

FEBRUARY 2023

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

For some of us, winter can be a tough slog. There are many activities we can do locally, including going for a walk in the park, to keep our spirits up and stay active. See p. 20.

A glimpse into flood control on Rideau River

By Karen Squires

Ice levels on the Rideau River in 2023 are at an unprecedented low compared with previous winters. Much of the river ice melted around the new tear, leaving open water where normally thick ice would be.

Historically, the river is frozen solid by mid-January; by February, City of Ottawa crews are preparing for the river's annual ice management, which includes breaking up the ice – by machine and with dynamite. This helps to prevent ice blockages and ensures water is able to flow into the Ottawa River, preventing flooding in communities along the Rideau River watershed, including New Edinburgh.

According to Bryden Denyes, area manager of Road Services for the City of Ottawa, this very complex operation is done in partner-

ship with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) which is responsible for flood warnings and flood forecasting.

In our community, the big concern is around ice jamming at choke points – such as areas near the Minto Bridges – since such narrow areas can create ice walls that can obstruct waterflows, causing backups and potentially flooding.

Bryden explains that all work and equipment on the river is managed by the City of Ottawa's specially trained crew. They also rely on contractors for such things as explosive materials (for blasting the ice) and equipment such as the amphibious excavation machine (which comes up from New Brunswick). You can't miss this odd-looking boat-slash-excavation machine working its way

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Calls to bring back bus #17 getting louder

By John Leefe

Calls to improve public transit along Beechwood Avenue are getting louder. The Wateridge Village Community Association (WVCA) has requested that OC Transpo route #17 be reinstated. The weekday peak bus route operated from 2018–2020 – running along Beechwood Avenue between Wateridge Village (the former Rockcliffe airbase, just east of the Aviation Parkway) and downtown – before being cancelled due to low ridership during the pandemic. Jane Thompson, chair of planning and development for

the WVCA, sent a submission arguing for the route's reinstatement to Councillor Rawlson King for tabling with the city's Transportation Committee.

"This bus was of huge benefit to our community," she said, specifically citing its effect of reducing car traffic through the Manor Park, Lindenlea, Vanier, and New Edinburgh neighbourhoods. "A direct transit link between Wateridge and the neighbouring communities would encourage the use of retail and recreational services and be useful to many residents commuting to schools and

offices," she added.

Chris Greenshields of the Vanier Community Association agrees: "The Vanier Community Association supports the restoration of the #17 bus service and service to Vanier residents who reside within walking distance to Beechwood," adding that "with the Treasury Board decision requiring public servants including those in Vanier and others in the area to return to work two to three times per week we expect increased volume of passengers on all of the Vanier bus routes including for transfers

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New handbook on main streets highlights the value of visitors

By Karen Squires

Readers may be interested in a recently released online handbook entitled *Mainstreet Reimagined Through a Visitor Lens* on urban planning, design, economics, and regeneration. The book is part of a collaboration between Dr. Tom Griffin and Dr. Walter Jamieson with Toronto Metropolitan University. Contributors include a mix of authors who've done research relating to main streets across Canada, writing through a visitor-economy lens.

In my previous career in destination management, I have liaised with Dr. Tom

Griffin on visitor volume, profiles, spend, and a sector called Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR). This interesting sector is huge in terms of volume – many of these visitors stay with locals (at least for part of their trip) and they experience where we live: our main streets. They sample our coffee shops, restaurants, retail, nightlife, etc., and they immerse themselves in our local social and cultural scene.

Beechwood Avenue, New Edinburgh's main street, has been undergoing changes in recent years through development. There have been

many years of discussion, plans written, and community consultations held on how Beechwood should be "regenerated." We look forward to further updates on these plans. Many cities across Canada and around the world are undergoing these changes and are sharing best practices.

The handbook includes insights on stakeholder management, understanding retail, innovation, marketing and branding, curation, design thinking, integrated and multidisciplinary, strategic thinking, and data analysis.

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What's the New Edinburgh Community Alliance?

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

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

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

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

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

Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday March 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
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Chris Straka	President, CCC
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Learn more at
newedinburgh.ca

National Capital Commission land and roads in the spotlight



Report from the NECA Board

After a brief hiatus over the holidays, the board of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance rang in the New Year at its Jan. 17 meeting. Representatives from all three levels of government – MP Mona Fortier, MPP Lucille Collard and Councillor Rawlson King – joined the virtual meeting. The MP and MPP each spoke briefly, and noted that all three representatives work closely together to ensure a stronger community.

Councillor King informed participants that he is doing “walkabouts” in various neighbourhoods to identify problems spots – particularly relating to traffic and safety. He noted that he has had direct experience with issues with busses navigating our snow-narrowed streets during the winter, and is working with the City of Ottawa to improve snow clearing and winter maintenance of transportation corridors. Some of the areas that were flagged for attention during the NECA board meeting include the Bus Route #9 corners around John, Charles and Alexander streets; perennial issues with the intersection of MacKay at Beechwood; and the sidewalk connection along south side of Dufferin around the curve to the Fieldhouse area.

On Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m., Councillor King will be hosting a virtual Ward 13 budget consultation. Visit bit.ly/Ward13BudgetConsult to register.

Amenities in public spaces

As those of you who subscribe to the local listservs

or saw the reporting on CBC may be aware, there have been questions raised recently around resident-added amenities in public spaces (see the Editorial on p. 3 for details). This was discussed a length at the January NECA Board meeting. Councillor King indicated that there will be talks on clarifying and ensuring the appropriateness of rules on this issue. The case in particular that prompted discussion relates to land owned by the National Capital Commission (NCC) who have indicated that they were interested in working with the Crichton Community Council to find appropriate solutions to activate the public space in the triangle formed by Stanley, Dufferin and River Lane.

Weigh in on the parkway plan

In December 2021, the NCC started planning work on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway. The plan's goal is to improve and encourage public access to the Ottawa River and to animate key public spaces along a broad stretch of shoreline east of downtown Ottawa between Rideau Hall and the Aviation Museum. The NCC is now seeking the public's feedback on the proposed plan now until Feb. 19 using the PlaceSpeak website. An in-person open house will also take place on Feb. 15 from 2:00-6:30 p.m. in a location to be determined. Visit ncc-ccn.gc.ca and search for “Etienne” for more details.

Get out and enjoy winter!

During the winter, part of the NCC's Capital Pathway trans-

forms into a network of over 100 km of multi-use winter trails. These free trails are groomed for fat biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and walking. Find your trail on the NCC website: ncc-ccn.gc.ca. Also, NCC bistros are now open for the winter at three parks (Remic Rapids, Confederation Park and Patterson Creek). You can stop by the winter patios for a warm meal or beverage after a cross-country ski or fat bike ride along the winter trail network.

Need a tree?

The City of Ottawa's Forestry Management Branch is currently planning and scheduling tree plantings for fall 2023 in Rideau-Rockcliffe ward, including replacements for those downed on City property in the derecho storm last May. Trees are available from the City of Ottawa by request on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents can submit their tree-planting requests online at so311.serviceottawa.ca/selfserve/ (select “City Trees – Trees in Trust” from the menu).

Stay connected in the ‘Burgh

To receive monthly NECA updates by email, please send an email to newedinburgh@outlook.com or sign up through the community website at newedinburgh.ca. For up-to-the-minute updates on what's happening in the neighbourhood, you can join the Google Group “New Edinburgh Discussions”, then simply email to newed-talk@googlegroups.com. You can also join the listserv, known informally as the Moms' List (although 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 @NewEdinburghNECA and Facebook @NewEdinburghNECA.

Advertising help wanted!

Do you know the community well, enjoy building relationships with clients, and are passionate about supporting local businesses and this newspaper? We'd love have you on our team! Our ad manager is looking for volunteers to help find new advertising clients and help manage key accounts.

NEN is a volunteer-run not-for-profit community newspaper that publishes five times per year. Contact newednews@hotmail.com for details.

Editorial

Shedding some light on the private use of public land

New Edinburgh was in the national news the first week of January, and it didn't cast the community in a glowing light. Maybe it was a post-holiday slow news-week, but CBC Ottawa published a story on television and online about a complaint the City of Ottawa received about the community's efforts to enliven a little corner of land bordering Dufferin Road, Stanley Avenue, and River Lane, which opened a whole can of worms.

According to the CBC story, on Jan. 4, Dufferin Road resident Chris Straka received a notice from the city's by-laws division giving him 48 hours to remove holiday lights, a little free library, two hand-made wooden unicorns and a pair of Muskoka chairs on the patch of land across from his home bordering River Lane. The notice and \$615 fine stemmed from a complaint the City received that someone had "expanded their private garden into Stanley Park" the CBC reported.

But before the 48-hour deadline arrived, City staff contacted Chris, acknowledging that the property in question was not actually theirs, but rather is owned by the National Capital Commission.

Reaction to the CBC story and discussion about who would make such a "not in my backyard" complaint to official channels lit up an online discussion group of New Edinburgh residents. There were a few rants about "don't we have other more important things to think about?" and "surely there are bigger issues we need to address." Many were embarrassed that this story, which residents felt cast the Burgh as a privileged community of NIMBYs, made the national news.

While the lights along the lanes were a group effort, condoned by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance and the Crichton Community Council, the crux of the story is really about the private use of public land.

The triangle of land in question (formerly part of Ottawa's old streetcar infra-



Photo by Karen Squires

The land on the corner of River Lane at Dufferin and Stanley was historically part of Ottawa's streetcar infrastructure. The late Ted Mathesius took care of the long-neglected space for the community's use, a practice which continues today.

structure) has historically been used by residents for the community's benefit. Long-time Crichton Street resident the late Ted Mathesius used to mow the grass there and creatively carved two downed tree trunks into animals in the early 2000s ("I made them for the neighbourhood children," said Ted, in a February 2017 *NEN* story). Ted shares more of the land's history in a June 2019 *NEN* story (find it at newedinburgh.ca). From Ted's point of view, neither the City of Ottawa nor the National Capital Commission maintained the land, so he did, including installing bird feeders and making amazing, colourful wooden whirligigs.

After some back and forth throughout January, Chris connected with NCC staff responsible for public lands and a positive outcome seems to be underway. Chris told the *New Edinburgh News* on Jan. 24 that the NCC is open to finding a "solution

for permanent installations" and that the commission will likely replace what is there to meet their own standards. They have no concerns with the installation of the little free library. The NCC and the Crichton Community Council will look into getting a permit for some of the festive lighting and for the public space installations, and the CCC's board looks forward to working with the NCC to activating, maintaining and improving this area.

However, Chris did note that the NCC is aware of some "serious encroachment" on their land in other areas of the neighbourhood including fences and small buildings for private use by landowners along the south side of Crichton Street.

Perhaps we'll hear more about that later, but in the meantime, some progress is being made in one public space.

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Health care, social services and education priorities for 2023



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

I am proud to be entering my fourth year as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier. As the challenges we face accumulate, it is clear to us that we need to do things differently, especially in the areas of health care, social services, education, and others. Working together is the key to finding solutions to these growing challenges.

Daily, I meet with representatives of different organizations and, when I am home in the riding, I attend various community events and activities. By listening to different members of the community – whether a group of individu-

als, professionals, merchants, or others – I get to know more about the challenges they face. Their suggestions are very important in guiding my work as I help them address various challenges. The next step is to engage and mobilize actors from different levels of government and different parties to develop an effective approach. Clearly, this is easier said than done, and this is where most of my efforts reside. However, many successes encourage me not to give up. For example, I was successful in receiving all-party support at Queen's Park to introduce Bill 41 to protect survivors of human traffick-

ing from the consequences of coerced debt. Consultation leads to listening, listening to understanding, understanding to action and action to results.

We can achieve incredible things and reach our goals by working together; collaboration is a very effective driver of change. As we enter a new year, I wish you all the best as you discover new opportunities for collaboration that can help you achieve the goals you hold dear.

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.

Je suis fière d'entamer ma quatrième année en tant que députée provinciale d'Ottawa-Vanier. Les défis qui s'accumulent, nous forcent à réaliser qu'il faut faire les choses différemment surtout dans le domaine des soins de santé, les services sociaux,

et l'éducation, entre autres. Pour trouver des solutions aux enjeux croissants, nous devons travailler ensemble.

De façon quotidienne, je rencontre des représentants d'organismes et quand je suis dans la circonscription j'assiste à divers événements et activités communautaires. En étant à l'écoute des différents membres de la communauté, que ce soit un groupe d'individus, des professionnels, des commerçants ou autres, j'en apprend plus sur les défis auxquels ils font face. Leurs propositions jouent un rôle très important, en orientant mon travail afin de les aider à résoudre leurs enjeux. Il s'agit ensuite d'interpeller et mobiliser les acteurs des différents paliers de gouvernement et différents partis pour développer une approche efficace. Évidemment, c'est plus facile à dire qu'à faire, et c'est là que réside la plus grande partie de mes efforts. Plusieurs succès m'encouragent cepen-

dant à ne pas baisser les bras. Ainsi, par exemple, j'ai réussi à recevoir l'appui de tous les partis à Queen's Park pour déposer le projet de loi 41 qui vise à protéger les survivants de la traite des personnes contre les conséquences des dettes forcées. La consultation mène à l'écoute, l'écoute à la compréhension, la compréhension à l'action et l'action aux résultats.

Nous pouvons réaliser des choses extraordinaires et atteindre nos objectifs en travaillant ensemble, la collaboration est un moteur de changement très efficace. En ce début d'une nouvelle année, je souhaite à tous de découvrir de nouvelles possibilités de collaboration pouvant mener aux réalisations qui vous sont chères.

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 vous.

Letters to the Editor

Video on St. Bart's special window is itself a work of art

I had the pleasure of watching the new video produced by St. Bartholomew's Church in New Edinburgh concerning Wilhelmina Geddes's

stained-glass window. I was delighted by the visual richness, detailed historical commentary and excellent narration offered by Dr. Shirley

Ann Brown, art historian specializing on stained glass; Tim Cook, leading war historian focusing on Canadian war memorials; and Charlotte Gray; under the direction of the retired Rector David Clunie. This superb leading production team was admirably supported by our New Edinburgh historian Janet Uren and others (find the video link at stbartsottawa.ca).

What I suggest distinguishes this presentation of a unique Canadian commemorative landmark is the depth of context given to a little-known Irish stained-glass artist revealing in exceptional graphic detail the iconogra-

phy of the tragedy of war, particularly WWI. Yet the window is shown, too, to be elevating in the nobility with which Geddes infused her figures.

Tim Cook places the window effectively, movingly, in the broader perspective of Canada's sacrifice in that terrible and senseless conflict, ennobled by the laying down of so many lives in the service of all of us.

Finally, the overall production quality of the video achieves a high standard in video form, enriched by exhaustive photographic treatment supplemented by sympathetic musical accompaniment.

Today, as we face the renewed onslaught of indiscriminate tyranny, this fine and brilliantly coloured – and finely restored – monumental wall of glass and light is a cautionary tale for our contemplation in worship and delight of the eye that, for me at least, symbolizes hope emerging out of tragedy everywhere.

Gyde V. Shepherd

The letter writer is a former curator of European art, assistant director of the National Gallery of Canada, and long-time resident of New Edinburgh with his wife, Rosemary, and family.

Nova Scotia friends thrilled to see Nick in the paper

We read your story in the December 2022 issue of the paper about Nick Brun-Keogan and his summer bake sale to raise money for diabetes ("Tasty treats, warm smiles and good cause a rec-

ipe for success," p. 23, Dec. 2022). It lit up our day to see our good friend again.

Nick came to our school, Bicentennial, in Dartmouth, N.S., for junior high. We miss him so much!

We miss his jokes, we miss his smile, we miss his happy face. We are proud of him. We knew he could do it!

*Stephany Aulenback
Dartmouth, N.S.*

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Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

Dear residents of New Edinburgh,

Happy new year! It's an exciting time filled with possibility and change as people pursue new goals and resolutions. However, it is also a time marked by difficulty for many people, particularly as global inflation drives up the price tags on store shelves. From buying groceries to filling up on gas and caring for children, many Canadians are struggling with the rising cost of living – exacerbated by the recent holiday season.

We introduced legislation last fall to deliver immediate, targeted supports to Canadians needing it most.

Many of those supports have begun flowing to Canadian households in recent weeks. These include:

- Double the GST credit for six months for eligible Canadians. That means up to \$234 for single Canadians without children, up to \$467 for a family of four, and \$225 on average for seniors. This will deliver relief to nearly 11 million Canadian households.

- A tax-free payment of \$500 through the Canada Housing Benefit to eligible low-income renters struggling with the cost of housing. This benefit, available now, will deliver relief to nearly two million low-income rent-

ers, including students and seniors; and

- Up to \$1,300 over two years through the Canada Dental Benefit to help families pay for necessary dental care for children under the age of 12. This benefit, available now, will be available to families without private dental insurance and support an estimated 500,000 children in Canada.

As always, my constituency office is available by phone (613-998-1860) and email (Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca) to answer questions about federal programs and services.

Chères et chers résidents de New Edinburgh,

Bonne année! C'est une période remplie de possibilités et de changements alors que les gens poursuivent de nouvelles résolutions. Cependant, c'est aussi une période difficile pour de nombreuses personnes, d'autant plus que l'inflation mondiale fait grimper les prix dans les

rayons des magasins. Qu'il s'agisse de faire l'épicerie, de faire le plein d'essence ou de s'occuper des enfants, plusieurs Canadiens sont aux prises avec la hausse du coût de la vie, exacerbée par la récente période des Fêtes.

L'automne dernier, nous avons déposé un projet de loi visant à offrir des mesures de soutien immédiates et ciblées aux Canadiens qui en ont le plus besoin. Bon nombre de ces soutiens ont commencé à être acheminés vers les ménages canadiens au cours des dernières semaines. Ceux-ci inclus:

- Un double crédit de TPS pendant six mois pour les Canadiens admissibles. Cela signifie jusqu'à 234\$ pour les Canadiens célibataires sans enfants, jusqu'à 467 \$ pour une famille de quatre personnes et 225\$ pour les aînés en moyenne. Cela soutiendra près de 11 millions de ménages canadiens;

- Un paiement non imposable de 500\$ par l'intermédiaire

de l'Allocation canadienne pour le logement aux locataires à faible revenu admissibles aux prises avec le coût du logement. Cette allocation, disponible dès maintenant, apportera un soutien à près de deux millions de locataires à faible revenu, dont des étudiants et des personnes âgées; et

- Jusqu'à 1,300\$ sur deux ans par l'intermédiaire de la Prestation dentaire canadienne pour aider les familles à payer les soins dentaires nécessaires pour leurs enfants de moins de 12 ans. Cette prestation, disponible dès maintenant, est offerte aux familles sans assurance dentaire privée et soutiendra environ 500,000 enfants au Canada.

Comme toujours, mon bureau de circonscription est disponible par téléphone (613-998-1860) et par courriel (Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca) pour répondre aux questions sur les programmes et services fédéraux.

Update on heritage, better housing, health and the environment



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

Rideau–Rockcliffe is rich in history. With two heritage conservation districts and individually designated homes through the ward, heritage is woven within the fabric of our communities and neighbourhoods. This is why I pushed to create a full standing Built Heritage Committee for this new term of Council, which received unanimous approval.

I believe the creation of a new standing committee demonstrates our collective will as a municipality to protect, promote, and preserve our city's built heritage. The provincial government's Bill 23 includes changes to the Ontario Heritage Act, which will require the City to be more agile to protect its heritage resources.

Working with council and the community, the city created an Anti-Racism Secretariat that consulted with more than 1,000 Ottawa residents and community stakeholders to create a broad and comprehensive Anti-Racism Strategy that has identified concrete actions to remove systemic barriers in city programs, services, and policies. Council must work to deliver the poverty reduction strategy and food security policy that it started last term.

Council must also work to address the growing threat of homelessness by advocating for more affordable housing and improving social services. Despite the challenging economic headwinds we are encountering, we must

continue to invest in people and policy innovation. This includes enabling land trusts; helping diverse communities provide culturally responsive affordable housing; investing in non-market public housing; reducing the cost of transit; and making recreational activities more accessible through lower fees.

It will also be important that we focus on improving the health of our communities. I believe Dr. Vera Etches and the team at Ottawa Public Health should be commended for all the incredible work they undertook to keep our city safe over the past three years. While our public health agency performed in an exemplary fashion, the pandemic has revealed the socioeconomic and racial disparities that need to be addressed. We have begun some of that critical work through investment in preventive health measures such as Neighbourhood Health & Wellness Hubs, but we will need to do more.

As we move forward, it will be imperative that we take more action to protect

our environment against the existential threat of climate change. This will mean working to ensure that we implement our climate change master plan, to implement the conversion of our transit fleet, and pursue the deep retrofit of buildings. Council will also need to be diligent to deliver a fair and transparent urban planning process in the face of provincial changes that aim to remove planning powers from local government and the public participation of residents. We therefore will need to consistently work to improve democracy and accountability at City Hall in an effort to address the massive fiscal and LRT oversight challenges that confront us, and fight climate change to create a greener, more liveable city.

I am excited to pursue the concerns of residents who are seeking more housing; more green space; the protection of our built heritage; significant investments in affordable housing, in traffic management, snow removal, road and pathway maintenance; in pedestrian

and cycling infrastructure; in reliable transit; and in parks. In order to achieve these investments, I believe we will need to make realistic investments in transit, infrastructure, affordable housing and social services. Consequently, I voted against the budget direction that proposed tax increases that are drastically less than the inflationary pressures which the city faces.

The city's 2023 draft budget will be considered for adoption by council on Mar. 1. The public can provide input on the draft budget through Engage Ottawa. General budget information and resources are available at ottawa.ca/budget, including the schedule of council and committee budget meetings. The schedule for all councillor-led public consultations on the development of the city's draft budget is available at ottawa.ca/budget and engage.ottawa.ca.

Contact city councillor Rawlson King at 613-580-2483, rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca and at rideau-rockcliffe.ca.

New year brings new plans at public school board



Lyra Evans
Public School Trustee, Zone 6

District and zone news

It is with many mixed emotions our district says goodbye to Director Camille Williams-Taylor, who has accepted a position in her hometown as the director of the Durham District School Board. We are saddened to see her leave, but wish her the best in her new role. We are undertaking a search for the new director to be completed in June.

The School Board selects a new chair of the board each year; this year I was selected. The additional responsibilities will not distract or detract from my advocacy for the students and families of Zone 6. We also selected a new vice chair, Trustee Justine Bell who represents Zone 10, who has been an outstanding

presence since her appointment last term and who I think will do an excellent job in the role.

Previous decisions of the Board

Nov 15: The new board was sworn in, committee and other board appointments were allocated.

Nov 24: The board held a special meeting. We discussed and ultimately decided not to exceed the provincial minimum set out as a masking requirement.

Nov 29: The board decided upon and hired the new chief financial officer, in addition to reviewing and approving the audited financial statements for 2021–2022. Michele Giroux was also appointed interim director to take over

following Williams-Taylor's departure.

Dec 20: The Board of Trustees heard from members of the Jewish community about the impacts of antisemitism on students. The board added the trustee members from the equity committee to the director search committee; and brought on a new community auditor.

Upcoming decisions of the Board

2023–2027 Strategic Plan

The Board will discuss and create the 2023–2027 strategic plan, beginning with community consultations in January. A virtual session will take place Feb. 2, following two in-person meetings last month. 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.

Hiring of a Jewish Equity Coach

In January, there was a trustee motion to discuss the hiring of a Jewish Equity Coach, to

support Jewish students facing the rise in antisemitism.

The 2023–2024 calendar

Each year, the Ontario Ministry of Education requires each district to create the next school year calendar. In February, we take this opportunity to designate which days will be PD days, when the school year starts and ends, and try to align our calendars with the other districts in the city.

Potential change to the cost of the Extended Day Program

The Extended Day program is a commitment to offer a childcare option before and after hours at each school. If any three families want the program and it doesn't exist at a specific school, the district will create one. The ministry sets out a cost-recovery requirement, meaning the district can neither make, nor spend, money on the program year over year, so each year around February the fees for the program are revaluated.

Academic staffing

February is also the start

of the budget process, with trustees discussing academic staffing. This means approximately how many teachers, of what programs, will the district need, and are there major changes on the horizon before their approval in March.

Revaluating the EFI and Core French Programs

In the coming months, the district will begin to undertake a review of the English (with core French) program. Currently being discussed is if 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.

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

Calls to bring back bus #17 getting louder

Continued from page 1

from #20 for routes like the #17 downtown".

The arguments for reinstatement are buttressed by specif-

ic transit stories from several Wateridge Village residents. "It used to get me to work in New Edinburgh in 15 minutes. Without this bus, my

transit time has gone up to 40–55 minutes ... transit is now the least desirable way to commute since I can bike or drive in 15 minutes, or even walk the full distance in less time," writes Jane, a resident in the neighbourhood.

Similarly, Priscille writes: "Our family is on the verge of buying a second car just so I can drive three times per week to work. That's how painful it has become. We need the #17 back".

Councillor Rawlson King has already approached OC Transpo and will be submitting the document at the City's budget deliberations in early February.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

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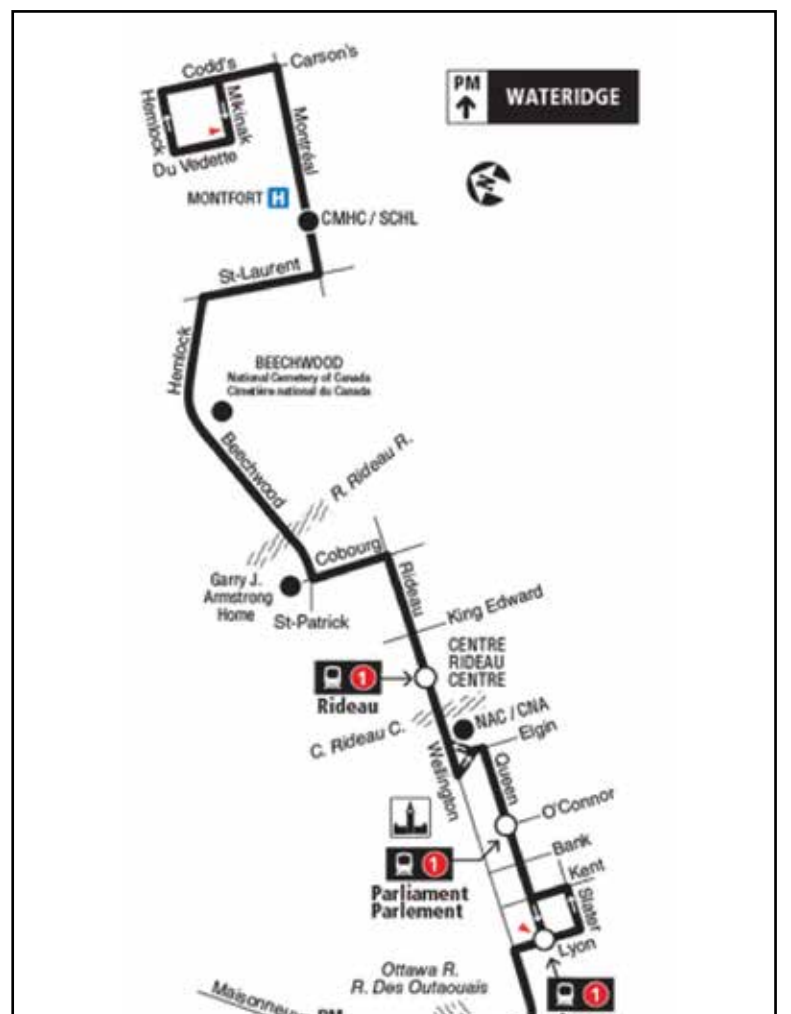


Image courtesy OC Transpo

The short-lived OC Transpo route 17 took provided a link between downtown and Wateridge Village along Beechwood Ave. The route was cancelled during the pandemic due to low ridership.

Thanks to Councillor King for ‘upgrading’ Built Heritage to full committee



By Gail McEachern
In September 2020, I wrote an article for the *New Edinburgh News* entitled “Role of Built Heritage Sub-Committee Compromised.” At that time, any proposal to alter or demolish a building within New Edinburgh’s Heritage Conservation District had to go through a review process involving the city’s heritage planners, and the New Edinburgh Community Alliance’s Heritage and Development Committee. Each proposal was analyzed on its appropriateness for New Edinburgh’s historic district: the extent to which it adhered to the directives and guidelines spelled out in the district’s Heritage

Conservation Plan, as well as the city’s Heritage Overlay zoning by-laws. If approved, a proposal was then presented to the City Council’s Built Heritage Sub-Committee composed of five members of council and four citizen members with expertise in heritage issues. The group’s mandate: “to advise and assist City Council in matters relating to Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act, and such other heritage matters as Council may specify bylaw or as specified in the City’s Official Plan.” More simply put: to conserve and protect Ottawa’s heritage resources. At this point in the review process, decisions related to

heritage protection would get derailed. The fundamental problem was that the Built Heritage Sub-Committee was a sub-committee of the city’s Planning Committee. The way the review process was structured, if a proponent applied for a heritage permit and it was supported by the sub-committee, it went directly to City Council for final approval. If the sub-committee rejected the application, it was forwarded to the Planning Committee, which had already had a chance to comment upon it. This was a seriously flawed system, because it gave the Planning Committee a second kick at the can and an opportunity to reverse the sub-committee’s recommendations. This rendered the sub-committee impotent as a protector of heritage resources. Historically, the Planning Committee has been sympathetic to inappropriate development proposals. Decisions have been compromised due

to some members having received substantial financial support (during the 2018 election) from individuals or companies associated with the development industry. For years, heritage groups have advocated for the removal of the sub-committee from under the Planning Committee’s umbrella. This was considered essential for the sub-committee to be able to consistently honour its mandate. After years of frustration, the heritage community recently learned that the tide has turned. On Dec. 7, 2022, our City Councillor Rawlson King (who is the chair of the sub-committee) introduced a

motion to City Council proposing that the Built Heritage sub-committee be made a full committee of Council. The motion was supported by representatives of Ottawa’s 14 heritage conservation districts, and it passed. This change in status is significant in that it will enable the Built Heritage Committee (the “sub” has been removed from the title) to do its job, without fear that decisions will be undermined by the Planning Committee. We applaud Councillor King for this gift to Ottawa’s heritage community.

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A glimpse into flood control on Rideau River

Continued from page 1

slowly up the Rideau River!

The ice operations have really evolved over the past 20 years. They have reduced ice blasting by about 75 per cent, thanks to work done by the amphibious excavation machine. The explosives are used only in precise areas, such as near Rideau Falls and past the Minto Bridges, around the old railway piers, and by the St. Patrick Street bridge. Bryden notes that staff survey residents within specific blasting zones to determine if and how they may be affected.

In years when there is ice to be cleared, near the end of January crews measure the ice thickness, drilling holes for precise measurement. But first comes the snow clearing, which involves crews of snowblowers. Once the ice surface is clear, the next step is “cutting the keys” with a large circular saw at strategic locations – this happens around end of February. Next on the schedule is blasting, traditionally slated for the first Saturday of March as there is generally less traffic (sometimes roads need to be closed during the dynamite



Photo courtesy City of Ottawa

In years when there is thick ice on the Rideau River, crews use dynamite and other tools to help prevent flooding.

operations). Blasting usually takes three to four days – one week at most – depending on the water flow and weather conditions. Blasting complete, the amphibious excavation machine springs into action to break up the ice. If the water flow is very high, this craft operates nearly 24 hours a day; otherwise, it would be a daytime-only

operation for a week or longer, if required.

Bryden, who has been managing this complex operation for about nine winters, explained to the *New Edinburgh News* that safety is a huge consideration when dealing with explosives, so they’ve made a lot of improvements to safety measures for the team. They also

liaise with the RVCA on any environmental concerns. He continues to look at operational efficiency, equipment, and processes with the team – some members have participated for many years so sharing knowledge and best practices is valuable.

“But we can never forget about the importance of safety for residents,” says Bryden. When people see the workers out on the river ice, some folks assume the ice is safe to walk on. This could not be further from the truth, Bryden explains, as “no ice is safe ice.” This is not a managed site, and the water flow varies along the river, meaning dangerously thin patches of ice could be anywhere. He discourages people from

going onto the ice at any time. “This is a work area where the crew wear floatation jackets and are highly skilled,” says Bryden, noting that the City puts up signs warning people not to go out on the ice.

So please: observe ice-clearing operations from the park or in another safe area!

After the excavation machine work is completed, the staff do a final check around the river in boats to monitor ice-flows and shorelines. Meanwhile, the RVCA reviews the flows to determine whether other flood-prevention methods, like sandbags, are required. Bryden explained that the RVCA raised the riverbanks in some areas along the Rideau to further mitigate flooding. But he notes that doing this near the Minto Bridges in New Edinburgh has not been discussed.

For more information on these operations, or if you have concerns about flooding in the area, contact 311 or visit Ottawa.ca to submit a service request.

Karen Squires lives in New Edinburgh, sits on the New Edinburgh Community Alliance board, and co-edits the New Edinburgh News after a career in marketing and communications.

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Better green bin usage can extend landfill life and limit emissions

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

We may love and use our black- and blue-bins faithfully, but it's the green-bin that really needs our love.

With more attention and uptake in green bin use throughout Ottawa, including new changes to the City's collection at apartment buildings and condos, we can extend the life of the Trail Road landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions simultaneously.

First, though we should come to terms with our track record on residential waste and recycling, and then take stock of how we can do better to save ourselves future pain and costs.

The fact is Ottawa's waste diversion rate is very low, and it compares poorly to other Ontario cities of comparable size. Our residential waste diversion rate city-wide is at just 44 per cent. City officials say 75 per cent of our household waste can be kept out of garbage with the full use of our recycling programs.

By comparison, the regional municipality of York (with a population of 1.2 million) has a 66 per cent residential waste diversion rate. Markham, which is part of York region, has a diversion rate of over 80 per cent.

Half of what Ottawa households are throwing in the garbage is in fact recyclable. Considering that almost 50 per cent of all household waste is organic matter (food scraps, food-soiled boxes and tissues), there's huge potential to get more into our green bins. If we can change our behaviours, we will cut the amount of methane – a powerful greenhouse gas – that is produced when organics end up in our garbage and then in the landfill.

The Trail Road landfill will last until 2036 or so. The cost to create a new additional landfill is estimated at \$300 million. That is before considering the environmental cost associated with establishing another landfill site. And if you are wondering

if incineration (or "waste to energy incineration") is an option, Waste Watch Ottawa explains that "an incinerator is the most expensive way to dispose of waste" (read the full response at wastewatchottawa.ca/news/).

For any skeptics about the effectiveness of our recycling programs, rest assured the market for recycling products is good, according to City officials. It is especially good for paper products, aluminum, and also for mixed plastics; the City earned \$15 million on the sales of those materials in 2021. (Visit Ottawa.ca/recycling to watch the video "What happens to my recycling?")

Better promotion and education by the City on recycling, composting and waste reduction must be seriously increased to match what other municipalities are spending, according to Waste Watch Ottawa. An aggressive roll-out of the green-bin program to multi-residential buildings is also essential.

Good news on the horizon

Last spring, Ottawa City Council approved a mandatory organics diversion program for all multi-residential properties. That means green bins will be introduced to apartments and condos in Ottawa that don't already voluntarily participate in the green bin program. City staff are work-

ing on timelines to implement the mandatory rollout. Meantime, if the building where you live is interested in getting on board sooner, call 311 to inquire.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright is on the board of NECA. She will be writing regularly about environmental and climate-change topics.

Reminders and Tips for the Bins

Green Bin: YES!

- food waste
- waxed and parchment paper
- kitty litter
- dog poo in sealed, leak-proof bags
- dryer lint
- used tissue and soiled pizza boxes and paper
- wax-lined coffee cups (If you can rip the cup it's wax lined.)

Blue Bin: YES!

- metal, glass, plastic containers
- juice and milk cartons
- Tetra Paks

Black Bin: YES!

- paper, cardboard, newsprint, magazines

The rest is garbage:

- coffee cup lids
- plastic bags and plastic film
- styrofoam
- makeup jars
- padded envelopes
- plastic-lined coffee cups

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Jane Heintzman, Randy Mar, Christina Leadlay, and Tamara Miller

Dhruvees launches Korean offerings

Ottawa foodies will be excited to hear that The Seoul Station, the latest concept hatched by food and beverage entrepreneur **Donald Wingell**, is now open inside the **Dhruvees Kitchen** at the corner of Beechwood and Charlevoix.

With a low-key launch during the recent holiday period, Seoul Station fits the mould for a ghost or cloud kitchen, expanding on the pop-up kitchen concept popularized early in the pandemic to allow new concepts and dining experiences to be tested and refined. An incubator, so to speak.

In South Korea, Seoul Station is not only an important transportation hub and meeting place in the capital city, but also is renowned for its melting-pot of restaurants and cuisines; an idea that melds with Donald's evolving concept for Dhruvees.

"Dhruvees is derived from Dhruva, the celestial star from Indian mythology which is also called the North star," explains Donald. "We want to continually evolve and delight our patrons and believe we've found a great new offering to guide the next



Photo by Randy Mar
Chef Min Lee (left) and Dhruvees' food and beverage manager Nicole Kim have teamed up once again in Ottawa at The Seoul Station, after stints working across Asia.

phase of our expanding food studio concept."

Unlike the familiar, deep-fried Korean chicken many foodies crave, Seoul Station is part of a new wave of fresh, healthy, and sustainable alternatives and offers a variety of oven-roasted chicken dishes with a melange of spices drawn from Korean and southeast Asian influences.

The newly created menu showcases crispy oven roasted chicken – wings, half, or boneless – with Gochujang (sweet chilli) sauce, black pepper, soy garlic, lemon, or original flavourings, along with a variety of sides, such as pickled radish and carrot, or cucumber salad.

International award-winning Chef **Min Lee** helms Seoul Station, and brings a vast breadth of experience, having worked in many top kitchens in Shanghai, Dubai, and Hong Kong, before being enticed to Ottawa by Donald and Dhruvees' food and beverage manager Nicole Kim. The trio has worked together at various locations across Asia.

Chef Lee has also created a unique variety of pies, interpreted with bulgogi, dakgalbi (spicy chicken), and hobak (savory pumpkin) fillings.

In the Dhruvees kitchen, Chef **Patrick Braggs** continues to focus on serving up the delights of Indian, Indonesian, Malaysian, and Sri Lankan cuisines, including biryanis, tandoori specialties, curries, kebabs, fish and seafood, and signature house-made condiments.

While Dhruvees is a more high-level dining experience, The Seoul Station is a more casual, quick service, with playful offerings. Drop by 18 Beechwood Ave. to experience the Spice Road world of Chefs Braggs and Lee! Call 613-744-7888 or visit theseoulstation.com and dhruvees.com. –RM

Adios to Ola Cocina

After nine years in operation in its cozy quarters at 62 Barrette St. behind the Metro grocery, **Donna Chevrier's** lively little Mexican taqueria **Ola Cocina** permanently closed its doors at the end of December. While Donna had been planning the closure for some time, the timing was more abrupt than she had hoped, owing to what she describes as a "complicated story." The consequence is that Donna "lost it all," and faces a tough challenge

Continued on page 11

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After nine years, Ola Cocina at 62 Barrette St. permanently closed its doors at the end of December.

recovering and redefining her career after a lifetime as a self-described “restaurant rat.” Donna’s struggles in recent years have left her “burnt out and tired” she tells the *New Edinburgh News*. In addition to the devastating impact of the pandemic, a litany of pressures – from rising operating costs to a major theft and vandalism of the premises – have strained Donna’s financial

and personal resources. And on top of it all, she has had to contend with six major knee surgeries, and two associated infections, in the past three years – the most recent in early December just before the restaurant’s closure. Donna’s lengthy recovery periods meant that she has been sidelined for months at a time, and she says wryly: “you can’t run a restaurant without being there.”

Whatever the future holds, Donna is unequivocal about one thing: “it will NOT be as a chef in a restaurant!” While other options are open, she is leaning towards woodworking, a craft in which she has developed considerable skill, and which meets her current needs for both a creative outlet, and a low-key “zen” occupation, starkly contrasting the high-pressure frenzy of a busy restaurant kitchen. We wish Donna well in her recovery, and in her career reinvention, and we thank her for all the hard work and amazing flair she invested in her popular local eatery. –JH

Ministry of Coffee shutters Beechwood location

The Ministry of Coffee closed the doors to their Beechwood location permanently in December. The *New Edinburgh News* spoke with the company owners to get an update on their other locations and other new business ventures. The owners made the decision to close this location due to several factors, including the fact that their lease was up. They said entering into a new lease at an increased price was not feasible for



The Ministry of Coffee shut its Beechwood location in December, citing a new lease, cost of living and staffing issues.

them, and staffing continues to be a challenge. It takes up to three months to fully train new staff and keeping up with departures meant they were in a constant state of training. The price of coffee has also gone up and in order to keep their location profitable, they would need to serve 200–300 customers per day. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way people drink coffee – people have learned

to make good coffee at home! As such, in addition to their physical locations on Wellington Street, Elgin Street and at the Via Rail station on Tremblay Avenue, they are beginning to focus more on a wholesale business and supplying to other restaurants and diners. This shift in their business model means they can minimize expenses and shift resources.

Continued on page 12



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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Welcome to new business Sheek Shawarma.

People interested in purchasing Ministry of Coffee beans can order online – or stay tuned for exciting partnerships with local businesses such as tastings! In fact, the company is currently working with Jacobsons on Beechwood for tasting sessions in the Spring.

To stay up to date, visit theministryofcoffee.com or follow them on Instagram @theministryofcoffee –TM

Say hello to Sheek Shawarma

A new business opened its doors on our main street just after the New Year. **Sheek Shawarma** arrived in the location recently vacated by **Chilaquiles** at 49 Beechwood Ave. (Chilaquiles moved just next door into the space formerly home to Nature's Buzz). *NEN* hopes to provide readers with a fuller update on both businesses in a future edition. But for now, early reviews of the new shawarma

restaurant are good! –CL

Pharmacies offer new services

Few of us have been untouched by the extraordinary pressures on our health care system at the moment, whether it be overcrowded emergency rooms, struggles to find a family physician, long waits for diagnostic and medical (particularly specialist) appointments, staff shortages in hospitals, or medication supply interruptions. The Ontario government's recent move to expand the range of services provided by local pharmacists is a welcome first step in relieving some of those pressures.

Starting Jan. 1, 2023, Ontario pharmacists are authorized to prescribe medications for 13 minor illnesses, including:

- allergic rhinitis
- candidal stomatitis (oral thrush)
- conjunctivitis or pinkeye

- dermatitis (eczema, allergic and contact)
- dysmenorrhea
- gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- hemorrhoids
- cold sores
- impetigo
- insect bites and hives
- tick bites – post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent Lyme disease
- musculoskeletal sprains and strains
- urinary tract infections (uncomplicated)

Visit www.ocpinfo.com for details.

Although pharmacists already provide consultations and advice on conditions such as these, the addition of the power to prescribe treatments unquestionably adds to their paperwork, and to the burden on dispensary staff. Integrating this new service into their workload is likely to take time.

The **Beechwood Whole Health Pharmacy** at 222 Beechwood Ave. is gearing up to implement the new prescription services. Though pharmacist and owner **Peter Barreiro** is aware of the challenges of integrating these services into his pharmacy's already heavy workload of COVID and flu vaccines, client consultations and medication refills, he welcomes the initiative. He is happy to offer clients "another avenue when they can't get hold of their family doctor, or don't have one," and he is currently working on a system that makes things "as seamless as possible for the patient." Call 613-842-7455 or visit beechwoodpharmacy.com for updates.

At the **New Edinburgh Pharmacy**, 5 Beechwood Ave., the dispensary team is planning to start very slowly, as it, too, juggles an already heavy agenda of vaccines, prescriptions and routine consults. But by late winter or early spring, the pharmacists expect to have a system worked out to handle prescriptions for the minor ailments on the list above. –JH

Update on local cannabis shops

Last February, *NEN* reported the opening of Beechwood Avenue's first cannabis shop, **Munchies Cannabis**, located on the corner of Putman Avenue. The Hanna family celebrated their first year in business, saying it's been a year "full of love and support



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Peter Barreiro is the pharmacist/owner of Beechwood Whole Health Pharmacy, 222 Beechwood Ave.

from our wonderful community. We are beyond grateful, and we absolutely love supporting our community through the different events we have had and will continue to have" they said in an email to the *New Edinburgh News*. "We want to continue to do events and ensure we are serving and supporting our community as much and as best as we can."

Not long after **Munchies** opened, **Sessions Cannabis**

had applied to open a store in the new building where **Burton's Dive** had been for many years at 196 Beechwood Ave. Their application was approved, and **Sessions** did indeed open for business in the spring of 2022. But *NEN* learned at the end of December 2022 that **Sessions** had moved to a new location. We reached out to **Sessions** to find out more about the relocation but didn't receive a response by deadline. –CL



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

After less than a year, Sessions Cannabis has relocated out of the area.

Writers wanted

Are you interested in writing? Our Burgh Business Briefs team is looking for a new writer or two. Exercise your word-processing and grammar skills while meeting neighbourhood business owners and getting the latest scoop on local events. Bring your ideas to our virtual brainstorming meetings. Requirements include a computer, internet access, and good English writing skills.

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New name for second Minto project coming soon; retail-free Claridge plan gets approval

By John Leefe

Minto's second project on Beechwood Avenue for the construction of 227 apartment units at 88 Beechwood Ave. and 69-93 Barrette St. (currently known as "Minto Beechwood II") is proceeding on schedule, with the building anticipated to be at street level by March. The building will have nine storeys on the Beechwood side, and six storeys facing Barrette Street with a total of approximately 153,000 square feet.

According to Kevin Harper, Minto's project manager, the building will emerge, storey by storey, at a rapid pace and is expected to "top off" by November 2023, with new tenants to take occupancy in the spring of 2024.

By late 2023, letters of intent to lease will be sent out to prospective renters. The name for the building should be announced by April. As part of the branding and marketing strategy, a new website will be launched by March.

As previously reported in the *New Edinburgh News*, a key issue that was subject to discussions with the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA) and Minto concerned the allocation of retail space. The BVA is a community group comprising several neighbouring community associations that have advocated for much-needed retail space in the Beechwood-Hemlock corridor.

The discussions have led

to a binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Minto and the BVA that lays out a process for securing ground-floor retail space. The search for ground-level commercial units is ongoing, guided by the "wish list" of small businesses provided by the BVA.

Despite the MOU, securing

"Retail is not only crucial to the vitality of Beechwood Avenue, but is in line with the City's support of the 15-minute neighbourhood."
-Beechwood Village Alliance

these retail leases will remain a challenge, given the ongoing vacancies at the first Minto development. However, Tony Stikeman of the BVA remains optimistic, saying: "In light of the steadily growing intensification along Beechwood, soon to become connected along Hemlock, it is imperative to examine the impacts of greatly increased traffic, affordable housing particularly for families, other services and shopping. There is an opportunity to realize the City's 15-minute neighbourhood goal along Beechwood if we plan for it."

Controversial "live-work" project gets go-ahead

ClaridgeHomes' development for the construction of a six-storey building with 95 residential dwelling units at the site of the former Desjardins Bank at 89-97 Beechwood Ave. has received site plan control approval from the

Ottawa City Council following approval by the city's planning committee last May. Although the original application in 2016 was for the construction of 67 units, subsequent amendments requested 95 units instead. The new plan included a commitment to bring the amenity space and gym to the front of the

ect because of the lack of a binding commitment from the developer to ensure street-oriented retail at ground level. More specifically, the BVA suggested that the "live/work units be converted to retail space and the floor-to-floor height for the ground floor be increased to a minimum of four metres."

In an October submission to Councillor King, then-Rideau-Vanier Councillor Mathieu Fleury, and Ann O'Connor, city of Ottawa planning department, the BVA stated: "the increase in the number of units [i.e., from the original 67 to 95] constitutes a significant change, as does the de-facto elimination of retail space" and concludes "such retail is not only crucial to the future vitality of Beechwood Avenue but is entirely in line with the City's support of the 15-minute neighbourhood."

Advisor to Councillor King Peter Petrie stated in an email to the *New Edinburgh News* that "the constraints of deal-

ing with only a site plan approval (as opposed to an official plan amendment or rezoning) hampered our abilities to impose or leverage conditions on the developer for the issue that was most concerning, (a paucity both in area and limiting ceiling height) of ground floor, main street-facing commercial/retail space."

However, with respect to future developments, there may be some hope on the horizon. Councillor King has made enquiries as to whether inclusionary zoning could be applied to address the provision of commercial space or other community needs besides affordable housing and if the City can entertain the creation of a Community Improvement Plan that incentivizes commercial space on main street corridors as this would provide more services and options.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

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MACDONALD-CARTIER ACADEMY

New handbook on main streets highlights the value of visitors

Continued from page 1

It suggests that residents “[t]hink about the role that the visitor economy could play in helping main streets.” This resonated with me as I recently spoke with the St. Charles Market team. I learned that finding the kinds of retailer tenants that residents want can be challenging, due to rental costs and

the reduced foot traffic on Beechwood compared with neighbourhoods like the Glebe or Westboro.

This handbook explains that neighbourhoods may be defined by such characteristics as size, urban or rural geography, visitation rates, and heritage. Some are doing well while others are declining. During the pandemic,



Locals talk about great new offerings or dining experiences, like patios, bringing visitors from near and far to their neighbourhoods.

Photo by David Lawrence



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some businesses became innovative, offering new services like outdoor dining or take-away, online ordering, or more amenities. We residents appreciate these initiatives and invite friends and family to experience these with us. The handbook cited some examples of special retailer incentives for the VFR market to say thank-you and welcome! Such incentives make us locals feel good, too.

However, the handbook also mentions possible economic, socio-cultural and environmental challenges: for example, establishing services to ensure increased visitation does not cause friction with the local community.

The key takeaway for me was that locals are the main visitors and shoppers on the main street, and that positive experiences prompt residents to invite family and friends. Locals will talk about great new offerings or amazing dining experiences, bringing visitors from near and far, and shaping those experiences.

Mainstreet Reimagined Through a Visitor Lens also

explores mapping main streets and gathering data, as well as marketing to visitors and developing partnerships for the visitor economy. One personal example: when I attended the Chamber Music Festival at Rideau Hall a few years ago, I invited guests to share in this amazing event. Neighbourhood entrepreneurs, businesses, and condo corporations can explore similar events and experiences as opportunities to forge new partnerships.

The final section of this handbook asks: “Is your main street ready to welcome more visitors?” It’s a question local retailers and leaders need to consider carefully. A great first step for businesses and resident alike: download *Mainstreet Reimagined Through a Visitor Lens* at torontomu.ca/htmresearch/main-street-reimagined.

Karen Squires lives in New Edinburgh, sits on the New Edinburgh Community Alliance board, and co-edits the New Edinburgh News after a career in marketing and communications.

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A quick summary of the new City form for property owners

By Eleanor Dunn
If you're a property owner, you probably received a notice from City Hall in November 2022 advising you

online if you have the required information handy. You will need your property tax roll number and the access code, both of which are provided

about innocent until proven guilty?" they ask. Others feel there's a surplus of undeveloped government land close to the LRT which could be

used for building affordable housing. And others whose neighbourhoods have vacant, deteriorating, boarded-up housing see this additional tax as a welcome tool to force slum clearance.

There's a deadline for submitting the forms – Mar. 16, 2023 – regardless of your property's status. To learn more, visit ottawa.ca and

search for "vacant property tax."

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

"The deadline for submitting the forms is Mar. 16, regardless of your property's status."

that one per cent would be added to your property tax bill if you did not complete a Vacant Unit Property Tax declaration form.

This is what's called "negative option billing." It's not just an Ottawa thing. It is being used in other Canadian cities, notably Vancouver; and Toronto and Hamilton are implementing it, too.

The idea behind it is that there are potentially liveable homes sitting empty for six months or more every year which, if put on the market, could provide affordable housing the city desperately needs.

The declaration form is pretty easy to complete. It takes less than five minutes

on the November notice you received. If you didn't keep the city's notice, you can find this information on your property tax bill.

The Vacant Unit Tax is based on your property's status for the previous year. If the property is vacant in 2022, the tax will become payable in 2023. The tax doesn't apply to your principal residence, but that doesn't mean you can get away with not completing the form. If you don't complete it, you could be subjected to a payment of \$250 or more.

There's been a mixed reaction to this new effort on the city's part to free up more housing. Some citizens have expressed concern about the negative tax process: "What



Photo by Frank Martin

Around this time of year, Northern Cardinals will break their silence with their familiar calls. Read more about birds in our area on p. 18.



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Wear your heart on your sleeve with New Edinburgh clothing and toques



By Chris Straka,
CCC President

New Edinburgh is replete with distinctive built and natural features that define the area where an engaged community has lived for generations. We have chosen to make our home an area with a strong sense of place, and to work together to make our neighbourhood better. Our pride in New Edinburgh is demonstrated through the efforts we put into enhancing the shared spaces around us. The strength of our community is felt in the support we give one another every day.

You have an opportunity to wear the pride we share in our neighbourhood. New Edinburgh apparel is now available for a limited time. Place your order online before

Feb. 20: newedinburgh.ca (or scan the QR code below).

The Crichton Community Council developed two unique print designs to celebrate our neighbourhood. One features a map of New Edinburgh's roads, paths, rivers, and building footprints. Another uses the unique road signs of the Heritage Conservation District as inspiration. Either image can be applied to the front of a grey T-shirt or hoodie. If you are jealous of the ice rink Hoser crew's toques, you can procure a similar one for yourself.

Proceeds from the sale of all apparel items will support the CCC's neighbourhood events. This initiative was made possible by McCabe Promotional, a local, certified B Corporation with the highest standards of social and environmental impact.

Fieldhouse improvements

City Councillor **Rawlson King** has started to help the CCC address the needs of current and future users of the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. At a January meeting with the councillor and his

staff, attendees discussed the list of improvements to the Fieldhouse first identified by the neighbourhood in 2019. In addition to rubber flooring, a sliding room partition wall, and sound attenuation, a public wireless internet connection was added to the list of immediate needs we expect to see addressed in the short- to medium-term. A conversation will continue over the next several months about prospective improvements to the facility that are required to support the needs of diverse user groups over the longer term.

Given Councillor King's stated commitment to improving community buildings throughout the ward in this Council term and given the existing \$250,000 pre-allocated to improving a city-owned building in New Edinburgh, I trust we can look forward to some investment in the priorities identified by the CCC, NECTAR, and the New Edinburgh Community Alliance.

Park improvements

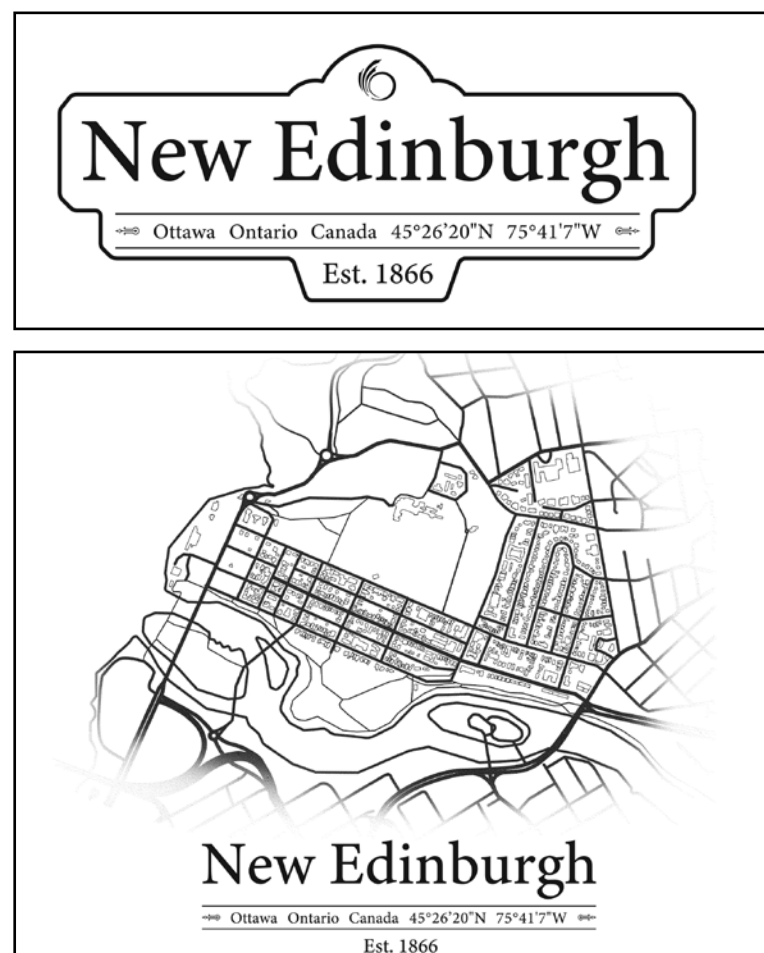
The public spaces within 150 metres of the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse are of particular importance to the CCC because of the existing amenities, the natural features, and the intensity of their use. Our community building mandate is achieved in part by our efforts to improve public spaces in ways that respond to users' diverse needs. With the assistance of Councillor King, we are working with City of Ottawa and National Capital Commission staff on a variety of initiatives near the Fieldhouse that include:

- winter sidewalk maintenance of the multi-use pathway;
- the installation of additional waste receptacles, furniture and poster cylinders;
- seasonal lighting of the building and trees;
- ice rink enhancements including boards and improved grading; and
- tree planting.

Your comments and suggestions for other improvements to the public realm are welcome.

Skating in the park

Early December's cold and snow gave the New Edinburgh



The CCC has two unique print designs celebrating our neighbourhood that you can order on a grey T-shirt or hoodie. Toques like the ones the ice rink crew wears are also available. To order, either scan the QR code on this page or visit newedinburgh.ca.



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Hosers all they needed to create the solid base for this year's ice. Once again, **Bruce McLaurin** contributed an inordinate amount of time to get the skating season underway. Thanks to his daily ice building efforts before Christmas, skating began earlier in New Edinburgh Park than most other outdoor rinks in the city.

Every night, volunteers continue to work with hose and shovels to prepare the ice for the next day of skating. So long as the weather remains consistently cold, skaters at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse will find the washrooms and changeroom open from 4–7 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. An ice attendant is on site during those times to supervise the building, offer skaters a warm drink, maintain the ice surface and assist skaters.

New Year's brunch

On Jan. 7, the CCC hosted its annual New Year's Brunch at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Thanks to the leadership of **Edwina**

Chittilappilly and **Caroline Matt**, more than 100 neighbours came together to enjoy community fellowship, plentiful homemade food, and lively conversation.

After their meal, some headed outdoors while others spent time admiring the artworks adorning the walls, chatting with the artists on hand. The works of **Doreen Stevens**, **Aki Stevens**, **Patsea Griffin**, **Annie Pillaktuaq**, **Suny Jacob**, **Dhivya Shastri**, **Martha Nixon**, **Raewyn Khosla**, **Matias Howson Creutzberg** and **Tijs Creutzberg** contributed significantly to the ambiance.

Un grand merci to the team of new and seasoned volunteers who cooked and cleaned for the rest of us, including **Roxie Clarke**, **Rasmus Howson Creutzberg**, **Sebastian Matt**, **Amy Salyzyn**, **Ainav**, **Tavi** and **Rachel Aslan**; and **Suneil**, **Nima** and **Ara Kanjeekal**, along with the other community builders who stepped in to keep the brunch running smoothly. A big thank-you is also due to the artists who added their creativity.

The CCC's ability to offer community activities at no fixed cost is largely due to the generosity of those who attend. We appreciate your contribution to the organization's financial sustainability at each event.

Outdoor curling bonspiel

The CCC is seeking an event leader to help coordinate an outdoor curling bonspiel at New Edinburgh Park later this month. If you can take the lead on this event with our support, please contact the CCC at: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com.

Latin dance workshop

You are invited to attend a free introductory Latin Dance Workshop on Feb. 12, just in time for Valentine's Day, from 1–3 p.m. **Raza Moghal** with the **Salsa Connectica Dance Company** will teach a no-cost two-hour introductory Latin dance workshop in the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. The workshop promises to be engaging and accessible to everyone over 12 years of age. Singles and couples are welcome. Space is limited. To register, find the link in the neighbourhood events listing: newedinburgh.ca/events.

Art at the Fieldhouse

The CCC is seeking an event leader to help local artists show their work at the Fieldhouse. We have artists willing to participate. If you would like to organize a group show at the Fieldhouse with our support, please contact the CCC at: crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com.

Films at the Fieldhouse

Films at the Fieldhouse will return mid-March. A double feature of Oscar-nominated films will run on March 11, followed by an Oscars Viewing Party on March 12. Keep your eye on your inbox and neighbourhood events list for more information.

CCC communications

The CCC communicates details about its initiatives and events through a variety of methods. Our Board of Directors meet monthly. Meeting times and dates are set to accommodate the availability of CCC directors and guests. Please contact us if there is a topic you would like to discuss or if you are interested in joining us as a volunteer.



Photo courtesy Chris Straka

Another successful New Year's Brunch took place at the fieldhouse on Jan. 7. Thank you to all the hardworking volunteers who organized this great community event.

Event information is posted on the neighbourhood website (newedinburgh.ca/events), on Facebook (facebook.com/NEfieldhouse) and on Twitter (twitter.com/nefieldhouse).

The CCC also communicates using two open email lists that you can subscribe to: newed@perambulatorposse.ca and groups.google.com/group/new-ed-talk (new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com).

We also use a closed email distribution list that is used

exclusively by neighbourhood associations. To have your contact information added to the CCC's email distribution list, please send a message to: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse rentals

The New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse at 203 Stanley Ave. remains available for reservation throughout the winter skating season.

Although one half of the main room is configured as a skate changing area and concession, the window side of the main room remains set up for meetings or other events. Learn more: newedinburgh.ca/ccc/fieldhouse. Check availability or make a reservation: nefieldhouseccc.skedda.com/booking.

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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

In the bird world, the Silent Night of the Christmas season has continued into mid-January, as the local bird population suspends its familiar chorus to focus on the challenges of surviving the winter. There are few exceptions, none of them particularly melodious: the nagging caw, caw of the ubiquitous **American crows**; the guttural *croaks* of **Common Ravens**, which are year-round inhabitants of our neighbourhood; the *cuk* calls and resonant drumming of **pileated-, hairy- and downy woodpeckers**; and the cheerful chickadee-dee chirps of our resident **black-capped chickadees**.

But in the coming weeks, as daylight hours gradually lengthen, birdsong will ramp up as the males of many species undergo hormonal changes which turn their thoughts to mating rituals. Beginning in late January and early February, **Northern cardinals**, **American robins**

(many of which remain with us all winter); **house finches**; **goldfinches** and many other species will break the silence with their familiar calls. At the same time, the **black-capped chickadee's** *chirp* will give way to its piercing *feebee* call as an early harbinger of the spring mating season.

For many of us, chickadees have a special place in our affections as a cheery, year-round presence – an example of resilience. They are well-adapted to the challenges of winter, growing an estimated 1,000 additional feathers as insulation, and significantly lowering their body temperature to save energy through semi-hibernation.

At the same time, chickadees' food requirements skyrocket in harsh winter conditions. Thanks to their industrious fall food caching, they're well supplied when pickings are slim. Like other species such as **jays**, **nuthatches**,



Black-Capped Chickadee.

Photo by Michael Leveille

es, and **titmice**, they store thousands of seeds in hiding spots throughout the autumn, miraculously remembering these locations when the need arises in winter. This feat of memory is thought to be facilitated by a temporary 30 per cent increase in the size of the chickadee's hippocampus – a part of the brain associated with memory – in the winter months.

Around the region, the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club (ofnc.ca) reported numerous species of waterfowl taking advantage of open waters during an unusually mild stretch of weather after Christmas. **Wood ducks**; **harlequin ducks**; **common** and **Barrow's goldeneye**; **common and hooded mergansers**; **Northern pintail**; **green-winged teal** and **horned grebe** have all been spotted in the National Capital Region, as has a surprising cast of songbird characters which would typically have been long gone south. These included **Eastern phoebe**; a **ruby-crowned kinglet**; a **yellow-rumped warbler**; an **Eastern towhee**; a **fox sparrow**; a **white-crowned sparrow**; a **Carolina wren** and a **red-winged blackbird**.

Our own recent sightings have been limited to **black-capped chickadees**; **white-breasted nuthatches**; **downy-, hairy- and pileated woodpeckers**; **Northern cardinals**; **house finches** and **goldfinches** (many of them clustered at the well-charged feeders at Philip MacAdam's Avian Bistro on Thomas Street); **Common ravens**; **American crows**; **wild turkeys**; and smattering of lean **American robins** in the Rockcliffe area.

Another winter-hardy presence are the house **sparrows** which abound in the commu-

nity, scavenging close to such promising locations as grocery store parking lots. Once again, this year, a large house sparrow group has sheltered in the bushy yew trees in front of our house, occasionally exploding from hiding at the presence of a predator.

As always, **American crows** remain on the scene. This time of year, crows can often be found in massive roosts, where they gather at night for warmth, security from predators, and information-sharing related to food sources and areas of danger. Over the years, an especially large roost has settled in at two locations on St. Laurent at Innes Road, and on Tremblay Road.

The Tremblay Road roost has been closely monitored this year by local birders to track the resident crows' behaviour. The birds typically gather at dusk, departing in the morning to spend their days near the Trail Road Landfill or the Huneault Dump in Navan – apparently the *corvid* version of fine dining! It's estimated that an

astonishing 30,000 crows are using the Tremblay Road roost this winter.

Another ever-present *corvid* in the community is the **Common raven**, the larger, more imperious cousin of the American crow (20–30 inches vs. 10–20 inches). In my immediate neighbourhood, common ravens live year-round in the vicinity of 24 Sussex Dr., where they appear to have a permanent nest, and around the French Embassy. In recent winters, I've encountered them along the Rockcliffe Parkway, but regrettably the road is virtually impassable to walkers this year, so I've missed my daily "conversations" with these intelligent and vocal creatures.

Reports from our readers:

St. Laurent Academy's science guru **Mike Leveille** reports that, so far this winter, **chickadees**, **nuthatches**, **mourning doves** and **tree sparrows** have been the avian regulars at the Macoun Marsh in the Beechwood Cemetery. But if past years are any guide, there may be more to come: notably a possible influx of **bohemian waxwings**, as occurred in 2021, and the arrival of **common redpoll flocks** in March.

Birding photographer **David Howe** was delighted by the numbers of **waterfowl** on the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers during the post-Christmas warm spell. But he noted that the **winter finch** population (**redpolls**; **pine siskins**; **crossbills**; **pine grosbeaks**; **Bohemian waxwings**) has so far been disappointingly low. The exceptions are **Evening grosbeaks** which have been around in abundance since November.

"The big draw," says David, "has been **northern woodpeckers- three-toed** and **black-backed-** along with two other celebrity birds, **tufted titmouse** and **boreal chickadee**." David is expecting new arrivals in the coming weeks, as food supplies dwindle in northern regions, drawing the birds south to take advantage of backyard feeders, and remaining fruits and berries on trees and shrubs. "This in turn may bring some **northern owls** and raptors like **Northern goshawk** and **gyrfalcon** if we're lucky! Always something to see. You've just got to brave the elements and get out there!"



Photo by David Howe

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Photo by MCpl Mathieu Gaudreault

Lace up your skates in Rideau Hall's Winter Pavilion for a skate on the historic outdoor rink, open now until Mar. 5 (weather permitting).

Rideau Hall open for skating, tours, and a winter celebration on Feb. 11

By Emily Rose Breault

New Edinburgh is fortunate to count Rideau Hall, the Governor General's official residence, among its features. Happily, public events have returned to the historic grounds this year.

The public is invited to attend a Winter Celebration on Feb. 11 from 12:30–4:30 p.m. at Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Dr. This is, as before, an official Winterlude event and all activities are free of charge. Young and old alike can have fun outdoors, taking part in winter sports and activities on the grounds of the official residence and workplace of the governor general. Please visit gg.ca for more information.

Skating until March 5

Visitors are invited to lace up their skates in the Winter Pavilion, a stunning heritage building, and skate on the historic outdoor rink which is celebrating its 150th season. The skating rink will be open from Jan. 14 until Mar. 5 (weather permitting).

The public may skate without a reservation on weekends from 12–5 p.m. beginning Jan. 14.

Large groups of 15–50 people may reserve the rink for a 90-minute slot during select times. Available spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve the ice for a group, please email guide@gg.ca.

Detailed information about the Rideau Hall skating rink is available on our website: gg.ca.

Tours of the residence

Visitors are invited to tour Rideau Hall and visit the State rooms where the governor general fulfills official duties, welcomes dignitaries, and honours Canadians. The residence is home to a fine collection of Canadian art and furniture. On display are the works of such renowned Canadian artists as Jean Paul Lemieux, Emily Carr, and Allen Sapp. A special exhibition on Canadian honours is also included in the tour. Guided tours of Rideau Hall

for individuals and groups are available free of charge, and last approximately 45–60 minutes. From Jan. 9–Apr. 30, reservations are required for guided tours: simply complete the request form online.

Emily Rose Breault is the acting communications advisor in the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General. Learn more about the Governor General and Rideau Hall at gg.ca.



Photo by MCpl Vincent Carbonneau

Tours of the Governor General's official residence have resumed. Book your tour at gg.ca.

Looking to volunteer?

Your community association needs help with communications: newsletters, listserv posts, social media updates, website, posters, etc.

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Beating the February blahs in the 'Burg

By Karen Squires

Here we are, leading into February. On the bright side, we are more than halfway through winter! But for some of us, winter can be a tough slog and we are becoming weary. So, what can we do to keep our spirits up and enjoy the final stretch before spring arrives? Well, if you are not packing for an exotic getaway, there are many alternatives to staying optimistic, active, and happy close to home.

Stay active

For my husband and me, walking our dog keeps us energized, and we often see neighbours and friends so it's a nice way to connect. If you don't have a dog, you can walk with others or offer to walk your friends' dogs. Or if long winter walks are not your thing, check out the new Saturday yoga classes at **Beechwood Physical Medicine** at St. Charles Market on Beechwood, as this

may just be what you need to recharge and connect. Or you can try **Anytime Fitness** on Crichton Street (above the Guardian Pharmacy) for coaching or a personalized plan to help you stay energized and in shape.

Connect with others and treat yourself

Connecting with others is important. There are many great local cafés and restaurants to choose from when meeting with friends over coffee or a meal. With Valentine's Day upcoming, consider take-home meals from **Epicuria Food Shop and Catering**. They always offer great choices, and after their recent renovations, there are even more options for both prepared and frozen meals. If you want great dessert options, my go-to is **Jacobsons** for special occasions. Otherwise, I simply get creative from Metro's selection of healthy desserts, like by adding fresh berries to profiteroles, along with melted dark chocolate. And don't forget to browse through **Mood Moss** for unique floral arrangements to brighten your home and add some colour to those long winter days.

If you are like me and love to read, **Books on Beechwood** has a terrific selection of fiction and non-fiction, and the friendly staff will special-order titles for you. If reading is your passion, you could join or start your own book club – another way to connect either online or in person. **SconeWitch** is just next door to Books on Beechwood, so enjoy a treat if meeting in person! For a special occasion or well-deserved break, why not indulge yourself with a mini spa treatment at the **New Edinburgh Spa**, located on Crichton Street at Keefer. The team there is super friendly and there are plenty of new treatments to enjoy. You can also get your hair done as another option.

Make time for improvements

Now that you've indulged yourself, here's a little challenge when you are back at home: short-term pain for long-term gain. What about that little decluttering project you've been thinking about but have never started? Over the past few years, my



Photo by Karen Squires

Getting together with friends can help beat the winter blues. There are many local food purveyors, like Epicuria Food Shop, offering delicious treats for gatherings large and small.

husband and I have cleaned our garage and recently did a minor kitchen renovation which forced us to clean out our cupboards. Other house projects require more planning, like two years ago, when we rebuilt the stone border around our front garden. We live in a townhouse, so liaised and shared the cost with our neighbours. We used a local company, **Futuric Kitchens** in our recent mini renovation. They are price competitive and do great work. We finally got this done after much pondering and are happy with the results! It's gratifying to complete projects you've delayed or even do some of the work yourself, if possible, as it gives you a real sense of accomplishment.

Declutter and try new hobbies

When you declutter, even if it's cleaning out your closets and passing things along, you will feel better. One of my neighbours passes along clothing and household items. I've been exchanging items now for years with family and friends or simply donating

ing them. It makes me feel better and reusing or donating lightly used items is a way to help others and waste less! Charities such as Helping with Furniture or Maison Marie-Louise or HighJinx handle gently-used items.

I've also started sewing – well, to be honest, mending is probably what I do best – but I'm trying and it's fun. I even got some tips from my mother-in-law over the holidays as she has a sewing machine and I'm interested to learn more.

Community connections are great and help us get through many the dark, cold winter days, so keep planning and stay focused on what needs to be done and what makes you feel better. Invite your friends and family to visit now that you have that extra bedroom decluttered. After all, spring is just around the corner, so tulips will be blooming before long.

Karen Squires lives in New Edinburgh, sits on the New Edinburgh Community Alliance board, Co-Edits New Edinburgh News after a career in marketing and communications.

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Retired biologist publishes historical fiction set in his native South America

By Marta Reyes

When New Edinburgh resident **Jorge Sorger** set out to write *Latinadas*, a series of short fiction, he did it in record time: just a few months. The stories are on a subject Jorge knows intimately and first-hand: the turbulent history of many Latin American countries. Yet he's the first to point out that not everything that happens in that part of the world is as negative, conflicted, and chaotic as is often portrayed in the news and in the media. And that's why he wants you to read his book.

"A lot of what you read and the images you see about Latin America is with a North American lens," Jorge says. "What you hear in the news is not positive, it's without context."

Jorge hopes *Latinadas* will give readers a picture of what it's like to live in some of those countries and experience the turmoil of politics and other factors from the perspective of ordinary people: some rich, some poor. More importantly, he tries to fill in some of the cultural gaps that are left out in the mainstream media.

Whereas he doesn't deny there is conflict and corruption, he also knows there's more to it than that; there are the people, the culture, and the beliefs that are also part of the equation. The best way he found to tell that story is through fiction.

"The stories are about people with different values who find themselves in situations of conflict, and struggle to find their way and do what's right," explains Jorge. "Those experiences are universal and not so different here or there." Though fictional, the characters and situations are based



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Retired scientist and 'Burg resident Jorge Sorger has published his first work of historical fiction, *Latinadas*.

on real people and events, some experienced by Jorge himself. *Latinadas* tell stories about poverty, oppression, racism, corruption, and hardship, but also of loyalty, endurance, happiness, and family ties.

A native of Venezuela, Jorge did his undergraduate studies in Microbiology at McGill University in Montreal, and his graduate studies at Yale University in the United States. He taught at McMaster University in Hamilton until his retirement a decade ago, when he moved to Ottawa with his wife to be closer to his two daughters and four grandkids.

Jorge has travelled and lived extensively in many countries in Latin America and has encountered his fair share of turmoil there. But he also wanted to share the beauty of the people and culture of those places in *Latinadas*. That is one of the reasons he wrote it in English instead of

his native Spanish: the stories are meant for a North American audience.

Jorge says it was his daughter who urged him to write the book, which he did over two years ago. However, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed things down, and the book was finally published in October 2022.

Jorge has written and published scientific material during his time as a biology professor, but *Latinadas* is his first work of fiction.

Latinadas is available at Books on Beechwood, Indigo Chapters, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon in soft and hard cover, and as an e-book.

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



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From dogs to neighbourhoods – who chooses whom?

By Doug Cornish

A year and a half ago, I adopted a three-year-old dog from a humane society to replace one I had previously lost. The dog I went to see growled at me and showed her teeth, so I ended up adopting a different, friendly dog with lots of energy. A few months later I was talking to someone and mentioned that the dog I have wasn't the dog I initially went to see. This person intelli-

gently observed that when you adopt or choose a dog, you don't choose the dog. The dog chooses you.

Neighbourhoods are a lot like that. People choose them for many reasons and sometimes, ultimately, it's the neighbourhood that chooses.

People gravitate to a neighbourhood for many different reasons. For some, it might be an It Neighbourhood. In other words, the flavour-of-

the-week neighbourhood and therefore the place to live. People in these neighbourhoods often quickly mention the neighbourhood in a conversation just so it's clear they're part of the in-crowd. Of course, this sort of "address" neighbourhood usually comes with a cost. You're not simply buying a house – you're buying a brand.

An alternative to buying into an "I've made it" neighbourhood is to buy into an "up-and-comer" neighbourhood which has yet to see its place on the podium. That is a cheaper method. The only downside is that who knows if that neighbourhood will truly become a want-to-live-there community. This is purely a speculation frame of mind; an investment with the hope of hitting the jackpot. It's almost a lottery approach.

The reverse of buying into a neighbourhood one feels is a winner is that the neighbourhood may change while you're living there. This is very much true today, with urban density being encouraged and buyers purchasing only with the plan of ripping the house down and constructing a new one, possibly not in tune with the neighbourhood's architectural look. New Edinburgh is susceptible to this. In fact, with so many condos being built in the area, it might be renamed one day to Condoburgh! I lived in the Burgh for 13 years on Stanley Avenue in the late 1980s through the 1990s, and the quaintness is

somewhat losing its attractiveness and it is pricey. But as previously mentioned, the high price becomes part of the equation. It's a shame that some of these older neighbourhoods can't just be left as they are, in an almost European mindset, instead of needing to constantly change. Developers can be the enemy of neighbourhoods.

There are times when some-

that it's close to work! In the Burgh, Global Affairs is a good draw, or you may work in one of the nearby embassies (but can't afford to live in Rockcliffe Park).

Like my new dog, who was by default a second choice, neighbourhoods can surprise people who think they'll stay only awhile, but end up remaining much longer, even to the point where, if they

There are unseen and mysterious dynamics to communities that buyers may not initially be aware of, or not even have considered.

one chooses a neighbourhood, but for various reasons, the relationship doesn't last. The particular neighbourhood might not meet one's expectations, or the owner's wants and needs might change, or unfortunately, finances might change to the point where owners are forced to move out. Neighbourhoods can have a "ladder" analogy, where one moves up the ladder, and at some point, may have to step down a rung.

Choosing a neighbourhood may have nothing to do with status. Sometimes it's simply close to the kids' preferred school, or close to parks, water, or shops. Location is everything. Another interesting factor: perhaps someone you know lives in a neighbourhood, so you buy there to be close to them. It might be a long-time friend, or family member, or might just be

must move, they decide to rent out the house with the intention of returning one day.

Whether you choose the neighbourhood, or the neighbourhood chooses you, there are unseen and mysterious dynamics to communities that buyers may not initially be aware of, or not even have considered. The magnetism of a neighbourhood can either strongly draw you in or be repellent. Some communities have a "best-before date," sometimes due to unwelcome development or unforeseen changes. Neighbourhoods are architectural clothing, and like clothing trends, they go in and out of style. Of course, good taste might temporarily fall out of fashion, but it never really goes out of style.

Doug Cornish lives a short walk from the Beechwood Cemetery.



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Honouring our region's Indigenous heritage

By Karen Squires

The following article was featured in the *Manor Park Chronicle* back in 2014 under the title "Getting to Know our Historical Neighbours."

Last year, the board of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance was contacted by Dr. **Peter Stockdale** who's been researching this region's Algonquin Anishinaabe heritage, in consultation with

Pikwakanagan Chief **Wendy Jocko**, a descendant of the last grand chief of the Algonquins, Chief **Constant Pinesi**, on whose traditional hunting grounds New Edinburgh was founded.

As lovers of heritage, the NECA board has supported recent efforts to promote and celebrate the area's Indigenous history, including the inaugural Chief Pinesi Day that took place

on Jul. 1, 2022, with events throughout New Edinburgh and Rockcliffe Park, the inauguration of the Kichi Sibi Trails markers in the park (part of a larger trails network throughout the city), and the installation of the inspiring mural entitled *Bloodline-Miskwi*, by local Algonquin artist Doreen Stevens. These are all important ways to help change the narrative and foster reconciliation.

There has been ongoing discussion at the NECA board around a bigger effort to pay tribute to Chief Pinesi and the Algonquin Anishinaabe. Should we proceed with the process, as they have done in the Glebe to name a park in honor of Indigenous history? As such, we felt it was timely to share the following article about Chef Pinesi and his band who were centered at the confluence of the Rideau

and Ottawa rivers, and we look forward to the second Chief Pinesi Day this coming Jul. 1!

Read the
New Edinburgh News
online:

newedinburgh.ca

March / April 2014

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR HISTORICAL NEIGHBOURS

Remembering the Algonquins: Constant Pinesi

by Robert Serré

"Getting to know our historical neighbours" is a five-part series offering readers a glimpse into who was here before Manor Park existed. These articles focus on the main players, major issues and the social, political and economic forces at play when people from different traditions meet. Some 213 years ago this area was the hunting land of the Anishnabek (or Algonquin) people whose claims to use of the land go back more than 1000 years.

Constant Pinesi, of the Partridge band, was the son of Chief Wambolak. His mother, Helen Metchikawikwe, died in August 1800. He spoke French, and his full name was Pierre-Louis-Constant Pinesi (spelled Penency in English), the word *pinesi* meaning *partridge* in Algonquin. He fought with the British in the War of 1812 and, by 1830, was Grand Chief of the Algonquins.

On 1 July 1783, Constant married Marguerite Nipawikwe, daughter of Pandikeassunk, in the Roman Catholic Church of *L'Annonciation de la Bienheureuse Vierge Marie* at the mission run by the Sulpicians in Oka, on the Lake of Two Mountains near Montreal. The Oka parish register has recorded the baptism of several children of Constant and Marguerite. They include Jean Baptiste (Kikons, also spelled Kigoniz) born in 1795; Simon born in 1799; Jacques (1801-02); Martin (1803-04); Louis (1806-15); Jean Pierre (1808-14); and Jean Basile (1812-14).

The hunting territory of Pinesi's band was centred at the confluence of the Rideau and Ottawa rivers. Band mem-

bers spent the summer at the Lake of Two Mountains. According to a census, taken in the early 1820s for the Lake of Two Mountains, Pinesi's tribe then numbered 64 Algonquin families (253 individuals), out of a total of 206 families (854 individuals) divided among Algonquin, Nipissing, Ottawa and Iroquois tribes.

Constant is known to have lived for several years on the Madawaska River in the Upper Ottawa Valley, and the Oka parish register indicates that he had another wife, named Marie-Josèphe Pinessiikwe. They both died on 13 August 1834. There was a cholera epidemic at the time. Their burial, on the following day, was witnessed by Constant's son Jean Baptiste (Kikons), who continued in his father's footsteps. The mission cemetery, where Pinesi's bones lie, is no longer visible; it has been paved over.

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View of the Falls in the Chaudière River, 1777, by Henry Hamilton. Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. R9266-1623 Peter Winkworth Collection of Canadiana



From the Upper Side of the Grand Rideau Falls. Photos courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1989-255-3

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Dementia's no laughing matter, but humour can help families cope

By Janet Ruddock

It all started when the turkey wasn't ready. It needed an extra hour. Groans all around. We'd orchestrated the family get-together at my cousin's house to suit three excitable little girls, ages four, six, and nine. And their grandmother: my cousin with dementia. This can be a tricky combination.

"Where are all the presents?" the two older girls asked when they came downstairs that morning. "Why aren't they under the tree?" I cannot tell a lie. I answered, half-truthfully, we would wait until the rest of the family arrived at noon. "More presents!" I said excitedly. The girls looked grimly unimpressed.

The truth was most of the gifts were in the trunk of our car. My cousin is curious beyond measure when it comes to any unopened package. "What is it? Who for? Who sent it?" every five minutes. Or, left under the tree, the gifts could just disappear. My cousin hides things in safe places, never to be found. A bunch of presents

under the tree would be too much for her – and us – to take.

That afternoon, during the actual gift-opening scramble, our daughter-in-law manned a plastic garbage bag. She grabbed every scrap of wrapping and ribbon mid-air, stuffing it in the bag. My cousin becomes rattled at anything out of place, rooms in disarray, and chaos in general. With this group, the one-

The girls looked confused but, bless their hearts, said nothing. Granny does odd things. It's fine.

person-at-a time approach to present unwrapping was a dismal failure. We tried; we really did.

My nephew Chris, my husband, and our son headed to the kitchen. My cousin went to the breakfast room to sort puzzle pieces. The rest of the gang headed to the TV room for a movie. Peace and joy only lasted so long. The turkey was not on board and the troops were getting restless.

I tasked the girls with putting cutlery, napkins, and anything else not breakable onto

the table. Chris had already set out the best china, crystal, and candelabra. We were going all out here. But amidst all the to-and-fro, trouble was brewing.

In great distress, the eldest of the girls tracked me down. "Granny's taken away all the knives and forks from the table. Now she's doing the plates." The two younger girls watched, aghast, as my cousin cleared the table they

had so carefully helped set. "Someone has to collect all this," she said to me, adamantly. "It's the best china and crystal. It all must be washed."

I calmly explained to her that we hadn't actually eaten yet. The table was being set for dinner. Perhaps the girls could put the cutlery back on the table to help get ready. The girls looked confused but, bless their hearts, said nothing. Granny does odd things. It's fine.

"Well, it's pitch-black out

there," she said. "We should all be in bed."

"It's only four o'clock, Granny," said the nine-year-old, gently.

"We haven't had dinner yet," the little ones whispered to me.

So, at one end, the girls began re-setting the cutlery. At the other end, my cousin had collected all the napkins into a pile. The girls looked at me in united exasperation. They had just carefully placed a napkin at each plate. Now they were all piled up again.

"How would you ladies like to put out the napkins for dinner?" I asked. The nine-year-old, catching on fast, added, "And everything else again, too!" The little ones were lost.

"How's the puzzle coming along?" I asked my cousin. Distraction usually works well. We settled in to do the puzzle. Happiness reigned through the house. It would not last long. Chris was alone in the kitchen, so I sidled in to help. We were startled by my cousin rifling the kitchen utensil drawer. Waving a

heavy, wooden, meat mallet, she said, "This will do the trick." And sailed out of the kitchen.

"Mom, where are you going with that?" called Chris, in his usual patient voice.

"These puzzle pieces," she huffed over her shoulder. "No way they're going to fit." Chris followed her and retrieved the mallet. "Mom, they don't fit because they don't go there. Anyway, we're sitting down to dinner now." On her way to the table, and unseen by anyone, she spotted two covered tureens on the kitchen counter. Spying an open cupboard, she put them in and closed the cupboard. Then joined us at the table.

Dinner began. "Where are the mashed potatoes and Brussels sprouts?" a little voice piped up. They'd disappeared! Chris asked: "The tureens on the counter?" No one knew. They were found – eventually. It was a veritable Christmas miracle.

Dementia is deadly serious and tragic. There is nothing remotely funny about the disease itself. But occasions arise when you either laugh or cry. You are not laughing at your loved one, but at the silly situation. It can help the entire family cope, as it did this Christmas.

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 advocate for those with Rheumatoid Arthritis and chronic pain.



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Relive the excitement of the 1972 Summit series at benefit film screening Feb. 22

By Gary Smith

On Feb. 22 at the ByTowne Cinema on Rideau Street, local audiences will have the opportunity to witness *IceBreaker: The 1972 Summit Series*, the thrilling feature-length documentary film about the greatest hockey series ever held. At the same time, viewers will be contributing to a Canadian diplomatic scholarship fund for a graduate student of Indigenous background to study international affairs at Carleton University.

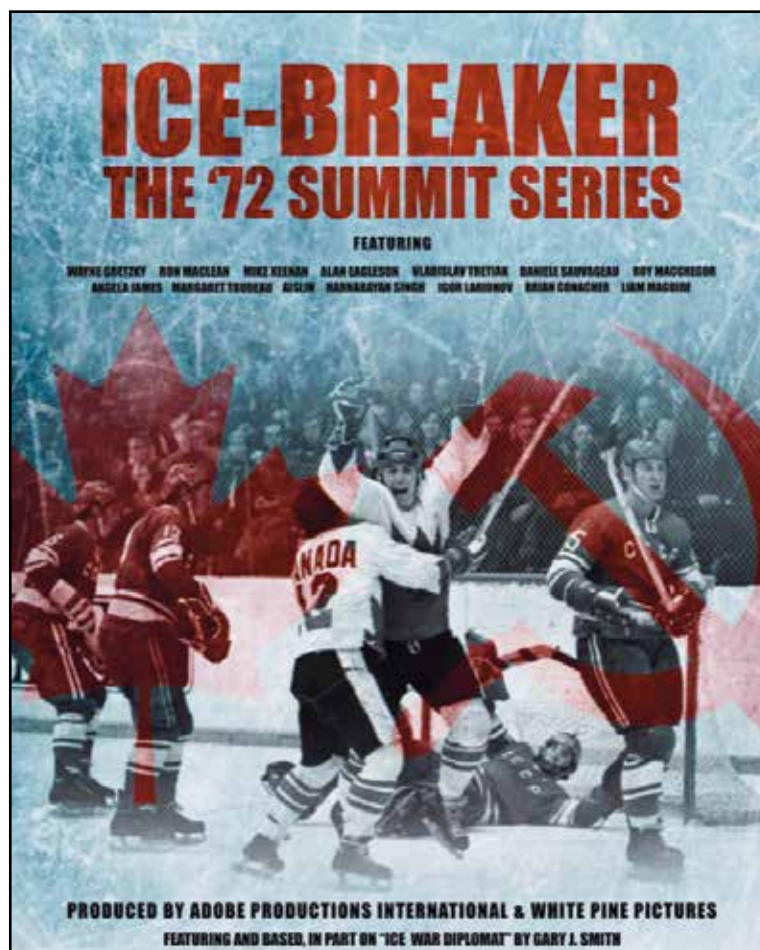
White Pine Pictures of Toronto and Adobe Productions International of Montreal, the film's co-producers, have teamed up with the Canadian Ambassadors Alumni Association and the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers (sponsors of the scholarship) to make this special event possible.

The eight-game home and away Canada-Soviet Summit Series of 1972 enthralled Canadians across this vast land. And it virtually brought the country to a grinding halt

during the eighth and deciding game in Moscow, when Paul Henderson scored the winning goal with 34 seconds to play to secure Canada's come from behind victory.

IceBreaker is based in part on the critically acclaimed national bestselling book *Ice War Diplomat: Hockey Meets Cold War Politics at the 1972 Summit Series*, written by former Canadian career diplomat and ambassador Gary J. Smith. The book highlights the critical role played by then-Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Canadian diplomats in creating the conditions for the series, as part of the detente process with the Soviet Union, and in preventing the series from falling apart.

As for the fundraising aspect of the Feb. 22 event, the scholarship at Carleton University's Faculty of Public Affairs is named after the late Deborah Chatsis, who passed away last June. A member of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation in Saskatchewan, Deborah was one of the first Indigenous women to join



The documentary *IceBreaker: The 1972 Summit Series* will screen at the ByTowne Cinema on Feb. 22.

Canada's foreign service. She served in five different posts abroad as well as in senior assignments at Global Affairs

headquarters in Ottawa before becoming Canada's ambassador to Vietnam and then to Guatemala and High Commissioner to Belize. She was also a senior advisor to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and worked in the Privy Council Office on Indigenous issues.

Screening tickets (\$15 each) are available online from the ByTowne Cinema – bytowne.ca – or at the box office. Doors will open at 6 p.m. on Feb. 22 with introductions at 6:45 p.m. and the screening at 7:00 p.m. followed by a question-and-answer session.

Among those in attendance will be Peter Raymont, president of White Pine Pictures and the film's executive producer; director Robbie Hart of Adobe Productions International; and book author Gary J. Smith. All ticket proceeds and book royalties from the evening will go to the Deborah Chatsis scholarship fund.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Heatherington 613-745-4677.

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Tales from the Square: Current events and interesting folks make a difference

By Keith Newton

To mask or not to mask? That's a question many residents grapple with when they set foot outside the safe confines of our building. I say "safe" because, with very few exceptions, we successfully navigated the worst of the pandemic. Then came a lot of mixed messages – just at the time when mask fatigue was setting in. Fewer and fewer people wore masks in the street. Then came Omicron. Residents were "strongly advised" to wear masks in the hallways, elevators, and common areas. In supermarket or the pharmacy, some shoppers are masked, others not; some stores – like 'our' bookstore – continue to require them. Then we are told that a new highly contagious strain, XBB.1.5 (aka Kraken) has mutated from Omicron. Perhaps the best we can do is follow the wise words of our 'wellness boss' who advises: "use your common sense but always err on the side of caution."

The dilemma certainly didn't deter the denizens of the Square from enjoying the variety of events and treats that filled a jam-packed schedule leading up to the holiday season. We were regaled with Advent and Christmas carols

by a church choir. Elfin avatars (staff members, really) hand-delivered thoughtful little gifts to all residents in their suites – a nice personal touch, and much appreciated.

Our Christmas party featured a visit from our popular ex-GM – a very friendly guy amply qualified to play the role of rotund dispenser of good cheer. Two modestly bibulous events were noteworthy. **Charles** chose and expertly described a selection of Ontario wines – red and white – which were sipped appreciatively. Another innovation, called Special Cocktails night, was equally popular. It drew a good crowd and got positive reviews. Rumour has it that there is a sizeable movement to make this a permanent – and more frequent – item on the activities calendar. As always, **Cindy**, our Food Services manager, and her staff planned, prepared, and served delicious meals throughout. The splendid New Year's Eve dinner will be remembered not only for the meal itself, but also for the sartorial elegance of resident **Ben Ho**, who made an impressive entrance to the dining-room sporting black tie and a white tuxedo jacket.

Benedict Ho grew up in the small town of Klang,

in Selangor State, in what was then known as British Malaya – now the Federation of Malaysia. Despite a high-school education interrupted by World War II, Ben received the High School Certificate of the Cambridge University Board in 1949. He began work as an apprentice for Malayan Telecoms (a bit like Bell Canada) where he started with what he calls the "joe-jobs" like digging the holes for telegraph poles. Seconded to a team of British engineers to supply local skill and knowledge, they told him "You're wasting your time here," and urged him to go to England to get full accreditation. Well, young Ben listened. He accepted an offer from Marconi; they sponsored him, and he arrived in England in 1957.

Ben and his wife **Rosa** raised their five children in the 12 years they spent in England and welcomed a cousin into the family, too. Along the way, Ben won many honours and awards, including his Engineering degree from Anglia Ruskin University in 1960 and his election as Fellow of the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers in 1969. He eventually rose to the position of chief engineer of the company where he worked – a long way from the young lad digging post-holes! How did he come to Canada? "I was brain-drained from England by Bell and I came to Montreal in July 1969." He moved to Ottawa in 1972. He retired in 1996.

Ben's grown-up family all entered a wide variety of professions. "But," says Ben ruefully, "no engineers or scientists." He was an avid member and a director of the service organization known as the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternity of some two million members world-

wide. His pastimes include news, in-depth analyses, and documentaries, 1950s music (he and Rosa used to love ballroom dancing) and maintaining the family car. He's a bit of a DIY-er and is always ready to respond to "Honey, can you fix this?" requests. Mr. Ho also loves gourmet cooking and entertaining.

Our general manager, **Kristy**, grew up and went to school in Sudbury, Ont. At Cambrian College she studied Criminology, but a work-experience placement at a detention centre was so emotionally draining that she knew that career path was not for her. She moved on to Laurentian University to study Law. Keen to broaden her horizons, she signed up to teach English in Korea. At a school in Seoul, she soon found herself teaching a wide variety of subjects including math. When her contract was over, she moved on to Tokyo, Osaka, and Beijing. Returning home, Sudbury seemed small and unexciting, so Kristy moved to a bigger city with metro-sized amenities and facilities and a variety of job opportunities: Ottawa.

At first, with her legal training, she worked for the security services at the Ottawa airport. As a screening officer she was responsible for those VIPs – senior execs, diplomats, and celebs – who require priority boarding. But, once again, she needed a new challenge and a change from shift work. She recalled a period of her high-school community service volunteering that had made a lasting impression: in a long-term care facility. She made the move to the elder-care industry and eventually gravitated to Chartwell, where she signed on as a sales consultant. Since then, she has held various positions in a half-

dozen properties and is now a seasoned manager who, in addition to her GM duties, mentors and coaches budding managerial candidates.

When I ask Kristy about her fiancé, she refers to him as her "lumberjack." I immediately had this vision of a study in contrasts: the brawny, heavily tattooed (it's true, she told me) outdoorsy forester; and the glamorous, business-suited, manicured, stiletto-heeled management professional.

Well, they do say that opposites attract, don't they?

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.



Photo by David Howe

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\$885,000



For Sale – Edinburgh Common
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Music, meditation and a book club among MacKay United's winter activities

By Eleanor Dunn

Activities at MacKay United Church, located at 39 Dufferin Rd., have slowed down somewhat after a busy December period of concerts, pageants, and bake sales, but some regular activities are continuing through February and into March.

Attendance at Sunday ser-

vices in the sanctuary is increasing, while those concerned about COVID can still participate at home, thanks to MacKay's streaming service.

The popular Music and Meditation series at MacKay will resume Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and continue consecutive Tuesdays until Apr. 4. This series will feature a Mardi Gras theme:

"Walking Home." Reverend Peter Woods describes it as an invitation to be present at moments in our lives, and attentive to where we find ourselves along the way. Among the musicians joining Rev. Woods are Nick Schofield, Yolande Laroche, Kyle Jordan, Lu Frattaroli, and Jacob Clarke. Spoken-word poetry from around

the world will feature Carolyn Sutherland, Michael Rutherford, Jane Kops, Caitlin Fisher, and others.

The MacKay Book Club, under the leadership of volunteer associate minister Carolyn Penhale, has met twice, with a third session planned for February. Canadian author Louise Penny's Inspector Gamache

books and the television series *Three Pines*, which is based on the books, prompted lively discussion among the participants at the January session. The TV series was deemed unsatisfying by those who'd seen it, noting that Ms. Penny had also indicated some disappointment when the series debuted. Two group members took the Three Pines tour of filming locations in Quebec's Eastern Townships, where the fictional village at the centre of the books is located, and that experience enhanced the discussion.

Supply-chain delays have affected MacKay's plan to install automatic doors at the Dufferin Road entrance to the Memorial Hall. These doors, when installed, will further improve accessibility to the facility, in addition to renovated washrooms, and recently installed ramps, as well as an elevator to the building's upper floor.

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 oldest son on The Mews. She is an active member of MacKay United Church.

Writers wanted

Are you interested in writing? Our Burgh Business Briefs team is looking for a new writer or two. Exercise your word-processing and grammar skills while meeting neighbourhood business owners and getting the latest scoop on local events. Bring your ideas to our virtual brainstorming meetings. Requirements include a computer, internet access, and good English writing skills.

NEN is a volunteer-run community paper that publishes five times a year (October, December, February, April, and June).

Contact Christina at newednews@hotmail.com for details.

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Rockcliffe Park Library's spring book sale considers the future

By Carolyn Brereton

Booklovers and patrons of the library's Spring Book Sale are no doubt disappointed that there will be no sale at the Community Centre on Springfield Road in April this year. Although life in the city is returning to "normal" and many events have started up again, COVID remains an

ongoing concern for holding large gatherings in crowded indoor spaces, and for the volunteers preparing for such events.

Many of our volunteers are over 65 years of age. We have not yet determined how to hold our pricing sessions safely. Furthermore, the sale itself poses a huge challenge: pre-pandemic, more

than 1,500 people would pass through our small space in the first few hours of the sale – and we have not yet found a solution for managing these numbers safely.

That said, the Book Sale coordinators and long-time volunteers are actively discussing how best to bring back the fundraiser – perhaps in 2024? Now is the perfect time to examine how we have done things in the past and see what changes we can make to streamline and improve our process. For example, we could change the way we price our books. Strong arguments can be made in favour of standardized pricing (\$X for a hardback, \$Y for paper) as opposed to our current system of individu-

ally pricing each book. Such a change would reduce, if not eliminate, the need for crowded pricing sessions. We are studying all aspects of the sale, from how we cull, sort, and store inventory to how we manage the sale itself.

The recent retirement of Linda McDonald from her leading role in managing virtually all aspects of the book sale presents us with another challenge. Linda never wanted to be considered "chair." Rather, she saw herself as part of a triumvirate of sale coordinators alongside Jane Newcombe and Kevin Phillips. But she will be hard to replace. We will miss her indefatigable enthusiasm for all things Book Sale, and her boundless energy and

superb organizational skills. Thank you, Linda, for everything you've done for this community over the years. Fortunately, Linda has agreed to continue volunteering with us, and to brief and mentor any possible successor.

So, what is next for 2023? At minimum, we can continue to hold book drives once the weather improves, and there is the possibility of a "mini-sale" of children's and French books in the spring. In the short term, we will continue discussions on the future of the sale. If you are interested in helping ensure that this wonderful community event continues, or would like to be part of the discussion, please contact me at cbreton@me.com.

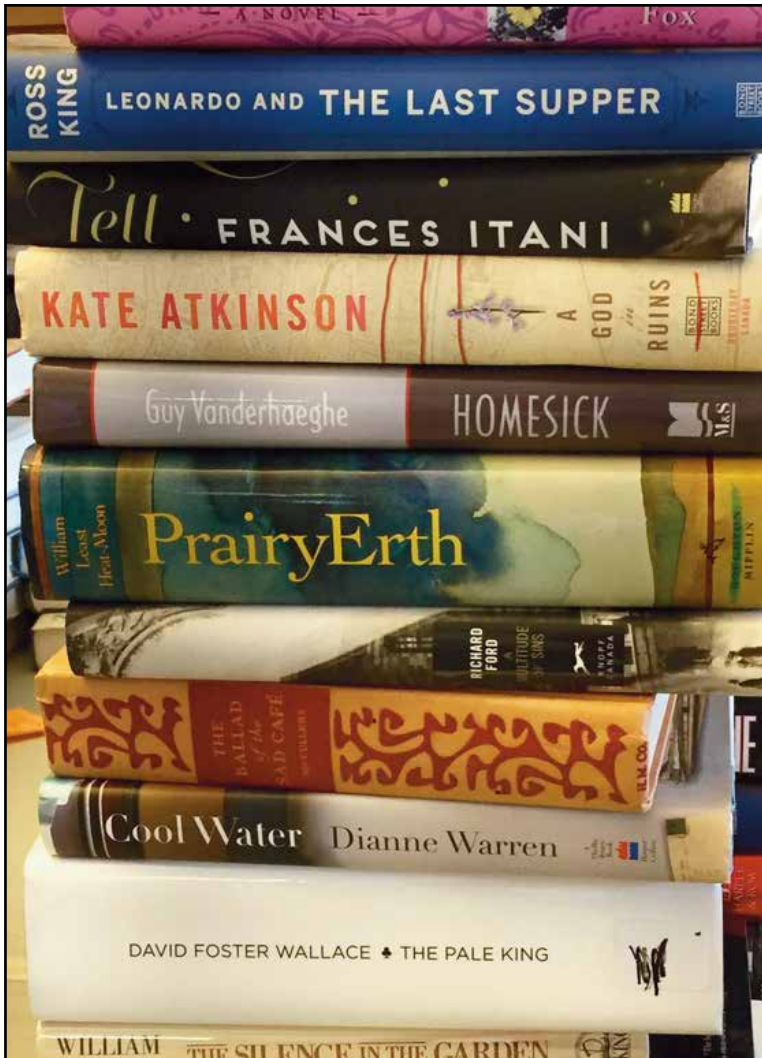


Photo courtesy Claire Schofield.

Library Book Sale postponed until further notice.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY

Skating in New Edinburgh Park, 203 Stanley Ave. So long as it's cold, the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse's washrooms and changeroom will be open weekdays 4–7 p.m., and weekends 11 a.m.–7 p.m. An ice attendant will be onsite to supervise the building, offer skaters a warm drink, maintain the ice surface, and assist skaters.

Mondays – New Edinburgh Community Choir in Mackay Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Rd. 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome, whatever their skill level. Our repertoire includes folk, light classical, jazz, blues, pop etc. Masks are required. The fee is \$150 for 10 sessions or try it out for \$20 for one evening. One or two subsidized spots to people living on low incomes are available. Contact neuechoir@gmail.com.

Thursdays – Community Meditation Circle happening online. 2 p.m. This small group of neighbourhood people and friends gathers weekly on Zoom for 45 min-

utes to practice meditation drawn from a variety of different traditions. Members volunteer to lead the meditation practice, including short reading, silent sitting practice or guided meditation, and a poem. Contact ibisby@gmail.com.

Feb. 4 – Skating Party and Chili Cook-Off in Manor Park. The party opens with the Manor Park Winter Classic exhibition hockey games between local teams. Following the matches, families take to the ice to build up an appetite for the Chili Cook-off entries, hot dogs, and s'mores! Bonfires will keep everyone toasty and lights overhead make the Skating Party the perfect outdoor family event! Manor Park Winter Classic takes place 3–5 p.m.; Skating Party from 5–7 p.m. Contact specialevents@manorpark.ca.

Feb. 7 through Jun 6 – Rockcliffe Park Book Club at the Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Rd. Share the enjoyment of good books in a relaxed atmosphere. This group meets the first Tuesday of each month until June

2023.

Feb. 11 – Winter Celebration at Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Dr. 12:30–4:30 p.m. as part of Winterlude (Feb 3–20), the Governor General's Winter Celebration will feature skating, tours and outdoor activities. Details: gg.ca.

Feb. 12 – Latin Dance Workshop at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 1–3 p.m. Free. The Crichton Community Council welcomes the Salsa Connectica Dance Company who will host this Latin Dance Workshop for anyone over 12 years of age. Space is limited. Register: newedinburgh.ca/events.

Feb. 20 – Deadline to order Burgh apparel The Crichton Community Council is offering New Edinburgh apparel (hoodies, tuques, and t-shirts) for a limited time. Place your order online before this day. Details, p. 16.

Feb. 21 – “The Invisible Singer” at Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre, 355 Cooper St. 7:30 p.m. Thirteen Strings presents “The Invisible Singer.” Tickets: thirteenstrings.ca.

Feb. 21 – NECA Board Meeting happening online. 7:30 p.m. Visit

newedinburgh.ca for link. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA).

Feb. 21 – Ottawa Heritage Awards at the Bytowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. Contact 613-580-2424 ext. 23582, Ashley.Kotarba@ottawa.ca or visit Ottawa.ca/oha.

Until Feb. 21 – “Porosities” exhibition at Centre d'artistes Voix Visuelle, 67 Beechwood Ave. (2nd floor). Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. The Centre d'artistes Voix Visuelle hosts the photography exhibition Porosities, by artists Sylvie Readman and Denis Rioux (artist and curator). Information: voixvisuelle@gmail.com, voixvisuelle.ca.

Feb. 22 – IceBreaker film and fundraiser at the Bytowne Cinema, 325 Rideau St. 7 p.m. Contact 613-745-4677. Based on Gary Smith's book *Ice War Diplomat*, the feature-length documentary, IceBreaker, recounts the Canada-Soviet Summit Series of 1972. Funds raised will support a scholarship at Carleton University. bytowne.ca Details, p. 25.

MARCH

Mar. 11 and 12 – Films at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. The Crichton Community Council hosts a double feature of Oscar-nominated films on Mar. 11, followed by an Oscars' Viewing Party on March 12. Visit newedinburgh.ca/events for details.

Mar. 18 – Art Lending of Ottawa Spring Show at the R.A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., artlendingofottawa.ca, Facebook: /artlending613, Instagram: /artlending613.

Mar. 21 – 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).

Mar. 25 – NEST application deadline nestudiotour.ca or nestudiotour@gmail.com. Calling all artists! The deadline to submit your application to take part in the fifth annual New Edinburgh Artists' Studio Tour (NEST) is today. NEST will take place Sept. 23–24, 2023.



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The Minto bridges as seen from Stanley Park in Jan. 2023.

Photo by David Rostenne

Adopt a city bench this winter to keep it usable for weary pedestrians

By Dianne Breton

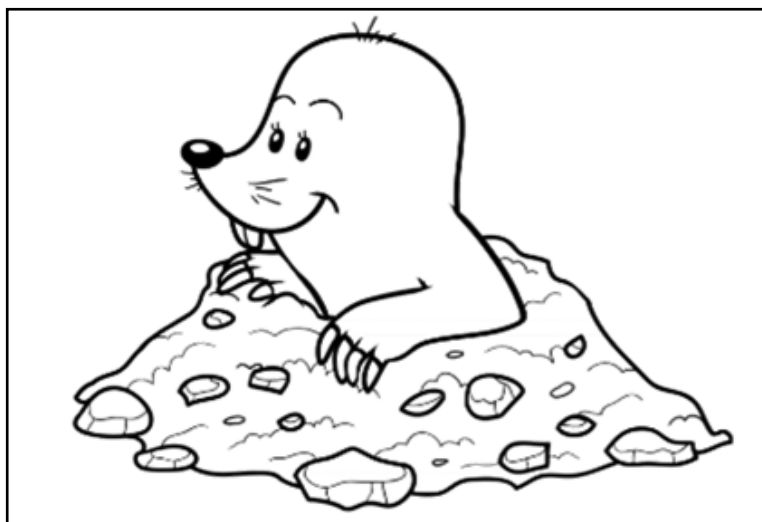
This is the sixth winter that the Council on Aging of Ottawa's "Snow Moles" – volunteers from across the city – will answer survey questions with the goal of making winter walking safer in their neighbourhoods. Among those questions: "Was bench seating available to rest on your route?" and "If yes, was it clear of ice and snow?"

For the last five years, data collected by the Snow Moles have shown that while City benches are available on many routes, most are not cleared of snow and ice and therefore not accessible to winter walkers who would like to rest on their journeys.

This year's Snow Mole Campaign, from January to March, invites volunteers to make positive change by adopting a City bench and clearing it of built-up ice and snow to make the seats safe and accessible.

The adopted bench can be on a Snow Mole's regular walking route. Those that are near medical buildings, retirement residences, libraries, pharmacies, seniors' centres, transit, and shopping routes are especially needed in wintertime.

Volunteers can brush off snow with an extra mitt or small brush and remove ice



with an ice-scraper like those used for car windshields. These simple tools fit easily into jacket pockets, backpacks, or shopping bags.

The Snow Mole team would like to know the location

of your adopted bench! Send an email and photo to snowmoles@coaottawa.ca so that it can be included in the 2023 Snow Mole data.

The City of Ottawa lists 2,600 pedestrian seating

benches located on City-owned sidewalks, pathways, and parks. With so many benches to choose from, why not adopt a bench and make it safe and accessible for weary pedestrians throughout the 2023 winter season?

Join the 2023 Snow Mole Campaign: "If you see something – say something." The Council on Aging of Ottawa's Snow Mole questionnaire is available online: coaottawa.ca/snowmoles.

Want to join the Traffic & Safety committee?
Contact
info@newedinburgh.ca

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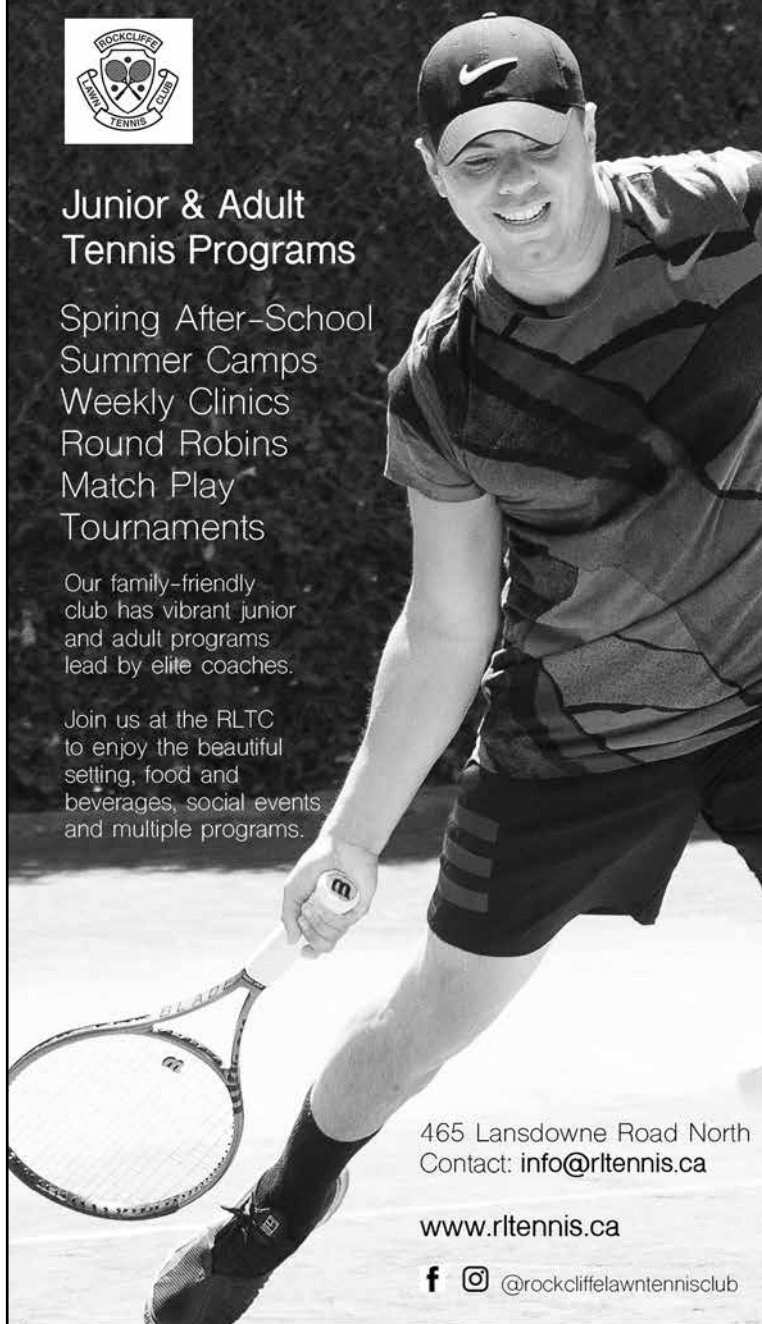


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Calling All Artists



The fifth annual **New Edinburgh Artists' Studio Tour (NEST)** is planning its next event on Sept. 23-24, 2023. NEST is a free, self-guided tour featuring artists who live and work in New Edinburgh, and who open their studios and galleries to the public for the weekend. Organizers are now accepting applications from artists with home studios in the neighbourhood. There are also a few spaces for Guest Artists from outside the neighbourhood, and for Emerging Artists. The deadline for applications is **Mar. 25, 2023**. Apply online at neststudiotour.ca or email neststudiotour@gmail.com.

Condolences



River Lane resident **James William Turpie** died on Dec. 19, 2022, aged 92. Originally from England, James immigrated to Canada in 1948.

He was a film producer who spent over three decades working at Crawley Films, and also worked for the federal government. Deepest condolences to his wife of 31 years, **Michal Crawley**, his sons **Matthew** and **Andrew**, step-children **Andrea** and **Patrick**, his sister **Eunice**, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a true optimist, loved life and will be missed by all who knew him.

Former New Edinburgh resident **Eleanor Westfall** died in late December at the remarkable age of 101. Eleanor and her husband **Frank Westfall**, a Canadian Air Force veteran, were longtime residents of River Lane. She is remembered fondly by friends and neighbours for her warmth and generosity, her baking prowess (especially her outstanding shortbread cookies), her companionable euchre parties, and her kindness to all. She will be sorely missed by her two daughters, **Janice** and **Marilyn**; her three grandchildren; eight great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.



On Nov. 24, 2022, long-time *NEN* contributor **Eleanor Dunn** and resident of The Mews lost **Hamish** the Cairn Terrier, her little dog who had been her constant companion for 12 years. "He was my rock during the pandemic," she says. "He was a comfort when I went through the rigamarole of surgeries scheduled and then cancelled due to a lockdown, surgeries scheduled again, then cancelled again due to another lockdown. Hamish needed his daily walks and he kept me in shape which helped through recovery when I finally got the knee and hip surgery which had been postponed. I loved him dearly and I miss him a lot!"

Congratulations



Photo by Andre R. Gagne

On Dec. 3, after a two-year absence, Elmwood School celebrated the return of the **Holly Tea and Marketplace**. The event featured multiple artisan vendors, a performance from the Junior School Choir, and tasty treats. Students served beverages before an early visit from Santa, which brought the festive spirit to all.



Photo by Gavin Murphy

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Burgh's **Gavin Murphy** once again hosted his annual DunelmOTTAWA Christmas party for Durham University alumni and friends on Dec. 10 at his appropriately named Dunelm residence on Union St. Founded in 1832, Durham is one of the United Kingdom's leading universities. Back row from left are **Norman Hughes**, president **AJ Corner**, past president **Jack Lindsey**, **Paul McConnell** and past president **Gavin Murphy**. Front row from left are **Mariam Humayun**, **Ann Hughes**, **Bev McConnell**, **Varsha Dinodia** and **Brian Corner**. If you are a Durham graduate and wish to learn more, visit: dunelm.org.uk/alumninetworks/ottawa.



Photo courtesy Beechwood Cemetery

As part of its 150th anniversary, **Beechwood Cemetery** unveiled a pair of ice sculptures: one of its sesquicentennial logo and the other of **Echo the Fox**, our companion for children during funeral services. The sculptures were commissioned by the Canadian Ice Carvers Society, the founders of the National Capital Commission's Crystal Garden International Ice Carving Competition and are on public display from sunrise to sunset near the reception centre.

Thank You

The *New Edinburgh News* team says thank-you and farewell to two of its volunteers. Since June 2021, **Tamara Miller** has written many profiles as part of our flagship column *Burgh Business Briefs*. This was her last edition. **Bruce Smith** joined *NEN's* advertising team around the same time, helping to engage new clients who want to support their community newspaper. We thank both Tamara and Bruce for their hard work and wish them all the best in their next ventures!