

April 2016

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

www.newedinburgh.ca



Mother's Day Annual



Saturday May 7

8am to 4pm *rain or shine!*

Stanley Park Field House

CHEER – CHEER – CHEER
Beechwood in Shades of Green

Sunday, May 29 from 8 am to noon
99 Beechwood Ave.

Race Weekend
CHEERING STATION
BEECHWOOD: NECTAR – VANIER

Have your morning coffee with us!
Working together to build a strong and vibrant Community:

Vanier Community Association
and
The New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre

Marathon Cheering Station



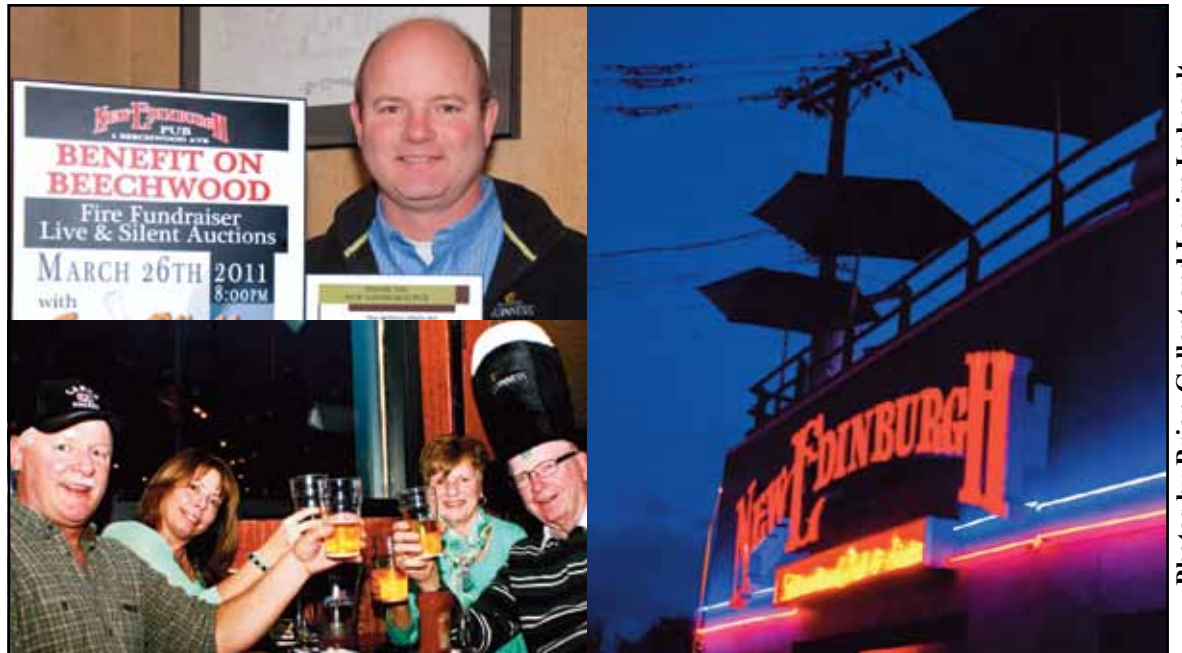
May 29 2016
Starting 8am

New Edinburgh Park
193 Stanley Avenue

Drinks, snacks will be available all morning.

Family Picnic

From 11:30am onwards bbq, drinks,
snacks, and games with prizes for kids.



The family of pub owner Paul Williams celebrated the last St. Paddy's Day to be held at the New Edinburgh Pub. The top-floor patio, the landmark neon sign, and the generous owner will be missed.

Photos by Brian Gallant and Louise Imbeault

New Edinburgh Pub's Last Call April 9

By Jane Heintzman

April 9, 2016, will mark the end of an era in our community as the New Edinburgh Pub closes its doors for the last time after nearly three decades as our popular corner house. Back in mid-February, as it became clear that the terms of the new lease offered by the building owners were not negotiable, pub owner Paul Williams was forced to take the painful decision to wind down his longstanding operation toward a final closure when his lease expires in April. His loyal staff was given notice, and many have since embarked on the challenging process of finding new employment. It's a tribute to Paul that so many of his employees have been at the Pub for over 10 years, including "lifers" such as

Terri, Stephanie, Kevin and Sandy who have done yeoman service for upwards of two decades.

Paul himself has been fully occupied in efforts to keep the ship afloat as the fateful day approaches, and to continue serving his faithful clientele, who have been taking every opportunity to spend time in their favourite gathering place before the Last Call finally sounds on April 9. Once the dust settles after the closure, Paul will have a chance to catch his breath and consider his options in his new life-after-the-Pub. Given his obvious skills, likeability and long experience as a publican and restaurateur, chances are high that he'll find a new enterprise (hopefully nearby) in which to invest his talents.

As a community, we are

extremely grateful to Paul, to his wife Tracy, and to all the familiar, friendly faces on the Pub staff, for their many years of service to this neighbourhood. We wish them well, and hope they'll be able to maintain ties to their old stomping ground here in the Burgh. They will be greatly missed and not soon forgotten. We encourage Burgh residents, young and old, to drop by the Pub on its last few days from April 7 to closing day on April 9, to say a fond farewell and give the Pub team a fitting send off. There won't be a dry eye in the house on April 9, so don't miss the chance to join your friends and neighbours to raise a glass to Paul, Tracy and their team. Turn to page 10 for more Burgh Business Briefs.

Public art installation slated for Minto Bridges

By NEN Staff

The City of Ottawa's Public Art Program has earmarked \$52,000 for a project involving the design, fabrication and installation of a permanent work of art intended as a complement to the extensive Minto Bridges rehabilitation currently underway in our neighbourhood. The work is expected to be installed at some point in 2017 when construction on the bridges has been completed.

The commission for the work will be awarded following a two-step, arms-length process, beginning with a Request for Qualifications open to all professional artists living in the Ottawa area. The deadline for submissions was

March 18. Applicants' qualifications will be evaluated by a Peer Review Assessment Committee composed of artists with public art experience, representatives from the Project Design Team and a community representative.

In stage two of the process, Request for Proposals, the Committee will select a short list of four artists from the initial pool, each of whom will be given a \$1,000 honorarium and detailed Terms of Reference for preparing proposals, drawings and budgets. Completed proposals will then be submitted in June 2016 (precise date to be confirmed) and will be presented for comment and general feedback at a pub-

lic Open House, as well as posted online.

Among the design criteria specified by the City for the artwork are:

- To demonstrate contemporary artistic excellence
- To be conceptually timeless and enduring
- To show sensitivity to the surrounding community and heritage
- To address site characteristics
- To be engaging to the bridge users, including pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular traffic
- To be safe for the public
- To be made of highly permanent materials that are suitable to the environment and require

Continued on page 9

A message to the community from the Junction Committee

By Sylvain Bélanger, Joana Chelo, Debra Conner, Sean Flynn, Jane Heintzman, Paula Thompson and Tim Plumptre (Junction Committee chair and NECA president)

Editor's Note: The following message was shared via "New Ed Talk" online on Feb. 20, 2016. It has been edited for length.

In the last few weeks, there has been an outpouring of interest, and concern from members of our community regarding the "Junction" proposal. For those of us who are on the boards of one of our three existing community associations — NECA, NECTAR and the 3Cs — this has been a very welcome development. All of us accord high priority to the engagement of our community in issues of common concern, and we welcome input and suggestions when people have the time and interest to contribute them.

What's given rise to recent interest and to visits by some residents to board meetings

of both NECA and the 3Cs is the suggestion that the Junction Committee might submit a request for a capital grant to the City of Ottawa by March 1. But some people are asking: why proceed with such a proposal when there are so many questions that have not been fully discussed in the community?

To understand how the prospect of a funding proposal came about, we need to step back about six months. All three community associations believe the programming and facilities provided by NECTAR are a very valuable community asset. But it became apparent in mid-2015 that NECTAR's current base

of operations at 255 MacKay St. — New Edinburgh House — and Memorial Hall is not sustainable for the long-term. A key reason for its financial vulnerability is the fact that it gets no operating support from the city — unlike the Fieldhouse in Stanley Park, which is owned, operated, and maintained by the City, and unlike centres in other local communities such as Rockcliffe Park and Lindenlea.

NECTAR consulted with City Councillor, Tobi Nussbaum, to see if the City could provide financial relief. The City has advised that it will only provide financial support, in the form of operating funds, to City-owned facilities. New Edinburgh House is not City-owned, therefore it does not qualify. The only way NECTAR could find its way to financial support from the City would be to transfer its operations into the existing City facility: the Fieldhouse, which is run by the 3Cs.

Last summer, a committee comprising members of New Edinburgh's three community associations came together to discuss the possibility of exploring the development of a community asset to meet local programming needs. Emerging from those discussions was the idea of modifying the Fieldhouse in ways yet to be defined, so that it might accommodate NECTAR programming and other community activities. The discussions were also the inspiration behind the concept that a renewed Fieldhouse might be renamed the "New Edinburgh Community Junction" in keeping with the historical role of New Edinburgh as a transportation crossroads, and the Junction's prospective place in the neighbourhood as a central gathering place for community life.

To determine whether we should move forward and explore the "Junction" concept, our three associations organized a Community Forum on Oct. 29, 2015, at Saint Bartholomew's Church. It was advertised in the *New Edinburgh News*, on the New Edinburgh web site and on posters in the community.

About 50 people came to the Forum, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss the "Junction" concept.

At the end, when people were asked if we should continue to explore the feasibility of the concept, there was a strong affirmative from most of those present. This was the first important step in the consultative process. It prompted the Junction Committee to start exploring the possibility of securing financial support from the City if some sort of modifications to the Fieldhouse were endorsed by the community. This required the submission of a request to the City's Capital Grant Program.

It's now become apparent that a group of concerned residents are expressing a desire for clarity about what the Junction may imply, and are not in agreement with the views of the majority of those who attended the Forum who wanted to move forward, at least not without significant further discussion to address some of their legitimate concerns.

Jumping the gun or keeping the option open?

So why submit an application for a capital grant now? Here's what has guided the Junction Committee in working toward the March 1, 2016, deadline:

- Submission of this proposal **keeps the possibility in play** of funding for some kind of project. If accepted, City funds for potential improvements to the Fieldhouse would be allocated in principle in the city's budget. **There would be no commitment to proceed with any project.**
- The submission does not constrain the significant consultative process that lies ahead. **It does not preclude the possibility that the process could be terminated** if neighbourhood concerns cannot be adequately addressed, and/or the financial demands prove too onerous for our community.
- Within the next few days we will be sending out further information outlining the kind of consultative process that we anticipate. The Junction Committee has welcomed two new members from the community (see below) to join our deliberations, and we will be working in the

next few weeks to refine and elaborate this process. Before implementing any major steps, such as a second Community Forum, we will seek advice on this process through an informal community meeting at New Edinburgh House.

- The funding for Major Capital Grants is allocated for the term of City Council and is subject to annual budget approval by Council. If an application is approved in principle, the project would simply enter a queue along with projects from other communities. The City has advised us that it is a good idea to get an early place in the queue.
- The City has made it clear that even if our project received approval-in-principle, no funds would become available until 2017 — a one year delay. While our project makes its way into the queue and is sitting there, we are told it can be modified in light of further community consultations and input. Our proposal would, in effect, be a place-holder to keep the possibility of funding open while we refined the proposal — or withdrew it if that proved to be what the community wanted.
- If we **did not** put in an application this year, but if community consultations subsequently led to a consensus in favour of some kind of Junction project, we might find by that time that there are too many other projects ahead in the queue. There could be significant delays, and while waiting to proceed, NECTAR might well fail, leaving us with no vehicle for local programming and few prospects.

To repeat: there is **no commitment to proceed** should the community choose another path.

We look forward to engaging with colleagues in the community in one or more forums where we can have a full debate on the Junction concept, as well as on alternative courses of action residents may wish to propose. Once the consultative process has unfolded, **we will certainly take account of community opinion in deter-**

Continued on page 3



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, April 19, 8 pm
Tuesday, May 17, 8 pm

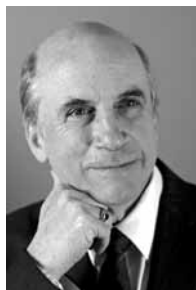
Any changes to this schedule will be posted in advance on the New Edinburgh website, newedinburgh.ca.

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2015-2016

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Two meetings on Junction idea to take place before summer break



Tim Plumptre
NECA President

This note provides an update on recent developments with respect to the “Junction” proposal and discusses what next steps are anticipated.

In my last report, I shared information with readers concerning the work that our three local associations — NECTAR, NECA and the Crichton Community Council (3Cs) — have been doing together to try to provide this community with a more sustainable facility than the NECTAR Centre (also known as New Edinburgh House), where recreational and other programs can be held for the benefit of residents. I explained that, for several reasons, the option which seemed most promising was a possible expansion of the existing Fieldhouse, and said that if such an expansion occurred, the facility might be renamed the New Edinburgh Community Junction.

These ideas had been discussed at a Community Forum hosted by the three associations in October 2015. Participants at that Forum encouraged us to explore the “Junction” possibility further, so a “Junction Committee” with representatives from each association was struck to do this.

However, even though there are no specific plans or proposals as to what might be done at the Fieldhouse, it became evident that some people in the community were very disturbed by the thought that there might be any incursion on the park. Also, some seemed to be under the impression that there was some kind of “done

deal” about which they had no knowledge, as well as other concerns.

Let me emphasize once again: there is no “done deal.” Junction committee members sent a letter to all NECA members and New Edinburgh residents on Feb. 20 to clarify why the committee took the steps it did over the last few months. You can find a copy of this letter on page 2.

The committee waited to see what the response was to this letter before proceeding with a matching grant application to the City of Ottawa. We received virtually no negative feedback. Therefore, the Junction Committee, augmented by two new members from the community, concluded that, for the reasons set forth in that letter, we should file a funding proposal with the City’s Capital Grant Program as a “place holder”. That step was taken in late February, a few days after the committee meeting, but in time to meet the March 1 deadline for applications.

Our councillor, Tobi Nussbaum, advised us that serious consideration of this proposal won’t take place before 2017, as the first priority this year will be an application from the 3Cs to the City for a matching grant to carry out much needed improvements to playground equipment in Stanley Park. In effect the Junction proposal is on “hold” over the next few months, and during that period it can be modified or even withdrawn should that be the will of our community.

To ascertain the will of the community, the Junction com-

mittee will be holding two meetings. The first will be an informal gathering within the next month, probably at New Edinburgh House (255 MacKay), open to all interested residents. Its purpose will be to engage in an open discussion with regard to the process to be used at a second, larger meeting: a general Community Forum where an in-depth discussion of the Junction idea can take place.

We plan to hold this Community Forum before the summer, probably in May or June at the latest. We want to ensure that it provides the best possible opportunity for residents to consider the pros and cons of the Junction idea and related issues. This is why we are seeking input regarding the design of that Forum at a prior community meeting.

To improve communication with residents and others, we realized there was a need to consolidate various mailing lists for our community. Paula Thompson generously volunteered to undertake this unexciting task. This newly revised list now includes the individuals who subscribed to “New Ed Talk” as well as those on the NECA membership list plus the names of people who gave us their email addresses at recent board meetings of NECA and the 3Cs.

We will use this consolidated list to notify residents of each of the two upcoming meetings once dates are set. If you are not sure whether your name is on it, I invite you to send an email to Paula (paulathompson@gmail.com) and she will ensure that you are included.

Details will follow in the next few weeks regarding these two meetings. We hope all those interested in the project will be able to participate and contribute your suggestions and concerns.

Natasha Cappon and **Joe Chouinard** have both joined the Junction committee. We look forward to having them join in our deliberations.

views on this important issue, and look forward to engaging with them and all residents in a constructive dialogue on future possibilities for our neighbourhood.

We are pleased to report that community members

Continued from page 2

mining what form a project involving the Fieldhouse might take — and we won’t proceed at all if there is no will to do so.

We are grateful to all those who have expressed their

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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The *New Edinburgh News* is also made available online at the New Edinburgh community website:

www.newedinburgh.ca

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New Ontario student grant will make tuition free for many students



Madeleine Meilleur
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Providing affordable and accessible postsecondary education for everyone in the province, regardless of their background or circumstance, is an investment in Ontario's future.

Ontario is making college and university more accessible and affordable for low- and middle-income students and their families through the single-largest modernization ever of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

Under the new grant program, the government will replace a number of existing provincial assistance programs with a single, targeted, non-repayable Ontario Student Grant starting in the 2017-18 academic year. The

changes will make average tuition free for more than 150,000 eligible low- and middle-income students, and will reduce the cost for many more by:

- Providing the majority of eligible students whose parents earn the median annual income of \$83,300 or less with enough in grants to more than cover their tuition costs
- Eliminating provincial student loan debt for eligible students whose parents earn less than \$50,000
- Ensuring that no eligible student receives less non-repayable aid through the new grant than they currently do through the 30 per cent Off

Ontario Tuition Grant. The Ontario Student Grant will also provide additional support for full-time mature and married students, and eligibility will no longer be tied to the number of years a student has been out of high school. This predictable, upfront grant will allow families to plan for their education on the basis of net price – the difference between the sticker price of tuition and what a student actually needs to pay. The government will work closely with the postsecondary sector to develop planning tools that more accurately calculate the net tuition and net price of a university or college education.

By making average tuition free for tens of thousands of students and increasing eligibility for support to so many more, we are demonstrating how firmly we believe in the importance of investing in Ontario's people.

La nouvelle subvention ontarienne d'études représente la gratuité scolaire pour plusieurs d'étudiants

Nous investissons dans l'avenir de l'Ontario en fournissant une éducation postsecondaire abordable et accessible à tous et à toutes dans la province, sans égard à leurs antécédents ou à leur situation.

L'Ontario rend plus acces-

sibles et plus abordables les études collégiales et universitaires pour les étudiantes et étudiants à faible et à moyen revenu et leur famille grâce à la modernisation ponctuelle la plus substantielle jamais apportée au Régime d'aide financière aux étudiantes et aux étudiants de l'Ontario (RAFEO).

Dans le cadre de ce nouveau programme de subventions, le gouvernement remplacera les programmes d'aide provinciaux existants par une Subvention ontarienne d'études unique, ciblée et non remboursable, à compter de l'année scolaire 2017-2018. Les modifications apportées au RAFEO feront en sorte que les droits de scolarité moyens seront gratuits pour 150 000 étudiants à faible et à moyen revenu, et elles réduiront les frais pour encore plus d'étudiants grâce à ces initiatives:

- Fournir à la majorité d'étudiants admissibles dont les parents gagnent un revenu annuel moyen de 83 300\$ ou moins des subventions qui seront supérieures à leurs frais de scolarité;
- Éliminer les dettes d'étudiant envers la province pour l'aide financière aux études dans le cas des étudiants admissibles dont les parents gagnent moins de 50 000\$;
- Veiller à ce que tous les étudiants admissibles

reçoivent, avec la nouvelle subvention, une aide non remboursable au moins égale à celle qu'ils reçoivent actuellement avec la Bourse de Réduction de 30 pour cent des frais de scolarité en Ontario.

La Subvention ontarienne d'études fournira du soutien supplémentaire aux étudiants adultes et mariés qui étudient à temps plein, et l'admissibilité ne sera plus liée au nombre d'années écoulées depuis la dernière année d'études secondaires. Cette subvention prévisible et immédiate permettra aux familles de planifier leur éducation en fonction du prix net, c'est-à-dire la différence entre les droits de scolarité sur papier et les frais que doivent effectivement assumer les étudiants. Le gouvernement travaillera de près avec le secteur postsecondaire afin de mettre au point des outils de planification qui calculeront avec plus d'exactitude les droits et les frais nets des études universitaires ou collégiales.

En rendant gratuits les droits de scolarité moyens pour des dizaines de milliers d'étudiants et en élargissant l'admissibilité à l'aide pour un aussi grand nombre d'étudiants de plus, nous démontrons notre conviction profonde qu'il est important d'investir dans la population de l'Ontario.

the crichton street gallery

Come and visit your neighbourhood gallery
Browse through our works of art and chat
with the local artists

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THANK YOU!

NEW EDINBURGH
Pub & Eatery

For all the years of
community involvement,
support and commitment
to New Edinburgh.

With the New Edinburgh Pub's support of Field House activities at New Edinburgh Park, we have been able to offer community-based family events throughout the year, such as the Halloween Howl, Winter Carnival, New Edinburgh Marathon Cheering Station, New Edinburgh Picnic, and Hockey Day in New Edinburgh. **You will be greatly missed!**

Crichton Community Council



For so many years a great supporter of the *New Edinburgh News*. The New Edinburgh Pub was involved in many major community events over the years, and always there to lend a hand to someone in need as you demonstrated after the great fire of 2011. **You will be greatly missed.**

New Edinburgh Community Alliance



Laurier Ave East to become Prime Ministers' Row



Mauril Bélanger
MP Ottawa-Vanier

A project that began with Ottawa-Vanier residents coming together to celebrate Canada's history has evolved into an initiative of national significance called Prime Ministers' Row, garnering support from across the country. I am proud to be championing this initiative as the Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier.

In a nod of recognition to the multiple prime ministers and Fathers of Confederation who once lived here, Laurier Avenue East will be returned to its traditional role as a vibrant space for political discussion and debate. It will become an innovative, participation-oriented, outdoor cultural space designed to encourage reflection on questions of governance, identity, culture, values and history through several components. These include: a curated series of programs and events such as conferences, debates and speaker series; an innovative public art program;

and a multi-media platform, all currently under development. In this way, Prime Ministers' Row will engage Canadians from across the country and from all walks of life, bringing them together both physically and virtually.

Prime Ministers' Row will leverage existing public and private amenities such as the Government of Canada's Laurier House with its refurbished Visitors Centre, the recently-purchased All Saints Church where work has begun to create a centre for political discourse, as well as the vast green expanse of Strathcona Park. In addition, Prime Ministers' Row will benefit from collaboration with the University of Ottawa — Canada's national university.

At the heart of this initiative lie Canadians like you: People volunteering and lending their support. People who believe this place will serve as a symbolic piece of our national identity.

For more information, you may visit www.pmr-apm.ca. Let's be part of creating a national legacy project that both celebrates our history and looks to our future.

Le projet de l'allée des premiers ministres

Un projet qui a pris naissance lorsque des résidents d'Ottawa-Vanier ont commencé à se rassembler pour célébrer l'histoire du Canada est devenu une initiative d'importance nationale appelée *Allée des premiers ministres* qui suscite l'enthousiasme dans tout le pays. Je suis fier de promouvoir cette initiative à titre de député d'Ottawa-Vanier.

En guise de reconnaissance aux multiples premiers ministres et pères de la Confédération qui ont déjà habité là, l'avenue Laurier Est reprendra son rôle traditionnel d'espace dynamique où ont lieu des discussions et des débats politiques. Elle deviendra un espace culturel novateur, axé sur la participation et destiné à susciter, au moyen de différents volets, la réflexion sur la gouvernance, l'identité, la culture, les valeurs et l'histoire.

Au nombre de ces volets, mentionnons une série de programmes et d'événements organisés comme des con-

férences, des débats et des ateliers avec conférenciers, un programme novateur d'art public et une plateforme multimédia. De cette façon, l'Allée des premiers ministres rassemblera des Canadiens de tout le pays et de toutes les sphères de la vie, physiquement et virtuellement.

L'Allée des premiers ministres tirera profit des installations publiques et privées existantes comme la Maison Laurier avec son nouveau centre des visiteurs, l'église All Saints récemment achetée et où les travaux ont commencé pour créer un centre sur les discours politiques, et une vaste section du parc Strathcona. De plus, l'Allée des premiers ministres pourra compter sur la collaboration de l'Université d'Ottawa, l'université nationale du Canada.

Au cœur de cette initiative, il y a des gens comme vous, des gens qui font du bénévolat et qui donnent leur appui, des gens qui croient que ce lieu deviendra un symbole de notre identité nationale.

Pour de plus amples informations, je vous invite à vous rendre au www.pmr-apm.ca. Joignez-vous à ce beau projet patrimonial national qui célèbre notre histoire tout en gardant les yeux rivés sur l'avenir.

Editor's Note: As a tribute to Mr. Bélanger's long and dedicated service to our community, and as an expression of support for his current struggle with the daunting challenges of ALS, NECA and NECTAR have each made donations to ALS Canada in support of its important work finding effective treatments for this merciless disease.

Distribution team needs your help

Have you thought of volunteering in your community, but don't know where to start? Here are details about just two great ways you can make a difference in New Edinburgh:

Help to Spread the News

We hope that you enjoy reading the *New Edinburgh News*. It is a key vehicle for sharing news and information regarding our community. But it can only play this role if copies of each issue are faithfully delivered to the homes of individual residents and to the commercial outlets that display copies for their clients to pick up. We're happy to say that many local residents eagerly look forward to receiving the latest issue, and can be disappointed if it doesn't arrive on their doorstep, or turn up in the shops. That's where you come in!

Commercial Distribution:

Our top priority right now is to find a volunteer to take on the distribution to local commercial/institutional outlets. Can you help? Here's what it entails: A total of x copies are delivered in bundles to y outlets, five times a year (October, December, February, April and June). We would supply a detailed list with the number of copies of each issue that should be delivered to the respective outlet sites.

Residential Distribution: Two Routes Need Help! At the moment, we are in need of a volunteer for each of two residential delivery routes. Each route entails door-to-door delivery of some 80-100 copies. The task isn't onerous and the walk is good exercise!

If you love the bi-monthly ritual of reading all the neighbourhood news, please consider volunteering a


couple of hours of your time five times a year to help us get the word out throughout the community. To join the *New Edinburgh News* distribution team, please contact us at newednews@hotmail.com - we look forward to hearing from you!

- David Horley and the NEN Distribution Team

Awareness through Movement
Feldenkrais classes

@ Rockcliffe Library
Mondays 10-11am

@ 35 Beechwood, 3rd floor
Wednesdays 4-5 pm; 6-7 pm



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Light Rail Update



Jim Watson
Mayor of Ottawa

With the snow melting and days getting longer, another busy construction season is set to begin. While we can expect some delays, crews will be hard at work improving how quickly and comfortably residents move around our city.

Luckily, crews working on

the Confederation Line Light Rail have been hard at work throughout the winter. The Confederation Line project continues on-time and on-budget and I am excited to update you on several significant milestones.

•Phase 1 — will be up and running in 2018

•2016 will see the final section of running tunnel between Rideau and Parliament stations excavated.

•Excavation of the Lyon Station was recently completed, while Parliament is over 90 percent complete and Rideau soon to reach 80 per cent.

•More than 3.5 kilometres of track have been installed to date.

•All 13 LRT stations will be under construction before the end of 2016.

•Testing on some of the world-class Alstom CITADIS Spirit LRT vehicles will begin within the next year.

As many of you know, this is just the first phase of the system we will be constructing over the next decade. Stage 2, the next chapter of LRT, is just around the corner.

When Stage 2 is complete in 2023, residents will be able to catch a train as far west as Bayshore and Algonquin College, as far east as Place d'Orleans, and as far south as Riverside South. This will bring close to 70 percent of the city's population within five kilometres of rail. This will fundamentally transform the way our city moves and grows.

Bringing light rail to Ottawa will be the single largest infrastructure project since Colonel By built the Rideau Canal. With a project of this size and scope, some disruptions are unavoidable for commuters.



A sneak-peak at one of the Alstom-CITADIS Spirit vehicles being constructed.

To ensure the fewest disruptions to your commute as possible, I encourage you to access construction and traffic management information by:

- Visiting the City of Ottawa's interactive traffic map at traffic.ottawa.ca;
- Calling 3-1-1;
- Following the City of Ottawa's Traffic Twitter feed @Ottawa_Traffic;
- Signing up to receive regular email updates at Ottawa.ca/confederationline.

For those who make use of Ottawa's extensive multi-use pathway network, all

efforts will be made to ensure access is maintained during construction, where safety permits. Detours will be provided where necessary.

Thank you for your patience as the O-Train Confederation Line continues to grow into reality. The way our city moves and grows will benefit our economy, our environment, and our families for generations to come.

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Traffic calming plan for Rideau-Rockcliffe in the works



Tobi Nussbaum
City Councillor, Ward 13

New Edinburgh will notice changes this spring that will give residents increased transportation options, calm traffic and animate our streets.

Beechwood corridor

In early March, the City hosted a second public information session to introduce a preliminary concept of how the Beechwood transportation corridor can evolve. Although the road is not scheduled to be rebuilt for some time, redevelopment of properties along Beechwood will create opportunities for the City to gain additional right-of-way space we can

use to ensure safe passage for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and motorists in the long term. In the meantime, an interim configuration was put forward, which we hope to implement this summer. I encourage you to view the plans at Ottawa.ca/BeechwoodAvenue and provide comments to the City.

Traffic calming

I wanted to update you on work that I have been doing on neighbourhood traffic calming. Residents and the New Edinburgh Community Association have been providing very useful comments

to me over the past year on locations where speeding is an issue or crossing the road is dangerous. I've used that feedback and other data as the basis for a traffic calming plan for Rideau-Rockcliffe that addresses trouble spots in all parts of the ward, particularly near schools. City staffers are reviewing the proposed locations and I will be posting the plans on my website and meeting with community associations to get feedback this spring. You will begin seeing seasonal traffic calming measures such as flexible signs and posts in roadways starting in early summer.

Enlivening our main street

The Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area in partnership with the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism from Carleton University designed and submitted a proposal to the City of Ottawa for a parklet, a reimagined park-

ing space on Beechwood, in front of Arturo's restaurant. Five groups of architecture students developed and presented designs to convert this small street space into a park-like environment. Members of the public were invited to view the concepts and vote on their favourite. The BIA worked with City staff to identify a proposed location where parking is currently permitted at all times of the day so the parklet wouldn't affect traffic. I support testing this concept because residents often highlight the lack of places along Beechwood Avenue to stop, rest and chat with neighbours when they are out and about. The need for public gathering and resting space will likely increase as commercial development along Beechwood continues. The parklet provides a great opportunity to pilot how we can meet these needs through the creation of public spaces

in our neighbourhoods.

Coach house study

Last fall, the City began a zoning study to determine the appropriate standards to permit coach houses, small accessory dwellings in residential backyards. Secondary dwellings can bring benefits by providing flexible housing options, easing pressure on the urban boundary, allowing seniors to age in place and assisting with homeownership costs. Any changes, however, must also consider issues of green space, privacy and impact on the surrounding streetscape including fulfilling all of the requirements set out in the Heritage Conservation District Plan. A discussion paper, survey results and draft recommendations are all available for review at Ottawa.ca/coach-houses. The item is scheduled to go to Planning Committee for discussion in late Spring 2016.

Community garden proposed for vacant lot

By Julie LaPalme, chairperson, Beechwood Village Alliance

Beechwood Avenue is currently undergoing something of a renaissance with a number of new buildings being proposed and a significantly increased community awareness of the history, uniqueness and beauty of the commercial district. Indeed, a number of local organizations i.e. the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA) and the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Association (QVBIA) and the Vanier Community Association have been actively working on improvements along the Beechwood corridor.



Photo courtesy Julie LaPalme
A community garden, using raised wooden beds (like these in Lowertown), would supply fresh veggies to local food programs.

The BVA became concerned with the overall degradation of the entire Beechwood corridor and set about finding ways to revitalize and reinvigorate the area. It was in this context that questions arose as to what could be done with a vacant lot on Beechwood Avenue to improve it and perhaps put it to use for the good of the local community even if only as a temporary measure. This is where the idea of starting a community garden came about. Peter Lewis and Bruce Murray, two BVA members, submitted a proposal to the owner of the

land and are now waiting for a response.

We are proposing using raised beds constructed of wood with a lining thereby making them portable to another site once the land is developed. Aside from the raised bed boxes, community gardens typically need other structures such as small tool sheds and a water tank. All of these other structures would be portable and thus easily removed.

The urban gardening movement has been a growing trend in cities for some time. Currently in Ottawa there are 65 community gardens that are run and operated by vary-

ing community organizations. They allow local residents who may not have sufficient space themselves to rent a small plot or bed in which to grow kitchen vegetables for their own consumption. In many cases, the privilege of having access to a bed requires some time spent tending a communal bed the yield of which is given to local food banks. For example, the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Center currently supports over 1,500 families every year through their Healthy Food Program. Their small community garden in Overbrook contributes seasonal fresh vegetables to

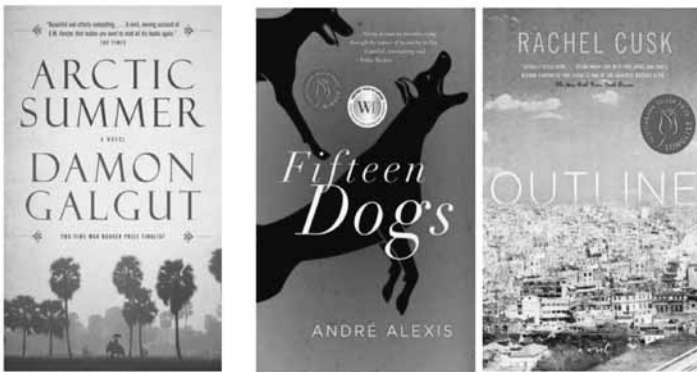
this program each summer. We intend that the Beechwood Community Garden would operate in a similar manner to the Overbrook garden and become a supporter of the Healthy Food Program. We also see this as a great opportunity for apartment dwellers to cultivate and harvest their own food while enhancing an empty plot of land.

Should the owner be agreeable to this proposal, the

Beechwood Village Alliance would recruit a local organization to assume responsibility for the creation, operation and maintenance of the garden and would negotiate a formal agreement with the owner.

If you have any questions please contact Julie LaPalme, chairperson of the BVA via email at beechwoodvillagealliance@hotmail.ca.

Books on Beechwood Book Club



Feb. 10/24/16 Mar.09/30/16 Apr.13/27/16

Books on Beechwood Presents
TWO Monthly Book Club Sessions!

Session 1***		Session 2***	
Date:	Second Wednesday of month	Date:	Last Wednesday of month
Time:	7:30pm	Time:	7:30pm
Location:	New Edinburgh Square 35 Beechwood Avenue 2nd Floor Lounge	Location:	The Edinburgh Retirement Residence 10 Vaughan Street Penthouse
Session Leader:	Antoinette Fracassi	Session Leader:	Jill Moll
Schedule:	Feb. 10- <i>Arctic Summer</i> by Damon Galgut Mar. 09- <i>Fifteen Dogs</i> by Andre Alexis Apr. 13- <i>Outline</i> by Rachel Cusk	Schedule:	Feb. 24- <i>Arctic Summer</i> by Damon Galgut Mar. 30- <i>Fifteen Dogs</i> by Andre Alexis Apr. 27- <i>Outline</i> by Rachel Cusk

Looking for input on updating Secondary School Program Framework



Chris Ellis
Public School Trustee, Zone 6

Over the next three years, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) will be looking at all its high schools and holding boundary and accommodation reviews for most areas of the city. Before getting into the details, the Board will be updating the Secondary

School Program Framework (SSPF) developed in 2008. The framework, which provides guiding principles for secondary program offerings and establishes guidelines for program delivery models, will be revised to address and incorporate the OCDSB's current strategic goals; name-

ly, improving equity of access and opportunity for all students.

Subsequent to the development of the SSPF, the OCDSB established a secondary school review process to build a broader understanding of our secondary schools as a collective and inform future decision-making. Defined areas of focus were analysed and recommendations are now being incorporated into the updated SSPF. The OCDSB will undertake a consultation on the updated SSPF during April and May with approval scheduled for June.

I am seeking input from community members and OCDSB staff on the four areas of focus below. The associated recommendations are contained in the following reports available through my website, www.SchoolZone6.org: *School Configurations; Specialist High Skills Major; Canterbury Arts Program; International Baccalaureate Program / Advanced Placement Courses*.

School Configurations

1. Is the community comfortable with a grade 7-12 High School model? On

the one hand, adopting this model would reduce school transitions for many students while on the other, it would affect enrolment in elementary schools and more elementary schools would probably need to be closed.

2. Should all High Schools offer all three levels of core subjects, i.e. to lead to an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or an Ontario Secondary School Certificate or a Certificate of Accomplishment? This question has implications for High School sizes to ensure the viability of courses at all three levels. What will be the minimum size for a High School offering three levels?

Specialist High Skills Majors

(specialized grade 11 and 12 programs related to 19 industry sectors)

1. What are the implications of allowing students who take a Specialist High Skills Major to finish high school graduation requirements at a host school?
2. Will placement of Specialist High Skills Major programs be used to address low enrolment at schools?
3. Will placement of Specialist High Skills Major programs be used to balance pathways especially if the

recommendation is that all High Schools have three levels of core subjects?

Canterbury Arts Program and International Baccalaureate Program/Advanced Placement Courses

I'm combining these two areas of focus as the recommendations are the same.

1. Should there be district-wide programs? Might there be a better way to support students in these programs? What are the pros and cons of District Programs? When it involves Special Education students, Staff recommend integration as the better and preferred model. How do District Programs differ from Spec Ed?
2. Will the current placement of district programs limit the options that could be considered in Accommodation Reviews? For example, would issues around certification for the International Baccalaureate program and around infrastructure costs for the Arts program and the High Performance Athlete Program, mean it would not be feasible to move them?

To reach Chris Ellis, please call 613-818-7350, email Chris.Ellis@ocdsb.ca or visit www.SchoolZone6.org.

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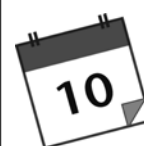
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Design work has started on 2017 playground improvements



By Debra Conner, Crichton Community Council

The CCC held its annual Hockey Day event on Feb 6. Despite the warm weather, which unfortunately made skating impossible, we still had a good group of neighbourhood kids come out to try their hand at the skills competitions and enjoy the hot dogs and hot chocolate. Many thanks to the on-ice helpers **Caroline Matt** and **Matt DeWolfe**, and our kitchen crew **Sylvain Bélanger** and **Paula Pincombe** for serving up hot chocolate and hot dogs. Thanks to **Jerry Turchyn** for setting up the sound system with hockey music and for **Thais Martin** for putting up the posters around the neighbourhood. Thank you

to the City of Ottawa for the loan of the equipment for the skills competition. Also, many thanks to the **New Edinburgh Pub** for the donation of the hot dogs. Like many in the community, the CCC is sad to hear of the imminent closing of the pub. Paul and Tracy have been long-time supporters of the CCC, donating hot chocolate during the skating season over the years, and donating funds to upgrade the Fieldhouse kitchen. We can't thank them enough for their support and wish them the very best for the future.

Now that the warm weather has arrived, the Stanley Park skating season is done for the year. A big thank you to our dedicated crew of rink atten-

dants and hosers, headed up by **Michel Giroux** and **Brian Torrie**, who kept our rinks in tip-top shape for the community to enjoy after school, evenings and weekends. Even the record 50cm of snow did not slow them down for long, getting both rinks cleared and up and running in no time.

Our next event is our **Plant Sale on May 7**. Just in time for Mother's Day, this fundraiser supports the CCC's community events, the rinks and the playground. Please come by and find annuals for your garden and/or a hanging basket for your porch. Then on **May 29**, we will be holding our annual **Ottawa Marathon Cheering Station**, cheering on runners as they pass through our neighbourhood. And, to extend the fun this year, we will be following the morning cheering activities with an afternoon picnic. We hope to see you there!

Playground Improvements

We are pleased to report that we are starting to work with the City on playground improvements. The Stanley Park playground structures



Photo by Debra Conner
Rebecca Lipman takes her turn at the skills competition at Hockey Day in New Edinburgh on Feb. 6.

are showing their age and it is apparent that new equipment is needed. The CCC will be working with the City to design and implement new structures for 2017.

Interested in becoming involved with the CCC? We hold our meetings at the Fieldhouse on the sec-

ond Monday of each month, at 7:30 pm (except July and August). We'd love to see you there.

Lastly, with skating season now over, the Fieldhouse will again be available to rent. Please email us at nefieldhouse@gmail.com to make your request.

Road works coming this year to River Lane, Dufferin and Crichton

By Noor Ahmed, NECA Transportation and Safety committee

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Transportation and Safety Committee has written to the City seeking information of what road re-surfacing projects are planned for our neighbourhood. The City has informed us that, subject to available funding, pavement performance, priority against other competing needs, and coordination with other projects, the list currently

includes:

- **River Lane** from Keefer St to Dufferin Rd – road, sewer, water reconstruction project in 2016
- **Dufferin Rd** from River Lane to Crichton St – resurfacing as part of the River Lane project in 2016
- **Crichton St** from Keefer St to Dufferin Rd – water-main replacement (likely trench reinstatement) in 2016
- **Crichton St** at Keefer St – intersection modification in 2017
- **Crichton St** from Charles

- St to Beechwood Ave – Road Resurfacing in 2019
- **Stanley Ave** from Sussex Dr to Union St – Road Resurfacing falls within a five to seven year horizon
- **Stanley Ave** from Dufferin Rd to 100 m east of Keefer St – Road Resurfacing falls within a five to seven year horizon
- **Mackay St** from Dufferin Rd to Beechwood Ave – Road Resurfacing falls within a five to seven year horizon

The City notes that for projects falling beyond the five

year horizon, some attention may be required earlier and that regular data updates and assessments are undertaken.

Of interest, the City of Ottawa maintains approximately 5,900 km of roads or 14,900 lane kilometers. Over 25 percent (or over 1,400 km) of the road network is considered to be in need of resurfacing or reconstruction.

City Council has approved increasing annual funding for improvements to roads, bridges, and buildings from the previously planned levels

of \$80 million per year to \$165 million per year within the next 10 years. It is anticipated that this funding level will allow roads to be maintained in an overall state of good repair.

NECA's Transportation and Safety Committee continues to liaise with the City on this and several other related issues. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at newedinburgh.ca.

Continued from page 1

minimal maintenance

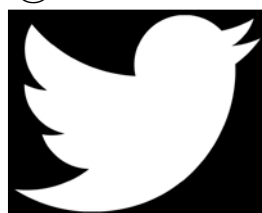
The City's preferred location for the winning artwork is at the eastern approach to the Minto Bridges at Union Street and Stanley Avenue, with a second possibility suggested along the roadway at Maple Island and Green Island. It appears, however, that the City is open to other suggestions for a suitable location, though presumably these too would have to be closely tied into the Bridge

rehabilitation project. The *New Edinburgh News* has learned that the board of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance has reservations about the appropriateness of the City's preferred option at Union and Stanley, and plans to be in contact with Councillor Tobi Nussbaum to discuss alternatives.

We'll keep you posted on the details of the Open House coming up in June and on any other developments related to the project. Contact Project Coordinator **Hannah**

Kingscote at **hannah.kingscote@ottawa.ca** for more information.

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- By Elizabeth Gray-Smith, Jane Heintzman and Christina Leadlay -

Bittersweet transition to Royal Oak Pub

As New Edinburgh Pub owner **Paul Williams** correctly speculated while he was struggling with the terms of the new lease for the Pub space (see page 1 for details), it ultimately proved to be a larger chain operation that was able to manage these terms, and in mid-February, the building owners officially announced to the *NEN* that **Royal Oak Pubs** would take over as proprietors following a major overhaul of the premises, to be carried out in conjunction with the planned exterior renovation.

Royal Oak is a widely known and long-established Ottawa-based chain of British-style pubs, with 12 outlets throughout the Ottawa area from Orleans to Kanata and virtually everywhere in between, along with two operations in Whitby, Ont. Their stamp is distinctively British, with classic pub fare such as fish 'n' chips, bangers and mash, pot pies and shepherd's pie still staples on the menu. They have recently linked up with local brewer Beau's All Natural Brewing, regularly featuring new Beau's beers in their craft beer repertoire.

Royal Oak CEO **Jonathan Hatchell** is enthusiastic about the new location, confessing that he has had his eye on the area for many years and has loved the neighbourhood since his arrival in Ottawa



A finalized exterior rendering of the building at Beechwood and Crichton.

30 years ago. Jonathan has known Paul Williams since their early years in the restaurant business in the 1980s, and is a great admirer of Paul's skills and success as an independent restaurateur. He is keenly aware of Paul's popularity in the community, and is sensitive to the inevitable sadness associated with his departure. In recognition of the bittersweet nature of the coming transition, Jonathan is committed to ensuring as much continuity in the pub's operations as possible, and is making a point of interviewing current pub staff for positions at the new Royal Oak.

But first, there is a major transformation planned for the Pub premises in the coming months, starting with the virtual demolition of the interior by the building owners in the context of their exterior renovation project, to be

launched in May. Jonathan reports that this process will leave Royal Oak with an entirely clean slate to begin rebuilding and refitting later this summer. Among the major changes now on the agenda (subject to the City permit process) are the installation of a barrier-free, single-level first floor equipped with a handicapped-access washroom; a fully enclosed second floor with large tables for group gatherings; and a street level outdoor patio on Crichton Street with seating for upwards of 60 people.

According to Jonathan, the downstairs level will retain the layout and cozy atmosphere of the traditional Royal Oak pub, while the upstairs "Pub Club" will be more open, well suited to larger gatherings around long tables to enjoy a drink and a lively discussion, listen to

live music or watch a sports event. The musical entertainment will reportedly be eclectic, featuring a wide range of local talent and small three-piece bands. In keeping with Royal Oak's neighbourhood pub ethos, plans are in the works to assign a distinctively neighbourhood name to the second floor as an identifier of its New Edinburgh location.

As an alternative to the second floor outdoor terrace, Jonathan and his team have been consulting with Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum** and QVBIA Executive Director **Jamie Kwong** in an effort to develop plans for a new boulevard-style patio to be installed in the bulbout on Crichton Street, and artfully arranged to encompass the two large red QVBIA flower pots currently positioned in that spot. Jonathan is delighted with the emerging design plans for the patio, promising "lots of curves and hanging baskets" to add to its appeal as a summer gathering place.

If all goes as planned, the gutting of the pub interior should be completed this spring, leaving Royal Oak a free hand to begin the rebuild by early August. Jonathan's best guess at this point is

a three-month process from start to finish, and his aim is to have the new location up and running by late fall, at the latest in time for the Christmas party season. We'll keep you posted on developments as they unfold in the months to come. But one thing's certain: this will be the first pub-free summer at the Crichton/Beechwood corner in close to 30 years. Hopefully it will be the last for at least another three decades! *JH*

Great timing for The Sutherland

As we reported in our February issue, The Kavanaugh is about to welcome the first of its commercial tenants, with Sutherland Restaurant now gearing up to begin operations in late May or June. Owner/operator/principal chef **Warren Sutherland** is a well-known member of Ottawa's local culinary community, and has been a leading player in several restaurants, including the former Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro, The Smoque Shack in the market and Slice & Co. Pizza on Elgin, as well as co-owner of The Piggy Market in Westboro.

According to Warren, the chain of events which led to his latest venture began several years ago when he was tentatively approached by Domicile while the company was still in the process of finalizing the purchase of the Kavanaugh property. At that point, the realisation of the condominium project seemed a very long way off, and Warren had his hands full managing several other active businesses. Once construction was launched at The Kavanaugh, however, he was again approached by Domicile and the germ of the idea planted earlier took firmer hold.



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Warren's family resides in the neighbourhood, and the clincher came one day as he was driving past the building with his daughter **Cayenne**, who asked for an explanation of the Commercial Leasing signs on the main floor. Once enlightened on this score, she regaled her dad with how cool it would be if he opened a restaurant in the building so she could walk there every day to join him. That did it, Warren confesses, and he now credits Cayenne as the inspiration behind his final decision to launch Sutherland on Beechwood. The timing of the decision proved to be propitious in other ways as well, as Warren has recently disengaged from The Smoque Shack and now has more time and energy to focus his efforts on the complex planning that has gone into preparing the ground for a Sutherland opening this spring/summer.

The fit up of the restaurant has been facilitated by the fact that Domicile's original construction on the main floor was based on his early design concepts, so no demolition will be required. Warren is thrilled with his own design for the new kitchen, and plans are currently taking shape for the dining room, bar and a separate coffeehouse area which will accommodate roughly 20 people and can be booked for private parties and receptions. The overall space for Sutherland fronts directly on Beechwood, and includes the whole of Bay 6 on the ground floor of The Kavanaugh, and a portion of Bay 5 and Bay 7. The restaurant's total capacity, factoring in a small outdoor patio, is expected to be about 95 diners.

Apart from the excitement and challenge of designing his own premises, Warren is elated by the prospect of being able, for the first time in his career in Ottawa, to allow free rein to his culinary imagination and apply the lessons to his extensive travels, training and experience to the daily fare at Sutherland. While his earlier ventures had involved highly specialized cooking in the realm of pizza, smoked meat and aboriginal cuisine, he looks forward to broadening his palette at the new restaurant and introducing an imaginative menu that will evolve organically, not only with the rhythm of the seasons and the availability of local produce, but also

with the tastes and preferences of his clientele. He is realistic about the need to hang on to menu favourites, however routine they may become from the perspective of the chef, and has no plans to "force changes" on his clients, many of whom will no doubt be residents of the building and regular callers at Sutherland.

As we reported in February, Warren's ambitious opening plans include dawn to dusk (and later) service, beginning with a scratch diner style breakfast "with a modern twist", featuring such healthy items as yogurt with honey, in-house granola and fresh fruit salad. Throughout the day and evening, Sutherland will offer lunch, dinner, a late night bar from 5pm to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays (and possibly Thursdays, depending on client demand), and brunch on the weekends. Stay tuned for a preview of some menu details in our next edition in June when we hope the new restaurant will be nearing completion. If you are a pork lover, you'll be happy to hear that whole pigs will be a staple in Warren's kitchen, along with myriad other fresh local foods. Best of luck Warren: your opening day is eagerly anticipated! *JH*

'Live like you matter'

"I'm drawn to helping people," says **Marta Klepaczek**.

Marta is a registered nurse with over 19 years of experience in the healthcare sector, having worked in various roles from women's health to mental health. She has brought her skills to work overseas in Asia and Europe.

Leveraging this vast experience and her certification as a life coach, Marta is now owner of EarthJoy Life Coaching and Wellness, a life coaching and wellness service, located right in the heart of New Edinburgh.

"What I do is so relevant as it's applicable to anyone. I can guide people through transitions, change, relationships, and forks in the road," says Marta.

"Having a positive support can really make a difference in how well you manage all aspects of life...work, school, retirement, family, relationships."

"No matter where you are in life," says Marta, "speaking to an objective person can be freeing and provides a safe place to explore your



Photo courtesy of Paul Denys

Paul Denys helped restore the Graziadei House on St. Andrew St.

thoughts and feelings, which can lead to self awareness and gaining clarity."

And, that is just the life coaching aspect of Earth Joy services. The other element she delivers is Wellness Coaching and Stress Management with an added layer of health advocacy.

"I often help people navigate health challenges," she says. With her experience working within and alongside the healthcare system, she has the seeded knowledge to connect individuals to all the right resources they need to push towards better health every day.

Ask her why she opened Earth Joy and she tells *New Edinburgh News*, "it has been a long time coming and I see such a need for it. I am a big believer in following your heart."

"At the end of the day, I help people adopt a very simple but important motto: live like you matter," says Marta. "If we all carried through with that motto, we would create an environment of growth and possibility."

You can find Earth Joy in New Edinburgh Square located at 35 Beechwood Ave. Call to make your first appointment at 613-277-7124 or earthjoylife@gmail.com. Services are personal, professional and confidential. *EGS*

Paul Denys Design Build

Paul Denys needs no introduction in our community where he has been a regular advertiser in the *NEN* for many years, and has played an active role both in tackling local renovation projects and as a participant in a community workshop on home techniques for water and energy conservation. Paul is highly regarded throughout the Ottawa-Gatineau region as a master carpenter, skilled

designer, builder and problem solver, and as a leader in the field of heritage restoration. He has an impressive litany of award-winning projects in his portfolio which includes the **Alexandre Taché House** in Gatineau, **Bolton House**, **Parent House**, **Patterson House**, **Laurier House** and **Rochon House** on St. Patrick where he worked from an original photograph to recreate an ornate two-storey porch. On his website at denys.ca, you'll find images and descriptions of both his work on heritage houses, and his extensive portfolio of more modern renovations of kitchens, bathrooms, workspaces and family rooms.

Since the time of our last report on Paul's activities about a year ago, he has been busily engaged in a number of new heritage restoration projects, bringing to bear his carpentry skills and his perfectionist's attention to detail to turn back the ravages of time and restore older houses to their former glory. Paul is also a keen amateur histo-

rian and takes a lively interest in both the architectural and human background of the homes on which he works.

One of his recent projects was **McCarthy House** (1884) on Sweetland Avenue, an undertaking which he describes as "reviving a Gothic revival." Paul worked on the porch roof structure and installed new columns, railing and decking at the front of the house, adding a new colour scheme in keeping with the period of the house. He managed to find a suitable salvage door and hardware, and painstakingly repaired, stripped and painted the door to complete the "revival" of the front entrance. In the course of his work, he discovered that the house was built in conjunction with an early effort to develop the western portion of the Colonel By Estate as a residential area, and had belonged at one point in the 1920s to John Whitcher, a supervisor at the Grand Trunk Railway.

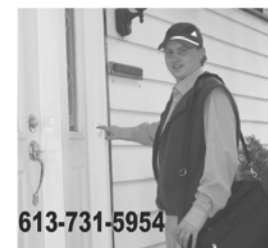
Graziadei House (1908), a duplex on St. Andrew Street, was another of Paul's recent heritage challenges. While undertaking a complete restoration of the building's Juliet balcony (replacing floor, railing posts and roof), he unearthed a wealth of intriguing details about the property's musical history. It was originally purchased by Rocco Antonio Graziadei, one of the first Italians to settle in Ottawa in about 1884 and the city's first professional harpist. Paul discovered a photo of Rocco on the porch of the original

Continued on page 12

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Malcolm and John Harding

Continued from page 11

structure (built prior to the present day duplex), where a sign in the window proclaims "Available for Balls, Parties and Receptions." Rocco produced a large musical family of five boys and five girls, many of whom collaborated to form the Graziadei Orchestra, which was much in demand in the 1890s at such local hotspots as the Chateau Laurier ballroom, the former Russell House and Rideau Hall.

Paul cheekily describes his work on the Beaux-Arts Italianate style **Bouvrette House** (circa 1908) as the "salvation of an ascension", referring to his painstaking restoration of an ornate staircase that had been badly damaged when the house was separated into apartments. Among many other details, the work involved the recreation of the banister and main newel post, which he achieved by fashioning copies of the spindles and newel post based on the original structure. At the end of the process, he discovered handsome horizontal tongue and groove bead boards behind the drywall of the sloped ceiling, opening these up to the light of day. In his historical investigation of the house,

Paul discovered that it was built by **Joseph Bourque**, a well-known builder in Hull's early days, and sold to **Albert Bouvrette**, a local teacher whose family continued to live there until the late 1960s.

One of Paul's more modern recent makeovers involved the bathroom in a Daly Street residence—a project which he dubbed "The Devil and the Details". The devil in the bathroom was an ungainly boxin chimney flue between the toilet and bathtub that was eventually removed to create a more harmonious design and a brighter feel to the whole space. The details that followed included the installation of a dual-purpose window doubling as a storage compartment for shampoos and conditioners, along with a new floor, ceiling and wall completing the transformation. And the finishing touch, according to Paul: "the '57 Chevy Blue colour on the walls!"

Over his long career as a design builder, Paul has acquired a well-earned reputation as one of the best in the business on the Ottawa scene, thanks to his artistry as a master carpenter, his impressive problem-solving skills and versatility, and his broad-ranging expertise, spanning a wide spectrum from intri-

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS



Photo by Louise Imbeault Owner Andre Cloutier (inset) is proud of the sausages on offer at Clarkstown Kitchen. Over at his Gastropub, chef Harriet Clunie (right) has joined the team.

cate heritage restorations to the redesign of cutting-edge modern kitchens and bathrooms using the latest green building technologies. Contact him at 613-236-6516 or info@denys.ca. JH

Clarkstown Kitchen and Gastropub news

Local restaurateur *extraordinaire* **André Cloutier** continues to have both hands firmly on the tiller managing two of the most popular eateries on the Beechwood food scene. **The Clarkstown Kitchen**, which launched in August 2015 as the reinvented successor to the long-running **El Meson**, is reportedly thriving, not least because of chef **Tom Moore's** signature gourmet sausage dishes which have attracted a large and appreciative following from throughout the area.

If you haven't paid a recent visit, there are two current specials to bear in mind when planning your next Clarkstown evening. "Wine down Wednesdays" mark the mid-week with attractively priced Clarkstown-label wines at \$20 a bottle, a virtual steal in relation to average restaurant wine prices, and a welcome break if you happen to be hosting a larger group of enthusiastic wine bibbers, as we were on the occasion of our son's birthday this winter. And from Monday through Wednesday, The Clarkstown features a three-course dinner, including any appetizer, one of Tom's signature sausage creations and a dessert, for a comparatively modest \$30. There are five tasty selections from which to choose in the case of the sausage mains, including lamb and rosemary, beef short-rib and orange, chicken lemongrass,



Photo by Wayne Cuddington

pork cilantro and citrus and chorizo.

If you happen to be planning a larger gathering such as a birthday party, a wedding reception, a business dinner meeting or just a get together with friends, consider reserving the spacious private dining room on the second floor at The Clarkstown where André's kitchen will provide a three- or four-course dinner, with selections from a slightly abbreviated menu in the case of very large groups. Call the restaurant at **613-744-8484** and arrange to check out the space for the next festive occasion on your calendar.

As always, things are hopping at the **Beechwood Gastropub**, and indeed, have never stopped hopping since it opened its doors in the fall of 2014. Weekends are especially lively, but starting in January, a new "Monday Funday" special has drawn increasing numbers of weekday diners, thanks to the tempting offer of \$1.50 oysters, \$5 mixed drinks and \$5 glasses of wine. The big news from the Gastropub is the recent arrival of new chef **Harriet Clunie**, who is not only well known and highly regarded on the Ottawa food scene, but also a local with deep roots in New Edinburgh.

Harriet has a stellar culinary background, having interned at Beckta with Steve Vardy following her studies at Algonquin College, and gone on to work in such notable Ottawa kitchens as Eighteen, Wellington Gastropub, Murray Street, Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro and Navarra, where she served as sous-chef and later chef de cuisine. Most recently

April 2016

she was the pioneering chef at nearby Des Lokal Kitchen and Bar, which opened on Dalhousie Street in late 2013. And if her name is familiar to some readers, it's no surprise as she is the daughter of the **Rev. Canon David Clunie**, the long-serving rector of St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church on MacKay Street, (and reportedly also an excellent cook!). André is delighted to be working with Harriet who has fitted in beautifully to the Gastropub scene. JH

Green and permit-ready home renovation help

We welcome new advertiser **Renzo Cecchetto**, owner/operator of **Funkcional Design**, an independent business offering design and project management services for both residential and commercial projects. Renzo has a solid background in the field, having earned a degree in Industrial Design from Carleton University and a certification in Architectural Technology. He is also a certified designer with the provincial Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, an important credential which equips him to prepare and submit code-compliant permit applications and construction-ready plans to the City Planning Department, a technical hurdle that can often be a challenge for those of us engaged in home renovation projects, which may unwittingly fall afoul of zoning regulations and/or building codes.

In addition to his design skills, Renzo has long experience working on construction sites and has an Associate Certificate in Project Management, equipping him to handle renovation projects from start to finish, managing contractors, coordinating construction permit applications, and dealing with on-site issues on a day to day basis. His company is also a member of the Canadian Green Building Council, enabling him to stay abreast of building science and best practices for sustainable construction and energy conservation.

Renzo started out in the business with a focus on commercial projects, including fit-ups for numerous Canada Post retail outlets and redesign work with businesses such as Telus and Kiddie Kobbler, along with restaurants such as Atelier. Roughly 60 percent of his current proj-

Established roots in the community



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Renzo Cecchetto, owner/operator of Funktional Design.

ects are residential renovations and additions. Many of his jobs involve older houses in mature neighbourhoods, with homeowners typically calling on his design expertise to open up poky main floor interiors to create larger spaces to better accommodate modern family life. He has tackled projects on every scale from single room renovations to major additions, whole house renovations and new-build custom designed homes. While he operates solo as proprietor of Funktional Design, Renzo hires contractors as needed to tackle larger projects. See samples of his work at funktionaldesign.ca.

As a first step in the process, Renzo typically meets with a prospective client to get a detailed picture of their preferences, intentions and requirements. On the basis of this first assessment, he prepares a report reviewing possible design options (often including site sketches and massing sketches); the issues needing to be addressed in carrying out the project, including potential zoning issues related to property set back or other technicalities; and the approximate cost of the design work. Interested readers are welcome to get in touch with him as the spring home-reno season approaches. He can be reached at **613-863-7369**. *JH*

Evertrain Lifestyles

We wish a warm welcome to new advertisers **Julie LeBlanc** and **André St. Amour**, owners of **Evertrain Lifestyles**, a newly launched local business offering personal training, nutritional counselling and lifestyle coaching services. Julie and André are currently residents of The Kavanaugh on

Beechwood, an ideally situated spot both for Julie's work as a teacher at Fern Hill School and for their personal training sessions, which take place not far at **429 St. Laurent Blvd.** in every gym and studio run by **Prime Personal Training** (profiled in our February edition). Julie first joined the Fern Hill staff in January 2014, and is currently teaching French as a second language, core French to Grades 1, 2 and 3, and extended French.

While Julie's work as personal trainer will remain on a part-time basis until the summer school break in June, for André it's a full-time occupation, and he currently works with a roster of clients, the majority of whom are recruited via the Evertrain website at www.evertrainlifestyles.com, or are word-of-mouth referrals as well as from **Leslie Robertson** at the Prime PT studio. Both André and Julie come to the profession from athletic backgrounds; in Julie's case as a competitive figure skater and coach; in André's, as a football player and coach. Both have Can Fit Pro certifications as personal trainers, and both are also certified by the Stretch to Win Institute, which provides training and accreditation in Fascial Stretch Therapy™.

The latter is a relatively new, table-based treatment for those with chronic pain, stiffness, and mobility issues, focusing on the fascia and joint capsules as the key elements in restoring flexibility and range of motion. The fascia is a network of connective tissue surrounding muscles, bones and joints, and when restricted, it can cause painful trigger points, strains and tendonitis, along with poor circulation. The technique can be of particular benefit to those with lower back pain; shoulder, hip and knee injuries; joint replacements; sciatic nerve pain and tension headaches.

If you've had previous treatment for myofascial restrictions, take note:



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Juliet LeBlanc and André St. Amour, owners of Evertrain Lifestyles.

Fascial Stretch Therapy (FST) is **NOT** a "No Pain No Gain" approach! According to André, the technique is an entirely pain-free way to release myofascial restrictions, improve movement and reduce stress. He offers hour-long therapy sessions to gently tune the nervous system to allowing a pain-relieving stretch of the fascia, tailoring his approach to the specific needs of the individual client. Most clients reportedly experience measureable improvement very soon after the start of the treatments, and in some cases, after only one session.

Complementing their FST™ specialty, André and Julie currently offer personal training and nutritional coaching sessions on a one-on-one, semi-private and small group (maximum eight) basis, starting with a free consultation to discuss the prospective client's needs and objectives, and to ensure that there's a fit with the services they offer. Typically, they work with clients two to four times per week, offering six and 12 month packages for those with a serious commitment to improving and maintaining their health and fitness levels.

While the majority of their current clientele are in the 50-65 age group, Julie has just achieved her certification in pre- and post-natal training, and has plans to launch

small group sessions for new and current mothers this summer. Indeed, it promises to be an especially busy summer, as Julie and André are also planning their wedding this August! We wish them a long and happy marriage, and welcome them as both neighbours and local business owners. Contact them at **613-295-8080** or info@evertrainlifestyles.com. *JH*

Freshen up for Spring

The end is in sight for the long season of winter hibernation. As we emerge from our dens and shed the trappings of heavy winter outdoor gear, the ravages of win-

ter will become all too apparent: rough, dry skin from our centrally-heated houses; brittle, unmanageable hair and woefully neglected hands and feet after months shrouded in hats, gloves, socks and heavy boots; and aches and pains from snow shovelling, navigating icy streets and generally coping with the travails of winter. It's about this time of year that a visit to the spa morphs from a pleasant luxury into an absolute necessity!

The capable team at **CELADON**, a long-established full-service day spa at 373 St. Laurent Blvd. (at

Continued on page 14

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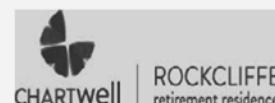
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FUN FRIENDS
FITNESS-GRACE

Continued from page 13

Hemlock) is primed and ready for your visit. Owner **Morna Paterson** promises that whatever your specific post-winter needs, after your treatment(s) "you'll leave feeling energized and refreshed." If your skin needs particular attention, Morna suggests a **microdermabrasion facial**, a deep exfoliation that stimulates the production of collagen and reduces the appearance of fine lines and brown spots. The treatment is currently on special for \$99, reduced from a regular price of \$130.

Another restorative measure recommended by CELADON skin care specialist **Bethany Labyad** is the addition of an antiaging serum to your daily regimen. Bethany suggests you consider trying out a new product from Esthederm called **Derm Repair**, and top that up with the application of a protective moisturizer. To finish the job, she recommends a layer of Cyberderm's **Early Morning Sunwhip**, a local sunscreen product that has reportedly had rave reviews.

If your crowning glory is looking limp and dry after



Photo courtesy of CELADON Salon and Spa
CELADON owner Morna Paterson (third from left) and her team at the Spa.

a winter squished under a toque, CELADON's experienced stylists **Jordan Ferraro** and **Isabel Verez** are standing by to offer precision cuts and creative colouring, along with expert barbering services for the boys and men in the family. If your natural colour has long since faded to gray or white, Jordan recommends a gentle moisturizing shampoo such as Kevin Murphy's Hydrate Me Shampoo and Conditioner to strengthen hair and control pesky fly away strands. And

to make your new do last a bit longer, he suggests trying **Doo.Over**, the latest addition to Kevin Murphy's line which adds volume and texture while mopping up any excess oil or residue.

CELADON makeup artist **Edelaine Piol** is an advocate of mineral make-up, which is particularly recommended for sensitive or acne prone skin, and contains no talc, fillers, binders, colouring or dyes. Jane Ireland, the Skin Care Makeup, is available at the spa, and if you try it you'll

find that a little goes a long way, as the colours are more concentrated and a light hand is called for in its application.


CELADON is also fully equipped with the techniques of post-winter nail rehabilitation, offering a new treatment called **CND Rescue RX** which contains keratin for nail repair and moisturizing jojoba oil. And to help your manicure last longer, the spa offers a top coat of **CND Vinylux** which covers any kind of polish and lasts for up to five days.

Last, but not least, you can complete your beautifying session at the spa with a restorative therapeutic massage from CELADON's experienced RMT **James Pickard** to soothe aches and pains, and reduce stiffness and muscle tensions that so often result from too many hours glued to our electronic devices.


With Mother's Day approaching, gift hunters can check out the CELADON spa packages at www.celadonspa.ca or drop in at **373 St. Laurent Blvd.** to browse the extensive selection of top-of-the-line beauty products. One of the deluxe options on offer is the CELADON Rejuvenator package (\$145) which includes a relaxing infrared sauna, an Essential Facial, a shampoo and style, and the added bonus of a free makeup application from Jane Ireland-The Skin Care Makeup. Give CELADON a call at **613-746-3500** or drop in for a free consultation. *JH*

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Photo from Facebook
(from left) Pasha, Bell and Bear are happy clients of the Beechwood Village Dog Walkers.

by images of happy canines frolicking with four-legged friends in the local parks. On this Facebook group you will see Pippa, Olivia, Oka, and Pasha all enjoying the pathways, fields and forests together during daylight hours.

While many of us dog owners are at work, Beechwood Village Dog Walkers makes sure those dogs don't think about work. They are far more into making sure the local dogs enjoy all the elements – sun, rain, snow – the day had on offer.

"The business was born out of a natural love for dogs," says **Alison Melia**, the New Edinburgh resident who runs the company. "That, and a love for the neighbourhood parks."

Alison works with **Krista Bryden**, whom she calls the dog whisperer. A while back, Krista had helped Alison and her rescue dog find their collective groove. While they worked together to get Alison's dog to adjust to the new home, they realized they both shared a love of dogs. It was the beginning of the dog walking business that would help the dogs of the neighbourhood find their own community of friends, and find their own sense of home.

"Our dogs come to get to know each other well," says Alison. "They go on private or semi-private walks with myself or one of our associates in Stanley, Pine Hill, or the Rockeries and they get what we like to call a 'pack' walk with Krista at the military base."

Dog walking these days isn't just about the walk. It is about letting the owners know their dog is all right and thriving throughout the day. The Beechwood Village Dog Walkers post updates online

for all owners to see and enjoy.

"I love taking pictures of our dogs and try to capture their personalities and share their adventures on our Facebook Group," says Alison.

The company ensures a 60-minute walk for every pooch they care for along with healthy treats and a whole lot of love.

For help with your dog contact Alison at alison.i.melia@gmail.com to bring your dog into this community of dog friends. *EGS*

BURGH BUSINESS BITS

Ola, Hintonburg!

Barrette Street taco queen **Donna Chevrier** announced March 20 via social media that her tiny taqueria will soon be taking over the current **ZaZaZa** location at 1079 Wellington St. W., serving the taco needs of hungry Hintonburg residents. "I am thrilled to be joining forces with the best restaurateur **Ion Aimers** and have **Ola Cocina** grow up ... We will be opening a second location in early May. **HINTONBURG!!**" Donna posted on Facebook. Donna's new business venture with **ZaZaZa** owner **Ion Aimers** will be the latest in Ion's long list of culinary successes. Among the half-dozen eateries and food businesses Ion has been involved with, New Edinburgh residents will know him for starting **The Works** and **ZaZaZa** on Putman, as well as teaming up with the Fraser brothers to launch **Fraser Café** and partnering in Beechwood's new butcher shop, **Muckleston** and **Brockwell** (among other bistros in Ottawa). A resident of **Lindenlea**, Ion has often been seen grabbing lunch at **Ola Cocina**. We wish Donna and Ion best of luck in the

new venture and will bring you further details in our June issue. *CL*

Books on Beechwood

The **Books on Beechwood Book Club** sessions continue apace this spring, starting with discussions of the novel *Outline* by British writer **Rachel Cusk**. The book is a semi-autobiographical account of the narrator's encounters in her travels, her work as a teacher, and her casual social engagements, interactions in which she is a largely passive presence, drawing out her interlocutors and absorbing their stories. **Session 1** takes place on **April 13 at 7:30 pm in the Second Floor Lounge at New Edinburgh Square**, while **Session 2** meets on **April 27 at 7:30 pm in the Penthouse at The Edinburgh Retirement Residence, 10 Vaughan St.**

Coming up in May, the book club will tackle *The Art of Travel* by **Alain de Botton**, a thought-provoking work that takes a critical look at the rewards, vicissitudes and inevitable disappointments of travel "for pleasure." Sessions 1 and 2 will take place on **May 11 and May 25**, respectively, at the same times and locations as the April meetings listed above.

B on B events coming up this spring include three in-store book signings:

- **April 16, 12-2 pm**, Georg Northoff signs *Neurophilosophy and the Healthy Mind*
- **April 23, 12-2 pm**, Karen Molson signs *The Company of Crows*
- **May 14, 1-3 pm**, New Brunswick author **Ian McKinley** will sign copies of *Harbinger*, the first release in his new *Northern Fire* series.

On **April 30**, B on B will celebrate Authors for Indies Day, with writers **Charlotte Gray** and **Brenda Chapman** visiting the store to chat with customers, recommend their favourite reads and sign books. Charlotte will be on hand from 12-1 pm, followed by Brenda from 1 pm-2 pm.

Two interesting **Titles@Table40** sessions are also on the books: **John Boyko**, author of *Cold Fire: Kennedy's Northern Front* is confirmed for April, and **Alain Miguélez**, author of *Transforming Ottawa* is on the schedule for May (precise dates to be confirmed).

To stay abreast of the activities at B on B this spring, keep an eye on their website at www.booksonbeechwood.ca or drop in to the store to get the latest news and pick up some new reading material while you're at it. *JH*

Ontario Green Builder of the Year

For the fourth time in five years, **Minto** took the top prize at the annual EnerQuality Awards where it was named Ontario Green Builder of the Year in the housing industry. The company was cited for its achievements as builders of net-zero, energy ready housing in its Arcadia community in the west end of Ottawa, as well as for its extensive green building initiatives across the board in its residential developments. Congratulations to the team at Minto. We look forward to its emerging green building in our community! *JH*

New physiotherapist at PTI

Pam Siekierski and her team at The Physical Therapy Institute, which recently relocated to **268 Durocher St.** (just off Montreal Road near the Vanier Parkway) are delighted to welcome new physiotherapist **Matthew Boyd**, a graduate of the University of Liverpool with 10 years clinical experience in the U.K., Australia and Canada. Since his graduation, Matthew has continued to acquire new training and specializations in such fields as spine management and dry needling; Mulligan mobilization and movement; DMA clinical pilates; athletic injuries and rehabilitation; and most recently, vestibular and

concussion rehabilitation. His mantra is "don't just get back to normal, get better than normal!" and he looks forward to working with new clients from the community in the months ahead. You can reach him at the clinic at **613-740-0380**.

Also new at PTI is an eight-week series of **Saturday** afternoon **yoga classes** offered to participants with all levels of experience from novice to seasoned yogi. The series launched in mid-March, but runs throughout the month of April so interested readers can give the clinic a call to inquire about registering for the remaining classes, or simply participate on a drop-in basis at \$18 per session. *JH*

Business anniversaries

Congratulations to **Susan Jacobson** and her crew at **Jacobson's Gourmet Concepts**, which celebrated its milestone 10 year anniversary at 141 Beechwood at the end of March. The occasion was marked with a special tea service for clients, echoing the opening day tea when Susan welcomed customers with a cuppa 10 years ago.

In April, **Studio One Personal Training** will mark its third anniversary at 1 Springfield Rd., launching into its fourth year with a new training area and a new trainer, **Lydia Szucs**, an experienced local trainer known to many in the neighbourhood from her work at the Physical Therapy Institute in its previous location at 350 Crichton St. *JH*

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Coach houses are a less intrusive intensification tool



By Gail McEachern, Heritage and Development Committee

Provincial legislation was passed in 2011 that directed Ontario municipalities to amend their official plans to permit the creation of self-contained dwelling units on properties which had existing primary residential structures. In response to this requirement, the City of Ottawa initiated a study in the autumn of 2015 to explore ways in which these new units (referred to as “coach houses”)

could be accommodated. As part of its public consultation process, the City released a discussion paper on the subject and posted an online questionnaire, to which 436 people responded. Included were residents from downtown urban areas, the

suburbs and rural communities. Key highlights of the responses were:

- 80 percent of respondents believed that coach houses are appropriate in all geographic areas,
- 77 percent of respondents would not object to a coach house being built in their



- neighborhood,
- 60 percent of respondents expressed interest in building a coach house.

However, there were some specific concerns raised by the participants:

- The coach houses should fit the character of the neighborhood;

- Mature trees on the property should be preserved;
- The privacy of adjacent neighbors should be respected and protected;
- Shadowing impacts on adjacent neighbours' rear yards should be kept to a minimum, and sunlight penetration into adjacent yards maintained.

After analyzing the public input, the City released a paper in early 2016 entitled Coach Houses: Guiding Principles and Draft Recommendations. Several of the principles, which are particularly significant for New Edinburgh

terms of their size relative to the principal dwelling and that sufficient rear yard amenity area will be retained for both the principal dwelling and the Coach House dwelling.

- Coach Houses will be required to remain as an accessory structure, be on the same lot as the principal dwelling and will not be able to be severed to provide for a separate lot for the Coach House. (Note: this principle supports the newly revised New Edinburgh Historic Conservation District Plan

permitted”).

- Coach Houses will be designed and located to ensure no undue adverse impact on adjacent development with regards to matters such as privacy, shadowing and overlook. Additionally, they will not negatively impact on the streetscape character of the neighborhood and will integrate with the existing streetscape character in the case of corner lots or lots having a secondary frontage on a rear lane.

NECA's Heritage and Development Committee will be meeting shortly to review this document and will be submitting its comments to the Planning and Growth Management Department of the City of Ottawa, in preparation for the Planning Committee Meeting to be held in the late spring or summer. We welcome feedback from the residents of New Edinburgh, and encourage anyone who is interested to go to the following website to obtain more detailed information: ottawa.ca/coachhouses.

(both within and outside the boundaries of the Historic Conservation District), are:

- Coach Houses will be limited in size (maximum footprint and height) to ensure that they are clearly secondary and ancillary to the principal dwelling in

with regard to guidelines for laneways which states: “The remaining lots from Mackay, Stanley, and Crichton streets are an important attribute of the HCD. The severance of these lots to create new lots on the lanes will not be



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Student views on Beechwood's potential

By Madison Marshall, Martha Paiz and Ashleigh Ooi, with contribution from Bailey Cooke

Where is Vanier? What is Vanier? Who is Vanier? These are some of the things we, a University of Ottawa class volunteer group, along with Jamie Kwong, Executive Director of the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area (QVBIA), sought to find answers to last fall. We knew very little about the area. Most of us only knew of it as the neighbourhood across the Rideau River and any shadows of ideas that have been passed around as to its character. It was a strange and unexplored territory for most students who live only steps away in Sandy Hill. Our volunteer placement with the QVBIA gave us the opportunity to discover the area and invest our time in studying the community through its businesses and services.

The goal of this project was to help promote the growth of the neighbourhood by analysing the area and getting input from local merchants.



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Beechwood's greatest quality is its potential for growth... not growth in size but growth in community and social connections through economic development.

The four of us focused solely on Beechwood Avenue at the northern edge of Vanier, with the aim to understand the merchants' needs, determine potential improvement opportunities for the area and its businesses, and identify potential obstacles that might hinder this enhancement. In order to make rec-

ommendations for the neighbourhood, it was important to first understand the current state of Beechwood Avenue, as well as the impression of the area from the consumer's perspective.

Most businesses on Beechwood are independently owned, increasing the well-being and strength of the

community. The merchants who have good connections with the BIA and fellow vendors reinforce this strength in their effort to work toward community growth and achieve a goal common to all parties.

Beechwood Avenue's greatest quality is its potential for growth. This is not growth in size but growth in community and social connections through economic development. The new condo construction, the business variety, the renovated storefronts and the beautification of the streets illustrate the effort to become something new, improved and proud to share with the surrounding community. If this effort and effect spreads, then Vanier has a bright and instrumental role in Ottawa's future and reputation.

Quaint qualities such as the boutique-type shops and a mixture of services make the neighbourhood stand out. What would be ideal is to have the vacant lots along the street improved upon with new businesses that also tar-

get demographics outside of the community. A tightly packed street of shops is appealing to consumers. It looks lively and provides all the necessities in one area, which is a huge draw to residents and to consumers from outside the neighbourhood. Beechwood could become an upscale Bank Street if it livens up the storefronts and brings in merchants with new ideas and services to match the demand of the downtown and university communities. The younger demographic make up a large portion of today's consumer population. Targeting them and drawing their interest and investment into the area would boost the community and bring a breath of fresh air. The community already shows strength within itself, but this would only make it stronger and mark a forward step in determining its future.

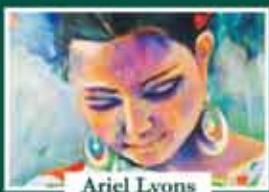
Vanier is becoming ever more accessible by bus, by cycling and by foot. People want to discover a new area and find something about it that makes it unique; somewhere to call their own place in this ever-expanding city. We say make it Vanier, make it Beechwood.

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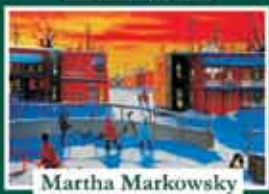
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Refugee family expected by year's end

By Rosemary MacDonald

St. Bartholomew's Church is sponsoring the immigration to Ottawa of a Syrian refugee family of five, including two boys and a girl, ages 12, 9 and 6 years old. The family was living a middle class existence in Syria when the civil war broke out. The father was employed in a medical/laboratory-related industry. When the conflict moved to their region in 2011, the family sought protection originally by moving to another Syrian city as displaced persons. They were able to re-settle in rental accommodation, and the father was able to find work in his field.

However, in 2013 the conflict spread again to their area when the city was targeted by rocket fire. So in October 2013, the family moved again to a small city dominated by displaced Christians, where the father found employment as an agrarian worker. A year

later, he was kidnapped and beaten – targeted as a result of his Christian background. The police made clear they would not be able to protect the family as a result of the worsening security situation. In early 2015, they fled Syria for Lebanon in search of protection.

While the family is safer in Lebanon than in Syria, as Syrian refugees they face discrimination. The father has not been able to find work; the three children are not going to school. Over the past five years, they have been displaced three times in search of safety; they are on the verge of using up what little remains of their own resources, and they feel unsafe and unwanted in Lebanon. United Nations agencies and community groups have been providing for basic needs while the family awaits consideration of their resettlement application.

Thanks to the warm and

generous response of parishioners and neighbours in New Edinburgh and Lindenlea, the funds necessary to support this family have now been raised. The family's arrival date in Ottawa is still unknown, but the processing of private sponsorships generally takes around 11 months, so it's anticipated that the family may not arrive until year's end. In the meantime, efforts are ongoing at St. Bart's to organize the tasks and find the supplies necessary to welcome the family and get it well started on its new life in Canada. Given the great support the church's effort has received from so many people, we are now actively considering the sponsorship of a second Syrian family.

For further information or to offer help, please contact Rosemary MacDonald, coordinator, Church of St. Bartholomew's Refugee Committee, at refugees.stbarts@gmail.com.

Farmers' Market at St. Charles for 2016

By Chris Penton, manager,
Beechwood Market

I would like to thank you all for making the Winter Edition of the Beechwood Market a success. One of few winter markets in the city, the winter edition's momentum allows us to launch into the summer with great confidence.

With the third season of the Beechwood Market starting this July comes a new location, new look and new energy.

Our move will be short and meaningful, across the street to the Marché St Charles – the former St Charles Church at 131 Barrette St. Many of you have read about the plans for this parcel of land

(turn to page 24 for more details). The introduction of the Beechwood Market for the 2016 season will lay the foundation for some of those long-term goals.

Set to take place on the front lawn of the current property, the lush, grassy field will give the market a new feel and much larger footprint. Able to accommodate over 40 vendors, the increased scale of the operation will be noticeable and more streamlined. Equipped with the compulsory live music, kids' activities and Beechwood Brunch, quality products remain the main draw.

With this new set-up comes a new energy. One step closer to becoming a regular des-

tinuation for the whole city, the larger scale of the market will draw more attention to Beechwood Village. With so much to offer, from tree-lined streets to sidewalk patios to exciting new developments, a key goal of this year's marketing campaign is to shake things up a bit, make some noise and gain some notoriety on a citywide scale.

Ottawa is a city in flux; the East end must not be left behind.

In order to stay connected to the Beechwood Market, please become part of our Community by signing up at beechwoodfm@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. See you in July!

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Broadening the boundaries of what Quartier Vanier means



By Jamie Kwong
QVBIA chair

Over the last year, I have had the pleasure of living and working in this dynamic neighborhood, which I will refer to as the Quartier Vanier. As a renter in what is technically the New Edinburgh side of this community, and as the executive director of the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area with an office located in the heart of Vanier on Montréal Road, I am familiar with distinctions between these neighbourhoods. For the purpose of this article, and I suppose in my regular use of the term "Quartier Vanier" when promoting the general business area as part of my work and seeing the benefit of seeing it as a generalized region / market area, I refer to the area that encapsulates the following five neighbourhoods: Rockcliffe - Manor Park, Lindenlea - New Edinburgh, Overbrook - McArthur, Vanier North, and Vanier South as Quartier Vanier. The reasoning is largely that the geographic boundaries / markers (i.e. bounded by the rivers, St. Laurent Blvd., within the Aviation Parkway and the Queensway) establish the natural market area and the area referred to as 'Ottawa East' by the TRANS Committee (the TRANS Committee was established in 1979 to coordinate efforts between the major transpor-



Photo courtesy Jamie Kwong
Based on the success of 2015's Future Block Party (above), Quartier Vanier community members would like to host another collaborative event. All groups are welcome to participate.

tation planning agencies of the National Capital Region. The six members of the committee span all three levels of government. They include the National Capital Commission, the Ministère des Transports du Québec, the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, Ville de Gatineau, the City of Ottawa, and the Société de transport de l'Outaouais).

A strong community is one in which all its stakeholders can come together and work towards mutually shared vision and goals. This clear commonality is demonstrated within the general Quartier Vanier area, where there are an abundance of dedicated community members, business owners and stakeholders, continually demonstrating that this community is vibrant, welcoming and engaged. All seem to have a great sense of pride in living in this gem of a area, found east of Ottawa but still within its urban core.

The Quartier Vanier area not only exhibits a plethora geographical attributes

(e.g. two rivers, abundance of green spaces and the secluded oasis known as "the pond"), but also the beautiful Beechwood National Cemetery and Muséoparc Vanier's Sugar Bush – the only urban sugar bush in North America. There also are many exciting activities happening in this area throughout the year, such as the Vanier Community Association's Après Snow, Muséoparc's Maple Sugar Festival, the Beechwood Village Alliance-led Beechwood Solstice, NECTAR's Lumière Festival and the local Beechwood Farmers' Market to name a few. In an effort to create a synergy amongst the numerous dedicated community associations, groups, local business owners and residents, last year we co-organized with a small core group to create a pilot for a large-scale community event for the Quartier Vanier area. We were delighted to see that the inaugural Future Block Party of 2015, a free community

event featuring family-friendly, artistic and recreational activities, which brought together over 30 local organizations to creatively animate what was once a vacant lot in Vanier, was a huge success.

Gauging from initial discussions with a wide array of the local community stakeholders, it became apparent that the Quartier Vanier community members would like to host another large-scale, collaborative Future Block Party 2.0 with the overall goal of working together to host an even more spectacular event in 2017. This event is open to all groups to participate, and we'd like to make this as inclusive as possible. So

please share this invitation with others! For more information, please email me at jkwong@vanierbia.com.

Working together with local community partners, we can create a community-oriented and collaborative event, bringing together these five neighborhoods to animate an area during the first weekend of October, using creative elements to illustrate all the positive attributes that make this area so appealing.

To stay up-to-date on all the latest QVBIA news, sign up for our eNewsletter, visit www.vanierbia.com. Follow the QVBIA on Facebook and Twitter.

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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

April in Ottawa is typically a month of anticipation for birders as we await the imminent arrival of waves of migrating species returning to their northern breeding grounds to go about the annual ritual of finding a mate, staking out their territory and producing a brood of young. As I write, the majority of these long-distance travelers have yet to turn up in our area, there's no question that the more southerly portions of the Atlantic Flyway are now chock full of spring migrants winging their way north at speeds of up to 20 m.p.h. and covering staggering distances of as much as 600 miles per day.



Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes
Northern Shrike.

Miraculous migration

The Atlantic Flyway is the most easterly of the four major North American routes, extending all the way from the Arctic Circle down the Atlantic coast as far as the Caribbean. Typically, these vast avian highways are rich in undeveloped habitats with accessible and abundant sources of food and water where migrating flocks can refuel, as well as have sheltered resting places. One of the hotspots on the Atlantic Flyway is New York City, where each spring and fall millions of birds pass through the Big Apple, many of them stopping over in Central Park in waves now known as the "Central Park Effect".

Though it's an obvious truism that the migrants arriving each spring have confronted untold perils and deprivations on their journey, to me it remains a miracle that so many of them survive and

thrive to find mates and bring the next generation into the world. The litany of challenges they can encounter en route north ranges from storms and turbulent weather (greatly exacerbated in recent years by the impact of climate change) to collisions with buildings and tall structures such as wind turbines; light pollution in cities that throws off their navigation systems, and habitat loss resulting from commercial agriculture, clear cutting, urban development and other human activity.

Another more recent hazard is the impact of a warming climate on the timing of the re-emergence of the birds' food supply: the plants and insects on their breeding grounds which they need to sustain them through the energy-intensive breeding process. With the steady escalation of average temperatures, this re-emergence is now often out of sync with the light-related cues that trigger migration, causing some species to shift their breeding ranges north into areas that may be ill-suited to their food, water and shelter requirements, and in some cases, expose them to new dangers in the form of predators, parasites or competitors for breeding turf.

FLAP Canada and Safe Wings Ottawa

Window strikes alone are estimated to kill between 100 million and a billion migrating birds each year, including an estimated nine million plus in Toronto. In response to those sobering statistics, a non-profit organization called the **Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP)** was established to address the problem through a variety of measures, including an emergency rescue service for casualties not killed outright in a collision. Preventive programs and policies developed in collaboration with corporations and residential communities; public awareness campaigns; and data collection to build a comprehensive database of bird collision statistics. The organization is governed by a

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

Board of Directors and run by a group of committed volunteers. Interested readers can find out more about its operations at flap.org.

Here in Ottawa, FLAP's work was the inspiration for a comparable program now operating under the auspices of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. **Safe Wings Ottawa** (safewings.ca) was launched in 2014 as the Ottawa Wing of FLAP, but last fall was rebranded and adopted by the OFNC. Our local coordinators are **Anouk Hoedeman** and **Sarah Kirkpatrick-Wahl** whose team of volunteers works hard on measures to reduce the daunting toll of fatal collisions among migrating species through rescue, prevention and public education programs. It's a fair bet that they would welcome new volunteers, so contact them at 613-216-8999 or info@safewings.ca.

Early Spring birding news

Despite the balmy temperatures in early March, at the time of writing, the spring migration is not yet in full swing, though there are tantalizing signs that it's not far around the corner. In my bailiwick, the cast of characters most often in evidence in our garden and on my walks has included numerous fat overwintering **American robins**, **European starlings**, **black-capped chickadees**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **house sparrows**, **Northern cardinals**, **American goldfinches**, **house finches**, several **purple finches**, **pine siskins**, **Bohemian waxwings**, a solo **Northern shrike** lurking close to a group of bird feeders, and **woodpeckers**—hundreds of woodpeckers, including **pileated**, **downy** and **hairy**. But despite Ron Pittaway's prediction of a major influx of **common redpolls** this year, to date I've spotted only two, a male and a female feeding skittishly below the nyjer feeders in our



Female purple finch at Macoun Marsh. Photo by Mike Leveille



Photo: Santisouk Phommachakr
American Goldfinch.

garden.

True to form, the **Bohemian waxwings** arrived in our neighbourhood in large flocks of several dozen birds, perching in the tree tops along River Lane behind our house in preparation for an onslaught on the richest available supply of mountain ash berries. Sadly, that supply was not in our garden this year, as a large group of hungry **American robins** had stripped the tree bare earlier in the winter, so we weren't able to get a close up view of this colourful crowd descending on our mountain ash.

Waxwing Who's Who:

Bruce Di Labio noted in his recent *Ottawa Citizen* birding columns that the Bohemian waxwing flocks you've spotted this winter may include one or two **cedar waxwing** cousins, although for the most part this species is not in evidence until spring, unless (as was the case this year) fruit and berry crops are especially abundant through the colder months. If you struggle to distinguish these two waxwing variants, here are a few tips:

Similarities:

- Waxy red blobs or secretions on the secondary feathers;
- Yellow-tipped tails;
- Shaggy crested heads and dark "Zorro" masks; and
- A strong predilection for berries and fruit as the staple in their diets.

Differences in Size:

- Bohemian waxwings are larger (8" vs. 7" long), and chunkier, weighing almost twice as much as the streamlined cedar waxwing;

Differences in Plumage:

- **Undertail:** The Bohemian's is a deep rusty,

chestnut colour, in contrast to the plain white of the cedar waxwing;

- **Chest and belly:** The Bohemian's is a uniform grayish-beige, while the cedar's chest is brownish chest with a yellow wash on the belly;
- **Wing feathers:** The Bohemian's are more strikingly coloured with golden yellow and white, and white on the upper wings, vs. the plain gray of the cedar waxwing;

Differences in Behaviour:

- Bohemian waxwings move around in large (sometimes massive) flocks, while cedar waxwings tend to be more solitary;
- Except in very late fall or winter, any waxwing you spot around here will be a cedar waxwing, as the nomadic Bohemians spend most of the year in their breeding grounds in the far north.

Signs of Spring

While many of the birds in evidence right now have spent the winter here, there are clear signs that the spring breeding season is not far off. Beginning in late February, the **black-capped chickadees**, **Northern cardinals** and **house finches** began singing their signature melodies to attract mates and stake out their territories. At about the same time, the incessant drumming of **woodpeckers** started in earnest, as the **pileateds**, **downys** and **hairys** went to work for the same purposes, compensating for their lack of a distinctive song by communicating via the resonant hammering. Once again this year, I've encountered an energetic **pileated woodpecker** hard at work in the Rideau Hall woods just off Princess Avenue, drumming with such force and persistence that no competitor would be tempted to invade his turf.

Woodpecker helmet laws?

With concussion injuries so much to the fore in public discussion these days, many birders may wonder how these avian hammerheads manage to avoid serious brain damage in the course of these noisy rites of spring. It appears, however, that through the miracle of evolutionary adaptation, the physiology of the species is cleverly designed to protect the brain and avoid injury. When the bird bores into the tree,

its drill-like strike is perfectly perpendicular, minimizing the rotational forces on the brain which sever neuronal connections and cause concussions. Its brain also fits snugly into its skull and is enveloped in a casing of bone that is dense, but slightly forgiving like the foam inside crash helmets. And yet more protection is afforded both by the powerful muscles in the bird's head that contract to absorb and distribute shocks, and by its extra-long tongue which wraps around its brain.

Bruce Di Labio's birding overview

Ottawa Citizen birding columnist **Bruce Di Labio** covers a wide swath of our region in his weekly columns, and in recent weeks has had reports of a number of unusual sightings at backyards feeders, all of them species which would not normally be around in winter but which appear to have stayed the course. These included a pair of **Northern flickers** at a suet feeder; **chipping sparrows**; **white-crowned sparrows**; a **savannah sparrow**; a **fox sparrow**; a **tufted titmouse**; **brown-headed cowbirds**; a **gray catbird**; and a **Northern mockingbird**.

Sadly, the tale of the **summer tanager**, which frequented backyards along Avon Lane throughout the winter, did not have a happy ending. According to Di Labio, the bird was picked up in a parlous state on Feb. 13 and taken to the Wild Bird Care Centre where it was euthanized several days later due to severe frostbite. While the rescued female **Bullock's oriole** sighted in Pakenham is apparently still recovering well from its frosty near-death experience earlier this winter, its actual identity may be in question after recent DNA testing. Although the analysis of its feathers led to its classification as a Bullock's oriole, DNA tests subsequently revealed that it's actually a hybrid – and may not even be a female!

In early March, Di Labio reported several welcome harbingers of spring, including a flock of **red-winged blackbirds** south of Ottawa; numerous sightings of **wild turkeys**, the ugly ducklings of the avian world which have reportedly been spotted perching awkwardly on platform feeders and sashaying up on to people's back

porches; **common ravens** engaging in their aerial courtship rituals; and a pairing off among **American crows** and **red-tailed hawks** in preparation for the breeding season.

Early migrant line up on the way

As we head into the spring, be on the look-out for the early waves of returning migrants including **red-winged blackbirds** (already here in small numbers, including several at my feeders recently); **song sparrows**; **turkey vultures**; **golden-crowned kinglets**; **great blue herons**; **rusty blackbirds**; **common grackles**; **Northern flickers**; **eastern phoebes**; **brown creepers**; **fox sparrows**; **dark-eyed juncos**; **pine warblers** and **ruby-crowned kinglets**. And of course **American robins**, though many of these have been around all winter so it may be tricky to distinguish who's who. It's also probable that we'll see an influx of more **sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's hawks** to join the overwintering contingent, and a virtual certainty that **Canada geese** will be flooding in in large numbers to resume their dominant place along our waterways – in fact (alas!), they're already here and as I write, several are perched proudly on ice floes hurtling towards the Rideau Falls!

Reports from the field

Local wild life photographer **Francine Ouellette**, whose fine photographs have been featured in this column on numerous occasions, recently captured a moment of avian drama, as two amorous male ducks competing for the attentions of the same female went to bat to stake their claims. A male **Northern pintail** in full breeding plumage had been feeding amidst a gaggle of mallards and was apparently smitten by a mallard female.



Male Northern Pintail.



Mallard and Northern Pintail.

Photo by Francine Ouellette

His approaches were aggressively intercepted by a male mallard and a scuffle ensued involving a good deal of chest bumping and pecking at the opponent's neck feathers. I wonder who won the day?! Find Francine's remarkable work at redbubble.com/people/digitallystill

Amy-Jane Lawes reports that winter has been relatively quiet in Val-des-Monts, Que., although her feeders have been kept busy a group of regulars including several **pileated woodpeckers** making short work of the suet cakes, 60-plus **American goldfinches** turning up on a daily basis, **pine siskins** and **black-capped chickadees** which have recently resumed their signature *fee-bee* calls as breeding season approaches. A highlight earlier this winter was the visit of a juvenile **Northern shrike** which lurked outside her living room window, keeping a keen eye on the chickadee traffic at the feeders. In early March, Amy spotted the first **common redpoll** of the season (a solo arrival), but so far her expectations of a major wave of this irruptive species have

been disappointed.

In her excursions into Ottawa, Amy managed to spot the **summer tanager** which spent much of the winter in backyards along Avon Lane, contriving to stay alive on the seed at local feeders. She also encountered a robust **Cooper's hawk** in downtown Ottawa, a handsome creature which she was able to capture at relatively close range. During an expedition on Old Quarry Trail on Feb. 29, Amy met up with a group of sociable **wild turkeys** which gobbled happily at the seed around her feet, and were eventually joined by a group of equally fearless porcupines which sidled up to her in search of treats.

This winter, Calgary birder and accomplished photographer **Santisouk Phommachakr** paid a visit to his sister **Sengmany** at her home at 39 Charles St., where he kept a close eye on local bird life during his stay, kindly sharing his photographic record of his sightings with the *NEN*. Santisouk's tally included **Northern cardinals**, **house finches**, **American goldfinches**, a **sharp-shinned hawk**, **downy woodpeckers** and an out-of-season **white-throated sparrow** in Sengmany's backyard. He also mentioned that last winter, Sengmany received an unexpected visit from a pair of **American woodcocks** which dropped by her Charles Street garden – a surprise to me, as I lived in the house next door for 20 years and no woodcock ever crossed our threshold!

Mike Leveille reported in mid-March that that Macoun Marsh has had plenty of **dark-**

eyed juncos, **American goldfinches**, **chickadees**, **downy woodpeckers**, **hairy woodpeckers**, **mourning doves**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, and **house finches** around its feeding stations, along with the occasional **American robin** and most recently, **red-winged blackbird** males and **purple finches**.

Philip MacAdam reports that his avian bistro has been hopping with the usual cast of characters including **American goldfinches**, **house finches**, **purple finches**, **black-capped chickadees**, **Northern Cardinals**, **white-breasted nuthatches** and...squirrels, dozens of them doing dare-devil lunges at the nyjer and safflower feeders. In his neighbourhood rambles, Philip has also spotted a flock of overwintering **American robins**, along with **pileated woodpeckers** and a very large **hawk** which he was unable to positively identify but which may have been a **red-tailed hawk** since these raptors are on the move right now as we enter the breeding season. During a recent winter break in Costa Rica, Philip braved the crushing heat to keep an eye on the local bird-life, spotting, among others, **pelicans**, **mourning doves**, **snowy egret**, **tri-coloured herons** and menacing looking **vultures**.

Along with 240 other keen birders, Victoria, B.C.-based **Vicki Metcalfe** took part in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count in December, learning a good deal about the quite complex logistics of bird counts in the process. Participants collectively covered an astonishing 1,100 km. in the course of their four hour treks, logging a total of 141 species and close to 72,000 individuals. The tally for Vicki's group was a respectable 67 species and just under 6,000 individual birds. Among the highlights of the day were the sighting of a **yellow-breasted chat** and a **redwing**, a rare Eurasian visitor which subsequently attracted birders from throughout Canada and the U.S. in the course of the next two weeks. Our congratulations to Vicki who has just been appointed to the Board of the Victoria Natural History Society!

L'école Saint-Charles, un témoin du patrimoine scolaire franco-ontarien

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

L'ancienne école Saint-Charles, située au 21, chemin Springfield, dans Ottawa-Est-New Edinburgh, s'avère un repère très important de la lutte des Franco-Ontariens et des Franco-Ontariennes pour leurs droits scolaires au XXe siècle.

En effet, tout comme l'école Guigues, située dans la Basse-Ville d'Ottawa, l'école Saint-Charles a été témoin de la longue bataille des francophones de l'Ontario contre le Règlement XVII, adopté en 1912, qui interdisait l'enseignement en français

au-delà de la deuxième année du primaire. Le gouvernement de l'Ontario veut alors imposer l'anglais comme la seule langue d'enseignement dans les écoles primaires de la province et souhaite assimiler les élèves franco-ontariens.

La première ministre de l'Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, a d'ailleurs présenté le 21 février dernier des excuses officielles au nom du gouvernement de l'Ontario pour cette injustice à l'égard de la communauté franco-ontarienne faite il y a un siècle. Soulignons que le Règlement XVII a été mis en veilleuse en 1927 et aboli en 1944. Cela dit, ses effets assimilateurs se feront sentir sur plusieurs générations.

Deux grands architectes

L'école Saint-Charles est érigée en 1910 selon les plans des architectes ottaviens Moses Chamberlain Edey (1845-1919) et Francis Conroy Sullivan (1882-1929). Ces derniers visent à ériger une école très fonctionnelle. Malheureusement, il ne reste plus dans la capitale que deux immeubles scolaires érigés par ces deux célèbres



Photograph par Louise Imbeault
L'ancienne école Saint-Charles servait la communauté franco-ontarienne pour presque 100 ans, puis en 1992 fut convertie en lofts.

architectes.

Le magnifique bâtiment en brigue rouge repose sur de solides fondations en pierre au parement brut. L'édifice scolaire se démarque par ses assises de ceinture en pierre, ses parements unis et ses belles clés au-dessus des fenêtres.

Par ailleurs, l'œil attentif observera la corniche en métal qui s'appuie sur un vaste fronton à consoles ainsi que plusieurs belles décorations sur la façade. Enfin, on peut toujours bien voir en grosses lettres, juste au-dessus de l'entrée principale, le nom de l'école.

Une nouvelle vocation

L'immeuble scolaire sert à la communauté franco-ontarienne pendant presque 100 ans et ferme définitivement ses portes en 1992. Heureusement, l'ancienne école ne tombe pas comme tant d'autres sous le pic des démolisseurs, mais est plutôt convertie par la suite en lofts.


Par surcroît, le bâtiment est protégé pour les générations à venir, puisqu'il est désigné monument historique en vertu de la Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario.

Somme toute, l'ancienne école Saint-Charles constitue un très bel exemple de nouvelle vocation pour un monument historique qui continue à témoigner de la longue présence francophone dans la capitale fédérale.

Michel Prévost organise pour les groupes de dix personnes et plus des visites guidées du quartier New Edinburgh et du patrimoine franco-ontarien d'Ottawa. Vous pouvez le joindre au 613-562-5825 ou par courriel à Michel.Prevost@uottawa.ca.


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30 CLARIDGE HOMES

Fern Hill students put 'fun' into fundraising

By Christine Minas

Imagine a school full of yellow- and blue-clad children and teachers dressed up as minions, featuring characters from the movie of the same name. That's what visitors to Fern Hill School saw last fall. Dressing up as characters for a day is a fun way to raise funds for good causes, such as the Snowsuit Fund, and encourage students to enjoy themselves in the process.

At Fern Hill, grade school children belong to one of four Houses, named after Canadian National Parks -- Yoho, Banff, Grasslands, and Terra Nova -- where they work together to achieve goals. This helps children of different ages and stages interact and learn from each other. This year, students took part in a series of House Spirit Events. For a \$2 contribution, participating students were able to forego their usual uniform to dress in unique themes. Minion Day featured many children dressed in yellow t-shirts, blue coveralls, black shoes and the ubiquitous goggles celebrating their favourite minion. Even the principal, Deborah Gutierrez, was wrapped in the iconic gray and black striped scarf and spoke in her best Gru accent. Other spirit event themes included Mismatched Day; Pyjama Day; Crazy Tie, Tights and Headband Day; United in Red Day and Aloha!

Hawaiian Day. It was a sight to see girls dressed in traditional green and black tartan tunics with pink and purple polka-dot tights. The boys got into the spirit as well, featuring orange ties and blue and yellow bow ties. Pyjama Day was a big success as all children enjoyed the coziness of their nightwear during the day. Each House collected the Toonies raised from these themed days.

The funds raised contribute to improving the lives of children at Fern Hill School and beyond. Moneys raised this year will be used to buy SMART boards for the grade school classrooms. Last year's efforts resulted in new basketball nets for the playground. Beyond the immediate environment, Fern Hill students' efforts will go towards the Child Amputee Program, CHAMPS. Interest in this charity came about when students learned that the lead French teacher's daughter, an amputee as a result of an accident, had become a Pararower. Veronique Boucher hopes to represent Canada in rowing at the Para-Olympics to be held in Brazil this summer. She visited the school in September to tell her story to students and to encourage them to pursue their dreams. This presentation took place on the same day as the Terry Fox School Day Run, an event featuring races among



Fern Hill students dressed up for Minion Day and took part in Tacky Tights and Ties Day, raising funds for their school and beyond.
Photos by Brittany Smith



the grade school students and celebrating the 35th anniversary of this heroic Canadian's run across Canada.

Located on tranquil Vaughan Street in New Edinburgh,

Fern Hill School is an independent school offering programs from pre-school to Grade 6. In addition to a strong science curriculum, Junior Kindergarten to Grade

6 programs include extended French. After-school activities include, dance, piano, Jiu Jitsu, drama, cooking, math and Spanish. Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is currently underway.



Avon Lane with snowbanks piled high against the garages.

Sketch by Martha Markowsky

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Over the coming months, we will be planning activities and events inspired by this new crew of volunteers, alongside our tried and true speaker series, community events and classes.

We have a great line-up of exciting new activities at Nectar this spring and summer. There is the second New Edinburgh History Series – three evenings of local lore as a follow-up to the highly acclaimed first series. Also **Clutter Cleaning – Inside and Out**, an intriguing way to organise our lives. Over the summer months a new camp for kids is being facilitated by the Ottawa Robotics Academy.

Our very popular **Food Talks** continue in April with Warren Sutherland who will give us a preview of his new, local restaurant called Sutherland at The Kavanaugh. In May, we welcome Andrew Muckleston, proprietor of Muckleston and Brockwell – A Fine Butchery who will provide us with great ideas for the barbecue season.

Another new feature is **The Nectar Book Exchange** located in the kitchen at 255 Mackay – “Bring One/ Take One” when you come to class or during office hours.

Sean

Sean Flynn
Chair

CLUTTER CLEARING – Inside and Out
CLUTTER CLEARING – Tips on how to get started. Take advantage of the summer weather and have a yard sale or participate in one, clear out those closets and let summer uplift the rest of your year.

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INSTRUCTOR: Rachel Segal
TO REGISTER: Rachel@ajoyfulthing.com or 613.413.1449
FEE: \$15 per session or \$35 for all 3
TIME: June 9, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
LOCATION: 255 MacKay

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ROBOTICS CIRCLE (AGES 4-8)
Session 1: July 4–8, 9:00 – 11:30 am
Session 2: July 25–29, 1:00 – 3:30 pm

ROBOTICS SQUARE (AGES 9-14)
August 8-12, 9:00– 11:30 am

TO REGISTER: www.ottawaroboticsacademy.ca
FEE: \$175 plus HST per participant
LOCATION: 255 MacKay

MAXIMUM number of participants: 20

HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES

Glory Days: The Golden Age of New Edinburgh Sports

Discover how New Edinburgh made astonishing contributions to the development of hockey. Five players who started their careers in our community entered the Hockey Hall of Fame. In addition, New Edinburgh has enjoyed equally impressive achievements in canoe paddling, a hugely popular and highly competitive sport for men and women at the time.

SPEAKER: Don MacLean
FEE: \$10
TIME: May 17, 7:30 pm
LOCATION: 255 MacKay

Thomas McKay:

The “Laird” of New Edinburgh

Come and explore the world of Thomas McKay and the very early years of New Edinburgh. This talk will provide a glimpse of Thomas McKay, the founder of New Edinburgh.

SPEAKER: Martha Edmond
FEE: \$10
TIME: May 24, 7:30 pm
LOCATION: 255 MacKay

The Bell House: Its Past and Present

The Bell House, built in 1868 with later additions, is one of New Edinburgh's most outstanding historical homes. Janet Uren will introduce its history and the family of the Yorkshire-born doctor who built it.

PLEASE NOTE: All participants must register in advance. Contact Ann Davis at 613.748.5643 or adavis@ucalgary.ca.

SPEAKERS: Janet Uren and Josse Bruinsma
FEE: \$10
TIME: May 31, 7:30 pm
LOCATION: 151 Stanley Street

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Development projects along Beechwood set to gear up come Spring

By Jane Heintzman

Not surprisingly, the late-arriving winter weather in February and early March threw a few curves into the Minto construction schedule, giving rise to minor delays and occasioning some elaborate protective and remedial measures on the part of the crew. Site Superintendent Chris Biggar is popularly

known by the Minto team as “the weather guy”, tracking the daily forecasts with all the dedication of a meteorologist, and pulling out all the stops to minimize the impact of storms and adverse weather events through a variety of ingenious schemes.

In anticipation of the epic 51 cm snowfall in February, Chris arranged to have a pro-

ductive tarp thrown over a massive concrete slab, which was about to be installed at the second floor level. When the snowfall was over, the powerful crane was enlisted to pick up the slab and shake it off like a sandy beach towel, dumping the piles of snow into waiting trucks, which promptly removed it from the site. Later, when a

freezing rain and sleet event followed hard on the heels of the snowstorm, Chris had the second floor area under construction covered with a tarp and heated so the precipitation obligingly melted on contact. While inevitably these and other weather events occasioned short delays, the situation could have been far worse without the foresight and ingenuity of Minto’s “weather man.”

Indeed, according to High Rise manager Kevin Harper, progress is still on track to meet the original target of late fall 2016 occupancy of the new building, and once winter is over, it will be full speed ahead toward the structure’s topping off this spring. At the time of our interview, Kevin was busily preparing for the first public topping off event on April 2 when buyers and prospective buyers will be invited to don steel-toed boots and hard hats to take a tour of the fourth or fifth floor to get a first-hand look at the layout of the marked-out suites and take in the surrounding views. If you are interested in taking the tour, check out minto.com/ottawa/New-Edinburgh-new-condos/MintoBeechwood/main.html for details. There will likely be other public events later in the spring as the structure rises to its full height.

Though winter has been a predictably slow season, condo sales have been steady and Minto has continued to meet its sales targets for the building, with over 100 buyers now confirmed and numerous prospective purchasers actively interested. At this stage, Minto has stepped up its regular communications with buyers to keep them fully informed of progress towards completion of their new homes, and a member of the company’s new Customer Experience team has recently been assigned to Minto Beechwood to serve as the first line of communication.

On the commercial front, the cone of silence remains in place as negotiations continue for the third and largest of the three available spaces, not yet committed but of active interest to a number of businesses. Kevin reports that a number of these prospective applicants are smaller operations, so it remains a possibility

that the large space now on offer may ultimately be subdivided in the final layout. This is welcome news as the message was sent loud and clear in the course of Minto’s consultations with the neighbourhood that small, independent stores were our strong preference, and lots of them.

In early March, the Minto Beechwood team, along with its landscape architect J.D. Fountain and Associates, met with City officials to work on the integration of Minto’s plans for the Beechwood frontage of the building with the City’s new plans for the corridor as a whole. The company has handed over an easement to give the City a wider right of way at the site, and is gearing up for the start of work on the sidewalk later this summer.

Pub building makeover set to start

As signaled in the Business Briefs report on the imminent closure of the New Edinburgh Pub at Beechwood and Crichton, renovation of the building is about to be launched this spring, beginning with the demolition of the interior post-April 9 (see pages 1 and 10 for details). The building owners anticipate that the ambitious project, which entails the enclosure of the second floor and transformation of the exterior façade, should take about three months from start to finish, with their portion of the work wrapping up by late July. Thereafter, new tenants Royal Oak Pubs will begin their interior rebuild with a target of completion and opening by late fall. Pharmacist and building co-owner Frank Tonon assured the NEN that no disruptions of normal pharmacy operations are anticipated throughout the construction. We’ll bring you up to date on progress in our June issue before the summer break.

St. Charles plans progressing well

The Site Plan Control application for the planned ModBox commercial/residential development on the St. Charles Church property is currently progressing apace through the City planning process, and in early March, the proposal was presented to the Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) for consideration

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and comment. The next step in the process will involve updating the drawings to take into account the latest feedback from the UDRP, at which point a revised proposal will be submitted to the Planning Department. If all goes well at that stage, the application could be submitted to Council's Planning Committee by late April, marking a major milestone for the project if Council ultimately gives it a thumbs-up later this spring/summer. Contact City Planner Allison Hamlin (allison.hamlin@ottawa.ca) to find out more details about the application and its status. In a nutshell, the broad lines of the project proposal include the following features:

- An eight-storey mixed use residential/commercial development along Barrette Street and wrapping around a portion of the St. Charles Street frontage of the property;
- 38 residential units including a range of unit types, with townhouses at grade along Barrette Street and a mix of one-, two- and



The current plan for St. Charles Market calls for an eight-storey mixed use residential/commercial development along Barrette Street, wrapping around part of the St. Charles Street frontage.

- three-bedroom units;
- Step-backs from both the Barrette Street and the St. Charles Street frontages at the seventh floor, with the top floors clad principally in glazing to reduce their visual impact;
- 44 parking spaces in the three-level underground garage, 40 for residents and four visitor spaces;
- 47 bicycle parking spaces, including 33 for residents and 14 for restaurant/retail clients;
- Adaptive re-use of the heritage church to incorporate a retail food market, and a coffeehouse and restaurant with outdoor patio at grade;
- Retention and improvement of the three front facades of the church building in keeping with its heritage designation, and integration of the rear façade into the new development, with additional commercial uses on the ground floor and second storey;
- A 629 sq. m. landscaped public plaza at the corner of Beechwood and St. Charles Street, about half of which will be a City of Ottawa park integrated into a larger open space for public activities;
- The plaza will be multi-functional, offering oppor-

tunities for outdoor markets, festivals, concerts and public gatherings.

The big news at St. Charles this summer is the relocation of this year's Beechwood Farmers' Market to the church property starting this July. (Turn to page 18 for more details). ModBox is pleased to be supporting this popular neighbourhood institution, which will do much to advance the company's overall objective of keeping the site alive and active in the interim prior to construction. Talks are currently underway with other organizations interested in staging summer events on the site.

Sales centre moves in-house

The Kavanaugh is now up and running at 222 Beechwood Ave., with new residents now comfortably settled in to their suites and acclimatising to the neighbourhood, and the first of its commercial tenants—Sutherland Restaurant—poised to launch in early summer. (Find more details on this venture in the Burgh Business Briefs, page 10.) We

Continued on page 28

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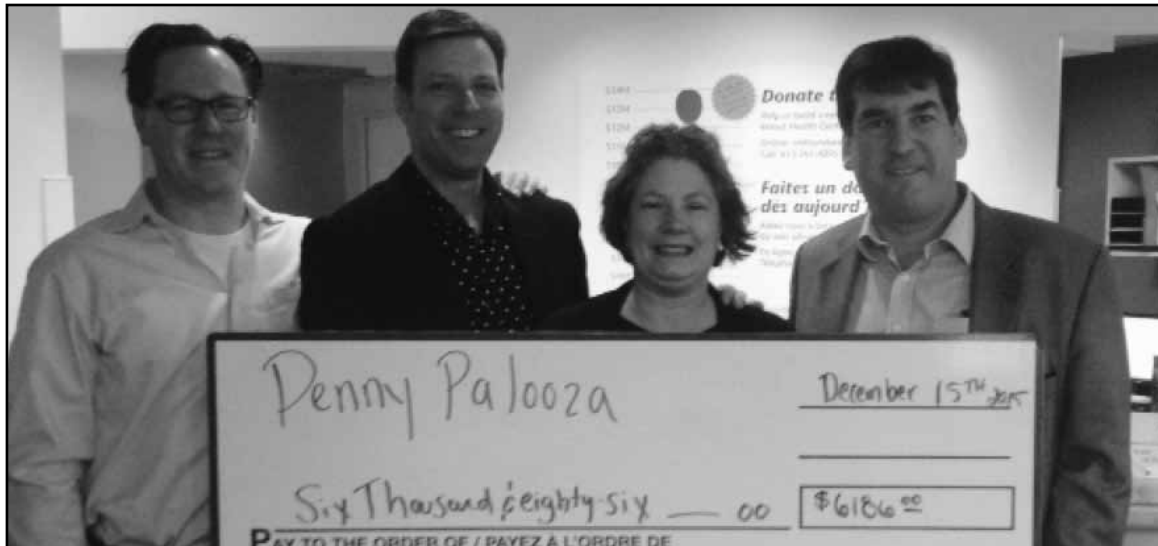
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Penny Palooza raises over \$6000



Terry Thompson, Marc Lafontaine, Penny Thompson and Peter Steele. Photo courtesy Peter Steele

The organizers would like to thank all the sponsors, musicians, volunteers, and generous community attendees for making the third annual Penny Palooza Fundraiser for the Ottawa Hospital Breast Health Centre. Once again, we had a great turnout and perfect weather for great outdoor live music from The

Ramblin' Valley Band, Disco Inferno, Rothwell and Moffat and From the Top Quartet, all kinds of fun family activities, and a super silent auction! This year the event raised more awareness for Breast Health Centre. The community's generosity allowed us to present over \$6,000 to the Ottawa Hospital Foundation.

Many thanks to our local businesses for their generous silent auction donations, and very special thanks to our major sponsors including Marc Lafontaine Remax Absolute Realty, Tomlinson, KSL Construction, The Rockcliffe Residence, and the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation.

Beechwood...

Continued from page 27

understand from Domicile senior vice president David Chick that negotiations continue on the other ground floor commercial spaces, so we hope to bring you word of new arrivals before the summer break in June.

In April, the Kavanaugh Sales Centre is scheduled to move into the ground floor of the building, while Domicile's Corners on Main project (which had been marketed out of the original Kavanaugh Sales Centre at 86 Beechwood) now has its

own Sales Centre on Main Street. At press time, there was no word on the disposition of the decommissioned Sales Centre building at 86 Beechwood, a structure built and installed by Domicile on property leased from Claude Lauzon. We'll keep you posted on any news of a possible repurposing of the structure that may emerge.

Metro news to come in April

At press time, our Metro Head Office contact Mark Bernhardt was still unable to supply any details about a planned renovation at the Beechwood store. He reports, however, that the company operations team does expect to have some news in April, so stay tuned for what we hope will be a substantive report in our June issue.

Changes coming to New Ed Square

Following a recent shake-up in the senior management group at New Edinburgh Square, new Manager Guylaine Waldron reports that the Chartwell Head Office is about to announce plans for some major changes in the offing for both the exterior and the interior of the residence. We'll be tracking that story and hope to have the details for readers in our June issue.

Status quo for three projects

Planner Erin O'Connell reports that there has been no recent change in the status of the Claridge application to build a 67-unit mixed residential/commercial project at Beechwood and St. Charles, directly opposite the St. Charles Market project. Claridge submitted a revised proposal early this year, and analysis by the planning department is still underway. If you'd like to stay abreast of progress on the application, you can contact erin.o'connell@ottawa.ca.

Also, City planner Kimberley Baldwin reports once again that there have been no recent changes in the status of the applications for the two small-scale mixed residential/commercial projects on Beechwood (at the old ZaZaZa Pizza and at the former Burton's Dive locations), as the developers have yet to respond to the comments of the planning department on the initial proposals. She also indicated that the second shoe in the Putman project –possible redevelopment of the Jacobson's property at 141 Beechwood – has not dropped, and no development application has yet been received.



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Friends of Jagruti's fundraising dinner returns April 25

**By Theresa Redmond,
director, Friends of Jagruti**

Many westerners visit Pune, India, every year to study yoga at the world-famous Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute. Barbara Young, of Pathway Yoga, and a couple of other like-minded women from the Ottawa area were inspired by the work of Jagruti Seva Sanstha and in 2009 founded Friends of Jagruti. This registered Canadian not-for-profit organization has the goal of raising awareness and funds to support Jagruti's powerful, grassroots work. Their annual fundraising dinner takes place on April 25 in Ottawa.

Jagruti Seva Sanstha, founded in the 1990s, provides educational, health, micro financing and counseling support to women and families in Pune, India, where nearly a third of the city's population of 2.5 million lives in slums. The four-storey building which houses Jagruti brims with life and bustles with activity in the midst of one of Pune's 477 slum pockets.

On the first floor are the educational programs including a balwadi (nursery school) that provides learning opportunities and snacks for preschoolers. A daycare, opened in 2013, provides quality care for children whose mothers work in construction, as garbage collectors or domestic servants. There are also educational support classes such as tutoring and homework club, as well as library facilities and a quiet study room for children whose home



Photo courtesy of Friends of Jagruti
Some recent graduates of Jagruti's Health Care Assistant program, which benefits from Friends of Jagruti's fundraising efforts.

environment leaves no space for study.

The health clinic, staffed by qualified women physicians on a volunteer basis, offers desperately needed services ranging from pre- and post-natal care to checkups for preschoolers, immunization, anemia eradication, HIV/AIDS awareness and treatment, addiction services and special programs for seniors.

Space is also dedicated to a wide range of other programming including health promotion activities, counseling, computer and tailoring courses.

A hostel on Jagruti's second and third floors provides a secure home to 40 young women, many of whom come to the city from rural villages to study. Financial support and accommodation are also provided for top students so they can pursue higher education. In 2013, Jagruti added shelter accommodations for

women escaping domestic violence to its range of services to the community.

Jagruti receives no funding from government agencies but is a registered charity with the Government of India, and has received an award from the Indian Government for solid management practices. Jagruti program development is spearheaded by Mangala Patil, who received India's prestigious Neerja Bhanot Trust Award in 2004 for her work with women and girls. She has been at the forefront in helping married women who are abused; preventing illegal underage marriage of young girls; defusing tensions and preventing violence between the two main religious communities in the area. She works closely with Jayashree Kale, Jagruti's director.

One young woman who has benefited directly from Jagruti Seva Sanstha is Pratibha

Avsekar. Pratibha was recently awarded a Soroptimists Award for her first-class honours in the first year of her programming diploma. The daughter of farmers in rural India, Pratibha's home was destroyed by an earthquake, burying her in rubble. Although she was miraculously rescued, she was blinded by her injuries. Pratibha and other young blind and sighted rural women live safely in the Jagruti-run hostel while they attend training programs and college. With the Award and the support of Jagruti, Pratibha is able to continue her studies toward her college diploma.

Friends of Jagruti has been hosting a range of fundraising activities since its founding. A fundraising dinner at the Coconut Lagoon in Ottawa has become a much-antic-

ipated annual event. Again this year, Friends of Jagruti, in cooperation with award-winning chef Joe Thottungal, is hosting a delicious south-Indian buffet for friends and supporters at the Coconut Lagoon Restaurant, 853 St. Laurent Blvd. Join us on April 25, starting at 6 pm. Tickets are \$40 (food, taxes and tip included) with \$15 going directly to Jagruti. All are welcome.

Through the boundless energy and generous support of the Friends of Jagruti directors, volunteers and supporters, Friends of Jagruti each year sends thousands of dollars to support the amazing work of Jagruti Seva Sanstha. If you would like to learn more about Friends of Jagruti or volunteer to help, visit www.friendsofjagruti.org.

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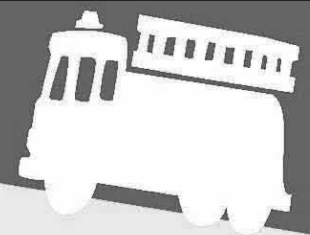
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A stylish way to support refugee resettlement

By NEN staff

Some time ago, a group of friends with a shared background as former members of the Foreign Service international posting circuit tossed around the idea of organizing a sale of their unused diplomatic office wear and formal finery in support of a charitable cause. It's no secret that foreign postings entail a regular round of official functions and social events that call for an ample wardrobe of dress clothing, much of which is no longer needed after the return to a lower key "civilian" life back in Ottawa.

When the mounting Syrian refugee crisis came to a head in recent months, and the new federal government launched an intensive effort to bring 25,000 refugees into the country by early this



Photo by Ward Heatherington
(from left) Jenni Barbarie, Liz Heatherington and Rosemary MacDonald are still taking donations for Clothes for a Cause.

year, the group mobilized in earnest to pursue the idea of a clothing sale in support of Syrian refugee settlement here in Ottawa. The seven members of the group, Kate Preston, Rosemary MacDonald, Jean Hage,

Louise La Roque, Heather Wall, Liz Heatherington and Jenni Barbarie, pooled their diplomatic togs and marshaled their organizing talents to arrange Clothes for a Cause, an ambitious fundraising effort which will take place May 14 from 10 am-4 pm in the Church Hall at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church at 125 MacKay St.

Proceeds from the sale will be divided three ways to support a five-member Syrian refugee family sponsored by Knox Presbyterian Church and another sponsored by St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church (see details

on page 18); and the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, which for many years has provided comprehensive resettlement and integration services in the Ottawa area and is actively involved in the resettlement of the current influx of Syrian families.

On offer at the sale you'll find a wealth of women's, men's and adolescents' high-quality, lightly used clothing and accessories such as scarves, purses, shoes and jewellery. Samples of the glittering array of wares, including designer labels such as Valentino, Versace and Diane Von Furstenberg, can be found on the Clothes for a Cause Facebook posting at [https://www.facebook.com/Clothes for a Cause 212677882411712/](https://www.facebook.com/Clothes%20for%20a%20Cause%20212677882411712/) and undoubtedly there are intriguing tales associated with many of the items going back to their storied past on the diplomatic circuit.

Organizer Kate Preston reports that the clothes have been worn, purchased or made in countries around the world, ranging from here in Canada to England, Australia, France, Germany (before and after the fall of the wall), Iceland,

Austria, Croatia, Iran, Spain, Thailand, Poland, Hungary, Sweden, and Finland. They have been worn in offices all over the world; at Buckingham Palace; at sparkling balls in such cities as Bonn, London, Warsaw, Dhaka; and at weddings in here in Canada, and in Britain and Switzerland. Some of the clothing travelled abroad by ship, some by plane. Some items had been kept in the hopes of dropping a little weight, or just for sentimental reasons. But all the splendid pieces in the sale have been donated because of their owners' strong commitment to helping the Syrian refugees settle into their new lives in Canada.

Just a few of the noteworthy items are a vintage silk brocade ball gown, a splendid beaver coat with silver fox trim, and a natty tartan cummerbund. But the choices are endless and there's no need to break the bank to acquire a distinctive designer or vintage item that takes your fancy. Prices will be extremely reasonable, but please take note that transactions will be CASH ONLY so be sure to drop by the ATM machine before you head for the sale! Coffee will be offered throughout the event to keep you pleasantly fueled as you browse the collection.

There is still time to donate clothing or accessories to Clothes for a Cause if you have gently used pieces in your wardrobe that you'd like to offer in support of the Syrian refugee resettlement effort. To arrange a drop off or pick up, email clothescause2016@gmail.com.

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Je vous présente... Jean Boisjoli



Louise Imbeault
Social Columnist

En ce début de printemps, avez-vous envi de rêver? Bien moi aussi! Y a-t-il une façon plus appropriée de partir en voyage que par l'entremise d'un bouquin nanti de poésie? Je vous invite à découvrir un personnage envoutant et émouvant tout comme le printemps.

C'est un homme aux yeux de faon bruns noisettes rempli de joie, d'intrigue et de curiosité. C'est le reflet d'une âme innocente porteuse de la naïveté précoce habitant seule les enfants. Il dégage une douceur quasi palpable occulté par une profondeur insondable. Mystérieuse combinaison de traits que revêt cet homme érudit d'un riche vécu rempli d'expériences variées. Parfois sous la mouvance cérébrale de sa formation professionnelle, pouvant sembler linéaire et juridique dans son approche et je dirais même d'une opinion critique de journaliste-reporter, il demeure en équilibre, bien balancé sachant se servir à merveille de la sage pesée qu'est l'ancre dans son cœur pour trancher entre le raisonnement terrestre et l'idéal céleste. Il médite, dance le Zumba et pratique le yoga.

Rien en sa parure n'est affecté. Simple, souple et animé, sa personnalité est modérée d'une réserve distinguée. Il est charmant mais non charmeur, son regard franc et direct enveloppe son interlocuteur rendant mémorables ses entretiens. C'est comme si, de son langage corporel, il invite sans paroles: «Viens, prends ma main, j'ai beaucoup à te raconter». Oui, c'est un grand romantique des jours anciens. Une âme vulnérable en quête inassouvi de l'essence primale qu'est l'amour. L'amour avec un grand 'A' laissant derrière les clichés mondains. Êtes-vous intrigués?

Je parle de l'homme qu'est Jean Boisjoli, auteur, poète et écrivain franco-manitobain qui de plein gré, met tout son esprit sous l'œil critique de la

plume. Sans retenu, pionnier de l'éphémère il émerge tout à fait renouvelé chaque fois qu'il publie un récit. Depuis sa tendre enfance dans sa ville natale de Saint-Boniface, Jean courrait vers le pont «des soupirs» après ses cours à l'école des Oblates de Marie-Immaculée pour observer la rivière Seine et la nature bordant ses rives. Il écrit tout ce qui le fait vibrer cachant son précieux trésor dans une malle métallique achetée au magasin «Army Surplus» du quartier.

Cette belle relation avec ses amis, les oiseaux, les castors et Cie le motive à ouvrir ses ailes pour partir à l'aventure d'un bout à l'autre du pays. Comme toute jeune personne il désire prendre le large. Ayant terminé son Baccalauréat en Arts à l'Université de Winnipeg il débarque en 1968 à Montréal. Attiré par le pouvoir qu'offre la communication radio-phonique il devient chercheur et journaliste pigiste à Radio-Canada dans la grande Métropole.

Avec cette nouvelle expérience il passe en ondes pour la première fois au sein de CKCH à Hull pour les deux prochaines années. Puisqu'il n'est pas limité aux boîtes francophones, c'est vers Edmonton qu'il fait le saut pour travailler à CBC/Radio-Canada. Promu à la télévision il relate les nouvelles locales et des entrevues dont celle de Peter Lougheed qui le marqua tout particulièrement.

Les weekends, avec des collègues de la station, ils jouent aux Cowboys avec tous les artifices que ça comporte. Monté en selle Western sur son cheval «Slinger» accompagné de son chien loyal «Bobby McGee» ils passent ensemble de beaux moments couchant au clair de lune admirant le ciel étoilé n'ayant qu'un feu de camp pour les éclairer.

Au fil des années la carrière de Jean se dessine avec plus de précision. Un saut

vers Toronto en 1975 où il se retrouve «on top of the world» dans son penthouse rue Davisville et y découvre un nouveau style de vie, le vélo, le multiculturalisme et le tourisme vers Point Pelee, l'île Manitoulin et la région du Muskoka, tout en travaillant comme journaliste sur les ondes de Radio-Canada. Il nous partage que ses multiples déménagements sont «le résultat d'une soif inépuisable de savoir, de sentir, de ressentir. Très jeune, j'ai appris l'importance d'être ouvert sur le monde et sur les nouvelles idées».

De retour à Ottawa en 1977, il travaille à temps plein pour CBC Radio News et habite le quartier de la Côte de Sable. Encore les valises pleines, il s'inscrit à l'Université d'Ottawa à la faculté de Droit. Suite à sa graduation, faisant son entrée au Barreau en 1982 il pratique pendant 30 ans la défense des droits de la personne. Jean est un homme passionné de bonheur et eut son coup de cœur pour une âme sœur qu'il épousa et sans tarder devint père de deux jolies filles, Renaude et Camille. Si Jean a un talon d'Achille, c'est bien ses filles et depuis 2015 une petite fille Annabelle qui eu 1 an le 15 mars dernier.

Ce n'est qu'en 2010 que Jean déménagera dans notre quartier qui l'attire par son charme, la nature à proximité et les pistes cyclables. Dès l'aube, on peut parfois l'apercevoir marchant en solitaire dans le cimetière Beechwood, alors qu'il s'imprègne de la nature et des vies qui se cachent sous les pierres tombales. Il est heureux et compte bien demeurer parmi nous encore longtemps. Jean écrit et publie des bouquins dont le 6e intitulé La Mesure du Temps sera publié vers la mi-avril par la maison d'édition Prise de Parole de Sudbury.

Il me partage ceci: «Ce que j'aime de ce quartier c'est le sentiment d'appartenir à un village qui favorise le rapprochement respectueux tout en permettant la diversité. D'ici, il est également possible de se rendre, à pied, à vélo, en bus ou en auto à plusieurs autres quartiers d'Ottawa».

Il termine avec une dernière pensée à partager avec vous «du lancinant éloignement peut naître la rassurante



Photo montage par Louise Imbeault
L'auteur franco-manitobain Jean Boisjoli réside dans le quartier depuis 2010.

incertitude de l'amour». C'est ainsi que s'exprime le cœur d'un poète inné.

Remerciements chaleureux à Alex Binkley du Croissant Ivy pour cette suggestion

d'entretien.

Si vous avez des idées à partager, envoyez-moi un courriel: louise.imbeault@live.com.

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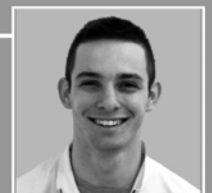
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New initiative for Ottawa youth to turn water into gold

By Melissa McKenzie

It's not every day that you can learn a sport that is as much an art as it is a workout. That's rowing. And this is what Ottawa youth can discover at the Ottawa Rowing Club. They also have the chance to discover how to do what may be thought an impossibility: Turn water into gold.

The Ottawa Rowing Club is inviting Ottawa youth to accomplish an athletic feat no Ottawa teenager ever has: to win the junior men and women's eight-athlete rowing races at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. The Royal Canadian Henley is one of the world's premiere athletic

events: a full week of speed that has been attracting the best rowers from all of North America for 134 years. To achieve gold with the ORC, Ottawa youth will be mentored and challenged, and will make friendships that will last a lifetime.

To find out more about the ORC's challenge or to attend the ORC's April 2 tryout at Glebe Collegiate Institute, visit www.watertogold.ca.

The ORC also invites others to discover the many popular programming options at the ORC including summer camps, Learn To Row, Adult Rowing League, Recreational, Masters, Competitive, Junior Development and more.



The Ottawa Rowing Club invites youth to join the dream of winning the junior men and women's eight-athlete rowing races at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

The ORC will also be hosting a special rowing event on the Rideau Canal on May 16, providing a great opportunity to see rowing up close, and on May 21 the ORC will be hosting the annual National Capital High School Regatta at the ORC boathouse – a perfect opportunity to see

high school racing on the Ottawa River. And the doors of the ORC boathouse will be open to all during Doors Open Ottawa on June 6. This is a great opportunity to tour Canada's oldest rowing club, established in 1867. The ORC features two boathouses nestled along the Ottawa River,

just off of Sussex Drive. One historic boathouse is original to the ORC and a second newer boathouse is home to the ORC's fleet of sleek rowing shells.

For more information go to: www.ottawarowingclub.com or send an email to rowing@ottawarowingclub.com.

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No need to understand 'Cymraeg' to enjoy Ontario Welsh Festival

By Alison Lawson

Calling all people of Welsh descent and everyone interested in Welsh culture and music!

What do you know about the Welsh? Yes, we are a very proud nation, speak a different language and love rugby. Leeks are our national vegetable (yummy leek and potato soup), daffodils are our national flower and St. David is our patron saint. Did we miss out something important? We absolutely love to sing and almost everyone in Wales is a member of a choir.

If you have Welsh anywhere in your ancestry or if you are simply interested in Welsh music and culture, you are in for a real treat during the Ontario Welsh Festival taking place in Ottawa April 22-24. The festival is an annual celebration of Welsh music and culture, drawing visitors from all over Canada, the United States and Wales. First held in Niagara Falls in 1961, the festival has travelled throughout the province since then, from Ottawa to Windsor.

We are very honoured to have the renowned Côrddydd, a prize-winning mixed choir from Cardiff, Wales, together with extra-special guests, the world-renowned Three Welsh Tenors, taking part in a Gala Concert on April 23, with tickets available to the public. It will be a night to remember.

Côrddydd is a young and vibrant mixed voice choir. Their name is a play on the word "Caerdydd" – the Welsh for Cardiff, the capital city from which they hail. The choir was founded in 2000 and over the years, has grown from strength to strength. Check them out on YouTube to get a little taste of the treat you are in for.

And talking of treats, the icing on the weekend's cake will be the Three Welsh Tenors: Aled Hall, Rhys

Meirion and Aled Wyn Davies. So many countries have their "Three Tenors" since Carreras, Domingo and Pavarotti hit the world stage. We, the Welsh, are justly proud of our own "Tri Tenor Cymraeg." Their distinct and unique voices complement each other perfectly. Their repertoire combines classics from opera and musicals, famous Welsh songs and hymns, and contemporary compositions – a mixture to suit everyone.

The other main highlight of the Festival will be traditional hymn singing sessions, known in Welsh as a "Gymanfa Ganu," at Dominion Chalmers United Church on April 24. The public is invited, and if you have never heard the Welsh sing hymns in four-part harmony, don't miss this opportunity to experience it and join in. There will be two sessions, one at 10:30 am and one at 1:30 pm. An added treat will be songs by Côrddydd and the Tenors during each session. There will be a free-will offering.

While the gala concert and hymn-singing sessions are open to the public, registration for the festival is encouraged, and will let you attend the other cultural events, including the informal talent show known as a "Noson Lawen" (with the Tenors as MCs) on April 22, and various seminars, children's activities and harp entertainment on April 23. You don't have to speak or understand Welsh to enjoy any of this since all events are introduced in English.

Why not mark it on your calendar and join us!

For more information call Myfanwy Davies at 613-526-3019 or visit our website at www.ontariowelshfestival.ca or email us at publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca.



Photo courtesy Three Welsh Tenors
Aled Hall, Rhys Meirion and Aled Wyn Davies, known as the Three Welsh Tenors, will perform in Ottawa on April 23.

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OrKidstra makes overtures to Vanier schools

By Christina Lubbock

In the December 2014 issue of the *New Edinburgh News*, I described the wonderful results Tina Fedeski was achieving with OrKidstra, a social development program that teaches life-skills to children through learning and making music together. I grew close to the program through training the children to speak confidently and clearly when introducing music at their many concerts.

Recently Tina, OrKidstra's executive and artistic director, told me that OrKidstra is hoping to create a new hub in Vanier/Overbrook. To kick off this exciting initiative, OrKidstra will host a brief fundraising concert at Rideau High School (815 St. Laurent Blvd.) starting at 6 pm on May 6, followed by information and a reception at 6:45. Details can be found at www.orkidstra.ca.

OrKidstra, a registered charity, is inspired by El Sistema, a social development program that has run in Venezuela for over 40 years. Tina, a professional flute player and teacher; Margaret Munro Tobolowska, formerly a cellist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra; and Gary McMillen co-owner (with Tina) of the Leading Note Music Store, launched OrKidstra in October 2007 with 27 students. It was the first such program anywhere in the world outside South America.

OrKidstra reflects Ottawa's multicultural and diverse population: the students—numbering now more than 400—come from 42 different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Through their music, they learn respect, commitment, teamwork and responsibility. These skills underscore the program's simple goal: empower kids... build community.

Music classes are beyond the reach of many families. OrKidstra is changing this with the generous support of corporate and public sector



Photo by RSVPhotography
(from left) Mikayla Zhu, Hannah Moyeda-Myre and Tasfiq Hossain have benefitted from OrKidstra's music program, which is looking to expand into our neighbourhood.

supporters and an increasingly large number of loyal, individual donors. Ninety percent of the students pay nothing for a loaned instrument and music lessons. Each student can also join an orchestra or a choir led by professional teachers and mentored by students from the University of Ottawa, local high school music programs and the Ottawa Youth Orchestra.

In years past, all OrKidstra's programming happened after school at the Bronson Centre. More recently, in collaboration with local school boards, entry-level programs have also started at certain 'priority schools' for children in grades 1 and 2. Currently, children at Centennial, Cambridge and St. Anthony's schools in Centretown; York Street Public School, in Lowertown; Viscount Alexander Public School in Sandy Hill; and this year at Queen Elizabeth and R.E. Wilson schools in Vanier can learn rhythm and harmony by singing, playing recorders and xylophones, and dancing, and some have the chance to play ½ and ¼ size violins.

Demand is great across the

city and Tina hopes OrKidstra soon will offer more advanced programs in the Vanier/Overbrook area. She is talking to Rideau High School and the nearby Boys and Girls Club who are both keen. She plans to focus the Vanier program on brass, woodwind and percussion, complementing the strings programs at the Bronson Centre.

As such an expansion would need significant additional resources to pay for teachers and equipment, we will need to secure more funds and seek more donors.

Please join us at the 45-minute concert and following information session at Rideau High School on May 6. Come and be thrilled by this wonderful group of young musicians. Your support will help to bring music to more children; help them achieve their potential; and help to provide a sense of purpose and of community.

Admission is free, although donations will be welcomed with great gratitude! You will also have a chance to chat with Board members. (They'll be the ones wearing black OrKidstra T-shirts.) I am sure that you will be as excited as I am about this unique and wonderful program.

Hope to see you there!
Christina Lubbock is a resident of New Edinburgh.

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Sunday afternoon hockey games on the rink at Stanley Park.

Painting by Sylvio Gagnon

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Silflay String Quartet and Roddy Elias team up for concert series finale

By Carolyn Bowker

The MacKay Concert Series concludes its 2015-16 season as the Silflay String Quartet joins guitarist Roddy Elias for an exciting and unusual program blending the best of the old and the new in “Tree of Life”. The concert will take place at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin St., on May 8 at 7:30 pm.

The Silflay String Quartet needs no introduction to fans of the MacKay Series. NACO violinists and Lindenlea residents Leah Roseman and Mark Friedman are one half of the Silflay Quartet and have been performing regularly at MacKay United since the first fundraising concerts.

This time they will perform a familiar quartet by Mozart which has been called ‘Dissonance’ because of its opening, but as a whole it is anything but. It is one of Mozart’s most famous quartets: lyrical, exuberant, and ultimately sublime.

In contrast is String Quartet No 3 by Gavan Bryars, composed in 1998. Bryars’s music, according to Michael Ondaatje, “falls under no

category. It is mongrel, full of sensuality and wit and is deeply moving. He is one of the few composers who can put slapstick and primal emotion alongside each other. He allows you to witness new wonders in the sounds around you by approaching them from a completely new angle.” Born in Yorkshire in 1943, Byers has produced an astonishing array of music including operas, string quartets, chamber music, vocal works, visual arts music, orchestral commissions, madrigals—for orchestras, performers, galleries, and concert halls around the world.

The strings will team up with Roddy Elias to perform Tom Hoffman’s “Tree of Life”. A deeply spiritual musician, Hoffman taught at the University of Maine, wrote jazz music for radio, television and advertising programs, taught jazz composition and wrote instructional books, and received the distinguished “Special Distinction Award” from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.



Guitarist Roddy Elias will present an unusual program of music on May 8 at MacKay United Church. Photo by G.R. Martin

Finally, Roddy Elias will perform his guitar sonata “Emptying”. Elias recently retired as professor of Jazz Guitar and Composition at Concordia University. “Many of the great composers were improvisers,” he says. “Bach is my hero. In addition to

initiating most pieces through improvisation, I believe improvisation to simply be composition in real time. My goal for a good portion of what I write is to get some of the spontaneity and magic of improvisation into a composed piece.”

“Emptying”, was commissioned by guitar virtuoso Andrew Mah. “Andrew wanted a virtuosic piece and so the sonata, which is in four movements, is quite challenging to play but I still wrote it with the same goal of communication in mind.” How does Elias compose? “I often get my initial idea for a piece through improvisation. I resist writing it down,” he explains. “Instead, I play it a few times and leave it until the next day. If the idea has stuck with me, it passes the test. To me that means there’s something about it that has enough significance to me for me to remember. This also tells me that the chance that people in the audience will remember it too, is greater. The next step is developing the idea, being open to where the idea wants to or even has to go.”

This promises to be an exciting concert, full of “firsts”, and not to be missed.

The MacKay Concert Series will return in the fall for its 2016-17 season. Stay tuned for information on the new season.



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A little bit differentIt's the difference that counts.

Donations still being accepted for 'bumper' book sale

By Claire Schofield

It's all systems go for the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale which is now less than a month away. Volunteers have been culling, sorting and pricing books by the thousand.

The Spring Book Sale features almost 30 genres of donated books as well as CDs, DVDs and vinyl. "We're excited about the books that are coming in," said Jane Dobell, the Spring Book Sale organizer. This year we have an exceptional selection of art books ranging from Japanese art to 20th century French and mysteries, children's, cookery and "how to" books are also doing well. That said, we're still collecting, so please bring books you're ready to recycle and drop them off at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library during opening hours.

Setting up the sale is always a challenge. "This year, we're using a larger tent so that shoppers can see more easily what we have to offer," said



Photo courtesy Claire Schofield
Volunteer Linda McDonald collects flats from a store to be used in the book displays at the Rockcliffe Park Library's Book Sale.

Jane. "And displaying books well is vital. Thanks to the valiant efforts of our volunteers, we've already collected over 400 flats from various grocery stores."

"And last but not least, we're busy spreading the word that this year's bumper sale will have the same

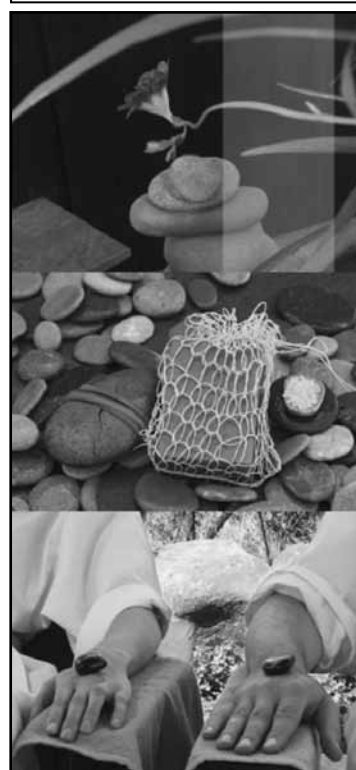
high quality books, DVDs and vinyl as ever," explains Jane. So, don't forget to follow us on Facebook, share the Rockcliffe Spring Book Sale news with friends and above all, come and join the fun on **April 23 and 24!** There will be something for everyone.



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Burgh Bulletin Board

April

April 10 - Kidz at Heart Dominion Chalmers Church, 355 Cooper St. rcmppipe-sanddrums.com. 2pm. Tickets \$20, free for children under 12 years. The RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers will perform a concert in support of two charities: CityKidz and the Veterans Cemetery at Beechwood. Celtic musical acts include Shabaraque, Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Maxville Youth Fiddlers and singing duets, as well as the RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers.

April 16 - Rigoletto Dominion Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper St. pellegriniopera.net. 7:30pm. Tickets \$40; \$30 seniors, \$20 students on sale at Books on Beechwood. Ottawa's Pellegrini Opera presents Rigoletto. Passion, revenge, espionage and murder lurk in this dark world that is Verdi's masterpiece as staged live and costumed by Ottawa's only full-production opera company. Led by creative director Vincent Thomas with music direction by Vito Lo Re.

April 17 - Blooms in the Burgh IV Nectar Centre, 255 MacKay St. 12-4pm. On display until end of April. Enjoy this exhibition of paintings produced by a hive of busy amateur artists who meet each week in New Edinburgh House under the guidance of Susan Ashbrook. Some of the artists will be there to talk about their work and may even be working on a new "masterpiece".

April 19 - Master Gardener Lecture Bldg 72 CEF Arboretum, east exit off Prince of Wales roundabout. 613-230-3276 friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm. 7-9pm. Members \$12; non-members \$15. Friends of the Experimental Farm presents its Master Gardener Lecture, "Herbs in your garden - easy, nutritious and delicious" with Nancy McDonald. Annual and perennial herbs are great additions to your garden and your kitchen!

April 20 - Socially

Responsible Investing Seminar. 6pm. Free. Register 613-741-6262 for details. Join host Karim Gwaduri of Edward Jones and NEI investments for this presentation on Socially Responsible Investing in Canada. The discussion will include methods for evaluating and reducing Environmental, Social and Governance risks within an investment portfolio. Participants will gain an understanding of the Ethical Funds Program, Canada's SRI leader.

April 23 - Ontario Welsh Festival Gala Concert Dominion Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper St. 7:30pm. 613-526-3019; publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. As part of a weekend celebrating Welsh culture and music, this gala concert features performances by The Three Welsh Tenors and Cŵrddydd choir from Wales. See page 33 for details.

April 24 - Welsh hymn singing Dominion Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper St. 10:30am and 1:30pm. 613-526-3019; publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca. Free will offering. As part of a weekend celebrating Welsh culture and music, two hymn singing sessions will take place. See page 33 for details.

April 24 - "Celebration!" Concert St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, 2345 Alta Vista Drive. www.OttawaBrahmsChoir.ca. 613-749-2391. 3pm. The Ottawa Brahms Choir presents its spring concert, 'Celebration!' to mark its 35th anniversary. The choir, under conductor Christopher Askwith, with accompanist Svetlana Logigan and more musicians, will highlight works from Brahms, Bach, Händel, Mozart, Pärt, Strauss, and many more.

April 24 - Beechwood Cemetery Stroll Beechwood Cemetery, 280 Beechwood Ave. Register foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca, 613-741-9530. 1-2:30pm. Free. This guided historical tour

through Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada, is led by trained volunteers and focuses on local history and notable features and sections within this National Historic Site. Family friendly. Wheelchair accessible. Wear good walking shoes, clothing suitable for the weather and bring water if needed.

April 25 - Friends of Jagruti's Annual Spring Fundraiser Coconut Lagoon Restaurant, 853 St. Laurent Blvd. www.friendsofjagruti.org. 6pm. Tickets \$40 (\$15 goes directly to Jagruti). All are welcome. Friends of Jagruti hosts its much-anticipated fundraising dinner at the Coconut Lagoon. In cooperation with award-winning chef Joe Thottungal, the dinner will feature a delicious south-Indian buffet. See page 29 for details.

May

May 6 - OrKidstra fundraising concert Rideau High School, 815 St. Laurent Blvd. www.orkidstra.ca. 6pm. OrKidstra is hoping to create a new hub in Vanier/Overbrook. To kick off this exciting initiative, OrKidstra will host a fundraising concert followed by information and a reception at 6:45pm. See page 34 for details.

May 8 - MacKay Concert Series MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin St. 7:30pm. The MacKay Concert Series concludes its 2015-6 season as the Silflay String Quartet joins guitarist Roddy Elias for an exciting and unusual program blending the best of the old and the

new in "Tree of Life." See page 36 for details.

May 14 - Clothes for a Cause St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay St. 10 am - 4pm. clothescause2016@gmail.com. Vintage, career and formal clothing for sale in support of Syrian refugee settlement. Funds raised to be shared between Knox Presbyterian Church and St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church. Cash only. See page 30 for details.

May 15 - Rare and Unusual Plant Sale Neatby Building parking lot at Carling and Maple Dr. 613-230-3276 friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm. 9am-2pm. Free admission, donations to Friends of the Farm kindly accepted. Everything you need for your garden featuring specialty growers and plant vendors. Garden accessories also available.

May 21 - National Capital High School Regatta Ottawa Rowing Club Boathouse, 10 Lady Grey Dr. www.ottawarowingclub.com; rowing@ottawarowingclub.com. The Ottawa Rowing Club hosts the annual National Capital High School Regatta at the ORC boathouse - a perfect opportunity to see high school racing on the Ottawa River. See page 32 for details.

May 22 - Beechwood Cemetery Stroll Beechwood Cemetery, 280 Beechwood Ave. Register foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca, 613-741-9530. 1-2:30pm. Free. This guided historical tour through Beechwood, the

National Cemetery of Canada, is led by trained volunteers and focuses on local history and notable features and sections within this National Historic Site. Family friendly. Wheelchair accessible. Wear good walking shoes, clothing suitable for the weather and bring water if needed.

May 28 - IODE House and Garden Tour Various locations. 9:30am-4:30pm. \$35. 613-842-5304, laurentian.iode.ca. The IODE's 55th Annual House and Garden Tour returns! This year's program covers six homes and gardens in central Ottawa, from Revelstoke Drive on the banks of the Rideau River, through the 1950's suburbia (renovated) in Alta Vista, all the way to New Edinburgh and Rockcliffe.

June

June 4 - Prose in the Park Parkdale Park. proseinthepark.com. Free. 11am - 6pm. Ottawa's favourite open-air literary festival and book fair, Prose in the Park, returns with a great line-up of English and French-language authors, poets and storytellers. Everyone is welcome!

June 10 - Babysitting Workshop Manor Park Community Centre, 100 Thornwood Rd. \$75. 8:30am - 3:30pm. Learn to be a qualified babysitter by attending this one-day workshop with instructor Christine Poirier. The training session covers responsibilities of childcare, nutrition, safety and emergencies. Suitable for those ages 10-14 years. Includes pizza lunch, babysitting notebook, exam and certificate.



The children at The Peaceful Children's Homes, the organizers and musicians of "In Concert for Cambodia" (IC4C), would like to thank all of the community sponsors, donors and patrons who made the Feb. 28 concert at MacKay United Church such a success. Hosted by CBC-TV's Adrian Harewood, the event celebrated the contribution of young people to supporting their peers half a world away. IC4C founder, Ottawa-born Laurent Côté, honoured the work of Ottawa-based IC4C Youth Coordinators Nicolas Côté, Basia Walczak and Kyle Burghout. Ten young musicians performed chamber and fiddle music, as well as traditional Cambodian music. This concert raised over \$7,000 for the Homes. All proceeds will go towards the food, health and educational needs of over 100 children and young people at the Peaceful Children's Homes, including university studies. More details at inconcert4cambodia.wordpress.com.

Burgh Breezy Bits

DEADLINE: MAY 10 breezybits@hotmail.com

Happy birthday to New Edinburgh's fitness guru **Alex MacDonald** on this momentous occasion: "The Big One."

Congratulations to **Alexandra** and **Isabelle Reid** who welcomed the arrival of 8-week old Black Labrador Badly Hadley (officially B. Hadley Reid) who is both "a joy and a handful"!

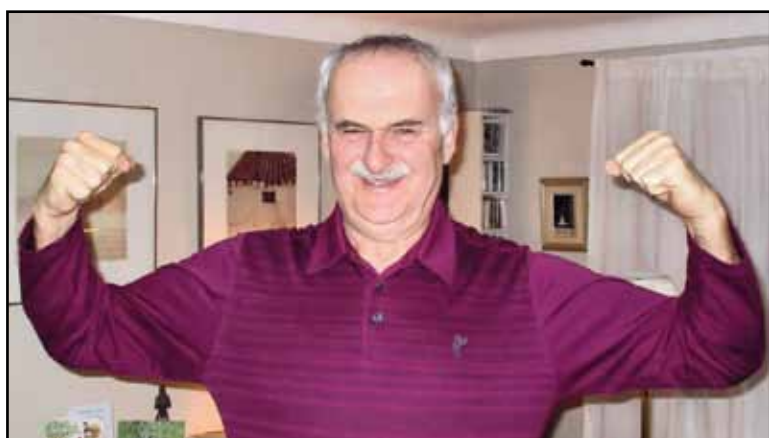
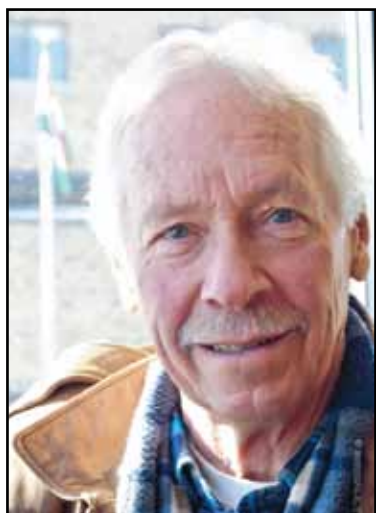


Photo by Louise Imbeault

Burgh powerhouse **Alex Binkley** celebrated his birthday on Feb. 28, grateful to be healthy in body and spirit. Hugs to all his Bridgehead buddies.



Best wishes to his lordship **Keith McKewen** who turned a very respectable 82 years of age on March 3 in the company of his beloved poodles, brother and sister team Yo-Yo (by his side) and Marina (in the savannah). Photo montage by Louise Imbeault



Retired photojournalist **Lynn Ball** stopped by the Second Cup on Springfield Road recently. Lynn was the Canadian Press's first photojournalist in Ottawa and former chief photographer for the *Ottawa Citizen*. His photography exhibit, SELMA 1965, is currently on display at the Canal Gallery in Merrickville, Ont. until May.

Photo by Louise Imbeault



A heartfelt thank you from the community to Stanley Park's large group of volunteer hosers who maintain and prepare the rink for skaters during the winter. Your grueling schedule of watering and snow blowing was greatly appreciated!

Photos by Debra Conner



Ottawa-Vanier MPP **Madeleine Meilleur** (left) hosted an event in honour of International Women's Day on March 4 at her constituency office. Guests included **Huguette Labelle** (second left), chair of the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments, as well as **Overbrook's Sheila Perry** (second right) and **NECTAR board member Isobel Bisby** (far right).

Photos by Louise Imbeault



Joseph Cull (right) was one of two New Edinburgh residents awarded the United Way Community Builder Award at a reception hosted by Mayor **Jim Watson** (left) at City Hall. Joseph was recognized for his work promoting health and wellness throughout Ottawa. **Victoria Henry** was also honoured for her years as director of the Canada Council Art Bank, for her work with Heritage Ottawa and the Ottawa School of Art.

Photo by Garth Gullekson



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Happy birthday to **Connie Delahanty** of Springfield Road who celebrated her 82nd birthday on March 3 with family and friends.

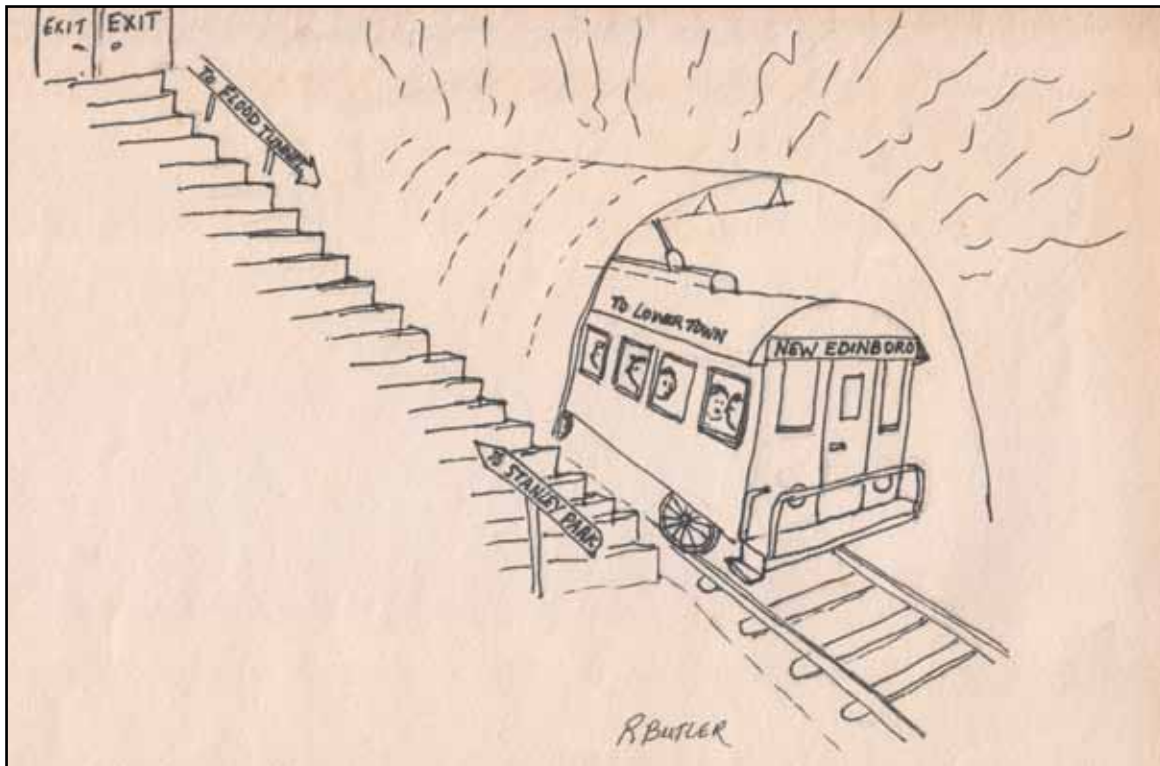


The Ottawa-Vanier Women's Liberal Association's new president, **Liz Mannarino** (second left), hosted a gathering in March for International Women's Day featuring guest speakers Senator **Anne Cools** (right), retired senator **Landon Pearson** (second right) and City Councillor **Mathieu Fleury** (left).

Photo by Louise Imbeault

Not the... NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

April Fool's Edition



Sketch by Roslyn Butler

An artist's rendition of the private light rail line proposed for the forthcoming rainwater storage tunnel to be built under the Rideau River this summer. Weather permitting, New Ed residents (affected by the ban to car traffic on the Minto Bridges) will no longer have to suffer along St Patrick Street in order to get downtown.

New tunnel project could serve double duty

The "big dig" is scheduled to start this year in New Edinburgh Park (aka Stanley Park). This major project, which will cause massive disruption to the neighbourhood (with impending road closures and heavy trucks grumbling through the daylight hours), will see a new storage tunnel being installed in the stinky area of the park and under the Rideau River into Lowertown to help with the rain overflow during heavy storms. City officials and politicians are sympathetic to the nuisance this Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel will no doubt cause Burgh residents, and they have been brainstorming how to mitigate the impacts of this project. Thankfully, the proposed answer seems to please everyone involved.

Given the relative infrequency of heavy rainstorms in

the Ottawa area (maybe two or three a year), this big tunnel would be largely sitting empty most of the time. And given the fervor of the new Light Rail project, officials have come to the conclusion that this mammoth pipe could moonlight as a secondary rail line exclusively for the pleasure of New Edinburgh residents. What with the slow progress of the repairs to the Minto Bridges, cutting off residents' private short-cut over to Global Affairs Canada and to Lowertown these past few years, using this new tunnel as their own exclusive light rail line will give civil servants and those working downtown direct access to the city centre (though not to the absurdly named City Centre building). And with all Burghers using the tunnel rail line, the local streets will

be freed up for other non-resident commuters to safely speed their way through.

The new federal government has also given its blessing to this double-duty project. The minister responsible said this shovel-ready project will not only improve the capital's infrastructure, but it will also promote a more environmental way of commuting, and (for a extra brownie points) shows that the government can support pipeline projects.

New Edinburgh residents also appear to be pleased with the proposed plan. One of the 23 local community groups, NIMBY, has said it's pleased that the neighbourhood's concerns have been taken into account, and that residents are looking forward to using this exclusive rail line, handily located in the community's much-loved green space.

Adaptive re-uses for 50 Sussex Dr: Cast your vote!

Despite last year's gala celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the dormancy of 50 Sussex Drive, erstwhile home of the short-lived Canada and the World Pavilion, the NCC is still batting zero in its efforts to reanimate this moribund facility. To kick-start this fruitless endeavour, the Commission has recently reached out to the public, inviting suggestions for adaptive re-uses of the former Pavilion with its spectacular vistas and world-class collection of fungal and bacterial moulds.

While it's still early days, the NTNEN has learned that the leading contenders so far include:

- Fresh Fish Market for catch from the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers, to be equipped with a state-of-the-art decontamination facility and a giant recycling dumpster for old shoes, plastic bottles, rusted bicycles, bottles, cans and other detritus hauled in with the daily catch;
- Facility to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the incomparable William Shakespeare, to be dubbed "The Bard in The Burgh" and to build on the close ties between the great literary titan and our historic neighbourhood, riffing on such obvious links as that legendary Shakespearean hero of the "Scottish play" MacKay, along with Stratford-upon-Avon Lane which winds through the heart of the community;
- Museum dedicated to the storied history of snow-

clearing equipment through the ages, with riveting exhibits of rusted City plows, sanders, snow blowers; and

- High-end bowling alley, geared in particular to the foreign service crowd in the surrounding "International Precinct" created by the NCC (response to this has ranged from lukewarm to horrified, but the Commission sees growth potential as the target population discovers how little else there is to do around here).

Interestingly, the runaway favourite suggestion submitted so far has been to simply tear the place down and sell all that shiny glass and steel to Beechwood developers for adaptive re-use in the emerging forest of condo towers, making a much needed contribution to federal deficit reduction in the process. Somewhat predictably, this failed to make the cut at the NCC.

New event helps bad roads, boosts greenery

Tired of the perils of post-winter potholes? Keen to add more greenery to the landscape? A new community event, scheduled for April 31, encourages residents to bring shovels, wheelbarrows, bags of earth and handfuls of their favourite seeds to help fill the streets' potholes while simultaneously greening the neighbourhood. New Edinburgh's dozens of community groups are joining together for a day-long blitz of guerrilla gardening-cum-road repair.

"We were so tired of hearing residents complain, on the one hand, about the condition of the roads, and also of the need for more green space in the community, that this initiative seems to kill two birds with one stone," said the local alderman. "The City has overspent on its snow-clearing budget, so it's unlikely much-needed road repairs will take place this year, you know, to save money. So I fully endorse this DIY approach to community improvement,"

he said. "Plus, it will look nice to have sunflowers and rosebushes sprouting up the middle of the road, don't you think?"

But it's not just foliage and flowers residents are encouraged to plant in the potholes. Vegetables and fruit are also being promoted by a local active-lifestyle collective, which envisions residents redefining "fast food" as they grab a carrot or tomato en route to running errands.



Photo by Gordon Delaney
Guerrilla gardening-cum-road repair in King's County, N.S.