

February 2019

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Park Vision Working Group seeks your input

By Nicole Poitras and
Vicky Solan

Bordering the Rideau River and enlivened with recreational space, mature trees and abundant wildlife, Stanley Park is a small jewel in the Nation's Capital. All visitors to the park enjoy the calm beauty of nature within an urban setting, and New Edinburgh residents are especially fortunate for their easy access to the beloved park. Many residents selected New Edinburgh as their home at least in part because of the proximity to Stanley Park.

The City of Ottawa's decision to use Stanley Park as a temporary worksite for the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project, though serving a greater public good, has compromised the integrity of the park's natural environment. The city's project has caused extensive and, in some cases, irreversible damage to the park's natural ecology. It will take decades for new trees and plants to mature. However, if we give

nature a chance, it can regenerate lost aspects of the local ecosystem and reclaim its primacy in the park.

Upon the conclusion of the CSST work, the City of Ottawa is required to reinstate the land to the satisfaction of the National Capital Commission (NCC), which owns the Stanley Park land. The city's reinstatement plan is currently under discussion among stakeholders. As some of the most frequent users of park, as well as some of those most affected by the operation of sewer storage in the park, New Edinburgh residents deserve stakeholder status in the reinstatement plan decisions. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) is currently collaborating with both the City of Ottawa and the NCC in order to promote optimal enjoyment of Stanley Park for all users.

The current discussion period represents a valuable opportunity for New Edinburgh residents to

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

A beautiful winter scene of the Rideau River and Minto bridge at sunset.

City council byelection set for April 15

By Christina Leadlay and
Jane Heintzman

Rideau-Rockcliffe is headed for a municipal byelection Apr. 15, just less than six months since re-electing Tobi Nussbaum for a second term as councillor on Oct. 22, 2018.

This unusual situation is a result of Tobi's appointment as the new head of the National Capital Commission (NCC) on Dec. 13.

For the residents of Rideau-Rockcliffe (Ward 13, which includes New Edinburgh), the timing of this career move is less than ideal. Eighty per cent of those who cast their ballots in October's municipal election gave Tobi their support in a two-candidate race, and were looking forward to another four years with the seasoned politician advocating on their behalf.

But Rideau-Rockcliffe's loss is the National Capital Commission's gain.

Tobi handed in his formal resignation letter on Jan. 24, stating that Jan. 26 would be his last day as councillor. On Feb. 4, he assumed his new role at the NCC, where he will continue to be involved in many issues that affect this community (read Tobi's final update as city councillor on page 7).

The rules and deadlines for such a procedure are spelled out in the Municipal Act of 2001 and the Municipal Elections Act of 1996. City Council wasted no time setting in motion the process to fill the vacancy.

On Jan. 30, Council con-

firmed a byelection would take place (this option was recommended by City staff in favour of appointing a new councillor). Apr. 15 was chosen as the earliest possible date for a vote.

Nomination Day will occur Mar. 1, with one day of advance voting on Apr. 5.

Meanwhile, City Councillors Mathieu Fleury, Rideau-Vanier (613-580-2482) and Jean Cloutier, Alta Vista (613-580-2488) have been given temporary authority over applications in our Rideau-

Rockcliffe Ward (such as Site Plan Control and other planning applications, for example), until Tobi's successor has been elected. Residents with routine questions and concerns may continue to contact the Ward 13 Office at 613-580-2482 or visit rideau-rockcliffeward.ca.

While October's campaign for Rideau-Rockcliffe was a two-way race between Tobi and Peter Heyck, the upcoming campaign promises to be more varied, with at least four

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Photo by Louise Imbeault

Three months after his re-election to City Council, Tobi Nussbaum stepped down to take over as head of the NCC. Voters in this ward will choose his successor Apr. 15.

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Safety Course
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NECA Meetings - All Welcome

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the **third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.** 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 St.** Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Cindy Parkanyi in advance to arrange scheduling at newedinburgh@outlook.com. Our next meetings are;

Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday March 19, 7:30 p.m.

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

Your NECA Representatives 2018-2019

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Sean Flynn	Chair of NECTAR, sflynn@gmail.com
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Ex officio:

Christina Leadlay

New Edinburgh News, 613-261-0442, newednews@hotmail.com

Farewell and thank you to Jeff Smith and to Tobi Nussbaum



Cindy Parkanyi
NECA President

As I sit near my window looking out at the beautiful snow-fall, I am reminded of how lucky we are to live in such a lovely corner of Ottawa. What makes our neighbourhood so wonderful in large part, is that, through community events, spending time in the park with children, dogs and friends, or contributing to work to preserve our village, we all become an integral part of the community fabric.

This is especially embodied by long-time resident **Jeff Smith**, to whom we must unfortunately say farewell as he moves closer to family on the outskirts of Ottawa. Having lived in New Edinburgh for more than 30 years, Jeff has been an active community volunteer and leader on many community issues. In his early days here, he fought with great drive against the Vanier Parkway extension, and played an integral part in establishing the cycle and pedestrian paths in Stanley Park and other recreational facilities. Of late, Jeff has been instrumental in advocating for better project management and mitigation on the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project, as well as for a safer neighbourhood through his

leadership on our community association's Traffic and Safety Committee.

We cannot thank Jeff enough for his tireless efforts in helping to make New Edinburgh a great neighbourhood, and we wish him and his wife **Maggie** well in their new life. Jeff has actually timed how long it takes to get from his new digs to Stanley Park—only 17 minutes outside of rush hour—so hopefully we will still benefit from his company from time to time.

New year, new councillor

Our two-time ward councillor **Tobi Nussbaum** has taken over the reins at the National Capital Commission (NCC). We would like to thank Tobi for his efforts on our behalf and wish him well in his new position. Given that many issues that New Edinburgh is currently dealing with involve the NCC in some way, we are very hopeful that he will be able to continue to support the community in his new role.

The Community Collective of area community associations (including NECA) is working together to ensure that our residents will have the information they

need regarding the candidates for ward councillor to make an informed decision. As plans are firmed up for an All Candidates' event, we will communicate these through our respective listservs, websites and email lists.

Park vision

You will find an article on the Park Vision work by **Nicole Poitras** and **Vicky Solan**, co-leads of the Park Vision Working Group, on page 1 of this newspaper. The group is working to ensure we can have as much influence as possible on the final state of our park once the CSST project is finished. They are also working to establish the mechanisms to continue to protect and nurture our park in the future. If this is something that interests you, please contact Nicole or Vicky to join the group.

Heritage street signs

A number of new heritage-style streets signs have been installed throughout the Heritage Conservation District. We are told that all the signs are up. Let us know if you think any that are missing. The heritage street sign initiative was started by **Joan Mason** during her tenure as NECA president. Then-ward councillor **Peter Clark** used his ward budget to begin installation of the signs. Thank you to Joan, Peter and to Tobi for getting this done!

Upcoming meetings and events

BudgetSpeak, an interactive public session to discuss the upcoming 2019 City Budget, will take place on Feb. 13 at City Hall from 6–8 p.m. This is your opportunity to speak up on what you feel the City's priorities should be.

The next meeting of the NECA Board will take place on Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at NECTAR, 255 MacKay St. All are welcome.

If you would like to know more about NECA, please contact me at newedinburgh@outlook.com. Also, if you are not yet receiving the monthly NECA updates by email and would like to be included on the list, please send me an email request.



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New structures bookending Minto bridges are ugly and unnecessary

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Unexpectedly in December, and without consultation or much notice to the community, the City erected two overhead sign structures at either end of the Minto Bridges, which cross the Rideau River on Stanley Avenue at Union Street. Now the most historic and distinctive gateway to New Edinburgh is compromised with these unsightly “goalposts” of steel with bright yellow tubes indicating the permitted height clearance.

Their installation was expressly against the request of our then-Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, who objected to them before they were in place and continued to do so until his departure from office on Jan. 25.

The fact is there is no need for these structures – and the City has not provided any evidence on why they are necessary other than that the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 6, Warning Signs, requires them.

According to a report by Tobi in early December: “Due to the bridge upgrades, City staff insist that provincial traffic rules require the City to install an overhead structure in advance of the bridges to indicate that there is a height restriction. I opposed the installation of this structure and argued that it was unnecessary.”

In 22 years living in our neighbourhood, I cannot recall ever seeing a tall truck go over the bridges. The existing signage should continue to suffice. This is a case where strict adherence to regulation is misguided, with unintended consequences. We need some flexibility here to the particular case and circumstance.

The overhead structures are an eyesore and an affront to the preservation and appeal of the heritage bridges. Every weekday, residents and Global



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Two sign-support structures were installed at either end of the Minto Bridges in December 2018.

Affairs Canada employees walk, ride or drive over the bridges. Tourists often connect from Lowertown across the bridges to the Rideau Hall. Now, even looking down Union Street from my block at Avon Lane, I can see the garish yellow tubes as they obstruct the view of the bridges.

Apparently, the overhead structures are an alternative to “mounting the required signage and placing the required markings on the bridges themselves” which the City engineers acknowledged “would significantly detract from the ornate appearance of these heritage-designated structures,” according to an extract from an engineering memo provided by the councillor’s staff.

Instead, the City constructed the two sign-support structures, one just west of the Union Street/Stanley Avenue intersection on the east approach to Minto Bridge East, and the other south of Minto Bridge West near the Union Street/King Edward

Avenue intersection.

Tobi received numerous complaints about the structures before his departure from City Council on Jan. 25. At the time of writing, he had asked City staff to remove the structures, and staff had indicated they were seeking a legal opinion on whether they could be taken down, with signs kept in place at the side of the road. That legal opinion will be sent to the ward office.

Meantime, residents can complain directly to **Phil Landry**, Director of Traffic Services for the City. You can contact him at: Philippe.Landry@ottawa.ca or 613-580-2424 x 23185. It may also be worth reminding him that with all that New Edinburgh is enduring with the hugely disruptive multi-year Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project, the blight of these goalpost structures is inconsiderate as well as unnecessary.

If we don’t like the overhead structures and want them removed, let’s fight them by letting the City know our views.

New Edinburgh resident Sarah Anson-Cartwright works in public affairs. She takes an active interest in city issues and is campaign manager for Marc Dorgeville, a candidate for councillor for the ward.

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

Correction:

In the December 2018 Burgh Business Briefs, we incorrectly reported the dollar value of Metro’s meat donation to the Ottawa Food Bank as \$3,919,500. The correct figure is \$39,195. *NEN* regrets the mistake.

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Helping refugee family has been a rewarding experience for all

By Abby DeWolfe and Karen McDonald

New Edinburgh Welcomes Refugees (NEWR) is a group of individuals from our community that came together three years ago to sponsor a refugee family from Syria. Through MacKay United Church, we were connected with Muhammad and Raya, their young daughters Hala and Ayla, and Muhammad's mother, Hala Sr., who were Syrians living in Beirut, Lebanon. After two long years of waiting and planning and then waiting some more, the family arrived at the beginning of April 2018. In Ottawa they were reunited with Muhammad's sister and her family, who had arrived in the spring of 2015.

Moving to another country is not easy, especially when you have to leave behind family and friends with no idea when you will see them again. Muhammad and Raya have stepped into their new life in Canada with an openness and a willingness to learn that is truly admirable. Muhammad now has a job working for a tech company located primarily in Montreal, commuting there for three days each week. Raya has availed herself of English classes and online job training, and is hoping to find work in her field as a network engineer.

Hala is in first grade in Early French Immersion and is reading, writing and making friends. Ayla is not yet in school but is ever adaptable, joining her family wherever the day takes them and picking up more and more English every day. The girls have taken swimming les-



Photo courtesy Abby DeWolfe
Muhammad, Raya, Hala and Ayla have adapted to life in Ottawa since their arrival in April 2018.

sons, picked raspberries, gone tobogganing, learned to skate, and taken a horse-drawn wagon ride. They have taken in such Ottawa events as the Teddy Bears' Picnic, the RCMP Musical Ride and the Tulip Festival. They've visited Parliament, canoed in Gatineau Park and tried a BeaverTail pastry. In short, the family is settling into Ottawa and Canadian life very well.

There are many people NEWR would like to thank for all of their support on

this journey. We have been amazed at the thoughtfulness, generosity and openness of people not only in NEWR, but also in the larger community.

• First and foremost, we must recognize the core **NEWR group** for all the financial, practical and emotional support that was extended to the family. As well, the larger group of friends, family and neighbours who helped us to raise the money needed to sponsor this family of five.

• The **MacKay United**

Church was gracious in being our Sponsorship Agreement Holder and through them we benefited from the deep knowledge of **Norma McCord**, who has helped in welcoming many refugees to Ottawa, and **Janice Rideout**, who has managed our funds through the Church.

• Neighbours who donated bikes and **Phil Brun del Re** at **Full Cycle**, who refurbished them and provided an additional child's bike and accessories.

• **Dr. Luc Ducharme** and Associates for providing free dental checks for the entire family upon their arrival.

• The "meal train," that made sure there were meals to feed not only Muhammad, Raya, Hala, Ayla and Hala Sr., but also Muhammad's sister and her family for the first couple of hectic weeks after arrival.

• **Paula Thompson, John Arnold** and their children **Zoya** and **Maks** for opening their home to Muhammad, Raya and the girls in the weeks before their rental home became available.

• All the people who donated warm clothing when the family arrived in April, only to be greeted by weather more typical of December, and the many wonderful children's clothes that have continued to be handed down.

• Those who donated furniture, small appliances, kitchenware, toiletries and cleaning supplies, toys and books – everything they needed to make their house a home.

• Individuals who took them out shopping, who introduced them to Ottawa treasures such as Petrie Island and Mer Bleu, and who met with them for English conversation.

• Our driving pool volunteers, who made sure everyone got to their various appointments in the initial weeks and months (and there were many!), and were particularly helpful in transporting Hala to her new school ahead of the family's move to their new home. Members of this group also provided help with obtaining bus passes and driver's licenses.

• Our own families, who have joined us in welcoming Muhammad, Raya, Hala and Ayla into our homes and our lives.

• Lastly, we would like to

We would like to thank our wonderful sponsor group for all of their efforts before and after we came. Because of you we now have a good, comfortable and peaceful life after a lot of grief, fear and stress.

We will always appreciate your support and friendship, making us feel like we are in our home with our friends and family.

We will keep telling our story about you – the Canadian people who saved our lives.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Raya and Muhammad

thank Muhammad and Raya from whom we have learned so much. It has been a joy experiencing Ottawa with you and we know your future here is bright.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remember the late **Elisabeth Salm**. Elisabeth was one of our core members and was so excited for the arrival of Muhammad and Raya. Her warmth and kindness was felt by them immediately and her loss has had a profound impact. We knew her as a member of NEWR, but we have learned her community service stretched far beyond our neighbourhood and we are thankful for the time and energy that she brought to our group.

We have learned so much from this process and through it have gotten to know neighbours and community members whom we might not have otherwise. Canada has a long-standing tradition of welcoming refugees and immigrants and we are grateful to have been a small part of this. In the words of one of our volunteers: "The real reward has been getting to know such a fabulous family and remembering that many of our ancestors were once in the very same boat and they, too, benefitted from the warm welcome of those who came before them."

Abby DeWolfe and Karen McDonald are members of NEWR.




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A facelift coming for 60 Stanley Ave.



By Gail McEachern, Heritage and Development Committee

Sixty Stanley Avenue is a modest five-storey apartment building facing the Rideau River at the corner of Charles Street. It is within the boundaries of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District (HCD).

A building-to-building inventory and evaluation was carried out when the HCD was established in 2001. All buildings were scored individually (as required by the Ontario Heritage Act), and assigned to a category from 1 to 4, with 1 representing the most important buildings and 4 the least important.

Properties that fell into categories 1, 2 and 3 are considered “Contributing” buildings, meaning that they

contribute to the special character of the New Edinburgh HCD through their history, architectural significance or environmental setting.

Category 4 buildings are considered to be “Non-Contributing” in that they do not contribute to the character of the HCD as defined in the section of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District Plan entitled “Description of Heritage Attributes.”

Although 60 Stanley Ave. is designated as a category 4 structure, it is recognized that all existing building stock with the HCD is significant to the history of New Edinburgh and therefore should be retained rather than demolished. The owner is proposing to renovate the interior of this building, re-

clad the exterior, and expand the footprint of the fifth floor in order to relocate three rental units from the basement. A laundry room and amenity space currently located on the fifth floor would be moved to the basement.

Interior alterations to a building within the HCD are not required to be reviewed by the city’s heritage planners or NECA’s Heritage and Development Committee. However, any exterior changes are subject to review to ensure they are compatible with the “contributing” buildings in the surrounding neighbourhood.

In terms of the front façade of 60 Stanley Ave., the owner is proposing an alternate façade constructed over the building’s existing brick face. It would be composed of visually strong dark grey, light grey and white fibre cement panels. In addition, the proposal includes removing the original windows and replacing them with ones that are larger and more contemporary in style.

These changes do not follow the guideline laid out



The south view of the proposed new exterior at 60 Stanley Ave.

in New Edinburgh’s Heritage Conservation Plan related to Non-Contributing buildings which states: “Alterations and additions to Non-Contributing buildings will be designed to be compatible with Contributing buildings in the HCD, and in particular the streetscape in terms of scale, massing, height, setbacks, entry level, materials and windows.” The present proposal would result in the original façade of the building being almost completely erased because of the strong vertical and horizontal fea-

tures of the overlay. The city’s heritage staff have requested several modifications to the façade re-design in order to make a more appropriate and sympathetic fit in the streetscape.

NECA’s Heritage and Development Committee will be reviewing this proposal and submitting its comments and recommendations to the city’s planning staff and the Built Heritage Subcommittee.

Gail McEachern is the chair of NECA’s Heritage and Development Committee.

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Starting the New Year with a party and winter fun



Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

As we begin 2019, I am very excited to see so many residents out at our local rinks and enjoying winter activities in our parks. I encourage everyone to visit Winterlude this month, which runs from Feb. 1–18 throughout the National Capital Region, including in the ByWard Market. Don't forget that OC Transpo will be offering a free shuttle service between sites.

This month is also Black History Month, and I am very pleased to be able to highlight the \$19-million over five years to enhance local community supports and develop research in support of more culturally focused mental health programs in our communities.

On Jan. 5, I was pleased to co-host with MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers our annual New Year's Levee at Collège La Cité. This year, more than 200 residents celebrated 2019 with us. It is always a great pleasure to be able to meet new members of our community and those who have called Ottawa-Vanier home for many years.

As always, my constituency office is there to help you with any interactions with federal services. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Give us a call at 613-998-1860, or send an email at mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

**



Photo courtesy Mona Fortier's office

MP Mona Fortier meet with local residents at the annual Ottawa-Vanier New Year's Levee on Jan. 5 at Collège La Cité.

En ce début d'année 2019, je suis contente de voir que les résidentes et les résidents profitent des patinoires locales et des activités hivernales dans nos parcs. Je vous encourage aussi à participer aux festivités de Bal de Neige qui se déroule du 1er au 18 février dans la région de la capitale nationale, y compris

au marché By. N'oubliez pas qu'OC Transpo offrira un service gratuit de navette entre les sites.

Ce mois est également le Mois de l'histoire des Noirs et je suis très heureuse de souligner l'investissement du gouvernement de 19 millions de dollars sur cinq ans pour améliorer les services d'appui

aux communautés locales et pour développer des recherches à l'appui de programmes de santé mentale davantage axés sur la culture dans nos communautés.

Le 5 janvier dernier, Nathalie Des Rosiers, députée provinciale et moi avons tenu notre réception du Jour de l'An au Collège La Cité. Un bel après-midi pour accueillir plus de 200 résidentes et résidents des quatre coins d'Ottawa-Vanier. C'est toujours un grand plaisir de rencontrer des nouveaux membres de notre communauté et de saluer celles et ceux qui sont à Ottawa-Vanier depuis des années.

Je vous réitère mon engagement pour vous servir à mon bureau de circonscription et vous appuyer dans vos demandes avec les services fédéraux. Il est ouvert du lundi au jeudi de 9 h à 17 h et le vendredi de 9 h à 16 h 30. Communiquez avec nous au 613-998-1860 ou envoyez un courriel à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

Provincial budget coming in March



Nathalie Des Rosiers
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Dear constituents,

Please do not hesitate to share with me your comments relating to provincial issues. The legislative session will resume shortly, and it is important for me to understand your preoccupa-

tions. Among other topics, I have recently held round-table discussions on seniors' issues and on housing issues in Ottawa-Vanier. Even if you were unable to participate, I am happy to receive your input.

Environmental questions such as the protection of drinking water and the Greenbelt, as well as proper waste management, will be at the core of our debates for the next session. I will be presenting a Private Member's Bill addressing the management of plastic bags and their impact on our lakes, rivers and oceans.

Additionally, the Progressive Conservative Government's budget consultations continued in January, and they will present their budget in March. If you have made presentations during these consultations, it would be my pleasure to present them again in the House. Feel free to send them to my office. If you have any concerns with respect to the budget, let me know.

I am at your service and want to continue to represent you well: I actively support all institutions that are located in the riding of Ottawa-Vanier, as well as all my fellow residents of the beautiful Ottawa region.

In closing, I invite you to an afternoon of bowling and board games on Family Day, Feb. 18! Contact my office

for more details.

MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers's Constituency Office is located at 237 Montreal Rd. Contact her at 613-744-4484; ndesrosiers.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org or visit nathaliedesrosiers.onmpp.ca

**

Chers commettants,

N'hésitez jamais à me faire part de vos commentaires relativement aux enjeux provinciaux. La session législative se poursuivra d'ici peu et il est important pour moi de bien comprendre ce qui vous préoccupe. Entre autres, j'ai récemment organisé des table-rondes sur les questions touchant les aînés ainsi que sur le logement. Même si vous n'avez pas eu la chance d'y participer, j'apprécie toujours vos commentaires sur ces sujets.

Les questions environnementales, telles que la protection de l'eau, de la Ceinture verte et des déchets seront au cœur de nos discussions lors de la prochaine session. Je déposerai un projet de loi pour traiter de la gestion des sacs de plastique et de leur impact sur nos lacs, rivières et océans.

De plus, le gouvernement

conservateur a continué à tenir, en janvier, des consultations budgétaires pour présenter son budget en mars. Si vous avez fait ou ferez des présentations dans le cadre de ces consultations, il me fera plaisir de les reprendre devant la Chambre. Faites-les moi parvenir. Si vous avez des inquiétudes en rapport au budget, n'hésitez pas à m'appeler.

Je suis à votre service et veux continuer de bien vous représenter: je soutiens activement toutes les institutions qui ont pignon sur rue dans le comté d'Ottawa-Vanier ainsi que tous mes concitoyens et concitoyennes de notre belle région d'Ottawa.

En terminant, je vous invite à notre journée de quilles et jeux de société le 18 février prochain dans le cadre des festivités de la Journée de la famille. Venez jouer avec nous! Contactez mon bureau pour plus de détails.

Le bureau de circonscription de députée provinciale Nathalie Des Rosiers se trouve à 237 ch. Montréal. Tél: 613-744-4484; ndesrosiers.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; ou nathaliedesrosiers.onmpp.ca

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Despite job change, my commitment to public service remains



Tobi Nussbaum
City Councillor, Ward 13

As I write my last column for the *New Edinburgh News* as Councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe, I want to thank all of the residents of New Edinburgh for twice placing your trust in me to represent you at City Hall. It has been the greatest privilege of my professional life to represent all the neighbourhoods of Rideau-Rockcliffe over the

last four-plus years as we worked together to build an even better city and improve the quality of life for everyone. I am glad to be able to continue to work on these objectives across the National Capital Region, including New Edinburgh, home of important public assets such as the Rideau River pathway and Rideau Hall, as I

start my new responsibilities as Chief Executive Officer of the National Capital Commission. Although my job is changing, what remains the same is my commitment to public service and contributing to the positive evolution of our nation's seat of government.

Members of my current team will continue to staff the Ward Office at City Hall after my departure – continuing to respond to questions, action requests and conduct the regular work of the office. On Jan. 30, City Council will set out next steps and timing to fill the Councillor position, which I expect will be through a by-election to be held in the coming months. I also expect that Council will

appoint one or more of my colleagues on Council to provide political representation when required in the interim, on planning applications, for example.

I wanted to also draw attention to an important upcoming event. On Feb. 13, our ward office, in conjunction with the four urban Councillors, will co-host BudgetSpeak, an interactive public session to discuss the upcoming 2019 City Budget. The meeting will be held at City Hall from 6–8 p.m.

I look forward to continuing to bump into residents of the Burgh at the Metro, at one of the growing number of nearby cafés and restaurants or walking or cycling in the neighbourhood. When that

happens, please don't hesitate to stop me and say hello, or offer an interesting idea on how we can make our city and capital that much better.

The element I will most miss about the role of councillor is the interactions and conversations with individual community members. It is the volunteer energy, engagement and commitment of citizens that is the most important ingredient in building successful neighbourhoods. New Edinburgh has that quality in spades!

Contact the ward office for Rideau-Rockcliffe online at rideaurockcliffeward.ca by email rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca or 613-580-2483.

Making the most of winter in Ottawa



Jim Watson
Mayor of Ottawa

The month of February may be the shortest calendar month, but for Ottawa residents, it is a very busy one full of exciting activities for the whole family! Ottawa's most iconic winter attraction is undoubtedly the Rideau Canal Skateway, the world's largest naturally frozen skating rink, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

But did you know that Ottawa also has more than 250 outdoors skating rinks for you to enjoy in all parts of the city? This includes our beautiful, state-of-the-art, refrigerated Sens Rink of Dreams at City Hall, the Jim Tubman Chevrolet Sens Rink in Canterbury, the Ben Franklin Place skating rink and the Lansdowne Park skating court. You can find out more information about City rinks, including opening hours, at ottawa.ca.

Additionally, the City of Ottawa has more than 150 km of cross-country ski trails in the heart of the city and throughout the Greenbelt. These trails are free to use, suitable for skiers of all abilities and are great for snowshoeing as well. There are also cross-country ski trails

available to use for a fee at the Mooney's Bay Ski Centre and in Gatineau Park, but you can skip the fee by getting your mittens on a ski pass from the Ottawa Public Library.

The nation's capital is also home to Winterlude, our annual winter festival. Residents can celebrate the best of what winter has to offer from Feb. 1–18. This year marks two important firsts in the festi-

val's history: special honours and tributes will be made to Indigenous culture during the first week of Winterlude, and the very first Winter Pride celebration will take place during the festival's second week. Winterlude activities take place at numerous sites across the Ottawa-Gatineau region, including the ByWard Market, Sparks Street and in the Glebe. Visit Winterlude's website for a full calendar of events and list of activities.

But if the cold isn't for you, I encourage you to visit ottawa.ca and sign up for one of the many exciting recreation programs we have available across the city, for all age groups, in both official languages.

And for the teenagers in your home who are anxious

for the fair weather to return so that they can play outside you can help them channel that rambunctious energy by encouraging them to apply to the second annual Mayor for a Day contest. Students from grades 9–12 are invited to share what they love most about Ottawa and suggest two ideas on how to improve our city, to win the chance to spend a day with me. Last year's winners were on CTV Morning Live, chaired the City Council meeting with me, took an exclusive ride on the LRT and met Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The contest closes Feb. 28, 2019. Visit jimwatsonottawa.ca/mayorforaday for more information.

Finally, I invite you to

join me for a day of fun, free activities at my annual Mayor's Family Day Skating Party on Family Day, Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Hall. There will be giveaways, special guests, and hot chocolate as well as indoor and outdoor activities for the whole family.

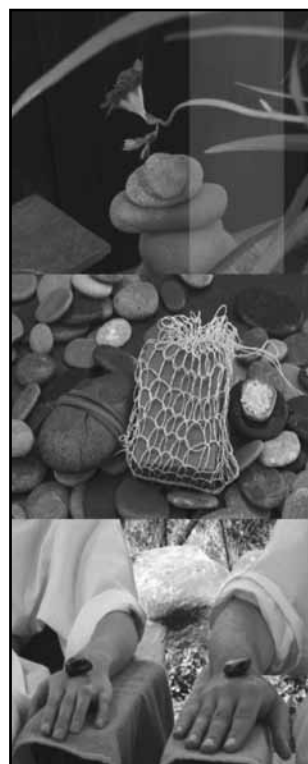


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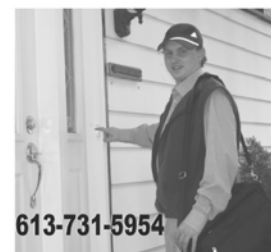
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Malcolm and John Harding

BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- Jane Heintzman -

Chef-made meals cooked in your own kitchen

For many, the daily grind of supper preparation is just one too many on the To-Do list. Juggling the demands of work, chauffeuring children to lessons and games, shopping for provisions, or overseeing homework leaves limited time and energy for preparing the evening meal. For many seniors, the rigors of food shopping and meal preparation are particularly daunting, often undermining the possibility of maintaining a healthy diet. Enter **Lucie Eyelesbarrow. Cooking.** to save the day with made-from-scratch, nutritious suppers prepared right in your own kitchen. The service covers the gamut of meal prep tasks, from menu planning to food shopping, cooking and a thorough clean-up of all cooking utensils.

This new service is the brainchild of Manor Park resident **Jennifer Bardwell** – no, there is no Lucie! Jennifer launched the business last fall after a making



Photo by Emma Rotondo

Jennifer Bardwell is the chef behind Lucie Eyelesbarrow. Cooking., named after a character from an Agatha Christie novel.

a radical career change from her role as a scientist at the National Research Council. Taking the plunge into an entirely new field of interest, she enrolled in the Culinary Management Program at Algonquin College. In the course of the program, she acquired her credentials not only in cooking skills, but

also in the business of food service, from menu planning and pricing to serving and food safety.

Jennifer's focus is on preparing interesting food, while keeping close control over her own work schedule. Instead of a restaurant, Jennifer opted for a more personal, small-scale, in-home cooking ser-

vice, with manageable hours and a direct relationship with clients. Another strong motivation for this business model was to address the needs of seniors struggling to stay in their own homes, but seriously challenged by the demands of daily meal preparation. Jennifer was acutely aware that the need was out there based on her own parents' experience.

Lucie Eyelesbarrow. Cooking. currently serves Manor Park, Lindenlea, Rockcliffe Park and New Edinburgh, offering both one-time or occasional supper preparation service, as well as a regular schedule of dinners once or twice each week. In the case of twice-weekly clients, Jennifer prepares two fresh meals in the course of her home visit, one for the night in question and a second to be heated up the following evening. She also has a contract with a commercial kitchen where she prepares single-portion frozen dinners, which clients can purchase to cover the whole week. These frozen meals are also available at local butcher **Muckleston & Brockwell, 127 Beechwood Ave.**

Prospective clients fill out a preliminary questionnaire, indicating their likes, dislikes, allergies and food sensitivities. Jennifer then works with each client to ensure that her menus are tailored to their preferences. Sample menus run the gamut from bistro-style pork stew with bell peppers to oven-baked ratatouille with farfalle pasta; green Thai curry with tofu and vegetables; and hearty flank steak with roasted tomatoes and mashed potatoes. When she initially launched her business, Jennifer ran a contest in several local postal codes offering a free dinner for six.

The initiative was so successful she's contemplating another such contest. Visit her Facebook page for more information: facebook.com/LucieECookin For bookings, call **613-878-0569**.

The new service's intriguing moniker is based on a character from an Agatha Christie detective novel, whose career path echoes Jennifer's own experience. The fictional Lucie Eyelesbarrow was a young mathematics prodigy who abandoned academia to pursue a career as a domestic. Lucie swiftly garnered a reputation as a household fixer and support – and proved to have stellar abilities as a detective. While Jennifer makes no claims to prowess as a sleuth, she hopes to become an invaluable resource in the kitchens of many households here in the Burgh, and in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Ministry of Coffee opened Jan. 26

It's been seven months since we first heralded the anticipated arrival of **The Ministry of Coffee** at 18 Beechwood Ave., former home of **Da Bombe Desserts**. At last, the long wait is over! The New Year started off a bit rocky as Ministry of Coffee co-owner **Alex Dhavernas** shared the dispiriting news that "we've had to fire our contractor and are starting the final steps with a new one." But progress picked up considerably, and on Jan. 26, the café opened its doors to the neighbourhood. "We finally had our soft opening on Saturday, and it was a hit!" reported Alex.

Local resident **Joanie Rheau-Bond** will be among the Ministry of Coffee staff at the Beechwood location. "Joanie is very excited to be working in her own neighbourhood," says Alex. "She

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Photo by Louise Imbeault

(From left) The Ministry of Coffee's Fadi, Alex and Tong.

knows many of the locals that she meets when [out] walking her dog."

It's been a busy start to 2019 for the Ministry of Coffee team: in addition to its spanking new Beechwood location, the café has just opened a kiosk at the Ottawa train station, offering travelers a welcome oasis in what had been a refreshment desert.

Compu-Home: 20 years and counting

In 2018, the **Harding** family celebrated the 20th anniversary of **Compu-Home**, their thriving in-home computer repair, support and consultation business, which now serves clients throughout the region from Kanata to Orleans, from Gatineau to Manotick. Many clients have been regulars since the late 1990s, while others are children or even grandchildren of their original customers.

Compu-Home's core services include in-home repair; internet security and speed; software upgrades; hardware issues; purchasing advice and assistance; small business support; remote assistance (when Compu-Home takes control of a client's computer to resolve a problem without a home visit); and free telephone support to triage clients' concerns, and often sort them out over the phone. Learn more at **compu-home.com** or 613-731-5954.

Compu-Home began as, and remains, a small, family-based operation, whose mantra is timely, personal service, with a strong educational component and a commitment to clear, non-jargon-laden explanation. Founder **John Harding** continues to play an important role in all aspects of the business, including the provision of advice and information to clients, while son **Malcolm** is now the principal

operator, and the lead technician and trouble-shooter. Much of his time is spent on the road, making home visits to those in need of computer repairs or support.

Malcolm is assisted by two other capable technicians: **Cory Fraser**, who is based in Compu-Home's fully-equipped workshop (the repurposed garage at Malcolm's home), and **Daniel MacIntyre**, who shares the home-visit circuit with Malcolm. With a trio of technicians on board, Compu-Home is able to respond to calls reasonably quickly (within a couple of days). Malcolm has deliberately kept the team small however, since personal service is a top priority and most clients, particularly seniors, prefer to deal with the same technician on a regular basis. While close to 90 per cent of repairs or upgrades are carried out in clients' homes, those that are complex and time-consuming, requiring special tools for the repair, are dealt with in the workshop.

Malcolm encourages clients to remain on hand while he carries out a repair or upgrade. "If I just fix it and they're not involved, they don't learn anything," he explains, see-

ing it as a part of his mission to demystify the process, and enable the client to tackle future problems themselves. For similar reasons, he takes pains to research and explain the options to clients who request equipment purchasing advice. But he admits that in many cases, clients simply hand off the whole transaction, commissioning Malcolm to make the choice himself, purchase the equipment, set it up and deliver it, ready to roll.

The relentless advancement of computer technology has made obsolescence a dominant theme in Compu-Home's business, where replacement is catching up to repair as the first recourse when things go wrong. While Malcolm tries hard to spare clients' budgets by upgrading existing equipment, when this is not an option, he often recommends the purchase of certified "refurbished" computers, which are widely available at reasonable cost – if you know the best sources of supply, which Compu-Home prides itself in doing.

Best Buy, Staples and the Trailing Edge in Bell's Corners regularly have a supply of refurbished computers on hand, many of them from government offices which operate on a fixed replacement cycle. As Malcolm points out, these have the advantage of being "well tested" so you're unlikely to be stuck with a lemon straight from the manufacturer. Unlike a number of the larger mobile computer repair operations, Compu-Home is not affiliated with any of these equipment suppliers, so Malcolm's advice on purchasing options can be relied upon as unbiased.

Not surprisingly, many of Compu-Home's clients are seniors, for whom computer



Photo courtesy of Compu-Home

(From left) Cory, Malcolm and Dan are the Compu-Home team.

technology is not "bred in the bone," as it is for younger generations. Many seniors have difficulty learning the language of the digital world, and keeping up with the rapid pace of technological change. From its earliest days, Compu-Home has been committed to "speaking a language these folks can understand," as Malcolm puts it, not with condescension but with clarity and directness. John Harding is a past master at this, and his careful explanations have helped innumerable clients (and friends!) come to terms with their computer woes.

As he contemplates the recent dramatic changes in the digital world, Malcolm has some concerns about the overwhelming impact of social media and cloud-based technology, both of which entail a precarious trade-off between privacy and security on the one hand, versus convenience on the other. Compu-Home's informative Blog features discussions of these and other issues. Visit compu-home.com/blog/ for

more background.


We wish the Compu-Home team a happy 20th anniversary, and continuing success in the decades to come!

New pharmacy and medical centre opens

Pharmacy owner and principal tenant **Peter Barreiro** reports that the Beechwood Whole Health Pharmacy and Medical Centre at 222 Beechwood (corner of Marquette in The Kavanaugh building) is now fully operational and is welcoming new local clients. The new medical centre is an amalgam of three different businesses: **Barreiro Pharmacies Ltd., Kingsway Health Centre, and Athlete's Care Sports Medicine Centres**. Its aim is to serve as a one-stop shop for all your medical needs, whether it's a family doctor, a physiotherapist, a chiropractor, an acupuncturist, a sports medicine doctor, drugstore supplies or a prescription renewal.

Pharmacy hours are currently 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday

Continued on page 10



Chris Ellis

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Photo by Louise Imbeault

Pharmacist Peter Barreiro says the Beechwood Whole Health Pharmacy and Medical Centre is accepting new clients.

through Friday, and 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Saturday. Peter may extend these hours in the spring, however, when walk-by traffic picks up. He also encourages clients to contact him outside of business hours if a pressing need arises, as it did recently when one client needed help on a Sunday. You can reach his cell phone at **613-863-3769**; the pharmacy landline during regular hours is **613-842-7455**. The full-service pharmacy offers flu shots, and is equipped to serve a broad range of medical conditions, including those covered by the Royal Ottawa's Recovery Program.

By the end of January, the family medical clinic at 222 Beechwood, headed up by Dr. Abdullah, will have three doctors on hand on a regular basis, each operating on specific days of the week. The doctors are still welcoming

new patients and can be reached at **beechwood@dr.com**. Prospective patients can also contact Peter to obtain the application form to be filled out when applying for coverage by one of the Centre's physicians: **pbarreiro@rogers.com**.

The Athlete's Care portion of the facility offers physiotherapy, therapeutic massage, acupuncture, chiropractic treatment and sports medicine. Appointments with a sports medicine doctor at Athlete's Care require a referral from a family doctor. For information or an appointment, contact **613-747-2873**, or call Peter Barreiro **613-842-7455**.

See what's new at CELADON salon

CELADON is a long-running, full-service salon and spa, located nearby at 373

St. Laurent Blvd. It offers a comprehensive range of high-quality services from hair-care, makeup, eye-lash tinting and extensions, to manicures, pedicures, facials, massage, heat and aromatic steam therapy, and multi-treatment spa packages – an inspiration for Valentine's Day! And CELADON now goes the extra mile to provide personal service, offering home visits for the house-bound, as well as pick-up and delivery for elderly clients with mobility challenges – like one regular client who receives a monthly facial, manicure, pedicure and foot massage.

CELADON is also seriously committed to using environmentally sustainable practices and materials in every aspect of its operations. The beauty business has long been a major polluter, creating billions of tons of plastic waste annually, much of which ends up in landfills. Many skin and hair care products contain harmful, toxic chemicals, while the polystyrene microbeads found in facial scrubs have become a notorious contributor to ocean pollution. But efforts to "green" the industry are now ramping up, as consumers become more aware of the environmental impact of beauty products, and more selective about their purchasing choices.

Owner **Morna Paterson** is justifiably proud of the green initiatives ongoing at CELADON, one of the first salons in Ottawa to be certified as a member of Green Circle Salons. Green Circle is a Toronto-based company which recovers, recycles and repurposes waste prod-



Photo by France Legault

CELADON owner Morna Paterson (left) and client Catherine Bélanger with Sunflower Soap products.

ucts from the beauty industry, including hair, foils, residual color and color tubes, paper, plastics and aerosol cans (**greencirclesalons.com**). CELADON has been on board this continent-wide recycling network for five years, and in 2017, Green Circle Salons in Canada and the U.S. successfully diverted nearly a million pounds of salon waste from landfills and water courses.

Morna reports that there are myriad inventive uses for a waste product like hair. For example, it can be reused as a natural herbicide for potted plants, or stuffed into nylon casing to make hair "booms," a handy device for controlling oil spills. A research project in North Carolina is currently running an experiment which extracts the keratin from human hair to repair damaged nerve cells.

In addition, CELADON's green commitment entails the maximum possible use of natural products for hair and beauty treatments, as well as for cleaning. The majority of their products are paraben-free, while their signature jane iredale skincare makeup contains no fillers, chemical SPF ingredients, or harmful dyes, and is not tested on animals. CELADON's nailcare products are free of formaldehyde and other toxic ingredients found in many nail polishes.

For some years, the salon has featured products from Kevin Murphy Haircare, an Australian company noted for its sustainable packaging and its eco-friendly hair prod-

ucts, which are paraben- and sulphate-free. That company has been working in collaboration with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and is about to embark on the KM Ocean Waste Plastic initiative, aimed at removing 360 tons of plastic from the oceans each year.

In keeping with its commitment to sustainability, the CELADON facility was itself built using renewable, non-toxic and recycled materials, and is equipped with energy-efficient heating and lighting systems. Staff follow strict water conservation practices, and products from the salon are packaged in environmentally-friendly materials.

In recent weeks, CELADON has added a new, locally-made, natural product to its lineup. **Sunflower Soaps** is owned and operated by local resident **Debbie Gervais** (profiled in our October 2017 issue). The company features such handmade bath products as soaps, bath salts, lemongrass hand wash and lavender spray. Sunflower products are made from such pure essential oils as olive, coconut and sunflower, as well as from shea butter and nourishing herbs and clays. Visit **sunflowersoaps.ca**.

In the New Year, CELADON announced the arrival of new staff member **Stephanie Carron**, who joins the team as part-time Manager and Esthetician. Stephanie has special expertise in acne treatment and Brazilian waxing. Coming up on Feb. 8 from 6–8 p.m., the salon will launch a new art exhibit, *Photos of the Stars*,



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New management at PTI gym

Local physiotherapist **Pamela Siekierski** first launched The Physical Therapy Institute (PTI) in 1995. In the two and a half decades since then, PTI has evolved to encompass a broad range of fitness and rehabilitation services, from personal training in a fully-equipped gym, to physiotherapy, therapeutic massage and osteopathy.

The clinic has moved a number of times over the years, from the former Crichton Public School at 200 Crichton St. to 350 Crichton St. above the New Edinburgh Pharmacy, and most recently, to **268 Durocher St.** just off the Vanier Parkway. Through all the changes, Pam has been the driving force behind the operation, not only as the anchor physiotherapist whose skills are widely known to regular clients, but also as the inspiration for new programs, services and initiatives to address the needs of area residents of all ages.

At the start of the New Year, Pam stepped back from the operation of the PTI gym and fitness facilities. She has turned these over to trainer and Pilates expert **Stuart Maskell** and his new business partner **Eduardo Avila**, a long-time presence at PTI where he served both as a personal trainer and as a certified nutrition and wellness specialist. Pam and her colleague **Phil Tuer** will continue to provide local physiotherapy services, and in Pam's case, to maintain her valuable service of home visits to the housebound.

Stuart and Eduardo have jumped into their new role with enthusiasm, and are actively developing plans for the PTI gym. After intensive research into the fitness options in our area, Stuart concludes: "there is something missing for one specific demographic. The Baby Boomers need somewhere to go! A comfortable space for adults to work on realistic fitness programs with realistic prices. No loud music, no pushy sales pitch – just a clean, bright, welcoming facility with flexible programming and flexible pricing."

Stuart and Eduardo have



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Trainers Stuart Maskell (left) and Eduardo Avila are now running the Physical Therapy Institute on Durocher Street.

been hard at work this past month giving the gym a facelift. They've removed a wall and added more than 200 square feet to the gym floor. They've also given the space a fresh paint job, and added raw wood to the walls and windows to warm up the room. "We've been told that it 'feels like home' now," says Stuart with satisfaction.

Stuart and Eduardo plan to keep the focus at the gym on functional fitness, appropriate to the 50+ demographic they plan to serve. "We've purposely left the space wide open so there's plenty of room to move around, and you won't feel packed in, or be tripping over unnecessary equipment," Stuart explains. Membership options at the PTI gym will be flexible and reasonably priced. Seniors' rates are the lowest in the community at \$45 per month, and monthly rates for adults and students have been lowered to \$55 and \$45, respectively. Family memberships are now available, at \$80 per month for a senior's family and \$100 per month for an adult family, with lower rates for those purchasing three- or six-month memberships.

On the physiotherapy front, Pam will be offering a 25-minute head and neck massage service for \$45, available for one month starting Feb. 11. For those in busy, stressful jobs, or chained to a computer each day, the comfort and relief of a skillful head and neck rub is beyond description. As Pam expresses it, "it puts you at peace." She plans to offer flexible

appointment hours. For more information or to book an appointment, call the clinic at **613-740-0380**.

PTI's gym hours are geared to accommodate all schedules. The gym is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.–8 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. And "we're closer than you think," says Stuart, "only 900 metres from Metro Beechwood: that's a four-minute walk! Like to drive? No problem: we have plenty of parking."

For details, contact Stuart at **Stuart.Maskell@gmail.com** or call **613-796-3476**. Better still, drop in at 268 Durocher St. to have a look for yourself.

Babies, pets and music at Governor's Walk

Governor's Walk activity coordinator **Rosal Yade** is loaded with energy and enthusiasm at the start of 2019, planning a lively schedule of events and to engage the neighbourhood in the life of the residence. "We want our home to be an extension of the community," says Rosal, noting that virtually all Governor's Walk special events are open to the public, and are listed on the residence's Facebook page: **facebook.com/GovernorsWalk**.

On Jan. 25, Robbie Burns Day, Rosal organized a good old-fashioned, toe-tapping ceilidh, when headliner **Tom McSwiggan** entertained residents with a multi-instrument performance on fiddle, accordion and harmonica. Rosal had first spotted Tom and his talents on her summer vis-

its to Prince Edward Island, where he is a regular performer on the local ceilidh circuit. On discovering that Tom was from Ottawa, Rosal swiftly recruited him to liven up Burns Day festivities at the residence.

Once again, Governor's Walk is hosting the Music Generations Program, which will run from Feb. 1–Mar. 29. The cost for the full eight-week session is \$140 (including all materials), plus \$50 for siblings. Siblings under nine months old are free. The program is operated by Achieve and Aspire (aspireandachieve.ca), and is designed to bring parents, caregivers and their toddlers and babies into friendly contact with seniors in 45-minute sessions of lively singing, play and interaction.

Rosal reports that the program has strong appeal for families who have no grandparents in the area, for whom the residents come to serve as "stand-in" grannies and grandpas. And for the seniors participating, it's a sheer joy to be in the company of cuddly babies and small children to boost their spirits and bring their nurturing instincts to the fore. For information, contact program director **Jesse Kahat-Taillon** at **info@aspireandachieve.ca** or **613-552-7355**.

On Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, Rosal has arranged an afternoon of love songs, featuring a singalong to the accompaniment of well-known local pianist **Evelyn Greenberg**. Wine, cheese and desserts will be served at the celebration. Visit the Governor's Walk Facebook page for all the details.

In keeping with her efforts to draw community members into residence life, Rosal stresses "we're always looking for pet visits if someone

wants to contribute to the seniors' quality of life." If you're the owner of a friendly pooch with up-to-date immunizations, call Rosal to arrange a meeting (**613-564-9255**). If all goes well, she will assign a group of residents whom she feels will benefit from a cuddle with a gentle, furry friend, and your companion will be the star of the show!

On Family Day, Feb. 18 at 2:30 p.m., wildlife conservation activists Meet the Keepers will be on hand at Governor's Walk with their entourage of animals and reptiles (**facebook.com/meetthekeepers**). Their presence at the New Edinburgh Garage Sale last September was reportedly a huge hit with residents, and Rosal anticipates that local interest will be high in February, as families stroll in the neighbourhood on the Family Day holiday. Visit the Facebook page for details or call Rosal to RSVP.

'You dream it, we build it'

Before forming their business partnership in 2013, **Chad Richardson** and **Lucas Zinn** had been colleagues in the construction industry for many years, collaborating on commercial and residential projects all over Ottawa. Chad is a general contractor, while Lucas is a licensed carpenter. The two joined forces six years ago to bring their complementary skills to bear in the design-build market, creating **Zinn Richardson**, a small company specializing in renovations, additions, basements, home offices, kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms, and exteriors. To date, the majority of their projects have been located in the Glebe, Old Ottawa South and Old Ottawa East. They are now hoping to branch

Continued on page 12

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Photo by Chad Richardson

Zinn Richardson co-owner Lucas Zinn drops in at a job site after hours.

out into neighbourhoods such as ours: hence their recent appearance as welcome new advertisers in the *NEN*!

Chad and Lucas work with a group of six employees, three of whom are licensed carpenters. Both partners are heavily involved in all aspects of their projects, and Chad notes that sticking with a small team has allowed them to keep a close handle on qual-

ity control. While licensed trades such as electrical and plumbing are sub-contracted out for Zinn Richardson's projects, Chad maintains "a small black book" to ensure that these operations are carried out to a high standard.

Their work with clients entails a thorough preliminary consultation (60–90 minutes) to determine the scope and objective of a pro-

posed project, and to decide whether a design is needed. Chad's background as a licensed sales representative in the real estate business is often helpful in this context, as he is able to offer advice on how a renovation can add resale value to the client's home.

Based on this first chat, Chad and Lucas provide ballpark estimates free of charge, and if the job is a go, they prepare a detailed, costed plan in the following week or two. Further design details, materials and the budget parameters are then nailed down at the next client meeting, when Zinn Richardson identifies an approximate start date, ideally within the next couple of weeks. For more information and to see samples of their work, visit zinnrichardson.com. For an appointment, call **613-809-5089**.

SCM construction on schedule

"St. Charles is doing great!" says **André Cloutier**, Business Development Director for The Lake Partnership (TLPI), regarding recent progress on the St. Charles Market (SCM) project. "Last week, we com-

pleted the third-floor slab, and construction is right on schedule. We're doing our best to limit the disruption to the community by keeping a clean, organized site, and by maintaining a respectful crew led by TLPI senior project manager and partner **Daniel Warder**." Sales of the residential units are strong, with more than 80 per cent sold, and only 10 units remaining.

There's no news yet on the commercial spaces in the new building and the renovated St. Charles Church, but negotiations are well underway. "We have some commitments for space in the new building," reports André, "and we continue to work with some great, community-focused entrepreneurs for the church. All in all, we're really pleased with how the project is taking shape."

Titles@Table 40 returns Feb. 17

Books on Beechwood was hopping this Christmas, as local shoppers snapped up the bumper crop of new releases, along with items from the store's eclectic gift collection. Topping the list of seasonal bestsellers this year were *The Trail Beckons* by

Malcolm Hunter; Giller Prize-winning *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan; *Becoming* by Michelle Obama; *The North Rising* by Whit Fraser; and *Kingdom of the Blind* by the ever-popular Louise Penny.

Books on Beechwood is delighted to report that the first **Titles@Table40** event of the New Year is coming up on **Feb. 17, 5:30–8:30 p.m.** Former parliamentarian and cabinet minister **Monique Bégin** will be the guest of honour, discussing her new memoir *Ladies, Upstairs!* and sharing tales of her cosmopolitan childhood and trailblazing career as a politician. Tickets are on sale now, so drop in at the store, or call **613-742-5030**.

The New Edinburgh News warmly thanks our advertisers, both the faithful and the new, for their continued support of the community and of this newspaper. Your support is essential in helping us share the news of local happenings!



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News you may have missed



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Fire at 100 Ivy Cres.

No one was home when fire broke out at 100 Ivy Cres. on Dec. 16, 2018. Firefighters arrived on the scene around 5:30 a.m., and had the blaze under control before 8:00 a.m., according to the *Ottawa Sun*. Damage is estimated at \$350,000 to the house, and \$50,000 to the contents. The family of four has since relocated.

—Christina Leadlay

Church gets new website

MacKay United Church's new website — mackayunitedchurch.com — is now up and running. Bringing the site into the 21st-century provided summer employment for Lisgar grad **Emma Kirke** who is now studying at Carleton University. Emma's work on the site has given it a youthful vibe: bright, user-friendly and with lots of links, it provides information on all church activities and community outreach. Learn about music programming: check out details of the Chamber Music series, the music and meditation program, the summer jazz series and other special concerts. Information includes ticket prices (if applicable) and where tickets can be obtained. Find out about programs offered by The MacKay Brainery. And, of course, the website also provides information on religious services in the sanctuary. There's something for everyone at MacKay United!

—Eleanor Dunn

Ottawa Transit Riders Group

In late January, close to 100 OC Transpo users gathered

at the University of Ottawa to create the **Ottawa Transit Riders Group**. The group will be a citywide voice for those frustrated by a perceived decline in OC Transpo service. The groups' major concerns are bus delays and cancellations; route changes; rising fares; accessibility problems and the impact of the LRT. A 25-member organizing committee was formed at the workshop, and is working toward a formal, founding meeting of Ottawa Transit Riders in February. In a Jan. 26 interview with CBC Radio, Vanier resident **Sam Boswell**, co-founder of Ottawa Transit Riders (one of four groups that came together for the workshop) stressed the importance of a collective effort to address issues by speaking with one voice on behalf of regular transit users throughout the city. Ottawa Transit Riders Group is expected to be

modelled after TTC Riders in Toronto, an established transit advocacy organization which plays a leading role in public discussion of that city's transit issues. It charges an annual membership fee, and has a Board of Directors, an active roster of volunteers, and a full-time staff member. Learn more about the Ottawa Transit Riders Group at ottawatransitriders@gmail.com; [@OttTransitRider](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaTransitRiders) or [facebook.com/OttawaTransitRiders](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaTransitRiders).

—Jane Heintzman

NECTAR to host art awards in spring

The Ottawa Art Association announced its Spring Awards Show will take place at the NECTAR Gallery at 255 MacKay St. "We have booked space at the Nectar Gallery in New Edinburgh to both hold a Spring Award Show and use as a monthly space to hang our art," said OAA president **Tashi Farmilo-Marouf** in the February 2019 newsletter. "NECTAR will be an additional space to the [Ottawa Little Theatre] to show and potentially sell our work in. If you wish to participate in the monthly hanging, you will have to commit to sitting in the Gallery for three hrs per month so that we can open to the public." For details contact president@ottawaartassoc.ca.

—Christina Leadlay

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The future of 24 Sussex: doing nothing is not an option

On Jan. 14, 2019 Aaron Wudrick wrote an op-ed for huffingtonpost.ca about the state of the prime minister's official residence at 24 Sussex Dr. in New Edinburgh. He and heritage advocate Leslie Maitland spoke to CBC Radio's Ottawa Morning about the building on Jan. 15. NEN asked Leslie for a summary of her remarks, while Aaron gave permission to re-print his original op-ed.

By Aaron Wudrick

Imagine your house was 150 years old and hadn't seen major renovations in 50 years.

Imagine it still had asbestos in the walls — that are also cracking in at least six spots — and that there's water damage throughout. Imagine ancient electrical wiring and deficient plumbing. Imagine it being too hot in the summer, and too cold in the winter. Imagine spending hundreds of thousands of dollars just to keep the heat and lights on, and the snow in the driveway shovelled.

even the New York Times took note of the absurdity of the situation, describing the dilapidated building as “unfit for a leader or anyone else.”

A review of the historical record shows just how long spending taxpayer money on the PM's residence has been controversial: private donors financed the installation of a swimming pool during Pierre Trudeau's time; the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada paid for renovations when Brian Mulroney was the occupant. When Paul Martin lived there, the build-

due to the exorbitant cost of upkeep. It's a tab that will go on forever, and only grow larger over time.

A recent estimate by the National Capital Commission put the cost of building a new house at \$38.5 million, compared to \$34.5 million to fix up the current building. But imagine the kind of new house that could be built for even half that price. And it's not as if we'd be losing a unique architectural gem, either: Maureen McTeer, wife of former prime minister Joe Clark and an author of

“A recent estimate... put the cost of building a new house at \$38.5 million, compared to \$34.5 million to fix up the current building. But imagine the kind of new house that could be built for even half that price.”

Welcome to 24 Sussex Dr., the official residence of Canada's prime minister.

To be fair, 24 Sussex is only where our prime minister is supposed to live. Understandably, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has opted not to subject his young family to his crumbling childhood home. Instead, he's opted, for the time being at least, to live at Rideau Cottage, located just down the street on the grounds of the Governor General's residence, Rideau Hall.

This temporary arrangement may become a permanent one for the simple reason that there are no plans to actually fix 24 Sussex. Trudeau himself has been quite candid, noting that “no prime minister wants to spend a penny of taxpayer dollars on upkeep-ing that house” for fear of public backlash. Recently,

ing's state of disrepair was the subject of a Rick Mercer skit where he accompanied Martin to a hardware store to procure do-it-yourself supplies. And Stephen Harper simply ignored any and all advice to fix the building.

Generally speaking, fear of political fallout for wasteful spending can serve as an excellent deterrent to politicians with a tendency to play fast and loose with taxpayer money, and it's definitely preferable to the alternative of widespread public indifference. But when it comes to government buildings, there's no getting around the fact that putting off repairs just makes the final bill bigger in the long run.

What should be done, instead, is to build a new residence at 24 Sussex.

Contrary to the prime minister's comments, we're already paying for the house

a book on official residences, describes the building as “completely lacking in architectural value.”

As to the cost, the sky can't be the limit. But setting a reasonable budget and holding a competitive bidding process, culminating in a fixed-price contract, could help ensure that taxpayers don't get bulldozed along the way.

With bigger-than-promised deficits and no sign of a balanced budget any time soon, the Trudeau government hasn't exactly been tight-fisted since coming to power and there's a long list of areas where they need to get spending under control. But when it comes to 24 Sussex, the can's been kicked down the road long enough, and the delay is getting too expensive. It's time to make a decision.

Aaron Wudrick is the federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

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It's time to make the right decision about 24 Sussex Dr.

By Leslie Maitland

Why do we neglect our nationally significant historic sites?

Twenty-four Sussex Drive has been the official home to Canada's Prime Ministers since 1951. Before that, prime ministers were expected to fend for themselves. Since the initial improvements undertaken when the Government of Canada acquired this property, no substantial upgrades have been made.

Imagine neglecting your own home to such an extent. Roof, plumbing, wiring, insulation, kitchen: would you do that? Well, apparently, we have. Yes. We. It's our house.

This isn't just any home. It is a nationally significant place that belongs to all Canadians. It is part of a suite of buildings designed in the Gothic Revival Style erected at the time of Confederation. 24 Sussex (built in 1867-68 by lumber baron and member of Parliament Joseph Merrill Currier), Earnscliffe (home to Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald), and the Parliament Buildings themselves are all part of an elegant landscape of structures, located on one of the most dramatic – and iconic – landscapes in Canada that speak to the founding moments of our nation. It has been the setting for many political events, such as the



Photo by Peter Coffman

The government needs to decide what to do with 24 Sussex, regardless of whether it's renovated or replaced.

some public access, and that is, yes, green, is very much possible. This residence could be a showcase of innovative design and heritage conservation. The greenest building is the one that is already there.

You ask: but I'll never see it, so why should I care?

through a public website.

Public access can be addressed creatively. For a year after restoration, the reception spaces of the house could be open to the public. It could even be open during Doors Open Ottawa events. Many ambassadorial resi-

its rehabilitation? The White House has always benefited from private-sector support.

You might think that 24 Sussex, in its neglected state, is an anomaly in the portfolio of national historic sites and federally-designated heritage

properties. But you would be wrong. Our special places have no legislative protection in Canada, and we are the only G7 country to lack such protection. National historic sites and federally-designated heritage properties can be demolished.

So why do we neglect this one in particular? The reason given is that no politician wants to be the one to be seen feathering his/her own nest. That is such a silly proposition, and presumes that Canadians are small-minded. I dispute that. And this isn't the prime minister's house. It's ours. Neglect costs money: deferred maintenance always ends up costing more. Every day this building stands neglected, each day the decision to move forward is deferred, is another day the building rots and continues to cost taxpayers in lost money and lost heritage.

But there is a solution to this. Why not strike an all-party committee, chaired by a respected, non-partisan individual – former Governor General David Johnston comes to mind – and come up with a recommendation that all political parties can live with? And which the heads of all political parties might be prepared to live in.

Leslie Maitland is past-president and Vice-Chair of the Board at Heritage Ottawa.

“One could get creative about how the rehabilitation is funded. Might there not be a role for the private sector in its rehabilitation?”

discussions on the constitutional reforms of 1981. For these reasons, 24 Sussex was declared a Classified Federal Heritage Building.

But isn't it too far gone to save, you ask?

Good heritage conservation allows for buildings to be upgraded and to evolve over time. First, you identify what is historic – in this case, the exterior shell and the landscape are considered the historic features – and then you design within those parameters. An upgraded building, that is suitable for a family and for small entertainment events, and perhaps even

It's true that 24 Sussex does not have the public profile of the White House or 10 Downing Street. It isn't open to the public. Ten Downing St. isn't open to the public either; but you can visit it

dences around town are. How about an online tour, which would reach all Canadians?

And one could get creative about how the rehabilitation is funded. Might there not be a role for the private sector in

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What Are Your Spec Ed Stories?

Trustees Christine Boothby & Chris Ellis are holding a forum on Special Education Thursday February 21, 6:30pm to 9:00pm Sir Guy Carleton SS, 55 Centrepointhe Dr.

The intent of this event is:

- to provide a networking and support opportunity for parents of Spec Ed students; and,
- to identify where things are working well and where improvements should be sought.

7:00 Panel of parents tell their stories.
 7:30 Break into smaller groups to share experiences and identify common elements.
 8:15 Reconvene to share group discussions.
 8:45 Wrap up

We hope to hear your stories about your Spec Ed journey. For example:

- How did you discover your child needed help?
- How did staff help put together support for your child?
- What was your experience with Individual Education Plan (IEP) and/or Identification and Placement of Exceptional Pupils?

For more information contact Trustee Ellis - Chris.Ellis@ocdsb.ca



For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

As I write in the bone-chilling cold of late January, it's difficult to imagine how our winter population of small song birds survives in such a harsh environment, with its cocktail of snow, ice, wind, Arctic temperatures and scanty food sources. But survive they do, through a variety of means. Physiological adaptations such as insulating plumage and nighttime hypothermia (a condition which allows their tiny bodies cool down dra-

matically) help them to conserve energy. And thanks to a kind of instinctive foresight, they work busily to fatten up in the fall, caching away tasty morsels in tree bark crevices or the crotches of trees, to be retrieved in winter when the pickings are slim.

These hidden stores of food may be scattered widely around the birds' territory to avoid having "all their eggs in one basket" if predators come along. Finding them requires



Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

Blue Jay.

a keen spatial memory, and **black-capped chickadees** are expressly adapted to this task. The hippocampus of their brains (the seat of memory) enlarges by up to 30 per cent in the winter, enabling them to retrieve far-flung supplies, often using visual cues such as distance and direction from such landmarks as rocks and trees.

In our neighbourhood, and in urban communities across the continent, backyard feeding stations play a crucial role in birds' winter survival. Much to my regret, we've been unable to keep our own feeders stocked this winter because of the risk that our dogs will plunder the seed (a lose-lose scenario, as the birds would be cheated, and the dogs would be violently ill!). Happily, there are plenty of richly-stocked feeders around the Burgh, where **Northern cardinals**, **black-capped chickadees**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **house finches**, **American goldfinches**, and **downy woodpeckers** are regular visitors, fueling up

against the cold.

Rewarding though it is to watch a cluster of songbirds fluttering at a backyard feeder, we are often not the only ones watching this cheerful spectacle. Hidden in a nearby tree or shrub, a stealthy **sharp-shinned hawk** may be lurking, ready to pounce on its unsuspecting prey at lightning speed. Unlike many larger raptors, which swoop down from great heights to bag their victims, the "sharpie" hunts closer to the ground, striking at close range. About 90 per cent of its diet consists of songbirds, including **American robins**, **warblers**, **sparrows** and **thrushes**. A busy backyard feeding station is an open invitation to this opportunistic raptor.

Sharpies are relatively small, streamlined hawks. The male is not much larger than a **blue jay**, while the female is about a third larger than her mate, comparable to a male **Cooper's hawk**. Their backs and sides are blue-gray; their breasts are marked by thin, horizontal, reddish orange bars; and their square-tipped tails are barred by dark bands. We've encountered several sharpies this winter, all of them flying low on the hunt for prey. On one occasion, my husband spotted one diving into the euonymus shrub on our front lawn. The bush was packed with sparrows sheltering from the cold, and the surprise attack produced an explosion of tiny, twittering escapees, bolting for cover.

Talking turkey

Wild turkeys have been a regular presence in our community this winter, not only in the surrounding woods and open fields, but often in the middle of lawns and gardens. You can't miss these imposing birds, which may be up to

four feet long, and can tip the scales at a hefty 24 lbs.

As is typical in the bird world, the male of the species is the showier bird, with handsome bronze-green iridescent plumage; dark wings barred with white; and rusty-tipped tail feathers. Its most striking feature is its featherless head and neck, which is covered with red, blue or gray wattles or fleshy lobes. The more subdued female turkey has brown plumage with dark wing bars.

In winter, wild turkeys are primarily vegetarian, foraging the forest floor for acorns, nuts, seeds and berries. When the snow cover is deep, they subsist on hemlock buds, evergreen ferns, mosses and burdock. They move around largely by walking with an unhurried, ambling gait, but if the need arises (when our dogs approach, for example), they are able both to run or to take off in flight. Males tend to prefer to run, while females most often opt for flight.



Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

Male evening grosbeak.

This winter, we've had numerous wild turkey encounters, and have frequently seen their tracks in the snow along the Rockcliffe Parkway. Once, we spotted a very large, stately male, strutting its stuff in the front garden of a house on Manor Avenue, and looking for all the world like a striking lawn ornament!

With the exception of sharp-shinned hawks and wild turkeys, my own birding encounters have been limited this winter, confined largely to **pileated** and **downy woodpeckers**, **common ravens** (including one in our backyard, sheltering from a late January snow storm), **American crows**, **Northern cardinals**, **white-breasted**



Photo by Mike Leveille

Black-capped chickadee.



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Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

Black-backed woodpecker.

nuthatches and of course, **black-capped chickadees** which are in abundance in all seasons.

Around the region, however, the bird life reported by the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club (OFNC) – ofnc.ca/recent-bird-sightings – has been considerably more diverse. Highlights reported by the OFNC include **red-breasted-, pine- and evening grosbeaks; common redpolls; bohemian waxwings; snow buntings; dark-eyed juncos; red-bellied-, black-backed and pileated woodpeckers; white-breasted nuthatches; barred owls; winter- and Carolina wrens; red crossbills; and hoary redpolls.**

The OFNC has also reported a number of surprising out-of-season rarities in the area, including a **ruby-crowned kinglet; Lincoln's sparrows; American tree sparrows** and **song sparrows.**

Local bird count turns 100

This year marked the centenary of the Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird

Count (CBC), which is one of some 2,000 local counts taking place across North America. Principal CBC organizer **Bernie Ladouceur** has participated in nearly half of the 100 Christmas Bird Counts in our area, marking his 47th consecutive count this season. The Bird Count actually has its roots in an annual Christmas Bird Hunt, an early 20th-century tradi-

tion. Thankfully, that practice has morphed into the more bird-friendly activity which continues today in urban and rural communities, large and small.

On Dec. 16, 2018, more than 100 keen birders scoured the area within 12 miles of the Peace Tower, logging every bird they encountered. Preliminary results showed an above-average species count of 75, with highlights including **yellow-bellied sapsuckers, rose-breasted grosbeaks,** and record numbers of **common ravens, white-breasted nuthatches** and **belted kingfishers.** All of the eight **winter finch** species (**pine- and evening grosbeak; common redpoll; hoary redpoll; pine siskin; purple finch; white-winged crossbill; and red crossbill**) were spotted during the count, but in very small numbers.

Reports from our readers

Val-des-Monts, Que. birder **Amy-Jane Lawes** reports a banner year for both **pine- and evening grosbeaks,** both of which she has encountered regularly on her winter walks. One intrepid female **evening grosbeak** even ventured to visit Amy's backyard feeder, but flew off without



Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

Female evening grosbeak.

Photo by Mike Leveille

Male pine grosbeak.

sampling the seed. Her other winter visitors have included **wild turkeys, a barred owl, a rough-legged hawk, black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches** and numerous **woodpeckers.** Unlike previous winters, **American goldfinches** have virtually vanished from Amy's feeders. One highlight was a beautiful **black-back woodpecker**, "so intent on tapping away at his chosen tree that I was able to spend 10 minutes watching him," says Amy-Jane.

Back in New Edinburgh, on Alexander Street, the four fully-stocked feeding stations at **Philip MacAdam's Avian Bistro** were a hive of activity this winter, with a familiar lineup of regular visitors. These included **Northern cardinals, black-capped chickadees, American goldfinches, house finches, white-breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, house sparrows** and (regrettably) **pigeons.** Philip was also lucky enough to spot a **barred owl** in Pine Hill Woods.

In January, Philip headed to Costa Rica where he was looking forward to encountering a very different

cast of avian characters, notably **egrets, herons, orioles, sandpipers, kingfishers, pelicans, hawks, parrots, frigate birds, hummingbirds** and **vultures.**

Over at the Macoun Marsh off St. Laurent Boulevard, Mike Leveille reports that **pine grosbeaks** (one of the winter finch species) have been the only noteworthy avian visitor so far this winter.

Our British Columbia birding correspondent **Vicki Metcalfe** reports that this year's **Victoria Christmas Bird Count** was a spectacular success, with more than 270 counters in the field, logging 144 species. This may have been the highest tally in Canada (almost twice our local Ottawa-Gatineau total!) Overall, the Victoria team spotted roughly 75,000 birds, with new records set for **snow geese, greater white-fronted geese, cackling geese, gadwall, turkey vultures, common raven, rusty blackbirds** and **swamp sparrows.** Rarities spotted that day included **winter wren, palm warbler, Northern mockingbird** and **rusty blackbirds.**

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Meetings on school board budget and special education



Chris Ellis
Public School Trustee, Zone 6

Budget for 2019–2020 School Year

Academic staffing makes up about 75 to 80 per cent of

the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) budget. The budget for Academic staffing for next year will be

ratified at the end of March – in advance of the full budget – to allow staffing processes to proceed.

On May 13, District Staff will present their recommended budget and on May 29, the Board of Trustees will hear public delegations about the budget.

On May 14, I will hold a zone meeting at Hillcrest High School about the budget.

The OCDSB budgeted \$5

million to replace windows and lighting with energy-efficient alternatives this year. The funds were to come from the provincial Cap-and-Trade program, which has since been cancelled, and alternate funds have not been provided.

In addition, the Ministry of Education advised the OCDSB of changes to certain education program grants, commonly referred to as EPO grants. EPO grants are traditionally used to fund targeted programs or initiatives that align with Ministry priorities. The funding usually involves an agreement with terms and conditions and annual reporting requirements; some are one-year, and some are multi-year.

In 2017–2018, the OCDSB had approximately 59 EPO grants. While analysis continues at this time, staff can confirm that at least 12 agreements totalling \$888,000 will not be funded through EPOs this year.

Special education

District Staff will propose a plan for a Special Education Operational Review to the Board of Trustees, likely in March. I anticipate that it will be a comprehensive look at how well the OCDSB is supporting students, including through Tiered Intervention, Individual Education Plan (IEP), and the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

School Trustee Christine Boothby and I will be holding a Special Education forum on Feb. 21 from 6:30–9 p.m. at Sir Guy Carleton Secondary

School. The intent of the event is:

- to provide a networking and support opportunity for parents of Spec Ed students; and,
- to identify where things are working well and where improvements should be sought.

Collecting data on race

Senior staff and trustees will discuss the collection of racialized data at the Feb. 4 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Camille Williams-Taylor, the new OCDSB Director of Education, has said: “It’s not just the nature of the identity of our students, but how it is that they respond to what the resources are that we provide. It also allows us to learn more on how we can differentiate the resources.”

I look forward to getting the information so we can better understand and address systemic and institutional racism.

Strategic Plan 2019–2023

The first two parts of the consultation on the new OCDSB Strategic Plan are finished and data collected from the online Thought Exchange survey was used in the Focus Groups phase. In early February, Trustees and Senior staff will meet to review the public input. In April, District Staff will present a draft Strategic Plan to Trustees and the public. There will then be opportunities for public feedback. In June, Trustees will approve the final version of the Strategic Plan.

You can reach Chris Ellis at schoolzone6.org.

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Delightful traditions of New Year's brunch and skating day



Photo by Jamie Kwong

CCC volunteer Edwina Chittilappilly helps with the New Year's Day brunch.



Photo by Matt DeWolfe

Alistair and his dad braved the cold longer than anyone else did on Hockey Day, Jan. 19.



Photo by Matt DeWolfe

Jan. 1 was a beautiful day for a horse-drawn carriage ride around the 'Burgh.

By Matt DeWolfe, CCC chair

The Crichton Community Council (3Cs) began 2019 with another busy New Year's Community Brunch. The mild, sunny day drew more than 200 neighbours to share in food, games, a magic show and horse-drawn wagon rides. A small group of dedicated volunteers put in many hours behind the scenes to make this delightful tradition possible.

Thanks to **Edwina Chittilappilly** (grant and entertainment aficionado), **Roxie Clark** (guru of games, baker of beans), **Cathy McConkey** (head of the hams), **Manon desGroseilliers** and **Hope Celani** (sausage chefs), **Abby DeWolfe** and **Caroline Matt** (purveyors of pancakes and kitchen captains), and our newest volunteer, **Jamie Kwong**, who helped with everything from setup to clean-up. Thanks also to **Adam Hortop** for the early morning setup assistance, the **Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre** for loan of their sound system, and **Jerry Turchyn** for its delivery and setup. Last but not least, thanks to our youngest volunteers, **Zoya Thompson-Arnold**, **Anna Chedore** and **Norah DeWolfe**, for dressing up the Fieldhouse on New Year's Eve.

The 3Cs greatly appreciates

the funding provided the City of Ottawa through a Civic Events Funding Grant which helps to keep this event free. Donations from many participants were gratefully received and support events like this at the Fieldhouse.

While the Brunch crew was busy indoors, another group of neighbours gathered outside to volunteer several hours of labour in clearing off the snowblower-resistant crust of snow and freezing rain that had fallen on the rink surfaces overnight. Many thanks to this anonymous team, coordinated on-the-fly by **Joana Chelo**, for helping to preserve the rinks that day. It was a shining example of community spirit to start the year.

Special thanks as well and also to our expert rink builders: **Steve and Sam Grabner**, **Sylvain Bélanger**, **Chris Straka**, **Joana Chelo**, **Tony Stibral** and family, **Manon desGroseilliers**, **André Staudte**, **Caroline Matt** and **Dave Arnold**, our team of evening hosers, and to the six high-school rink attendants for their countless hours in building and maintaining the rinks since early December. We also appreciate the donation of pucks from the **Grainger family** (we can never have enough pucks, so if you have extras you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Fieldhouse). When the weather allows, the

3Cs aims to have the rinks and Fieldhouse open weekdays from 4–9p.m., Saturdays 11a.m.– 9p.m. and Sundays 11a.m.–6p.m.

Hockey Day in New Edinburgh fell on a bitterly cold January day, but we still had some hardy skaters come out to the rink to enjoy some shinny, a speed skating contest, and free hotdogs and hot chocolate. Thanks to **Sylvain Bélanger** for serving up the hotdogs and to **Manon desGroseilliers** and **Rebecca Lipman** for running the speed-skating contest.

Looking ahead to spring on the 3Cs event calendar, we have Bike Day in New Edinburgh in the works for April (including an all-types-of-bikes consignment sale), our annual Mother's Day Plant Sale, and the Marathon Cheering Station and Family Barbecue in May.

Are you looking for a venue for a meeting, workshop or party? Although unavailable when the rinks are open, reservations for the Fieldhouse are still possible during the winter, especially during weekdays. The building's availability can be confirmed using the calendar found on the 3Cs website: **fieldhouse.skedda.com**. Rental fees are \$35 per hour, with a minimum of three hours. Not-for-profit groups offering free community-oriented events to the public may book the Fieldhouse for free.

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The steeple on St. John's Lutheran church on Crichton Street. Learn more about Alex McKenzie's photography on p. 28.



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Burgh residents deserve say in park reinstatement plans

Continued from page 1

express their views about the park reinstatement plan. An open park forum, sponsored by NECA, took place in October 2017, and the Park Vision Working Group continues to welcome your ideas and input towards the community vision plan.

The Park Vision Working Group currently has three members: Co-chair Nicole Poitras has lived in New Edinburgh since 2012. She was drawn to the neighbourhood because of its natural amenities, is a current user of and former dogwalker in Stanley Park, and will cry if one more tree is cut down in the park. George Anderson has long been involved in neighbourhood matters and is a daily dogwalker. Co-chair Vicky Solan loves the park, and shares her home with a family who splash, ski, skate and commute through the park.

In the months to come, the working group will engage the community in a dialogue

about the role of Stanley Park our community. Perhaps more significantly, we are opening a conversation about the future of nature at it is experienced at the park. By bringing our community views together as an action plan, the Park Vision Working Group aims to promote optimal user enjoyment of Stanley Park.

But we cannot achieve our goals without your help. We would like to thank those of you who have already shared your ideas, and we invite all of you to join us in working to improve the park. Look

out for Working Group-sponsored notices around the neighbourhood, and please feel free to contact us directly. We are ready to welcome new members to the working group, and always welcome your ideas, comments and concerns.

Nicole Poitras can be reached at npalance3@hotmail.com; George Anderson at georgemanderson@gmail.com and Vicky Solan at victoria.j.solan@gmail.com.



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The international adventures of Jean Small

By Ann Jackson

Last August, one of our residents, who has called New Edinburgh Square home for nearly 15 years, reached the magical age of 100.

What is it like to reach such an important milestone? You must practically feel like a walking, talking piece of history!

Jean Small was born in Vermillion, Alberta on Aug. 6, 1918, the second of four daughters to Edna and Ralph McNeel. The family moved frequently, as Ralph worked for the Bank of Commerce in a job which took them to Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. All this moving may have stood Jean in good stead for her future.

Jean graduated in 1941 from the University of Western Ontario with an Honours Degree in English. She joined the Red Cross as an Occupational Therapist as her contribution to the Second World War. She was posted "overseas" to Newfoundland, a territory yet to join Canada. Word is that when craft supplies were low, recuperating soldiers would exclaim "Oh gee, Miss McNeel!" when she told them they would not be happy with their work the way it was, and to do it over!



Photo courtesy Jean Small

Jean joined the Red Cross during WWII and has lived all over the world as a diplomatic spouse.

Jean met John Small at a Christian students' conference, and they were married on Aug. 3, 1946. John was born and grew up mostly in West China, the fourth child to missionaries Lottie and Walter Small; she a nurse, and he a builder. John's grasp of Mandarin was good, and in spite of China closing its

doors to the West in 1950, his hopes were to return some day.

That opportunity did come, well on in his career. In 1971, he returned as Canada's second ambassador to a new embassy in Beijing. The family went on many postings through the Department of Trade and Commerce (and later the Department of Foreign Affairs) to the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Pakistan (twice), France, China, England and, finally, Malaysia.

Their four daughters, who are now in touch almost daily with their mother, nostalgically recount these moves as adventures. They tell many tales of Jean's resilience and sense of fun.

While John was busy with affairs of state, Jean had her challenges running a household that often included staff from different cultures. Duties and expectations as a head of mission's wife included much hosting and entertaining of dignitaries from home and abroad, as well as responding to invitations of all kinds. One of her favorites was Chou-en-lai, second in command to Chairman Mao. She describes him as a charming,

handsome man with a great sense of humour.

Other memories include the 1953 floods in the Netherlands; typhoons in Hong Kong; the 1968 rioting in Paris (and concern for her daughter and niece attending the Sorbonne at the time); being evacuated from Pakistan in 1970 due to the war with India; and, not least, surviving China's major earthquake in 1971. In fear of earthquake aftershocks, all the Canadian staff and their families enjoyed the novelty of a camping experience at the embassy, sleeping on mattresses laid out on the floor, with various cooks vying to produce the best meals.

Jean took on the challenges of promoting the wellbeing of young girls. She persuaded

wait to start a family, explaining to him the rhythm method of birth control.

When John reluctantly retired to their home in Manor Park, it became the hub of well-attended parties and celebrations. Sadly, John passed away 15 years ago, shortly before he and Jean were planning their move to New Edinburgh. She subsequently moved in by herself and has become one of Chartwell's longest stay residents.

On her 100th birthday this past summer, Jean's daughters put on a spectacular party. Jean was beautifully turned out for the occasion to greet longtime friends, residents and family. And what a magnificent spread!

It is so interesting to have a friend whose keen interest in



Photo courtesy Jean Small

New Edinburgh resident Jean Small at her 100th birthday party last August.

a household staff member of the importance of educating girls – he had six daughters. When issues came up for the staff, either personal or financial, Jean dealt with them herself. When learning that another staff member was taking on a 15-year-old bride, she tried to persuade him to

life has allowed us, through her eyes, a window into living history. We are lucky to have such glimpses into the past.

Ann Jackson lives at the New Edinburgh Retirement Residence and is a regular contributor to the New Edinburgh News.

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Four candidates confirmed to run for vacant seat on City Council

Continued from page 1

candidates having already confirmed that they will run.

The *New Edinburgh News* received confirmation from **Peter Heyck** that he will run again. Also confirming her candidacy is **Jamie Kwong**, former Executive Director of the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area. Manor Park's **Penny Thompson** has also confirmed that she will enter the race, having done so back in 2014 against Tobi. New Edinburgh resident **Marc Dorgeville**, a climate scientist and former volunteer bookkeeper for this newspaper, is also vying to succeed Tobi. It is likely other candidates will announce their intentions between now and nomination day, Mar. 1.

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance and other local community associations will be organizing a candidates' debate in the course of the campaign (visit newedinburgh.ca for event details). And the *New Edinburgh News* will provide coverage of all the candidates in our April edition.



Photo courtesy Peter Heyck



Photo courtesy sparkottawa.ca



Photo courtesy Facebook



Photo courtesy Jamie Kwong

Confirming they will run in the spring byelection are (clockwise from top left) Peter Heyck, Penny Thompson, Jamie Kwong and Marc Dorgeville.

NEN would like to thank Tobi Nussbaum for his support of this newspaper and of the community during his four years at City Hall. We wish him all the best in his career at the NCC. We also wish best of luck to all the candidates running to be the next councillor for Ward 13, Rideau-Rockcliffe.candidates

having already confirmed that they will run.

Deadline for the next issue of the *New Edinburgh News*: March 10



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By Nathalie Carrier, execu-
tive director QVBIA

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The Minto Bridges and John G. Diefenbaker Building on Green Island this winter.

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Learn about free hospice programs

By Pamela Keetch

The Home Hospice Association (HHA) National Capital Region Chapter is holding a “Meet Us” drop-in event on Feb. 16 from 2–4 p.m. at the Macdonald-Cartier Academy, 270 Crichton St. The Board of Directors and volunteers will be on hand to meet the community and provide information about the programs that will be offered free of charge to support their mission and vision: “As a pillar in the dying community within the National Capital Region, our vision is to engage with and enrich people’s lives. We believe in exploring and respecting choices, and in providing the dying and their loved ones a supportive, compassionate environment throughout life-limiting illness, death and bereavement.”

Home Hospice Association is a Canadian Registered Charity that empowers communities to provide quality end-of-life care and support for anyone, of any age, at any time, under any roof. Dignity, compassion and culturally sensitive human con-

nection are core values for all Home Hospice Association initiatives and programs. The National Capital Region Chapter was formed in August 2018, and will be offering the following programs to the region at no cost:

The Bello Project

The Bello Project is a unique program that provides in-home pet care assistance for terminally ill pet clients, allowing them to remain together sharing companionship and love when it is most needed. If needed, the Bello Project also helps with finding a good and loving home for the pet when the time is right in their owner’s illness journey.

Pre- and Perinatal Hospice

The Pre- and Perinatal Hospice Program supports those who experience an infant or pregnancy loss throughout and after the loss. It also assists parents experiencing a spontaneous miscarriage, medically required pregnancy termination or a baby either born not breathing or who will likely not live beyond 24 hours post-birth.

Hospice at Home

Hospice at Home provides a 24-hour model of in-home hospice care that includes private professional care, alternative therapies, spiritual and emotional counseling and death doula support.

Volunteers are a valued and vital component of HHA’s programs and services which are offered in a “village approach” to palliative care. They are the heart and soul of the Home Hospice Association family, and their life experience, compassion and talents greatly benefit those in need in the community. Volunteers are provided with comprehensive training and support, and assist with such activities as in-home pet-care, event ambassadorship, knitting and crocheting items for babies born still, and providing caregiving, companionship and practical assistance to clients and their loved ones. Members will answer questions and provide details about our volunteer opportunities. All are welcome.

For more information: homehospiceassociation.com.

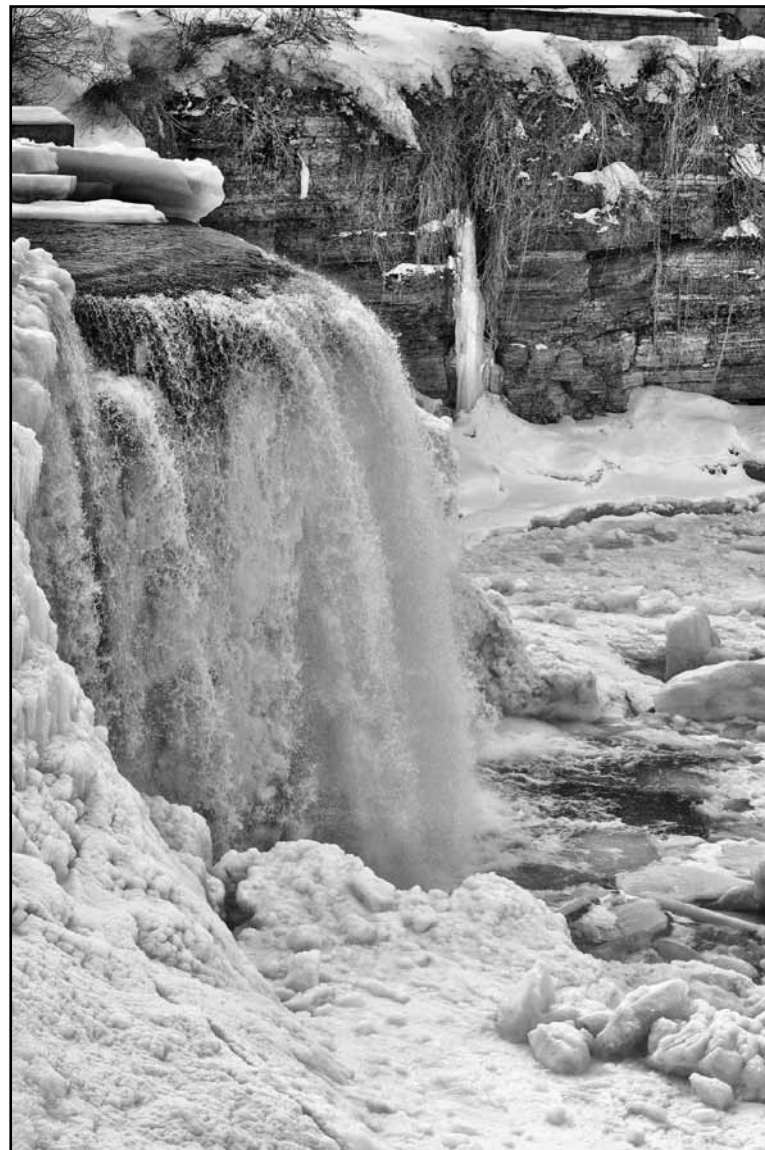


Photo by Louise Imbeault

The Rideau Falls, pictured during the spring thaw.

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Rediscover the folksongs of the Volga boatmen

By Carolyn Bowker

The next concert in the MacKay United Church Concert Series will take place on February 9 at 7:30 p.m., at 39 Dufferin Rd. with a performance entitled *The Volga* featuring the Silflay String Quartet.

The Silflay String Quartet is well known to MacKay United audiences. It has been performing in MacKay's Chamber Music series yearly, with a couple of changes of musicians. For this concert, NACO's Principal Violist Jethro Marks will be joining cellist Thaddeus Morden and violinists Mark Friedman and Leah Roseman.

The program on Feb. 9 will continue the Quartet's tradition of blending sensitive playing of familiar repertoire

with bringing to light lesser-known works for new interpretation.

The concert will begin with Haydn's quartet *Opus 76, No. 1*, from a set of his most enduringly popular works composed late in his life. It will be a lively, elegant start to the evening, graced with a beautiful slow movement as well. In stark contrast is Shostakovich's shortest quartet, written in 1960 in memory of his wife Nina. She died suddenly in 1954 and, after five years of mourning, he was able to write this incredibly powerful work.

The concert will end with *The Volga* – one of the first string quartets by the Russian composer Afanasiev. It is full of the folksongs of the Volga boatmen, but written with very interesting



Photo by Fred Cattroll

Jethro Marks, principal violist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra (NACO), will join the Silflay String Quartet on Feb. 9 at MacKay United Church.

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cross-rhythms and lush harmonies. *The Volga* enjoyed some popularity in its time but has been neglected since – until now. “To go with the Shostakovich, I found this wonderful unknown piece,” says Leah Roseman, First Violinist of the Silflay String Quartet. “We played it on Canada Day in the new NAC lobby, and the audience really loved this piece. One person told me she even came back and listened to the second concert to hear it again!”

Following the concert, there will be a reception for the audience and performers to have a chance to “compare notes.”

Once again, on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. come and hear *The Volga* with the Silflay String Quartet, at MacKay United Church, corner Dufferin Road and MacKay Street. Tickets are \$25 adults, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students, and are available at Books on Beechwood, The Leading Note, or at the door.



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Black-and-white gives way to full colour at local gallery

By Mary Ann Varley

It is nice to make a fresh start in the new year. For our first exhibition of 2019 at the Crichton Street Gallery, we have "Mainly Black and White," which opened Jan. 19. This theme explores a variety of artistic possibilities.

Our two photographers, Mary Pratte and Louise Tanguay, have a rich collection of black-and-white works from their travels and from close to home. Some of these have a subtle hint of colour. Reflections at the river's edge or architectural details are included in the photos.

Pat Carbonneau's paintings are abstracts with a delicate tonal range and just a hint of golden colour.

Elisabeth Arbuckle explores the theme with intricate patterns in her work. The fluttering wing of a bird or the leaves of a plant are creatively executed with brush and acrylic paint.

Mary Ann Varley explores this theme with pencil and graphite drawings and mixed-media pieces. The landscape drawings have the surreal mood of solitude and silence. New York City is featured in the mixed media pieces.

Jennifer Anne Kelly has selected glass pieces which include large presentation bowls, plates and lanterns. Her fused-glass jewellery includes bracelets, pendants and earrings. She has a selection of crowns created in an innovation workshop.

The "Mainly Black and



Trees by Louise Tanguay.



Eiffel Tower by Mary Pratte. Photographs by Mary Pratte and Louise Tanguay are on display now until March at the Crichton Street Gallery.

White" continues until Feb. 23.

Next, "Colour Burst" will transform our gallery to a collective rainbow for the month of March. We will welcome another guest visit from well-known local painter Sara Mullen in April. Liam and Jennifer Anne Kelly will feature a mother-and-son exhibi-

tion of glass works and paintings: "Antidote."

The gallery will continue to be open every Saturday. A new initiative is to have the gallery open on various days through the week. Watch for the "Open Today" sign whenever one of the artists is either working on a new canvas or background for the upcoming

shows. We welcome requests to meet, so just phone and we will try to accommodate a visit. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2019.

The Crichton Street Gallery is located at 299 Crichton St. Learn more at thecrichtonstreetgallery.ca, crichtonstreetgallery@gmail.com or call 613-299-0064.





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Alexander McKenzie has lived in New Edinburgh since 2013. When he's not working at Sutherland bistro on Beechwood, Alex can be found exploring the neighbourhood with his camera.

"You typically have to keep up a very fast pace when you work in a kitchen," explains Alex. "This can be an exciting part of the job, but it can also lead to exhaustion. Taking pictures in and around New Edinburgh, on my way to and from work, has allowed me to slow down and take in the beauty of our little part of Ottawa. I've found taking, editing, and sharing photos to be both calming and rewarding."

Follow Alex's photography on Twitter and Instagram @photochefalex. Contact him at photochefalex@gmail.com.



Part of the John G. Diefenbaker building.

Photo by Alexander McKenzie



The Rideau River's Porter Island, at sunset.

Photo by Alexander McKenzie

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Elmwood Theatre's next play questions truth and art

By the Elmwood Cappies Team

No matter the location, nor the situation, easy access to information seems to be a given, and the answer to any question is at our fingertips. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that this accessibility comes at a cost. That cost is the ease with which the truth can be distorted through all kinds of 21st-century technological wizardry. This results in a kind of cynicism that makes nothing real and everything distorted.

If we travel back 100 or so years, a similar kind of wizardry was taking place, and the ensuing controversy held many people's fascination, especially as it provided a bit of respite from the events that were shaking up the world. Photography was still relatively new, but it was becoming more commonplace. Cameras were becoming easier to handle and more and more people were taking up the hobby. The pictures that were taken were real – what else could they be?

The Light Burns Blue is an exploration of this very question. Playwright Silva Semerciyan has created a new text that reimagines an old tale, bringing to light fresh ideas surrounding truth and art.

This story takes place in 1917 when much of the Western world was reeling from the horrors of the First World War. Two young cousins, Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths, enter the picture with their own pictures: photographs of fairies. For the grieving public, these ethereal images were proof that the spiritual world existed. Many, including novelist and spiritualist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, saw the photographs as a recognition that psychic phenomena could be captured. This fostered the hope that the loved-ones lost in the

Great War would not be gone forever.

Of course, not everyone believed in the fairies, and a play is nothing without conflict. Enter Winifred Douglas, a zealous journalist who is not so easily convinced of the authenticity of the images taking the country by storm. She is determined to reveal the truth behind the girls' story and is perplexed when her investigation leads to more questions than answers. As she probes deeper into the secrets of the photographs, the audience is left with its own questions about what is true and what is art.

Elmwood Theatre is taking on this challenging question in their upcoming production of Semerciyan's timely play. With a cast of more than 20 students, plus a local Ottawa actor, this production is sure to strike a note with everyone. At the heart of it all, Grade 12 student Alex Byrne takes on the part of Elsie Wright as she and her group of seven friends manoeuvre their way through the loss of many family members due to the Great War. In a world of her own, Alexa Bothwell, portraying Winifred Douglas, attempts to make her mark in a profession almost exclusively dominated by men.

Many months of hard work have gone into creating the feel of the inter-war years, including lessons on early photography, cameras and darkrooms as well as the history of the time period from Canadian artist and photographer Paul Elter.

Director Angela Boychuk believes that students should be involved in all aspects of the production, both onstage and off. Props are built by students during an extensive two-day workshop. As well, all costumes are designed and created by our student-run Cappies award-winning costume team. For *The Light Burns Blue*, the costumes are designed to suit the time



Photo by Karenn Boychuk

Elmwood student Alex Byrne portrays Elsie Wright in *The Light Burns Blue* which opens Feb. 27.

period with the colour palette of blues, greys and purples, reflecting both the play's title and illustrating the hardships and hopes of early 20th-century English society. At the same time, the costume team has worked carefully to provide a glimpse into each character's personality through the use of unique designs. The hair and makeup team has created a variety of period-appropriate looks, encapsulating the fantastical essence of fairies in con-

trast to the woes of warfare. Our Cappies-award-winning lighting and sound crew are working hard to evoke the time period, and the student stage managers help to keep props and the stage under control. This production is a team effort, and everyone is very excited about opening night.

Elmwood Theatre has received many awards from the prestigious Canada Capital Cappies program, including Best Play for the

2015 performance of *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, 2016's *Les Belles Soeurs*, and 2017's *Blue Stockings*.

Performances of *The Light Burns Blue* run from Feb. 27–Mar. 2 at 7 p.m. and March 2–3 at 2 p.m. Tickets (\$25 adults; \$20 students and seniors) can be purchased at the school or by phone 613-749-6776. Elmwood School is located at 261 Buena Vista Rd.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Feb. 7 – Weekly Scrabble game at 255 MacKay St. nectarcentregm@gmail.com; 613-745-2742. 2 p.m. Starting Feb. 7, a group of Scrabble enthusiasts will meet for a friendly game of Scrabble. We plan to meet biweekly, but will do whatever the group decides! Free or with donation.

Feb. 9 – Governor General's Winter Celebration at Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Dr. gg.ca. 12:30–4 p.m. Free. Governor General Julie Payette hosts a Winter Celebration, featuring winter sports (bring your skates) and samples of traditional foods from Nordic countries. Non-perishable donations for the Ottawa Food Bank and winter clothing for The Snowsuit Fund are encouraged.

Feb. 9 – The Volga Concert at Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Rd. 7:30 p.m. \$15–25. The MacKay United Concert Series presents the Silflay String Quartet in *The Volga*, with music by Haydn, Shostakovich and Afanasiev. Tickets at Books on Beechwood or at the door. Details, page 26.

Feb. 10 – Feldenkrais Method of Somatic Exercise at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. 2–4 p.m. The MacKay Brainery presents Dr. Michaela Kreim, who will explain the history and science of better connecting brain with body for health, followed by an introductory class in this gentle-movement practice.

Feb. 10 – Refugee Sponsorship Fundraiser at One Up Beechwood, 1 Beechwood Ave. 7 p.m. Tickets available on Eventbrite.ca. The Rideau Sponsorship Collective hosts a fundraiser in support of a

young refugee expected to arrive in Ottawa soon. Silent auction, cocktails and music by the Jackson Miles Duo.

Feb. 11, 18 and 25 – Brahms Choir open rehearsals at Southminster United Church. 7–9:15 p.m. facebook.com/ottawabrahmschoir. Come sing with us! Ottawa Brahms Community Choir welcomes new singers. All voices invited to join, especially tenors and basses. Theme of our spring concert is “Rebirth” (Brahms, Bach, John Rutter, etc.).

Feb. 11 – CCC meeting at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30–9 p.m. newedinburgh.ca/ccc. The Crichton Community Council meets the second Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public.

Feb. 13 – Pre-budget consultation at Ottawa City Hall, Jean Piggott Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. W. 6:30 p.m. ottawa.ca. The city councillors for the urban wards including Rideau-Rockcliffe (Ward 13) will hold a joint pre-budget consultation.

Feb. 16 – Home Hospice Association “Meet Us” event at Macdonald-Cartier Academy, 270 Crichton St. 2–4 p.m. homehospiceassociation.com. The Home Hospice Association National Capital Region invites you to meet its volunteers and Board of Directors, to learn about the programs and volunteer opportunities on offer in the National Capital Region. Details, page 25.

Feb. 17 – Career camp for teens at Coworkly, 261 Montreal Rd., #310. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Tickets on Eventbrite.ca. \$499. Many parents see the value in helping their 15–19-year-olds prepare for their futures, but are not sure where to start. Sparkpath Career Camp helps students discover exciting options for

their futures and choose a postsecondary education program.

Feb. 18 – Monkey Rock Family Day Concert at Overflow Brewing Company, 2477 Kaladar Ave. Tickets at Eventbrite.ca \$10. 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monkey Rock presents two fabulous Family Day shows. More room to dance, fewer toes to step on. Great parking, full accessibility, plus food and drink. All attendees over 12 months old require a ticket.

Feb. 18 – Bowling and board games at the Centre Francophone Vanier, 270 Marier St. 1–4 p.m. RSVP 613-744-4484; ndesrosiers.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. Ottawa-Vanier MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers and MP Mona Fortier host a free Family Day event featuring board games upstairs in the Community Room, and bowling in the on-site bowling alley.

Feb. 19 – Heritage Day at Jean Piggott Place, Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. W. Free. 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. heritageottawa.org. Heritage Ottawa presents Heritage Day. This year's theme is “Heritage: The Tie that Binds,” celebrating the power of both tangible and intangible heritage to bring people together and create a sense of belonging. Featuring informational displays and more than 45 exhibitors.

Feb. 19 – NECA Board Meeting at 255 MacKay St. 7:30 p.m. Join the New Edinburgh Community Alliance for its monthly board meeting. Everyone welcome.

Feb. 21 – Special Education Forum at Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School, 81-95 Centrepointhe Dr. 6:30–9 p.m. Public School Trustees Chris Ellis and Christine Boothby host a Special Education forum. Parents of Spec Ed students are invited to net-

work, and to identify where things are working well and where improvements are needed.

Feb. 23 – Family constellations and genogram workshop at NECTAR, 255 MacKay St. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. \$100. Ambreen Ihsanullah presents an evocative depth approach to discovering your family ancestry/legacy and releasing inherited family traumas, limiting behaviours and internal blocks.

Feb. 24 – How to Repair Your Own Clothing at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. 4–5 p.m. The MacKay Brainery welcomes the owner of Sew-Jo's, who will lead simple, yet effective lessons on how to mend both cloth and knitted apparel.

Feb. 27-Mar. 2 – The Light Burns Blue at Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Rd. 613-749-676. Tickets: \$25 adults; \$20 students and seniors. 7 p.m. The students of Elmwood School present *The Light Burns Blue*, exploring questions of truth and technology in post-WWI England. Details, page 29.

MARCH

March 7 – Music and meditation at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. Free. 7–8 p.m. Tuesdays until April 9, the sanctuary will be open for quiet contemplation and spiritual jazz music performed by Rev. Peter Woods and guest musicians.

March 18 – CCC meeting at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30–9 p.m. newedinburgh.ca/ccc. The Crichton Community Council meets the second Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public.

March 19 – NECA Board

Meeting at 255 MacKay St. 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's monthly board meeting.

March 24 – Ottawa Choral Society concert at St. Joseph's Parish Church, 174 Wilbrod St. 3–5 p.m. \$10–48. ottawachoralsociety.com/box-office; 613-725-2560. The Ottawa Choral Society presents its major event of the choral season: *St. John Passion* by J.S. Bach, featuring tenor Asitha Tennekoon in the role of the Evangelist. Orchestra and symphonic chorus conducted by Jean-Sébastien Vallée.

March 27 – Lecture: Nature's Green is Golden at the Ottawa Public Library, Sunnyside Branch, 1049 Bank St. 6:30–7:30 p.m. Free. science.carleton.ca/science-cafe. As part of Carleton University's monthly Science Café, Paul Villeneuve from the Department of Health Sciences will speak on “Nature's Green is Golden: The Health Benefits of Green Spaces in Canadian Cities.”

APRIL

April 8 – CCC meeting at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30–9 p.m. newedinburgh.ca/ccc. The Crichton Community Council meets the second Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public.

April 27 – Bike Day at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. The Crichton Community Council hosts its annual Bike Day. Bring your old bikes for the used bike sale, enjoy a group ride, demonstrations, talks, food and a bicycle safety course.

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MacKay United hosts events to feed the soul...

Quiet music and silent meditation are food for the soul. And that's what's on the Lenten menu at MacKay United Church.

On Tuesday evenings, from 7-8 p.m., starting Mar. 7 until Apr. 9, MacKay's sanctuary will be open to all who desire a time of quiet contemplation interspersed with appropriate music in a welcoming space.

MacKay's minister, Peter Woods, is an accomplished saxophonist, well-known in Ottawa's jazz community. He has a deep interest in the places where jazz improvisation meets spirituality.

Mitchell Wright is MacKay's lead musician, playing both piano and organ. In addition to being a performer, Mitchell is also a composer whose works are emotionally resonant.

The duo has been leading music-and-meditation events in Ottawa for over a year. They believe the healing and playful quality of quiet music for the soul is at the heart of all they create.

The series will also include



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Starting March 7, join MacKay United's minister, Peter Woods, for some spiritual jazz improvisation.

guest musicians on occasion. There is no charge to attend these music-and-meditation evenings, but freewill contributions will be gratefully received.

—Eleanor Dunn

...and nourishment for body and mind

The volunteer-run group MacKay Brainery began a second year of non-profit activities with January's talk "Protecting Your Brain: Strategies to Reduce Your Risk of Dementia and Alzheimer's." Its calendar for 2019 offers a wonderful array of events in the neighbourhood at MacKay United Church's Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Rd. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$20 in advance through Eventbrite or mackaybrainery@gmail.com, or \$25 at the door.

On Feb. 10 from 3-5 p.m. we present "Connecting Brain and Body for Health: The Feldenkrais Method." German-trained expert Michaela Kreim will present a talk and a gentle introductory session that every adult can manage and incorporate into their days to improve their balance, health and outlook.

Salsa, merengue and bachata dance are back by popular demand. Ottawa's own Oscar de Leon will teach a two-hour dance lesson Mar. 8 from 7-9 p.m. Come alone or with a friend. What better way to

begin a March weekend?

On Mar. 24 from 2:00-4:30 p.m., expert nutritionist Corrie Rabbe will unravel the mysteries of what makes sourdough bread so remarkable. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn on the spot, enjoy a tasting,

and take home a sourdough starter. The cost for this class is \$50.

Watch this space for great events in April and May! Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/MacKayBrainery](https://www.facebook.com/MacKayBrainery).

—Mira Mary Culham



Nathalie Des Rosiers
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Congratulations



Photo courtesy Bob Butler

Don and Roslyn Butler of Avon Lane are thrilled to announce the marriage of their son **Robert** to **Grace Park**. The couple held two weddings: the first at Lansdowne Park on Oct. 6, 2018 (followed by a large Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Butlers at St. Bart's church hall); the second in late December in Busan, Korea. Rob and Grace had a traditional Korean wedding ceremony complete with formal Korean dress and gift-giving to all senior family members, including Grace's 98-year-old great grandmother. They honeymooned in Singapore and Malaysia. Congratulations!



Photo by Jack Kavanagh

The **New Edinburgh Community Choir** performed "Songs of Light and Peace" at St. John's Lutheran Church on Crichton Street on Dec. 10. **Josh Zentner-Barrett** conducted both the adult and children's choirs in this festive concert.



Photo by Catherine Lindquist

A trio of cross-country skiers was spotted on Crichton Street, taking advantage of January's record snowfall.



Photo by Liba Bender

Justin and his son **Alistair** were among those who enjoyed the Hockey Day in New Edinburgh on Jan. 19.



Photo Louise Imbeault

Penny Thompson joined City Councillor **Tobi Nussbaum** at his festive gathering at the New Edinburgh Square on Dec. 14, the day after news of his NCC appointment.

Congratulations to the three Rideau-Rockcliffe residents among the recipients of the School of Dance's 2018–2019 awards, announced Jan. 15. **Alegra Yawadio Kumba** received the School of Dance 2018–2019 Award, **Felix Benoy** received the 2018–2019 Norman McLaren Award, and **Rowan Mee** received the 2018–2019 Guy Glover Award. Well done!

Best wishes to Ivy Crescent resident **Liba Bender** who celebrated her birthday on Feb. 1.

A sold-out crowd of 120 guests attended the New Year's Eve Gala at St Bartholomew's Church on MacKay Street. This dress-up affair featured gowns, dark suits and bling jewellery – even masks! The evening began with a silent auction, glasses of Prosecco and a wonderful concert keeping with the theme of the "Orient Express" featuring two violinists from OrKidstra and several professional singers, including the singing Mountie **Garth Hampson**. MC **Rob Clipperton** conducted guests through the journey, and **Tim Piper** provided musical support with some 1920s jazz favourites. The church hall was transformed into a railway dining car for a delicious sit-down four-course dinner, followed by dancing (mostly waltzes). At midnight, guests welcomed 2019 with toasts and a rousing "Auld Lang

Syne" in the church. Some literally rang in the new year by pulling the ropes to ring the church bells.

For the eighth consecutive year, **Gavin Murphy** hosted Durham University alumni and friends for his annual holiday season party at Dunelm, his Union Street residence. There were a record 20 guests in attendance on Dec. 15, with graduates ranging from the class of 1958 to a 2008 alumnus. Any Durham graduates who want to know more about the local alumni chapter can contact Gavin at gmurphy@dunelm.org.uk.

Condolences

Neighbours and dogwalkers were saddened at the news that **Olivia**, the gentle giant of a Rottweiler who lived with **Eileen Olexiuk** of River Lane, left us shortly before Christmas. She was a lovely lady with a steely determination, best friend to **Miston**, and a familiar presence to everyone in Stanley Park. She will be greatly missed.

Farewell

Thank you to **Mabel** who, after 50 years running **Golden Star Chinese** restaurant on Springfield Road, will be closing her business at the end of March. This iconic storefront will be missed!"



Photo courtesy Royal Oak Beechwood

Friends and neighbours held a farewell party **Jeff Smith** (right) on Jan. 29 at One Up Beechwood.

A farewell party took place Jan. 29 at One Up Beechwood for long-time community volunteer **Jeff Smith** and his wife **Maggie Butcher**. Having lived in New Edinburgh for more than 30 years, Jeff has been a highly valued volunteer and leader on many local issues. He fought against the Vanier Parkway extension (which would have eliminated Stanley Park), and helped institute the park's cycle and pedestrian paths, as well as recreational facilities such as the basketball court. Jeff has tirelessly advocated for better project management and mitigation on the CSST project as well as making the neighbourhood safer through his work on NECA's Traffic and Safety Committee. Jeff and Maggie raised their two children in New Edinburgh, and are frequently in Stanley Park with their dog, **Bentley**. We thank Jeff for his tireless efforts in helping make New Edinburgh a great neighbourhood, and wish him and Maggie well in their new life closer to family in the outskirts of Ottawa. Thank you to the Royal Oak Pub on Beechwood for providing a great venue.