchen.

### SPORTS CAMP

#### Week 5: August 17-21

Kids of all ages and abilities will have a great time at Sports Camp. They will work on their athletic skills, learn to play a wide variety of sports and games in New Edinburgh's beautiful Stanley Park.

### ANIMAL CAMP

#### Week 6: August 24-28

The animal kingdom will be explored during this exciting week of hands-on fun. Get ready to learn all about different creatures in nature. Attendees will meet some special reptilian guests!



# An Irish Builder's Legacy of Houses and Heirs

by Janet Uren

Last summer, the house at 68 Crichton went up for sale for the first time in 130 years. Since 1884, when it was built a young Irishman – Jack McElvoy – it was lived in successively by three generations of the same family. The death of Jack's elderly granddaughter Mary McElvoy in 2014 spelled the end of that longstanding association of the McElvoys with the New Edinburgh that their ancestor helped to build.

John McElroy's story begins with family cruelty; but it does not end that way. He was born in 1844 in Northern Ireland, the son of a carriage-maker. When his widowed father remarried – according to family lore – the new wife made it clear that her husband's teenaged sons were not welcome. John and his brother William set off for Canada. John found work, became a builder and married in 1865 at age 22; his bride was a 19 year-old girl from Belfast: she was Margaret Jane Esdale, the daughter of Esther Kilpatrick and David Esdale. Margaret had four brothers, and after their father's death in Belfast the whole family emigrated to Canada. Unlike the McElvoys, they were a very close family: one of Margaret's brothers lived on Stanley where he married an Avery; another brother lived next door to Margaret on Crichton Street.

John McElvoy's signature is on New Edinburgh. Before moving to 68 Crichton, he and his family had been living around the corner, at 89 Victoria, while John worked on the Crichton house; he was the builder of 91 Victoria as



**John McElvoy, builder of many houses in New Edinburgh, in particular on Crichton and (Queen) Victoria streets.**

well, right next door. It was his practice to build a house, and when it was nearly finished, move his family in, sell the former residence, then start to build another house; when the new house was livable in turn, he would move his family there and once again sell the old one. Houses John built in the neighbourhood include two right across the street from 68 Crichton (65 and 69), and probably many others. All his houses share the same modest design and peaked roof of "old" New Edinburgh, probably something he adapted from an architectural pattern book of the day.

Apparently, after the move to Crichton Street, his wife Margaret said firmly, "No more." That was the last move, and there were McElvoys at 68 Crichton from the late 19th to the early 21st century. Three generations of the family lived in the house up to the death of John's elderly grand-daughter, Mary McElroy, in 2014. John the builder was not with them for long: he died of pneumonia just three years after the move at the young age of 43.

John's youngest child John – known as Jack – was about nine the year his father died; his oldest brother was just 18. The widowed Margaret now

had four children more or less dependent on her and no obvious means of support. Her husband had let mortgages to four or five people, according to his descendants, but they had been arranged on a handshake. The mortgagees decided that the debt died with the man. So Margaret had to work. She became a practical nurse, hired privately to look after people who were ill in the neighbourhood. This was one of the strategies that were open to widows in the 19th century, along with taking in boarders, doing laundry or sewing.

Jack, and presumably his siblings, also worked. As a youngster, he had a daily job: before and after school, he drove the cows from Avon Lane out to pasture near Beechwood Cemetery, bringing them home after school. In those days, people commonly kept livestock at the bottom of their long gardens, a cow or some chickens, perhaps a pig. (There was one boy in the neighbourhood – Sydney Raymond Harris at 116 Crichton – who even kept homing pigeons in the early 20th century.)

John McElvoy also left school early, at about age 14, to help support the family; he went to work at the mills in Hull, around 1892. It was not a bad experience. He was so young that the other workers treated him as a kind of pet, and he learned to speak French. Not long after he got a job as an office boy in the Post Office on Besserer Street, where he spent the rest of his life, moving up to head the department that supplied equipment to the whole of Canada.

Poor Margaret. Her sorrows

were not over. Her oldest children, David and Hessie, died of tuberculosis in 1893 and 1898 respectively. In just 11 years, Margaret's family had been reduced from six to only three. Her daughter Margaret married eventually and moved away, so then there was only Jack and his mother left in the house. It is not surprising, per-



**John's wife Margaret Jane (Esdale) McElroy in 1865.**

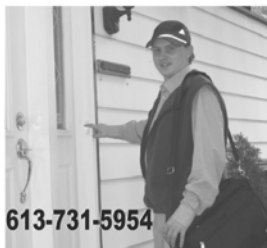
haps – with a mother dependent on him – that John waited until 1911 to marry, when he was 33. His mother was in her late 60s by that time, but her health was failing: she died two years later.

John and Mary Mable Daltan Ryan stayed at 68 Crichton and had three children in the next few years. The youngest was still an infant in 1918 when both she and her young mother died of the Spanish Flu. Little Margaret and Jack, just three and six respectively, were sent to live with an aunt in Quebec, although they returned when

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Margaret (Esdale) McElroy and her only surviving daughter, Margaret. They had lived at 68 Crichton.

they were old enough to care for themselves. A good decade passed before their 51-year-old father John had married again. His bride was the Scottish-born Jessie McIntyre, a 26-year-old stenographer at the post office, the daughter of a retired soldier, and they brought five children into the household between 1931 and 1941. The little house must have been groaning at the seams. Young Jack, from John's first marriage, stayed home till he joined up during the Second World War, and Margaret too left around that time, when she was 29.

John McElroy died at a ripe old age of nearly 90 in 1965.

His daughter, Mary McElroy, was a career woman. She studied to be a nurse and took a Master's degree. She worked in the Department of Health and Welfare, achieving the rank of Director of Public Health before she took early retirement to look after her mother and her aunt, both living together then at 68 Crichton. They were able to die at home, thanks to her care: Jessie McElroy in 1996 at the age of 93. Margaret's sister Ann Taylor said: "She allowed them to do that, but it wasn't easy." Mary died, still living in the house where she was born, in 2014.

## Talk Is Cheap

### Inaugural Lecture Series of the New Edinburgh History Society

Over a few weeks in May, the New Edinburgh Historical Society hosted its first series of heritage talks at NECTAR. Inaugural speakers were New Edinburgh Community Alliance president Tim Plumptre and his architect Louise McGugan talking about disaster and redemption at the Frechette House. Author Charlotte Gray delighted the crowds with insights on doing

history. And I (Janet Uren) babbled on about some of the stories I have uncovered in working towards a full-scale history of New Edinburgh. A satisfying number of people turned out, the response was warm and the organizers are encouraged to get busy with a second series of lectures, perhaps for the fall. In the meantime, many of the audience expressed interest in getting involved with the society, and the organizers will be getting in touch with them shortly. Call 613-842-4913 if you're interested.

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## Carving Out a Studio of Creativity

By Elizabeth Gray-Smith

From a home in New Edinburgh to a studio on Edinburgh Place (located in an industrial park off Innes Rd.), **John-Philippe Smith** does not have far to go to fulfill his passion for architectural stone carving and cutting. The Burgh resident is founder of Smith and Barber Sculpture Atelier Inc., a European-style studio which proudly claims to be "guided by the fundamental principles of stone masonry and sculpture...true to the craft, and true to the art."

John-Philippe is currently working on the biggest restoration project in Canadian history: the West Block on Parliament Hill. The Smith and Barber team is responsible for recreating the sculptural elements and dimensional stones in queue for replacement. This is not Smith and Barber's first time carving stone for the Hill. In 2012, they were contracted to replace carved stone elements on the East Block, specifically on that building's northwest tower. Their artistry can be found inside as well. Just last year, they carved six new altar tops, from Hoptonwood stone, for the Memorial Chamber.

John-Philippe looks back to what may have first inspired him to make stone his muse.

"After university, I worked as a doorman at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier, standing under the beauty of the carved Indiana limestone," he says. "Between cars rolling up, I would look around at the Art Deco carvings and look for carved green men. Funny to think how many of those I've done now in my studio."

John-Philippe schooled in

Perth, Ont. at the Algonquin College Heritage Institute in the Heritage and Traditional Masonry program. On the heels of finishing his diploma, he started working in the trade.

"I first saw the North American side of the trade. It was more about pushing volume over artistry," he says. "I have always believed that the

in the history of architectural carving. "It was there that I received the training you can't get from a book."

John-Philippe's business partner is Danny Barber, who trained in England. Danny has worked on Rideau Hall and the Royal Canadian Mint among many more structures within a stone's throw of New



Photo courtesy of John-Philippe Smith  
Local stone carver John-Philippe Smith is keen to start some residential projects once he wraps up work on Parliament Hill.

building comes first."

The experience drove him to Europe to find mentors practicing within his own vision of what he wanted to accomplish with his talents. On a limb, while in France, John-Philippe boldly approached a truck of restoration sculptors in front of Notre Dame de Paris. He introduced himself and they hired him on the spot. It turned out to be one of France's top studios, Atelier Jean-Loup Bouvier.

"That experience changed everything for me," he says. In France, he met craftswomen and craftsmen who were, as he puts it, "so well-nourished by the trade." He met like-minds who held a deep interest

Edinburgh.

When his work on the new West Block is revealed to all Canadians, John-Philippe wants to return to high-end residential projects. "That is what I love," he says. "The residential aspect allows me to be more creative, to work one-on-one with homeowners."

John-Philippe passionately lists off all of the beautification possibilities he can bring to a home. "We can do full façades, sills, parapets, fireplaces and fountains, to name a few, and I can source the stone from all over the world."

More photos of Smith and Barber's works can be viewed at [smithandbarber.ca](http://smithandbarber.ca)

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## Local Actor Set to Entertain Under the Stars

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

What could be more pleasurable than spending an evening under the open sky, surrounded by trees, as you enjoy the wit and artistry of Commedia dell'Arte? For New Edinburgh actor William Beddoe (full disclosure, he's my husband), delivering that wit and artistry will be his enjoyable task as he joins the 2015 cast of

Ottawa's leading outdoor summer theatre company, Odyssey Theatre.

"Odyssey's shows are a special experience for actors and audiences alike," says William. "There's a magical quality to their work – I don't think there's another company quite like them in Canada."

Heading off to work each evening will mean a short bike ride for William, from

Avon Lane to nearby historic Strathcona Park in Sandy Hill, where he'll perform in Odyssey's 30th anniversary production from July 23 to August 23.

"The Things We Do For Love" is a trio of one-act plays by three of Spain's great literary figures: Cervantes, García Lorca and Tirso. Odyssey's artistic director Laurie Steven explains: "Each play offers



(from left) John Nolan, Scott McCulloch, and William Beddoe in a "The Things We Do For Love" workshop. Photo by Nicole Milne

a unique perspective on the extremes people will go to for love, presented in Odyssey's signature mask and physical theatre style."

One of the roles that William is looking forward to is the gallant knight-errant Don Quixote in the first play of the evening, "Saving Melisendra", Steven's adaptation of an episode from Cervantes' classic tale. "Don

Quixote is one of the greatest, most fantastical characters in all of literature," says William. "He may be mad, but his heart is noble, and that's what makes him such a joy to play."

"The Things We Do For Love" runs from July 23 to August 23 in Strathcona Park. For more information, show times and tickets, visit [www.odysseytheatre.ca](http://www.odysseytheatre.ca).

## New One-Day Literary Festival to be a 'Magical' Event

By Ian Shaw

Literary history will be made once again in Ottawa with the birth of Canada's newest literary festival and book fair. With more than 180 panellists, moderators, publishers, bookstores and authors/vendors participating, Prose in the Park is shaping up to be Ottawa's largest open-air literary event ever. It will be held on June 6, 2015, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Parkdale Park in Hintonburg.

"There is something really magical about hundreds of authors, volunteers and organizers coming together to give birth to a new literary festival," say Prose in the Park Chair Ian Shaw. "What is unique about Prose in the Park is that it is accessible to everyone. It is 100 per cent free, in a public park and within a two-minute walk from restaurants, bakeries, ice-cream parlours, cafés and outdoors bars. And you can listen to fascinating panels with established and emerging authors in both English and French. How can you beat that?"

Fourteen panels and special events will run simultaneously on the north and south stages in addition to readings by 26 talented writers on the open-mic stage. Master of Ceremonies, Sang Kim, will interview Giller Prize winner Vincent Lam and Governor General Award winner Rosemary Sullivan. Aurora Prize Winners Julie Czerneda and Hayden Trenholm will headline the science fiction panel, and World Fantasy Award Winner Charles de Lint will be on the Fantasy panel. Former Lieutenant-Governor

of Ontario and novelist James Bartleman will be the special guest on the aboriginal writers panel, and twice winner of the Arthur Ellis Award for Crime Fiction Barbara Fradkin will be on the all-star With Criminal Intent panel. Denise Chong (twice Governor General Award finalist) will moderate the Under the Papaya Tree, featuring novels about Vietnam, and Susan Delacourt of the Toronto Star will moderate the In the Crosshairs panel with two-time Ottawa Book Award winner Alan Cumyn and up-and-coming Montreal novelist Timothy Niedermann. There is also an incredible line-up of talented francophone authors, including: Yves Breton – Lauréat du Prix Huguette-Parent and Jean Mohsen Fahmy – Lauréat du Prix France-Acadie 2014.

Prose in the Park is a grassroots initiative, supported by the Hintonburg Community Association and key writers' groups in Ottawa. These include the Ottawa Independent Writers, the Capital Crime Writers, the Ottawa Romance Writers Association, the Ottawa Science Fiction Association, the National Capital Region Chapter of the Canadian Authors Association, the Association des auteurs et auteures de l'Ontario français, and the Ottawa Story Tellers. Prose in the Park has also received a generous donation from the Wellington West Business Improvement Association, and support from City Councillor Jeff Leiper. Visit [www.proseinthepark.com](http://www.proseinthepark.com) for more details.

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# Elmwood Theatre Brings Elizabethan Royalty to Ottawa and Scotland

By Sophia Swettenham

Like an Elizabethan Court at its heyday, Elmwood School's theatre company is a-bustle as 13 young actresses, together with their five-member production team, prepare to open a new show, "Fair Cruelty", not only at Ottawa's Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre in June, but also later this summer at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland.

75-minute show. The result is a rich theatre-making experience, and our combined effort has been a driving force in the development of the collective work.

By necessity, a play that is being toured overseas must be technically simple (we can only take what we can carry in our suitcases!) but attention, on the other hand, may be focussed on costumes. To this

Theatre Festival (AHSTF) in Edinburgh this August.

This is the second time Elmwood Theatre has been invited by AHSTF to participate, the last time being the summer of 2013. In order to qualify for the trip, every school must go through a rigorous and competitive selection process, as a panel of theatre professionals and university professors adjudicate hundreds of applications from across North America. The opportunity to perform at the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe is a much-coveted honour by high school theatre students and it has proven to be a life-changing experience. Not only do young people perform on an international stage, but they also attend a rich array of professional theatre - all under the canopy of one city. The energy and vibrancy of Edinburgh during the festival season is like none other.

During our two-week visit, Elmwood Theatre will perform "Fair Cruelty" at the beautiful Church Hill Theatre, located in an historic neighbourhood of Edinburgh. First established as a Baptist church in 1892, it is now a large performing venue that houses both a main stage and a studio theatre. In order to promote the four performances of "Fair Cruelty", we will perform short excerpts on The Royal Mile - one of the busiest spots in Edinburgh that is teeming with tourists and actors alike. The company is excited, but admittedly nervous to try their hand at 'busking' in front of such a discerning crowd of onlookers.

As we approach our Ottawa engagement in June, the company is keen that family audiences ages 10 and older join us to witness the intrigue and high drama that was Elizabethan England! Performances of Fair Cruelty are June 24 and June 25 at 7 p.m. at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 1233 Wellington St. W. Tickets are \$20 and available online at [tinyurl.com/faircruelty](http://tinyurl.com/faircruelty) or 613-749-6761 x 221. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our "taste of the fringe."

For highlights of our current and past shows, please visit: [facebook.com/ElmwoodSchoolTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/ElmwoodSchoolTheatre) and follow us on [twitter.com/elmwoodtheatre](https://twitter.com/elmwoodtheatre)

*Sophia Swettenham is a grade 10 theatre student at Elmwood School.*



Photo by Karenn Boychuk

Students in rehearsal for "Fair Cruelty": Emily Wright (foreground); Zein Zaghloul, Leen Zaghloul, Caroline Capehart, Sophia Swettenham, Cynthia Sedlezky (l-r first row); also featured in the photograph are Bronte Assadzadeh, Erica Giustiniani, Sarah Robinson, Koyuki Hayashi, Maya Mainland-Gratton.

Filled with thrilling plot elements, "Fair Cruelty" recounts the life of Queen Elizabeth I: a monarch whose journey to the throne and powerful reign was far from ordinary. The show is an original piece that explores the controversy surrounding the Tudor and Stewart houses and the women who ruled them. Audiences can expect to enjoy newly devised content, as well as extracts from the works of William Shakespeare and W. B. Yeats, among others.

The show is comprised of poems, songs, scenes and choral work, as well as physical theatre. Transitioning the work from page to stage has been challenging as the cast, together with Elmwood Theatre director Angela Boychuk, have striven weave historical facts into a theatrical story. The process has been long and arduous at times, but never without humour, as our company has spent nearly six months developing and rehearsing the

end, Emily Soussana (a graduate of both Elmwood School and the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Arts programme) was approached by Mrs. Boychuk last December and invited to design the costumes for our 13-member troupe of actors. Currently enrolled in the pre-professional design programme at the National Theatre School, Emily is fulfilling her dream of becoming a designer: a passion that was founded while still a high-school student.

The two performances of "Fair Cruelty" on June 24 and 25 at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre promise audiences a British-themed festive evening, that will include an opportunity to sample pub fare from the Beyond the Pale microbrewery before and after the two shows. Raffle prizes, a silent auction and a reception are also in the offing. All proceeds will go towards funding our company's participation in the American High School



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## Meet the Steward of the Marsh

By Louise Imbeault

"Children are born with a sense of wonder and an affinity for Nature. Properly cultivated, these values can mature into ecological literacy, and eventually into sustainable patterns of living."—Zenobia Barlow, *Confluence of Streams*.

This quote appears on the **Macoun Marsh Study Area in Ottawa's Beechwood Cemetery** Facebook page, for which **Mike Leveille** is the creator/administrator and contributor. I found it to be a fitting introduction to this summer's outstanding person.

This busy father of two is a full time science teacher at the St-Laurent Academy and a passionate photographer and environmentalist. He arrived in Ottawa from Hawkesbury in 2003. After studying Visual Arts and Geology at the University of Ottawa, he worked for nine years with the Canadian Museum of Nature. His talents caught the eye of **Pierrette Matthews**, Director of Educarium, a former private school on St-Laurent Blvd,

who hired him to teach science as part of the curriculum. Educarium was later replaced by St-Laurent Academy, a bilingual institution which subsequently moved to its current site on Sladen Avenue. ([www.st-laurentacademy.com](http://www.st-laurentacademy.com))

On a cloudy Sunday morning on the observation deck at the Macoun Marsh, I asked Mike how he first discovered the marsh. "It was during my lunch break one day. I took a walk across the street into the **Beechwood Cemetery** admiring nature and testing my new camera," he said. "Walking around the bend following the rock formations, I saw a pristine ecosystem right in front of me. That day changed my life. It was symbiosis! Basking in the Marsh's beauty, I re-learned how to breathe and really see the beauty right in our own backyard. This living discovery is literally feet from the classroom, and I was inspired to get involved in preserving its health and beauty by including the students in the

process."

And so the idea of an outdoor classroom was born. Now part of the curriculum, the students become ambassadors for a day as part of their final exam by conducting public tours of the area. Last fall, the grade 7 students led a tour at the marsh at the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) International Environmental Conference for delegates from Canada and the U.S.

Turning the dream of an outdoor classroom into a reality was a lengthy process. Mike first had to propose his idea to the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation, an organization which subsequently became a leading partner in the project, and a generous supporter and facilitator in the creation of the Outdoor Classroom. After winning a \$6000 second prize for their biodiversity research and protection project in the 2006 Volvo Adventure International Competition, Mike's students generously donated their winnings to the Outdoor Classroom, giving a boost to the first phase of the fundraising effort.

Under the auspices of the Macoun Marsh Sub-Committee created to spearhead the project, the plan gradually took shape as environmental groups and individuals came on board to offer support. In the end, Mike and

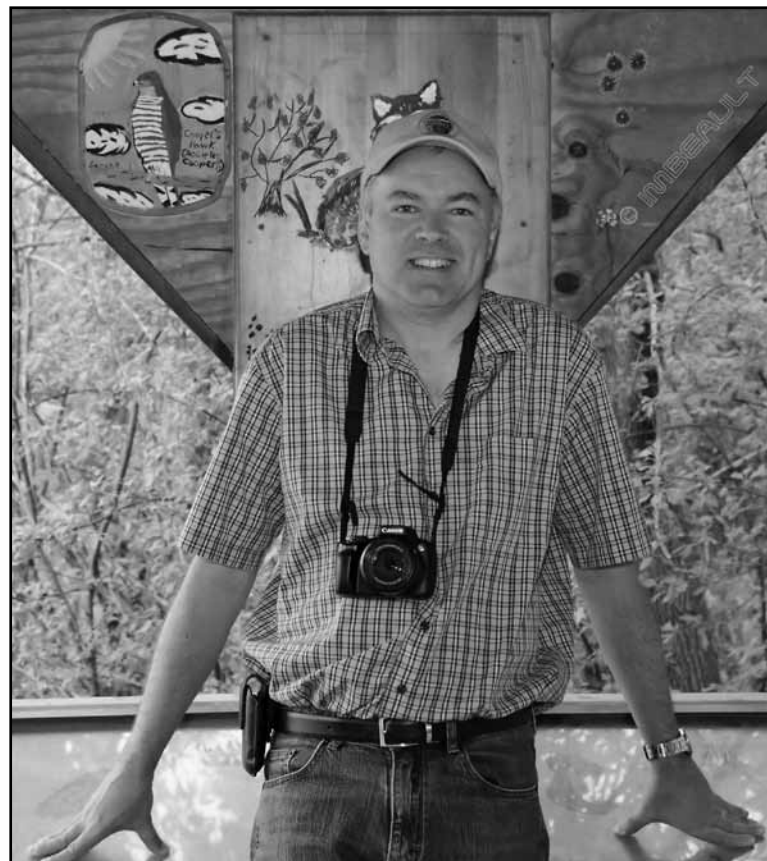


Photo by Louise Imbeault

**Mike Leveille is the founder of the Macoun Marsh Study Area, located within the Beechwood Cemetery.**

his group raised a whopping \$51,000, with the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation matching that amount in in-kind services, including the delimiting of the marsh area with a quarry stone hedge, planting native trees, erecting bird feeders and building bird houses. The construction of the western red cedar outdoor classroom and observation deck was a massive accomplishment. The decorating was done with hand-drawn artwork created by students and benefactors.

With a contribution from TD Bank's Friends of the Environment in 2012, the fin-

ishing touch was unveiled. The organization donated nine bronze plaques affixed to rocks and placed in strategic locations along the path, representing images of some of the permanent species living in the area.

Macoun Marsh lies on a migratory route for many species of birds, and is home to a vast range of life forms. Mike has logged over 1,400 species in his diary, to date. Among the interesting visitors Mike has recorded recently, he noted that "this year, there is a pair of Virginia Rails nesting, warblers visit, herons can be seen



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## Grappling with Grungy Green Bins

By Jane Heintzman

Green bin got you gagging when the temperature soars? Even the most dedicated organics recyclers confront some special challenges when the summer heat and humidity set in, and green bins threaten to become stinky, sludgy breeding grounds for maggots and other undesirable insect life. But don't despair, and above all, don't abandon your efforts to keep up the all-important regime of diverting organic materials from our overburdened landfill.

When you throw up your hands in despair and pitch the whole mess into plastic (non-biodegradable) bags for garbage collection, you're not only adding to the overload in the limited remaining landfill space, you're giving a boost to the production of methane at the landfill site. Methane is a greenhouse gas that's 21-times more potent than carbon dioxide in its heat trapping capabilities, so giving up on the green bin is anything but environmentally friendly!

But here's the good news.

Despite the special challenges of hot weather, there are a number of home-grown and higher-tech solutions to the gross green bin problem over the summer months.

### Simple Tips:

- If at all possible, store your Green Bins out of the direct sun;
- Place a wad of newspaper at the bottom of the bin to absorb leakage/spills;
- Always use "Bag to Earth" bin liners (preferably the less permeable cello-lined version) rather than pitching scraps directly into the bin;
- In the case of particularly gucky and/or smelly items, wrap them in newspaper before adding them to the "Bag to Earth" bag, or if you have room, store them in the freezer until collection day;
- Keep the "Bag to Earth" collection bag inside your house (not outside in the bin) for as long as possible: if you fold over the top after disposing of scraps and properly wrap the stinkers, it shouldn't be smelly;

### Continued from page 30

early in the morning, short-tailed shrews (whose bite is venomous) scurry about, but no fish live in the pond- just green turtles." He confirmed that a red fox was spotted on the grounds, and notes that butterflies are also regular visitors.

Mike has surrounded himself with an impressive team of experts from all over Ontario. Dr. **Richard Kibbee** a microbiologist, volunteers to test the pH levels and quality of the marsh's water every two years, while **Don Lafontaine** of Agriculture Canada monitors the butterfly population, and Dr. **Brian Hickey**, the "Batman" Research Scientist of the St-Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences in Cornwall, comes three times a year to identify the species of bats who feed at the marsh, using sensitive sonar equipment.

Each year, Mike and his team measure the depth of the water and the soil composition. Even through the cold winter months, they brave the elements to measure the ice thickness with an auger, meticulously recording each statistic. Microbes, migration, hibernation, plant species, flowering dates and more are recorded in his extensive databases.

When asked where the marsh water comes from and how it regenerates, Mike tells me he discovered that part of the

marsh is on the 100-acre tract of land originally known as the McPhail farm, dating back to 1873 when the cemetery was established: "It has pristine underground springs that feed it".

Finally, I asked a hard question: "Mike, should you move away, who will take care of this treasure?" He smiled: "There is a busy and dedicated committee of parents, neighbours, schools from both boards of education who monitor the marsh and its biodiversity. The stewardship of the marsh has everything in place to sustain itself," he said.

Mike Leveille's mission is to infuse a "hands-on" approach to educating today's children whose "virtual world" needs to be unplugged for long enough to allow them to embrace their natural heritage. All the evidence suggests that his success in pursuing this objective has been, and continues to be, nothing short of amazing!

Find out more about the international dimensions of Mike's Marsh Project by visiting [biodiversitymatters.org](http://biodiversitymatters.org).

Among the many awards garnered by Mike and his students for their work at the Marsh, this year his son **Allan Leveille** won the Ottawa Field Naturalist Award at the Ottawa Science Fair. Now there's a legacy to be proud of!


- In my experience, coffee grounds and large lettuce leaves on top of the pile also help to keep the smell down;
- After collection on garbage day, pour a little vinegar into the bin, hose it down thoroughly and leave the lid open until it dries out.

### Heavy Artillery: The Bin Spa

Many readers may have heard a recent report on CBC's Ottawa Morning introducing a new local business, **The Bin Spa**, launched by an entrepreneurial couple eager to capitalize on the city's ceaseless chorus of green bin woes. In a nutshell, the Bin Spa uses a high pressure washing system and super-heated water to scour your grimy green bins (and all other recycling and garbage containers you may have), sparing you the distasteful task of grappling with a gooey mess or an infestation, and even taking away the filthy water for proper disposal at a city facility. It's a convenient mobile service that will come

straight to your house on a one shot basis (at a cost of \$20), or at regular intervals over the six month period from April to November when you can sign up for six clean outs (\$60), 13 clean outs (\$90) or

—if you really have a problem— 26 clean outs (\$130). The Bin Spa can be reached at **613-986-2467**, [info@thebinspa.com](mailto:info@thebinspa.com) or visit their website at [thebinspa.com](http://thebinspa.com).



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# Radon Gas and Lung Disease: Reduce Your Risk

By **Stephanie L. Douma**  
MSc., P.Geo., PHRAM  
(Cert.)

Radon gas is a dangerous home invader that most of us know little about. It is odourless, colourless, and emitted from bedrock beneath your home – killing over 3,200 Canadians a year (that's 70-times more than carbon monoxide). In fact, 16 per cent of all lung cancer deaths are due to over-exposure to radon. In a 2012 study, Health Canada found that nearly eight per cent of homes across Ottawa exceed legal radon levels.

Radon levels are easy to test and, if necessary, to fix. Here's how.

## How to Test for Radon

I recommend testing any enclosed building where you or your family spend four or more hours each day. There are two options to measure radon levels:

**1. Do it yourself:** buy a testing kit online, or at hardware/home improvement/building supply store. It is important to buy a three-month or "long term" testing kit – anything shorter will not give an accurate reading.

**2. Hire a specialist:** for a list of certified Canadian radon testing companies, consult the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) or call 1-855-722-6777 (Health Canada). The benefits of hiring a professional are that you can be assured your readings are accurate; if levels your radon levels are high, their certified tests will enable you to apply to Tarion to fix your problem for free (if your home was built less than eight years ago)

## When to Test

The best time to test your home's (or any building's) radon level is when it is closed-up and furnaces are turned on. September to April is when radon levels can build-up to dangerous levels and, over time, cause serious health issues. In the summer months when windows are open and the furnace is turned off, radon usually dissipates to safe levels. Testing during this time won't provide reliable information.

Don't risk a false, low radon reading: choose a three-month testing period between

September and April.

## What Level is Dangerous?

If your home's radon level is 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> or higher, Health Canada recommends that you quickly speak with a certified radon specialist; they will discuss options with you and create a plan to make your home safe again. For a list of certified radon testing companies near you, consult the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) or call 1-855-722-6777 (Health Canada).

## Do Ottawa Homes Have High Radon?


Radon is present in all homes, but, as Health Canada's study demonstrates, nearly eight per cent of Ottawa residents may be exposed to dangerously high radon levels: above 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>. Does your house have high radon levels? The only way to find out is to test.

Watch the story of a New Edinburgh homeowner who was exposed to high radon levels. Janet is recovering from lung cancer. The likely cause? High exposure to radon in her home. (Search for "Radon Part 2: Janet's Story" on Google.)

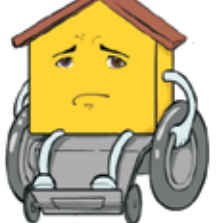
Similarly high levels have been found in Kanata and other areas in Ottawa. No area is immune.

## My Neighbour's Test Results are High. Should I Test Too?


**ARE YOUR RADON VALUES SAFE?**



**> 600 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>**  
Health Canada recommends that you remediate within **one year**. Terrapetratox recommends you remediate as soon as possible. -no later than **one year**.



**200-600 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>**  
Health Canada recommends that you remediate within **2 years**. Terrapetratox recommends that you remediate as soon as possible -no later than **2 years**.



**<100-200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>**  
No remediation is necessary according to:  
< 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> (Health Canada)  
< 150 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> (United States)  
< 100 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> (World Health Organization)

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Yes! We recommend testing immediately. While your neighbour's home could be sitting on very different bedrock than yours, you cannot know for sure until you test.

## My Neighbour's Test Results are Low. Do I Need to Test My House?

Yes! Radon levels depend on the rock/soil beneath your house – even dozens of feet below the surface. This rock is randomly distributed, so one house can have low radon levels and another can have high levels (even in connecting

homes). Health Canada's 2012 study confirmed that adjacent homes can have very different levels.

If left unchecked, radon can present a serious health risk. The good news is that is easy to test for radon and – if necessary – to install a permanent active venting system to make your home safe.

Reduce your risk of radon-related illness. Get informed and take action. Visit [www.testforradon.ca](http://www.testforradon.ca) for more details.

*Stephanie Douma is a medical geologist and radon specialist with Terrapetratox.*

## Rockcliffe Yard & Treasure Sale

**When:** Saturday June 6th (rain date Sunday June 7th)

**Where:** Rockcliffe Public School and Jubilee Gardens

Looking to empty out your garage, storage closet or basement of unwanted items? Consider donating them to

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# À la découverte des joyaux du patrimoine d'Ottawa



**Michel Prévost**  
archiviste en chef  
Université d'Ottawa

Les Archives de l'Université d'Ottawa participeront, pour la quatorzième fois, aux Journées Portes ouvertes Ottawa qui se dérouleront durant la fin de semaine du 6 et 7 juin 2015. De nombreux bâtiments et sites seront ouverts de 10 h à 16 h, le samedi et le dimanche. Vous devez cependant vérifier auprès des participants afin de connaître les dates et les heures d'ouverture car certains lieux ne sont pas accessibles pendant les deux jours.

Portes ouvertes Ottawa se veut une fin de semaine consacrée à la découverte de notre patrimoine. Plus d'une centaine d'immeubles et de sites d'importance historique et architecturale ouvriront

gratuitement leurs portes au public. Plusieurs d'entre eux se trouvent d'ailleurs dans le secteur New Edinburgh ou tout près, notamment Earnscliffe, la résidence officielle du Haut-commissaire de Grande-Bretagne, l'ambassade de France et Rideau Hall, la résidence officielle du gouverneur général du Canada. Notons que plusieurs bâtiments, notamment les ambassades, ne sont habituellement pas ouverts.

Les Journées Portes ouvertes voient le jour en Europe. Depuis, cet événement connaît un grand succès dans une quarantaine de pays où des millions de personnes y explorent des joyaux du patrimoine historique et architec-



La collation des grades en face du pavillon Tabaret en 1968.

tural. Au Canada, les Portes ouvertes sont organisées pour la première fois à Toronto, en 2000. Depuis, plus d'une cinquantaine de municipalités de l'Ontario y participent à chaque année.

Les Journées Portes ouvertes se tiennent pour la première fois à Ottawa en 2002. Le succès est instantané et se renou-

velle à chaque année. En effet des milliers de personnes, soit un total de plus de 700 000, ont visité pendant deux jours les divers lieux accessibles au public. On estime qu'environ 60 000 personnes participent maintenant à cet événement du patrimoine qui s'avère le plus populaire de la capitale.

De notre côté, je ferai décou-

vrir le magnifique Quadrilatère historique de l'Université d'Ottawa. Je vais offrir les deux jours, en anglais à 11 h et en français à 14 h, des visites guidées pour parler de l'histoire remarquable de mon établissement fondé en 1848. Par ailleurs, je vais explorer avec les participants notre riche patrimoine bâti, notamment le pavillon Tabaret, la Salle académique, l'ancienne École normale et les belles maisons patrimoniales de la rue Séraphin-Marion.

Nous ferons aussi des arrêts aux plaques commémoratives et au monument du père Tabaret, notre bâtisseur au XIXe siècle et à celui dédié au poète Félix Leclerc, un de nos plus illustres anciens.

Pour la liste complète des lieux à découvrir, voir le site WEB de la Ville d'Ottawa : [www.ottawa.ca/portesouvertes](http://www.ottawa.ca/portesouvertes). Vous pourrez également consulter les encarts distribués dans journaux. Renseignements : **613-580-9674** ou [portesouvertes@ottawa.ca](mailto:portesouvertes@ottawa.ca).

## Discover the Beauty of Team Rowing

By Melissa McKenzie

It's not everyday that you can learn a sport that is as much an art as it is a workout. That's rowing. And that is what many Ottawa area high school students found out when they came to the Ottawa Rowing Club (ORC) in May for a free Discover Rowing Day with their teachers.

The team concept takes on a whole new meaning when it comes to rowing. To learn to row as a crew is very challenging, but the rewards are exquisite. And the lessons are for a lifetime. Through these Discover Rowing Days, the Ottawa Rowing Club becomes the interactive classroom and the Ottawa River, an endless playground.

During their Discover Rowing Day at the ORC, students learned the basic motion and technique of the rowing stroke, then applied their skills first in a rowing shell at the docks and worked on moving in concert as a crew. After gaining confidence, they shoved off and applied all they learnt in a full crew training scenario. This is real rowing and this is what the ORC wants to share with everyone.

Discover the many programming options at the ORC including Summer



Photo by Marika Kay  
The Ottawa Rowing Club hosted three schools with multiple crews during its Discover Rowing Day initiative on the Ottawa River.

Camps, Learn To Row, Adult Rowing League, Recreational, Masters, Competitive, Junior Development and more. Youth aged 12 to 17 years can share in a week of fun and adventures on the Ottawa River during one of our summer camps or family and friends can fit in some fun quality time during a Learn to Row clinic or call or email us to find the right program for you.

There are lots of special events at the ORC this sum-

mer. Try rowing for the first time at the ORC during Doors Open Ottawa on June 6. This is a great opportunity to tour Canada's oldest rowing club, established in 1867, and to test out a sleek rowing shell on the beautiful Ottawa River.

More special events are always announced on the ORC website and on social media. Add [www.ottawarowingclub.com](http://www.ottawarowingclub.com) to your favourites, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @OttawaRowing.

# Chris Ellis

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# Fitness Fundamentals: Advice from a Neighbour

By Julie Leblanc

You've decided that enough is enough. You've made the decision to put your foot down and say, I am going to take my fitness more seriously. No more excuses. I'm doing this. You get a gym membership, you start running with your friends, or you start riding your bike to work instead of taking the bus.

A few weeks, or if all goes well, months go by, and things start to feel tight. Your muscles start to ache and sometimes worse things begin to happen. Your back goes out, you get sharp knee pains, you've developed plantar fasciitis! What gives? Now all of that motivation you started with starts to slowly slip away.

If this sounds like you, (as is often the case with many hard-working individuals who have taken steps towards becoming a fitter, better version of themselves), then you might have skipped a few steps. You might have missed out on some of the "fitness fundamentals".

## Upper and Lower Cross Syndrome

In today's world with all the sitting we do, many of us in the western world have developed some degree of what Chronic Pain Specialist Dr. Vladimir Janda has labelled Upper and Lower Cross Syndrome (don't worry, it's not as scary as it sounds). Upper and Lower Cross Syndrome can be summed up as excessive lordotic lumbar spine (overly arched lower back) and a kyphotic thoracic spine (rounded upper back).

When someone has symptoms from Upper and Lower Cross Syndrome, they must first address these postural issues before moving too quickly ahead with a fitness program. That's where self myo-fascial release and stretching come in. Always start a workout by releasing the tight tissues with balls, rollers, bands or simply stretching and moving in specific ways. Once you've loosened up, you're ready to start learning the new range of motion that you've just created with different movements like squats, lunges, hip hinges, etc. This is a great way to reduce restriction, pain and to encourage better movement.

The next time you do a work-

out or go for a run, try this:

1. Take a tennis ball or softball.
2. Roll the bottom of your feet by standing on the ball and putting pressure down. Explore all areas.
3. Roll out your calves by sitting on the floor and pushing your leg down into the ball. Aim for the "meaty" areas (avoid the Achilles tendon).
4. Roll out your gluteal muscles by leaning against a wall and exploring the "meaty" areas again (avoid the tailbone). Warning: This may come with some discomfort- establish your own level of tolerance!
5. Then do your regular warm-up routine.
6. Have a great workout and most importantly...
7. Have fun!

*Julie Leblanc is a resident of New Edinburgh who teaches full-time at a local elementary school and is the wner and head trainer of Evertrain Lifestyles. She will be introducing Outdoor Group Training amongst other health and fitness services starting in July. You can reach Julie at 613-295-8080 or [info@evertrainlifestyles.com](mailto:info@evertrainlifestyles.com).*



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# Rhythmic Gymnastics in Our Own Backyard

By Cindy Parkanyi

Did you know that world-class athletes practice their sport in the neighbourhood? The **Ottawa Rhythmic Gymnastics Club (ORGC)** is one of our community's best kept secrets.

Founded in 1996 and located at Ashbury College, the club's mission is to make rhythmic gymnastics accessible to all young girls in our community and provide continuing opportunities to those who wish to excel in this colourful and elegant sport. Activities are focused on developing the required skills and discipline, and then showcasing these accomplishments at special community performances and high-profile events around the region, such as Winterlude and the Canada Day parade. Starting with recreational classes, the club quickly expanded to include competitive and performing groups. Over the years, the club's gymnasts have won numerous medals at provincial and national competitions.

The club also encompasses a group of young athletes who are part of the Special



Courtesy of ORGC  
**Special Olympian Christina Judd-Campbell won Gold at the World Games in Athens in 2011 and is heading to Los Angeles with teammate Kimana Mar for this summer's Special Olympics Summer World Games.**

Olympics program. This program provides an opportunity for those with an intellectual disability to enrich their lives through sport. These Special Olympic athletes truly excel at their sport; this July, two of its members will be competing at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles.

ORGC's head coach, **Xinhong Jin ("Sing")** recently received the title of 2014 Female Volunteer of the Year

for Special Olympics Ontario-Ottawa. Formally a competitive rhythmic gymnast with a modern dance background, Sing has assisted too many athletes to count in achieving their rhythmic gymnastics goals over the years.

## Summer Camps

Each summer, the club offers camp programs for girls aged four to 18 as a fun and fit introduction to the sport. Campers learn to use balls, hoops, rib-

bons and ropes and also participate in dance, tumbling, games and performances.

Attending an ORGC summer camp is a great way for young girls to develop flexibility, strength and coordination, all while having fun and making new friends! Camps run in June, July and August and schedule and cost information is available at [rhythmicgymnastics.ca](http://rhythmicgymnastics.ca).



**You are invited to come to watch ORGC's 2015 Summer Gymnastrada Performance:**

Date and time: **Sunday June 21, 2-3:30 p.m.**

Location: **Ashbury College Gym (362 Mariposa Ave)**

Cost: **\$5 per adult (children free, all proceeds will be used to support our Special Olympics program)**

Gymnastrada is the annual performance by all recreational classes, the pre-competitive group, the inter-club competitive group, the provincial competitive group, and the Special Olympics group. The gymnasts will perform individual and group routines, as well as dance routines. Come enjoy this most beautiful and elegant Olympic sport! You may wish to see 100+ previous event photos/videos at the following link: <http://rhythmicgymnastics.ca/social-media/>.



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## Impressions of Ottawa Brahms Choir's 'Springtime Melodies'

By Gretel Harmston

The Ottawa Brahms Choir presented its Springtime Melodies concert in the sunlit St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church on April 19. A loyal audience, among them many family members and friends, had gathered in the church.

Under the direction of Christopher Askwith and with Ioulia Blinova at the piano, the choir began its presentation of welcoming spring with Claude de Jeune's 'Reveci venir du Printemps', a delightful and challenging piece of music for the choir. A very spirited series of songs followed: 'Der Mai ist gekommen' (E. Geibel/W. Lyra), 'Now is the Month of Maying' (T. Morley), 'Die Nachtigall' (F. Mendelssohn), 'Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno' (J. Arcadelt), 'El Grillo' (J. des Pres) and Fair Phillis (J. Farmer).

The beautiful and haunting 'Chansons des Roses'



(excerpts from R.M. Rilke's poems set into music by M. Lauridsen) ended the first part of the concert. The attentive audience responded with warm appreciation to our efforts and presentations.

While the choir took a rest in chairs and church benches, the stage was prepared for a special recital by our invaluable

and supportive accompanists, Ioulia Blinova at the piano and Jenna Richards on violin, who presented the Violin Sonata in A major by César Franck. They played with vitality, warmth and expertise.

Our program continued with 'Rise up, My Love' (Healey Willan), 'Awake, Sweet Love' (J. Dowland) and 'Tanzen und

Springen' (H. H. Hassler). Then both accompanists joined the choir for Johannes Brahms' famous 'Liebeslieder Walzer' (Op. 52 and 65). The choir sang the 18 Lieder with expression and much vitality. The audience responded with smiles and at times with chuckles. At the end of the last song, they broke into enthusiastic appreciating applause. Beaming choristers thanked the audience; flowers were presented to musicians, conductor, and Yukiko Iwasaki, our librarian, who is moving with her family to Japan for a few years.

Conductor Christopher Askwith addressed the audience and mentioned that for 2015, the German Ambassador to Canada, Werner Wnendt, has accepted to be the patron of the Choir for its 35th anniversary year. A very animated reception followed. Choir members and conductor were delighted that after months of rehearsals during the long winter months the concert had gone so well.

The choir and conductor wish to express thanks to the audience, the volunteers, the media and the many sponsors for their support in making this concert a very happy, successful event.

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# Johnston's Debut Novel Celebrates Strong Women

By Christina Leadlay

"*Matrons and Madams* is a fiction based on facts," acknowledges Sharon Johnston at the end of her debut novel. Inspired by the lives of her grandmother and her mother, Johnston developed this tale of two strong-willed women set over a 19-year period, from the start of the First World War to 1931.

Indeed, Johnston's dedication to facts and historical detail shines through this book. She takes care to paint scenes of what life was like both in England and in Canada 100 years ago, detailing life during wartime and rationing, social norms and household minutiae. However, this attention to detail is somewhat less evident in the characters, leaving the reader hungry for more character development.

The protagonists are Clara Durling (modelled on the author's grandmother), and Lily Parsons (nee White). First we meet Clara, a no-nonsense widowed nurse at the Maidenhead Red Cross Hospital in London, who has just learned that the Great War as ended. Her two young children have been living on a farm while she works long hours at the hospital, tending to the wounded soldiers returning from Europe. However, the sudden death of her seven-year-old son and a job offer to become the matron at a hospital in the mysterious-sounding Lethbridge, Alberta, sets Clara and six-year-old daughter



Photo by Sgt. Ronald Duchesne

Ivy (the character based on Johnston's mother) emigrating to Canada, fleeing bittersweet memories for a new life.

Clara's chapters are interwoven with those featuring Lily White, the daughter of a druggist in Sydney, Nova Scotia. We meet Lily long before the outbreak of war (this disparity of time, place and characters between chapters can at times be challenging for the reader to follow). Lily is a bright young woman, dealing with family issues including sibling rivalry, lack of maternal love, and the realisation that her dad is not her biological father. She finds herself charmed by the local bad-boy, Ed Parsons, whom she tutors.

Lily goes away for teacher's college, and returns to Sydney, marrying Ed and moving to Lethbridge where Ed finds

work in the mines. Sadly, Ed dies following a freak accident at the age of 24, and Lily is left widowed, pregnant, and alone. With her career options limited (no school will hire a pregnant teacher), Lily seeks shelter at The Last Post, one of the town's many brothels, where Ed would go to play cards and keep out of trouble. There she goes on to become the Madam of the novel's title.

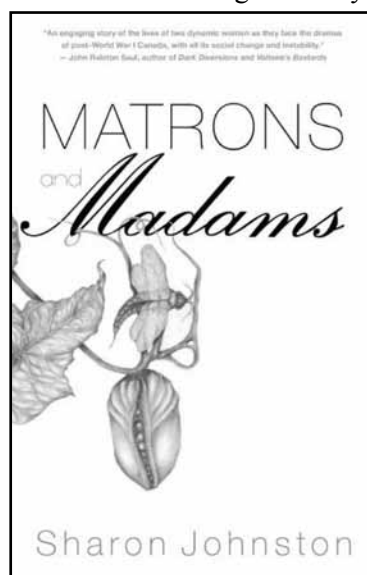
The theme of strong, resourceful women who make their own way despite adversity is the main theme of *Matrons and Madams*. Clara and Lily cross paths in Lethbridge when they are brought together to open a venereal disease clinic for prostitutes. They share many personality traits, and discover that they are in fact related, though their friendship is not an instant one. Clara and Lily are brought closer together through Dr. Barnaby, Lily's college crush whom Clara had befriended during her trip to Canada. Indeed, the latter half of the book features Dr. Barnaby more frequently than Lily. While the two have rekindle their romance and eventually marry, Lily's character fades away, leaving Clara as the main focus.

The novel contains some captivating scenes, including the abduction of Lily's son Teddy, and the scene when Teddy and Clara's daughter Ivy take riding lessons (informed no doubt by Johnston's experience in the horse-training business). However, some events leave

the reader wishing for more depth and detail. There is an admirable attempt to touch on a wide range of social issues (from homosexuality, abortion, racism, handicapped veterans, child abuse and the union movement) within the limited space of the 325-page book.

The ending offers little resolution, and the reader is left unsure where Clara ends up (does she follow Lily and Dr. Barnaby to Northern Ontario or not?). Perhaps all will be revealed in one of the two sequels to *Matrons and Madams* that Johnston has in the works.

*Matrons and Madams* fits within the Armistice-themed literature that is having its moment in the spotlight, during this 100th anniversary of the First World War. It works well as a chronicle of that era, and as a novel about strong women overcoming adversity.



## Book Launch a Family Affair

Her Excellency, Sharon Johnston, launched her first novel, *Matrons and Madams*, to a standing room-only affair at the Canadian Council for the Arts on Elgin Street. The much-anticipated event, moderated by CPAC personality and avid reader Catherine Clark, allowed Johnston to open up about the research that went into her first work of historical fiction. Johnston was joined by her whole family – husband Governor General David Johnston, children and grandchildren – in the first few rows. She delighted in having her grandchildren enthusiastically join the Q&A period after the reading.

That was back in April and was just the beginning of a lengthy book tour and media journey for the already-busy vice-regal consort of Canada.

One of our more notable neighbours – a resident at Rideau Hall – it seemed fitting that Her Excellency would join Books on Beechwood on May 24 for their 'dine and discuss' series as a featured author. That event was held at the hip and intimate Table 40 on Springfield Road.

-Elizabeth Gray-Smith

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# Spring Book Sale Tops Records

By Claire Schofield

There was clearly a perfect constellation at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) on April 11 and 12. Beautiful weather and the prospect of over 20,000 high quality books at unbeatable prices brought out record crowds and takings to match!

"This year's sales increased by 37 per cent," said Jane Dobell, the Rockcliffe Park Residents' Association (RPRA) Library Committee chair and book sale organizer. "We've never seen such long lines or books sell so fast. Some people were buying them by the carton!"

Jane attributes the success to a number of factors, including exceptional book donations and the variety of genres, the excellent organizational skills of more than 40 dedicated volunteers, competitive pricing and targeted advertising.

A number of New Edinburgh residents volunteered throughout the sale and helped spread the word. "We are completely thrilled by their level of support," said Jane. "Their purchases make all the difference to this small OPL branch, contributing to the enrichment of its programs, services and activities such as 'express reads,' authors' readings, and children's books and magazine

subscriptions."

Operational costs are an increasing issue for the library branch, but local sponsors stepped up to the plate. "This year's sale was generously supported by **The Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, Epicuria Fine Food Store and Catering and RBC Wealth Management|Montgomery Asset Management**," said Jane. "Their assistance was invaluable and more than appreciated."

"And our volunteers were absolutely stellar too," said Jane. "They've worked tirelessly for over 10 months to prepare for this sale. Despite the huge number of books to



(from left) Katherine Strevens-Bourke, Brian Montgomery, Jane Dobell, Tracey Black and Tobi Nussbaum.

sort and price, they showed remarkable camaraderie and

'esprit de corps.' Hats off to the whole team!"

## News You May Have Missed



A Vélo-Duo about to lift off.

Photo from unvelouneville.org

### Pedal Power Comes to Vanier

Keep an eye out for the new fleet of "Vélo-Duos", part of the Vanier Community Service Centre's pilot project to give isolated seniors a free ride in the fresh air through the community; to provide summer employment for young, strong vélo drivers; and to create opportunities for inter-generational interaction. CBC's *Ottawa Morning* reporter Hallie Cotnam hitched a ride in what she described as "part rickshaw, part bicycle and part space-age pod" alongside a delighted senior who was fully engaged in the spirit of the exercise. The official Vélo-Duo project launch is scheduled for late May or early June, and will initially focus on two Vanier seniors' buildings where significant numbers of isolated residents are in need of pleasant and cost-free excursion.

### Nussbaum Joins Debate on Memorial Location

Rideau-Rockcliffe Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum** introduced a motion at City Council formally calling on the federal gov-

ernment to pick another location for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism, currently slated for construction between the Supreme Court and the Library and Archives Building on Wellington St., a site which for decades has been earmarked for a third federal court building. In a vigorous debate on May 27, Council voted 18 to six in favour of the motion. Tobi stressed that he is not opposed to the memorial itself, but personally "thinks it's important to be respectful in terms of the use of that site and of that long-term plan." His motion had the strong support of Mayor **Jim Watson** who has spoken out forcefully against the choice of location, and called on the feds to engage in a proper consultation with city and other stakeholders before arriving at a final decision.

### Ottawa Rated a Flood-Proof Major City

A recent study commissioned by Cooperator's Insurance and carried out at Waterloo University's School

of Environment, Enterprise and Development has ranked Ottawa as the most "flood-proof" large city in Canada, assigning it a rating of A-. The City earned high marks for regularly updating our flood plain maps, limiting construction in flood-prone zones, using flood plain maps to improve route planning by identifying low spots that could be inundated in high water, regularly monitoring and clearing storm sewer grates, blasting river ice in the spring to prevent ice jams; and making provision in the budget for reserve supplies of fuel and electricity to keep essential facilities running in case of emergency. Toronto and Montreal received a less impressive B minus, while Halifax got a D ranking.

### Double Trouble in Rockcliffe

**Part One:** Former Manitoba Senator **Rod Zimmer** made headlines in mid-May when a stash of 28 firearms was stolen from his Rockcliffe Park residence near Beechwood Cemetery. Zimmer was out of town and the five-bedroom house was under renovation. The Ottawa Police Guns and Gangs Unit and break-and-enter section carried out a series of raids across the region, and recovered all the stolen firearms the next day. **Michael Laroque**, a former employee of Zimmer's who served as a handyman and occasional chauffeur, was charged with break-and-enter and possession of stolen goods. Also charged were **Antonio Assaf**, **Tammy Lescard** and **Omar Assaf**.

**Part Two:** Just over a week after the theft, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported Zimmer's

wife **Maygan Sensenberger** was in trouble with the law. She is accused of attacking two women at an Ottawa medical clinic with a lit cigarette and a hand-held fan in August 2014. When she was arrested at her Rockcliffe home, she is alleged to have assaulted and threatened three city police officers whilst wielding kitchen knives. She also faces a criminal charge of mischief resulting from an allegation that she deliberately damaged the window of a police cruiser at the time of her arrest. Ms. Sensenberger is now out on bail.

### Ashbury Student Wins City Builder Award



Mitch Kurylowicz.

Photo by Cole Burston, Ottawa Citizen

Ashbury College Head Boy **Mitch Kurylowicz** received a Mayor's City Builder Award for his volunteer work with Craig and Marc Kielburger's charity Free the Children, and his own four-year crusade, Project Jenga. Mitch began volunteering for Free the Children a decade ago, at the age of seven. He has travelled to Kenya, China and India to work on community development projects, and in 2011, founded Project Jenga to bol-

ster Free the Children's efforts to raise the \$2 million required to build, furnish and launch the Kenyan secondary school for boys. Project Jenga is now the largest single contributor to the new school, with over \$500,000 raised under his leadership, \$117,000 of it garnered at this spring's gala dinner on March 31. Closer to home, Mitch plays a leading role at Ashbury, organizing collections for the Ottawa Food Bank and in fundraising for Christie Lake Kids' Camp. Last year he founded the Ashbury College Community Service Club. In 2014, he received the Governor General's Caring Canadian

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## It's Beechwood Market Time!

July 4 - October 10, 2015  
9 a.m.-2 p.m., every Saturday, rain or shine  
99 Beechwood Ave. [www.beechwoodmarket.ca](http://www.beechwoodmarket.ca)



Once again this summer, the popular Beechwood Market will be in operation at 99 Beechwood (same venue as last year) every Saturday from early July to Thanksgiving. Market Manager **Chris Penton** reports that an exciting season is in the plans, with more vendors, weekly features, including the weekly Bouncy Castle and the Beechwood Breakfast and Brunch with Chef Micha Miljevic, and four special events:

- **July 4: Opening Weekend** - music for the kids by Hey Buster! and horse wagon rides from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.;
- **August 8: The Great Beechwood Cook Off** - local chefs will once again compete for the village's greatest culinary trophy;
- **September 12: Rootapalooza** - a celebration of Ontario's Root Vegetables. Tyler King will host an open mic;
- **October 10: Thanksgiving Grand Finale.**

Returning vendors will include:

- Foster's Family Farm
- Texas Heat (operated by Burgh residents Scott and Anne)
- Rock 'n' Root
- Bez Gluten Free Baking
- Hall's Apple Market
- Maison Baguette - local bakery

New vendors this year will include, among others:

- Buddy Bites - gourmet dog treats (also a local owner)
- Frugal Foodie - handmade reusable food packaging
- Quelque Chose - macarons and other sweets (opening a store on Montreal Rd., with merchandise now available at Bread and Roses Bakery on St. Laurent at Hemlock)
- Flatbread Pizza Company

## Lights, Camera, Action at Book Shop

By Jane Heintzman

**Books on Beechwood** temporarily closed its doors on April 26, and turned over the premises to Zed Filmworks Inc., a local Ottawa-based film production company, to serve as the setting for a scene in *The Preacher's Confession*, a TV movie now filming in a variety of Ottawa neighbourhoods. Zed Filmworks was launched eight years ago to create films for television, and to attract producers to the area and boost the city's nascent film industry. Producer **Pierre David** has made 60 films in Ottawa over the three decades of his career in the business, and has partnered with Zed to support their efforts to promote the local film business.

**Don Osborne**, producer of *The Preacher's Confession* and vice-president of Business Affairs at Zed, reports that "Zed always tries to use the local neighbourhoods to bring a fresh and clean look to all our films....Each neighbourhood is matched to the scenes in the script to bring life and depth to the film. We scout out specific locations- like the Beechwood bookstore- so that there is personality to the scene and story." Another scene in the film

was shot in the Diefenbaker Building [former City Hall] on Sussex Drive, which is where I happened to discover the crew and waylaid a cameraman to get contact information for the production team.

A dozen local actors took part in the film, including Tory Barban, Stephanie LaRochelle, Alison Graham, Trie Donovan, Chris Stuewe, Diane White and Doug Smyth.

If you're curious about the story line in *The Preacher's Confession* (who wouldn't be?!), the film reportedly concerns a young evangelistic preacher who aspires to bring his ministry to a national audience but is tripped up the process by the discovery that an early indiscretion in his life has left him with an illegitimate grown child whose mother is dying. An added plot complication involves his wife's niece, who is heading for serious trouble following the death of her own mother, despite the preacher's efforts to keep her on the straight and narrow. The preacher is forced into making some tough choices before he embarks on a national "parenting" book tour, wrestling with the competing pressures of his moneyed corporate backers,

his loyalty to his congregation, his strong family ties and his conscience.

According to BonB staff member **Hilary**, who was on the scene while the filming took place, the vignette shot in Books on Beechwood captured a book signing featuring the preacher, author of the book, and a young man seeking to get copy signed for his mother, whose name instantly triggered a reaction of startled recognition of the part of the preacher. Chances are good that the young man was in fact his illegitimate son, and the mother his former lover- but you'll have to see the film to find out for sure!

### Visit The Burgh Online!

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# Summer Reading Advice from the Books on Beechwood Staff



Peter recommends:



**The Winter Family by Clifford Jackman**  
Clifford Jackman is a promising young author who grew up in Ottawa. His new book begins with a rogue band of psychopaths and social outcasts acting as foragers for Sherman’s army near the end of the civil war in the United States, and describes the atrocities they begin to commit

in the name of progress and the addiction to violence that ensues. It has episodes following their trek westwards at intervals over the next 30 years as civilization and the rule of law push them towards a final deadly end in Oklahoma. The book is fast-paced, authentic and gripping, but be prepared for lots of violence.

**The Narrow Road to the Deep North by Richard Flanagan**

To quote the publisher, it is a novel of cruelty, the tenuousness of life and the impossibility of love. It recounts the experience of an Australian surgeon and commander in a Japanese POW camp on the Thai-Burma border, and explores the postwar aftermath for both Australian and Japanese survivors. The horrors of the incarceration are presented factually and convincingly.

**Exceptional Circumstances by James Bartleman**

This book follows the career of a Métis who manages to get an education and then enters Canada’s Foreign Service in the turbulent 1960s. It encompasses experiences that range from those with terrorists in Colombia to the activities of FLQ- type cells in Quebec. It illustrates the clash between ideologues and careerists in the public service. Given Bartleman’s diplomatic background, it is a revealing look at what might go on behind the scenes.



Jill recommends:

**The Evening Chorus by Helen Humphreys**

Set in England and Germany during the Second World War, Helen Humphreys’ latest novel deals with the lives of three characters, James Hunter, his wife, Rose and his sister, Enid. All three have been affected by war in some way. This is their story. It is also a story of the healing powers of nature. Filled with imagery, historical fact and strong characters, this is a fast-paced, very pleasant read.

**The Night Stages by Jane Urquhart**

Initially, Jane Urquhart’s latest novel focuses on the mural by Canadian artist Kenneth Lohead at Gander International Airport in the

1950s. However, it is more than a story of a mural and its artist. Tam, who was an auxiliary pilot in the Second World War, has just left her lover, Niall. Tam has flown from County Kerry in Ireland, and is stranded in Gander where she has time to think about Niall, their relationship and his missing brother, Kieran. Readers of Jane’s earlier works will enjoy reading *The Night Stages*.

**The Lady in Gold by Anne-Marie O’Connor**

Whether or not you have seen the movie, you will be fascinated by the real story of Gustav Klimt’s masterpiece, “Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer”. Anne-Marie O’Connell’s easy narrative style provides the reader with all the background history of the portrait, the Bloch-Bauer family dynamics, an unflattering portrayal of Gustav Klimt and the dispute that ensued between the Austrian Government and Adele’s niece, Maria Altman, over ownership of the famous painting of Adele.

Antoinette recommends:

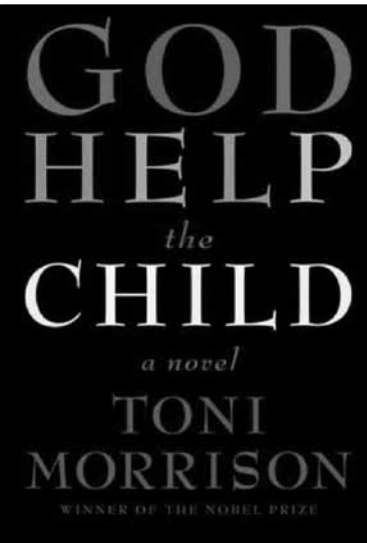
**At the Water’s Edge by Sarah Gruen**

A compelling read about the search for Nessie at the end of the Second World War.

**Matrons and Madams by Sharon Johnston**

Who knows where she finds the time, but Her Excellency Mrs. Sharon Johnston has published her debut novel. It is described

as “an engaging story of the lives of two dynamic women as they face the dramas of post-World War I Canada, with all its social change and instability”.



**God Help the Child by Toni Morrison**

In her first novel to be set in contemporary times, Morrison tells a tale that unsparingly demonstrates the way in which the sufferings of childhood can shape –and misshape– the life of the adult woman who calls herself Bride. Provocative and masterful.

Bridget recommends:



**H is for Hawk by Helen MacDonald**

This is an absolutely original and uncategorizable book. It is primarily a memoir about grief and coming to terms with the sudden death of the author’s father, but it is also a fascinating and sometimes brutal account of training and flying a goshawk, as well as an empathetic delving into the difficult life of T. H. White who also trained a goshawk and wrote about it. But mainly it is a beautifully written meditation on loss.

**Dead Wake by Erik Larson**  
Every historical event Larson



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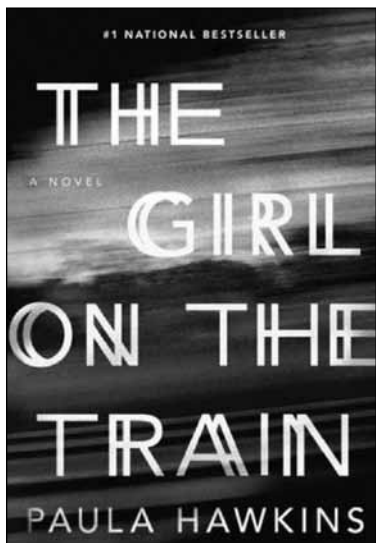


chooses to write about (Galveston in the hurricane of 1900, Berlin in 1933, the Chicago World's Fair of 1893) is a hugely engrossing chronicle of events both public and private, always with a strong novelistic drive. Here he tells the story of the last crossing of the Lusitania and combines personal drama, historical relevance and suspense that keeps you wonderfully engaged even though you thought you knew the story already.

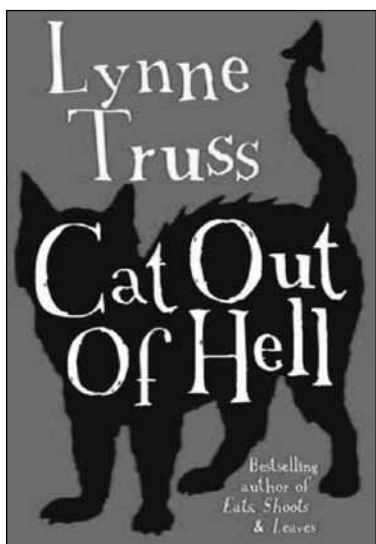
***The Opinionated Old Cow* by Alena Schram**

This staff (and customer!) favourite sells itself by the title alone. And it doesn't disappoint! Schram's succinct and hilarious musings on the vagaries of a sexagenarian boomer's life is a hoot! Dip in to hear her observations on the perils of Facebook, husbands who co-shop (badly!), the defective rearing of grandchildren, sports cars for the menopausal, bras that winch, and chin hairs with minds of their own.

***The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins**



In the tradition of *Gone Girl*, this is a great psychological thriller, perfect for summer reading. A woman whose life is collapsing and who is sinking into alcoholism thinks she has seen evidence of a murder from a train window, but she is not credible, even to herself, and we are never sure what is



true and who is blameless.

***Cat out of Hell* by Lynn Truss**

The wonderfully acerbic and droll author of *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* has written another fun, light, but intelligent comic novel. *The Times* said it is "not unlike Sherlock Holmes solving 'The Master and Margarita' with the help of Jeeves"! How can you go wrong with ingredients like a dead librarian, a charismatic cat and a mystery involving the devil himself?

***Stephanie recommends:***

***Falling in Love* by Donna Leon**

**NEW EDINBURGH NEWS**

Inspector Brunetti is back with an exciting tale of opera and obsession. There are wonderful descriptions of Venice, food and wine. There is also a look at the shadowy side of fame.

***Fracture* by Philipp Blom**

Philipp Blom vividly recreates the period between 1918 and 1938. In an accessible manner, he captures the seismic shifts that define this era of unparalleled ambition, artistry and innovation.

***Daddy Lenin* by Guy Vanderhaeghe**

Continued on page 42

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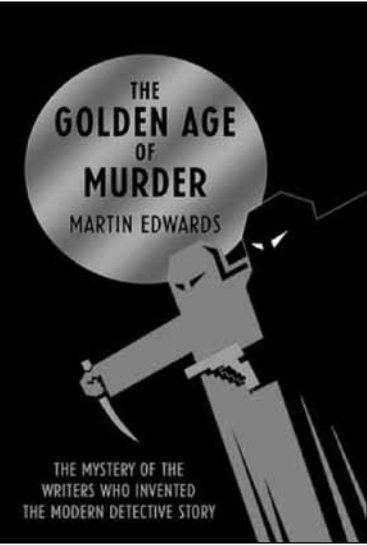
Stagecraft has one central aim: to enable all children to experience the fun, excitement, and challenge of performing while developing their own talents, strengths, and qualities. Creating a safe environment for students to let their talents shine, whilst helping bring shy children out of their shell, nurturing confident, well-prepared individuals.

We want our students to look forward to attending each class and to gain a real sense of achievement. For this reason we accept all children, whatever their ability or experience. All that we require is energy and enthusiasm!!

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

This collection is a welcome return to the short story form that Guy Vanderhaeghe does so well. He is a talented storyteller and poignant observer of the human condition writing at the height of his powers.

Di recommends:



**The Golden Age of Murder by Martin Edwards**

This is a superb book. It covers the detective fiction of the 1930s, but also the origin and development of the genre. It discusses the influence of war, politics and current events on these literary and largely academic writers' works, and interestingly, the relationships among them. The Detection Club in London, founded in

1930, was an important contributing factor to this and continues today.

**Gooseberry Park by Cynthia Rylant and Arthur Howard**

This is a charming book for the middle reader. The crux of the story is the thoughtfulness, ingenuity and bravery of some of the park animals to prevent the dire consequences of a drought. One wants to send up a cheer at the end!

**The Table of Less-Valued Knights by Marie Phillips**

Hapless knights and distressed damsels abound in this delightful, medieval tale. It is clever, funny and very bawdy!

**The Max Tudor Mysteries by G.M. Malliet**

I highly recommend this series. There are now four and although they stand alone I would recommend that they be read in order as the characters develop the more they are featured. I would classify them as traditional mysteries, very well written. They are interesting, humorous and totally satisfying reading experiences.

Hilary recommends:

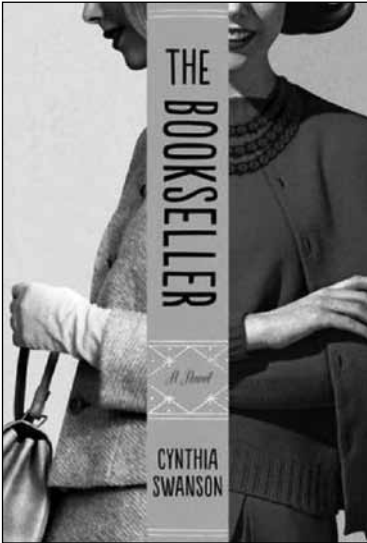
**A Desperate Fortune by Susanna Kearsley**

This wonderful historical novel takes the reader on a high-stakes adventure through

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

18th century France, following the mysterious journal entries of a Jacobite exile.

**The Bookseller by Cynthia Swanson**



Kitty Miller is quite happy with her life but when she starts having very vivid dreams about how different her life could be, she starts to question what is real. This thrilling novel, set in 1960s Denver, will keep you on the edge of your seat until the very last page.

**All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven (YA 12+)**

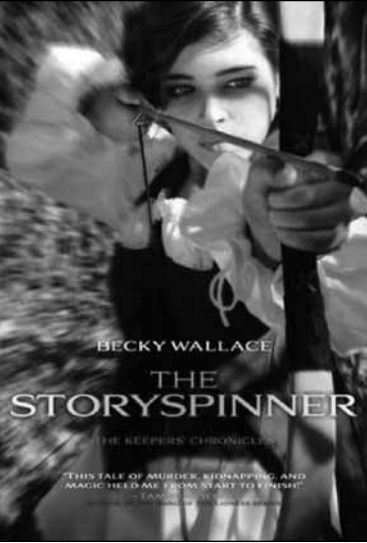
When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, it marks the beginning

of an odd but life-changing friendship. This is a beautiful read that will definitely have you reaching for the nearest box of tissues.

**Between the Notes by Sharon Huss Roat (YA 12+)**

When her family falls on hard times and Ivy is forced to move to "the wrong side of the tracks," she quickly learns that not everyone is who she thought they were – including herself. A thoughtful story for fans of Sarah Dessen, Jenny Han, and Simone Elkeles.

**The Storyspinner by Becky Wallace (YA 12+)**



Johanna Von Arlo, a talented Storyspinner and performer,

is about to learn that the life she's always known could be a lie. Surrounded by magic and pursued by unseen enemies, Johanna must decide who to trust in order to save herself and her family. A fantastic debut!

**Picture Books for the little ones:**

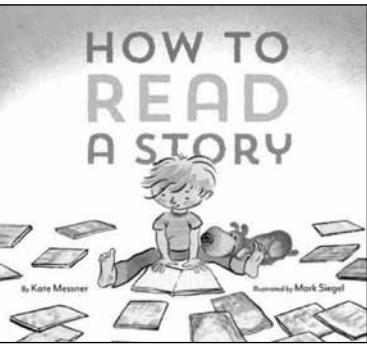
**Counting Crows by Kathi Appelt**

A charming counting book with fun rhymes and eye-catching illustrations.

**Nut and Bolt by Nicole de Cock**

An absolutely adorable story about a donkey and a mouse and a very special friendship.

**How to Read a Story by Kate Messner**



A very sweet read about the ideal way to read a story.

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## Burgh Bulletin Board

### June

**Through June 15 – Art Exhibition** Victoria Realty Gallery, 119 Beechwood Ave. marthamarkowsky@hotmail.com New Edinburgh artist Martha Markowsky and Montreal artist Elaine Archambault invite you to their exhibition of paintings featuring subjects from the Burgh and Montreal areas. The artists will welcome visitors at an open house on June 6, 7 and 14.

**June 6 – Prose in the Park** Parkdale Park, Hintonburg. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. proseinthepark.com Experience Canada's newest bilingual literary festival and book fair. Ottawa's largest single-day writers' event (outdoor and tented) featuring over 150 Canadian authors, 15 authors' panels and special events. Visit website for more details.

**June 15 – New Edinburgh Community Choir** Nectar Centre, 255 MacKay St. 7:30 p.m. The New Edinburgh Community Choir is putting on their end of year performance.

**June 20 and 21 – "Books for Blooms"** Book Sale Bldg 72, CEF Arboretum, east exit off Prince of Wales roundabout. 10a.m.- 4 p.m. Free. 613-230-3276. friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm The Friends of the Farm host the best used book sale in Ottawa. Choose from thousands of titles.

**June 19 – Wine Auction** 290

Colton Rd. 6-10 p.m. Tickets at Books on Beechwood. Music and Beyond hosts a wine auction at the German ambassador's residence. Enjoy refreshments and bid on fine and vintage wines.

**June 20 – Teddy Bears Picnic** Grounds of Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Dr. 8 a.m. -11:15 a.m. Free. 613-737-2780. cheofoundation.com. Head over to the governor general's residence for a day of family activities. This fun-filled day will feature continuous stage entertainment, rides and games. The popular B\*A\*S\*H Tent (Bear Ambulatory Surgical Hospital) will be open for children who wish to bring their teddy bears and other stuffed animals for minor repairs and a visit with the dentist. Refreshments available for purchase.

**June 21 – Penny Palooza 2015: Songs for Solstice** Manor Park Community Centre. 5-9 p.m. pennypalooza.ca Come celebrate the official arrival of summer at this year's musical fundraiser for the Ottawa Hospital Breast Health Centre. Enjoy live bands, barbecue, silent auction, crazy hair book, face painting and more. Bring non-perishable food for the Rideau-Rockcliffe Emergency Food Bank. Bring your old electronics to the onsite e-Recycling depot.

**June 21 – Solstice Beechwood** Former St. Charles church. 7-11 p.m. The Solstice Stroll stays in one place this year,

with loads of activities for young and old; food, wine and beer; featuring music by DJs Hobo and Sweetcheeks.

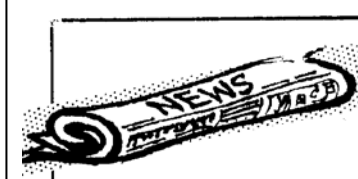
**June 24 and 25 – "Fair Cruelty"** Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 1233 Wellington St. W. \$20. tinyurl.com/faircruelty. 613-749-6761 x 221. Elmwood School's Theatre Company presents "Fair Cruelty", an original piece recounting the life of Queen Elizabeth I, featuring poems, songs, choral work and physical theatre. For audience aged 10 and older. Enjoy a British-themed evening of refreshments, a silent auction and reception both nights. All proceeds go towards the troupe's trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, this summer.

### July

**July 4 – Beechwood Market Opens** 99 Beechwood Ave. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Beechwood Market returns to the same location, running every Saturday (rain or shine) until Thanksgiving. Opening weekend features horse wagon rides and music for the kids. There will be more vendors, weekly features, the Bouncy Castle, and breakfast and brunch with Chef Micha Miljevic.

**July 4 – Music and Beyond Festival** Various locations. 613-241-0777 musicandbeyond.ca Music and Beyond, a classical music and multi-disciplinary arts festival, opens today and runs through July 17. Check the website for a complete program.

**July 7 – Opera Lyra Garden Party** Residence of the Ambassador of Italy, 1475 chemin d'Aylmer, Gatineau. \$95. 6 p.m. For Opera Lyra's 20th annual garden party,



## Classified Ads

**RATES: \$10, first 25 words; \$5, each additional 25 words, payable on submission of ad. Public service ads (such as lost & found) free. Call Christina Leadlay, 613-261-0442 or email newednews@hotmail.com.**

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

enjoy a magical summer evening of enchanting arias, gourmet Italian hors d'oeuvres and wines, set in the lovely gardens of the Italian ambassador's residence. Enjoy a dazzling fashion show by Earlene's House of Fashion.

**July 23 – "The Things We Do for Love"** Strathcona Park. odysseytheatre.ca Through Aug. 23. Odyssey Theatre presents its 30th anniversary production, "The Things We Do For Love", a trio of one-act plays by Cervantes, García Lorca and Tirso. Each play offers a unique perspective on the extremes people will go to for love, presented in Odyssey's signature mask and physical theatre style.

**July 26 – Friends of the Farm Victorian Tea** Bldg 72, CEF Arboretum east exit off Prince of Wales roundabout. 2-4p.m., \$10. 613-230-3276. friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm. Classic, formal tea is served on the lawns of the Arboretum. Dress in full Victorian garb, listen to live music, enter the best hat and costume contest.

### August

**August 15 – Lumiere Festival** New Edinburgh Park (aka

Stanley Park). 5 p.m. lumiereottawa.com Bring a lantern, wear a costume, and enter a world of magic. Artists will be performing for donation, so please show your support for their hard work to make such a magical evening come alive. Lights brought to the park need to be battery operated flashlights or glow-sticks only. Please do not bring any candles or open flames to the park.

**Aug 23-27 – Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Camp** Long Island Locks, Manotick. canadiangrandmasters.ca/fiddle-camp Immerse yourself in fiddle music in our five-day camp and experience music inspired from our Canadian heritage. Register for the fiddle or fiddle accompaniment (piano) workshops. Learn from some of Canada's most recognized fiddlers from across the country!

### September

**Sept 19 – New Edinburgh Community Garage Sale** 9 a.m.- 3p.m. Rain or shine. The Crichton Community Council (CCC) invites you to take part in the annual community garage sale. A donation of 10 per cent of your sales will go to support CCC's events and the Stanley Park Field House.

## UrbanOttawa.com



**225 Alvin #111:** An Urban Ottawa Gem! This 2 bedroom, 2 full bathroom condominium home represents excellent value and boasts many upgrades and smart, modern finishes. You won't really miss a balcony as there is awesome common space on the rooftop deck and the BBQ patio. Snazzy building amenities such as lounge, fitness room, "spa" area. Parking included. Live in the tightknit community Manor Park: urban lifestyle without the edginess of the core.



**201 Dunbarton:** Look here for your next home! Idyllic blend of urban Ottawa living & neighbourhood with real heart! This quiet crescent is close to downtown & services yet surrounded by a peaceful buffer. This zippy exec. townhome boasts 3 generous bedrooms, 2.5 baths, spacious living spaces and a large yard with eastern exposure. Loads and loads of major improvements: windows, decks, roof, furnace etc. & many stylish ones too.



**12 Queen Mary:** An absolute Urban Ottawa Wow! The epitome of casual elegance. Sparkling & functional spaces, perfect for couples or perhaps 2 adults sharing. Revamped from top to bottom, leaving no stone unturned. All the major infrastructure is done as are all the lovely finishing touches. Second storey master retreat with ensuite. Lower level room makes a perfect home gym. Private, south facing yard with patio.



Natalie's  
**URBANOTTAWA**  
the art of urban living



# Burgh Breezy Bits

DEADLINE: SEPT 10 breezybits@hotmail.com



Photo by Louise Imbeault

On May 2, Books on Beechwood took part in Authors for Indies, hosting a full day of authors gathering to promote independent book stores. (from left, back row) Nicola Vulpe, Benoît Chartier, Alex Binkley. (Front row): Catina M. Noble, Pearl Pirie, Sarah Jennings, Susan Taylor-Meehan and Emily-Jane Hills Oxford.



St. Bartholomew's church had a beautiful new sign installed in earlier this year, a collaboration of the church's "Sign Committee" (including Sandra Ferguson and Anna Lee Chabot) and Bernhardt Signs. The old sign will be refurbished and mounted on the church itself to the right of the front door. Photo by Louise Imbeault



Photo by Louise Imbeault  
Doris Proulx of Ivy Crescent turned 80 years old on April 28. Congratulations!



Photo by Sands Edwards  
Willow, a resident of Manor Road, and a friend dance for joy at the Rockeries.



A new cheering station was added this year for the Ottawa Race Weekend. Located at the old Desjardins bank on Beechwood, the new station united Vanier and New Edinburgh for a common goal: Inspire others to fulfill their dream! It went on to win Best Cheering Station. Thanks to the surrounding residents for their support of our perky music. Pictured are: (seated) Jill Hardy and Melodie Salter, (kneeling) Marilyn Hart, and (standing, from left) Andrea Marcus, Katherine Godding, Joseph Cull, Tim Ryley, Cindy Ryley and Sean Flynn. Photo by Garth Gullekson



Behind Ivy Crescent.

Painting by Martha Markowsky

## Congratulations!



Ray (Riemer) and Mary Ellen Boomgaardt are thrilled to announce the birth of their third grandchild to daughter Rachel and her husband Paul. Fraser Riemer was born March 29. Ray is overwhelmed with his little namesake. Fraser's sisters, Isla Mary and Kyra Jane, are delighted with his arrival.

Tudy McLaine will receive the Soros award for Alumni Service at N.Y. International House's 90th Anniversary

Awards Gala to be held in New York City on June 10. The award was established to honour those who have best exemplified service to International House in the spirit of Daisy and Paul Soros 1952. After nearly 60 years of association with I-House including with late husband, Alan, Tudy's work with the McLaine East-West Leadership Program and Canadian Friends of I-House, has resulted in this recognition. The event is expected to draw more than 200 leaders from the corporate, foundation, education and diplomatic communities. Congratulations, Tudy!!

## Condolences

Our condolences to Alasdair Stuart-Bell and Kate Kirkwood on the recent death of their mother, Margaret Bell. Mrs. Bell worked for many years in the Space Physics group at the National Research Council, and was an active community volunteer, serving as a member and past President of the May Court Club of Ottawa and of the Association of May Court

Clubs of Canada. She and her family lived in our community for many years, and most recently, she was a resident of *The Edinburgh* where she was a keen bridge player and enthusiastic supporter of activities at the residence.

Mariposa Ave. resident David Low died in late April. Our sincere sympathies to his beloved wife Nicky Lang, his children Rachel, Sarah, Peter, Alexandra (Ali) and Jamie, and all the members of the Lang and Low families. David was an outstanding scholar and athlete, a champion and fiercely competitive tennis player, and for many years, a senior public servant playing a leading role in the realm of science and space policy. He was a devoted husband and father, and in recent years, the affectionate and indulgent patriarch in a household of much cherished black Labradors and assorted other rescued wildlife. Our thoughts are with Nicky and the family at this painful time.

## Miscellaneous

### HELP NEEDED!

The Dragon Boat Festival is fast approaching and Heartwood House needs you to help out, as we are beneficiaries of this amazing event. Volunteers are needed for the evenings of June 25, 26 and 27, from 4:30-8:30pm. It's a fun outdoor event where you can go with a group of friends, so not the least bit painful! Please respond via email to Moe at [moe@heartwoodhouse.ca](mailto:moe@heartwoodhouse.ca)



Photo by Louise Imbeault  
Ex-Beacon Hill resident Winona Ierullo and her son recently moved to Springfield Rd. "It's a dream come true," says Winona, a personal care worker. "Many of my clients are in the Burgh." A warm community welcome to both of you!