

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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City's multi-use path link proposal open for comment until June 11

By Chris Straka

Until June 11, the public can review and comment on the City of Ottawa's proposed design of the paved multi-use pathway (MUP) link: ottawa.ca/stanleymup.

This design is not the one the neighbourhood Pathway Design Committee would prefer, but rather is the only option the City says could be built either this year or next using available funds.

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) and the Crichton Community Council (CCC) agreed this proposed design might achieve the broad support of neighbourhood residents if specific issues are addressed in a more detailed revision.

One of four link options

In the December 2019 issue of the NEN, I reported on an initiative to close a gap in the paved MUP through New Edinburgh Park, south of Stanley Avenue, between Dufferin Road and the playground. A CCC-led Pathway Design Committee, including members of NECA and

the neighbourhood at large, proposed a MUP alignment and design for the City of Ottawa's consideration in late 2019.

The committee's proposed MUP alignment runs along Stanley Avenue between the street trees and road edge – past the playground, the Fieldhouse and the east ice-rink lawn – separated from motorized traffic by a curb and narrow verge.

While the committee did consider designs in which Stanley Avenue was either partially or fully closed to traffic from the Fieldhouse to River Lane (a recommendation made in NECA's 1997 Community Directed Traffic Calming Study), this approach could not be realized in the near term due to the need for additional study of a closure's spin-off effects.

At the CSST Community Construction Monitoring Committee's February 2020 meeting, the City provided neighbourhood representatives with three additional MUP link options.

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The New Edinburgh News extends a big thank-you to all of our advertisers for their ongoing support during the COVID-19 pandemic!



Crowvid19 lands in New Edinburgh during lockdown

By Elizabeth Gray-Smith

During the tenth week of public health interventions keeping the residents of Ottawa inside or standing two metres apart in public, a beautiful piece of art flew in to lift the spirits of New Edinburgh residents.

Crowvid19, as he is called, is an eight-foot, 200-pound metal sculpture that travels across Ottawa, spending seven days at a time perched in a prominent location in the neighbourhood that claims the highest weekly donations to the Ottawa Food Bank.

From May 19–26, New Edinburgh won fostering rights with a total of \$1,330 donated, beating out Centrepoinette and other neighbourhoods in town.

This was Crowvid19's third week in flight.

The large bird – made of metal scraps including rebar, bathtubs, the edge of a plow, auto parts, and garage door springs – is the craftsmanship of Ottawa-based mechanic and metal artist Dave Harries.

"It was an idea I had with a friend: Let's see what kind of interest we can get in renting him out, but by donation to a great cause," said Dave, as he installed the piece of art on the lawn of the NECTAR Centre at 255 MacKay St.



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

An eight-foot, 200-pound metal sculpture named Crowvid19 roosted on the lawn of 255 MacKay St. for a week at the end of May.

New Edinburgh keeps Crowvid19 until the next set of Ottawa neighbourhoods battle to foster him.

"It has been amazing to see the emotional response when communities adopt him, but sad when he moves away,"

said Harries.

Crowvid left his perch on MacKay Street on May 27 to roost on the front lawn of a private house in Kitchissippi Ward. Learn more about Crowvid on Facebook and Twitter.

Thinking positively about the Beechwood conundrum

By Marc d'Orgeville,
NECA Traffic and Safety Committee

Last year, during the municipal byelection campaign, I heard as many different opinions or complaints about Beechwood Avenue as the number of doors I knocked on. I joked that whomever could "fix" Beechwood would automatically win the byelection.

Most complaints are often in conflict with others: for instance, parking versus bike lane; or pedestrian experience/slow traffic; or the loss of small local businesses versus the need for more development.

If this were a mathematical problem, it would be characterized as being "overdetermined." There is not one

solution able to satisfy every individual opinion.

That's what I call the Beechwood conundrum.

At the heart of this conundrum, there is a simple problem.

On the one hand, a majority of neighbouring residents would like Beechwood to be a pedestrian-friendly village where it feels good to spend time shopping or going out with friends and family.

On the other hand, this is an arterial road with much local and non-local commuter vehicle traffic. The two are obviously working against each other. For instance, removing lanes and reducing speed improve both pedestrian experience and safety, but reduce the vehicle flow-through. The right balance

between the two will vary widely depending on whom you ask.

The dilemma for Beechwood (as for most arterial roads) comes from the negative impact that controlling traffic throughflow has on neighbouring residents, starting with local vehicle commuters or residents of nearby streets where car traffic overflows. People who have no other choice than to drive to Beechwood are also negatively affected when decisions about parking for cars and bicycles hinders their ability to quickly shop on Beechwood. Add the reduction in the number of bus stops, the impact of slowed car traffic on bus reliability and the type of recent

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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.

Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday, Jun. 16, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m.** Ad hoc meetings may take place over the summer. Check newedinburgh.ca for meeting location.

Your NECA Representatives 2019-2020

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Learn more at
www.newedinburgh.ca

Helping and holding the line



Cindy Parkanyi
NECA President

With the arrival of warm weather, there has been a wonderful blossoming of the neighbourhood. Apparently gardening is quickly replacing baking and binge-watching as the new pandemic therapy. The many, many walks we are all taking have now become that much more pleasant thanks to the diligent efforts of our neighbours.

However, along with the nicer weather, there is also a temptation to start doing the things we normally do coming out of hibernation: gathering with friends for a barbecue, playing soccer or football at the park. It is important that we all remember the times we are living in and ensure that we continue to respect physical distancing even as we try to bring back some of our beloved pastimes.

MUP missing link consultation

Based on a request from the community, the City of Ottawa is proposing to close the pre-existing gap in the Rideau River Eastern Pathway in New Edinburgh by adding a new segment of multi-use pathway (MUP) between the south limit of Stanley Avenue and the north side of the New Edinburgh Park playground. The goal is to create a safer and more comfortable con-

nection for people walking or riding along the Rideau River Eastern Pathway.

The reinstatement of a portion of New Edinburgh Park/Stanley Park following the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project construction presents an opportunity to close this gap with a new segment of MUP, creating a safer and more comfortable connection for people using the Rideau River Eastern Pathway.

The City of Ottawa is seeking feedback on the proposed design. A description of the project, including the proposed draft design, is available for review and comment at ottawa.ca/stanleymup until June 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

The proposed design reflects the one option presented to the community that could feasibly be completed as part of the CSST reinstatement. At the April NECA board meeting, the City clarified that any of the other options presented earlier in the year would require significant stormwater infrastructure or street realignment, and could therefore not be considered at the present time, or even in the foreseeable future. Learn more on p. 1.

New Edinburgh Disaster Support (NEDS)

A pool of more than 60 New

Edinburgh volunteers continues to fulfill grocery delivery and other requests for local residents under the watchful eyes of intake/dispatch volunteers **Sarah Anson-Cartwright** and **Jonathan Blake**.

If you know of someone who may need help, please let the team know at neds@newedinburgh.ca or 613-518-1646.

NEDS has also collaborated with other communities around Ottawa. Sandy Hill and Kanata have in part modeled themselves on NEDS to develop their own local COVID-19 community response capability, and New Edinburgh and Manor Park jointly developed and now provide a volunteer delivery service for two local food banks.

How to stay connected

If you are not yet receiving the monthly NECA updates by email, please email newedinburgh@outlook.com or sign up at newedinburgh.ca. For up-to-the-minute updates on what's happening in the neighbourhood, join the Google Group "New Edinburgh Discussions" by emailing new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com. You can also join the local email listserv by sending a request to List Master **Dave Rostenne** at dave@theconsultant.net. You can also follow us on Twitter @New_Edinburgh.

If you'd like to know more about NECA's committees and working groups, please contact me at newedinburgh@outlook.com. The next NECA board meeting will take place June 16 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.



Beverley and Paul McConnell pinned this wartime message of resilience by their front door to inspire pedestrians walking down River Lane.

Photo by Paul McConnell

Letter to the Editor

Big developers should be held accountable

Thanks to Jane Heintzman and her comprehensive account of what happened to Beechwood's commercial heart when developer Minto came to town ("Beechwood's commercial core yet to rise again from 2011 fire" Op-ed, *NEN* April 2020).

This piece really calls for a *cri de coeur*, some fire and brimstone, and some accountability from those that allowed what has occurred on this site.

What was once a thriving local commercial neighbourhood is now essentially a dead zone. What was designated in the city plan as a Traditional Main Street has been turned into a high-speed traffic artery providing a key route to the MacDonald-Cartier bridge for commuters going to Quebec from jobs in Ottawa East. Perhaps a forensic study of the project by Carleton University as to what happened at this site might reveal why it went so drastically wrong in the design and approval processes.

As a small urban developer with successful front-loaded shops on Sussex Drive in the ByWard Market, we agree with the model of a residential/commercial mix in urban neighbourhoods, and make no comment on the residential component which Minto has built over the commercial base here.

However, big developers in Ottawa have a "one size fits all" approach designed to extract the maximum profit without regard to a building's contextual impact (see Ottawa's downtown core). Despite lip-service (meeting with a community, for example), the effort of a fine-grain approach which relates to the context in which a building is placed appears not to be a consideration. This is both a loss and a pity, for all parties.

The most alarming detail in Ms. Heintzman's op-ed is that Minto has now acquired another site on Beechwood Avenue. If it is to be a repetition of what we have seen at its first development on the

street, then the community should have serious concerns.

From Minto's perspective, as regards the commercial component, it cannot be happy at revenues lost because of the failure to rent its commercial spaces. It has acquired two commercial occupants at Beechwood: the Bank of Montreal, which moved across the street leaving a vacancy behind, and a Starbucks, an international coffee chain around the corner on MacKay Street in a neighbourhood which has five other coffee shops in the immediate vicinity. The rest of Minto's commercial space lies vacant and faceless, removing all animation from this section of the street.

Unlike Ms. Heintzman, I do not think the potential for a multiplicity of small shops again at this site is "gone for good." But it will take some imaginative solutions to bring it alive again.

*Sarah Jennings
Partner, Ashton Gate
Developments*

Coconut Lagoon chef asks clients to help those in need

By Christina Leadlay

While a fire on May 22 has closed chef **Joe Thottungal's** Coconut Lagoon restaurant on St. Laurent Boulevard, it hasn't destroyed his generous spirit.

During the pandemic, Chef Joe has been helping to serve more than 1,500 free meals daily from his second restaurant Thali, located downtown, along with Food for Thought's Managing Director **Sylvain de Margerie** and a team of A-list chefs, friends and volunteers.

With Coconut Lagoon now out of commission indefinitely, Joe is moving all his restaurant operations to Thali as of June 2, according to a statement on the restaurant's website. There, the Coconut Lagoon team will be serving a reduced menu available for pickup, curbside pickup and delivery only.

Meanwhile, Joe is actively

helping Food For Thought find a new home.

According to their website, Food for Thought "was already looking for new locations as the demand for its meals is already at capacity limits at Thali, but now the move is urgent."

A Food For Thought spokesperson told *NEN* May 27 that Joe is grateful to the outpouring of support from the community since the May 22 fire. He asks that those who wish to support him in re-building efforts instead make a donation in his name to Food For Thought, which will help feed thousands of hungry people in our city.

Food for Thought is also launching a fundraising campaign to help offset the costs of rent, utilities and other related expenses for their future home. The charity had previously been able to avoid such expenditures due to the

generosity of people like Joe Thottungal who were donating workspace.

Of note, CTV reported May 25 that the fire at Coconut Lagoon started in the kitchen, and was deemed preventable. No one was hurt in the blaze. Damage is estimated at \$750,000.

To make a donation to the Food For Thought Café, visit foodforthought.cafe.



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Ottawa-Vanier is united in this time of crisis



Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

These are exceptional and unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges for all of us and we have all felt its impact on our daily lives.

The health and safety of all Canadians is our top priority. No one should have to worry about putting food on the table, keeping a roof over their head or losing their income because of COVID-

19.

Canada is among the best-prepared countries in the world to respond to the situation we're facing, and we will get through what comes next together.

As a response to COVID-19, our government has taken immediate and decisive action by putting forward Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response plan to

support Canadians through this challenging time. We are responding to the evolving needs resulting from this crisis. We're adapting, being flexible and doing everything we can to get help to Canadians so they can get through these difficult times. For more information about our measures, visit **canada.ca/coronavirus**. Please also consult **ottawapublichealth.ca** and **ontario.ca** for information on additional measures taken by the City of Ottawa and the Government of Ontario.

Together, we can slow the spread of COVID-19 by making a conscious effort to keep a physical and social distance between each other. I know it

can be difficult to live apart from community life, family and friends. This puts a strain on everyone, but the more these safety measures are respected, the more effective they will be, and the less we will live with the impact of the pandemic. Thank you for doing your part.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, my constituency office is closed for walk-ins and appointments. My constituency team remains available to help you with your federal inquiries. You can reach us at 613-998-1860 or mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca. Subscribe to our newsletter at mfortier.liberal.ca to receive the latest news regarding COVID-19.

Over the past few weeks, I was able to witness how the Ottawa-Vanier community united and supported each other in a time of crisis. I am delighted to see people helping each other from a distance to keep our community vibrant and social despite the physical distancing measures we are taking. I'd also like to recognize all the front-line workers in Ottawa-Vanier and across Canada who are working tirelessly for our community. I am very proud and grateful for all that you do for us.

It is by pulling together as a family, as a community and as a country that we can get through these difficult times!

Pedestrian safety & experience top priorities for Beechwood

Continued from page 1

mixed-used developments... and there are not many people left who do not feel some negative impacts from the recent traffic changes on Beechwood.

Behavioural scientists have repeatedly shown that loss is felt much more strongly than gain in general. This will often explain why people are reluctant to change. Before a change, we are much more afraid of what we might lose than excited by what we might gain. And just after a change, we also feel much more the pain of what we lost than the benefit of what we gained.

In the case of Beechwood Avenue, the recent changes have triggered so many negative impacts that it is overshadowing whatever gain the communities receive, and the buy-in from residents.

This is unfortunate because

the 2005 Beechwood Community Design Plan (BCDP) is very clear about the community desire for a safer and more pedestrian-friendly corridor. In that sense, the interim measures made on Beechwood since 2015 are an important improvement and, more importantly, the final changes to a complete street will be a real gain for the community. When I looked at the BCDP, seeing the outdated four lanes on Beechwood (pictured above), I personally have no doubt that Beechwood is moving in the right direction on traffic and safety.

So while waiting for the City of Ottawa to update and act on the complete street plan for Beechwood Avenue, a motion was brought before the community associations of New Edinburgh, Vanier, Lindenlea, Rockcliffe Park and Manor Park (results still



Photo by Louise Imbeault

The two-by-two lanes on Beechwood between Springfield and Douglas, before 2016.

pending) in order to reinforce the collective consensus that the pedestrian safety and experience are the top priority for this main street.

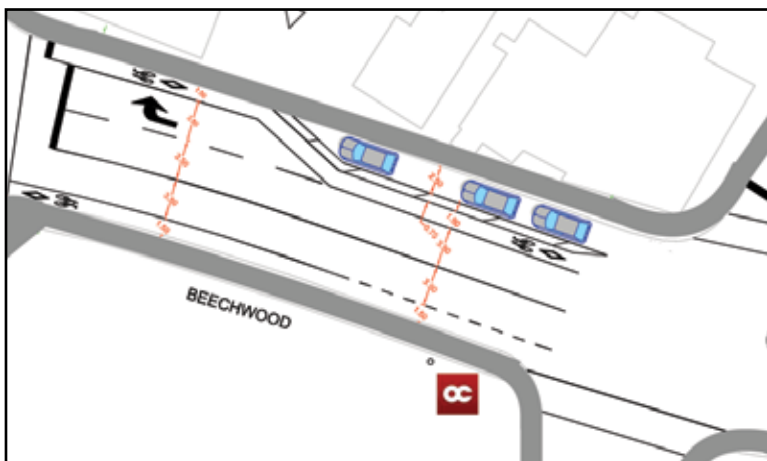
This motion also highlighted the collective concern

about the lack of City plans with respect to the upcoming increase in the transportation through the corridor (due to ongoing development along Beechwood, the opening of Hemlock Avenue to the new

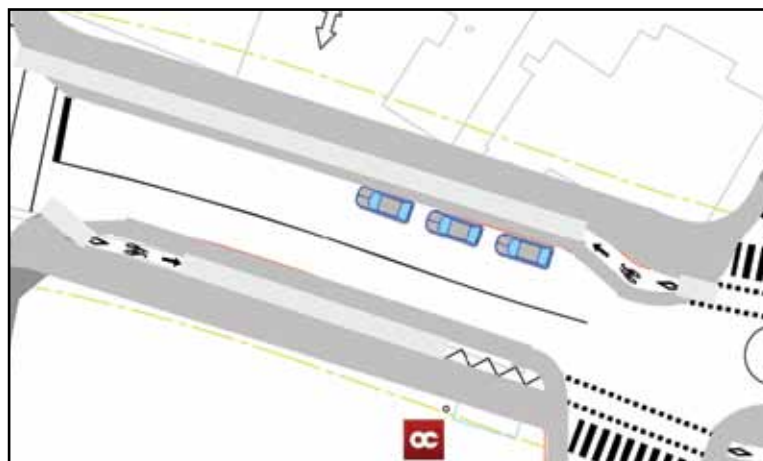
Wateridge development, the possibility of a new inter-provincial bridge, etc.) which will exacerbate current negative impacts.

As a collective, we can talk about the Beechwood corridor with a unified voice and work constructively with the City on alleviating the present and future negative impacts on the surrounding neighbourhoods. But to get a strong buy-in from our residents, we will have to proactively reinforce the gains for the community as a whole. The Beechwood conundrum can only be overcome with a positive attitude towards the coming changes.

Marc d'Orgeville is the chair of the New Edinburgh Traffic and Safety Committee. Reach him at marc.dorgeville@gmail.com.



Currently, that same section of Beechwood was repainted to reduce the number of the traffic lanes but the sidewalks have not been changed yet (based on the transition plan from the March 2016 consultation).



Imagine how more pedestrian-friendly that same section will become after future reconstruction of the sidewalks (based on the final complete street plan from the March 2016 consultation).

Championing infill development over boundary expansion



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

My office has been working hard on many issues during this public health crisis. After a joint appeal with other councillors to consider the partial re-opening of green space to help with the physical and mental health of residents, the City will now allow use of some areas in City parks and beaches. I also urged the province to re-categorize community gardens as essential services, and was successful.

Food security is a priority during this emergency, and I hope that you will consider supporting our local food bank: the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre. Since early March, Ward 13 community associations have also come together to ensure

that seniors and vulnerable residents receive the food and the services they need. Information about their crisis initiative including how to volunteer is available at ottawacares.ca.

By the time you read this, City Council will have voted upon its growth management strategy, which includes a proposed expansion of Ottawa's urban boundary. I wish to let residents know that I am intending to vote against expansion. I also want residents in our ward to understand what "holding the line" will mean. The Province has mandated that our City densify and consequently Council directed City staff to draft a new Official Plan that outlines more growth in

our City through intensification than through greenfield development. Greenfield development might be easier, but increasing urban sprawl is terrible for Ottawa's ecological and financial health.

Intensifying the lands within the urban boundary will require more infill development. By the end of 2046, Ottawa is expected to have an additional 400,000 people. The current urban boundary encompasses Orleans and Stittsville, and I believe that the amount of undeveloped areas within our urban lands can accommodate the additional 195,000 homes Ottawa needs.

If we grow through more infill, our Ward will see more construction, but I believe that if that occurs, Rideau-Rockcliffe must have more infrastructure improvements, including additional sidewalks, cycling paths, water-main and sewer and recreation facilities that would be needed to accommodate more healthy, active and walkable neighbourhoods. I am also confident that a large proportion of projected growth

can be accommodated in our Ward through transit-oriented development. Last year, I provided direction to City staff to begin a visioning exercise for the land surrounding the baseball stadium on Coventry Road that would explore innovative, future mixed-used development which ideally entail affordable housing and constitute a meaningful prospect for densification within our ward.

Lastly, by the time this goes to press, the City will have posted online a proposed draft design for City-wide consultation on the Multi-Use Pathway (MUP) through Stanley Park for review and comment. The reinstatement of Stanley Park as part of the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel project's wrap-up provides an opportunity to close the south limit of Stanley Avenue and the north side of

New Edinburgh Park. As with all transportation projects, citizens throughout the City are consulted, but obviously residents of New Edinburgh will have much to say. The online consultation is open until June 11, 2020.

Contact City Councillor Rawlson King at 613-580-2483; rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca and rideau-rockcliffe.ca.



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CCC looking for new volunteers



by Chris Straka, CCC President

The Crichton Community Council (CCC) is eagerly anticipating the eventual relaxing of the current imperative for physical distancing between members of different households. Although the CCC's annual picnics, sales, outdoor performances and themed days cannot happen this summer, we believe a renewed enthusiasm for connecting with our neighbours will follow this period of isolation. We look forward to facilitating community gatherings in and around the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse again soon – with your help.

After years of service, some of the CCC's most committed volunteers have moved on to other endeavours. Is it your turn to contribute some disposable time to your community?

The CCC is currently seeking volunteers who wish to serve their neighbourhood in a variety of capacities, including year-round administrative roles as well as one-time event volunteer tasks. Whether you have a few hours a month to give or a few days, we have a

job for you.

If you'd like to help create opportunities for our neighbourhood to get together (once we are able to do so safely) please become active with the CCC now. Email us at: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com.

Annual General Meeting: June 9

On June 9 at 7:00 p.m. the CCC will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually using the Zoom teleconferencing platform.

If you wish to attend, please let us know by email at CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com at least 12 hours in advance so we can share the meeting access password with you. The Zoom meeting number is: 893 8847 9280. Participants can also join the meeting by telephone by calling 438-809-7799.

The AGM agenda will include the following items: 1) Opening Remarks; 2) Approval of the 2019 AGM Minutes; 3) President's Report; 4) Treasurer's Report; 5) Election of Officers; and 6) Adjournment. The AGM will be followed by the first regu-



Photo by Richarch Guy Briggs

The CCC, pictured here at its 25th anniversary in 2018, is looking for new volunteers to join its ranks.

lar meeting of the new CCC Executive. All CCC meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation.

Garage Sale

On the third Saturday in September it usually seems as though the whole of New Edinburgh is for sale. It isn't possible at this point to confirm whether or not the CCC will be able to facilitate a neighbourhood-wide sale this fall. We hope that the annual garage/yard sale will once again present us all with an opportunity to turn trash into treasure while socializing with our neighbours.

For more information about upcoming events, please watch the neighbourhood events calendar (newedinburgh.ca/events), the CCC Facebook page, Twitter account and various neighbourhood email distribution

lists.

Park improvements

The CCC's role as an active steward of the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse and the public space that surrounds it is becoming increasingly important as the population of our neighbourhood grows. Although the CCC has been unable to host community events and make the Fieldhouse available during these unusual pandemic times, we continue to work directly with the City and our community partners to improve our neighbourhood's recreational resources.

In the past year we've championed an initiative to complete a broken link in the paved multi-use pathway through New Edinburgh Park, at Stanley Avenue. Working with members of NECA and the neighbourhood at large, we developed a recommended alignment for the new path along the side of Stanley Avenue closest to the river. Learn more on page 1.

Fieldhouse improvements

Through this past fall and winter, the CCC consulted with Fieldhouse users and our partner community associations on capital improvements to 203 Stanley Ave. (See article in the December 2019 issue of the *NEN*. Archives are available online.)

In February, a letter cosigned by CCC, NECTAR and the New Edinburgh Community Alliance was sent to City Councillor Rawlson King recommending specific investments to the Fieldhouse interior using public funds previously invested in 255 MacKay Street (the NECTAR Centre). We look forward to reporting on details related to the implementation of these recommendations as soon as the City acts on the neighbourhood's requests.

Follow the CCC on Twitter at @nefieldhouse and find the CCC on Facebook. Learn more about the CCC and the Fieldhouse at newedinburgh.ca



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Community garden is open for the season

The New Edinburgh Community Garden is now open at 255 MacKay St.!

Thanks to the mobilization of thousands of gardeners across Ontario, the province gave the green light to the green thumbs and re-opened community gardens, identifying these as an essential source of fresh food.

Before re-opening, the

New Edinburgh garden established a special protocol – thanks to garden coordinator Laura French – to ensure compliance with public health guidelines. We're also committed to donating the produce from one of our beds to the local food bank.

-Joana Chelo

Highlights from my first week at Queen's Park



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

I am honoured and proud 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!

The Ottawa-Vanier constituency office remains at your service during these difficult times, by email and by phone, to guide you regarding provincial programs and services, as well as local resources which you may need.

Information regarding COVID-19 is available on our website or through our weekly mailout. Sign up directly on our website or by contacting our office.

I can't wait to meet you in the community once this crisis is over.

On May 11, Stephen Blais and I made history as the

first MPPs to have our swearing in ceremony live-streamed. On May 12, I took my seat at Queen's Park. I was reminded of all the hard work we accomplished back in February and how we have been working for the people of Ottawa-Vanier ever since.

I was able to speak on the measures and adjustments our provincial government are taking to help residents, small businesses and our essential workers during this global pandemic. Bill 190 mainly allows meetings and documents to be completed online by organizations in order to respect public health guidelines. During my first opportunity to rise in the Legislative Assembly, I shared the great work that our community is doing to help each other; from donating meals to support for seniors.

I believe that holding our

government accountable is one of the most important roles I have in the legislature. In Question Period, I raised the importance of our long-term care home residents and workers with the minister of health. I wanted to raise awareness that nurses and workers do not have access to the necessary Personal Protective Equipment they need to stay safe.

Contact Ottawa-Vanier MPP Lucille Collard at 613-744-4484; Lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; lucillecollard.onmpp.ca. Her constituency office is located at 237 Montréal Rd. K1L 6C7.

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!

Le bureau de circonscription d'Ottawa-Vanier demeure à votre service en ces temps difficiles, par courriel et par téléphone, pour vous guider concernant les

programmes et services provinciaux, en plus des ressources locales dont vous pourriez avoir besoin.

L'information concernant l'évolution de COVID-19 est disponible sur notre site web ou par l'entremise de notre envoi hebdomadaire. Abonnez-vous directement sur notre site web ou en communiquant avec notre bureau.

J'ai hâte de vous retrouver dans la communauté lorsque nous aurons traversé cette crise.

Les faits-saillants de ma première semaine à Queen's Park

Mon assermentation:

Le 12 mai, j'ai pris mon siège à Queen's Park. Le 11 mai, nous avons marqué l'histoire lorsque Stephen Blais et moi-même avons été les premiers députés à avoir notre cérémonie d'assermentation virtuelle diffusée en direct. Cela m'a rappelé tout le travail que nous avons accompli en février et la façon dont nous avons travaillé pour les gens d'Ottawa-Vanier depuis ce temps-là.

Projet de loi 190:

Le projet a été adopté pour apporter des ajustements temporaires permettant aux

organismes et petites entreprises d'effectuer certaines opérations administratives en ligne afin de respecter les lignes directrices en matière de santé publique. Lors de cette première opportunité de parler à l'Assemblée législative, j'ai souligné l'unité de notre communauté et les gestes accomplis pour s'entraider, qu'il s'agisse d'offrir des repas ou de soutenir les aînés.

Période des questions:

Je crois que mettre en lumière la responsabilité de notre gouvernement est l'un des rôles les plus importants que j'ai à jouer à l'Assemblée législative. J'ai soulevé la question importante des résidents et des travailleurs dans les résidences de soins de longue durée auprès de la ministre de la Santé. J'ai sollicité l'action du gouvernement afin que les infirmiers, infirmières et les travailleurs aient accès à l'équipement de protection individuelle dont ils ont besoin pour assurer leur sécurité.

Pour rejoindre député Lucille Collard, composé 613-744-4484; Lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; lucillecollard.onmpp.ca. Son bureau est situé à 237 ch. Montréal, K1L 6C7.

Kindness and COVID-19



Jim Watson
Mayor of Ottawa

The residents of Ottawa have experienced some drastic changes over the last couple of months. We've had to make major adjustments to our lifestyles, adapt to new work environments and plan our days in an entirely new manner. As a person who loves to get out in the community and spend time in all four corners of the city, these changes haven't been particularly easy for me, either.

Although much of the news we're reading and hearing about can take its toll on us, I find it truly heartwarming to see so many residents and businesses in our community

who are coming forward to assist others in this time of great need. A few weeks ago, I asked residents to share stories of kindness and ingenuity, and the following examples make me so proud to say I'm the mayor of this great and compassionate city.

It's residents mobilizing behind groups like Nepean Neighbours, who are matching volunteers with residents in isolation who need help running errands like picking up groceries and medication, dog-walking and any other need they may have.

It's local chefs like Joe Thottungal of Thali and

Coconut Lagoon, Adam Vettorel of North & Navy, Tim Stock of Thyme & Again and Patrick Garland of Absinthe, who are providing meals to homeless residents and low-income families.

It's medical students like Pamela Bejjani, Jamie Ghossein and Daniel Milad, who have created a GoFundMe campaign called "Frontline Feeds Ottawa/Gatineau" – with the goal of raising money to deliver food from local restaurants to frontline workers on the job, every single day.

It's musicians like Dave

Kalil, who plays live shows on Facebook every Wednesday and Saturday to lift the spirits of his friends. Dave raised \$13,000 in less than an hour during a virtual benefit concert in support of the Ottawa Food Bank.

The list goes on and on.

Once again, my sincere thanks to the residents of Ottawa who continue to do their part in planking the curve: staying home and following Ottawa Public Health guidelines. We can change the impact that this pandemic has on our city when we all work together. We can't for-

get that COVID-19 affects everyone, regardless of age and current health status. It is important for all of us to continue to practice physical distancing.

Let's remember there are brighter days ahead. We will come out of this as a community, stronger than ever.

It is important to recognize that the COVID-19 situation is evolving very quickly. Please refer to OttawaPublicHealth.ca/Coronavirus to stay up-to-date on the latest information.

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Burgh's heritage district to be protected despite new R4 zoning directives



Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

**By Gail McEachern,
Heritage & Development
Committee**

In the April edition of this newspaper, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) had attempted – without success – to obtain a definitive answer to the question: Will the new R4 Zoning By-Law being proposed by the City neutralize or ignore (1) the federal Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places, (2) the Provincial Policy Statement regarding the conservation of heritage structures and cultural heritage landscapes and (3) the provisions in New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation Plan?

We now have the answer: which is "No."

Thanks to the perseverance and collaborative efforts of Susan Ong, Policy Analyst in Councillor Rawlson King's office; Anne Fitzpatrick,

"In the event of a conflict between an Heritage Conservation District Plan and the zoning, the HCD plan will take precedence."

–Tim Moerman, City of Ottawa

Heritage Community Liaison for New Edinburgh; and MacKenzie Kimm, Heritage Planner, working with Tim Moerman, lead on the City's R4 Zoning Review, the final R4 Study Report will include statements which will ensure the continuity and protection of heritage properties and Heritage Conservation

Districts (HCD) across the city.

Moerman confirmed in a recent email that "the R4 Review does not cancel the New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation District, in principle or effectively." The zoning report will explicitly state that in the event of a conflict between a HCD Plan and the zoning, the HCD plan will take precedence.

This is to ensure consis-

in full force."

The R4 Zoning proposal also includes several design requirements which, if implemented, could dramatically change parts of the streetscape in New Edinburgh's HCD: (1) the minimum of 25 per cent fenestration ratio and for window sills to be at least 75cm above the floor; (2) 20 per cent of the front facade to be recessed an additional 1.5 from the front setback line;

struction in a HCD.

Buildings within New Edinburgh's HCD will continue to be protected by the city's existing Heritage Overlay By-Law (S.60) which states: "Where a building in an area to which a heritage overlay applies is removed or destroyed, it must be rebuilt with the same character and at the same scale, massing, volume, floor area and in the same location as existed prior to its removal or destruction."

Although it is a relief to receive clarification on the regulations in place which will minimize the potential negative impact of the R4 Zoning on New Edinburgh's HCD, this is not a time for complacency.

There will always be challenges to the protective city by-laws and the guidelines in our conservation plan – attempts by developers and property owners to hollow-out them out, reduce the perceived restrictions or remove them entirely. If the core values of our HCD are to be sustained, we have to remain watchful.

(3) front-facing balconies; and (4) principal entrances facing the street. Wording will be added to the new zoning by-law to exempt properties designated under Part IV or V of the Ontario Heritage Act from these design requirements. This will apply to any changes proposed for existing properties and any new con-



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Improving interactions with dogs in the park

By Katherine Hall, NECA

New Edinburgh Park is a well-loved park with many different users. In addition to dog owners, we have families, older people from the retirement homes, birders and many others (kayaking, anyone?). That drives a lot of different priorities within the one park. This can result in misunderstanding of the rules or different expectations. Conflicts can arise and there have been incidents.

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA), the Crichton Community Council (CCC) and City Councillor Rawlson King's office have been involved in several recent conversations around dogs in the park.

Many years ago, New Edinburgh, Manor Park and Rockcliffe Park worked with both National Capital Commission (NCC) and the City of Ottawa to define off-leash dog areas within our communities. The result is three off-leash parks: Stanley/New Edinburgh Park, Pine Hill (Princess Avenue at Lisgar Road), and Hillsdale Park (at Hillsdale Road and the Rockeries). While Pine Hill and Hillsdale are completely on NCC lands, Stanley/New Edinburgh is a combined city and NCC off-leash park.

While our park is off-leash starting at Beechwood Avenue, there are rules which must be followed for specific



Ghost and Loki enjoy the Rideau River. Photo courtesy Katherine Hall

areas within that space. Areas which have specific rules include the playground, the splash pad and the multipurpose path (often referred to as the bike path). The signs that say "No Dogs within 5m" pertain to areas around the splash pad and playground. The multipurpose path (paved pathway) is a "Leashed Only" area. Although somewhat confusing, these rules are in place to keep everyone safe.

In addition to this on-versus off-leash area distinction, there are a few other areas we are working with the Councillor's office to confirm. We'll provide more details as we make further progress.

The main challenge is the triangular area around the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse,

bounded by Stanley Avenue, the Rideau River, and the little hill leading down to the baseball diamond. It is a busy area all year long. To make matters worse, the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) construction has added extra traffic to that triangle.

We are looking at ways to help reduce negative interactions primarily in that triangle. A few ideas include better signage and a wooden fence between the splash pad and the gravel path (like the one around between the playground and road). These would help ensure everyone knows the rules and would serve to help separate the no-dog area from the off-leash area of the path. We are working to ensure that the solu-

tions fit the context of the park vision.

If you have ideas, contact me at katherine@pikoru.co.

Ivy Crescent resident Katherine Hall recently joined the NECA board as the liaison for dog owners in New Edinburgh Park. The mother of two teenage boys, she is a 25-year veteran park dog-walker, and formerly helped to organize both Wildcats and RPL Soccer.



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Reflecting on the three Rs

By Tamara Sorger, New Edinburgh Environment Committee

This pandemic has affected our lives in so many different ways. For many, it has meant going back to basics: planting food gardens at home, playing board and card games with loved ones, baking bread from scratch, and so many other wonderful things. In this vein, this could also be a good time to reflect on the three Rs and why they continue to be so important.

Reduce, reuse, recycle. There's a lot behind that catchy slogan. Those three words offer a framework to help us make consumer choices that help protect the planet and living things in

ways that are suited to our individual lifestyles.

Reduce, reuse, recycle: the expanded version

Reduce: Be responsible. Before making a purchase, decide whether you truly need the good or service, and how you can use it most efficiently.

Reuse: Find new ways to use existing materials without the need for recycling, including giving things you no longer need to others.

Recycle: Keep in mind that converting existing materials into something entirely different requires an industrial process.

As we all move together to become a zero-waste society, let's remember why those

three Rs still matter and help spread the word about them.

I would like to close this article with a shout-out to Ottawa Reduces – ReduitOttawaReduces on Facebook – for their excellent work, and the many companies in the neighbourhood that have received Ottawa Reduces's certification for allowing consumers to bring their own containers to their stores or restaurants. That's the three Rs in action.

The Environment and Climate Change committee is currently on hold during these pandemic times. If you are interested in joining the group or learning more about our activities, please contact Tamara Sorger: tamarasorger@yahoo.com.

BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Food and groceries adapt to new normal

By Jane Heintzman

There's an old Broadway musical called *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*. Well, this spring, it stopped, and for two months, we were well and truly off. Ordinary life has been on hold as our community stayed home to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus and our worlds shrank dramatically to within the confines of our own homes and immediate neighbourhoods. Only recently have we begun the first tentative steps toward a return to normal life. Paradoxically, many have discovered silver linings in the pandemic experience: food, cooking and family are among them.

Food, glorious food!

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March, food has increasingly become a focus in many households. At the outset, there was a surge of panic-buying in anticipation of shortages as we hunkered down in our cocoons of isolation. This hoarding blitz temporarily denuded grocery store shelves of everything from frozen foods to staple baking supplies. (And of course, toilet paper, that "precious metal" of the pandemic era!)

But food and cooking took on a more positive spin as a welcome diversion in a time

of isolation. Friends and family shared new recipes and revisited old ones in a return to "from scratch" cooking. Food preparation became both a fun distraction and a teaching tool for children, teaching lessons in measurement and in food chemistry.

With restaurants and coffee shops restricted to take-out service only, families have had to provide themselves with three meals a day. Many have embraced this challenge as both a chance to hone their culinary skills, and an opportunity for cozy family mealtimes.

When the blanket business closures were imposed in March, grocery and food stores topped the list of Essential Services allowed to remain in operation. Throughout the COVID-19 ordeal, New Edinburgh has been well served by a variety of local food shops. These businesses have swiftly adapted to pandemic rules, introducing hygiene and physical distancing protocols to protect both staff and clients, and limiting hours of operation. Most have moved to a contact-free system of online ordering for curbside pick-up or home delivery.

The new normal at Metro Metro Beechwood Manager **Shawn Steinburg** and his team have worked hard to

arrive at a "new normal" in store operations. Metro now has a dedicated **Corporate Pandemic Committee** to monitor the evolving situation and implement necessary safety measures.

As of late May, Metro Beechwood's COVID-19 operating protocols include:

- **Reduced hours of operation:** 8 a.m.–9 p.m. on Monday to Friday; 8 a.m.–8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday;
- **Designated seniors' hour from 7–8 a.m.;**

- **Online orders** with curbside pick-up or home delivery (metro.ca/en/online-grocery)

- **A greeter at the entrance** to limit the number of shoppers in-store, and to remind shoppers to respect physical distancing rules;

- **Directional floor stickers** denoting one-way aisles;

- **Quantity restrictions** on some high-demand items;

- **Plexiglass shields** at all check-out lanes, and floor stickers marking the required two-metre distance in line-ups;

- **Contactless payment** of up to \$250 for most credit and debit cards to reduce key-pad handling;

- **Screening all employees** with a health checklist before each shift, along with strict handwashing and hygiene protocols;

- **Providing Personal**



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The "new normal" at Metro Beechwood includes a greeter at the entrance who limits the number of shoppers in the store. Line-ups outside are now common.

Protective Equipment to all employees;

- **Frequent cleaning and disinfection of the store,** with a particular focus on high traffic areas;
- **Special financial support** to employees.

They also encourage a **one-shopper per household limit** to keep lineups to a minimum. Visit metro.ca for updates on operating procedures.

A huge thank-you to the Metro team for keeping the store working smoothly, and our community well supplied.

And of note, Red Door Provisions (reddoorprovisions.com); Scone Witch (sconewitch.ca); Bridgehead Coffee Shop (bridgehead.ca) are accepting orders for coffee and baked goods online. Check their websites for pick-up and delivery details.

A shopping oasis in the COVID storm

For those eager to avoid the lineups and stress of shop-

ping, **Nature's Buzz** at 55 Beechwood Ave. has been a welcome alternative. Store operator **Eric Passmore** reports that "business is booming," as local shoppers stock up on organic supplies, from meat and fish to poultry, dairy products, baked goods, cereals and fresh produce.

Eric describes the store's COVID-19 precautions as "common sense protocols," including enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures, hand sanitizer at the cash, and, on busy Saturdays, a limit on the number of shoppers in-store in order to maintain physical distancing. Business hours are also reduced: the store now operates **Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is closed on Sunday.**

While most Nature's Buzz shoppers drop by to shop, Eric and the Passmore/Philips family team do their best to accommodate very elderly or immunocompromised clients

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with curbside service for pre-paid telephone orders.

For strategic shoppers, here is Nature's Buzz's weekly supplier schedule:

- **Tuesdays:** organic chicken from Ferme des Voltigeurs, along with other fresh meats;
- **Wednesdays:** organic dairy products from Harmony Organic and Hewitt's Dairy;
- **Thursdays:** organic salmon; and
- **Fridays:** Beking's eggs.

Fresh produce is delivered throughout the week. To be sure you'll find what you need, call ahead: **613-842-0280**.

Muckleston & Brockwell: A Fine Butchery

Barbecue aficionados take heart! Pandemic notwithstanding, "the Butcher is In" on Beechwood Avenue, albeit with operational changes and shortened hours. For current details, visit facebook.com/mucklestonandbrockwell/.

M&B hours of operation in late May:

- **Monday:** Closed
- **Tuesday–Thursday:** Walk-in shopping 11:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., plus a limited number (4) of pick-ups for confirmed orders, 4:30–5:00 p.m.
- **Friday:** Order pick-up only, no walk-ins, 11:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- **Saturday and Sunday:** Walk-in shopping only (no order pick-ups), 11:30 a.m.–



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Andy the Butcher at Muckleston and Brockwell fine butchery is open reduced hours for pick-up and walk-in shopping.

5:00 p.m.

Customers can order by e-mail at mbtemporaryorders@gmail.com, by phone **613-745-2244**, or online at mucklestonandbrockwell.com. For the latest info on schedule changes, check M&B's Twitter and Facebook before heading to the store.

Epicuria: Curbside pick-up and local delivery

The team at Epicuria has carried on through the pandemic to offer a weekly menu of prepared take-home meals, along with its accustomed gourmet lineup of soups, scones, quiches, dips, muffins, cookies and desserts. They also keep their freezer stocked with their "Frozen

Classics."

In keeping with provincial restrictions, the store at 357 St. Laurent closed to shoppers in mid-March; prepaid orders are taken online and by phone for curbside pick-up, or local home delivery, especially for those unable to leave their houses.

For one-stop convenience during the pandemic, Epicuria also added a number of **staple grocery items:** such basics as milk, cream, butter, eggs, yogurt, flour, white or brown sugar, English muffins and even foaming hand disinfectant.

Most Ontario retail outlets were permitted to re-open following the Victoria Day weekend. However, Epicuria will remain closed until the

end of May to make the in-store changes required to facilitate flow and physical distancing. A one-customer per visit policy will probably be in place when doors do open. They will continue curbside pick-up and delivery to accommodate clients required to maintain isolation.

Order online at epicuria.ca or call **613-745-7356 x225 or x221**. Epicuria's current reduced business hours are **Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and closed on Sunday.**

Cheese and more at Jacobsons Fine Foods

While its new facility at 103 Beechwood Ave. has been closed since the start of the pandemic, Jacobsons has continued to offer its wares for online or phone orders, with curbside pickup or local home delivery. The choice of gourmet fare includes fresh breads and croissants, fine cheeses, deli items, pasta, snacks, oils, vinegars and marinades, frozen entrées and savoury pies, tea and coffee and more. Visit jacobsons.ca or call **613-746-6002** to order.

Dominique Jacobson and her team have decided to postpone re-opening until they can make necessary health and safety preparations. These include infra-

structure changes to facilitate flow and physical distancing, as well as updated hygiene and disinfection protocols. Jacobsons' curbside pick-up and home delivery will continue to accommodate clients who prefer contactless shopping.

The store is open seven days a week: **Sunday and Monday, 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.** For updates, follow Jacobsons on Instagram.

Veg boxes starting soon

Organic farmers **Charlotte Scott** and **Richard Williams**, operators of the Alcove, Que.-based **Ferme Lève-Tôt**, will begin weekly deliveries of summer veggie baskets to our community in mid-June. Weekly drop-offs will take place every Thursday afternoon at 255 MacKay St. Visit fermelevetot.ca/en for details.

Of course, this is no ordinary season. Ferme Lève-Tôt will introduce a range of new pandemic protocols, including extended pick-up hours; specific delivery windows to reduce line-ups; physical distancing; no cash transactions; enhanced sanitation practices, and use of masks and personal protective equipment. To minimize the risks of handling, the organic veggies will be packaged or boxed at the farm.

Tennis clubs are some of the few sports centres now open

By David Lawrence

With summer pretty well here, many of us are itching to resume sports activities – and to get the children out of the house and into summer programs.

Last month, the Government of Ontario and the City of Ottawa permitted boat and tennis clubs to re-open, which has allowed area sports centres to resume some of their activities.

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) at 504 Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway is back in business and welcomes both new and existing members. The club is adhering to provincial health guidelines and is taking appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Both its clay and hard tennis courts are open, operating under new safety protocols. Rowing and sailing activi-



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club is open, but like all sports centres in Ontario, has to adhere to new public health guidelines during the pandemic.

ties remain closed, but are expected to re-open in June or July. ONEC is preparing to run its day camp in sail-

ing for children aged 9–17, but the opening date has not yet been determined. Get the latest updates and register at onec.ca or call **613-746-8540**.

Rideau Sports Centre (RSC) at 1 Donald St. is open for tennis on its indoor hard courts. At present, only singles games are permitted, but membership is not required: players book online and pay by the hour. Summer 2020 pass holders, however, receive a 50 per cent discount on the indoor hard courts. The club will offer lessons, doubles and other services once they are deemed safe for members. Outdoor clay courts are expected to be open in June.

Folks who want to learn how to play the game can register online for RSC's first-ever adult summer tennis camp, which runs from July 6–Sept. 4. Private lessons are also available. Please

note that the RSC building, changing rooms and washrooms are closed.

Free online yoga and fitness classes are also available, but other activities – including basketball, children's camps, swimming and volleyball – remain closed until further notice. For the latest updates, visit rideausportscentre.com or call **613-746-8540**.

The Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club at 465 Lansdowne Rd. N. is open for singles play on hard courts and in keeping with physical distancing – members must book through the club's online court reservation system. The clubhouse, Junior Recreational Program, and other programs involving groups are closed. Private lessons remain available. For information and updates on summer programs, check rltennis.ca or call **613-749-5494**.

BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Non-traditional therapist takes practice online

By Susan Groundwater

What does a lifelong teacher with a passion for connecting with others do after she retires? She launches her own counselling service, of course! At least, that is what **Ambreen Ihsanullah** did when she established Soul to Soul Counselling (originally named Your Roots to Branches) several years ago. In many ways, it was a logical culmination of years of providing support and guidance to those in need.

Raised in Beacon Hill in Ottawa's east end, Ambreen attended Queen's University and eventually became a teacher at Colonel By High School here in Ottawa. "Teaching was my first passion," she says. "I had a good rapport with my students." Teaching world religions, anthropology and sociology to teenagers proved to Ambreen that the younger generations are hungry to know "what it's all about."

After a successful teaching career in Ottawa, Ambreen chose to live overseas for several years: first in Brunei, then in Pakistan. It was in Lahore that she made the transition from teacher to counsellor, as the director of counselling for the international school system in Lahore.

Once home in Canada, and with some encouragement from her family, Ambreen decided to launch her counselling practice part-time. She started out working primarily with children, but her practice has grown to include every age group. "I have men and women of all ages as clients," she explains, "even a couple in their late 70s who want to keep growing until their last breath!"

From the outset, her focus was always on non-traditional therapy. She is one of the few people in the capital offering Family Constellations therapy, which is based on the belief that we inherit unresolved traumas and nega-



Photo by Alexander McKenzie


Ambreen Ihsanullah has closed her Beechwood Avenue office and is now offering counselling online, specializing in the Family Constellations approach.

tive patterns of our ancestors. Ambreen herself was profoundly affected by going through the training – by the end of it, she felt lighter and freer. This experience made


her excited about the service she can provide to her clients. As she says: "I am always in awe of how quickly things can move when the person is ready."

Now, Ambreen offers a combination of everything she's learned over the years. She says that she is focused on results, more than a particular theory or approach. Hence the shift to the new name Soul to Soul: it's soul-level work. As she says, "you are the expert of you. Your inner intelligence knows what you need, and I will guide you through and help you get the results you need."

Although Ambreen once had an office on Beechwood, her lease expiry coincided with the new restrictions due to COVID-19, so she has shifted her practice online. It's going well so far, and her clients are adjusting to the new approach. She hopes to offer online group workshops soon, to introduce more people to the power of the Family Constellations approach. A new website is in the works, but for now she can be reached by email at info@ambreen.ca, or by phone at 613-421-9277.




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We are continuing to help our clients who may need to buy or sell right now during this pandemic because of their circumstances while ensuring the safety and health of everyone involved. Where ever possible we are using 3D tours, social media and technology to keep social distancing.


Keep safe and stay positive.




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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tune up your two- or four-wheeled vehicle

By David Lawrence

While the pandemic has complicated everyone's lives, it hasn't stopped vehicle and bike servicing – although customers and employees must adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols.

Full Cycle (401 St. Laurent Blvd.) both sells and services bikes and offers accessories, parts and clothing and is currently open for bicycle repair and curbside pick-up of online purchases. For now,

customers cannot browse inside the store or take bikes out for test rides. They will deliver serviced bicycles in Ottawa at no charge.

To protect customers, all surfaces – debit machines, keyboards, door handles, and serviced bicycles – are disinfected every 30 minutes. Full Cycle is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. To book an appointment or order for pickup, visit fullcycle.ca or call 613-741-2443.

With the arrival of warm weather, it's also a good time to get your vehicle's air conditioner serviced. **Beechwood Auto Service** (188 Beechwood Ave.) provides a full range of vehicle repair and maintenance services for all makes and models, including trucks. It also provides winter tire storage services.

At present, all services must be booked in advance online or by phone. Vehicles are wiped off thoroughly before

and after servicing to keep customers and employees safe. Customers are not permitted in the office but can leave their keys in a drop-off box. Payments are made by phone. Beechwood Auto Service is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Book an appointment or learn more about services offered at beechwoodautoservice.com or call 613-749-6773.

Kavanaugh Garage (145 Marier Ave. in Vanier) offers

auto maintenance and repair services, from oil changes to engine repairs. Its technicians are ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified, and service all makes and models of domestic and imported vehicles. The garage is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 613-746-0744 or visit kavanaughgarage.ca to book an appointment.

Keen to re-open for business, hair salon owners are planning to adapt to the new 'pandemic style'

By Susan Groundwater

Are you sporting a somewhat shaggy look these days? Perhaps resorting to the kitchen shears or your child's hair clips to keep the bangs out of your eyes? Have you taken to wearing a sun hat or ball cap every time you leave the house, whether or not the sun is shining? Since the restrictions to "flatten the curve" began back in March, all hair salons and barbershops have been closed, meaning our haircuts have grown out and our colours have faded. Many of us are eagerly anticipating the day we can sit in the stylist's chair and watch our "COVID Coiffure" be eradicated!

During the shutdown, our local hairdressers report that they've been keeping themselves busy with online training offered by hair-product companies to help stylists keep their skills fresh. The training includes technique classes on cuts, colour, and styling, as well as business classes on how to prepare for the return to work. Many companies are also hosting webinars to allow stylists from around the world to engage in live Q&A sessions.

Nicole White, the owner of Hair Resort on Rideau Street and a resident of New Edinburgh, has been taking full advantage of these wonderful resources. "I've been watching and learning pretty much every day," she says. "It's amazing to have access to hairdressers from across the world in this way."



Hair salon owners like Nicole White (left), owner of Hair Resort, and Rassi Coiffure's Ray El Hage are keen to re-open their businesses. Their aim is to have clients feel at ease with the new health regulations.

Ray El Hage, the owner of Rassi Coiffure on Beechwood Avenue, concurs. During the lockdown, he's been focusing on his business and on himself by doing coaching programs online. "I'm loving the value that I'm getting," he says. "I'm shaping my business in a different way."

Like many stylists who develop close relationships with their clients over the years, Ray has also been doing his best to stay in contact (from a safe distance) with his customers. In fact, he's been preparing colour and product kits and delivering them to people's homes. "The neighbours hear about it and ask how I can help them," he laughs. "It just shows how fragile and sensitive people are to what we're all going through," he adds. "People appreciate beauty, and your hairstyle is part of how you express that."

While we eagerly await a return to regular hair maintenance routines, our providers are doing their best to prepare for re-opening. As Nicole points out, in this case it's an advantage that other countries are ahead of us in the virus lifecycle. "We can watch what's happening in other countries such as New Zealand, Italy, and even some provinces in Canada. Everyone is posting information and sharing how it's working for them," she says.

Although precise rules for Ontario have not been announced as of deadline, it's likely that salon owners will see changes in terms of social distancing, sanitization and appointments. For example, salons may be open longer so appointments can be spread out, reducing the number of stylists and customers on-site at any one time. If a salon is big enough, staff and clients



can maintain social distancing based on square footage by carefully managing shared spaces.

We can definitely expect baby steps: every salon will need to adjust to meet new guidelines set by public health authorities, and there's bound to be a bit of trial and error until each owner gets the pro-

cess right for their space. In the end, it's about making people feel at ease, notes Ray.

Nicole describes it perfectly: "I'll be guided by the best practices I can find to keep myself and my employees safe and well, which will also ensure our clients are safe and well too." Until then, thank goodness for hats!

Photos by Alexander McKenzie

Chris Ellis



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Tavern on Falls raring to go

André Schad is poised to relaunch his **Tavern on the Falls** at 50 Sussex Dr., beside the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, as soon as public health authorities give the go-ahead. The open-air tavern specializes in gourmet hot dogs, drinks (both alcoholic and non), live music and one of the most spectacular views in Ottawa. Though this year will be different, with the required hygiene and physical distancing protocols in place, André is hopeful that operations can resume later this summer. Find Tavern on the Falls on Facebook.

Ola Cocina support front-line workers

Ola Cocina owner **Donna Chevrier** teamed up with other top chefs in the Love Local Delivery group to take part in a project which aims to provide 300 meals a week to frontline health workers



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Ola Cocina owner Donna Chevrier.

and their vulnerable patients. Donna's group provided individually packaged meals at cost to Carefor nurses and personal support workers, as well as to their elderly, isolated clients.

Union Street café supports Mary Ellen tribute

On May 21, **Ray Boomgaardt**

and his family gathered on Avon Lane behind their back garden to greet well-wishers who strolled by to pay their respects to Ray's late wife **Mary Ellen**, who died of cancer on May 12 (see p. 36 for Condolences). Courtesy of the Boomgaardt family, friends and neighbours picked up freshly brewed coffee or tea from the **Union Street Kitchen Café** at 42 Crichton St. (onunionstreet.ca) as they headed down Avon Lane. Ray and Mary Ellen have been staunch supporters of this local gathering spot, which, along with all other eateries, has struggled during the pandemic.

—Jane Heintzman



Orchids.

Photo by Gavin Murphy



Have an event to list?
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Beechwood Market goes online for 2020 season

By Chris Penton,
Beechwood Market
Manager

On Apr. 30, I decided to move the Beechwood Market online for the 2020 season.

The provincial government has deemed farmers markets an essential service. We are technically allowed to open up – business as usual – as long as we enforce the well-known rules. Truthfully, I find the province's choice a bit suspect. As a possible recipe for a second wave of COVID-19, I would have moral difficulty opening up every Saturday. I picture my blood pressure rising a dozen points as I frantically run around with a custom-made six-foot stick, begging people to stay away from each other. It's hard to blame customers; they come to the Beechwood Market to mingle, chat with vendors, taste honey, watch their children play in Optimiste Park, and enjoy the chill vibe we have created together.

Any way you paint it, the experience you seek in a visit to the Beechwood Market has

been shattered for this season. Sitting areas, tastings, the Community Table and music will not appear. The play structure, basketball court, ping-pong tables and swimming pool would all be out of bounds. Even the washrooms in the outdoor pool facility would be off-limits!

We would also have to put in place extraordinary measures. The entire park would be roped off, customer numbers would be limited on-site, resulting in a lineup snaking its way out of the park. One-way circulation would be mandatory, and in order to avoid pinch points, interaction with vendors would be next to nil. Customers could not handle produce or bring reusable bags.

So, instead, we will take the giant step of reviving our Shopify-powered online market. You may remember we tried this out three years ago. My ego permits me to admit that that experiment failed. I never imagined these would be the circumstances under which we would see the resurgence of the online

Beechwood Market.

The process is like many others: select your produce, baking, honey, prepared meals, etc. Make a secure payment, then choose a 30-minute window in which to pick up your items. Head down to Optimiste Park on Ste-Cécile Street behind the fire station on Beechwood Avenue to safely pick up your order.

In an effort to keep traffic in the park low per City of Ottawa mandate, we are looking into home delivery options as well. Please watch our social media feeds for updates. As we all know, things change quickly in our new reality.

Rest assured that if holding an on-site market for 2020 becomes safe, sensible and permitted, we'll jump at it.

Despite this being a massive shift for all the vendors and yourselves, we never considered cancelling. See you soon!

Visit the Beechwood Market online at beechwoodmarket.ca.



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Beechwood Market manager Chris Penton has revived the online market. While customers will miss the atmosphere of the traditional market, you can still pick-up fresh local items on Saturdays this summer.

my local store

Try our Artisan Stone Baked pizza today!

Metro Beechwood
50 Beechwood Avenue

my metro

Some modifications could improve proposed path link

Continued from page 1

The committee reviewed the four options, striving to identify one alignment that was best for the neighbourhood. The committee felt that the new link must be:

- separated from the roadway;
- located on the river side of Stanley Avenue;
- aligned to preserve existing park uses; and
- designed to reduce potential conflict between drivers, pathway users and park users.

Ultimately, the committee recommended its original pathway alignment proposal to the CCC and NECA at their respective March meetings.

At NECA's March 24 meeting, City Councillor Rawlson King's staff made it clear that the only MUP alignment option that could be built in

the short term (2020 or 2021) using available funds was an option proposed by the City that aligned the paved path on the river side of the Stanley Avenue street trees, across the Fieldhouse's east lawn, around the river side of the storage shed, then past the playground.

King's staff emphasized that the committee's preferred pathway option had little chance of being built in the next decade.

While the City's "buildable now" pathway alignment is considered inferior to the alternatives, both the NECA and CCC boards encouraged the City to continue a detailed design process for the pathway link.

Proposed link can be improved further

Members of the Pathway

Design Committee noted some modifications that can be made to improve the City's pathway proposal.

- Align the path on the road-side of the storage shed between the existing maple tree and road edge, avoiding the busy front lawn of the

Fieldhouse;

- Install speed-control measures (e.g., textured paving, chicane posts) and signage on both sides of Fieldhouse front lawn;
- Create physical separation (e.g., boulders or a fence) between the paved MUP and gravel pedestrian path;
- Move all or parts of the pathway closer to the road edge to avoid activities taking place east of the Fieldhouse;
- Allow the pathway to compromise the root zone of existing shrubs and street trees especially where tree roots were disturbed by the installation of an underground electrical conduit for the CSST project under the road's gravel shoulder, instead of installing a new, impermeable surface closer to the river;
- Move the storage shed to create more space and improve sightlines;
- Move the utility pole from the pathway or move the pathway to the playground side of the pole;

Image from City of Ottawa's Twitter account



- Reduce MUP width to the odour-control facility and the width of curb cuts at Stanley Avenue to 3.0 m;
- Plant street trees in the existing gaps along Stanley Avenue;
- Complete the line of wood posts on both sides of Stanley Avenue where no curbs exist to limit disturbance of vegetation by motor vehicles;
- Install posts to prevent motor vehicle access.

Please take this opportunity to consider the proposal and share your opinions with the City of Ottawa before the June 11, 2020 deadline. Additional information and a copy of the proposed MUP plan is available at: ottawa.ca/stanleymup.

Chris Straka has lived within sight of the Rideau River Eastern MUP for more than 10 years. He was the lead on the Pathway Design Committee, informed by his association with the CCC, a master's degree in environmental design and lots of saddle time on his steel steed.



Photo by Chris Straka

The corner of Stanley Avenue and Dufferin Road. The City has proposed a design to connect a gap in the multi-use pathway, which, though not ideal, could be improved to better serve all park users.

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Plastic bags in the time of COVID

By Barbara Sibbald and Stuart Kinmond

Safety is vital during the COVID-19 pandemic, but so is accurate information.

Lately, there has been a resurgence of support for single-use plastic (SUP) bags, even though there is no scientific evidence that they are less likely to carry the virus than reusable bags.

This has generated controversy about the use of SUP bags versus reusable bags for shopping. Some Ottawa grocery stores won't allow reusable bags on their premises; others do allow them, provided customers pack their own groceries.

Some jurisdictions like Montreal have stood by their bans on SUP bags. That city permits the use of reusable bags if customers pack them. Other jurisdictions, such as the states of Maine and New Hampshire, have temporarily rescinded SUP bag bans.

This may be fueled by the Plastics Industry Association's lobby during this time of crisis to get rid of bans on SUP bags. In mid-March it asked the American

government to declare that banning SUP bags during a pandemic is a health threat. The industry cites a study from the University of Arizona and Loma Linda University which found reusable plastic bags can contain bacteria if not washed properly. That study – now 10 years old and based on a sample of only 84 bags – was funded by the American Chemistry Council, which represents major plastics manufacturers. This is not robust evidence, yet it has prompted action.

How do we move forward?

Let's begin with what we know: there is no evidence or independent studies that reusable plastic bags are responsible for the spread of COVID-19.

Whatever bags you choose to use, handling is critical to your health. Studies show that COVID-19 virus can stay alive on plastic and metal for three days, but only one day on paper or cardboard. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling any bags.

Some practical advice

Reusable bags should be

packed by the consumer, so cashiers do not touch them. Both cloth and plastic reusable bags should be washed regularly. Both can be put into a washing machine, but do not put plastic bags in the dryer.

Shoppers with cars who wish to avoid SUP bags can load their groceries back into their shopping cart after paying, wheel the cart to their car and pack the items into reusable bags. Some stores are allowing customers to pack groceries in **backpacks**. Like reusable bags, backpacks should be washed regularly.

Stores using **SUP bags** will pack them for the customer. Customers should keep in mind that if these bags are handled by an infected person, the bags could carry the virus.

If **paper bags** are available at the store, cashiers will pack these for the customers. Again, customers should remember that if the paper bag is handled by an infected person, the bag could harbour the virus. The advantage with paper is that the virus can survive up to one day only.



Photo courtesy Stuart Kinmond

Whatever bags you choose to use for grocery shopping, handling is critical to your health.

Looking ahead

Although the public attention is currently focused more on health security than environmental issues, once this pandemic is over, we will still be faced with ever-increasing pollution caused by unnecessary SUP products like plastic bags. Commitments governments have made towards bans will reassert themselves. Environment Canada will not be stopping its scientific assessment of the health and environmental impacts of micro- and

macro-plastics. The assessment might take a bit longer if resources are being reasigned to address the pandemic, but the work will not stop. Unnecessary SUPs will all be banned; it's just a matter of time.

Barbara Sibbald and Stuart Kinmond are the co-chairs of the Single-Use Plastics Group, Centretown Community Association. For more information or to contact the authors please email: plastics@centretowncitizens.ca.

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HOW TO SELL DURING A PANDEMIC

By Judy Faulkner, Broker or Record / Owner



For most of us, selling our home is the largest and most important business transaction we will ever make.

In normal circumstances, the experience can be stressful. Throw a novel coronavirus pandemic into the mix and suddenly you're dealing with a whole new emotion: fear.

The real estate industry, deemed an essential service in Ontario, has quickly modified business practices to meet health and safety standards to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Take Faulkner Real Estate, for example. It made sure everyone was protected when it helped clients who needed to put their house on the market this spring as part of a military relocation.

Faulkner Real Estate screened prospective buyers carefully to determine if the home was a good match and if they were pre-qualified for financing before viewing.

The residential brokerage made sure

interested buyers signed documentation that ensured they were in good health and that had them agree to the terms and conditions of the showing, such as the wearing of facial coverings, sanitizing of hands and maintaining a minimum six-foot distance at all times. Up to two people, accompanied by a realtor, were allowed to access the home at any one time.

All interested buyers, save for one, accepted the recent house inspection report supplied by seller.

This minimized the amount of time the sellers had to stay outside their home and also resulted in a quicker sale. The house sold, unconditionally, within six days, following 35 showings and 17 offers.

Not surprisingly, the number of homes sold fell dramatically in April due to worry and uncertainty surrounding the global pandemic.

On the bright side for sellers, prices were up in Ottawa due to low inventory, pent-up demand, and historically low interest rates. The Ottawa Real Estate Board (OREB) reported year to date figures showing a 15.1 percent increase and an 18.5 percent increase in the average sale prices for residential properties and condominiums, respectively.



Faulkner Real Estate is keeping its clients safe during the pandemic while helping them sell their homes, such as this property at 275 Second Avenue in The Glebe.

Tips for selling one's home include:

- Consider where you will pass the time when showing the house, as there are fewer places to go during the pandemic. Options include visiting a park or going on a car ride. Be sure to bring snacks and activities for young members of your family.
- Have cleansers on hand to sanitize areas of the house that can be contaminated, such as door knobs, cupboard handles, light switches, taps, and handrails on stairs. By grouping showings into one timing block, it will reduce the number of times you will need to re-sanitize your home.
- The use of eye-catching photos and/or videos to promote a house is a must, especially with open houses now prohibited.

“What’s been the best thing about lockdown for you?”

By Elizabeth Gray-Smith

New Edinburgh News adapted the “streeter” format to pandemic times. Instead of speaking with people on the street, we emailed a handful of residents, asking them to tell us about the silver linings of the pandemic lockdown, with schools and public activities cancelled, and most people working from home. Here is what they told us:



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Aletta on Crichton Street

“We’re surprised by how much we love all this togetherness during lockdown. We love seeing all the new life, the beautiful birds and other animals, return after the winter.”



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Noor and Pauline on Crichton Street

“It was easier than we thought...it removed a lot of running around on being so-called ‘busy’ on allegedly time-critical activities. Rhythm of life is more pleasant and though virtual life continues, we miss the real contact. As far as new activities I’ve adopted, I am writing more to City Hall about the degradation of the NE Heritage Conservation District because of the proposed re-zoning. We play more games with each other, which is a bit less distressing than writing to the city.”



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Paul on MacKay Street

“Honestly, it has been incredible to learn as a result of this that the less I want and need, the happier [I am]. I love my daily practice of trying to live life to the fullest. But, more than me, it has been a good lesson in simplicity for the whole family and time spent together.”



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Guy on Rideau Terrace

“We do a lot of walking around the neighbourhood. Our biggest surprise was the sheer number of people out. I never knew so many people actually lived here or that so many of them had dogs. We counted more than 200 one day.”



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Victoria on John Street

“A new hobby: my sashiko panels are a fusion of the local and the global. I find the process of making them a very pleasant way to pass the time while there is less demand for my writing and editorial work. Sewing at home increases my pleasure in my immediate surroundings and keeps stress at bay; sharing it with others forges connections across the miles.”



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Chris on Stanley Avenue

“While going for long, daily walks in the neighbourhood of New Edinburgh, Lindenlea and Rockcliffe Park, I have had a chance to appreciate just how lucky we all are around here. We pass new, modern homes and lovely makeovers, beautiful gardens and lots of friendly neighbours. I have also taken up researching and cooking many new, fun recipes which we love (alas); watching amazing new shows, movies and T.V. series on Netflix; watching too many news-casts (interesting but also frightening) and playing bridge.”



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Lauren on Crichton Street

“I like that I don’t have to go to school, but I kinda miss it. At school I would see all of my friends all day. Now I only see them on Zoom calls or sometimes biking. I would like this all to end, so I can see everybody again, and my grandma, nanna and grandpa.”

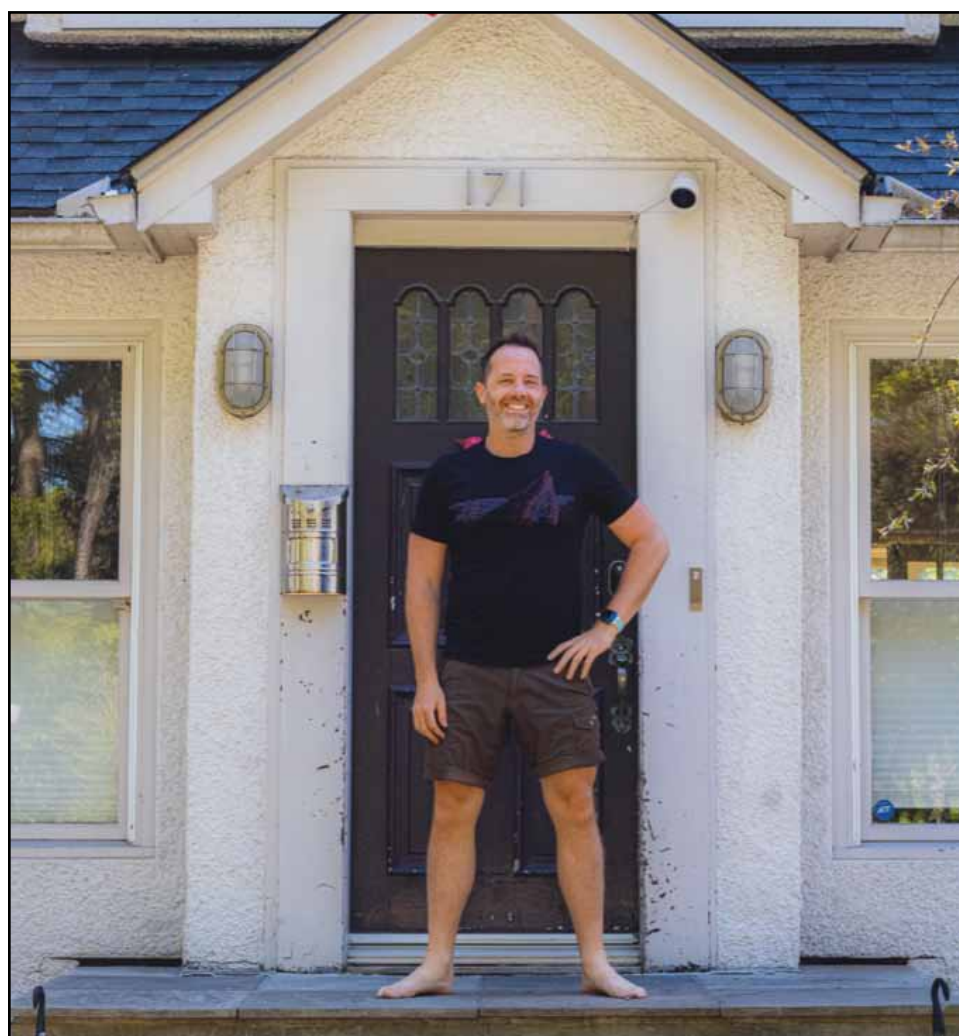


Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Sean on MacKay Street

“With my 42 km round-trip cycle commute reduced to a 0.00042 km stroll, I’ve found amazing ways to turn my one-kilometre bike-ride to the shops on Beechwood into a 50+ km odyssey that takes me past Britannia Beach, the Experimental Farm, and Hog’s Back! I’m also grateful for the opportunity to get to know all the streets (and potholes!) in New Ed and surrounding ‘hoods really well with all the running I’m now doing with gyms and pools closed for the foreseeable future.”



For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

Widespread discovery of the bird world as a source of interest, beauty and enjoyment has been one of the pandemic's silver linings. The lockdown in mid-March coincided with the start of spring migration, bringing waves of songbirds back to the area. As weeks of isolation passed, activity in the bird world was reaching its peak.

Birding conditions during the pandemic have been perfect. A dramatic decline in daily vehicle traffic left the neighbourhood eerily quiet; the exuberant sound of birdsong has been clearly audible, unmuffled by the hum of engines.

The cool spring also delayed tree blossoming, so birds have been easier to spot than in full summer when the tree canopy affords a lush hiding place. And the male birds were easily spotted in their spring breeding plumage: a brilliant red **Northern cardinal**, a rosy pink **house finch**, a plump, orange-breasted **American robin**, or a sunny yellow **American goldfinch**.

As many people have discovered, birdwatching is the ideal pandemic pastime: we can find and enjoy birds anywhere, starting in our own backyards. A few well-stocked feeders combined with trees and plants to serve as cover for vulnerable songbirds: that's a reliable formula for attracting avian activity to your yard. As temperatures rise, a water

source such as a birdbath is also a must.

Even a (socially-distanced) stroll down neighbourhood streets is a great opportunity for bird-spotting this time of year. Now that parks and public spaces are re-opened for recreational activity, we're able to expand our birdwatching sphere to include the wooded areas, parks and riverbanks surrounding our community.

A spring to remember

After an exceptionally barren and bird-less winter, the birds flocked back to our garden in March, and haven't left. Our two resident pairs of Northern cardinals have resumed their accustomed haunts in the pine trees, and are feasting on the safflower feeder.

American goldfinches are other welcome return visitors, arriving in waves in late March, and lighting up the garden with their brilliant yellow plumage. On one occasion, I glanced out the window at what I thought was a forgotten strand of Christmas lights studding our yew tree. When the lights began moving around, it became obvious that the goldfinches had taken over as the decorative touch!

Rosy **house finches** are also in abundance, feasting on our nyjer seed feeders. Nyjer (thistle) seed is most finches' preferred diet. It requires specially adapted, thin, cylinder feeders with small



A merlin.

Photo by Mike Leveille

apertures to prevent spillage (visit ottawa.wbu.com/wbu-bird-feeders or ritchfeed.com/bird-feeders-seed).

Spring 2020 has been the season of the **sparrow**. Beginning with arrival of **song sparrows** in late March, our garden has played host to a succession of sparrow species, from **dark-eyed juncos** to **white-throat sparrows**, **white-crowned sparrows**, **fox sparrows**, **American tree sparrows**, **chipping sparrows**, and – a first for me – a female **Eastern towhee**.

The Eastern towhee is a large, sparrow-like bird with a chunky body, striking rufous sides a white belly, and a prominent seed-cracking bill. The female I spotted was foraging beneath our feeders, scratching the ground and hopping back and forth in the characteristic manner of a **fox sparrow**.

For novice birders in particular, sparrow identification can be a challenge. At first glance, they all just look like small, brown birds. But closer examination can reveal important differences. Two useful field marks are:

Head colour: many have striped crowns, ranging from bold black-and-white (**white-throat** and **white-crowned sparrows**); to rufous (**American tree sparrows**, **chipping sparrows**, and **fox sparrows**); to gray and brown (**song sparrow**), to

uniform dark gray (**dark-eyed junco**);

Pattern on breast: the primary marker here is whether the breast is striped (**song sparrow**; **fox sparrow**) or clear (**chipping sparrow**, **American tree sparrow**, **white-throat** and **white-crowned sparrows** and **dark-eyed juncos**). Some species



A tom turkey as spotted in the Macoun Marsh. Photo by Mike Leveille

such as the **song sparrow** and the **American tree sparrow** may also have a central black dot on their breast.

Name that tune

Another clue to a sparrow's ID is its characteristic song. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website is a useful resource for learning the distinctive songs of different sparrows and other species: allaboutbirds.org/

news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls.

The most easily recognizable tune from the sparrow songbook is the **white-throat's** giveaway "*Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada*" refrain; it's been filling the air in our community this spring.

The **white-throat** can be hard to distinguish from its close cousin, the **white-crowned sparrow**. Both have bold, black-and-white striped heads, but the telltale difference (not always easy to see) is the **white-throat's** bright yellow "**eyebrow**" which is missing from the white-crown. The latter is also slightly larger (7" vs. 6.5"), and often slightly paler in colour.

European house sparrows are Weaver finches, not directly related to, but superficially similar to the sparrow species mentioned above. While house sparrows will happily feast at your feeders (often bullying competitors to back off) the other sparrow species are largely ground foragers, found in flowerbeds, and under feeders or shrubbery.

Black birds also turned up in significant numbers this year. **Red-winged blackbirds**, glossy **Common grackles** and **European starlings** have been around



Yellow-Rumped Warbler.

Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes

in abundance, mining lawns for grub larvae and feasting at backyard feeders. It's wise to steer clear of a red-wing's nesting site, as the males may attack anything they perceive as a threat to their young – human heads included.

American robins returned in early March (a little later than usual, thanks to lingering winter weather), and can now be seen and heard throughout



Blue Jay.

Photo by Louise Imbeault

the community. Robins are exuberant songsters, the first to be heard in the morning and the last at night. Their clear, thrush-like “**Cheeryup, cheerily**” melody does much to lift the spirits in this pandemic spring – even if it does mean a 4 a.m. start!

The **Eastern Phoebe** was the earliest member of the Flycatcher family to arrive, turning up in early April. The phoebe is a trim little bird with a grayish-brown back and a pale breast. It’s easy to spot because of its raspy “*fee-bee*” call and its quaint habit of wagging its tail while perched on a branch. If you come across one this year, chances are you’ll find a phoebe in the same spot next year, as they tend to reuse existing nests, rather than construct a new one each year.

Eastern phoebes are notorious loners, to the point that even members of a mated pair spend little time together. The female may even drive the male away from the nest in proprietary fashion, an unfriendly gesture I actually witnessed this year.

By mid-May, several more well-known insectivores were on the scene, notably **gray catbirds** and **great-crested flycatchers**.

In late April, two **ruby-crowned kinglets** arrived in our garden. Ruby-crowns are tiny birds (4.5”), so named for the small, red patch on the male’s crown. When the bird is agitated, the ruby crown sticks up like a mini-mohawk haircut, but it’s often difficult to detect, and is absent altogether in the female.

A number of lovely **warblers** appeared in our garden this spring. For

several days, we hosted pair of **pine warblers** which were attracted to our apple and crabapple trees. The male has a striking yellow throat and breast, with an olive-green back; the less showy female has similar plumage, but more muted in colour. Both are avid insectivores but will also avail themselves of sunflower seed in backyard feeders.

In mid-April, a male **palm warbler** arrived to forage beneath our feeders. Both sexes of the palm warbler have striking chestnut crowns, yellow eyebrows and throat, and streaky chestnut-coloured underparts. The birds are noted for their habit of hopping about on the ground in search of insects.

Yellow-rumped warblers also turned up in April. They’re among the earliest of the warbler family to return in spring and are ubiquitous in our community. Because they’re sociable creatures, they’re more easily spotted than their shyer cousins. While their markings are not as bold as some other warblers, on close inspection they’re unmistakable. Look for bright yellow rump patches, with clear yellow patches on the sides and on the crown of the male.

Still to come later this summer: several more of the warblerspecies which frequent our area: **yellow warblers**, **yellow throat warblers**, **American redstarts**, **chestnut-sided warblers**, **blackburnian warblers** and **black-and-white warblers**. To get help with bird identification, visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s site allaboutbirds.org/news and try their new Merlin app:

click the “Try Merlin”: button at the bottom.

Common ravens continued to announce their presence this spring, particularly close to Rideau Falls, the French Embassy and Sussex Drive. On more than one occasion, I’ve spotted two very vocal ravens on top of a chimney at 24 Sussex, so perhaps they’ve chosen the prime ministerial residence as a nesting site.

As always, bird life on the Rideau River has been dominated by the ever-present and ever-expanding population of noisy **Canada geese**. Fluffy goslings were plentiful in May; sweet as they are, it won’t be long until they, too, are imposing, pushy critters fouling the grass and bike-paths.

We’ve also spotted several pairs of **hooded mergansers**, **common goldeneye** and **mallards**, as well as a lone **double-crested cormorant** on the river close to the falls. Clouds of shapely **tree swallows** turned up in May to perform their accustomed aerial display, swooping low over the water’s surface to pick up insects, and soaring back up again to eat.

Many more of our avian regulars are abundant: **black-capped chickadees**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, and **downy-, hairy- and pileated woodpeckers**; **blue jays**, **mourning doves**, and **turkey vultures**. It’s been a spring to remember!

Reports from our readers

This season’s most astonishing local birding tale comes from our neighbours the **Paradine** family, at the corner of River Lane and School Lane. It began when the Paradines discovered a female **mallard** and four recently fledged ducklings in their backyard. Things swiftly escalated as two more ducklings suddenly appeared on the scene, followed by several more babies dropping out of a nest midway up a hydro pole. We’ve all heard about “raining cats and dogs,” but “raining ducklings?!” By the end of the episode, a dozen Mallard ducklings had landed on solid ground, and (we hope) were safely ushered down to the river by their mother.

St. Laurent Academy’s **Mike Leveille** reports that the Macoun Marsh has hosted large numbers of **ruby-crowned** and **golden-crowned kinglets**, along with

an **American woodcock**, a **merlin pair**, a **Tom Turkey** and numerous **turkey vultures**.

Phil’s Avian Bistro at Thomas and Alexander Streets welcomed record numbers of visitors this spring, ranging from **American goldfinches**, **house finches** and **purple finches**, to **red-winged blackbirds**, **common grackles**, **Northern cardinals**, **black-capped chickadees**, **white-throat sparrows**, and **chipping**

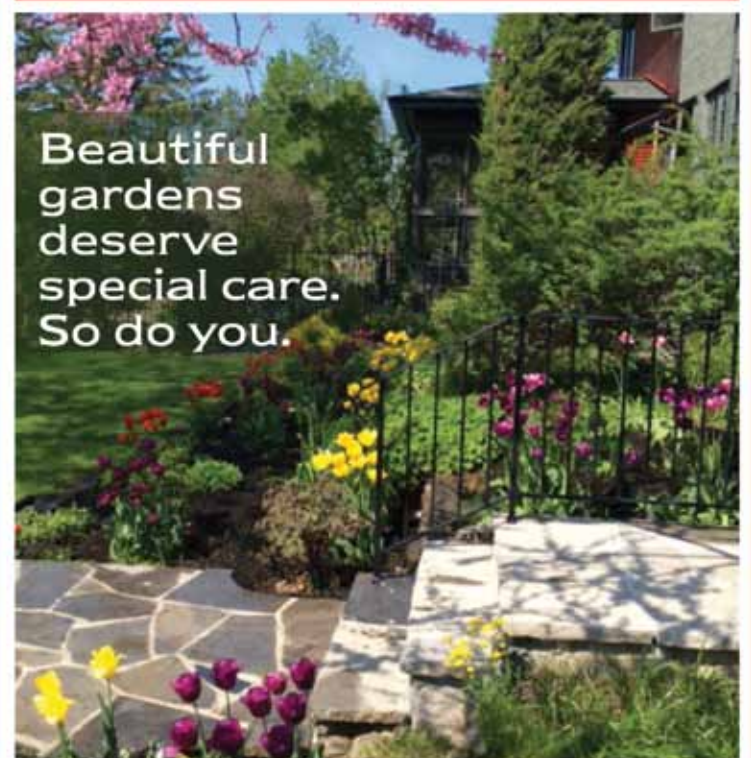
sparrows. Elsewhere in the neighbourhood, Philip spotted a **northern flicker**, three **wild turkeys**, and a cloud of **tree swallows** swooping over the river.

British Columbia birding correspondent **Vicki Metcalfe** has been largely confined to quarters this spring, and has focused on her backyard birds such as **Anna’s hummingbirds**, **Bewicks wrens** and **golden-crowned sparrows**.



American Goldfinch.

Photo by Amy-Jane Lawes



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In Memoriam – Ethel Sivyer Proulx (1929–2020)

By Carolyn Brereton

Our sincere condolences to the family of Ethel Sivyer Proulx who passed away May 3. Longtime readers of the *New Edinburgh News* may recall Ethel as she wrote the popular “*Memories of the Burgh*” column for more than 20 years. Her family ties with New Edinburgh go back to the late 1800s.

Ethel’s maternal grandfather, Ferdinand Buske, came from Germany in the 1880s with his mother and two sisters. They settled – as did many other German immigrants of the day – in New Edinburgh. In 1888, Ferdinand built the house that still stands at 349 MacKay St. Looking at the home today, it’s hard to imagine raising nine children (Ethel’s mother, Rose Buske, was the eldest) in this small two-storey, wood-frame structure. With the exception of a few years in the mid 1950s, the property remained in the Buske family for the next 100 years.

Ethel Hilda Ida Sivyer was born 91 years ago in what was, at the time, the only house on Taylor Lane: the short lane that runs between Dufferin Road and Noel Street. Years later, while doing research at the Municipal Archives on Stanley Avenue, Ethel was surprised to discover that she had been born “on a lane with no name,” as Taylor Lane was not listed in the Ottawa Street Directory for 1929. Further research revealed that until the 1960s, 1 Taylor Lane was listed as 296 1/2 Mackay St. Ethel’s family subsequently moved to a row house on Bertrand Street in the 1930s where they were surrounded by other members of the Buske and Sivyer clans. Her Uncle Bill and Aunt Florence ran Buske Taxi service, known as “The Closest



Photo provided by the Proulx family

Ethel Proulx, born and raised in New Edinburgh, died May 3. For 20 years she wrote a column in this newspaper.

Taxi to Rockcliffe,” for many years from their home at 351 MacKay St.

Ethel attended the St. Lucas Lutheran School, which was located on Dufferin Road where the stacked townhomes are now. In one of her earlier columns, she shared her memories of the one-room, redbrick schoolhouse and of teacher George Hartwick, who taught at the school for 49 years: from 1896 until his death in 1945!

Ethel married her beloved husband John Louis Proulx in 1947. In those days, brides were expected to convert to the religion of their spouses, but Ethel, a staunch Lutheran her whole life, refused to become a Catholic so the ceremony took place in the rectory of St. Brigid’s Church. It was not until 25 years later that she realized her dream of walking down the aisle. This

time, the happy couple reaffirmed their wedding vows at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church.

Ethel was a passionate amateur historian, whose love for her community was second only to her love of family. After her husband died in 1986, she moved away, but no matter where she lived, New Edinburgh was always home to her and her memories of the Burgh were a precious part of her life.

She was an *NEN* editor’s dream contributor: always sending her column in on time and never needing a reminder. Her column put her in touch with so many interesting people and she loved sharing their stories. She spent many happy hours doing research at the Municipal Archives on Stanley Avenue (now a condominium, the history of the building at the corner of Keefer was the subject of

another column, of course). Her columns were so popular they were compiled into a book. Now sadly out of print, the first volume of *Memories of the Burgh* was published in 1991. *More Memories of the Burgh* followed in 1999.

No tribute to Ethel would be complete without mentioning her love of euchre, a card game that was very popular with residents of the Burgh in the years before and after World War II. Ethel remembered a time when euchre games were a weekly highlight. Eventually, these games petered out, but Ethel brought euchre back to the Burgh in 1971. At first, only three people joined her, and they played in the basement lunchroom at Crichton Street School. Over the years the club grew in size and games were held in different locations. Even when she had other paying or volunteer jobs, the Euchre Club was always important to

Ethel. She would rush from her job, pick up those who needed a ride (she learned to drive at the age of 50!) and arrive in time to set up for the weekly games. In 1996, the New Edinburgh Euchre Club proudly celebrated its 25th anniversary, by then in its permanent home, in the “Ladies Parlour” at MacKay Church Hall.

We are extremely grateful to Ethel for sharing her memories with us for so many years and for chronicling the history of the Burgh in her own, very personal style. We extend our deepest sympathies to her children: Barry Proulx, Carmen Kingsley, Mary-Ann Toste and Jane Cierpicki, and to her 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Brereton is a former editor of the *New Edinburgh News* and a regular contributor.



Photo courtesy Jane Cierpicki

Ethel Sivyer, pictured age 16 in 1945, two years before she married John Louis Proulx.

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— by Ethel Sivyier Proulx —

Sussex Drive

This article, written by Ethel Proulx for her Memories of the Burgh column, originally ran in the New Edinburgh News in the late 1980s.

Have you ever walked along Sussex Drive and wondered what it was like years ago? Did it always have all that green space and those beautiful homes? The answer is "Not really." To begin with, it was a very busy street with government buildings, lots of homes and very little green space.

In those days, what is now the Prime Minister's residence belonged to the Florence Paper Co. It was then sold to Senator Edwards, owner of Edward's Mill. He lived there with his daughter, Edna Boyne; she remained a resident of the Burgh until her death some years ago.

On the corner of John Street and Sussex Drive was the Mansfield Hotel, and at the foot of John Street was the big wharf that the kids of the Burgh used to swim from. A ferry operating from the wharf brought hay and straw from Gatineau to the market. Near the wharf there was a yacht that belonged to Gordon Edwards.

Where the French Embassy is today, there was Mr. Blackburn's house facing the river. He owned the Mica Factory at the corner of Dufferin and Crichton.

Living next door to the Blackburns were the Lemay family who operated a store for lumbermen. The store was

at Sussex and Murray. Mr. Lemay left (or sold) his house to his son, the doctor.

The Boyd family lived on the corner of MacKay.

Who remembers the Sparrow family who ran an ice cream parlour between John and Alexander? Next door to the parlour was Eleanor Ward's Convenience Store. Between Alexander and MacKay there were four stone houses owned by Mrs. Neate. All the houses had huge furnaces in the corner of their kitchens. Does anybody remember the James, Smiths, Wittenbergs and Fairnies who lived in those houses?

At the corner of Stanley and Sussex was the Department of Agriculture where they did experiments. Did you know that our No. 6 Fire Station on MacKay Street was on Sussex? (Now No. 6 has been moved to Beechwood). During the wartime, there was an Army Mess upstairs at the station. (Some of the soldiers spent a lot of time at Ward's Store).

At the back of the Fire Station there were barns where the snow boxes were stored. They used to get rid of the snow by hitching two horses to pull each snow box, followed by six men filling each box with snow, it was not easy work and these men really earned their money. If you were walking up Crichton Street early in the morning, you could hear these 20 or 30 men working away, taking the snow from

the sides of the road. Jake Westfall was their foreman and he certainly was one of the best. Work was scarce in those days but, as foreman, he made sure that each man who wanted to work would get two or three days a week. He divided the work equally so that each man would have money and wouldn't have to go on "Relief," as it was called then.

Next door to No. 6 Fire Station was Bill Neate's Grocery Store and Sub-Post Office. It was first owned by Bill's father, Charles. Bill's wife, Ruby, worked with him in the store and after school his two daughters, Olive and Lois, helped out. Lois would deliver the mail and parcels to Rockcliffe, morning and afternoon. In the Winter she would go by sleigh, driven by Harvey Hyde. The Neates had a very good business there as they had people from the Food and Drug and from

the National Film Board as customers. Upstairs there was an apartment where Mr. Jenkins lived. Lois Neate never left the Burgh. She married Howard MacKay and they live on Crichton Street. Behind Neate's Store there were barns that stored old streetcars and horse-drawn cars. They had an open car that went from Rockcliffe to Britannia. At the bridge near Green Island (where City Hall is now), there was a small hut where a man named Charlie worked making sure that the street cars would not meet on the bridge.

The Film Board. Did you know that two movies were filmed in the Burgh? People came from Hollywood to do a portion of the film "The Man from Glengarry" at the Falls. Another portion of that movie was filmed in Rockcliffe. One of the Burgh boys, Frank Grommall from MacKay Street was one of the

crowd in one scene.

The other movie was "Captain of the Clouds," with James Cagney. A girl from MacKay Street was in that film (but I could not find out who it was). That portion was filmed on Sussex and Redpath.

We also had the Bureau of Statistics, across from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, where City Hall is now. We also had a Census Board on Sussex.

Who remembers the big house on the corner of Sussex and Lady Grey Drive that belonged to the Order of Franciscans? Inside was a Chapel where they served Mass. The Order later moved to Stanley Avenue at St. Vincent de Paul Church. And how many remember when the N.C.C. (National Capital Commission) was known as the O.I.C. (Ottawa Improvement Commission)?

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For whom the bell tolls



Photo by Janet Ruddock

Avon Lane is quieter than usual during the pandemic, writes resident Janet Ruddock.

By Janet Ruddock

The silence is deafening around here.

The fellow who wrote “Go placidly amongst the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence” wasn’t living in a pandemic.

I, for one, could use a bit of noise and haste just now. It’s too darn peaceful back there on Avon Lane.

I miss the thump, thump, thump of the boys happily playing basketball; kids riding bikes along the busy thoroughfare; little ones arguing in the backyards until patient (or impatient) parents intervene; neighbours chatting over fences. It all still happens, just not as often.

It’s comforting when “someone lets the dog out” to bark a while at nothing at all going on out there. Two neighbourhood cats take turns sitting in the sunshine way up three stories on the roof next door. It is anyone’s guess how they schedule their times up there. It’s hard to know why cats do anything. In any case, cats don’t contribute much noise to Avon Lane at any time.

The usual folks are out there strolling, keeping their physical distance. Conversations break out, but quietly and not as many. Folks who normally wouldn’t bother noisily reorganize their garages just for something to do. There’s some traffic on the lane, but not much. No one’s going anywhere.

Tuesdays are great. Everyone’s dragging out the designated coloured bins because we all dutiful-

ly check our City recycling schedules so we don’t get it wrong except when we sometimes do. Then the garbage trucks galumph along making a grand old racket. And how about those street sweepers. They do their bit – well, once anyway.

There’s even the odd sight-seer clutching a map of “A Walking Tour of New Edinburgh” from the April edition of the *New Edinburgh News*. Welcome to Avon Lane! Enjoy your visit with us.

Make some noise please. Liven things up out there.

I saw a small group on that one warm Saturday we had a while back. I trust they were all from the same household. They certainly were not keeping their personal space. I’m not sure Avon Lane is marked on that walking tour. Maybe they got lost looking for the Prime Minister’s residence. Sorry, folks. Last time I checked he wasn’t living on Avon Lane. Better check behind that big wrought iron fence on the next street.

I give top marks to neighbours on the lane for their impromptu cocktail party from afar last weekend. They set up lawn chairs, snacks and drinks – something worthwhile I trust – just outside their various garages and chatted at a companionable but safe distance. It was lovely hearing the sounds of normality from my second-floor deck. Too far away to join in, but lovely just the same. Cheers!

It’s Easter Sunday morning,

10 a.m. and strangely silent. I suppose Easter Sunday ought to be peaceful any year, perhaps especially this year as we reflect on what’s happening in this world in which we live. I don’t know about you, but I’ve had too much time to reflect during all that peace and quiet out there on Avon Lane and everywhere else. I miss the hustle and bustle of people heading for church at St. Bart’s or MacKay United; car doors slamming; folks telling each other to hurry up, we’re late. No one’s late. No one’s going to church. No church bells ringing. I miss those church bells, too, now that I think about it.

Then, hey: what’s that sound? Bells bonging somewhere out there. Where are they coming from? I open the deck door, letting in freezing drizzle and wonder why Easter ads always show little girls in sleeveless sundresses. The bells bong louder – joyously, not in the solemn mood we’ve been feeling of late. It quite lifts my spirit. For a moment, I forget about the doom and gloom in the news and on this particularly wet, dismal day. Things will get better. I hope everyone hears those bells. All too soon, the bells stop ringing. And then, silence again on Avon Lane.

Janet Ruddock and her husband moved to a currently quiet New Edinburgh last September after 10 years in Washington and Boston with Foreign Affairs Canada. Janet is a writer, traveler, lover of the arts and advocate for those living with chronic pain.

Behind the veil of New Edinburgh's Joseph Cull

By Ian Parker

Joseph Cull admits he's a bit of a character. Or make that...many characters.

His repertoire includes quintessential Australian diva Dame Edna Everage, Mama Morton from the musical *Chicago*, and Queen Elizabeth II.

"The Queen is my favourite," he says in a phone interview with the *New Edinburgh News*. "She is a beacon of decency. I pay homage to this extraordinary human being, a powerful woman with a sense of calm and decency which is sorely lacking in today's society."

Joseph was dressed up as Her Majesty when the Trudeau family came a-knockin' one Halloween night. He also portrayed the Queen when he performed on the National Arts Centre's Fourth Stage at a fundraiser for the Magnetic North Festival in March 2016.

"It was a racier Queen than usual," he says.

Joseph Cull was born in Douglas, Ont. He attended Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa. His first job was in Social Services with the City of Ottawa teaching life skills to disabled adults before moving into fitness with older adults at the YMCA.

"I love working with older people: they have the best stories to tell. I won the [career] lottery," he says referring to the Y's fitness program, "and I'm still doing it."

He arrived in the Burgh in the late 1980s. He partnered



The not-so-hidden life of New Edinburgh royalty: Joseph Cull.

Photo by Garth Gullekson

in a catering business at 42 Crichton St. Then he had a son Cory, who moved in with him and Ian Englebert, his long term partner, when Cory was seven. Joseph and Ian have now been together for 38 years. "We were married in 2004. We are happily married."

As a single parent, Joseph had to stay at home to look after Cory, so he left the food catering business and the YMCA job.

"Parenting is a gift and a job that is never boring, but it is not easy," he says. "It never ends. You either get involved or you let them bring up themselves. I grew up in a large family and Ian has two

siblings. You kind of take what was get in your own upbringing and you add a few elements." Cory is now in his 30s. "We are proud parents, so it has worked out."

Today, Joseph teaches fitness part-time with the City of Ottawa in the Glebe and in Blackburn Hamlet. His Young at Heart classes, sponsored by the Heart Institute, emphasize staying healthy and engaged and having an active lifestyle.

The other half of Joseph's time is spent fundraising. He volunteers at NECTAR (formerly the Crichton Community Cultural Centre) and is a long-time volunteer and fundraiser for the Maycourt Hospice. "I'm now

in my eighteenth year doing Home for the Holidays. We just finished the Hike for Hospices, raising \$135,000 and surpassing our goal of \$125,000."

Joseph got involved in women's issues and shelters in Ottawa years ago, when a neighbour needed help and he stepped in. "I think women have been shortchanged for far too long. My mother was a strong, passionate, hard-working woman and women of that generation knew what their position was – it never seemed fair to me. And I have sisters who are nurses and they work their fingers to the bone. I have no patience for this lack of equality women

still have to face, shockingly, in 2020."

Cornerstone Housing for Women is one of the local organizations dear to his heart. "People who need people to advocate and speak on their behalf is never ending. It's just a natural thing to who I am, I guess," Joseph explains. "We all have a voice and if you can give a hand-up to someone else, your voice is a strong one. It just disturbs me, the violence against women. It's on the rise again with this COVID-19 isolation. I think women and children have to endure a lot more now that they are even more isolated."

In January 2013, Joseph was presented with the Mayor's City Builder Award for his work with the YMCA's Older Adult Program and for his volunteer work and fundraising efforts.

"When they called me I couldn't believe it," Joseph recalls. "I have always been a prankster and I played many jokes on many people, and I thought someone was playing a trick on me. Then they called me back and said 'I know you think this is a joke. But it isn't.'"

He recalls the ceremony at City Hall with Mayor Jim Watson as "a great honour and a surprise. I can make a fool of myself and put myself in a dress, but that's not why I do that stuff," says Joseph.

"I just want to make sure that the city I live in is a good place for all."

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New board members to guide NECTAR on a fresh path

By **Marta M. Reyes**

The New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre (NECTAR) is starting yet another new chapter, with a new team of artists at the helm.

The iconic former manse at 255 MacKay St. that for the past 10 years has housed NECTAR has seen its fair share of change, most recently a conditional sale.

While the future of the house is still unsettled, NECTAR continues to function in its current role as a community gathering place and hub of artists' studios at 255 MacKay St.

Most recently it has opened its doors to new board members, and with them, potential new beginnings.

"The energy of the new board is great, I'm really excited about having them onboard," says Sean Flynn, NECTAR's Director and past Chair of the board. Sean is still involved with the new board as its members transition into their new roles.

The new Board has met only a handful of times, embracing technology with virtual meetings in light of COVID-19 restrictions. In addition to

fresh energy and ideas, the new members bring a wealth of cultural and ethnic diversity from their respective backgrounds. This, according to Sean, could potentially lead NECTAR towards a different path than anything the centre has seen so far. The group aspires to gain increased support from the City and an ally in Rawlson King, the ward's city councillor.

A year ago, NECTAR hosted the No Borders Arts Festival, which featured artists from many disciplines, backgrounds, and cultures to showcase their work, including paintings and film, all in one spot. That NECTAR was that spot and that Rawlson King was emcee at the opening ceremony could pave the way to a possible future role for the former manse.

"Everything just fell into place," says Sean. In fact, some of the new board members were also part of that event.

Whatever path the future holds for NECTAR Centre, it has been nurtured over the years by a dedicated group of advocates and supporters, some of whom served as past board members, and who did

a significant amount of heavy lifting for NECTAR during some very challenging times.

And now a new group of people have accepted the challenge of steering the organization into the future. Meet NECTAR's new board members:

Carmel Whittle – Chair

Carmel Whittle is an accomplished Irish-Mi'kmaq visual artist, musician and songwriter, educator and independent filmmaker hailing originally from Newfoundland. She has lived on Algonquin territory for many years. Carmel served as the Indigenous liaison for Gallery 101 and is an art educator for people with disabilities. She is co-chair of the Arts Health Network Ottawa and a member of the National Network. She has served on the Sandy Hill Housing Co-op board of directors and is co-Director of the No Borders Art Festival.

Pedro Diaz – Co-Chair

Pedro is Director and Co-founder of the Churún-Merú Venezuelan Folkloric dancing group of Ottawa. He is a well-known member in the Latin-American community in Ottawa.

Suny Jacob – Treasurer

Suny is the founder of Lineage Arts on Bank Street, a gallery dedicated to showcasing art from Indigenous and ethnic-minority artists around the world. He has a long and impressive career in advocacy in support of marginalized people.

Patsea Griffin – Secretary

Born and raised in Ottawa, Patsea is special blend of many bloodlines including Ontario Métis with roots in the Algonquin Nation (Allumettes Island) and European settler communities. She is founder of the Thunderbird Sisters Collective non-profit organization as well as a co-director of the No Borders Art Festival, board member (secretary) with both the Multicultural Artists' Coalition (MAC) and NECTAR. She is also owner of Shining Water Designs. At NECTAR, she also leads the "Beading with Patsea!" workshops.

Luis Guillermo Leigh – Director

Luis is no stranger to

NECTAR, having served on the board for a number of years. For almost a decade Luis has been an artist with Mainworks, a long-standing group of artists established back when NECTAR was originally known as the Crichton Cultural Community Centre (CCCC) operating out of the former Crichton Street School.

Drew Bernard – Director

Drew is an accomplished Mainworks artist and has been a key member of the NECTAR community.

Sean Flynn – Director and Past Chair

Sean is the past chair of NECTAR. He has chosen to stay on the board to provide the new team with the background, support, and organizational history as they decide on the Centre's future. While Sean is not artistically inclined, he loves the arts and the community, and is happy to see both continue to flourish at NECTAR going forward.

Many members of NECTAR's previous board stayed on to assist with resubmitting NECTAR's application for charitable status when the new board took over in April. Many of these former members served for several years, and their hard work has helped to make NECTAR what it is today.

Isobel Bisby – Previous Co-Chair

Without Isobel, there truly would be no NECTAR Centre! She has provided tremendous energy, dedication, and support to fellow board members, staff, and the dedicated community of artists, instructors and users. Isobel joining the NECTAR board nearly a decade ago after a lengthy stint on the CCCC board – her contributions to NECTAR and the community are too numerous to list.

Bethann Robin – Previous Treasurer; Former Chair

Bethann was one of the last original founding members of the board going back to the genesis of the CCCC. Bethann's stewardship of the organization throughout its incredible and sometimes volatile history was remarkable. NECTAR is grateful for her long tenure and contributions to the New Edinburgh

community.

Cindy Riley – Previous Secretary

Cindy has been an active member of the community for more than 30 years. NECTAR was fortunate to have Cindy as Secretary, helping to keep the former board on track during meetings. With her entrepreneurial background, Cindy provided the board with insights and experience when the CCCC re-launched as NECTAR in 2011–2012 with new staff and new location at 255 MacKay St.

Jennifer Barbarie – Previous Director

Jenni served on the board for nearly a decade, living with the organization's ups and downs. She was able to connect NECTAR with some key people and community organizations and with many fundraising efforts. At board meetings, she constructively questioned some of the difficult decisions NECTAR had to face and helped ensure the board considered alternative courses of action.

David Horley – Previous Director; Former Co-Chair

Another long-time member of the board, David has used his charm and good humour to help NECTAR through the good times and the bad. David's helpful insights and guidance helped ensure the Centre stayed the course while navigating some contentious community issues.

Studio spaces available

The NECTAR Centre at 255 MacKay St. has studio spaces available starting June 1. If you need a space away from home to get work done, this might be just the place. Our Community Room is now available as a Zoom Room for people needing a large space to demonstrate a physical activity. We offer reasonable rates. All spaces include high speed internet, and a projector and sound system are also available. Please contact Paul Tonkin at 613-794-3840 or email nectarcentregm@gmail.com.



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Cut out and take these Bingo cards with you on your next walk and see if you can find the following items. Shout “Bingo!” once you cross off five items up, down or across. It’s a fun activity for all ages!

New Edinburgh Bingo				
House under construction	Old Xmas wreath	People wearing masks	Person walking two dogs	a bench
Canada flag	Dog barking	House number 99	A red patio umbrella	A boat or canoe
A butterfly	Poster supporting health workers	Free Space	House number 227	Car with red licence plate
A stained-glass window	A birch tree	Empty coffee cup	Outdoor pool	A tricycle
Children playing outside	Spare car tires	Item of lost clothing	A church	A heritage plaque

New Edinburgh Bingo				
A tricycle	Purple flowers	Hockey stick	Spare car tires	“For sale” sign
A red patio umbrella	Car with blue licence plate	Children scootering	A birch tree	Bird bath or fountain
Hockey net	A play structure or swing	Free Space	A rainbow	A heritage plaque
Person walking two dogs	People wearing masks	House under construction	Sidewalk hopscotch	A butterfly
Bird house or feeder	Canada flag	A stained-glass window	Item of lost clothing	House number 145

New Edinburgh Bingo				
Spare car tires	Outdoor pool	Item of lost clothing	Empty coffee cup	A boat or canoe
House under construction	People wearing masks	Purple flowers	Dog barking	Two-colour flowers
Sculpture in a yard	Old Xmas wreath	Free Space	A red patio umbrella	Children scootering
A rainbow	A tricycle	Hockey stick	A play structure or swing	Bird house or feeder
A newspaper box	Car with blue licence plate	A church	A New Edinburgh banner	House number 78

New Edinburgh Bingo				
Car with red licence plate	Person walking two dogs	Outdoor pool	A "little free library"	A butterfly
A dumpster	A boat or canoe	Empty coffee cup	a bench	House number 99
A play structure or swing	A New Edinburgh banner	Free Space	Sidewalk hopscotch	A tree in blossom
Bird house or feeder	Children playing outside	Empty water bottle	A red patio umbrella	A heritage plaque
Hockey net	House under construction	A baby	A bench	sunflowers

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Church inspired by generous response to food bank fundraising challenge

By Rev. Joel Crouse,
 St. John Lutheran Church

This pandemic has been unsettling for all of us, and tragic for many Canadians. But we have also seen heartwarming examples of compassion and generosity, including right here our own neighbourhood.

On March 11, St. John Lutheran Church made the difficult decision to cancel church services to protect its members and the community, but also to set an example of physical distancing. Shortly after, the option of holding worship as usual was prevented officially by the ban on large group gatherings.

But even though the congregation could no longer meet in person, the challenge remained: how would St. John keep up with its outreach work?

Each week, the church collects donations and food for the Partage Vanier Food Bank, and it was important that this continue, even though the church itself was facing questions about how to keep up with its own bills.

"We learned that the food bank had an acute need for cash," said Art Pittman, the chair of St. John's church council. "Families were at

risk of going hungry as people lost their jobs."

So, St. John started its first GoFundMe challenge, and set the goal for fundraising at a daunting \$12,500 – a dollar figure chosen to reflect the 125th anniversary the parish will celebrate this year. The response was immediate. The goal was more than half-funded within a week. Within the month, we surpassed the fundraising goal when donations delivered directly to the church were added to those made online through GoFundMe. As of May 24, the donation stood at \$15,000.

We've received donations not only from members at St. John, but also from other churches, individuals and families.

"It's a great story of kindness in a time when aspects of this crisis have taken a huge toll – often in unseen ways due to social distancing," said Rev. Peter Woods, the minister at MacKay United Church, which responded quickly to support the initiative. "I hope and pray that the inspirations found in these complex days echo loud and clear into our future practices as faith communities and neighbors."

This community response is

a further symbol of how, even while being forced to stay at a distance, we can still reach out and help each other. A church does not exist to tend to its own bricks and mortar, but to be in mission for others. That so many families also look beyond their front doors for ways to help vulnerable Canadians during this difficult time is truly inspiring.

"The pandemic is hard on all of us," said Art. "I believe this shows how people are unified and fulfilled, when they work together to love their neighbours."

The need at the Partage Vanier Food Bank may only increase as the months go on. The GoFundMe challenge still exists, and St. John is optimistic that the community will continue to be generous with their support and that we will find new ways to help families in need.

These are uncertain times going forward with the risk of a second wave, the fall-out of an economic downturn, so many jobs lost, and lives interrupted. But we can take hope from our choice to stay united as a community.

To learn more, visit gofundme.com and search for St John Lutheran Ottawa.



Former Burgh resident Catherine Willis-O'Connor likes to paint pictures of parks, people's houses and business store fronts (like Muckleston & Brockwell butchery, above). Contact her at cwillisoconnorfolkart.weebly.com.

Learning and community have stayed strong during school closure

By Heather Mace,
Principal, RPPS

Spirit the dragon, Rockcliffe Park Public School's mascot, looks longingly out over the school courtyard, hoping to catch a glimpse of students nearby.

Since the school closed its doors in March, the RPPS educators and staff have been working to connect with students and to support learning at home in unconventional

munity:

1. Think – Try – Do.
2. Be creative.
3. Stay active and eat healthy.
4. Be yourself.
5. Take care of others.

In keeping with the Big Five, RPPS staff has worked throughout the learn-at-home closure to stay connected with our positive community.

Early in April, tomato growing kits were put together for any student who requested

ful parade – staff also visited a local retirement residence. It was a chance for caring connections between our staff and students to check in during this difficult time. Later that month, RPPS staff organized a project called Show Me Your Colours, where students used donated paint swatches to write messages about the school. The paint swatches will form a colourful display to welcome students back when the school is able to re-open – as an artifact from our time apart.

In June, RPPS students will be challenged to create a chalk scene on their driveway or sidewalk that they themselves are part of: perhaps a drawing that looks like they're running with butterflies or picking flowers. We look forward to seeing students' creativity!

Book Fair

The RPPS Book Fair is a long-standing community event. For now, the Book Fair donation bins are closed until further direction is received from Ottawa Public Health and the school board. The team of volunteers is watching the COVID-19 situation with trepidation, in hopes to find a way to host the event in November.

Screen-free

Our educators know that screen-time is not best for developing brains – even if it gives a break to working parents! Some of non-screen ideas from our classrooms include:

- Get a bucket of water and a paintbrush. Go outside to paint the rocks, the sidewalk, or stones. Watch how long it takes to dry in the shade or in

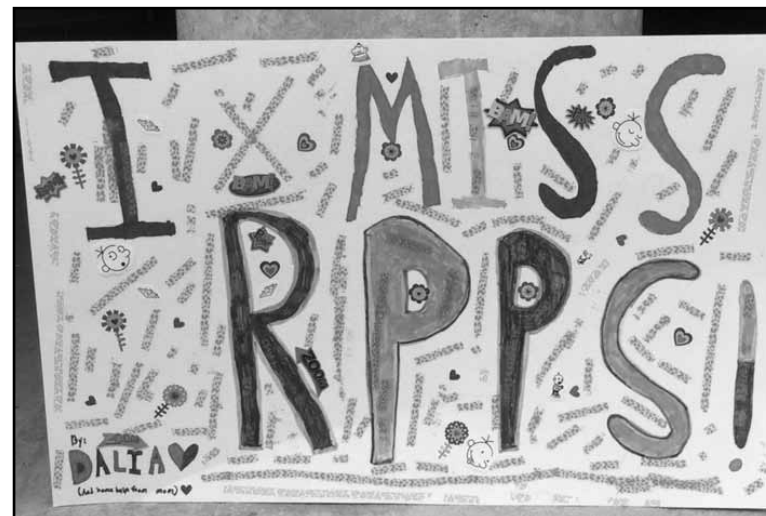


Photo courtesy Heather Mace

Staff and students at Rockcliffe Park Public School have come up with creative ways to stay connected during the lockdown.

the sun. Why the difference?

- Go for a letter walk in your community. What is the first letter of your name? Walk your yard, your street, your neighbourhood and looks for things that start with that letter. You can repeat with letters from members of your family, or use "sounds" instead of letters.

- Create a sidewalk obstacle course or scene. Can you make drawings that make us hop like a bunny, leap,

walk backwards, or clap your hands? Can you draw a picture on the sidewalk and make a space for you to be part of it when you lie or sit down in it?

While the RPPS educator team is separated from its wonderful students, learning and community have stayed strong and caring throughout school closures.

Heather Mace is the principal at Rockcliffe Park Public School.



Photo courtesy Heather Mace

In May, some RPPS staff took part in a colourful parade to cheer up students in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

ways. Our staff were neither experts in online learning, nor in the technology required to support it. However, our educators embraced the challenge and quickly worked to build their skills; tools like Google Meet, Screencastify, Google Classroom and more are now part of learning tool-kit.

Who would have predicted that kindergarten students would be meeting their teachers online to share stories from their stuffed animals, that our grade 1 classes would be doing yoga online, that our grade 3 class would be going on a virtual field trip to the Aviation Museum, or that our grade 6 students would be presenting TED Talks to each other through Google Meet?

The Big Five

RPPS school days are based on what we call the "Big Five" – five things students can do each day to become a stronger student and to build our school as a positive com-

munity. The simple kits included paper cups, seeds, and soil. Families have shared their pictures of tomatoes growing along the way, and we hope to share our tomato harvest with food banks later in the season.

Car parade

In May, RPPS staff volunteered their time to drive by students houses in a colour-

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Bumper crop of book advice from Books on Beechwood

Although the store is not yet open for drop-in shopping or browsing, Books on Beechwood continues to process **online or telephone orders** for pre-arranged pick-up in the store vestibule, or local delivery in New Edinburgh, Manor Park, Rockcliffe Park, Vanier and Lindenlea. **Pick-up hours are Tuesday–Friday from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**, with prearranged timeslots to facilitate one-at-a-time service. To browse the collection or place an order, visit the online store at **store.booksonbeechwood.ca** or call **613-742-5030**. Store hours are currently **Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.** For the latest updates on store operations and eventually, a re-opening date, visit the bookstore’s Facebook page.

Recommendations from Antoinette

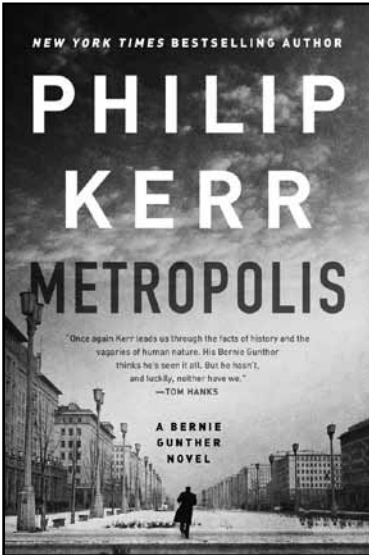
Amnesty by **Aravind Adiga**
This 2008 Man Booker-winning author (for *The White Tiger*) gives us a brilliant exploration of a Sri Lankan’s moral dilemma when he is denied refugee status in Australia, and describes how he tries to survive in the underground economy.

The Pull of the Stars by **Emma Donoghue** (Out July 23)
Set in Ireland, this latest novel is about a nurse in an underequipped and understaffed hospital dealing with the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918. I haven’t read it yet, but it’s Emma Donoghue!

Open House: A Life in 32 Moves by **Jane Christmas**
Author of the Stephen Leacock Award-nominated *What the Psychic Told the Pilgrim*, Christmas engages us with a wry memoir of her life as seen through her defining compulsion to move house frequently. It’s funny, entertaining, honest and touching.

Recommendations from Bridget

Dark August by **Katie Tallo**
Local award-winning screenwriter and director Katie Tallo has turned her hand to a very good thriller/mystery firmly set in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario. Young Augusta (Gus) Monet, who has run away from her unloving great-grandmother and is living a drifter’s existence with her dead-end boyfriend, is drawn back to Ottawa when her great-grandmother dies and leaves her house to Gus. Gus stumbles on her disgraced police-detective mother’s files of an unsolved crime and is gradually drawn into its multi-tentacled and dangerous depths. Gus is flawed but sympathetic and feisty, and you grow to root for her. Ottawa is very much a detailed part of the story and there is a most wonderful dog, too!



Metropolis by **Philip Kerr**
In his final book, *New York Times* late bestselling author Philip Kerr treats readers to his beloved hero’s origins, exploring Bernie Gunther’s first weeks on Berlin’s Murder Squad. Set in 1928, Berlin is in chaos, and brilliant young upstart Gunther decides to go undercover to solve a string of gruesome killings of prostitutes and the homeless that the beleaguered Murder Commission is unable to fathom. Set against the world of gangs, sex clubs and seedy sideshows, this is a strong, atmospheric and satisfying last taste of a master.

Eight Perfect Murders by **Peter Swanson**
This is a delightfully absorbing and satisfyingly familiar challenge for all tried-and-true mystery lovers. Bookseller and mystery aficionado Malcolm Kershaw is at first unwillingly drawn into an astute FBI agent’s investigation of a murder that has unmistakably been modeled on one of the books on a list of eight perfect murder-mysteries Kershaw had published many years ago. The killer has drawn his list from the best and they were all apparently unsolvable. You



WORKING
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delivery
+ terrace

MAINS

Muhammara Grilled Chicken Thighs with Israeli couscous, peas, mint and parsley

17

Beef Kofta with cucumber, pomegranate, yogurt, grilled cauliflower, za'atar *[gluten free]*

19

Marinated Seared Albacore Tuna with pickled plums, yuzu, asian slaw *[gluten free]*

21

Grilled Halloumi *[vegan option]* with grilled radicchio and endive on a bed of greens, pomegranate, citrus dressing, sumac, pepitas *[gluten free, vegan option]*

21

Soba Noodles with Braised Pork Belly or Tofu seasonal vegetables, kimchi, pickled carrot *[vegan option]*

17

Classic Burger with 7 oz. house-made patty on an artisan bun, cheddar, lettuce, tomato, pickle + house-made WT sauce served with kettle chips

17

Sweet Bacon Melt Burger with 7 oz. house-made patty on an artisan bun, bacon, cheddar, spinach, compressed apple and pickled shallot mayo served with kettle chips

19

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WINE + CHARCUTERIE-in-a-Box includes red, white or rose wine with charcuterie board, Chef's selection of artisan meats, cheese, condiments, crostini and a deck of cards *[gluten free option]*

62

COCKTAIL PARTY-in-a-Box includes 10 oz of negroni mix with dip board of muhammara, walnut pate, beet root hummus, pickled vegetable, candied nuts and toasted za'atar pita *[vegan, gluten free option]*

82

BBQ-in-a-Box includes four local craft beer, six sausages from Seed to Sausage ready to grill, house made sauerkraut and mustard, buns and Asian slaw

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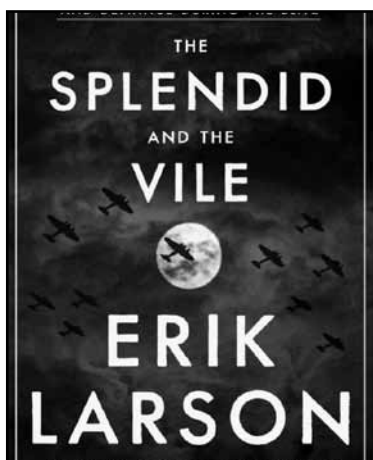
see where this is going, and it won't disappoint!

The Paris Hours by **Alex George**

Set in 1927, this well-wrought novel interweaves the lives of four unknowns with the many luminaries of the time. One is the late Marcel Proust's housemaid who has secrets related to his mighty memoir, while one is a starving artist who gets a leg up from Gertrude Stein, and another lives over the apartment of a musically blocked Maurice Ravel. It makes for engrossing reading and lives up to the effusive advance praise.

Greek to Me: Adventures of a Comma Queen by **Mary Norris**

For all lovers of words, language and travel, I commend this gem of a book by long-time New Yorker writer and copyeditor Mary Norris. Here she delivers another wise and funny paean to the art of self-expression, this time filtered through her greatest passion: all things Greek.



The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family & Defiance during the Blitz by **Erik Larson**

Larson is a brilliant chronicler of moments in history, turning them into character-rich absorbing and revealing stories that are hugely readable. This story offers us an intimate depiction of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz – an

inspiring portrait of courage and leadership in a time of unprecedented crisis wherein Churchill taught the British people “the art of being fearless.” Larson draws on diaries, original archival documents, and once-secret intelligence reports – some released only recently.

What It's Like to Be a Bird by **David Allen Sibley** and *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent & Think* by **Jennifer Ackerman**

I couldn't resist recommending both of these delightful and informative books on birds, given our heightened awareness and appreciation of them in these quiet times spent more in nature than ever before.

David Sibley is a respected author of a series of bird field guides, and in *What It's Like to Be a Bird*, he gives us a visually beautiful and quirkily informative exploration of what birds do and why: from flying to nesting, eating to singing and more. It is delightfully browseable and you learn so much more than you would from a field guide. Irresistible!

For a much deeper delve into all things avian, Jennifer Ackerman (author of *The Genius of Birds*) has written *The Bird Way*, which gives us equally fascinating and entertaining insights in greater depth, but remains totally engaging as well.

Recommendations from David

Man and Dog: Through the Newfoundland Wilderness by **Justin Barbour**

Barbour recounts his 700 km crossing of the interior of Newfoundland by snowshoe, packraft and on foot, along with his dog Saku. A journey not to be missed! Justin is a talented writer and does a fantastic job of journaling his adventure.

Primitive Technology:

A Survivalist's Guide to Building Tools, Shelters & More in the Wild by **John Plant**

Have you ever watched “Primitive Technology” on YouTube? At over 10 million subscribers it's likely you have. Well, John Plant's new book is a complement to the online series, and just as well put together.

Recommendations from Hilary

If I Never Met You by **Mhairi McFarlane**

When her partner of more than a decade suddenly leaves her, Laurie finds herself completely unmoored. But a chance encounter in an elevator at work leads her to make a deal with the office playboy that may result in a little more than she bargained for. Sweet and funny, McFarlane is a treat to read!

The Age of Witches by **Louisa Morgan**

Set in Gilded Age New York (1870–1910), this is a magical-historical read perfect for fans of *The Witches of New York*. Featuring an epic showdown between good and evil, this story transports readers from Manhattan to the English Countryside and back again in a twisting tale of love, betrayal and magic.

If Only by **Kate Eberlen** Far from a typical summer romance, Alf and Violet find their way to each other slowly and cautiously among the ancient ruins and cobblestoned streets of Rome. All seems destined to be until someone from the past unexpectedly breaks into their present, shattering their newfound love to pieces. Beautifully written, this is a lovely read for the coming summer.

When We Were Vikings by **Andrew David MacDonald**

This debut novel is a lovely story about beating the odds, proving yourself, and finding

your place in the world. Zelda is a wonderful heroine!

The Mercies by **Kiran Millwood Hargrave**

When a mammoth storm claims the lives of all the menfolk in the small Nordic town of Vardo, life for the women left behind changes forever. As they slowly adjust to the new way of things while grieving for those they've lost, a new authority arrives in town, which once again turns things upside down. Inspired by real events, this mythical Norwegian story is a wonderful read!

Recommendations from Jill



The Da Vinci Women: The Untold Feminist Power of Leonardo's Art by **Kia Vahland**

This is the account of Leonardo's life, his fascination with the way women were painted by other artists, and his own way of portraying women. Beautiful paintings and illustrations exemplify his determination to reveal women as “self-assured, forward-looking beings with complex personalities.”

The Falcon Thief: A True Tale of Adventure, Treachery and the Hunt for the Perfect Bird by **Joshua Hammer**

This fast-paced “thriller” is all true. Andy McWilliam, a detective with the United Kingdom's National Wildlife Crime Unit is determined to catch Jeffrey Lendrum,

a smuggler who makes his living capturing endangered raptors for falcon races sponsored by the royals of the United Arab Emirates, who prefer “wild” birds rather than those bred in captivity.

The Home Edit: A Guide to Organizing & Realizing Your House Goals by **Clea Shearer & Joanna Teplin**

Now that we've had time to clean out our closets, cupboards and basements, it's time to organize what's left so that the clutter doesn't return. This beautifully designed book includes photos showing just how your rooms can be rearranged into a system of order. Divided into nine colour-coded chapters, this book has a practical solution for every room in your house. It certainly helped me control my clutter.

Recommendations from Stephanie

Redhead by the Side of the Road by **Anne Tyler**

A touching and human story filled with Tyler's wonderfully quirky characters.

The Man in the Red Coat by **Julian Barnes**

In the summer of 1885, three Frenchmen arrive in London for a few days' shopping: a prince, a count and a commoner. Julian Barnes tells us their stories against the backdrop of *la belle époque* in Paris.

Siberian Dilemma by **Martin Cruz Smith**

Inspector Renko from Cruz Smith's novel *Gorky Park* is back to determine why two wealthy oligarchs are trying to kill each other and to rescue a journalist from the heart of Siberia.

Tombland by **C.J. Sansom**

The sixth book in this wonderful historical mystery series. It's a gripping tale of terror, murder, and revolt. A compelling reading for history lovers and crime aficionados.

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Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale eyes 2021 return

By Carolyn Brereton

The weather in April was frequently cold, wet and miserable – typical for spring in Ottawa – but once again the last weekend of April would have been perfect for the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale that never was. The sun shone and the temperature reached double digits. Would we have had another record-breaking event in support of the library? Who knows?

With thousands of quality books already sorted and priced, the tent booked and final preparations well underway, we were anticipating a highly successful sale when the pandemic brought everything to a halt. We had hoped, back in March, that we might be able to hold a smaller sale this September, but that is not going to be possible, either.

So where do we go from here?

Sale managers Linda McDonald, Jane Newcombe and Kevin Phillips have had to make some difficult decisions with respect to the future of the book sale. Underlying these decisions are a few

critical issues such as the safety of our volunteers and our clientele, the willingness of people to attend and, of course, City of Ottawa decisions regarding the opening and operating of the Library and Community Centre and rules about large gatherings.

We have decided not to proceed with the spring Book Sale in April 2021. It is unlikely that circumstances will have improved sufficiently for us to hold the sale safely, in the absence of effective treatments or of a COVID-19 vaccine being widely available soon enough: our preparations usually begin at least six months ahead of the event.

We do hope there will be a sale next year – just not in April. We are tentatively planning our next “Spring Sale” to be held in September 2021, the weekend after Labour Day. This is subject, of course, to safety considerations and permission from the City. This sale will likely be smaller for many reasons, including but not limited to the “new normal” with respect to gatherings.

In the meantime, if you can

find a place to store donations, please hang on to those books (and AV materials) rather than throwing them away. The last thing any of us want is to see books going into landfill. We will be looking for your donations as soon as it is considered safe for us to process them.

If you're unable to hold onto your books, the City of Ottawa does accept book (and toiletry) donations for citizens in need. You need to deliver your donation to Clyde Avenue, having first made an appointment to ensure social distancing. Please email donations@ottawa.ca for details.

Stay safe, stay healthy and keep your distance – at least for now.

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Photo by Walter Johnstone-Breen

A young fox surveys the lack of traffic on the Minto bridges in May.

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Odyssey Theatre reinvents summer season with online programming

By Jesse Kahat

Odyssey Theatre has been delighting audiences with unique theatre spectacles since 1985, but this year the troupe has made the difficult decision to cancel this summer's 35th-season "Theatre Under the Stars" production in Strathcona Park due to the global health crisis. Rather than going dark, Odyssey has launched A Virtual Odyssey: an innovative digital theatre series to captivate audiences with creative and interactive online programs for families, youth, adults and artists. People can enjoy Odyssey in a whole new way.

"While we are disappointed not to perform in the park this summer, the safety of our audiences and artists comes first. But I am thrilled to launch an exciting online theatre series that will bring Odyssey into the homes of our patrons and reach a whole new audience in Ottawa and across Canada," says Laurie Steven, Odyssey's Artistic Director. Steven, an award-winning director and playwright, is collaborating with a talented team of Odyssey actors, designers and playwrights to create entertaining programs that offer something for everyone.

Odyssey Theatre kicked off A Virtual Odyssey on May 7 with a live, interactive reading of a play that they workshopped online: Sheridan's comedy classic *The School for Scandal* adapted for mask and movement in a neo-Gothic style. Two more readings are scheduled: a new translation and adaptation of Molière's satire on medicine *The Imaginary Invalid* by Ottawa's David Whitely; and, Steven's own *The Blue Demon*, an original mythic fantasy in collaboration with Sri Lankan artists. Viewers can submit their questions during the reading in real time.

A new podcast series is sure to enchant audiences. Odyssey's *Wonderous Tales* is an eight-episode weekly podcast where tricksters and sages, villains and heroines will transport listeners into folktales from around the world with a new Canadian twist. Odyssey's talented writers and actors will per-

form updated versions of these diverse stories with narration, music and inventive theatrical storytelling.

Odyssey is also adapting its highly successful Youth Apprenticeship Program, with online workshops for aspiring theatre artists aged 15-19. Youth with a passion for the arts will explore all aspects of theatre, working with professional artists to explore acting, directing, writing and stage management. They will finish with their own online performance showcasing the creativity and talents of the next generation of theatre artists. Applications are open now and due June 19, 2020.

Odyssey's first webinar series, *Commedia Talks*, will offer actors, directors, designers, theatre arts teachers and theatre lovers everywhere, an in-depth look at the art behind the artform as they share the secret of bringing Commedia dell'Arte to life in full length productions of both contemporary and classic works. With masked performances, interviews and the creations of their artists, they will showcase the depth and range of this Renaissance Italian theatre form that inspires Odyssey's creativity.

A Virtual Odyssey will run throughout the summer and into Fall 2020. Odyssey Theatre is Canada's award-winning mask and Commedia dell'Arte theatre. For more than three decades they have stirred imaginations with extraordinary plays that include epics, comic fantasies, satires, tragedies, and madcap comedies. Their stunning performances weave masks, puppets, music, dance and ritual. Behind the scenes they create original plays, train professional artists and reach out to the community to introduce new audiences to the magic of live theatre.

Learn more at odysseytheatre.ca.



Support your local businesses!



Photo courtesy Jesse Kahat

(From left) Mitchel Rose, Ross Mullan, Bruce Spinney and Maryse Fernandes from Odyssey Theatre, 2019.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Send event listing details to newednews@hotmail.com Visit our website at newedinburgh.ca/events for the most up-to-date listings.

JUNE

June 9 – CCC Annual General Meeting at 7 p.m. The Crichton Community Council will hold its Annual General Meeting virtually on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The president and treasurer will present reports, and a new board will be elect-

ed. Confirm your participation at CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com.

June 11 – Deadline for MUP comment ottawa.ca/stanley-mup. Until June 11, the public can review and comment on the City of Ottawa’s proposed design of the paved multi-use pathway (MUP) link. Details, page 1.

June 16 – NECA meeting at 7:30 p.m. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance will hold its monthly board meeting virtually on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend. Contact President Cindy Parkanyi for details: newedinburgh@outlook.com

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 12–13 – Jane’s Walk in various locations across Ottawa. janeswalkottawa.ca. Rescheduled from the spring,

the Jane’s Walk festival of free neighbourhood walking tours helps put people in touch with their city, the things that happen around them, the built environment, the natural environment, and each other.

Sept. 15 – NECA meeting at 7:30 p.m. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance will hold its monthly board meeting virtually on the Zoom teleconferencing platform. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend. Contact President Cindy Parkanyi for details: newedinburgh@outlook.com

Sept. 19 – New Edinburgh Garage Sale The Crichton Community Council can-

not yet confirm whether the annual community garage sale will take place this year due to public health guidelines. For the latest details, visit newedinburgh.ca/events and the CCC’s Facebook page and Twitter.

Sept. 26–27 – 5th annual New Edinburgh Artists Studio Tour. nestudiotour.com. The New Edinburgh Artists Studio Tour (NEST) is a self-guided art studio tour featuring approximately 20 artists living or working creatively within New Edinburgh. We are looking into how best to facilitate the tour this year, including the possibilities of scheduled outdoor visitations and/or virtual tours and demonstrations.

Can you identify the mystery garden?

By Isobel Bisby

Walking around New Edinburgh at any time of the day is one of the delights of living in our wonderful community. Next time you are out enjoying a leisurely stroll, can you identify this little bit of

garden? It can be seen from the sidewalk and is located in one of the many beautiful gardens in New Edinburgh. These photographs were taken every week from March 30 to May 11, illustrating “how does the garden grow?”



March 30th



April 6th



April 21st



April 27th



May 4th



May 11th

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Rockcliffe Park - Call For Price
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Rockcliffe Park - \$1,890,000
Meet your ideal family home, nestled on a peaceful Rockcliffe cul-de-sac. Set on a higher vantage than its peers on a lush treed lot, there is no better environment in which to plant the seeds of a flourishing family.

New Edinburgh - Call For Price
Beautifully designed spaces feature a smart layout with independent and open spaces that are entertaining-ready yet totally family-centric. This family home is one of a kind and incredibly rare.

Rockcliffe Park - \$1,690,000
This residential villa is nestled in a peaceful, traffic-free enclave in the heart of Rockcliffe Park. Beyond the magnificent entrance, Palladian inspired romance and practical style are combined effortlessly.

Manor Park - Call For Price
Surrounded by all the necessary elements for families to thrive, this impeccable family home satisfies from the outside in. Recently renovated and impeccably maintained featuring contemporary finishes details.

New Edinburgh - \$1,049,000
19th century meets light-loving modern functionality in this one of a kind historic home. the address boasts a special vantage across from the grounds of the Governor General’s residence - this home radiates with character and influence.

Stonehedge Park - \$998,000
Nestled in the quiet, tucked away Stonehedge Park neighbourhood in Nepean, 7 Aspen Grove is a unique offering to those looking for a feature rich home that seamlessly intersects with the pristine nature that surrounds it.

New Edinburgh - Call For Price
The chance to live at the crossroads of a historic neighbourhood and trendy urban village is a dream, yet this chic and spacious suite in a low-rise building makes it real. City views and convenience combine.

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Public library offers lots of virtual programming during lockdown

By Martha Hodgson

Greetings from the Rockcliffe Park Library staff!

We all miss working with our customers face-to-face in the Rockcliffe Park branch which, like all Ottawa Public Library branches, will remain closed until June 30, 2020 during the pandemic restrictions.

During this time, all library staff have been focused on increasing the library's online offerings.

The "Isolation Recreation/S'isoler sans ennuyer" webpage includes a wealth of information, content and links – staff have created, curated and coordinated a virtual branch experience for our customers. It's for adults and for children, for those of you looking for family reads and activities: bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/isolation-recreation.

We've even created online story time and baby time programs, offered each week through the Zoom teleconferencing platform! Families can join others to share stories and songs led by one of our Children's Programmers, from the comfort of their own home.

Many households are also discovering the library's movie streaming services like

Hoopla and Kanopy.

Did you know you could read magazines online as well? Visit our website for some information about how to download and read your favourite, or try something new.

Rockcliffe Park residents might be interested in some of the staff blogs and book lists written by their local branch staff.

If you are missing travel, you can take a trip to Italy, guided by Elizabeth from the Rockcliffe Park branch, without leaving home: bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/blogs/travel-home.

As I try to stay active, I've discovered an excellent free online yoga resource with a flexible practice to follow at your own pace. The library has many online yoga resources to borrow to augment your practice. I have written about them in this blog: bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/blogs/yoga-home.

If you're looking for ways to keep crafting or would like to donate something you've made, we've put together some information on our website on sewing, as well as details about a program at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) where you can donate home-made face

masks.

If you are looking for your next great read, our local staff have many ideas for you.

Do you want something uplifting to cheer you up? You'll find some wonderful recommendations here: bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/blogs/cheer-gentle-reads.

For those of you with time to tackle a really loooong read, here's a list (created by Véro at the St. Laurent branch) of books that are at least 500 pages long: bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/blogs/time-read-big-book.

Stay tuned to the Ottawa Public Library website for more exciting virtual programming.

We look forward to seeing you in our branches again as soon as it is safe to do so!

Martha Hodgson is the Public Service Supervisor at the Rockcliffe Park library branch.

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Classified Ads

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

Quarantine – silent leveller?

By Marie Mullally

Out for a long walk one bright morning
The whole world was observed in deep mourning,
COVID hit us all hard, without warning,
Now we're home in confinement, no fawning.
Now ensconced in my house, am I longing
For the life that I had at the dawning?
My thoughts through each day, as I change gears and say
"I'm okay with this new way of singing."

Like you, I accept my new fate
Though it's changed what I have on my plate,
Now my choices are few...eat, breathe, help a few
And dream of a world made anew.

The universe today is in grief
And in sight there is no relief,
Many thousands are dead and others abed
We must quarantine or we're dead.

Will our lives return to old ways?
"But that may not happen" you say,
COVID's changed how we think
Brought the world to the brink
"We're less needy and greedy" you think?

Our world's not one great monolith
We pretended, but that's just a myth
We've been brought to our knees
Let us pause...and then seize
Life devoid of all previous greed!



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Condolences



Long-time Crichton Street resident **Mary Ellen Boomgaardt** passed away after a three and a half year-long battle with cancer on May 12. Mary Ellen and her husband **Ray** purchased their home in 1975 against the wishes of her parents, who felt New Edinburgh was in the “rough” part of Ottawa. Shortly thereafter Mary Ellen became very active the community, serving as one of the first advertising managers at the *New Edinburgh News*. After their return from foreign posting in the 1980s, Mary Ellen helped stop City employees from paving the sidewalk medians west of Dufferin, and encouraged all her neighbours to request that the City plant a tree in front of their home, a project which was a great success. Mary Ellen ran her business, Greentree & Co. Rentals and Management, for more than 30 years, assisting neighbours and friends in the foreign service community. Mary Ellen’s beautiful gardens were admired by all in the neighbourhood and she enjoyed playing hostess at the family’s annual Christmas caroling party. Our condolences to Ray and their children **Najma, Rachel, Aisling, and Bram**. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and community.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Mary Mahoney**, who died at The Edinburgh Retirement Residence Mar. 26. Mary was a well-known and very active member of the community.

With her friend and business partner **Jean Barton**, she co-founded **Books on Beechwood**, our neighbourhood’s flagship independent bookstore, and continued to support the store even after she sold her interest in 2001. Her long legacy of volunteer activities included serving as chair of the Rockcliffe Park Book Fair, organizing the first Homes for the Holidays boutique, and, in her mid-70s, travelling to Lesotho to work with children and grandmothers under the auspices of Help Lesotho. She was a pillar of the St. Bartholomew’s Church community, where she served as Rector’s Warden. Mary will be sorely missed by her family and friends. Her contributions to the community will be long remembered.

Congratulations



Photo courtesy Cheryl Frankiewicz

Anna Neufeld summited Mt. Kilimanjaro on May 20, all the while confined to her room at the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence on Porter Island. Anna (known to NEN readers for her haikus), walked 128,263 steps around her room (55 steps per circuit) as part of a “climb” organized by the Ottawa-based non-governmental organization TEMBO to raise money for girls’ education in Northern Tanzania. Anna raised more than \$2,500 from sponsors across Canada. From his “mountain” refuge on Ivy Crescent, Anna’s son **Ken** supplied daily descriptions of the environment and

challenges Anna would face as she climbed. CBC Ottawa caught wind of the effort and interviewed Anna the day after she summited. Anna then took her first steps outside on May 27 after four long weeks in her room.

Son of the Burgh **John Macklem**, along with **Eric Robertson-Tait**, opened a new restaurant on Bank Street just before COVID-19 erupted. **City Goose** opened for takeout and delivery of select menu items, particularly pizza. Congratulations to John and Eric, and best of luck on the new business!

Farewell

Farewell to **Noor Ahmed** and **Pauline Conley** of Crichton Street who are being posted to Winnipeg, Man. in July. Their relatively short time in the Burgh (8 years) is eclipsed by their fulsome integration into the social and community activism fabric of the neighbourhood – they will be missed. Best wishes to them on their new adventure, which includes a lovely home in another heritage conservation district!

This was the final edition of *NEN* for **Philippa Wolff**, who is leaving the *NEN* team for new beginnings in England. Raised in the Burgh, Pippa had been proofreading each issue since 2016. A big thank-you to Pippa for her time and talents, and we wish her the all the best!

Missed Connections

Two Tibetan Terriers who recently moved to New Edinburgh from somewhere in the Northwest U.S.A. met **Django** (also a TT) at the Rockcliffe Dog Park last fall. Django’s owner would love to get in touch. Contact **Kay James**. rpranw@gmail.com

Found

Snow melted to reveal a key ring containing several cottage keys. To claim these keys call 613-746-8259.

Miscellaneous

MacKay United Church is offering three options to connected for services, special music and more. Please join them online at mackayunitedchurch.com, on Facebook and on YouTube.

While **English Language Tutoring for the Ottawa Community (ELTOC)** won’t be able to hold its annual fundraising tea this year, the team still needs to fundraise \$5,000 annually to cover costs including teaching materials. ELTOC provides English language tutoring to newcomers free of charge, now via online tutoring. All gifts over \$20 will receive a tax receipt. To make a donation to ELTOC, visit eltoc.ca or call board member **Liz Heatherington** 613-745-4677.

Hello, neighbour!

Pedestrians on MacKay Street entered the “Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Silly Walking” this spring. It was just what the doctor ordered to keep some sense of sanity during these pandemic times!

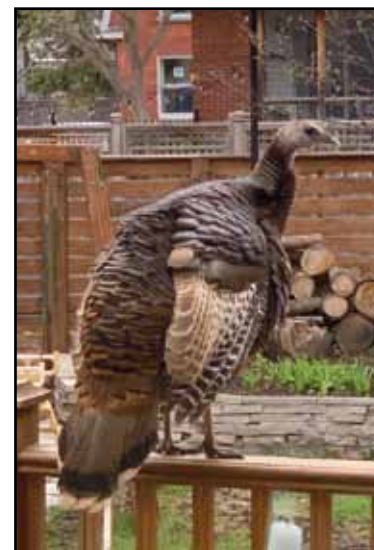


Photo by Katherine Hall

A wild turkey spotted on Ivy Crescent in early May.



Photo courtesy Joseph Cull



Photo courtesy Joseph Cull

Paula Thompson and family.



Photo by Isobel Bisby

(from left) **Christian Hansson**, **Alain-Remi Lajeunesse** and **Chris Straka** enjoy some good company and good beer from an appropriate distance while straddling a side property line near the end of River Lane.