

April 2021

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Contact Christina at newednews@hotmail.com for details.

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



Photo by Frank Martin

A snowy owl (like this one, above) was spotted near the VIA Rail Station on Tremblay Road this past winter. Read about this and other local bird sightings, plus the spring migration, on p. 22.

City’s draft Official Plan is worrisome and aggressively anti-urban

By Ray Boomgaardt, NECA board member

In November 2020, the City of Ottawa published a draft revision of its Official Plan, intended to guide the growth of the city for the next 25 years. It invited public comments on the four volumes (Vol. 1 alone is more than 250 pages long). The Board of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) submitted its comments on Mar. 12 (find our submission at newedinburgh.ca). Our City Councillor Rawlson King has invited residents to make any further comments to his office.

The City terms its revisions to its Official Plan as a “New Official Plan.” That’s actually a fair description, because the New Plan reverses many of the policies of the existing Plan. The extreme departure from existing policies is very strange – even bizarre – because the existing Plan is well written, has been regularly updated by Council, and seems to have served the City rather well. The New Plan is full of empty jargon, reverses not only well-established policies but also many recent Council decisions, and attacks fundamental rules and procedures protecting Ottawa’s

urban neighbourhoods.

Having been critical of the City in the past, it feels strange to be suddenly noticing all the merits of the existing Plan. But that is perhaps the easiest way to convey to you, dear reader, how worrisome this revision, the draft New Plan, is.

Fifty years ago, the ideas of urban-renewal activist Jane Jacobs lead the citizens of Toronto in their campaign to stop the Spadina Expressway. In 1979, those same ideas galvanized New Edinburgh to stop the Vanier Arterial. Perhaps the writers of the

Continued on page 4

Bye Table 40, hello Bottle Shop

Over the years, **Fraser Café’s Table 40**, next door to the long-running restaurant at 7 Springfield Rd., has played host to gatherings of all descriptions, including Books on Beechwood’s popular **Titles at Table 40** series, when local authors dined with neighbourhood residents to discuss their latest works.

But since the pandemic began more than a year ago, communal dining and group gatherings in general have disappeared, abruptly quashing the *raison d’être* of Table 40. So café owner **Ross Fraser** and his team decided to convert the space to a new use.

In early March, Fraser’s new **Take Away and Bottle Shop** launched operations in the former Table 40 premises. The shop offers both a range

of fresh prepared foods such as house-made pasta, freshly baked breads and pastries, salad bowls, and fried chicken, along with such frozen specialties as tourtière, meatballs, lasagna and a variety of soups. For the sweet-tooth crowd, the shop is featuring coconut butter tarts, pumpkin pie with ginger streusel, and a selection of Fraser’s homemade ice creams. You’ll also find such tasty Fraser condiments as preserves, hot sauces and dressings: the shop’s product list will “be ever growing and evolving,” says general manager **Carmen Gunn**.

As a complement to your gourmet meal, the **Bottle Shop** offers a full range of libations from cocktails to craft beer and wine. The wine selection is particularly

extensive, featuring Italian, Chilean, French, Spanish and California red wines, along with white, sparkling and rosé wines from New Zealand, Italy, South Africa, France and California. And mark-ups have been deliberately kept within a reasonable range.

Online orders from the shop can be placed any time, for pick-up Wednesday through Sunday from 4–6:30 p.m. In mid-March the shop’s doors also opened for in-person shopping. And there’s more to come: “We’ll be expanding to include a lunch-time service in the coming weeks,” says Carmen, “stay tuned for an update!”

When the pandemic struck, the Fraser Café team pivoted swiftly from indoor dining to an extraordinarily popular

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What's the New Edinburgh Community Alliance?

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

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

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

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (no meetings in July, August or December). Its annual general meeting takes place in October.

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

Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday, Apr. 20, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday May. 18, 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

Three opportunities for community involvement



Cindy Parkanyi
NECA President

We've made it through another winter...spring seems to have sprung and the snow and ice are fast disappearing. Unfortunately, this also coincides with Ottawa going into "Red-Control" status. While some things are more restricted, we can still get out and enjoy a walk through the neighbourhood and greet friends and neighbours, albeit from afar. Complete details regarding what is and is not permitted for gatherings, restaurants, sports, retail, and personal care services within the Red-Control level can be found on the provincial website at ontario.ca.

Have your say on the Official Plan

Recent news articles have indicated the City has been inundated with a high number of community inputs on the draft Official Plan. And the feedback was overwhelmingly consistent: residents are concerned with the draft Official Plan's lack of importance on maintaining neighbourhood character and providing mechanisms to ensure that future development will be in lock-step with neighbourhood needs. While the deadline for community input on the initial draft Official

Plan has now passed, there is still some opportunity to influence the final outcome.

In response to the hundreds of questions in the past few weeks, City staff held a Q&A session to provide answers publicly on Mar. 24. However, on Apr. 15, City Councillor **Rawlson King's** office will also hold a community-based town hall concerning the Official Plan and its impact on Ward 13. We will provide details on newedinburgh.ca as soon as they are available. Rawlson will be preparing his official feedback on the Official Plan, so this is a chance to ensure that the focus is on what we believe is of the most importance.

For more on the Official Plan, please see the councillor's column on page 7 as well as articles by NECA board members **Gail McEachern** on page 18 and **Ray Boomgaardt** on page 1.

Beechwood developments

The Beechwood Village Alliance, made up of representatives from each of the neighbourhoods bordering Beechwood Avenue, is continuing to engage with developers to ensure that what is put in place will enhance our 15-minute neighbourhood goals. They are also exploring the possibility of developing a secondary plan for our main street, building on the work done on

the Beechwood Community Design Plan. A lot of work was put into this earlier plan; it has now become clear with the draft Official Plan that these will no longer hold any sway going forward, thus the importance of having a secondary plan that will provide some control and assurances that future development will reflect community goals for the main street.

What is needed is some outside-the-box thinking, and this is not something that we can expect from either the City or from developers, but from those of us closest to the problem. A good example of this kind of fresh thinking can be found in the opinion piece from Beechwood Market president **Chris Penton** on page 8. Another example is the work being undertaken by community members to try to put in place an e-shuttle program to complement the existing transit options. This new focus on "microtransit" is paving the way for new, more efficient and environmentally-friendly ways of extending our 15-minute neighbourhood and ensuring that all residents have access to our local retail areas.

Park clean-up day

NECA is organizing a community clean-up day in New Edinburgh and Stanley Park for Apr. 24. As of press time, this date is tentative, so please visit newedinburgh.ca for details. Show your love for the park by helping pick up the garbage and debris that is now showing itself as the snow melts! It will be a nice, distanced way to see your neighbours too.

To receive the monthly NECA e-updates, please contact newedinburgh@outlook.com or sign up through the community website: newedinburgh.ca. You can also join the Google Group "New Edinburgh Discussions" (new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com). You can also follow us on Twitter @ **New_Edinburgh**. If you would like to know more about NECA's committees and working groups, don't hesitate to send an email to newedinburgh@outlook.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Bittersweet memories of March 16, 2011

Your article about the Beechwood Fire brought back many memories for me ("10 years since the Beechwood fire", Feb. 2021).

March 16, 2011, is forever remembered by our family, both because of the fire (we frequented that Home Hardware often and miss it dearly), but also because my son James was born on that day. I remember the dreary March morning very clearly. We drove right by those buildings on Beechwood on the way to the hospital. Little did we know it was the last time we would see them in their entirety.

As we prepare to celebrate James's tenth birthday and, really, on every birthday, I remember that fire. I remember how my mom and sister, who are from out of town, were late to the hospital as they got turned around by the commotion. I remember being told about the fire, and feeling shocked and saddened



Baby James was born the day of the Beechwood fire in 2011.

Photo courtesy Jessica Currie

for the neighbourhood and all those affected. I also remember knowing James's birth would allow me to keep the anniversary of the fire fresh in my mind.

On that day, the landscape

of my life and my neighbourhood changed. It's been amazing to see both my son, and the neighbourhood, grow and change since then.

—Jessica Currie,
Laval Street

Concerns with messaging about community policing

The December issue of the *New Edinburgh News* included a useful article encouraging citizens to contact the police when they are victims of small incidents such as break-ins even if nothing is stolen ("Reporting small incidents can help police see larger trends", Dec. 2020, p. 15). The article pointed out that, even when the police are not able to resolve the issue, reporting helps them in observing trends and allocating resources.

I found it disconcerting that, as a result of pressure from some individuals, the writer of the December article is now walking back the common-sense advice of his article, as reported in the February issue

("Let's keep the conversation going about policing", Feb. 2021, p. 1). I believe it is appropriate to reiterate that it is perfectly legitimate for a citizen to contact the police when they are victims of a crime.

The article refers to dubious potential harm caused by so-called "over-reporting." The meaning of over-reporting in this context is left unclear, but certainly it is up to each individual to determine what they wish to report. I trust the police will advise callers when the issue being reported falls outside of their mandate and will find ways to communicate to the general public what should or should not be reported if this becomes

necessary. Judging from the advice given by the community police contact quoted in the original article, that did not seem to be an issue at this time.

I also note the link being made in the February article to the police budget. The authors express support for arbitrary reductions in policing budgets also supported by our local councillor. Fortunately the Mayor and the vast majority of City Council did not adopt this perspective and we can hope that police budgets will continue to be based on expert advice with the objective of meeting community needs for safety and security.

—Jean-Claude Primeau
MacKay Street

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Draft new plan's policy reversals make existing plan seem pretty good

Continued from page 1

New Plan were indulging in some black humour when they decided to label the Queensway, Ottawa's expressway, a scenic route (yes, really!). But we digress. This article is not about that bit of Orwellian nonsense, although we do think it illustrates how poorly thought out and aggressively anti-urban the New Plan is.

One of NECA's core values

is our commitment to Jacobs' understanding of what makes a city thriving and liveable: the city is made up of neighbourhoods. The existing Plan, was also explicitly based on this idea. The proposed revised Plan talks about developing "15-minute neighbourhoods," but then repeatedly undermines urban neighbourhoods.

Let's look at some examples.

An overview of the Plans

The existing Plan states: *"This Plan manages this growth in ways that reinforce the qualities of the city most valued by its residents: its distinctly liveable communities, its green and open character, and its unique characteristics."*... *"The environmental integrity of the city is reinforced throughout the Plan."*

The New Plan replaces these four commitments – to community, greenspace, unique characteristics and environment – with a far weaker and vaguer sentence: *"we will need to find ways of supporting city neighbourhoods ... as healthy, inclusive and vibrant places,"* offering vague support for "healthy, inclusive and vibrant places."

For existing urban areas, "healthy" seems to mean adequate parks and recreation facilities, and might even be construed as a back-handed reference to environmental integrity (i.e., a weakening of existing policy, but not a complete reversal); "inclusive" seems to mean more high-density buildings without lawns or trees (what the Plan calls the "missing middle," i.e., with no accommodation for communities, greenspace, or unique characteristics); and "vibrant" seems to mean rapidly transforming with high-density infill (the existing Plan supports infill, but doesn't require it to be dense, and does make it subject to the four commitments.)

NECA has been fighting for the four commitments in the existing Plan to be respected

by new development proposals; the New Plan simply deletes the commitments altogether.

Secondary plans

NECA and other community associations have done a lot of work on our vision for the development of the Beechwood Avenue corridor. The new draft Official Plan proposes to designate Beechwood from the St. Patrick bridge to Hemlock Road as a "Mainstreet Corridor." The good part of this proposal is that new projects along the Corridor are required to have ground-level commercial units and to provide extra-wide sidewalks.

On the other hand, there is a series of additional elements that community associations would like to see included to help ensure appropriate development along Beechwood. Under both the existing Plan and the draft New Plan, secondary development plans can be initiated by the City, and, when approved, become part of the Official Plan.

However, the draft New Plan introduces a new prerequisite for secondary plans: *"the City shall require a landowners' agreement. This Agreement shall be provided to the City prior to the commencement of the Secondary Plan. The ... agreement shall include ... how development and density are to be distributed, as well as how the costs of studies and plans will be divided."*

In short, landowners who do not agree with a proposed planning process can veto it

simply by not signing a landowner's agreement.

Again, the City has simply deleted the prior ability to receive community input.

Dealing with growth

The New Plan notes that provincial policy requires the City to designate enough land to account for growth over the next 25 years; and that the City expects to grow to 1.4 million people by 2046, an annual growth rate of about 1.2 per cent.

Over the past 30 years, the number of living units in New Edinburgh has probably grown at a rate of more than 1.2 per cent annually. So you might think that the City would use us as a model for the future. You would be wrong.

The New Plan proposes that 47 per cent of the growth will occur within the existing urban boundary (this is targeted to rise to 60 per cent by 2046, sec 2.2.1(1)), 46 per cent in the currently undeveloped land at the periphery of the urban boundary, and seven per cent in rural areas. So far, so good.

The New Plan goes on to state: *"The target amount of dwelling growth represents the proportion of new residential dwelling units, excluding institutional and collective units such as seniors' and student residences, based upon building permit issuance within the built-up portion of the urban area."*

Apparently, seniors' units do not count. Really: that's in the New Plan! New Edinburgh has three long-term care

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facilities built in the last 30 years. But they wouldn't count under the New Plan's math.

Dealing with intensification

Fun fact: the draft New Plan uses the word "transect" as a noun, with a meaning unknown to either the Oxford or Random House dictionaries.

Here we go. In the inner urban "transect" (which includes New Edinburgh), the New Plan provides that "The minimum residential dwelling density ...for each lot" is 80 units per hectare. This intensification requirement would apply to any new construction in New Edinburgh outside the Heritage District. The density requirement along Beechwood Avenue is 80 to 160 units per hectare.

A hectare is 10,000m². So, at 80 units per hectare, each unit occupies 125 m², or 1,345ft². This is the exterior dimension, so the interior living space on each floor would be about 1,200ft² assuming 100 per cent lot coverage. Therefore, if one wants to build a two-storey 1,800ft² house (at 900ft² per floor) on a 1,200ft² lot,

there is only 300ft² of space for lot setbacks, a deck and parking. For lots that have approximately 15m frontage or wider, at least 50 per cent of the units developed on that lot must have three or more bedrooms.

If you know the size of lots on your street, you can calculate what requirements a new development would need to meet. If a lot is 50x100 = 5000ft² (464m²), the building would need to have four units to meet the standard, and two of them would need to have three bedrooms, since the lot is more than 15m wide. Assuming 50 per cent lot coverage, 2500ft², and three floors, this provides 7,500ft², or approximately 1,900ft² for each unit (exterior dimensions).

Remember, these are minimum requirements. Presumably the by-laws will be amended to permit this kind of intensification.

Conclusion

You tell me. What's up with City Hall?

Ray Boomgaardt is a board member of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance.

Letter to the Editor

NDP-Green alliance could influence climate action

Most Canadians at present accept that climate change is a major threat to humanity and that our hydrocarbon fuelled economy is driving us ever closer to a disastrous tipping point. Nevertheless, our political leaders keep assuring us that we can continue to expand our oil and gas extraction and export industry. They claim that we can't afford to ignore the benefits of our vast natural hydrocarbon resources, which will help pay for our transition to a green economy. Apparently going forwards and backwards at the same time is not a contradiction.

While it may have been rational had we the gift of time, the current climate crisis does not afford that luxury and a comprehensive green vision is critical now. Under the federal Liberals and Conservatives, the solid plans and deadlines for achieving

a completely green economy seem to be moving further and further into an uncertain future. The difference between the Liberals and the Conservatives is the assertion by the former that they understand the problem and are doing what is best to achieve our climate goals, while the latter emphasizes the essential nature of the oil and gas industry for the jobs and the economy of Canada.

Another option would be for the NDP and Green parties to join forces as a party anchored in the principles of inclusion and sustainability, a party that would ensure that climate-related considerations are taken into account in all government decisions. It could be a party that would hold politicians to account for their climate-related promises and push the government to be as ambitious as possible to help save the planet.

The urgency of the climate crisis needs ambitious, concerted and immediate action. The carbon tax is an excellent step in the right direction, but we need to do much more, and much faster.

By joining forces, the NDP and Green parties could have greater representation in Parliament, and greater influence over the decisions that are taken in our country. We do not have a minute to lose when it comes to tackling the climate crisis, nor can we be ambitious enough in pursuing a new, green forward agenda.

—George Sorger, MacKay Street

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Update on the Affordable Housing Task Force



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

For many, Ottawa-Vanier has become unaffordable. Shelter beds are increasingly in demand and too many residents are living in inadequate, unaffordable or unsuitable housing. That is why, in a collaborative effort, our local City Councillors (Tim Tierney, Mathieu Fleury, Rawlson King) and I launched the Affordable Housing Task Force in October. We meet regularly to work on this

important issue and I wanted to share an update on what we have accomplished so far.

We began by mapping out public lands from all levels of government in Ottawa-Vanier and beyond to explore potential land use. Then we identified and sought feedback from key housing stakeholders to help guide our next steps forward. We formally reached out to Steve Clark, the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to request that the province assist with our efforts. We

also submitted recommendations and requests for support to the federal government as part of their pre-budget consultations last month. Finally, we have recently started the conversation with developers to seek their input as their active participation is vital to finding a solution.

As we continue our search for interested partners looking to pursue innovative and sustainable affordable housing projects, the help of the community is welcome! I invite you to share any ideas

and interests you may have on this subject with my office.

Your representatives at all levels are committed to working together to facilitate the implementation of effective and suitable solutions to the lack of affordable housing in the riding.

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.

A special milestone, thanks to the people of Ottawa



Jim Watson
Mayor of Ottawa

A few months ago, staff at the City Archives notified me that on March 20, 2021, I would surpass Stanley Lewis as the longest serving mayor in Ottawa's history. That got me thinking about how grateful I am to be mayor of our wonderful city. I also reflected on a few of the projects I am proud of. With limited space, here are a few highlights that couldn't have happened without the support of many people over the years.

Environment: Protecting Ottawa from climate change for future generations through the Ottawa River Action

Plan (ORAP), the Combined Sewage and Storage Tunnel (CSST) and record investments in growing the city's tree canopy.

LRT: Advancing one of the largest infrastructure projects in the city's history, after years of dithering, to better connect all four corners of Ottawa to the downtown core through continued partnerships with the federal and provincial governments.

Bridge Builder: Connecting communities through multi-use bridges in all corners of the city: the Vimy Memorial Bridge, the Adawe Crossing,



Photo courtesy of the mayor's office
Mayor Jim Watson with former mayor Stanley Lewis's portrait in the Heritage Building at City Hall.

the Flora Footbridge, the

Corktown Footbridge, the Jackie Holzman Bridge and later this year, the Prince of Wales Bridge.

Invest Ottawa: Seeing the creation of Invest Ottawa and the opening of the Innovation Centre to deliver economic development programs and initiatives that increase entrepreneurial momentum, wealth and jobs in the national capital region.

Ottawa Art Gallery: Opening a vital visual arts institution and cultural meeting place for residents and visitors to enjoy free of charge in the city's downtown core, highlighting local and world-renowned talent.

Central Library: Breaking ground on a joint net-zero carbon facility with Library & Archives Canada that will be an accessible and welcoming

space for all to connect, learn, discover and create.

Community Centres: Opening several recreation facilities to growing neighbourhoods across the city with improved programming, equipment and accommodations.

Lansdowne Park: Overseeing the revitalization and improvement of an essential space with a new stadium for large events, increased green space with a community garden, housing and retail that has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors over the last decade.

Tourism – Ottawa 2017: Spearheading the creation of a group in charge of putting together a full year of activities and events for Canada's sesquicentennial that saw millions of visitors in the nation's capital experience: La Machine, Red Bull Crashed Ice, the Juno Awards, the NHL 100 Classic and the Grey Cup, to name a few.

Improved Government Relations: Fostering greater collaboration with the mayor of Gatineau on projects involving both municipalities and successfully advocating for ex-officio seats on the National Capital Commission's board of directors for enhanced transparency and partnerships.

COVID Relief and Support for Small Businesses: Working collaboratively with Ottawa Public Health and all City partners to lead the province in the response to the pandemic.

Again, my thanks to the residents of Ottawa for the honour of serving our community.

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A 'one-size-fits-all' zoning approach does not suit every mature neighbourhood



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

The City is rewriting its Official Plan, the strategic document that describes how Ottawa will grow over time, and what policies it will put in place to support economic growth and guide the development and evolution of communities. Preliminary policy directions approved by Council for the Official Plan include achieving more growth through intensification, now referred to as "regeneration," than by greenfield development to accommodate the city's growing population. The city is projected to grow by 40 percent between 2018 and

2046, to an estimated 1.41 million people, mainly driven by migration.

To accommodate this growth, neighbourhoods in the urban core that are near light rail, employment and amenities will experience intensification. The first draft of the Plan released by City staff in November 2020 outlined density targets for neighbourhoods within the inner urban core that are expected to intensify more quickly than surrounding areas. The draft plan includes a density target of 80 units per hectare which has rightly become a cause for concern

for community associations and other stakeholders in Ward 13 due to uncertainty concerning "one-size-fits-all" zoning that might be applied to communities without respect for neighbourhood character and history.

While I support intensification, I believe there is intensification that contributes, and there is intensification that detracts, and that we must address the worry that "regeneration" is simply a euphemism to cram a larger number of residential units into neighbourhoods, regardless of the impact. I believe that we need to seek better solutions to ensure that any neighbourhood regeneration in the Ward engenders a tactful balance of density, along with providing different affordable housing options that cater to both individuals and growing families. I also believe that for any intensification to work, we need to ensure that necessary investments are

made in greenspace, social amenities, and infrastructure, including transit and active transportation, to support new development, which will require changes to our municipal finance model.

Most importantly, I believe that suitability of development must be ultimately considered, along with impact to adjacent existing neighbourhoods. This means we should embrace a development approach that reflects the unique nature of communities, rather than a homogenous approach that would embrace automatic "up zoning" of specific neighbourhoods. Based upon community input, I will advocate against a "one-size-fits-all" zoning approach being applied to every mature neighbourhood. Communities must have the opportunity to argue for the zoning that they consider important. I also believe that on a go-forward basis we must advocate for the appropriate amounts of

intensified development at the most appropriate locations.

Because I am committed to a fairer and more transparent planning process, my office will hold a community town hall on the Official Plan on Apr. 15. We will also continue to solicit input from residents and community associations to inform the comments I will submit to City staff in the form of a publicly available position paper to be released after my community town hall. Due to community concerns, the joint committee meeting that was originally intended to consider the Official Plan in June has been shifted to September in order to provide more time for resident comment on the draft policies, as well as to provide City staff more time to prepare a revised version of the plan for consideration.

I encourage you to become involved in the process by contacting my office at rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca.

Budget 2021 will focus on helping small business, rebuilding the economy



Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

Dear Neighbours,

Spring symbolizes hope and new beginnings. This year, it is not only the sunshine and melting snow bringing me a renewed sense of optimism, but also the sense that this difficult pandemic period will soon be coming to an end.

I, like many of you, breathed a sigh of relief as my parents received their vaccines. I am proud to say that with Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and the Janssen vaccine approved and secured for distribution, we will have enough vaccines available for every Canadian by the end of September. We are almost there, so in the meantime please continue to follow the

measures laid out by Ottawa Public Health.

Our government has and will continue to do everything we can to keep you safe and supported; this includes our commitment to rebuild our economy. That's why Budget 2021, that will be tabled on Apr. 19, is focused on jobs and inclusive growth, recognizing the plight of small business and our most vulnerable. Although the recovery will not be easy, I know that with the lessons of the past year, Canadians are able to tackle these and other challenges together.

And we do indeed have other pressing global challenges, starting with climate

change! I am thrilled to report that the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision on the carbon pricing has given the Government of Canada the clear authority to act. We can now make the bold, difficult decisions needed to combat climate change. It is the right thing to do for our planet. It is the right thing to do for our children.

So although there is optimism in the air, we must continue our hard work and collective resolve to keep our loved ones and ourselves safe, our businesses alive and hopefully thriving, and our planet healthy for the next generation.

...

Chères voisines, chers voisins,

Le printemps symbolise l'espoir et les nouveaux départs. Cette année, ce n'est pas seulement le soleil et la fonte des neiges qui m'apportent un regain d'optimisme mais aussi le sentiment que cette période

difficile de pandémie touche bientôt à sa fin.

Comme beaucoup d'entre vous, j'ai poussé un soupir de soulagement lorsque mes parents ont reçu leurs vaccins. Je suis fière de dire qu'avec Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca et le vaccin Janssen approuvés et sécurisés pour la distribution, nous aurons suffisamment de vaccins disponibles pour chaque Canadien d'ici la fin septembre. Nous y sommes presque sauf qu'il faut continuer à être COVID avisés et suivre les directives de santé publique énoncées par Santé publique Ottawa.

Notre gouvernement a fait et continuera de faire tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour assurer votre sécurité et pour vous soutenir – cela inclut notre engagement à reconstruire notre économie. C'est pourquoi le Budget 2021, qui sera déposé le 19 avril, est axé sur les emplois et la croissance pour aider des petites entreprises et des personnes les plus vulnérables de nos

communautés. Même si la reprise ne sera pas facile, je sais qu'avec les leçons de l'année 2020, nous sommes en mesure de relever ensemble ces défis.

Et nous avons d'autres défis mondiaux pressants, notamment le changement climatique! Je suis ravie d'annoncer que la décision de la Cour suprême du Canada sur le prix sur le carbone a donné au gouvernement le pouvoir d'agir. Nous pouvons désormais prendre les décisions audacieuses et nécessaires pour lutter contre le changement climatique. C'est la bonne chose à faire pour notre planète. C'est la bonne chose à faire pour nos enfants.

Nous devons maintenant, à la lumière de cet optimisme, continuer notre travail acharné pour assurer notre sécurité et celle de nos proches, pour maintenir nos entreprises en vie afin qu'elles prospèrent et de garder notre planète en bonne santé pour les prochaines générations

Opinion

An idea to help Beechwood Village become a 15-minute neighbourhood

By Chris Penton,
Beechwood Market
president

Much noise has been made of the race to create 15-minute neighbourhoods in Ottawa. Beechwood Village is certainly part of that race. Like many neighbourhoods in the urban core, we have a variety of amenities. But, also like many neighbourhoods in the core, we are missing some too. Beechwood Village is more of a ... 21-minute neighbourhood.



Deadline
for the next issue

May 10
newednews@hotmail.com

Arguably every corner of Ottawa is a 21-minute neighbourhood. The additional six minutes comes from trips to Costco for 3kg of peanut butter, to the dentist you have been with since you were a child and, ironically, to fill up the tank for the next trip for peanut butter.

In a city ruled by strip malls and suburban development, the need to leave your neck of the woods has become inevitable. To feel shame about the departure is not only wrong, but futile. Beechwood area businesses don't need your guilt; they need your help. They need your business and they need you to truly get behind the #SupportLocal movement. It is too common for Ottawans to point out what is missing, quickly groan, and then jump into the car to get it.

For years you have been told that there is no hardware

store, chocolate shop, or vintage diner because commercial rents are too high. This is probably true.

What if there was a way the City could step in and help change our shopping landscape? Consider the following.

Just as there are incentives to build affordable housing (tax breaks for exceeding seven units, rent subsidies for up to 20 years for landlords and so on) there could easily be incentives to open up affordable commercial space to smaller stores and services. Mandate developers and landlords to offer a quarter of their commercial square footage at a reduced rate. Since the concept already applies to residential units, why not commercial? In doing so, local residents get a service for which they have been asking; small businesses get a chance to prove themselves;

and landlords fill spots which may very well have stayed empty for years.

The City of Ottawa talks a mean streak when it comes to supporting local enterprise and bolstering small businesses in order to create 15-minute neighbourhoods. However, extending patio licenses into the coldest months, offering up endless food truck licenses, and promoting an obscure 'buy local' passport are band-aid solutions. Bring in solid measures like mandated affordable commercial space and you'll see ice cream shops, family-owned hardware stores, and bakeries reappear.

In order for these sorts of things to happen, residents must buy in. Firstly, continue to support your existing main-street businesses. Secondly, ask your local politicians why commercial rents are so high. Tell them which ameni-

ties you'd like to have within walking distance. Another sensible step is to call the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Association (QVBIA). Charged with attracting new businesses to your main street, they want to hear from their shopping public.

There is no reason why Beechwood Village couldn't be a 15-minute neighbourhood. But it will take more than talk to allow us the short walk.

Chris Penton is the President of the Beechwood Market, Ottawa's online farmers market: beechwood-market.ca. A community builder he is a past-president of the Vanier Community Association, current board member of the Vanier BIA, and ran for municipal office in 2019. A version of this column appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on Feb. 12, 2021.

Given how busy our lives can be, it is important to record and organize the relevant information, share memories and make your final wishes known to your loved ones.

The Beechwood Personal Memory Book can help you have the conversations that are needed and ensure that everyone can be aware of what your wishes are ahead of time.

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Local chef and QVBIA join initiative to save eateries from pandemic debt

By the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area

Though restaurants are open, they may actually get eaten out of house and home!

Prior to COVID-19, restaurants operated on razor-thin margins. During the pandemic, that margin has been decimated due to investments in personal protective equipment (PPE), food waste and labour costs, not to mention exorbitant third-party delivery fees. The result is massive debt that has very little chance of being paid back once the economy reignites – traditional margins are too slim.

In short, this industry is on the verge of collapse.

Supported by the Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas and the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association, the RestoHST initiative proposes a series of tax credits to be used to reduce HST payments until restaurants can return to full indoor capacity.

Restaurants collect HST on behalf of the government on the goods and services they



sell. The restaurants eventually pay those taxes to the government. If restaurants received tax credits for things like PPE investments and third-party delivery costs, and if they received double their Input Tax Credits on purchases like alcohol and supplies, it would directly help the businesses' bottom lines. Funds retained via RestoHST could easily and swiftly make tangible differences for restaurants.

"This industry is vital to our Mainstreets, not to mention so many other sectors from agriculture and advertising, to trades and design. Restaurants are an integral part of our tourism sector and they are also vital employers of youth and newcomers," said Nathalie Carrier, Executive Director Vanier BIA.

HST tax credits would grant restaurants a reprieve and allow them to pay back the large debt loads they have incurred while adapting to their ever-changing landscape. It is estimated that this \$93-billion industry has lost more than \$50-billion in sales since the beginning of COVID-19, while also having invested \$750-million in PPE by October 2020.

"Though we put on a brave face, most of us are masking mountains of debts and hanging on by a thread," said Harriet Clunie, executive chef of Das Lokal in the ByWard Market. "We're running out of steam, we're running out of ideas and we are running out of money."

Restaurants face a very uncertain future and action must be taken now. HST tax credit action is imperative as so many face dissolution and bankruptcy.

The impact on the Canadian economy could be disastrous. Government must act now.

Learn more about RestoHST at restohst.ca. Follow this initiative on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Safe spring garden cleaning tips

By Tamara Sorger

Spring is here and most of us cannot wait to start cleaning up our gardens to prepare for the warmer days ahead. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Environment Committee shares the following tips for a green and safe spring garden cleanup:

1. Please resist spring cleaning your garden until daytime temperatures are consistently above 10°C for at least seven days straight. Pollinators and other beneficial insects spend the winter in hollow plant stems. Disturbing them too early means they may not have a chance to emerge.

2. Loosely place any stems and cuttings into the compost to allow insects to continue sheltering and emerge when the time is right. Alternatively, you can cut stems into small bundles,

tie them together with natural fibre twine and hang them on a fence or against a tree. This latter approach works particularly well for bees.

3. Gently clean up leaves. What looks like a wrinkled leaf might actually be a cocoon.

4. Avoid mulching too early. Heavy layers of mulch

are difficult for emerging insects to break through.

5. Prune with care, keeping an eye out for cocoons and chrysalises.

Wishing you a happy spring and gardening season ahead!

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

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Andre R. Gagne, Jane Heintzman, Christina Leadlay and Marta M. Reyes



The Fraser Café team has transformed its Table 40 space into a take-home food shop, featuring freshly-made meals, wine and beer.

Photo by Alexander McKenzie

family-style dinner service, offered Wednesday through Sunday for take-out or local delivery. Fraser's cuisine is offered in generous portions for families of two or four, with menus posted online several days in advance. But these meals sell out quickly, so don't dither before placing

your order!

In recent weeks, the café has added yet another arrow to its quiver, launching a **focaccia pan pizza** menu, available for pick-up Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There are currently three options, covering a range of tastes from the adventurous meat-lover to

the vegetarian. In the former category, the *Spicy T-Loaded Pan Pizza*, it lives up to its billing with hot paesanella salami, Italian sausage, red peppers, banana peppers, red onion, hot honey, and more. *The Fennel Countdown* dials down the spice a touch, offering a combination of fennel

cream, mushrooms, artisan ham, bacon, arugula, carrot sesame pesto, pear, parmesan, and mozzarella. And last but not least, the *Legend Has It Antipasto Veggie-Loaded Focaccia Pan Pizza* serves up a combo of artichoke hearts, broccoli rabe, black olives, *fior di latte*, tomatoes, pickles red onion, oregano, and mozzarella.

On April 8th, Fraser will reopen to indoor diners. But as long as COVID-restrictions remain in force, both restaurant hours and the numbers of diners will be limited, and physical-distancing, mask-wearing and strict hygiene protocols will continue.

Dinner service will be offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5:30–9:00 p.m., and in keeping with provincial alcohol restrictions, bar service ends promptly at 9 p.m. A maximum of 35 guests may dine at one time, with no more than four guests (including children) at one table. Guests' reservation and arrival times will also be staggered to minimize crowding at the entrance.

And one more thing to look forward to at Fraser Café: when spring and warmer weather finally arrive, plans are shaping up to relaunch the outdoor patio operation: "We do plan to rebuild and give it another go!" says Carmen.

Visit frasercafe.ca for their latest menus and ordering details. —JH

Red Door re-opens after fire

New Edinburgh coffee lovers were quickly set at ease only a day after the neighbourhood favourite café **Red Door Provisions** had a fire scare.

In the wee hours of Feb. 19 a malfunctioning water pump caused an electric flame-up that sent firefighters rushing to the 117 Beechwood Ave. coffee shop to find smoke billowing from a basement room. The blaze was fully extinguished by 2:40 a.m. with minimal damage.

Chef and owner **Lauren Power** is happy to report that it took only 24 hours to clean up, as firefighters didn't have to use much water. The café was able to open again in short order. The team, already stressed in these trying times, worried what the loss of perhaps a week or longer might mean for business, so news from the City that they could re-open so soon was as sweet as their baked goods. From the many online posts, it was welcome news for the taste buds of their clients, as well.

"We had an outpouring of support from our community which was really incredible!" says Lauren, who says that the flood of orders to their online shop kept the kitchen team busy during the clean-up. "Because of the support, we didn't lose the sales that we had predicted, and we had a fantastic 12 hours preparing more than 200 orders for

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

A small basement fire at Red Door Provisions on Feb. 19 didn't stop the café from opening for business as usual. The team is now preparing for patio season.

pick-up the following day. It was amazing, and we are very thankful to our beautiful community."

While this wasn't something the team could have predicted, Lauren says the café is going to do a complete re-evaluation of their fire, security, and surveillance system. Though it worked perfectly, the Red Door Provisions team wants to ensure it always will.

Meanwhile, the café is looking ahead to the summer patio season – armed with lessons learned during the first summer of COVID-19 restrictions.

"We learned how to adapt on a weekly, if not daily, basis! We will continue to make these adaptations as required this patio season," Lauren says. "We are really looking forward to opening up our back parking lot with picnic tables again, and are going to try to improve our seating as best we can. Our front area will also be open for distanced seating."

As for what patrons can expect in 2021, Lauren says they'll focus on expanding their offerings. They've added more grocery items, as well as prepared meals and frozen pastries, allowing customers to take Red Door Provisions favourites home to enjoy.

They are also looking to branch out this summer, with a food truck and a sec-

ond location – certainly no easy task these days. But, as Lauren explains, like many other small businesses, Red Door Provisions has no option but to keep going.

"These businesses are our livelihoods, and the livelihoods of our staff. We have poured years of blood, sweat, and tears into our business, and have a lot left to accomplish and prove! It will take a lot more than a global pandemic to shutter our doors, and we are always ready for the next change or adaptation that we need to make in order to keep growing and thriving."

Visit Red Door Provisions at 117 Beechwood Ave., online at reddoorprovisions.com or by phone at 613-695-6804. -ARG

Sezlik team grows

Ottawa's hot real estate market has been making headlines for a few months now, so it's no surprise that realtors are building their teams to keep up with demand for their services. Long-standing *NEN* advertiser **Sezlik Realty** (sezlik.com), based on Landry Street, is doing just that.

Charles Sezlik and **Dominique Laframboise** welcomed **Tracy Martineau** to their team full-time this past February. Tracy will be a familiar face to many readers. For the past seven years, she

managed Jacobsons Gourmet Concepts at 103 Beechwood Ave. (Her mother Terri still works there, Tracy confirms in an email to the *New Edinburgh News*.)

Attention to detail and kind customer service are skills Tracy honed not only at Jacobsons but also in her 25 years in the restaurant industry in Ottawa and Toronto. In 2016, she launched her own business, Vanilla Staging and Home Organizing, and has been helping the Sezlik team for more than a year.

As a client concierge and staging consultant, Tracy helps clients get their home ready and picture-perfect, working hands-on with each client. With Ottawa's housing market showing no signs of cooling, Tracy's staging skills will be working overtime this spring, the traditional season for house purchases.

"We continue to come up with new, innovative, and personalized marketing strategies to assist [sellers] in achieving their goals," Tracy tells *NEN*, hinting that Sezlik has "big changes" in store this season. Intriguing!

NEN thanks the Sezlik team for their continued support, and we wish Tracy and the entire Sezlik team all the best for 2021. -CL

Teaching all dogs good tricks

A new service in our community has arrived just in time to polish up the manners of pandemic pooches for the coming season of social activity (distanced, of course) in local parks and green spaces.

Happy Fido Dog Training (happyfidocompany.com) offers force-free dog obedience training, puppy socialization classes, and consultation on a wide range of dog behaviour issues. It's owned and operated by Manor Park resident **Fumie Watanabe**, a professional dog trainer. She holds certification from the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers, and has specialized training in dealing with dog aggression, and in canine first aid. Before launching her business, Fumie worked for several years in a local force-free dog training school.

Fumie has attended a variety of seminars, conferences, courses and workshops with leading professionals in canine training, and works hard to stay abreast of the latest research. "The art and



Photo courtesy of Sezlik Team Realty

Former Jacobson's manager Tracey Martineau (left) joined Charles Sezlik (right) and his realty team full-time in February.

science of dog training are constantly evolving based on research," says Fumie. "I want to help dogs and their families using up-to-date, evidence-based dog training methods through my business."

Fumie has had dogs in her life since childhood. As a child in Tokyo, Japan, her family had a large German Shepherd, which she admits was "a challenge" in that famously populous cosmo-

Continued on page 12

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Photo courtesy Fumie Watanabe

Local professional dog trainer Fumie Watanabe specializes in force-free obedience training.

politan centre. Interestingly, she redirected her early training skills to pet birds, which she taught both to “speak” and to come when called!

In recent years, Fumie has lived and worked with **Jaxx**, a rescued cocker spaniel. Like many rescue animals with difficult backgrounds, her companion came with a host of behaviour problems, the handling of which first sparked her interest in dog training. Perhaps the most widespread behaviour issue in Fumie’s experience is “reactivity.”

Reactive dogs *overreact* to such situations as meeting another dog, a loud noise, or what they perceive as a hostile object. (In my own household, garbage bags and

umbrellas were prime offenders!) “It’s like a panic attack,” says Fumie. Typically, the dog’s reaction (lunging, barking, growling, or snarling) is driven by fear, lack of socialization, over-excitement or a combination of all three. And as many struggling owners know, the problem can be incredibly difficult to handle, so professional expertise can be a lifesaver.

As long as pandemic restrictions continue, in-person/paws training is regrettably not an option. However, Happy Fido offers dog training sessions and behaviour consultations via Zoom (visit the website for details). Once the COVID situation improves and rules

are relaxed, Fumie plans to offer indoor, in-person, semi-private classes (three dogs maximum per class), as well as one-on-one, in-person, private sessions. The exact location remains to be determined, but, says Fumie, “it will likely be in the New Edinburgh and Manor Park area.”

Happy Fido’s Good Manners class in basic obedience is an eight-week course that includes a 45-minute webinar on training theory and puppy development stages, followed by seven one-hour classes. The Puppy Socialization class – which Fumie regards as a critical step in the training process – includes a 45-minute webinar, and six one-hour classes. Fumie thinks of her own beloved dog as “a perfect example of what happens when a pup is NOT socialized early,” and is strongly in favour of starting the socialization process at eight to 12 weeks, after the puppy’s first round of shots.

Among the many skills required to be a capable dog owner is the ability to “read” canine body language. “I often feel that owning dogs without knowing how they actually communicate is like trying to survive in a foreign country without knowing the language,” says Fumie. Through her training and experience, she has acquired considerable fluency in this mysterious language, and helps her clients to develop their own expertise in reading the signals, from the submissive grin of a guilty mischief-maker to the raised hackles of fear or aggression. No training needed to interpret the



Photo by Andre R Gagne

Meet Duncan Studd, one third of the team at Good Prospects Brewing, which recently opened on St. Laurent Blvd. close to Hemlock.

wildly wagging tail and loopy smile – they’re happy to see us!

Contact Happy Fido Dog Training at info@happyfidocompany.com; on Facebook [facebook.com/HappyFidoCo](https://www.facebook.com/HappyFidoCo); or on Instagram [instagram.com/happyfidoco](https://www.instagram.com/happyfidoco). Good luck to Fumie: you’ll find no shortage of potential clients in our dog-loving neighbourhood! –JH

New brewery pours liquid gold

Those passing 411 St. Laurent Blvd. last summer might have noticed a mysterious promise by way of a window sign reading “SOMETHING GOOD IS BREWING.” Good? Brewing? Colour us

intrigued, but what could it possibly be? The answer: **Good Prospects Brewing**, a new company joining the ever-popular craft beer scene here in Ottawa.

For **Duncan Mackay, Duncan Studd** and **Jeff Moore**, part of the team behind the brewery, it was about time! The nugget of the idea emerged years ago, when the three were working as geologists in search of gold. While many of us have tasted a craft beer (or seven) before, this may be the first to have a golden beginning.

“The name was thought up by my fiancée while we were on a drive through rural Ontario and happened to pass

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345 St. Denis U 213 \$309,000

Quartier Vanier: Funky i bedroom plus den unit at 850 sq. ft. in the iconic “Le St. Denis”. On a quiet street where you are close to everything but not in the midst of it, this converted school building has 10’ ceilings, huge windows, open plan, Terrazo floor hallways and other nifty touches harkening to its former use. Not really sure about condo living: this one may tip the scales!



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a gem mining location. We wanted to keep the theme close to [our] shared mineral exploration background,” explains Duncan Mackay, referring to the trio as prospectors. “Beyond the mining connotation, Good Prospects also reflects the positive vibe that we have felt from the local community and that we hope to contribute to.”

Mackay was first introduced to the craft beer world on a surfing trip to Tofino, B.C. Having only tasted beers from the major companies, he was blown away by how much more enjoyable a craft brew was. He started making his own beer while still in university, by first trying to emulate his favourite local brews before moving onto his own creations. It was a lucky strike that, while mining for those literal golden riches, he’d discover two other guys that also had a love of craft beer – and the experience to brew up a new business.

Duncan Studd, Mackay says, has a knack for creating novel recipes, while Jeff Moore, in addition to having brewing knowledge, happens to be an excellent carpenter and all-around handyman. Once Good Prospects is in full swing, customers will be able to check out Jeff’s work: the cherrywood bar and tables he has built to kit out the tasting room.

“We had originally planned to open in Spring 2020. That all changed with the first wave of the pandemic and the uncertainty at that time. Our construction was stalled for a couple months while we sorted out what could be done, but we kept pushing ahead,” explains Mackay. The trio is looking ahead to an opening later this year.

Good Prospects has been a business three years in the making, so what are a few more months to ensure things roll out right? For now, the team is happy with how the community poured out to collect their initial batches, made available for curbside pickup.

“Brewing the first batch for the public and filling our bigger fermenters was exciting! I had brewed the Canary in a Kolsch Mine recipe many times before, but it was a special feeling to be putting labels on the bottles knowing the next person who picked up this beer would be one of our first customers,” says Mackay.

Along with the aforementioned brew, when taking a swig of a Good Prospects beer like Gold Strike Grisette or Rough Gem IPA, you can bet it’s been thoroughly mined beforehand for the perfect taste. Mackay would have it no other way. He still makes beers inspired by favourites he’s dug up over the years. When he finds one he really likes, he researches its style – flipping through texts from as far back as the 1800s or travelling the world to find the right mix.

“What sets us apart from other craft breweries is our focus on more traditional European styles of beer. Our two mains right now are a Kolsch-style ale and a grisette: a Belgian ale). We are working on a Dunkel recipe and will have a couple of our saison recipes going into the fermenters soon, too.”

Though still a work in progress, the brewery website goodprospects.ca is the place to secure some bottles of Good Prospects. But get your orders in early: new brews are popular and tend to sell out quickly.

“Selling out of beer in the first two weeks was a welcome surprise,” says Mackay. “We have had to really push to up our production, but knowing the support from the community is there has really motivated us to work as hard as we can. We are very grateful to our new friends and neighbours for cheering us on!”

Good Prospects Brewing is located at 411 St. Laurent Blvd. (near Full Cycle). Visit them online at goodprospects.ca –ARG

‘Burgh BFFs launch PR firm

An idea that sprouted while pounding the pavement on Crichton Street over many years has now blossomed into a reality for two longtime friends and New Edinburgh residents. Meet **Liz Gray-Smith** and **Sally Douglas** and their new public relations firm: **GSD and Co.** The name is both a reference to their last names (Gray-Smith Douglas) and the phrase “Get S@#t Done” – which is essentially what they like to do and how they’ve modelled their business.

“We do the things our clients don’t have time to do but need doing,” says Liz. GSD specializes in project management and external



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

New Edinburgh friends Liz Gray-Smith (left) and Sally Douglas (right) have launched a new public relations firm, GSD and Co.

and internal communications, and also partners with other specialists in graphic design, social media, and web design, among other services. “We are well connected with ‘giggers,’” explains Sally, referring to people who work in the gig economy, characterized by short contracts and freelance jobs. Liz and Sally bring in a combined experience in journalism, project management, and media and government relations.

It’s still early days, but GSD is already cultivating a roster of small- and medium-sized businesses and associations as their clients, and Liz and Sally have been pleasantly surprised by how many gigs they already have on the go. No small feat during a world pandemic, but according to Sally, there was no better time to start a business like theirs.

“I can’t think of a single organization that isn’t going through some sort of change right now, from working remotely to how they’re engaging with clients,” she says. “It’s all about change management and they need communications solutions to support that internally and externally.”

Like most business weathering the pandemic, their interactions are virtual, but they’re eager to meet face-to-face with their clients in the near future, which both feel is key to sparking the kind of creativity that gets the job done in their line of business. And when that happens, they

intend to hold meetings right here in the neighbourhood and take advantage of the many coffee shops and restaurants here, as a way to support the other entrepreneurs in their own backyard.

“It’s all about supporting the community who has supported us all these years,” says Liz, adding that GSD looks forward to helping promote some of the businesses in New Edinburgh in the near future as well.

Learn more about GSD and Co. at gsdandco.ca. –MMR

Your body’s one-stop-shop

Last fall, when **Craig Adams** closed Studio One personal training following a rollercoaster of pandemic lockdowns, local chiropractor **Dr. Pierre Brunet** stepped in to take over the lease for the second floor at 1 Springfield Rd. (above the soon-to-open **Mr. Luko** coffee shop).

Dr. Brunet had been serving clients at Studio One for several years, and with Craig’s departure, he took the plunge to set up the **Rockcliffe Chiropractic Centre (drbrunet.com)**, a full-service clinic offering chiropractic treatment, acupuncture, active release therapy (a manual technique for releasing painful soft tissue restrictions), customized exercise programs, massage therapy, and personal fitness training.

In recent months, the former Studio One space has been reconfigured to create two

new chiropractic treatment offices, a massage treatment room, and a large open-concept rehabilitation area. Work is also underway to create a physiotherapy office, as plans are in the works to offer physiotherapy services, in keeping with Dr. Brunet’s objective of building a multi-disciplinary clinic, or “one-stop shop” for aches, pains and injuries.

The current roster at Rockcliffe Chiropractic includes two chiropractors, Dr. Brunet and colleague Dr. **Greg Stolz**, a specialist in shoulder injuries; Registered Massage Therapist **Keaton Basso**, who offers fascial stretch therapy and kinesiology, in addition to therapeutic massage; and **Lidia Szucs**, a local personal trainer who previously practiced at the former Studio One. Lidia has been providing in-person services since Feb. 16 when COVID restrictions were slightly relaxed.

Strict COVID protocols are in place at the clinic to protect all concerned. Precautions include screening questionnaires for clients, mask-wearing for all participants, frequent hand washing, and physical distancing during appointments. Dr. Brunet wears both a mask and gloves, and sanitizes equipment before and after each patient. The clinic’s square footage allows for a maximum of 14 clients and staff within the space.

Despite continuing concern over community spread of the



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Dr. Pierre Brunet has set up the Rockcliffe Chiropractic Centre in the former Studio One space at the corner of Springfield and Beechwood.

virus, Dr. Brunet has found that almost all his regular clients have chosen to continue in-person treatments, as opposed to opting for virtual consultations. Massage therapist Keaton has had a similar experience, treating a large influx of patients since the start of the new year. However, once clients have received much-needed pain relief from the initial hands-on treatments, follow-up appointments can often be carried out virtually. Via

video calls, Dr. Brunet and his team can check up on prescribed exercises, evaluate range of motion, and offer advice on pain management, ergonomics for home offices, or more effective performance of exercises.

Like many others in his industry, Dr. Brunet has noticed a marked escalation in cases of low-back and neck pain since the onset of the pandemic last March. He notes: "My patients have become a lot more sedentary

as a result of gym closures and changes in their daily habits like walking to work, or using the stairs at work." Compounding the problem are the makeshift home-office set ups that have taken the place of more ergonomically-correct workplace settings, and taken a toll on posture and overall musculoskeletal health. In these cases, Dr. Brunet and his colleagues prescribe a corrective exercise routine to resolve pandemic pains.

Rockcliffe Chiropractic Clinic's hours of operation are Mondays and Fridays, 8 a.m.–5p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12–8 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 8a.m.–6p.m. For details, visit drbrunet.com or call 613-979-7461. —JH

Peace of mind for property rentals

Faithful *NEN* advertiser **Greentree & Co. Rentals** celebrates 32 years in business in 2021. This family-run New Edinburgh-based business was created in 1989 by the late **Mary Ellen Boomgaardt**. She was inspired to start a property management company for foreign service members after hearing a tale of woe from one of her husband **Ray's** colleagues. "He had rented his house in Ottawa to a tenant. The tenant's cheques bounced, and after several months he left the property, having never paid any rent and leaving the property in shambles," explains Mary Ellen's daughter **Aisling Boomgaardt**, who now runs Greentree & Co. along with her brother **Bram Boomgaardt**.

Mary Ellen and Ray were familiar with what foreign service members and diplomats had to go through managing their properties while overseas, having been on post-



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Siblings Aisling and Bram Boomgaardt now run Greentree & Co. Rentals, which their late mother started over 30 years ago.

ing themselves. Ray served as legal affairs counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. "We believe there is a continuing market for the services we provide: Protecting one of the most important assets people own, freeing our clients of worries about their home, and giving good reliable service to their tenants," Aisling notes in an email to the *New Edinburgh News*.

Greentree's day-to-day focus is renting the properties and managing the homes under their care. Over the years they have assembled a team of independent contractors to do care and maintenance.

"The enjoyment comes from solving problems of import, working with others, and the satisfaction of a job well done," she says.

Aisling notes that the name Greentree is a combination of

her mother's maiden name, Greene, and the English definition of Boomgaardt, which means "tree garden" in Dutch. The Greentree logo – a tree inside a house – was developed by a New Edinburgh resident whom Mary Ellen met at a community fitness class run at the former Crichton Street Public School. These green-and-cream signs are ubiquitous in the Burgh during the warmer months when "posting season" starts for foreign service members.

The pandemic has affected the property management industry, explains Aisling. Some tenants have requested a temporary forbearance in their rents, which Greentree has been able to accommodate with landlords. "One curious effect of the pandemic was that a number of tenants decided to purchase homes, so that also has created additional work for Greentree," Aisling says. "However, the rental market in central Ottawa has remained quite strong."

In the three decades since her mother founded Greentree, Aisling says many things have changed, from the increased ease of communicating with our clients internationally, to the creation of their website which is a business key driver. Yet some things remain the same: "From day one we used a PC and an HP printer. Mary Ellen actually bought the HP print-

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er while on vacation in New Hampshire, because it was not yet available in Canada. That original printer lasted for nearly 20 years!" says Aisling.

Although Mary Ellen passed away in May 2020, her Greentree legacy continues with Aisling and Bram at the helm. *NEN* thanks the Greentree team for their many years of support and wishes them all the best! —CL

BUSINESS NOTES:

St. Charles Market (SCM)'s **André Cloutier** reports that residential occupancy of the new building is moving ahead swiftly, and by April, six of the eight stories will be occupied. Levels seven and eight are well underway, and will soon house four spacious, highly customized penthouse units. This spring, work will ramp up on the remaining portion of the exterior terra cotta cladding, temporarily postponed to prioritize interior finishing of the condos.

Design work is underway for the commercial space adjacent to the SCM forecourt at the corner of Barrette and St. Charles Streets. It's hoped that the new occupant will very soon be able to announce their arrival! Timelines remain uncertain for the spaces in the former St. Charles church, where progress has been disrupted by the pandemic. —JH

LCBO here at last

By the time you read this, the



Photo by Christina Leadlay

At long last, the LCBO opened March 29 on Beechwood Avenue, the newest tenant in the Minto Beechwood building.

long-awaited LCBO outlet in Minto Beechwood should be up and running. Minto's **Kevin Harper** was exultant to finally reveal a definitive launch date of **Mar. 29**, when the new, 8,000 square-foot outlet will open its doors to the community after many months (years!) of anticipation. The *NEN* looks forward to reporting on all the details soon. Kevin is hopeful that a side benefit of the opening will be to attract other prospective occupants to fill the remaining commercial space

(about 2,000 square feet). —JH

Minto Beechwood II: While the pandemic has resulted in some delays in the City of Ottawa building approvals process, on the whole, steady progress has continued on plans for Minto II, Minto's new mixed residential/commercial development with frontages on Beechwood and Barrette Streets. The project application is expected to reach Planning Committee in May.

According to Minto's **Kevin Harper**, design work is ongoing, and the company is currently awaiting the first round of comments on its Site Plan presentation, anticipating that these will focus on the height of the brick elements on the Beechwood front, as well as on the linkage between the Beechwood and Barrette buildings. He remains reasonably confident that once

the approvals process wraps up later this year, work on the site will be able to launch by November or December, kicking off what he estimates will be a 30-month build.

Minto remains committed to using the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA)'s "wish list" of amenities as its principal guide to the selection of commercial occupants, and Kevin is well aware that the community preference is essentially "small is beautiful." The full wish list, which includes a hardware store, a vegan restaurant, a bakery and a gift store, was reported in the October 2020 edition of the *NEN*. This time, Kevin says, Minto has some skin in the game: the residential units will be rental, as opposed to condominium, so choosing businesses which serve as attractive amenities to building occupants will be a high priority. —JH



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Truthful Fox News

In spring 2018, our neighbours in Manor Park, Lindenlea and New Edinburgh reported various fox sightings. This prompted Michael Larass to write a number of verses on the subject, some referring to facts, others products of poetic licence. Eastern Townships painter Barbara Matthews contributed the illustrations.



There roams a fox
on Rockcliffe's rocks,
all dressed in red
and with white socks.



For some a menace like the pox,
for others cute like Goldilocks,
down by the shed
he sports his socks.



Gourmand-le-fox' de Rockcliffe Rocks,
he puts his paws in people's woks.
He stores the bread
in his white socks.



To him a throng of squirrels flocks.
He teaches them the Law of Fox.
He leaves no shred,
nor stains his socks.



From Beechwood down to Rockcliffe's docks
roams far and wide our friend, the fox.
He looks well-bred
in his white socks.



Of embassies he breaks the locks.
At traffic lights he always mocks.
When they turn red,
he waves his socks.



At night he comes to check the clocks
and, stealthily, the chocolate box,
then goes to bed
in his white socks.



He dreams sweet dreams of Mistress Fox,
who wears the most fantastic socks -
green, blue and red -
on Rockcliffe's rocks.





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Policies in Ottawa's draft official plan threaten established neighbourhoods

By Gail McEachern

New Edinburgh is at risk of potential changes that could undermine its unique character as a neighbourhood if proposals in Ottawa's draft New Official Plan are left unchanged. A vote on a final version of the new plan will go before City Council in September. Mayor Jim Watson turned down a request from the Federation of Citizens' Associations to delay that vote until after the municipal election in 2022.

A great deal is at stake for many communities and

neighbourhoods, including New Edinburgh. Ottawa's Official Plan is a legal document under the authority of the Ontario Planning Act. Its role is to detail the City's goals, objectives, and policies to guide growth and manage physical changes, in this case to the year 2046. In recent months, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) has been examining the draft Official Plan (DOP) to ascertain how the proposed policies will affect New Edinburgh.

Specifically, the DOP provides flexibility in lot area

and configurations that depart from the traditional pattern of division. This would include permission for as-of-right severances to create small-sized lots with unconventional and irregular sizes such as "flag-lots" with minimal lot widths and lots with perimeter lines that jog. The development of multi-unit low-rise residences with a maximum of four storeys will be permitted and encouraged. These extreme provisions and directives would result in:

- the loss of what are now cohesive streetscapes, and the removal of a number of good single-family homes in exchange for a mishmash of housing types crammed into broken-up lots; and

- significant reduction in greenspaces and trees in order to accommodate more "bricks and mortar," contradicting the statement: "The City has brought in strong policies, regulations and processes to maintain and grow the urban forestry canopy".

What is even more incongruous when placed alongside the proposed intensification strategies for the Inner Urban Transect (where New Edinburgh is located within this new draft plan) are the following goals:

- "To reinforce neighbourhood and place identity through architecture and urban design";
- "To create a sense of place and character by integrating high-quality human-scale urban design"; and

- Guidance on the compatibility of new housing with the desirable character of the surrounding neighbourhood, so the development opportunities are more welcoming to the existing neighbourhood."

None of these goals will be operationally meaningful in the face of the policies for achieving the proposed regeneration (intensification) targets in New Edinburgh.

We recommend that to avoid destroying an attractive, mature, liveable neighbourhood, the proposed density numbers need to be drastically reduced. We also recommend the addition of language regarding the intent to preserve our established communities, and to ensure the stability of their unique characteristics while undergoing regeneration.

The part of New Edinburgh which is designated as a Heritage Conservation District has some protection from this potential flagrant destruction. The DOP acknowledges the special status of heritage conservation districts: "The pursuit of regeneration and minimum density targets shall be subject to the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act. District guidelines and heritage overlays will be used to integrate regeneration proposals in designated heritage districts."

However comforting this may sound, it is not good enough. Language must be incorporated which clearly prohibits the inappropriate

over-development of lots on which a "non-contributing" building has been allowed to be demolished.

In response to the concerned outcry from community associations (including NECA) regarding the DOP, the Ottawa Citizen reported on Mar. 20 that the planning general manager, Stephen Willis, told Council in a memo that the City staff are now working to "provide residents with assurances that intensification planning will be context-sensitive at the neighbourhood level."

We encourage all members of City staff who are contributing to creating a New Official Plan to consider the following statement from a thoughtful citizen:

"If we are to have nuanced, context-sensitive, area-specific zoning for developing diverse 15-Minute Neighbourhoods, centralized decision-makers cannot possibly know as well what is needed as those who have knowledge as engaged citizens with the lived experience of their own neighbourhoods. One of our largest concerns should be that the City has yet to demonstrate a full commitment to the kind of governance model and related processes to make the next Official Plan a success."

Gail McEachern is a board member of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance, and chairs its Heritage and Development committee.



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NECTAR making hard decisions about its future home



Photo by Louise Imbeault

As NECTAR approaches 10 years at 255 MacKay St., the community arts centre needs to think about its future location.

By Sean Flynn, NECTAR board member

Time flies when you're having fun! Can you believe that NECTAR (New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre) is approaching a decade in its current home at 255 MacKay St.? It's been quite a journey for this organization as we've grown to becoming a community art hub that has offered arts workshops, front lawn and porchlight concerts, drumming circles and Elder talks, and has pivoted to some fantastic online offerings as well.

In addition to being the main supporters of the Lumière

Festival, our signature community festival for almost a decade now, we are very proud of the No Borders Arts Festival we launched in 2019. It has brought together artists from a wide range of communities, disciplines, and backgrounds. And with the addition to our space of the Lineage Arts Gallery, a social enterprise that has been hugely collaborative and supportive of our mission and goals, it is remarkable how much we've accomplished during some very challenging times.

As many of you are keenly aware, running a community organization is a chal-

lenging undertaking in even the best of times. However, once you toss a global pandemic into the mix, organizations like NECTAR are taking a huge hit in terms of their ability to generate operational revenue. Additionally, given the change in ownership of 255 MacKay St. (driven by the financial challenges we've shared previously), we are rapidly coming to the

point where we need to make some hard decisions going forward. The booming real estate market coupled with the exceptionally high cost of space for such a financially constrained organization has made the search for our new home a significant challenge. The NECTAR Board remains resilient in the face of the monumental challenges that have been thrown our

way. We are grateful to all the support the New Edinburgh community has shown us over the years and continues to show. Watch this space in future editions of the *New Edinburgh News* as we continue our transition as an organization.

Learn more about NECTAR at nectarcentre.ca. Follow them on Twitter:

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Uncertainty whether CCC's spring events can take place



**By Sylvain Bélanger,
President of the Crichton
Community Council**

Another skating season is behind us. Despite a valiant effort on the part of the New Edinburgh Hosers, rink attendants and others, we decided to close the rinks the week of Mar. 7. This was also followed by some very warm weather which we have all been appreciating, especially the children on the play structures in New Edinburgh Park.

We had hoped to keep the rinks open until mid-March, but the ice quickly vanished into puddles of memories of another successful skating season. A special mention to **Bruce McLaurin** and **Steve Grabner** for their work in building the base ice in

December so we could open quickly in January once the cold weather settled in. We would like to thank the hosers for coming out each and every night to sweep, shovel, and water the rinks. The hosers this year were **Alex Dosman, Roman Mills, Caroline Matt, Steven Krigas, Tony Stibral, Jennifer Manning, André Deslauriers, Zoe Mae Fedoruk, Simon Grosmaître, Roberto Colaiacovo, Hope Celani, Manon desGroseilliers, Jason Tavoularis, Carlo Zambri** and **Aubrey Charette**.

Our unsung heroes this year are the rink attendants: **Julien Bélanger, Olivier Bélanger, Paul Gaudreault, Sam Grabner, Isaac Lipman,**

Rebecca Lipman, Benjamin Miles, Duncan Hunter Neale, Sarah Schonfeld and **Ross Torrie**, who had added COVID-19 supervisory responsibilities this year. They did miss the opportunity to welcome skaters to the fieldhouse as we were restricted in who could enter the facility and under which circumstance. With more than 2,000 skaters over the nine-week skating season, and despite the various restrictions imposed on us because of the pandemic, it was a great skating season.

With early spring weather upon us, neighbours are thinking of biking, gardening, and other outdoor activities. Just as COVID disrupted activities last year, it is unfortunately doing so again this spring.

Although we are looking at how we could organize and deliver a Bike Day in April and Plant Sale on the Saturday before Mother's Day, as of late March, neither event is confirmed. As in 2020, the complexities of organizing



Sketch by Martha Markowsky, 2014

Public health rules make organizing events like the annual plant sale a challenge.

events within the parameters set by the province and the city because of COVID are challenging for organizations. We will provide more details on the neighbourhood listservs and on newedinburgh.ca for these events once we make a final decision.

A reminder that events require volunteers. 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. Contact us at CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for details.

Follow us on social media: Facebook: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil; Instagram: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil and Twitter: @NEFieldHouse.

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A positive spin in difficult times is the Scouting way

By Réal Lambert

Every month, the team of Scouters that lead 63rd Ottawa's Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers meet virtually to take stock of recent activities and plan for the next ones. It will come as no surprise that these meetings reveal the challenges to offering a scouting program during a pandemic. The Scouting Movement, after all, is geared toward getting youth outdoors to explore the world that surrounds them, and to connect and contribute to their communities.

With the host of public health orders in place to protect us from the spread of COVID-19, the team of Scouters has had to take much of the scout program online.

Yet every month, the Scouters from Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (8-10), Scouts (11-14), and Venturers (15-17) relay what they have done to engage the youth in these trying times. And every month I am inspired by how resourceful, committed, and creative these Scouters are

in reaching our youth. Yes, I'm inspired, but perhaps not surprised. Resourcefulness, creativity, and just generally adding a positive spin to difficult circumstances is the Scouting way.

Thankfully, we are helped along the way with Scouts Canada's products and

resources tailored to online scouting. Despite keeping our distance, we can still work toward our Personal Achievements, our Outdoor Activity Skills like building shelters or quinzhees in our very own backyards, or just getting together weekly, albeit remotely, to work on

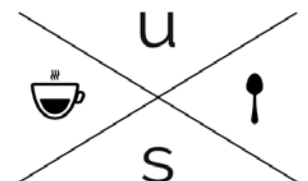
a common project, conduct a science experiment, or try some online gaming.

Sixty-third (63rd) Ottawa is your local scouting group and covers New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, Manor Park, Wateridge, Vanier, Rockcliffe, Cardinal Glen, Castle Heights, and Overbrook. The area is also covered by 23^e Marie-Médiatrice (la Fédération des Scouts du Canada), and the St. Peter and Paul Group which serves the Arabic Catholic community. Sixty-third Ottawa has a long history in our area and has provided countless outdoor adventures, activities, and community support services over the years. We look forward to fully re-engaging in adventures and with our community once this pandemic subsides. Until then, we will do what Scouts do: we will prepare and use the resources we have to have fun and to grow as individuals and as a movement.

If you are interested in gaining further information about 63rd Ottawa, we'd love to

hear from you. Please feel free to contact our Group Commissioner, Réal Lambert, at 63rdottawa.gc@gmail.com. If you have history, or a story to tell about your experience with 63rd we'd love to hear that, too.

Réal Lambert is the Group Commissioner for 63rd Ottawa Scouting Group.



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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

For birders, the return of the migrant bird population in April and May ranks right up there with the vaccine rollout as a renewal of hope for better days. As I write in mid-March, the exuberant song and bustle of the avian mating season is already well under-way among our year-round bird population: **Northern cardinals, black-capped chickadees, house finches, goldfinches and house sparrows** are singing lustily, while the staccato drumming of **downy, hairy and pileated woodpeckers** resonates throughout the neighbourhood. The **pileated woodpecker** is especially vocal: if you're out and about in early spring, you can't miss



Photo by Sharron Edwards

Downy woodpecker.

its noisy *cuk cuk cuk* chatter, along with its shrill, high-pitched *woika woika* call to defend its territory.

As the weather warms up and the daylight hours lengthen, both the species-count and overall bird population will steadily climb until reaching its peak in May. To help birders prepare for this extraordinary season, Ottawa-based field ornithologist and birding guide **Jon Ruddy** has compiled an online **Guide to Spring Arrivals in Eastern Ontario** (eontbird.ca). The guide sets out an approximate arrivals schedule for a number of the species returning to breed in our area. In my experience, knowing what to look for is a critical aid to bird identification, so

Ruddy's summary is a great tool. Some highlights:

Early March – Among the earliest returns are members of the **blackbird family**, notably **red-winged blackbirds, rusty blackbirds** and **common grackles**. As I write, a glossy pair of red-wings is checking out our back garden for a good nesting site. Hard on the blackbirds' heels are **ring-billed gulls**, the ubiquitous scavengers found in grocery store parking lots and along the waterfront throughout spring and summer.

Not on Ruddy's list, but known to us all, are **American robins**, the legendary harbingers of spring. It's admittedly difficult to determine whether early robins are in fact returning migrants, or year-round winter survivors. Either way, their cheerful presence is welcome.

In the first half of March, birds of prey arrive on the scene, so keep an eye out for **turkey vultures, bald eagles, red-tailed hawks** and **northern goshawks**. Over the years, I've had luck spotting both turkey vultures and hawks in the Pine Hill area of Rockcliffe Park, and along the curving stretch of the parkway between the Rockcliffe Park Pavilion and the Princess Avenue roundabout on Sussex Drive. In my experience, the best bet for a local bald eagle sighting is over the Ottawa River close to Rideau Falls.

Late March/Early April – By late March, **great blue herons** should make their first appearance in roughly the same spot as the eagles, typically flying across the Ottawa River between Jacques-Cartier Park in Gatineau and the Rideau River along Stanley Avenue. Since the large **Canada goose** population became an annual fixture in Stanley Park, herons rarely stop to fish on the riverbank opposite our house on Stanley Avenue, as they once did.

By early April, the migrant **sparrow** population will begin its return. **Song sparrows, chipping sparrows, fox sparrows, field sparrows, vesper sparrows, Savannah**

sparrows and brown creepers will soon be on our local radar, along with tiny **golden-crowned kinglets, Eastern phoebes, hermit thrushes** and the first members of the **swallow** family, notably **tree swallows** which swoop in large flocks over the Rideau River. Also in this early-April cohort are **Northern flickers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, osprey, Cooper's- and sharp-shinned hawks**. The latter are especially prominent throughout spring and summer, often feasting on hapless songbirds clustered at backyard feeders.

Mid- to late April – Later in April, look out for the first returning **warblers: pine warblers, yellow warblers, palm warblers and yellow-rumped warblers**. To my delight last year, three of those species (pine-, palm- and yellow warblers) actually turned up to feast on the insect life in our apple tree and mock-orange bushes. So if you're lucky, you may not have to go very far to spot one of these beauties. Along with the early-season warblers, watch for **purple finches, white-throated sparrows** (the *O Canada, Canada, Canada* birds), **Eastern towhees, brown thrashers** and peripatetic **ruby-crowned kinglets** (Tip: if you spot a small bird in dense foliage that never stops moving, chances are it's a ruby-crown).

Toward the end of April, Jon Ruddy's guide predicts the arrival of more **swallow** species, such as **Northern rough-winged-, cliff and bank swallows** and **purple martins**. **Blue headed vireos**, the first of the many **vireo** species found in our area, also turn up around this time. While they're not on Ruddy's list, **red-eyed vireos** (by far the most numerous vireos in our 'hood) will like-



Nesting Great Gray Owls.

Photo by David Howe

ly be close behind, regaling us with their incessant, sing-song call: Here am I, where are you?

May – The month of May is, in Ruddy's words, "the most thrilling period of spring birding." Innumerable **warbler** species arrive – close to 30 species in our region over the spring and summer; visit ofnc.ca/recent-bird-sightings. Along with the warbler population come **yellow-throated**, and **Philadelphia vireos**; thrushes such as **veery, Swainson's- and wood thrush, ruby-throated hummingbirds, indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers, Baltimore and orchard orioles**, and **rose-breasted grosbeaks** – a feast for the colour-starved eye!

Burgh residents have the

good fortune of abundant local birding habitat. Notable spots include the pathways along both the Rideau and the Ottawa Rivers, the Rockeries and Pine Hill Woods in Rockcliffe Park, Stanley Park, wooded areas on the Rockcliffe Parkway, and in the shrubs and thickets along many of our sidewalks. For those able to venture to farther afield to birding hotspots with more and greater diversity of species, visit ofnc.ca/programs/birding-in-the-ottawa-area for information on where to go, how to get there, and what species you're likely to encounter in each location.

A handy tool for a birding excursion is Cornell University's **Merlin App: merlin.allaboutbirds.org**. It's a digital bird encyclopedia at your disposal, wherever you are. The Bird ID Wizard asks three simple questions about the bird you're trying to identify, and Merlin produces a list of possible matches. Or use Photo ID, which works completely offline.

Reports from our readers

Local birding enthusiast **Sharron Edwards** has both a recommendation and an important message for birders this month. Sharron strongly recommends *Birds in the Yard Month by Month: What's There and Why, and How to*



Common Raven.

Photo by Adele Martin



Trumpeter Swans.

Photo by Francine Ouellette

Attract those that Aren't by **Sharon Sorenson**. According to Sharron Edwards, the book is beautifully produced, with excellent photos, and packed with information, including

ously depleted, or even rotted; and the bird population is steadily rising, putting increased pressure on meagre food resources. So keep your feeding stations well stocked

their brilliant white plumage (brown-flecked in females), piercing yellow eyes, and smooth rounded heads. When pickings are slim in the Arctic regions where they live and breed, snowy owls often move south in winter, and can typically be spotted in treeless areas and open spaces with unimpeded views of potential prey.

According to bird photographer **Frank Martin**, whose magnificent snowy owl portrait is shown in this issue, winter photo shoots require elaborate preparations – not least, dressing in numerous layers to keep the cold at bay while you wait for the majestic critter to show up!

Even more owls turned up in our readers' reports this month: experienced bird photographer **Francine Ouellette** encountered a male

Great Gray Owl, which she described as “chasing his own shadows in the freshly fallen snow” as she captured him on camera. The imposing Great Gray, with its signature white bow tie, is among the tallest North American owls, but is apparently “just a ball of feathers.” Francine also shared a marvelous series of close-up photos of a group of **tundra swans**, another sure sign of spring.

Photographer **David Howe** managed to get splendid captures of a **Northern Hawk Owl**, the highlight of his season, as well as of a **Snowy Owl** and a **Great Horned Owl**. The Great Horned Owl was for many years a fixture in Pine Hill Woods, but more recently it appears to have been replaced by a smaller **Barred Owl**, spotted regularly by Avian Bistro proprietor **Philip MacAdam**. Philip's Bistro at Alexander and Thomas Streets is thankfully at a safe remove from owl territory, so his regular visitors such as **purple-, house- and goldfinches**, **Northern cardinals** and **black-capped chickadees** are out of range of these hungry predators.

Out on the west coast in Victoria, B.C., former Burgh resident **Vicki Metcalfe** has been enjoying a cornucopia of **Oregon juncos**, **golden- and white-crowned sparrows**, **house finches**, **American robins** and **Anna's hummingbirds** right in her own

backyard. She feels a particular bond with the Anna's hummingbird male that sheltered on her deck during Victoria's unexpected cold snap this winter. Vicki went to great lengths to keep her hummingbird feeders from freezing during this ordeal, bringing them inside at night, and later wrapping them up in a heating pad! Another highlight of Vicki's spring has been a bustling flock of **bushtits**, small, round gray birds, collectively known as “a gift” of bushtits!



Photo by David Howe

Red Crossbill.

Closer to home, Burgh resident **Brent Holden** encountered a **hermit thrush** in his backyard on Dufferin Road earlier this winter, possibly a wandering resident of the Rideau Hall woods across the road, which is prime habitat for many species in all seasons.



Great Gray Owl.

Photo by Francine Ouellette

the native plants and bushes that best serve as food sources or bird habitats in each season. Interested readers order through **Books on Beechwood**.

The author's message to birders is simple: keep filling your backyard feeders at least until the end of April or early May! She points out that bird attrition from starvation can be significant in April. The insect life which is a primary food source may not yet have emerged from winter dormancy; the ground is still frozen, so worms and grubs are not yet on the menu; the supply of wild berries is seri-

ously depleted, or even rotted; and the bird population is steadily rising, putting increased pressure on meagre food resources. So keep your feeding stations well stocked

in the coming weeks and enjoy the influx of hungry visitors fueling up in your yard for breeding season. In addition to the numerous **common redpolls** he encountered at the Beechwood cemetery's Macoun Marsh in March, **Mike Leveille** was lucky enough to spot a snowy owl perched on a street light near the VIA Rail Station on Tremblay Road. According to Mike, “it was actively hunting for something,” no doubt one of the small birds or rodents that are its daily diet. Snowy owls are the largest by weight of all North American owls and are a sight to behold with



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SCAN ME

No longer eerie places, cemeteries are for the living

By Doug Cornish

Cemeteries are no longer for the silent majority: those underground. Cemeteries are now for everyone, especially the living. When I was a child, cemeteries were eerie places where teenagers wandered into after hours to drink or create mischief.

Cemeteries are now all inclusive, including non-cemetery functions. People have their wedding pictures taken in cemeteries.

Beechwood cemetery is a good example of today's modern cemetery: the future. Beechwood has really become the main cemetery in Ottawa, in tune with society. Here you'll find mili-

tary heroes, prime ministers, famous poets, lumber barons, business individuals who shaped the city, the country and much more. This cemetery now has military status, akin to Arlington National Cemetery in the United States. There are police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police cemeteries within Beechwood.

Today, Beechwood isn't just Protestant or white – there are stones and markers for every religious and ethnic denomination, some of whom have their own special sections. There's an Interfaith community building where people of all faiths (or no faith) can congregate.

Beechwood floral displays

are almost Butchart Garden-like. There's a gazebo, a bridge over a small pond. There are hosta gardens, tulip spring displays, summer glory, nature pathways, and others. Christmas isn't lost on Beechwood, either; their light display and ornaments hanging from fir trees (some added by locals) are visually appealing.

Beechwood also follows current trends, especially where cremation is concerned. Cremation, being popular and more environmentally friendly, has inspired Beechwood to install creative cremation walls, and decorative bronze ground plaques with flower vases. There are trees with bronze plaques placed on rock boulders dedicating a tree to a loved one. There are benches with such philosophical sayings as: "We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

There are a few carved trees that have lost limbs through wind damage, but the enormous main trunks remain. So instead of being torn down they're carved by master carvers, then coated with special varnish for protection. One tree has a veteran theme with carved poppies, a soldier and a sword. Another has Canadian animals like a beaver and a moose, and numerous other animals carved.



Photo by Louise Imbeault

Beechwood cemetery is an example of the modern cemetery, an appealing place for the whole community to enjoy.

These are truly works of art to be seen.

There are annual Remembrance Day ceremonies. There are historical walking tours highlighting prominent Canadian figures who now reside in Beechwood. Walking through Beechwood is like looking at a Who's Who of Ottawa history, going back at least a century and a half. A year ago, or so included a first annual dinner on a lawn below the one-of-a-kind mausoleum which raised funds for a food bank. There is Shakespeare and there is classical music. This cemetery is truly a cemetery of the future, not one which only gathers moss and no visitors. In the fall with the colour splash, it's a photogra-

pher's dream.

Today it is community minded (not simply some place you end up at the end of your life). Our new COVID existence has also added to people wandering through, for a bit of an escape. Thanks to dog walkers, walkers, joggers, and organizations like Find a Grave or Ancestry.ca, cemeteries have finally found a place in the living community, for the living. Years ago most people wouldn't be caught dead (no pun intended) in a cemetery, but now they have no qualms or trepidation of walking through a cemetery, like walking through any area.

They stop, look, and ponder, and think more of their own lives when in a cemetery. There's also the serenity – it's cemetery meditation, cemetery mental yoga! I've always thought that death should be a subject taught in schools, because even though life is definitely for the living death is, nevertheless, part (and the end) of the journey. Life is often conveniently broken down into marriages and funerals.

It is by walking through cemeteries that the circle of life is complete and understandable. Cemeteries really are for the living and Beechwood Cemetery is a prime example.

Doug Cornish lives a short walk from the Beechwood Cemetery.



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Debut author chronicles her 'vanishing generation' of wartime youth

By Ian Parker

At 96 years old, Nina Ann Smith has just published her first book. "I began my little book in 2010. I abandoned it for two years and picked it up again two years later at my son's encouragement." She finished it in 2014. Ann currently lives at the New Edinburgh Square.

Ann's "little book" is entitled *It's Odd the Things One Remembers*. What she remembers are her days serving as a radar operator in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. She joined up in 1942 and served in many areas of the United Kingdom.

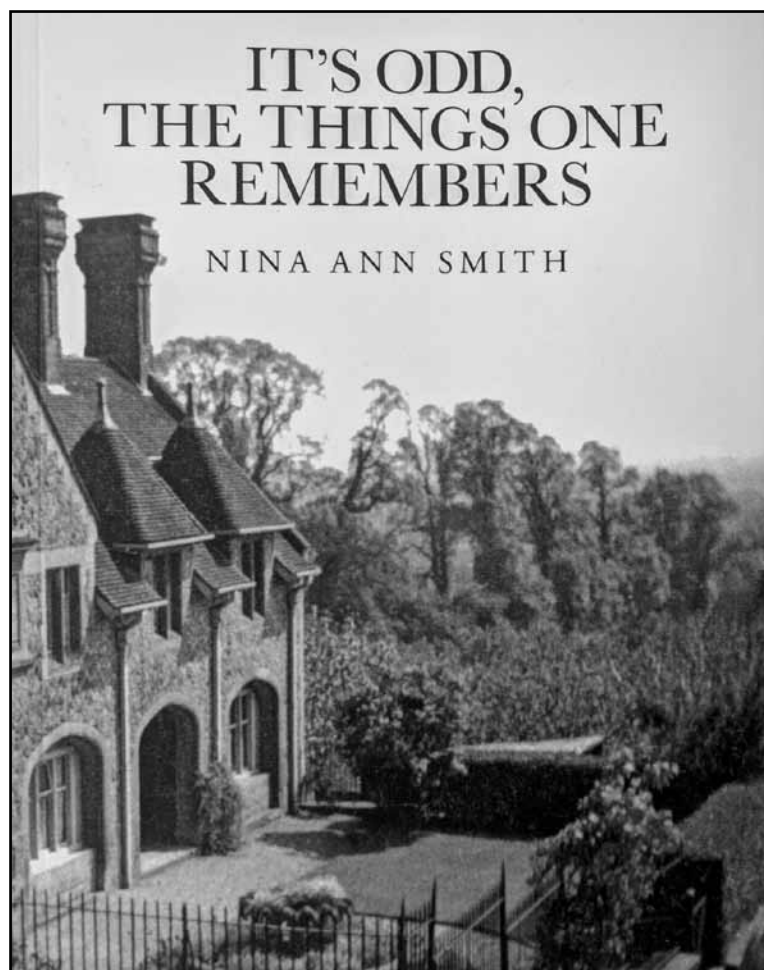
"My most enduring memories are the comradeship, friendship, physical conditions, which were mostly hard; the people you were working with and living with... There aren't many jobs in life like it." She was released from the British forces at the war's end in 1945.

Ann's mother encouraged her to apply for a Commissioned Officer's job so she could travel. But if Ann had listened, she would not have met her husband.

On one of her postings in the U.K., Ann was asked to dance by a handsome Royal Air Force pilot. Vernon "Smitty" Smith called her the next day and apologized for not being introduced to her first. A mutual friend, who had promised to introduce them, had not made it to the dance. They were married in 1942.

After the war, Ann and Smitty emigrated to Canada, and had four children. The first, John, had severe developmental disabilities and lived in a residential care facility. Their second child, Mary, was also born with developmental disabilities but she ultimately lived a happy life in a residential care facility. She died in Ottawa aged 68. Their third child, David, is now a musician in Toronto. The youngest, Jim, lives in Ottawa and helped Ann with her "little book."

Ann and Smitty kept their



New Edinburgh Square resident Nina Ann Smith credits years of journal writing with helping shape her "little book."

home in an apartment in west-end Ottawa but travelled throughout their 50-year marriage. Ann kept a diary of their trips throughout the U.K., Canada, the United States and Mexico. Smitty died in 1998 after a lengthy illness.

Ann says her little book wouldn't have taken shape if she hadn't written extensive diaries all her life. "I always liked writing," Ann says. "My mother's advice was 'tell it like it is. Don't tell them what you think they want to hear.'"

Asked what makes her book different from the hundreds written about the Second World War, Ann says: "I am one of the vanishing generation—the one whose youth and maturing years were shaped by World War II. My adulthood has been spent in constant thankfulness that there will never be a World War III."

For Ann, the war was a significant part of her life's story. "It was a very formative period of my life. There are lots of books written by women about their time in the services. But I do wonder," she adds modestly, "if

any more personal accounts are really needed of the enormous impact which the life of military service made on ordinary young lives?"

The biggest challenge for Ann in writing her book was being fair to everybody, especially family members. "I was not worried about being fair and accurate to myself, only family members—especially my children."

Asked if she is working on another book, Ann replies: "I don't think I have the energy to start again. I think it was a long-shot thing, once in a lifetime."

Ann has been active for more than 60 years in the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. A portion of the proceeds of each of her book sales will go to support the organization that has meant so much to her family.

Nina Ann Smith's book *It's Odd the Things One Remembers* is available now at Books on Beechwood.

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

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On gumdrops and other goofs

By Janet Ruddock

I like gumdrops. They're hard to find at the best of times. In the United States, where we hung out for a while, gumdrops are non-existent. A Canadian friend brought them down from Dollarama for me. Now when I hit Dollarama for giftbags and bows, they seldom have gumdrops. In some supermarket bulk food bins, sad, stale gumdrops stick tightly together at the bottom. Nobody wants them – including me. I once found some in a specialty shop in Almonte, Ont., but it's a bit of a trek.

Then COVID hit. I avoid shopping expeditions for gumdrops or anything. Folks with serious anti-immune disorders simply don't. I miss the togetherness of weekly hunting-and-gathering shopping with my husband Frank.

He says the entire exercise is way faster without me. I'll wager it is way less interesting, too. I browse. He doesn't. We don't drop in to our two local pubs afterwards, either.

One Saturday, Frank returned from erranding with sundry bags from everywhere. Man on a mission. I munched on a fresh cinnamon bun from Bread and Roses and perused bags, one from Canadian Tire. It's full of stuff. Frank loves that place. Could be anything. How many kitchen gadgets do we need? What's this weighty thing at the bottom? Ah, maybe the new single-cup coffeemaker (like in hotel rooms) he wants for whenever he returns to in-person work.

"Surprise," he proclaims from the kitchen sink. Lo and behold, a tub of multi-colored gumdrops. Even better: two

tubs! "At Canadian Tire?" I'm flabbergasted. Is there anything that place doesn't sell? (Yes, actually. Single-cup coffeemakers.) I ration gumdrops. The lockdown drags on. Canadian Tire, among many other stores is now deemed non-essential. No more gumdrops. I get over it. Folks are coping with

sy personnel to fly everything – at Canadian dollars – in bulk from via Johannesburg, South Africa. We gathered bi-monthly to sort orders on the ambassador's lawn. One family's two boxes of cornflakes proved to be two crates of 12 giant boxes. Shared among us, we all enjoyed corn flakes for weeks.

Online shopping has its drawbacks. Pictures are deceiving. A small lamp I once ordered was tall enough to light the hallway of Versailles. We kept it as a joke.

far, far less.

We turn more to online shopping. Everyone does. Next time you're driving, walking, jogging, biking, and freezing through the neighbourhood, glance at people's porches. Packages are everywhere. Meal kits seem especially popular.

Online shopping has its drawbacks. Pictures are deceiving. A small lamp I once ordered for a dark hall landing was not small. It was tall enough to light the hallway of Versailles. We kept it as a joke. I now check sizes carefully. Frank has much to learn. His old office coffeemaker did, indeed, make one cup, as it described online. It also made 12 giant mugs. The thing was enormous. It also died of loneliness after eight months in an empty office.

Nothing quite matches the long-distance ordering from our heyday in 1978 posted to Kinshasa, in what was then Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Black-market prices required embas-

The Greek entrepreneur involved was not great on description. Frank's piece of cheddar was the largest wheel of cheese ever. We carved it up and shared it out. The ambassador's children liked rice-krispie treats requiring a "large bag of marshmallows." It arrived as an enormous, puffy, duvet filled with a million marshmallows. Plenty for all!

Lost-in-translation was another problem. One lady, fed up with dirty pots and pans (the Congo River leaves strange deposits) ordered "SOS pads." To her delight, and everyone else's, there arrived a box of sanitary pads enough to equip a female battalion. Aged 55, she'd long since stopped using them, but supplied us younger ladies for months.

Back to the present, and COVID notwithstanding, hardly the hardships of Africa. Still, nothing like a good gumdrop. Ordering some items online in a weak moment, I checked out gum-

drops. Honestly, it's the only sweet I like. Chocolate doesn't count. One choice showed up, 2.5lb worth. Take it or leave it. I took it. The price did seem rather steep. But 2.5lb! Must be a whole lot of gumdrops!

A few days later, Frank was adding to the online cart. "Those are pricey gumdrops." He sounded rather shocked. Smiling, he added: "Oh, well. What's a gourmet gumdrop anyway?" I have no idea, but they're extra-large and more than 2lb will be plenty of them.

"Not that many," calculates Frank. He's busy reading the gumdrop blurb on the site. "Pound is less than kilogram." Oops. Well, that's embarrassing. So, I'm a bit rusty on metric. What can I say? "At that price," says Frank, "it's almost \$0.25 per gumdrop." Oops. Not much for math either.

Really, how good can the most expensive gumdrop in the world be? Can't wait to try them. Neither can Frank. Couldn't wait for Canadian Tire to open after the lockdown, let alone everywhere else –but everywhere else doesn't sell gumdrops. Is there a moral to my gumdrop fiasco? You bet. BUY LOCAL!

Janet Ruddock and her husband Frank moved to New Edinburgh almost two years 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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Contactless book drive planned for late April

By Carolyn Brereton

In response to the many requests received from residents looking to donate their unwanted books, the organizers of the Rockcliffe Park Library’s Spring Book Sale plan to hold a contactless book drive at the end of April.

It will be held in the parking lot of the Community Centre at 380 Springfield Rd. and is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of Apr. 24–25. The exact date, however, will depend on the weather and has still to be confirmed with the City of Ottawa and the Library. But we want to give readers a heads-up so you can start preparing those donations.

At this time, we can accept donations only of **gently used** books in English and French – please, no audio-visual materials. Please pack your donations in wine-size boxes (FACE DOWN to protect the books) for ease of handling.



Volunteers collected donations of gently-used books during the contactless book drive outside the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre in November 2020.

Photo by Carolyn Brereton

Place the packed boxes in the trunk of your car and drive to the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre (via the Springfield Road entrance) where volunteers will remove them – without any contact.

Our first contactless book

drive, held last November, was very successful. We collected about 400 boxes of used books which were sold to raise funds to support Library programming and literacy in our community.

While we hope to be equally

successful with this Spring donation drive, it is sadly no substitute for the real Spring Book Sale, which we were forced to cancel again this year due to the pandemic.

When will the Sale return? Unfortunately, we can’t

answer that question with any certainty. We hope to be able to hold the “Spring” Book Sale in September 2022. It takes at least six months to organize, and with the restrictions still imposed by the pandemic, we cannot start our preparations anytime in the foreseeable future.



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Memories of the old movie house magic



Photo courtesy of Facebook

Summer 1947: the lights of the Linden Theatre dominated the corner of Beechwood Avenue and Crichton Street.

By Andre R. Gagne

Ottawa movie lovers were shocked and saddened last December when it was announced the beloved ByTowne would be closing after over three decades. The theatre has deep roots here in New Edinburgh. At 5 Beechwood Ave., where the Guardian Pharmacy now stands, you can still see the remnants of what was once a marquee which announced

hundreds of films spanning more than 40 years of cinema.

Once upon a time, a brightly lit sign adjacent to that marquee read “Towne” and, before that, “Linden.” For many who stepped inside for some silver screen magic, the memories remain fond ones.

It was the summer of 1947, two years after the end of the Second World War, when the lights of the Linden dominated

ed the corner of Beechwood and Crichton. Operating under the management of Casey Swedlove and Lionel Henry, the theatre’s first film was the Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman classic *The Bells of St. Mary’s* with ads proclaiming that “Ottawa’s newest showplace” offered “perfection in motion picture entertainment!” Opening ceremonies were broadcast over CFRA radio and a \$50



Photo courtesy Archives Ontario

The building that’s now home to the Guardian pharmacy was formerly the Linden theatre, which screened films for 40 years.

cash prize was awarded to the winner of a Picture Naming Contest.

“I remember lining up at the Linden on Saturday afternoons to watch a series of cowboy movies for \$0.25,”

reflects Barry Mair, adding that the local fire department would often offer free entry if you brought a toy. “I think they repaired the toys and distributed them to underprivileged children,” says Barry.



Montréal Road Revitalization Detours



Starts April 18

Routes 12, 14, 15 and 20 will be temporarily impacted by construction related to the Montréal Road Revitalization project. Beginning April 18, detours will be in place while Montréal Road is reduced to one westbound-only lane between St-Laurent Boulevard and Vanier Parkway. Detours will remain in effect until December 2021 or until the end of construction. During the detours, please allow extra time for your travels. For a full list of impacted stops, schedules, maps and school service changes, visit octranspo.com.

- **Route 12:** To provide a faster connection to O-Train Line 1, for customers travelling downtown, Route 12 will temporarily operate between St-Laurent and Blair stations seven days a week. Customers wishing to travel through Vanier can transfer to Route 15 at stops at St-Laurent Boulevard and Montréal Road. Route 12 school trips will operate on Route 15 and new Routes 615 and 616.
- **Route 15:** Will be detoured through and around the construction zone and will temporarily operate as a frequent all-day route, operating seven days a week to match removed Route 12 service. Weekday daytime trips will travel between Blair Station and Montréal Road using Bathgate Drive and Den Haag Drive with service to Parliament Station and Gatineau. Weekday evening and all weekend trips will travel between Blair Station and Montréal Road using Blair Road and will end at Parliament Station.
- **Route 20:** Eastbound service will be detoured and have a longer travel time.
- **Route 14:** Will maintain its current routing, but will have a longer travel time.
- Routes 7, 9, 17, 18 and 19 will not be impacted.

Detour adjustments may be required to accommodate construction.



INFO 613-741-4390 octranspo.com

Continued from page 28

In turn, the theatre also provided a way for children to get something new for their toy box, as Debbie Connah-Muncaster relates in her movie house memory: "During the summer we would collect points to use at an auction to buy toys and games. I bought a Twister game," she says.

Debbie would often watch horror movies with her mother up in the theatre's smoking room, another feature of a bygone age. The area for puffs and popcorn was popular, it would seem. Moviegoer Kelly Ann tells a humorous story of her mother, at age 14 in 1962, getting caught smoking with her friends when her own mother tapped her on the shoulder from the seat behind her.

Christine Demers-Desjardins recalls the multigenerational aspect of the theatre: her father Peter made the Linden a home-away-from-home back in the 1950s, when his group of friends developed a sneaky money-saving scheme by way of the theatre's back entrance.

"They would go out, put a piece of paper or something

to keep the door from locking and would pop back in at the second show," Christine chuckles. Her father did eventually get busted but got the last laugh when he later became an usher at The Nelson cinema on Rideau Street and got to see free movies once again. "Once a rascal always a rascal."

For those willing to pay the \$0.50, weekend matinees were the big draw. Johanne Richer remembers: "My dad used to give us money for the matinees. We got three movies for a low price. It got us out of their hair for a whole afternoon." Jamie Dunlop recalls that seeing special-effects extravaganzas like *Jason and the Argonauts* "was magic back in the early 1960s."

By the end of that decade, the Linden would be operated by the 20th-Century Theatres group, fully refurbished and the name changed to Towne, to provide nearly 20 more years of cinematic delight. The current owner of the ByTowne Bruce White remembers being a university student checking out indie classics like *Harold & Maude*, Shakespeare adaptations, and double bills of Fellini flicks.

In 1983 he became more than just a popcorn-eating patron: he'd be a co-owner until the cinema closed for good in 1989.

The Towne's spirit floated over to Rideau Street, where White and Jean Cloutier (yes, the current City Councillor) had bought the vacated Nelson Theatre a year earlier and rechristened it the ByTowne. "The T is capitalized to honour the Towne as the ByTowne's progenitor," explains White, reflecting fondly on the day they flicked on the now-familiar marquee.

"There was a spotlight sweeping the night sky, as you might have seen in depictions of old-time Hollywood premieres. When we lit up the new marquee, my partner and I were up 20 feet off the ground to swing a bottle of champagne on a rope at the marquee, just like christening a ship. But the champagne bottle didn't break! We should have rehearsed. But on, I think, the third attempt, the bottle broke and the gathered crowd put up a respectful cheer."

While they attempted to operate both theatres simultaneously, the Towne would eventually become the



Classified Ads

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original Ottawa location of Mountain Equipment Co-op, cementing the end of an era for the New Edinburgh movie house. While megaplex theatres would eventually come to dominate with audiences, many patrons of the old theatres will tell you that a "reel" night at the movies was only to be had in places like the Capitol, Elgin, Odeon, Rexy, Linden and Towne.

"Old movie houses are the only places where independent operators can get a

start," says Bruce White, one day before the ByTowne theatre is set to pop its last batch of popcorn. "It's impossible to replicate the ambiance of a 1930s cinema like the Mayfair or a 1940s venue like the ByTowne."

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



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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

APRIL

April 12–16 – Bilingual March Break in April taking place online. bibliottawalibrary.ca/en. The Ottawa Public Library is offering a slate of virtual programs to support families at home with kids and teens. Registration required. Details on page 31.

April 12 – “The New Climate War” at 7:30 p.m. Online. bibliottawalibrary.ca/en. The Ottawa Public Library hosts an author visit with climate scientist Michael E. Mann who will discuss his book *The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet* with environmental activist and writer Tzaporah Berman. Registration required.

April 13 – CCC meeting at 7:30–9p.m. Online. The Crichton Community Council holds its monthly board meeting. Please contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for the meeting link.

April 14 – Gardening Basics webinar at 12p.m. Online. bibliottawalibrary.ca/en. The Ottawa Public Library hosts a

webinar featuring master gardener Claire McCaughey on the basics essential to gardening success, for novices and experienced gardener alike. Registration required. Details on page 31.

April 15 – Town Hall on Official Plan happening online. rideau-rockcliffe.ca/home and rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca. City Councillor Rawlson King will host a virtual community town hall on the City of Ottawa’s draft Official Plan. Details: page 7.

April 19 – “Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency” at 7:30 p.m. Online. bibliottawalibrary.ca/en. The Ottawa Public Library hosts an author visit with Seth Klein who will discuss his book *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency* with lawyer, journalist, and activist Dimitri Lascaris. Registration required.

April 20 – NECA board meeting at 7:30 p.m. newedinburgh.ca. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance holds its monthly board meeting virtually. All

New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for meeting link.

April 24 – Park clean-up day at New Edinburgh/Stanley Park. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance hosts a community park clean-up day. Everyone welcome! Confirm date and details at newedinburgh.ca.

April 25 – Contactless book drive at Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Rd. The Rockcliffe Park Library Book Sale is expected to hold a contactless book drive. Check newedinburgh.ca/events to confirm the date. Details on page 27.

April 26 – “Organizing Feminism for the Digital Age” at 7:30 p.m. Online. bibliottawalibrary.ca/en. The Ottawa Public Library hosts an author visit with Nora Loreto who will discuss her book *Take Back the Fight: Organizing Feminism for the Digital Age* with local columnist and activist Erica Iffil. Registration required.

April 26 - Traffic & Safety meeting at 7 p.m. NECA’s

Traffic and Safety committee will hold a virtual meeting. To take part, contact Marc at marc.dorgeville@utoronto.ca for details.

April 28 – Bytown Museum Lecture at 7 p.m. bytownmuseum.com. The Bytown Museum presents a discussion on “Syrian Refugees in Canada.” Speaker to be announced. Check website for details.

MAY

May 11 – CCC meeting at 7:30–9p.m. Online. The Crichton Community Council holds its monthly board meeting. Please contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for the meeting link.

May 18 – NECA board meeting at 7:30 p.m. newedinburgh.ca. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance holds its monthly board meeting virtually. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for meeting link.

May 24 - Traffic & Safety meeting at 7 p.m. NECA’s Traffic and Safety committee


will hold a virtual meeting. To take part, contact Marc at marc.dorgeville@utoronto.ca for details.

May 26 – Gardening with Children at 12 p.m. Online. bibliottawalibrary.ca/en. The Ottawa Public Library hosts a webinar featuring master gardener Judith Cox who will explore how involving children in the garden will not only give you joy, but will also give them a new look at the world. Registration required.


JUNE

June 8 – CCC meeting and AGM at 7p.m. Online. The Crichton Community Council holds its annual general meeting and monthly board meeting. Please contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for the meeting link.

June 15 – NECA board meeting at 7:30 p.m. newedinburgh.ca. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance holds its monthly board meeting virtually. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for meeting link.




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Library offers online spring break programming

By Martha Hodgson

Greetings from the Rockcliffe Park Library branch!

As of Feb. 22, the library is open for browsing and picking up holds. Come check out our new releases and our book bundles! Borrow a bundle of pre-selected romances, or sci-fi novels, or historical fiction.

While in-branch programming is still on hold for safety reasons, staff continue to offer a variety of virtual programming in April:

Gardening Basics: Apr. 14 at 12:00pm

Join master gardener Claire McCaughey to learn about the basics essential to gardening success, whether you are a novice gardener or an experienced one. Claire studied horticulture and landscape design through the University of Guelph and owns a small gardening business.

The basics include, among other topics: soil and soil conditions; watering; soil amendments and fertilization; pests and diseases; and plant selection and planting.

Also offered in French on Apr. 21 at 12:00pm.

March Break in April for Kids (Bilingual): April 12-16

With March Break having been moved to April this year, we are offering a slate of virtual programs to support families at home with children. This year's theme is "Imagine."

We invite children to join us for spring break bursting

with creativity where they can let their imaginations run wild. The week will be filled with yoga and dance, arts and crafts, writing and reading, laughter, beautiful encounters, and magical moments. Live performances will include Will Stroet; Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre; Monkey Rock Music; Rabbit and Bear Paws; and Tribal

Vision Dance. There won't be a dull moment!

For kids aged 4-12:

- Show every day at 3:30pm
- Yoga and dance
- Arts-and-crafts workshops
- Writing and reading
- March Break in April for Teens (Bilingual): April 12-16

Let your creativity shine and take good care of yourself by

writing a song or a poem, sketching and doodling, or having a little fun learning about cosplay makeup.

- Apr. 12: Song writing workshop from 4-5 p.m.
- Apr. 13: Poetry workshop from 3-5 p.m.
- Apr. 14: Cosplay Makeup 101 from 2-5 p.m.
- Apr. 15: Virtual Sketching for Self-Care (in French)

from 4-5 p.m.

• Apr. 16: Virtual Sketching for Self-Care (in English) from 4-5 p.m.

Martha Hodgson is the librarian at the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd. Visit the library online at bibliottawalibrary.ca or call 613-580-2940.

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Farewell



The *New Edinburgh News* team bids farewell to **Susan Groundwater**, who has been a regular contributor to this paper since early 2019 when she answered our call for help with the "Burgh Business Briefs" column. Since then, Susan has written about many local businesses and people, sharing their news and stories with readers in her clean and readable writing style. Susan officially moved from Crichton Street to Comox, B.C. on Mar. 26, to be closer to her family. We thank Susan for her contributions to our community paper, and wish her all the best out West!

Chef's Lament

Old Dublin Retirement Residence, 2021.

Our budget is tight,
Suppliers are merciless:
Not much wriggle room.

Complaints never end
(It's a pastime for many).
We just do our best.

Diet is varied
(We meet all strict health standards.)
But "my tea was cold."

'Muscle meals' for Hulks,
Comfort food for the cheerless,
But can't please 'em all.

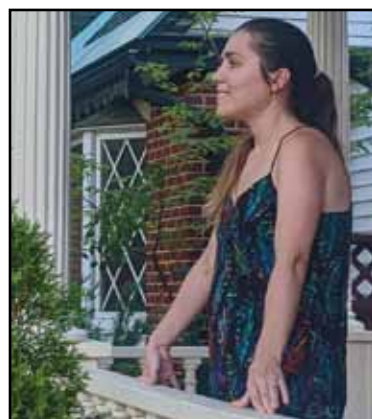


As of late March, 97 per cent of residents at the New Edinburgh Square (including **John Kellett** and **Monique Pennington**) had received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (with 100 per cent having received the first shot). The NE Square team reports that the jabs went smoothly thanks to the A-team of paramedics and Ottawa Public Health. On Mar. 11, the one-year anniversary of the pandemic, General Manager **Mike Wurster** noted "We have come so far together since the early days of the pandemic and we are truly humbled by the outpouring of support for our residents from family members and the community at large."

Congratulations



Joyeux anniversaire à **Liam Moyer**! Maman, papa et Julien t'aiment beaucoup.



Happy birthday to **Chloe Lussier-Labelle**, who's turning 32 on Apr. 11, 2021. Chloe moved into the Burgh last summer, and emotionally moves so many every day. Chloe is a strong advocate of holiday decorations and even had a COVID-friendly Halloween slide this year. Another astonishing year!



Photo courtesy Firehouse Subs

NEN received news of two noteworthy meal distribution efforts. On Feb. 18, in honour of India's Republic Day, the **High Commission of India** sponsored 1,500 hot meals which were distributed by Food for Thought, a group that has been providing free meals to Ottawans throughout the pandemic. Then on Mar. 22, healthcare workers at the Montfort Hospital on Montreal Road were among those to receive free meals from Gloucester Firehouse Subs franchisee **Phil Patel** (above), who has so far donated more than 350 meals to frontline workers during the pandemic. Thank you to Phil and to the High Commission for their generosity!

Miscellaneous



Photo by Sharron Edwards

Meet **Hector**, the know-all, see-all of Pine Hill, who goes for walks there many times a day.



Photo courtesy Nancy Meyer

Noel Street residents were surprised and delighted by a troop of snow penguins that arrived in late January. Every house on the street had one of these wonderful little guys outside their house. No one is entirely sure who instigated this wonderful feat, but residents extend kudos to whom-ever it was. Together with

all the lovely light displays on Noel Street that continued into March, it provided a very much needed festive atmosphere, brightened cold days, and created a real sense of community.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to **Liz Heatherington** and her family on the recent death of Liz's mother **Mary Raymont**, a longstanding resident of The Edinburgh Retirement Residence, where she died on Feb. 13, aged 104. Mary's life was rich in accomplishment and adventure: a skilled equestrian, pianist, photographer and mezzo soprano. During the Second World War, she served as Sergeant-Major with the Auxiliary Territorial Service in her native England, driving military personnel and even fixing motorcycles in blackout conditions. After moving to Canada with husband **Robert Raymont** and their family in 1949, she settled in Ottawa, where she has been a pillar of St. Bartholomew's Church and a member of the Imperial Order of Daughters of the British Empire (IODE), Laurentian Chapter. Mary will be greatly missed by her family and by all who knew her.

Condolences to **Gaye Doran** and **Susan Brown** and their families on the recent death of their mother **Margaret Aline Souchen** who passed away on Mar. 6, aged 99. Margaret will be sorely missed by her large and loving family.

Our sympathies to **Nicholas** and **Dilshad Macklem** and their family on the death of Nicholas' father **Michael Macklem**, who died on Mar. 4, aged 92. Michael and his wife Anne Hardy co-founded Oberon Press, one of the first independent Canadian publishing houses devoted to the publication of Canadian authors, including such notables as W.P. Kinsella, Wayne Johnston, David Adams Richards and David Helwig. Michael's annual coast-to-coast road trips with Anne led ultimately to the publication of the iconic restaurant guide *Where to Eat in Canada*, of which 50 annual editions were released between 1971 and 2020. He will be deeply missed by his family, perhaps above all by the family hearth on Lake Muskoka.