

December 2020

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Residents move in to two new buildings; Minto planning moves ahead

By Jane Heintzman and David Lawrence

Planning for Minto's second major Beechwood project is moving ahead towards a targeted approval of its rezoning and Site Plan application by the spring of 2021. Minto II is slated to be a large, mixed residential/commercial development extending from 78-88 Beechwood Ave., south through the block between Loyer and St. Charles Streets, to cover 69-93 Barrette St. The project will consist of 250 rental units, plus four or five commercial units at ground level facing Beechwood Avenue.

A virtual, City-sponsored public consultation on the project took place Oct. 6, with about 60 representatives from the five communities along the Beechwood corridor and City Councillors Mathieu Fleury and Rawlson King taking part. Community representation was spearheaded by the reconstituted Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA), chaired by Manor Park resident Tony Stikeman, who

took a key role in the online discussion. From the early days of Minto II, Minto's **Kevin Harper** has consulted regularly with BVA representatives, and taken their comments into account.

Following the Oct. 6 meeting, the official comment period for public submissions to the City Planning Department was extended to Oct. 16. Thus far, much of the pushback on the Minto proposal has focused on its imposing scale and nine-storey height, which is considerably higher than the six storeys established as the model for Traditional Main Streets.

Minto is currently awaiting a response from planner **Ann O'Connor**, who is file lead on the project (613-580-2424 x 12658; ann.o'connor@ottawa.ca). Once it receives an official response from the Planning Department, Minto will make any necessary amendments to the design, and submit an amended Site Plan Control Application to the City by the first week

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Photo by Andre R. Gagne

The Rideau Falls are among the gems to discover whilst walking around New Edinburgh.

A walkabout with a New Edinburgh newbie

By Andre R. Gagne

Where can you find two waterfalls, postcard-perfect century-old heritage homes, library ruins, a peaceful conservation area, a prime minister's grave, mysterious markers around a beautiful lake, a schoolhouse built in the 1800s, an ambassador's residence on grounds named after an 1869 romance novel, and a

tree planted by U.S. President John F. Kennedy?

If you said all within walking distance of my New Edinburgh apartment, then you know more about this area than I did a year ago!

I consider myself well-traveled. I've roamed Italy, Paris, New York City, Japan, and all across the Great White North, but it's true what they say: globe trekkers often don't

explore their own backyards. Lost within our daily lives, we often know only the trajectory from the front door to the car to work to the grocery store. Hit the repeat button and tune out the surroundings. This was certainly the case when I moved here a year ago. Despite it being a different area of Ottawa

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Pandemic uncertainty forces local fitness studio to close

Much to the regret of many in our community, **Studio One Personal Training** will cease operations at 1 Springfield Rd. On Dec. 31, 2020, owner **Craig Adams** will wrap up the popular local business he has worked tirelessly to build over the past seven years.

"It's the hardest thing I've ever had to do," says Craig, but he remains confident that it's the right choice, given the radical uncertainty surrounding the duration of the pandemic and its lingering effects.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been punishing for virtually all small businesses. Restaurants, bars and fitness studios especially proved to be the low-hanging fruit in public health determinations of "non-essential businesses." These have endured a rollercoaster ride of closures, costly capacity restrictions and hygiene protocols, employee lay-offs, and dramatic hits to their bottom lines.

Prior to the lockdown in March, Craig says "busi-



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

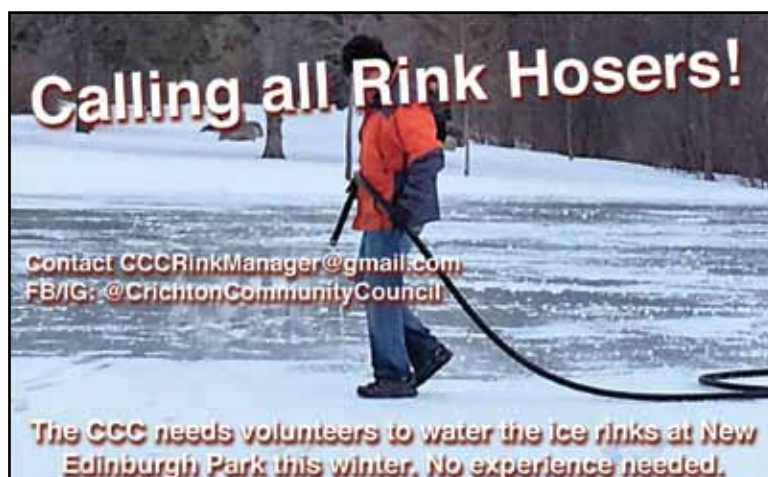
Studio One's Craig Adams.

ness was booming" at Studio One. The weekly schedule of personal training clients, many of them regulars, was typically busy, and Craig had established his business as a highly regarded member of Beechwood's commercial community. With the onset of the pandemic, however, Craig was forced to close Studio One completely for nearly four months – a far cry from

the initial assumption of just a few weeks! It was not until late July, when provincial restrictions on gyms lifted, that Craig was able to resume regular operations.

But as Craig had feared based on previous experience, after such a long hiatus, clients were slow to return to their routines when the gym reopened. By fall, the

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Calling all Rink Hosers!

Contact CCCRinkManager@gmail.com
FB/IG: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil

The CCC needs volunteers to water the ice rinks at New Edinburgh Park this winter. No experience needed.

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, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.** Meetings are held virtually on Zoom. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for details.

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Learn more at
www.newedinburgh.ca

NECA board thanks departing members, welcomes new faces



Cindy Parkanyi
NECA President

Thank you to all who attended the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Annual General Meeting on Oct. 28. We are looking forward to advancing our strategic priorities for this year and are grateful to have some new faces around the Zoom "table."

Welcome to **Alison Fabian**, who is already diving into communications activities with a look at updating and revamping our community website at newedinburgh.ca. We also welcome back to the NECA board **Sarah Anson-Cartwright**, who will also be helping with communications and outreach, as well as **Ray Boomgaardt**, who brings a wealth of knowledge from his previous years on the board.

Unfortunately, we have also had to say fond farewell to a few members of the board: **Roslyn Butler** has moved out of the neighbourhood (but not too far away) and **Natasha Cappon** and **Dave Arnold** are stepping away due to work and family obligations. We would like to heartily thank them for their support over the years, and look forward to seeing in and around the neighbourhood.

As you will read else-

where in this edition, NECA has continued its tradition of offering special BRICK awards to property owners who have undertaken renovations or other improvements that honour the heritage and village-like fabric of the community, as well as to residents who have shown dedication to building and maintaining a sense of community within New Edinburgh. Given the virtual nature of the annual general meeting this year, we were unfortunately unable to present the awards in person. However, we hope to be able to have a special, in-person awards presentation once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

So who are this year's lucky recipients? **Toby Greenbaum** and **Joel Rotstein** were selected for the Renovation BRICK for their front porch restoration at 16 Rideau Terrace. It will come as no surprise that long-time community volunteer **Isobel Bisby** was selected to receive this year's Community Builder award. (See full articles on pages 3 and 5) Congratulations to all!

A COVID holiday season

Since the arrival of COVID-19, residents, local businesses and community leaders alike

have rallied together to try to minimize the impact of the pandemic on our community. The outpouring of volunteers to help others in need has been extremely heartwarming. Many of these volunteers continue to help those less fortunate by making deliveries for the local food bank.

Let's keep this spirit alive by ensuring we continue to respect the public health guidelines and limit in-person gatherings during the festive season. There is light at the end of the tunnel: let's make sure everyone stays healthy and can reach it.

How to stay connected in the Burgh

If you are not yet receiving the monthly NECA updates by email and would like to be included on the list, please send an email to newedinburgh@outlook.com or sign up at newedinburgh.ca. For up-to-the-minute updates on what's happening in the neighbourhood, you can join the Google Group "New Edinburgh Discussions," then simply email to newed-talk@googlegroups.com. There is also a listserv, known as the Moms' List, but there are more than just parents on the list. For this one, you must send an email request to List Master Dave Rostenne at dave@theconsultant.net. You can also follow us on Twitter @New_Edinburgh.

If you would like to know more about NECA's committees and working groups, please contact me at newedinburgh@outlook.com.



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

Isobel Bisby recognised as community builder

By Christina Leadlay

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) kept up its tradition of presenting the BRICK award during its annual general meeting, which was held virtually on Oct. 28.

NECA's BRICK award was originally created to recognize built heritage, but over the years has been adapted to include people who have helped build a solid foundation in the community.

During the annual general meeting, the NECA board was happy to present both versions of the BRICK award to two recipients: Isobel Bisby and 16 Rideau Terrace.

While Isobel was unable to attend the Oct. 28 meeting, Sean Flynn, the former chair of NECTAR (and current board member), presented the BRICK award to Isobel (Sean himself received the BRICK award in 2017).

Sean told the more than 30 people on the Zoom video-conference that Isobel "has played a significant role in practically every community



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Isobel Bisby.

initiative that has happened in New Edinburgh over the past many years." He noted that both "NECTAR and the Lumière Festival would likely have never got off the ground and touched so many lives if it weren't for the countless hours, days, months, years of dedication [Isobel] has poured into these community gems."

Describing Isobel as an "incredible dynamo," with endless "energy, expertise,

and creativity," Sean noted that her volunteerism goes beyond New Edinburgh. Isobel is also on the board of Heartwood House, a charity dedicated to helping our city's vulnerable residents.

Sean said he would personally be "forever grateful to have served on Boards with [her]." He told the AGM attendees that "it has been no easy feat to be a NECTAR Board member over the past few years and I can confidently say that every single board member and staff member that has been a part of NECTAR absolutely adores and thinks the world of [Isobel]!"

He concluded: "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this than Isobel. Bravo!"

Gail McEachern, chair of NECA's Heritage and Development committee, has written about the motivation behind selecting 16 Rideau Terrace to receive the built BRICK award in her H&D report. Turn to page 5 for details.

Letter to the Editor

Federal action needed to stop Château Laurier addition

The revised site plan for an addition to Château Laurier is expected any day now at Ottawa City Hall (Editor's note: the consultation ends Dec. 23, 2020. Visit ottawa.ca/chateaulaurier to have your say)

While Heritage Ottawa deserves credit for salvaging the situation due to lack of political leadership, I believe that most people do not want ANY addition to the Château.

The Château Laurier is a

Canadian landmark second only to Parliament Hill. The scene of the Château and Parliament Hill is among the most beautiful of any Capital City anywhere. Can you imagine this happening to the Château Frontenac in Quebec City? Never.

The late Liberal MP Mauril Bélanger would be front and centre on this file. Why is Ottawa-Vanier cabinet minister Mona Fortier not seeking federal intervention?

Does Prime Minister Justin Trudeau not share his father's vision of our capital?

It is important for people in New Edinburgh to speak out about this.

There should not be any addition to the Château Laurier. No more excuses. It is time for innovative action by the federal government.

*Peter Harris
former Ottawa city councillor (1991-1994)*

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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After years of construction, Stanley Park is open again

By Katherine Hall

It's hard to remember what New Edinburgh and Stanley Park were like before the walls and fences came up at the start of the construction for the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST). It was so long ago. But all the fences are gone now, as is the huge, ugly yellow structure and the giant wooden walls that looked like something

out of a movie. Gone, too, are the constant sounds of trucks and construction noise seven days a week. The portables. The onsite cement mixer. The construction on Queen Victoria Street: all gone.

Okay, there are a few small new fences at the time of writing. But if you haven't frequented the park recently, you won't realize how much everything has changed. It is a park again.



Photo by Katherine Hall

The construction fencing, vehicles and equipment, which had been in Stanley Park for many years as part of a city infrastructure project, are gone.

There are still some outstanding issues to be addressed for the homes along Queen Victoria and Stanley Avenues. And while all the construction materials are gone from the main area between Queen Victoria/Stanley and the Rideau River, some new ones have popped up – more about those later.

Finally, the multi-purpose path has been paved and bicyclists can use it again. It is still a little muddy and they have not painted the lines yet. The curve is also a little different. The goal was to try and control the speed of the bicyclists.

If you walk around, you will see that sod has been laid in some areas; mulch and a strange greeny-blue spray in others. The sprayed material will be wildflowers and grass. You will see that lots of

trees have been planted with mulch and sod around their bases. Evergreens have been strategically located to try and obscure the view of the odour-control building while still allowing for our wonderful views of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill.

Also, right around the cement access points, they have put an underlayment to support vehicles that will continue to operate. The underlayment isn't visible as it has been covered by sod, gravel or the spray material. The recreated pedestrian paths have been covered by gravel and stone dust.

The soil had been packed from all the vehicle traffic, so remediation measures have resulted in soft soil that will help the plants thrive. It also makes for some sinking when the ground is wet and warm,

so watch out if you like to walk off the paths.

The missing link connecting the two parts of the multi-use path is also being constructed. As mentioned above, those new small fences that have been put up beside Stanley Avenue and the Fieldhouse to protect the trees during the upcoming work on the link. It will connect the existing paved multi-purpose path (that runs parallel with Crichton Street) with the newly paved portion (that was being used for all the construction trucks). It will run inside the wooden posts and very close to the pedestrian gravel path where Stanley Avenue and Dufferin Road meet, and then continue by the road to the Fieldhouse to connect to the newly paved portion.

Efforts have also been made to manage the pedestrian crossing in front of the Fieldhouse. There are drawings on newedinburgh.ca if you would like to see more details on the layout.

The key, now, is for everyone to remember what a joy we have: to walk along the butterfly field and listen to the birds, instead of the constant sound of trucks and construction noise. To enjoy the quiet or the sound of people playing and talking. To be able to watch the sunsets without some glaring construction lights and we have amazing sunsets from the park.

So, please: go explore!

Katherine Hall is a NECA board member and part of the Park Vision Working Group.

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BRICK award honours genial building design

By Gail McEachern, H&D committee chair

The BRICK Award was conceived by members of New Edinburgh's Heritage and Development Committee and adopted by NECA's Board in May 2009. The committee was prompted to action by a Letter to the Editor in the June 2008 edition of the *New Edinburgh News*, in which resident Michael Larrass wrote: "I would like to use this unfortunate event [new construction at MacKay and Vaughan streets] for a pro-active initiative: to have a New Edinburgh Best Frontage Contest and Award. I hope that this suggestion will contribute its share to strengthening our esthetic immune system and prevent future architectural vandalism in our community."

Paul McConnell, who was co-chair of the Heritage and Development Committee at that time, along with Inge Vander Horst, stated: "We are familiar with examples of property developments that dismay or alarm us. These are the ones that grab our atten-

tion. But we should not overlook the projects where owners have taken particular care to carry out their renovation or construction in a style that is sympathetic to the local environment, and the result becomes a welcome addition to the neighbourhood."

So the BRICK (which stands for "Burgh Renovation, Improvement and Construction Kudos") Award came into being. Its purpose: to recognize and honour a project within New Edinburgh (either inside or outside the Heritage Conservation District) involving a new infill development, an addition to a house, or the restoration of architectural elements on an existing building. The main criteria for evaluating a project include: the quality of the design; consideration of heritage issues; impact on the neighbours; and the effect on the immediate streetscape and green space. Each project is also reviewed in terms of the City's infill guidelines, the directives laid out in New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation Plan, and cur-



Photos courtesy Toby Greenbaum

Before and after photos of the front porch at 16 Rideau Terr., which received the 2020 BRICK Award.

rent City zoning by-laws.

Residents are welcome to nominate a project any time during the year by contacting the Heritage and Development Committee, the *New Edinburgh News* or the NECA Board. The project selected will be announced at the next NECA annual general meeting.


The recipients of the 2020 BRICK Award are Toby Greenbaum and her hus-


band Joel Rotstein for the restoration of the front porch of their residence at 16 Rideau Terrace. The single-family brick home was built in 1911 for one Harold V. Brayley, an architectural engineer employed by the Transcontinental Railway Company. The present owners purchased the house in 1993 and hired Summerstone Contractors this year to redo the front porch, which is a

prominent architectural feature of the house. This is a carefully crafted replacement of the original porch carried out with great attention to detail and high-quality workmanship.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Gail McEachern is the chair of NECA's Heritage and Development committee.





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Let's support our local economy this holiday season



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

With the pandemic still imposing restrictions on our lives, we need to remain positive and actively follow the guidelines that keep us moving forward. Part of the challenge is to protect our local economy.

Our small- and medium-sized businesses bring our communities together and play a fundamental role in our lives. They have worked hard to adapt to the ever-changing public health guidelines, but they have faced obstacles every step of the way.

Overall, Ottawa business-

es have been operating in accordance with public health requirements. Our restaurants and health and fitness centres not only contribute to keeping us sane, but also they contribute to the health of our economy. I will continue to pressure the government to provide more support to businesses as they adapt to the new colour-coded restriction system.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to support and shop local as so many are doing already. As we approach the holiday season,

it is unclear how we will be able to celebrate. One thing that is certain is that Ottawa-Vanier has many local businesses offering unique gift ideas and delicious meals to take home. As we may have to adapt our traditions to get into the holiday spirit, let's continue to be supportive of one another.

As always, thank you for doing your part in fighting COVID-19. My team remains available to help. Please feel free to give us a call at 613-744-4484 or send us an email at lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

Bien que la pandémie impose toujours des restrictions à nos vies, nous devons rester positifs et suivre activement les directives qui nous permettent d'aller de l'avant. Une partie du défi consiste à protéger notre économie

locale. Nos petites et moyennes entreprises rassemblent nos communautés et jouent un rôle fondamental dans nos vies. Ils ont travaillé fort pour s'adapter aux directives de santé publique en constante évolution, mais ils ont fait face à des obstacles au fur et à mesure des changements.

Dans l'ensemble, les entreprises d'Ottawa opèrent en respectant les directives de santé publique. Nos restaurants et centres de santé et de conditionnement physique contribuent non seulement à préserver notre santé physique et mentale, mais ils contribuent également à la santé de notre économie. Je continuerai de faire pression sur le gouvernement pour qu'il fournisse un soutien accru aux entreprises à mesure qu'elles s'adaptent au nouveau système de restriction par couleur.

Pendant ce temps, j'encourage tout le monde à soutenir et à magasiner localement, comme beaucoup le font déjà. À l'approche de la période des fêtes, on ne sait pas comment nous pourrions célébrer. Une chose est certaine, c'est qu'il y a de nombreuses entreprises locales à Ottawa-Vanier qui offrent des idées de cadeaux uniques et de délicieux repas à emporter à la maison. Alors que nous devons peut-être adapter nos traditions pour nous mettre dans l'esprit des Fêtes, continuons à nous soutenir les uns les autres.

Comme toujours, merci de faire votre part dans la lutte contre le COVID-19. Mon équipe reste disponible pour vous aider. N'hésitez pas à nous appeler au 613-744-4484 ou à nous envoyer un courriel à lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

City Councillor joins Ottawa Police Services Board



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

My team and I have been very busy still working away at home. I would be remiss, given the rise in cases of COVID-19 in Ottawa, if I didn't implore you to please stay home where you can,

maintain a two-metre distance from people outside your household, wear a mask and wash your hands.

I know that many feel like we're a broken record now, but it is important.

COVID-19 is likely to be circulating in our community for awhile. We're currently in the middle of the second wave and your actions will determine where the epidemiological curve goes.

If you're reading this and you have problems with getting tested, cannot self-isolate from members of your family, or have issues with getting supplies such as groceries or medication, please call my office at 613-580-2483. We'll help connect you with wrap-around social services that

may be able to provide you with the supports you need.

After discussion with staff and with community members, the speed limit on Crichton Street will be lowered to 40km/h, in line with the rest of the new speed limits in New Edinburgh. However, the new gateway signage at the residential street/Crichton intersections will remain.

There are ongoing discussions at both the municipal and the provincial level about residential speed limits, and it is possible we will see future legislative changes that will allow us to lower the residential speeds to 30km/h. In this case, having the signs already in place would facilitate a smooth and quick transition to the new speed limits. Either way, Crichton will remain at 40km/h; the new signage will be in place before the New Year.

In mid-October, I was named to the Ottawa Police Services Board (PSB). Mayor Jim Watson was occupying his statutory seat on PSB and upon Chair Diane Deans' return from medical leave indicated that the mayor wished to cede his seat. Mayor Watson graciously recommended my appointment, to bring the insights that I have from my mandate as the Council Liaison for Anti-Racism and Ethnocultural Relations Initiatives. I'm happy to serve in anyway I can and use the role to help and encourage the Ottawa Police in its reforms under Chief Peter Sloly.

As we head towards the holidays, my team and I continue to be here to help you. Please get in touch with us by phone at 613-580-2483 or via email at rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca.

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Holidays in the Capital: a reminder to think of others



Jim Watson
Mayor of Ottawa

The holiday season is an occasion to reflect on the past year, to take a sincere appreciation for our blessings, and to find opportunities to help those less fortunate than us.

But it can also be a hard time for those living in poverty, in temporary housing and shelters, or even on our streets, especially since the onset of the COVID-19 pan-

demic in March. Many families are struggling to make ends meet and to put food on the table, particularly during the holidays. In Ottawa alone, more than 39,000 people visit an emergency food bank program every month – and that number is rising rapidly in 2020.

The 36th annual OC Transpo/Loblaw Christmas

Food Drive is the Ottawa Food Bank's largest single-day food drive every year – and it helps thousands of individuals and families ensure they have enough to eat when demand is at its highest.

On Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., more than 600 OC Transpo and City of Ottawa volunteers will be collecting non-perishable food items and donations for the Ottawa Food Bank at participating grocery stores. Visit **OCTranspo.com** for a full list of participating stores. Together, let's try to make this the most successful and impactful campaign to date. Every donation, whether big or small, goes a long way in

helping the most vulnerable in our community.

I'd also like to remind residents to think of our local small businesses, which have given so much back to the community over the years. They support our local charities, they sponsor our youth sports teams, they employ students and neighbours. This year, I urge you all to consider supporting these local shops, services and restaurants by purchasing items or gift cards for your loved ones. Your help through the holidays will be greatly appreciated and helps these businesses make it through the winter.

Finally, while this time of year is typically spent with

family and friends, we must remain COVIDwise and do things a little bit differently this year, as we continue to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. I encourage everyone to celebrate responsibly by hosting virtual calls or by meeting for a walk in our many beautiful parks across the city. A full list of winter activities can be found at **OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SocialWISE**. This year has not been easy for anyone, and it is OK to not be OK. Visit **OttawaPublicHealth.ca** for more information on taking care of your mental health.

I wish you all a safe and merry holiday season.

All Canadians deserve a safe and affordable home



Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

Happy Holidays, dear residents!

I hope everyone enjoys these holidays, although this year, the holiday season is much different from other years.

This year, with the coronavirus pandemic, we need to be careful and continue to be COVIDWise.

Recent events have reminded us, more than ever, that nothing is more important than having a house, and that all Canadians deserve a safe and affordable place to call home. The Rapid Housing Initiative will help make this a reality for many and will provide up to \$31.9 million in support to vulnerable

people and families here in Ottawa.

By investing in affordable housing, we can create jobs and grow our middle class and build strong communities and boost our economic recovery. At the same time, we are also helping to reduce homelessness and support vulnerable Canadians. These new homes will be available quickly and will help to address the flu season and the second wave of COVID-19.

I'd like to remind you that this holiday season and celebrations are going to look and feel different during the COVID-19 pandemic. All

individuals should assess their own level of risk, and the health of every person in their household, when deciding how to celebrate. If anyone in your household is at higher risk from COVID-19, everyone should choose lower-risk activities to keep them safe.

Happiness and health to you and yours in the coming year.

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

Joyeux temps des fêtes cher(ères) résidentes et résidents!

J'espère que tout le monde profite bien de ces temps de fêtes bien que cette année, la période de fêtes soit beaucoup différente d'autres années.

Cette année, avec la pandémie du coronavirus, nous devons être prudents et con-

tinuer à être COVIDavisés.

Les événements récents nous ont rappelé, plus que jamais, que rien n'est plus important que d'avoir un logement, de plus, tous les Canadiens méritent d'avoir un chez-soi sûr et abordable. C'est pour cette raison que notre gouvernement a mis en place l'initiative pour la création rapide de logements, qui contribuera à ce que cela devienne une réalité pour beaucoup et apportera un soutien de 31,9 millions de dollars aux gens et aux familles vulnérables ici à Ottawa.

En investissant dans le logement abordable, nous pouvons créer des emplois et faire croître notre classe moyenne ainsi que bâtir des communautés solides et stimuler notre relance économique. Par la même occasion, nous contribuons aussi à réduire l'itinérance et à soutenir les Canadiens vulnérables. Ces nouveaux logements seront disponibles rapidement et permettront de faire face à

la saison de la grippe et à la deuxième vague de COVID-19.

Je vous rappelle que les temps de fêtes et les célébrations seront différentes pendant la pandémie de COVID-19. Toutes les personnes devraient évaluer leur propre niveau de risque et la santé de chaque membre de leur famille lorsqu'elles décident de la façon de célébrer. Si un membre de votre ménage est plus à risque de souffrir de la COVID-19, vous devriez tous choisir des activités à faible risque pour assurer sa sécurité.

Bonheur et santé à vous et les vôtres dans l'année à venir.

Soyez assurés que mon bureau de circonscription est toujours là pour vous appuyer avec tous les aspects des services fédéraux. Communiquez avec nous au 613-998-1860 ou envoyez un courriel à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

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Exploring the link between climate change and human health

By Tamara Sorger, NECA Environment Committee

In mid-November we finally had some good news when Pfizer and BioNTech announced promising results from their Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials. If all goes well, we could have a vaccine by next year. While that is certainly cause for celebration, we need to make sure we learn from the pandemic. One lesson: that the health of the planet is directly related to human health.

While science has yet to determine if climate change affects the spread of COVID-19, we know that the warming climate, deforestation, large-scale livestock farming and urban sprawl have forced animals to move out of their natural habitats. This migration has resulted in animals coming into more frequent contact with animals



A canoeist enjoying the Rideau River this past autumn.

Photo by Andre R. Gagne

they would not normally come into contact with, and in increased animal-human contact. Both this increased

animal-to-animal and animal-to-human exposure facilitates the spread of pathogens.

Reducing the risk of infectious disease is yet another reason for all of us to take climate action. If you're looking for ways to be more climate friendly, you may be interested in measuring your ecological footprint. Doing so will allow you to assess your current impact on the planet and identify ways to reduce that impact or "ecological footprint." The Global Footprint Network's ecological footprint methodology measures the amount of land and water a person, business or society requires to produce the resources it consumes and absorb the waste that it generates.

According to the Global

Footprint Network, Earth has a biocapacity of 1.63 global hectares per person. In other words, the earth can regenerate an average of about 1.63 hectares per person. The average per capita global ecofootprint, however, is approximately 2.75 hectares. What this tells us is that at

including for helpful tips on how to lower your ecological footprint, visit footprintnetwork.org.

You may also wish to check out Earth Overshoot Day, which represents the day we have exceeded the earth's regenerative capacity. This year, Earth Overshoot

Reducing the risk of infectious disease is yet another reason for all of us to take climate action.

this rate, it would take around two planet equivalents to meet current global consumption and waste requirements. Canada's ecological footprint is 7.2 global hectares, roughly the equivalent of four planets. To learn more about the Global Footprint Network,

Day fell on Aug. 22, almost a month later than in 2019, when it fell on Jul. 29. While a later overshoot day is certainly a good thing, this year's delay is thought to be due to temporary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions due to the COVID-19, not because we've adopted more climate-friendly practices. Canada's overshoot day fell on Mar. 18, 2020, the eighth earliest overshoot day, coming right after the United States, whose overshoot day fell on Mar. 14. To learn more about Earth Overshoot Day, and help #movethedate, go to overshootday.org

The New Edinburgh Environment committee is looking to learn and share tips on how to take climate action. If you have tips or thoughts to share, please get in touch at tamarasorger@yahoo.com.

Tamara Sorger is the chair of the New Edinburgh Environment Committee.

Hugh Robertson's articles now online

For close a decade – from 2007–2014 – local environmentalist **Hugh Robertson** was a regular contributor to the NEN, producing a series of thought-provoking, meticulously researched articles on the environment and climate change. Many of the articles were sweeping in scope and covered a range of ambitious topics from *Climate Change: Science, Denial, Morality*; to *The Kyoto Accord*; *The Role of Government*; *Capitalism and Sustainability*; *Ecological Economics and Environmental Ethics*.

With the recent sharp escalation of concern and awareness of rapidly advancing climate change and environmental degradation, Hugh's thoughtful articles take on a renewed and heightened relevance.

Explore a collection of his articles at ecologyeconomicsethics.blogspot.com. – Jane Heintzman



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#BuyLocalOrByeLocal: Shop close to home this holiday season

By Nathalie Carrier,
QVBIA

We've all seen the slogan "Buy Local" and most of us do. We certainly know that our Beechwood Village community does!

Did you know that 68 per cent of each dollar you spend in your local shops actually stays in your local economy? By employing a neighbour, donating to local events, supporting your children's teams and encouraging local maker-artists, your business gives back a ton to the communities that support them. Case in point: this year's annual Snowflake Breakfast fundraiser on Dec. 4 for Partage Vanier Foodbank is entirely donated by Vanier and Beechwood merchants! (Donate now at snowflakebreakfast.com)

With the holidays approaching, it is incumbent upon us as a community to be neighbourly, to look out for each other and to give where possible. This year more than ever your local businesses need your support!

As tempting as it is to buy from large-format stores or that company-who-shall-not-be-named that delivers in "prime" time, we want to entice you with a few amazing gifts found right here in our neighbourhood.

- Books on Beechwood – Who doesn't want a good book to curl up with on a snowy day? You can also get amazing snow globe cards!

- Clocktower Pub – Their wide range of locally brewed beers will delight any beer-lover on your list.

- Fraser Café – Don't feel like cooking? Pick up a holiday-inspired dinner from one of the best in town! While you're at it, add a gift card for that special someone.

- Hobby House – Got a crafter or tinkerer on your list? You'll find the best in model cars and trains, puzzles and more, right here.

- Le Suq – From creations by local makers to an incredible selection of spices and olive oils, this new shop on Beechwood Avenue has a ton of holiday gift-giving options.

- Jacobsons – From Christmas chutney to the world's best cheeses, this shop has all you need for the



most treasured gift baskets.

- Mood Moss – Fill your home with boughs of holly and other seasonal arrangements.

- Oresta Organics – From the best in skincare services to incredible products these are a sure hit!

- Rassi Coiffure – They have you covered for all your hair necessities – those simple hair necessities.

And when in doubt, buy local gift cards, write a



Photo courtesy QVBIA

These adorable mugs are available at Jacobson's Gourmet Concepts, 103 Beechwood Ave.



Photo courtesy QVBIA

Fill your home with boughs of holly and other seasonal arrangements from Mood Moss, 186 Beechwood Ave.

review, share a post. This holiday season the Vanier BIA wants to thank you whole heartedly for supporting your businesses!

Happy holidays and stay safe!

Nathalie Carrier is the head of the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area.

MacKay United Church Minister: Rev. Peter Woods

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Susan Groundwater, Jane Heintzman, David Lawrence and Christina Leadlay

Continued from page 1

studio had lost close to 40 hours per week of its regular business – a slump that was clearly unsustainable. Craig speculates that the downturn resulted from a combination of factors. Lingering fears of infection were a deterrent, particularly among his older clients. More generally, many clients simply “got out of the habit” while during lockdown and never resumed their exercise routines.

The final blow to Craig’s business came in October, with the second lockdown of fitness studios, restaurants and bars imposed to curb the post-summer resurgence of COVID cases. Faced with deciding whether to renew his lease in July 2021, Craig calculated the balance of risk versus rewards in an environment of continuing uncertainty. Ultimately, he chose to step back from his business to allow “time for regrouping and greater flexibility” in determining his future.

But all is not lost. Craig is young and energetic, and

like so many other business owners, he had pivoted early in the pandemic to offer in-home personal training and online training via Zoom and Skype. This formula has been so successful that he plans to continue working within that model, and keep serving his many neighbourhood clients, along with new recruits. You can email craig@studioonept.com or call 613-601-0447. We sincerely wish Craig and his team well in their future endeavours. —JH

New clinic to replace fitness studio

When Craig Adams’ business closes at the end of December, local chiropractor **Dr. Pierre Brunet** will take over the Studio One lease at 1 Springfield Rd. on the corner of Beechwood Avenue. **Centre Chiropratique Rockcliffe Chiropractic Clinic** will offer Dr. Brunet’s own chiropractic services, along with those of two other health practitioners: massage therapist **Keaton Basso** and personal trainer **Lidia Szucs** (who worked previously at



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

SconeWitch owner Heather Matthews recently renewed her lease at 35 Beechwood Ave.

Studio One). In the months ahead, Dr. Brunet also plans to add other healthcare professionals to his team. For information or appointments, visit drbrunet.com or call 613-979-7461.

The clinic will open in January 2021 with the following service hours:

• **Dr. Brunet:** Mondays, 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00–8:00 p.m.; Wednesdays and

Fridays, 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

• **Keaton Basso, massage therapist:** Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

• **Lidia Szucs, personal trainer:** Mondays through Fridays, 8–11 a.m., and 4–7 p.m. —JH

SconeWitch to open in Westboro

When the pandemic took hold in March, **SconeWitch** owner **Heather Matthews** speedily changed gears in her trio of cozy restaurants, shifting to an order-online, takeout and home delivery model – the lifeline of food-service businesses the world over since the emergence of COVID-19.

During the early, jittery days of the pandemic, SconeWitch’s weekend home deliveries of ready-to-bake frozen scones were an instant hit with families confined to their homes, longing for the comfort and normalcy of a hearty brunch of piping hot scones slathered with SconeWitch’s signature Moss Berry Farm jams.

SconeWitch is keeping up the home delivery service, which is available for orders of \$25 and over on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at sconewitch.ca. As Heather anticipates a spike in demand over the holiday period, she strongly suggests that clients order early! The six-packs of scones are carefully shrink wrapped and will stay fresh in the freezer for at least a month.


SconeWitch’s takeout business now serves up a slightly reduced menu of freshly baked scones, salads, sand-

wiches and drinks Wednesday through Sunday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at locations on Beechwood Avenue and Elgin Street and at the Cyrville Road product station where all the food is prepared in a large industrial kitchen.

While business has been fairly brisk at our local Beechwood outlet, where Heather recently renewed her lease, she reports a significant slump in sales at the downtown Elgin Street location, where many office buildings remain largely empty. In fact, says Heather, with Elgin Street traffic down by a whopping 80 per cent, “you couldn’t keep doing it if you didn’t know it would eventually turn around.”


Offsetting the dark clouds of the pandemic, SconeWitch is about to launch a new outlet on Winston Avenue in Westboro, close to Mountain Equipment Co-op and directly across the road from The Piggy Market. After a long, nerve-racking delay in obtaining a City Building Permit (for which Heather applied last February and only acquired in mid-November!), the Westboro store fit-up is now well underway. Heather is aiming for an early December opening – just in time for the holiday season.

Apart from its prime location, the new shop will have a number of attractive amenities: notably, a few outdoor tables where clients can consume their take-out purchases, and (drumroll...) eight parking spots for those stopping by to pick up orders! Here’s hoping the new location will



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Photo by Mary Ellen Cavett

Beechwood Market manager Chris Penton (centre) with staff member Nick (right) and a customer.

prove to be the Christmas gift that Heather, her daughter **Madeline** (SconeWitch operations manager), and the rest of their team deserve after a challenging year! —JH

Beat the winter blues at New Edinburgh Square

Of the many retirement homes in New Edinburgh, the most centrally located is **Chartwell New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence** at 35 Beechwood Ave. “A lot of people like us because of the location,” said **Catherine Strevens-Bourque**, Director of Marketing and Community Relations. “For sure, this is the coolest area of town to be living in right now. We’re one of very few urban retirement homes.”

Potential residents may worry about COVID-19. But with infection control protocols in place, New Edinburgh Square offers a quality of life that many will find attractive: opportunities to socialize, access to medical care, security, and freedom from housework and cooking. The home offers a winter stay – a viable alternative to the snowbird lifestyle now out of reach because of the pandemic.

New Edinburgh Square has been part of our community since 1992. It offers studios and suites with up to two bedrooms. Each apartment includes a kitchen, cable television, and a personal emergency response system. The staff provide three healthy meals a day and can accommodate special diets. A studio costs a little more than \$3,000 per month, comparable to rent or a mortgage.

Organized activities and social events create a community atmosphere that combats physical inactivity and loneliness, which can sap the quality of life for many. In

addition to fitness facilities, the residence boasts a library and movie theatre, and offers gardening and even video gaming. Social and recreational programs (now on hold due of the pandemic) include lively discussions of current events.

Residents also enjoy many wellness services and can see a nurse to discuss health concerns 24 hours a day. Other healthcare services, such as massage or physiotherapy, are also available.

Management is taking COVID-19 seriously and has worked hard to keep residents safe. During government-mandated lockdowns, staff donned full protective gear to deliver meals to nearly 90 residents when the dining room was closed. Facilities are regularly cleaned and sterilized, and for now, visitors are not allowed.

“All of the staff were tremendously loyal and incredibly cheerful,” said Keith Newton, a New Edinburgh Square resident. “They were unfailingly polite and very efficient. People continued to get the very best service from the staff, although they were working extremely hard. Although it was a strain on the system, we got through it remarkably well.”

New Edinburgh Square is well integrated into the neighbourhood, though the pandemic has affected the home’s vibrant relationship with the Beechwood Farmer’s Market and support for the Rockcliffe Library Book Sale and St. Bart’s Bazaar (which went virtual this year). “We’re really connected and engaged with the community, but it’s a little different now because of COVID,” said Catherine. “We’re all in this together. We’re a pretty big business on Beechwood, so we need

to step up to the plate and be good neighbours.”

Learn more at **chartwell.com** or call **613-744-0901**. —DL

Holiday market goes online

After a successful pivot to online ordering this past summer, Beechwood Market is ready to keep going this winter. “It has been an exciting and successful experiment,” Market manager **Chris Penton** told the *New Edinburgh News*, confirming that click-and-collect ordering will continue to run all year.

“The base food products will be consistently available: local produce, baking, eggs, dairy, meals, honey, maple syrup, sauces,” says Chris.

In previous years, the market has hosted a holiday market in December. Sadly, these pandemic times won’t allow for an in-person event, but Chris has adapted with a virtual edition.

“We launched the Holiday Market on Nov. 13,” he explains. “Made up of 20 local artisans, you’ll be able to clear your gift list with one visit.” Among the gift offerings are paper art, candles, bath and body products, macrame, masks, wreaths, jewellery, upcycled clothing, handmade cards and of course, Beechwood Market swag.

There are also special “Taste of Local” holiday bags available, featuring nine Market items including sparkling apple cider, half a pound of coffee, honey, barbecue sauce, maple sugar, a glass shaker, sugar body scrub and a handmade gift card, all in a Beechwood Market-branded tote bag for \$65.

The online market starts taking orders at 12:01 a.m. on Friday mornings and remains open until the following Thursday at noon. Orders made before noon on Thursday are for that Saturday’s pickup. For example, orders placed by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10 will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, Dec. 12. Orders placed at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11 will be ready Saturday, Dec. 19.

The pick-up location has moved indoors for the winter to 131B Beechwood Ave. – beside Bridgehead. Don’t forget to wear your mask!

Making the move from an in-person market to online wasn’t easy, but Chris says he has been “surprised at the



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Muna Al-Zaydi and Ridha Hussain are the wife-and-husband team behind **Nature’s Care**, 64 Beechwood Ave.

trust in our brand and the community support. People had faith in our vendors and the Market to get them the best Ottawa has to offer. They rallied.”

Local photographer **Mary Ellen Cavett** documented the Beechwood Market’s transition to curbside pickup this past summer. View her photos at **mecavettphotography.com**.

Visit **beechwoodmarket.ca** to place your orders. —CL

Find your health boost at Nature’s Care

For more than two decades, **Nature’s Care Health Products** at 64 Beechwood Ave. (in the “Quickie Mall”) has supplied our community

with vitamins, supplements, and a wide range of natural products, from aromatherapy essential oils to diet supplements, and eco-friendly cleaning products. **Muna Al-Zaydi** and **Ridha Hussain** have been there all along, initially as employees and later as owners of the franchise, which they acquired in 2008.

The couple acquired their professional credentials in their native Iraq and are grounded in disciplines related to natural health. Muna has a background in clinical biochemistry, while Ridha studied veterinary science.

Continued on page 12

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In Ridha's case, the path to acquiring accreditation in his field after immigrating to Canada was simply too long and costly to undertake with a young family to support. Hence their decision to take on operation of Nature's Care and apply their skills and background to counseling clients in selecting natural health products.

Unlike so many small businesses reeling from the impact of the pandemic, Ridha reports that his business has been "normal to good" since the lockdown in March, with a notable spike in sales in April, May and June. Many clients, particularly the elderly, have taken advantage of Nature's Care's free local delivery service, as well as contactless pick-up for prepaid phone orders.

Products in highest demand throughout the pandemic have been vitamins D, C and zinc, which are considered effective immune system supports. Ridha points out that close to 80 per cent of those contracting COVID-19 have been found to have low levels of vitamin D. So as we endure the coming season

of long hours of darkness and weak sunlight, the need for this supplement is especially critical. Another popular Nature's Care product in the pandemic context is quercetin, thought to inhibit the dangerous inflammatory condition associated with severe cases of COVID-19.

A touchstone of Nature's Care's business is its highly competitive pricing. Ridha has cultivated strong relations with his suppliers, and often benefits from substantial discounts, which he passes directly on to his clients. Over the years, this pricing policy, along with Ridha and Muna's friendly approach and helpful advice, have combined to build a substantial clientele. If there are silver linings to the COVID-19 pandemic, the further boost to business at Nature's Care's may well be among them!

The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For orders or product information, call **613-741-1572**. —JH

Business is blooming at Mood Moss

After 16 years operating his florist business on Beechwood Avenue, **Eric**



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The Mood Moss team: (from left) Owner Eric Cardinal with Susan and Keitha-Nv.

Cardinal reflects: "It can be easy to get in a rut. When the pandemic hit in mid-March, I was in a good head space to deal with it." This can-do approach proved to be critical, as Eric had no time to gear up for restructuring. Demand for flowers and houseplants soared following the lockdown.

"The language of flowers seemed to cheer people up," says Eric, and his clients moved swiftly to send floral tributes to boost the spirits of friends, family and, in particular, shut-in residents of retirement homes and chron-

ic-care facilities. As people were largely "confined to barracks" during the lockdown, houseplants were in especially high demand to add cheer to home surroundings.


During the first three months of the pandemic, while the doors of the store were locked, Eric operated solo, juggling phone and online orders. At the same time, he responded to eager clients, waving and pointing through his front window where his flower collection was amassed for easy viewing.

"It was like a speakeasy,"


recalls Eric, as a steady stream of clients knocked at the back door to collect their purchases.

Mother's Day 2020 proved to be the single busiest day of Eric's career. From May 8 at 6 a.m. to Mother's Day May 10 at 6 p.m., Eric worked and slept at the store, doing his best to keep up with an unprecedented avalanche of orders. He is grateful to his father, who stepped in to assist with local deliveries that weekend, and who has been a regular helper ever since.

By June, Eric was able to




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Photo by Louise Imbeault

Clothes Encounters consignment boutique owner Monique Dugas with Clara the shop's cat.

bring back staff to handle daily operations, and now has one full-time and two part-time employees on the Mood Moss roster.

But while local neighbourhood business has flourished since the start of the pandemic, the picture is not all rosy. On the downside, the weddings, large events, and hotel business which normally make up a substantial part of Mood Moss's annual revenues, collapsed completely at the start of the pandemic and have yet to recover. While Eric supplied a number of weddings over the summer, these were radically downsized, and most of his bookings were cancelled altogether. But he remains optimistic that 2021 and 2022 will bring "a huge rebound" in the wedding business when the virus has – we hope – run its course. In the meantime, Valentine's Day 2021 promises to be another banner day for Mood Moss, so get your orders in early!

Mood Moss is open Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturdays from 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. For orders or information, call **613-741-1774** or visit **moodmossflowers.com**. –JH

Find your style at Clothes Encounters

Number 67 Beechwood Ave. is home to one of Ottawa's first consignment shops: Clothes Encounters of a Second Time. The boutique offers a variety of high-end clothing for men and women, both gently used and new, including vintage items.

Clothes Encounters started in 1982 as a community response to an influx of Vietnamese refugees arriving in Canada. Four women

started collecting clothes in their basements so that the refugees and their children would have warm winter clothes. The response from the Manor Park community was overwhelming, so the four women became entrepreneurs and created a business to sell the extra clothes and donate the proceeds.

Today, Clothes Encounters retains its community focus and donates unsold clothing to charities benefiting women's shelters and other community programs.

Owner **Monique Dugas**, originally from Sudbury, Ont., has a long history with the shop. She and her sister came to Ottawa as students and found work there. In 2002, after a stint managing the shop, Monique took the plunge and bought it from the original owners. Monique has made Clothes Encounters of a Second Time (a play on the 1977 film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) truly her own.

Monique's shop is special in a number of ways. First, she doesn't believe in sizing. "Everyone's unique," she says. "When you come in here, don't look at the size. Just be yourself and try things on." She and her staff also provide a "matching service." They keep track of their customers' preferences and let them know when something they might like comes in. Clothes Encounters is also famous for its beloved resident cat Clara Cleopatra, a tortoiseshell who freely roams the shop.

In the COVID-19 era, when many people work or study from home, demand for such comfortable clothing as jogging pants, sweaters, turtle-necks, shawls and vests has picked up. "With COVID,

a lot of stuff isn't selling," said Monique. "It's a different ballgame. I'm not taking as many dressy clothes because there's no market for that right now."

Monique has taken steps to keep her customers safe. Visitors must ring the doorbell to enter, and she strictly limits the number of people inside. She takes customer names and numbers should contact tracing ever be necessary.

Anyone interested in selling clothing on consignment at Clothes Encounters can reach out to Monique by phone or through Facebook or Instagram to book an appointment. A sample contract detailing terms and conditions is available at **clothesencounters.ca**.

Visit Clothes Encounters at 67 Beechwood Ave. or call **613-741-7887**. –DL

Update your home with vintage furniture

As we spend more time at home, you're probably becoming very aware of what you love (and don't love) about your personal space. If you've recognized a gap or just want to inject some personality into your home, consider a visit to **Verve Moderns** (formerly Vanier Moderns), a wonderful source for vintage finds.

Many New Edinburgh residents will remember the store's original location in the St. Charles church on Beechwood Avenue. That's where Verve Modern owners **Tina Tolgyesy** and **Jeff Watson** first set up their retail shop selling furniture, clothing and collectibles in 2012.

"We started by renting the basement of the church to sort out all the wonderful items we had collected over the past 15 years as wholesalers," recounts Tina. "And then when the church was de-sanctified, we took over that space as our first retail location."

Since then, Verve Moderns has built an enthusiastic following through word-of-mouth and social media. What sets them apart is their knowledge and passion for what they sell. Jeff trained as a master carpenter and art restorer, while Tina offers her wide experience of interior design, fine art, and crafts. The result is a carefully curated collection of modern European and North


American furniture and collectibles, primarily from the 1950s to the 1970s. These fantastic pieces are artfully arranged in their showroom, now located in Bate Hall at All Saints Church in Sandy Hill (corner Laurier Avenue East and Blackburn).

Tina and Jeff's creative efforts attract clients of all ages and incomes, from Ottawa and beyond. Some are true collectors and visit regularly, while others come looking for a specific item they saw on social media or to browse for unexpected treasures. If you don't find what you're looking for on display in the store, Tina and Jeff are happy to add it to a request list and will keep an eye out for it when sourcing new items.

No matter what you're looking for, you can be sure Tina and Jeff will welcome you and do their best to help you make

your home a more beautiful and functional space, with a little bit of history thrown in! "We are always learning," Tina shares. "We try to educate ourselves, build up our knowledge of the materials, esthetics and history of pieces, and this keeps us interested."

Having moved several times since leaving St. Charles church and before settling in Sandy Hill about a year ago, Tina and Jeff decided it was time to make their name less location specific. After some debate, they settled on Verve Moderns, a wonderful choice that allows them to continue using their original logo, sketched by Jeff long ago. They are working on releasing a new searchable website soon, but in the meantime, you can find Verve Moderns on Instagram @vervemoderns and Facebook. com/verve.moderns. –SG




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Seasonal safety tips for pet parents

By Susan Groundwater

Have you added a new furry friend to your household over the last few months? Many households in New Edinburgh have adopted a pet since the start of the pandemic, which means they are now heading into their first holiday season with an animal in their home.

If that is the case for you, you may be wondering how to prepare. Luckily, our experts at Beechwood Animal Hospital (266 Beechwood Ave.) and Pet Valu (170 Beechwood Ave.) have offered up some great tips for keeping your new friend safe and happy throughout the festive season.

The first thing you should consider, says registered veterinary technician **Allison White**, is that puppies raised during the COVID months may not be well-socialized to other dogs and people outside your household, which can make holiday gatherings or travel extra stressful.

“Too much stimulation – music, decorations, extra people or other animals – are when incidents can happen,” she explains. “Be sure you can segregate your animal in a separate room of your home, or bring a portable crate if you are visiting another household.”

Given the situation this year, travel and visitors may not be an issue, but creating a secure and calm space for your pet

away from the festivities is still a very good idea. **Daniel Korolev**, owner of Pet Valu, reminds pet owners that when segregating your animal, you must keep him or her busy!

“It’s important that your pet has toys and long-lasting chews to keep them occupied and distracted, which in turn relieves stress,” Daniel says. In addition, he recommends natural calming products, such as treat supplements, water additives, pheromone sprays and collars to help relieve stress and deter unwanted behaviour.

When your pet is roaming free in your home, there are other steps you should take to keep them safe this time of year. After more than six years at the clinic, Allison has witnessed what happens when puppies discover gifts, decorations, and Christmas treats. “Don’t keep presents on the ground in a room that your dog has free access to,” she warns. “This is especially true for gifts with chocolate in them!” Avoid tinsel on the tree as well: dogs tend to eat it, and the result can be very dangerous.

During the holidays we often run extra electrical cords around the house to power decorations. Puppies and kittens can easily chew on these wires and suffer burns (or worse), so do what you can to control access to these hazards. Cats are also



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Daniel Korolev (right), owner of Pet Valu, with his staff Hamza and Julie.

drawn to ribbons, tinsel and gifts, but containing felines can be difficult. For them, Dan suggests using deterrent sprays that can be safely applied to most items. There are even motion-activated sprays designed to deter curious cats!

Finally, as tempting as it is to share the bounty of your table with your animal, it’s important to limit fatty treats. Table scraps given (or stolen!) can cause digestive upset, says Dan, so it’s a good idea to have a few cans of pumpkin purée or powder and canned tripe on hand to soothe your pet’s stomach.

Allison agrees, noting that too much of a good thing can result in pancreatitis for your

dog, which will spoil everyone’s holiday. It’s also a good idea to check your food supply and make sure you have plenty to get through planned (and unexpected) holiday closures, especially if your pet requires a special diet.

Finally, be ready to handle the unexpected. “It’s very common for animals to have accidents when stressed or excited,” notes Dan, “so you may want to stock up on pet-friendly cleaning products.”

If you have not yet added an animal to your home, but are considering one as a holiday “gift,” please remember that the holiday season is rarely a good time to introduce a new animal to your home. Animals need to be welcomed into a

calm, stable environment to ensure they adapt well and settle into a new routine.

Also, Allison notes that the pandemic has increased demand for veterinary services, meaning many new pet owners are having trouble finding care for their animals and getting immunizations on schedule. She confirms that Beechwood Animal Hospital is currently at capacity, and shares this wise advice: “If you want to adopt, make sure you have a vet first!”

Once you have prepared for a safe season, your thoughts may turn to gifts for your furry friend. “Essential items for new pet parents such as brushes, bowls, carriers, and jackets are never a bad idea, but if you’re buying for someone else, it’s important to ask the pet parent what they need, since they may already have it,” says Dan. His team at Pet Valu is happy to help you make a good choice. The staff is taking orders by phone or online to be picked up in-store. Staff can also bring orders out to a vehicle if customers phone ahead, or they can arrange for delivery.

Pet owners of New Edinburgh are lucky to have such great resources nearby. Follow these wise suggestions and you and your new family member should enjoy many wonderful holidays together.



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Reporting small incidents can help police see larger trends

By Marc d'Orgeville,
NECA Traffic and Safety
Committee

In October, somebody went through our car... again.

Yes, this is neither the first nor the last time that we forgot to lock it, but at least we have become very good at not leaving anything valuable in the car.

After cleaning up the few things that had been emptied from the glove compartment onto the seats, I made a mental note to report it to the police. However, a few days later sitting at my computer to make an online report, I was confused once again by the form and, realizing I had forgotten the exact date of the last time we used the car before the incident, I simply gave up.

Why bother since nothing had been stolen?

As chair of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's traffic and safety committee, I took my question to Constable Vianney Calixte from our Community Police centre. He was pleased that I reached out to him on this topic and quick to first remind me that **for anything life-threatening, call 911 immediately. Potential serious harm? Call 911. Report any crime in progress immediately to 911.**

For everything else – theft from vehicle, traffic issue (unless there is potential immediate serious harm), break and enter – report it by phone or online. To my mind, the difference is either having somebody on the phone helping you navigate your report or doing it at your own pace on your computer. Ultimately, the police will receive the same information. Interestingly, though, Constable Calixte said that while online reports used to be reviewed before being forwarded, they now go directly to an investigator.

When asked why we should report these incidents to police, his answer was crystal clear: today's policing is based on statistics. Officers need data to help analysts uncover trends and to allocate resources during investigations.

A simple example: somebody breaks into your car and nothing is stolen. (Does that ring a bell?) If you report it,

the police might be able to associate it with other similar reports. Perhaps they will see that it is the third night in a row that it happened in the neighbourhood, and they might want to act on that trend. But if not all victims report their break-in, that trend would not appear.

So, a single incident of this kind may not be important to the police, but a trend could trigger action to prevent more victims. Therefore, I should have made an effort to report our break in on the day. Not just for myself, but also to potentially protect my neighbours. Duly noted!

Another example Constable Calixte gave was the increase in traffic complaints during the periods when children are travelling by school bus. In that case, it helps the police to know what the community wants. With this, I am left thinking about the number of times I hear complaints (or complain myself) about vehicles speeding down our residential streets, or the poor compliance rate at our four-way stop. But I never report this to the police.

So, if the community wants more enforcement of dangerous driving, it is clear where we need to start.

As a side note, Constable Calixte also wants to emphasize that reporting on social media – a quick Tweet or Instagram post – is not the same as reporting to the police.

I also asked him how to determine whether something should be reported to City By-law or to police. He said the important part is to start the reporting process: city or police staff will direct you to the right channel.

In fact, sometimes it could be both a city and police matter. For instance, a noise complaint should be reported to By-law, but after 2 a.m., such complaints are redirected to police.

Something important to note is that people should not be making reports directly to Constable Calixte. To be clear: do not report a break and enter to our community police officer! That said, Constable Calixte is always willing to talk with residents, and can come speak at community events.

We also discussed COVID-19's effects. Interestingly,

Report theft from a break and enter, theft from a vehicle, or traffic issues to the Ottawa police either over the phone or online.

there has been no significant change in the number of calls police have received. However, one change has been the increased number of encampments.

Community officers worked a lot on this issue over the summer, with the task force set up between multiple organizations: City housing, the Salvation Army, and others.

Constable Calixte helped in his area, notably when encampments were too big or too dangerous and it was decided to dismantle them.

I finished by asking his best advice about reporting: "Nothing is too small. It can open the doors to other investigations. The smallest information can open the floodgate. Policing relies on the communities who are the eyes on the ground."

NECA's Traffic and Safety committee meetings take place at 7 p.m. every fourth Monday. The next meetings are scheduled for Dec. 21 and January 25. Anyone interested in attending should contact marc.dorgeville@utoronto.ca.

Marc d'Orgeville is the chair of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Traffic and Safety committee.

Over 30 families expected to move into new Crichton Street rentals

Continued from page 1

of December. Their objective is to submit the application in time to have a formal review by the Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) in January 2021. This in turn should allow time to incorporate further revisions suggested by the UDRP, and to submit a revised application to Planning Committee for approval in April 2021.

If all goes as planned, demolition on the site could begin by fall 2021, with construction getting underway by spring 2022. Minto is anticipating a two-year build, with first occupancies in the 250 rental units taking place at the end of 2023.

With regard to the planned timetable, Minto's Kevin Harper stresses that "this is actually going to happen" – because the residential units will be rentals (not condominiums), there will be no hiatus as the company waits to reach a target of initial sales before committing shovels to the ground. It will be full steam ahead once the necessary City approvals are obtained. Nor should there be a lengthy wait for occupancy of the commercial spaces on Beechwood. Minto will continue to own and manage these spaces, and to ensure that they are up and running to provide attractive amenities for their renters, as well as for the community at large. –JH

High-end apartments on Crichton nears completion

Construction of the four-storey luxury apartment building at 280–282 Crichton St. is wrapping up, to the relief of local residents. According to **Jim Dark**, project manager from the Laurin Group construction firm, the city has cleared the property for occupancy. Several occupants have begun moving their

belongings into the new units. The project is expected to be finished by the end of 2020.

The property consists of 36 one- and two-bedroom luxury apartments ranging from 681 to 1,370 square feet. The complex offers amenities including underground parking, a fitness centre, floor-to-ceiling windows, outdoor terraces, and heated walkways. Primecorp Property Management Inc. is managing the property. Rental prices start at \$2,200 per month.

The property site at 280 and 282 Crichton Street lay vacant for nearly 20 years before being sold in 2017. The project is owned by 280 Crichton Corporation, a numbered company formed by a group of investors, including **Bernie Normand**, president of B. J. Normand Ltd., the Trinity Group.

Neighbours who have suffered due to construction and congestion look forward to the completion of the project. The building is a contemporary design by Hobin Architecture. Local businesses will also benefit from the influx of more than 30 families.

The project also demonstrated lessons about community engagement. Initially, neighbours were left out of discussions between the developers and the city. In response, several neighbours, led by **Kelly Beaton**, mobilized to ensure that community voices were heard. Before the pandemic struck, several community meetings were held to provide updates on the project and address concerns. Local residents, city representatives, the Laurin Group and Primecorp Property Management participated.

Kelly spoke highly of the engagement of City Councillor **Rawlson King** and his team. "I'd like to



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Construction is wrapping up on the new apartments at 280 Crichton St.

acknowledge the solid work of the councillor's office. They took the time, attended the meetings, and have been very responsive."

Susan Ong, the policy advisor from the councillor's team, emphasized the importance of their role as facilitators. "We make sure that neighbours are well informed and kept up to date while construction is occurring," she said. "Part of Councillor King's philosophy is that communication with developers and the community should be more open. It hinges on the willingness of all parties to come to the conversation but produces better outcomes for everyone."

However, some issues remain unresolved. The residents of 319 MacKay St. and 278 Crichton St. have repeatedly requested a meeting with the developer to discuss repairs to the driveway and concrete curb located at 278 Crichton St. and details regarding the fencing of the property, to no avail. "It has been very frustrating for the residents, but we remain hopeful that the developer will collaborate and respond

to our request for a meeting this month," said Kelly Beaton.

Next on the community wish-list will be the repair of Crichton Street, which has been damaged by the stream of trucks from the project and the nearby Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel project, which is also nearing completion. –DL

Occupancy underway at St Charles Market

St Charles Market (SCM) developer ModBox announced in early November that occupancy of the 55-unit building is now underway, beginning on Level 2. Over the next four months, the remaining condos and townhouses are expected to fill up, concluding with the top-floor penthouse units in late February 2021. Completion of construction has taken place under a strict regime of COVID-19 health and safety protocols, an added challenge for the builder, sub-trades, suppliers and designers comprising the ModBox/Lake Partnership team.

ModBox director of sales

and marketing **Chantal Smith** highlights a number of special "behind the scenes" COVID-related aspects of the design: "Each unit has an isolated air circulation system with fresh-air intakes, designed to optimize air quality and help prevent the transmission of airborne pathogens," says Chantal. She adds, "with the seismic shift towards working from home, buyers are recognizing that life is more pleasant if their home is well-designed ... and has all the amenities within walking distance."

There remain only five units available in SCM, ranging in size from 1,790–3,900 square feet. For information, call 613-301-7782 or e-mail chantal@modbox.ca.

There is still no news on the commercial front at SCM. Business development director **André Cloutier** reports that planning for the commercial units has been slowed down by the pandemic, but adds that "we are doing relatively well compared to many, and making good progress on all the construction projects underway." –JH

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Beechwood 'Village': An obituary or a wake-up call?

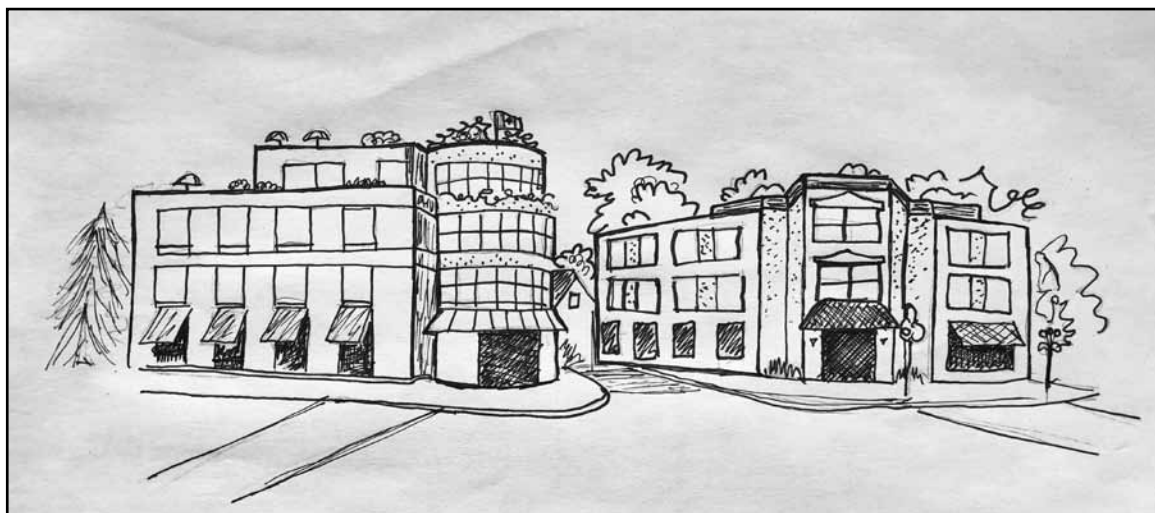
By Marilyn Hart

Many residents of both sides of Beechwood Avenue will remember the exciting days of 2005, when the City of Ottawa's Main Street programme was launched. The Beechwood Main Street Team, headed by City staff Don Morse, called upon the communities of Vanier, New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, and Rockcliffe Park to join them in exploring visions for the future.

A Steering Committee was formed. The city councillors for each side of Beechwood were deeply involved. Questionnaires were circulated; weekend design exercises with paper, crayons and keen community members were held. City staff painstakingly studied sightlines and potential heights for future buildings. Exhibitions and many meetings were held in the large basement of St. Charles Church. Hundreds of citizens attended and participated.

Steering Committee meetings were held frequently for well over a year. Finally, the preferred outcome of this elaborate consultation process was produced: The Beechwood Community Design Plan (ottawa.ca/en/beechnwood-community-design-plan). This was approved by City Council in September 2006. Associated specific zoning bylaws were approved that November.

Most of the sectors along Beechwood were indicated as "low-rise intensification," coloured blue on the BCDPlan. The line drawing above illustrates the nature of new development we could anticipate in these sectors. The aim was to "develop [new buildings] that do not overwhelm the surrounding village-style buildings" (p. 45 of the BCDPlan). Some areas, such as Beechwood at MacKay, were indicated (in red) as medium-density nodes, and development



Drawing copied from 2006 BCD Plan, by Christina Leadlay

The 2006 Beechwood Community Design Plan envisioned low-rise developments (above). The projects being approved in 2020 are a far cry from this ideal.

within that framework has already been built.

A community vision destroyed

The enhancement of Beechwood Avenue lands did not proceed quickly. Historically there were three major family landholdings along Beechwood, whose agendas varied. One such landholding, owned by the Claude Lauzon family, lay awaiting redevelopment on the south side of Beechwood, in a low-rise zone. Their development application of 2007/08, reflecting the new BCDPlan, was however thwarted by the legal need to deal personally with the hydro poles, and hydro capacity along Beechwood. This was an expense the family was not prepared to make. Much of the property was left to deteriorate. This disrepair has been "unwelcome" for many years.

Recently the Lauzon lands and some contiguous lands on Barrette Street have been purchased by the Minto Corporation. Time to spruce up Beechwood at last, but at what cost? We must be aware that new additional planning documents have been prepared recently, city-wide, which refer to "Traditional Mainstreets." The specifica-

tions allow slightly higher buildings...of six stories.

The Minto re-zoning application, however, which the City is reviewing now at 78 Beechwood Ave., requests a height of a 26.9 meters (nine storeys). The site, moreover, is a huge one, and will result in a massive horizontal slab, which is a far cry from the vision of appropriate new development in the BCDPlan.

If built, this building will cast shadows over the north side of Beechwood and the residences close by in

Lindenlea. It will set yet another precedent for any future development of another large landholding between Springfield and Douglas, also in Lindenlea, which will presumably be another nine-storey building. A Beechwood canyon of high buildings will be the format we must live with for the next 40 years. Other old main streets, such as in the Glebe, have recently succumbed to the same fate.

Perhaps the City staff, and their Urban Design panel, might negotiate with Minto

for a lower height along Beechwood. Other developers however, at the Kavanaugh building on Marquette, and the St. Charles church lands, have in earlier years (and each for specific reasons) violated the original BCDPlan Low rise height limits.

Conclusion

It is clear, that without substantially modifying the Minto re-zoning application – and there are many approaches to this – we must accept that Beechwood Village is not remotely evolving according to the plans that those enthusiastic citizens and Steering Committee members toiled for in 2006. I fear this is an obituary for "Beechwood Village." A competition for a name change, perhaps?

If you care, please get in touch with your councillor or City staff, whose names you will find on the signs alongside the Minto site, or contact your community association. Make your voice heard.

Marilyn Hart, a veteran urban design planner, was an enthusiastic member of the BCDPlan Steering Committee, and a long time resident of the South of Beechwood area.

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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

Over the course of the fall, the number of songbird species in our area has been steadily dwindling as migrating populations moved south to more hospitable wintering grounds. But while birders lament their departure and the prospect of a bleak, “bird-light” winter, the good news is that remaining birds are now much easier to spot than in the lush green summer landscape.

Now that the trees are bare, birds are readily visible, even without their bright breeding plumage. And with the breeding season behind us, many species are moving around in sizeable flocks, which are hard to miss as they engage in

(the “tan morph” version, which is brown and buff-coloured, rather than black and white). The pair spent an afternoon fueling up under the feeders in preparation for a late departure. And I heard but was unable to see in the dense cedar bush at the back of our garden, a solo **gray catbird** – a rare visitor, but always to be found in precisely the same spot.

Even in mid-November, the Ottawa Field Naturalists’ Club (ofnc.ca/recent-bird-sightings) was reporting sightings of **Northern mockingbirds**, **Eastern towhees** and even a group of late-departing warblers. A **Wilson’s Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were all spotted close to our neighbourhood near the Rideau Sports Centre on Donald Avenue by the Rideau River.

In our recent autumn rambles in the area, there have been a few notable highlights: common ravens (which I hope will be my daily walking companions, as they were last winter); **sharp-shinned hawks**; **downy- and hairy woodpeckers**; **white-breasted nuthatches**; **American goldfinches**; **mallards**, **hooded**



A pair of Cardinals.

Photo by Frank Martin

mergansers, **double-crested cormorants**, **wood ducks** on the Rideau River; and an astonishingly large flock of 10 **wild turkeys**, strutting languidly across Manor Avenue in Rockcliffe Park. The **wood duck** family, a female with about 10 of her young following obediently in her wake, was a special delight. Mother duck was vocalizing throughout the procession along the river, filling the air with the arresting high-pitched squeak characteristic of the species. Have a listen at allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Duck/sounds

Winter finch forecast

As we slide inexorably into winter, a redeeming prospect for birders is the anticipation of the **winter finch** species which may “irrupt” or move south into our area in the coming months. There are eight winter finch species, some more familiar than others at backyard feeders.

Common redpolls, **hoary redpolls**, **purple finches** and **pine siskins** are our most frequent visitors, but in some years **pine grosbeaks**, **Evening grosbeaks** and **red-**

Finch Research Network Forecast (finchnetwork.org) predicts that we may be in luck this winter. Because of poor spruce cone and white birch crops in some



Golden crowned Kinglet.

Photo by David Dawson

and **white-winged crossbills** have also arrived in large numbers. Three other species whose winter movements are closely linked to those of the boreal (winter) finches are **blue jays**; **Bohemian waxwings**; and **red-breasted nuthatches**. Visit jeaniron.ca/2012/winterfinches for details.

Each year, the nature and scale of these irruptions is determined by the relative scarcity or abundance of food supplies in the northern boreal regions, which are the finches’ breeding grounds. In bumper-crop years, the colourful finches are few and far between in our neighbourhood, but when food is thin on the ground up north, they may arrive in significant numbers to brighten up the bleak winter landscape.

In early fall, ornithologists prepare winter finch forecasts for the coming winter, based on the crop data available for boreal areas. This year’s

parts of their northern breeding grounds, a number of the irruptive species may head south into our area, notably **common** and **hoary redpolls**, **purple finches**, **Evening grosbeaks**, **pine grosbeaks**, **red-breasted nuthatches**, **pine siskins** and **Bohemian waxwings**. By late November, the OFNC was already reporting regular sightings of all the winter finch species, with **redpolls** and **Evening grosbeaks** topping the list in significant numbers.

If you have a backyard bird feeder, it’s time to stock up on supplies to keep these lovely finches (and other hardy year-round species) well-fed over the winter. As a general rule of thumb, most species are partial to **black-oil sunflower seeds**, in particular the larger birds with powerful seed-cracking bills: **grosbeaks**, **cardinals**, **hairy-**, **downy-** and **pileated woodpeckers**. But squirrels are also big sunflower seed



Photo by Frank Martin

Dark-eyed junco.

frenetic, pre-winter food gathering. **American robins**, **black-capped chickadees**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **blue jays**, **Northern flickers**, **European starlings**, **cedar waxwings** and **American crows** have all been regulars in our community this past autumn. Many of them have turned up in our garden on Stanley Avenue to forage in the seed-littered flowerbeds, or check out the supplies of nyjer and safflower seed in our feeders.

Early in the fall, we had visits from a couple of late-departing migrant species. Highlights included a **ruby-crowned kinglet pair**, which appeared twice in our garden: once in mid-October and again a month later. We also hosted two **white-throat sparrows**



Wild turkey.

Photo by Frank Martin



Photo by David Dawson

Black-capped chickadee.

fans. An alternative which seems to appeal less to pesky rodents is **safflower seed**, a sure-fire magnet for **cardinals**.

Smaller finches favour **nyjer seed**, which consists of tiny thistles dispensed in narrow tube feeders. **Blue jays** and **red-breasted nuthatches** (and, alas, squirrels) also love peanuts. And in the dead of winter, when birds need high calorie, high fat sustenance to survive the harsh conditions, **suet** is another staple of backyard feeding stations.

Leading suppliers of seed in our area are **Ritchie Feed and Seed** (ritchiefed.com), **Wild Birds Unlimited** (ottawa.wbu.com) and **Gilligallou**

a crabapple and a mountain ash close to our back windows, and in past years, have watched in fascination as the berry supplies were ravenously devoured by clouds of waxwings.

Reports from our readers

In early November, St. Laurent Academy science teacher **Mike Leveille** was amazed to find a **peregrine falcon** on the window ledge of a condo building on St. Laurent Blvd. and Montreal Road. Peregrines are among the largest falcons in North America, known for their prowess in catching pigeons and other mid-sized birds, which they can pluck out of the air in spectacular dives called “stoops.” The adults have bluish-gray plumage, with barred chests and long wings. Like most raptors, the female of the species is the larger bird.

Our Victoria, B.C. birding correspondent **Vicki Metcalfe** recently had a fruitful birding excursion to Witty’s Lagoon, where she spotted more than two dozen species in the course of the day. Her list included species familiar in our part of country, such as **American robins**, **golden-crowned kinglets**, **red-breasted nuthatches**,



Blue jay in flight.

Photo by Frank Martin

winter. In recent weeks, a steady stream of **blue jays**, **American goldfinches** (no longer gold, but now grayish-olive coloured), **house finches**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **Northern cardinals**, **black-capped chickadees** and **white-breasted nuthatches** have been gathering at his feeders – no physical distancing in the bird world.

In early November, Philip was surprised to spot a late-departing **white-throat** or **white crowned sparrow**, but the bird departed too swiftly to confirm the ID. A less welcome visitor to the Bistro was a long-tailed **hawk**, which Philip tentatively identified as either a **sharp-shinned hawk** or a **Cooper’s hawk**. Both are common in our area, and both are frequent marauders at backyard feeders.

The highlight of Philip’s fall birding was an early morning

encounter with a **barred owl** in Pine Hill Woods (near Princess and Lisgar Roads in Rockcliffe Park). This heavily barred, moon-faced creature

warm welcome to **David Dawson** and **Frank Martin**, two talented local bird photographers who responded to our call for help



Downy woodpecker.

Photo by David Dawson

is perhaps best known for its signature call: *whoo, whoo, who cooks for you?*

The *NEN* wishes a

in our October edition, and have agreed to share some of their splendid work with our readers!



Evening grosbeak.

Photo by David Dawson

Bird Inc. in Almonte, Ont. (gilligalloubird.com).

Bird seed is not the only favourite on winter birds’ menu. If you happen to have a **European mountain ash tree** or an **ornamental crabapple** near your house, you may be lucky enough to find striking black and yellow **evening grosbeaks**, rosy **pine grosbeaks**, or handsome **Bohemian waxwings** in your yard this winter. We are fortunate enough to have both

bald eagles, **great blue herons**, **song sparrows** and **red-tailed hawks**, along with typically western species such as **Anna’s hummingbirds**, **red-shafted flickers**, **golden-crowned sparrows**, **varied thrush** and **red breasted sapsuckers**.

Avian Bistro proprietor **Philip MacAdam** (on the corner of Thomas and Alexander Streets) reports that the birds have been eating voraciously in preparation for



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CCC plans to add outdoor curling to rink activities

By Sylvain Bélanger, CCC President

The Crichton Community Council (CCC) may not be able to organize in-person community activities during the pandemic, but that has not stopped us from reaching out in new and innovative ways. COVID-19 is making this a challenging year for us, so we require extra volunteers. Let us know if you can help out!

In place of our annual Halloween Howl party, the CCC created a Reverse Trick-or-Treating event that proved extremely popular with families. More than 145 treat bags were delivered to 65 addresses in New Edinburgh. A big thanks goes out to the organizer **Denise Bélanger**, and special thanks to our teenage volunteers **Finn Burnham, Hannah Burnham, Isaac Lipman and Julien Bélanger** for stuffing and delivering the treat bags. We would be remiss if we did not thank our neighbours at the Manor Park Community Council for offering their services for creating an efficient delivery route for us with their special software!

Due to restrictions on gatherings, public attendance at Remembrance Day ceremonies were discouraged this year. To ensure that we never forget the sacrifice of our military, the CCC organized some Remembrance Day



Photo by Denise Belanger

Reverse Trick-or-Treat bags to be delivered to children in New Edinburgh.

activities. We asked the public to identify veterans and active Forces members in our neighbourhood so we could deliver a token of appreciation

to their mailboxes. In addition, we shared an idea from a neighbour to observe two minutes of silence outdoors at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11. That idea resulted in many neighbours observing the minutes of silence while standing at the end of their driveways, or by pausing during a stroll. I was deeply moved to see many of my neighbours on MacKay Street participating in this observance. Lest we forget!

The CCC is working with the City of Ottawa on the logistics for operating the outdoor rinks at New Edinburgh

Park and we expect to receive an approved plan soon. Operating the rinks will be more complicated this year, and you can expect to see many familiar pandemic precautions such as capacity limits, dedicated entrances and exits, hand sanitizing, and COVID-19 cleaning requirements, as mandated by provincial orders and the City. Our student rink attendants will have more responsibilities this year and we appreciate your cooperation and understanding while they carry out those duties so that we can offer a safe environment to all. Details on ice rink operations will be shared with the community once they are available.

We continue to seek volunteers to help maintain our two outdoor ice rinks. The outdoor rinks will be an important resource for our community this year due to the reduced capacity of indoor rinks. The time commitment for hosing the rinks is one hour or more per week at 9 p.m. However, we do appreciate and need occasional volunteers as well. Inexperienced volunteers are paired with seasoned ones, so do not be afraid to try something new! High-school students can also volunteer to help hose or clean the rinks and we will sign off on your volunteer hours requirement for graduation. Please contact us at **CCCRinkManager@gmail.com** if you are able to help on an ongoing or one-time basis.

We will be introducing curling on our rinks this year. The CCC has purchased a set of eight homemade curling rocks for the community to use at designated times on one of our outdoor rinks. The stones are about half the weight, and a fraction of the cost of traditional rocks. Watch our social media for times and details. We are also looking for donations of adult-sized curling brooms. If you have any to donate, please let us know at **CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com**.

Traditionally, the CCC hosts a New Year's Day brunch on Jan. 1 at the Fieldhouse. However, this will not be possible due to the current pandemic restrictions. We are hoping to deliver an approximation of this event in another way, so stay tuned!

Our board member **Edwina Chittilappilly** would like to hold a skate-a-thon in January or February as a fundraiser for the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre's food bank. She is searching for a volunteer to help her with this initiative. Contact her at **CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com** if you are interested in organizing the event with her.

The City has approved a rental plan for the Fieldhouse that complies with the current COVID-19 public health measures and provincial orders. The rental plan will adapt in real time to reflect changes in regional or provincial emergency measures, so we encourage you to email us at **NEFieldHouse@gmail.com** for the latest limitations.

In general, it can be expected that gatherings will be small, masks must be worn, and that COVID cleaning protocols will be completed by the renter after each visit. The kitchen will not be available to renters per the City's public health measures.

Dec. 5, 2020 is the United Nations International Volunteer Day and the CCC is very grateful for its volunteers. Without them, we simply wouldn't be able to operate. Did you know that except for our seasonal student employees, we are a 100 per cent volunteer-run, non-profit organization? Our volunteers donate their time to the community on top of full-time jobs and caring for their families. They are the unsung heroes of our neighbourhood. Know a volunteer? Reach out and thank them, or better yet, join them! Volunteering is a way to get to know your neighbours, be social, and make your community a better place. We are always looking for more volunteers, so let us know if you can help out.

Join us at our monthly Zoom meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month: Dec. 8, 2020; Jan. 12, 2021 and Feb. 9, 2021.

Contact us at **CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com** for details. Follow us on social media: Facebook: **@CrichtonCommunityCouncil**; Instagram: **@CrichtonCommunityCouncil** and Twitter: **@NEFieldHouse**.

See you in the park!



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

MIDTERM REPORT

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Working collaboratively with Dr. Etches and her team at Ottawa Public Health, local hospitals, and our federal and provincial partners
- Working to improve access to COVID-19 testing
- Creation of an Economic Partners Task Force to provide the City with “on the ground” feedback from the business community as the pandemic evolves
- Implementation of a Property Tax Hardship Deferral Program and creation of a Business Reopening Toolkit
- Opening self-isolation centres for our most vulnerable residents



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Keep life in Ottawa affordable while investing in essential services with a cap on taxes
- Continuing to attract major events, sporting championships and film productions to Ottawa
- Breaking ground on the new Central Library
- Supporting job-creating projects like the Advanced Building Innovation Centre



TRANSPORTATION

- Progress on construction of Stage 2 LRT
- Extending no-charge OC Transpo service for seniors to include Sundays in addition to Wednesdays
- \$80-million investment to improve the state of roads across the city
- Increasing cycling tourism opportunities in rural villages



PUBLIC SAFETY

- Hiring new paramedics to improve response times in all areas
- Hiring additional community-based police officers
- Launching the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) pilot project, seeing 8 cameras installed in Community Safety Zones to encourage safer driving behaviours near schools



AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND INCLUSIVITY

- Partnering with Ottawa Community Housing and the federal government to build 700 housing units across three sites on Gladstone Avenue
- Partnering with Multifaith Housing to build 40 housing units for veterans at the new Wateridge Village
- Increasing the amount of City land available for affordable housing along transit corridors
- Appointing Liaisons for Veterans' Affairs, Gender Equity and Anti-Racism
- Achieving gender parity on advisory committees



Ottawa Tourism

ENVIRONMENT

- Investing \$3 million per year in energy retrofits to City facilities, with a seven to ten-year payback through energy savings, for a total investment of \$12 million this term of Council
- Growing the city's urban tree canopy through partnership opportunities that will see an additional 500,000 trees planted over the term, with an initial focus on areas impacted by the recent tornadoes
- Protecting Ottawa's water environment for future generations through the Ottawa River Action Plan (ORAP) and the Combined Sewage and Storage Tunnel (CSST), now fully operational

Folk artist brings colourful perspective to local scenes

By Ian Parker

Catherine Willis-O'Connor is an Ottawa folk artist with strong links to New Edinburgh. She grew up in Montreal and Rockcliffe Park, in a house that is now the Israeli ambassador's residence. She moved to New Edinburgh in 1986, and ultimately to Almonte, just west of Ottawa.

Catherine spent her working life as a paralegal, but her first love has always been painting. "Both sides of our family are very artistic," she tells the *New Edinburgh News*.

"When I was seven years old, I got a paint set for my birthday," Catherine recalls. "A neighbour had paints and he was doing it, so I said, 'why can't I?' It was the birthday present I had always wanted and thought I would never get. So I painted and painted, and loved it. I wonder where all my childhood paintings are? I know my brother has some of them – but I have one of the brushes!"

Catherine has since retired from the paralegal business and devoted her life to devel-

oping her painting skills. She slowly adopted a form of folk art "because I always liked painting people and my grandmother was always painting," she explains. "The china was painted by Grannie and the table was painted by Grannie. It was Grannie everywhere."

"I wanted to paint and come up with a style that everyone wasn't doing. I enjoyed [Canadian artists] like Maud

Lewis, William Kurelek, and E. J. Hughes. They all have a somewhat simple message; they always addressed me. I just practiced it and practiced it," she says. "And when I started painting for other people, they really enjoyed it and it made them happy."

Catherine describes folk art as "very colourful. It's people doing people things in their own settings. It's very happy and very positive. I make mine three-dimensional. It usually is two dimensional and I like three," she says.

She paints pictures of people and places in the neighbourhood of New Edinburgh and beyond. One of her favourite paintings hangs just inside the door of the Ottawa Art Gallery. It's an interior of the Rideau Bakery – now closed – which once operated on Rideau Street at Friel.

"I took many pictures, but this one actually came to fruition. I just made it up. My friends would come to Ottawa and they would want to go for coffee. We would go to the Rideau Bakery. And they would love it. I



Art by Catherine Willis O'Connor

Muckleston & Brockwell interior.

really enjoyed being there," Catherine recalls.

Fun fact: Catherine happens to be descended from an heroic Canadian figure. In Grade Five, she was reading her history book and noticed the name Billy Bishop—the same as her grandfather. She got home and asked her mother if she was related. That's when Catherine Willis-O'Connor

found out her grandfather was the famed World War One fighter pilot.

You can explore Catherine's paintings on her website: cwillisoconnorfolkart.weebly.com.

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



Photo courtesy Catherine Willis O'Connor
Catherine Willis-O'Connor and her painting of the Rideau Bakery, on display at the Ottawa Art Gallery.



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The last geranium of summer

By Janet Ruddock

*'Tis the last geranium of Summer,
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone...*

*with apologies to Thomas Moore's
"The Last Rose of Summer"*

Perhaps I just wanted to hold on to summer. It was the wreath on our front door that did it.

I hadn't thought about that wreath until we drove off for a Thanksgiving getaway. I glanced back at our house as one does when leaving for a few days. There hung the wreath in all its summer splendor, looking decidedly out of place.

The neighbours had done a lovely job with fall decor: wreath, potted mums, pumpkins, gourds – the works.

Not us.

Admittedly, I don't get out much these days. My husband Frank does. He's pretty much the designated everything. "Our front door looks ridiculous," I pointed out as we drove away. "We still have a summer wreath."

He hadn't noticed. (Well, no: he wouldn't.)

In any case, he said, in the scheme of things, was it really that important? I supposed it wasn't. Summer was still in the air and, in truth, I didn't want it to go. However, as if overnight, the neighborhood had embarked on an autumn decorating spree.

"We clearly missed the boat," I said to Frank as we passed house after decorated house. "We'll have to do better than this next year," I added. Thanksgiving had rather snuck up on us.

"Where do people buy all these beautiful mums?" I asked Frank. Of course, he knew. Metro. But just like the gorgeous Boston ferns in spring, the best mums go quickly at Beechwood Metro. When they're gone, they're gone.

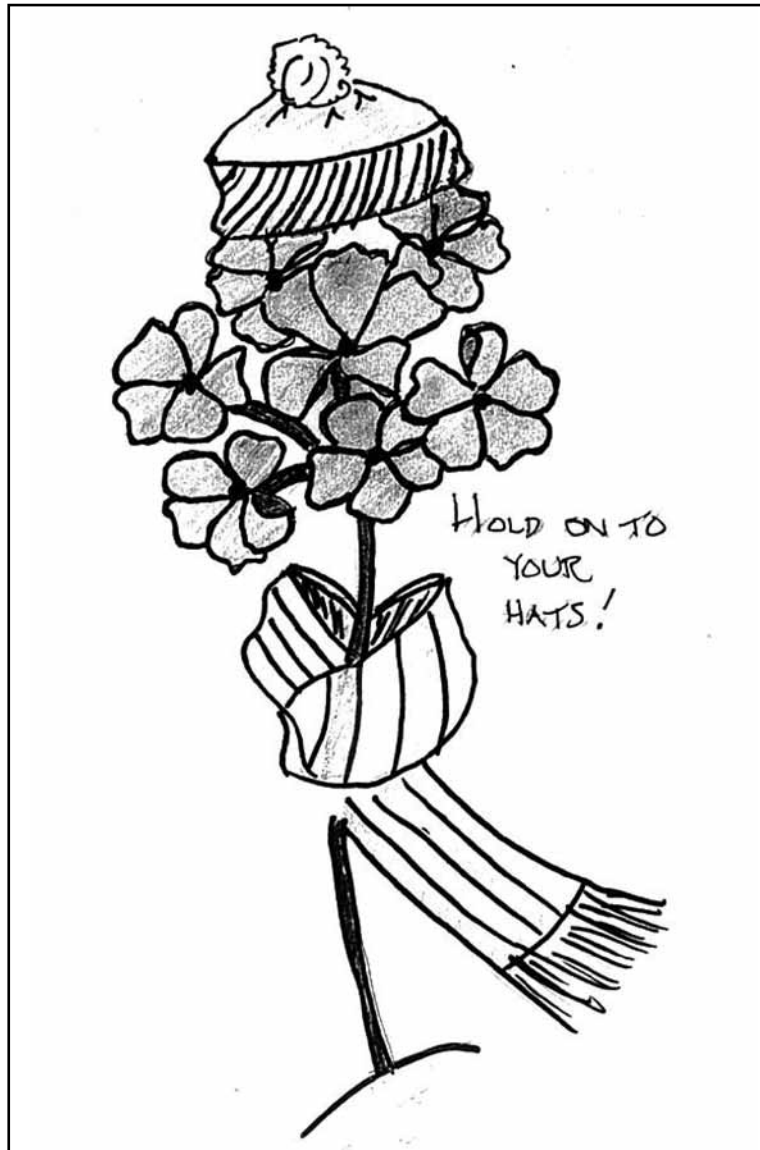
As relative newcomers, we have a lot to learn. So, why hadn't he bought a few mums when he saw them? Apparently, mums weren't on our shopping list.

Oh.

Thanksgiving was as festive as a COVID Thanksgiving could be. Not very. Our small group – three in total – gave thanks that we could, in fact, gather.

On our return home I couldn't wait to remove the summer wreath languishing on the door. Summer on our porch, however, lingered. The impatiens on the steps had thrived in the warm weekend weather as did the last Boston ferns we'd grabbed. Two Mandeville vines entwining the iron railing had burst fresh blooms on new vines. They would not go gentle into that good autumn night.

Next day, Frank retrieved a fall wreath from storage and hung it on the front door. We agreed it looked odd on our decidedly summery porch, but so be it. I couldn't see



Sketch by Janet Ruddock

There isn't a geranium grown to withstand Ottawa winters. Too bad.

Frank picking out pumpkins and gourds if his life depended on it – even if they were on the shopping list.

I wondered aloud what folks did with last season's flowering pots? "No doubt they move them to back yards and decks out of sight,"

Frank said. Our back deck had enjoyed Thanksgiving in the sun. It still flourished with three massive planters of New Guinea impatiens, wheat grass and assorted petunias.

Most impressive was one lone, pink geranium bloom still going strong. It had mys-

teriously appeared in a mixed pot purchased last May. The tag stuck in the pot didn't mention "geranium." That single flower looked odd, so we'd brutally cut it off at its base all summer – numerous times. So, we gave up and left it. Yet another fern from Metro had shot out new growth. Go, fern. Fallen coloured leaves added a seasonal flair.

Unseasonably cold weather arrived. Apparently, no one told our Mandeville on the front railing or that crazy geranium bloom out back that summer was over. Ultimately, the Mandeville succumbed, but that geranium held fast. Throughout October, the temperature dropped; it rained, it sleeted. As I opened the drapes each morning to welcome a new crummy day, the geranium greeted me cheerfully in all its glory.

Then it snowed. Not much, but who needs it in October? That lone, pink geranium bloom sparkling in its snowy dusting, looked as out-of-place as our summer wreath in autumn and I say more power to it. I don't believe there is a geranium grown to withstand Ottawa winters. I wish there were.

Janet Ruddock and her husband Frank moved to New Edinburgh over a year ago 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.

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Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy year to come. Thank you kindly for all your business and referrals again during 2020. I look forward to working together in the years to come.

Meilleurs vœux de bonheur et de santé à vous et aux vôtres pour l'année prochaine.

Je vous remercie d'avoir fait affaire avec moi et de m'avoir recommandé vos proches au cours de l'année 2020.

J'espère avoir le plaisir de travailler avec vous dans les années à venir.



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Exploring the neighbourhood as a remedy for cabin fever

Continued from page 1

for me, it took a global pandemic to get me out exploring beyond the four walls I was now spending far more time within than I'd like to.

With places closed, events cancelled and friends and family socially distant, my neighbourhood became a valuable resource in my battle against cabin fever, pro-

viding seemingly new and fascinating discoveries daily. In a 10-minute span I could step onto the grounds of Rideau Hall and find trees planted by queens and presidents. Outside the gates on MacKay Street are some of Ottawa's oldest churches. St. Bartholomew's, for example, still maintains its village charm from back in the days

when British clergyman, historian and novelist Charles Kingsley preached there one Easter Sunday in 1874. A short hop to 62 John St. and I was standing in front of the Fraser School House. Named for the school's first teacher James Fraser, it opened 1838 and remains a historical landmark to a bygone age.

Let's go further, shall we?

Standing now on Sussex Drive you have a choice. Turning left will lead you to a faceful of mist at Rideau Falls, colourfully lit up in the evening, and turning right will take you towards the ruins of Ottawa's first Public Library. If heading that way, be sure to stop at the Rockcliffe Pavilion to take in a lovely view of the river. Step onto Lisgar Road now and discover the once palatial estate of Warren Y. Soper, co-founder of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company. It is now home to the United States Ambassador to Canada, but still retains the name Soper gave it in 1908: Lornado, after his favourite novel Lorna Doone. Actually, if not covered up in winter months, you can see a fountain Soper purchased at the Paris Salon d'Automne in 1912. It now sits in the Rockeries, a walk up from the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway. Next to the fountain is what remains of the library opened by Andrew Carnegie in 1906. Originally on Metcalfe Street, portions of the building were brought into Rockcliffe Park after the library was sadly demolished in the early 1970s. Still, the history – at least pieces of it – remains to enjoy.

Still up for another wee jaunt? Good!

Head around the dog park at the end of Cloverdale Road, down Hillsdale and towards MacKay Lake. Soon you'll spy a quaint stone bridge. While the large boulder displaying the poem "Indian Summer" by Canadian poet William Wilfred Campbell is easy to spot (it's part of the Poet's Pathway), the smaller MacKay Lake marker on the other side of the bridge is easy to miss but equally worth a look. Two of these engraved rocks are in the area, placed there in the 1930s by the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club detailing interesting facts about the surroundings. Can you find them both?



Photo by Andre R. Gagne

The ruins of Ottawa's first public library, brought to Rockcliffe Park's Rockeries, are waiting to be discovered on your next walk about the neighbourhood.

After your scavenger hunt, be sure to take a stroll through the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area where I've recently spied a family of foxes and taken in many a sunset over the lake. Out the other end you'll be on Pond Street. Walk down Whitmarl Drive and you'll be on Hemlock which turns into Beechwood Avenue (the Burgh's main strip), rather close to Beechwood Cemetery. A walkabout in the cemetery could be an entirely different article and perhaps it will be one day. Inside, you'll find the final resting spots of prime ministers, inventors, and those who shaped the city of Ottawa, as well as the military cemetery.

While this all seems, perhaps, a bit exhaustive, this tour can be done at a leisurely pace in less than an hour and a half, giving you ample time to pop into a local coffeeshop to sip a java and reflect on all your discoveries. Still, this is only a piece of what the New Edinburgh and Rockcliffe Park area has to offer.

Still new to the area, I eagerly look forward to the next new discovery I find just around the corner.

Andre R. Gagne is new to New Edinburgh. You can usually spy him roaming around with his camera, sipping copious amounts of coffee on Beechwood Avenue, or sharing conversations with his friends at The Pond.



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(Don't!) Accentuate the positive

By Keith Newton

When absorbing your daily dose of COVID-19 numbers, do you sometimes find the use of technical terms – especially those borrowed from mathematics – a bit confusing, or sometimes amusing? Even the simplest ones can be troublesome.

When visiting a friend in hospital one may be asked: “Have you been tested for COVID-19 in the last two weeks?”

“Yes.”

“You’re sure?”

“Positive.”

“But you tested negative?”

“Yes, but if I tested negative that’s really positive... if you see what I mean.”

Meanwhile, the proportion of cases that test positive is called the ‘positivity rate’; which calls into question the old song that advises us to “accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative.”

Anyway, we have new metrics (we don’t have “measures” anymore: “metrics” sounds more scientific). Each comes with its own precise definition.

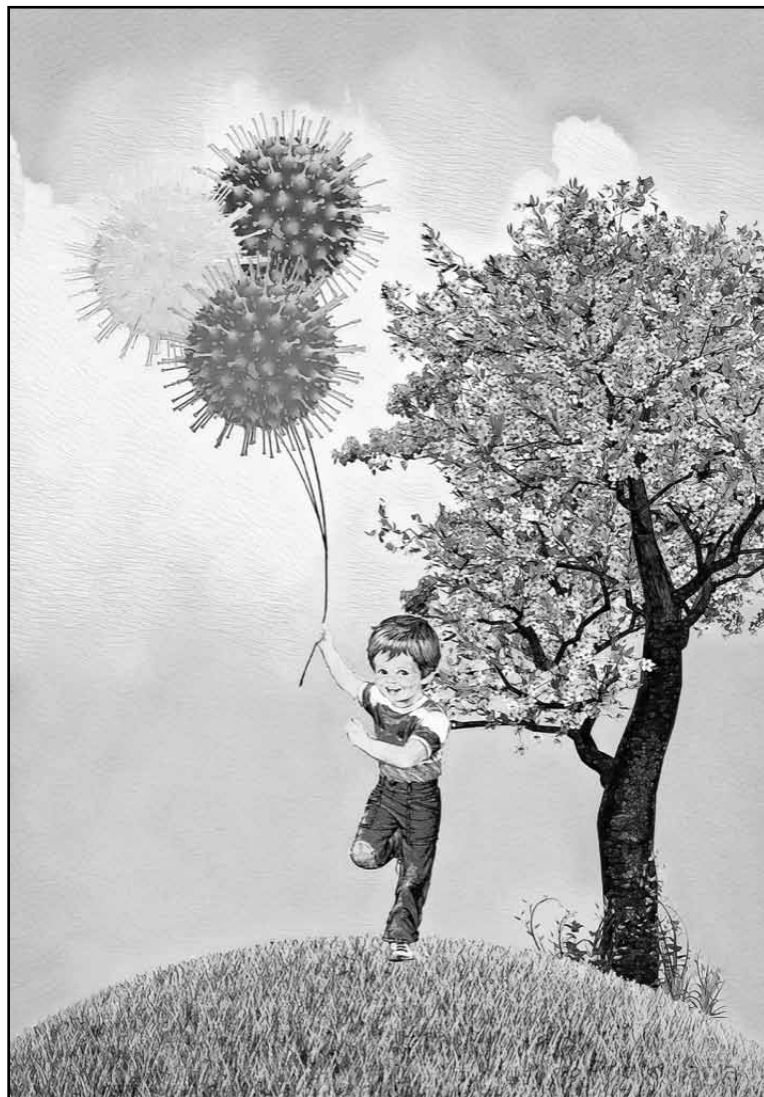
Still, they can baffle the mind of even the “stable genius” who declared that if only we could put a stop to all this testing the number of deaths would be much lower. And then there are the graphs.

Since they are sometimes reminiscent of a mountain range – some with twin peaks reflecting the “second wave” of the pandemic – let’s use a graph-mountain to illustrate some of the jargon. Call it Morbidity Mountain.

On the vertical scale (the y-axis) will be some morbidity metric – cases or deaths, for example – and across the bottom of the graph (the x-axis) is time measured in days, weeks, months or (heaven help us) years.

What does the Morbidity Mountain look like? It rises slowly at first, but then gets steeper and steeper till it’s almost vertical. This **acceleration** phase is what excites journalists most. They gleefully, and quite correctly refer to it as “exponential” growth. (Actually, the whole graph is “exponential,” but it’s the upwards-accelerating bit that gets the hearts racing.)

But when the graph has become near-vertical, its rate



“Floating into Phase Three” by Andre R. Gagne

of climb slows until it reaches the top. The precise point where it starts to **decelerate** is called the “inflection point,” a turn of phrase much-loved by U.S. President-elect Joe Biden in campaign speeches. One doubts that Biden was referring to “the point at which the second derivative of the graphed function changes sign.” More likely, he meant something like “at this critical juncture in our history” or some such statesmanlike and equally vapid offering.

But returning to our stylized graph-mountain, we are now approaching the top and the much desired “turning point.” Ready to “turn the corner,” or “round the turn” as the outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump would insist at one of his huge super-spreader rallies.

Meanwhile, one can still hear cries of “flatten the curve.” But one wouldn’t want to flatline from such a height; that would only give us a High Plateau (which sounds like a B-grade Western and would be just as ghastly). No; at this point we must invoke

the felicitous phrase of Dr. Deborah Birx (she of the ill-fated White House Task Force on COVID-19). We must “wrap our arms around the problem” and, presumably, wrestle it to the ground.

One pictures the estimable Dr. Birx with the evil virus in a vicelike half nelson as she drags it over the turning point and tumbles down the precipitous (exponential again) slope and past another inflection point (there’s one on the downside, too)! The

combatants roll down the ever-gentler lower slopes till the brave Deborah disengages. Somewhat bedraggled, her trademark scarf askew, she pumps the air with a triumphant fist. America’s world-famous Dr. Anthony Fauci applauds. The defeated virus slinks away, sulking. It skulks along close to, but not yet touching, the x-axis. The good doctors at this point redouble their fight against pandemic fatigue chanting the mitigation mantra: masking, distancing, handwashing, testing, bubbling, to maintain control.

But there’s more.

The slinking, sulking phase of COVID’s downfall has, of course, a mathematical name. When a graph levels off and approaches a certain level (in this case the x-axis) it is described as “asymptotic.”

Sound vaguely familiar?

Well, suppose the pundits popularize a metric for the number of people tested who showed no symptoms. Suppose further that its graph describes a course similar to the one we have just considered.

Imagine the rush to be the first to flaunt the headline “Asymptomatics go asymptotic.” Or possibly “Who took ‘Ma’ out of asymptomatic?” Meanwhile the vaccine comes on stream.

Can’t wait for the vanishing point.

Former Crichton Street resident Keith Newton moved into the New Edinburgh Square just before the pandemic hit in March 2020. He is a retired research economist and professor, and an avid creative writer.

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New gallery gets creative during pandemic

By Marta M. Reyes

True to its name, the Electric Street Gallery has been sparking creativity since its re-opening in April 2020 with its prominent electric blue sign. New owners Michael and Irene Tobis had envisioned a lively opening event to re-introduce the gallery to the community. Then the pandemic happened and everything had to be recalibrated. At around that time, pandemic restrictions were in full swing, which meant their doors had to stay shut. So what did Michael and Irene do? “We simply had to get really creative!” says Michael. This creativity included getting their online store up and running. A QR code on their window allows viewers to access the works on display on the spot, via their phones.

“It’s a different world now,” says Michael of Ottawa’s art scene during the pandemic.



Photo by Irene Tobis

One household at a time is currently allowed for in-person viewings at the gallery, 299 Crichton St.

“But we didn’t really have to change anything, we just invented around it.” This included impromptu chats and meet-the-artist events with patrons just outside the gallery in warmer months. “It made things more interesting,” muses Michael.

He and Irene took things in stride from opening day and organized thematic window displays, including their first, which they called “Tulip Art Fest,” partly to make up for the cancellation of the Tulip Festival. To supply the tulip-

artists, always following a theme, mostly according to the seasons.

More importantly, the gallery has become a sort of de facto platform for local artists of all stripes and talents. Its roster grew from five artists who exhibited there before the re-opening, to more than 35 artists in just a few months. Some of these artists have produced customized art to fit the gallery’s themes. Works during the summer followed the theme “By the waterside,” June’s was “Hello show,” and fall brought “Autumn tapestry.”

“For our winter theme, we absolutely wanted something uplifting and happy,” says Irene. They came up with the “birds ~ bees ~ butterflies: *uplifting* gift art show,” currently on display. It features all kinds of winged beings from birds, to dragons, angels, and other mythical creatures. “Anything with wings goes,”

gift-giving. “We noticed people come in to look for small, beautiful, interesting items to give as gifts, usually to someone special,” says Irene. To view the art, people can simply pop in – one household at a time to respect pandemic restrictions – or visit the website where they can order online, arrange for contactless pick up or local delivery, or the newest option: shipping anywhere in North America. The pieces are displayed in such a way as to avoid handling them, mindful of spreading germs.

Artworks vary from oils, acrylics, to ceramics, and fiberglass. Irene is particularly excited about the gallery’s newest offering: the first exclusive line of fine art reproductions. The first in the new series is wildlife watercolours, which Irene photographed and printed, and waxed by the artist with a protective varnish. This is



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Photo by Irene Tobis

A QR code in the window at the Electric Street Gallery allows access to artworks via a smartphone.



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related artwork they put a call out to artists and friends of friends. Seven months later, they continue this tradition to keep their displays full of striking works from local

says Irene.

With Christmas around the corner, the Tobises have taken care to showcase exquisite pieces that convey a personal touch to inspire meaningful

another way to make local fine art more accessible to everyone. The new line is aptly called “Fine art on a budget” series. There will be more of its kind in the near future. “Our goal is always to support local artists and develop art, and connect them to the public,” says Irene.

The Electric Street Gallery is open Wednesday to Friday 3–7 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; and Sunday 11 a.m.–4 p.m., at 299 Crichton St. Learn more at electricstreet.art.

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



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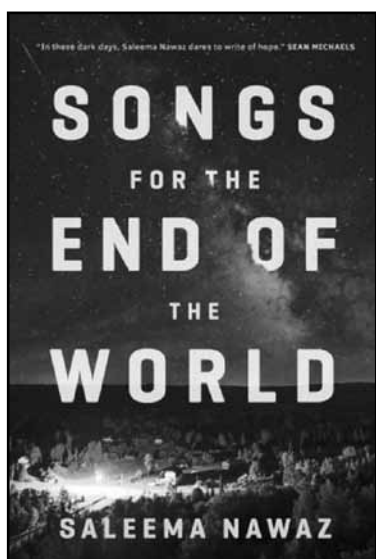
As has become a December edition tradition, the knowledgeable staff at our local independent bookshop shares their picks for winter reading and literary gift ideas.

Books on Beechwood staffers want their clients to be comfortable shopping amid the public health restrictions and are offering special hour-long shopping appointments. As of Nov. 23, you can pre-book your shopping slot from 9–10 a.m. or 5–6 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. Only four customers are permitted in the store at a time – couples shopping together count as two people. To book your spot, please call **613-742-5030**. The last day for pre-booked shopping is Dec. 23.

Those who prefer to shop from home can visit B on B's online shop: **store.booksonbeechwood.ca**. Search for titles, see what's in stock, and peruse millions of available-to-order items – no credit card required! As with regular orders, Books on Beechwood provides in-store pick-up, contact-free pick-up, local delivery and shipping further afield.

Happy reading!

Antoinette's recommendations



Songs for the End of the World by Saleema Nawaz

Nawaz has written a timely page-turner about a pandemic, set mostly in the eastern U.S. This is a well paced story with eerily familiar scenes.

Indians on Vacation by Thomas King

The funny and touching travel adventure of a retired couple. Somewhat autobiographical.

Good Dogs Don't Make It to

the South Pole by Hans-Olaf Thyvold

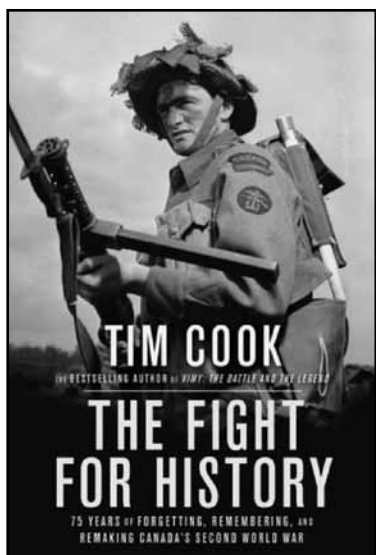
Translated from Norwegian, this is a funny social satire about family, aging, and polar expeditions, narrated by a grouchy family dog.

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke

The author has invented a brilliant alternate fantasy world in which a shy, naive narrator named Piranesi slowly uncovers the mystery of its origins.

Leonard Cohen: Untold Stories – The Early Years by Michael Posner

Based on interviews with friends, family, bandmates, backup singers, monks, rabbis, and lovers, this book is the first of a planned three-volume set of Leonard Cohen books. It is an entertaining book about his public and private life early in his career.



The Fight for History: 75 Years of Forgetting, Remembering and Remaking Canada's Second World War by Tim Cook

As usual, a lucid attempt to untangle the complicated, ever-shifting meaning of the war over the past 75 years.

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Future by Merlin Sheldrake

The author moves easily between stories, scientific descriptions and philosophical issues. *The Guardian* calls it a “door-opener” book in which a specialist subject finds pathways leading everywhere.

Bridget's recommendations

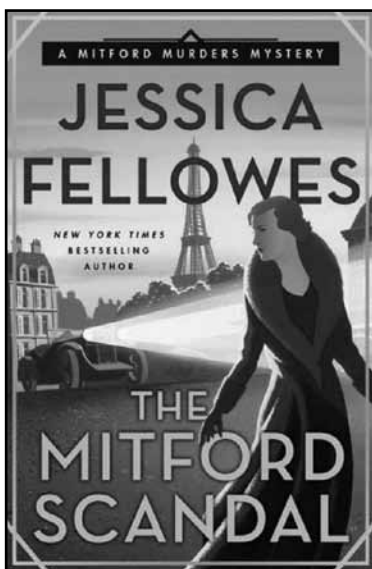
Dearly by Margaret Atwood

These are distilled gems! The first new Atwood poetry collection in 10 years is pure delight. In an essay,

Atwood quotes from the film *Il Postino*: “Poetry doesn't belong to those who write it, it belongs to those who need it.” And we do need these insightful, wry, whitened bones of poems written with great humanity, created under her unyielding, observant eye.

Rabbit Foot Bill by Helen Humphreys

Humphreys's ever original and curious mind takes us this time to 1940s Saskatchewan, where Leonard, a bullied and troubled young farm boy, befriends real-life trapper Rabbit Foot Bill. Bill's violent act ends their friendship until 15 years later. Leonard, now a fledgling psychiatrist, again encounters Bill in Weyburn Mental Hospital, and starts to unravel what actually happened on that fateful day. Beautifully written and compelling reading.

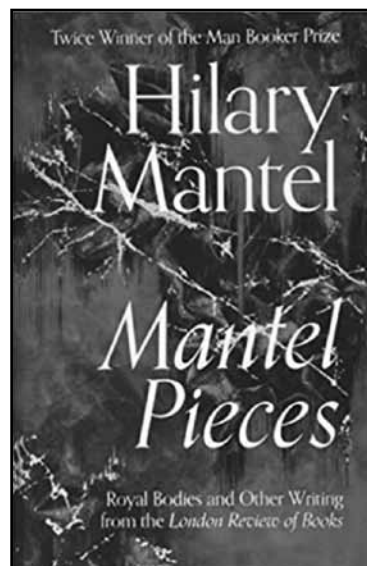


The Mitford Scandal by Jessica Fellowes

Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh are characters in this new mystery from Fellowes. Set in 1928, there is intrigue, there is an upstairs cast of characters (principal among them the beautiful Diana Mitford) and a downstairs cast, one of whom is murdered. Touted as *Downton Abbey* meets Agatha Christie...who can resist?

Moonflower Murders by Anthony Horowitz

Another store favourite, the multi-talented Horowitz (creator of *Foyle's War* and *Midsomer Murders*) has conjured up another delicious and complex literary mystery, a follow-up to *Magpie Murders*. Once again, brilliant fictional detective Atticus Pund teams up with retired publisher Susan Ryeland.

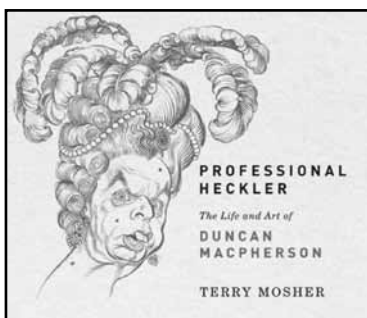


Mantel Pieces by Hilary Mantel

For more than three decades, legendary novelist Hilary Mantel has written for *The London Review of Books*. When she began, she assured the editor: “I have no critical training whatsoever, so I am forced to be more brisk and breezy than scholarly.” Notwithstanding this self-judgement, her thoughtful prose pieces in this collection – ranging from Robespierre to the Virgin Mary – are penetrating and sometimes very funny. An irresistible selection from one of our greatest living writers.

Agent Sonya by Ben MacIntyre

Masterful and bestselling London Times' documenter of the Soviet-era world of British espionage (*The Spy and the Traitor* and *A Spy Among Friends*) brings us the thrilling story of the most important female spy in history, an agent code-named Sonya, who set the stage for the Cold War.



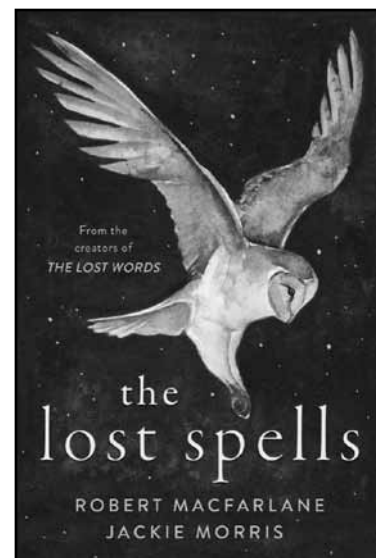
Professional Heckler: The Life and Art of Duncan Macpherson by Terry Mosher

Who better than AISLIN to write a reverent and trenchant appreciation of his fellow political cartoonist, both of whom have been the premier chroniclers of their respective political eras? This copiously illustrated book is a delight-

ful look at the 1960s, '70s and '80s through the eyes of a brilliant and controversial observer.

Dark Archives by Megan Rosenbloom

And now for something completely different. If you know the meaning of “anthropodermic bibliopegy” this might be the book for you! The subtitle is *A Librarian's Investigation into the Science and History of Books Bound in Human Skin*. I have dipped in, and found intriguing writing and a fair dose of wry humour to make this worth a look. Perhaps a perfect book for the person (especially doctor) who has read everything?



Lost Spells by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris

Two years ago, this same team of writer and illustrator created the remarkable book *Lost Words*, a stunningly beautiful lyrical celebration of words from nature that had been excised from the Oxford Junior Dictionary to allow for more technical words. This truly beautiful gem of a book is described by the authors as “its little sister.” In their introduction, they describe their spells as “incantations and summoning charms, spells that protect and spells that protest, tongue-twisters, blessings, lullabies and psalms.”

Rapture by Nick Nurse

The much-revered coach of the NBA Champion Toronto Raptors has retained the earthiness and plainspoken charm of his Iowa farm upbringing. This is a captivating account of his life of learning and coaching, culminating in the signature championship of his career and the delight of all Canadians.

***A Promised Land* by Barack Obama**

We weren't able to access this hotly anticipated memoir before press time, but felt it merited mention nonetheless. Advance notice says: "Early reports about what's contained in these 768 pages promise powerful reflection on the state of the American project, along with key insights and new information about pivotal moments in the Obama administration."

***As I Walked About* by Phil Jenkins**

This charming collection of Jenkins' *Ottawa Citizen* columns from the last 25 years is a necessary treasure for Ottawans interested in local lore, told through the author's informative and wryly opinionated rambles through our city.



***Ottawa Rewind 2* by Andrew King**

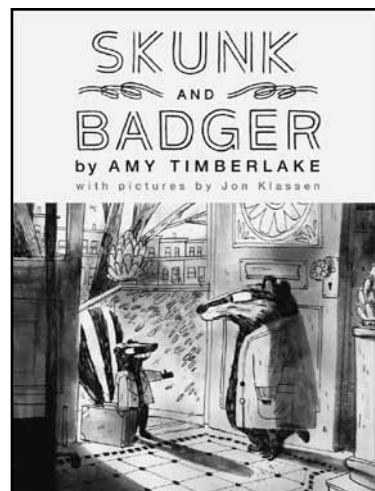
Another book for all Ottawans, this is King's second collection of fascinating little-known facts about Ottawa. Did you know about the sunken 17th-century French fort submerged in the Ottawa River? Or about the shootout of Stone Corral in Bell's Corners? Read on!

***The Old Woman* by Joanne Schwartz (Ages 4–6)**

An elderly lady walks unhurriedly through a day with her best friend, "scruffy old dog." Full of quiet appreciation, she observes everything and finds only wonder in all she encounters. Old Woman is unconcerned with time passing. "I am in no hurry," she says. The colour palette of the beautiful illustrations reflects the calm and beauty of an unhurried passage...or the unhurried journey of a contented elder.

***Summer Feet* by Sheree Fitch (Ages 1–100)**

Irresistible Sheree Fitch is showcasing her kinship with Dr. Seuss in this delightful and joyous tribute to bare feet: "our summer feet, our freedom feet." Fitch continues her reign as the beloved poet laureate of all Canadian children. The illustrations by **Carolyn Fisher** are a perfect accompaniment.



***Skunk and Badger* by Amy Timberlake (Ages 8–12)**

This is a true contemporary homage to *Winnie the Pooh*, *Wind in the Willows* or *Paddington*. It is a delightfully charming and quirky story of friendship between obsessive, reclusive rock scientist Badger and kind, exuberant, curious Skunk, who invades Badger's world along with a host of his favourite "people," chickens of all breeds, shapes and sizes. Despite the best of Skunk's good intentions, chaos eventually ensues, followed by lessons learned and a happy resolution.

***The Ickabog* by J.K. Rowling (Ages 8–12)**

The Kingdom of Cornucopia was a very happy one, but even so, in legend, a fearsome monster who possibly spits poison or breathes fire, who perhaps carries off sheep and children, is maybe a myth – or maybe not. Best friends Bert and Daisy set out on a quest to uncover the truth.

Winning, colourful illustrations are all by Canadian and American children.

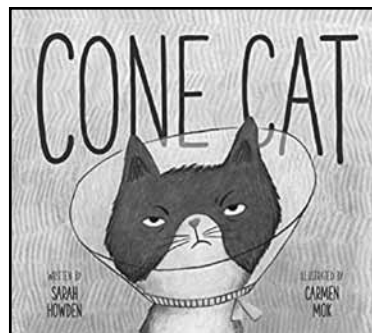
***Butterfly Yellow* by Thanhha Lai (Ages 14 and up)**

"Tender, beautiful, shocking" describes this fictional and perilous journey of teenaged Hang who sets out from war-torn Viet Nam to America, seeking her younger brother, stolen six years previously. Armed with only grit, an address in Amarillo, Texas, and a few dollars, she perseveres, using heavily accented English painstakingly learned

New Edinburgh News

from Clint Eastwood movies and discarded American magazines. There is grace and humour in this deeply moving, sometimes brutal, yet shinningly courageous tale of sorrow, hope and redemption.

Hilary's recommendations

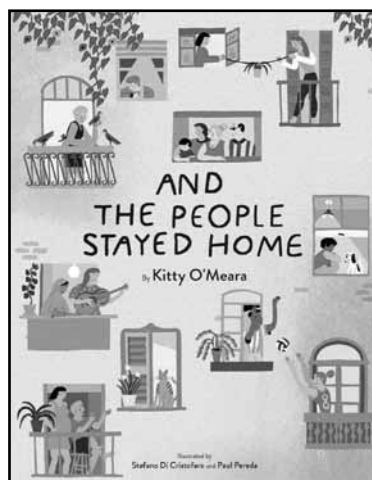


***Cone Cat* by Sarah Howden (Ages 3–7)**

Jeremy is the quintessential cat – nimble, quick, and crafty – until, that is, he finds himself saddled with a dreaded cone. After a few hilarious attempts to carry on as normal, this wily feline discovers that there may be some things that come more easily (like cake and spiders) when one is wearing a cone.

***The Snow Fox* by Rosemary Shojai (Ages 4–7)**

This lovely story of friendship finds Nico, a little red fox, making a new acquaintance over the winter as his friends otter, badger, and raccoon hibernate. Adorably illustrated, this book is bound to become a bedtime favourite!



***And the People Stayed Home* by Kitty O'Meara (Ages 4–8)**

This is the perfect picture book to help children understand a bit more about our current situation in the pandemic. With lovely illustrations and simple text, it highlights some of the good things that can happen – for us and for the Earth – when we slow down and change our ways.

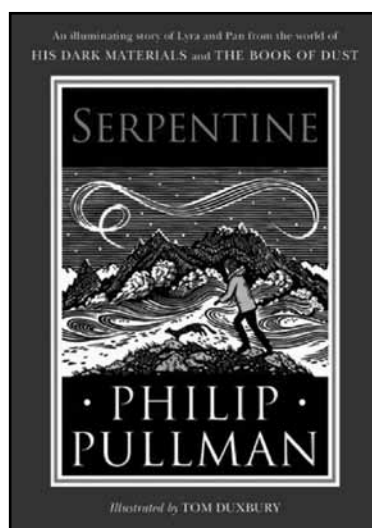
***The Bookstore Cat* by Cylin Busby (Ages 4–8)**

Who wouldn't love a story

about a bookstore cat? Giving readers a glimpse into what a day at a bookstore is like, this charming picture book also teaches children their ABCs as it follows a particularly cute ginger cat about its daily business.

***The Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling (Ages 8–12)**

Inspired by true events, this wonderful middle-grade read is a harrowing, hopeful, and heart-wrenching story about facing your fears, overcoming trauma, and truly accepting yourself: scars and all. Written predominantly in verse, Nora's experiences will sweep you away and keep you glued to the edge of your seat from beginning to end!



***Serpentine* by Philip Pullman (Ages 10 and up)**

This gorgeous little book is the perfect gift for fans of Philip Pullman and the *His Dark Materials* series. Set after the events of *The Amber Spyglass*, and illustrated with woodcut illustrations, this novella is a brand-new adventure for Lyra and her daemon Pantalaimon, and is sure to delight fantasy lovers both young, and young at heart.

***Magic Lessons* by Alice Hoffman**

Beautifully written and steeped in magic and folklore, this latest addition to the Owens Family saga is a wonderful read. Maria Owens, the matriarch of this quirky, charming family of witches, is strong, loyal, passionate, and enchanting. Travel with her from England to the shores of the New World, and we promise that you won't regret a second of it!

***Dear Emmie Blue* by Lia Louis**

This book was such a lovely surprise! It's a sweet, heart-felt story about the power of friendship, and how one

little white lie can change so much. Emmie is the loveliest person, and is someone we should all aspire to be. Full of longing, heartbreak, love, laughter, and self-discovery, this is such a wonderful read.

***The Switch* by Beth O'Leary**

This novel is laugh-out-loud funny and jam-packed with charming, quirky characters. Not only do strange and funny things happen when Leena switches places with her grandmother Eileen, but each of them learns something about the other and themselves, too. You will love reading about Eileen's experiences in the world of online dating, and will enjoy Leena's attempts to infiltrate village life.

***The Forgotten Kingdom* by Signe Pike**

Picking up right where *The Forgotten Queen* left off, this wonderful, historical epic shines a light on an incredible queen, long-overlooked in the annals of Scottish history. Thought to share ties with the timeless tales of King Arthur and Merlin, prepare yourself for an adventure filled with love, betrayal, heartbreak, greed, and giants of legend.



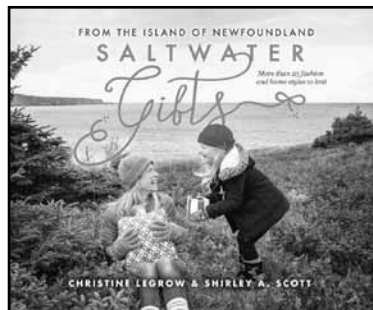
***The Once and Future Witches* by Alix E. Harrow**

Witchy books are my kryptonite and I just can't get enough of them! After her amazing debut with *The Ten Thousand Doors of January*, is it any wonder that this new book of Alix E. Harrow's is just as exciting, magical, and enchanting? Set in the 1800s and tied up with the suffragette movement, this novel of sisters, magic, and the power of women is a real treat.

***The Company We Keep* by Frances Itani**

It begins with six strangers in a coffee shop. Each of them

joins the “Company of Good Cheer” conversation group for their own reasons – grief at the loss of a partner, worry over a dying friend, or a desperate search for homemade baked goods – but it’s only as they tell each other their stories that they realize that new beginnings can be possible at any stage of life.



***Saltwater Gifts* by Claire Legrow**

Like its predecessors, this third book of traditional Newfoundland knitting patterns is chock-a-block with great projects, photographs, and historical tidbits. With a focus on gift items this time around, within this book you might find the perfect pattern for some cozy wool socks, that hot water-bottle cover you’ve always been meaning to make, or the loveliest scarf you’ve ever seen. With some wool, needles, and this book in your hand, the sky’s the limit!

***Men to Avoid in Art and Life* by Nicole Tersigni**

This hilarious gift book is the perfect stockingcvsstuffer for the feminist or art lover in your life. Based on a social media account, this book features images of classical paintings paired with cheeky, quirky captions that shine a light on what type of men to avoid in art...and life.



***No Time Like the Future* by Michael J. Fox**

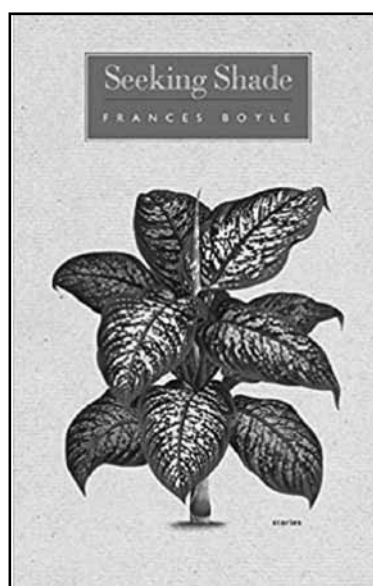
In this, his third memoir, beloved Canadian actor Michael J. Fox takes yet another look at life (and

death) but from a slightly different perspective. Always known for his sunny disposition and positive outlook, recent health issues have put a strain on that positivity. Strung through with his trademark humour, this memoir is at once touching, heartfelt, and 100 per cent Canadian.

***A Place for Everything: The Curious History of Alphabetical Order* by Judith Flanders**

No fall book season would be complete without at least one quirky history book! Beautifully packaged, this book is not only about how our current alphabetical order came about, but how it eclipsed all other forms of classification and became king.

Michelle’s recommendations



***Seeking Shade* by Frances Boyle**

This lovely book is a compilation of an Ottawa writer’s 14 short stories. Boyle’s fiction is lyrical and riveting, historical and contemporary – conveying both the hardship and beauty of life.

***The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue**

Emma Donoghue’s novel is set in Ireland in 1918, where characters struggle to survive war and a pandemic. The story provides a magical escape (despite its difficult context) into a world that may feel familiar, and where we might also find hope in the darkness.

***Crosshairs* by Catherine Hernandez**

This novel is set in a dystopian near-future Toronto, where residents are persecuted if they are perceived as “Other” – particularly queer, Black, Brown and Indigenous per-

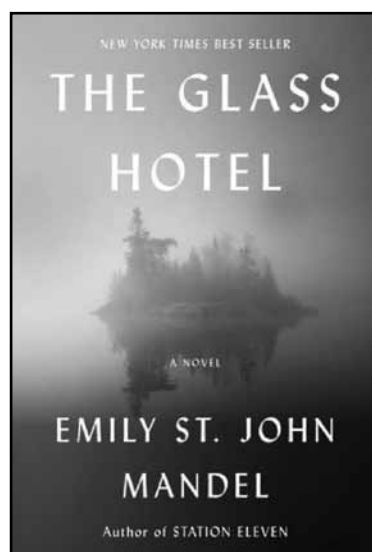
sons. It is thought-provoking and devastating, and conveys how hatred and complacency can be overcome by kinship and courage.

***Vesper Flights* by Helen Macdonald**

Helen Macdonald’s essays are breathtaking reflections on the human relationship to the natural world. Reading them, one is compelled to go hiking in the woods, to find birds, and to see the world through her eyes. Her observations are historical and personal, thought-provoking and inspiring.

***Weather* by Jenny Offill**

This novel is short yet immense in scope. It is not really a linear narrative, but reads like a journal of funny and intimate observations. The protagonist navigates family dynamics while grappling with underlying anxieties around weather, climate change, and our existence on the planet.



***The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel**

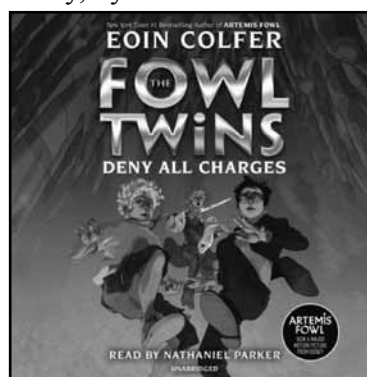
Emily St. John Mandel’s book was shortlisted for the Giller Prize. It weaves an intricate tale of characters gripped by love, lust, opportunity, and addiction, where stark reality overlaps with subtle magic. Beautiful descriptions of Vancouver Island, and compelling details about crime and its consequences, make this a thrilling read.

12 Day Christmas countdown deals

Starting Dec. 11, Books on Beechwood will celebrate the countdown to Christmas by featuring one Penguin Random House title per day at 30 per cent off (except for Sundays, when we are closed.) Each day’s featured book will be announced on our social media pages as well as via daily newsletter mail-outs. Discounts are available only on their featured day, while supplies last. To sign up to our newsletter, visit booksonbeechwood.ca and find the “subscribe” link at the bottom of the homepage.

***Dog Man: Grime and Punishment* by Dav Pilkey** (Reviewed by Emilia, age 6)

I recommend *Dog Man, Grime and Punishment* because it is a good present. It is also very funny. Dog Man is half man, half dog. He has a best friend L’il Petey. Okay, bye!



***The Fowl Twins: Deny All Charges* by Eoin Colfer** (Reviewed by Sam, age 9)

I liked *The Fowl Twins: Deny All Charges* because it is funny and mysterious. I think people who like mythical beasts will like it, too, because there are things like dwarves and trolls. I would also recommend it if you like animals and sci-fi, because there are things like intelligent glasses and someone who can talk to animals.

***The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins** (Reviewed by Sofia, age 13)

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a great book for all ages. It’s perfect for fans of *The Hunger Games* because it explains the origins of President Snow, and his first claim to fame. I hope you enjoy this book!

Stephanie’s recommendations

***A Song for Dark Times* by Ian Rankin**

There are two crimes in this novel, both distantly connected, one of which involves Rebus’s daughter. It’s an exciting and thoughtful thriller set in a very modern Scotland – a real page turner!

***The Man Who Ate Too Much* by John Birdsall**

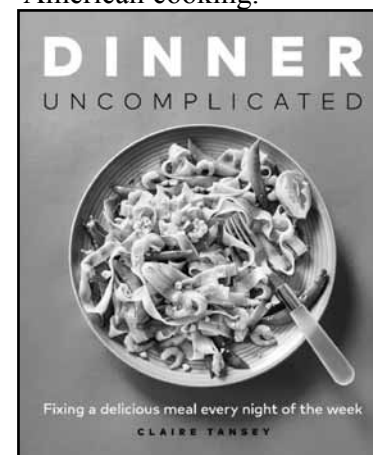
Christmas shopping hours

Dec. 24 – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dec. 25–Jan. 3 – The store will be closed to give our staff a much-needed break.

Jan. 4 – Store re-opens 10:00 a.m.

James Beard was one of America’s most recognized chiefs. *The Times* called him “The Dean of American Cookery” because he brought an American curiosity to American cooking.

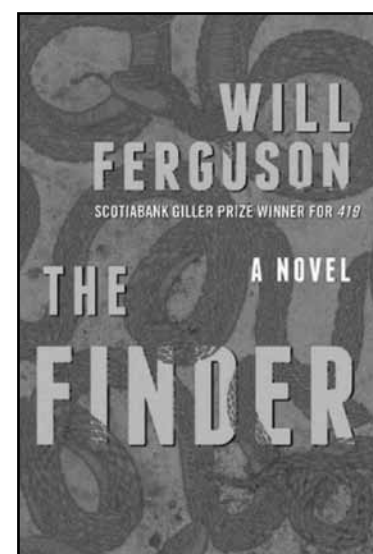


***Dinner Uncomplicated* by Claire Tansey**

Tansey offers inventive family friendly recipes with simple ingredients, and an approach to the daily “what will I make for dinner” grind.

***Ex Libris: A Hundred+ Books to Read and Reread* by Michiko Kakutani**

Pulitzer Prize-winning literary critic Kakutani brings us essays on fiction and nonfiction that illuminate our social and political landscape.



***Finder* by Will Ferguson**

Part thriller, part travelogue, this highly original novel offers vivid storytelling and exciting locales.



Photo from NEN archives

Mackay Street in winter looks like a real-life Hallmark card. Possibly late 1980s early 1990s?

The spirit of 'Burgh Christmases past

By Andre R. Gagne

The holidays, like many things this year, will look a little different for many. Gatherings will be smaller as the jingle bell buzzwords of “social” and “distancing” continue. Perhaps Uncle Raymond, Aunt Vivian and their bombardment of festive fruitcakes are opting not to make their annual visit to Christmas Day dinner. Nobody wants a lump of COVID in their stocking, right?

While those get-togethers with loved ones are sure to be missed this season, now more than ever is a time to look back fondly on the holiday memories of our bygone days.

Picture a light December snow falling over New Edinburgh. The heritage homes aglow with lights, rooftops dusted white, resembling the Christmas village your mother lovingly assem-

bled every year. As those who have seen this landscape would agree, it's like walking through a real-life Hallmark card.

Is that the faint sound of a choir's jubilant “O Come All Ye Faithful” floating out of MacKay United Church or, perhaps, St. Bartholomew's? Off in the distance, around the corner at Rideau Hall, do you also hear bells and hooves?

Betty-Lou Stephenson still does.

“[I] remember the horses and sleigh that went all around the ‘Burgh,” says Stephenson. “It was beautiful on a snowy night.”

The sleigh and steeds were supplied by Cundell Stables, now owned by third-generation horseman John Cundell on York Street in Lowertown. His grandfather was selling horses back in 1880 and their visit to the ‘Burgh during the

holidays remains an exciting memory for those who lived here, especially the lucky ones who got a ride.

Donna Jean Macdonald, who spent time growing up on both Stanley Avenue and Crichton Street, looks back on her time helping bring special gifts to area residents. She was part of the Canadian Girls in Training at MacKay United, as well as the Explorers. Each fall they would plant bulbs and then, a week before Christmas, the group would deliver them to area shut-ins. Smiles and season's greetings were exchanged.

“There was always a church service on Christmas Day, regardless of the day of the week on which it fell,” says Macdonald. “Our minister Reverend Frank Morgan encouraged the children to bring their favourite gift with them to that service.”



Photo by L Storsater

A spectacular tree on the grounds of Rideau Hall is lit up for the holidays. Date unknown.

Send us your letters

Letters to the editor must include writer's name, address and contact info. Opinions expressed are the writer's own and not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper. Editor reserves the right to edit for length and content. Send your letters to newednews@hotmail.com



A horse-drawn wagon ride, featuring horses from Cundell stables, outside the field house. Possibly 1990s.

Photo from NEN archives



Photo by L Storsater

Lynn Sherman and her daughter Rivkah enjoy the ice at the field house. 1991.

Groups like the Brownies and Girl Guides were also in the Yuletide gift-giving sprit, only in this instance it was via their voices as former Ivy Crescent resident and Guide Shirin Grondin Dubash recalls:

“Every year we would go to Island Lodge (now the Armstrong Home) and sing carols. I vividly remember all the practicing and build-up to Christmas. Then the Christmas pageant with our parents. In the ‘70s Christmas was such a difference from today.”

Of course, no memory of the holiday season would be

complete without a visit from the man with the bag. No, not Santa. Canada Post!

“I remember how the mailman used to deliver huge bags of Christmas cards – even on the weekends – and yes, sometimes he was a wee bit tipsy due to grateful people of New Edinburgh offering him a glass of cheer to keep him warm while finishing his route,” Nicky Pasch reminisces.

Whether it was keeping the winter chill at bay with some hot chocolate at the Stanley Park skating rink, letting out “wheeeee” as you whooshed down the Boxing Day tobog-

gan slide at the Governor General’s estate, or picking up some last minute presents in Beechwood Avenue shops adorned with decorations and tinselled pines, New Edinburgh gave those who grew up here the best gift of all: loving memories of many Christmases past.

Andre R. Gagne is new to New Edinburgh. You can usually spy him roaming around with his camera, sipping copious amounts of coffee on Beechwood Avenue, or sharing conversations with his friends at The Pond.



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Virtual concert to bring home the sounds of the season



Photos by Serhii Vyhovskyi

The Vyhovskyi Strings senior (left) and junior ensembles will perform a virtual concert for the holiday season, in collaboration with MacKay United and St. Aiden's Anglican Churches.

By Leanne Ward

As 2020 draws to a close, the Vyhovskyi Strings Studio is once again preparing its annual "Christmas with the Vyhovskyi Strings" concert, in collaboration with MacKay United and St. Aiden's Anglican Churches.

This year, the concert will be broadcast virtually, of course, with the goal to bring the sounds of the season to the homes and hearts of friends, family, and church commu-

nities. Current and graduate students of the Vyhovskyi Strings Studio are hard at work with **Tea Mamaladze**, piano virtuoso and director of music at St. Aiden's Anglican Church, the MacKay United Church duo (**Peter Woods**, minister and saxophonist, and **Mitchell Wright**, music director and pianist), and a number of other collaborating vocalists, pianists and videographers. The event features Christmas carol sing-alongs, solo-to-quintet violin

performances, and popular, contemporary Christmas tunes.

The Vyhovskyi Strings Studio is led by Ukraine-born pedagogues **Serhii Vyhovskyi** and **Olena Vyhovska**. The husband-and-wife duo came to Canada in 2003 after many years of study and teaching in the former USSR, Ukraine, and around the world. One of the pair's early initiatives was to bring a small group of violin students together with the goal to improve

ensemble performance skills at a young age. In 2010, the ensemble took on the moniker "The Vyhovskyi Strings," and started successful performances for the local community in retirement centres across Ottawa, and at the annual Ottawa Kiwanis Music Festival.

As the group grew, The Vyhovskyi Strings was divided into senior and junior ensembles, playing upright and from memory in the spirit of "The Bolshoi

Theatre Violin Ensemble." With tremendous support from parents, the Vyhovskyi Strings went on to become an integral part of the music scene in the Ottawa area. Many of the Vyhovskyi Strings Studio students have been prize-winners at local, national and international competitions, and numerous graduates have gone on to become professional musicians. All of this, with brilliant support from the collaborating pianists, **Tea Mamaladze** and **Ioulia Blinova**.

For many, music has been like a warm hug during this time of social isolation due to COVID-19. In the words of Plato: "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." Thank you, Vyhovskyi Strings, for bringing joy to the hearts of your community come rain or shine!

For details about access to the free 2020 virtual Christmas with the Vyhovskyi Strings concert, please visit **mackayunitedchurch.com** the week before Christmas, or contact MacKay United Church at **admin@mackayunitedchurch.com**, or **613-749-8727**.

Leanne Ward is a CHEO pediatrician and supporter of music education and opportunities for children.

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This challenging year has taught us to be generous, kind and not take anything for granted. The Lavier family lives this every day. Welcoming baby Charley this year was a time of joy for parents Amy and Pres and big brother Matty, and a time to remember Cameron. His battle with cancer ended in 2016 but he is always with his family.

The Laviers created an endowment fund in their son Cameron's memory that helps CHEO care for families today and for years to come.

For more information contact Megan Doyle Ray
mdoyleray@cheofoundation.com 613-297-2633

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NECTAR gallery becomes hub for Indigenous and marginalized artists

By Suny Jacob

Art is built on community. It creates a space for cross-cultural dialogue and in doing so, it transforms communities.

Lineage Arts is a gallery space accomplishing that very thing by bringing Indigenous and visible-minority artists to the forefront of arts and culture spaces. We are thrilled to officially move into the New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre (NECTAR) at 255 MacKay St. Our gallery space is exclusively dedicated to Indigenous and visible-minority artists, prioritizing the development of local spaces for them to showcase their work.

Heritage, culture, and life experience form the backbone of our work. We take pride in curating storied pieces that reflect this. Suny Jacob, the owner of Lineage Arts, started her career supporting Inuit women fleeing domestic violence. It was through this work that she



Photo by Toufa Bouchouar
Drum Dancer by John Nutarariaq in soapstone.

saw the exceptional artistic talent that survivors relied on to cope with the trauma of abuse. Inspired, she left social work to create Lineage Arts, a space that supported these survivors through artistic practice. Suny began providing low-income artists with art materials and a safe workspace for them, covering most of these expenses out of



Photo by Dhivya Shastri
Dancing with Hummingbirds by Pamela Cailloux, Acrylic on Canvas.

pocket. Her project grew.

From those humble beginnings, Lineage Arts evolved into an innovative space that now showcases contemporary and traditional art from Canadian and international Indigenous and visible-minority artists. Our gallery in NECTAR serves as a cultural meeting place that

encourages creative collaboration and exchange between the public and Indigenous artists, as well as visible-minority artists from across Canada and the world.

Our belief is that art is an experience, which is why we are excited to provide community-based, artist-led programming that shares diverse cultural skills and knowledge with the public, specifically focusing on Canadian Indigenous artists and craftspeople. We collaborate with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to create holistic learning experiences for the public. This approach engages with Canadian Indigenous cultures in a way that is meaningful and respectful.

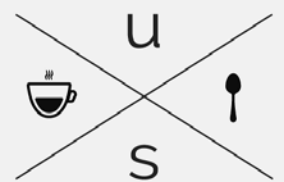
At our core, Lineage Arts is focused on catalyzing the role of art within the community through public learning and a participatory approach to art and design. We invite you to participate in our workshops, browse our col-

lection, meet the brilliant artists we support, and perhaps expand the diversity of your own art collections.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get a schedule of our online programs. If you have any questions, please email us at sjacob@lineagearts.ca.

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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.

DECEMBER

Until Dec. 18 – Montfort Lottery at lotomontfort.ca. \$50. The Montfort Foundation hosts the first edition of the Montfort Lottery: Wheel to Heal. One grand-prize winner will receive a Ford Escape 2020 SE AWD vehicle. All funds raised will go towards

the Montfort Hospital's emerging priorities. Tickets available for purchase until 11 a.m. on Dec. 18.

Dec. 6 – Concert and pop-up market at Union Street Kitchen Café, Crichton St. 11 a.m. The Union Street Kitchen Café hosts a pop-up market and live concert featuring Kristine St-Pierre and Justin Lacroix.

Dec. 8 – CCC meeting at 7:30–9 p.m. Online. The Crichton Community Council holds its monthly board meeting. Please contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for the meeting link.

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

[outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com)

Dec. 19 – OC Transpo food bank drive from 9 a.m.–6 p.m. More than 600 OC Transpo and City of Ottawa volunteers will be collecting non-perishable food items and donations for the Ottawa Food Bank at participating grocery stores. Visit OCTranspo.com for a full list of participating stores.

Dec 21 – Traffic and Safety Committee meeting at 7 p.m. Online. Anyone interested in attending the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Traffic and Safety committee meeting should contact marc.dorgeville@utoronto.ca for details.

Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library will re-open for contactless returns and holds pickup services. Bring your mask!

Jan. 19 – NECA Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance will hold its monthly board meeting virtually. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend. Contact President Cindy Parkanyi for details: newedinburgh@outlook.com.

Jan. 25 – Traffic and Safety Committee meeting at 7 p.m. Online. Anyone interested in attending the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Traffic and Safety committee meeting should contact marc.dorgeville@utoronto.ca for details.

JANUARY

Jan. 12 – CCC meeting at 7:30–9 p.m. Online. The Crichton Community Council holds its monthly board meeting. Please contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for the meeting link.

Jan. 18 – Local library branch re-opens at 380 Springfield Rd. bibliooottawalibrary.ca. 613-580-2940. The

FEBRUARY

Feb. 9 – CCC meeting at 7:30–9 p.m. Online. The Crichton Community Council holds its monthly board meeting. Please contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for the meeting link.

Advent and Christmas services

MacKay United Church 39 Dufferin Rd. mackayunitedchurch.com; 613-749-8727; admin@mackayunitedchurch.com; facebook.com/mackay.united MacKay United has a number of special online services happening each Sunday through Advent, as well as the Bittersweet of Christmas service (Dec. 8); MacKay Christmas card to retirement residences (Dec 15); the Vyhovskyi Strings Christmas online concert (Dec 18), Music and Meditation Christmas livestream service (Dec 22, 7 p.m.) and Christmas Eve livestream service (Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m.)

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church 125 MacKay St. stbartsottawa.ca 613-745-7834. Pre-registration is required for all in-church services including Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.). The Christmas Eve online service will take place Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. and the St. Bart's New Year's Eve virtual gala concert will take place Dec. 31. Tickets available at arsnova.ca.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church 326 MacKay St. stlukeottawa.org and stlukeottawa@gmail.com While St. Luke's will not be having Advent services this year, Rev. Bryan King will hold a daily devotion at 9 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook. Sunday services will also be broadcast on those platforms. Registration is required for limited seating for services on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m.) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.) Select the Reservations tab on the website.

St. John Lutheran Church 270 Crichton St. stjohnlutheran.ca Call 613-749-6953 for the Zoom link. Every Sunday morning during Advent, St. John Lutheran have a special "Journey To Bethlehem" worship for families and youngest members at 9 a.m., followed by Sunday Advent worship at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Other services include the Children's Christmas Pageant (Dec 20 at 10 a.m.) Christmas Eve worship (Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.) and Christmas Day worship (Dec. 25 at 11 a.m.).

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Experience music and meditation while in motion

By Rev. Peter Woods

Take a stroll with *Kindness of Jazz*, sound-scaped walk that will be launched in New Edinburgh in December.

Kindness of Jazz is an evolving album of music and spoken word audible from select locations mapped throughout our neighbourhood. The nodes of creativity are all accessible via the SonicMaps player (see link below). With just earbuds and a phone, stand in front of MacKay Church at 39 Dufferin Rd. Press Play and start a journey: either towards Sussex Drive or Stanley Park. Acoustic music, much of it recorded inside MacKay Church, will accompany you as you find your way.

Peter Woods, minister of MacKay Church and local saxophonist, plays and speaks on this debut release. Improvised music recorded in the MacKay sanctuary mingles with reflective words and poetry quoted from Rumi and Hafiz, among others. Other musicians performing are **Tim Jackson** (guitar) and **Lu Frattaroli** (percussion).

Peter has been creating meditative music at MacKay Church for two years, and this is the latest iteration of that work. It is an invitation to experience music and meditation while in motion – and in fresh air! – especially as pandemic protocols keep the church building closed to the public.

Caitlin Fisher produced this project. As an artist and scholar familiar with virtual reality environments, such



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

MacKay United's Rev. Peter Woods performs on the new "Kindness of Jazz" digital experience.

as locative walks, she has facilitated the technological connections and the creative work.

Thanks to the artistry of **Tony Viera**, an initial walk around the heart of New Edinburgh, Ottawa has been launched. Location-based technology allows music and words to ebb and flow through one of Ottawa's most

historic neighbourhoods.

Kindness of Jazz is a conversation starter about music and public life.

Visit recursivearts.com/sonicmaps/player and select "New Edinburgh" to begin your journey!

Rev. Peter Woods is a saxophonist and the minister at MacKay Church.



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Thank You



Photo by Joana Chelo

The *New Edinburgh News* wishes to thank our hard-working distribution team (including one of our youngest volunteers, **Matilde Chelo Hortop**, above), who offer their valuable time to deliver this newspaper to 1,950 households and to 40 businesses in our community! Thanks to Distribution Manager **Karen Harrison** and her team: **Carolyn Strauss**; **Andrew and Sarah Fyfe**; **Joana Chelo** and family; **Sara Fair** and family; **Mieke Bos** and **Pierre Trudel**; **The Mee Family**; **Carolyn Brereton**; **Liba Bender**; **Roxie Clark** and family; **Stephen Chappell**; **William Beddoe**; **Susan Boyd**; **Christine Plouffe**; **Robert Todd**; **Julia Chandler** and **Jim DeFaye**; **Gavan Power**; **Larry Doshen**; **Carol and Peter Gushen**; **Rod Blaker**; and **Gilbert McElroy**. Please help to make their routes easier by shovelling your steps and sidewalks this winter!

Condolences

We would like to send our condolences to **Susan Rodocanachi** on MacKay Street concerning the sudden passing of her partner **Janot**. His was a life well lived.

Congratulations

The unofficially-named Electric Street Running Group has existed for more than nine years and even if we no longer high-five at the end of the run, the group is still going strong during these trying times. We would like to express our gratitude for its amazing members: **Ana, Carol, Caroline, Christina, Daniela, Joana, Kristin and Nicole**. This great group of running women keeps up the motivation in getting out the door for early-morning runs, trains for virtual races and in general gives an opportunity for checking in with one another. Like one wise woman once said (and wrote on a t-shirt): "Running is cheaper than therapy!"

Welcome!

We wish a warm welcome to the first residents of **St. Charles Market**, who moved into their new condominiums in the first week of November. Early reports suggest that they are thoroughly enjoying their new community, and their proximity to Beechwood's many amenities.

Miscellaneous

If you require snow shoveling this winter, consider encouraging some local young fellas looking to save up for post-secondary school. Details at 4fellas.wixsite.com/website, call 613-292-9482 or email us at fellax4@gmail.com. References available.



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

NECTAR and the **Lumière Festival** hosted a Day of the Dead event on Oct. 30, which featured ghost stories, poetry, costumes and face painting.



Calling all Rink Hosers!

Contact CCCRinkManager@gmail.com
FB/IG: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil

The CCC needs volunteers to water the ice rinks at New Edinburgh Park this winter. No experience needed.



Photo by Carolyn Brereton

The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale organized a Contactless Book Drive on Nov. 7 in the parking lot of the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre. With many used book drop-off locations closed due to the pandemic, the event was a great success, collecting more than 400 boxes of donated books. Masked volunteers removed boxes from the trunks of patrons' cars – like curbside pick-up in reverse! The drive was aided in part by the glorious Indian Summer weather. Many thanks to all who participated: (left to right) **Sarah Phillips**; **Eva Schlusell**; **Zoe Fedoruk**; **Hannah Burnham**; **Kevin Phillips**; **Gina Watson**; **Philip Robert**; **Jane Newcombe**; and **Bea Hampson**. The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale has been postponed to April 2022.

Ottawa resident **Kyle Shea** has created the Lived Experience Initiative, an organization with a GoFundMe campaign to purchase gifts for residents living in long-term care homes in Ottawa. These donations will help provide LTC residents with much-needed items such as art supplies, toiletries, stuffed animals and board games. For details on how to donate, visit facebook.com/thelivedexperienceinitiative.



Photo by Victoria Henry

Evan Mangino and his children **Jed** and **Beatrice** enjoyed the autumn leaves in Stanley Park back in October.



Photo by Madeline Matthews

We would like to announce a pilot project in support of local business. The idea is to distribute a box containing information and advertising for local businesses, plus city information of concern to local residents. These boxes, a form of welcome gift, will be distributed to new renters and owners in the area to make them aware of the rich assortment of products and services available. If you are the owner of a local business – either store-front or home-based – please contact newedbizbox@gmail.com to take part! We'd be happy to work with you so that we'll have a great variety of inserts to create a fun and informative welcome package.