DECEMBER 2022

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The Crichton Community Council hosted a winter lights gathering at the Fieldhouse on Nov. 26, featuring wagon rides, festive decorations, refreshments and a special visit from Santa Claus. Thanks to all the volunteers for making this happen! Learn more about CCC activities, p. 15.

Kudos to local actor and gardener for their contributions to the Burgh

by Karen Squires

New The Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) created the BRICK awards in 2009. BRICK stands for "Burgh Renovation, Improvement, and Construction Kudos" and is awarded in two categories: Bricks-and-Mortar (for built heritage) and Community Builder (for people). The BRICK award is given out at NECA's annual general meeting, which took place this year on Oct. 27. The 2022 Community Builder award goes to Janet Uren for her contributions to the community. The Bricks-and-Mortar award took a bit of a twist this year, moving it from masonry to a more natural setting. This award goes to Chip Hamann for his gardening skills.

Community Builder Award Janet Uren

Janet moved to New Edinburgh in 2001, when she bought and renovated her heritage house on Crichton Street. Her first contribution to the community as a volunteer was to design and write, in collaboration with historian Martha Edmonds, a threepanel, portable display on the history of the neighbourhood. This display piece has since been used many times at local events and on municipal heritage days. Janet has also personally led many Heritage Ottawa walking tours of New Edinburgh.

For a few years starting in 2005, Janet acted in major roles with the New Edinburgh Players. She went on to found her own company, Linden House Theatre, which performs in Elmwood School and mounted its first post-COVID production in November after a two-year hiatus.

In 2017, she collaborated with Glenn Lockwood on an extensive history of St. Bartholomew's Church. The book was featured as a major element in the church's sesquicentennial celebrations.

In 2014, Janet and Martha began work on a true labour of love: a full-length history of New Edinburgh and the many people — forgotten, famous, and occasionally infamous — who have been associated with its homes, storefronts, and public institutions. The book is due to be published in 2023.

This year, Janet was the volunteer convener of Street Fest,

Continued on page 3

Doug Ford's Bill 23 will destroy communities' abilities to plan at a local level

By Gail McEachern

Tony Hiss in his book The Experience of Place states: "Overdevelopment and urban sprawl can damage our own lives as much as they damage our cities and countryside. To avoid this danger, make sure that when we change a place, the change agreed upon nurtures our growth as capable and responsible people while also protecting the natural

environment and developing jobs and homes enough for

Unfortunately, the Ontario government's new Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, does not reflect this sentiment of community-based change. In fact, it does the exact opposite. What we have instead is a complex and overreaching piece of legislation proposing extensive

changes to several provincial acts including the *Planning* Act, and the Municipal Act as well as other statutes, which will weaken or destroy the ability of municipalities to effectively plan at the local level. This constitutes a dictatorial power grab by Doug Ford's government.

A year ago, Ottawa's City Council passed its new Official Plan which charted the course for development for the next 20 years. Months of hard work involving city staff, council members, community associations and dedicated residents resulted in a carefully considered plan with a focus on neighbourhood character plans and sustainable development, while increasing housing supply.

The provincial government is required to review and

approve municipal official plans before cities can legally implement them. Ottawa's Official Plan was held without a response by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for more than a year and received approval only on Nov. 5, 2022. The approval was contingent on Ottawa making more than 30 amendments to the plan

Continued on page 6

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.

There will be **no meeting in December**. Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday**, **Jan. 17**, **7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday Feb. 21**, **7:30 p.m.** Meetings are held virtually on Zoom. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for details.

Your NECA Representatives 2022-2023

Contact anyone below through info@newedinburgh.ca

Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Ted Bennett Co-Treasurer

Ray Boomgaardt Co-President, NECA

Sean Flynn Co-Treasurer

Katherine Hall Friends of the Park

Karen Squires Friends of the Park

Heather Matthews

Samantha McAleese Secretary

Gail McEachern Heritage & Development

Sean McNulty

Jason Tavoularis Traffic & Safety

Cindy Parkanyi Co-President, NECA

Ex officio:

Chris Straka **President, CCC**

Christina Leadlay New Edinburgh News

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Learn more at newedinburgh.ca

Changes to NECA board, pushing back on provincial overreach and mulling re-naming the park



Report from the NECA Board

Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) first-ever hybrid Annual General Meeting took place Oct. 27. There was lots of good discussion - particularly regarding a proposed motion to explore temporary closure of a portion of Stanley Avenue. In the end, it was agreed to strike a separate working group with those present who were interested to look at a way forward (see Jason Tavoularis's Traffic and Safety committee report,

There are a few changes to the board for 2022-23. Ari Abonyi has stepped down but has agreed to continue to represent New Edinburgh as part of the Beechwood Village Alliance, which is focused on positive development on our mainstreet. Thank you, Ari! We are pleased to welcome Sean McNulty to the board. Also new this year, the NECA Board is introducing the roles of co-president and co-treasurer to better manage the workload and build in resilience. For 2022-23, the role of president will be shared by Ray Boomgaardt and Cindy Parkanyi, and the role of treasurer will be shared by Sean Flvnn and Ted Bennett.

NECA has continued its tradition of offering special BRICK awards to property owners who have undertaken renovations or other improvements that honour the heritage and village-like fabric of the community, as well as to residents who have shown dedication to building and maintaining a sense of community within New Edinburgh. One of this year's recipients is Chip Hamann, for his dedication in creating an exquisite tapestry of gardens along the front of the Lansdowne

Terrance heritage townhouses on MacKay Street. This year's Community Builder award is presented to **Janet Uren** for her long-time and outstanding contribution to the social and cultural life of our community. (See full article starting on p. 1.) Congratulations!

Bill 23 and revisions to the Official Plan

Many residents may already be aware of recent un-democratic moves by the provincial government that will undermine the City's (and its residents') ability to determine how Ottawa will accommodate growth while protecting its natural, social and heritage environments — to the detriment of our community fabric and sustainability.

The Ontario government under Doug Ford recently approved an altered version of Ottawa's Official Plan, a version that includes more than 30 amendments, the most contentious of which are changes to the areas of intensification; site plan control; heritage; housing targets; and natural heritage conservation.

In addition, the provincial government has also moved forward with Bill 23, which purports to create incentives for increasing the availability of housing at a rapid pace. Unfortunately, one of the ways the bill aims to do this is by removing or significantly reducing development charges paid by developers that enable the City to provide the necessary infrastructure for the new development. The bill also restricts municipalities' ability to protect sensitive or flood-prone natural areas, as well as preserving their built heritage.

NECA has submitted its comments to the province's Standing Committee

on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy. (See board member and Heritage & Development committee chair **Gail McEachern**'s article on Bill 23 beginning on p. 1 of this edition.)

This is going to be a major area of focus for the NECA board, as the repercussions of these provincial moves will have a direct impact on the quality of life in Ottawa now and into the future. We are working together with other groups on this, including the Federation of Citizens Associations (whose membership includes many of Ottawa's community associations) and the Community Collective, which includes New Edinburgh, Manor Park, Lindenlea, Rockcliffe Park, Overbrook, Cardinal Glen and Vanier community associations.

Motion to explore renaming the park

As mentioned at the recent AGM, NECA is considering making a request that the City of Ottawa explore renaming New Edinburgh Park after Chief Constant Pinesi, the last Grand Chief of the Algonquins. A motion is this regard will be presented at the January NECA meeting. Please note that there will be no formal NECA Board Meeting in December.

How to stay connected

To receive monthly NECA updates by email, please newedinburgh@ contact outlook.com or sign up through the community website: **newedinburgh.ca**. For up-to-the-minute updates on what's happening in the neighbourhood, you can join the Google Group "New Edinburgh Discussions," then simply email new-ed-talk@ googlegroups.com. You can also join the listsery (known informally as the Moms' List, though there are more than just moms on the list) by sending an email request to List Master Dave Rostenne: dave@theconsultant. net. You can also follow us on Twitter @New Edinburgh and Facebook @ NewEdinburghNECA.

Janet Uren, Chip Hamann honoured for improving the Burgh

Continued from page 1

a one-day festival on Sep. 10. Participants made their way around the Burgh, enjoying a variety of events at various venues. At the heart of the programming was a selection of short concerts and performances, a series of 20-minute talks, and a self-guided outdoor walking tour past some of the Burgh's most striking heritage buildings. Janet produced a handsomely designed booklet, New Edinburgh StreetFest: Souvenir History, a copy of which was distributed to all purchasers of StreetFest tickets. - Gail McEachern

BRICK/Garden Award – Chip Hamann

If you've ever walked down MacKay Street between Keefer and Queen Victoria streets, you've likely noticed there's an interesting collection of houses from different eras, typical of New Edinburgh as a whole. As you walk down MacKay, passing some houses with already lovely gardens,

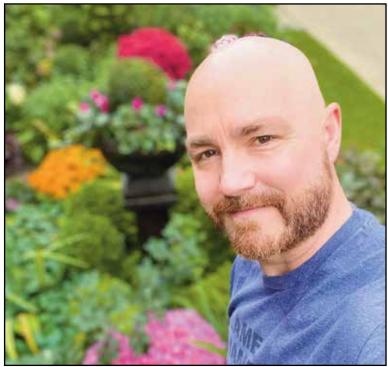


Photo courtesy Chip Hamann

This year's BRICK Awards recognizes oboist and talented gardener Chip Hamann for his work at Lansdowne Terrace.

live right next to these gardens and pass them multiple times daily, and the view never gets old. The gardener Chip Hamann has an Instagram feed that earns worldwide acclaim from gardeners all unique set of circumstances where all the neighbours get along and have complete faith in someone to make their garden look delightful. It's a model of cooperation and trust that Chip believes would be difficult to replicate anywhere else. He's humble and probably the friendliest and most helpful person I know. As I fumble through my gardening adventures, Chip has helped me with some difficult decisions.

I joked that we should rename the BRICK award the FLOWER award. My fellow NECA board member Samantha McAleese suggested the acronym could be: "Flowers, Lawns, and Outdoor Wonderful Environmental Renewal," which I think is also perfect. Congratulations, Chip! – Sean Flynn

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



Actor, author and historian Janet Uren's work in making the community a better place was honoured with a BRICK award.

you arrive at the famous Lansdowne Terrace (c. 1876), a row of lovely brownstone houses with their designated heritage property plaque. And then something happens.

You're seemingly transported to another world of immaculate gardens that literally take one's breath away! I

over the world, admiring the view we get in real life. I asked Chip – who is also an oboist for the National Arts Centre Orchestra – how this incredible enterprise came to be.

He says that only in a neighbourhood like ours, in a city like Ottawa, could you get a

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

203 Stanley Ave., Ottawa, ON K1M 1P2

Publication dates: Oct. 1, Dec. 1, Feb. 1, April 1, June 1 **Deadlines:** Sept. 10, Nov. 10, Jan. 10, March 10, May 10 **Publisher:** New Edinburgh Community Alliance

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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.

Keith Willey

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:

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Printed by Transcontinental Printing ISSN 0703-9042

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Embrace the holiday spirit by supporting local charities



Lucille Collard MPP Ottawa-Vanier

As the elected representative of Ottawa-Vanier, I feel responsible for sharing our community's realities. Connecting neighbourhoods by highlighting each other's needs seems crucial to promoting mutual aid and solidarity. Colder weather reminds us of holiday preparations. Many of us worry about being able to eat enough and treat our children during the holidays. With rising costs of living and food, more people in our riding are using food banks.

That is why I would like to encourage everyone to support the mission of our charities, including food banks, to help those in need. Your donations can make a difference for a neighbour near you, whom you may meet from time to time on the

street without knowing the precariousness of their situation. Organizations in our neighbourhoods can certainly benefit from your generosity if you can afford it.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, which coincided with my election, I have had the opportunity to witness on many occasions the values of mutual aid and solidarity that already characterize our community. At this time when generosity is even more important, I join you in trying to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. This is undoubtedly one of the best ways to get into the holiday spirit - Ĭ wish you a season filled with happy moments.

My team and I remain available to help you. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at 613-744-4484 or by email at lcollard.mpp.co@ liberal.ola.org. My team will be happy to talk with you.

tant qu'élue pour représenter Ottawa-Vanier, je me sens responsable de partager les différentes réalités existantes au sein de notre communauté diverse. Pouvoir connecter les quartiers entre eux en sensibilisant chacun aux besoins des uns et des autres me semble essentiel pour favoriser l'entraide et la solidarité. L'arrivée des températures basses nous fait penser aux préparatifs que nous effectuons tous pour l'hiver et le temps des fêtes

qui approchent. Pour un nombre croissant d'entre nous, l'arrivée du temps des fêtes augmente les inquiétudes liées au besoin de pouvoir se nourrir adéquatement et peutêtre gâter nos jeunes. Avec l'augmentation constante du coût de la vie et des denrées de subsistance, les banques alimentaires voient un plus grand nombre de personnes de notre circonscription se tourner vers elles pour combler leurs besoins en nourriture

C'est pourquoi j'aimerais encourager chacun à appuyer la mission de nos organismes caritatifs, dont les banques alimentaires, à aider ceux qui en ont besoin. Vos dons peuvent faire une différence pour un voisin près de chez vous, que vous croisez peut-être de temps à autres dans la rue sans connaître la précarité de leur situation. Les organismes dans nos quartiers peuvent certainement profiter de votre générosité si vous pouvez vous le permettre.

Depuis le début de la pandémie qui a coïncidé avec mon élection, j'ai eu le loisir de constater à de multiples reprises les valeurs d'entraide et de solidarité qui vous caractérisent déjà. En cette période encore plus propice à faire preuve de générosité je me joins à vous pour essayer de faire une différence dans la vie des plus vulnérables. Cela fait indéniablement partie de la meilleure façon de se mettre dans l'esprit des fêtes, que je vous souhaite remplies d'heureux moments.

Mon équipe et moi demeurons disponibles pour vous aider. N'hésitez pas à contacter mon bureau au 613-744-4484 ou par courriel à l'adresse lcollard.mpp.co@ liberal.ola.org. Mon équipe sera ravie d'échanger avec

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Ford's Bill 23 will destroy communities' abilities to plan at a local level



Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

Continued from page 1

which will render the city impotent in carrying out its vision as spelled out in the original document.

Some of the most contentious proposed changes are in the areas of intensification, site plan control, heritage, third-party appeals, housing targets, and conservation of natural heritage.

Intensification (referred to in Bill 23 as "Gentle Intensification").

Municipal zoning by-laws will be overridden to allow for up to three principal housing units on any urbanserviced residential parcel, including in a detached or semi-detached townhouse. Any zoning by-law restrict-

ing this from occurring will be prohibited. In addition, development charges for these units along with affordable and non-profit housing developments will be exempt or reduced. The resulting loss of revenue which supports the city's infrastructure and other municipal services will be substantial.

Site plan control

Municipalities will be prohibited from seeking details about development projects through Site Plan Control in terms of architectural design, scale, materials as well as landscape features. This will eliminate the city's ability to create desirable streetscapes which support neighbourhood character.

Heritage

Bill 23 will give the province the power to dismantle heritage protection and cripple the Heritage Register by limiting property listings to two years. It will weaken the protection for properties within Heritage Conservation Districts, as a new process proposed by the province will permit Heritage Conservation Plans to be amended or repealed.

Third-party appeals

Appeals related to planning decisions by third parties (such as community associations, individual citizens, or local businesses) will be eliminated. Planning decisions will be able to be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal only by the project applicant (i.e., the developer), utility companies, and municipal entities.

Housing targets

The province has assigned Ottawa a housing target of 151,000 new homes between 2021 and 2031. This is double the growth projection

of 76,000 new homes earmarked in Ottawa's Growth Management and Official Plan. The city maintains that there is no realistic forecasting basis to accurately justify this projection.

Conservation and natural heritage

The power of conservation authorities to review and comment on development proposals, including those close to or on a waterway, will be severely restricted. New legislation will remove the present evaluation system to protect wetlands and open wetland complexes. Urban Boundary expansion will be allowed with no permit required.

Responses to the proposed Bill 23 have been overwhelmingly critical. City staff, council members, community associations, organizations which are knowledge keepers for heritage and environmental preservation, and citizens concerned about the future of Ottawa's well-being had until Nov. 17 to weigh in

on this unilateral takeover of municipal governing rights.

In a letter to the province's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure, and Cultural Policy, the Old Ottawa South community association stated: "Bill 23 purports to concern itself with increasing the availability of housing quickly, but its long-term impacts are fundamentally damaging to residents and community groups through loss of appeal rights, to communities -urban, suburban and rural, and to municipalities and municipal authority structures. Circumscribing rights under the Planning Act and reducing local level control may or may not lead to more homes, but it will lead to poorer planning outcomes for Ontario residents."

Gail McEachern is the chair of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Heritage and Development committee.





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Mona Fortier Ottawa-Vanier MP

Dear New Edinburgh residents.

For many households, the holiday season means festive and joyous times ahead. But, for many others, this can be the most financially challenging time of the year. With global inflation driving up the price of essential goods like groceries, gas, and medication, more families can by donating funds, gift

are expected to rely on food banks this holiday season.

Facing higher food costs and unprecedented demand this year, community food banks like Rideau-Rockcliffe Emergency Food Service are feeling the financial pressure. They need our support to help as many people as possible. I invite you to give back if you cards, or non-perishable food items

We recognize that food security will present a challenge as students return to school in the new year. Each day, one in five children in Canada risks going to school hungry. It's why the Liberal government is working to create Canada's first-ever Pan-Canadian School Food Policy. We launched a public consultation questionnaire for the new policy during a recent visit to Carson Grove Elementary School in our riding, a school known for its leadership in addressing food security.

It's also why we introduced affordability measures to make life more affordable, support the middle class, and build an economy that works for everyone.

Certain measures, like doubling the GST rebate for six months, have begun rolling out to millions of Canadians. This means up to \$234 for single Canadians without children, up to \$467 for a family of four, and roughly \$225 for seniors.

Our recently approved legislation will also deliver much-needed help in other areas. We're providing \$500 through the Canada Housing Benefit to help nearly two million low-income renters. We're also providing up to \$1,300 through the Canada Dental Benefit to help cover dental care expenses for children under 12 years of age without insurance, helping an estimated 500,000 children.

This builds on affordability measures introduced this year, like permanently increasing the Canada Child Benefit and Old Age Security, eliminating interest on federal student and apprentice loans, and cutting childcare fees through the Canada Early Learning and Childcare Plan. Taken together, these measures will deliver relief to Canadians struggling to put food on the

Connect with us! 613-998-1860; Mona.Fortier@parl. gc.ca; monafortier.libparl.ca.

Beechwood Avenue overdue and in need of holistic re-design



Rawlson King City Councillor, Ward 13

only business improvement area within the urban core which has not undertaken a mainstreet reconstruction in the last 20 years. For this reason, I will continue to advocate for a complete rebuild of Beechwood Avenue in order to revitalize it as a traditional mainstreet Beechwood Avenue cannot be left to "make do" with minor improvements and insufficient guiding policy for another 20 years. The root causes of the problems in this area cannot be addressed with the current available policy tools, which include an aged Community Design Plan. Development along this corridor is far from complete and transportation pressures will only increase as the area densifies. Seventy-five per cent of the time span considered under the current Community Design Plan has passed, and many of the thenrecommended improvements have not been achieved as they are tied to the staccato pace of development. It is evident that our community

Beechwood Avenue is the requires a strong, proactive policy that can address the Beechwood corridor in its entirety. Consequently, I will continue to encourage good development and land use in the corridor through policy changes that will encourage a comprehensive rebuild of the street to improve the quality of the road and its surrounding public realm.

Under current policy, the City of Ottawa does not have dedicated capital budgets for major streetscaping and public realm interventions to be completed as standalone projects. The current mechanism to fund this type of work is to include it as part of large reconstruction projects, also known as "integrated road, water, sewer" projects. The driver for these projects is typically the need to renew underground infrastructure, which is both costly and has significant impacts to the community while construction is underway. As such, the city only delivers a limited number of these projects per year and undertakes them often in an incremental

fashion. While Beechwood Avenue has an obvious above-ground infrastructure deficit in terms of pavement and sidewalk quality and non-contiguous active transportation, the street's belowground infrastructure will not require upgrades for decades.

Since City Council does not currently have the policy tools for comprehensive rebuilds without underlying infrastructure work, I am pleased that city staff under my direction are exploring a new policy through the new Transportation Master Plan Update, which would provide new opportunities to implement complete street reconfigurations to support intensification before underground infrastructure requires renewal. The funding implications of this initiative - including impacts to existing programs – will be examined as part of the next phase of the Transportation Master Plan Update, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2024. Depending on the results of this exercise, specific complete street projects may eventually be identified and funded within the next stage of the Transportation Master Plan. Over the past council term, both Councillor Mathieu Fleury and I have been very supportive of this proposed staff recommendation, in regards to its ultimate

potential for Beechwood Avenue. In the new council term, I will continue to pursue this policy change, along with other policy tools, including a new Secondary Plan process for the Beechwood Avenue/ Hemlock Road corridor. The new proposed Secondary Plan will determine how the City's new Official Plan will be applied to neighbourhoods on the corridor.

As always, you can contact my office at 613-280-2483; rideaurockcliffeward@ ottawa.ca or rideau-rockcliffe. ca. I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



Equity, mental health, and environment among new public school trustee's priorities



Lyra Evans Public School Trustee, Zone 6

I am honoured that the people of Rideau-Vanier/Rideau-Rockcliffe have chosen me to represent their interests at the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). I'd like to thank all those who supported my campaign, and to congratulate Rawlson King and Stéphanie Plante for their elections to city council. Below are three main points that I have advocated for, as well as the upcoming decisions of the School Board.

Equity

It is the goal of public education to be the great equalizer, that everyone, no matter their background, their home situation, or their identity, has a fair chance to succeed. At the district, equity work looks

like ensuring that students from low-income areas, students with special-education needs, and new Canadians, amongst other groups, have the supports they need. No child should struggle to learn because they are hungry, no child with dyslexia should be allowed to fall behind for needing additional supports to learn to read, or because their first language at home isn't English or French.

Last term, the OCDSB collected identity-inclusive data, which allowed the district to note the current policy's successes and weaknesses. It was noteworthy that some groups of students, such as students from low-income families, students with disabilities, LGBTQ (particularly trans),

and racialized students were statistically significantly less likely to graduate, and to have lower wellbeing outcomes than the student average.

For this reason, I have considered equity needs to be paramount in the business of the district, and I will be vocal about the need to address these inequities in the coming term.

Mental health

Student and staff mental health has been negatively impacted over the course of the pandemic. Particular care must be taken by the OCDSB in the upcoming term to ensure that appropriate mental health care is provided, that students feel supported, and are able to achieve their best potential.

Discussion for the upcoming 2023-2024 budget (created March–June) will include the hiring of professional staff, such as psychologists, psychiatrists, and other supports for students and staff who have had mental health struggles over the pandemic. In addition, there will be con-

versations about what can be done to ensure that students are able to "catch-up"; to ensure that any missing key skills are understood.

Environment

Given the importance of climate action by all levels of government, the OCDSB will be evaluating the success of the Green Climate Fund, as well as directing the district to look into alternative energy sources, such as ground or air heat pumps, and thermal and photovoltaic solar panels. I also intend to put to a vote the requirement that each building at the district has both a recycling program and a composting program.

Revaluating EFI & Core French program

In the coming months, the district will begin to undertake a review of the English (with core French) program. Currently being discussed is whether the district should extend the 50 per cent English/50 per cent French program delivery offered in kindergarten all the way to Grade 3, and have families

make the decision to enter full French Immersion for Grade 4. This process will likely take one to three years, with a formal consultation process happening later in the process.

Policy review changes

The OCDSB is undertaking a process to re-evaluate how we review and renew policies. Major policies up for debate shortly include the naming of schools policy, the integrity commissioner changes, and the Indigenous, Human Rights, and Equity roadmap.

2023-2027 Strategic plan

The new school board will discuss and create the 2023-2027 strategic plan. This is the guiding document which directs the district for the next four years. Last term, the strategic plan sought to create a culture of Innovation, Caring, and Social Responsibility.

As always, if you have concerns, questions, or thoughts, I am happy to hear from you. Contact me at Lyra. Evans@ ocdsb.ca; 613-913-1695; or @LyraEvansOtt.

DE LUC DUCHARME () & ASSOCIATES





Merry Christmas Happy New Year

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Fall park cleanup one part of improving users' experience

By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall

In previous years, the spring park cleanup seemed to keep things under control with the help of those frequent users who pick up garbage while strolling in the park.

However, since the COVID pandemic, we've had some unintended consequences resulting from high user volumes, tents in the park, and vendors during spring, summer, and early fall. Combined, these elements meant more garbage than usual left behind and more effort required to keep the park clean and safe for all users and for the natural habitat. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Friends of the Park committee liaised with City of Ottawa staff to bring in more garbage bins and arrange the necessary additional cleanups during summer months throughout the park. Thanks to city staff for their ongoing support!

After our community spring cleanup on Earth Day, April 22, a fall park cleanup was scheduled for the first time on Oct. 28, supported by the city through the "Clean Up the Capital" program, which provides bags and gloves. More

than 15 people participated, collecting many bags of garbage and pulling large objects from the river's edge near the Fieldhouse. It's alarming to see what's floating in the river!

While the spring cleanup attracted more people, we were grateful to those who came out in October. In hind-sight, more targeted cleanups during summer did help. Next year, we may do the fall cleanup slightly earlier, as leaves on the ground may have covered smaller objects.

We are fortunate to have many people come out to support these important initiatives; having two cleanups now should help mitigate issues. Friends of the Parks has liaised with the city around other park maintenance: more seasonal garbage bins, more benches, and ongoing repairs to existing structures. You may also have noticed the new fencing around the splashpad which was recently installed!

There's been some initial discussion on planting trees and removing invasive species, but these are early days for these new topics, so we will continue to liaise as the winter progresses. Thanks



Photo by Dave Rostenne

Owen Hall, Johanna Rostenne and Quinn Hall with a bundle of netting recovered from the edge of the Rideau River during the Oct. 28 cleanup in New Edinburgh Park.

once again to everyone who supports these initiatives and to those who pick up garbage as they frequent the park. Every little bit helps, and we will keep you updated as events and initiatives develop.

Friends of the Park is also re-establishing a stronger connection with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to determine how we might work with a dedicated team of professionals to clean the Rideau River area and support our natural habitat. We've had only initial discussions thus far, but hope to bring more news on this collaboration in 2023.

The Friends of the Park committee wishes you a happy, healthy holiday sea-

son. Stay safe and active – see you in the park this winter! It's amazing what time spent outside can do to reinvigorate, stay connected, and boost overall well-being.

Karen Squires and Katherine Hall are co-chairs of NECA's Friends of the Park committee. Contact info@ newedinburgh.ca to learn more about their activities.

Traffic and Safety committee's priorities for 2023

By Jason Tavoularis

The top priorities for the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Traffic and Safety committee to pursue with the City of Ottawa in 2023 are:

- incremental improvements to residential street safety in New Edinburgh;
- Beechwood Avenue transportation and safety in conjunction with neighbouring community associations;
- mitigating the risk of spring flooding from the Rideau River;
- halting the expansion of the gravel road shoulder of Stanley Avenue into the public greenspace across the street from New Edinburgh Park; and
- piloting a traffic alteration to Stanley Avenue near the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse to make space for additional public amenities.

You may be wondering about various road construction projects that were expect-

ed in New Edinburgh this year. Some road resurfacing projects have been completed, while others have been delayed by a labour strike and the May 21 derecho storm.

As of Nov. 14, the City of Ottawa's construction and infrastructure projects webpage indicates that "in progress" are sewer network improvements on Crichton Street by Vaughan Street, and watermain cathodic protection on Beechwood Avenue. But the only active road construction visible on my morning bike ride through the neighbourhood is at the intersection of Stanley Avenue and Keefer Street. Road resurfacing is still listed as "planned" for this year on Stanley Avenue between Union Street and Sussex Drive; however, the resurfacing of Crichton Street appears postponed for one to two years. Bicycling is when I most appreciate the smooth road surface of MacKay Street and wish for similar resurfacing over dangerous cracks and potholes on nearby roads.

A new strategic priority for the Traffic and Safety committee is halting the expansion of the gravel road shoulder of Stanley Avenue into the public greenspace across the street from New Edinburgh Park. Normal parking behaviour in this area pushes the edge of the shoulder into the grass public space. Angle parking, with vehicles completely off the paved roadway, is now ordinary. Previously, a well-defined gravel shoulder no more than 1.5 metres wide separated the asphalt roadway from the grass public space.

A proven solution teases us across the road: wooden bollards. The grassy public space on the river side of the road has been protected with a simple, yet highly effective barrier that stops the shoulder from creeping towards the river. The City of Ottawa maintains these bollards fairly well, as noted by the replace-

ments of many which have been victims of snow plows. Why does the City protect the grass public space on one side of Stanley Avenue, but not the other?

This section of Stanley Avenue near the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse is top of mind for other reasons, as well. Many neighbours who attended the NECA annual general meeting on Oct. 27 voiced concerns over the proposed motion concerning the Terms of Reference for a Pilot Project on Stanley Avenue. The AGM accommodated some airing of grievances, but wasn't suitable for bridging divides. Fortunately, eight attendees signed up to jointly establish a new statement of direction for enhancing safety and public amenities in this important connection between the neighbourhood and New Edinburgh Park. With respect to everyone's time, we'll start by capturing feedback from these volunteers through emailed

surveys. Please email **jason. tavoularis@gmail.com** if you would like to participate. *Jason Tavoularis is the chair of NECA's Traffic and Safety committee.*



BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Jane Heintzman, Randy Mar, Tamara Miller and Karen Squires



Massage therapist Anna Belanger moved to the 'Burgh in 2020 and is excited to open a studio at 125 Beechwood Ave.

to open this month

Anna Bélanger Registered Massage Therapist who graduated from the 3,000-hour program at British Columbia's West Coast College of Massage Therapy, with a specialty in women's health. Anna moved to Ottawa with her family, and then to New Edinburgh, in 2020.

Anna's company, Anna Bélanger and Associates, already provides profession-

Anna Belanger massage set al registered massage therapy in three modern studios across Ottawa, so when space became available at 125 Beechwood Ave., she jumped at the chance to open another location to serve the community she loves.

> The company's tagline is: "We change how people feel" and Anna and her team strive to achieve this for their clients every day. They offer a variety of massage services including pre- and post-natal; therapeutic; deep tissue; sports therapy; craniosacral;

and relaxation as well as Reiki therapy. And by giving your business to Anna Belanger and Associates, you're also giving back to the community. You'll find them proudly supporting corporate fundraising events, corporate on-site visits, and community fundraising and sporting events, such as the United Way, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and local schools.

Anna has a team of 16 Registered Massage Therapists, 12 of whom have been with the company for over half of their careers! With the new Beechwood location opening soon, she's looking to expand her team.

If you are an RMT looking for a new opportunity with a group that's passionate about its clients and its company culture, or if you are looking for massage therapy to ease stress, pain and reduce muscle tension, visit Anna Belanger and Associates this winter to "Change how you feel."

Bélanger Anna Associates is expected to open in December at 125 Beechwood Ave. Visit annabelanger.com learn more or to book an appointment directly. –TM



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The reception area at Beechwood Physical Medicine which recently opened at 9 St. Charles St.

Welcome to Beechwood **Physical Medicine**

We always like to see new services opening in our community, and although there's been some changes, closures, and delays throughout the pandemic period, we welcome to Beechwood Physical Medicine, whose slogan is "Inspire and empower."

I popped in recently to their ground-floor location at St. Charles Market and met with clinic manager Melissa Lees, who's been with the team

for over a year and a half. She was very enthusiastic to chat with the New Edinburgh *News* about this new 2,600 sq. ft. space which is an extremely warm, inviting place.

According to Melissa, cofounders Geoff Outerbridge and Markus Besemann opened the doors for a soft launch of Beechwood Physical Medicine in August 2022. Geoff is already practicing onsite as a chiropractor, and Markus will move his practice to the St. Charles Market office location begin-

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



ning next year.

Visit bpmottawa.ca to learn more about their team of approximately 15 professionals offering integrated and coordinated care. Services include chiropractic and physiotherapy, mental health counselling, and neuro-optometry.

According to the brochure, the practice of neuro-optometry targets people recovering from an injury or with complex persistent pain, including musculoskeletal injuries and conditions, spinal pain, postconcussion and traumatic brain injury management, and pain resulting from motorvehicle collisions. They also offer care for career athletes, veterans, and seniors. Essentially, Beechwood Physical Medicine is an integrated team of chiropractors, physiotherapists, psychologists, psychotherapists, and medical doctors focused on interdisciplinary team-based care.

A new team member is joining soon, focused on sports medicine and exercise therapy related to musculoskeletal care. Beechwood Physical Medicine will also soon offer Thai massage and yoga classes for smaller groups. To learn more or to book an appointment, visit bpmottawa.ca to book online, call the team at 613-745-2766 or email info@ bpmottawa.ca. If you are in the area, drop by their location at 9 St. Charles St. at the corner of Beechwood in the St. Charles Market building. -KS

Green Fresh refresh

Fans of Green Fresh Supermarket breathed a huge sigh of relief this past summer when they learned that the Asian supermarket was not shutting its doors, but rather was relocating from the Eastview Plaza (corner of Montreal Road and North River Road) to McArthur Avenue. Eastview Plaza was razed this past summer to make way for a mixed-use development.

Now located in the former McArthur Lanes Bowling Centre just east of Vanier Parkway, Green Fresh has nearly doubled its footprint and, correspondingly, its selection and services. After a mid-summer soft launch to test its new layout, supply chain, inventory, and pointof-sale systems, everything is working smoothly, and client reviews have been very posi-



Pet owners can find mobile pet groomer Julie Stewart from The Fetch parked outside 141 Beechwood Ave. every other Sunday.

According to store manager Willa Yang, "with our expanded fresh and frozen food, produce, diary, housewares, and cosmetics sections, shoppers will now have more reasons to make Green Fresh a market destination." The new location was part of the owner's strategic move to respond to customer needs and market opportunities driven by nearby residential growth and shifting community demographics.

Readers who enjoy Asian grocery stores can save themselves the trip to either Chinatown or further afield to the T&T supermarket near the airport by shopping closer to home at Green Fresh.

Shoppers seeking fresh and packaged Asian, South-East Asian, and Caribbean staples will notice Green Fresh's larger, brighter, and more accessible layout. Surprisingly, a former bowling alley makes for a great supermarket as the footprint enabled the designers to make full use of the high ceilings and two-tier flooring structure to offer a full store view upon entering.

Willa emphasized "quality and freshness" as the core of Green Fresh's business model. The butchery and seafood sections have been greatly expanded in both space and selection, including such items as blue crab, snapper, lobster, manila clams, prawns, and so much more. Pre-packaged fresh meats help shorten wait times at the butcher's table and now offer a wider selection.

A new cosmetics section features staples as well as imported high-end brands, and the housewares department offers a variety of cookware, dishware, cooking utensils and implements such as rice cookers and pressure cookers.

Other additions of interest: the World Tea House serving a variety of in-house and bubble teas (a tea-based drink featuring chewy tapioca balls); and sections offering cooked and prepared foods. There's even a technology repair service!

Baby bok choy, Asian pears, an array of textures and sizes of tofu, sauces, and condiments, and variety of snacks and treats make a wander down the aisles a learning and cultural experience. Friendly staff can help you find the ingredients for that special recipe.

Willa added that folks can find weekly and holiday specials in their online flyer, on WeChat, and at the store entrance, with many seasonal favourites like fresh dragon fruit and mangoes available by the case. Indeed, many flats going out the door are orders for restaurants and other large consumers. Willa also wants shoppers to know about Green Fresh's seniors' discounts on Wednesdays.

Weekday hours typically run until 9 a.m.-9 p.m., except on Sundays when they close at 8 p.m. – hours that make after-work stops a breeze. And the hot takeaway section also makes for quick and convenient dinners.



Maged Kamal's Orange Turtle Bakery is opening in time for the holiday season in Lowertown.

Green Fresh Supermarket at 175 McArthur Ave. Call 613-748-1038 or visit greenfreshsupermarketvanier. business.site to learn more. -RM

Mobile pet groomer teams up with Chew That

After working 13 years in the corporate grooming industry, Julie Stewart knew she wanted to offer a quiet, stressfree environment for those dogs and cats who get overwhelmed by the grooming process. That's where The **Fetch Mobile Pet Grooming** comes in.

This woman-owned business was started in Newfoundland by Laura **Dunford** in 2018, and Julie began the business expansion to Ottawa in August 2022.

The Fetch is a full-service grooming salon on wheels and serves both dogs and cats. Julie bathes all pets with high-quality Canadian shampoo and conditioners, provides nail-trimming and grinding, and offers a quiet, distraction-free environment for their haircuts.

Bath services are available only for dogs under 50 lbs; however, Julie can provide all

other quick services on larger dogs: nail care, ear trims, brush-outs, paw trims, etc.

In a partnership with Chew-That pet supply store at 141 Beechwood Ave., Julie brings her years of experience and safety training to New Edinburgh bi-weekly on Sundays where you can find her van in the Chew-That parking lot. Visit thefetch.ca/ **ottawa** to learn more. −*TM*

New bakery a short walk

On Nov. 18, the turtle at last emerged from its shell the Orange Turtle, that is. Orange Turtle is a cozy new bake shop at 285 St. Patrick St. between Dalhousie and Cumberland Streets. When the NEN first introduced the Orange Turtle in April 2022, owner-operator Maged Kamal had hoped to open by late April, in time to take advantage of the busy season in and around the ByWard Market.

Alas, the COVID pandemic - the notorious grim reaper of target dates and project schedules –played havoc with Maged's plans. But there's a silver lining to the delay:

Continued on page 12



75 Beechwood I 613.680.6315

MARGOT



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The Rassi Coiffure team - Elie Aoun, left, Grace Abou Zaid and Ray El-Hage - in their welcoming salon on the corner of Beechwood at the Vanier Parkway.

Continued from page 11

Orange Turtle has emerged just in time for the holiday season, when sweet treats are in high demand. What could be more alluring for holiday entertaining than heaping platters of shortbread cookies (cranberry-orange, lemon-pistachio, apricot-vanilla, and almond-orange); butter lemon cookies with lemon icing or poppyseed; myriad banana loaves from chocolate-ginger to blueberrycoconut, lemon, and raisin walnut; and Belgian chocolate-cranberry gâteau – which Maged describes as "a decadent cross between a chocolate cake and a brownie.'

Chilly clients can also warm up with a steaming espresso, cappuccino, latte, pressurebrewed coffee, hot chocolate, or specialty tea. And coming soon is Maged's luxuriously rich Viennese iced coffee

made with ice cream. While the Orange Turtle will operate largely on a takeout basis, the shop has three small tables (seating for six) where you can warm up and savour your cookies, surrounded by the intoxicating smells of fresh baking.

The Orange Turtle currently operates from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday through Sunday. In keeping with the deliberate pace of his namesake turtle, Maged plans to start the business slowly, testing the waters before extending his hours of operation or expanding his menu. His current selection (noted above) is only a small fraction of what he plans to offer once the bakery is established with a regular clientele.

"I'm leaving it loose," he explains, awaiting feedback from clients. Down the line, he hopes to introduce gourmet sandwiches and specialty cakes, all of which will be meticulously taste-tested in advance and ready to go when the time is right.

Now that the lights are on, the shop doors open, and the shelves stocked, Maged's priority is to build a small team to run the new business. "Right now, I'm the chief of everything," he admits, and he is actively searching for help with baking, counter service, and sales.

Customer service is critically important to Maged. He sees it not only as the key to a successful business, but also as an essential element in creating a community gatheringplace akin to the small bakeries he fondly remembers from his early life in Europe. "The Orange Turtle is not just a business for me," says Maged. "It has to be more, and to contribute to the quality of life in the community." You can reach the bakery at 613-562-2253 (BAKE). *–JH*

Rassi Coiffure innovates during pandemic

Rassi Coiffure, located at 2 Beechwood Ave. at the corner of Vanier Parkway, has been around for over 30 years: exceptional for any business these days. Ray El Hage, the current owner, has been with Rassi for 23 years now and purchased Rassi from the previous owner seven years ago.

In a time when people are struggling to retain staff, Ray's team – including Elie and Grace - certainly have that secret sauce. Elie has been a stylist with Ray for 12 years, and Grace has been the colourist at Rassi for 15 years! During the pandemic, Ray delivered products to his



Community favourite Fraser Café at 7 Springfield Rd. has both dine-in and take-out options for the holiday season.

clients so they could colour their hair at home (pre-customizing their formulas) which was much appreciated. Supporting their local community is part of the Rassi trademark.

During the pandemic, Ray did some upgrades to his salon, and focused on professional development to ensure the team offers consistent professional service, keeping up with new hair trends and products. The end results: a serene environment and fruitful conversation to ensure clients get what they want.

As a Rassi client, I can personally say the salon offers exceptional service and has gone to great lengths to keep everyone safe during the ups and downs of the pandemic. When you go to Rassi, expect professional service, a very relaxing environment supported by an excellent choice of products. The soundtrack is a bonus!

I should also mention that Elie recently got married: congratulations, Elie! Folks in need of up-dos for their own weddings and milestone occasions can be sure Elie, Ray, and Grace are well-prepared to make your occasion extra-fabulous.

Book an appointment online at rassicoiffure.com or call 613-740-1333. Check online for hours of operation. –KS

Fraser Café focused on the present, coy about the future

Fraser Restaurant. Takeaway and Bottle Shop on Springfield Road is preparing for the festive season with an assortment of new offerings.

Ross and Simon Fraser and their staff are moving toward a heartier, more savoury menu while still incorporating seasonal produce and procurement from local farms and producers. Diners will see more seasonal dishes like venison ragu and rack of lamb on offer, and sweets and desserts will also migrate according to the season.

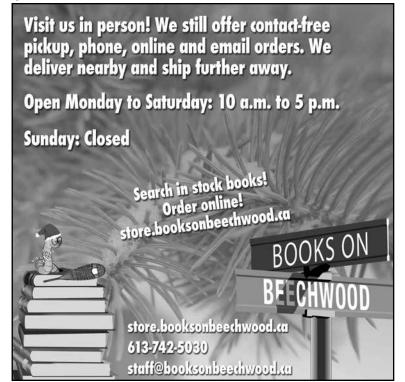
The Bottle Shop continues to feature curated red, white, sparkling, and rosé wines. "Our bottle shop endeavours to be a fun counterpoint to the LCBO around the corner by offering primarily organic, lesser-known labels," says Ally, who oversees the wine listings.

"One of our favourites is II Mostro Pét-Nat from Poggio Anima," said Ally. "Hailing from Abruzzo, this blend of Pecorino and Chardonnay results in a charming, lightly effervescent wine with a savoury nose and a lovely wash of acidity. It makes a wonderful brunch wine and is excellent as an aperitif."

After a recommendation like that, who wouldn't want to pick up a bottle or enjoy a glass on their next visit to the restaurant?

Fraser's takeaway menu continues to offer weekly specials, including rotating Dinners for Two and a trio of pizzas combining interesting ingredients and creative names. Desserts abound, as do pastas, and fresh and frozen appetizers and entrees, such as beef tartare, an often sold-out vegetarian moussaka, and butter chicken curry.

Following Fraser tradition, the popular tourtière with Quebec ketchup will be



offered again, and plans are being finalized for a holiday takeaway family meal.

Fraser Café has come a long way since its early days at 143 Putman Ave on the corner of Beechwood Avenue (the current home of Bibi's Middle Eastern Kitchen, also formerly ZaZaZa and The Works). When asked about a rumoured move to a potential third New Edinburgh location to accommodate their growing business and achieve the Fraser brothers' vision, Ross said: "Fraser would love to announce and confirm what our future will be, but we are still deciding our next steps. To be in the hospitality industry and to look ahead is something we don't take for granted. The community support over the years, and especially the last three, has been incredible. Thank you! Sending our love to our community, as always. We look forward to continuing this journey together!"

Keep your eyes peeled, ears open, and taste buds at the ready...

Fraser Restaurant. Takeaway & Bottle Shop is located at 7 Springfield Rd. Visit frasercafe.ca or call 613-749-1444. -RM

METRO supports food bank at critical time

Throughout the year, and with a special focus on the Christmas season, our local grocery store, Metro Beechwood (50 Beechwood Ave.), has been a strong supporter of the Ottawa Food Bank. In the last fiscal year, Metro Beechwood donated more than 51,000 lbs. of food to the Food Bank. This total includes food collected through the store's Red Cage program of in-store bulk donations, combined with its One More Bite food recovery initiative, which redirects fresh, unsold products (such as meat, dairy and baked goods) to the Ottawa Food Bank, rather than having them go to waste.

The One More Bite program is a great initiative that Metro has supported for five years now," says Metro store manager Shawn Steinburg. "Last year, we sent 22,925 lbs of protein to the Ottawa Food Bank that would otherwise have ended up unused in landfills. We're proud to be such a strong partner in this program."

This year, the dramatic escalation in food costs has been a headline story, and a painful reality for many Canadians. Pressure on the Ottawa Food Bank has been at record levels, reaching a peak in August. Just as its clients are feeling the pinch of rising prices, so too is the Food Bank, which faces steadily increasing costs to restock its shelves to meet demand.

In response, Metro stores are launching an Out of Reach fundraising campaign to help the Ottawa Food Bank tackle the current crisis. Throughout December, Metro customers can make a \$2 (or greater) donation at the checkout, and can also purchase premade donation bags ranging in price from \$5.00-\$14.99. Here's hoping the holiday spirit of giving will be especially strong in our community in this year of critical need.

Due to Metro's central location on Beechwood Avenue, Shawn and his team are well known to neighbourhood residents and play an important ongoing role in our daily lives Their consistent efforts to provide welcoming and efficient service contribute much to our community; perhaps never more so than in the wake of COVID. Staff have carried on their work in extraordinarily challenging circumstances, and often at significant personal risk.

Shawn is justifiably proud of his employees: "I'm incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and all-round incredible team," said Shawn. "Each day they come to work with a positive attitude and do their very best to make sure every customer has a first-





Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Metro Beechwood manager Shawn Steinburg with staff members Cheryl Lacasse and Terra Selig, part of the hardworking team at our local grocery store.

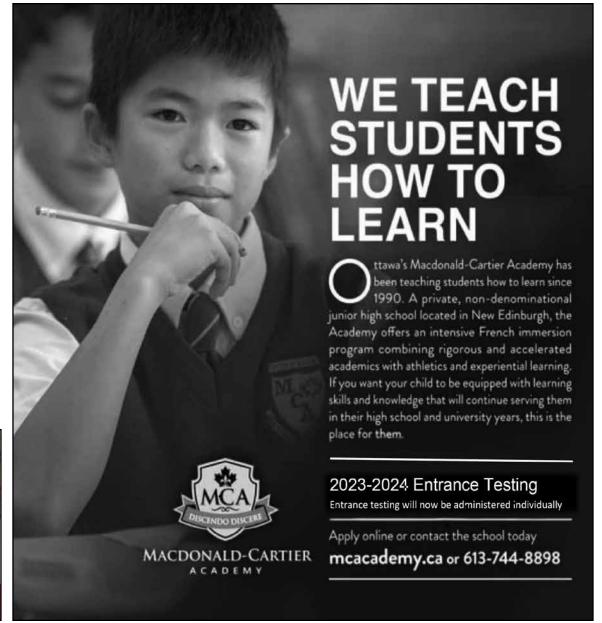
rate shopping experience."

To highlight the individual achievements of its employees throughout Ontario in 2019, Metro introduced its Say HHI Employee Recognition Program in 2019. "HHI" stands for: H (Say Hi!); H (Help); I (Invite customers back). All store employees are included in the program and are eligible for a range of awards.

The Metro Beechwood family is especially proud to have a recipient of one of the program's top honours on its team: Micheline St.-Amour stood out among the thousands of Metro employees across the province, receiving the award for her outstanding customer service and consistent dedication to her work. Beechwood's Kevin Carrier also earned special recogni-

tion for his friendly and efficient service. Congratulations to Micheline and Kevin for their great work!

We wish the whole Beechwood Metro crew a safe and happy holiday season and thank them for their efforts to keep us supplied with the necessities of life throughout the year. –*JH*





St. Charles Market's design receives new award; new business opens on ground level

By Karen Squires

The St. Charles Market development project has received several design awards over the past couple of years, but the most recent is the one Darryl Squires (no relation to the author), CEO of Modbox and The Lake Partnership Inc., is most proud. Linebox was the lead architectural firm for this specific project.

This latest accolade is from the Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association, which rated all submissions for the category Best Low-/Medium-/High-Rise Condo based on criteria including aesthetics and appeal; functionality; innovation/unique design; cohesiveness; and creative use of space.

creative use of space.

Darryl tells the New
Edinburgh News he feels this award takes both interior and exterior condo elements into consideration. From a design perspective, details such as the starry night wall and balcony railing rosettes are highlights of the project. He also sees the amount and nature of green space integrated into the project as another significant highlight. "As most developments tend to get built as close as they can to the property lines, pedestrians will find our park and courtyard to be a natural oasis. We recently installed the benches in the space we dedicated to park land and are already seeing this happen," Darryl explains.

He also spoke about the complex decisions taken into



Photo by JVL Photo

The St. Charles Market development at 140 Beechwood Ave. has received an award for both its interior and exterior design from the Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association.

consideration with the city and the community regarding the New Edinburgh heritage designation. The building had to be positioned around the church and the choice of cladding used on the balcony screens are replicas of the circular windows on the church's face.

In terms of creative use of space, Darryl spoke about multi-use units and larger-unit features as being more homelike for long-term owners, such as recent retirees. The

sense I got from our discussion is that the 55 units comprise a like-minded community which values the natural setting and courtyard space for people to connect. Darryl was unable to share information about prospective tenants moving into the ground-level space, but neighbourhood rumour has it a favourite highend local restaurant will be migrating over to St. Charles Market. However, NEN has news on the recent opening of Beechwood Physical

Medicine on the ground floor (see page 10 for details).

While St. Charles Market has many positive attributes, there have been some significant issues, such as getting the kind of retail tenants that residents would like to see. It's challenging, explains Darryl, as residents would like to see more services like hardware stores. Unfortunately, the rental cost for this kind of retailer is currently very high. On the flip side, retailers want more foot traffic, which

they may not see Beechwood offering, as compared with other locations like the Glebe or Westboro.

Hopefully we will get updates on more new tenants soon. In the meantime, let's welcome the new team at Beechwood Physical Medicine and congratulate Darryl and the entire team on the journey to create a sense of place on Beechwood. Clearly this latest design award is further proof that this building is among the best in class.





New Year's Brunch returns Jan. 7; seeking ice rink attendants

By Chris Straka, CCC President

The snow has come a bit earlier than usual, but there are no hibernation plans for the stewards of the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse and the surrounding public spaces. The blanket of white set the stage perfectly for the Crichton Community Centre's (CCC's) holiday events and has expedited planning for the skating season.

Holiday lights gathering

Neighbours kicked off the holiday season on Nov. 26 with a festive gathering at the Fieldhouse which was decked out with coloured lights. A visit from a photogenic Santa Claus delighted children as well as parents who, with gift requests already submitted, need to make one less shopping trip. Horse-drawn wagon rides were on offer for a tour of the lane lights, which are proliferating every year.

Festive music by Ian Zamfir-Enache and company set the mood. Thanks to Yuji Satoh and Nick Charland who kept the outdoor fire burning and managed the flow of guests on and off the wagon. Neighbours washed down sweet and savoury snacks prepared by Dave Pyman and Katie Hernon with drinks that flowed from the hands of Loïc Berthou and Martin Hicks. Ashley Hansson managed meetings with the

white-bearded man, while Carmen Bohn, Ewa Pyman and Akiko Satoh kept those waiting for their turn occupied with ornament-making. The decorations that brightened the building were courtesy of Lindsay Charland and Rachel Aslan and many of the aforementioned volunteers. Bastien Moal and Natalie Irwin helped spread the word with their postering efforts. Many thanks to all those who helped to make this event happen. We are all very fortunate to live within a community of givers who regularly contribute to the greater good!

New Year's Brunch

The annual New Year's Brunch will return Jan. 7, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at the Fieldhouse. Come for plentiful homemade food and the good company of neighbours. Please bring your own cutlery and dishes. Donations are gratefully accepted and our volunteers' efforts during this event is much appreciated.

Follow your meal with a skate on the ice rinks or some cross-country skiing around the park. Those interested in the local art will be able to admire pieces on display at the Fieldhouse beginning in January 2023. If you're an artist who would like to join the show, or if you'd like to volunteer some time or culinary skill to the event, please contact **crichtoncommunitycouncil**

@gmail.com.

As plans for events in 2023 firm up, information will be posted at **newedinburgh.ca/events**.

Skating in the park

As long as nature cooperates with consistently freeztemperatures, Edinburgh's hosers will have ice ready for skating at the Fieldhouse before the New Year. The Herculean effort needed to make this happen is coordinated by Alain-Remi Lajeunesse, our park director. To learn the art and science of making and maintaining ice for skating, or if you simply want an excuse to get out of the house this winter, contact Alain at crichtoncommunitycouncil @gmail.com.

Once the ice is ready, the Fieldhouse will be open from 4 p.m.–7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and from 11 a.m.– 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays to serve as a place to put on skates, warm up and enjoy some refreshment.

Please respect signs indicating when the ice surfaces are open and closed, especially on days when the temperature climbs above zero. Even a few footsteps (animal or human) on melting ice can create dozens of hours of extra work.

Thanks to a generous donation by Uniform Developments, one ice surface will be surrounded with short boards to better define



the edge and to help keep pucks, rings and little people contained.

Ice attendant positions open

The CCC is recruiting paid ice rink attendants. This crew of responsible teens are present through the skating season when the Fieldhouse is open. Typically, rink attendants are paid \$15.50/hour to assist ice users; clear the ice of snow, organize the ice maintenance and sports equipment, maintain the interior of the Fieldhouse; provide first aid in emergencies, and sell refreshments. Applicants should send an expression of interest and a resume of relevant experience to the CCC by email: crichtoncommunitycouncil @gmail.com.

Renting the Fieldhouse

The New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse at 203 Stanley Ave. remains available for weekday rentals throughout the winter skating season — on weekends the space is reserved for skating. Although one half of the main room is configured as a skate-changing area and concession, the window side

of the main room (facing the river) will remain set up for meetings or other events. Visit **newedinburgh.ca/ccc/fieldhouse** for details. To make a reservation, visit **nefieldhouseccc.skedda.com/booking**.

Fieldhouse improvements

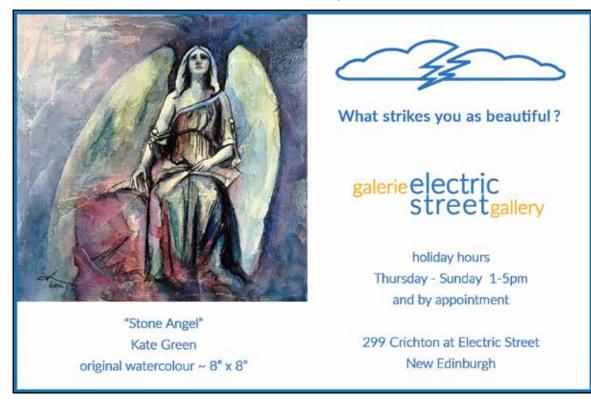
In the future, the CCC hopes to better accommodate the needs of Fieldhouse users, especially during the skating season. In 2019, the neighbourhood identified a list of capital improvements to the Fieldhouse which prioritized: 1) rubber flooring; 2) a sliding room partition; and 3) sound attenuation. On Oct. 17, the presidents of the CCC, New Edinburgh Community and Arts centre (NECTAR) and New Edinburgh Community Association (NECA) sent a letter to City Councillor Rawlson King asking for action on realizing this list of improvements. We hope we can begin taking steps with Councillor King and City staff to address the needs of our Fieldhouse users.

Season's greetings

The Crichton Community Council wishes all residents of New Edinburgh a very happy start to the holiday season!

To contact the CCC's Board of Directors, please email: **crichtoncommunitycouncil** @gmail.com.

See you in the park!







summer-like temperatures lingering into late November this year, so too have many of the bird species that would typically be headed south by then. Recent reports from the Ottawa Field Naturalist Club (OFNC) ofnc.ca/recent-bird**sightings** – include surprising numbers of warblers (as many as 12 species still here in early November), vireos, sparrows, kinglets and wrens, along with osprey, eagles, gray catbirds and even a scarlet tanager. For the bird population, it was decidedly not "looking a lot like Christmas" (though the picture has since changed)!

Another highlight in OFNC reports has been the unusually large range of woodpecker species, some of them relative rarities such as black-backed, American three-toed, and red-bellied woodpeckers. Such regulars as yellow-bellied sapsuckers, Northern flickers, downy-, hairy- and pileated woodpeckers are also on the scene this fall, and many will remain throughout the winter.

In early November, the OFNC reported sightings of late-lingering species in our own neck of the woods, notably blue-headed vireo, gray catbird and numerous warblers, including yellow-, palm-, Nashville, Cape May, black-throated blue and American redstart.

While to date I've had no

luck spotting stay-at-home warblers, I've encountered a respectable list of local species since late October: darkeyed juncos, which turned up in large numbers earlier in the fall; black-capped chickadees; white-breasted nuthatches; song sparrows; a white-throated sparrow; an elf-like red-breasted nuthatch; blue jays by the score (the background music of autumn in Ottawa); common ravens; American crows; Northern cardinals, several of which will spend the winter in our garden; a flock of handsome hooded mergansers on the Rideau River; numerous sharp-shinned hawks flying low in pursuit of prey, and a very large and menacing Cooper's hawk lurking on our front lawn on Stanley Avenue, presumably in hopes of bagging a tasty meal from the flocks of European house sparrows that cluster in our yew trees.

Wild turkeys remain a year-round inhabitant of our community, particularly in the Rockcliffe Park area where they appear to have established permanent homes in the Manor–Minto–Coltrin Road area. These imperious customers have no respect for the rules of the road, and frequently hold up traffic as they stroll across the road at a maddeningly leisurely pace.

Here in New Edinburgh, I recently encountered a large and lustrous male turkey,



ckcissel. Photo by David Howe

strutting up Rideau Gate towards the Rideau Hall entrance. As I came within a few feet of the bird, I was eager not to startle it into flight before I had a close look at its brilliant, iridescent plumage and bright red, wattled neck. Hoping to reassure it of my good intentions, I spoke to it softly, and to my amazement, it turned and began wandering straight for me. Thankfully, it changed course when it was clear I had no intention of offering it food, but next time, I'll think twice before employing my turkey-whisperer skills!

Winter Finch Forecast

One of the redeeming highlights of the long winter season is the presence of winter finches: pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, purple finches, pine siskins, common- and hoary redpolls, red crossbills, white-winged crossbills, along with three other species: red-breasted nuthatches, Bohemian waxwings, and blue jays. The members of this colourful group are known as irruptive species, referring to their regular pattern of moving out of their northern breeding ranges into more southerly areas in response to the scarcity or abundance of food supplies – they simply follow the food! Visit jeaniron.ca/2012/winterfinches.htm for images of the irruptive species.

For many years, the Finch Research Network – finchnetwork.org – has produced an annual forecast of finch irruptions through the winter months, initially authored by ornithologist Ron Pittaway, and now prepared by Tyler Hoar. This year's general forecast looks promising for birders in Eastern North America where food crops are abundant. finchnetwork.org/winter-

finch-forecast-2022-2023
Based on the forecast, chances are good that those in our area will encounter evening grosbeaks, redbreasted nuthatches and common redpolls. Large birds like the grosbeak are typically attracted to platform feeders with black oil sunflower seeds, while smaller finches prefer nyjer seed dispensed in tube feeders.

Roosting crows: A winter spectacle

American crows are not at the top of most birders' favourites list. In fact, they can



Blue jay with peanut.

Photo by Frank Martin

be noisy, tiresome creatures, particularly when gathered in large flocks, as they typically are during the non-breeding season. In the coming winter months, massive roosts of crows are likely to be a common – and often eerie – spectacle here in Ottawa, now considered a roosting hotspot. The crows typically gather at dusk, noisily communicating their whereabouts to other crows as an invitation to join the pack.

Ornithologists have various theories about the roosting ritual. As roosting is essentially resting behaviour, the crows are thought to be gathering in large groups as a form of protection against predators during the overnight hours. With multiple eyes and ears on the night watch, their chances of spotting a nearby danger are greatly increased, and their combined forces - often in the hundreds or even thousands – can serve to intimidate approaching enemy. Experts also speculate that there may be an informationsharing element to these gatherings, with crows picking up tips about food sources and sheltering areas.

Another theory suggests that large roosts may form as a result of a death in their crow community. While it seems safe to assume that grief is not a prime motivator, the most likely explanation relates to their need to take stock of the death, and assess the source of danger that may have occasioned it.

One of the longest-standing roost sites in Ottawa is around the Ottawa Hospital General Campus on Smyth Road. Closer to home, I've encountered roosts near the Beechwood Cemetery and in the Pine Hill area in Rockcliffe Park. Keep your eyes peeled, and be prepared to be spooked!

Reports from our readers

St-Laurent Academy teacher Mike Leveille, our regular reporter on Macoun Marsh off St. Laurent Blvd., went further afield this fall. He was delighted to spot evening grosbeaks and fox sparrows at Mer Bleu and also noted the presence of numerous ruby-crowned kinglets in our general area.

Avian Bistro proprietor Philip MacAdam has been busy keeping his feeders stocked at Thomas and Alexander Streets. The Bistro has been hopping with visits from American goldfinches, red- and white-breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, Northern cardinals, house finches, purple finches, and dark-eyed juncos. In early November, Philip was surprised to spot a latelingering white-throat sparrow foraging on the ground beneath the feeders. And while cycling to his Sandy Hill office, he was startled by a purposeful, low-flying sharp-shinned hawk crossing his path in pursuit of its prey: likely a hapless pigeon.

"My favourite fall vagrant this year was definitely the dickcissel, a lifer for us," says David. The grassland bird normally migrates south from the central plains during the fall, but "for some reason it decided to take a diversion to Ottawa this year for a week hanging around in a local birder's garden." When word of its presence got out, the garden was flooded with birders from far and wide, all hoping for a good look at the seldom-seen, sparrowlike creature. Interestingly, the female of the species is as colourful as the male, with a yellow breast, yellow eyebrow, and rusty brown shoul-

A life immersed in and enriched by country music

By John Leefe

Larry Delaney is a builder, but don't think house construction. For over 32 years, the long-time New Edinburgh resident has been instrumental in helping to build the careers of hundreds of Canadian country musicians as the former editor and publisher of *Country Music News*.

Launched with local musician Neville Wells in 1980 on a shoestring budget, *CMM* was the only country music publication with a national focus. It ceased publication in 2012. Delaney's incalculable contribution to the country music industry was recognized in May 2022 when he was awarded the Builder Impact Award from the Country Music Association of Ontario.

That's just one of the numerous accolades he's acquired over the years. Larry is an 11-time recipient of the CCMA's Country Music Person of the Year award, an inductee into the Canadian County Music Hall of Fame in 1989, and to the Hall of Honour in 1996. For a guy who never played an instrument, ("other than a turntable," he jokes), these are impressive accomplishments.

Larry, who turned 80 on Aug. 30, has deep roots in our neighbourhood. Although born in Vanier, (above the former Vanier Grill on Montreal Road, which was then a butcher shop), he moved to 104 Stanley Ave. at age 10 and has lived in the same 136-year-old house on Crichton Street since marry-

ing Joanne Bonell on Aug. 1, 1964. After a 26-year career with the City of Ottawa's finance department, Larry started working from home a few years after the first edition of *Capital Country News* – the original name of what became *CMM* – was released in 1980.

Larry is proud of the massive wall of 15,000 vinyl LPs and 10,000 CDs he's been collecting since 1957. The seeds of his love for country music were sown listening to CKBY (now Y-105) as a 12-year-old when he'd tune in to a noon-hour show with Bob King and the Happy Wanderers

That same year, Larry was in the audience at the old auditorium on Argyle Street when a guy by the name of Elvis Presley performed in his only Ottawa concert. "Joanne and I both attended that concert, but we didn't even know each other then. We met a few years later, on Sept. 26, 1959, on bus no. 3," Larry affectionately recalls.

Perhaps his most significant achievement is helping to promote new Canadian country artists. He points proudly at the framed picture showing the first 25 cover stories of *CMM*. "When we started the newspaper, one of my first chores was writing album reviews. It became a popular part of the paper because people would focus in on what my reviews were for their purchase of albums," Larry says.

Larry speaks enthusiastically about the hundreds of



Photo by John Leefe

Born in Vanier, Larry Delaney has lived on Crichton Street since he was 10 years old. From this house, he and his wife Joanne published *Country Music News* magazine for over 30 years.

Canada's most beloved country musicians – like George Fox, Paul Brandt, Charlie Major, and Stompin' Tom Connors – whom he's interviewed in his home office. The "cantankerous" Stompin' Tom drove up Crichton Street in a big white limo after receiving the Order of Canada at Rideau Hall, with a case of Moosehead beer in hand!

Another fun fact from Larry's razor-sharp memory: back in 1983, he featured a story on Eileen Twain – whom we now know as Shania Twain. Larry says he didn't necessarily foresee her becoming the international success she now is when his

article first appeared almost 40 years ago.

"Ottawa was very much a hotbed of country music in the 1970s and into the 1980s," Larry says, noting that what's on the radio now is not what he calls country music. "It started with Garth Brooks, whose popularity was so immense that all the major record labels wanted to copy what he did, and everyone started to sound the same," he says, pointing to a photo of Joanne and Garth taken at the Civic Centre in it, Garth holds a copy of Country Music News maga-

Joanne, whom Larry calls his "soulmate," is central to

his time publishing *CMM*, having been his partner in producing its 332 editions. She was diagnosed with dementia in 2020 and is never far from his thoughts: he visits her daily at an assisted living facility on Montreal Road.

Larry also has his own health issues these days. He was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2020 and had a pacemaker implanted earlier this year, which prevented him from attending the ceremony to receive his Impact Award last May.

Despite these challenges, Larry remains committed to preserving the memory of Canadian country music and is a passionate chronicler of local music history. He is a freelance writer for *Bounder* magazine and recently wrote a retrospective on The Golden Rail, a country music club in the old Lafontaine Hotel on Montreal Road that was demolished in 1986 to make way for a condo development.

He's also posted more than 30,000 photos on Facebook promoting Canadian country music performers. He credits his two children, Kenni-Jo (aged 52) and Kirk (aged 48), for showing him how to use social media.

Near Larry's wall of vinyl is a framed quote, perfect for someone with such a massive record collection: "Bury me with my old records. It'll be my vinyl resting place".

Retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

Consider budgeting options as prices fluctuate

By Julie LaPalme

you feel stressed, stretched, and powerless with all the price hikes? Mortgage rates have almost doubled since this time last year and gas prices are all over the map, making it hard to budget. Earlier this year I wrote a column about how to keep energy costs down by basically reducing energy consumption. Conservation is a nobrainer. If you consume less, you will pay less. But sometimes consuming less is not an option, especially when it comes to feeding your family.

If you want to reduce your food bill, you might have to change some of your spend-

ing habits. It goes without saying that eating out and ordering in is a huge drain on the budget. If you're exhausted after work and need a break from cooking, instead of ordering in or going out vou can reach into vour freezer and pull out a meal you've prepared when you've had more time the previous weekend. In the wintertime, I often cook a chicken in the slow cooker and then make soup with the bones. Soups are easy to make in larger quantities and you can freeze the extras. Make sure to label the lid with the date and the type of soup. Depending on the ingredients, frozen soup

should be consumed within three months.

Like many people, I started baking bread during the lockdowns and discovered that my bread tasted better, was healthier than store-bought bread and a heck of a lot cheaper! I've continued to make my own bread because I've come to prefer it and I don't find it all that time-consuming. And the ingredients are simple: organic whole wheat flour, water, yeast and a bit of salt and sugar. I usually throw something else in the oven to maximize the oven being on, such as a winter squash or an eggplant for making baba ganouj, a delicious dip that goes well with pita bread, carrots, cucumbers, and peppers. The hot oven also keeps the kitchen nice and warm!

Another food item I save on by making myself is yogurt. Not only does it eliminate all those plastic containers, but it's also cheaper and healthier. You only need two ingredients: milk and bacterial culture (which you can buy at Nature's Care on Beechwood Avenue).

Doing away with nonessentials like memberships and subscriptions is another way to save up. Say goodbye to your political party memberships and your Netflix account and redirect the savings to cover your heating and lighting bills instead!

It's sad that we've come to this, but I guess the prosperity party for the middle class had to end some time. At least we're not alone. Most western countries are suffering the same fate.

Julie LaPalme is a lover of nature, a gardener, and a founding member of Healthy Neighbourhoods Ottawa, a group advocating for healthier gardening practices with a focus on reducing leaf blower use. Find the group on Facebook: facebook.com/HealthyNeighbourhoods

Library book sale says thank-you for donations

By Carolyn Brereton

The organizers of the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale would like to extend an enormous thank-you to our community for your continued support of our Library.

Pandemic lockdowns, successive waves of COVID and the closure of our Rockcliffe Park Branch on Springfield Road for many months meant we had to pivot from holding a mammoth two-day sale in April 2020 and find an alternative way to generate funds for the library. Over the past two and a half years, we have held contactless book drives and collected several hundred boxes of donated books. We cull and sort your donations to ensure that the books, which we sell to a local second-hand book dealer, are of the highest quality. While this is not the same as the revenue generated during a book sale, we are still able to make a significant contribution to the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library. This money is used to purchase new materials and to support library programming.

We have also been very lucky with the weather as

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generally, due to COVID restrictions, we sort the books outdoors. Of the several drives held to date, on only one occasion last year did we have to work (distanced and masked) in the Community Hall while the rain poured down outside. The glorious fall weather this year encouraged us to plan one last drive for Nov. 20; then winter suddenly arrived in Ontario. Fortunately, we were spared the record snowfalls experienced elsewhere in the province, and so were able to proceed despite the chilly temperatures. The volunteer sorters were able to work in comfort indoors. Hats off to the traffic managers and box movers who were outside in the cold – once again a steady flow of donations kept everybody moving.

Regular patrons will be familiar with the bookcase in the corner of the library stocked with used books for sale. Although most books are fiction, we also offer some biography, history and other non-fiction. We encourage residents to peruse "the shelves" – perhaps you will find that perfect gift for the avid reader on your Christmas

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Photo by Carolyn Brereton

Rockcliffe Park Library Spring Book Sale Volunteers Claire Sullivan and Kevin Phillips help to sort donations at the book drive this past September.

list. Once you choose your item, you can simply pay at the library desk.

When will the Spring Book Sale return? Unfortunately, we cannot give a firm answer to that question. While we may be "done" with the pandemic, this virus is not yet done with us. Our main concern remains the safety of our volunteers and our patrons and, given the emerging new variants and rising rates in the community, we do not believe that we can safely hold a sale in the spring of 2023.

If you are keen for the Spring

Book Sale to return, we need volunteers who are interested in sharing some of the managerial load. If you are interested in helping us ensure that this wonderful community event continues, please contact Linda McDonald at olive099@outook.com.





Tales from the Square: The Bosnian refugee, the centenarian chemist and the lady in black

By Keith Newton

The last instalment of TFTS marked a shift from its usual somewhat self-congratulatory tone. It attempted to confront a policy decision which appeared to threaten that atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding that is the secret of success in the eldercare industry. Having attempted to set out the broad parameters of the problem, it ended on a note of optimism, based on the expectation that the indomitable spirit and loyalty of all staff members, and the goodwill of residents would prevail.

I must report that we're not out of the woods yet. A few annoying incidents continue to occur, mainly due to circumstances beyond our control: namely, the tightest labour market in decades and consequent understaffing. And there are good reasons to remain optimistic.

Recently, during what I refer to as "the Fall term," we celebrated United Nations Day. What a diverse lot we are! Staff and residents regaled us with songs, dances, tales, and costumes from their native countries. Then came Hallowe'en, and managers made a special effort. They entertained diners with a song-and-dance routine performed in form-fitting body suits. Another highlight came from an unexpected source when Patrick, our receptionist, gave an informative PowerPoint seminar on cyber security, skillfully answering questions on telephone and email scams.

And now, in pursuit of our theme of diversity and character – which are the essence of the denizens of the Square here are three little profiles. **Dusanka** calls herself "a citizen of the former Yugoslavia." She is a Bosnian Serb who was raised in what is now known as Bosnia and Herzegovina. She grew up in the beautiful old capital city of Sarajevo. The city has a rich history, famous for its architecture, multiculturalism, and tolerance. Its architecture alone was enough to warrant the name of "jewel

in the crown of the Austro-Hungarian empire." (Note the past tense. Dusanka ruefully describes the horrors of the siege of 1992–1995 – the longest in modern warfare – that destroyed the city. Dusanka fled and came to Canada with her two small children. A third was born here).

Now we enjoy Dusanka's skills as the unofficial doyenne of housekeeping services. She takes great pride in her work and sets the standard for quality and thoroughness – despite having to work under tight time constraints. But she's fiercely loyal and enjoys the wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, and cultures among residents and staff. She likes to hear different opinions especially about history. Still, Sarajevo draws her back and she has returned many times since moving to Canada. I ask Dusanka about her pastimes. She likes movies, especially comedies, and cooking. Did she bring any recipes from the old country? She smiles, "cabbage rolls." I salivate at the very thought.

New Edinburgh Square residents and staff are always exchanging greetings, whether while scuttling down the hall or diving into an elevator, navigating the Bistro, or entering the dining room. One day as I passed a table on my way to mine, I noticed that one of the ladies had a unique wave. Her hand was raised, palm showing, in the universal signal of the traffic cop ordering 'Stop!' Grinning, she lowered her hand and picked up her cutlery. This has become a daily routine, with occasional variations.

Ruth Moore is a spry centenarian with an impish sense of humour. "Be sure to say I'm a hundred-andone going on a hundred-and-two," she instructs me. "I was raised and went to school in Rothesay, N.B. My father's elder sister was my benefactor and off I went to Mount Allison University where I got my degree in Chemistry and emerged debt-free," she tells me proudly.

There followed five years with the Aluminum Company

of Canada (now Alcan) at their Arvida branch in Quebec's Saguenay region. Ruth then moved to the National Research Council in Ottawa where she met a chemical engineer from British Columbia. They fell in love, married, and raised two daughters: Marilyn moved out west, while Louise still lives in Ottawa and visits her mother at the Square. Ruth herself always lived close to the NRC – in New Edinburgh and Manor Park – and was happy to come to NES.

When asked about pastimes, Ruth tells me: "we skied and skated, of course. Reading? Yes, I read for information. Favourite TV program? The news. Travel? Sure: after we got married in Nauwigewauk, N.B., we toured Nova Scotia. I loved the Cabot Trail, and we holidayed in New Brunswick." She's comfortable at NES. "I still have my health; the people are nice; I'm well looked after; the food's good: no complaints." What's Ruth's advice for young people today? "That's easy: stay in school!"

Liz Lesh is perhaps the most

consistent character among the infinite variety at the Square. Our "lady in black" appears every day in yet another all-black ensemble: black from the neck down, finished off with dainty, stylish heeled boots. Each of our retirement-living consultant's infinite supply of black ensembles is topped with blonde hair combed back into a magnificent long, braided ponytail.

Liz hails from Montreal, where she studied Psychology and Business at Concordia University. What brought her to Ottawa? She smiles: "Love." Liz married and raised two children, now "grown and gone." She has since divorced and says archly: "being an empty-nester does have certain advantages." Liz has always been a fitness buff and decided to market her skills. With certifications from Algonquin and Carleton, she became a fitness trainer and worked at the Ottawa Athletic Club and the Jewish Community Centre, adding yoga to her portfolio.

After her divorce, Liz decided that, although free-

lancing was flexible and fun, she needed a more regular job. She took her people skills to work in sales at the Lord Elgin Hotel, and says the transition to Chartwell was easy. "It's essentially the same: marketing and sales. Only the slightly older demographic is different."

Somehow, Liz has found time to travel. She's backpacked through Spain, France, Italy, Holland, and Germany. She visited Israel and went as far afield as Australia. She reads the weekend editions of the *New York Times* and the *Globe and Mail*, but her real passion is photography. "I love to go shooting," she says, and adds with a grin. "I call my camera my ideal boyfriend: he's always available and he never disappoints me"

Diversity indeed; and character, too.

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.



Read the *NEN* online: www.newedinburgh.ca

Students take part in Fern Hill's 'Amazing Race'

By Keith Willey

Many people in our neighbourhood know that Fern Hill School offers children an exceptional place to learn, grow, and develop. But did you know that as well as delivering a strong academic curriculum designed to equip children for success in life, the school also promotes active learning, often outside the confines of the classroom? Located on Vaughan Street, the school community is made up of a diverse group, including families from the area, across the city, and around the world. And given its geographical position, Fern Hill offers close proximity to many local parks, the riverside, downtown, and the grounds of Rideau Hall. The school frequently makes use of this abundance of space to help our students thrive.

Fern Hill's programs and activities include enriched academics, arts, sports, and community engagement, and are all led by experienced, highly qualified teachers. Classrooms are also equipped with the latest technology and resources. And whenever appropriate, Fern Hill students get to broaden their experience outside the classroom through field trips and other learning adventures.

On Nov. 8, supported by the fantastic Mr. King, our Grade 6, 7 and 8s took part in the Fern Hill Amazing Race using their initiative, deduction, and problem-solving skills to race around the city (under appropriate supervision) to solve clues and complete challenges in a bid to win the race. The day was a huge success, as the photographs show, with the children having a lot of fun while applying the knowledge they have acquired in a classroom setting to solve real-world problems; all with a healthy dose of friendly competition.

By thriving in their early years, Fern Hill students



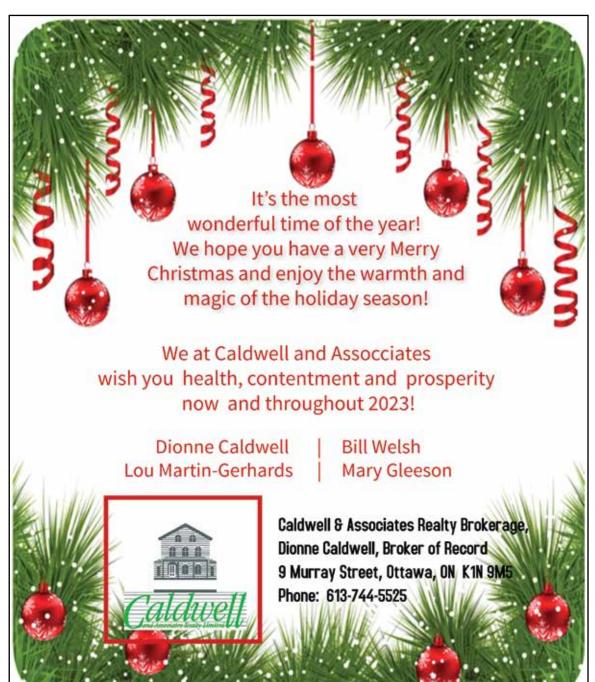
Children from Fern Hill school race along the canal in search of clues for the Fern Hill Amazing Race on Nov. 8, 2022.

develop the confidence and

skills they need for success – now and later in life – so that they are in the best position possible to live happy, healthy parent and local resident.

lives and to win the Amazing Race of life.

Keith Willey is a Fern Hill



Read the *NEN* online: www.newedinburgh.ca



Being prepared to downsize is half the battle

By Annette Snowdon

I recently returned to New Edinburgh after a 50-year absence, during which time I lived in many different accommodations both here and abroad. This lifestyle necessarily required a lot of "downsizing," which is just a euphemism for getting rid of stuff! And at no time does this behemoth of a task seem more terrifying than when we move from a large home to a smaller one – such as when we retire. Because downsizing is often emotional and overwhelming, I've developed some tips for doing it successfully without completely losing one's mind.

Be prepared: It might sound obvious, but as soon as you know you need to downsize, you should start collecting moving essentials: boxes in several sizes, packing tape, "fragile" stickers, thick felt pens, scissors, utility knives, recyclable packing paper (such as newspapers). Keep all small packing items in a brightly coloured box so you can find them easily (believe me, this really helps!). Put the word out in your community and among colleagues and friends that you need used boxes and packing materials.

Measure for measure: When you first get access to your new place, measure every room, make a drawing (on paper, or on a device if you're tech-savvy) and mark the exact location of all windows and doors. This will help you decide exactly where your rugs and large pieces of furniture will go, and reveal which you must discard. It saves an enormous amount of time on moving day because you move only the essentials.

You can't take it with you: Don't take things with you thinking you'll sort them out when you get there. You won't. You'll know how many kitchen cupboards and closets you'll have in the new place and how much space you'll have for books. Measure what you have now and what space you have in your new home. The difference represents the amount of stuff that has to go.

Use the rule of time: If you haven't worn or used it for one season, you likely never will.

Throw, don't stow: Save yourself money and time by NOT renting a storage locker where you think you'll put things until you decide what to do with them. If you don't know what to do with them when you move, you never will. You'll likely end up getting rid of most of them anyway! Remember why you're downsizing.

Bequest and be blessed: Your daughter covets your 1960s jewelry; your nephew has always hankered after your LP and CD collection; and your best friend adores your vintage Christmas decorations. Give away what you really can do without to the people who will love them as much as you do – and enjoy watching their faces light up.

Don't count on your kids: Most adult children don't want your old stuff (shocking, I know!) except for perhaps a couple specific things that have sentimental or monetary value – or both. Don't get upset or feel sad when they don't have the same interest in certain things that you think they should appreciate. Children are different. Long before you even think of downsizing, ask family and friends what they would like to have, make a list, and let them have these things before you move.

Fitting the bill: Ask yourself if your current stuff will

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fit in your new space - figuratively and literally. How will your antique furniture and overstuffed chintz sofa look in your very modern smaller space? The best interior design incorporates old and new beautifully, so do keep Grandpa's armoire and the chest of drawers but repurpose them in your new place and make them do double duty. They could maybe be used as storage in a kitchen or bathroom. But be ruthless, too: keep only one or two such favourites that you'll actually use. You'll find there's a lot of fun in buying a few new pieces that fit better – in both senses of the word!

Stay sane: There are some simple things you can do to help prevent a downsizing disaster. Start early. Go room-by-room – don't try to do the whole house at once. Pack one or two boxes every day. Get rid of the "easy" things first – those you've never used or liked, and the items you have in multiples: wineglasses and mugs, for example. The strangest part about downsizing is that it is very freeing.

Get over the guilt: Downsizing is a very emotional time for all kinds of reasons – like leaving the home in which you raised your children and having to let go of things that contain wonderful memories. But we never leave memories behind: we keep them with us always.

Retired writer and communications consultant Annette Snowdon moved back to Ottawa this spring and is thoroughly enjoying exploring the 'hood and following her passion for architecture and interior design.

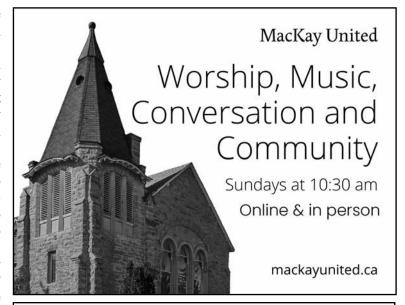


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'Labour of love' restoration of stained-glass window at St. Bart's church complete

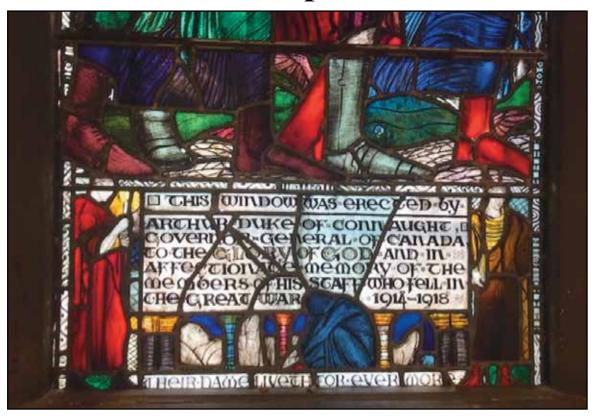


Photo by Victoria Henry

A detail of the inscription on the completely restored Geddes Window at St. Barthlomew's Church on MacKay Street.



Photo by R. Barry Walker.

Le Studio du Verre's Jeff Scheckmann removes the stained-glass panels.

By Victoria Henry

The inscription at the bottom left-hand corner of the now completely restored Geddes Window at St. Bartholomew's Church reads: "This window was erected by Arthur, Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada, to the glory of God and in affectionate memory of the members of his staff who fell in the Great War in 1914–1918. May their names live forever more."

The Irish artist, Wilhelmina Geddes (1887–1955), working with the medium of stained-glass, created the Great East Window for the Church of Saint Bartholomew in New Edinburgh during the last several years of the First World War. It has long been the remarkable night-time image for those passing on the corner of Queen Victoria at MacKay Streets, as a sin-

gle lamp illuminated its presence. One hundred and three years since it was unveiled by Edward, Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII), the Geddes window was carefully restored this year.

There are many stories to tell of this remarkable window, but perhaps the most significant is the apparent reaction the window generated when it was first installed and the respect that it evokes today. In 1919, Geddes created a Christ-centred window, typical of the time, except the central figure is tiny. The Christ figure impaled on the cross is unmistakable as the centre of the unfolding drama created by the surrounding saints and historical figures which are much larger. The subtle presence of the Christ figure certainly created great concern in the 1920s as did the scale and drama of the tiers of human figures. Today,

it is considered a masterpiece.

The Great East Window again glows with Geddes's choice of Biblical and historical figures. Saints in the style of the Greco-Roman period exist side-by-side with the influences of the Arts-and-Crafts movement and heroes from legends. It is very much Geddes's window: a masterpiece evident in her choice of bold primary colours that she made herself, each figure and scene richly portrayed in reds, golds, and indigo with deep purples, strong orange, and a variety of greens. Her story of the figures in mourning and in death, the saints with the Christ figure central to their procession, the larger saints and angels culminating in the heavenly city. Jerusalem.

Central to the restoration of the Geddes Window was the need to strengthen its structure. For over 100 years, the glass panes have been held in place by horizontal support bars loosely tied in place with copper wires. The T-bars that supported each window panel did not provide sufficient support or space for the putty to do its essential work.

The contract for the restoration was awarded to Heritage Grade of Ottawa and they selected Studio du Verre to perform the glass restoration. Throughout the past fall, the window was removed and shipped to Montreal for cleaning, then reinstalled in early November with a much stronger structure. The channels into the stone have now been widened to allow for more grout and the support bars across the width of the window have been replaced. It was obvious that the work on the window was a labour

The window at St. Bart's is the only Canadian work by Wilhelmina Geddes. Now fully restored, it continues

to engage parishioners from within and to inspire those who walk by and experience its mystery at night. From either side of the window, "It's like looking at a beautiful artwork in a still setting," said Ruth Honeyman, the parish administrator of St. Bartholomew Church.

In addition to the restoration of the Geddes window, the parish has produced a documentary video, In the Company of Angels, about the window, the artist, and the effects of the Great War seen in other war memorials in Europe and across Canada.

The video is narrated by New Edinburgh-based author and historian Charlotte Gray and was released after Remembrance Sunday on YouTube. You can also find it at stbartsottawa.ca.

Victoria Henry is a New Edinburgh resident and former director of the Canada Council Art Bank.





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Tasty treats, warm smiles and good cause a recipe for success

By Marta Reves

What started as an experiment in culinary abilities turned out to be an event that brought the community together. This past summer, Nicholas Brun-Keogan, a 16-yearold New Edinburgh resident, decided to test out his baking skills beyond his own family's tastebuds by selling baked good to raise funds for the Canadian Diabetes Association in Ottawa. The deliciousness of the treats. Nick's contagious smile, and helping a good cause mixed together perfectly to raise \$1,475 – well beyond Nick's and his family's expectations.

"We were baking up a storm, literally," recounts **Nathalie**, Nick's mother. "We had neighbours helping out with the baking so we could keep up." The goal of the fundraiser was to raise awareness about diabetes. Nick was recently diagnosed with the condition following a harrowing 37-day stint at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario about a year ago. At CHEO, he spent a long time in critical condition, his family and doctors uncertain if he was going to make it. Miraculously, he pulled through on day 35, much to the amazement of the medical professionals looking after him. And in fact, his body is now producing insulin, which has everyone puzzled – but happy and grateful. Nick also has Down Syndrome, which has nothing to do with his diabetes diagnosis. One of



Photo courtesy Nathalie Brun

This past summer, Nick Brun-Keogan held a fundraising bake sale for the Canadian Diabetes Association. Nick raised more than \$1,400.

the things he and his family wanted to achieve with the bake sale is to dispel many of the misconceptions people have about diabetes.

"We've had to learn a lot about it," says Nathalie, "but we were very surprised at how little people know about it in general." She said to her surprise the most pronounced lack of knowledge was with the staff at Lisgar Collegiate Institute, the downtown high school Nick attends. Nathalie took it upon herself to provide as much information as

she could to the staff there to ensure Nick was supported in following the strict routine a youth with diabetes requires. Even though his body is producing insulin, Nick must still check his blood sugar levels throughout the day, every day, for the rest of his life.

The summer bake sale, besides being a huge success as a fundraiser, provided an ideal platform to share some basic information about the condition through pam-

phlets and chats with neighbours. However, according to Nathalie, the most gratifying aspect of the event was the massive support of the neighbours who came in droves, some ordering ahead, and others who simply dropped off some cash. "We had to shut it down eventually, we couldn't keep it up," Nathalie recalls. Nick showcased his baking talents by whipping up some of his favourite treats, including cookies, banana bread, cinnamon buns, and cupcakes. Nick is well-known in the neighbourhood, always regaling everyone with his sense of humour. He is a talented dancer and an avid TikTok video artist.

As for plans to repeat the successful bake sale, Nathalie says it's a strong possibility, not only because it's something Nick enjoys doing and it helps a worthwhile cause, but also because everyone, including Nick, wants a reprise of the sincere sense of community the aromatic treats brought about.

Marta M. Reyes has been living in New Edinburgh for over 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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Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy year to come. Thank you kindly for all your business and referrals again during 2022. I look forward to working together in the years to come.

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

Je vous remercie d'avoir fait affaire avec moi et de m'avoir recommandé vos proches au cours de l'année 2022.

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





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Rockcliffe Park library has activities for all ages

By Martha Hodgson

The Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd., has a lot of exciting programming for the community to enjoy this December. Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, which is on hiatus but is still raising funds through periodic book drives (most recently on

Nov. 20). Come in and visit the library any time, or join us for any of the following programs. Please note that registrations can be done in person, by phone, or online at **biblioottawalibrary.ca/en**.

Family programs

Toddlers' Tunes and Toys – Every Tuesday, 2–3 p.m. Join other toddlers and their parents or caregivers for a story and a song. Then stay and play with fun, self-directed activi-

ties and toys. Occasionally, we will have a special guest performer. Come and meet old friends and new! Ages 18 months—3 years. Drop-in. English program.

Family Storytime at the Library – Every Monday at 9:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes and songs for children and their parent or caregiver. All ages. Drop-in. English program.

Rockcliffe Park Rebel Readers: Kids Book Club - First Thursday of every month, 4-5 p.m. Get the book, read the book, and then come and tell us what you thought of it while enjoying activities and games based on the story! Check the library website for 2023 reads. Dec. 8: The Ickabog by J.K. Rowling. Ages 10–12. Registration required.

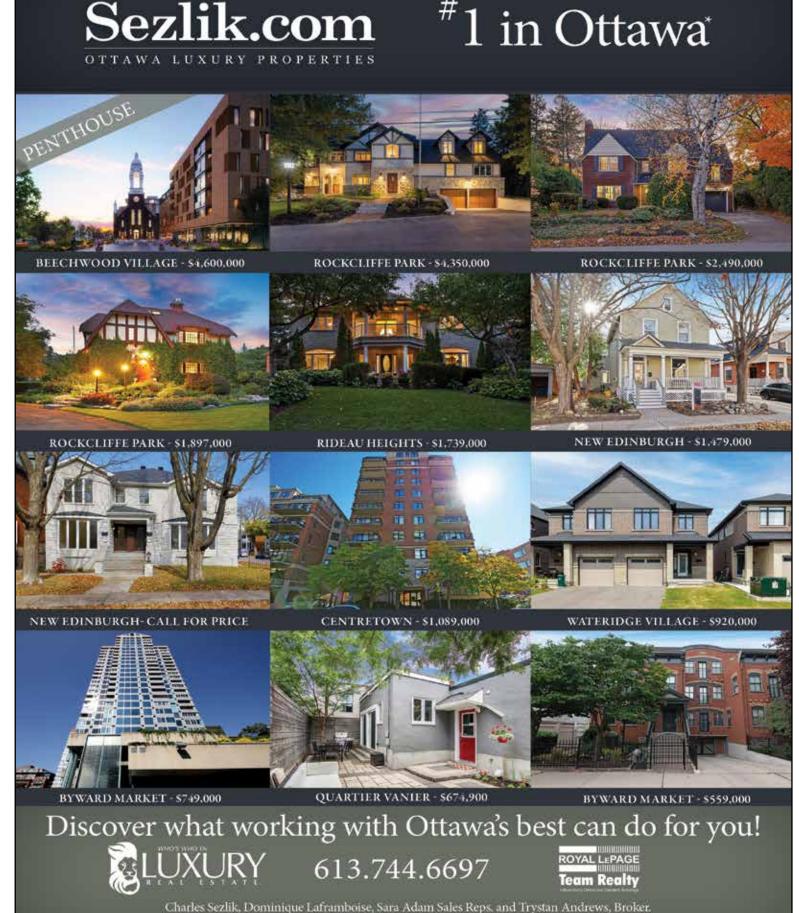
Upcoming adult programs Rockcliffe Park Book Club

- First Tuesday of every month, 1:30–2:30 p.m. Dec. 6: The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry. Jan. 3, 2023: The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford (*NOTE: only eBook and downloadable audio book formats available). Feb. 7, 2023: Secrets of the Sprakkar by Eliza Reid.

Rockcliffe Park Branch Book Sale Shelf — The branch's Book Sale Shelf has wonderful used books of all types for sale! Browse the shelves on your next visit: you are sure to find a gem. Shelves are replenished regularly!

Martha Hodgson is the public service supervisor at the Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library, 380 Springfield Rd. Learn more at biblioottawalibrary.ca.

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Breaking down barriers to organized sport

By Tyler Tran and Zak Lewis

The Ottawa Rowing Club (ORC), located off Sussex Drive at 10 Lady Grey Dr., is one of Canada's largest rowing clubs. The ORC hosts dozens of programs and hundreds of athletes of various skill levels, from beginners to national team athletes. In 2020, the club sought to expand its offerings and provide more opportunities for people to row, citing a need to diversify the rowing landscape and break down barriers to organized sport. With that in mind, the Everybody Rows Ottawa (ERO) initiative was developed with the goal of providing free rowing programs to under-served and underprivileged communities in the Ottawa area. By 2021, ERO was able to expose nearly 80 participants to the sport through partnerships with local organizations, and by recruiting participants mainly from BIPOC, new Canadian, and less affluent communities – at no charge to those involved. The program is now nationally recognized and has been featured in media at the local and national level.

There is a great need for programming and facilities that serve people affected by post-COVID cutbacks, as well as a variety of affordability and accessibility barriers. The ORC and ERO are committed to providing more recreational opportunities to underprivileged youth in a safe and supportive environment, giving these participants the chance to grow as athletes and individuals.

This past summer, ERO was fortunate enough to work with more than 150 new participants, marking an 87 per cent increase in participant growth. We are hoping to continue expanding our reach in years to come. We are proud to have worked with a growing number of community centres and programs from many different backgrounds. While half of this vear's participants were new to the program, the others were all returnees following positive experiences in previous seasons.

We returned to Athletes Combating Racism and the

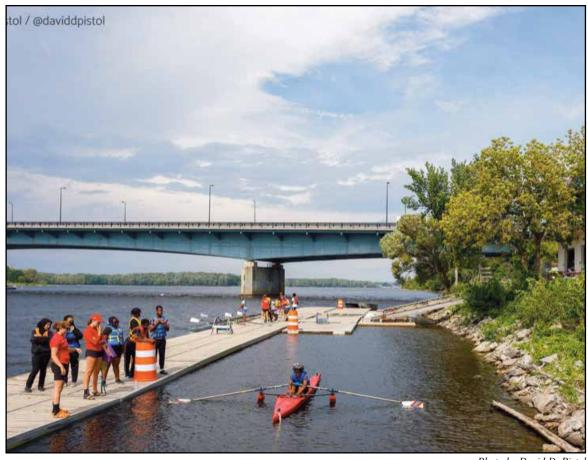


Photo by David D. Pistol

The Ottawa Rowing Club hosted its Everybody Rows program at its headquarters on the Ottawa River just off Sussex Drive this past summer.

Carlington Community Centre for a second time, offering on-land programming at their community centre and hosting a follow up on-water session at the ORC. We welcomed Lowertown Community Centre day camps for the second consecutive year, also for on-land

and dock-based programming. New to our growing programming this season, ERO ran multiple sessions with a local shelter for women

and an organization designed to support troubled youth, as well as on-water sessions with athletes from our local Special Olympics contingent.

ORC is thrilled to continue hosting the ERO program and is delighted by its influence, impact, and growth. We are committed to growing the ERO program and would relish the opportunity to work with community organizations interested in participating, as well as prospective donors looking to make a difference in their local community. Sport can be a vehicle to promote progressive social change and the ORC is dedicated to using our reach and our resources to benefit those who need it most.

Prospective supporters or community groups interested in learning more about the Everybody Row Ottawa program should contact Zak Lewis at zak@ottawarowingclub.com.

Tyler Tran and Zak Lewis are with the Ottawa Rowing Club, located off Sussex Drive at 10 Lady Grey Dr. Learn more at ottawarowingclub. com.



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A room with a view

By Janet Ruddock

Picture windows work two ways. You get a clear picture of the goings-on of the world outside. However, the world also gets a clear view of you. Our window, high on the second floor, provides an unparalleled view of backyards and Avon Lane. Don't get me wrong: we would never dream of using this for nefarious purposes. We could, but trust us, we don't.

Just how much the neighbours could see us was a good question. We moved into this house in late summer a few years ago. The canopy of leafy trees provided privacy for us from the neighbours and vice-versa. In autumn, the colours are spectacular. When in leaf, day and night, the trees outside the window are all the privacy we need. The neighbours can't see us, and we can scarcely see the neighbours.

Then November arrives. The trees are bare. Daylight hours are not a problem. At night, however, our massive window becomes a widescreen TV on steroids.

One evening, my husband, Frank, headed out to Avon Lane to see for himself. We had turned on our usual array of lights. I wandered around, in and out of view of the window. Meanwhile, Frank strolled in the lane, gazing up at the house (a surefire way to get arrested). Seldom, if ever, do I spend much time circling any room like this. Still, I played along. Everything became – literally – all too clear. At night, anyone inter-

ested had an unimpeded view of Ruddock Reality Show.

The next morning, I called the consultant at Blinds to Go. An oversized, fabric shade was designed to roll and disappear when not needed. We love the view the window affords us. On sunny days in winter, the snow-covered world outside looks splendid. At night, we lower the window shade. In spring, lacy early leaves are a delight. At night, down comes the blind.

So it was that one wet, blustery night in early autumn, we were watching a movie. Plenty of leaves remained on the trees. No need to lower the window covering. In any case, the television was clear across the entire second floor. Who could possibly see us – and who would want to?

The movie was a whodunnit, the kind where your eyes are riveted to the screen. Avert your gaze for a split second and you're sunk. Your viewing partner solves the mystery, and you wonder why you bothered watching the film at all. That's how it works at our house.

This movie had us both transfixed. The wind gusting outside, occasionally rattling the windows, added to the atmosphere. Steady rain was the finishing touch to this dark and stormy night. Wrapped up in the plot, neither of us suspected we were not alone.

It was a long film, and we needed a snack. En route to the kitchen, Frank stopped dead in his tracks. "There's a raccoon at the window," he said matter-of-factly. I ignored him. Firstly, he says things like this all the time to see if I fall for it. Secondly, it's nigh impossible for a critter of any kind to access the

window. Thirdly, it's stormy outside. "No, really," Frank said again. "There's a raccoon sitting there staring at us."

I reluctantly headed across the room. Sure enough, on the narrow window ledge sat a shockingly big raccoon. It didn't look very happy, either. Clearly it was wondering why we were inside, warm, and dry while it was cold and wet outside. And it wasn't leaving, despite Frank waving his arms around. It Just sat there. Staring.

"I wonder how long it's been sitting there watching the movie?" I asked Frank. "Maybe it knows who the murderer is. We sure don't. That raccoon may have cracked it." We stared out at it. "Maybe it wants to watch the rest of the movie," I added

Frank was not amused. "I know that raccoon," he said. "It's the one from the third-floor deck with the four kits. They better not be up there again." Frank took off to investigate. He'd had a running battle all summer with this mother raccoon leaving her kits to cavort on our roof deck at night. The raccoon staved put.

Whatever that raccoon saw from her side of the window, she was hooked. A diehard movie fan, perhaps? I wonder if somewhere out there was a neighbour, watching the raccoon, watching us, watching the movie....

Janet Ruddock and her husband Frank have settled in New Edinburgh after a nomadic life with Global Affairs Canada. Janet is a writer, traveler, lover of the arts and advocates for those with rheumatoid arthritis and chronic pain.



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Christmas concert and special services resume at MacKay church

By Eleanor Dunn

Christmas isn't Christmas at MacKay United Church (39 Dufferin Rd.) without a spectacular concert. After a two-plus year hiatus due to the pandemic, such a concert returns to MacKay on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. "Christmas in the 'Burgh" will feature violinists from the Vyhovskyi Strings, pianist Tea Mamaladze, MacKay's sax-playing Rev. Peter Woods, Leane Ward, and the Lavoie family, as well as other performing artists from the Ottawa area.

The evening will be filled with the sounds of Christmas – both sacred and secular – plus a Christmas carol singalong. Free-will donations will be accepted at the door in support of MacKay's mission and service outreach programs.

Music and Meditation returns for a special evening on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. MacKay's re-energized Sunday School will present its Christmas pageant as part of the regular service on Dec. 11 at 10.30 a.m. The traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service will take place on Dec. 24 featuring special music.

Sadly, there will be no Christmas bazaar at MacKay this year. Many congregants who would have worked on organizing this event still have concerns regarding COVID and their health. However, there is talk of having another night market in the spring following a successful night market at the end of October. Stay tuned for more information in 2023!

In other MacKay news, historian Alan Bowker, a member of MacKay's congregation, is currently preparing for publication a history of the soldiers from MacKay United (then Presbyterian) Church who fought in the First World War. He writes about these men and their families against the backdrop of a church and a community at war. He has told some of their stories at Remembrance Sunday services, in online platforms and most recently at the IODE's New Edinburgh Streetfest in September.

In his research, Alan has spoken with some descendants of these people, especially those who fell. He would be very glad to hear from others who have stories to tell about their family members and their experiences during the First World War. If you have an ancestor who left recollections, artifacts, or accounts of their participation

who would have worked on organizing this event still have concerns regarding COVID and their health. However, there is talk of having another in the war, Alan would like to hear from you. Please call the MacKay United Church office at 613-749-8727 to be put in touch with Alan.

For information on these and other upcoming events at MacKay United Church, located at 39 Dufferin Rd., visit mackayunited.ca, call the church office at 613-749-8727, by email at admin@mackayunited.com or find us on Facebook.

Eleanor Dunn is a retired journalist and broadcaster who has been an —almost—lifelong resident of the Burgh. She raised her family on Dufferin Road and now lives with her dog Hamish and her oldest son on The Mews. She is an active member of MacKay United Church.



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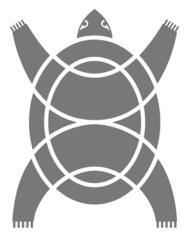


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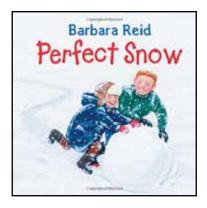
Find the perfect book for everyone on your list

The staff at Books on Beechwood offer suggestions for readers of all ages.

By Bridget, Cathy, Hilary, Dave M., Stephanie, Michelle and Dave R.

Children's Picture Books

The Twelve Days of Christmas illustrated by Briana Corr Scott (Ages 2–5). This beautifully illustrated little book is subtitled A Celebration of Nature, so it's appropriate that the illustration for 12 drummers drumming is of a flock of northern flickers on birch trees and the dancing ladies are ladybirds on a variety of different flowers. –Bridget



Perfect Snow by Barbara Reid (Ages 3–8). Reid's wonderful plasticine tableaux have always been magical for children and adults alike. In this wordless story, a "perfect

snow" has fallen and there is anticipation and joy to be found at recess. Like all of Reid's offerings, this is a Canadian classic! –*Cathy*

Green is for Christmas by

Drew Daywalt (Ages 4–8). This newest book in the Crayons series features all the colours battling it out over who is the most Christmas-y. Funny and delightful! –*Hilary Witch Hazel* by Molly Idle (Ages 4–8). A stunning picture book about love, loss, and memories. Featuring a defined colour palette and beautiful illustrations. – *Hilary*

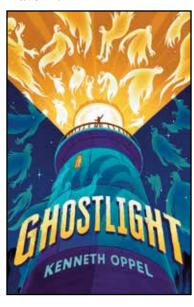
The Three Canadian Pigs by Jocelyn Watkinson (Ages 5–8). A funny twist on The Three Little Pigs. When Wolf and his friends come calling, this trio decides to settle things the Canadian way: with a game of shinny. –Hilary

Middle-Grade Readers

Scram! By Lauren Child (Ages 8–12). Child's beloved, quirky, and brave Clarice Bean tells one of her adventures to the middlegrade reader. It's the holidays and Clarice is bored, until

an "actual real-life DOG" enters her world and "will not SCRAM!" –*Bridget*

The Barren Grounds by David A. Robertson (Ages 8–12). This first book of the Misewa Saga (now three books strong) is an Indigenous fantasy set in Winnipeg and written for a younger audience. It explores foster care, Indigenous folklore, language, and identity. – Dave M.



Ghostlight by Kenneth Oppel (Ages 10+). Set on Toronto Island, this newest offering from one of our favou-

rite Canadian authors is a real treat. Spooky, thrilling, and historical, this rollicking adventure is great fun. –*Hilary*

Young Adult

The Sunbearer Trials by Aiden Thomas (12+). Demigods take part in a series of trials in this LGBTQ+ fantasy novel perfect for teens who grew up reading Percy Jackson and The Hunger Games. –Hilary

Cruel Illusions by Margie Fuston (Ages 14+). A tale of ancient magic, secret societies, vampires, and one young girl's quest for vengeance, this dark fantasy novel is as riveting as it is thrilling! – Hilary

Fiction

Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson. This is a sprawling tale set in 1920s London. The book features a bevy of unforgettable characters and interwoven plots which makes it very Dickensian and a lot of fun. –Stephanie

We Measure the Earth with our Bodies by Tsering Yangzom Lama. This beautiful, multigenerational novel conveys the struggles of Tibetan exiles and the repercussions of colonization. The author spoke at the Ottawa International Writers' Festival and I learned so much about Tibet in that short time. — Michelle

Lessons by Ian McEwan. A humane portrait of one man's journey through life in the 21st century: his loves, losses, and inevitable mistakes. McEwen's writing is superb.—Stephanie

The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell. O'Farrell brings us another fascinating historical novel centering this time on the captivating young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici. Married at age 15 to the Duke of Ferrara only because her sister died before she could marry him, Lucrezia is convinced that he is going to murder her. Full of drama and verve, O'Farrell gives us an unforgettable portrait of a resilient young woman's battle for her very survival. –Bridget

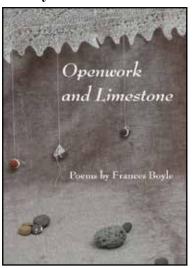
The Broken Places by Frances Peck. In this beautiful debut novel, the reader becomes acquainted with characters going through the rhythm of their day. Then an earthquake hits. Vancouver erupts in chaos and fear, and various individuals find themselves thrown together. This is a smart, compassionate, propulsive book about survival and love. –*Michelle*

Almost Visible by (Books on Beechwood's very own) Michelle Sinclair. This is an exquisitely written story about human connection. Lyrical, profound, beautiful, and haunting, each character is well drawn and not a word is wasted. History, mystery, and friendship all have a place in this excellent read. –Cathy

Lucy by the Sea by Elizabeth Strout. After leaving New York City at the height of the pandemic, Lucy finds insight and comfort in a remote cottage by the sea. –Stephanie

Still Life by Sarah Winman. This novel begins in 1944 Tuscany with a chance meeting between 64-year-old art historian Evelyn and 24-year-old British soldier Ulysses. It is a beautiful meditation on the power of friendship. There is heartbreak, grief, and much loss, as well as love, joy, art, music, food, and unforgettable characters. –Cathy

Poetry



Openwork and Limestone by Frances Boyle. This is a book to be savoured. Each poem seems to touch on intimate family history and the collective human story at the same time. They all bring us on a journey across place and time, trailing landscapes that are rooted in myth and magic. Mothering, memory, nature, space, and time are some of the themes in these wonderful poems by this local author. —Michelle



Mysteries & Thrillers

A World of Curiosities by Louise Penny (Released Nov. 29). Set in Three Pines, the 18th Inspector Gamache novel weaves threads from an old case with art, mystery, and meditation on the nature of evil, warmth, humanity, and community. Already on many Best of 2022 lists, it is not to be missed! The TV series, Three Pines, starring Alfred Molina as Gamache drops on Amazon Prime on Dec. 2. –Cathy

Sci-Fi & Fantasy

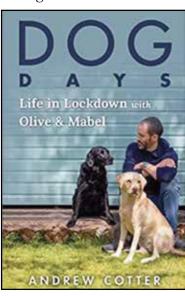
Dark Earth by Rebecca Stott. A wonderful feminist fantasy adventure set in the Dark Ages. Full of myth and folklore, this novel shines a spotlight on two amazing women making their way in a world dominated by the rules of men. –Hilary

The Book Eaters by Sunyi Dean

We talk about books being food for the soul, but what if they were your actual food? Set on the Yorkshire Moors, this debut novel ties fantasy, horror, and a love of books together in a truly unique way. –*Hilary*

Biography

The Adventures of Miss Barbara Pym by Paula Byrne. Those of a certain age and disposition will fondly remember Pym's exquisite, ironic depictions of everyday life and everyday peo-ple – written in the 1930s through the 1960s, but finally discovered and given their due in the 1970s. Her story spans Oxford in the '30s, the Second World War, and the swinging '60s, and gives a wonderful sense of a conflicted but determined writer. -Bridget



www.newedinburgh.ca

Dog Days by Andrew Cotter. More about Olive and Mabel, Cotter's delightful Labs and social media stars. This diary of the pandemic years is full of drolly observed dog antics as well as a thoughtful and informative documentation of the lockdown year in Britain. —Bridget

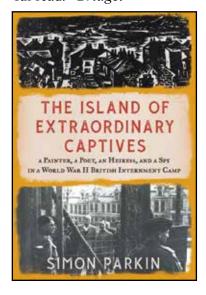
The Palace Papers by Tina Brown. Brown gives us an addictively readable look into the real lives of the British royal family. Her sources are incredibly informed and contribute to the most in-depth details of each family member. Brown is a very skilled writer and manages to inform and fascinate without resorting to salaciousness. –Bridget

Science & Nature

An Immense World by Ed Yong. Will it ever be possible to know how the world is perceived by other animals? Perhaps, with guidance from science journalist Ed Yong, we could learn about the discoveries in the field, and possibly move beyond the confines of our own senses to better understand the creatures with whom we share the planet. –Michelle

History

Front Page Ottawa by Bruce Deachman. The Ottawa Citizen senior writer has mined the newspaper's archives of the last 50 years and has created a wonderful look back at our city's highlights and lowlights. Providing articles and photographs from the archives, Deachman fleshes out each story with context and extra details, making for a delightful read. –Bridget



Island of Extraordinary Captives by Simon Parkins. This book spotlights a previously untold story of a sorry aspect of the British war, when Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered innocent Jewish refugees to be interned on the Isle of Man. They included painters, poets, ordinary people – and perhaps a spy or two. –Stephanie

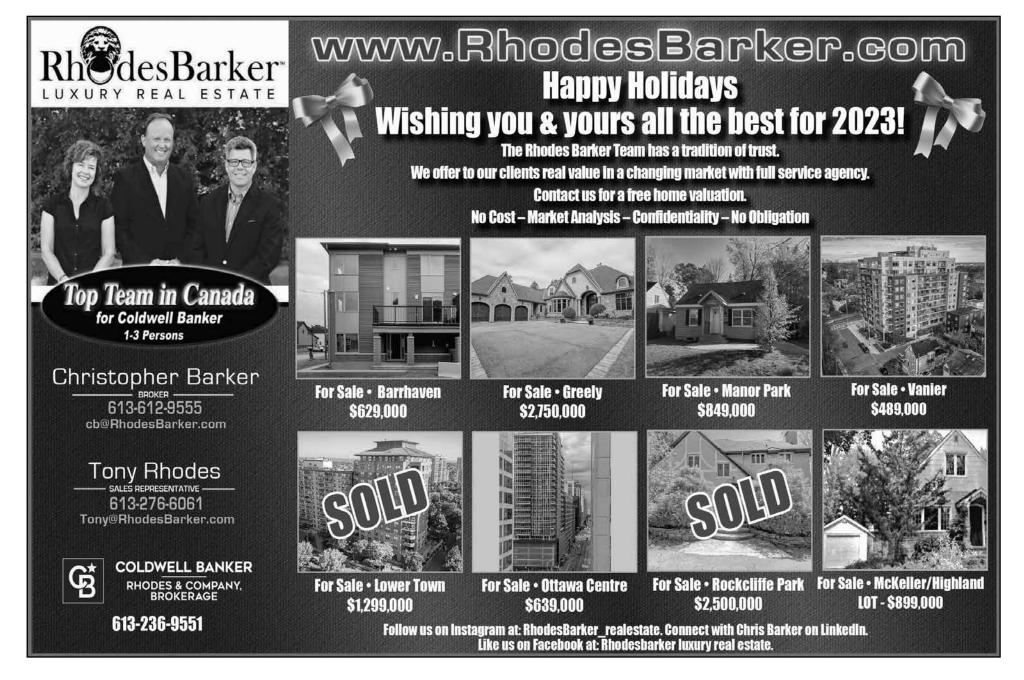
Social Science

True Reconciliation by Jody Wilson-Raybould. This book was written in response to the question "What can I do to help advance reconciliation?" Ingeniously broken down into three sections – Learn, Understand, and Act – reading this book will aid us in breaking down silos and creating a positive future. –Cathy

Cookbooks

Great Scoops by Marlene Hayley. From the kitchens of local ice creamery The Merry Dairy, these recipes are straightforward, nut- and allergen-free, and incredibly delicious! –David R.

The Miracle of Salt by Naomi Duguid. Duguid is known for her stunning cookbooks and delicious recipes, and this newest book doesn't disappoint. –David R.



EVENTS CALEN

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

DECEMBER

First Tuesday of each month - Book Club for Adults at the Rockcliffe Public Library, 380 Springfield Rd. The local library branch offers a onehour book club for adults on first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. (and for kids first Thursday of every month at 4 p.m.). Check online for more information and other programming.

Dec. 3 – Carrément Allumé at Carré de la Francophonie de Vanier, 290 Dupuis St. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free family event featuring offering hot chocolate, treats, music. Visit vanierassociation.com.

Dec. 3 – Cantata Singers at St. Joseph's Church, 174 Wilbrod St. A German Baroque Christmas: Celebrate in Baroque style with the Cantata Singers and the Ottawa Baroque Consort at 7 p.m. st-josephs.ca.

Dec. 3 - Beechwood Holiday Market at 1805 Gaspé Ave. from 5–9 p.m. Beer, wine, food, gift ideas, outdoor fires, and a visit from Santa Claus. Manor Park Community Council and Beechwood Market are teaming up for a

festive evening of fun, local shopping, socializing, and plenty more! Finish your holiday shopping by supporting small local businesses this year in your community. Visit manorpark.ca.

Dec. 4 – Spotlight on Canadian Composers at St. Joseph's Church 174 Wilbrod St. 3 p.m. The University of Ottawa Choir performs works by an array of homegrown choral composers. Featuring the works of burgeoning talents (Balfour, Chung, Hawley, Kelly, Saindon, St-Jacques); veteran composers (Daley, Laurin, Leclair, Nickel, Watson Henderson and Sirrett); and trailblazers who are no longer with us (Glick, Harriss, Perreault, Schafer, Willan). Tickets \$15–25 available online (\$30 at the door). uottawachoir.ca.

Dec. 6 - Thirteen Strings Chamber Orchestra at **Carleton Dominion-Chalmers** Centre, 355 Cooper St. 7:30 p.m. Thirteen Strings returns to live performing with its audience-favourite Christmas concert at in its familiar surroundings. Entitled "Joy to the World," the concert will help reflect on the joy of music after the unsettling recent past. Visit thirteenstrings.ca for tickets. (Online streaming also available.)

Dec. 10 – Art Lending of Ottawa show at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Looking for a unique gift? At the December show, view recent works created by more than 30 local artists in a wide range of styles, subject matter, and media. Items for sale or rent. Free admission and free parking. Visit artlendingofottawa.

Dec 10 - Trio Cobario Concert at Church of St. Bartholomew, 125 MacKay St. at 5 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Call Ars Nova at 819-328-9447 or at Books On Beechwood after Nov. 26. St. Bart's Church hosts a concert featuring Trio Cobario, an Austrian trio who bring a joyful twist of classical and jazz stylings to seasonal music. Enjoy new interpretations of traditional and modern Christmas songs performed on two guitars and violin. Tickets include a reception sponsored by the Austrian Embassy and a mini bazaar in the church hall (admission to reception and bazaar for ticket holders only). Visit arsnova.ca.

Christmas Candlelight Service at Beechwood Cemetery, 280 Beechwood Ave. 6 p.m. A special way to remember loved ones, this service features a candlelight memorial with carols and a tree-lighting ceremony. Organizers would appreciate donations of nonperishable food items for the Food Bank. Event is outdoors. so dress warmly. Masks will be required if you wish to sing. beechwoodottawa.ca.

Dec. 16 - French board game night at the Alliance Ottawa, Française MacLaren St. 613-234-9470. The Alliance Française hosts a Christmas edition of its French board game night. Visit af.ca for details.

JANUARY

Jan. 7 – New Year's Brunch at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 10 a.m.–12 p.m. By donation. The Crichton Community Council host a New Year's brunch. Come for plentiful homemade food and the good company of neighbours. Bring your own cutlery and dishes to reduce the clean-up work by our volunteers. Learn more on p. 14.

Jan. 15 – Victorian Winter celebration at Beechwood Cemetery. 1 p.m. Beechwood Cemetery kicks off its 150year celebration with a Victorian Winter celebration! Book a free sled ride around the property and listen to beautiful choral singing. Register for your time slot online: beechwoodottawa.ca.

Jan. 17 - NECA Board Meeting happening online. 7:30 p.m. Visit newedinburgh.ca for the link. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA).

Jan. 28 - Little Thinkers program at the Alliance Française Ottawa, MacLaren St. 2-3:30 p.m. The Alliance Française is launching the "Little Thinkers" program, an initiation workshop to philosophy for children aged 6–12, French-speaking, English-speaking or FLE learners, even beginners. It aims to support children in their learning of French but also in their cognitive, emotional and social development. Details: af.ca or call 613-234-9470.

Advent & Christmas Services in the 'Burgh

St. John Lutheran Church – 270 Crichton St., stjohnlutheran.ca, 613-749-6953

Advent Sunday services are at 9 a.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8 p.m., Christmas Day Service at the Garry J Armstrong Long Term Care Home (200 Island Lodge Rd. off St. Patrick Street) at 10:30 a.m. with residents and families.

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church – 125 MacKay St., stbartsottawa.ca, judyatstbarts@gmail. com; 613-745-7834

Dec. 10 – Trio Cobario, a Viennese Christmas Concert with festive reception at 5 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 25 – Christmas Day: 10 a.m.

McKay United Church – 39 Dufferin Rd., mackayunitedchurch.com, admin@mackayunitedchurch.com, facebook.com/mackay.united, 613-749-8727

Dec. 6 – Christmas-themed music and meditation: 7–8 p.m. (In person, livestream on Vimeo and

Eve service will be in-person at 7:30 p.m. with candles and carols.

FB live; musical guests TBD – check online for details.) Dec. 13 – Bittersweet of Christmas service: 7 p.m. Dec. 18 – "Christmas at MacKay" featuring the Vyhovskyi Strings: 7 p.m. Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve family carol singing service: 4:30 p.m. Dec. 25 – NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY Jan. 3 – Music and Meditation: 7pm St. Luke Lutheran Church – 326 MacKay St., stlukeottawa.org, 613-749-1731 Advent services December 7, 14, and 21 at 7p.m. are discussion/devotional in nature. Advent services will be online only, but Christmas



Local actor reaches global audience in fantasy audio drama

By Leslie Kellestine

New Edinburgh actor William Beddoe takes on a key role in a new podcast series, The Other Path. Produced by Ottawa's Odyssey Theatre, this podcast is the first folk tale-inspired audio drama series for adults by a Canadian theatre company.

The Other Path is a fantasy audio drama podcast in which award-winning writers craft haunting and sometimes darkly comic reimaginations of classic folk tales. The series casts a new light on such contemporary themes as poverty, cultural division, land conflict, and body image.

The first season transports listeners to a world in which witches, shapeshifters, and trickster spirits are found among us in parks, garage sales, and dive bars, with state-of-the-art sound and music, and high-impact performances.

In October, New York Magazine's entertainmentand-culture outlet Vulture named The Other Path one



Photo courtesy Odyssey Theatre William Beddoe.

of "Five Spooky Podcasts to Listen to Right Now."

In episode three, Heart's Home, William brings an ancient enchanter, Anoon, to life. This eerie, poetic fantasy is written by internationally acclaimed fantasy writer Jo Walton and follows four people as they head into the Hollow Hills for an evening of storytelling. When only three of them return, the trio is unwittingly drawn into a game with the Tiglath, an ancient race of shapeshifters who were driven within the hills long ago. At stake is the land itself.

"Much of the joy that I have found in my past work onstage with Odyssey Theatre has been in exploring the heightened energy and stylized physical vocabulary of the company's commedia dell'arte-based performance style. Translating that physical energy into voice only for Heart's Home was a challenging and rewarding process, aided immensely by the rich textures of Jo Walton's script," said William.

William is joined in the series by 15 professional actors including fellow Ottawa actors Erin Eldershaw, Bruce Spinney, Alix Sideris, Maryse Fernandes, Jesse Buck, and accomplished Odyssey veterans Soo Garay and Cheri Maracle.

You might know Odyssey Theatre for their award-winning Under the Stars performances in Strathcona Park. When the pandemic prevented live performances, they launched a new online series



Photo courtesy Odyssey Theatre

New Edinburgh actor William Beddoe takes on a key role in a new podcast series, The Other Path.

so folks missing the theatre tening at theotherpath.ca could enjoy the magic of this cherished company in the comfort of their own home.

Season one's five episodes are available now for lis-

— where you can also learn more about this unique local initiative. The series is also available on your favourite podcast streaming platform.





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DEADLINE: JAN 10 newednews@hotmail.com



Photo courtesy Joyce Dubuc

New Edinburgh resident **Joyce Dubuc** is back in Granada, Nicaragua, after a pandemic hiatus. Joyce has been returning to the Central American country regularly for 10 years, working with a small charity that purchases supplies for students in two public schools — students who cannot afford school supplies cannot continue in school. The school year there starts in February. Based on enrollment, Joyce calculates how many supplies she needs, and acquires them locally. Once the packages of supplies are ready, Joyce and her volunteers distribute them directly to the students. "The excitement in the school is close to the excitement of our Canadian Christmas morning," says Joyce, who is accepting cash donations for this project via Mackay United Church. To arrange an e-transfer, contact admin@mackayunitedchurch.com. Tax receipts available. Follow Joyce at facebook.com/NicaSmiles.

Congratulations



Photo by Mandy Bailey

Paul and Mandy Bailey of Crichton Street are thrilled to welcome their first grand-child, Louis Robert Bailey Monnier, who was born Nov. 13, weighing 7lb 14oz. Proud parents Amelia and Philippe are so happy after the long wait for Louis's arrival! Both mother and baby are doing well.



Andrea Brooks and Stephen Wardlaw of Vaughan Street were married on Sept. 11 at the Courtyard Restaurant in the ByWard Market, and couldn't resist taking a few

wedding photos at the historic and picturesque Minto Bridges. Best wishes to the happy couple!

Congratulations to Burgh resident Jorge Sorger on the publication of his new book, Latinadas: Life Choices During a Turbulent History. A work of historical fiction, Latinadas tells the stories of fictionalized individuals trying to find their place in the turbulent history of Latin America between 1950 and 2020. Copies can be ordered at Books on Beechwood. NEN hopes to feature more on Jorge and his new book in our February edition!

Condolences



Sincere condolences to the family of **Rupert Kavanaugh** (1936–2022) who died at his family farm near Buckingham, Que. on Oct. 30. Rupert was a legend on Beechwood Avenue where he operated Kavanaugh's Esso

at 222 Beechwood Ave. for close to six decades, assisted by family members including his brothers Clarence and the late Carl, as well as his sons, Joey and Terry, who continue to operate Kavanaugh's Garage on Marier Street. The shop closed in 2012 and Domicile acquired the property. The condo project was named in his honour. He will be remembered for his decades of service to residents of the surrounding communities and for his exuberant good cheer. Rupert will be greatly missed by his seven children, 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, surviving brothers, nieces and nephews.

Thank You

Best wishes to **Douglas Mair** of Mair Rugs, a faithful advertiser in this newspaper, on his forthcoming retirement from Mair Oriental Rug Service. For over 35 years, Douglas has been taking care of our community's oriental carpets. *NEN* thanks Douglas for his many years of support and we wish him a relaxing and healthy retirement.

Wanted

For my housemate Ayumi. Cross-country skis for women's foot size 9.5, height 5ft 5ins. Please contact Isobel Bisby 613 304 7919 or ibisby@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy Laura McCurdy

Book Fair at Rockcliffe Park Public School extends a heartfelt thank-you to the many community members who helped relaunch a successful in-person fair. Even after a two-year hiatus and a last-minute scramble, we ended up exceeding our fundraising expectations! Proceeds will support students both at RPPS and at schools that don't have the benefit of such an event. We absolutely could not have made it happen without community support and were grateful to see so many past and present volunteers working or shopping at the fair and reminding us that Book Fair is a wonderful multi-generational tradition. Our gratitude to everyone who donated books and baked goods; to Cindy Parkanyi for lending her antique display cabinet; to the High Commission of India, the Embassies of China, Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Kazakhstan, and the Aga Khan Development Network for tasty food donations; to our main sponsors Sezlik Royal Lepage, Mark Motors Group, WPCD Group of Companies, Kelly Santini LLP and Uniq Events; and to Dinner By Six, Vision Event Rentals, Bridgehead, The Royal Oak and last but not least the wonderful Helping With Furniture, who brought last-minute muscle and the loan of a truck. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2023!

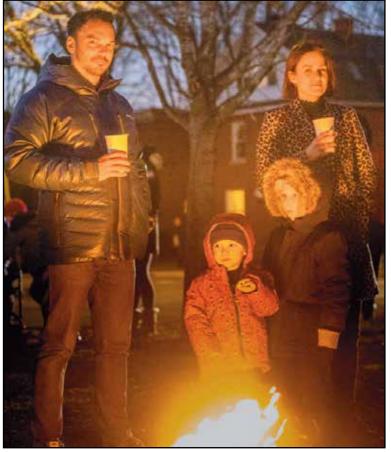


Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Talib Khan, Rebecca Garner and children Elias and Adam enjoyed the bonfire at the CCC's Holiday Lights event at the Fieldhouse on Nov. 26