

April 2020

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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



Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

A Cedar waxwing and American robin: spring is here! Find more birding news on p. 22-23.

## No pandemic can stop community news!

By Christina Leadlay,  
managing editor

In these unprecedented pandemic times, it is important to stay positive and keep a semblance of normalcy when our daily routines are being disrupted.

With this in mind, the *New Edinburgh News* team has proceeded as usual with our April edition, which we are pleased and proud to bring to you on schedule.

Like me, you might find

yourself overwhelmed with all the news of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and are craving some happy news. While some of our stories touch on the current public health situation, many more focus on other topics, from landscaping and the environment, to travel memoirs, visual art and local artists, real estate, sports, building development and local entrepreneurs. We even have a fun selection of limericks submitted by readers, and a word

search for you to try!

Much of the content in this edition was assembled prior to the COVID-19 pandemic hitting Ottawa in mid-March. Sadly, many articles concerning events taking place in April and May had to be pulled as the events were cancelled or postponed. Fortunately, many more articles were quickly updated by their writers to reflect the new reality of social distancing and physical isolation, and a few needed no revisions at

all as they didn't concern the pandemic in any way. Thank you to all of our contributors who were able to take part in this issue!

Local business is the backbone of our newspaper. Not only is our Burgh Business Briefs our flagship column, but our advertisers also provide us with continued support which helps us to keep publishing. While this pandemic affects the global economy, nowhere is the crisis felt more deeply than with our

small-business owners.

The *NEN* team and I encourage you to do what you can to support our local businesses now (if possible) and in particular once this health crisis passes. For example, my family is getting local take-out twice a week and ordering in supplies like coffee and beer from Ottawa-based companies. What local businesses would you really miss if they were gone? Support them!

**Here is a list of 'essential' neighbourhood businesses that are open to some degree (reduced hours; food for take-out or delivery) as of March 28, 2020. Businesses that are temporarily closed have not been listed. Contact businesses directly for their latest status.**

### Food & Grocery

**Bibi's Middle Eastern Kitchen:** 613-421-0711, [eatatbibis.com](http://eatatbibis.com)

**Bread and Roses Bakery:** 613-745-2087, [breadandrosesbakery.ca](http://breadandrosesbakery.ca)

**Bridgehead Coffee House:** 613-744-3735, [bridgehead.ca](http://bridgehead.ca)

**Epicuria:** 613-745-7356, [epicuria.ca](http://epicuria.ca)

**Fraser Café:** 613-749-1444, [frasercafe.ca](http://frasercafe.ca)

**Jacobsons:** 613-746-6002, [jacobsons.ca](http://jacobsons.ca)

**Loblaws McArthur grocery store:** 613-744-0705, [loblaws.ca/delivery](http://loblaws.ca/delivery)

**Metro Beechwood grocery store:** 613-744-6676, [metro.ca](http://metro.ca)

**Muckleston & Brockwell butcher:** 613-745-2244, [mucklestonandbrockwell.com](http://mucklestonandbrockwell.com)

**Nature's Buzz:** 613-842-0280, [naturesbuzz.ca](http://naturesbuzz.ca)

**Ola Cocina:** 613-746-6222, [olacocina.ca](http://olacocina.ca)

**Quickie Convenience Store:** 613-744-7256, [quickestores.com](http://quickestores.com)

**Red Door Provisions:** 613-695-6804, [reddoorprovisions.com](http://reddoorprovisions.com)

**Second Cup coffee:** 613-748-3017, [secondcup.com](http://secondcup.com)

**So Good Asian Fusion:** 613-746-4975

**Starbucks coffee:** 343-997-5818, [starbucks.ca](http://starbucks.ca)

**Subway:** 613-741-2520, [subway.com/en-CA](http://subway.com/en-CA)

**SushiMe:** 613-741-4777, [sushimeottawa.com](http://sushimeottawa.com)

### Other Services

**Bank of Montreal:** 613-564-6085, [bmo.com](http://bmo.com)

**Beechwood Whole Health Pharmacy:** 613-842-7455

**Nature's Care:** 613-741-1572

**New Edinburgh Pharmacy:** 613-749-4444

**Pet Valu:** 613-842-8769, [petvalu.com](http://petvalu.com)

**Gift cards and support for local businesses:** [vanierbia.com/covid-19](http://vanierbia.com/covid-19)

**Ontario government list of essential businesses:**  
[ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces](http://ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces)

**Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for updates.**



**Special thanks to *NEN's* distribution team for helping deliver the paper during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## What's the New Edinburgh Community Alliance?

NECA is the umbrella organization for all residents and community organizations in our neighbourhood. Every resident of New Edinburgh is automatically a member of NECA.

Its mandate is to develop and foster a sense of community among the residents; to research, develop positions and make representations to various levels of government on matters affecting the community; and to coordinate activities between organizations.

NECA's committees include Traffic and Safety, Heritage and Development, Beechwood Development, Park Vision and Environment and Climate Change. It also publishes this newspaper.

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). Its annual general meeting takes place in October.

Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Cindy Parkanyi in advance at [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com).

Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday, Apr. 21, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday May 19, 7:30 p.m.**

Check [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for meeting location.

### Your NECA Representatives 2019-2020

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Learn more at  
[www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca)

## We are lucky to live in a compassionate community



**Cindy Parkanyi**  
NECA President

I hope that everyone is holding up during this difficult time. I am particularly grateful to be living in a community that is compassionate and kind, one where neighbours jump at the chance to help each other. If there is a silver lining to all of this, it is that we have grown closer – while remaining physically distanced – as families and as a community.

### New Edinburgh Disaster Support (NEDS)

You may have seen the posters around the neighbourhood, or seen Councillor Rawlson King's Twitter post about the newly-established group: New Edinburgh Disaster Support (NEDS). Led by my husband **George Parkanyi**, this is the beginning of an all-hazard emergency preparedness and response capability within New Edinburgh. In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the emphasis has been on providing relevant information and resources, and putting a community support network in place to help those who cannot go out themselves for

food and medications.

With the help of local techie **Dave Rostenne**, the NEDS team has established a dedicated phone number and email address to contact to volunteer or request assistance. Within a very short time after putting the word out, we began receiving volunteer offers, and they just keep coming. By establishing this support network, neighbours have been able to help other neighbours by picking up groceries, doing online ordering (for those who do not have computers) and even helping to find a lost dog.

While the impetus to get NEDS up and running now was COVID-19, we will continue to develop and refine the processes, tools and resources to be ready for any number of emergency events or future crises. If you are interested in being part of the support network of neighbours, contact [neds@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:neds@newedinburgh.ca) or leave a voicemail at 613-518-1646.

### Virtual board meeting

Before Ottawa's first-ever

virtual City Council meeting, NECA trail-blazed with its first virtual board meeting. On Mar. 23, the board, along with Councillor **Rawlson King** and his assistant **Stephanie Johnson**, met online to discuss a number of topics, including the City's role in helping residents and business get through the COVID-19 crisis.

Another topic discussed at length was the **Pathway Design Committee's** review of City options for bridging the "missing link" multi-use pathway – from where the path ends at the Dufferin–Stanley curve to where it will soon re-emerge beside the playground. The committee has reviewed the options on the merits of each and identified that a combination of two of the options (1 and 4) would, on balance, be best. The City has indicated that only Option 2 (which does not require major road and drainage work) would be feasible under the auspices of the CSST Reinstatement. All other options would need to be put into the regular queue for consideration perhaps years down the line. NECA has learned that Option 2 would include a design process which would consider community concerns and input in developing the final design. There would also be a full public consultation to ensure that all park users can weigh in on the proposal.

To learn more about NECA's committees and working groups, please contact me at [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com). If you'd like to receive monthly NECA updates, please send me an email request or sign up through the community website: [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca). The next NECA Board meeting will take place on Apr. 21 at 7:30 p.m., most likely online.

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# Opinion

## Beechwood's commercial core yet to rise again from 2011 fire

By Jane Heintzman

Almost a decade ago, on March 15, 2011, the commercial core of New Edinburgh was destroyed by fire. The event was a milestone in our neighbourhood history, and permanently changed the character of the Beechwood Avenue shopping area.

The fire started in the basement of the Jolicoeur Home Hardware Store (located on Beechwood between Crichton and MacKay Streets), and spread rapidly along a stretch of the main street which was home to a dozen stores and services. The smoke's toxicity forced Ottawa Fire Services to fight the blaze from outside the building. The consequence was extensive smoke and water damage, not only to the stores and apartments along Beechwood, but also to those in the adjacent block on Mackay Street.

In the weeks and months that followed, any thoughts of restoration were ultimately abandoned, and the entire site was leveled. The site was later purchased by Minto developments, and turned into a large residential/commercial complex: Minto Beechwood.

While this is old news to longtime residents, the saga may be less familiar to recent arrivals to our area, who didn't know the dense complex of small shops that comprised the heart of our Beechwood shopping area before the fire.

### That was then

Before the tragedy, the Beechwood core consisted of a walkable cluster of small, street-front shops and services, including:

- Bread and Roses bakery, renowned for its healthy homemade breads and sweet treats;
- Hamie's Diner, a homey, affordable neighbourhood eatery;
- Lester's Barber Shop, owned and operated by local barber Lester Clark;
- Parker's Dry Cleaners, with a skilled seamstress on site;
- Jolicoeur Home Hardware, a family-owned operation, supplying all our needs from

garden tools to snow shovels; batteries; and all the necessities for DIY renovators;

- Nature's Buzz, an organic local produce and natural products store;
- Time Sharpening, a watch repair and jewelry business;
- A fully equipped UPS store, serving home offices, schools and businesses;
- The New Edinburgh Art Gallery;
- Cooperator's Insurance;
- Epicuria, a gourmet caterer, featuring tasty lunches and prepared take-out meals; and
- Piccolo Grande, a small shop specializing in gelato in summer, and home-made soup and sandwiches in winter, along with chocolates year-round.

Beechwood from Crichton Street to Mackay was, in effect, a one-stop shopping area for local residents. Routine errands could be carried out swiftly and efficiently, (though many of us took the time to chat with the local proprietors, who became valued friends and acquaintances over the years). And an added bonus (important in our carbon-conscious era) was that most of our household tasks could be carried out on foot or by bicycle. A steady stream of walk-by traffic sustained the small businesses on the block, and also gave a boost to those nearby, such as Books on Beechwood, the Scone Witch and the former Da Bombe Desserts across the road.

While many businesses displaced by the fire have relocated and remained in (or reasonably close to) the community, for local residents, the "walkability" and convenience of having a dozen small shops in such close proximity has regrettably gone for good.

### This is now

The area that once featured a dozen businesses is now Minto Beechwood, a mid-rise condominium building, with a sizeable commercial main floor extending along Beechwood Avenue from the pharmacy building at Crichton Street to the cor-

ner of Mackay Street. As of March 2020, the amenities in that commercial space remain limited to:

- The Bank of Montreal;
- Starbucks Coffee Shop.

A third elusive possibility, an LCBO outlet, has yet to materialize, and there is no news of other prospects on the horizon.

It is clear that our former pre-fire nucleus of small shops will not be back. Commercial leasing rates are well beyond the means of small operators, and to all appearances, the outlets of large corporate chains could be the way of the future in the major developments on Beechwood.

### Looking ahead

Minto is now in the early stages of planning a new development on the site of properties at 78-90 Beechwood Ave. and 77-93 Barrette St. Like Minto Beechwood, along with other new developments along Beechwood Avenue, notably The Kavanaugh and St. Charles Market, this new project is slated to be a mix of residential and street level commercial development. With community consultations in the offing, there may be a fresh opportunity for an airing of neighbourhood opinion on the kinds of shops and services most needed in our area (cue the familiar "hardware store" chorus!)

While we may be at – or approaching – saturation level for local coffee shops and small restaurants, there are many other amenities that would be welcome in the Beechwood commercial area, and which we hope, will be brought to the table in the consultative process. Start making your list, and stay tuned for news of public discussions on Minto's new Beechwood project.

### Support your local businesses!

Tell them you saw their ad in the  
*New Edinburgh News.*

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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# Preparing for spring flooding



**Jim Watson**  
Mayor of Ottawa

The residents of the National Capital Region have had to overcome several natural disasters over the past few years: flooding in May of 2017, tornadoes in September of 2018 and more flooding last spring.

Around this time last spring, the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board was projecting that the Ottawa River’s peak levels would rise dozens of centimetres above those experienced in 2017. On April 25, 2019, on the recommendation of City Manager Steve Kanellakos and his team, I declared a

State of Emergency in the City of Ottawa. It was clear that we required assistance from both the provincial government and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Their efforts, over a three-week period, to mitigate the floods and offer relief to homeowners, volunteers, City crews and first responders were greatly appreciated. I would also like to recognize the local Councillors Theresa Kavanagh, Stephen Blais and Eli El-Chantiry, as well as the dedicated City employees and the thousands of volunteers that worked around the clock to help those in need.

Over the course of the past year, the City of Ottawa and surrounding municipalities have worked with conservation authorities and Doug McNeil, a special adviser on flooding appointed by the provincial government, to explore measures to withstand another potentially severe flood this spring.

Additionally, the City of Ottawa’s Office of Emergency Management’s Spring Freshet

Taskforce held its first meeting of the year on March 5, with the goal of enhancing public and community safety through leadership and collaboration to support prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities prior to, during and after a flood. Their mandate is to:

- develop a communications strategy in advance of the spring freshet;
- develop educational materials on flooding preparedness to assist residents;
- investigate revised operational and tactical procedures and pre-position assets as required; and
- explore potential opportunities to purchase new flood mitigation/prevention technologies and hardware.

To learn more about the taskforce’s ongoing work, please visit: [ottawa.ca/en/parking-roads-and-travel/road-and-sidewalk-maintenance/spring-maintenance-and-flood-control](http://ottawa.ca/en/parking-roads-and-travel/road-and-sidewalk-maintenance/spring-maintenance-and-flood-control)

Residents seeking further information concerning flooding in the National Capital Region may contact the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board Secretariat at: Toll-free (24 hours a day): 819-994-9049, email: [secretariat@ottawariver.ca](mailto:secretariat@ottawariver.ca), website: [ottawariver.ca/faq.php](http://ottawariver.ca/faq.php), Twitter: @ORRPB

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# Special changes to property tax, hydro & water rules during pandemic



**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

I hope this finds you all well as we continue to adapt to the exceptionally challenging circumstances that have come to Ward 13 and our City. The City's goal has been and continues to keep providing required services to residents while ensuring everyone's safety. To achieve this, please practice social distancing and work from home, if possible.

Social distancing refers to creating physical distance between ourselves so that we can limit the spread of the virus. Social distancing by all is imperative to limit transmission in the community, to protect vulnerable populations and outbreaks in institutions. We must "flatten the curve" so we don't see spikes in cases. This means we must slow down transmission of

the virus and lessen the number of cases in the community that happen concurrently, so that our health system continues to work properly.

*"We will get through this pandemic, by working together to 'flatten the curve' and supporting one another."*

Having a sharp increase of cases in a small timeframe will overload our healthcare resources and have more severe impacts on our community. Social distancing is important for everyone at this time, but especially important for our older adult community. Do not gather in groups of 10 or more.

Social distancing does not mean emotional distancing. Check in with others by phone or other technology. Check in with yourself: it's okay

not to be okay. Please know that help is available, and we encourage you to reach out to Distress Centre of Ottawa to connect with someone at 613-238-3311 if needed.

Rest assured that your municipal, provincial and federal governments are all working together at this time to address the challenges created by the COVID-19 virus.

Please ensure that the information you read and share online comes from credible sources like Ottawa Public Health, the Ontario Ministry

tax payment grace period and a new 2020 property tax deferral that will help small businesses and residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the interim property taxes mailed out in mid-February, the City will grant property owners a grace period for payment. The date for late-payment penalties has been moved from March 19, 2020 to April 15, 2020. Property owners who are enrolled in the pre-authorization debit plan are not affected by the

Friday, October 30, 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has suspended all water disconnections due to non-payment until further notice. In addition to the COVID-19 program, the City has existing deferral and grant programs for property taxes and water bills for low-income seniors and low-income people with disabilities in place.

Hydro Ottawa has also indicated that the Winter Disconnection Ban scheduled to end on April 30, 2020 has been extended by an additional three months. Account collection actions for hydro have been suspended until further notice.

I want you to know that City staff, the community, along with staff in my office are working hard to support your needs. My office staff are working remotely but are available at [rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) and by phone at 613-580-2483 to address your concerns. Please obtain the latest updates concerning this situation at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca/covid\\_19](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca/covid_19).



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# Summer jobs program offers students valuable experience



**Mona Fortier**  
Ottawa-Vanier MP

Happy month of La Francophonie to all Francophones and Francophiles in our beautiful riding! This month celebrates the Francophonie: its culture, its diversity and its inclusiveness across Canada. It is my pleasure to be able to celebrate La Francophonie within our community, which has more than 274 million people around the world.

## Poverty reduction

Did you know that as a result of our government's investments, between 2015 and 2018, more than one million Canadians were lifted out of poverty, including 334,000 children and 73,000 seniors? Thanks to programs like the Canada Child Benefit, the increase to Guaranteed Income Supplement, and the Middle Class Tax Cut,

Canadians have more money in their pockets, and fewer Canadians are living in poverty thanks to our Poverty Reduction Strategy.

In Ottawa-Vanier:

- more than 15,000 children receive support every month through the Canada Child Benefit with an average of \$740 going to each child;
- we met and exceeded our 2020 target of reducing poverty by 20 per cent, three years ahead of schedule; and
- we now have the lowest poverty rate in Canadian history.

We're making real progress towards our goal to cut poverty in half by 2030, but there's still more work to be done. That's why we've cut taxes for the middle class again, and introduced the

Canada Workers Benefit, to continue helping those who need it most.

## Canada Summer Jobs program

Building a strong and resilient economy which works for everyone depends on providing our youth the tools and opportunities they need to succeed. That's why our government has doubled the size of the Canada Summer Jobs program, creating meaningful, paid work experience for almost 70,000 students per year. The Canada Summer Jobs program is a great way for Canadians to earn money while gaining valuable work experience that will help them on the road to a successful career. The program allows employers to provide

young Canadians with quality employment and mentoring during the summer period.

Since 2015, our government has given families more money to help them provide more opportunities to succeed, for them and their children. We know that when we invest in Canadians, we create jobs, build better communities and lift people out of poverty.

## Contact me

My constituency office is there to help you with any interactions with federal services. It is open Monday to Thursday from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Friday from 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Give us a call at 613-998-1860 or send an email to [mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca).

# While byelection is past, environment committee keen to hold all politicians to account

By Kayla Holmes

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Environment and Climate Change Committee has held two meetings in 2020 to decide on the future of the committee and establish plans of action for the year ahead.

In the leadup to the provincial byelection that took place on Feb. 27, the committee focused on how to ensure the environment and climate change were part of the discussion. As environmental issues are becoming of primary concern for voters,

it is important to ensure politicians at all levels of government are providing clear plans to address the climate emergency.

As such, the committee was involved in the planning for the all-candidates debate held on Feb. 25.

Candidates from the provincial Liberal Party, New Democratic Party, Green Party and the Libertarian Party were present, along with independent candidate Julie Fiala and candidate Above Znoneofthe from the None of the Above party. Progressive Conservative candidate Patrick Mayangi was invited,

but did not respond, and was not present at the debate.

The Environment and Climate Change Committee presented one of NECA's four questions at the debate: "What specific action would you take at Queen's Park to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario, meet the Paris Agreement targets, and help communities like Ottawa-Vanier adapt to and reduce the increasing health and environmental risks of climate change?"

Green Party candidate Benjamin Koczwarski said a solution is investments in home energy retrofits. "I

know it's an age-old thing that we've heard many times, but the truth is we haven't really gotten it right in the past," he said.

Koczwarski also highlighted a need to bring back rebates for electric car purchases. The rebates were cancelled by Ontario Premier Doug Ford in 2018, which was followed by a stark drop in sales of electric vehicles. "Many people are on the fence," said Koczwarski, "let's just give them the push."

NDP candidate Myriam Djilane focused on a broader climate-action plan, pushing for government action. "People in Ottawa-Vanier are doing their best. They are recycling, using their bicycles, but the government needs to act. We can't afford to ignore the climate crisis."

Liberal candidate Lucille Collard pushed for a solution on an individual and an industry scale: "I think we have to attack this on different fronts. Locally, I think everyone can do better," she said. "I also think that even-

tually we can do more and involve the industry into the solution. We need to provide incentives to the industry so that they work on greener technologies."

Ms. Collard went on to win the Ottawa-Vanier seat in the provincial legislature on Feb. 27.

Though the byelection period has come to an end, the committee is committed to holding the parties – whether elected or not – to their promises. These plans and ideas are crucial to addressing the current environmental and climate situation.

As we head into a period of uncertainty, please let the Environment Committee know if you have any ideas for a greener New Edinburgh! We depend on the community to support this effort and look forward to coming together.

Contact the committee chair, Tamara Sorger: [tamara-sorger@yahoo.com](mailto:tamara-sorger@yahoo.com).

Kayla Holmes is a member of NECA's Environment Committee.



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# Welcome from our new provincial Member of Parliament



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Dear constituents of Ottawa-Vanier,

I would like to thank you for the confidence you have

shown me by electing me as your new Member of Provincial Parliament. I consider myself privileged to be

at your service.

The well-being of everyone in Ottawa-Vanier is my priority. In these times of isolation and daily adaptations, I ask you to please follow the recommendations of public health authorities so that we may all overcome this crisis as quickly as possible.

Rest assured that I am listening to your concerns and that I am actively working to bring them to the attention of

the government of Ontario. Services at my office remain available by phone or email, and I invite you to contact us if you have questions regarding provincial resources, services or programs that are available, or to talk to me about the issues matter most to you.

Ottawa-Vanier's constituents are resilient and show solidarity. When faced with obstacles, we roll up our

sleeves and help each other. In the face of this global pandemic, collaboration is our greatest ally.

I look forward to working with you!

*Ottawa-Vanier's Member of Provincial Parliament, Lucille Collard, can be reached at 613-744-4484; Lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. Her constituency office is located at 237 Montreal Rd.*

## Fieldhouse closed; CCC hopes spring events can go ahead

by Chris Straka, CCC President

This year's skating season was shorter than usual due to the variable weather in December, January and February. But it was still a successful season in New Edinburgh Park, with two skating rinks and rink attendants onsite daily to ensure the safe use of the facility and to maintain the rinks. The ice closed on Feb. 29, satisfying the CCC's funding agreement with the City of Ottawa that covers the labour cost of the rink attendants and other operational costs.

The skating season couldn't have happened without the leadership of **Sylvain Bélanger** and the great volunteers who hose the rinks at night. A thank-you to this winter's volunteer hosers, ice builders and Fieldhouse set-up crew members: **Jason Tavoularis, André Deslauriers, Jennifer Manning, Hope Celani, Manon desGrosseilliers, Caroline Matt, Marc d'Orgeville, Aubrey Charette, Steve Krigas, Tony Stibral, Bruce McLaurin, Steve Grabner and Julien Bélanger.**

We held a Skating Party on Feb. 9. Approximately 60 people congregated on the ice for games, socializing, baked goods and warm drinks. Thanks to **Edwina Chittilappilly** for her leadership and the unfailing support of **Debra Conner** in organizing, shopping and setting up. Thanks also goes to **Téo, Jen, André and Cléo** for putting

up posters, and all the community builders who helped to keep the skating party running smoothly.

### Bike Day: April 25

New Edinburgh Bike Day will go ahead on **Apr. 25 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**, unless physical distancing imperatives are still in effect. This annual event is geared to new cyclists, especially children aged four to 10 years old and their caregivers.

Young riders will learn safe riding skills and the rules of the road, then participate in a brief bicycle safety course by the **Ottawa Safety Council**. Bring your bike and helmet. At 1 p.m., a group ride will take place around the neighbourhood. All children participating must be accompanied by an adult.

We'll also be holding a used bike sale, hosted by CCC. Everyone is invited to donate a used bicycle or other non-motorized wheeled thing (e.g. scooter, trailer). Bikes for sale should be dropped off at the Fieldhouse on Apr. 24 from 6–8 p.m. for pricing. Twenty per cent of all proceeds will support the CCC.

A **Full Cycle** mechanic will be providing safety checks and adjustments at no cost.

Also, you can learn about an initiative to improve to the connectivity and safety of the pathway network that runs through the neighbourhood and provide feedback on a proposed multi-use path link along Stanley Avenue.

Bike Day will also include opportunities to meet our Community Police Officer,

view unique bicycles on display, watch a bicycle polo demonstration and enjoy refreshment (by donation).

### Plant Sale: May 9

Our tradition of selling annuals, organic vegetables and herbs on the Fieldhouse front lawn will continue on **May 9 from 8 a.m.–4 p.m.**, unless we are unable to do so due to public health concerns. Come early for the best selection from the variety of hanging baskets, flats, and pots available. All proceeds from this sale support CCC events and contribute to improvements at the Fieldhouse and surrounding park. Debit, credit or mobile device payments welcome.

### Upcoming meetings

CCC meetings are (typically) held at the Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave.) and are open to all. Please join us, especially if you have energy to contribute to the improvement of your community. Our next meetings are on **Apr. 14 and May 12 at 7:30 p.m.**

Visit [newedinburgh.ca/](http://newedinburgh.ca/) events for a list of upcoming events. Notice of any changes to CCC's activities will be made online and via neighbourhood email

distribution lists.

To contact the CCC executive, email: [crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

### Fieldhouse rentals

On Mar. 16, the City of Ottawa closed the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Until further notice the building will not be available for use. We will notify the neighbourhood as soon as reservations are possible. To enquire about Fieldhouse future rentals, email: [nfieldhouse@gmail.com](mailto:nfieldhouse@gmail.com)

### Fieldhouse and park upgrades

Through the fall and winter, the CCC consulted Fieldhouse users and our partner community associations on capital improvements to the building. (See the December 2019 edition of NEN for details.) In February 2020, a letter cosigned by CCC, NECTAR and NECA was sent to our city councillor recommending specific investments to the building's interior. We look forward to reporting on details related to implementing these recommendations.

Given the intensity of New Edinburgh Park's usage, and

the likely increase in use as our neighbourhood's population grows, the CCC's role as active steward of the Fieldhouse and the surrounding park is increasingly important. We recognize a need to reduce the potential for conflict among the park's various users, especially in the busy area immediately surrounding the Fieldhouse. The CCC will continue to work with our councillor and City staff, in cooperation with other local groups, as we take steps to improve everyone's experience in New Edinburgh Park.

### CCC needs volunteers

The CCC is seeking an individual with accounting experience who is interested in serving in the future as our Treasurer. Available time and a desire to make a contribution to the community are the only real prerequisites for this position. A volunteer interested in transitioning into this role will be able to work with our current Treasurer during the remainder of their term.

If you are interested in supporting the CCC in an administrative capacity or as an event volunteer, email [crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com).

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# Opinion

## It's time for a better approach at City Hall

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Does it matter that urban residents have no representation at the most powerful committee at Ottawa city council? How did we get to a state of "court government" at our City Hall, where power is concentrated with the mayor, his office and the city executives who serve him? And in this context, is it still possible that decisions can be made in the public interest?

During this term of council, all five urban councillors have been shut out from sitting on the city's most powerful committee, finance and economic development, known as FEDCO. The shut-

out is the outcome of the mayor's power to recommend a slate of chairs and members of council committees which is voted on by council – and never overturned. While the urban councillors represent the city's core, the heartbeat of the nation's capital, and a substantial base of municipal taxpayer revenue, they also do not tend to vote in line with the mayor.

The fact is that every major decision by Ottawa City Council is one that the mayor either introduces or supports. He has never lost a vote at City Hall.

The notion that the mayor is only one vote around a council table with the 23 council-

lors is at odds with the reality of the position and its powers. Under Ontario's Municipal Act governing municipalities, the mayor is the CEO of the corporation that is the City of Ottawa. The city's senior staff report directly to the mayor as CEO.

Councillors are among the last people – along with the media and residents – to learn any details regarding major contracts (think of the LRT Stage 2 contract) and spending.

Many of the most controversial decisions at City Hall in recent years have been decisions affecting the downtown core and, in many cases, the public interest.

The current Light Rail Transit controversy is one of four major city-building initiatives in the past few years

where the mayor's position has met with significant public outcry. The other three, while significant tests of the public interest, could be categorized as sparking locally-driven opposition.

One was the approval of the Salvation Army's proposed new large emergency shelter in Vanier – on a main street the community has worked hard to revitalize as an economic hub. Another issue was the approval of the 900 Albert St. development, including a 65-storey building in an area where 30 storeys was deemed the maximum height under council-approved policy.

Last July, the proposed addition to the Château Laurier hotel was approved by the mayor and his supporters on council even as heritage experts and citizens argued the design was hostile to the historic hotel and adjacent parkland, a stone's throw from Parliament Hill. (The addition's approval was subsequently stalled by a decision at the committee of adjustment.)

There have also been numerous other issues where the mayor's position has been at odds with urban councillors' views and indeed with the public interest. Among these was his steadfast opposition to a safe-injection site to address the opioid crisis and his opposition to a ban on corporate donations to municipal campaigns, which was subsequently legislated by the provincial government.

While public outcry has been clearly expressed on several major issues, the majority of councillors have continued to side with the mayor. The question now is whether the transit problems, which affect the daily lives of citizens throughout the city, and the lack of transparency around the procurement decision for LRT Stage 2, will prompt even more councillors to join in pushing for accountability and a better approach to city decision-making and leadership.

*Sarah Anson-Cartwright lives in New Edinburgh and works in public affairs.*

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# NECA opposes city's proposed zoning changes



Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

By Gail McEachern

## Heritage and Development Committee

In the last issue of NEN, we reported on a new zoning proposal which would permit the construction of eight- to 12-unit apartment buildings in the parts of our neighbourhood currently zoned R4. Almost the entire Historic Conservation District is zoned R4. What follows is a shortened version of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's response to the City's coordinator for this zoning proposal:

NECA does not support the implementation of the R4 Zoning proposal within the boundaries of the Historic Conservation District (HCD) as outlined in the City of Ottawa's Discussion Paper #3.

*"What may be complementary and appropriate on one street in terms of scale and style may be overwhelming on another.*

*We are concerned about the tendency to depend on a 'one size fits all' approach."*

Our HCD is bordered by Sussex Drive, Dufferin Road, MacKay Street and the Rideau River. It is located adjacent to many significant sites of local and national importance including neighbourhood founder Thomas MacKay's original estate (now the home of Canada's Governor General), the Prime Minister's Residence at 24 Sussex and the Minto Bridges, built to provide a ceremonial route between Rideau Hall and the Parliament Buildings.

New Edinburgh is a significant example of a small nineteenth-century village located within the urban area of Ottawa. Its street grid was created by Thomas MacKay, a Scottish entrepreneur who was instrumental in the construction of the Rideau Canal and the establishment of an industrial complex of mills at Rideau Falls in the mid-

1800s. Many of the houses were built by and for the mill workers on long narrow lots which could be called 'garden lots' which joined a principal street to a lane.

The New Edinburgh HCD was designated by the City of Ottawa in 2001 and its comprehensive Heritage Conservation Plan was adopted in 2015. Backing up the Plan are federal, provincial and municipal policies in place to protect and conserve the integrity of both the built heritage and the cultural heritage landscapes of this district.

For example, a clear directive is stated on page 28 of the provincial document 'Heritage Conservation Districts - a Guide to District Designation': "Once the District Plan is adopted (by

the municipality), its policies and objectives will take precedence in the event of a conflict with existing municipal zoning (i.e., R4) and other by-laws that were in place before the designation of the district.

It is NECA's position that applying the proposed R4 Zoning to New Edinburgh's HCD would undermine the basic principles on which the historic district was established, and alter this important built heritage and cultural landscape irreparably. NECA strongly recommends that the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District be exempt from this proposal.

We understand that the area of New Edinburgh outside of the historic district (bordered by Dufferin Road, Rideau Terrace, Springfield Avenue, Beechwood Avenue and the Rideau River) is partly zoned

R4 and partly R3. Although the proposed zoning changes will only apply to the properties that are currently zoned R4, attention must be given to establishing clear limits on the height and footprint of apartment buildings being considered for this area.

This is an established residential neighbourhood composed largely of modest single family homes similar to those found in the adjacent HCD. There exists a balanced rhythm to the streetscapes and it is rich visually with trees and green landscaping which must be respected and not 'picked away at' or destroyed.

Any new zoning by-laws must be tailored to fit not only a whole neighbourhood, but also should be specific to individual streets within that neighbourhood. In New Edinburgh, what may be complementary and appropriate on one street in terms of scale and style may be overwhelming on another. We are concerned about the tendency to depend on a 'one size fits all' approach. This proposal opens the door to developers buying up single family homes that are still viable and inserting a multi-unit building in its place. A potentially worse scenario is the consolidation of two adjacent parcels permitting the developer to build a much larger building which would be even more disruptive to the street character. How will this be prevented from happening in New Edinburgh? It would meet the goal of increasing density and offering alternative living options, but could result in changing a long established special place for the residents and not necessarily for the better.

NECA echoes the Vanier Community Association's recommendation that the 30 per cent landscaping requirement for low-rise apartment buildings on small lots should be retained. However, the question is: who is in charge? Who designs the amenity space? Who sets the rules about usage? Who takes care of it (waters the grass/plants etc.)? Could someone install artificial turf to save time and maintenance costs? This issue needs further exploration to set out a workable mandate for managing these spaces.

NECA supports the City's efforts to create more affordable rental units in Ottawa, especially in the urban core. However, we agree with the Vanier Community Association that there is not compelling evidence the proposed recommendations will lead to less expensive rental apartments. In New Edinburgh (outside the Historic Conservation District) the lots are modest

in size and close together, which should result in a small building limited to four units.

In addition, New Edinburgh is a highly sought-after neighbourhood and developers will price their units at the highest level the market will bear. There is no incentive for developers to keep their rents below market rates. Unless the City offers a subsidy in some form, affordable rental housing seems unlikely.



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# BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- Susan Groundwater, Jane Heintzman & David Lawrence -

## Editor's Note:

The following profiles were prepared in the weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic, before the new regime of physical distancing and self-isolation became the imperatives of our daily lives to curb its spread.

Many of our community's small businesses, including several profiled here, have closed temporarily until the pandemic abates. Others have reduced their hours or adjusted their operations to offer online services, or take-out and delivery. Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for a list of what's open and closed in New Edinburgh.

Our cafés, restaurants, pubs and other small businesses play a vital role in strengthening the bonds of community. We are looking forward to the day when regular community life and activity can resume. When it does, let's do all that we can to support our hard-hit businesses as much and as often as we can, so they can bounce back from this challenging episode. In the interim, while business closures remain in force, you can show your support by purchasing gift cards for local stores online at [vanierbia.com/Covid](http://vanierbia.com/Covid).

## Functional fitness for the 50+ set

The newest name on our local fitness scene is **The**



Photo by Dagmara Brunst

The Movement Union's personal trainers Eduardo Avila (left), Courtney Kalbfleisch and Stuart Maskell.

**Movement Union (MU)**, which launched at 268 Durocher St. in Vanier early this year. But while the name is new, many aspects of MU are already familiar to clients of its long-running counterpart, the **Physical Therapy Institute (PTI)**.

PTI is the brainchild of local physiotherapist **Pam Siekierski**. In early 2019, Pam turned over the gym and fitness facilities on Durocher Street to colleagues **Stuart Maskell** and **Eduardo Avila**, and on Dec. 31, 2019, she withdrew from that location altogether to reopen her physiotherapy practice – still under the PTI banner – in her fully-equipped home studio at **90 Genest St.** For appointments, book online at [pti.janeapp.com](http://pti.janeapp.com) or call **613-740-0380**.

**Stuart** and **Eduardo** have taken the helm as co-owners and operators of the Movement Union, and have been hard at work carrying out renovations and assembling a multi-disciplinary team to operate under the new MU banner. Their team currently includes personal trainers **Stuart**, **Eduardo** and **Courtney Kalbfleisch**, physiotherapist **Brendan Hickey**, massage therapist **John MacGillivray**, Rolf Structural Integration Massage therapist **Livia Pellerin** and certified fascial stretch therapist and mobility coach **Meaghan Ramsden**.

Stuart has been on the fitness scene for close to two decades, and is a certified exercise therapist, with a background in rowing. In 2002, he began studying Pilates, and has devised his own movement method, which he teaches in group formats.

When they first took over the gym one year ago, Stuart and Eduardo began a number of upgrades, including the addition of more than 200 square feet to the gym floor. Since acquiring the entire facility in January 2020, they've removed a rear wall to create a large, open space ideal for group classes. They've also fitted out comfortable, sound-proofed treatment rooms for massage and physiotherapy sessions.

Eduardo was a fixture at PTI for many years. His personal training credentials include a Can-Fit Pro certification, and a Bachelor of Science degree with a specialization in nutrition. Eduardo has coached a range of sport enthusiasts from beginners to elite athletes, spanning a variety of sports from rugby to football, soccer, hockey and marathon running.

"We wear a lot of hats around here," says Stuart, "but recently, the most important of these are our hard hats!"

The MU gym is a bright, airy facility with white walls, wood accents, a large rear window and a wall-sized depiction of a tranquil walking trail winding through a verdant forest. The gym floor

is clean and uncluttered by exercise equipment, a deliberate gesture reflecting MU's overall emphasis on movement, not machines.

Both Stuart and Eduardo are committed to a multi-disciplinary model, combining personal training and fitness coaching with rehabilitation therapies such as physiotherapy and massage.

Although temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when normal life resumes, MU will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.–7 p.m., and on Saturday from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. During the gym closure, MU is offering live-streaming exercise classes on their Facebook page: [facebook.com/themovementunion](https://www.facebook.com/themovementunion). Stuart's daily exercise class, "Stay at Home and Show Up", begins at 9:00 a.m.

Once the regular routine has been restored, physiotherapy and massage appointments can be booked online at [movementunion.janeapp.com](http://movementunion.janeapp.com). For personal training, call **613-422-6860** or e-mail [mvmunion@gmail.com](mailto:mvmunion@gmail.com).

We wish the Movement Union Team the best of luck successfully navigating the challenges of the weeks ahead, and a swift return to regular operations!—JH

## Tutoring with social distancing

School closures in Ottawa can be challenging for parents. But help is at hand – at least when it comes to math. **Keumnim Lim** can help students stay on top of their math studies through her online tutoring service.

Keumnim is originally from the Gangnam District of Seoul, Korea. She has lived in Ottawa for nearly two years with her husband (a Canadian diplomat) and her two young sons.

Twelve years ago, Keumnim started her tutoring business in Korea, where she also taught English and helped students prepare for university entrance exams. She tells *NEN* she inherited her entrepreneurial spirit from her "dragon mother," who founded a successful piano school in Seoul. To make sure her daughter would have

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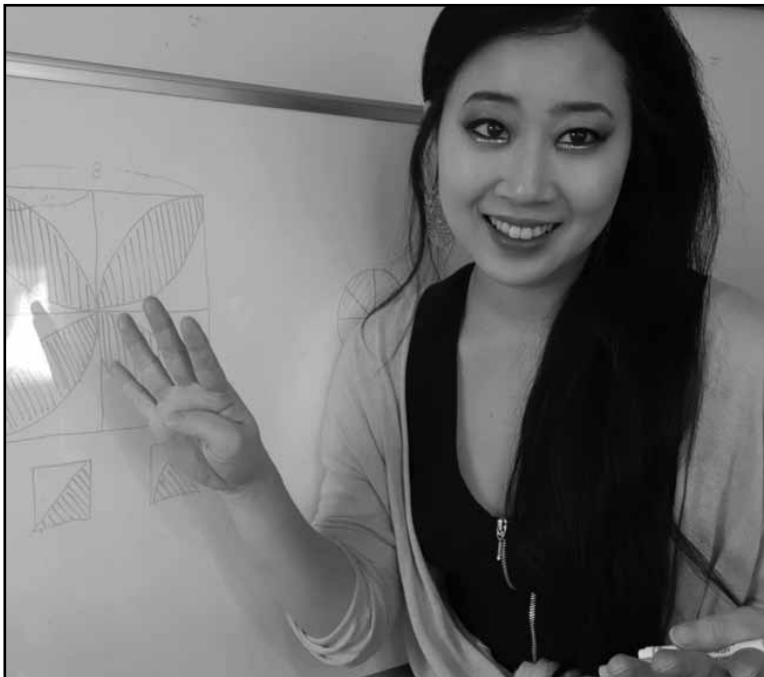


Photo courtesy Keumnim Lim

**Keumnim Lim helps students stay on top of their maths studies with online tutoring.**

top-notch English-language skills, she sent Keumnim to study in the United States at an early age.

"If you can speak English very well, you can live anywhere," she said, Keumnim recalls her mother explaining.

So at age 13, Keumnim set off to Los Angeles, California, and enrolled in a tiny, private middle school. Today, she speaks native-level English without an accent.

In L.A., Keumnim quickly learned that her math skills were exceptional. "I went to the most advanced math class, and there were only 'A' students in there, and we were learning introductory functions. I sat there, and was like, 'Huh, this is really easy.' I became known as a math wizard who didn't use calculators," she says.

Helping her classmates with math led to her future career. After graduating in Korea, she helped high school seniors prepare for their university entrance exams.

"In Korea, which university you go to will practically label you for life," she said. "There's a lot of money involved in tutoring. I was booked 10 hours a day."

With business booming, Keumnim soon had too many students. In response, she raised her rates, but to her surprise, her clients paid them without batting an eye. Her students were successful. "I knew I could get results," Keumnim said.

It was difficult giving up a thriving business when she moved to Canada. But Keumnim didn't miss a beat – she started building up a new tutoring business in Ottawa.

"I had such explosive success at home, and I couldn't let it go," she said.

She started by creating widely-shared math-teaching videos on YouTube and Facebook, which kick-started demand for her services. From there, word-of-mouth carried her business forward.

Keumnim teaches students from grades 2 to 12, adapting her style to her clients. "If they're little, I draw a lot of bunnies," she said. "I do a lot of bunny math." But she also can teach advanced calculus to university-bound 12th-graders.

Until COVID-19 hit Canada, Keumnim did a lot of in-person tutoring, mostly in her students' homes. For now, she teaches through Skype and sends math videos that students can use to deepen their knowledge on their own time.

If your children need a boost in their math skills, reach out to Keumnim at [keumnim@gmail.com](mailto:keumnim@gmail.com).—DL



Photo courtesy Ferme Lève-Tôt

**Ferme Lève-Tôt owner/operators Charlotte Scott and Richard Williams, with their workhorses Bart and Buck.**

### Sign up for your organic veg box

This summer marks the 10th anniversary of **Ferme Lève-Tôt's** presence in our community. A decade ago, its owner/operators **Charlotte Scott** and **Richard Williams** were newly minted organic farmers, just launching their first small farm operation in the Quebec's Outaouais region. Two years later, they moved the farm to a property at Low, Que. (near Wakefield), where they remain today.

That first summer, Richard and Charlotte marketed their wares to local residents weekly at a modest stall outside 42 Crichton St., which was then a gourmet food shop. At the time, the couple's eldest son, **Everett**, was still an infant. Ten years later, Everett is a working part of the family operation, helping out with deliveries, as well as with other tasks on the farm. His younger brother, five-year-old **Avery**, will no doubt be pitching in as soon as he's able.

From the beginning, Ferme

Lève-Tôt has marketed its produce through a Consumer Supported Agriculture (CSA) program where urban households purchase a share of the farm's harvest at the start of the season. Over the course of the summer, each subscriber receives a weekly or bi-weekly delivery of organic veggies, fresh from the fields. The CSA model is vital to the sustainability of Ferme Lève-Tôt's operations, providing the up-front financial resources to run the farm, and establishing a direct connection between city-dwelling consumers and producers.

Richard reports that after 10 years, Ferme Lève-Tôt has become "a big, small farm." He notes that since the start, it has benefitted enormously from its association with supportive producer networks such as le *Coopératif d'agriculteurs de proximité écologiques*, and le *Réseau*

*des fermiers de famille (RFF)* whose members include more than 100 small, certified organic farms in Quebec and New Brunswick.

Richard is especially pleased that this year, the RFF has introduced a much simpler and more user-friendly signup system for CSA subscribers.

Richard and Charlotte have made full use of the hiatus between growing seasons to develop and upgrade the farm's infrastructure. To keep their crops well-watered when it's hot and dry, they've recently dug a deep pond, installed a modular irrigation system, built several greenhouses, and have also invested in precision weed control tools and other equipment to use with their sturdy pair of Norwegian Fjord horses, Bart and Buck.

**Continued on page 12**

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**Continued from page 11**

The horses were acquired in 2015 in an effort to phase out the use of carbon-emitting heavy machinery in farm practices. The loveable pair is now the mainstay of Ferme Lève-Tôt's planting, seeding, cultivating and weeding operations, and according to Richard, he and Charlotte are fast approaching their goal of a fully horse-powered farm enterprise.

The farm now produces 50 different kinds of vegetables (with a total of 150 varieties), so there's no danger of monotony in weekly deliveries. Each basket includes between eight and 10 kinds of veggies, which vary depending on the season. Baskets come in a variety of sizes, with weekly or bi-weekly delivery options.

This year, Ferme Lève-Tôt has 120 spots available on its New Edinburgh delivery list, so reserve your spot now at [fermelevetot.ca/en/csa-baskets](http://fermelevetot.ca/en/csa-baskets). Deliveries take place every Thursday afternoon in front of the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. Interested in a firsthand look at the farm where their summer veggies are grown?

Richard and Charlotte are planning a Farm Tour Day at some point this summer. Visit the website for details. —JH

**Grow your Epic lifestyle online**

If you find you suddenly have the time to make positive changes related to your health, you may want to consider **Epic Fitness and Lifestyle**. Although their beautiful space in the Kavanaugh Building at 230 Beechwood Ave. is closed during the pandemic, they have shifted to offering online personal training and even live studio classes via their private Facebook page.

Unlike other gyms you may have tried, Epic Fitness and Lifestyle specializes in "functional" training, which approaches exercise through a physiotherapy lens. The owner and founder, **Stephanie Karlovits**, explains that functional exercise is about working out correctly. She and her team are "obsessed with technique", making sure that every client exercises without injury or pain. The trainers she hires are expert coaches, who collaborate with their clients to help them achieve their lifestyle goals. "Although popu-



Photo by Rothbauer Studio

**Epic Fitness owner and founder Stephanie Karlovits.**

lar culture sometimes seems to connect self-worth with being able to do it all yourself, we humans are wired for connection, and collaboration is simply more effective," she explains.

Epic Fitness and Lifestyle is a genuine reflection of

Stephanie's philosophy about healthy living. A former competitive figure skater with the Minto Skating Club and a track athlete, Stephanie has always been fascinated by motivation and human behaviour. She studied psychology at Carleton University and

worked as a personal trainer for many years, watching how and why people can change and getting hands-on experience in supporting them to reach their goals. That's why her studio's online services aren't limited to personal training: sessions can be used to discuss lifestyle coaching, nutrition, mobility sessions and mental coaching as well.

When she launched her own business, first on Ogilvie Road and then moving to Beechwood, Stephanie's intention was always bigger than running a gym. "The Epic Life formula is about removing physical and mental barriers to creating a happy life," she explains. Her emphasis on change, as opposed to achieving a certain body type or size, is summed up when she says, "there is no 'after!' It's about building a lifestyle."

Stephanie also has a desire to build community. To that end, Epic Fitness and Lifestyle normally hosts many free events that are open to everyone, such as monthly community hikes in the Gatineau and weekly meditation sessions on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.



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During the current situation, Stephanie and her crew are offering what she's calling the Epic Street Service, where they will deliver naturopathic supplements, fitness equipment like yoga mats and massage balls and even their famous and delicious smoothies within the local community! To make an order, simply email [frontdesk@epicfitnessottawa.com](mailto:frontdesk@epicfitnessottawa.com). To learn more, visit the studio or [epicfitnessottawa.com](http://epicfitnessottawa.com). — SG

**Pet grooming close to home**  
**Your Pet Palace at 78 Beechwood Ave.** provides grooming services to dogs and cats.

**Diane Campbell** bought the business in 2004 at its current location after decades of working with animals. She offers a full range of grooming services for her clients, including clips, comb-outs, ear cleaning and shampooing, as well as walk-in service for nail trims.

While the Palace had been open as usual during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Diane has since had to close temporarily to comply with Ontario Premier Doug Ford's order on Mar. 24 for non-essential businesses to close. It will not open until April 8 at the earliest.

Diane says her clients aren't limited to the Beechwood area — they are scattered throughout the Ottawa valley and are fiercely loyal. The steady stream of furry clients keeps Diane and her staff on their feet all day. She recommends booking at least six weeks in advance, especially before the holidays.

Diane is a true animal person, having grown up with horses, dogs and other farm animals on a ranch in the west of Ottawa — today, the ranch is owned by the National Capital Commission.

"I started grooming when I was 16. My father wouldn't let me take my horse to the horse show unless I paid for trailering and the entry fees, so I had to get a job," she said. "So when I finished grade 10, I got a job in a pet shop. I started grooming and I just continued."

Since then, she's groomed pets all over Ottawa: at an animal hospital, boarding kennels, and other grooming shops. Owning her own business was a logical next step.

After grooming, Diane's four-legged clients look like

works of art, the result of years of practice and a close connection to animals.

"Grooming is like any physical profession — it takes a great deal of practice, and you also need to be able to gain the trust of the pets," she explains.

Sometime in the next few years, Diane may have to move location. Real estate company Minto Group recently bought the building where her business is located. No changes are expected anytime soon, however.

"If and when we do move, we'll have signs up and we'll advertise in all the local papers. We'll let everybody know," Diane said.

Once businesses are permitted to reopen, Your Pet Palace will continue operations from Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m.–5p.m., and on Saturday from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Call to book an appointment at **613-747-6568**. —DL

#### All ages and skills welcome at The School of Dance

The three-storey, red-brick building at 200 Crichton St. has always been a hub for learning in our community. Long-time residents may remember it as Crichton Street Public School, which closed in 1999. Luckily, the teaching didn't stop then: in 2000, the building became the home of **The School of Dance**, a registered charity that offers professional and community-based programs for all types of dancers in the Ottawa region. "Our concept is to be a hub of activity, a safe environment to learn about art, where students can try things themselves and learn together," explains **Merrilee Hodgins**, one of the three original founders of the School, and its current artistic director.

The School has an excellent reputation for training aspiring professional dancers, who follow years-long programs for classical ballet or contemporary dance that can lead to stage careers in companies around the world. Former graduates often return to the School as teachers, choreographers and guest artists, ensuring an ongoing contribution to the Ottawa arts community.

As a testament to the quality of its professional instruction, The School of Dance recently announced a major milestone in its 41-year history: the launch of a joint pro-



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

**One Up Beechwood looks forward to its live music offerings when normal life resumes.**

gram with York University's Department of Dance. This prestigious program will be open to high-school graduates from all over Canada who wish to continue their intensive dance studies while also earning academic credits towards a degree in Fine Arts. **Sylvie Desrosiers**, the Director of Contemporary Dance Studies, describes this partnership as a significant seal of approval for the education the School provides. "Furthermore, it is the first-ever possibility for students to acquire university level credits in the field of dance in the Ottawa-Gatineau region," she adds.

Luckily, you don't have to be an aspiring professional to enjoy learning at the School of Dance. Children and adults can register for movement classes of all kinds, including ballet, jazz, hip-hop and even Highland dance. There are courses year-round, including summer programs for children and dance camps. In addition, the School has pioneered some wonderful community spirit programs, including Dance is BEST® classes for seniors from such local continuing care centres as Bruyère, Connecting with Dance for Parkinson's and the wonderful DragonFly® program for learners with Down's syndrome. To round it all out, the School also offers rental space to community groups like drumming circles, and offers exhibition space for visual artists to dis-

play their work.

Since its inception in 1979, The School of Dance has been proud to support the Ottawa arts community. Today, nearly 1,000 students a week attend classes at the School. Merrilee explains that she and her partners strive to encourage a sense of kindness and commitment, to

provide a space where young people can find out who they are.

"It gives me such pride and pleasure to watch everyone growing and developing into contributing members of society who use art as a language to communicate," she says. "Education is happening here — just a different form of education!" For more information on courses, events and activities, visit [theschoolofdance.ca](http://theschoolofdance.ca). —SG

#### Music's on the menu at One Up

When **Royal Oak Pub** took over 1 Beechwood Ave. (the former New Edinburgh Pub) in 2016, the building's top-to-toe renovation included a major overhaul of the second floor to create a high-end watering hole dubbed **One Up Cocktail Pub**, separate from the traditional Royal Oak Pub on the main floor, but staffed by the same team of servers and chefs.

The formerly open roof-top patio area, which for many years had attracted patrons of the New Edinburgh Pub in summer, was enclosed during the renovation to make the space useable year-round. A bank of large, sliding picture windows was installed along the river-facing wall at

**Continued on page 14**



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One Up Beechwood to let the fresh air in (weather permitting).

As of late March, One Up Beechwood is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 emergency. In "normal" times, in the spring until the end of June, One Up Beechwood opens its doors on Thursday evenings, from 6-11 p.m., and on Fridays and Saturdays from 6p.m.-1 a.m. One Up patrons can take their pick from Royal Oak Chef **Dan Bell's** tasty pub menu of salads, burgers, wraps, flatbreads and traditional pub favourites like bangers and mash, fish and chips and freshly made savoury pies. And true to its "Cocktail Pub" label, the restaurant offers a range of classic cocktails, along with craft and mainstream beer, and Mission Hill wines.

**Lukas James**, manager of both One Up and the Royal Oak Beechwood, explains that One Up's main attraction is its lineup of live entertainment, featuring a range of local musicians, comedians and even magicians! While there's no firmly established

roster of musical genres, in recent months, on Thursday evenings the pub has featured jazz, blues and even a choir group – Choir 613 – every six weeks. Fridays have been devoted to rock, country and other popular music, while the Saturday lineup has been a mix of music and other entertainment, including a monthly comedy night and an occasional magic show.

Thanks to One Up's excellent sound system and equipment, word of its appeal as a performance venue has spread on the local music scene, attracting such talent as River City Junction, a blues/retro rock trio popular on the festival circuit including RBC Bluesfest and Montreal's FestiBlues. Once normal life returns, you can find details on One Up's music and entertainment line-up at [royaloakpubs.com/oneup/oneup-entertainment](http://royaloakpubs.com/oneup/oneup-entertainment) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/OneUpCocktailPub](https://facebook.com/OneUpCocktailPub).

From Sunday through Wednesday, One Up Beechwood is not open for regular business, but can be booked for private parties,

wedding receptions, family reunions or any other large gathering.

One Up can accommodate groups of up to about 110 people, and offers buffet meal service and other platter options (subject to four days' advance notice). There's ample seating and entertainment space. In addition to One Up's airy main room with its bank of large windows overlooking the park, there's a cozy couch area on the Beechwood side where your guests can enjoy a quiet libation. For bookings or information, call **Brittany Jones** at 613-680-1130. —JH

#### Sundae School among tenants at SCM

St. Charles Market (SCM) spokesperson **André Cloutier** reports that the project is moving ahead on schedule, with occupancy of the residential units slated to begin at the end of April. There will be three commercial spaces in the new development:

- a unit facing Beechwood Avenue in the new building, to be occupied by **Sundae School**, currently located at 131B Beechwood Ave.

- the interior of the former St. Charles Church, slated to become the home of two new eateries: a fine-dining establishment (identity to be announced) and a large, casual restaurant with a grab-and-go section. Design work on the restaurant spaces is underway.

- a unit on St. Charles adjacent to the forecourt, which will house a chiropractic clinic.

Stay tuned for more details about the new SCM busi-

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# Some eco-friendly spring gardening advice

By Julie LaPalme

Spring has sprung and it's so lovely to be outside in the warm sunshine. It's exciting to see crocuses fighting their way through the half-frozen soil to light up your garden with bright spring colours. Surviving winter and emerging through cold, dark and mushy soil is truly a miracle of nature.

Recently, I met up with Karen Hogan, a landscaper and horticulturist who lives and works in the neighbourhood. We talked about earth-friendly spring gardening practices and how to use power gardening tools wisely and sparingly. It's actually not that hard to have a beautiful garden while adopting more environmentally friendly gardening practices.

At first, Karen resisted using power tools for her clients' properties because they were gas-powered machines with noxious odours. But when lithium-ion battery-powered tools came out she did some research and chose tools made by STIHL. The lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable and

are interchangeable with their other tools, and Karen keeps a charger in her vehicle.

One landscaping-industry mainstay is the leaf-blower. The battery-powered leaf-blower model is much quieter than the gas-powered version and has zero emissions. When used sparingly and on a lower setting, users don't blow away topsoil and essential organic matter. Karen's approach keeps its use to a

gas engines – such as carbon monoxide and dangerous hydrocarbons – are serious problems. Breathing in these chemicals can lead to cancer, and the carbon emissions are turning the whole planet into a giant greenhouse. While big vehicles like Hummers and SUVs are often blamed for excessive emissions, some of the worst culprits are the smallest engines around.

The key to greener garden-

insects and birds. Ritchie Feed and Seed Company on Innes Road sells a variety of wildflower seed mixes in bulk. Be sure to get flow-ers that are native and non-invasive: the North American Native Plant Society (nanps.org) and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's Grow Me Instead booklet (ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/) are excellent resources. You just need to

probably eager to get out in your garden with your rake to clean up winter's messy surprises. Karen's advice is to hold off in order to give the earth a chance to settle. If the soil is wet and muddy, it's too soon. You're better off to wait until things dry up a bit.

While you wait, you can research which flowers you should buy to attract pollinators or produce fruit later in the season. You might even consider adding a fruit tree to your garden or converting your lawn into a wildflower meadow. Nature will thank you, and so will your neighbours who won't be hearing the constant noise of leaf-blowers!

*The key to greener gardening is realistic expectations.*

*Gardens don't need to be pristine.*

minimum, sparing the neighbours a lot of noise and dust. She uses the leaf-blower only for clearing hard surfaces like driveways, walkways and steps. Karen prefers to use a rake on grass and flower beds because leaf-blowers are too harsh on the plants and blow away too much of the composting matter that nourishes the soil.

Lawnmowers, leaf-blowers and trimmers do make our lives easier, but emissions from these two-stroke

ing practices is to set realistic expectations. Gardens don't need to be pristine. In fact, you want to leave them a little untidy. Blowing every leaf or cutting from your lawn and garden beds will result in dry, undernourished soil, which then necessitates supplementing with chemical fertilizers. It's a vicious cycle.

Karen suggests letting small areas go wild and letting organic matter decompose. This will also help attract beneficial pollinating

add the seeds to some sand and sprinkle over the desired area. Or try planting nasturtiums, which thrive in poor soil. If the soil is too rich, they will grow more foliage than flowers. Leafy nasturtiums are fine, too: you can throw the leaves into a salad! The flowers are edible and are great for adding a splash of colour in a bowl of greens. You can even collect the seeds in the autumn and plant them the following spring.

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# Banning leaf blowers would help cut emissions and protect health

By Eugenie Waters and Mary Lapner

The city of Ottawa declared a climate emergency more than year ago, but no one is acting as if there is a problem.

Ottawa needs to respond with urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This will require many changes in our city.

The following are crucial first steps that need to be pursued ambitiously:

- hold the line on urban sprawl;
- get the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and public transit right;
- make walking and cycling safe and appealing;
- retrofit buildings;
- install more electric vehicle charging stations;

- divert more waste from landfills;
- ban single-use plastics; and
- protect and expand our tree canopy.

But what about our highly unsustainable measures, both environmentally and economically, in maintaining both public and private outdoor spaces?

We should stop and consider the small but disproportionately polluting two-stroke leaf-blowers and other gas-powered lawn-maintenance machines. More sustainable approaches could include simply leaving the leaves on the ground or raking them into gardens or under trees. Mulching leaves using an electric mower or incorpo-

rating them into backyard composting bins are other options. Maintaining a layer of leaf mulch on our lawns can provide crucial protection to wintering insects and small animals and thus help to sustain the much-needed food for our declining bird populations.

While widespread uptake of a paradigm shift of this scope is not likely in the immediate future, eliminating one aspect of our unsustainable yard practices is a great place to start.

Many people are unaware of the high level of pollution and emissions produced by the average gas-powered leaf-blower. In terms of reducing smog-producing pollu-

tion and GHG emissions, we should consider transitioning away from using the two-stroke engine leaf-blower.

In a study by Edmunds.com titled "Emissions Test: Car vs. Truck vs. Leaf Blower" the findings comparing the emissions of vehicles to the gas-powered leaf-blower were astounding:

*The two-stroke leaf blower was worse, generating 23 times the CO and nearly 300 times more [Non-Methane Hydrocarbons] than the crew-cab pickup. Let's put that in perspective. To equal the hydrocarbon emissions of about a half-hour of yard work with this two-stroke leaf-blower, you'd have to drive a [pickup truck] for 3,887 miles, or the distance from Northern Texas to Anchorage, Alaska.*

How can we be serious about reducing emissions if we ignore these prevalent, polluting and inefficient machines? There are equivalent battery-powered alternatives for the landscaping industry and many homeowners have already moved away from these polluting behemoths. In terms of rapidly reducing GHG emissions, transitioning away from these dinosaurs makes sense and should be part of a multi-faceted response to the climate crisis by the City of Ottawa.

Like most transitions we can make to mitigate climate change, there are health and societal benefits to be had. Banning gas-powered leaf-blowers can dramatically improve air-quality, which is especially important for those who suffer from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or allergies. Our children will benefit the most, as their growing lungs put them at greatest risk. Many of the pollutants produced

by leaf-blowers contribute significantly to ground-level smog, are known carcinogens linked to leukemias and lymphomas, and have recently been associated with certain neurological disorders.

Leaf-blowers cause noise pollution, and the gas-powered machines are by far the most offensive. Protecting work crews and vulnerable members of the public (including children and the elderly) from hearing loss represents another important benefit from such a ban. There are also mental health and social consequences to decreasing noise pollution. We know that time spent in nature can decrease symptoms of anxiety and depression, just as increased social connectedness improves well-being. Nothing kills the peace and tranquility of the outdoors or a pleasant conversation quite like the startling and continuous rev of a leaf-blower.

Banning gas-powered leaf-blowers is a focused intervention with potential for significant reduction of smog-producing compounds and GHGs. It is a move that could be accomplished rapidly and with minimal cost to the city and taxpayers while gaining many health benefits. While we continue to work on the many complex and difficult transitions needed to eliminate fossil fuel use and reduce GHGs in the City of Ottawa, we must always prioritize the stewardship of our health and the environment – banning leaf-blowers is an easy choice.

*Eugenie Waters and Mary Lapner are both mothers, healthcare professionals and local residents who are hoping to help find ways to make our communities healthier, happier and more sustainable.*



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# Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic New Edinburgh

From the *NEN* archives (circa 2008), here is an outdoor activity that is physical-distancing friendly. Pull out this section and explore the neighbourhood's history!

By Paul McConnell and  
Inge Vander Horst

Rediscover New Edinburgh by strolling through this historic neighbourhood. Travel back in time 170 years while taking a closer look at some heritage gems. Most of these remarkable buildings are located within the original settlement of New Edinburgh, which was founded in 1832 by Scottish stonemason and entrepreneur, Thomas McKay.

McKay had been a major contractor for the Rideau Canal, including the entrance locks by Parliament Hill. When construction was completed in 1832, he encouraged his workers to settle on the land he had purchased around the Rideau Falls. There was plenty of work to be had in his numerous mills and factories.

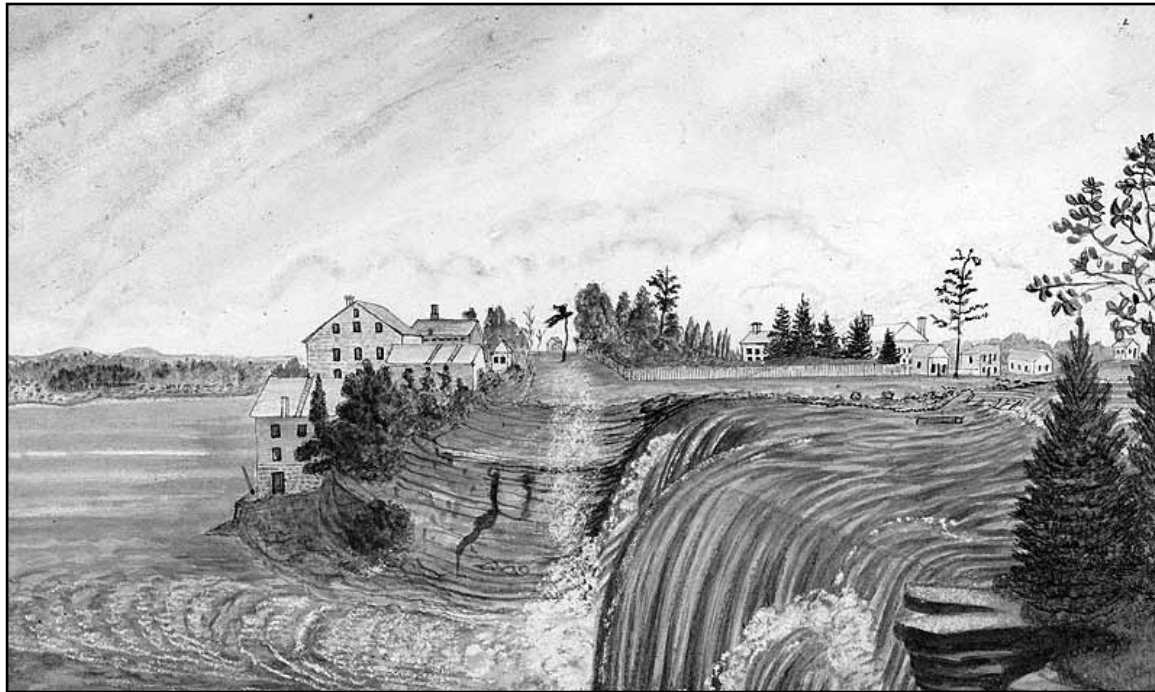
In 1838, McKay completed construction of his splendid new mansion, Rideau Hall, which added some prestige to the neighbourhood. He died in 1855, and when Ottawa was chosen in 1857 as the capital of Canada, the government leased and then purchased Rideau Hall as the official residence of the Governor General. The Vice-Regal presence provided a further boost to New Edinburgh, which saw more houses and services being built for the gentry.

The Village of New Edinburgh was formally incorporated in 1866. Twenty-one years later, in 1887, it merged with the City of Ottawa.

## History? What History?

The New Edinburgh we see today is generally regarded as an up-market neighbourhood of fine houses and gardens, quaint lanes and large areas of parkland, and enjoying a pretty setting by the Rideau River. This is a far cry from New Edinburgh's origins as an industrial centre. Many of the early residents were mill workers who lived in modest homes or rooming houses. They were employed in the heavily industrialized corridors along the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, where the Rideau Falls supplied power.

Missing from this walking tour are the brewery and distillery, the saw mill, the grist mill, the flour mill and bakery, the woollen mill and cloth factory - all established by Thomas



Thomas Mackay's Mills, Distillery, etc. and part of New Edinburgh, Rideau Falls: Drawn by Captain Thomas Burrowes in 1845.

Source: Archives of Ontario

McKay. He was also instrumental in bringing the first railway into Ottawa in 1854, with the Bytown & Prescott line running along the banks of the Rideau River through to New Edinburgh's mills.

Most signs of New Edinburgh's industrial golden age have long since disappeared. The factories and mills have been demolished and cleared, to be replaced by the Embassy of France, the old Ottawa City Hall and NCC green space. The old railway bed has become a recreational trail through the parks, although the last traces of its old bridge can still be seen heading across to Lowertown.

What we still have in some number, however, are homes, churches, and schools from throughout the different phases of New Edinburgh's history. It has been estimated that the former Village of New Edinburgh (roughly Sussex to Dufferin, Stanley to MacKay) still contains 150 homes dating from the 19th century. You'll see plenty of these on the self-guided walking tour described in the following pages.

## What's in a name?

The street names of New Edinburgh's old village were not chosen at random - most have a close association to

Thomas McKay and his family, or to our immediate neighbours, the Governors General of Canada.

Thomas McKay's name provides something of a puzzle. Have you noticed that the street named after him is spelled "MacKay"? And it's "MacKav" United Church.

own family. So, in addition to MacKay Street, we have streets named after four of Thomas McKay's children - John, Charles, Alexander and Thomas. "Crichton" was the maiden name of his wife, Ann. "Keefer" was the surname of his son-in-law.

Other streets have a royal connection, with (Queen) "Victoria" as well as "Stanley" and "Dufferin" named after Governors General.

## The Walking Tour

We have lots of well-maintained old homes throughout New Edinburgh, and the whole area that used to form the original Village has been designated a Heritage Conservation District. We also have many award-winning infill and renovation projects involving historic buildings. Then there are the lanes, with their own unique story to tell. So much to see in the neighbourhood - so how to decide what to include in a walking tour?

For this first effort, we've decided to keep things simple. We have selected the 17 properties that have been recognized individually by the City and Province as especially deserving their heritage status. There are 11 residential buildings, 3 schools, 2 churches, one bridge. These are some

of the best examples in New Edinburgh of buildings from different eras and they are also some of the best-documented. They provide a great introduction to our local history, but no doubt you'll make your own discoveries en route.

On the accompanying pages you will find a photograph and street address for each of the heritage properties so you should have no problem identifying them. Also included is a brief description of their special features and history. Most of the buildings - but not all - will have a bronze heritage plaque that explains a bit more about them.

**ON YOUR WAY:** You can start wherever you like. We have listed the 17 properties in a loop, starting at the former Crichton Street Public School at 200 Crichton Street. The length of the walk connecting #1 through #16 (MacKay United Church) is an easy 2 km; it is a further 0.5km to reach #17, École St Charles, on Springfield Road. A complete circuit will take perhaps 90 minutes - but go at your own pace.

It's worth noting as well that you can repeat the walk in different seasons for a different experience. Or perhaps you'll want to cycle around the circuit with the kids.

One final note. This is an "outside" tour only, so please respect the privacy of the occupants of the heritage homes. Nevertheless, if you do happen to see them, you may wish to thank them for the effort they have invested in looking after these wonderful buildings. They are the custodians of an important part of New Edinburgh's history.

## Acknowledgements

Heritage Planner **Sally Coutts**, at the City of Ottawa, provided helpful background information on many of the properties.

Special recognition goes to local photographer, **Louise Imbeault**, who has compiled a remarkable collection of photographs of New Edinburgh's heritage buildings. The photographs included in the tour guide are taken from that collection; others can be seen in an audiovisual presentation produced by Louise that can be viewed on the "Heritage" page at [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca).



Courtesy of [www.érudit.org](http://www.érudit.org)

**Thomas McKay (1792-1855), from photo belonging to Miss Lily McLeod Clark of Elmwood, Ont.**

Well, Thomas was born and died as a "McKay" but for whatever reason following his death, his family adopted the form "MacKay". This is why you'll see the name spelled differently in different places.

One advantage of creating your own village is that you get to name streets after your



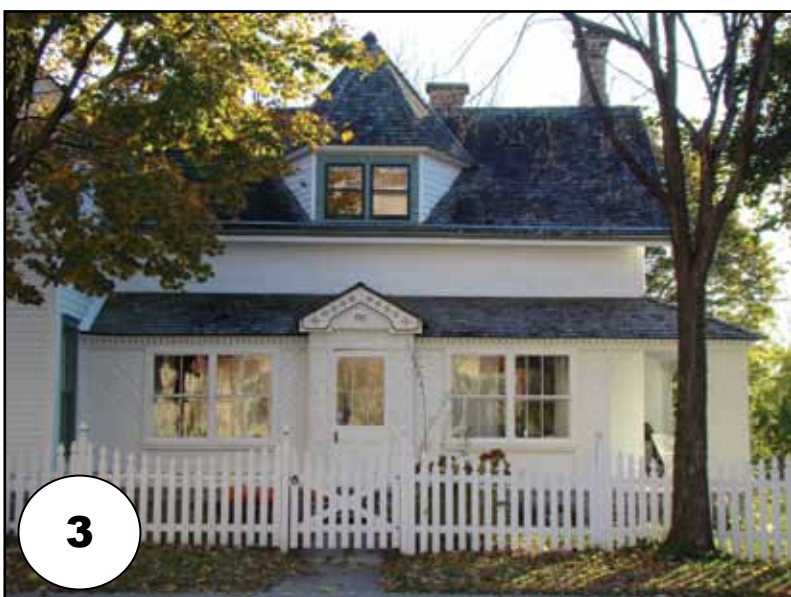
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#1. 200 Crichton St. (1906) Crichton Street Public School. The school in New Edinburgh moved four times before the first school was built on this site in 1875. The present building took on its main shape in 1906. The front façade was added in 1919-20. With its modern design and facilities, it was regarded as a great advance in school architecture. The school closed in 1999. The Crichton Cultural Community Centre (aka NECTAR) was there until 2011. Today it houses the School of Dance.



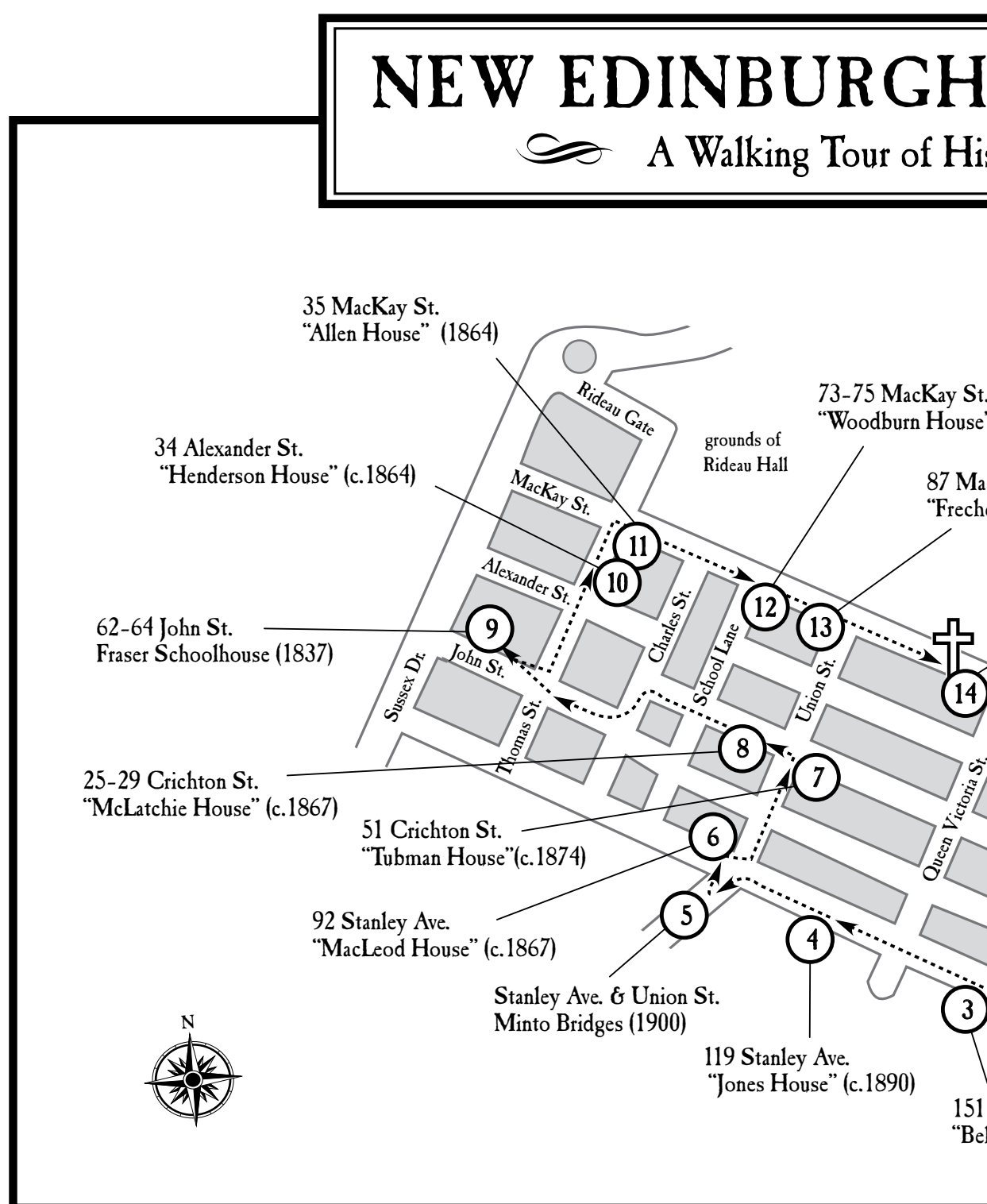
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#2. 139-141 Crichton Street (1874) Garvock House. Stonemason and contractor Alexander Garvock built this small 1½ storey double house on land purchased from the MacKay Estate. With its fine masonry, it is an impressive reminder of the skills that became established in Ottawa following construction of the Rideau Canal.

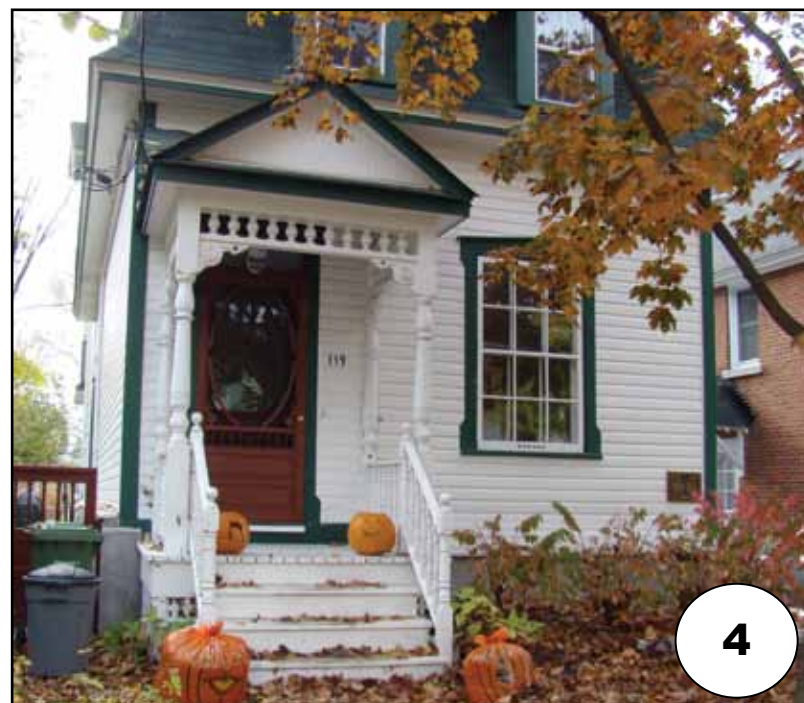


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#3. 151 Stanley Avenue (1868) Bell House. This New Edinburgh gem enjoys a wonderful setting. At one time, its main entrance fronted towards the Rideau River. The original 1½ storey western section of the house was built for Dr W.R. Bell as a medical office. The 2½ storey eastern section was erected in 1880 as an attached residence. The clapboard building is highlighted by its gables, large veranda, peaked-cap dormer and lots of fine detail.



#4. 119 Stanley Avenue (c.1890) Jones House. Built for John Jones, a mill worker at the nearby mills, this house is a fine example of the modest local homes occupied by workers and their families. Impressive features include the gabled dormers, decorative porch and the Second Empire mansard styled roof (which provided more headroom upstairs but the house was still taxed only as a 1½ storey dwelling).



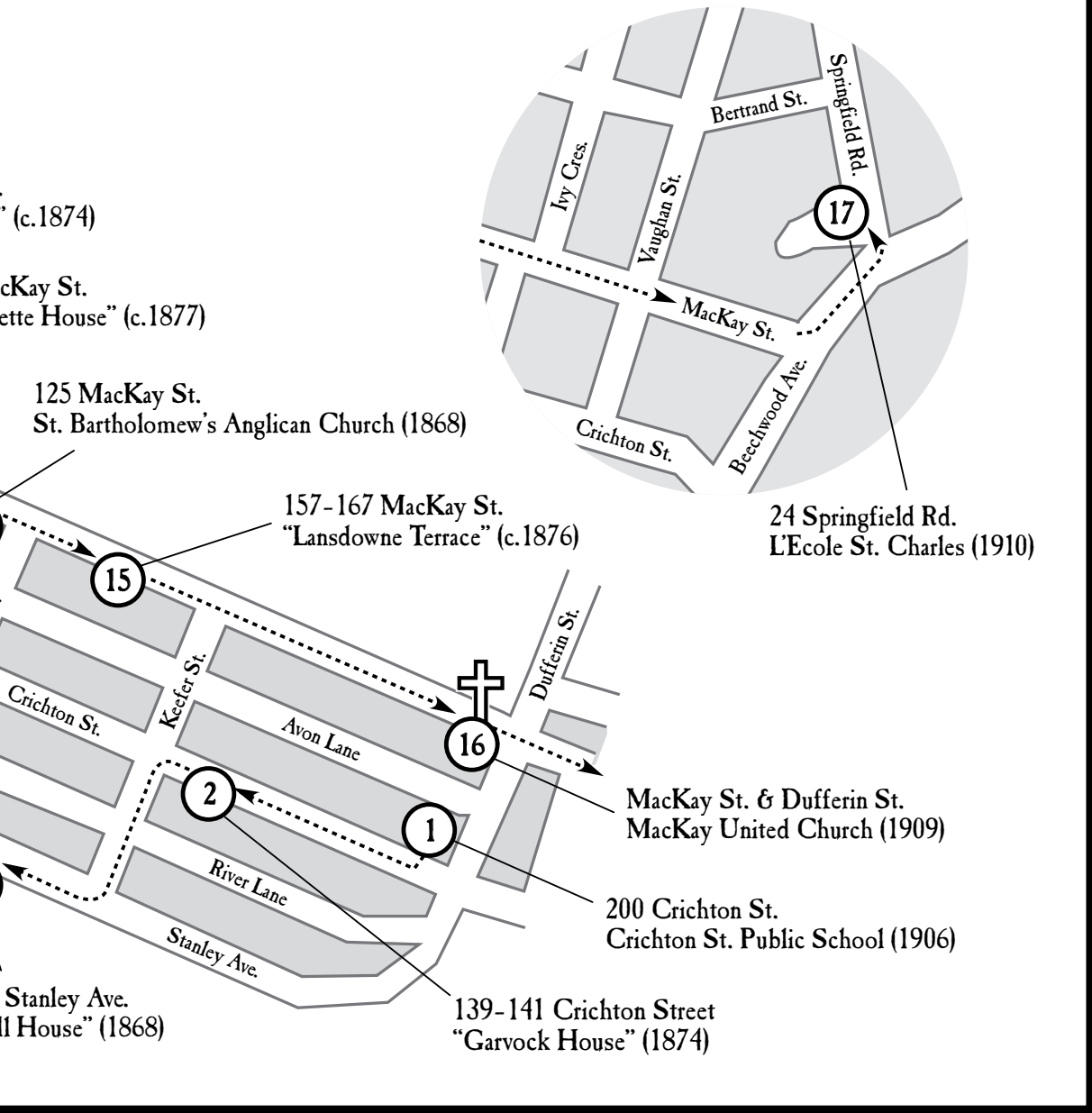
4



#5. Stanley Avenue at Union Street. The Minto Bridges, after the Earl of Minto, eighth Duke of Atholl, these ornate bridges were originally built for the Government House to provide a lightweight steel sections and canopies. They were built by the Company for the "Ottawa Improvement Commission" established by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1890.

HERITAGE TRAIL

Historic New Edinburgh



#7. 51 Crichton Street (c.1874) Tubman House. The original 1 ½ storey front section of this house was built before 1874, with the veranda being added in the 1880s. A simple, front-gabled frame structure with a steeply pitched roof, it is one of the earliest buildings from the mill village of New Edinburgh. It was owned by the Tubman family from 1874 to 1986.



#8. 25-29 Crichton Street (c.1867) McLatchie House. This is the only example of an original "board and batten" double residence remaining in New Edinburgh. The 1 ½ storey T-shaped structure with its fancy gables was built by W.R. McLatchie as workers' housing in the early years of the village. It has survived virtually unaltered and is beautifully preserved.



(1900) Minto Bridges. Named after Governor General of Canada, they were built from cast iron by the Dominion Bridge Company as part of a ceremonial route to Parliament. They were built from cast iron by the Dominion Bridge Company as part of a ceremonial route to Parliament.

#6. 92 Stanley Avenue (c.1867) MacLeod House. In a fine location, this picturesque 1 ½ storey stone house is another excellent example of the early homes of New Edinburgh. Note its courses of rough masonry and delicate wooden porch. It was built for Dougal Macleod, who came from Scotland's Isle of Skye and worked in a local mill owned by Thomas McKay.



#9. 62-64 John Street (1837) Fraser Schoolhouse. This symmetrical stone structure is the oldest dwelling in New Edinburgh. Thomas McKay built it for the workers constructing his new home, Rideau Hall. In 1838 he converted it into a school - teacher James Fraser lived in one half and his classroom was in the other. When the school moved out a few years later, it became a double residence. The National Capital Commission acquired it in 1959.

Continued on next page.



#10. 34 Alexander (c.1864) Henderson House. This spectacular 2½ storey clapboard house is typical of the Second Empire Style and is an example of the evolving architecture of the village. The mansard roof, wishbone-shaped gables, upstairs enclosed sunporch, elaborate wood detailing, impressive front entrance and veranda all blend into an eclectic building of distinctive architectural value. It was built for John Henderson, manager of the MacLaren Lumber Mills. He became Treasurer of the Village of New Edinburgh when it was incorporated in 1866, and later became Clerk of the City of Ottawa.



#11. 35 MacKay Street (1864) Allen House. This impressive 2½ storey house on a corner lot at Thomas Street has two entrances and two fine facades of dressed stone (compare with the rougher stone at the rear and side). It was built to accommodate senior employees of Thomas McKay's mills. Note also the strong cornerstones ("quoins") and fancy wooden trim. The porches and pillars were added in the 1920s.



#12. 73-75 MacKay Street (c.1874) Woodburn House. Gentle suburban residential development comes to the growing village of New Edinburgh. This 1½ storey brick double is a delightful example of the Victorian influence on house style, with its bay windows, Gothic gables and fine trim. It was built for William Woodburn, a carpenter.

#13. 87 MacKay Street (c.1877) Fréchette House. This impressive house on its corner lot shows the influence of the Gothic Revival style of the late 1870s. Note the projecting frontispiece with its steep centre gable, coloured brickwork, and the different sizes of gable dormers. From 1881 to 1921 it was the home of the literary couple, Achille Fréchette and his wife Annie Howells.



#14. 125 MacKay Street (1868) St Bartholomew's Anglican Church. This is the parish church of New Edinburgh, Lindenlea and Rockcliffe Park. Designed by Thomas Scott, St. Bart's was built on land donated by the MacKay family. This simple rectangular stone building has many associations with our neighbours, the Governors General. For example, Viscount Monck (Canada's first G-G) laid the cornerstone, Princess Louise donated the bells and the large stained-glass window over the alter was donated by Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught.



#15. 157-167 MacKay Street (c.1876) Lansdowne Terrace. This elegant brick 2½ storey terrace is Georgian-inspired. It demonstrates the transformation of New Edinburgh from a village of mill workers to an upper middle class suburb. The construction date remains a puzzle because Lord Lansdowne, after whom the terrace was named, did not become Governor General until 1883.



#16. MacKay & Dufferin (1909) MacKay United Church. The original New Edinburgh Presbyterian Church and its adjacent manse were built in 1875. It was renamed in 1901 to honour the MacKay family, long-time benefactors, and became MacKay United Church in 1925. The present church was rebuilt in 1909-10 in handsome rough-cut stone and features a corner bell tower, a three-arched entrance portal and round arched windows.



#17. 24 Springfield Road (1910) L'École St Charles School. This attractive functional structure was built of red brick set on a rock-faced foundation. Note the fine stonework, large interesting windows and lots of decorative detail. It served the francophone community of New Edinburgh until 1972 and has now been converted into loft apartments.

### Further Information

Information for the article and captions accompanying the photographs came from various publications, including:

*Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh (Gloucester Township) Volume One: 1830-1870*, by Robert Serré. Gloucester Historical Society (2007). This book describes the geographical setting and early history of New Edinburgh and provides biographical and genealogical information on 90 pioneer families of the village.

*Capital Walks: Walking Tours of Ottawa*, by Katharine Fletcher. Fitzhenry & Whiteside (2003).

*Ottawa: A Guide To Heritage Structures*, Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. City of Ottawa (2000).

*Walking in New Edinburgh, Ottawa*. Heritage Ottawa (1975?).

*New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District Study*. City of Ottawa (2000).

# Gallery re-opens with new name, new owners & new energy

By Marta M. Reyes

When a door closes, another one opens – sometimes with a similar name and look. Such is the case with the re-opened and aptly re-named Electric Street Gallery.

In fact, only a few days after the Crichton Street Gallery (at the junction of Crichton and Electric Streets) shut its doors for good, the keys were handed over to the new owners: Irene and Michael Tobis.

“This became a thought on Jan. 16,” Irene tells the *New Edinburgh News*, “and by Mar. 1 we were here.” And the rush continues as the couple plan a ‘soft opening’ from mid-April to the official opening on the weekend of April 24–26 (health measures on social distancing permitting).

Irene and Michael moved to Ottawa from Austin, Texas, four years ago, although Michael is originally from Montreal. Their incentive? “I began to feel a little nostalgic for Canada,” confesses Michael.

They decided to settle in Ottawa, and “slipped” into the New Edinburgh community with ease, in their own words, and now live on Springfield Road.

Irene is an artist who started out with pottery and is now a still-life photographer. The subject of her stunning photos is fresh produce at farmers’ markets, including the Burgh’s own Beechwood Market. So it was no surprise that she soon connected with Ottawa’s arts community. She came across the



Michael and Irene Tobis are the new owners of Electric Street Gallery.

Photo by Alexander McKenzie

New Edinburgh Studio Tour (NEST), where she started volunteering and is now part of the organizing committee.

“I was surprised at the quality of the artistic community in Ottawa,” Irene says. That is how she came to know the little gallery on Crichton Street and recently learned with dismay of its impending closure.

But that sparked a brilliant idea. “I thought to myself: I could do that,” she says with a smile.

The couple embarked on the adventure enthusiastically. With Michael’s expertise in business and web development and Irene’s artistic background, the couple are just what the gallery needed.

“We’re retired and have lots of energy,” says Michael, though he confesses they are “completely new” at running

a gallery. But judging by the plans they have in store, they are on the right track.

“Our theme is continuity and change,” says Irene. “We will continue with some of the same things here, but there will be surprises too.”

Part of the continuity is to showcase the work of the core artists that had been exhibiting at the Crichton Gallery already.

Part of the change is the gallery will be open more

frequently: four days a week, Thursday through Sunday, with flexible hours, so people can drop by more often.

“We want to make it an inviting place for people to drop in and gather,” says Michael. “Have events, meetings, discussions. We want to support artists.”

The core artists of the original gallery were thrilled to learn that the space will continue to showcase art. “We couldn’t have asked for a

better outcome,” said Mary Pratte, who only a few months ago said goodbye to the place after five years. “We wish everyone the best of luck in this new venture.”

The tiny space is being redesigned to make the featured art easier to see. The walls will be hung with paintings, mixed media, and photography, and lighted cabinets will display glass works. In addition to the core artists, Irene and Michael plan to feature guest artists. The gallery will cater to commissioned and customized works, and will offer pieces for sale. But most importantly, it will ensure its place in the community.

“We hope it will be a regular part of the daily life of the neighbourhood, for people to stop by, go to the pub, grab a coffee, come to the gallery,” says Michael. “Art is good for the soul.”

*The Electric Street Gallery is located at 299 Crichton St. Learn more at [electricstreet.art](http://electricstreet.art)*

*Marta M. Reyes has been living in New Edinburgh for the past 15 years with her two children and a dog. She is a public servant by day and hockey mom most evenings.*

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# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

For birding enthusiasts, March and April are typically months of anticipation, as we await the influx of migrant species returning from their southerly wintering grounds. As I write in March, the Atlantic Flyway, the most easterly of the four North American avian migration “highways” is chockfull of intrepid travelers heading our way at speeds of up to 20 mph and logging daily distances of up to 600 miles.

The results of a 2016 ornithological study reported in *Science Daily* (sciencedaily.com) suggest that birds fly faster and try harder to stay on-course in the spring migration than in the fall. Migrants make heroic efforts to reach their destinations in time to stake out their territory and attract a suitable mate before competitors beat them to it.

Although the Atlantic Flyway offers sheltered resting places and abundant food sources, the journey back to breeding grounds is filled

with hazards. These include turbulent weather, collisions with tall structures like wind turbines, light pollution that can throw birds off course and habitat loss resulting from commercial agriculture, urban development, logging and other human activity.

In recent years, climate change has added yet another hurdle to the spring migration gauntlet. Due to escalating average temperatures, the insect- and plant-life on which birds depend during the energy-intensive breeding season is re-emerging earlier than in the past. Now it's often out of sync with the light-related cues that typically trigger the birds' return. As a result, some species have shifted breeding ranges north into areas that can be poorly suited to the birds' food and shelter needs and often fraught with new predators, parasites, or dominant competitors.

## Safe Wings Ottawa

Window strikes alone are

estimated to kill between 100 million and a billion migrating birds each year. In Canada, the annual rate of attrition is about 25 million birds – nine million of which are killed in collisions amid the forest of tall towers in Toronto. Here in Ottawa, the Ottawa Field Naturalist Club (OFNC) has introduced a program to reduce bird mortality from window strikes through research, public education, preventive measures and rescue.

Safe Wings Ottawa deploys a volunteer team to raise awareness of window collisions and offer advice on such preventive measures as bird-friendly window treatments, architecture and landscaping. Safe Wings Ottawa volunteers will also be active this spring rescuing injured birds and collecting those fatally injured for research purposes. For information on preventing bird collisions, rescuing injured birds or calling in a bird emergency, visit [safewings.ca](http://safewings.ca).

## The Mating Game

Among the greatest delights of the spring breeding season is the return of birdsong and brilliant colour after a bleak winter. By mid-February, such year-round “winter warriors” as **Northern cardinals**, **black-capped chicka-**

**dees** and **pileated woodpeckers** were already announcing their presence with their signature mating songs and the woodpeckers' distinctive, drumming tattoos.

And as I write in early March, **American goldfinches**, **rosy house finches** and **European house sparrows** have joined the chorus, making their pitch for a mate and staking out their chosen nesting territory. A mating pair of **white-breasted nuthatches** has also been foraging in the pines at the bottom of our garden, but their unusual vocalizations seem closer to squeaks or grunts than songs.

Unlike many songbird species in which only the males sing, both male and female **Northern cardinals** are regular vocalists, particularly at breeding time. When the female sings from the nest, it's typically to signal her mate that food is running low. In addition to its whistle-like “cheer, cheer, cheer; whoit, whoit, whoit” song, the cardinal has a repertoire of 16 different calls. Most common is the metallic *chip, chip*, with which the birds warn off intruders or sound the alarm if a predator is approaching.

From my perspective, the first real sign of spring is the **black-capped chickadee's** cheerful, two-note fee-bee

song. I first heard it in early February and both its volume and frequency have been escalating since. The song is noticeably more melodious than the buzzing *chickadee-dee-dee* call by which the birds are most often identified. In fact, a profusion of “dees” is a sign of alarm at perceived danger. Chickadees also have an alarm call: a high-pitched see note, in response to which other chickadees in the vicinity freeze until they hear the chickadee-dee call signifying “all clear.”

Unlike their songbird cousins, **woodpeckers** are not gifted crooners and must depend on their drumming, or “tattooing” abilities to attract a mate and assert their dominance in a territory. Female birds learn to recognize the distinctive pattern and tempo of the tattoos and reportedly rank their suitors on volume and frequency, as these signify health, strength and dominance. In the woodpecker world, loud and long drumming gets top marks. Females interpret vigorous percussion as a sure indication of the male's ability to feed its brood and secure its nesting domain against intruders.

But the dulcet vocalizations of courting are only one tool in the male bird's arsenal of attractions. Another critical-



Blue Jay.

Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes



Belted kingfisher.

Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

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ly important factor: brilliant breeding plumage. Hence the sudden profusion of colour as the nesting season unfolds. **Northern cardinals** molt their feathers in late summer and early fall. Typically, the plumage that grows back in is muted in colour, many feathers tipped with grey. But over the winter, the grey tips wear off and the plumage becomes increasingly brilliant, reaching its peak at breeding season to dazzle prospective mates.

Already in early March, male **American goldfinches** are beginning to morph from drab olive-coloured winter garb to bright yellow breeding plumage, while their house finch cousins become more brilliantly rosy-orange with each passing day. House finches are ubiquitous in our neighbourhood at this time of year, often gathering in small flocks in trees and shrubs to belt out a noisy babble of exultant song. While the female of the species is a drab, streaky brown, the male is a showy fellow with a bright red head and breast.

The house finch can be difficult to distinguish from its even showier cousin, the **purple finch**. The principal difference is that the purple finch's plumage is deep rosy-purple, while the house finch is reddish-orange, with more pronounced streaking on its breast. Another useful tip: there are far fewer purple finches in our area than there are house finches, so if you're in doubt, it's safer to assume it's the latter!

#### Colour connoisseurs

The importance of a male

bird's brilliance as an indicator of its mating potential confirms that birds have a highly developed colour sense. In addition to the familiar rainbow of colours on the red, yellow and blue spectrum, birds can perceive parts of the ultraviolet spectrum that are invisible to humans. Birds have a fourth colour receptor (compared with our three) as well as coloured retinal filters made of oil that enable them to perceive more colours across the spectrum.

One application of this heightened visual acuity: some species can perceive differences between males and females which, from our human perspective, look identical. Examples of these lookalikes are **blue jays, American crows, black-capped chickadees, brown creepers, Northern mockingbirds and cedar waxwings**. In a 2007 study to test this theory, ornithologists used a spectrophotometer to measure the colour of males versus females across the spectrum of colours perceptible to birds. The results were dramatic, showing significant colour differences in the male and female plumage which are not detectable by humans, but clearly visible to birds.

#### Early spring arrivals

As I write in mid-March, **American robins, red-winged blackbirds, common grackles, ring-billed gulls, song sparrows** and (alas!) **Canada geese**, are already on the scene in Ottawa and soon to arrive are **turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks and Great Blue herons**. By mid-April, these early birds will be



Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

American robin.

joined by many of my favourite songbird species, notably **golden-crowned kinglets, Eastern phoebes, fox sparrows, chipping sparrows, tree swallows, Northern flickers and brown creepers**.

Later in April and in early May, watch and listen for **white-throated sparrows, ruby-crowned kinglets, brown thrashers, purple finches** and the earliest arrivals in the warbler family: **pine warblers, palm warblers and yellow-rumped warblers**. By mid- to late May, many more of the 20-plus warbler species that frequent our area will turn up in such birding hotspots as Britannia Bay and Shirley's Bay. Those most frequently spotted in our community include **yellow warblers, yellowthroats, American redstarts, black-and-white warblers, Blackburnian warblers and chestnut-sided warblers**.

Visit the Ottawa Field Naturalist Club to keep up to date on spring arrivals: ofnc.ca/recent-bird-sightings.

#### Reports from the field

Avian Bistro proprietor **Philip MacAdam** has been captivated by the courting activities of an amorous **Northern cardinal** pair drawn to his feeding stations at Thomas and Alexander Streets. Along with the lovebirds, the Bistro has been hosting **white-breasted nuthatches, dark-eyed juncos, American goldfinches, house finches** and, alas, a hungry **sharp-shinned hawk**, which feasted on an unsuspecting pigeon. In his rambles at Pine Hill in Rockcliffe Park, Philip also noticed an angry swarm of **American crows**, possibly riled up by the presence of a **barred or Great-horned owl** in the woods.

Across the Ottawa River in Val-des-Monts, Que., **Amy-Jane Lawes** had a surprise encounter with a **Belted Kingfisher**, fishing on an open patch of river. It's not clear whether it was a recent spring arrival, or an intrepid winter survivor. Among her other early spring sightings were **pine siskins, American goldfinches** "yellowing up" for mating season, **barred owls and American robins** at Mud Lake.

Despite her opening disclaimer that there was "not much to report" from the birding scene in Victoria, B.C., regular correspondent **Vicki Metcalfe** produced an astonishing list of nearly 60 species spotted on a recent expedition. Many on Vicki's list are also regulars in our region, notably: **hooded merganser, common merganser, common goldeneye, mallard, wood duck, Canada goose, red-tailed hawk,**

**Cooper's hawk, house finch, American robin, white-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow, red-winged blackbird, cedar waxwing, European starling, brown creeper and Great Blue heron**. Others are a western variation on Ottawa-area species, including **Northern flicker** (red shafted as opposed to our yellow shafted); **Oregon race junco** (as opposed to our slate-coloured); **Anna's hummingbird; Stellar's jay; and Northwestern crow**. Vicki also participated in a **Canada goose** count in the Victoria area, which indicated a dramatic reduction in the numbers spotted. (I wish!)

Over the past winter, local ornithologist and author **Tony Gaston** has been studying the distribution of **house sparrow** "camps" – aggregations of these familiar birds at specific sites around the neighbourhood. He has found that the largest and most consistent local "camps" are in the parking lots at Metro Beechwood and Loblaws McArthur Road – perhaps no surprise, given the abundance of food scraps to be scavenged at those locations!

Tony points out that since house sparrows were first introduced to North America in 1852, these now ubiquitous birds have become somewhat domesticated: "not quite a pet, but not really a wild bird; a hanger-on of human society." He remains puzzled about the role of sparrow "camps" and would welcome local birders' ideas or reports on the subject: [tonygastonconsult@gmail.com](mailto:tonygastonconsult@gmail.com).

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**Beechwood Village:** A perfect urban Ottawa rental: great location, steps to Beechwood shopping, easy walk downtown and GAC. Charming enclave of modern townhomes, newer construction so no fuss no muss from maintenance perspective: everything works well! Nicely laid out unit, generous foyer with powder room, efficient galley kitchen and separate living and dining rooms. Spacious lower level family room. Three good bedrooms, master with walk-in closet and lovely ensuite. Ready to go!



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# This Easter, churches maintain spiritual closeness online

By Carolyn Brereton

Easter is a very important date in the Christian calendar when many of us like to go to church, (even if we don't attend regularly), so the timing of the COVID-19 crisis is most unfortunate. But while the physical buildings may be closed to parishioners, our churches are adopting alternative modes of service and spiritual outreach very successfully. As **Rev. Canon David Clunie**, Rector at St. Bartholomew's, expressed it: "We are understanding how to keep 'social distance,' but I hope we can find ways to keep 'spiritual closeness'."

New Edinburgh's churches are doing this in a number of ways.

**St. Bartholomew's** began online services from the church in late March. More than 200 people "attended" the first online service, with

Canon Clunie officiating and Music Director **Timothy Piper** on the organ and at the piano.

St. Bart's is also working on other ways to stay in touch. Weekly meditation services and Bible study are being held digitally. Canon Clunie encourages everyone to join him and the church via Zoom (a video conferencing application that allows a large number of people to meet at the same time on a computer or smartphone). The church is hoping to have one or two services during the week via Zoom, including a monthly Evensong, probably on Thursdays.

They are also proposing a digital "Coffee Hour" where church members can check in with each other. To connect with the church on Zoom, please email the office. (See sidebar.) Canon



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Churches including St. John Lutheran on Crichton Street (above) are closed, but worship services are available online.

Clunie is excited about the possibilities opened up via digital connections. Former parishioners and friends of the church from other parts of Canada and around the world have re-connected with the St. Bart's family since online services began.

**MacKay United** is also holding online services – **Rev. Peter Woods** is streaming on Facebook Live from his "at-home pulpit" at 10:30 a.m. Sundays. On Tuesdays, Music and Meditation eve-

nings at 7 p.m. Please check MacKay's website or Facebook group to receive regular updates on connecting to Sunday services and for updates on upcoming Easter services.

The Moderator of the United Church of Canada, **Richard Bott**, is offering an online worship service on Sundays. MacKay United will be taking advantage of this resource and are recommending this service for those who want to augment livestreaming. "Just

**Church of St. Bartholomew**  
stbartsottawa.ca  
613-745-7834  
stbarts@bellnet.ca

**MacKay United Church**  
mackayunitedchurch.org  
613-749-8727  
admin@mackayunited-church.com

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
stjohnlutheran.ca  
613-749-6953  
stjohnlutheran@bellnet.ca

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**  
stlukeottawa.org/home  
613-749-1731  
saintlukelutheran@gmail.com

knowing that we are experiencing the same service will allow us to feel like the community we are," says Rev. Woods. Join the MacKay Facebook group at 10:30 a.m., then move to the United Church of Canada website: united-church.ca/covid-19.

**St. Luke Lutheran** is also livestreaming services: in addition to the regular Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. and the Lenten Wednesday evening services at 7 p.m., **Pastor Bryan King** is also streaming Daily Devotions (every day except Sunday) at 9 a.m., with 10–15 minutes of readings and prayer. Visit the St. Luke Lutheran website for the link to the church's YouTube channel. (See sidebar.)

**St. John Lutheran** will not be holding Sunday service during the crisis, nor will the church be open for quiet reflection and pastoral care. Check the church website for regular social media updates. (See sidebar.) **Pastor Joel Crouse** is active on Twitter @pastorjcrouse: "People will not be gathering in our church building for a while, but we will find other ways to bring the Gospel to people, where they are, wherever they are."

Reaching out and staying connected to the community is very important during this difficult time. All church offices are still running, albeit remotely.

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# Martha Markowsky has followed her dream for 35 years

By Ian Parker

Martha Markowsky is an artist who commutes between her home and studio in New Edinburgh and her studio in Lachine, Que., the community where she was born. A friend of hers once remarked that it must be a boring drive back and forth to Montreal. Martha replied: "Are you serious? Gosh, I wish I had brought my paints with me. Look at the light...the snow on the trees."

Martha and I met in a New Edinburgh coffee shop in early 2020. New Edinburgh is her home – she likes the community feeling here. "It is so different. It's quiet," she muses. "I know the area so well. I know the people, they know me. It is like going home all the time."

At one point she moved to the ByWard Market, but stayed for only two years. "It is so lonely there. So transient," Martha recalls. "When I had the opportunity to come back to Crichton Street [...] my neighbours said 'Gosh, I am so glad to see you back.' I missed the neighbourhood. I love this neighbourhood.

People are so friendly and there are lots of activities."

Martha describes herself as an artist: "While the paintings may be slightly abstract, they still convey the feelings of reality. What inspires me are people," she explains. "My painting brings back memories we have lived, holidays or nostalgic neighbourhoods and games including backyards, kids on hockey rinks and orchestras. Orchestras are filled with people."

Martha Markowsky has always wanted to be an artist, even as a child. But her mother insisted she learn a skill. As Martha says, "In her mind, artists are poor. They drink a lot of wine. So I went to Algonquin College and enrolled in a business course." After graduating, she taught at Algonquin for several years.

Years later, Martha's mother came to one of her exhibitions. When she saw the crowd and noticed the number of sales, she said, "I am so sorry I didn't encourage you in your art."

When Martha started to paint, she took a leave of

absence from Algonquin. "I tried my best to exhibit as much as possible because the last thing you want is to be a poor, starving artist and I was giving up a good job with a lot of benefits," Martha explains.

"I finally took the plunge and said 'you might as well do what you want to do,' and I think you can make it. I can't go back to teaching typing [...] I really have to follow my dream."

Martha's life is her painting. "I do this every day, seven days a week and I'm always painting," she says. "When you see something that inspires you, you have to do it [...] I can switch from orchestras to garden scenes to interiors of bars."

Much of her inspiration comes from her own neighbourhood. "I can be driving around New Edinburgh and especially in sunlight like today, I can see shadows at the back of a roof or on the balconies...and I will stop right there and find a spot or a bench," she explains. "I usually have canvasses in the back of the car or a



Lachine, Que.-born, New Edinburgh-based visual artist Martha Markowsky.  
Photo by Wendy Baldwin

sketchbook and I will do a quick preliminary sketch and then will take some photos." Martha laughs: "In the good old days, I used to stand outside in the snow."

Martha is very prolific. She has had more than 15 solo exhibitions. Her paintings hang in a number of European galleries. She continues to teach acrylic and oil painting. She gives workshops in Charlevoix, Kamouraska and in other regions of Quebec and Ontario. She also teaches

in Limoux, France. Her latest solo exhibition, featuring 35 years of her art, wrapped up at the end of March at L'Entrepôt, 2901 St. Joseph Blvd. in Lachine, Que.

When she was asked how long she can be inspired to paint, she replied, "I will be able to do it until my very last breath!"

*Ian Parker is a retired CBC journalist. He has lived in New Edinburgh for 30 years where he and his wife are active volunteers.*

## Reducing consumption is more important than ever

By Noelle Le Conte-Good

When it comes to waste management, plastic is one of the biggest challenges for disposal because it never decomposes and only nine per cent of it is recycled in Canada. Ottawa has seen a surge in such eco-friendly businesses as Terra20, NU Grocery (Westboro and Main Street locations) and All Eco to meet the growing demands of conscious consumers. Clearly, Ottawa residents are interested in reducing their environmental impact and plastic pollution.

Ottawa Reduces is a community-based initiative whose goal is to reduce single-use plastic and packaging in Ottawa, by encouraging both consumers and businesses to practice waste reduction together. This initiative was formed in the summer of 2019 by a small group of friends and neighbours with shared values.

The area surrounding Beechwood Avenue is already home to 17 Ottawa Reduces members, the largest number of businesses in the



Meet the founders of Ottawa Reduces: (from left) Marie-Ève Bérubé, Elise Ondet, Eugénie Waters, Jossalyne Anderson and her daughter, and Elisabeth Cisa-Paré. Photo courtesy Noelle Le Conte-Good

city that already encourage customers to minimize waste in a variety of ways. Other activities of Ottawa Reduces have included running zero-waste workshops and helping divert waste at local festivals, including BeechFest!

In light of the COVID pandemic, we are all practicing social distancing to limit the spread of the virus. While some of us may not know what to do with all this time spent at home, we invite you to take advantage of the situ-

ation to be creative: learn a new skill like dancing, playing an instrument or singing; focus on do-it-yourself projects you've set aside like mending torn clothes, upcycling old furniture or even decluttering your home; and reconnect with friends and family virtually.

One thing we've learned during this first week of social distancing is the importance of consuming only what we need (food, toilet paper) and minimizing waste (keeping

veggie scraps for broth, fruit leftovers for homemade and natural face masks). Also, what better way to avoid going to the store than to consider replacing disposable toilet paper and paper towels with reusable alternatives? If there was ever a time to invest in a bidet, it seems to be now!

We'd love to know: how have you been spending your time lately? What have you learned as a positive outcome considering the current circumstances?

While Ontario has announced the closure of non-essential businesses starting Mar. 24 for at least 14 days, you can continue to support your favourite businesses in the city by checking their social media for updates on pick-up and delivery options of their products during this time.

You can find Ottawa Reduces on Facebook and Instagram. We invite you to join us!

*Noelle Le Conte-Good is a member of Ottawa Reduces.*

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C'est avec honneur et fierté que j'entreprends mon travail en tant que nouvelle députée provinciale afin de représenter les intérêts et défendre les droits des citoyens et citoyennes d'Ottawa-Vanier.

En travaillant ensemble, nous pouvons faire mieux. Merci de votre confiance!

Mon bureau de circonscription d'Ottawa-Vanier est également à votre service pour vous guider concernant les programmes et services provinciaux, en plus des ressources locales dont vous pourriez avoir besoin.

Notre préoccupation première est la santé et la sécurité de chacun. J'encourage les gens d'Ottawa-Vanier à suivre les conseils de nos autorités de la santé. Ensemble nous relèverons ce défi.

N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec nous si vous avez besoin d'aide.

**Votre députée provinciale,**

**Lucille Collard**

**I look forward to working with you!**

I am honoured to begin my work as your new Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to represent the interests and defend the rights of the citizens of Ottawa-Vanier.

By working together, we can do better. Thank you for your support!

My Ottawa-Vanier constituency office is also available to guide you regarding provincial programs and services, as well as local resources which you may need. Our primary concern is the health and safety of everyone.

I encourage the people of Ottawa-Vanier to follow the advice of our health authorities.

Together we will meet the challenge. Do not hesitate to contact us if you need help.

**Your MPP,**

**Lucille Collard**



## MANY IN THE COMMUNITY ARE ASKING...

what is happening to Nectar? Readers will remember that 255 Mackay was finally sold in the fall of 2019. Since that time Nectar has continued operations at the House under an agreement with the new owners, until such time as renovations begin. It now transpires that the owners are reconsidering their options, one of which might be that Nectar will stay and continue providing a variety of programs and activities into the future. This is exciting news, and hopefully by the time this issue of the New Edinburgh News goes to press we will have more certainty. We will let you know how events unfold, and we invite you to join our mailing list at [nectarcentregm@gmail.com](mailto:nectarcentregm@gmail.com).

The House is busier than ever. We are most fortunate to have Paul Tonkin acting as the Nectar General Manager, and he is tirelessly promoting community activities and programs with the support and help of a fantastic team of volunteers. Please note that he works part time and is on site only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 6 pm. For more information about all activities please contact Paul at **613.794.3840** email [nectarcentregm@gmail.com](mailto:nectarcentregm@gmail.com) or join [@nectarcentre](https://www.facebook.com/nectarcentre) Facebook page.

We are tremendously proud of the creative energy that is Nectar! We presently have nine emerging studio artists in residence, as well as a wide variety of programs and activities available to community residents and the wider community. Most recently we have welcomed the indigenous and multicultural community into our space. It is the perfect venue for small weddings, birthdays, and meetings as well. We invite all community residents to enjoy this beautiful historic space, so please consider renting the facility.

**Nectar programs strive to be accessible and welcome everyone whatever their financial means.**

As the New Edinburgh News goes to press Nectar remains closed until March 31st because of the pandemic. We anticipate that the closure will be extended beyond that date and we will keep the community informed. Please check the Facebook Page [@nectarcentre](https://www.facebook.com/nectarcentre) or email [nectarcentregm@gmail.com](mailto:nectarcentregm@gmail.com). Thank you and take care.

**NEW EDINBURGH COMMUNITY CHOIR**  
Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Community Room. No musical experience required, just an enthusiasm for singing together in a choral setting. Everything from Bach to the Beatles. Contact Stephen Chappell at [stbradch\\_6@hotmail.com](mailto:stbradch_6@hotmail.com) or Marilyn Hanley at [mph\\_swiffer@hotmail.com](mailto:mph_swiffer@hotmail.com)

**KITCHEN SCRABBLE**  
Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm in the kitchen until the warmer weather. Other games are also enjoyed in this friendly small group setting. Contact Carol Burchill at [carol.burchill@gmail.com](mailto:carol.burchill@gmail.com) or 613.741.7205.

**NECTAR MINDFUL MEDITATION CIRCLE**  
Wednesdays from 1:15 to 2:15 pm.  
A quiet hour of shared community meditation in a small group setting. Contact Isobel Bisby at [ibisby@gmail.com](mailto:ibisby@gmail.com) or 613.304.7919.

**CHÚRUN MERÚ**  
A Venezuelan Folklore Dance Group who promote Venezuelan culture in Ottawa and who rehearse at Nectar. The members of Chúrun Merú entertain audiences with their delightful dances, powerful and impressive interpretations, colorful costumes and up-beat folkloric rhythms. Contact Pedro Díaz at 613.981.4893.

**KOREAN-STYLE YOGA AND TAI CHI**  
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**Yoga Detox on Tuesdays**  
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**Tai Chi on Saturdays**  
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**OTTAWA ART ASSOCIATION**  
Showcases their members art work in the Community Room and holds frequent workshops and events. Contact Tashi Farmilo-Marius at [art.design.bytashi@gmail.com](mailto:art.design.bytashi@gmail.com)

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**THE LOG DRIVE CAFÉ**  
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**NO BORDERS ART FESTIVAL**  
Music, international multicultural dance, traditional First Nation, Inuit and Metis song. May 16–24, 2020 at Nectar. No Borders Art Festival acknowledges the festival is on unceded, unsundered Anishinaabe-Aki territory. Contact Carmel Whittle at [whittlecarm@gmail.com](mailto:whittlecarm@gmail.com) or 613.292.8901.

**NO BORDERS COMMUNITY VOICES**  
Sundays from 4 to 6 pm. Indigenous composer Beverly McKiver's original composition, *Before We Went Away* is a transcription of Lac Seul Elder Garnet Angecone's words set to music. Under the leadership of In Harmony Women's Choir director Chris Peacock the song will be performed on May 24 at the No Borders Art Festival.

**THE THUNDERBIRD SISTERS COLLECTIVE**  
A non-profit organization, collective of creative women united in indigenous culture. We invite the community to join us Mondays from 4 to 5:45 pm to learn to bead with our 'Bead with Patsea!' workshops. Following beading, there is a traditional drumming circle from 5:45 to 6:45 pm. All are welcome to the circle. Come bead! Come sing! Come drum! We have some drums available but you're welcome to bring your own.

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## Top choral conductor welcomes singers to masterclass

By David Rain

*Editor's Note: As of press time, the masterclass and concert are still scheduled, but given the pandemic, singers and concertgoers should check StairwellCarollers.com for the latest information.*

I am thrilled to share with New Edinburgh News readers that my choir the Stairwell Carollers – regular visitors to New Edinburgh's fine pubs after Wednesday night rehearsals – has invited Nicol Matt, one of the world's top choral conductors, to lead a week-long series of choral masterclasses.

New Edinburgh singers are warmly invited to participate in our May 2 "open workshop" at Glebe Collegiate Institute – as well as our closing concert on May 3 at Southminster United Church in Old Ottawa South. Joining the Carollers in both workshop and concert will be high school choristers from Glebe Collegiate Institute.

The connection with Nicol is a very personal one for me. In January 2019, I had just finished one of my compositions, *Ave Maria*. I posted this on Facebook and soon after, Nicol Matt contacted me to say he would be premiering it in Germany, with his professional Chamber Choir of Europe!

I was stunned – even more so as renowned composer John Rutter would be at the same concert receiving the European Sacred Music Award. On Jul. 18, I sat transfixed listening to Nicol mas-



Photo by courtesy David Rain

**Top choral conductor Nicol Matt is expected to lead a series of choral masterclasses in Ottawa in early May.**

terfully guide his choir on a musical journey that included several Rutter gems, as well as my *Ave Maria*.

It was only later that I learned that Nicol had also led his choir in a superb Deutsche Grammophon CD of Morten Lauridsen's music, *Light Eternal*, with Lauridsen as pianist. I also learned Nicol was the founder of the World Choir for Peace, whose first concert involved 2,000 singers from more than 30 countries, performing Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man*, with the composer conducting and Nicol as chorus

master.

The upcoming masterclass and concert with Nicol Matt are exceptional opportunities for New Edinburgh singers to learn from one of the world's top choral directors. I highly recommend attending.

For more information, or to register as a singer for the May 2 masterclass workshop, or to attend the May 3 concert, please visit **StairwellCarollers.com**.

David Rain, a tenor with The Stairwell Carollers since 1993, regularly runs through New Edinburgh as he trains for his 25th marathon in May.

## Library's spring book sale is cancelled

By Carolyn Brereton

It will come as no surprise in these pandemic times that the difficult decision was made to cancel the Rockcliffe Park Library's Spring Book Sale scheduled for Apr. 25–26, 2020. We are looking to reschedule and would like to be able to hold the sale in early September. All planning, however, will depend on how COVID-19 behaves. We hope to have an answer by the June issue of the New

Edinburgh News.

We have had to suspend all donations. So please, **do not** leave any books or A/V materials outside the community hall or Library as no one is available to deal with them.

In these uncertain times, the safety and health of our community is paramount. Our sale is all about community, from our donors to our sponsors and our patrons, and above all, our volunteers. We thank everyone for all the donations received to date. Indeed, we

have enough books and A/V material already to have a successful sale, and so can hit the ground running if able to proceed in September.

We would also like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work so far in preparing for this year's Sale. We hope that this is a temporary hiatus and we will be back culling and sorting before the end of the summer. In the meantime, we wish everyone a safe and healthy spring.

# Tony Gaston's new memoir explores 1960s Africa

By Ambreen Ihsanullah

British-born New Edinburgh resident Tony Gaston is a scientist by profession and a dedicated traveler by nature. He's an inquisitive mind combined with the soul of a poet-philosopher, and has led a life of exploration and adventure.

His work as an ornithologist has led to more than 200 published scientific papers and reports, as well as five books.

But Tony's new book, *African Journey: A Voyage on the Sea of Humanity*, is different. This book is a personal recounting of and reflection on his early travels to distant lands in the 1960s. Tony's journey to Africa – when Timbuktu was referenced as the remotest of places – was actually a young man's call to life, wrapped in the guise of adventure.

Anthony was born in 1946 in post-war England. His father had been called into service during World War II.

The prevailing sentiment of the times was exhilarating. Winning the war was proof positive that while the glories of the colonial empire had expired, the British people had fought, done their duty and prevailed. What to do with privilege after the war has been won? How could the younger generation contribute to the free world bequeathed to them?

As Tony tells the *New Edinburgh News*: "The explorer goes into an area not knowing what he will find because what he will find has not been seen before." Tony recognizes himself as a trav-

eler, "someone who does not know where he's going to be sleeping the next night when he sets off on the adventure." He feels privilege allows for contribution: "helping people is as much fun as following one's dreams," he says. This is an interesting desire in a man who maintains: "I like to be alone. I like quiet. I feel at home late at night in bus stations and small villages gone to sleep...."

Tony's lifetime love affair with birds started at age 11, and his love of travel gained expression at age 13 when he started hitchhiking from his home in south London through various parts of England and the British Isles. No surprise then, that in January 1968, aged 21, having completed his Bachelor of Arts at Cambridge University, Tony set off for North Africa with a cache of £60, a duffle coat, teapot, birdwatching binoculars and his father's WWII sleeping bag. The details of his explorations are vividly described in his new book *African Journey* – a lyrical mix of memoir and travelogue.

After the trek through North Africa and the compelling desert and mountains of the Sahara, Tony made his way back to Wales. He then went to the United States, to Yale University, where work with the Peabody Museum as a fossil collector took him to India by way of Egypt.

His travels brought his beloved wife Anne-Marie into his life. Alone together, they spent 10 years off-and-on in India. Anne-Marie spe-

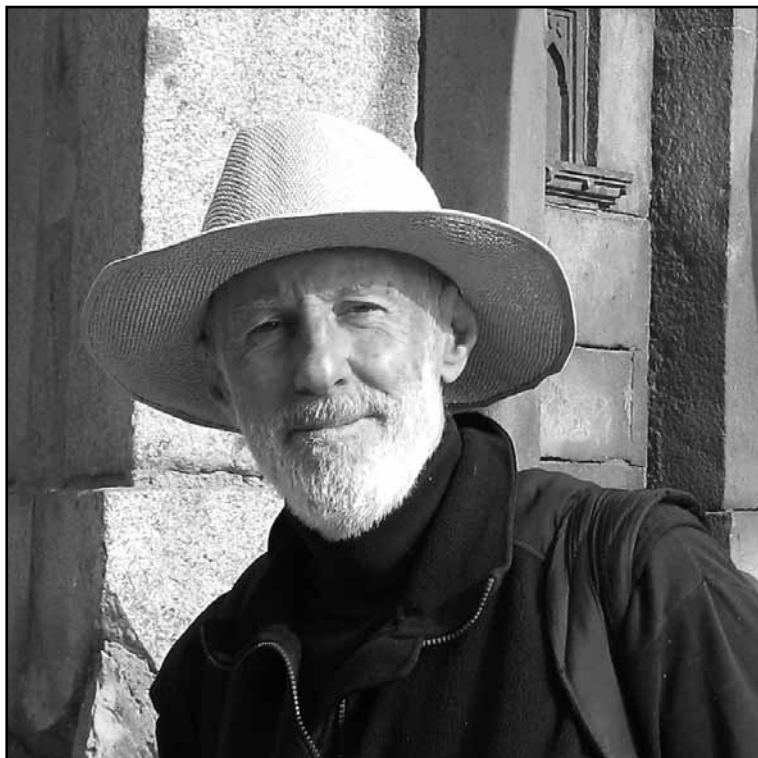


Photo by Anne-Marie Gaston

Tony Gaston has published a new book based on his travels in the 1960s: *African Journey: A Voyage on the Sea of Humanity*.

cialized in Indian arts, classical dances, music and vocals. Anthony combined work with his deep interest in studying birds. Together, he and Anne-Marie enjoyed India at a time, and in places where they could, "watch the sun go down where there were no streetlights." The sky would

sink into total darkness with "a carpet of stars" overhead, he recalls.

Ultimately, it was Canadian Anne-Marie who brought her husband back to settle in the New Edinburgh area in Ottawa 50 years ago. While working for Environment Canada, Tony was able to

continue his explorations into vast open spaces in the Canadian North. He is an expert on the biology of the ancient murrelet, a bird that comes to land in Canada only on the remote islands of Haida Gwaii, off the north coast of British Columbia. Tony has written a children's book, *Children of the Sea*, which is both an adventure story and an outline of the species' breeding behaviour, illustrated by Haida Gwaii-based artist Judy Hilgemann. Another children's book, *The Ravens Way: How Ravens Saved the World*, is in the works.

Anne-Marie's passing before their 50th anniversary in 2018 has left Tony exploring the past and his own life. Discovering his diaries from the 1968 journey among Anne-Marie's things compelled him to finish *African Journey*, which he began in 2008. But the story is not over. Tony's latest project, *Travels with My Wife*, promises a deeper exploration into a man who was privileged to share his predilection for being alone – with his soul's mate.

Ambreen Ihsanullah is a regular contributor.

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# Walking tour festival postponed to September

By Jane's Walk Ottawa-Gatineau

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the local Jane's Walk festival of walking tours is postponed until Sept. 12 and 13, 2020. In the meantime, the group will be offering new ways to explore our communities while respecting physical distancing.

The essence of Jane's Walk — connecting people and their communities — is more important now than ever before. While people must stay apart physically, Jane's Walk Ottawa-Gatineau hopes to create new ways to connect and support each other through this isolating time.

Whether that is a virtual

walking tour, a photo essay of a tour route, a scavenger hunt or another innovative idea, organizers hope to provide access to an array of alternative “walks” throughout the spring via [janeswalkottawa.ca](http://janeswalkottawa.ca). Walk leaders and new volunteers are encouraged to flex their creativity and support



Photo courtesy Jane's Walk Ottawa-Gatineau

The 12th annual Jane's Walk festival which promotes urban literacy has been moved from May to September 2020.

this movement to create connections by dreaming up a new way for people to experience their walking tour. Have an idea? Get in touch by emailing [jane@janeswalkottawa.ca](mailto:jane@janeswalkottawa.ca).

Jane's Walk is a pedestrian-focused event that improves urban literacy by offering insights into planning, design, local history, and civic engagement through the simple acts of walking, observing, and discussing. Last year 3,000 people joined this “sidewalk ballet,” a community-driven festival featuring dozens of walking tours in celebration of the ideas of late author and urbanist Jane Jacobs. Jane was an activist who changed how we design and think about cities by pro-

moting community vitality and a neighbourly street life. The festival normally takes place over the first weekend in May to mark the birthday of Jane Jacobs: May 4, 1916.

In its 12th year, Jane's Walk Ottawa-Gatineau hopes to offer more than 60 different walking tours for you to choose from in September 2020. Mark your calendars for September, and in the meantime, get creative and dream up a “walk” in a new format to share online!

To get updates on the festival, visit the website, [janeswalkottawa.ca](http://janeswalkottawa.ca), and follow Jane's Walk Ottawa-Gatineau on Facebook, Twitter (@JanesWalkOtt) and Instagram (@JanesWalkOttawa).

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# Real estate market likely to remain strong this spring

By Susan Groundwater

By now there will be obvious signs of spring popping up around the neighbourhood: crocus, snowdrops, "For Sale" signs...

Just like plants and people, the Ottawa real estate market tends to emerge from hibernation around this time of year.

To get a sense of what we can expect this coming season, I spoke to several realtors in early March who specialize in the New Edinburgh and surrounding markets. However, since writing this article, the pandemic state of emergency has affected all of our lives, including those in the real estate business. The uncertainty of the situation in general, and in particular its effects on people's livelihoods and income stability, may affect the predictions that our realtors made in early March.

So far, the statistics for sales in the neighbourhood still suggest an active season ahead. The industry is taking every precaution to ensure the safety of buyers and sellers, such as relying more on online tours and electronic documents, providing gloves and reducing physical contact during house visits and other practices.

All the experts I spoke to agree on what makes New Edinburgh a hugely desirable neighbourhood: wonderful green spaces along the rivers, great school options, excellent shops and restaurants within walking distance. Along with a strong sense of community, the diverse architectural styles and scenic surroundings give our neighbourhood its unique charm and character, and its high walkability score is a huge attraction. For many buyers, these factors combine

to make the New Edinburgh area their first choice when looking for a new home.

It's not an easy market to enter, however. According to statistics provided by Judy Faulkner of Faulkner Real Estate, the average residential house price in New Edinburgh was \$825,090 in 2019, compared to \$486,500 for the City of Ottawa overall. The good news is that, in spite of the high price tags, there is still a strong demand for homes in our neighbourhood. With few listings available, our realtors predict that this spring will continue to be a seller's market.

This means that the trend of multiple offers, and houses going for significantly above asking price, will definitely continue. The statistics are revealing: from Jan. 1 to early March 2020, 13 homes had changed ownership in the New Ed/Lindenlea districts, but only three of them sold for (or slightly below) list price, according to Tony Rhodes of Rhodes Barker Real Estate. The other 10 sold – often within days – for significantly over asking, even those houses that required renovations. In fact, Charles Sezlik of Sezlik Realty noted that even homes priced above \$1 million have seen multiple offers recently.

This is all great news if you are thinking of selling your home in the coming months. To get top dollar, Jeff Rosebrugh of Royal LePage recommends listing your property late in the week, having an open house on the weekend, and accepting offers only a few days later. It is also common advice to make small repairs, clear the clutter and consider sprucing up paint and exterior spaces to improve curb appeal and ensure your house makes the best first impression possible.

If you are looking to buy, be prepared for multiple-offer situations by doing everything you can to make your offer the strongest. This means investing in a pre-bid home inspection on a house you are serious about and ensuring that your financing is in place. While making a strong bid is very important, being able to remove conditions from that offer may make the difference between securing your dream house or having to start the entire process over again. And if you are not successful the first time (or second or third times), be willing to consider a home needing more renovations, or slightly different from your ideal configuration, if location is the most important factor in your search.

For those who may be interested in downsizing but staying local, there are a number of excellent choices in terms of condominiums, with established buildings and new projects available. These homes have made gains in the past few months price-wise and will continue to be good



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

In spite of the high price tags, there is still a strong demand for homes in our neighbourhood say local realtors.

investments going forward. Alternatively, former homeowners may want to consider renting, even short term, as a way of testing the market and determining how much space they truly need to achieve a great lifestyle.

Whether buying, selling or renting, our local realtors are ready and willing to lend a hand and provide advice to make sure you are confident about your next move. We look forward to welcoming you to the community!





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# Little league teaches skills both on and off the field

By Camielle Edwards Lang

Competition is a given when it comes to sports and that's why Glebe Little League doesn't focus on it. This Little League is all about developing skills and players.

Glebe Little League (GLL) is the oldest Little League in Canada, operating continuously since it was chartered in 1955. GLL is dedicated to providing both House and Competitive level baseball and T-ball for young players, boys and girls, ages 4-19, as well as coaching, umpiring and other volunteer opportunities for community members of all ages. GLL is a volunteer-run organization with one thing in mind: kids playing ball.

For GLL, playing baseball doesn't end in the fall with the World Series. GLL's Winter Baseball Academy is in its second year and was in full swing January to early March, hitting the sweet spots with both players and parents alike.

At the 2020 Winter Baseball Academy, dedicated, high-energy coaches under the leadership of David Steffler (former MLB pitching draft),



Photo by Camielle Edwards Lang

Glebe Little League's Winter Baseball Academy's "pitch perfect" clinic with coach David Steffler.

trained co-ed T-Ball to Majors' age divisions with a complete program of skills development in a fun setting. They honed hand-eye coordination, balance, pitching, catching, hitting, throwing and running, all using a combination of modern technology, experience and updated expert methodologies. The free sessions, included with GLL Spring Ball registration, are highly effective in player development.

Throughout a regular sea-

son, GLL coaches use the complete skills-development program to help players learn and build skills that many children need to be their best selves: focus, patience, confidence, being ready to play and ready to not play. GLL follows the instructional curriculum in the 10-week spring program (developed by Little League University) for the T-Ball and Rookies division, matching practice drills with learning objectives.

For outdoor play, GLL

offers baseball programs at various fields in the Glebe, Centretown, Lowertown, Sandy Hill, Ottawa East, Old Ottawa South, Overbrook, Vanier, Manor Park and Gloucester. Other than ball gloves, GLL provides t-shirts and hats for each player as well as bases, bats, batting helmets, baseballs – everything else a baseball team uses.

In 2019, GLL joined neighbouring leagues in an All-Girls baseball program. Local

players from Women's Team Canada and Team Ontario took part in the program, leading clinics to kick off the season. A resounding success, GLL has been calling out to our female players and offering new registrants the opportunity to take part in the summer 2020 All-Girls program.

No one can dispute that winning a game or tournament is awesome. But it's a victory that lasts for a day or week at most. Learning how to make that win happen, improving skills, working hard, focusing on being the best you can be – those are the wins that last a lifetime.

With the closures of public facilities and suspensions of group gatherings due to COVID-19 management action, all programs at GLL and other sport organizations have been suspended until further notice. But at the ump's first call of "Play ball!" GLL will pick up where it left off – fostering a fun and positive baseball experience. They invite more kids to be part of their winning strategy.

For more information visit [GlebeLittleLeague.ca](http://GlebeLittleLeague.ca).

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# THE GREAT NEW EDINBURGH LIMERICK CONTEST 2020

**By Christina Leadlay**  
Time has only improved the rhyming talents of Burgh residents. Forty years since this newspaper launched the first Great New Edinburgh Limerick Contest, the current *NEN* team revived this poetic challenge in our February 2020 edition. The criteria were minimal: rhyme and meter had to be correct, and the subject must be New Edinburgh.

**Some poets were inspired by the local dining options:**

New Edinburgh has a great street  
With elegant places to eat  
It is no easy thing  
We should all of us bring  
Our friends to the same place  
to meet  
—Ann Clayton

From the office I like to roam  
Through the park, with the wind ‘round my dome  
I go down the lanes  
Till my interest wanes,  
Then it’s off to the pub and then home  
—Derrick McGarry

A thirsty man who resided on Vaughan  
Didn’t believe The New Eddy was gone  
He walked down to Crichton  
His outlook did lighten  
A pub appeared – thanks, leprechaun!  
—Julie Nightingale

**Another was inspired by the neighbourhood’s Scottish roots:**

Said a clever old Scotsman called Jock  
Well, the Rideau’s not really

a loch  
But the Edinburgh’s here  
And MacKay Street is near  
So no visiting Scotsman should mock  
—Anne Worsfold

On the borders of Rockcliffe we dwell  
But we have our own story to tell  
Scottish settlers came  
And chose Edinburgh’s name  
Then worked hard to establish it well.  
—Anne Worsfold

**Our “built heritage” was a popular topic:**

A house by the river stands barren  
Holes in the roof let the air in  
A shanty so sinister  
Can’t host our Prime Minister  
So now Rideau Cottage he’s there in  
—Kathy Krywicki

An old lady on Rideau Terrace  
was aging  
Marketing began, the agents were staging  
She checked out the Square  
And had quite a scare  
The residents’ parties were raging  
—Julie Nightingale

**Other residents waxed poetic on traffic and safety issues:**

There once was a street called Stanley  
where I quietly lived with my family.  
But at 4 on the nose,  
with commuters, she flows!  
New signage or speed bumps,  
can we??  
—Erin Wright

On Victoria people were mad  
The CSST impact’s so bad  
The noise and the dust  
Were really unjust  
And no help from the City was had  
—Gemma Kerr

**Ultimately, an affection for the neighbourhood inspired all entries:**

With earthly crises and troubles around,  
Things to worry about so do abound  
Ain’t it great to here reside,  
In the Burgh, free and alive?  
Well, okay, perhaps not quite Paradise found!  
—Ian Szlajak

Thank you to all who submitted their limericks! We had a terrific response, and will do this again soon.



## Word Search

T	H	R	E	V	I	R	E	N	E	W	N	Q
C	I	R	T	C	E	L	E	E	D	O	U	I
N	A	M	T	U	P	N	B	F	V	E	U	R
E	C	A	R	R	E	T	U	A	E	D	I	R
G	H	C	A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R	N
N	D	K	R	E	W	S	V	W	I	I	K	T
A	U	A	S	I	S	I	N	V	H	S	E	H
H	F	Y	C	S	C	Y	Y	O	O	T	U	O
G	F	J	H	T	A	H	V	E	I	A	R	M
U	E	Y	O	B	E	R	T	R	A	N	D	A
A	R	R	O	H	H	A	P	O	P	L	U	S
V	I	Y	L	S	N	O	E	L	N	E	P	R
A	N	S	E	L	R	A	H	C	I	Y	N	G

Alexander	Ivy	Rideau Terrace
Avon	John	River
Bertrand	Keefer	School
Charles	MacKay	Stanley
Crichton	Noel	Thomas
Dufferin	Putman	Union
Electric	Queen Victoria	Vaughan

Find all the words then find the hidden message. Have fun!

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

Send event listing details to [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com) Visit our website at [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events) for the most up-to-date listings.

## APRIL

**April 14 – CCC meeting** in the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30 p.m. [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events). Everyone with time and energy to contribute to their community is welcome

to the Crichton Community Council's monthly board meetings.

**April 21 – NECA meeting** at 7:30 p.m. [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events). The New Edinburgh Community Alliance invites all residents to its monthly board meetings. Until further notice, all meetings will be held by video conference. Contact NECA President Cindy Parkanyi for details: [NewEdinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:NewEdinburgh@outlook.com).

**April 24–26 – Electric Street Gallery soft opening** at 299 Crichton St. [electricstreet.art](http://electricstreet.art). The Electric Street Gallery – formerly the Crichton Street Gallery – will hold a “soft opening” (health measures on physical distancing permitting!). Details, page 21.

**April 25 – Bike Day in New Edinburgh** on Stanley Avenue by the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events). The Crichton Community Council hopes to host Bike Day (health measures on physical distancing permitting!) featuring a bike safety course, used bike sale, refreshments and a neighbourhood group ride at 1 p.m. Bring your bike and helmet. Geared for new cyclists, children aged 4 to 10 years, and their caregivers.

## MAY

**May 2 – Choral masterclass** at Glebe Collegiate Institute, 212 Glebe Ave. [stairwellcarollers.com](http://stairwellcarollers.com). The Stairwell Carollers host an open house masterclass featuring choral conductor Nicol Matt. Details, page 28.

**May 3 – Stairwell Carollers concert** at Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer St. [stairwellcarollers.com](http://stairwellcarollers.com). High-school choristers from Glebe Collegiate Institute will join the Stairwell Carollers for a choral concert. Details, page 28.

**May 5 – How to Take Better Vacation Photos** at the Rockcliffe Park Library Branch, 380 Springfield Rd. [bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en). 7–8 p.m. A workshop for adults. Registration required. English presentation.

**May 9 – CCC Plant Sale** on the lawn of the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

[newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events). Come early for the best selection from a variety of hanging baskets, flats, organic vegetables, herbs and pots at the Crichton Community Council's annual plant sale (health measures on physical distancing permitting!). All proceeds from this sale support CCC. Debit, credit or mobile device payments welcome.

**May 12 – CCC meeting** in the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30 p.m. [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events). Everyone with time and energy to contribute to their community is welcome to the Crichton Community Council's monthly board meetings.

**May 15 – P.D. Day program: ‘Flying Colours Painting’** at the Rockcliffe Park Library Branch, 380 Springfield Rd. [bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en). 10:30–11:30 a.m. Artist Jennifer Nicol will guide children using professional watercolour materials, resulting in beautiful paintings and a great sense of accomplishment. Registration required. English workshop.

**May 19 – NECA meeting** at 7:30 p.m. [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events). The New Edinburgh Community Alliance invites all residents to its monthly board meetings. Until further notice, all meetings will be held by video conference. Contact NECA President Cindy Parkanyi for details: [NewEdinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:NewEdinburgh@outlook.com).

**May 20 – Family Storytime** at the Rockcliffe Park Library Branch, 380 Springfield Rd. [bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en). 10:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes and songs for children and a parent or caregiver. Drop-in. English program.

## JUNE

**June 11 – Bee-autiful House Workshop** for Gardeners at the Rockcliffe Park Library Branch, 380 Springfield Rd. [bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en). 6:30–8 p.m. A workshop for adults. Registration required. English presentation.

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# The verve behind NEST: artist Sara Mullen



Local painter Sara Mullen founded the New Edinburgh Studio Tour (NEST) five years ago.

Photo courtesy Josée Robillard

## By Josée Robillard, NEST Team Member

Sara Mullen is a prolific artist and painter and the founder of the New Edinburgh Artists' Studio Tour (NEST). This year's event is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 26–27.

Sara has been a resident of New Edinburgh for 15 years, where she developed a desire to connect with other local creators to build an art community. She found it difficult to do because of the time constraints of being a mother of two young children and

working as a nurse practitioner. She decided to focus on bringing the artist community to her and the concept of an artist studio tour was born. This would allow her to build connections and explore the potential of artists' contributions to develop a strong and vital creative community.

Sara is a self-taught painter who has participated in numerous independent workshops and courses in a variety of media at the Ottawa School of Art, as well as studying with Gordon Harrison,

Sheila Davis and Richard Claremont.

The shapes, colours and textures of the natural world hold a powerful influence and are the inspiration for Sara's work. Her paintings depict the classic Canadian landscape in a contemporary impressionist style, characterized by bold strokes and vibrant colours. Her art is intuitive, an exploration of her response to the natural environment where she reinterprets the landscape rather than recreating a realistic copy.

Sara enjoys painting *alla prima*: a technique in which layers of paint are applied to previously administered layers of wet paint. Although she prefers to work on large canvases, key developments in her style have come from challenging herself to a daily practice of working small. She paints with oils using palette knives, carving tools and a dry brushing technique to achieve texture and generate energy in her paintings.

Sara is making a strategic and determined effort to develop her creative talent into a professional career. She continues to learn and expand her knowledge of art by devoting one day a week to nurture her need to create. The Santini Gallery in Ottawa, the Canvas Gallery in Toronto and the Butter Gallery in Collingwood currently represent Sara in

Ontario. In addition to solo, group and public space exhibitions she has displayed at the City of Ottawa and in local restaurants, has outfitted EQ3 showrooms, was commissioned to create 20 paintings for the Opinicon Resort in Elgin, Ont., and was featured in the *Ottawa Life Magazine* in 2016. She has acquired an impressive community of 16,000 followers on Instagram!

NEST is celebrating its fifth year in 2020, thanks to the amazing support of all our sponsors, artists and volunteers. We could not do it without you! NEST 2019 attracted more than 600 visi-

tors. New this year is the Emerging Artist category and some new local talent who are joining the tour. We have an exciting lineup and look forward to sharing it with you soon!

Learn more about NEST at [nestdiotour.com](http://nestdiotour.com).

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Former owner of Celadon Salon & Spa **Morna Paterson** (above) is enjoying her retirement in Ajijic, Mexico with fellow lapsed-librarian travelling companions. Morna wishes to thank her New Edinburgh clients for their support over the past 12 years and hopes to reconnect upon her return. She is also on Facebook if you would like to keep in touch.

Warm congratulations to **Yvette and Loic Gouadec** who in January celebrated 40 years happily living on Noel Street by hosting a party with their neighbours. Although many things have changed over the past four decades, their warmth and commitment to the community always shines through.

Congratulations to **Tony King** and **Lee Benson** on their marriage. The wedding

took place in Lee's hometown Grand Manan, N.B. at Christmas 2019, followed by a reception here in February. Tony and Lee are a made-in-New Edinburgh couple who met through their involvement at NECTAR. Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness!

Congratulations to **Denise Bélanger** on the completion of all the requirements for her MBA just in time for her milestone birthday at the end of February! Well done, Denise and welcome to your 50s!

*The following is an update from NEN's former staff photographer Louise Imbeault:*



It's time for change as my family home at 166 Ivy Cres. is about to go down!

On Mar. 23, the fencing was installed around the property. Now it's just a matter of time before the new owners demolish and rebuild. I'm very curious to see what will emerge by year's end. Looking at the photo brings back a flood of memories.

I remember arriving as a young child with my family to live for five years at 45 Douglas St. (now a duplex) until my



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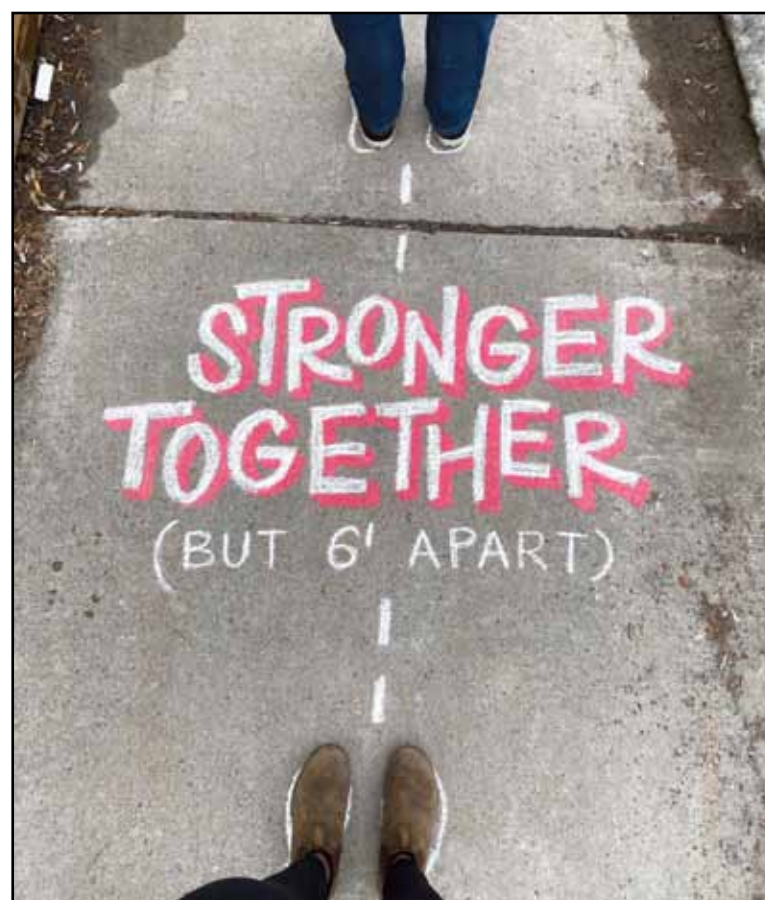
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parents bought this little bungalow (from **Maurice and Elyse Castonguay**) on Nov. 1, 1966. It wasn't called Ivy Crescent in those days. The civic address was 62 Electric St., causing such confusion for postal delivery that the City of Ottawa renamed it Ivy Crescent in the 1970s.

Of school age, we attended kindergarten at Barrette Elementary, now called Fern Hill on Vaughan Street, then to St-Charles, now the Schoolyard condos on Springfield Road. The best summer memory was swimming at "Flat Rock," an outdoor pool in Stanley Park run by the city – those were the days!

Since the sale of the property last year, I've found a new community in the Springridge area of Orleans. It's quite a distance from the 'Burgh, but on a sunny day I enjoy driving by searching for familiar faces. Well, I won't be joyriding anytime soon as we all make an effort to stay healthy and safe. Housebound is a new normal and I thank God for technology allowing us some contact via phone, Skype and emails.

So please keep in touch as we all fight to win this medical war together. Thank you for asking how I'm doing. I miss you all very much. Please let me know, at [louise.imbeault@live.com](mailto:imbeault@live.com), how you are! Cheers, Louise.



In mid-March during the early days of the pandemic measures, Becca Courtice wrote positive messages in chalk on the sidewalks of New Edinburgh.



Photo by Becca Courtice

Used Bike Sale  
Safety Course  
Path Link Info  
Unique Bikes

Group Ride

Mechanic

Demos

Food



**BIKE DAY**  
CCC



**Saturday April 25th**  
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