

OCTOBER 2021

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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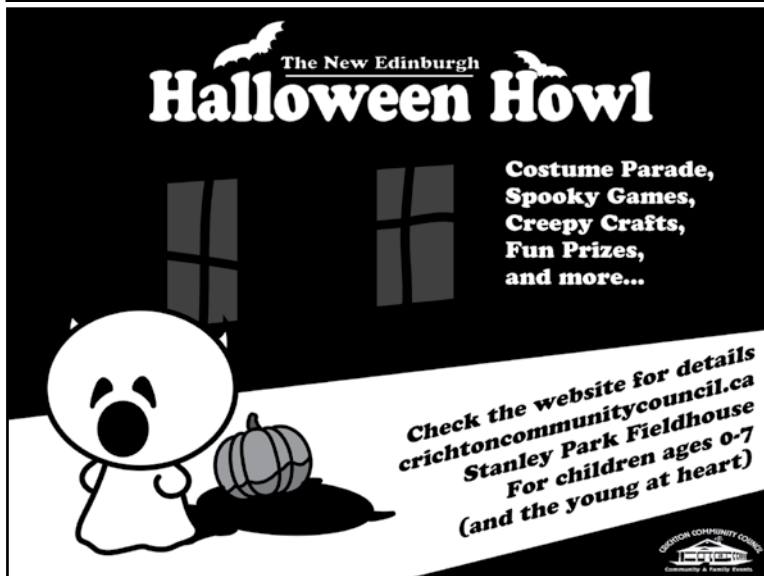


NEW EDINBURGH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 27 at 7 pm
To be held virtually.
Visit newedinburgh.ca for details.

All New Edinburgh residents welcome.



78, 80, 82 and 90 Beechwood Ave. (above) and the buildings behind them on Barrette Street will be torn down in October. The former 'El Meson' house will remain untouched. *Photo by David Rostenne*

Demolition for Minto Beechwood II to start in October

By Jane Heintzman

Residents will soon see visible activity related to Beechwood's next major commercial/residential project, currently dubbed Minto Beechwood II but slated to be renamed soon. The new Minto development will span the block between Beechwood Avenue South (between the Quickie and the former El Meson Restaurant at 94 Beechwood Ave.), and Barrette Street between St. Charles and Loyer Streets (numbers 69-93). Plans include 251 residential rental units (about half of which are reported to be in the "affordable" range for those on modest incomes), and 6,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial space housing

four or five new small businesses facing Beechwood.

Minto's Kevin Harper reports that the project is currently on time, with zoning approval received in July with no appeals. Site Plan approval – the critical next step in obtaining a building permit – is expected by late September.

City Councillor Mathieu Fleury has strongly supported the new development. Over the summer, he used his authority to waive demolition controls (normally required for residential buildings) over the existing buildings on the site. As a result, demolition is expected to begin in October, with excavation and construction to follow.

All residents of the sub-

stantial site – including 11 residential tenants and 12 commercial operations – have moved out over the summer. Minto has since been working with the tenants to assist in their relocation, and to offer short-term rent support.

Kevin estimates that by February/March 2022, construction will be well underway, with completion expected within about two and a half years. To manage the anticipated outflow of traffic from the Minto site, Kevin notes that the City of Ottawa plans to adjust the Beechwood/St. Charles intersection in the near future.

Given the obvious effects on the surrounding area and on traffic flow, Fleury's office

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Tales from the Square: How one retirement residence coped with the COVID-19 pandemic

By Keith Newton

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of columns about life in a retirement residence during the pandemic.

It was February 2020. The World Health Organization, public health authorities, and governments worldwide announced that the COVID-19 outbreak had now reached pandemic proportions. I had just moved into the seniors' residence at New Edinburgh Square (NES) and waited anxiously along with my fellow residents to hear what

measures would be invoked and with what consequences for us.

A year and a half later and we, like most of the population, are veterans of a variety of measures – masking, distancing, testing, vaccinating, lockdowns of varying durations and severity, travel restrictions, business closures, and quarantines – applied with varying degrees of zeal and with mixed success.

Now, as we face the uncertainty posed by the mask-refuseniks, the anti-vaxers

and the threat of a variant-driven fourth wave, I wondered how my fellow residents had coped over the last 19 months. Would there ever be a return to the "old normal?" Would the "new normal" involve the abandonment of trusted routines and familiar ways of doing things? In short, how have lives changed?

It took no more than a moment's reflection to acknowledge that the greatest adjustments were – and con-

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Montreal Road Scotiabank quietly closes

By Gavin Murphy

It all started with a Feb. 8, 2021, letter from Frank Bilodeau, District Vice-President of Scotiabank, advising that the Montreal Road branch would close, and accounts would be moved to the Gloucester Centre branch. The bank closed on Jun. 17 with little or no outrage, other

than perhaps from me.

Consider the following points I raised to no avail with the bank's corporate secretary, the Scotiabank President's office, and the head of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC, the government agency mandated to monitor bank closures). In

Continued on page 4

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, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.** Meetings are held virtually on Zoom. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for details.

Your NECA Representatives 2020-2021

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Learn more at
www.newedinburgh.ca

Annual General Meeting to take place online Oct. 27



Cindy Parkanyi
NECA President

Yes, it's that time again: the New Edinburgh Community Association's (NECA) **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is just around the corner. Once again, this year's AGM will take place online. Join us on Zoom to discuss NECA's priorities for the coming year and find out about ways you can participate. The link will be sent out in the regular NECA e-newsletter, on the local listservs, and will be posted on the community website: newedinburgh.ca.

Two current members of the NECA Board will be leaving: **Alison Fabian** joined the board last year and offered her guidance as chair of the new Communication Committee. She has worked tirelessly to keep things moving on several initiatives, including a revamp of the NECA website. We will miss her energy and leadership. The NECA Board will also miss **Marc d'Orgeville**, who is stepping down due to increased work commitments. Marc has been chairing the Traffic and Safety Committee for the past few years and has worked closely with the City of Ottawa on several new initiatives, such as the new neighbourhood-wide 40 km/hr speed limit. We want to thank both Alison and Marc for volunteering their time to enhancing New Edinburgh.

Ottawa's Official Plan

As you will read in Councillor **Rawlson King's** column, residents and community groups were able to convince the City to postpone the meeting at which the revised draft Official Plan would be considered: from September to mid-October. This still gives very little time to review and prepare comments, particularly since the draft has been made available only in dribs and drabs over the past several weeks.

Nevertheless, a working group within the NECA Board is reviewing the plan with an eye for areas of particular concern to our community:

- ensuring that requirements enshrined in Heritage Conservation District Plans continue to take precedence over the broad requirements set out in the OP;
- assessing the impact of Beechwood Avenue's designation as a Mainstreet Corridor;
- looking for any language that loosens restrictions on spot zoning; and
- ensuring that there is no reduction in the City's site plan control (which often-times is the only way the community can influence a given development).

NECA is also working with the Community Collective (which includes the community associations from Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park, Lindenlea, Vanier, Overbrook, and Cardinal Glen) to

coordinate our comments to ensure full coverage of all areas of concern to our broader area, such as the tree canopy provisions, active transportation, and affordable housing, among others. If you have a particular interest in any of these areas or would like to know more about the draft Official Plan, visit engage.ottawa.ca to see what is being proposed.

Fancy a winter lane walk?

As we mentioned way back in June, local resident **Justin Swan** has proposed the creation of a "New Edinburgh Lane Winter Walk," a display of lights along a circuit of New Edinburgh lanes to create a winter wonderland. Justin is looking for resident input and has a survey available. Read more about it on page 6.

To receive our monthly NECA e-updates, send an email to newedinburgh@outlook.com or sign up through the community website at newedinburgh.ca. You can join the Google Group "New Edinburgh Discussions" at new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com. You can also follow us on Twitter @New_Edinburgh. To learn more about NECA's committees and working groups, please email us at the address above.

NECA board looking for new faces

From its early days fighting construction of the Vanier Parkway extension to advocating for mitigation and improvements to the park and public spaces, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance gets involved in myriad issues and activities, from inputs on citywide issues (such as zoning by-law changes, official plans and major governance reviews) to more localized issues around heritage, development, traffic, safety, and the environment, to name a few.

All these efforts take time and effort, so the more of us who are willing to participate, the better off we all are. If you or someone you know wants to help address issues in our neighbourhood, or has great ideas to improve it, please consider joining the NECA board or one of our committees. To get a better understanding of what's involved before jumping in, log on to the Annual General Meeting on Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. or join one of the NECA board meetings: every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Currently, all meetings are being held on Zoom and the link is posted in advance at newedinburgh.ca/events.

Nominations are open from now until the evening of the AGM: Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. However, we encourage nominations in advance. If you are interested, please email newedinburgh@outlook.com.

Opinion

Engine idling gets you nowhere

By Julie LaPalme

Lately I have noticed a lot of people sitting in their parked vehicles with their engines running. It doesn't matter if it's hot or cold outside, people are not switching their engines off despite a municipal no-idling by-law and despite the earth's climate going haywire.

The City of Ottawa by-law prohibits engines from running idle for more than three minutes in a 60-minute period, when the temperature is between 5°C and 27°C (including humidex calculation and wind-chill value). The penalty is a \$125 fine. Perhaps it would be helpful if by-law officers and other city staff were better role models. I witnessed city by-law officers sitting in idling city vehicles every time I went to the pond in Rockcliffe Park this summer.

Why do people leave their cars running while they park and wait, or even while running inside to pick something up or deliver a package? I went on Reddit and posed the question. Common responses were having the air conditioning or heater on. Listening to the stereo and not wanting to drain the battery was another reason. Being double parked and wanting to be able to move as fast as possible was another. Some people don't like shutting the engine down after only a short drive and worry about the wear and tear on the engine starter. People also stated using more fuel by stopping and starting.

According to Natural Resources Canada, for every litre of gasoline used, a vehicle produces about 2.3 kilograms of CO₂, the main greenhouse gas (GHG) linked to climate change. CO₂ emissions are a by-product of burning fossil fuels. One simple and effective way to reduce the production of CO₂ emissions is by choosing to change your behaviour and turn your car engine off. In fact, if Canadian motorists avoided idling for just three minutes every day of the year, CO₂ emissions could be reduced by 1.4 million tonnes annually. This would be equal



to saving 630 million litres of fuel and equivalent to taking 320,000 cars off the roads for an entire year.

What about the engine wear-and-tear argument? NRCan's position is that "idling for over 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more CO₂ emissions than restarting your engine." You'll save more money on fuel which should more than offset any potential increase in maintenance costs from any wear and tear on your starter or battery.

And as for heating up the engine, the best way to warm a car is to drive it. The tires, transmission, wheel bearings, and other moving parts all need to be warmed up for the vehicle to perform well, and most of these parts do not begin to warm up until you drive.

Anti-idling initiatives are gaining ground around the world. Messages to reduce unnecessary idling are a key component of many national climate change programs. In Europe, the recommended guidelines for turning engines off are 10 seconds in Italy and France, 20 seconds in Austria, 40 seconds in Germany and 60 seconds in the Netherlands.

Laws against idling vehicle engines have been around for decades. However, enforcement has generally been lax or nonexistent. New York City, for example, is enlisting residents in the battle against vehicle emissions thanks to a bounty program where people get paid for reporting idling vehicles. If you

report an idler and they're found guilty, you get 25 per cent of the fine, which ranges from \$350 to 2,000. This started in February 2018, largely thanks to the efforts of George Pakenham, a Wall Street banker and part-time clean air activist. He's the subject of the 2012 documentary film *Idle Threat: Man on Emission*. In an interview with Vice news in March 2019, Pakenham said he made \$9,000 from filing 120 complaints.

Toronto passed an idling control bylaw in 1996, but the city does not appear to take it seriously. Residents can call Toronto's 3-1-1 to complain, but that only results in a bylaw officer issuing a notice and an information brochure to the offender. While the law does allow for a fine, according to the CBC, Toronto issued warnings to about 2,000 people in 2018, but not a single ticket.

In British Columbia, close to 15 municipalities have idling bylaws and the province offers information on idle-free initiatives in a climate action toolkit: toolkit.bc.ca/tool/idle-reduction-bylaw.

Avoiding unnecessary idling is a universal approach to reducing the environmental impact of vehicles. Not only does idling waste money and fuel, but it also produces greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. After all, idling gets you nowhere!

Julie LaPalme is a lover of nature, a gardener, and a founding member of Healthy Neighbourhoods Ottawa.

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Submission Guidelines: Articles, photos and letters to the editor may be submitted to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, content and legal considerations. Submissions selected for publication will be published in both a hardcopy and an electronic version. Letters to the editor must include the writer's name, address and phone number to be considered for publication.

The *New Edinburgh News* (NEN) was established as a non-profit community newspaper in 1976 and is published five times a year by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) and supported by its advertisers. The *New Edinburgh News* is distributed free of charge by volunteers to residents of New Edinburgh as well as to area schools, libraries and local businesses. Views expressed in the *NEN* are those of contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff, the publisher or the advertisers.

The *New Edinburgh News* is also made available online at the New Edinburgh community website:

www.newedinburgh.ca

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Scotiabank's community consultation questioned

Continued from page 1

the case of political leadership – local MP Mona Fortier and city councillor Mathieu Fleury, in whose ward the branch was located – there was no substantive response whatsoever.

It appears the closure leaves only one chartered bank along Montreal Road between the Rideau River and St. Laurent Blvd. There are, however, other financial institutions along this strip, including

payday loan and pawn shops. The branch was situated in an economically challenged neighbourhood and likely catered to many citizens with limited incomes who lived within walking distance of the bank. Now their accounts are located off Ogilvie Road, more than six kilometres away by bus for those without vehicles. Online banking options work only if customers have secure access and computer expertise. Given



Photo by Gavin Murphy

The Scotiabank at 211 Montreal Rd. was closed in June. Clients now have to make the 6km trek to the Gloucester location.

these impediments, some customers could look elsewhere for their everyday banking. At a time when the city will spend \$64 million to revitalize Montreal Road and North River Road, it is unfortunate Scotiabank is not championing this initiative instead of running away and leaving another vacant storefront.

Did it really have to be all or nothing? What about moving to part-time hours or installing an ATM? Were these possibilities considered? According to Julie Walsh, the bank's Senior Vice-President, Corporate Secretary and Chief Corporate Governance Officer: "We do not share documents that relate to strategic business decisions." She did add, however, that "while we understand this decision will have an impact on some customers, we are confident that our continued invest-

ment in, and commitment to the City of Ottawa and the National Capital Region will provide Scotiabank customers with excellent advice and service."

Okay, I get it. Then what about consulting clients, neighbours, and shareholders to get their views? This is where the FCAC comes in. It can require a public meeting if three conditions are met, all of which are pertinent in this case. The most important is when the bank has not adequately consulted the community about the proposed branch closure.

Walsh said: "Please note that FCAC guidance does not require the consultation of customers before formal notice of a branch closure." This is a narrow interpretation. Consultation is not mandated under the relevant legislation, but the FCAC can require a public meeting where the bank has not consulted "well enough" (to adopt the regulation's language) about the proposed closure. As a good corporate citizen, the bank SHOULD consult with its base before closure, if only to be presented with meaningful alternatives other than shutting down.

More than two months after the branch closed, Teresa Frick, Director of Supervision, Supervision and

Enforcement Branch at the FCAC, said that the agency was satisfied the bank had taken reasonable steps to consult the community and advise of the closure. More specifically she explained: "Scotiabank proactively contacted clients of the closing branch via telephone to discuss with them how the closure affects each customer individually." Really? I was never phoned, nor were other people I know who banked there. This statement is alarming.

More light should be shed on the bank's alleged telephone campaign. Perhaps a sworn affidavit and public release of its consultation outcomes are needed, if this is not already the case, to help confirm the veracity and completeness of statements made. Regardless, the branch is now closed, and former customers are left to fend for themselves by travelling to the Gloucester Centre or switching to another institution.

Scotiabank beat market expectations when it reported a third-quarter 2021 profit of \$2.54 billion. While this is a tidy sum, a little more sensitivity to the needs of clients and community might also be in order.

New Edinburgh's Gavin Murphy is a client and shareholder of Scotiabank. For now.

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Caldwell and Associates has served the New Edinburgh and area community for 36 plus years. There have been many changes and challenges over the years, but none quite like 2020-21. The battle against COVID-19 continues with hope on the horizon.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

to all who have worked tirelessly from front line workers, health workers, essential workers, shop keepers, to those that wear their masks and wash their hands to make the difference in our lives and keep our community safe.

We hope one day soon we can gather again safely.



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MPP working with school boards to help bring change to Ontario's education system



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

The place of our education system in our society has been highlighted in many ways during this pandemic. Education plays a bigger role than just teaching subject matter to our children and makes an impact beyond the classroom. Schools are not only spaces to learn, but spaces to make meaningful connections, develop thoughtful citizens, and spend time outside of the household.

Changes to our education system are long overdue and the pandemic has highlighted this further. We need a system that is responsive to the needs of our children to prepare for the reality of the world beyond graduation. We need honest education about our history, and we need to

inspire students to build a better future. We need significant investment in infrastructure to create safe and dynamic learning environments that allow students to thrive and reach their full potential.

Having four children, I have been passionate about education for 20 years. That is why, over the last few months, I have reached out to our school boards to stay informed of their current challenges. It has been very valuable to discuss how we can work together to create a safe return to school and improve our education system. I have also attended parent protests and taken part in broad consultations to hear from the community directly on the difficult toll the pan-

demie has taken on parents and children.

Rest assured that I remain committed to putting pressure on the government to carry out a thorough plan for this academic year and beyond. The government has the duty to ensure that children, parents, and education workers have peace of mind.

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.

**

La place de notre système d'éducation au sein de notre société a été soulignée à maints égards durant cette pandémie. Le rôle qu'a l'éducation dépasse l'enseignement de matières scolaires à nos enfants et a un impact au-delà de la salle de classe. Les écoles ne sont pas seulement des espaces pour apprendre, mais des espaces pour établir des liens importants, pour former des citoyens

à l'esprit critique et pour passer du temps en dehors de la maison.

Les changements dans notre système d'éducation sont attendus depuis longtemps et la pandémie l'a bien mis en évidence. Nous avons besoin d'un système qui puisse répondre aux besoins de nos enfants pour les préparer aux réalités du monde après l'obtention du diplôme. Nous avons besoin d'une éducation qui soit honnête à propos de notre histoire et nous devons inspirer les étudiants à construire un avenir meilleur. Nous avons besoin d'investissements importants en infrastructure pour créer des environnements d'apprentissage dynamiques et sécuritaires qui permettent aux étudiants de s'épanouir et d'atteindre leur plein potentiel.

Ayant quatre enfants, je suis passionnée de l'éducation depuis 20 ans. C'est pourquoi, au cours des derniers mois, j'ai contacté nos conseils scolaires pour me tenir au courant de leurs défis actuels.

Il a été très utile de discuter des façons dont nous pouvons travailler ensemble pour créer un retour à l'école qui soit sécuritaire et pour améliorer notre système d'éducation. J'ai également assisté à des manifestations de parents et pris part à des consultations pour entendre directement de la communauté sur les impacts de la pandémie sur les parents et sur les enfants.

Soyez assurés que je reste déterminée à faire pression sur le gouvernement pour qu'il mette en place un plan détaillé pour cette année académique et au-delà. Le gouvernement a le devoir de s'assurer que les enfants, les parents et les travailleurs de l'éducation aient l'esprit tranquille.

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

Official Plan open house Sep. 29; have your say on solid waste plan and police budget



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

There will be many opportunities this autumn for residents to express their opinions concerning the city we want. The first key public consultation will focus on the City of Ottawa's Official Plan, which provides a vision for Ottawa's future growth and a policy framework to guide the city's physical development to the year 2031.

Thanks in large part to community advocacy, the joint Planning and Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee meeting to consider the final

report that will be provided to Council by City staff has been moved from September to Oct. 14, 2021, with the final plan going to City Council on Oct. 27. In addition, there will be a public open house on Sep. 29. The change in date will give more time to community members to present and prepare comments on the plan, which serves as a basis for all municipal policy concerning land use.

After extensive consultation, I released a policy paper in May which outlined

my position on the plan. This paper notes that while Ottawa's population is projected to increase, along with intensification, it will be necessary to ensure that future development complements the nature of communities on a human scale. I believe we can accommodate a reasonable pace of development and mitigate some of the negative effects of infill intensification by locating density in the most logical locations in the ward, on the periphery of existing residential development. Such a vision includes locating density along corridors and nodes with ample active and public transportation connectivity and leveraging future master planned development opportunities, which includes social housing renewal in Overbrook and transit-oriented redevelopment at the Ottawa Baseball Stadium.

The City of Ottawa is also developing a new Solid Waste Master Plan, to be completed in 2023. The plan will guide how we manage solid waste over the next 30 years. As Ottawa grows and changes, we need to ensure that our waste services evolve to meet new needs and challenges. This autumn, the City will be providing opportunities for residents to provide feedback on new waste collection options. After reviewing resident input, City staff will make recommendations to Council to consider the most cost-effective waste management methods to prolong the use of the City's landfill facility. In the second quarter of 2022, staff will table that draft strategy, along with a short-term implementation plan for Council's consideration before a final round of public engagement.

Finally, the Ottawa Police

Service is also asking residents to help determine priorities in its upcoming annual budget. Residents from across all of Ottawa's diverse communities and neighbourhoods are encouraged to participate. Participants will provide input on next year's operating budget to improve community safety and well-being. The Ottawa Police Service Board has acknowledged the need for deep organizational change based upon community priorities and concerns.

I encourage you to be involved in all these public consultations over the fall. You can learn more about how you can extend your voice for meaningful change by signing up to my weekly newsletter at rideau-rockcliffe.ca or by contacting my office at rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca.

Lane loop winter walk: help launch a new tradition

By Justin Swan

One feature that makes New Edinburgh unique is its lanes. Mostly hidden to passing visitors, the lanes are interesting walking routes that offer a slow, human-scale contrast to the city.

The old homes, charming garages, trees, and hydro poles pushed up against the narrow quiet streets are an important anchor of local heritage.

Last year, after a few people decorated poles on River Lane with lights, others started to do the same. The effort spread to people’s homes and backyards facing the lane and it gradually became a nightly winter walking route for many residents.

Moving forward, we want to make it even better and we need your help to make it happen. Over time, the hope is to have every house, apartment, tree, and fence facing the “New Ed Lane Loop” to be decorated with lights during the holiday season.

The path including Avon Lane, School Lane, and River Lane creates a loop when you include the short section of Dufferin Road connecting Avon and River Lanes. Let’s light up the loop and make it

a memorable winter tradition!

Our vision: Make the New Ed Lane Loop a memorable winter holiday walk for the community. It is:

- a novel way for people to socialize, connect, and create shared memories
- a new perspective of the neighbourhood
- a fun and lasting annual tradition

We need your help! Please complete our two-question survey: bit.ly/laneloopsurvey

Justin Swan and his wife Lindsey MacKinnon have lived on River Lane for six years with their two children.



Image by Justin Swan

Last winter, River Lane residents lit up their lane to make for a cheerful walking route. For 2021, they would like to see it expanded to neighbouring lanes.



Photo by Justin Swan

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Photo by Justin Swan

Local effort to sponsor Afghan refugees a frustrating experience

By Chantal Vicha

Our group to sponsor a refugee family began with a crisis. More specifically, it started with the crisis in Afghanistan. As media reports came out about the Taliban taking over Kabul and the images of Afghan families standing in a canal of sewage surrounded by barbed wire at the Kabul airport gates begging for their lives, it became clear that something had to be done. Anything. So, inspired by a quote from *The Hobbit* film – “I found it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay... small acts of kindness and love,” – I decided to make a small deed and act to help keep the darkness at bay.

I posted to the New Edinburgh and Lindenlea community listservs my desire to sponsor an Afghan family. First one person responded, then two others, and finally 20 people responded. So, with high expectations and enthusiasm, I organized our first meeting over video conference. Nineteen people showed up. I began to gather information on the process for sponsoring a refugee family. The process couldn't be that hard, could it? Well, I am here to tell you that it is almost impossible to sponsor an Afghan refugee family, and it has already been more than a month since Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15, 2021.

Currently, there are three pathways to sponsor refugees: 1) Group of Five, 2) Community Sponsor, or 3) Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH). A Group of Five is literally a group of five individuals that will agree to legally and privately sponsor a refugee or group of refugees. The reality, how-

ever, is that although only five people are needed to sign the paperwork, a much larger group is required to successfully execute the sponsorship. A Community Sponsor is an organization, association or corporation that are not required to be incorporated under federal or provincial law, but must exist as a legal entity. An SAH is an incorporated organization that has signed a sponsorship agreement with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. With so many options, one would think that it would be easy to sponsor a refugee family, right?

The current reality is that sponsorship through a SAH is the only viable option for a refugee to be sponsored in the short-term. This is because SAHs, unlike a Group of Five or Community Sponsor, don't require refugees to go through a years-long process to obtain a Refugee Determination Status (RDS) – which are approved only by a foreign government or through the UN Refugee Agency. SAHs, however, are capped at the number of refugees that they can sponsor each year. The Refugee Training Sponsorship Program in Canada used to refer pre-approved RDS refugees through their Blended-Visa Office Referred program, but this program has been on hold since the beginning of the pandemic.

So, for a group looking to sponsor a refugee family in the near future, there are really only two options left: work with an SAH as a co-sponsor or find a RDS approved refugee through word of mouth. And, if you are an Afghan refugee, you potentially have two more options through two new special Afghan Resettlement

Programs launched by the Canadian government in late August 2021 – but the details are vague – and not for those looking to sponsor in the short-term.

The first program focuses on Afghan nationals (and their families) whose employment involved a significant and/or enduring relationship with the Canadian government including interpreters who worked with the Canadian Armed Forces and local staff who worked at the Embassy of Canada to Afghanistan. The second is a humanitarian program focused on resettling Afghan nationals who are outside of Afghanistan and who don't have a durable solution in a third country. These include women leaders, human rights advocates, persecuted religious minorities, LGBTI individuals, journalists and people who assisted Canadian journalists, immediate family members of one of the above and extended family members of previously resettled interpreters who assisted the Canadian government.

While the first program is promising in its ability to fast-track refugees for sponsorship, I've never heard of a single refugee that has been processed through the program other than those that were airlifted out of Kabul at the end of August. Furthermore, while this program extends to former interpreters, it does not extend to other Afghans such as Language and Cultural Advisors (LCAs) who have worked with Canadian Forces or their families. The humanitarian focused program, on the other hand, has no details for how to apply and it appears that those applying under it will require a Refugee Determination Status, which,



Photo courtesy Chantal Vicha

A group of New Edinburgh residents is working with Ahmad Malgarai (above), a former cultural advisor to the Canadian Forces, to help bring his extended family as refugees to Canada.

as mentioned, can take years.

Our group in New Edinburgh has tried very hard to find a refugee family to sponsor. Currently, we are exploring working to co-sponsor an Afghan family with an SAH (e.g., a church), because SAHs don't require that refugees have a RDS. We've explored moving forward as a Group of Five to work with a former LCA to the Canadian Forces, Ahmad Malgarai, whose extended family does not qualify for Canada's new Afghan Resettlement Program even though his convoy was hit by a massive car bomb while on duty in Afghanistan, and whose family is in hiding from the Taliban because of his work with Canada.

So far, the Canadian govern-

ment has given Ahmad vague details on how we could possibly sponsor his family as a group of five. Personally, I've reached out to media in hopes of finding an Afghan family with an RDS – which led me to CBC journalist Murray Brewster who encouraged me to reach out to 13 NATO-trained Afghan pilots and personnel that he reported on and who are currently being held in Tajikistan. I would like to eventually sponsor them as a group, and hopefully their families in Afghanistan, through Canada's humanitarian program – although because they require RDSs, this could be years from now.

Chantal Vicha has lived in New Edinburgh for 14 years. Readers can reach her at chantal.vicha@gmail.com.

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Update on Minto Beechwood II site operations coming this fall

Continued from page 1

and Minto will collaborate later in the fall to meet with neighbours closest to the site, and to provide an update on site operations, including contact information for those with questions or concerns.

As reported in the *NEN's* October 2020 edition, a multi-neighbourhood group of community representatives (a reinvented Beechwood Village Alliance) has been meeting with Minto since the project's early stages. This group developed a "wish list" of prospective businesses to occupy the project's commercial spaces, a list which Kevin indicates is now a template for Minto in its search for commercial tenants. Community suggestions include a hardware store, a bakery-café, a wine bar-bistro and a gifts and housewares shop, all of which would be welcome additions to the streetscape. Stay tuned for more news on the project in the months to come.



The latest rendering of Minto Beechwood II which will take up much of the block between St. Charles and Loyer Streets.

Orange Shirt Day and the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Beechwood Cemetery

In honour of Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a newly recognized federal holiday, the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society is thrilled to partner with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G), Beechwood Cemetery and Project of Heart to host an event on September 30. The day will be an opportunity for people of all ages from the Ottawa-Gatineau region to learn about Canada's history in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, reflect on the legacy of the residential school system and take action.

Join us at the Beechwood National Memorial Center's Sacred Space for the first ever full public display of 57,000 tiles made by children and youth across Canada to honour the children who attended residential schools as part of the Project of Heart education program.

Find out more or to register, please visit landing.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/nationaldayoftruthandreconciliation

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Owned by the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and operated by the Beechwood Cemetery Company



2022 Budget consultations coming soon



Jim Watson
Mayor of Ottawa

Kids are back in school, people are slowly returning to the office, the mornings are feeling a little bit cooler, and we are already looking ahead to Budget 2022. While we continue to fight a global pandemic, there are still many financial unknowns, meaning 2022 will be another lean year for the City of Ottawa.

Staff have been preparing the draft budget over the summer using the 3 per cent tax cap City Council adopted in July. In the coming months, members of the community can provide input, answer our budget surveys, ask questions, and communicate with me and my council colleagues with ideas for investments and savings.

Every year, I set up individual meetings with councillors to hear their priorities, determine what the community is telling them and identify priority investments to make in the 2022 City budget. I always challenge them to come forward with new investment ideas, ways to reduce costs and save money. Additionally, there are councillor-led public consultation sessions for you to share your views with elected officials. Watch for updates to the schedule and take a moment to ask questions, present your ideas and make your voice heard at City Hall.

The City's 2022 draft budget will be tabled at a Special Meeting of Council on Nov. 3 and considered for adoption by council on Dec. 8. I know it may not be everyone's cup of tea, but nearly two years into a pandemic, this budget counts more than ever. It's your city and your budget, so I want to hear from you! Your feedback will be especially important to make sure we're investing our dollars where they're needed most.

I want to thank my colleagues at the City of Ottawa for their tireless work, not

only over the last year and a half through difficult times, but also in the coming months as they work with my office to put together a balanced budget that meets the needs of residents, taxpayers, and our community. With your input, we can do just that.

For more information related to the city budget, please visit ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/budget/understanding-your-city-budget.

P.S. Go get vaccinated!

Les enfants sont de retour à l'école, les gens retournent peu à peu au bureau, les matins sont un petit peu plus frais et nous commençons déjà à penser au budget de 2022! Alors que nous continuons de lutter contre une pandémie mondiale, de nombreuses incertitudes financières sont encore présentes, ce qui signifie que 2022 sera une autre année de vaches maigres pour la Ville d'Ottawa.

Le personnel a préparé le budget provisoire au cours de l'été en utilisant le plafond d'imposition de 3 pour cent adopté par le Conseil en juillet dernier. Au cours des mois à venir, les membres de la communauté pourront nous faire part de leurs commentaires, répondre à nos sondages sur le budget, poser des questions et communiquer avec moi et mes collègues du Conseil pour formuler des idées d'investissements et d'économie.

Comme chaque année, j'organise des rencontres individuelles avec les conseillers en vue d'écouter leurs priorités, de déterminer ce que la communauté leur dit et d'identifier les investissements prioritaires à effectuer dans le cadre du budget municipal de 2022. Je les mets toujours au défi de proposer de nouvelles idées d'investissement, des moyens de réduire les coûts et d'économiser de l'argent. En

outre, les séances de consultation publique dirigées par les conseillers vous permettent de partager vos points de vue avec les représentants élus. Consultez les mises à jour du calendrier et prenez un moment pour poser des questions, présenter vos idées et vous exprimer à l'hôtel de ville.

Le budget provisoire de 2022 de la Ville sera déposé lors d'une réunion extraordinaire du Conseil le 3 novembre et examiné aux fins d'adoption par le Conseil le 8 décembre. Je sais que ce n'est peut-être pas au goût de tout le monde, mais avec près de deux années de pandémie, ce budget compte plus que jamais. C'est votre ville et votre budget, alors je souhaite entendre vos idées! Vos commentaires seront particulièrement importants pour nous assurer que nous investissons nos dollars là où c'est vraiment nécessaire.

Je tiens à remercier mes collègues de la Ville d'Ottawa pour leur travail sans relâche, non seulement durant la dernière année et demie au cours de laquelle nous avons traversé des moments difficiles, mais aussi au cours des prochains mois alors qu'ils travaillent avec mon bureau pour mettre sur pied un budget équilibré qui répond aux besoins des résidents, des contribuables et de notre communauté. Avec vos commentaires, nous y arriverons.

Pour obtenir plus de renseignements sur le budget de la Ville, veuillez consulter : ottawa.ca/fr/hotel-de-ville/budget-finances-et-planification-municipale/comprendre-le-budget-municipal

P.-S. Faites-vous vacciner!



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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Andre R. Gagne, Christina Leadlay, Randy Mar and Tamara Miller



Jasper restaurant has been sold

The *New Edinburgh News* has learned that Jasper Sports Pub at 18 Beechwood Ave. has been sold and that a new restaurant will take its place in November.

The new owner, **Donald Wingell**, tells *NEN* that his plan for the bistro will bring a new form of dining to the neighbourhood under the brand “Dhruvees.”

Donald Wingell is also the founder and CEO of Wingell Hospitality Group, an Ottawa-based Hospitality Consulting and Management Company. They represent global food service brands for Canada such as Dilmah Tea, Arun Spices and Golden Roots products.

Jasper opened in spring of 2019 as a fine dining establishment. Following the first government-mandated pandemic shut-down, it re-opened in August 2020, which saw them shift to pub fare. Jasper’s owner, **Andre Schad** sold the restaurant to Donald in September 2021

in order to focus on his patio businesses Tavern on the Falls and Tavern on the Hill.

According to a Sept. 24 Facebook post, Andre will be launching a third location, Tavern at the Gallery, located in the hidden courtyard garden (formerly known as the Sunken Garden) at the National Gallery of Canada on Sussex Drive. Open from 11 a.m. until late, the Tavern at the Gallery’s menu will include handmade pizza, poke bowls, oysters and charcuterie.

We look forward to learning more about this new neighbourhood dining experience. Best of luck to Andre and his team, and welcome to Donald! –TM

Fresh-baked doughnuts on Springfield

What are lukomades? Without Googling, your first thought might be a bird found only in the Galapagos, a small village in the Mediterranean, or the full name of that uncle everyone just calls “Lou.” Not even close, but you can ensure your taste buds get the delicious answer. Just walk down to the corner of Springfield Road and Beechwood Avenue and into **Mr. Luko**, New Edinburgh’s newest gourmandise and coffee place.

Need more urging? “Lukomades are little, round Greek doughnuts that are fluffy on the inside and crispy on the outside,” explains **Nabil Mittry**, co-owner of Mr. Luko, adding that the scrumptious little morsels are “served hot and topped with a flavour [of the]

customer’s choice.”

Some of those choices include Nutella, pistachio cream, white chocolate, and cinnamon sugar. And on top of this (literally) you can add some Oreo crumble, shredded coconut, salted peanuts, and more! If that isn’t enticing enough, there are specialty versions of the treat, such as tiramisu cream, mixed berry cheesecake, and triple chocolate. Did we mention the fresh fruit medley?

Nabil explains that everything is prepared fresh daily, right in the shop, with premium ingredients.

Mr. Luko opened in April on Bank Street before bringing a second location to 1 Springfield Road (in the former Second Cup location). The team hasn’t let the pandemic limit their drive for deliciousness. Having to limit the number of people inside for pick-up orders only shortly after they opened was tough, but they rode out the public health restrictions and were finally able to open their doors this past summer.

“All the community is really happy to support us as a local business that’s growing up fast and are satisfied with the service we’re offering,” says Nabil. “You can clearly notice that from each honest review added from their side.”

With so many types of lukomades to try, you might not notice the other baked goods in the store. This writer sampled an apple fritter that will make you forget all other apple fritters. Yes, it’s that good, perfectly paired with some organic coffee.

Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Donald Wingell recently acquired Jasper Restaurant, which he plans to launch under a new brand in November.



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Photo by Joseph Cull

Mr. Luko owner Nabil Mittry prepares some fresh lukomades (Greek doughnuts).

“Our apple fritter is a hit for sure because of its huge size, affordability, and unique taste,” explains Nabil. “We also have the pistachio-filled donut, which is also an item to try, for sure.”

If you want something a little more adventurous, Mr. Luko also serves up Lebanese cocktails in both strawberry and avocado flavours, topped with fresh ashta: a Lebanese cream. The kids will probably be more interested in the cotton-candy or cookies-and-cream milkshakes, though. All of this before we mention: they serve breakfast!

Beyond the two shops in Ottawa, Nabil says the goal is to expand the Montreal-based Mr. Luko brand even further: “We surely are ambitious to grow faster and open a chain of Mr. Luko all over Canada and working hard to achieve that goal.” —ARG

Mr. Luko is located at 1 Springfield Road. Learn more at mrluko.ca

Spanish-Latino cuisine coming soon

Curious pedestrians peering in the window of 224 Beechwood Ave., intrigued at the signage already in place, will be rewarded very soon.

Renowned chef **Daniela Manrique Lucca** and her partner and front-of-house manager, **Gustavo Belisario**,

are bringing an exciting culinary experience to the former Sutherland restaurant space.

In the next few weeks, the doors will open upon an exciting blend of the esteemed Soca Kitchen restaurant and the upstart Plantain Cartel, along with a well-stocked *mercado* (market).

“Everyone has been so welcoming since we took over this space and we have fallen in love with the neighbourhood!” said Chef Daniela in an interview with *NEN*. The Soca Kitchen is her creation: her vision for Spanish-Latino fusion, connected to roots in her native Venezuela. Diners will see many favourites on the menu, including an oyster bar, seafood tower, selected *jamons* (dry-cured hams), *patatas bravas* (spicy potatoes), cod ceviche, and



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Hintonburg-based Soca Kitchen is opening a second location in the former Sutherland bistro space.

empanadas and taco platters, among others.

Just like the original Soca location on Holland Avenue which opened in 2014, the Beechwood Soca will initially be open for dinner only but will eventually open for brunch once things settle down.

First developed as a “ghost kitchen,” Plantain Cartel specializes in *patacones*: artisanal plantain sandwiches which will be available all day. They make a great gluten-free meal option! The Cartel team make the *patacones* in-house from scratch,

meaning no two are alike. Plantain Cartel will be a casual, express-dining option, offering delicious foods eat-in or to-go as well as signature frozen cocktails, wine, and beer.

Soca’s loyal and experienced staff will help to ease the transition to two locations, complemented by new staff. They will have oppor-

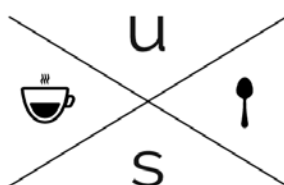
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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

After 17 years at 156 Beechwood Ave., Dr. Luc Ducharme is moving his dental clinic to 224 Beechwood Ave.



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Brothers Louis and Yasser Fahs are welcoming clients at the new Beechwood Barbershop where Imperial Barber used to be.

tunities to take on new roles and many will be able to work closer to home.

Plantain Cartel's mercado will offer a wide variety of Spanish specialty products: olive oils, *con-cervas* (preserves), marinated olives, sauces and aiolis, potato crisps, and much more. Adding to the take-away options will be a variety of Soca's frozen foods and a selection of refrigerated cheeses and charcuterie items.

And if opening a second restaurant isn't excitement enough for Daniela

and Gustavo, the couple are expecting a baby daughter in November!

Congratulations times two to Daniela, Gustavo, and the whole Soca team – welcome to New Edinburgh! –RM

The Soca Kitchen will open this fall at 224 Beechwood Ave. Contact 613-695-9190 or thesocakitchen.com or info@thesocakitchen.com.

Dentist takes over former fitness studio

Soca Kitchen isn't the only new business opening soon at 224 Beechwood Ave. Taking over the former EPIC fitness

space (sadly, a victim of multiple pandemic shutdowns) is the dental practice of Dr. **Luc Ducharme**. In an email interview with *NEN*, Dr. Ducharme says that for the past four or five years he has been looking to expand the practice at 156 Beechwood Ave., where he and associate dentist Dr. **Olivier Julien** have been since 2004. But finding a 4,500–5,000 sq. ft. space on the main street had been a challenge. Until recently.

"The most important factor was remaining on Beechwood," explains Dr.

Ducharme. "This space [at 224 Beechwood Ave.] was ideal for a dental clinic: ground-level, lots of windows, on a corner, directly on Beechwood and next to a pharmacy," and with convenient parking, too, he says.

Construction began in March 2021, transforming the former fitness studio into a dental clinic, which Dr. Ducharme says "is a complex project due to not only for leasehold improvement, but mostly due to all the special dental equipment." He anticipates opening the new clinic in November 2021.

Born in Ottawa, Dr. Ducharme obtained his dental diploma from the University of Montreal in 1995. He practiced for eight years on Montreal Road before moving to Beechwood Avenue in March 2004. Along with Dr. Julien, who has worked with Dr. Ducharme for 15 years, the practice includes six hygienists, four assistants and four receptionists. "I intend in the near future to hire another associate dentist to better respond to the demands of the community," says Dr. Ducharme. His clinic offers a wide variety of services including orthodontics, Invisalign, implants, sedation for patients who suffer from dental anxiety, and endodontic treatment (like root canals). They also deal with

dental emergencies, and new patients are always welcome.

As for his old clinic space, Dr. Ducharme tells *NEN* he is "presently working with an agent as to subleasing my present location."

We wish Dr. Ducharme and his team all the best in their new space at 224 Beechwood Ave. Learn more by calling 613-749-1785 or at drlucducharme.com. –CL

Local barbering returns to Beechwood

For those who've been missing a stroll along Beechwood Avenue for their regular haircuts, two brothers – **Louis** and **Yasser Fahs** – have come to the rescue.

The enterprising brothers opened **Beechwood Barbershop** in late September in the former Imperial Barbershop location at 10 Beechwood Ave. (next door to SushiMe). Louis brings the barbering expertise, and Yasser the business acumen to their latest venture.

They plan to keep much of the familiar furnishings and décor and maintain the six existing chairs, which allow for proper physical distancing in keeping with current public-health protocols. Initial service at launch will focus on barber cuts; other services such as beard and facial treatments will be introduced

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

This notice appeared in the window at 131B Beechwood Ave., former home of Sundae School.



Photo courtesy Chris Penton

Devon Penton, son of Beechwood Market president Chris Penton, helps set up the Saturday morning sale.

as restrictions on personal care services are lifted in the future.

In launching this endeavour, the brothers have dropped in at several local coffee shops and pubs to get their ear to the ground regarding clients' needs. "We know this a great family area and want to bring a much-needed service to the community," said Yasser. To further the neighbourhood connection, they've sought out skilled local barbers and are confident there will be familiar faces tending to customers' needs.

To introduce themselves to the neighbourhood, Beechwood Barbershop will offer half price barber cuts in the two weeks following their opening, so keep an eye out for the open sign in the window.

A warm welcome to Beechwood Village, Louis and Yasser!

The Beechwood Barbershop is located at 10 Beechwood Ave. For details or walk-in/call-in appointments, call

613-842-8383. —RM

Cannabis shop applies for permit

There's a potential new occupant for the space left vacant by Sundae School at 131B Beechwood Ave, next to Bridgehead. *NEN* has learned that **Munchies Cannabis** has submitted an application to open a retail store at this location.

All cannabis stores in Ontario are regulated by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). The AGCO ensures that retailers are selling cannabis in a safe, responsible and lawful manner. Regulations include:

- not selling cannabis to anyone under the age of 19;
- not operating a retail store within 150 meters of a school; and

- acquiring the required Retail Store Authorization, Retail Operator License and Cannabis Retail Manager License.

All active applications for cannabis Retail Store Authorizations are avail-

able to view on the AGCO online portal (agco.ca) and stores are required to have a 15-day public notice period. The public notice period for Munchies Cannabis' application closed on Sept 16, 2021, with no new details listed on the website as of publishing time. —TM

Dental team retires after 33 years

In September, Dr. **John Martins** and Dr. **Patricia Prud'homme** of Martins + Prud'homme Dentistry at 200 Beechwood Ave. announced their retirement from dentistry after 33 years — 27 of which were spent on Beechwood Avenue.

In a message to their clients and the community, they said "it is with mixed emotions that we announce our retirement in September and pass along our beloved practice.

"We wish to convey our sincerest appreciation for the tremendous support that we have received over the years from this wonderful community. Thank you for your kindness, your warm friendship and for entrusting us with your care. It has truly been an honour and a privilege.

"As we bid a fond farewell to our cherished patients, we look forward to happy endings and new beginnings."

Drs. Martins and Prud'homme are partners both in the clinic and in life. John tells *NEN* that he and Patricia met in dental school and were married in 1989, a year after graduation. They have practiced dentistry together since 1994.

NEN has learned that the dental practice has been acquired by Dr. **Lokesh Malik**, who has begun con-

tacting clients.

NEN extends a big thank-you to Drs. Martins and Prud'homme for their many years of support as regular advertisers in this newspaper. We wish them all the best in their retirement. —CL

Outdoor market wraps up Oct. 9

The Beechwood Market has just a few more weeks of open-air activity before reverting to an online venue for the winter season.

A community presence since 2014, the Beechwood Market has become many things to its visitors and vendors. In describing the market, President **Chris Penton** suggests that it "has become a comfort, an expectation, and an integral part of our community; a chance for residents to listen to live music

Continued on page 14



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Continued from page 13

and truly support local businesses, whether it be online, onsite, or on their front porch!”

With the steadfast support of many of its sponsors, vendors, and visitors, the market has thrived through three moves to its present location at Optimiste Park and online at beechwoodmarket.ca. On Saturdays from early June to Thanksgiving (Oct. 9), Beechwood Market offers an outdoor market experience at Optimiste Park (43 Ste. Cecile St.) featuring a wide variety of artisanal baked goods and prepared foods, eggs and poultry, local craft beer, and fresh – often organic – produce and fruit. The friendly community vibe attracts families, seniors, and young singles.

At the online Market, shoppers will find more than 30 local vendors, and hundreds



Photo by Oliver Leadlay

The Rideau Sports Centre at 1 Donald St. has tennis, yoga and outdoor fitness among the many activities planned for this fall. Its restaurant, The Bridge, is open seven days a week.

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of kitchen staples. Weekly pickup, arranged at the time of order, will move to the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave.) beginning Oct. 16.

Fans of community markets will note their expanding presence across the city. Beechwood Market's offshoot, the Elgin Market, opened this past summer in Boushey Square on Waverley at Elgin Streets. Chris Penton is working not only towards a community market framework to guide market deployment city-wide, but also collaborating with other community associations to host markets on Preston Street in Little Italy, in Alta Vista, and in Hintonburg next summer.

There are also tentative plans for a Christmas Market in December at the Chartwell New Edinburgh Square, 420 MacKay St. Check the market's website for the latest.

The Beechwood Farmers' Market runs Saturdays

in Optimiste Park, 43 Ste. Cecile St., until Oct. 9 before moving exclusively online for the winter. Contact 613-883-1012; beechwoodfm@gmail.com or visit beechwoodmarket.ca or localline.ca.

The community hub along the river

After weathering a number of pandemic-related closures since March 2020, the **Rideau Sports Centre** (at 1 Donald St.) has had a “magical” summer – success which the team plans to carry into the autumn.

“We have approached each lockdown with a ‘dare-to-dream’ challenge,” **Carrie Cuhaci**, the RSC's director of sales and marketing, tells the *New Edinburgh News*. “We viewed the closures as an opportunity to make further investments in the property and take great leaps in our offerings. It also enabled us to keep as many staff employed as possible and



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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Formerly at 78 Beechwood Ave., Pet Palace grooming (right) has moved to 264 Olmstead St.

expanded their skills. Each time we re-open, our clients would return excited to see what we improved," she said.

During their second COVID summer, RSC was able to safely host dozens of weddings, round-robin tennis drop-ins, and a 28-team ball-hockey league, run full-day children's camps, and open The Bridge (its second-floor restaurant) seven days a week.

"We invested and opened the largest outdoor fitness centre in Ottawa," said Carrie, describing an outdoor area on RSC's four-acre property along the Rideau River dedicated to yoga and fitness classes and an outdoor gym.

Carrie credits the RSC team with being very nimble in adapting to ever-changing public health guidelines with very little guidance or advance notice from the provincial government. As of Sep. 22, sports centres like RSC are among the places requiring proof of vaccination or exemption with government-issued identification.

"Anyone can play any sport anytime at RSC – there is no membership required," said Carrie, noting that all

RSC sports, services, restaurant, and bar are available to everyone. In a beautiful location on the Rideau River between Vanier, Overbrook and Sandy Hill, RSC is a convenient community hub: a place to meet friends for a game, a meal, or a drink by the firepit.

This fall, RSC is offering a full slate of activities for all ages. There is a new "Tennis Pathway" for adults and juniors, as well as coach-run, level-based play programs. Yoga classes are available daily in the outdoor Zen tent, with offerings for all levels. Fitness classes are running both indoors and out, morning and evening. Plus: the beach volleyball court and outdoor ball hockey rink are available to rent (call 613-749-6126 to check availability).

There are non-sports activities, too! The RSC Book Club takes place the first Tuesday of each month. Drop in to discuss fiction and non-fiction in a friendly, COVID-safe environment (registration required). Also, the RSC Outdoor Market is a monthly event featuring an eclectic selection of products – from

flowers to candles, food and clothing – for sale from local vendors.

NEN thanks the Rideau Sports Centre for their continued support and wishes the team a busy and active fall season.

The Rideau Sports Centre is located at 1 Donald St. Learn more about RSC's activities at rideausportscentre.com. Contact the restaurant at the-bridgepublichouse.com. –CL

Your Pet Palace moves to Vanier

A long-time resident of 78 Beechwood Ave., local pet groomer **Your Pet Palace** has relocated nearby at 264 Olmstead St. in Vanier. The move was necessary to make way for the forthcoming Minto Beechwood II development on that block (see details, page 1).

Clients can expect the same services from owner **Diane Campbell** and her team: full pet grooming, medicated shampoos, flea treatments, and nail-trims while you wait. Contact Your Pet Palace at 613-747-6568 or yourpetpalace@rogers.com. Please note: appointments are available by phone only. –TM

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Fieldhouse open to rent, but limited to seven people inside



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

Fall is slowly making its way into our lives. With that in mind, the Crichton Community Council's thoughts turn to the annual Halloween Howl, and planning for the winter skating season.

It's a little early to provide details on the Halloween Howl for 2021, but we are working on the logistics of holding a physically distanced event at and around the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse at the end of October. Watch for updates on chrichtoncommunitycouncil.ca and on our social media (see below).

As for the planning for the upcoming skating season, our rink attendants are already lined up for the year. There will be some new faces, as several of our attendants graduated high school this past spring. We are still looking for a first- or second-year university or college student

to take on the position of Skating Rinks Coordinator (student employment). The coordinator will manage the skating rinks, arrange activities, and schedule our rink volunteers and the half-dozen youth employed by the CCC. The position is for up to 35 hours per week (working mostly from home) from November 2021 to March 2022 and pays \$16 per hour. If you know someone who would be great in this position or would like to apply, contact us or send your résumé to: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com. We will accept candidate submissions until Oct. 10.

Let's not forget the all-important ice rink volunteers we all know as our "hosers." We're always looking for volunteers for the following tasks: building the base ice, ongoing or occasional hosing of the ice, and extra help with snow clearing after snowstorms. Weather permitting, our season will begin in mid-December and end

at the beginning of March. Don't be afraid to try something new by volunteering as a hoser! If you don't have the experience, we can pair you with a veteran partner. Last year, the CCC started using an app to schedule our rink attendants, greatly simplifying our administration. This year we'll use the same app to schedule the ice rink volunteers.

Finally, some good news: the Fieldhouse can once again be reserved for events. The CCC continues to work with the City of Ottawa to ensure compliance with provincial pandemic regulations. This is not an easy task as it involves conforming to myriad provincial and municipal requirements. Physical-distancing requirements have drastically reduced the indoor capacity of the Fieldhouse to seven people total: an important factor in your rental considerations. Because of the limits and restrictions in place, reservations are currently accepted only via email after we have reviewed event details to ensure pandemic regulations compliance. To inquire about a reservation, contact us at nefieldhouse@gmail.com.

To volunteer with the CCC, contact us at crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com or on Facebook: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil; on Instagram: @CrichtonCommunityCouncil; or on Twitter: @NEFieldhouse.



Photo by Sylvain Bélanger

With planning underway for the skating season, the CCC is looking to hire a post-secondary student as Skating Rinks Coordinator.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: A food bank delivery run

By George Parkanyi

It's 8:30 a.m. on a Friday. A small procession of vehicles pulls up to the back wing of the old Rideau High School on St. Laurent Boulevard, my *alma mater* a long, long time ago in a universe far, far away. This used to be the auto repair shop back then. A mild nostalgia sets in as I gaze at the windows behind which I was once an awkward teenager.

Groups of numbered boxes are stacked outside on tables. I back up my vehicle and give a masked nod and wave to my "wing-man" Judith also just pulling in. Judith is widowed and retired and was once a correspondent with the New York Times. We like to joke that Judith is the brains of the operation and I am the brawn.

We check our lists, printed earlier from the Ottawa Cares dispatch app – a sophisticated yet simple system worked out with the Ottawa Food Bank to match drivers and orders for vulnerable people

who cannot go there in person. We have routes #567, #568, #569, and #570, about 18 boxes, and our mission should we choose to accept it is to deliver to the high-rise across the street. I load them all into my vehicle. I have the space, Judith can't lift anymore, and loading and unloading is easier this way. I have remembered to bring

just across the street? I had forgotten you pull a U-turn at Coté back onto St. Laurent, not a left. A three-point turn on Guy Street and a shrug at Judith, but we quickly arrive.

We park and Judith begins calling the residents. That is her job – comms and intel. The first resident arrives with the building shopping cart, so I load her order onto that,

of it.

F directs me to an elderly couple's apartment on the ground floor; I unload their boxes on their balcony table. They offer me a couple of little pastries. I accept. Finally it's F's order. Technically we aren't supposed to enter buildings, but these people are extremely frail and the boxes heavy. The sign on the door

What Ottawa Cares—anchored by the Manor Park Community Association—has built, is truly impressive, dispatching food deliveries from three food bank locations. Kudos to them.

If you are interested in getting involved, visit ottawa-cares.ca.

George Parkanyi has been a New Edinburgh resident for 27 years and helped found the New Edinburgh Disaster Support (NEDS) that was launched at the onset of the pandemic.

"One lady has brought us a handful of candies. Judith and I are touched by the sweetness of it."

my fold-up dolly, bought in a moment of infomercial weakness, but which has proven its worth.


I start the car and slowly pull away. Judith follows. It's been a while, as work has kept me too busy of late. But I took this Friday off and figured, why not? I've delivered here before, but against all sound navigational best-practices, I immediately get lost. Did I mention it was

and another onto the dolly. Sorting out who's who is not easy here – prior deliveries here have been complex and messy. "F" is an un-official spokesperson for the group. The residents are in their 80s and 90s, immigrants who speak very little of either official language, and have no other relatives here. One lady has brought us a handful of candies. Judith and I are touched by the sweetness

says "Essential Personnel Only." I take that as a green light. We're all double-vaccinated and I'm masked, so... F and I chat along the way. She tells me she has cancer. I think "damn," and we talk about that a little. I unload her boxes just inside her doorway, thank her for helping with the others and head out, saddened.

Judith and I decide to finally go have that coffee.

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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

Despite ongoing COVID-related constraints, summer 2021 was an unalloyed delight for birders, as scores of songbirds surged into the area for the spring nesting season. By late June, our neighbourhood was home to a wide range of species, with males in full throat and sporting their bright breeding plumage. In my own rambles, the early summer tally included **American robins; song sparrows; chip-ping sparrows; white throat sparrows; white crowned sparrows** (which stopped by only briefly en route to their Arctic nesting grounds); **Eastern phoebes; red-eyed and warbling vireos; Great-crested flycatchers; cedar waxwings; common ravens; several Northern mockingbirds; and numerous American redstarts; yellow-rumped- and black-and-white warblers.**

On the Rideau River (in the interstices between noisy flocks of **Canada geese!**), we spotted families of **wood ducks; mallards; common goldeneye; and double-crested cormorants**, while **Great Blue herons** plied the aerial highway between Jacques Cartier Park on the Ottawa River and the Rideau Falls. And not least, our year-round population of **Northern cardinals; black-capped chickadees; house finches; American goldfinches; white-breasted nuthatches; American crows and pile-ated-, downy- and hairy woodpeckers** remained on the scene, busily engaged in nesting and parenting activity.

We were fortunate to have two sojourns in the Georgian Bay this summer, in early

July and again in late August. In July, bird life was abundant in part because of a province-wide LDD moth infestation, which decimated the oak trees on our island. An influx of **worm-eating warblers; pine warblers; and yellow-rumped warblers** took full advantage of the smorgasbord available as the moth larvae population exploded. The **worm-eating warbler** is a lesser-known member of the warbler family; while nondescript in its plumage, its sewing-machinelike song is a sure clue to its identity and was a prominent July background sound.

Other visitors in July ranged from **red-eyed vireos to Eastern phoebes; song sparrows; numerous American robins**, a relative rarity in past years; **common grackles; Blue Jays; pileated-, downy- and hairy woodpeckers and black-capped chickadees.** The Georgian Bay is traditionally home to a robust summer **osprey** population and this year was no exception. Over the years, I have come to know virtually all the nests in our corner of the Bay, and every one of them was inhabited by a family with one or two offspring. The nest which we consider "ours," given its proximity to our dock, was especially active in July. Each afternoon at exactly 4:45 p.m. – no kidding! – the young nestling began its hungry wail, pressing its parents to bring on a freshly caught fish supper. (Things got quite noisy if they dallied in the process!)

In our excursions on the water, we spotted **Great blue herons; common mergansers; double-crested cormorants; herring gulls; ring-**

billed gulls and common loons, including a beautiful family of three loons which made its home in a secluded bay near our island. A recent study probed the causes of a steady decline in the loon population. Leading the list of causes: lake acidification due to sulfur oxides from acid rain, which result in rising methylmercury levels in the water. At the top of the aquatic food chain, loons are especially vulnerable to high concentrations of these toxins, which can weaken their immune systems and compromise their ability to hunt for fish to feed their young. Compounding the problem is climate change, which has led to rising water temperatures and a sharp decline in the fish population which sustains the loons, along with numerous other avian species.

Sandwiched between our Georgian Bay visits, we were fortunate to return to Prince Edward Island for several days in July on the north coast at Brackley Beach. The island opened to visitors from across Canada only days before our scheduled stay. With vaccination passports in hand, we sailed through the border controls at the Confederation Bridge to spend a week savouring

the lush farm landscape and pristine beaches.

P.E.I. was a birder's paradise this year: **osprey; bald eagles; Great Blue herons; common ravens; blue jays; American robins; common yellowthroat warblers; American goldfinches; song sparrows; and red-eyed vireos** abounded. Somewhat oddly, an osprey family with two nestlings settled into a nest in the middle of a farmer's field. In my daily walks through the countryside, I watched the parents flap back and forth between an inlet several kilometres

away and their landlocked brood, which noisily awaited its next meal.

The birding highlight of our trip was a magical day on Brackley Beach: we walked a long stretch of shoreline we had never explored. In previous years, our usual walk took us east along an unspoiled, normally deserted stretch, avoiding the often-dense crowds of bathers found west of the Brackley Beach entrance.

This year, we had to head west: our favourite route was cordoned off to protect a nesting community of **pip-plo-**



Egret at Shirley's Bay.

Photo by Frank Martin



Photo by Mike Leveille

Black Crowned Night Heron at Macoun Marsh.



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Heron Nest in Kemptville, Ont.

Photo by Frank Martin

vers, an endangered species now the focus of an active conservation effort on the island. Happily, we discovered that after a brief crowded stretch, we were back in pristine, deserted territory. And there we encountered a **plover** goldmine: waves of both **piping plovers** and **semi-palmated plovers**, their bolder cousins. The enchanting little creatures skittered in and out of the waves, ignoring us as we walked among them.

Equally exciting was our discovery of a group of enormous **Great black-backed gulls**, stunningly handsome birds that dwarf the ubiquitous **ring-billed gulls** we usually see. Black-backed gulls are up to 30 inches long (versus 19 inches in the case of the ring-bills) and boast an impressive wingspan of up to five and a half feet. Handsome though they are, Great black-backs have an aggressive streak. They prey on terns and puffins which they pluck from the air mid-flight and shake until the smaller birds' necks are broken.

Returning to the Georgian Bay in late August, we feared the bird population might have dwindled dramatically, as the summer crowd headed out to warmer wintering grounds. While this was true in the case of such songbirds as **sparrows** and **warblers**, we were pleased to find a sizeable population of hangers-on. Notables were **red-eyed vireos**; **Eastern phoebes**; **Blue Jays** (in even larger numbers as the acorn crop ripened); **ruby-throated hummingbirds**; **common mergansers**; **black ducks**; **black-capped chickadees**;

double-crested cormorants; **common loons** (one of which swam boldly up to our dock); **hairy woodpeckers**; and a large flock of **common black hawks**.

The latter closely resemble **turkey vultures** in both appearance and behaviour, but on close inspection, they are shorter and stockier, and lack the vulture's signature white band on the underside of their wings. Black hawks lurk around the water's edge, hunting reptiles, amphibians, crabs, and bugs. We once paddled right past one perched on a rock, messily devouring its prey.

A first for me in August was spotting a **belted kingfisher**, which streaked into the woods on our island like a bolt from the blue. Belted kingfishers are stocky, blue-gray birds with a shaggy top-knot and a wide blue breast band. They hunt fish from shoreline perches or nearby tree branches, plunging head-first when they spot their prey. Their noisy, rattling calls are

a sure sign of their presence.

Our final August birding highlight was the haunting evening sound of two **great-horned owls** calling to one another from neighbouring islands. The gentle, rhythmic song persisted for a surprisingly long time, serving as a lullaby for our toddler grandchildren.

Glorious as the summer was, now that we're back in Ottawa, it's clear that fall has arrived. The fact was driven home to me by the sudden appearance of an immense blue jay at our sunroom window, peering in with a crabapple in its beak! The sight and multifarious sounds of the **blue jay** (from squeaky door-creaks to metallic chinks, raucous squawks, and other artful vocalizations) are a signature of fall in this part of Canada. This time of year, the jays are busy harvesting acorns, nuts, berries, and seeds in trees and shrubs and on the forest floor. Many will remain all winter: estimates suggest that only about 20

per cent of blue jays migrate south. Their favourite snack at our backyard feeding station is peanuts in the shell.

As we go to press, the annual fall migration is well advanced, and many of our summer residents are en route to wintering grounds in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean or South America. Those that can survive an occasional cold snap often stop in the U.S. south: in Texas, California, Louisiana, Arkansas, and the Carolinas. Given this active hurricane season, with Hurricanes Nicholas, Larry, and Ida bringing wild weather to the eastern North American coast, we wish the intrepid travelers safe travels!

Reports from our readers:

Mike Leveille reports three

mer took place at Lac Leamy Park, where he spotted a **black-crowned night heron** and a male **Baltimore oriole** tunneling head-first into its basket-like nest.

Out on the West Coast, Victoria, B.C. birding reporter **Vicki Metcalfe** encountered an assortment of **black-bellied plovers**, **sanderlings**, **ruddy turnstones**, **black turnstones**, **black oystercatchers** and **western sandpipers** during a recent shoreline birding expedition. On another outing to Sidney Spit, she was delighted to find **Caspian terns**, which she was first in her birding group to identify correctly.

Vicki is an active member of the Victoria Natural History Society (VHNS) and attended the recent unveiling



Red-Tailed Hawk at Macoun Marsh.

Photo by Mike Leveille

recent visitors of note at the Macoun Marsh off St. Laurent Boulevard: a **black-crowned night heron**; a **red-tailed hawk**; and a **nightjar** soaring overhead. Nightjars, such as **common night hawks** and **Eastern whip-poor-wills**, are aerial insectivores (birds which pluck insects out of the air in flight) and hunt their prey at night.

Philip MacAdam's Avian Bistro at Alexander and Thomas Streets was hoping all summer, hosting a range of regular diners from **black-capped chickadees** to **red- and white breasted nuthatches**, **downy- and hairy woodpeckers**, **Northern cardinals**, **American goldfinches**, **house finches** and **purple finches**. A pair of feisty **blue jays** also visited recently, along with a late-leaving **American redstart** which stopped by for a splash in the birdbath.

Two other birding highlights for Philip this sum-

of beautiful signs commemorating celebrated bird painter **Fenwick Lansdowne**. The VHNS received a heritage award in recognition of its substantial contribution to the project.

Right in her own backyard, Vicki's recent fall visitors included **chestnut-backed chickadees**, a **Bewick's wren** and a collection of young **American crows**.

Special thanks: Our extraordinary new bird photo contributors **Frank Martin** and **David Howe** have been busy this summer, expertly capturing the myriad species that nest in our area. We are grateful for the wealth of wonderful images they have shared with the NEN, and only wish we had space to print many more of them. The photos selected for this issue are highlights for this column, and we sincerely thank Frank and David for their generosity.



Scarlet Tanager.

Photo by David Howe

Native plants are a beautiful, healthy choice for gardens

By Raewyn Khosla

Have you noticed the recent buzz about native plants?

If you are wondering how you can support the local ecology in the face of disturbing loss of biodiversity, planting with natives is an easy, effective, and inspiring way to create positive change.

In Ontario, urban sprawl, ecologically deficient lawns, pesticide use, and loss of habitat have created a barren landscape for the local pollinators. These are keystone species which offer essential support to the systems which create food and sustain life on Earth. In this province alone we have more than 400 native bee species. There are also many non-bee pollinators – such as butterflies, wasps, hummingbirds, bats, flies, and beetles – that need support.

With creating habitat in mind, I set about designing and planting my tiny 19 x 19-foot front garden on River Lane. The goal was to not just to create a beautiful space, but also to create a wildlife haven.

Although not an unusual size for the pocket gardens of New Edinburgh, I was amazed at how many plants my little space absorbed. This summer I planted more than 100 seedlings including 31 different species of native plants: ground covers, perennials, shrubs, grasses, and one lovely Serviceberry tree whose berries were just delicious! Chose the plants to provide nectar and to act as hosts for the larval stages

of butterflies. I also chose a variety of bloom colours and shapes to provide visual interest from spring to fall.

So why choose natives instead of ornamentals? Ornamental plants are indeed gorgeous. But they are chosen purely for aesthetics and often offer no nutritive value to our local friends. Some are even detrimental and are listed as invasive, as they can spread into wild spaces where they create a lot of damage. Native plants have developed over many generations with local pollinators to provide essential sources of food that exotic plants simply cannot.

Local plants, once established, are resilient, low maintenance, and drought tolerant. They offer solutions for every garden condition.

Natives attract life. One of the joys of my new garden is simply observing the hundreds of pollinators of all varieties that have visited in



Photo by Raewyn Khosla

Raewyn Khosla constructing her native plant garden on River Lane in late June.

its brief time. Plant it and they will come! We are also careful to turn off our outdoor lights overnight as artificial light can be harmful to moths and fireflies.

Natives are also beautiful.



Photo by Raewyn Khosla

By August it was in full bloom, attracting all types of pollinators.

I've so enjoyed the jewel-like orange flowers of the Butterfly Milkweed, the delicate pink of the Swamp Milkweed, white billowing Pearly Everlasting blooms, the explosion of yellows on the Lance-Leaf Coreopsis and False Sunflower. The purple Anise Hyssop has been the winning wildlife magnet, with many other plants close behind.

Sourcing plants took some research, but I found excellent native plant nurseries in Ontario. It's important to buy pure natives to retain the benefits for pollinators. Unfortunately, many local nurseries sell cultivars or "nativars" labeled as natives. The Fletcher Wildlife Garden June sale is a great source of plants, as are Ontario Native Plants and Beaux Arbres in

Quebec. I also grew seedlings from verified seed.

This has been such an absorbing and rewarding project. I encourage everyone to add a few plants to their own gardens and watch as things come alive. I can't wait for next season when my garden will fully grow, and even more life will return to River Lane.

If you are interested in learning more on this topic, I recommend *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy, as well as Berit Erickson's website: corner-pollinatorgarden.net. You can also contact me: raewynk@raewynkhosla.com.

Raewyn Khosla and her family live on River Lane. She is an artist, mother and Alexander Technique teacher originally from New Zealand.

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Retired economist turned writer publishes first book

By Marta M. Reyes

Occasional Reverence is a new, pocket-sized collection of gripping short stories, poems, verses, and essays. It reads concisely and to the point, yet it is highly poignant, humorous, and full of vivid descriptions. Most importantly, it is the first work of fiction by New Edinburgh resident Keith Newton. Keith has been living in the neighbourhood for the past six years, most recently at the New Edinburgh Square retirement residence, where he moved in early 2020, just before the pandemic hit.

"There have been some very interesting times since then," he admits, including lockdowns, and general uncertainty. It did, however, help spawn some of the writing featured in his book.

Keith explains that at the start of the pandemic he pledged to write one short story per week, thinking, like most people, that the pandemic would last only a few weeks. After 52 stories he had to wave the white flag. "It was quite simply not possible to keep that up", he says with a chuckle.

Not all those earlier stories made it to the book, but the confinement and the writing seemed well suited under the circumstances.

Keith started writing as part of physical therapy to improve his mobility after an accident. Writing became a pastime, and he discovered he enjoyed the exercise of writing out sentences, which he

still does by hand, corrects, then types out, and corrects again.

He's no stranger to writing books, dating back to his job in economic research. However, those books were on data analysis and labour economics – as far from fiction as it gets. As a researcher, Keith worked at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and at Carleton University. He enjoyed his work and remains in touch with some of the people he met there. But perhaps not surprisingly, he says he finds fiction much more exciting, and his style of writing in *Occasional Reverence* is testament to that.

Many of the short stories draw the reader into the middle of the action, and many end just as sharply as they started, leaving details to the readers' imagination. Keith says a lot of the short stories are autobiographical, hence their careful attention to detail, like the hockey stick at the scene of a car crash in "Heavens, No!" Others – like "Lilacs Rule" and "Culture Shock" – touch on Keith's experience when he arrived in Canada from England. And there's the reflective and highly descriptive essay "Aurora," and the playful "Viral Verses."

When he's not writing, Keith keeps busy volunteering at the New Edinburgh Square. Having lived there from the start of the pandemic, he holds the staff in high regard and is grateful for their professionalism and

dedication. He does his part by encouraging and helping fellow residents to keep their minds and bodies in good shape. He runs a weekly brain-sharpening session he calls "Guess the News," which involves getting a few residents together and introducing current topics from the news in a question-and-answer format, which Keith writes on a whiteboard. Topics range from "Who Died?" to politics, sports, world affairs, and arts, and even solving an anagram as a bonus. "It's important to keep the brain active at any age," says Keith. To prepare for the sessions, he must keep up with the news each week, so he can challenge his well-read fellow residents.

Keith has also observed one unpredictable benefit of the pandemic: that older people have become quite comfortable with technology, taking advantage of it to connect with friends and family. "We're all very familiar with Zooming now," he says.

He also runs body conditioning sessions twice a week at the Square: exercises residents can do from their chairs. Keith is keenly aware of the benefits of physical activity, having been athletic all his life. Upon arriving in Canada, he joined a field hockey team, though he was never lured by ice hockey. He also played tennis, rugby, and soccer, but his favourite was always running, and he participated in the Ottawa Race Weekend in the past.

Occasional Reverence is



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

New Edinburgh News contributor Keith Newton has published a pocket-sized collection of his writing, which was quite prolific during the pandemic lockdowns.

published in Ottawa by Loose Canon Press, which is owned by a friend Keith made at Ottawa's Independent Writers group. Keith says he looks forward to the time when his business card will feature the title Writer, rather than Economist. From the way his first book reads, he's already

there.

Occasional Irreverence is available at Books on Beechwood.

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

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St. Bart's launches campaign to restore the Geddes window

By Bonnie Robinson and Meriel Bradford

Did you know that the Church of St Bartholomew is home to an internationally recognized work of memorial art?

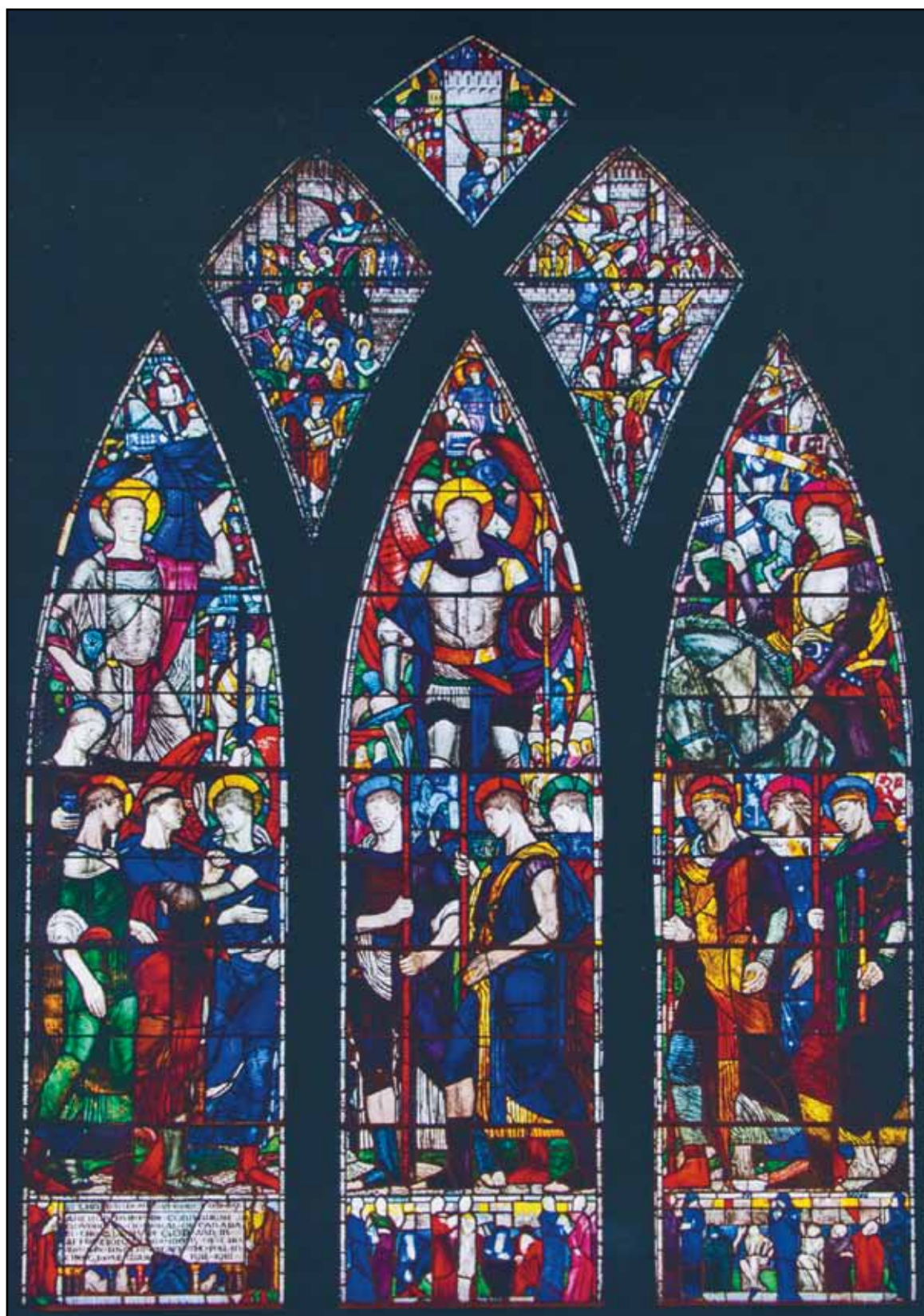
St Bart's at 125 MacKay St. has a long-established relationship with Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor General of Canada. The front pew is reserved for the governor general and their family and the colours of the Governor General's Foot Guards are laid up there in what has come to be known as "The Guard's Chapel." The coats of arms of the governors general are fixed high along both sides of the church. The large stained-glass East Window in St Bartholomew's was commissioned in 1917 by the Duke of Connaught, Canada's 10th governor general, to commemorate the members of his personal staff who died on the battlefields of Belgium and France in the First World War. Several staff members served in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI).

Titled "The Welcoming of a Slain Warrior by Soldier Saints, Champions and Angels," the window was

designed and made by the Irish stained-glass artist Wilhelmina Geddes (1887–1955), a member of Dublin's collective stained-glass studio, An Túr Gloine. Geddes worked within the conventions of the Irish Arts and Crafts movement, in which every work of art is the creation of a single artist. Geddes's only commission in North America, the window is now recognised internationally as an exceptional work of memorial art. Themes are drawn from the Arthurian legends, depictions of grieving women, and the battle in heaven, and images include the crucifixion and the resurrection. It is known in art circles as the Geddes "Ottawa" Window.

"Nowhere in modern glass is there a more striking example of a courageous adventure in the medium." (—C. J. Connich, International Studio, 1924)

This impressive memorial work helped establish Geddes's considerable reputation as an artist in stained glass. It is the only work of hers to be found outside Britain and continental Europe. After showings in



Unveiled in 1919, the stunning Geddes "Ottawa" window at St. Bartholomew's church needs restoring.



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Dublin and London, the window was unveiled at St. Bart's by Edward, Prince of Wales, at a dedication service on Nov. 9, 1919, while he was in Ottawa to lay the stone of the rebuilt Parliament Buildings. It is now more than 100 years old and has been a popular draw with many visitors during the annual Doors Open Ottawa.

The Parish of St. Bart's is fortunate to have this window; we are also duty-bound to ensure its restoration and continued preservation. Along with other stained glass in the church, this window requires major restoration by expert

restorers to ensure it is there for future generations.

With the support of our Honorary Campaign Chair, former governor general David Johnston, who is a former parishioner at St. Bart's, the parish is undertaking a three-year capital campaign to restore the stained-glass windows in general and the Geddes "Ottawa" Window in particular. The restoration work is planned for the summer of 2022. For more information or to make your donation to this campaign, contact the church office at 613-745-7834 or stbarts@bellnet.ca or visit stbartsottawa.ca.

Burgh-raised rower's 10-year journey to the Olympics

By Maggie Baer-Opazo

Rower **Joshua King** recently returned to Canada from the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where he competed as an alternate on the Canadian men's rowing team. He's come a very long way from the Ottawa River to the Sea Forest Waterway in Japan.

King was born and raised in New Edinburgh. He began his rowing journey more than a decade ago at Lisgar Collegiate Institute and the Ottawa Rowing Club (ORC) on Sussex Drive.

and wanted to make sure that everything ran smoothly. Several classes of school children came out to watch and cheer us on as we trained."

After two weeks, the team relocated to the Athletes' Village in Tokyo. Joshua was honoured to join Team Canada in the parade of athletes as they entered the Japan National Stadium for the Opening Ceremonies of the XXXII Olympiad.

"The Opening Ceremonies were incredibly special, and I was proud to be a part of it. It represented that the Olympics

the senior heavyweight singles final, the championship singles finals, and the senior lightweight pair.

Joshua became only the sixth sculler in the 135-year history of the Canadian Henley to win three major singles finals and be part of a small group to capture four or more victories in a single regatta.

He then joined the national rowing team on Vancouver Island, just north of Victoria, B.C. In 2019, he competed at the PanAm Games in Peru in the Lightweight men's dou-

ness and joy to see your son representing Canada on this international stage."

Josh thanked, in particular, "my teammates from the Ottawa Rowing Club, who helped me fall in love with the sport, my teammates at Trent University, my university coach Carol Love, my Ottawa coach **Ed Fournier**, and of course my parents who have always supported me!"

At the Tokyo Olympics, the Canadian women's eights won the gold medal, and the women's pair won the bronze medal. While the men's team did not fare as well this time, Joshua says they are looking

forward to better results in Paris 2024.

Joshua has now returned to Vancouver Island for three more years of intense training. No matter what his future holds, he will relish hitting the calm waters at 7:00 a.m., surrounded by the Pacific coastal mountains and rainforest.

Maggie has lived in New Edinburgh for 25 years with her husband and four sons. Her eldest son, Daniel, rowed with Joshua King in the Lisgar eights boat that won the Ottawa-Carleton Secondary Schools regatta.



Photo by row2k

Rower Joshua King trains at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The 28-year-old high-performance athlete came home with a cartload of Olympic memorabilia, warm memories, and a rekindled desire to continue pursuing international competition and the next Olympics in Paris in 2024.

The Canadian men's rowing team arrived in Japan early to train and acclimatize in Sagami-hara, where the locals eagerly welcomed the Canadians. The city is twinned with Toronto, and their hosts proved very knowledgeable and excited about the Canadian athletes.

"As soon as we arrived in Sagami-hara we were welcomed with open arms," said Joshua. "The road to our accommodations was adorned with Canadian flags and well wishes. Our hosts were incredibly hospitable

were finally upon us after an extra year of preparation and waiting," he said.

Joshua has been chasing this dream since 2011, when he won his first regatta, representing Lisgar at the Canadian Secondary Schools Association championship in St. Catharines, Ont. He and teammate Alex Munro (from Manor Park) won the gold medal in men's pairs.

Joshua continued his training as captain of the Trent University rowing team, where he raced to two Ontario University Athletics gold medals in 2015. In 2016, he was named Ontario Rower of the Year.

In 2017, Joshua achieved historic results while representing the ORC at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in St. Catharines. Not only did he win the senior men's lightweight final, but he also won

ble, finishing sixth.

Joshua's daily training regime includes rowing in the early morning and afternoon, weight training, and "erging" (training on an ergometer: an indoor rowing machine). He also consumes 7,000 calories every day. Given its highly technical and demanding nature, elite rowing means a lifestyle of rigorous discipline and commitment.

Joshua's father, Pastor **Bryan King** of St. Luke's Lutheran Church on MacKay Street, said: "Joshua works hard on his goals. He is an incredible athlete. Josh thrives on both the team spirit and the competitiveness of rowing. He has accomplished so much."

Joshua's mother **Susan King**, who used to teach at Rockcliffe Park Public School, added: "It is such a fantastic feeling of happi-



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Partage Vanier Gardens: nurturing more than just veggies



Photo by Mary Ellen Cavett

Lucille Gaudet plants seedlings at the community plot at the Just Food Community Farm.



Photo by Mary Ellen Cavett

Volunteers clear the community plot at the Just Food Community Farm for planting.

By Mary Ellen Cavett

Community spirit and volunteerism are alive and well in Ottawa! This year, neophyte and experienced gardeners alike from across the city helped make the Jardins Partage Vanier Gardens initiative, which grows fresh organic vegetables for clients

of the Partage Vanier Food Bank, a success.

Partage Vanier, the community food bank located at 161 Marier Ave., is operated by the Vanier Community Services Centre (CSC Vanier). Partage Vanier provides food and toiletries to approximately 400–450 local

families – that’s about 900–1,000 people – every month. Clearly, there is a desperate need for the food that Partage Vanier provides to its clients.

One of the key challenges for all food banks is providing fresh fruit and vegetables to clients. Each week, the Ottawa Food Bank delivers non-perishable food as

well as some fresh fruit and vegetables to Partage Vanier. Helena Arruda, the Director of Community Development and Counselling at CSC Vanier, said CSC Vanier spends about 30 per cent of its annual revenue to purchase additional fresh fruit and vegetables for Partage Vanier’s clients.

Several years ago, CSC Vanier built garden beds alongside the Partage Vanier building to grow vegetables for clients. For the past three years, Éric Ménard, a retired veteran who served in Afghanistan, has been the volunteer gardener at Partage Vanier, growing a wide range of fresh herbs and vegetables in the small garden. Earlier this year, staff and volunteers at Partage Vanier were delighted when CSC Vanier received a small grant. It used the funds to rent a plot at the Just Food Community Farm, located just west of Blackburn Hamlet, with the goal of growing more fresh vegetables for clients.

The first order of business was to assemble a team of volunteer gardeners. Éric, who lives in Vanier, put out a call on Facebook, and people living across the city responded. Since May, about 15 people have volunteered their time to plant, weed, water, and harvest vegetables for the clients of Partage Vanier.

Most people who volunteered did so out of a desire to give back to the community. As Lindenlea resident Julie

Desmarais said: “there is a feeling of gratitude and helpfulness being a volunteer.” Lucille Gaudet, an avid gardener living in the Cummings neighbourhood, who also volunteers with Hidden Harvest (an organization that picks and donates fruit that would otherwise go to waste to local food banks), enjoyed using her gardening skills to help clients of the food bank. Blackburn Hamlet resident Patti volunteers because she considers Jardins Partage Vanier Gardens a good cause and she knows that the clients would appreciate receiving fresh vegetables.

For some people, volunteering is a way to spend time with family. Stephanie Parisien, who lives in Findlay Creek, initially decided to volunteer along with her nephew, who was working toward his school’s volunteer-hour requirement. They’ve both continued to volunteer as “it’s great to be outdoors and lending a hand in good company...and it is also a great family activity.”

For some, working at the community garden plot has been a way to make new friends. As Lucille noted, volunteering has been an excellent way to meet and safely socialize with people during the pandemic. After a morning’s hard work, volunteers rest and chat at the picnic table Éric purchased and placed under a small tree at the end of the community garden plot.

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For others, volunteer gardening is a way to get into shape. The community plot at Just Food Community Farm hadn't been cultivated for years and was covered with a heavy thatch of weeds, so volunteers had to dig out and hand-till the soil to get it ready for planting. Dave, who lives in Blackburn Hamlet, said preparing the plot was "a great way to get a workout," especially given that gyms were closed then due to the pandemic.

The success of the Jardins Partage Vanier Gardens initiative is also due in part to the support of local companies and organizations. Late last fall, the Conscious Builder Inc., located at 123 Beechwood Avenue, donated time and skills to build a garden shed beside the Partage Vanier building to store the group's tools. The reclaimed wood used to build the shed was donated by The Wood Source in Manotick. As well, Just Food Community Gardens donated most of the organic seedlings that the group's volunteers planted this year.

As a result of volunteers' hard work and dedication, Jardins Partage Vanier Gardens is now harvesting a wide variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbages, peppers, potatoes, zucchini, carrots, and green beans. And Partage Vanier's clients are very appreciative of all this hard work. Éric says that clients often come over to speak to him while he's working in the garden at Partage Vanier: "I see the smiles on their faces, and they are very thankful."

For more information on the Jardins Partage Vanier Gardens initiative, contact Éric Ménard on Instagram (@jardinier_gardener) or on Facebook (@Jardins Partage Vanier Gardens). To make a donation to the food bank, please contact Jean-Michel Rousseau, Coordinator, Partage Vanier Food Bank, at 613-744-2892.

Mary Ellen Cavett is a local photographer/videographer. To see more of her work, visit mecavettphotography.com or on Instagram @maryellenca-vett.



Éric Ménard works in the vegetable gardens at the Partage Vanier Food Bank.

Photo by Mary Ellen Cavett



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Tales from the Square: Keeping good spirits in troublesome times

Continued from page 1

tinue to be – made by the residence staff. Daily they loyally enter a building housing many whose ailments render them immunocompromised and whose age alone puts them in the high-risk category for contracting the virus. These courageous employees literally risk their lives every day and must fear not only for themselves, but also for the families to whom they

return when their shift is over. Receptionists and personal support workers, housekeepers and nurses, servers and maintenance staff, drivers and general assistants and cooks: all do the dangerous job of caring for the welfare of residents.

The managers, too, are exposed to the hazards of a vulnerable workplace and it is a tribute to their good humour and inventiveness that they were able to maintain morale

and good spirits during these troublesome times.

So, how did people cope with the frustrations imposed by ever-changing guidelines, policies, procedures, protocols, and advisories: often unclear, sometimes contradictory and sometimes just plain illogical? Some claimed that they were hardly affected at all: “I watch more TV and I read a bit more; I phone friends and maybe chat a bit longer; and I don’t go out

much anyway,” one resident told me. But for some there were definite adjustments.

Many of us are creatures of habit – used to routines. So the total lockdowns were especially irksome. No more visits with Auntie Mabel on Thursdays, shopping on Saturdays, church on Sunday morning followed by brunch with friends. Instead of companionable meals in the dining room – at our preferred hour – it was trays served by harried staff members in full personal protective equipment at whatever time they could manage to come. (Cindy, the food services manager, used a Fitbit to estimate that her servers, feeding more than 80 people on eight floors, covered six miles per shift.) Residents grumbled but realized that the staff were run off their feet. The employees were stoic. Somehow, we got through – several times. And not without a little dry humour: one lady said the lockdown was good for her bank balance; one car owner said that since COVID he was getting “three months per gallon.”

Any lessening of restrictions was, of course, met with unanimous relief. But meanwhile, the big bad world outside had changed dramatically. Restaurants, bars, gyms, pools, cinemas were closed; shopping was restricted, and many businesses were shut down. NES managers – especially Hillary and her successor Ashley – scrambled to offer new distractions for fatigued and jaded residents with time on their hands. Group activities were restricted as to numbers of people, but their frequency was stepped up to compensate. Many mind-stretching puzzles and games were made available, and residents could attend several versions of “gentle exercise.” As the spring weather became more tolerable the rooftop terrace and garden afforded fresh air and a stroll among beautiful flowers and foliage. One could also enjoy the sights and sounds of the urban landscape from the street-level patio.

But it’s interesting how people got busy on their own. Spring cleaning! Junk from attics and basements that had somehow accompanied residents to their new abode

was ruthlessly rooted out. Old photos were rummaged out of battered albums, scrapbooks and shoeboxes and organized after decades of dormancy. Many residents succumbed to their grandchildren’s entreaties to “Come on, Gran, get into the 21st-century” and with help from Hillary and Ashley were soon gossiping about Zoom, Skype, and FaceTime.

Liam O’ Brian, President of the NES Residents’ Association, now orders his groceries by phone and drives over to the designated spot where he announces his arrival, again by phone, and receives his pre-packed box of goodies. He, like many residents, now do most of their other shopping online and it is common to see the reception desk piled high with parcels. “Just like Christmas,” grinned one happy recipient, then, “I guess I’m a ‘hybrid’ shopper now; I do some of it in person, but most online. And I’m not going back.”

“Hybrid” seems to be COVID word of the year. Many residents told me that their children – those still working – are being offered differing work models. Where it’s feasible, employees are offered work at home, in the office, or a hybrid of the two. Similarly, their grandchildren will probably receive a hybrid education of some classroom work with a real, live teacher and some online teaching, which they can receive almost anywhere.

And whatever happened to doctors’ appointments? Many are now done by phone. And if you’ve got a swollen ankle, you’d better take a picture with your smartphone and send it to your doctor electronically.

Looks like we’re well on our way to a new normal.

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



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Meals on Wheels takes on the isolation of COVID-19

By Michael Girgis

Larry likes to keep busy throughout the day. As a former carpenter, he has designed, built, and renovated several projects around his home. He personally renovated the flooring and the walls of his house and he has built the fencing, the roof, and even an addition to the garage! "I've just always had a knack for handiwork," he says. At age 83, he remains an avid horseshoe and dart player. In fact, Larry played these sports at an international level and remains incredibly passionate about them. He had the pleasure of working at Expo '86 in Vancouver, B.C. He loves to travel and has managed to visit all regions across Canada.

As a Meals on Wheels/La Popote Roulante client since 2014, Larry enjoys the quality of the food that he gets every weekday. "The meals are handy all around... I'm not a cook, I can do just about everything else, but when it comes to cooking, I just can't do it." For Larry, these meals mean much more than simply saving him from his own cooking skills. His favourite part about the meals was enjoying them with his loving wife of 40 years. "We did absolutely everything together. Gosh, I really miss her," he says.

Larry may not be representative of a typical client, who may need multiple supports at home, but with Meals on Wheels he is able to get the nutrition he needs and see a friendly face. Larry has been quite lonesome over the past six years with the passing of his wife. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the issue, as he rarely ever leaves his home. Often, his only point of contact in a day is the caring check-in by Meals on Wheels volunteers.



Photo courtesy Michael Girgis

Meals on Wheels needs more volunteers to help bring meals to clients like Larry (above), who appreciate not only the food, but also the human contact they bring.

"They're great, I appreciate what they're doing. I just think they're doing a heck of a job, these volunteers," he says. The meal program goes a long way to ensure he can continue to do all the activities he loves, where he loves to do them: in his own home.

Sadly, Larry's previous interactions with the long-term care system, where his mother used to live, were not positive. "I hated seeing her in that place, I lamented visiting." The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the crucial importance of programs like Meals on Wheels in offering seniors an alternative. "I've been in my house for 50 years, it's in a beautiful locale. I can't see myself living anywhere else."


Projections say there will be more than 250,000 seniors in the Ottawa region by 2031, a sizeable portion of whom will live on a low income. Founded in 1968 as a registered charity, Meals on Wheels offers the lowest price-point for delivered, complete, hot meals in the city. Its importance as a partner in the health care system has been underscored by

the critical function it has served during the COVID-19 pandemic. The service saw a 25 per cent increase in demand for meals during 2020. Volunteers delivered 120,000 meals to more than 1,647 seniors and adults with disabilities, more than 40 of whom, on average, live in nearby Sandy Hill.

How does Meals on Wheels do it? With the help of a dedicated team of more than 320 volunteers! Right now, the group sorely needs more volunteers to support clients like Larry in maintaining their independence. When asked what he would say to someone thinking of getting Meals on Wheels, he replies: "It's pretty easy-going, great for older people! It grants me flexibility; I only occasionally go out for groceries now."

If you or someone you know would benefit from the Meals on Wheels service, please call 613-233-2424. If you would like to donate to help our clients, please visit our website at mealsonwheels-ottawa.org.

Michael Girgis is the marketing and outreach assistant at Meals On Wheels.



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MackKay church to maintain hybrid worship experience

By Eleanor Dunn

MacKay United Church resumed its Sunday services in its sanctuary on Aug. 29. The church plans to continue services on Sundays, but it will depend on the COVID-19 situation, and whatever public health guidelines are in force at the time. Livestreaming of services will continue on MacKay's Facebook page and the church's YouTube channel regardless of any restrictions which might be in place for public gatherings.

When pandemic lockdown began, MacKay embraced new technology by participating in VIRTCH — virtual Sunday services developed in participation with the East End Collaboration of United Churches — centered at the Orleans United Church, which was the leader in using technology for this purpose.

MacKay's newly "wired" sanctuary allowed the church to play a larger role in VIRTCH with segments of Sunday services recorded at MacKay and provided to Orleans United for inclu-

sion in the Sunday broadcasts on Facebook and YouTube. As the lockdown continued, entire services from the MacKay sanctuary were broadcast on MacKay's Facebook and YouTube sites. Throughout, the goal was to fully develop technological capacity to allow for simultaneous recording and livestreaming of services and special events with the congregation present in the MacKay sanctuary. To reach persons who are shut-in or otherwise unable to physically attend at the church on Sunday, MacKay's church council has decided that livestreaming will continue even after all the restrictions on gatherings are lifted.

In order to re-open the church on Sundays, the church council has established a number of new rules which will remain in force until all public health restrictions have been lifted.

Those planning to attend at MacKay on Sundays should be aware of the following:

- entry is via the MacKay Street door only;
- masks MUST be worn

inside the building;

- hand sanitizer at the door is to be used on entry and exit;
- you will be asked for your name and phone number for contact tracing purposes only;
- an usher will seat you upon entry;
- family groups may sit together, but physical distancing rules must be followed; and
- you are asked to remain seated during the service.

While Sunday school is unavailable, children are welcome at Sunday services; however, parents are asked to bring a quiet activity to occupy their children during the service. The congregation will not participate in hymn singing as a soloist will fulfill that function. However, the congregation is asked to join in saying prayers, responses and the creed.

At the end of the service, congregants must remain in their seats until an usher arrives to escort you to the door. And please: for liability reasons, the church asks you to refrain from socializing on the church steps after service. Use the sidewalk for that pur-



Photo by Marc Seguin

MacKay United Church on the corner of Dufferin at MacKay streets.

pose. Zoom chats continue at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

If necessary, VIRTCH will continue through Lent 2022. In the meantime, MacKay's Worship Committee is planning for the future, including working out how Memorial Hall rentals can resume, along with other church functions in the hall.

The reopening schedule is subject to change on short notice due to the pandemic's fourth wave. Please check the church website

(mackayunitedchurch.com) or call the church office at **613-749-8728** prior to committing to attending in person. You can also get information via e-mail: admin@mackayunitedchurch.com or the church's Facebook page: facebook.com/mackayunited.

Eleanor Dunn raised her family on Dufferin Road and now lives with her oldest son and her dog Hamish on The Mews. She is an active member of MacKay United Church.

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Executors: Build the Right Team



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Broker of Record

While it is an honour to be asked to be an executor, you may be unsure about your role and responsibilities. Administering another person's assets, particularly when they include real estate, may be very challenging. Executors are advised to choose an estate lawyer and a realtor who will bring the necessary knowledge and experience to the table.

Because executors are accountable to beneficiaries and to creditors, it may be prudent to keep detailed records of the advice received in case they are called upon someday to justify their actions.

One of the trickiest parts of selling an estate home is deciding when to list the property. Bear in mind that, in most cases, executors are not able to transfer the title of the home to a new buyer. In addition, they will not have access to the estate funds needed to prepare the home for sale before probate is granted by the courts.

To complete the probate application, the value of the home at the date of death is required. It will benefit executors to hire an experienced realtor who does not overlook the possibility that, depending on the zoning,

lot size and location, the lot may be worth more than the house on the lot. A formal appraisal from an accredited appraiser may be a worthwhile investment.

If the home is listed before probate, the agreement of purchase and sale will commonly provide that the closing date will be a certain number of days following the date probate is granted. In Ottawa, the anticipated approval time for probate is 6-10 weeks but this could extend into years if a notice of objection is filed, requiring the matter to go to court.

Executors will want to know what effect the uncertainty of the closing date may have on buyer interest and the final sale price. The answer may depend on market conditions and the underlying motivation of each buyer. Buyers who intend on flipping the property for profit often care less about the closing date than buyers trying to secure a home to enjoy. Although the homeseeker is likely to pay substantially more than the flipper, they may not move forward with an offer because of their inability to line up the closing date with the sale of their current home or to schedule contractors to complete improvements needed before taking possession.

It is possible to fashion an agreement of purchase and sale that allows the buyer to take possession of the home prior to the transfer of title, but there are risks involved for both the buyer and the estate. What if the buyer's financial or personal situation changes, and they are no longer willing or able to close or maintain



Executors, often trusted friends or loved ones, may accept their role out of an act of kindness.

possession of the home or what if they affect changes that devalue the property?

It is easy to see how important it is that the listing brokerage avoids a conflict of interest and does not represent the interests of both the buyer and the estate. It is equally as important for buyer and seller to have independent legal counsel.

Executors, often trusted friends or loved ones, may accept their role out of an act of kindness, bringing peace to the appointor who is confident that their wishes will be fulfilled. If guided by the right professionals, the experience can go smoothly and be wonderfully rewarding.

For a helpful checklist or if you have any questions, please contact Judy Faulkner: Judy@HomesInOttawa.com 613-231-4663

Rockcliffe Park Book Fair goes virtual for 60th anniversary

By Joni Hamlin

The Rockcliffe Park Public School Book Fair began as a modest venture in 1961 to promote literacy among school-age children and to inspire a love of reading. The first Book Fair was a one-day event held in a single classroom at the school. Volunteers collected and sold 50 books. Modern day (pre-COVID) events would attract thousands of customers, and the Book Fair has become known as one of the largest collections of used children's books anywhere in Canada.

The last Book Fair took place in November 2019, and we look forward to the day when it can run again. It's grown from a single classroom to filling an entire gymnasium; from a one-day event to a three-day extravaganza. Instead of days of preparation, it is now a year-round process; typically, as one Book Fair ends, collections soon begin for the next.

The net proceeds from the sale are used to purchase supplies and arrange activities for literacy programs

at Rockcliffe Park Public School. It also pays for field trips, educational workshops, and other school enrichment efforts. The proceeds from Book Fair flow not only back to RPPS, but also to other area schools in the form of no-strings-attached grants to support their literacy programs and other needful projects.

November 2021 will mark the 60th anniversary of Rockcliffe Park Book Fair and our theme is:

"I ❤️ Book Fair!"

Due to continuing public health restrictions at RPPS, Book Fair will be going virtual! Check our website rockcliffeparkbookfair.com for exact details on how we'll celebrate the 60th anniversary.

We're interested in hearing your Book Fair memories, past and present! Have you attended in the past? Have you volunteered? Did you (or your parents) attend RPPS and now have a child in the school? Please contact the Book Fair Chair, Joni Hamlin,

at joni@hamlin.ca (or via the Book Fair website), with memories, photos, and fun Book Fair tales. We've created a 60th Anniversary committee and welcome anyone who wishes to be involved and help with the planning.

The future of Book Fair

Did you know community members are welcome to join the Book Fair Committee? We need your help! The Book Fair Committee is short on volunteers to help plan this year's virtual sale, and also to help prepare for future in-person sales. If you have some time to spare, we can fill it. We have several positions on the Executive Committee, as well as many other smaller (i.e., less time-consuming) roles.

We're also looking for sponsors for a planned virtual storytelling experience for RPPS students. If you can be a sponsor, or help us coordinate this event, please reach out.

Book donation update

We know a lot of you have been holding on to your books for us – we're just not yet



Photo by Seanna Kreager

The Book Fair at Rockcliffe Park Public School (pictured in 2013) has come a long way since it began in 1961.

certain when we can accept them again. Since the start of the pandemic, Book Fair has been unable to access the storage rooms inside the school for safety reasons. We did secure some space in a private warehouse, but that quickly filled up after the one and only book drive we were able to hold this past summer. As soon as restrictions ease (or if we find more storage space) we will share the news on our website and through social media. We're just as

anxious as you are to begin again!

A big, heartfelt thank you from everyone at Book Fair for your continued support of this much-loved, community event.

Book Fair ❤️s YOU!

Joni Hamlin is the chair of the Book Fair at Rockcliffe Park Public School. Learn more at rockcliffeparkbookfair.com and follow Book Fair on social media.



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COVID-19 recovery

- Highest vaccination rate amongst large cities in Canada
- Increased vaccination access through mobile and neighbourhood clinics to reach #CommunityImmunity
- Creation of the Human Needs Task Force to assist our most vulnerable residents
- Support for small businesses throughout the pandemic: Buy Local Campaign, Property Tax Hardship Deferral Program, Business Reopening Toolkit, waived patio fees



Economic rebound

- Lowest unemployment rate amongst Canada's six largest cities throughout the pandemic
- Patio Innovation Program: hundreds of new patios, 500 additional seats with street closures, and lifted café seating limits
- Attracting more major events: 2021 Canoe Kayak Sprint Championships, 2022 LPGA CP Women's Open, 2022 Volleyball Nationals, 2026 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships & more
- \$398M in investments attracted to Ottawa and 990 new jobs created through Invest Ottawa
- Diversified rural investment and job-creation through the City's first Rural Economic Development Strategy



Equity & affordability

- \$82M in COVID-specific funding for housing and social service partners
- Opened three respite centres with access to bathrooms, showers and other supports for residents in the shelter system, serving an average of 210 clients daily
- Delivering a record amount of new affordable units in this term of Council (\$47M in affordable housing to deliver 359 units in 2021)
- Froze the cost of the EquiPass and the Community Pass for the third consecutive year – an additional investment of \$185K for low-income transit users



Protecting our environment

- Delivering the first Net Zero Carbon library in Canada
- Arrival of electric buses this year
- Transforming the Prince of Wales Bridge into the Chief William Commanda active transportation corridor for pedestrians, cyclists and x-country skiers
- Completed planning for Stage 3 LRT to Kanata, Stittsville and Barrhaven



Safer roads and neighbourhoods

- Creating 15-minute walkable communities
- Spending \$37.8M this year on road safety initiatives
- Reduced serious T-bone collisions by 50% thanks to our Red-Light Camera Program
- Reinvesting \$2.5M in road safety measures through the Automated Speed Enforcement pilot
- Reinstated the Neighbourhood Policing Program to forge positive relationships with residents and community partners
- Renewed William and Rideau Streets in the ByWard Market to provide more greenery, safer walking and cycling conditions and help businesses
- Established a Byward Market Leadership Table with key partners to address ongoing public safety concerns

Our community

- Work is underway to improve Montréal Road, encouraging urban renewal, promoting the development of cultural assets, and supporting business investments and expansion.
- Two EV charging stations coming to New Edinburgh this fall! (245 Crichton Street & 100 Beechwood Avenue)



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jimwatsonottawa.ca

jim.watson@ottawa.ca

From the *NEN* archives: April 2005

Page 8

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

April 2005

New Edinburgh Viewed Anew After Four Years in Tokyo



Tokyo ancient and modern

By David Paget

There's nothing like living in the world's largest megalopolis, Tokyo, to make you appreciate living in New Edinburgh.

This certainly has been my experience since returning last August after 4 years in Japan. Don't get me wrong: I loved Tokyo. I reveled in its contrasts of new and old, its courtesy as a fine art, the personal security one enjoys there, its cleanliness, refinement, and extraordinary cultural vitality (East meets West). Too few foreign travelers know that Tokyo is one of the most civilized, sophisticated and prosperous places on earth - with plenty of sights worth seeing. Its dynamism and energy, combined with the flair of much of its recent architecture and interior design, give it a real buzz.

Tokyo's overall appearance is relentlessly modern, as it constantly strives to reinvent itself. "Scrap and build" is what Japanese call the phenomenon of replacing often perfectly good buildings with new ones, in a city where struc-

tures of 25 years are considered old. But one of Tokyo's treats is coming across remnants of its past, such as diminutive wooden Shinto shrines, sometimes the size of large boxes, wedged incongruously between modern office buildings. Gleaming high-rises are built by workers sporting medieval wide-flared trousers and splayed shoes.

But there is no denying that with its huge population (33 million in Greater Tokyo) and high land values, living space is at a premium. And given its history of devastating earthquakes and the horrendous bombing it suffered toward the end of WWII, much of the city including central residential neighbourhoods is filled with concrete buildings, packed closely together.

So, coming back to New Edinburgh has been a treat in so many ways. My overwhelming impressions are of tranquility, spaciousness, nature, and heritage. Wandering through Stanley Park along the languid Rideau River (look - no concrete embankments!), and gaz-



ing at the illuminated Peace Tower, the spires of Notre Dame Basilica and the geometric forms of old City Hall as the sun sets over the Ottawa River, are pleasures quite unlike those experienced in Tokyo. Sunsets there went unobserved, blocked by the mass of tall buildings stretching to the horizon. (Mind you, there was somewhat more to do after sundown than in Ottawa...)

Walking along New



Ancient court dance performed at Meiji Shrine

Edinburgh's streets, and admiring the many lovingly preserved houses and buildings of yesteryear is a greater treat for me than ever before. Not that our neighbourhood is frozen in time: in the years I've been away, numerous improvements such as renovations and good infill housing have taken place. Seeing the mature maple trees turning a riot of colour last Fall along MacKay St. was a specially Canadian joy. Passing our former head of government, walking back from his shopping, with no limousine or bodyguards in sight, is another gratifying New Edinburgh (and specially Canadian?) sight. Freely strolling or skiing

through the Governor General's beautiful grounds - or skating on her rink - are unimaginable experiences for those used to living in Tokyo.

No doubt long-term residents of New Edinburgh will find such observations commonplace. But having experienced a very different kind of urban environment, I am no longer blasé about these pleasures. My hope is that the residents of New Edinburgh never take our neighbourhood's many attractions for granted, but that the community will continue to work together to preserve and enhance them. And let's never embrace "scrap and build" as our guiding principle!

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An ode to summer meals *en famille* and *al fresco*

By Janet Ruddock

At 3:30 that afternoon, I learned two things: that three people were joining the four of us at dinner and that I was making dinner. How on earth had I missed all that, I asked my husband, Frank. It seemed everyone thought someone else had told me. You know how that goes. Oh and dinner's at 5:00 p.m. not the usual summer hour of 7:00 p.m.

Sorry, folks. I don't have the gift of mental telepathy. No problem. Simple enough menu: green salad, bean salad, fettuccine alfredo, garlic bread, fresh blueberries on ice cream. Everything's there. If only I'd known earlier. Bean salad? I've never made bean salad. Someone else generally brings the bean salad. That's how it works, isn't it? Alfredo sauce? That's something I order at a restaurant. From scratch? Good luck. I'll do the pasta.

All of this was planned by phone that morning during coffee on the patio – while I was in the shower. Apologies all round. Frank and I were on a week's staycation at my cousin's country place. Her son, Chris, was there rebuild-

ing the old deck. "Don't worry. Bean salad is super simple," said Chris, the family gourmet. He and Frank, family barbeque expert, had produced wonderful dinners all week. "Rinse the kidney beans in that can. Throw in herbs. Add oil and vinegar. That's it." Quantities? Seemed important, so I asked. "Anything you want," Chris answered. So helpful. "I'll throw the alfredo sauce together when I get back."

Get back? It seemed he and my husband, anxious to get more wood for the deck, were off to the lumber yard. Thus, dinner was on me. Off they went. My cousin wandered into the kitchen with no idea of the day's plan. Where was everyone? She has memory issues – nothing too serious – but family requires patience. She and I always have fun in the kitchen. She took charge of the green salad. Now, bean salad. I rinsed the beans. She suggested onions – long slices, not chopped. I sliced onions and tossed them with the beans.

Any fresh herbs in the garden? I knew there were many: she had planted them. But no, she was certain there were

none. Dried would have to do, but which cupboard? Off she went to search. I sliced and buttered the baguette for garlic bread. Every cupboard opened and closed again and again. Tins of herbs were found – lots of them – but none were labeled. Progress stalled. Choose four, I suggested. We finally added this and that to the beans and called it herbs de Provence. Voilà!

Now, oil and vinegar. Lo and behold, staring me in the face in the fridge was Chris's leftover herb vinaig-

rette. Thank you, Chris. In it went. A car arrived. Chris's wife and two small daughters hopped out. They were the extra three for dinner? More missing information. They were picking up Chris on their way home. Great to

see them. Love all around. Full of pent-up energy, the girls exploded to investigate the expanse of garden and grounds. No going into the woods without an adult. Chris's wife makes a terrific bean salad, so I hailed her to check on mine chilling in the fridge. Any ideas? Wonderful, she declared, giving it a taste. She always adds chickpeas so searched the pantry. Into the bean salad went chickpeas. Lemon is always good, so in went fresh lemon juice. White wine? She poured everyone a glass. I added a dollop to the

for the bean salad." Nodding my head at their mother I said, "That could take some time." She got the message. She also knew the herb garden. Off they went. On with dinner preparations.

Eventually, the girls, pleased as punch, raced in with fresh herbs for the bean salad. They knew all the names by smell and explained – in lengthy detail – each one. Good work, I said to the girls and handed them napkins and cutlery for the patio table.

Chris and Frank arrived back from town with lumber

"I've never made bean salad. Someone else generally brings the bean salad. That's how it works, isn't it?"

bean salad. This salad was improving by the minute.

Back into the small kitchen blasted the girls. Five is a crowd. Thinking fast and looking at the girls, I said, "Maybe you two could help your mom find some herbs

and a bottle of alfredo sauce for the pasta. "This saves a lot of time," Chris said. Really? Even I can make this kind of sauce. Chris unloaded lumber. Frank and I made *fettuccini alfredo pas gourmet*.

Everyone loved the bean salad made without a recipe, but with many hands. The girls said they hated bean salad but the green leafy bits in this one made it way-y-y better. They asked for seconds. Until next year, here's to summer meals *en famille al fresco*.

Janet Ruddock and her husband Frank moved to New Edinburgh 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.



NECA AGM
October 27, 7pm.
Visit newedinburgh.ca
for the Zoom link.

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Virtual concert for Cambodia coming this fall

By Flora Liebich, IC4C coordinator

New Edinburgh News readers may remember the annual “In Concert for Cambodia” (IC4C) concerts at MacKay United Church, organized on behalf of The Peaceful Children’s Homes in Cambodia. Our annual concert, first held in 2006, was replaced in 2018 by smaller but more frequent concerts held in private homes in Ottawa and Montreal. Since the pandemic began, our concerts have become biannual virtual events, premiering on YouTube.

Our online concerts typically feature classical music. One of our young pianists, Victoria Wong, who performed in the IC4C Spring 2020 concert, will be competing in the Chopin International Piano Festival in Warsaw, Poland this October.

Our most recent online concert offered a variety of musical traditions: young Cambodian tenor Kim Chanthavouth Hy; Peter Woods, minister at MacKay United Church on saxophone



The ‘In Concert for Cambodia’ events help raise funds for children at the Peaceful Children’s Homes in Battambang, Cambodia.

Photo courtesy Flora Liebich

together with Tim Jackson on guitar; Ottawa’s Pat Marshall on the Irish harp; the charming young brother and sister

team The Fiddlares, together with award-winning fiddlers Kyle Burghout (IC4C youth coordinator) and his partner,

Jane Cory. (Kyle and Jane will be launching and performing from their latest CD at the Gatineau Hills Fiddle

Festival in October.)

The most recent IC4C online concert was forwarded by a Cambodian friend to Her Majesty Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, the Queen Mother of Cambodia, on the occasion of her birthday. Her Majesty graciously responded by thanking IC4C and its Canadian supporters for our work on behalf of children and young people in need in Cambodia.

IC4C continues to support the well-being and education of the children and young people at The Peaceful Children’s Home in Battambang. Owing to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Cambodia, there are unforeseen needs for hospitalization and medical care. The group welcomes donations to help meet these needs: please visit inconcert4cambodia.ca to donate or learn more.

We’re looking forward to presenting another IC4C online concert later this fall. If you’d like to join us, please email inconcert4cambodia@gmail.com – we’ll add you to our mailing list.

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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.

October

Oct. 3 – Beechwood Cemetery Tree Clean-Up at the Beechwood Cemetery. 9 a.m.–4p.m. Register: beechwoodottawa.ca. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation needs your help to remove the LDD (gypsy) moth egg sacs from its more than 6,000 trees to help reduce the number of moths next year. Pole and gloves to be provided. Bring safety goggles. Refreshments will be available for volunteers. A great opportunity for students seeking volunteer hours. Register online.

Oct. 12 – CCC monthly meeting happening online. 7:30 p.m. The Crichton Community Council will hold its monthly board meeting. We need volunteers to run family and community events in our neighbourhood, either for short- or long-term commitments. Contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for an online meeting link.

Oct. 16 – Webinar: “Bark & Lunge” happening online. 10 a.m. Register: happyfidocompany.com;

info@happyfidocompany.com. The Happy Fido Company hosts a two-part series: “Bark & Lunge: Dogs that react to other dogs on-leash.” Part one is a humans-only webinar for owners whose dogs exhibit “over-the-top” behaviours. Part two (Oct. 23 at 10 a.m.) is an online hands-on workshop with dogs where you will learn foundation skills and techniques to improve your walks. Course is limited to five dogs (at least one dog per handler). Both parts must be purchased together as the webinar is the prerequisite to the workshop.

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

Oct. 27 – NECA Annual General Meeting will take place virtually at 7 p.m. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to NECA’s Annual General Meeting and

to join the board! Contact: newedinburgh@outlook.com.

Oct. 31 – Beechwood Cemetery Stroll at the Beechwood Cemetery, 280 Beechwood Ave. 1 p.m. Register: beechwoodottawa.ca. Free. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation hosts a guided historical tour through Canada’s national cemetery led by trained volunteers and focusing on local history, and notable features and sections within this National Historic Site. Tour begins at the Beechwood Tank, in Section 27. Family-friendly, 90-minute walk, wheelchair accessible. Wear good walking shoes, clothing suitable for the weather and bring water if needed.

November

Nov. 6–8 – St. Bart’s bazaar happening online. stbartsottawa.ca. The Church of St. Bartholomew’s hosts its annual bazaar, virtually, for the second year in a row. All vignettes of small items will be for sale at a fixed price. Details, page 35.

Nov. 9 – CCC monthly

meeting happening online. 7:30 p.m. The Crichton Community Council will hold its monthly board meeting. We need volunteers to run family and community events in our neighbourhood, either for short- or long-term commitments. Contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for an online meeting link.

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


December

Date to be confirmed – Vanier Museopark art show at Richelieu Vanier Centre, 300 des Pères Blancs Ave. 6 1 3 - 8 4 2 - 9 8 7 1 ; communication@museoparc.ca; museoparc.ca. The Vanier Museopark is organizing a local art sale in the temporary exhibition gallery: date to be decided upon completion of museum renovations. This


project aims to showcase regional artists who wish to put their artwork up for sale, and to help raise funds for the reconstruction of the Vanier Sugar Shack and for our non-for-profit community museum.

Dec. 14 – CCC monthly meeting happening online. 7:30 p.m. The Crichton Community Council will hold its monthly board meeting. We need volunteers to run family and community events in our neighbourhood, either for short- or long-term commitments. Contact CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com for an online meeting link.

Dec. 21 – NECA board meeting happening online. 7:30 p.m. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance will hold its monthly board meeting virtually. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend. Contact President Cindy Parkanyi for details: newedinburgh@outlook.com



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St Bart's annual bazaar remains virtual for second year

By Liz Heatherington and Linda Assad-Butcher

Yes: the bazaar continues!

As presented last year, St. Bartholomew's Church annual bazaar will be virtual due to public health concerns. The bazaar will take place **Nov. 6-8, 2021**. This fundraiser will help the church's refugee program, as well as Cornerstone Women's Shelter, and our Mission to the Garry J. Armstrong Home.

We will truly miss seeing the community in our parish hall at 125 MacKay St., but we assure you that the quality of items will be just as fine as usual. Starting Nov. 6, you can access the St Bart's website – stbartsottawa.ca – to find the link to the bazaar.

As before, smaller items will be gathered into thematic vignettes such as "All Set for Tennis" (handmade tennis dresses, with equipment), "Vintage Music and Songs" (an elegant wind-up tall gramophone with many 78 rpm records) as well as traditional tea sets, silver, and beautiful works of art.

Each vignette will be sold at a fixed price – we know you will find the cost reasonable for such quality goods.

Would you like to help? We are looking for donations of items you may no longer need: nearly-new collectibles, costume jewellery, coffee-table books, jigsaw puzzles, china, etc. Please contact

us for local pick up: Linda Assad-Butcher 613-748-6060; lassadbutcher@gmail.com; or Liz Heatherington 613-745-4677; elizmaryh@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting our excellent community sponsors: **Goodies Fine Catering; Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement**

Residence; Chartwell New Edinburgh Square; Revera The Edinburgh Retirement Residence; and Governor's Walk Retirement Residence.

Thank you as always for your continued interest and support!

Linda Assad-Butcher and Liz Raymont Heatherington are the bazaar co-conveners.

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Congratulations

Congratulations to federal Liberal Member of Parliament **Mona Fortier** who was re-elected on Sep. 20 as MP for Ottawa-Vanier with a large majority. Mona was first elected in a 2017 by-election. She held the Cabinet posts of Associate Finance Minister and Minister for Middle Class Prosperity in the last Parliament. Running against Mona were the NDP's **Lyse-Pascale Inamuco**, Conservatives' **Heidi Jensen** and the Green Party's **Christian Proulx**, among others.



Debjani and Jérôme Mitra-Levesque want to welcome

their rambunctious, now five-month-old puppy, **Cleo**. When not chasing after children in the house, you can find her walking on the streets of New Edinburgh or at Pine Hill Park.

Condolences

Karen McDonald and Bruce White of Crichton Street recently bid a sad farewell to their "happy dog," **Pekoe** (Sep. 27, 2007–Aug. 3, 2021). Pekoe took Karen and Bruce on walks three times a day in Stanley Park, where he loved to chase balls, roll in the grass (or snow), and wade in the river. He was also known to frequent the shady paths of Pine Hill, especially in the dog days of summer.

Miscellaneous

Janet Uren is sad to announce that her theatre company remains on a COVID-induced holiday. "From 2007–2019, the Linden House Theatre Company produced a play every year on stage at Elmwood School. Last year, we could not proceed and, unfortunately, COVID-19 continues to affect us in 2021. So Linden House will NOT be producing a play this year, but we are really looking forward to being back in business for 2022."

Thank You!

New Edinburgh is a village with heart! To prove it, just ask **Cindy Parkanyi**, who, as night fell in mid-September,



Photo by Sgt Johanie Maheu

NEN extends a warm welcome to our new neighbours at Rideau Hall. Canada's new Governor General, Her Excellency **Mary May Simon**, was appointed and installed in July, and has recently moved into the official residence with her husband **Whit Fraser** and their yellow Labrador **Neva**. May Simon is Canada's 30th Governor General and the first Indigenous Canadian to hold that office. She has an extraordinary record of service as an advocate for Inuit rights and culture and is a leading figure in the realm of Arctic and Indigenous issues. She served as ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs (1994–2003), and concurrently as Canada's ambassador to Denmark (1999–2001). In 2006, she became President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, serving two terms as leader, and in that capacity, delivered a response in the House of Commons to the federal government's formal apology on residential schools. We look forward to her years of service as our Head of State, and as our near neighbour here in New Edinburgh. —JH

sent out an "alert" on the local listserv for help locating her special needs daughter. **Maddie** had not returned home after several hours and was not answering calls or texts. As panic set in, the community's response was quick and heartfelt – several people were ready to jump in and start a sweep of the area; another phoned to say where they had just spotted her. To everyone who offered support, Cindy would like to say a heartfelt "thank you." In the end, **Maddie's** dad, **George**, found her (in the exact location the spotter had men-

tioned) and managed to bring her safely home...but not before spending a very long half-hour convincing several RCMP officers, who had happened by just as he was getting her into the car, that he was her father and not someone trying to abduct her. It's all good. We are happy that the authorities are diligent in ensuring the safety of our more vulnerable residents and that we live in a place where neighbours really do look out for each other.

Wanted

Do you love New Edinburgh/Stanley Park? **NECA's Friends of the Park** group needs you! Park enthusiasts meet regularly to discuss issues of concern in New Edinburgh/Stanley Park and help to advocate for improvements (and appropriate maintenance) to the City of Ottawa, the National Capital Commission, and other stakeholders. If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Park group, contact **info@newedinburgh.ca**.



Joana, Adam, Matilde and Sebastien (a.k.a. JAMS) are delighted to announce the arrival of **Sofia**, seen here Lion King-style in front of the iconic ByTowne Cinema marquee on Rideau Street.



Photo courtesy Mathieu Fleury's twitter

City Councillors **Rawlson King** and **Mathieu Fleury** hosted a free corn roast on the grounds of Saint Charles Market on Sept. 19. The event was supported by the Quartier Vanier BIA and the Beechwood Market.