

APRIL 2023

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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PMO photo by Adam Scotti

Welcome to our neighbourhood: U.S. President Joe Biden and his wife Jill were in New Edinburgh during their official visit to Canada on March 23-24. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie hosted the Bidens at Rideau Cottage on the grounds of Rideau Hall. See p.36 for more 'Burg links.

An ambitious, accountable plan to help revitalize Beechwood Avenue

By John Leefe

It's no secret that Beechwood Village requires substantial upgrades in terms of streetscape aesthetics, retail shops, walkability, and transportation. Imagine a revitalized main street with wider sidewalks, more trees, bustling retail stores and restaurants, and a reliable network of electric buses, all surrounded by low-rise, affordable residential space to support a thriving neighbourhood.

If this sounds far-fetched, think again.

On Feb. 27, the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA) released its vision to transform large parts of New

Edinburgh, Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Manor Park, and Vanier into more vibrant and livable neighbourhoods.

While entitled *Framework for a Secondary Plan Planning Process for the Beechwood – Hemlock Corridor between the Rideau River and Aviation Parkway*, the Secondary Plan (SP) proposal is significantly more substantial than a bare framework. The BVA's proposal is ambitious, detailed, and visionary. It has been submitted to Rideau-Rockcliffe City Councillor Rawlson King, who has been actively involved in the planning process, and who supports the directions proposed in the

BVA plan.

The SP covers a large and diverse area, and is divided into three precincts or "policy areas" (see map for boundary details):

1) St. Patrick Bridge to Acacia Avenue on the north side of Beechwood Avenue to the cemetery entrance on the south side in Vanier;

2) Acacia to Birch on the north side of Beechwood and Hemlock and;

3) Birch to St. Laurent on the north side of Hemlock.

The core objectives include:

- the creation of a sustainable "15-minute neighbourhood";

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Budgeting for climate action: How is Ottawa doing?

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

What is the City of Ottawa doing to tackle climate change? A good place to look is in this year's municipal budget.

This year for the first time, the City has actually allocated \$5 million of capital funding toward actions in Climate Change Master Plan. By comparison, in past years the City has noted only that the Hydro Ottawa "dividend surplus funds" available were for climate action, which in 2021, for example, was just \$800,000 in funding. However, in 2022 City

Council did approve an additional \$1 million beyond the dividend.

So, when a \$5 million budget was allocated this year, environmental groups took note and welcomed it. It is certainly not enough money to alter City operations and "catalyze" community action. But it is more than before.

The 2023 budget includes more than \$52 million of new investments that feature what the City calls "moderate or major climate contributions," according to a new rating process to apply a climate lens to capital budget requests.

However, more funding

is needed, according to the Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability, known as CAFES Ottawa.

Four years ago, Ottawa City Council declared a climate emergency. It produced the Climate Change Master Plan which supports initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and build climate resiliency. That plan has been either not funded or funded in very small amounts since it was passed by Council in January 2020.

When one looks at where serious funding commitments have been made in Ottawa's budget, it is clear that climate

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Community Park Cleanup
Saturday, April 22 from 2-4 p.m.
Volunteers Needed!
Meet behind the Fieldhouse at the Gazebo
Check www.newedinburgh.ca for details
Sponsored by NECA
See p. 15

Heritage preservation and protection set back 20 years

By David Flemming

Well, the dust has settled on the Ontario government's notorious Bill 23. The bill was introduced the day after the province's October 2022 municipal elections to avoid any opposition, passed second reading with limited opportunity for public comment, and given final reading in the provincial legislature without any debate.

Premier Doug Ford has used the pretext of increasing the number of new homes in Ontario to dismantle most municipal policies on intensification and heritage protection. This has been done without reference to the current regulations contained in the *Planning Act* and the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The premier even reneged on his electoral campaign promise not to allow urban sprawl into the green belts around cities

like Toronto, Hamilton, and Ottawa to enable new housing projects which will place additional burdens on municipal infrastructure.

Bill 23 provides, among other things, amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* which will increase ministerial power to override heritage protection and reduce the value of the Heritage Register by limiting listed properties to a maximum of two years. It further prevents properties that have been delisted from being returned to the register for a period of five years. These provisions will ultimately result in the loss of many of our city's cultural heritage resources.

The Ottawa Heritage Register has grown to 4,000 properties. It provides the City of Ottawa with a 60-day opportunity to consider for

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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, Friends of the Park; 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 April 18, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday May 16, 7:30 p.m.** Meetings are held virtually on Zoom. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for details.

Your NECA Representatives 2022-2023

Contact anyone below through info@newedinburgh.ca

Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Ted Bennett	Co-Treasurer
Ray Boomgaardt	Co-President, NECA
Sean Flynn	Co-Treasurer
Katherine Hall	Friends of the Park
Karen Squires	Friends of the Park
Heather Matthews	
Samantha McAleese	Secretary
Gail McEachern	Heritage & Development
Sean McNulty	
Jason Tavoularis	Traffic & Safety
Cindy Parkanyi	Co-President, NECA

Ex officio:

Chris Straka	President, CCC
Christina Leadlay	<i>New Edinburgh News</i> 613-261-0442 newednews@hotmail.com

Learn more at
newedinburgh.ca

Changes are upon us



Report from the NECA Board

By Ray Boomgaardt,
NECA Co-president

As I stepped out of the house in early March, I was greeted by birds tweeting in the trees. The air smelled like spring. Change was, and is, truly upon us.

For the board of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA), the changes to heritage protection rules, continuing efforts to enhance the Beechwood/Hemlock corridor as a lively commercial location, and maintaining and enhancing Stanley Park/New Edinburgh Park continue to be our priorities.

Thinking about the provincial government's call for more housing starts, it is worth noting that the City of Ottawa's Official Plan anticipates that percentage population growth over the next 25 years is expected to be significantly lower than in the past 25 years. The province does not dispute this. The provincial task force that examined rising house prices pointed to a supply-and-demand imbalance as the cause of sky-high house prices. But the statistical analysis referred to in the report shows housing availability in Ontario remained almost unchanged over the last five years and was comparable to housing availability in the United States, where prices have not shown a comparable acceleration. Perhaps low, stable interest rates, and the attractiveness of our major cities – rather than a supply crisis – are the real reasons for higher prices. One solution is to make our cities

less desirable, but that does not seem like a good solution. Another possible solution is to drive up interest rates or make them less dependable. That also sounds like a poor solution.

I think it is also worth noting that the economist John Maynard Keynes taught us that inflation is caused by changes in aggregate demand and supply. The factors mainly responsible for the current inflationary environment, would, on this view, be triggered by changes in aggregate demand (notably influenced by big government deficits in Canada and the U.S. – grocery stores do not actually influence aggregate demand and increases in money supply – caused by monetary easing) and supply disruptions big enough to affect aggregate supply (grocery stores did not cause supply disruptions, let alone disruptions in aggregate supply). The resulting need for higher interest rates to cool the economy has resulted in a slowdown in housing starts, rather than the hoped-for increase.

Anyway, all this stuff is way above my pay grade! What I know is that the city is changing, that change will affect us, notably in the form of continuing pressure for development – some of it inappropriate – and we need to bring a strong voice to the table.

As a board, NECA tries to work on local issues that we can influence to make changes that improve our community.

One issue we discussed, at

our March board meeting, was the City policy of not clearing a path for pedestrians on the southwest side of Stanley Avenue near the Fieldhouse. Now that the multi-use pathway runs along that section of Stanley, we agreed that we should ask the City to have a continuous cleared pathway at that location.

Blasting, but no key-cutting this year

As I write this in early March, icebreaking is underway on the Rideau River. I spoke to one crew member about the work being done this year.

The purpose of ice-blasting and removal is to prevent ice jams on the river during spring break-up. An ice jam could potentially cause flooding, damaging homes and infrastructure along the river. Even with this year's thin ice (due to an early January thaw), there is still a risk if the City were to forego this annual procedure.

The ice this spring was only 5–12 cm thick – too thin to carry vehicles, and risky even for workers – so the City had to modify its usual approach. For example, there was no cutting of "keys" in the ice near Sussex Drive, the dam at the head of the Rideau Falls was raised to stop the flow of water while workers were on the ice there, and the pace of work was much slower than in previous years, reflecting the need for additional safety precautions. Once the blasting passed the Minto Bridges, the mechanical device (I call it the "Green Monster") took over. Learn more about ice-breaking and flood concerns on pp. 4–5 of this newspaper.

Change is truly upon us. Let's work together to build a resilient and generous community unity.

Contact the NECA board at newedinburgh@outlook.com. Learn more about NECA at newedinburgh.ca.

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.

Save our community paper!



Christina Leadlay
Managing Editor

The *New Edinburgh News* needs a new managing editor.

After nine years in the role, my last edition as editor will be June 2023. While it has been a fun experience, one that is very rewarding, it is time for me to do other projects and to let someone else guide the newspaper.

We need a new editor as soon as possible. While after June there are a few months' break until the October edition, it takes time to train a new person. So the sooner we find a new editor, the better.

If no one steps up to help, the future of this volunteer-run community newspaper will be in doubt. If you enjoy reading the *New Edinburgh News*, and appreciate how it is different from other community papers out there, then I encourage you to consider sharing your time and talents to help keep this little paper going!

NEN is a team effort, and there is a superb team in place. All they need is someone at the helm to help steer the ship.

Ever wonder what it is like to run a newspaper? Yes, it involves an excellent command of writing, spelling, and grammar, and a nose for news does help.

But it also involves managing and nurturing relationships with people in the community. These are the paper's contributors, the people who take the time to write the news and stories that go into these pages. The "managing" part of the managing editor role is the daily task of checking emails, answering questions, and sending out requests for stories and photos. It involves putting potential advertisers in touch with our ad manager, hosting and attending a couple of meetings, and planning what's going into the next edition of the paper. And yes, sometimes it involves answering phone calls from community members who

don't know who else to turn to with their questions about what's happening outside their door. News happens every day, and the management part of the role requires a "little and often" approach.

The "editor" part of the role takes place in a more condensed timeframe (over 2–3 weeks or so) that involves writing headlines, fact-checking stories, and trimming them for length and content. Does this story have a photo? Does the photo have a credit and a caption? What is the writer trying to say? And then there is the fun part, which happens one week before production, of deciding what stories go where in the paper. Which ones go on the cover? Where do the politicians' updates go? And the stories about the arts? It's all about telling a story and making sure the right balance is found between the hard news and the tales of the people, places, and things that make up this unique little corner of Ottawa.

I have had the good fortune of a smart and supportive team beside me. There is our production manager Dave Rostenne, who does the technical job of laying out the paper; advertising manager Joana Chelo, who connects with local businesses and arranges what kind of ad they want in the paper; our bookkeeper Nicholas Galambos, who cuts the cheques and follows up on unpaid bills; to distribution manager Karen Harrison, who organizes our hard-working team of delivery people who bring this paper to you; to photographer Alexander McKenzie, who brings colourful images to accompany our stories. And there are our writers, both for the Burgh Business Briefs and for other columns, who bring you the latest in what's happening in our village; and our Advisory Board, a group of former editors and community people that meets a week

or so before we go to press to review what's going into the next edition and to offer sage advice on any questions or concerns that I or other team members have.

The roles of the managing editor that I have just described could be shared between two people: one to manage communications and to liaise with contributors; the other to do the editing, writing and planning. Not only would dividing the role cater to individual's strengths (some folks are really good at writing headlines, while others are excellent at replying to emails), but it would also divide the time spent. It takes a surprising amount of time to publish a newspaper. But you get out what you put into it!

Published by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance, *NEN* has been around since 1976 and has grown and changed in many ways. Its humble beginnings were just four photocopied pages rallying the community to stand up against the planned Vanier arterial, but that first edition also included stories about a playgroup for toddlers, condolences for a local teacher, and laments about toothless heritage policy (find our archive at newedinburgh.ca).

It's been fun, but now it's your turn! If you have time to help with the management or editing of this newspaper, please contact me at newednews@hotmail.com. I plan to be available in an advisory capacity and to teach the next editor(s) how we do things.

New Edinburgh News publishes five times a year (October, December, February, April and June). The role of managing editor receives an honorarium per edition, as do other key roles.

Remember, if there is no managing editor for this paper, it is unclear what that will mean for the next editions. You can't read *NEN* cover to cover if no one is there to decide what the cover will be.

Christina Leadlay has been the managing editor of the New Edinburgh News since October 2014. Contact her at newednews@hotmail.com.

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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

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

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newedinburgh.ca

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Letters to the Editor

Concerns about environmental impacts of river ice blasting

Thank you for the article in the February 2023 edition of the *New Edinburgh News*, "A glimpse into flood control on Rideau River." It is certainly interesting to hear what goes into the City's blasting operation.

In reading the article, two things came to mind: 1) how can the City improve blasting operations to minimise environmental and other impacts; and 2) how can the City employ other means to prevent flooding so no blasting is required.

As a resident of New Edinburgh living near the river, I would be interested in hearing from the City of Ottawa officials about why they are exempt from doing an environmental impact study. The fact that the City undertakes this work annually, would this still be consid-

ered as an emergency operation and thus exempt the City to complete an environmental impact assessment? As well, given these tight economic times, perhaps the City could provide us with more information regarding the annual operating costs associated with this operation: the planning, implementation, and associated services.

From an environmental perspective, it is evident that blasting the river disrupts aquatic life habitat by increasing suspended solids, silt, and stirring the bottom of the river bringing to the surface any residual pollutants from past industrial operations. As well, the City of Ottawa operations has damaged the shoreline in Stanley Park. There has also been fuel spilled on the ground and in the water, causing further environmen-

tal damage. The ruts from the trucks and machinery used in the blasting operations from 2022 were visible well past the conclusion of the blasting operations. The city never returned to clean the surface area. This resulted in further erosion to the shoreline. What type of guidelines are in place to mitigate shoreline erosion? Is the City required to abide by the guidelines and regulations established by the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources or the Ministry of Environment? Or is the City of Ottawa exempt from these measures? If this area of the park is to be used on a more permanent basis for the City's blasting operations, perhaps the site needs to be secured in order to minimise any further erosion? This could include installing a proper landing (e.g., concrete or gravel and/

or a dock) that could perhaps be used by residents during the summer to launch their own watercraft when the city is not using the site for their blasting operations.

The damage could be prevented if the blasting were stopped. But if that were not possible and the work will continue on an annual basis, officials might want to speak with other groups such as the Friends of the Ottawa River or the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to see whether blasting the river on an annual basis is the best solution. There may be other approaches. After all, Ottawa is not the only Canadian city with a river running through it (think Winnipeg, Calgary, Québec City, Montreal, Regina, or Fredericton). Although Ottawa seems to be the only city that reverts to blasting every year, perhaps allowing the river to flow openly year-round would prevent it from freezing to the same extent that it does.

When the City resorts to blasting, it also requires a draw on limited emergency services. The City typically

has a police officer, an ambulance crew, and a fire engine with them at all times during the blasting operation. Yet we are told that on a regular basis, the City is running a code red with not enough emergency management services to support the needs of Ottawa. Is prioritizing ice on the river over Ottawa citizens what we want the City to do?

Finally, it is unfortunate that during these blasting operations City staff seem to ignore the needs and safety of pedestrians by parking their vehicles on the sidewalk along the Minto bridges, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. Why can't the workers park their vehicles on adjoining city streets and walk to the Minto Bridges as opposed to sitting in their vehicles with the engine running, sipping their coffee, watching the ice flow all while blocking the sidewalk?

Surely the City can do better in taking the interests of its citizens and our environment to heart.

*Jean-Louis Wallace
Crichton Street*

Send us your letters

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

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Thank you for 'Tales from the Square'

This is a belated note to say how much I appreciated Keith Newton's article "Tales from the Square" in the Oct. 2022 issue.

Much media coverage has been devoted to the challenges faced by long-term care homes throughout the pandemic, but I've seen little

published on the experiences and perspectives of residents themselves.

Mr. Newton's article is clear, fair-handed, and informative. I would look forward to more writing by him.

*Jessica Johnson
Toronto and Ottawa, ON*



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City staff answer reader questions about river flood control



Photo by Karen Squires

Amphibious excavating equipment on loan from New Brunswick is a less harmful way to break up ice on the Rideau River.

By Karen Squires

In the February 2023 edition of *New Edinburgh News*, we wrote about Rideau River flood management. We received feedback from our readers (see Letters to the Editor, p. 4) including some questions relating to the environmental impacts of ice-blasting and vehicle idling, which we forwarded to the City of Ottawa. Here are excerpts from their responses:

“Every year, the City of Ottawa works in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to prepare for its annual Rideau River Flood Control operations (weather and ice conditions dependent),” said Bryden Denyes, area manager of Roads Services. “Weather and flood forecasting procedures assist in optimally scheduling the ice removal operations, while key-cutting and the use of amphibious excavating equipment ensure these operations are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner.”

“The cost for these operations varies from year to year with the ice conditions and flow regime of the river, and typically, expenditures are approximately \$1 million annually. These operations require coordination among several organizations and include flow forecasting, reservoir and dam operations, supply of labour, and equipment and materials for the physical task of cutting

and breaking ice,” explained Bryden.

City staff indicated that this year’s level of ice-blasting would be determined nearer to the date. As of mid-March, it appears the operation involved less blasting this year compared with previous years: “The scope of the Rideau River Flood Control operations varies from year-to-year depending on weather and ice conditions. During more mild winters, it’s possible that the amount of blasting and overall work will be reduced as there could be less ice accumulation on the river,” said Bryden.

“The City anticipates still proceeding with blasting operations to help mitigate the risk of flooding in the communities that surround the river. The milder weather conditions this winter season may reduce the scope of the work when compared to years past, but a final determination of the scope won’t be fully determined until the week leading up to the operations.

“While we appreciate the concerns regarding our operations, the City’s primary concern is the safety of our communities along the Rideau River for which these operations are critical to mitigating the risk of flooding,” Bryden said.

Regarding concerns about staff in idling vehicles, the City noted it will launch a public awareness campaign this spring. “The City of Ottawa is currently develop-

ing a public information campaign aimed at raising awareness about the Idling Control By-law. The campaign is expected to include advertisements, infographics and social media posts and will be released in the spring,” said Roger Chapman, director of By-law and Regulatory Services.

Flood conditions update from RVCA

On the Rideau Valley Conversation Authority’s (RVCA’s) website, manager of engineering services, Brian Stratton, provides updates on spring flooding along the Rideau River and across the Rideau Valley.

His Mar. 9 report noted that we’d had a very mild winter, but the snowfall exceeded 300 cm, with higher levels of snow late in the season. In his updated report, Brian stated: “the short-term forecast does not suggest flooding along the larger rivers (Rideau River); however, there is still potential for flooding in late March or early April depending on weather.” Forecasts for the last weekend of March include more snow and rain, so let’s be prudent and stay updated on flood conditions as they evolve. For more information, check out the watershed conditions in your area on the RVCA website.

The RVCA monitors pre-

cipitation levels and temperature and liaises with the City on flood potential in low-lying regions. Ice jams are monitored very carefully in communities such as ours which border the Rideau River. Potential flooding along roadways is also a concern, so keep it in mind when heading out in the neighbourhood. Brian also highlights some tips to protect your property, like ensuring your sump pump is clear and working properly (with access to a portable backup generator if possible); keeping downspouts clear and flowing away from your dwelling; and securing items or removing valuables from lower floors in case of flooding. For more information including the RVCA’s Flood Contingency Plan and real-time water level and stream flow data, visit rvca.ca/watershed-conditions

—Karen Squires

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School board work marches onwards this spring



Lyra Evans
Public School Trustee, Zone 6

The process to hire a new director of education at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is underway. The board aims to make a selection for the position by the end of the school year.

The OCDSB has joined the provincial public school board advocacy group in asking the province to remove the moratorium on accommodation reviews. This moratorium prevents looking at program changes, major school boundary revisions, or any other change where more than 50 per cent of the students in a given school would be impacted. Without the ability to conduct area boundary reviews, the district has ended up with overcrowding and portables in some schools, and empty classes

in others. It is our hope that the moratorium will be lifted, and the trustees can smooth out the differences across the system.

Previous board decisions

The district is growing, with more students year over year. We bought 10 new portables for \$2 million.

There has been a rise in antisemitism in society, particularly amongst young men and boys, and the district is addressing this rise in schools by hiring a Jewish Equity Coach to both support students impacted and help build system capacity at addressing antisemitic incidents.

The Board has created the school calendar for next school year (2023–2024). Key dates to put in the cal-

endar are:

- First day of school: Sept 5
- Winter Holiday: Dec 23–Jan 7
- March Break: Mar 9–17
- Last day for elementary: June 27
- Last day for high school: June 25

The board has approved \$112 million for the upgrading and renewal of facilities, including retrofitting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8–12 per cent over the next four years, and \$4 million on accessibility upgrades. The district also intends to implement solar panels at 15 additional sites. The backlog of repairs we have yet to complete is \$978 million. This has grown by \$300 million in the past few years. We do not have the funding to make all the repairs we should.

Some local upgrades over the next two years include:

- Lighting upgrades at Manor Park (\$400,000)
- Electrical upgrades at Ottawa Technical Secondary School (\$1 million)
- Roof Replacement at Queen Elizabeth (\$200,000)

- Main Office renovation at Queen Mary (\$1 million)
- Classroom renovations at Rockcliffe Park (\$1 million)
- Fencing and windows at Robert E Wilson (\$350,000)
- Entry and lighting upgrades at Viscount Alexander (\$350,000), and
- Breakfast Room upgrade at York (\$500,000)

This is not a complete list of renovations at each local school.

Upcoming decisions

The Board will discuss and create the 2023–2027 strategic plan, having completed the community consultations in February. A draft document is being prepared to share with community in March/April. The district will be holding a community consultation at Ottawa Technical Secondary School, date TBD. This is the guiding document which directs the district for the next four years, so community feedback is important.

I have moved a motion to introduce a mandatory recycling and composting program at all schools. It has passed the committee stage

unanimously after debate on March 7, and was up for a final decision on March 28.

The Board is in the process of reviewing the field trip policy. The goal is to bring more equity to the system both within schools, families who have the means to pay for expensive trips, and those who do not, as well as between school communities. The district strives to ensure students are given equal opportunities, and to this end seeks to ensure that field trips serve their intended purpose, as educational tools. This comes to Board on March 28.

The Special Education Advisory Committee policy, specifically the composition of the committee, is coming to committee on Apr. 4. There is a motion to add an Indigenous position to the committee to give perspectives related to intersections around Indigenous students and Special Education.

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

City to explore revival of No. 17 bus route despite transit budget cuts

By John Leefe

Ottawa City Council passed a motion Mar. 1 directing OC Transpo to assess the financial feasibility of restoring bus No. 17 from Wateridge Village to downtown Ottawa and Gatineau.

City Councillor Rawlson King proposed this motion following city budget deliberations, in opposition to cuts to transit's capital budget. Noting that "permanent cuts to OC Transpo have been detrimental to bus and ParaTranspo service levels," King's motion specifically directs OC Transpo staff

to assess the feasibility of restoring "that peak-period, peak-direction transit service to Wateridge Village based on the current population, current and future rates of transit ridership, and funding within the approved 2023 transit operation budget."

"The motion directs staff to work with my office to confirm the financial feasibility of the proposed new service and subsequently to confirm implementation," King added.

Darren Kipp of the Wateridge Village Community Association said his group provided much of

the statistics and rationale for the motion, which is linked to the Village's Secondary Plan. The Plan requests the city to establish early service agreements with developers to ensure transit service is provided in advance of when service would typically meet city financial performance levels.

"When the No. 17 service was cancelled, travel time to key locations for Wateridge Village residents became two to three times longer, requiring multiple transfers, and longer walking distances," Kipp said.

Since the service was tem-

porarily cancelled in 2020, the number of completed dwellings in Wateridge has approximately doubled from 360 to 720, including 48 affordable housing units. There are more than 585 units under construction, including 271 affordable units, and an additional 378 units have received site plan approvals.

"There is obviously still an 'out' in the feasibility wording, but the ask for the No. 17 is fairly small, so we are quite encouraged," Kipp noted.

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) strongly supports the return of the No. 17 bus

route which operated from 2018–2020 before being "temporarily cancelled" due to low ridership during the pandemic. Jason Tavoularis, NECA's traffic and safety committee chair, echoes the view of the Wateridge Village Community Association, emphasizing that the bus would reduce car traffic along Beechwood during peak periods. "This direct-to-downtown bus option would be useful for commuting to schools and offices" he said in a recent email.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.



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Honouring our riding's exceptional women; free tax clinic on April 22



Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

Dear residents,

I hope you are well and have taken the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of winter by snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or walking on our winter urban trails.

Finally, spring is upon us! On Mar. 8, we celebrated International Women's Day to recognize past and present women's contributions within community. Gender equality is still an unachieved goal. Parity between men and women has been maintained since 2015 in the federal ministerial cabinet. Moreover, the Liberal government launched the first strategy for women in entrepreneurship, as well as an investment of \$660 million for the prevention of violence against women. In honour of this day, I launched a recognition award for exceptional women and girls of Ottawa-Vanier. Congratulations to the recipients: Marie-Caroline Badjeck, Pauline Baron, Irene Compton, Erica Groome, Antoinette Irarera, Fatimah Karim, Nancy Millson, Sheila Niven, Deborah Pierre, and Kayla Spagnoli. You are an inspiration!

The month of February was also marked by an agreement in principle between our federal government and the government of Ontario which includes a federal investment of \$73.97 billion over 10 years, including \$8.41 billion for a new agreement focused on our four common health care priorities.

Since 2015, our government has stayed focused on making life more affordable for all Canadians. We have cut taxes for the middle class, created the Canada Child Benefit which has lifted 435,000 kids out of poverty, and cut childcare fees and created more affordable childcare spaces right across the country.

We know that times are tough for a lot of people in our community. The rising cost of living has made it

more difficult for Canadians to pay their bills, put food on the table, or pay their rent. This is why our federal Liberal government recently:

- doubled the GST tax credit for six months;
- permanently eliminated interest on Canada Student and Apprentice Loans;
- introduced a new, quarterly Canada Workers Benefit;
- created the Canada Dental Benefit for children under age 12; and
- introduced a \$500 top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit for lower-income renters.

I want to highlight that the Canada Dental Benefit, which deliver payments of up to \$1,300 over two years for children under 12 years of age, came into effect on Dec. 1, 2022. Learn more about the Canada Dental Benefit and how to apply at: canada.ca/en/services/taxes (follow "Tax credits and benefits for individuals").

My Liberal colleagues and I will continue our work to make life more affordable and build an economy that works for all Canadians.

Since it's tax season, you are invited to a free tax clinic organized by my team and that of our MPP Lucille Collard on April 22 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 237 Montreal Rd. To book an appointment please call 613-744-4484. If you would like a paper copy to complete your taxes, we have copies at our office at 233 Montreal Rd.

I am working hard for residents of Ottawa-Vanier, to understand your needs and respond with programs and funding that will provide meaningful support. Keep in touch with me and share how we can continue to work together to make life more affordable for us all.

Contact Mona Fortier, Member of Parliament, Ottawa-Vanier, at Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca and 613-998-1860.

Chères résidentes, Chers résidents,

J'espère que vous allez bien et que vous avez eu l'occasion de profiter des plaisirs de l'hiver que ce soit avec la raquette, le ski de fond ou une balade sur nos sentiers urbains hivernaux.

Enfin, le printemps est parmi nous !

Le 8 mars dernier, nous avons célébrer la Journée internationale des femmes afin de reconnaître les contributions féminines du passé ainsi que celles du présent au sein de notre communauté. L'égalité des sexes est un objectif qui n'est pas encore atteint.

La parité entre hommes et femmes a été maintenue depuis 2015 au sein du Cabinet des Ministres. D'ailleurs, le gouvernement libéral a lancé la première Stratégie pour les femmes en entrepreneuriat ainsi qu'un investissement de 660 millions \$ dans la prévention de violence contre ces dernières.

Dans le cadre de cette journée, j'ai lancé un concours de reconnaissance de femmes et filles exceptionnelles d'Ottawa-Vanier dont j'ai dévoilé les récipiendaires. Toutes mes félicitations à Marie-Caroline Badjeck, Pauline Baron, Irene Compton, Erica Groome, Antoinette Irarera, Fatimah Karim, Nancy Millson, Sheila Niven, Deborah Pierre, et Kayla Spagnoli. Vous êtes source d'inspiration!

Le mois de février a aussi été marqué d'une entente de principe entre notre gouvernement fédéral et le gouvernement de l'Ontario qui comporte d'un investissement fédéral de 73,97 milliards \$ sur 10 ans, dont 8,41 milliards \$ pour une nouvelle entente axée sur nos quatre priorités communes en matière de soins de santé.

Depuis 2015, notre gouvernement s'est efforcé de rendre la vie plus abordable pour tous les Canadiens. Nous avons réduit les impôts pour la classe moyenne, créé l'Allocation canadienne pour enfants qui a permis à 435 000 enfants de sortir de la pauvreté, réduit les frais de garde d'enfants et créé des places en garderie plus abord-

ables partout au pays.

Nous savons aussi que les temps sont durs pour beaucoup de gens dans notre communauté. L'augmentation du coût de la vie fait qu'il est plus difficile pour les Canadiens de payer leurs factures, mettre de la nourriture sur la table ou payer leur loyer. C'est pourquoi notre gouvernement a récemment :

- doublé le crédit d'impôt pour la TPS pendant six mois;
- éliminé de façon permanente l'intérêt sur les Prêts d'études canadiens et les Prêts canadiens aux apprentis;
- introduit une nouvelle Allocation canadienne pour les travailleurs, trimestrielle;
- créé la Prestation dentaire canadienne pour les enfants de moins de 12 ans; et
- introduit un supplément de 500 \$ à l'Allocation canadienne pour le logement.

Je tiens à souligner que la Prestation dentaire canadienne, qui verse jusqu'à 1 300 \$ sur deux ans pour les enfants de moins de 12 ans, est entrée en vigueur le 1er décembre 2022.

Apprenez-en davantage sur la Prestation dentaire canadienne et sur la façon de présenter une demande à : canada.ca/fr/services/impots.html (suivi le menu pour

«Crédits d'impôt et prestations pour les particuliers »)

Mes collègues libéraux et moi poursuivrons notre travail pour rendre la vie plus abordable et bâtir une économie qui fonctionne pour tous les Canadiens.

Étant donné que c'est la période des impôts, vous êtes invité à une clinique d'impôt gratuite organisée par mon équipe et celle de notre députée provinciale Lucille Collard. La date est le 22 avril également de 9h à 13h au 237, ch. Montréal. Afin de réserver un rendez-vous veuillez appeler le 613-744-4484. Si vous désirez une copie papier pour compléter vos impôts nous en avons des copies à notre bureau (233, ch. Montréal).

Je travaille fort pour les résidents d'Ottawa-Vanier, pour comprendre vos besoins et y répondre avec des programmes et du financement qui fourniront un soutien significatif.

Restez en contact avec moi et partagez comment nous pouvons continuer à travailler ensemble pour rendre la vie plus abordable pour nous tous.

Contactez Mona Fortier, députée, Ottawa-Vanier: Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca ou 613-998-1860.



Rawlson King
Councillor / Conseiller,
Rideau-Rockcliffe

☎ 613-580-2483

✉ rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca

🌐 www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca

What I supported in the budget; looking to restore bus service to Wateridge Village



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

City staff has spent countless hours over the past few months developing a financial plan designed to increase transit affordability, respond to climate change, conserve our environment, and enhance community safety. Consequently, I supported several measures in this year's budget, including a transit fare freeze, as well as free transit for children aged eight to 12, an annual \$5 million commitment to implement the City's climate change plan, and \$52 million in new climate investments. The budget also included measures to hire 14 new paramedics to improve ambulance service response. The budget further included an additional \$1.5 million for affordable housing, creating \$16.5 million in total funding for capital investments in housing this fiscal year.

As Council Liaison for Anti-Racism and Ethnocultural Relations Initiatives, I am

also pleased that an additional \$400,000 is being allocated in the budget for equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives to aid in adopting the City's Anti-Racism Strategy, Women and Gender Equity initiatives and Indigenous relations.

Areas of the budget that I could not support included the \$401-million police budget and the capital portion of the transit budget. I did not support the police budget as I believe more police budget efficiencies need to be found and redirected to social services, which will reduce the need for the continued "beyond-inflationary" expansion of the Police Service. While I supported a motion to take \$500,000 of identified efficiencies from the police budget and redirect it to mental health services, that motion unfortunately failed. I also did not support the transit capital budget as permanent cuts to OC Transpo have

been detrimental to bus and Para Transpo service levels.

I was gratified, however, that council passed a motion I moved concerning Route 17 bus service during budget deliberations on Mar. 1 that directs OC Transpo staff to assess the financial feasibility of restoring that peak-period, peak-direction transit service to Wateridge Village. The motion directs staff to work with my office to confirm the financial feasibility of the proposed new service and subsequently to confirm implementation.

Since Budget 2023 is a transitional "placeholder" plan, I supported the budget overall, with the expectation of a substantive change for future budgets in the 2022-2026 Council Term. Consequently, I supported motions to study the feasibility of multi-year budgeting to better link Term of Council priorities with operational and capital expenditures, as well as the implementation of a Municipal Price Index, which would accurately measure the impact of inflation on the municipality.

Based upon my office's numerous public consultations on the budget and resident correspondence, it will be my continued goal to advocate and secure more dollars for affordable housing, parks and infrastructure investments for the ward.

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

ottawa.ca and at rideau-rockcliffe.ca

Au cours des derniers mois, le personnel de la Ville a consacré d'innombrables heures à élaborer un plan financier visant à accroître l'abordabilité du transport en commun, à lutter contre les changements climatiques, à préserver notre environnement et à améliorer la sécurité de la communauté. Par conséquent, j'ai appuyé plusieurs mesures dans le budget de cette année, notamment un gel des tarifs de transport en commun, la gratuité du transport en commun pour les enfants de huit à douze ans, un engagement annuel de 5 millions \$ pour mener à bien le Plan directeur sur les changements climatiques de la Ville et un investissement de 52 millions \$ dans de nouveaux projets liés au climat. Le budget comprenait également des mesures pour embaucher 14 nouveaux paramédics afin d'améliorer le temps de réponse du service d'ambulance. Le budget prévoyait aussi 1,5 million \$ de plus pour le logement abordable, ce qui porte à 16,5 millions \$ le financement total des investissements en immobilisations dans le logement pour le présent exercice.

En tant qu'agent de liaison du Conseil pour les initiatives de relations ethnoculturelles et de lutte contre le racisme, je suis aussi heureux de voir dans le budget un montant supplémentaire de 400 000 \$ alloué aux initiatives d'équité, de diversité et d'inclusion visant à faciliter l'adoption de la Stratégie de lutte contre le racisme ainsi que des initiatives de la Ville en matière de condition féminine, d'équité des genres et de relations autochtones.

Parmi les éléments du budget que je ne pouvais pas appuyer, il y a le budget de la police de 401 millions \$ et la portion des immobilisations du budget du transport en commun. Je n'ai pas appuyé le budget de la police, car je crois qu'il faut y trouver des économies et les affecter aux services sociaux, ce qui réduirait la nécessité de constamment élargir les activités du Service de police au-delà de la hausse due à l'inflation. Même si j'ai

appuyé une motion visant à retirer 500 000 \$ d'économies déterminées du budget de la police et à affecter ce montant aux services de santé mentale, elle n'a malheureusement pas été adoptée. Je n'ai pas non plus appuyé le budget des immobilisations du transport en commun, car je crois que les restrictions budgétaires permanentes imposées à OC Transpo ont nui aux niveaux de service atteints dans les autobus et par Para Transpo.

J'ai toutefois été heureux de constater qu'une motion que j'avais présentée concernant le circuit d'autobus 17 a été adoptée par le Conseil au cours des délibérations budgétaires du 1er mars. Cette motion demande au personnel d'OC Transpo d'évaluer la faisabilité financière de rétablir ce service de transport en commun de période de pointe et de direction de pointe vers le Village des Riverains. La motion demande au personnel de collaborer avec mon bureau pour confirmer la faisabilité financière du nouveau service proposé et, par la suite, pour confirmer sa mise en œuvre.

Puisque le budget 2023 est un plan préliminaire et transitionnel, je l'ai appuyé dans son ensemble, car je m'attends à des changements majeurs dans les prochains budgets au cours du mandat 2022-2026 du Conseil. J'ai donc appuyé une motion visant à étudier la faisabilité d'un budget pluriannuel destiné à mieux harmoniser les priorités du Conseil en cours de mandat et les dépenses opérationnelles et en immobilisations, ainsi qu'une motion visant à mettre en place un indice des prix de la municipalité qui mesurerait avec précision l'incidence de l'inflation sur la municipalité.

Tenant compte des nombreuses consultations publiques sur les budgets organisées par mon bureau et de la correspondance avec les résidents, j'ai comme objectif de continuer à revendiquer et à obtenir davantage d'investissements dans le logement abordable, les parcs et les infrastructures pour le quartier.

Contactez le Conseiller Rawlson King à 613-580-2483, rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca et aussi à rideau-rockcliffe.ca.

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Language equity in justice system, backlogs and budget talks



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

These first months of the new year have been very busy. Certainly, after the holiday break and a rather quiet start to January, activities, meetings, and gatherings have now resumed with vigour. I feel a new energy and a renewed determination to address the issues that affect us, such as the cost of living, the health care system, education, the environment, trucks on King Edward Avenue, and homelessness.

At the community level, several local events have taken place. These occasions are a demonstration of solidarity and mutual aid in our community. Moreover, and in the face of rising inflation with which we have to live today, let us not forget those who are less fortunate and who live with the daily chal-

lenges of being able to meet their needs.

With the winter legislative break now behind us, I am continuing to advocate on behalf of Ottawa—Vanier on a variety of issues with the Ontario government. This includes writing letters to various ministers urging the government to take action on important issues. One such letter urged the Attorney General to address the backlog and delays at the Landlord and Tenant Board by hiring more full-time members and reinstating in-person hearings. As well, I also called for the hiring of more Francophone workers in our justice system. It is important that Ontarians be able to access the services they need in the official language of their choice. In

addition, I had the opportunity to participate in budget consultations in Windsor and Essex where the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs held in-person hearings. These consultations are an excellent opportunity for MPPs to hear from the people of Ontario.

The next few weeks will be very busy, and I am ready to continue to do my utmost to ensure that the government takes the necessary action on the many challenges we face.

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.

Ces premiers mois de la nouvelle année ont été très animés. Certes, après la pause des fêtes et un début de janvier plutôt calme, les activités, rencontres et réunions ont maintenant repris avec vigueur. Je sens une nouvelle énergie et une détermination renouvelée pour mettre fin aux enjeux qui nous affectent, tels que le coût de la vie, le système de santé, l'éducation,

l'environnement, les camions sur la rue King-Edward et les sans-abris. Au niveau communautaire, plusieurs événements locaux ont pris place. Ces occasions sont une démonstration de la solidarité et de l'entraide dans notre communauté. D'ailleurs, et face à cette inflation galopante avec laquelle nous devons vivre aujourd'hui, n'oublions pas ceux qui sont moins fortunés et qui vivent des défis au quotidien pour pouvoir subvenir à leurs besoins.

Alors que la pause législative d'hiver est maintenant derrière nous, je continue de défendre les intérêts d'Ottawa—Vanier auprès du gouvernement de l'Ontario sur toute une série de questions. Je le fais notamment en écrivant des lettres à divers ministres pour inciter le gouvernement à prendre des mesures sur des questions importantes. L'une de ces lettres incitait le procureur général à traiter les arriérés et les retards de la Commission de la location immobilière en embauchant davantage de membres à temps plein et en

rétablissant les audiences en personne. Aussi, j'ai également demandé l'embauche d'un plus grand nombre de travailleurs francophones dans notre système judiciaire. Il est important que les Ontariens puissent avoir accès aux services dont ils ont besoin dans la langue officielle de leur choix. De plus, j'ai eu l'occasion de participer à des consultations budgétaires à Windsor et Essex où le Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques tenait des audiences en personne. Ces consultations sont une excellente occasion pour les députés d'entendre la population de l'Ontario. Les semaines à venir seront très occupées et je suis prête à continuer à faire le maximum pour que le gouvernement prenne les mesures nécessaires vis-à-vis les nombreux défis auxquels nous faisons face.

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

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NCC gives cold shoulder to plowing multi-use path near fieldhouse

By Jason Tavoularis,
Traffic and Safety
committee

The Rideau River Eastern Pathway through New Edinburgh was intermittent until the fall 2020 installation of a link between the playground to the Stanley Avenue bend. Overall, this connection improved safety and access to the area around the fieldhouse as cyclists, rollerbladers, pedestrians, and other users no longer had to veer into Stanley Avenue's motor traffic as they went along the multi-use path. However, accessibility and safety concerns remain, especially during the winter months.

Snow and ice present hazardous barriers for pedestrians and cyclists traveling the sidewalks and multi-use pathway to the fieldhouse. This particularly busy section of New Edinburgh Park can be perilous for lack of a complete, winter-maintained pedestrian route. Pedestrians traveling toward the Rideau River along the east side of Dufferin Road encounter a snowbank at the Stanley Avenue bend and are forced into the roadway. Since there is no road crossing or maintained sidewalk on the opposite side of Stanley Avenue (at the end of River Lane), pedestrians must walk into oncoming traffic as they head toward New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse – the busiest recreational node in New Edinburgh. Footprints in deep snow in various directions around this snowbank highlight the haphazard workarounds forced upon our community. The failure to clear this primary pedestrian route to the Fieldhouse is dangerous and wasteful.

Recently the Crichton Community Council (CCC) lobbied Councillor Rawlson King's office and the National Capital Commission (NCC) for winter maintenance on this 120-metre section of the Rideau River Eastern Pathway. The pathway falls under NCC jurisdiction, but it is the City of Ottawa that



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The Crichton Community Council, which managed the Fieldhouse for the City of Ottawa, is advocating for better snow cleaning on new section of multi-use path in front of the community building.

provides winter maintenance of the sidewalk on both ends of this short stretch.

The request was for the City's sidewalk plow to clear the pathway between the east side of Dufferin Road and the fieldhouse to provide continuous sidewalk maintenance on the river side of Stanley Avenue. Inexplicably, the small plow currently moves on to the roadway in between clearing the Stanley Avenue and Dufferin Road sidewalks. At no cost or added difficulty, the winter maintenance route could simply continue along this short section. The disruption in maintenance of the pedestrian network feels like an outdated operational remnant of a time when there was no hard-surface pathway linking the Stanley and Dufferin sidewalks on the river side of the roadway.

In an email to Councillor King's staff and in a verbal conversation with CCC president Chris Straka, NCC staff declined this appeal, stating they do not maintain this part of the pathway in winter in order to encourage recreational use of the trail system via snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and fat-biking. In addition, they advised that winter maintenance has a "deteriorating effect" on the pathway.

This justification from the NCC lacks merit. This section of paved multi-use path is twinned with a gravel pedestrian path located closer to the river. Winter maintenance of the multi-use path located closer to the road would in no way impede the recreational use of the gravel

trail system for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing or fat-biking, which is the preferred pathway for most participants. In fact, providing safer access between the roadway and the riverside pedestrian path via the roadside multi-use path might promote these activities.

The "deteriorating effect" cited by the NCC has not stopped them from permitting City of Ottawa snow removal services in many other nearby segments of the Rideau River Eastern Pathway, such as the segment from the Rideau Sports Centre on Donald Street to Beechwood Avenue. Why is a short section of multi-use path through New Edinburgh's busiest recreational area unworthy of a similar arrangement?

Currently, the plow route goes along Stanley Avenue's gravel shoulder where there's no sidewalk. Our proposed route for winter maintenance would have the plow clear the new connecting section of multi-use pathway in front of the Fieldhouse. Unfortunately, the NCC is refusing to permit this.

Jason Tavoularis is the chair of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's traffic and safety committee. You can reach him at info@newedinburgh.ca.

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Randy Mar and Karen Squires

Glebe Pilates studio opens Beechwood location

After operating Glebe Pilates for almost two years, owner **Amy Kowalik** has decided to expand. Pilates on Beechwood is scheduled to open in early April in the St. Charles Market at 140 Beechwood Ave. The opening date was unavailable at time of print so please note website details below for more information.

In conversation with the *New Edinburgh News*, Amy indicated she'd been looking around for the right location and liked the vibe and potential of New Edinburgh and Vanier. She had been following the St. Charles Market development, so the timing, location, and the renaissance of Pilates seemed to be a perfect combination. We understand her new Beechwood location and offering will be quite similar to her Glebe location in terms of size, hours, staffing and equip-



Photo courtesy Amy Kowalik

The Glebe Pilates team are (from left) **Janice Touchette, Pamela Forth, Kelly Fletcher, Karen Murtagh, Frankie the dog, Aileen Gangoo-Smithies, and Amy Kowalik.**

ment.

Pilates is a type of mind-body exercise developed in the early 20th century by German physical trainer Joseph Pilates, according to Wikipedia.

Amy said that at her Glebe location, most of her current clients are women between

the ages of 30 and 65, but she's hoping to attract more men and teenagers. In fact, they will be adding "teen only" classes soon, aimed at improving posture, body awareness, and strength. In private sessions, instructors cater to post-rehab clients who have gotten the go-ahead

by their physiotherapist. Amy explains that Pilates is a safe, low-impact way to get back to movement. She offers smaller classes for groups of eight, or private classes focused on strength and movement through specific instruction. In her cozy (not gym-like) location, she's seen people make big changes in their strength and confidence. Her new location on Beechwood will offer a slightly extended offering of equipment including 8 reformers, 1 Cadillac, 6 wunda chairs and 1 ladder barrel to have a more complete set up for private sessions.

Amy started teaching Pilates six years ago at her in-home studio while she was living in Latin America. When she returned to Ottawa in 2021, she opened her studio in the Glebe. Depending on classes and schedules, they typically operate from 6 a.m.–8 p.m. The business model approach is "Small, Tailored, Fun,

Inviting, Community and Informed." Amy was referred to Pilates herself by a medical professional and experienced good results, and she is always inspired by people working on themselves and making personal gains, whatever those may be.

Amy's team of seven at the Glebe studio has a wide range of experience and knowledge through their various backgrounds, each offering different teaching methods. The entire staff are thrilled to be joining our community at this new location to help people move, feel, and look better. The studio will be running multiple, fun, choreographed group reformer classes – where exercises are performed on a bed-like machine with a rolling platform – throughout the week, as well as private and semi-private classes.

All memberships and packages will be valid at both

Continued on page 13





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Photo by Randy Mar

ART House's head framing associate Sarah Younes trained under her father Abed, who acquired the business at 63 Beechwood Ave. in 2014.

Pilates on Beechwood and at the sister studio, Glebe Pilates. For more information and exact opening date, check out yourpilateslocal.ca or contact Amy at info@pilatesonbeechwood.ca. New and seasoned movers are welcome! –KS

Preserving your memories at ART House

ART House custom framing has been a New Edinburgh fixture at 63 Beechwood Avenue at the corner of Douglas Avenue for over eight years. **Sarah Younes**, head framing associate, currently runs the ART House with her father **Abed**, who acquired the business in 2014. Sarah trained under her father, a master framer with over 35 years of experience, and now is the senior associate fulfilling client needs.

Scrolling through the ART House Instagram account gives a deep appreciation for the unique breadth and type of framing challenges presented by clients, and the amazing results achieved with professional expertise, care, and creativity. Clients bring in their treasured travel souvenirs, fine art, photographs, children's artwork, family heirlooms, hockey and sports jerseys, and concert posters to be framed.

At ART House, one will see antique Chinese puppets, medals and medallions, certificates of achievement, diplomas and degrees, butterfly and other delicate collections, custom and fine art, and even children's finger paintings. All are mounted with precision and care using museum-grade glass and acid-free backing, matting, and tape to preserve fragile

and treasured keepsakes.

In conversation with Sarah, she mentioned that "as a small, family-run business, we offer very competitive rates and relish the challenges, however large or small, of meeting our clients' framing needs." Framing specialists will personally guide each client through the entire process, from orientation through to frame, border, trim and glass selection. "We custom frame 500–600 pieces a year, but each one is special and handled with care. We want to see smiles of delight when clients pick up their order," says Sarah.

ART House stocks a wide variety of wood and metal frames in a vast array of colours and profiles that will best match or complement each piece. ART House also has a section of posters and art prints on location available for purchase, and they can also order from a range of catalogues and suppliers should you want to treat yourself or someone else.

They also provide such services as canvas stretching, repairs, and lamination. Depending on the framing requirements, orders can often be fulfilled the same day or week, with custom or one-of-a-kind projects taking slightly longer.

You can check out ART House custom framing at 63 Beechwood Ave.; by phone at 613-695-2423 and on Instagram @arthouse-framing; and on Facebook at ArtHouseFramingOttawa. –RM

Personal vehicle service runs in the family

Ownership of the Beechwood Auto Service is well into its

second generation.

A fixture at the corner of Beechwood Avenue and Marier Street since 1979, current owner **Pierre Fortier** took over the helm from his father **Gilles** in 2004.

Over the years, Beechwood Auto has built a solid reputation locally and evolved into a strong after-market automotive service centre. It offers a broad range of services for domestic and import cars and trucks, from tune-ups, brakes, tires, air conditioning and heating systems, to general car care, engine and transmission repairs, preventative maintenance and safety inspections. On-site tire storage is also available so you don't have to lug your winter tires back and forth, or take up storage space at home.

In conversation with the *New Edinburgh News*, Pierre spoke at length about the personal service culture he's instilled at Beechwood Auto. "We want to get to know owners, drivers in their family, their vehicles, and the needs and habits of our clients so we can make the most suitable recommendations to meet their needs" he said.

Small neighbourhood and specialty service shops can more than compete with factory dealership thanks to supporting networks like Tech-Net Professional Auto Service (Carquest) of which Beechwood Auto is a proud member.

In addition to being the buying network and offering training and recertification programs, Tech-Net members adhere to a code of ethics. This is evident from the testimonials and number of



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The Beechwood Auto team are (from left) Max, Mylina, Carl, Andrew and owner Pierre Fortier.

long-time customers returning to Beechwood Auto; there is even a feedback questionnaire on the Beechwood Auto website.

Due to its garage setup and close-knit employee base, Beechwood Auto was able to stay open during initial pandemic safety measures through to reopenings. Today, the shop is as busy as ever. Despite challenges faced by other small businesses, Pierre is lucky enough to find highly qualified technicians to fill the void left by retirements and staff reloca-

tions.

When asked about the future with hybrids and electric vehicles, Pierre answers with a smile: "There won't be comprehensive tune-ups anymore, but brakes, tires, and especially electrical systems and batteries will continue to keep us more than busy."

Drop by Beechwood Auto Service 188 Beechwood Ave for a service assessment or call 613-749-6773, or visit beechwoodautoservice.com. –RM

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New Edinburgh

New Waldorf school opens in Manor Park

By Jane Heintzman

Last fall, a new independent school opened its doors at The Hub at 1805 Gaspe Ave. in Manor Park. **Polaris School and Centre** is a small school with a difference: its programs and holistic approach to education are inspired by the teachings of Austrian scientist and thinker **Rudolf Steiner**, pioneer of the **Waldorf system** which now operates in countries throughout the world, with highest concentrations in Germany, the United States, and the Netherlands.

When two former Waldorf schools in Ottawa closed their doors in 2014, the Friends of Waldorf Education in Ottawa (FWEO) was formed to revive the Waldorf system locally. Their aim was to establish a school with three goals: ensuring financial stability while offering affordable tuition; respecting the Waldorf education system; and building relationships with the community and the natural world.

The product of FWEO's efforts is Polaris School and Centre, which first opened on Donald Street in Overbrook in 2018 before moving to

Manor Park last fall. The new school is currently working toward full accreditation with the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America.

The Waldorf holistic system is rooted in Steiner's theory of child development, which he saw as a three-fold process, beginning at kindergarten age. At this formative stage, the transition from home to school is focused on gentle, unpressured activities, with abundant opportunities for free play, creativity, discovery, and social interaction, all within a nurturing context of respect, love and security. To provide this firm foundation, Polaris places special emphasis on fostering strong relationships among teachers, students, and the wider community.

The second stage encompasses the elementary school years, and is based on a multi-disciplinary, multi-sensory, hands-on approach to learning. Classes at Polaris integrate music, drama, arts, crafts, and movement into all aspects of the curriculum – even math! This reflects current neuroscientific research which stresses the importance of engaging both the left- and



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The Polaris School and Centre opened last fall in Manor Park, offering education based on the Waldorf method.

right-brain hemispheres. The two hemispheres have distinct roles in human development, controlling verbal and analytical skills on the one hand (left brain), and holistic, visual-spatial, and creative skills on the other (right brain).

Steiner viewed the third, adolescent stage of development as the culmination of the early foundation of discovery, creativity, and connection to the wider world. In these later years, the Waldorf approach is focused on the development of intellectual rigour, independent judgment, confidence, and a clear sense of values.

Throughout the program at Polaris, the teachers' approach is rooted in Steiner's theory of the uniqueness of the individual. Students are encouraged to develop at their own pace, and to become critical, independent thinkers. They learn to apply their skills and creativity to practical problem-solving, and to fully engage in the learning process with "head, hands and heart." By pitching the curriculum to the child's developmental stage, the aim is for learning to become a source of joy and excitement, not anxiety or frustration.

Among its attractions for many families, Polaris is a small school with an enrolment of about 75 students, 40 of whom attend full-time, while the remainder are enrolled in supplementary programs. The average class size is between 10 and 15 students, and as a general rule, children will have the same teacher throughout their elementary years. "Teachers get to know each child really

well" says school administrator Dina Cristino, "and this is a real benefit in building a strong relationship of trust and security." There are currently three full-time and between six and nine part-time teachers at Polaris.

The school currently operates a five-day per week Kindergarten program, along with elementary Grades 1–4 in a full-time program from Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, Polaris runs a special **Nature Connect** program of outdoor activities, designed to cultivate students' connections to, and respect for, the natural world. The program involves a wide-ranging exploration of local flora and fauna, and the study of seasonal changes in the environment. The majority of Polaris' full-time elementary students attend the outdoor program, along with others from the community who are not enrolled at the school.

Polaris also offers programming for such day students as home schoolers and alternative learners. Two "Learning Blocks" for Grades 5–6 are now operating on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and the plan is to expand these to Grades 7–8 in the next school year. Polaris is currently partnering with North Star micro-school to offer programming for high school students in Grades 8–10.

In keeping with its emphasis on outreach and engagement with the community, Polaris also runs a series of workshops such as parent-and-child mornings and craft circles. The school's store, **North Star Crafts**, is located in the building's main lobby, and offers a range of educational items such as natural toys and craft supplies. All proceeds help to support the school's "accessible-to-all" model, giving families at all income levels the chance to attend the school.

For more information about Polaris and program details, visit polarisschool.ca; 613-842-4322 or info@polarisschool.ca. An **open house** for prospective families is coming up at Polaris on **Apr. 20 from 5–7 p.m.** Also on the spring agenda is a festive **Spring Fair on May 27 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.** where you can get acquainted with the Polaris School community.

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Park clean-up on April 22; updates on trees, waste bins, and benches

By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall

Friends of the Park is pleased to confirm there will be a site inspection taking place in the park area with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the City of Ottawa in mid-April as we lead into our spring annual park clean-up scheduled once again on Earth Day, Apr. 22, from 2–4 p.m. The rain date will be Apr. 23 from 2–4 p.m.

Please meet Friends of the Park team behind the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave., at the gazebo area to pick up your bags and gloves. This should be a fun event and is much needed for our park as the snow melts, so please come out with your friends and family!

The RVCA will meet with Friends of the Park mid-April (just prior to the clean-up) to do a site inspection and determine what they might do to assist with maintenance, such as cleaning the river and looking for invasive species around the riverbank shoreline areas. Other discussions may also occur relating to flood control. A representative from the City of Ottawa has also agreed to join our mid-April site inspection.

In 2022, Friends of the Park decided to get started earlier on the park clean-up, so Earth Day seemed to be an appropriate choice of date moving forward. We had a very good turnout last year and we hope to see the same people join us

and bring along any new people interested in park stewardship on Earth Day 2023!

Tree planting

During January and February, Friends of the Park liaised with the City of Ottawa on a number of items relating to park maintenance. One area of discussion concerned tree planting as there are a number of programs available, including one for schools called Trees in Trust. We also discussed adding more trees around such areas as the shoreline. Friends of the Park will follow up on this further to determine if we are able to put something in place for fall 2023.

Green bins and more locations

In our discussions with the City, Friends of the Park asked them to consider New Edinburgh Park for recycling/green bins. We feel our park would be an ideal location to include these bins this spring as New Edinburgh Park is easily accessible for garbage collection at various locations. As well, the Fieldhouse area will again be hosting the Beechwood Farmers' market this spring/summer/fall, so with containers and food waste, this is an ideal location for these bins. However, on Mar. 1 our group was advised that the recycling bin pilot program will not be expanding to additional parks at this time. City staff will monitor the effectiveness of



Photo by Peter Lloyd

The clean-up crew from spring 2022: (from left) Maksim Arnold, Nathanael DeWolfe, Johanna Rostenne, Eliane Matte, Quinn Hall, Katherine Hall and Owen Hall.

existing locations first, and continue to pursue expansion into Ward 13.

Additional seating

In 2022, there were several new benches installed around the tennis court area along the Rideau River. In addition, we learned the City offers a bench program for seniors. We discussed that with New Edinburgh's demographics, featuring a high population of seniors, City officials should look into one or two new benches under this

program. We discussed that since benches were recently installed near the tennis courts, consideration might be given to the Monarch Meadow area near Stanley Park. We also talked about sponsored private benches being considered later; however, the cost for these benches can range between \$5,000–\$5,700, according to the City staff members.

CSST maintenance

According to City plans,

there are only broad details on maintenance of the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) under the Rideau River. Due to heavy rain or other unanticipated priorities, they may have to shift the dates, but we should expect regular maintenance in April, June, July, and November. Our advice for park users: when you see heavy equipment around the sewage treatment plant or near the beach area, please avoid walking in these areas, including with dogs.

Tennis court improvements

The City of Ottawa will review having updates done to the tennis court surface. The City will also determine whether other changes or painting might be added so users have the option to play pickleball on the courts.

Orange fencing in the dog park

The City has agreed to liaise with the National Capital Commission to remove the plastic orange fencing in the dog park area as some of the iron poles are exposed and plastic mesh is buried in the snow so the fence is no longer really serving any purpose. Hopefully the NCC will look into this and decide on next steps for that area if anything is required further.

Karen Squires and Katherine Hall sit on the NECA board and co-chair Friends of the Park.

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Established in 1981

New homes on Stanley Avenue successful examples of infill



Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

By Gail McEachern

In the fall of 2019, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Heritage and Development Committee reviewed a proposal to demolish a bungalow-style single family home at 189 Stanley Ave. and replace it with two front-to-back semi-detached dwellings. The proposed plan showed two starkly modern three-storey structures with flat roofs, floor-to-ceiling glass windows framed in black metal and an exterior cladding of grey brick punctuated by a vertical strip of brown wood.

Ottawa's heritage planners and NECA both rejected the proposal on the basis that it did not meet the criteria for new development specified in the heritage conservation plan for New Edinburgh's Historic District. It also ignored the objectives that

the siting, height, massing, and materials of any infill be compatible with the existing adjacent buildings. This is to ensure that the visual rhythm of the buildings and landscaping along the street is maintained.

In the spring of 2020, NECA was informed that the owner of 189 Stanley Ave. had selected a new architectural firm which would take a "different approach" to the redevelopment of the site. The subsequent proposal submitted by Alcove Holdings indicated two side-by-side two-storey dwellings each containing four independent apartment units. The exteriors were to have the following characteristics:

- traditional style buildings with peaked roofs;
- cladding in red brick referencing other brick houses on the street;



Photo by Richard Aubry

The City of Ottawa recognized architects Alcove Holdings for their recent redevelopment of 189 Stanley Ave.

- four steps to wood front porches with hip roofs; and
- retention of trees and establishment of front and rear yard landscaping.

NECA endorsed this new plan which was also favoured in the Cultural Heritage Impact Statement prepared during the city's approval process. It stated: "The massing, scale and design enhances the continuing architectural evolution of the historic

district while complementing the neighbouring character." Construction of the two buildings has been completed true to the original architectural drawings. The City of Ottawa has recently recognized the developer of this project, Alcove Holdings, for a Heritage Award in the category of successful infill built between January 2019 and December 2022.

One of our community's concerns is that the push for intensification and the potential mushrooming of new infill structures will gradually have a negative impact on New Edinburgh's unique character. In this case, the redevelopment of 189 Stanley Ave. is a good example of "neighbourhood friendly"

infill. The jury supporting the award for Alcove Holdings commented: "This is a contemporary interpretation of the existing housing stock that is highly respectful of the neighbourhood. It is proof that densification and visual compatibility are achievable goals".

Luis Juarez, a City of Ottawa heritage planner, wrote in a recent article on heritage conservation and housing intensification: "The new Official Plan policies recognize that development and heritage planning are not mutually exclusive. Rather, they are opportunities that considered as a whole, have the potential to promote the efficient and continued use of heritage resources, divert materials from landfill, and provide new housing units in some of the city's most liveable, sustainable, and vibrant neighbourhoods – many of which are designated heritage conservation districts. It is important to ensure that new development occurs sensitively. This can be achieved by designing buildings that employ heights, scales and materials that are compatible with the character of the heritage resources that surround them."

Hopefully, the standard set by the design of 189 Stanley Ave. will be a model for future infill projects in New Edinburgh.

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

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Plant sale blossoms into Garden Day, and other Fieldhouse events



By Chris Straka, CCC President

For over 20 years, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, New Edinburgh residents have purchased their plants on the Fieldhouse's front lawn at 203 Stanley Ave. This spring, the annual event is evolving.

On May 13, Garden Day at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse will add to the traditional plant sale. Come with your wagon, your wallet, and your gardening questions! Enjoy a series of speakers, question-and-answer forums, information tables, and a garden bed ready to be planted out by children.

Please check the newed-edinburgh.ca events calendar in April for more detailed information. As always, there

will be no cost to participate in this Crichton Community Council (CCC) event.

New Edinburgh apparel

The CCC received almost 100 orders for New Edinburgh-themed apparel (T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and tuques) during the January and February order period!

To eliminate financial risk to the organization in undertaking this spirit-building fundraising initiative, all items were made to order. Unfortunately, this has made our product delivery time much longer than anticipated. (A little non-profit community association like ours just can't compete with the Bezos enterprise.) Our supplier began delivering items on Mar. 20 and opportunities



Photo courtesy Chris Straka

The next generation of CCC volunteers, sporting New Edinburgh toques and hoodies: Maeven, Sophie, Talia, Charlotte, Venia, Everleigh, Ella and Amelie.

to pick up purchases at the Fieldhouse started soon after.

Let the CCC know by email if you feel a pang of jealousy when admiring your neighbour's new duds. We'd be happy to contact you when we do another run of New Ed

clothing this fall – in time for the holiday season.

Ice rinks

All good things must come to an end. The two ice rinks at the Fieldhouse finally melted into a state somewhere between solid and liquid in the second week of March.

Fortunately, the ice at New Edinburgh Park opened early in the winter season and remained skateable much longer than most neighbourhood rinks in Ottawa. (Not to mention the Rideau Canal, which never opened for skating this past winter.) This was largely due to the exceptional volunteer efforts of **Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse** (CCC's park director), and his cadre of 24 hosers: **Alex Dosman, Andre Deslauriers, Aubrey Charette, Bastien Moal, Caroline Matt, Chris Hamilton, Chris Straka, David Millard, David Ponka, Hope Celani, Ian Krigas, Jason Tavoularis, Jennifer Manning, Loic Berthou, Luke Nixon-Janssen, Manon desGroseillers, Martin Hicks, Nick Charland, Peter MacDougall, Sean Fraser, Sebastian Matt, Steve Krigas, Suneil Kanjeekal, and Yuji Satoh.** Special mention also to the work of the rink attendants who provided service throughout the season. This team of CCC employees included **Eva**

Deslauriers, Harry Thorpe, Jack Thorpe, Malcolm Torrie, Oliver Wright, Stella Byers, Tavi Aslan and Téo Deslauriers.

If you see someone sporting a New Ed toque with red stripes, please thank them. They contributed many hours this past winter maintaining an important public amenity.

Films at the Fieldhouse

Films at the Fieldhouse returned on the weekend of the Academy Awards, featuring two nominated films, linked thematically by the relationships between mothers and daughters. On Mar. 11, *Turning Red* and *Everything Everywhere All at Once* drew 75 people to the Fieldhouse for no-cost entertainment, popcorn, cereal, and bagels (the first film was a morning screening).

This event would not have happened if it wasn't for the leadership of **Andre Gagne** with the assistance of **Christian Hansson, Loic Berthou, and Dave Pyman.** If you would like this event to become a regular series, please email indicating your interest in supporting the Fieldhouse Films by volunteering some of your free time.

Event leaders

An important part of the CCC's raison d'être is to

Continued on page 19

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Photo courtesy Chris Straka

Tim and Tor Straka enjoy one of the ice rinks at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse this past winter.



Photo by Chris Straka

A glimpse into the ice-maintenance efforts the hard-working team of hosers did throughout the winter.

Continued from page 18

build community by providing opportunities for neighbours to gather in and around the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. By providing indoor facilities and thanks to our stewardship of the surrounding public spaces, the CCC enables individuals to create the kind of community they want to live in.

If you have an idea for an event that excites you enough to contribute your time into making it a reality, please email us. The CCC will support Event Leaders committed to creating inclusive opportunities in service of the greater good.

A recent example: **Raza Moghal** led an introductory Latin dance workshop in the Fieldhouse just before Valentine's Day. Thanks to the time he invested in the

planning and delivery of the event, the building was activated for an afternoon and at no cost to the participants.

CCC communications

We share information about the CCC's initiatives and events through a variety of methods.

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

The CCC communicates with neighbours using two open email lists that you can subscribe to: newed@perambulatorposse.ca (known as the Mom's List) and newed-talk@googlegroups.com (New Ed Talk).

The CCC also contacts neighbours directly via

a closed email distribution list that is used exclusively by neighbourhood associations. To have your contact information added to this list, please contact: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com.

Fieldhouse rentals

The New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse at 203 Stanley Ave. is available for rentals throughout the fall. It is an excellent venue for birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, and gatherings of all kinds. For details, visit: newedinburgh.ca/ccc/fieldhouse. To check availability or to make a reservation, visit nefieldhouseccc.skedda.com/booking.

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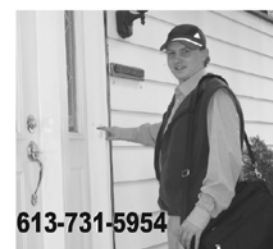
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Malcolm and John Harding

An ambitious, accountable plan to help revitalize Beechwood

Continued from page 1

- better management of growth and intensification;
- establishing a sustainable transportation grid;
- promoting the growth of a lively retail sector along the corridor;
- more greenspace;
- supporting climate change initiatives;
- building affordable housing; and
- protecting heritage conservation measures.

New Edinburgh residents will be interested in knowing how the SP seeks to address the ineffectiveness of the 2006 Beechwood Community Design Plan (BCDP), which was largely either ignored or undermined by City planners. As previously reported in the *NEN*, the BCDP was adopted by city council as a guideline for the promotion of more balanced development and livable communities, but it lacked the gravitas of legal force. And with Official Plan amendments, the BCPD's principles have been further undermined, necessitating the new SP, which will have "statutory" (i.e., legal) effect. Crucially, this means that the SP will have the same force

as the Official Plan, and if there is a conflict between a zoning by-law and the SP, the latter will take precedence. Perhaps equally significant, the SP principles cannot be ignored or circumvented by developers.

While the objectives are broad and visionary, there are detailed "action items" (both long- and short-term) that put some meat on the bones. There is recognition that the transportation planning processes must address the impacts on Beechwood after the Wateridge Village development (located at the former Rockcliffe Air Base off Aviation Parkway) is connected to Hemlock and Beechwood. The BVA acknowledges up front that achieving the 15-minute neighbourhood goal will "require changes to transit cycling, connectivity, walkability, more EV charging stations, increased setback and the requirement for ground level non-residential retail activity."

Clearly, there is an urgency to these proposals in light of the rapid change occurring both on the development and transportation fronts. That said, there is also a realistic



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

The St. Charles Market spire is a landmark in the middle of Beechwood Avenue. A new plan to revitalize our main street will have a legal effect which cannot be ignored by developers.

and optimistic tone to what's envisaged for Beechwood Avenue.

The plan acknowledges the challenges to achieving the goal of walkable 15-minute neighbourhoods, given many decades of car-centred development. However, optimism for achieving the goal "will come only after resolving some contradictory planning objectives and accepting the risk of the unknown — implementation of pilot projects that may not favour interests of some local or city-wide stakeholders." Moving forward, the BVA believes such challenges can be overcome, but "will require cooperation

from City Planners and City Council to ensure application of planning principles."

For Beechwood Avenue, successful cooperation could result in the following specific pilot projects that are both timely and innovative:

- A mini cultural centre and library — an ideal opportunity for the deconsecrated St. Charles Church to be transformed into a local cultural space.
- A dial-a-ride electric-powered minibus for area residents to access the Beechwood corridor. This would also decrease reliance on the use of automobiles by area residents and reduce traf-

fic congestion.

- Time-of-day access constraints for truck deliveries could be imposed to further reduce heavy traffic and make commuting more enjoyable for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

- A pilot rebate project with the city to encourage both small business and artisan presence along Beechwood and nearby streets.

There is also a reconciliation-based proposal to celebrate First Nation and early settler heritage through the revitalization of the Kichi Sibi Trails and Rockcliffe-Rideau to Ottawa portage, the 19th-century Algonquin hunting grounds. The revitalized route starts and finishes just north of St. Patrick Bridge. It is now recognized as an historic portage point, recently celebrated with public art at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse.

With respect to growth management objectives, including those related to intensification and employment, the BVA points out that community association members are conscious of the need for legal and regulatory frameworks to encourage developers to exercise judgment and taste in their choices. "This would enable the sum of their combined efforts to achieve the overall goals of human-level interaction and the 15-minute neighbourhood." While noting that the Beechwood Corridor is not a high employment zone, the BVA is optimistic that "continuing encouragement and the success of small-scale retail will be a driver of growth for local employment and innovation."

There is a lot to digest in the secondary plan proposal, both in terms of substance and process. We look forward to sharing details on other aspects of the SP — such as affordable housing, heritage conservation, and access to greenspace targets — as consultations continue. In the meantime, interested readers are encouraged to read the entire proposal at manorparkcommunity.ca.

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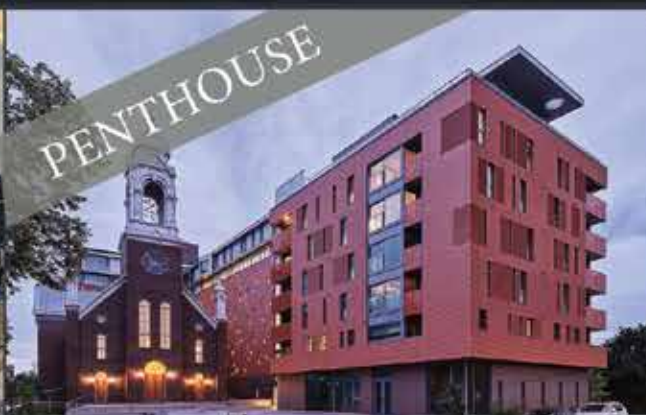
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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

March, April and May are among the most exciting and eventful on the birder's calendar. As the spring migration unfolds, hundreds of species return in successive waves to their northern breeding grounds. This migration is triggered by the increase in daylight hours (which stimulates hormonal changes in the males); weather conditions; food availability in breeding areas; and intensifying competition for such resources as nesting territory, insects, and budding vegetation. Among the earliest spring arrivals in our area are **red-winged blackbirds**: these notoriously aggressive competitors for nesting territory typically arrive in late February.

As I write in early March, there's still little evidence of a major influx of spring migrants around our neighbourhood, perhaps no surprise as we remain blanketed under thick snow. And it's "quiet, too quiet" out there: we've yet to hear the full-throated spring chorus typical at this time of year, when **Northern cardinals**,

black-capped chickadees, **house finches**, **goldfinches**, **American robins** and others belt out their serenades to usher in the breeding season. But as spring-like temperatures continue, that will change dramatically in the coming weeks.

Reports are already trickling in from the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club (OFNC): **red-winged blackbirds** are returning in full force, along with a smattering of **turkey vultures** (one close by in Riverain Park), **red-tailed hawks**, **Northern flickers**, **Northern harriers** and **common grackles**. Other recent OFNC highlights include numerous **Bohemian-** and **cedar waxwings** feasting on buckthorn berries; **evening grosbeaks**; **pine grosbeaks**; and – unexpectedly – **white-throat sparrows**, most likely a hardy group of overwintering individuals which never left the area.

Timing of spring arrivals

Early March typically ushers in a wave of birds of prey such as **red-tailed**



Falcon in flight.

Photo by Julia Heintzman

hawks, **Northern goshawks**, **rough-legged hawks**, **turkey vultures**, **bald eagles** and **Golden eagles**, along with such smaller raptors as **merlins**, **peregrine falcons**, **sharp-shinned hawks** and **kestrels** in search of a songbird feast around birdfeeders.

In our experience, prime locations for spotting these

raptors are in the skies over the Ottawa River between the Rideau Falls and the Rideau Hall gates; in the Pine Hill area in Rockcliffe Park, and along the Rockcliffe Parkway by the Ottawa River. And many a sneak attack by **sharp-shinned** or **Cooper's hawks** has taken place in our own garden in New Edinburgh, most often at the expense of a slow-moving **pigeon**.

By late March, other local regulars such as the **Great blue heron** and the **red-shouldered hawk** should be on the scene, along with numerous waterfowl returning to the open water. In mid-April, the wave of songbird arrivals will swell significantly, ushering in a host of such familiar species as **Eastern phoebe**, **song sparrows**, **chipping sparrows**, **fox sparrows**, **golden-crowned kinglets**, **Northern flickers**, **brown creepers** and **yellow-bellied sapsuckers**.

In our own bailiwick, we look forward to two especially welcome signs of spring in early April: the yearly arrival of a **song sparrow** pair in our garden, who regale us with their signature song throughout the nesting season (allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song_Sparrow/sounds); and the return of **Eastern phoebes** to the Rideau Gate area, making their presence known with their piercing

feebee call. A phoebe nest is also a fixture at one of the lookouts along the Rockcliffe Parkway, but thanks to this year's heavy snowpack, it has been inaccessible to walkers.

Late April should signal the arrival of the first **warblers** to our region: the **pine warbler**, the **palm warbler** and the **yellow-rumped warbler**, all of which are summer regulars in Stanley Park. Other late April arrivals include such beauties as the **purple finch**; the **ruby-crowned kinglet** (a regular in our backyard apple tree) and the ubiquitous **white-throat sparrow**, belting out its signature "*Oh Canada, Canada, Canada*" call. Along the path by the river in Stanley Park, watch for flocks of **tree swallows** sweeping over the water.

May is the high point in the birding year, bringing a bounty of dazzling **warbler species**, along with **vireos**, **thrush**, **ruby-throated hummingbirds**, **Baltimore orioles**, **rose-breasted grosbeaks**, **scarlet tanagers** and many more.

Ornithologist **John Ruddy's** detailed overview of the spring arrival schedule in Eastern Ontario (count-bird.ca) is a helpful resource for birders. And for tips on birding hot spots in our region, visit the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club: ofnc.ca.

Late February's annual

Writers wanted

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Contact Christina at newednews@hotmail.com for details.



Hairy Woodpecker.

Photo by David Howe



Barred Owl.

Photo by David Howe

Great Backyard Bird Count (birdcount.org) is one of the world's largest citizen-science projects, launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society in 1998 to collect data on wild birds. The aim is to help ornithologists monitor global bird populations, which are critical indicators of ecosystem health.

This year, participants from Canada submitted an impressive 25,000 bird checklists, recording 247 different species. **Merlins** were prominent on Canadian checklists, with 25,000 sightings reported by late February. Merlins are small (blue jay-sized) falcons, noted for their fierce and deadly surprise attacks on smaller songbirds and shorebirds. Medieval fal-

coners referred to them as "lady hawks," used for hunting skylarks. Since the banning of DDT pesticide use, their numbers have surged and they are widespread in Canada.

While I have rarely spotted merlins locally, when I opened our front door one February morning this year, I encountered a sinister-looking merlin, poised in our yew bush ready to pounce on a twittering group of **house sparrows**. Thankfully (for the sparrows at least!), the slaughter was interrupted just in time!

Reports from our readers:

Birder/photographer **David Howe** has been struck by the dramatic contrast between bird activity in late winter



Bohemian Waxwings.

Photo by David Howe

versus in the breeding season: "A typical daily bird-count for Stanley Park during the peak season would be 40-plus species; in January and February, you'll be lucky to get into double figures!" David has encountered a variety of waterfowl on the Rideau River's open waters, spotting large groups of overwintering **common golden-eye**, **common mergansers** and **hooded mergansers**.

Among his other late-winter sightings are **evening grosbeak** and **Bohemian waxwing** flocks, stripping the neighbourhood trees and

bushes of their remaining berry crops. He recently spotted a hungry flock of more than 100 Bohemians in the Dufferin Road-Rideau Hall area. His other winter highlights were **owls**: a **barred owl** being harassed by angry **American crows** close to the Rockcliffe Pavilion; an imposing **Great Gray Owl** feasting on voles in a nearby park; and a pint-sized **Boreal owl** in Gatineau Park, a "lifer" for David.

My son **Geoff Heintzman** and daughter-in-law **Julia**, and their next-door neighbour **Michelle Benson** had

an unexpected visit from an imposing **peregrine falcon** hard at work devouring its prey. Peregrines are crow-sized falcons, with a wingspan of about 3.5 feet. They are noted for their deadly aerial attacks, descending on their prey in spectacular high-speed dives or "stoops."

Avian Bistro operator **Philip MacAdam** reports a steady stream of hungry diners at his feeders on Thomas Street, at Alexander. **Dark-eyed juncos**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **Northern cardinals**, **downy woodpeckers**, **American goldfinches**, **house finches**, and **black-capped chickadees** have all been regulars, and even the "big birds" such as **American crows** and **common ravens** have made appearances around the bistro. Philip also had a close encounter with a **red-tailed hawk** while hiking close to the Ottawa River.

Wanted: Local Birding Reporters! Please send us your spring bird sightings to share with our readers: janeheintzman@hotmail.com or newednews@hotmail.com.



Junco.

Photo by Frank Martin



Red-capped male house finch.

Photo by Frank Martin

A stack of newspapers, with the top one showing a headline about a bird sighting.

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Budgeting for climate action: How is Ottawa doing?

Continued from page 1

action is being undermined more than supported.

We are playing defence for the most part, rather than offence as a city, focussing largely on climate resiliency, which is important, and less so on mitigation and the actual reduction of carbon emissions.

Ottawa does have an extremely thorough road-map for reducing emissions to meet a citywide target of net zero in 2050. It is called the Energy Evolution strategy and is a key element of

the Climate Change Master Plan. As the strategy makes clear, the two largest sources of emissions — and therefore where emissions reductions are most necessary — are in the areas of heating buildings and homes, and transportation.

On the one hand, the City is investing in electric buses, which is a helpful step towards emissions reductions. On the other hand, though, it is spending millions of dollars in widening roads, and accommodating even more cars. Public transit has suffered an additional cut

in this year's budget of \$47 million which will really continue to gut the bus system that is the connective tissue of Ottawa transit. Until bus services improve, no amount of investment in the LRT will ultimately result in a better system overall, in my view. (Most transit riders rely on buses to reach LRT stations and to move around their communities.)

As CAFES noted in a blog post on the draft budget: "While the city invests in electric buses and fare-free service, it simultaneously undercuts the benefits of pub-

lic transit, by gutting its budget and putting more money into projects that will increase Ottawa's car-dependency."

Ottawa is falling behind on its goal to reach net-zero emissions in City operations by 2040, according to a report from the Citizen Climate Counsel (C3) last December. C3's report stated how difficult it is to ascertain how well the City may be responding to the climate emergency.

Of the 47 milestones cited in the Energy Evolution plan for completion by the end of 2021, the City only met five. The fact is the plan

requires serious funding. While \$5 million is a start, Ottawa needs to up its game if there is any hope of catching up to other jurisdictions. We absolutely must reduce emissions in cities - where almost 82% of Canada's population lives.

Meantime, we can all read the City's webpage on "Reducing Ottawa's greenhouse gas emissions in four simple steps" - find it at ottawa.ca

Sarah Anson-Cartwright lives in New Edinburgh and works in public affairs.

Heritage preservation and protection set back 20 years

Continued from page 1

designation any property that is the subject of a demolition request. It is an important planning tool that recognizes the cultural value of a property to the community.

Many in the development community see the register as a tripwire or a waiting room for designation. It is neither. In the decade since the register was established, out of the 53 Notices of Intent to Demolish a listed property, the City has approved

52. Only one has resulted in the City passing a by-law designating the property to be of cultural heritage value under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Other changes are based on the erroneous view that Heritage Conservation Districts, as currently regulated, are an impediment to intensification. This is not the case. Heritage properties are routinely leveraged in intensified development proposals which provide for more much-needed housing in already serviced communities while preserving Ottawa's cultural and architectural heritage.

Bill 23 also increases the prescribed criteria for designations contained in Ontario Regulation 09/06, "Criteria for Determining Cultural

Heritage Value or Interest." To require that a candidate property for designation require two of the legislative criteria for designation instead of only one does not reflect the increasing 21st-century importance of historical associative and contextual value beyond a property's architectural significance.

Another threat to our built heritage is the bill's direction to remove municipal authority to regulate exterior features, sustainable design, character, scale, and design features through site plan control. Likewise, the exemption of buildings of up to 10 residential units from Site Plan Control is a further threat to our Heritage Conservation Districts.

Heritage Ottawa strongly supports an increase in the

number of homes built in Ontario and believes that this can best be done by providing municipalities with the responsibility to develop housing projects and preserve their built heritage resources in a manner that best suits their communities and not the developers. We shall continue to work with the City of Ottawa as allies in the fight to mitigate the adverse effects of this retrograde legislation.

David B. Flemming is a former president of Heritage Ottawa and now chairs the organization's Advocacy Committee. This article first appeared in the Heritage Ottawa Newsletter, February 2023 Vol. 50 No. 1, and is reprinted here with the permission of Heritage Ottawa. Learn more at heritageottawa.org.

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How can residents help the City of Ottawa build the neighbourhoods we want?

By Chris Penton

The pandemic drove more of us to think about the 15-minute neighbourhood. As we pivoted to a life closer to home, many of us started to ask questions like: “What if I didn’t need my car to get eggs? Could my kids learn to swim around the corner? Could my road be temporarily pedestrianized?”

Those questions led to bigger stances: “I want to help improve my neighbourhood. I am going to raise my voice in my community and influence change!”

Sadly, most of us quickly become apathetic and dismiss the possibility of being able to make a difference. We then jump into the car and retreat to Costco for 7kg of peanut butter, lamenting failed traffic calming measures along the way.

Impacting your surroundings is easier than you think.

Here are three ways you can influence the growth of your neighbourhood: volunteer; take an interest in municipal

affairs; and support local business.

There is sometimes trepidation on behalf of residents to begin a volunteer relationship with their community. Fear of longwinded meetings, incurring unforeseen costs or serving out hot chocolate to ungrateful kids are some images that come to mind. The truth is: volunteering is managed by the individual. Your time, your choices. In most areas of the City, you can find a role that is interesting and right for you.

Many communities have associations. Typically a decent reflection of the area’s population, community associations manage initiatives such as events, fundraisers, and political advocacy. With a role for all strengths, a well-managed community association can be the lifeblood of your neighbourhood. Politicians at all levels often look to community associations for on-the-ground information and guidance. On the front line of the mundane

as well as the controversial, community associations are often the springboard for local movements.

Whether you join a community association or remain a solo act, managing a healthy interest in municipal affairs can improve your home and its surroundings. The least-sexy level of government, municipal is the most utilitarian and most often affects your daily life. You need not pen weekly letters to your councillor. Staying on top of developments, streetscape projects, and safety issues in your neighbourhood is as easy as skimming over a weekly newsletter, joining a social media group or picking up your local (printed!) paper.

Finally, support your local small businesses.

It is unlikely that Giant Tiger will open up down the street. If you want services close by, it’s the ardent entrepreneurial operations that will fill that void. However, they must see viability in the opportunity. If small businesses are moving

out of your area due to lack of local support, the chances of new services moving in are pretty slim.

It is crucial to encourage budding businesses. However, the pressure is not all on the consumer. In the age of big-box stores, some outside-the-box thinking is required on the part of small-business owners.

In addition to outdoor farmers’ markets, Ottawa Street Markets manages an online market featuring 40 local businesses. To host our online pickup points across the city, we purposely partner with community-oriented small businesses. They get the additional feet in the door, our local vendors have a year-round point of sale, and residents regularly visit a business they may have not otherwise discovered.

City staff, councillors and the many mandated arm’s-length organizations (Business Improvement Areas, the Ottawa Public Library, and Ottawa Community Housing)

are all dedicated to bettering Ottawa. Although their intentions are good, they cannot always be on the ground with the average resident. Community associations, local businesses, and individuals serve as necessary representation and are of immeasurable value to the aforementioned powers that be.

It is up to us to create additional tools for the City and its partners. As well funded as they are, they may not always spend your money in ways that you feel best benefits your neighbourhood. With so many options to voice your opinion, donate your time, and intentionally direct spending, the ability to improve your neighbourhood awaits you.

Chris Penton is the proprietor of Ottawa Street Markets, former president of the Vanier Community Association and ran for City Council in Ward 13. ottastreetmarkets.ca. A version of this piece was published in the Ottawa Citizen on Mar. 11.

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Tales from the Square: It's all about transitions

By Keith Newton

Activities and events have continued to bubble along at New Edinburgh Square: special days, including Valentine's Day and birthdays, not forgetting the now firmly entrenched exotic cocktails evening. But a surprise came at the Residents Association's general meeting. A large turnout of dutiful rezzers came to observe what many expected to be a rather dull occasion. But when the candidates for election of the new board were asked to explain their backgrounds, the results were downright hilarious. Who would have known that our candidate for Secretary-Treasurer had not only had a nursing career, but also a stint of teaching English in China? Or that our diminutive, distinguished would-be prez had been a street-scrapper in his youth? Another nominee, with some impressive credentials in the education field, revealed he had made the gruelling climb to the base camp of Mount Everest! The final nominee finished with the avowal: "I'm not good-looking and therefore not much in demand, so I'll have plenty of time to serve you well." That brought the house down. Amusing memories.

Which reminds me: how's your memory?

Why do I ask? Because it's

a lead-in to the somewhat serious topic I am writing about today. It's the sometimes daunting – but inevitable – business of coping with the aging process and the several bumps we may encounter along the road. And it will try to indicate what is the appropriate level of care at each stage of the journey. Not being a medical practitioner, I won't be using technical terminology, but will try to use familiar examples. Definitions are, in any case, impossibly blurry: the decision-making is inevitably judgemental and very complicated, because a person's condition may be a

accordingly.

Memory loss is one of the primary indicators of dementia – itself an ill-defined condition which nevertheless is, in turn, a main indicator of the level of care that is appropriate for each person. And the stark reality is that memory loss, while it may be so slight as to be almost imperceptible, is inexorable and usually irreversible. In many cases, we learn coping mechanisms, such as calendars to mark appointments, writing to-do lists, and automatic electronic alerts. But the decline may run the gamut from mild to moderate, to severe. Once again, the lines are blurry and

need some extra help? The memory loss that precedes dementia may be accompanied by physical difficulties. As always, the manifestations are rarely distinct and various conditions may coexist. They include falling, clumsiness, spatial and/or temporal unawareness (I'm lost/what day is it?), difficulty with writing (or wielding chopsticks!), blurring of speech or loss of words, respiratory difficulties (loss of breath), incontinence, and irascibility. Note that such signs may be complicated by the presence of diseases like diabetes or Parkinson's. Some of us may have one or a combination of

the full services of house-keeping, laundry, and dining, but enjoy the reassurance of medical assistance and the opportunity for recreational activities. *Independent Supportive Living* is for those who might need a little extra help ("I sometimes get my meds mixed up" or "I'm having trouble putting my socks on"). *Assisted Living* means additional help with bathing, dressing, or dining. Then there's *Memory Care* which is for people who experience advanced dementia, including Alzheimer's, and typically live on a secure floor. Some, but few, retirement residences offer such care. Some in the private sector specialize in what is known as *Long Term Care*. Generally called LTC or, sometimes, "nursing homes" they are designed to accommodate those whose degree of severity of one or a number of debilitating problems requires more in-depth and intensive care. A big difference with LTC is that the properties are usually administered by local authorities (e.g., the City of Ottawa) and as such are public-sector entities subsidized by governments. So, they are much less costly than the private institutions, sometimes by about half.

So, it's all about transitions, from the initial move to a

Those seemingly neat labels for care services ("independent living," "assisted living," "assisted supportive living") are, in practice, very indistinct categories.

mixture of conditions which may overlap and interact, and it is the type and severity of this blend that determines the kind of care services that are appropriate. And that's why those seemingly neat labels for the ranges of care services ("independent living," "assisted living," "assisted supportive living," etc.) are, in practice, very indistinct categories. And as your needs progress, and if they can be accommodated by your residence, you are charged

may be further complicated when mixed with other signs of what is commonly called dementia.

What this means for most residents, in practice, is that we must constantly reassess our needs. Some types of additional care can be addressed by the staff –bathing and dressing, for example– while others, such as footcare or dressing of wounds, may require external help.

What are some of the tell-tale signs that we may

these and others. And that's precisely why a very careful needs assessment must precede the decision about type and level of care. And why we must be vigilant as to any perceived change in our requirements.

New Edinburgh Square's parent company, Chartwell, suggests five stages of residential care. They are just handy labels whose borders are fluid, but they include *Independent Living* for people who may or may not want

Continued on page 27



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Continued from page 26

suitable residence to the constant reassessment of the mix of care services that is right for us at any particular stage.

I will share a couple of personal, real-life stories as an aid to understanding the challenge of the traumatic transition to LTC. The first concerns Anna, who came to the Square in 2017 with her husband Henry as “assisted living” residents. They settled into a comfortable routine, made friends, and enjoyed a range of activities for a couple of years. Then Henry had a hip replacement and there began an ever-more-worrying sequence of annoying issues and events. In addition to continuing memory loss, Henry’s balance became impaired, and he had several falls. Indeed, towards the end of his ordeal, he had no feeling in legs or feet. Meanwhile, there were such setbacks as an obdurate cough, difficulty swallowing, and pneumonia.

Henry was a very determined character and continued to attend exercise sessions until he just couldn’t make it anymore. His dementia became apparent, and he had a couple more falls. Anna called a family meeting and they decided to move Henry to a place that specialized in the level and intensity of care that he needed at a nursing home just a short drive from the Square. It was clean, bright, and cheery, and equipped with the trained staff

and services to make Henry as comfortable as possible; Henry was soon fast friends with the staff. He died peacefully after visits from family members. Anna, meanwhile, was happy to discover that this nursing home’s fees were partly subsidized, so she got an unexpected break on costs. She remains at the Square and has since downsized to a smaller unit.

Then there’s June, who had lived in an Ottawa retirement home from 2013–2019 with her husband Nick, who had Parkinson’s. They enjoyed “independent living” – they did their own cooking and housekeeping – but participated in a variety of activities, notably the choir. But when certain issues became apparent, and worsened, Nick found social interaction more and more difficult. He became unable to decide what he could (and could not) do socially and physically. After some consultation, they agreed that it was time for Nick to move. He transferred to The Perley: a subsidized health centre originally designed for the LTC of Canadian Forces veterans. But it also offers beds to private, fee-paying residents. With the help of dedicated staff, June was able to make Nick’s last three years as comfortable as possible. June arrived at New Edinburgh Square in 2021. Sadly, Nick died last year.

Happily, I can report that

both women weathered their respective storms with grace and fortitude. I am further delighted to share that both recently stood for office and were unanimously elected to the Residents Association board. Anna is our new vice-president and June is secretary-treasurer.

Keith Newton is a retired research economist and professor, and an avid creative writer. Formerly of Crichton Street, Keith moved into the New Edinburgh Square in March 2020.

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Contact Christina at newednews@hotmail.com for details.

Managing Editor(s)wanted

The New Edinburgh News needs a new managing editor (or editors) starting as soon as possible, ahead of our October edition. This role could be divided between two people: the management side and the editing side.

The “managing” part:

- Check emails daily, answer phone calls and keep on top of correspondence;
 - Liaise with writers and contributors on deadlines and content;
 - Coordinate with NEN team on deadlines and publishing dates;
 - Attend and host occasional meetings; and
 - Help plan the layout of the paper (what stories go where).
- The “editorial” part
- Excellent command of English writing and grammar a must;
 - Edit all written contributions;
 - Write all headlines and photo captions;
 - Help plan the layout of the paper (what stories go where);
 - Work with production manager and proofreaders during production period; and
 - Attend occasional meetings.

Reliable access to internet, email and phone required.

Established in 1976, the New Edinburgh News is a volunteer-run community paper. It is published five times a year by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance.

For details or to express interest, contact Christina at newednews@hotmail.com

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Bird expert pens new kids' book with environmental message

By Christina Leadlay

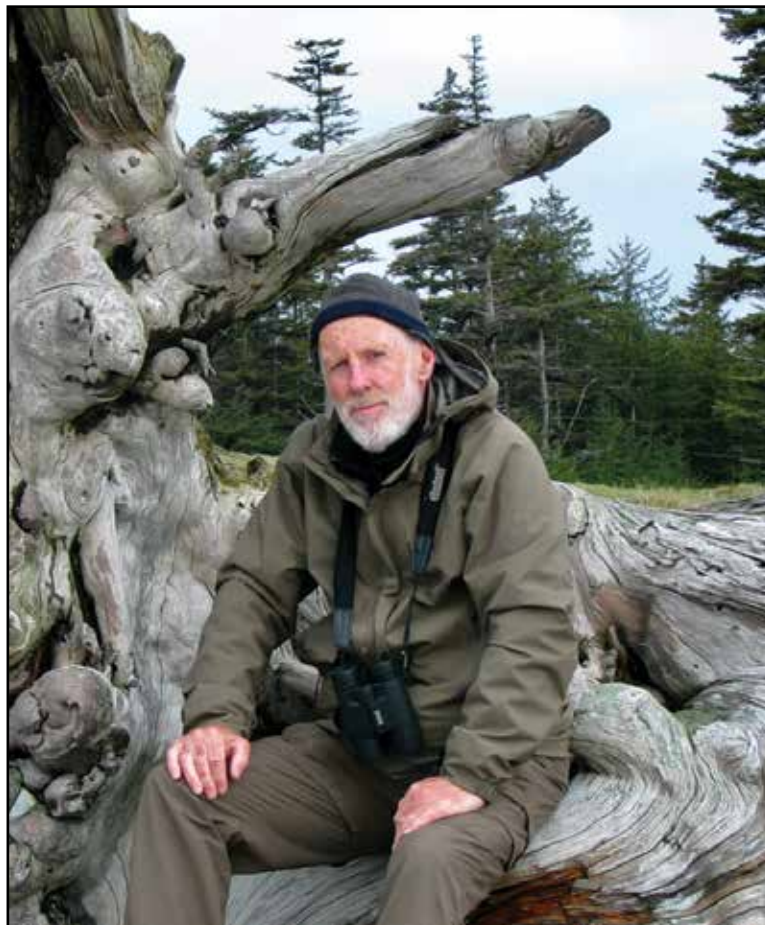
Tony Gaston has added another feather to his literary cap: a children's book about ravens.

A long-time Dufferin Road resident, who first arrived in New Edinburgh with his late wife in the early 1980s, Tony is an ornithologist and prolific writer for whom telling stories about birds comes naturally.

"I write a lot of stories, some of which get published," Tony tells the *New Edinburgh News*. "For some reason, children's stories appeal to me more than adult stories."

"I have written several non-fiction books, mostly about birds, all published in the UK, apart from *Birds of Nunavut*, which was published by UBC Press. I have had one previous children's book (*Children of the Sea*) by the same publishers," he says.

Tony's latest book, *A Raven Conspiracy*, is set on Canada's Pacific coast. The protagonist, an intelligent raven named Krah, attends a gathering of all the world's



New Edinburgh ornithologist and author Tony Gaston's latest book, *A Raven Conspiracy*, is geared to readers aged 7–10 and is set on Haida Gwaii, B.C.

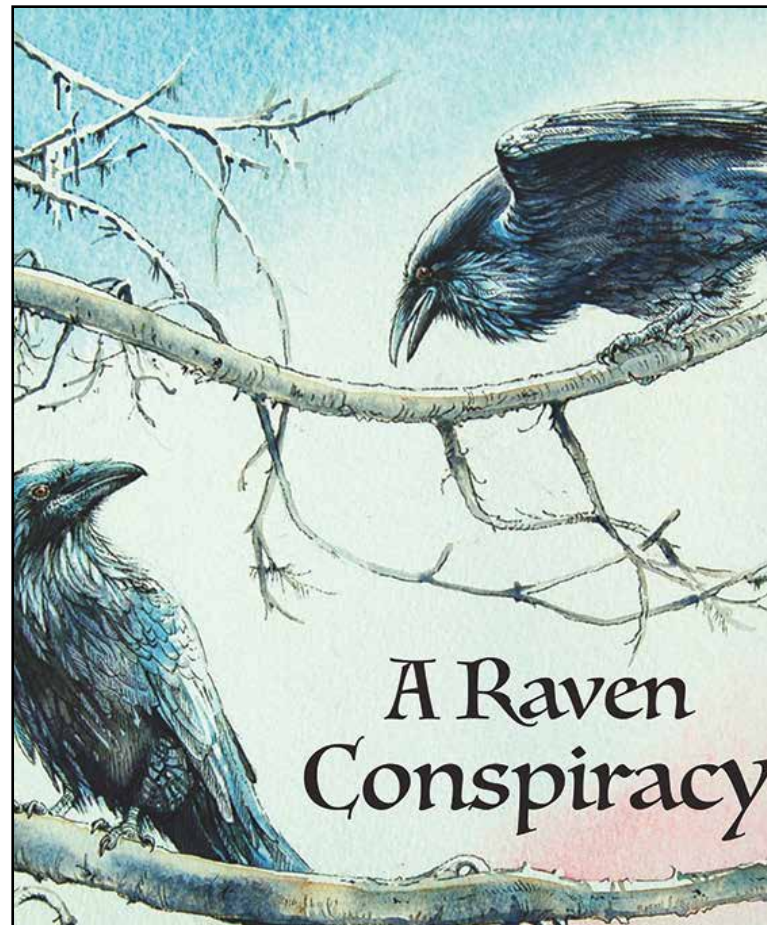


Photo courtesy Tony Gaston

ravens where the corvids consider what they can do to curb humans' careless atti-

tude towards the environment. With the help of some holy men, the ravens decide to take away some children – the one thing that all humans value highly. The children and the ravens become friends, and together they awaken the older generation to the harm that their wasteful ways have on Earth.

As is *Children of the Sea*, *A Raven Conspiracy* featured talking birds, although they do not talk to people, Tony explains. "In both books I try to give some insight into the biology of the birds, while (I hope) creating a good yarn – stealth education, you might say," he says, noting the target audience is readers 7–10 years old.

Born and educated in the United Kingdom, Tony arrived in Canada in 1979 as a research scientist with

Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service based in Gatineau. His work took him to Nunavut and to Haida Gwaii (formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands) in British Columbia in the early 1980s.

"For six years I had a major project on seabird biology and conservation based in Laskeek Bay, just north of what is now the Gwaii Haanas National Park. It is a very magical place," Tony explains.

"The first part of the raven book is set in Laskeek Bay. In fact, I have a particular pair of ravens in mind for my central pair, Krah and Kahline. They nested close to our camp and sometimes ate the birds we were studying, although we never figured out how they caught them!" he says.

After that project ended,

Tony remained involved with the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society, returning to the community annually (except in 2020 and 2021). So his connection to the community and to the ravens remains current and runs deep.

The book's illustrator, Judy Hilgemann, also worked on *Children of the Sea* and is based in Daajing Giids (formerly Queen Charlotte City on Haida Gwaii). Tony notes she, too, is a raven enthusiast.

With *A Raven Conspiracy* complete, Tony has many more projects on the go. He is focused on finishing *Heart of India*, the working title for a book which he expects will be self-published. It chronicles his travels in India with his late wife, Anne-Marie Gaston, who frequently performed Indian classical dances at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. He tells *NEN* that he is also currently working on two papers on long-term biological monitoring in the Arctic and has "a mass of data on local sparrows to write up."

A Raven Conspiracy is available through the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society website: laskeekbay.org/shop-1.



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Lindenlea doctor helps refugee families settle into their new lives

By Debjani Mitra

This column aims to be the first in a series showcasing the people in our neighbourhood who embody the spirit of volunteerism, where residents often come together to support each other. In addition to formal volunteering projects, this column hopes to spotlight the people behind informal acts of kindness and neighborliness.

Meet Anne Galipeau, a resident of nearby Lindenlea for 19 years.

Tell me about yourself

As a medical doctor, I am interested in helping people. I am also curious about the world and I like to broaden my experiences by meeting others.

What inspired you to volunteer with Afghan refugees?

I was horrified about the tragic situation in Afghanistan and wanted to do something concrete to help. It is easy to feel helpless and even hopeless when confronted by cruelty. And hearing of the Taliban killing and imprisoning innocent people – women especially – made me want to stand with the people of Afghanistan. The rights of women are so important and to see them being violated so flagrantly was so distressing. I have had the privilege of an excellent education, and I was determined to help girls especially gain knowledge and skills, and in so doing, become powerful agents of change and make the world a better place.

You and I participated in the Friends of the Family program. Is there anything that you are drawing on from that experience in your work right now?

Working with Friends of the Family a few years ago made me think that I wanted to be more involved if another opportunity to help newcomers came along. The Syrian family we worked with were very grateful and generous, which was inspiring, given all they had been through. Also, despite a significant language barrier, we were able to communicate, especially with the children, who learned English so quickly. Both families are



Photo courtesy Anne Galipeau
Anne Galipeau is a medical doctor who has volunteered with different groups helping newly arrived refugees adapt to living in Canada.

very hospitable and welcoming. That experience made me feel like I was ready for a more significant contribution and to want to help right from the start when they arrived in Canada.

What are the top two or three things you'd like to share with our community about your experience?

It's important for people to know how grateful newcomers to Canada are for every little bit of help we can give them. With so many worldwide tragedies, one can feel so helpless. But channeling that emotion into something productive is a great source of meaning and purpose. Also, getting to know people from the wider world can make us so grateful for what we have that we may take for granted.

For those who would like to know more about your work, where can we go for more information?

Our [informal] group [called Afghans to Beechwood] was organized by a volunteer from New Edinburgh, Chantal Vicha. She can be reached at Chantal.Vicha@

gmail.com for more information and other volunteer opportunities with new families. One can also contact Don Smith at Don-Smith@Ottawa.Anglican.ca from the Anglican Diocese. The group has supported many refugee groups over the years, and they are well set up to point one in the right direction for different opportunities and information.

Debjani Mitra has lived in New Edinburgh for 13 years.

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Wilderness-loving Burgh artist holds solo show in Chelsea

By Marta M. Reyes

New Edinburgh resident and artist Dawn McArthur is inviting everyone to visit nature as she sees it depicted in her paintings. Through her art, Dawn dabbles in a colourful and joyful world inhabited by whimsical creatures among bright backdrops. A self-proclaimed landscape and wilderness lover and visual artist, Dawn draws her inspiration from the changing seasons, the water, the sky, the trees, and the local fauna near her cottage on the Quebec side of the Ottawa river. Her painting style is as much about telling tales as it is about seeing stories as they unfold in her paintings.

"I'm fascinated by what I see around me," says Dawn. "My paintings tell a story, similar to Indigenous art: the fish in the water; the turtle under the canoe. That is why I like colourful, joyful paintings. They are personal stories that tie in with my feelings."

Dawn's work is currently on exhibition at La Fab sur Mill art gallery in Chelsea, Que. Aptly named *Joy in the Wilderness*, the show features some of her most colourful pieces – 32 of them – and one work in progress. The gallery bills Dawn's exhibit as "inspired by Post-

Impressionism, Woodland Art, a touch of Realism and a pinch of Surrealism." On Mar. 25, visitors had the chance to meet Dawn and chat with her as she worked on a painting.

"The exhibit is all about recognizing the joy people can feel when they surround themselves in nature," says Dawn about *Joy in the Wilderness*. "All the paintings are a reflection of wilderness, they all have a similar style and technique, so they are very cohesive."

Using acrylics, Dawn paints in the pointillism technique, which involves painting small dots that (in the distance) blend together to create an image. She loosely follows an Indigenous painting style and also finds inspiration in the Woodland Art style of Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau.

Dawn recently returned to Ottawa after living in Toronto for the past 18 years. She says it was in Ottawa that she fell in love with art some years ago, when her daughter's Grade 1 teacher asked her to help with the art class. Until then, Dawn says she had only dabbled in visual art, but little did she know that helping in her daughter's class would be the start of a new career and lifestyle. Soon Dawn was creating lesson plans as part



"Quebec Homecoming" by Dawn McArthur, acrylic on canvas.

of the school's art program. Her own children participated until they were in Grade 6. Once she moved to Toronto, Dawn was fully committed to being an artist. She opened an art school where she welcomed and taught students for 10 years – some from the age of three. Now her own

seven-year-old grandson is a budding artist.

Since returning to Ottawa, Dawn has found a welcoming art haven in New Edinburgh, which is well-known for a thriving group of artists with whom Dawn has made a connection. She is now dedicated to painting full time.

While she enjoyed teaching art, Dawn says she could not do lesson plans and her own work in tandem. She says she paints on average eight to 10 hours a day, and does it whenever inspiration hits. With the Rideau River nearby and her cottage in Quebec, subjects to fill her canvas are abundant.

"I take my inspiration from nature, around the cottage and the wilderness around us," Dawn explains. "I find it everywhere, and it fills me up with joy when I'm out in nature, either canoeing, kayaking, or hiking."

Dawn's solo exhibit at La Fab sur Mill art gallery is on until Apr. 16. The exhibit is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1–5 p.m.

On Apr. 8, the gallery is celebrating Dawn's birthday with cupcakes and a scavenger hunt, leading visitors through the paintings in search for answers. To participate, visit the gallery's website at lafabsurmill.ca. To view Dawn's exhibit, visit the gallery at 8 Chemin Mill, Chelsea, Que.

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

Mackay United hosts talk on intimate partner violence

By Eleanor Dunn

"On the morning of Friday, May 3, 1963, I emerged from my bedroom in my pyjamas to have breakfast with my parents in our home in Calgary, Alberta."

University of Ottawa Professor Sharon Cook was 16 years old at the time, a typical high-school student. Entering the kitchen to join her parents, she found them ashen faced, listening to a news broadcast on CBC Radio. This was how her parents learned that her father's brother, her Uncle Bob, had murdered his family in the small hamlet of Castleton, Ont. His wife, Florence, his sister Gladys, his daughter Pearl and Florence's daughter, little Patsy, plus Florence and Pearl's unborn children – six people in all – were dead. Sharon's parents left immediately for Ontario to

bring back Sharon's surviving cousins, Brian and Margaret (Peggy). Peggy had survived by running away and hiding in a ditch near the home.

Sharon Cook and Margaret (Peggy) Carson have detailed this tragedy in their book, *The Castleton Massacre*, published in 2022 and named by the *Globe and Mail* as one of the best 100 Canadian books from last year.

Mackay United Church Women presents an evening with the authors on May 24 at 7 p.m. in MacKay's sanctuary. Free of charge and open to the public, this event will provide information and promote public discourse on the important social issue of intimate partner violence against women.

The authors' presentation will address the research findings around the larger issue of femicide within which the book is a case study. Cook



Photo courtesy Eleanor Dunn
Newspaper headlines from 1963 regarding the Castleton massacre. A survivor of this event, Margaret Carson, will speak about femicide at an event hosted by MacKay United Church on May 24.

and Carson will present a summary of the book, the research on the rationale of men who commit femicide, and some recent figures on the persistence of intimate violence, especially during the pandemic period.

Every six days a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. Despite the fact it is a major social issue, where coroners' inquests are frequently held and coroners' juries make recommendations, much of this advice is never acted upon by the governments or agencies the jury has called upon to act.

Case in point and close to home: the coroner's inquest into the deaths of three Renfrew County women in 2015 made 86 recommendations. Some 29 have yet to be implemented. The Ontario government says more analysis is needed.

Here in Ottawa, last year there

were 16 homicides. Seven of the victims were women. City Councillors Ariel Troster and Theresa Kavanagh have persuaded Ottawa City Council to adopt one of the Renfrew County's jury recommendations: their motion to have femicide declared an epidemic in Ottawa was passed by Council on Mar. 8. And the Ottawa Police Service has started using the term "femicide" in its public statements.

Please join the audience for this special event on May 24 at 7 p.m. in MacKay United's sanctuary, 39 Dufferin Rd.

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.



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The Village: A history of New Edinburgh nears its final stages

By Janet Uren

We're getting there! Historian Martha Edmond and I, a writer, have been working intermittently since 2014 on a full-scale history of the village of New Edinburgh. At long last, we can see the end of the journey, and we anticipate publication in summer 2024.

This community has an extraordinarily rich heritage as Algonquin Anishinaabe territory, and the story begins there, continuing on through New Edinburgh's European settler beginnings. Founded in 1829 as an industrial village mostly by Scots and Irish settlers, New Edinburgh welcomed Canada's governor general in 1864 and a population of civil servants from the 1860s and 1870s onwards. In the 1880s in particular, a community of Pomeranian Germans settled in New Edinburgh. As the years passed, people arrived from other corners of the world, including such exotic places as Siberia and the Russian Pale of Settlement. We have found the story of this little community to be unexpectedly rich; really, the story of Canada in microcosm.

In appearance, the village is largely a monument to an earlier time. The poverty that struck working class New Edinburgh during the 20th century prevented most people from upgrading and replacing their houses. What



Photo courtesy Archives of Ontario

A watercolour painted in 1845 by Thomas Burrowes showing the mills at the Rideau Falls and some of the earliest buildings along what is now Sussex Drive.

remains in 2023, therefore, is a rare survival of a much older village. Some two-thirds of the houses in the Heritage District Conservation Area were built before 1900.

"We believe that the story of this little community will be of interest to local residents," says Martha, "but not to them alone. Many of the themes that run through New Edinburgh have national significance – industrial development, political develop-

ment, the urban pressures of today and so on."

Basically, the research phase for this book is complete, and text has been drafted for up to the 1860s, including the complicated story of the mills at Rideau Falls. "This has been very hard to untangle," says Martha, "and there is so much incomplete and incorrect information out there, but I think we now have a definitive story to tell."

Chapters have also been

drafted dealing with the story of schools and churches in the village, the German community in New Edinburgh and the history of commerce (mainly on Crichton Street). The story of childhood as it was experienced in the past has also been captured, as well as the enthralling story of the Vanier Parkway extension, based on interviews with most of the main protagonists of that 30-year struggle – from 1969 to 1999 – to

prevent Stanley Park from being absorbed by pavement. As well, we have completed numerous sidebars and sections on specific houses, families, individuals and businesses.

The book now has a name: *The Village*, in recognition of the fact that New Edinburgh – which will be turning 200 years old in 2029 – by some strange geographic alchemy, has managed to retain its historic shape, its boundaries and some of its character, even after being absorbed by the City of Ottawa in 1887.

Martha and I want the book to be useful to scholars, but we also want it to be entertaining and interesting for the general reader. We will be including lots of images and working with a graphic artist to make sure that it is visually appealing and easy to browse through. For the convenience of scholars, it will be fully referenced and will have an index. As for size: "It will be a substantial book," says Martha.

We have underwritten the cost of the research and writing, and plan to launch a crowdfunding solicitation

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Continued on page 33



Photo courtesy Brian Mallon
Carpenter Henry Avery with his granddaughter on River Lane, c. 1912.

Continued from page 32
early in 2024 to help cover the costs of graphic art and printing. Those who support the publication then will be eligible for first-edition signed copies at a discounted price (to be determined). To pre-order a copy of *The Village*, please write to Martha Edmond at martha.edmond@bell.net. And stay tuned!

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Photo courtesy of Robert de Bellefeuille
Crichton Motors (1956), which stood opposite Crichton Street School from the 1940s to the 1980s.

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Ontario Welsh Festival returns to Ottawa April 21–23

By Alison Lawson

After having to cancel in 2020 because of the pandemic and after a lengthy pandemic break, we are delighted and excited to let you know that the Ontario Welsh Festival is back in town, April 21–23.

If you have Welsh anywhere in your ancestry or if you are simply interested in Welsh music and culture, you are in for a real treat. The festival is an annual celebration of Welsh music and culture, drawing visitors from all over Canada, the United States, and Wales. First held in Niagara Falls in 1961, it has travelled throughout the province since then, from Ottawa to Windsor.

We are honoured to have three very talented young soloists from Wales – John Ieuan Jones, Steffan Lloyd Owen and Eiry Price – together with their renowned accompanist, Rhiannon Pritchard, taking part in a “Voices of Wales” concert at Christ Church Cathedral on Apr. 22, with tickets available to the public. It will be a night to remember.

Another highlight of the festival will be the traditional community hymn singing



Photos courtesy Alison Lawson

Three talented Welsh soloists – John Ieuan Jones, Steffan Lloyd Owen and Eiry Price – will take part in a ‘Voices of Wales’ concert on Apr. 22, part of the Ontario Welsh Festival.

session, known in Welsh as a “Gymanfa Ganu,” where favourite hymns will be sung by the congregation in four-part harmony. This will be held at Christ Church Cathedral on Apr. 23 at 12:30 p.m. There will be a free-will offering.

While the concert and hymn-singing sessions are open to the public, registration for the festival is encouraged, allowing you attend the

other cultural events, including:

- the “te bach” (tea and Welsh cakes) with harp entertainment by Mary Muckle on the afternoon of Apr. 21
- the informal talent show known as a “Noson Lawen” that evening, and
- various activities on Apr. 22, such as a seminar on the history of the translation of the Bible into Welsh, and Cinema Wales where you

can watch *The Circus* (Y Syrcas) a heart-warming tale of a Victorian travelling circus which visits Tregaron in Ceredigion and which faces a mixed reception from a village steeped in superstition (in Welsh with subtitles).

In addition, a fascinating tour of Ottawa with a Welsh flavour is planned for the afternoon of Apr. 22 (there is an additional charge for this event).

The festival will be based at the Hilton Garden Inn on Queen Street. You don’t have to speak or understand Welsh to enjoy any of this, since all events are introduced in English.

Why not mark the festival on your calendar and join us? Please visit our website at ontariowelshfestival.ca/ or email us at info2023@ontariowelshfestival.ca.

Alison Lawson, on behalf of the Ontario Welsh Festival, under the auspices of the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association.



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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.

Local library branch has activities for all ages this spring

By Martha Hodgson

Rockcliffe Park Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd., has a lot of exciting programming for you to enjoy this spring! Much of the programming is made possible by proceeds from the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, which is on hiatus, but still raising funds through periodic book drives. Come visit any time and enjoy some of the following programs. Please note that registrations can be done in person, by phone or online at bibliootawalibrary.ca/en.

Toddlers' Tunes and Toys – Every Tuesday afternoon, 2–3 p.m. Join other toddlers and their parent or caregiver for a story and a song. Then stay and play with fun, self-directed activities and toys. Occasionally, we will have a special guest performer. Come and meet old friends and new! Ages 18 months–3 years. Drop-in. English program.

Family Storytime at the library – Every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes, and songs for children and a parent or caregiver.

er. All ages. Drop-in. English program.

Rockcliffe Park Book Club – First Tuesday of every month, 1:30–2:30 p.m. On Apr. 4 the book club will be discussing *Save Me the Plums* by Ruth Reichel.

Music in the Stacks – Apr. 27 from 4–5 p.m. Drop-in.

Staff Recommendations

If you are looking for your next great book, come in to the Rockcliffe Park Library Branch and chat with our knowledgeable staff! Or have a look at our display of staff

picks. Here is a snapshot of what you might discover:

Tim's favourite genre is horror fiction. He also likes mysteries and knows a lot about good teen fiction. Tim's April pick: *Endurance* by J.A. Konrath.

Suzanne loves science fiction. One of her all-time favourite books is Becky Chambers' *To Be Taught, if Fortunate*.

Elizabeth reads historical and dystopian fiction. Her favourite historical fiction book is *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton.

This month she recommends *Her Last Flight* by Beatriz Williams.

My favourite genre is contemporary fiction. This spring I am reading one Maggie O'Farrell book after another, and I can recommend them all. O'Farrell's first book is *After You'd Gone*.

Martha Hodgson is a librarian at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd. Learn more at bibliootawalibrary.ca or call 613-580-2940.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Happy Holidays!

As we welcome Spring 2023 in finally, the *New Edinburgh News* team would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy Ramadan, Passover and Easter to you and your loved ones.

Easter Services

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

125 MacKay St. stbarts@bellnet.ca. stbartsottawa.ca

April 6: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist.

April 7: Good Friday Service, 10:30 a.m.

April 9: Easter Sunday Service, Holy Eucharist Service, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

MacKay United Church

39 Dufferin Rd. 613-749-8727. mackayunited.ca

April 7: Good Friday Service at 10:30 a.m.

April 9: Easter Sunday Service with communion and special music 10:30 a.m.

April

April 9 – Curiosity Sessions online at mackayunited.ca. MacKay United Church presents a series of 10 short videos recently recorded at the church on the subject of curiosity and its effect on learning and spirituality through music (The Kindness of Jazz) and the spoken word. The videos will be available weekly.

Until 16 April – “Joy in the Wilderness” exhibit at the Centre des La Fab sur Mill Arts Centre, 8 ch. Mill, Chelsea, Que. 819-827-3326. lafabsurmill.ca. galerie@lafabsurmill.ca. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 1–5 p.m. Step into New Edinburgh artist Dawn McArthur's world of wonder and joy as you walk through her collection of vibrant acrylic paintings. Details, p. 30.

April 18 – NECA Meeting happening online. 7:30 p.m. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). Visit newedinburgh.ca for the meeting link and agenda.

April 21–23 – Welsh Festival at the Hilton Garden Inn, 361 Queen St. ontariowelshfestival.ca, email: info2023@ontariowelshfestival.ca. The Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association hosts the Welsh Festival, featuring concerts by Welsh performers and a hymn sing at Christ Church Cathedral on Apr. 23. Details, p.34.

April 22 – Park Clean-Up Day at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 2–4 p.m. NECA's Friends of the Park

committee hosts a clean-up event. Meet us behind the fieldhouse to pick up gloves and bags provided by the City's Clean Up the Capital program. Rain date: Apr. 23, 2–4 p.m. Details: p. 15.

April 22 – Free tax clinic at 237 Montreal Rd. 9 a.m.–1 p.m. MP Mona Fortier and MPP Lucille Collard host a free tax clinic at their offices on 237 Montreal Rd. To book an appointment please call 613-744-4484.

April 30 – Book Drive in the parking lot behind the library, 380 Springfield Rd. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Pack your donations of gently used books (English and French only) in wine-size boxes; place in the trunk of your vehicle; then drive to the parking lot where volunteers with the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale will guide you. Please use Springfield Road entrance. All proceeds go to the library.

May

May 2 – Music and Meditation at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. 7p.m. For more information on this event, visit mackayunitedchurch.org.

May 13 – Garden Day at the New Edinburgh Park

Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. The Crichton Community Council's traditional Mother's Day Plant Sale is evolving into Garden Day. Come with your wagon, your wallet, and your gardening questions. Enjoy a series of speakers, Q&A forums, information tables, and a garden bed ready to be planted out by children. Visit newedinburgh.ca/events closer to the date for more details.

May 16 – NECA Meeting happening online. 7:30 pm. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). Visit newedinburgh.ca for the meeting link and agenda.

May 24 – Book Event at MacKay United Church. 7 p.m. 39 Dufferin Rd. mackayunitedchurch.org. Ottawa author Sharon Cook will give a presentation about her latest novel *The Castleton Massacre – Survivors' Stories of the Killins Femicide*. Q&A and discussion to follow. Details, p. 30.

May 28 – Beechwood Cemetery Stroll, 280 Beechwood Ave. Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada, hosts a guided historical tour through its grounds.

Rain or shine at 1 p.m. The stroll is led by trained volunteers and focuses on local history and notable features and sections within this National Historic Site. This free, family friendly stroll is a gentle 1.5–2 hour walk and is wheelchair accessible. Wear suitable clothing. Register online at beechwoodottawa.ca.

June

June 3–4 – Doors Open Ottawa at various locations. ottawa.ca. The City of Ottawa hosts its annual Doors Open event. Visit more than 100 significant buildings, including many that normally charge admission or are closed to the public, for free. Some in-person and others online. Explore embassies, breweries, churches, museums and other fascinating places during Doors Open Ottawa. Check online for the complete list of participating buildings for this year's event.

June 6 – Music and Meditation at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. 7 p.m. For more information on this event, visit mackayunitedchurch.org.

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.

Burgh Breezy Bits

Congratulations



Photo by Lucille Collard

While New Edinburgh residents were inconvenienced with traffic disruptions during U.S. President **Joe Biden** and his wife **Jill**'s state visit from March 23-24, you can't fault the First Couple for not supporting local business. MPP **Lucille Collard** tweeted on March 25 that both Bidens had their hair done by **Ray El Hage**, owner of Rassi Coiffure at 2 Beechwood Ave. The politician stopped into the salon herself for a fresh new look. Congratulations to Ray for scoring such top clients!



Photo by Catherine Lindquist

Gail McEachern, chair of NECA's Heritage and Development Committee, staffed the NECA table at the Heritage Day Fair at City Hall on Feb. 21. This year's theme was "Recovering and Connecting Ottawa's Heritage – Stronger Together." The event was well attended by the many local historical societies, museums, and other associate groups that make up Ottawa's heritage community, all happy to be back

in-person after the pandemic hiatus. Heritage Ottawa received a proclamation from Mayor **Mark Sutcliffe** in recognition of its commitment to the preservation of Ottawa's unique built heritage and cultural landscapes for over 50 years.



Photo courtesy Joana Chelo

Congratulations to 12-year-old **Jack d'Orgeville** of Crichton Street who has biked to school almost every single day this winter. His perseverance is a true testament to the joys of winter biking and the pleasure of living up to a self-set challenge.

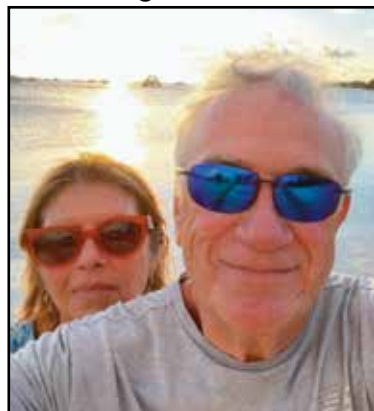


Photo courtesy Sarah Archer

April marks a milestone birthday for **John Donnelly**, who will celebrate 75 years young. He and his wife, **Sarah Archer**, returned to Ontario from Nova Scotia in 2017 and picked New Edinburgh to call home. While they love winter in the 'hood, they also like to escape sometimes to Antigua!

A happy Easter Sunday birthday to **Oliver Leadlay** who turns 15 years old on Apr. 9.

The newly rebuilt Vanier Sugar Shack officially reopened on Mar. 28. Mayor **Mark Sutcliffe** and Vanier Museopark's executive director **Madeleine Meilleur** were at the event, part of the 38th Vanier Sugar Festival activities from Mar. 27–Apr. 2. The original *cabane à sucre* was destroyed by arson in August 2020. That, coupled with the pandemic, put all sugar-related events on pause (no tapping of the maple

trees, either). According to the *Ottawa Citizen*, Vanier's sugarbush history stretches back nearly 85 years. Visit the little urban sugar shack at 320 des Pères-Blancs Ave. near the Vanier branch of the public library. Learn more at museoparc.ca.

Farewell & Welcome

At the end of November, the congregation of St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church at 125 MacKay St. bade farewell to their rector of 14 years. Several events were held to mark the retirement of the Rev. Canon **David Clunie**, including a fine concert where community leaders joined parishioners to highlight his many contributions to both the parish and the wider community. Throughout Rev. Clunie's time at St. Bart's, music was central to his style of worship, supported by the parish's talented organist and musical director, **Tim Piper**. During Rev. Clunie's tenure, a new Létourneau organ was installed and the spectacular East window by Irish artist **Wilhelmina Geddes** was restored. He recently directed a documentary about the window: *In the Company of Angels*. Beyond his leadership at St. Bart's, Rev. Clunie also

served as padre to the Governor General's Foot Guards and chaplain to Ashbury College. The parish wishes Rev. Clunie all the very best in his retirement.



Photo courtesy Judy Wiesinger

Meanwhile, St. Bartholomew's new priest arrived on Mar. 13. The Rev. Canon **Catherine Ascah** (above) has been ordained for 18 years, serving in institutional chaplaincy and in parish ministry in rural, small town, and Cathedral contexts, most recently as the incumbent of St. John the Evangelist in Smiths Falls, Ont. Prior to her ordination, she worked for 10 years in the private sector. St. Bart's parish is very much looking forward to her leadership. Welcome to St. Bart's and to the neighbourhood, Canon Ascah!

Miscellaneous

Roslyn and Don Butler, formerly of Avon Lane (now residents of Lowertown) have returned from a trip to Malta. "If you are seriously interested in history, the island nation of Malta is for you," Roslyn reports. "It offers at least 7,000 years of historical sites from massive stone Neolithic temples up to a heroic WWII fight for survival against the German and Italian Nazis," she says. "The food was great, heavily influenced by nearby Italy, the weather in February to March was a spring-like, sunny 17–19C° with a landscape totally different from Canada."



Photo by Evgeny Pavlenko

New Edinburgh resident **Evgeny Pavlenko** came across a beaver on the Rideau River ice while walking through the park on Mar. 6, and shared the image with his friend **Alex Davidson** who in turn passed it along to *NEN*. Alex feels the beaver is a great emblem not only of our country, but also of our district. "It is also a great harbinger of spring as the ice breaks up," he wrote.

Notice

Stanley Avenue from Sussex Drive to Union Street will be under construction from late April/early May to the end of 2023 as part of a watermain renewal project, according to the City of Ottawa. This will involve replacing the aging infrastructure with new watermain, water service lines, roadway, sidewalk, and streetscape and landscape treatments. Speed humps, sidewalk widening, and new signage are among the improvements. Some work will also take place between Union and Queen Victoria Streets. Expect disruptions to accessibility, on-street parking, and temporary water services on the street. Contact manager ziad.wehbe@ottawa.ca.



Photo by Preeti Prabhu

Neighbours in the condo complex at 319 Mackay St. including **Preeti Prabhu**, **Ian Mackay** and **Bridget Barber** (with **Dickon** the dog) are quite fond of the lampshade person they created this winter. "We're also fascinated by the orderly way they have diminished! The cry 'I'm melting, I'm melting!' Comes to mind," says Bridget.