

JUNE 2023

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Photo by Alexander McKenzie

Education about the park rules for all users will hopefully prevent unpleasant interactions.

## ‘Off-leash’ doesn’t mean ‘anything goes’ in our parks

By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall

We are very fortunate to live in a neighbourhood with multiple parks and green spaces at our disposal, many of which are off-leash dog parks. We understand that Stanley Park and New Edinburgh Park were designated as off-leash dog parks for over 20 years. Residents in our community recognize that having green space to walk or allow their dogs to run and socialize is hugely important!

However, since the pandemic, the volume and diversity of people using the park has increased substantially. As well, we are seeing many more cyclists in the park, which means lots of activity especially during peak periods like weekends

and evenings.

As such, incidents – or even accidents – can happen between dogs, people and cyclists, so we are asking everyone to please be mindful of this and be respectful when enjoying this beautiful natural setting.

With park users’ best interests in mind, we would like to issue some friendly reminders:

**Cyclists: please slow down.**

**Dog owners: please keep an eye on your pet and manage social interactions with others.**

While incidents between dogs and humans are still infrequent, they are cause for concern. Last year there was a collision between a cyclist and a dog, which resulted in

injuries. This past April, a local dog owner was walking with her dog (on-leash) on the path near the fieldhouse when a puppy knocked her down from behind resulting in a significant leg injury.

This last interaction prompted a discussion on dogs in the park at the May 16 board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance. Dozens of residents tuned in to the virtual meeting. City Councillor Rawlson King started the discussion by saying that the City is taking a proactive approach by adding by-law officers to monitor dogs in areas such as ours to ensure responsible pet owner practices. He spoke about more education, enhanced signage, and con-

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## This piano carries more than a tune

By Elizabeth Gray-Smith

My father used to say that playing the piano gave him a formidable handshake. That firm grip would be deployed many times in his 40-year career as a federal politician, when agreements and policies could be sealed with eye contact and a handshake.

My father learned to play the piano as a child, not by choice at first, but under his mother’s insistence.

His parents had individually fled the rising antisemitism in Belarus in the early 1900s, neither knowing what lay ahead for them in a new country. But they each made


it to Canada, and they found each other, both with similar stories of leaving family behind. Together they fed their aspirations of making a prosperous life in Windsor, Ont.

My grandfather started peddling dry goods, eventually opening a department store bearing his family name. My grandmother was a nurse, supporting a surgeon’s office in Detroit.

A dream of hers was to own a piano. She thought that classy people had pianos – it would be a symbol of “making it.” When the economy hit turmoil in 1929

and Detroit families faced financial trouble, she began to acquire items – fur, art, Royal Doulton teacups – and her prize possession: a used, medium-grand Steinway & Sons piano. It was the first thing you’d see as you walked into their house. The lid was always up, the strings sparkling in the sun, and the wood metronome kept in position. The Steinway was on display. And it was to be played by their son, who would make the trip across the Detroit River for lessons every week, crossing what was then a

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### Chief Pinesi Day 2023

July 1st  
9 am – 4:30 pm  
New Edinburgh Park

Come celebrate the Algonquin presence and learn about Chief Pinesi at this full-day program led by the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation:

- Sacred Fire Ceremony (9 am)
- Land tours of Chief Pinesi Portage Trail
- Smudging Ceremony
- Drumming, dancing and storytelling
- Medicine Paddle along the Ottawa River (3:30 pm)



## Farmers’ market returns to Fieldhouse

By Chris Penton

The Beechwood Market will be back in action beginning Jun. 3, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. It will run for 20 weeks until Thanksgiving weekend, Oct. 7. Believe it or not, this will be the 10th season of the Beechwood Market! More on that in a minute.

The market can be found in its relatively new home in New Edinburgh Park, 203 Stanley Ave. surrounding the Fieldhouse. Marketgoers can send their children off to the play area or soccer field while they peruse the array of products from local vendors and listen to live music.

To name a few returning vendors, you’ll find Ubuntu Gardens, Nat’s Bread, Hall’s Apples, Cloud Forest Coffee (he guarantees me drip coffee every Saturday), Bicycle Craft Brewery, Foster Family Farm (July start), Le Momo, and Indian Haveli.

Stay tuned to the market website – [beechwoodmarket.ca](http://beechwoodmarket.ca) – for more vendor news. We’ll bring you the best of what Ottawa has to offer, as always!

I started the Beechwood

Market in the summer of 2014 as a community gathering spot. Recruit a few vendors, book some live music, add a bit of kids’ entertainment (anyone remember the bouncy castle?) and presto! It was a basic formula, and luckily it worked that first season.

Our initial location was the old Desjardins bank parking lot on Beechwood at Champlain Avenue. We found it a bit dusty, so we soon moved across the street to the front lawn of the former St. Charles Church (before it became a construction site). Our next stop after that was Optimiste Park off Beechwood at Marier for five years. New Edinburgh Park is our fourth home, and what a beauty!

While it’s never a good idea to move a weekly event, there were extenuating circumstances surrounding each shift. We have been very lucky that the Beechwood Market has only become stronger with each move.

A true feel-good story, the community – from all

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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](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com).

Our next meeting will take place **Tuesday June 20, 7:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday September 12, 7:30 p.m.** Meetings are held in person at the Fieldhouse. Contact [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com) for details.

### Your NECA Representatives 2022-2023

Contact anyone below through [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca)

Sarah Anson-Cartwright

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

### Ex officio:

Chris Straka	<b>President, CCC</b>
Christina Leadlay	<i>New Edinburgh News</i> 613-261-0442 <a href="mailto:newednews@hotmail.com">newednews@hotmail.com</a>

Learn more at  
[newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)

## Awaiting studies on winter traffic, commercial corridor and gardens

By Ray Boomgaardt,  
NECA co-president

This month I want to talk to you about three things happening in our community: one is an annual activity, another is a local planning study, and the third is a city-building activity.

### Park cleanup

The annual activity was the spring cleanup of the park on April 22, Earth Day. There was great participation, and it was a beautiful sunny day. Early in the morning the river banks had been cleaned up, and there were already large bags, stuffed with debris, stacked near the fieldhouse when I arrived that afternoon.

But the park itself was astonishingly clean! We heard later that Fern Hill School had come the previous day. Thanks to their hard work, there was little for us to do but stand around and tell stories! Our MPP, Lucille Collard, joined us, and it was a great chance to meet her and the other volunteers.

### Snowbanks, parking and buses, oh my!

At our April board meeting, Councillor Rawlson King told us that he's asked City staff to look into what can be done to prevent the situation that arose this past winter when wide snowbanks and parked vehicles blocked OC Transpo buses on Crichton Street. He is consulting with the NECA Board and the community on the results of the study.

### Beechwood/Hemlock commercial corridor

The third thing I want to draw to your attention is the planning process for the Beechwood Corridor. New Edinburgh, and our neighbouring communities—Vanier, Lindenlea and Manor Park—have already put a lot of work into this over the years; unfortunately,



with little lasting impact on the City's approval process for new construction in the Beechwood/Hemlock corridor. There are now two processes in the works which may change that.

The first, sponsored by Councillor King, is to establish a secondary development planning process for the Beechwood/Hemlock corridor. We expect that process to begin this year.

The second is the development of a secondary development plan for the commercial streets in Vanier. The Official Plan provides for the development of such a plan. However, this plan will not be developed until secondary development plans have been completed for areas adjacent to the new LRT stations. This means that the Vanier commercial streets secondary development plan will not be started until late 2024 at the earliest.

It has apparently been agreed that Beechwood is one of the commercial corridors, and that the secondary development plan for Beechwood should apply to both sides of this corridor (i.e., it includes a 100 metre wide strip of New Edinburgh along Beechwood Avenue). The plan, once finalized and approved, would affect the City's approval processes for developments along this road. However, since Hemlock does not border Vanier, that part of the Hemlock/Beechwood corridor would not be covered. So, there is important work still ahead.

### In other news...

This just in: CTV reports that

the City is on the verge of completing a study that will recommend that residents be allowed to plant flowers in City medians in front of their properties. This was a study that was requested by Councillor King last year when an Alexander Street resident was issued a bylaw infraction notice for planting sunflowers in the median in front of his house. We look forward to hearing the results of the study.

At the May NECA board meeting it was announced that the *New Edinburgh News* has a new editor. **Sharon Nyangweso** is taking on this challenging—but rewarding—role. We are also very saddened to say farewell to long time editor **Christina Leadlay**. Her steadfast dedication over the past nine years has allowed our community paper not just to survive (even through the pandemic) but to thrive. Thank you!

Also at that meeting, there was a lengthy discussion about dogs (both on- and off-leash) in the park and how to best ensure the safety of all park users (see p. 1 for more on this.) Let's all remember to maintain good park etiquette—cyclists, dog owners and pedestrians—so that we can all safely enjoy our public green space.

NECA, Kichi Sibi Trails and the Crichton Community Council are supporting **Chief Pinesi Day's** return to the Fieldhouse area on July 1. A celebration of the area's Indigenous presence, this day-long event begins at 9 a.m. with a sacred fire featuring drumming, singing, dancing, storytelling and prayers. Tours of the revitalized Chief Pinesi Portage Trail between the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers will be available, as will be educational walks along the Rideau River and a Medicine Paddle from Governor Bay on the Ottawa (for those willing to get their feet wet). (Details, p.15). To get involved, contact [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com)

Lastly, the **next NECA board meeting on June 20** (which will be the last one before the summer hiatus), will take place **in person** at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

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# The News will keep on coming



**Christina Leadlay**  
Managing Editor

Goodbyes are awkward, so I'm not going to do one. Sure, this is my last edition as managing editor of this volunteer-run community paper, a position I have held since 2014.

Yes, I will miss the thrill of production week(end) when the paper takes shape.

Of course, I will miss the excitement of seeing the paper I worked hours on in print, and of seeing neighbours grabbing a copy, oblivious that the person who spent much of her free time is giving them the side-eye and a smirk of satisfaction.

And absolutely I will miss working with the supportive team at the paper, a few of whom have been with me since 2014 including production manager Dave Rostenne, senior writer Jane Heintzman, and Advisory Board members Cindy Parkanyi, Carolyn Brereton, Gemma Kerr and Roslyn Butler. And to the volunteers who have joined

during my tenure: advertising manager Joana Chelo, distribution manager Karen Harrison, photographer Alexander McKenzie, bookkeeper Nicholas Galambos and my recent co-editor Karen Squires. You couldn't ask for a better team.

But I'm not moving away, and I still plan to be involved as part of the Advisory Board that consults with the managing editor on the forthcoming edition.

So, consider this a thank you to the NEN team, to the New Edinburgh Community Alliance that publishes this paper, and to all the local contributors and our readers who make it all worthwhile. A newspaper is less of a radio and more of a telephone: it's not just some people talking into the void, it's a conversation. The community tells the paper what it should be writing about, we do, and you provide feedback. It's a living thing that reflects what the

residents are thinking about and feeling at that moment. It's a snapshot of a time and place, and ends up becoming part of the historical record. What's not to love about that?

But enough with the farewells.

Please join me in welcoming the new managing editor of the New Edinburgh News, Sharon Nyangweso. She has lived on Ivy Crescent for many years now and has a background in communications. I have had the pleasure of meeting with Sharon half a dozen times now (both virtually and in-person), and she is a bright individual with great ideas, plenty of great questions, and the energy to keep this little newspaper going.

As with any transition, there will be some bumps along the road as I hand over the reins to Sharon, but I am lucky that my co-editor Karen Squires will be staying as part of the team in the near term to help Sharon learn the rhythm of production, the dos and don'ts, and the flow of putting together a newspaper.

I am grateful to Sharon for stepping up to join our team. I am confident she will do well, and that the community will support her as she joins the ranks of clever people who have edited this newspaper over the years.

## Help us redesign our emblem

**By Sarah Anson-Cartwright and Samantha McAleese**

Have you noticed the blue banners hanging from posts and poles around the neighbourhood? These banners let people know that they are, in fact, in New Edinburgh and are adorned with the current emblem that represents the area. After some harsh winter storms – and, more recently, a derecho in 2022 – only one of these banners remains, and now is the time to consider replacing them.

Recent discussions at NECA monthly board meetings have led to a decision that not only should the banners be replaced, but also re-designed. The current emblem on the banners was designed more than 10 years ago, and it features elements that highlight the built heritage of the neighbourhood and the Rideau waterfalls. While these are two important

aspects of New Edinburgh, we are curious about what other features might emerge from a collective re-imagining of the emblem.

For example, the new mural on the Fieldhouse recognizes the unceded Algonquin land and traditional hunting grounds upon which we live, work, and play, and honours local Indigenous history. This mural was revealed as part of the inaugural Chief Pinesi Day celebrations on Jul. 1, 2022, which was an opportunity for learning and reconciliation in New Edinburgh. As we all continue the work of truth and reconciliation, which includes connecting with local Indigenous groups and acknowledging the history of this land as a natural meeting place, we should also consider incorporating elements into our neighbourhood emblem that reflect these efforts.

To move forward with re-

designing the emblem that will eventually be visible around New Edinburgh, a few members of NECA have formed a working group and are starting to plan for community engagement. While we are still working on dates and details, we want as many people to participate in this process as possible – we are particularly excited to hear from younger neighbours willing to share their creative visions!

What comes to mind when you think of New Edinburgh? What would you like to see reflected in the new emblem?

Do you have time to dedicate to this collective community art project? If you have ideas or time to share, please contact Sarah by email at [sarah.ansoncartwright@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.ansoncartwright@gmail.com).

*Sarah Anson-Cartwright and Samantha McAleese are NECA board members.*

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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## In Memoriam: Keith Newton (1942–2023)

The *New Edinburgh News* team was very sad to learn of the death of one of our regular contributors, Keith Newton, on Apr. 29.

According to the obituary written by his sister Eleanor, Keith passed away “on his own terms...through the MAID (medical assistance in dying) programme, after a diagnosis of metastatic pancreatic cancer.”

Keith first reached out to *NEN* in November 2020 looking to contribute some of his writing, which he had been producing every day during the early pandemic lockdowns. After sharing some of his creative writing over a few editions, I had asked Keith to write about his experience living in a retirement home during the pandemic. A former resident of Crichton Street, Keith had moved into the New Edinburgh Square in March 2020 (“Yeah, nice timing,” he said in his introductory email) and so had lived much of his new life under lockdown.

The regular column “Tales from the Square” was born in mid-2021, with Keith con-

*Photo by Christina Leadlay*

**Keith Newton had been a regular contributor to the *New Edinburgh News* since late 2020.**

tributing to each edition with vignettes about the lives of the “rezzers” on the corner of MacKay at Beechwood, how they kept entertained, occupied and healthy (physically and mentally) in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic. He included profiles of notable residents and staff members, and offered a glimpse into what life was like for the seniors there. What would be his final piece, published in the April 2023 edition, was a clear and helpful explanation of many terms used in the assisted living or long-term care industry, complete with examples drawn from his fellow “rezzers” who shared their experiences with him.

While writing was clearly Keith’s passion, his career was spent amongst numbers as an economist.

Keith earned his B.Sc. in Economics from Hull University in England, emigrating to Canada in 1963 to continue his education. He received his Master’s and his Ph.D. from McGill and Simon Fraser University, respectively. After finishing his degree out west, he moved to Ottawa in the early 1970s. Eleanor (who herself emigrated to Canada in 1975 and lives in Cumberland, Ont.) tells the *New Edinburgh News* that Keith and his wife Beryl lived for many years behind Beechwood Cemetery off St. Laurent Blvd.

Keith worked at the Economic Council of Canada, and wrapped up his career at

Carleton University where he was an associate professor of economics with publications to his name.

Eleanor notes that her brother enjoyed sports, having represented Canada in field hockey. He was also an avid squash player, marathon runner, and tennis player. At the Square, Keith kept active, leading exercise classes for residents as a volunteer member of the activities department.

Keith moved to Crichton Street in 2016, Eleanor recalls. Beryl has been in care the nearby Garry J. Armstrong home due to her multiple sclerosis and now Alzheimer’s. She and Keith were married for over 50 years.

Keith moved to the New Edinburgh Square in early 2020, just before the pandemic was declared.

In addition to his daily dose of creative writing (he had also joined a local writing group), Keith followed current affairs and enjoyed quizzing his fellow “rezzers” on world events and politics. He also led a poetry-reading group at the Square.

The *NEN* team will miss Keith’s insights into the lives of the Burgh’s seniors’ community, his gentlemanly charm, and his way with the written word.

A celebration of Keith’s life will be held at a future date.

—Christina Leadlay

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# Updates on road works on Crichton and Springfield this summer



**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

City road infrastructure plays a crucial role in the overall development and functioning of our neighbourhoods. Properly designed and maintained roads enhance safety for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Well-constructed pavement, pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, and dedicated cycling lanes ensure our safety and encourage active modes of transportation. Additionally, well-lit roads, effective signage, and traffic-calming measures contribute to improved road safety. For this reason, I continue to strongly advocate for important investments in infrastructure renewal throughout the Rideau-Rockcliffe ward.

During the 2023 construction season, there will be several investments in road resurfacing in New Edinburgh. As part of the City of Ottawa's annual infrastructure maintenance cycle, road resurfacing will occur along Crichton Street and Springfield Road. The City of Ottawa will be resurfacing roads as preventative maintenance aimed at extending the City's roadway network lifecycle. On Crichton Street, work will involve milling or pulverizing the existing surface, possible granular material placement, adjustment of maintenance hole and catch basin grates, concrete repairs, and roadway resurfacing. Increased noise levels are to be expected in order to facilitate the work. This work on Crichton Street is expected to start the week of May 29 and completion is anticipated by summer 2023. The road will remain open to traffic with lane closures expected. Traffic control personnel will direct traffic through the site. Crichton Street from Dufferin Road to Beechwood Avenue

and from Charles Street to Keefer Street will be resurfaced during the day and will involve minor lane interruptions. Weekend work is anticipated for all locations and traffic interruptions may also be experienced due to flagging operations.

Due to labour and supply chain challenges that delayed construction work across the city last year, road rehabilitation work will resume on Springfield Road, also beginning the week of May 29, with completion also anticipated by summer 2023.

To date, budget allocations for road renewal has totaled \$1.51 million, including: \$300,000 on Crichton Street between Charles and Keefer streets; \$430,000 on Crichton Street between Dufferin Road and Beechwood Avenue; \$570,000 on Springfield Road between Beechwood Avenue and Maple Lane; and \$210,000 on Stanley Avenue from Sussex Drive to Union Street.

As continued investment in well-designed, well-maintained, and efficient road networks is essential for creating livable, vibrant, and prosperous neighbourhoods, my office will continue to have discussions with residents and community organizations on enhancing our streetscapes, including Beechwood Avenue.

Contact city councillor Rawlson King at 613-580-2483, [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) and at [rideaurockcliffe.ca](http://rideaurockcliffe.ca).

\*\*\*

L'infrastructure routière urbaine joue un rôle crucial dans le développement et le fonctionnement de nos quartiers. Des routes correctement conçues et entretenues améliorent la sécurité de tous les usagers de la route, y compris les pié-

tons, les cyclistes et les automobilistes. Des chaussées bien construites, des passages pour piétons, des trottoirs et des bandes cyclables réservés garantissent notre sécurité et encouragent les modes de transport actifs. En outre, des routes bien éclairées, une signalisation efficace et des mesures de modération de la circulation contribuent à améliorer la sécurité routière. C'est pour cette raison que je continue à plaider vigoureusement en faveur d'investissements importants en matière de renouvellement des infrastructures dans l'ensemble du quartier de Rideau-Rockcliffe.

Au cours de la saison de construction 2023, de nombreux investissements seront consacrés au resurfacement de la chaussée à New Edinburgh. Dans le cadre du cycle annuel d'entretien des infrastructures de la Ville d'Ottawa, nous procéderons au resurfacement de la rue Crichton et du chemin Springfield. La Ville d'Ottawa effectuera le resurfacement de chaussées, une mesure d'entretien préventif visant à prolonger la durée de vie du réseau routier de la ville. Sur la rue Crichton, les travaux comprennent le broyage ou la pulvérisation du revêtement existant, le placement possible de matériau granulaire, l'ajustement du regard d'égout et des grilles de puisards de rue, la réparation du béton et l'asphaltage de la chaussée. On s'attend

à ce que le niveau de bruit augmente dans le cadre des travaux. Ces travaux sur la rue Crichton devraient commencer la semaine du 29 mai et s'achever à l'été 2023. La rue demeurera ouverte à la circulation, mais des fermetures de voies sont à prévoir. Des signaleurs routiers seront sur place pour diriger la circulation. La rue Crichton, du chemin Dufferin à l'avenue Beechwood et de la rue Charles à la rue Keefer, sera réasphaltée pendant la journée, ce qui nécessitera quelques interruptions mineures de la circulation. Des travaux devraient avoir lieu la fin de semaine sur tous les chantiers. La circulation pourrait être ralentie en raison de la présence de signaleurs routiers.

En raison des problèmes de main-d'œuvre et de chaîne d'approvisionnement qui ont retardé les travaux de construction dans toute la Ville l'année dernière, les travaux de réfection des routes reprendront sur le chemin Springfield, également à partir de la semaine du 29 mai, et devraient être achevés à l'été

2023.

À ce jour, le budget alloué à la réfection des chaussées s'élève à 1,51 million\$: 300,000\$ pour la rue Crichton entre les rues Charles et Keefer, 430,000\$ pour la rue Crichton entre le chemin Dufferin et l'avenue Beechwood, 570,000\$ pour le chemin Springfield entre l'avenue Beechwood et la ruelle Maple, et 210,000\$ pour l'avenue Stanley entre la promenade Sussex et la rue Union.

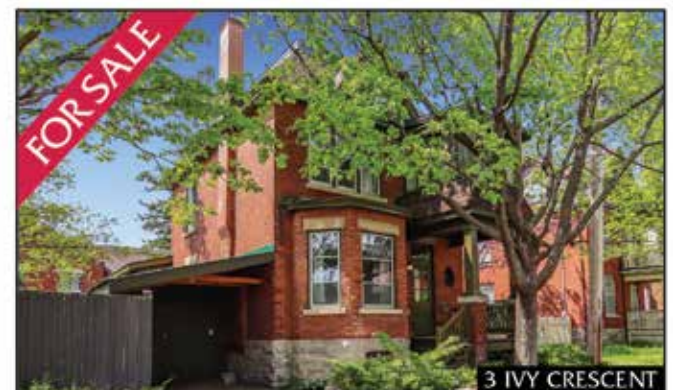
Étant donné que l'investissement continu dans des réseaux routiers bien conçus, bien entretenus et efficaces est essentiel pour créer des quartiers dynamiques, prospères et où il fait bon vivre, mon bureau continuera à discuter avec les résidents et les organisations communautaires de l'amélioration de nos paysages de rue, y compris celui de l'avenue Beechwood.

N'hésitez pas à contacter le bureau de Rawlson King au 613-580-2483, par courriel à [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) ou [rideaurockcliffe.ca](http://rideaurockcliffe.ca).

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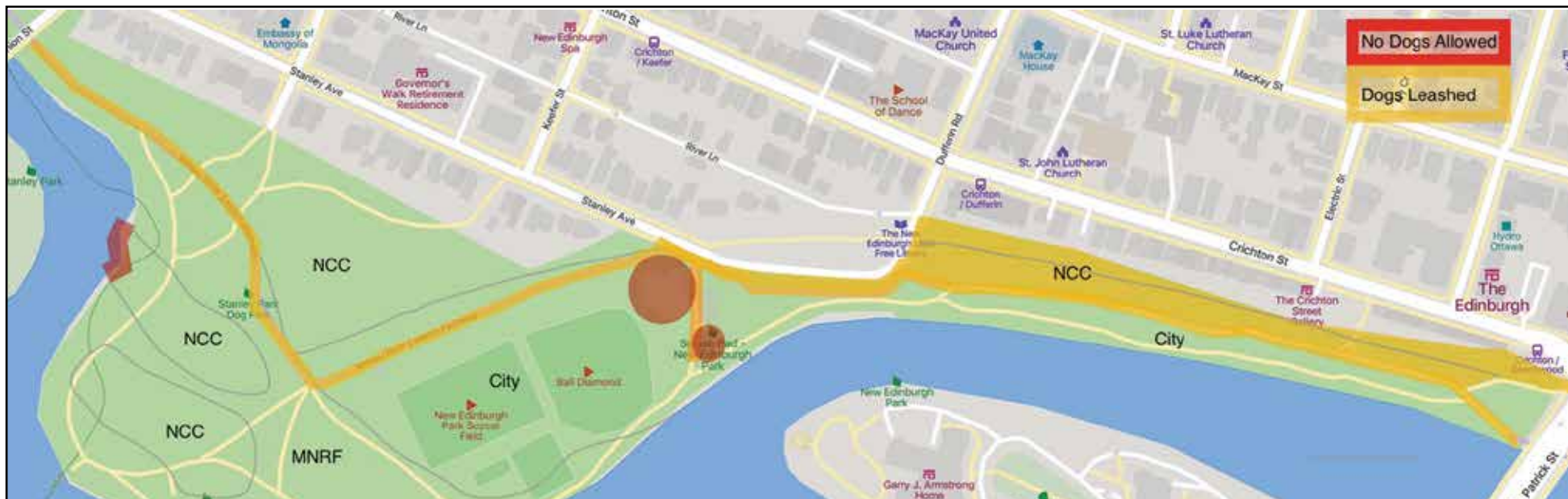
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# ‘Off-leash’ doesn’t mean ‘anything goes’ in our parks



This map of New Edinburgh and Stanley Parks shows the on-leash areas, off-leash sections (in green), and places where no dogs are allowed.

Map by Katherine Hall

## Continued from page 1

sultation with the community associations. The councillor's comments touched off much discussion around how it was important to have off-leash parks and how residents in this area take their pet-owner responsibilities seriously.

While New Edinburgh Park is designated off-leash from St. Patrick Street to the Minto Bridges, dogs are required to be on-leash on the multi-use pathways and are not permitted within five meters of the children's playground or splashpad.

Dog owners must be careful in areas where people are walking, especially on the narrow pathways. When near-

ing busier areas or the children's playground, put your dog on a leash **BEFORE** you find yourself in the area. Be more proactive (especially if your dog is active) as you come upon groups of people or see smaller children or people with mobility aids. Our beloved pets can be very curious and take people by surprise.

Most pedestrians in the park are very thoughtful people who love nature and animals. If we can all be a bit more careful out there and avoid an incident, it's worth it for everyone. Animals can't apologize...but humans can!

If your dog likes to run fast or is still in training: consider going to less busy places

and/or go during less busy times. Keep treats with you so you can reward your dog when they respond to your call. Otherwise, keep your dog on-leash when in busier areas, and let them off-leash when there's more space to run, especially during peak user periods or at events, etc. The City of Ottawa will have more by-law officers out this summer to monitor parks like ours. (See map for more details)

If you are having issues with your dog off-leash, Chew That pet shop at 141 Beechwood is offering a new dog training program. See more details in our Business Brief Section.

**Remember: you are**

**responsible for your pet in off-leash areas. Dogs must be in sight, under voice control, and promptly leashed when confrontations occur with other dogs or humans.**

We want everyone to feel safe and enjoy the parks this summer. If there is an issue, apologize and see if there is anything further you can do – this will go a very long way! Open communication is key to decreasing incidents in the park and rules vary by jurisdiction.

To share details about park rules, share the online version of *NEN*: [newedinburghnews.ca](http://newedinburghnews.ca), including map.

Visit the City's website for dog park information at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) or National Capital

Commission's website for dog park details at [ncc-ccn.gc.ca](http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca). Obviously, pick up after your pet everywhere!

Of note, if you are in an NCC park, you may have two dogs maximum with you at one time. This goes for Stanley Park, Pine Hill (Lisgar Road at Princess Avenue), and the Rockeries (off Acacia Avenue at Coltrin Road)!

*Karen Squires and Katherine Hall are members of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Friends of the Park committee. Contact them at [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca).*

## Park by-laws to be enforced this summer

By-law and Regulatory Services has in recent years noted an increase in reports of dog-related issues generally, likely due to an increase in dog ownership during the pandemic, along with the pandemic-related closure of parks and of dog training facilities. By-law staff note that, consequently, many people who welcomed a new dog into their family lacked the necessary resources and support to train and socialize their pets, resulting in increased incidences of problematic behavior.

To address these concerns, By-law and Regulatory Services will be deploying a proactive monitoring initiative in parks City-wide in

the coming months through an increase in the summer student complement for the season. These additional staff will be responsible for promoting responsible pet ownership practices and enforcing relevant by-laws and regulations accordingly. By-law summer students will be monitoring the adherence of general Ottawa park rules related to park opening hours, littering, disturbing and feeding wildlife, the prohibition of motorized vehicles, smoking, and ensuring dogs are leashed in all parks unless specifically designated as an off-leash area.

Safety for other park users is an important consideration. The City's Animal Care and

Control By-law provides for a variety of park usages or designations for dogs, including "dogs allowed," "dogs on leash," and "no dogs," and there is a Dogs-in-Parks Designation Policy that applies. Signs are posted to inform the public whether dogs are prohibited or whether they must be leashed. Some parks may be subject to a mixed designation, meaning that one part of the park may be designated differently than another. There are, however, standard rules that apply to all parks within the City of Ottawa. Dogs must always be under the control of their handler, even if a leash is not required. Dogs are prohibited from being within five metres

of all children's play areas and pools. By-law summer students will also be monitoring.

By-law and Regulatory Services staff remain committed to serving our community and preserving the well-being of our citizens, including their beloved pets. The department hopes that this increased monitoring initiative will help to mitigate the challenges posed by the recent increase in problematic pet behaviour, and By-law staff urge all pet owners to take proactive steps towards socializing and training their animals for their own safety and that of the community.

— *Rawlson King, City Councillor, Ward 13*

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- overflowing waste receptacles
- City structures/features that need maintenance



# Vanier 'gateway' high-rises to bring more rental units, retail space, and public art

By John Leefe

Can the adage "no man is an island" also apply to neighbourhoods? As consultations continue on the framework for a Beechwood-Hemlock Secondary Plan, New Edinburgh residents have no doubt noticed big changes in the adjacent Vanier neighbourhood, where the Montreal Road Secondary Plan has already been approved. The changes include the concrete and the aesthetic.

In terms of concrete, the southeast intersection of Montreal Road and North River Road is the centre of a major development project that has the potential to transform Vanier's residential and commercial gateway. The "Maison Riverain" development at 2 Montreal Rd./29 Selkirk St. involves construction of three new buildings on 3.7 acres to be completed in several phases, bringing more rental units to the housing market.

The developer is Main and Main, a Toronto-headquartered, mixed-use real estate developer focused primarily on markets in eastern Canada (in partnership with Burlington-based Equiton). Phase 1 will comprise a 22-storey high-rise with 294 units and 16,000 square feet of retail space, according to Main and Main's president Daniel Byrne. A second building on Montgomery and Selkirk won't have retail, but the third building (on North River Road) will: about 4,000 square feet. The project has underground parking and two above-ground parkades. "Phase 1 also

includes 66 surface visitor parking spaces to support the retail uses," Byrne added.

As of press time, structural work on Phase 1, which broke ground last August, is progressing to the second floor. "With the foundations and podium nearing completion, progress on the building will accelerate and the tower structure [will be] complete before the end of the year," Byrne said. The hope is that Phase 1 will be ready for occupation by 2025. The next two phases will have above-ground structured parking in addition to a single level of below-grade parking.

The project was subject to many years of community consultations with the Vanier Community Association. Chris Greenshields of the VCA said that the dilapidated lot, formerly a strip mall featuring The Beer Store, was subject to a number of proposals by different developers since 2014. Greenshields said the community couldn't do much to address the building's height because the approved Montreal Road Secondary Plan permitted structures as high as 28 stories.

Among the concerns expressed by the community, Greenshields noted the replacement of commercial space lost with the mall's demolition, the creation of new parks, and the sufficiency of parking. While the retail and park concerns were addressed, the parking issue was more problematic. "Ultimately, soil conditions required not only underground parking, but [also] a parking



Image by STUDIOKCA

A digital rendering of the public artwork entitled "Rideau" which will be installed at the new development on Montreal Road at North River Road.

garage, which ... now entails mitigation including replication of the historic murals," said Greenshields. When the City Planning Committee formally approved the project, "there was disappointment expressed that the applicant went beyond the minimum parking required," he added.

Gordon Morrison lives just north of the intersection on North River Road. He doesn't like the idea of three large high-rise buildings going up nearby and thinks that the project shows "a gross disregard for the traditional main street designation of Montreal Road," he told the *New Edinburgh News*.

Mathieu Louis-Seize also lives on North River Road just south of the intersection in question, but he supports the project and believes the intersection is long overdue

for transformation. "This is the gateway to Vanier and the first impression people have when coming down the street. I feel confident they'll do it right to cement this neighbourhood as an incredible place to live, work, and play," he says.

As for the aesthetic changes the project is spurring? The City of Ottawa recently unveiled a model of a new public art piece entitled *Rideau* to be installed on the corner of Montreal and North River roads. The metal struc-

ture depicts a large curtain blowing in the wind, the outline modelled on the winding Rideau River ('rideau' being French for 'curtain'). Integrated lighting on the structure will create a brilliant effect.

"This iconic artwork will support Vanier's stance as a creative and resilient neighbourhood with a uniquely diverse community," according to the City's website. The artwork was chosen in a two-stage public art competition process. The selection committee was made up of residents, local business owners, and art specialists who considered the unique past, present, and future of Vanier in their decision-making.

Resident Louis-Seize says *Rideau* "is the crowning jewel of this gateway and could not be a more brilliant or fitting piece to celebrate and commemorate this beautiful, diverse, and extremely vibrant neighbourhood."

There are many divergent views on these changes to Montreal Road. Let's hope the positive aspects will help inform and influence consultations on Beechwood Avenue's own Secondary Plan.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

## Farmers' market returns to Fieldhouse

Continued from page 1

angles – has rallied behind us. Residents of New Edinburgh and neighbouring communities have become curious visitors, satisfied customers, and vocal supporters.

We've teamed up twice with MacKay United Church for the Fall Night Market. We have great local sponsors like Natalie's Urban Ottawa, Minto Apartments, and Ashbury College. And

we have worked with most of the area's community associations towards a better local food scene.

To celebrate the kick-off of our 10th season, we'll have Pirate Life at the Market on Jun. 3 – you may know them from the Mooney's Bay Pirate Ship. They will be giving lessons on how to be a proper pirate. A bit of silliness to start the year – we could all get in touch with our inner

pirate a bit more often.

Throw in the musical talent of Leo Rodriguez as well as great early season vendor variety, and it proves to be a decent start to another season.

I thank you all for keeping us going for 10 seasons. See you on Jun. 3!

Chris Penton is the president of the Beechwood Market. Learn more at [beechwoodmarket.ca](http://beechwoodmarket.ca).



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# Details on road works underway on Stanley Avenue

By Jason Tavoularis,  
Traffic and Safety  
Committee

The construction on Stanley Avenue between Sussex Drive and Union Street that began this spring continues as we roll into summer. The goal for this project is to replace a water main that dates back to the 1860s – one of the oldest remaining in Ottawa!

As I've written in previous editions of *NEN*, the City of Ottawa prefers to install traffic calming measures as part of road reconstruction projects like this one. It is a sensible policy for maximizing the return on investment when tearing up a residential street is happening anyway. Many residents are pleased to see the City has not missed this key opportunity to continue implementing improvements to street safety in New Edinburgh.

Road modification approvals for such construction projects are engineering decisions where City staff have delegated authority. Ottawa city councillors can provide input, but it is typically limited to the power of concurrence; that is, providing a yes or a

no. For this particular project the City's Transportation Engineering Services unit decided to introduce the following modifications to this section of Stanley Avenue:

- installing three speed humps 50 metres apart;
- widening the existing sidewalk from its current 1.5 metre width up to the 1.8 metre standard for new sidewalks in Ottawa; and
- adding a concrete pedestrian landing pad (sidewalk) on the southwest corner of Union Street and Stanley Avenue.

According to a report obtained from the City, "these modifications are being undertaken to implement speed management measures as part of an integrated water main renewal, sidewalk renewal, and road resurfacing" with a specific objective of "reducing collisions resulting from aggressive, impaired, or distracted driving behaviors." The narrowing of the road and the speed humps will certainly help reduce vehicle speeds adjacent to this section of the Rideau River Eastern Pathway.

Total estimated cost of all

the surface and underground construction work is \$2.1 million.

Our ward Councillor's office recently invited representatives from the New Edinburgh Community Association including myself and Chris Straka, president of the Crichton Community Council, to an on-site meeting with Councillor Rawlson King, his staff, and City staff who are managing the Stanley Avenue Watermain Renewal and Resurfacing Project.

I was very pleased with this on-site meeting. I learned a lot about the City's general processes and standards, and enough about the intent and context for this particular project to write this article. A nice bonus was when we all walked over to inspect nearby sites with issues raised by community members, like the water drainage problem on River Lane near Queen Victoria Street. Reviewing these problem areas together in person is key to accelerating progress towards resolutions. The four City of Ottawa staff who attended were all knowledgeable and passionate about improving our city. Likewise for Councillor King and his staff, with whom I liaise regularly, as shown by their taking the initiative to organize this on-site meeting.

New Edinburgh Community Alliance board member Jason Tavoularis is the chair of the Traffic and Safety Committee. Reach him at [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca).



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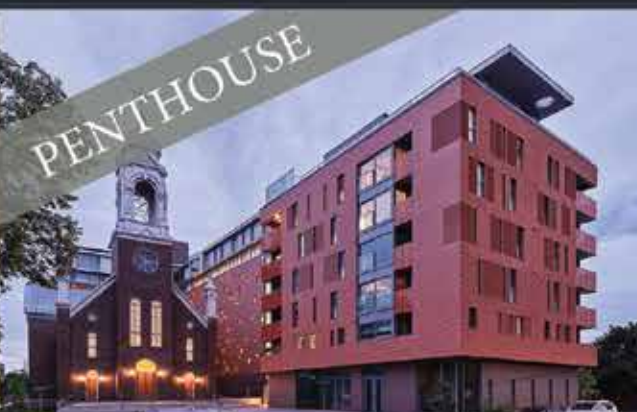


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# BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Jane Heintzman, Randy Mar, Kathleen Ladelpha, and Karen Squires

## New services at Chew That

What do you get when you combine a vet tech, pet nutritionist, breeder, and trainer with a vastly knowledgeable woman who's passionate about animals? You get **Renée Turcotte**, owner of **Chew That**.

Renée has listened to customers' feedback and requests since opening her 141 Beechwood Ave. location almost a year ago and is offering new services to meet those needs.

Starting in June, Chew That will offer full grooming services. One of her groomers has over 15 years of experience with dogs and cats of all ages and personalities.

Another new service: on-leash dog-walking providing one-on-one attention. Do you need help teaching your dog to leash-walk or learn how to run? How about a house-call for personalized puppy manners, boundaries, and behavior training? Renée is

happy to provide her training expertise.

Chew That offers fun, four-week group training classes such as fitness and exercise, as well as scent classes. These classes teach owners exciting things to do with their dogs and help to increase dogs' confidence. A confident dog and owner make a very happy household.

Renée says her mission is to "treat your pets like they are my own, so you will have your pets as long as possible and as healthy as possible." With her knowledge and passion, she carefully curates her product selection, choosing only products she would give to her own cherished pets. "Expensive doesn't mean 'the best' for all pets," says Renée who does her best to provide great products for all budgets.

Last month, Chew That hosted two special music events featuring jazz swing musicians **Betty Ann** and **Pierre Monfils**, and **Ray Harris**.



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

**Chew That pet shop has new services including training sessions and a live music café.**

Tickets included admission, bubbly upon entry, and hors d'oeuvres during intermission.

Renée and her staff are excited to celebrate their first outdoor Summer Kick-Off on Jun. 24 with musical entertainment by **Jack Pine**, among other great reasons to stop by that day.

When asked what attracted her to our neighbourhood, Renée spoke about great friends she would visit. She fell in love with the area and just knew she had to have a store here. Renée will be spending a lot of time at Chew That and looks forward to having you and your pet stop in to say hello. She'll be

glad to answer your questions and to help make your pet's life the happiest possible.

Chew That is located at 141 Beechwood Ave. Contact 613-695-6448, [info@chew-that.ca](mailto:info@chew-that.ca) or [chew-that.ca](http://chew-that.ca). If you would like to see her fun and informative posts on Facebook, just search and join Chewthatfriends. —KL

## Farewell to Electric Street Gallery

Many things have changed in the neighbourhood over the past few years. However, one constant is that the space at 299 Crichton St. has housed something art-related for over 40 years – the entire time landlord **Peter Honeywell** has been there.

So, when the **Electric Street Gallery** opened in March 2020, "the community responded with a tremendous outpouring of support, and we got off to a great start," said owners **Irene** and **Michael Tobis**. But the art market slowed, COVID-19

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came along, and other art events and venues opened.

Irene and Michael are extremely happy with everything they accomplished at this gallery but have decided it's time to move on. The doors closed this past April, and the couple will be moving to Carleton Place, Ont. They will be busy settling into their new home and look forward to the possibility of pursuing their "own creative pursuits."

Our neighbourhood has loved having the Electric Street Gallery grace Crichton Street and thrill customers and passers-by. Irene and Michael will be missed. But as Nicholas Sparks wrote: "This is not a goodbye, my darling, this is a thank you." —KL

### Epicuria looks to the future

In late March, **Epicuria Food Shop and Catering** at 357 St. Laurent Blvd. announced that director of catering **Michelle Lafrance** had become co-owner, bringing to bear her experience and expertise in events management, personalized customer service, and all aspects of the hospitality business. Current owner **Tracey Black** describes the new arrangement as "part of my succession planning, and my desire to see the business grow in the hands of a caring employee."

In January, Tracey began working part-time, passing her culinary role to executive chef **Scott Lucano**, and supporting Michelle's transition from catering director to general manager. Tracey's focus has shifted from day-to-day operations to financials, planning, and mentoring Scott and Michelle – the current plan is for Tracey to remain in that role until her full retirement (no date given). As Tracey's husband John recently retired from the federal public service, they are both looking forward to more time at the family cottage, as well as some adventure travel in the coming months.

Michelle has been with Epicuria since 2014, working in a variety of departments before taking over as director of catering, a role in which she is well-known as a highly competent and personable organizer, frequently going the extra mile to provide clients with outstanding service. (Full disclosure: she personally braved the elements to drive this writer's



Photo courtesy Epicuria

**Three generations of Epicuria: (from left) current owner Tracey Black, founders Cindy Ryley and Heather Maclachlan, and new co-owner Michelle Lafrance.**

order to our door on the night of the appalling storm before Christmas 2022!)

Michelle's professional background, while not in the culinary domain, was in many respects well-suited to her demanding job at Epicuria, coordinating events, and mastering the myriad aspects of successful entertaining. Her former role in the Canadian Blood Services' Logistics Department helped hone her skills in project planning and logistics management – a perfect fit with large-scale catering!

Michelle admits that the COVID pandemic was a challenge for Epicuria, as group and corporate events disappeared under public health protocols. But she describes it as "a great learning experience, which inspired us to focus on our retail business, and to create a more beautiful, functional space for our clients." Michelle's focus will remain on rebuilding the thriving catering side of the business now that pandemic restrictions have lifted.

Epicuria's presence as a flagship business in our community goes back a long way. **Heather Maclachlan** and **Cindy Ryley** first launched Epicuria in 1990, when it was known as Ryley Maclachlan. Many of Heather and Cindy's favourite recipes remain shop staples to this day: bœuf bourguignon, carrot cake, chocolate cake, cheese scones, and more! In 1999, current owner Tracey Black took over. "Heather gave me the opportunity of entrepreneurship, and I'm now thrilled to be able to pay that gift forward to Michelle."

We wish Michelle success in her new role, and we thank Tracey for her many years

of outstanding service to our community. —JH

### Little Amsterdam owner is Das Lokal's old founder

Early this spring, **Little Amsterdam Restaurant** quietly opened its doors at 190 Dalhousie St. (at St. Andrew). The location is the former home of **Das Lokal**, a popular eatery known for its cozy ambience, tasty German-inspired menu, and noted local chef, **Harriet Clunie**, Das Lokal's executive chef for many of its 10 years in operation.

Loyal patrons of Das Lokal, many of whom braved the winter storm to say a final



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

**The former Das Lokal on Dalhousie Street has been re-born as Little Amsterdam Restaurant**

farewell on Dec. 23, had little cause to lament. Only two months later, the restaurant reopened under new ownership, and while the name had changed, many of its important features remained the same: notably, the chef Marie Ford; the kitchen and front-of-house staff; the cozy European atmosphere, and many of the German-inspired menu items.

The "family resemblance" between Little Amsterdam and its predecessor Das Lokal is no accident. Little Amsterdam's new owner-operator is **Barbara Wery**, one of the original Das Lokal founders when it first

launched in 2013. Barbara and her then-business partner **Frédérique Tsai-Klassen** were the moving spirits behind Das Lokal in its early years, shaping its overall character and its focus on German cuisine, the latter a reflection of Barbara's own family roots in Germany.

Some years ago, Barbara withdrew from Das Lokal's operations, but she has now come full circle to take the helm once again. "It's special to come back here as the original owner," she reflects, "It's like coming home!" She has made very few – largely cosmetic – changes in the renamed restaurant, retain-



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ing its “super-cozy feel,” but brightening up the interior and building new patio furniture for the busy summer season. “It’s the same place,” says Barbara, “it’s stayed within the family!”

According to Barbara, the name Little Amsterdam was chosen to reflect the fact that Amsterdam residents are famously sociable, and “all about creating community” – attributes she hopes to capture in the new restaurant. Her aim is to cultivate a relaxed atmosphere in which groups can comfortably gather to socialize while enjoying large “sharing plates” for three or four people, a highlight of the new menu. Longer, communal tables will feature on the front patio, with more traditional seating on the side patios.

And the food? While the German influence is still predominant, the new menu is more diverse, reflecting a wider range of European cuisine, and in Barbara’s words, “offering something for everyone.” Highlights include a cheese-focused café board; a Mediterranean-inspired mezze board with appetizers ranging from warm olives to baba ganouj, hum-



Photo by Jennifer Anne Kelly

Glass artist Jennifer Ann Kelly, whose work includes “Dancing for a Moment” (above), will open Luna Studio at 299 Crichton St. this July.

mus, beef tartare, and more; spaetzle poutine (German egg dumplings); celeriac steak; beer-braised bison short ribs; steak frites; and a selection of salads. The full menu will be available online when the new website appears in late May. In the interim, call 343-588-1157.

Hours of operation are currently Wednesday through Saturday from 3–11 p.m., with all-day brunch on Sundays from 10a.m.–4 p.m. This initial plan is a stepping stone to a possible extension of hours as Barbara tests the market. Early indications are excellent, as business

is swiftly ramping up, and Little Amsterdam has already had some “super busy nights, with lots of laughter,” just as Barbara had fervently hoped! –JH

Luna Glass Studio takes over tiny gallery space

Have you ever looked up at the bell tower at St. Charles Market on the corner of Beechwood and St. Charles streets and wondered who created the stunning glass art installation in the bell tower? Perhaps you’ve marveled at the seven-foot glass kayak on display in the foyer of the Ottawa General Hospital

Campus? Both these masterpieces were produced by Ottawa’s own Jennifer (Jen) Ann Kelly.

Appreciative viewers can now sing Jen’s praises in person because she will be opening her studio in the site of the former Electric Street Gallery. That’s right: 299 Crichton St. will continue its 40-plus-year tradition as a visual arts space.

Jen has been a guest artist at the Crichton Street Gallery when Mary Pratt ran the location. That’s when Jen fell in love with many aspects of the building and neighbourhood. While spending time in the little gallery, Jen came to appreciate the village feel, and the neighbourhood’s friendliness. She even found joy in seeing all the dogs walking by with their owners. “The building has so much character and this makes it such a desirable place to be,” she says. So, when the opportunity came to move into the space, the timing lined up perfectly.

Jen has worked with glass since the 1990s, easing her way into it. But after doing some work for Cirque du Soleil, she began working with glass full-time.

Jen has taken many courses and has taught for several years. She has been teaching remotely with the Ottawa School of Art and in community outreach programs, allowing her to connect and share her knowledge while fostering community through the arts.

The Ottawa Miniature Art Gallery is another one of her creative successes. This is a seven-foot-high metal-and-glass, doll-house-sized Art Gallery that travels around, providing an opportunity for artists who don’t exhibit their work in galleries to exhibit “in miniature.”

Luna Glass Studio and Workshops is currently located in Ottawa’s west end but is not open to the public. Jen is excited to be moving her entire studio to 299 Crichton St. She’ll also be hosting several small workshops for all skill levels. She wants each workshop to feel intimate and plans to keep attendance between four to six people. There are three different workshops scheduled in August and one so far in September. If you are looking for something

Continued on page 13

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fun to do, check out the dates, details, and photos at [lunastudioworkshops.com](http://lunastudioworkshops.com).

Luna Glass Studio and Workshops expects to be moved in by the end of June. Doors will open by Jul. 1, but Jen invites you to stop by earlier to check out her progress. Come and see her work and get inspired to take a workshop. See what can be created using a kiln! The front window displays will be refreshed frequently, featuring individual guest artists each month.

We are looking forward to having Jennifer Ann Kelly and Luna Glass Studio and Workshops in our wonderful neighbourhood. Please stop by and wish her well! Contact Jen at 613-859-0100. Follow her on Facebook at [jenandlunaglassstudio](https://www.facebook.com/jenandlunaglassstudio), on Instagram at [jenniferakelly](https://www.instagram.com/jenniferakelly) and [lunaglassstudioandworkshops](https://www.instagram.com/lunaglassstudioandworkshops). Her website is [lunastudioworkshops.com](http://lunastudioworkshops.com) and the address is 299 Crichton St. —KL

### Welcome to Indigenous cannabis dispensary

Walt Disney once said: "When you're curious, you find lots of interesting things to do."

Like many folks in the neighbourhood, I wondered what was behind the darkened windows of **Medicine Wheel Natural Healing** at 196 Beechwood Ave. where Sessions Cannabis operated briefly. My curiosity got the better of me one day and led me to its front door.

I walked into an inviting room and received a warm welcome from one of Medicine Wheel's owners, **Anthony John Tenasco (AJ)** and two of his very knowledgeable client advisors.

Medicine Wheel Natural Healing "is an Indigenous cannabis dispensary" specializing in providing the "best possible cannabis-related treatment" for a client's ailments. Although they do carry products for recreational use, their focus is on the medicinal side and not just getting people high. Owners **Robert Stevenson** and AJ have a clear message: "consult with your doctors and other healthcare professionals before you decide to include cannabis in your healing journey." Robert remarks in their treatment guide that "the healing journey is more than just a medicine we put in our bodies. It is a lifestyle we choose, a state



Photo by Tom Keefer

**The friendly staff at Medicine Wheel, like AJ Tenasco, offer Indigenous-made cannabis products.**

of mind, our diet and daily exercise. By taking all these steps, we move toward reaching a better state of health and balance."

This brings us to the significance of the store's name. The Indigenous medicine wheel teaches that our selves have four aspects: the physical, the mental, the emotional, and the spiritual. Each must be in balance and equally for us to remain healthy, happy individuals.

I asked AJ why they chose Beechwood for Medicine Wheel's second location (the flagship store opened on National Aboriginal Day, Jun. 21, 2017, in Alderville First Nation north of Cobourg, Ont.). Ottawa is built on unceded Anishinaabe Algonquin Territory. Robert and AJ said they heard great things about this neighbourhood, one of them being the fact that the majority of Indigenous people in Ottawa live in this area. This location was simply a natural fit! Medicine Wheel's grand opening at 196 Beechwood Ave. took place on Apr. 20.

Several aspects of Medicine Wheel's business make a visit to the store a worthwhile experience, even if just to satisfy one's curiosity:

- All customers must provide two forms of I.D. as proof of age;
- All employees have their CANSELL certification (a definitive cannabis education program in the province of Ontario);
- They apply rigorous, high-quality testing methods to all products;
- They sell Indigenous-made cannabis products;
- They give back to the community, including to Rainbow Railroad, women's shelters, food banks and sponsorships

for various community activities;

- They feature Seniors' Day every Wednesday, with a 10 per cent discount;
- They have their own line of custom-made products including creams, lotions, oils, tinctures, etc.;
- They prioritize quality, using the Red Feather Certification and quality control process, and make their products safely, without using pesticides and herbicides; and
- They engage in nation-to-nation trading with other Indigenous communities and brands.

Let's all welcome Medicine Wheel Natural Healing, Inc. to our neighbourhood. Stop by to say hello. Be curious and ask questions to learn about their mission and products.

Medicine Wheel Healing, Inc. is located at 196 Beechwood Ave. and they provide local delivery. Contact them at 613-745-7333, visit them online at [medicinewheel.ca](http://medicinewheel.ca) or find them on Facebook.

### 100 years of tennis in Rockcliffe Park

Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club turns 100 this year!

Since 1923, RLTC, located close to MacKay Lake on Lansdowne Road North, has been a hub of tennis activity, first drawing Rockcliffe Park village members, and now attracting tennis players of all ages from across the city.

"We're very excited to be celebrating our centennial and have some fun, century-themed events planned for this summer," enthused **Michael Bowen**, RLTC's general manager. At press time, plans included a Centennial Classic tournament featuring all-wooden rackets and all-white clothing, along with a

Century Doubles tournament, in which combined ages of the doubles team must be over 100. Just think of the possible combinations!

In its centenary year, tennis and club activities will be phased in as weather allows, with the eight courts (four clay and four hardcourt) typically open by mid-May. The official clubhouse and patio opening follows within a week or two. Look for centennial specials on the clubhouse menu at various times over the season — perhaps even a 1920s menu!

Spring and summer camps are offered for aspiring juniors, along with beginner to advanced or specialized lessons and tune-ups for more experienced players. Tennis enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels will undoubtedly be excited to have the Davis Cup trophy on display at the Club (date to be announced).

As the new manager at RLTC, Michael brings international tennis experience, both as a player and industry professional. He is focused on ensuring a great member experience throughout this special summer, highlighting the ongoing centenary celebrations, and ushering in a new era for Ottawa tennis players. Also in the works:

directional lighting to extend the tennis season into the later hours and fall months.

The Rideau Lawn Tennis Club is located at 465 Lansdowne Rd. N. Contact the club at 613-749-5494, [info@rltennis.ca](mailto:info@rltennis.ca), or [rltennis.ca](http://rltennis.ca). —RM

### Two great patios in spectacular locations

It takes some imagination to create a "destination experience" for a light meal and drinks with friends, family, or colleagues. With the cost of going out these days having increased — along with everything else — we want our outings to be special. So, when Burgh-based entrepreneur **André Schad** started a new, outdoor, casual "canteen service" dining experience eight years ago with **Tavern on the Hill** (located in Major's Hill Park, in collaboration with the National Capital Commission), he was onto something.

About five years ago, André opened **Tavern on the Falls** (again in collaboration with the NCC) off Sussex Drive next to Rideau Falls. It's an amazing location with beautiful sunsets. This year André is adding to the menu of gourmet hot dogs and tacos, offering up tuna and chicken poké bowls, charcuterie plates, and

## We're opening a daycare!

Renovations have started for the Manor Park Child Care Centre!

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Photo courtesy Carl F.

Patrons enjoying the amazing sunset views from Tavern at the Falls patio.

desserts. He says the challenge is in getting more power into the building through the federal department that manages the building – but he’s working on it. (Editor’s note: the CBC reported on May 19 that the Rideau Falls Lab at 1 John St., where the Tavern is located, is among the properties the federal government is seeking to liquidate.)

Unfortunately, Tavern on the Hill had to temporarily close in 2022 and will remain shut again this year due to construction of the new pedestrian bridge between Major’s Hill Park and Kiwaki Point (formerly known as Nepean Point). But André saw an opportunity. Last

summer he opened **Tavern at the Gallery** in the National Gallery of Canada’s hidden garden at 380 Sussex Dr. Like the Falls, the Gallery bistro offers music and seating on a first-come, first-served basis (no online bookings). While the Falls location can seat up to 275 people, the Gallery location can accommodate 310. The Gallery tavern features a bigger kitchen, with menu options including pizza and salads. The ambiance is enchanting, with beautiful trees and lighting, and the service is very good. As a bit of a twist (pardon the pun), André has been partnering with **Pure Yoga** at the Gallery location to



Photo by Alexander McKenzie

David Yeatman’s mural of bygone Vanier has seen better days and sadly cannot be restored. However, Metro has commissioned a new artwork coming this summer.

offer Saturday morning yoga classes at 8:30 a.m. – register at [pureyogaottawa.com](http://pureyogaottawa.com).

Learn more about both Tavern on the Falls and Tavern at the Gallery at [thetavern.ca](http://thetavern.ca) and visit these two great destinations in person. You won’t be disappointed! –KS

**New mural coming to Metro**

In 1998, shortly before its 2002 amalgamation into the City of Ottawa, Vanier embarked on an ambitious public art project, creating more than 30 wall murals on public buildings throughout the community. The murals are now familiar fixtures of our neighbourhood,

particularly the five located in the heart of Beechwood: 50 Beechwood (Metro Beechwood); 94 Beechwood (the former El Meson Restaurant); 110 Beechwood (Monson’s Cleaners); 186 Beechwood (Mood Moss Flowers); and 186 Barrette St. (Il Vagabondo Restaurant). These local murals are evocative depictions of historic scenes and events and prominent personalities, serving as reminders of neighbourhood life in a bygone era.

Best-known to many is the mural on the west wall of Metro Beechwood, facing the parking lot along Charlevoix Street. **David Yeatman’s** charming depiction of Eastview (the pre-cursor to Vanier) in the 1950s features such erstwhile landmarks as the Claude Hotel, Wood Pharmacy, and St. Charles Church and bell tower. The mural captures three modes of transportation, reflecting the evolution from horse-drawn transport to the Beechwood tramway and ultimately, the automobile.

Since its installation, the mural has suffered significantly from the ravages of weather, fading to a faintly visible version of its early, colourful glory. Metro store manager **Shawn Steinburg** reports that after exploring the options, it became clear that restoration was, sadly, not a possibility. But in

keeping with the public art tradition established by the Vanier mural project, Metro has undertaken to replace the mural with a successor artwork, while retaining and storing Yeatman’s work for the historical record.

In late April, Metro signed a contract with **Dominic (Dom) Laporte**, an Ottawa mural artist and illustrator whose large-scale work is displayed on buildings throughout the city. Dom’s tribute to first responders during the pandemic overlooks the Vanier Parkway at McArthur Road.

Dominic’s work is focused on his immediate surroundings, reflecting his strong interest in community-based and accessible artforms. His large-scale murals include commissioned works for the Canadian Museum of Nature, Beau’s Brewery, the Canadian Medical Association, and the City of Ottawa Light Rail Transit Project (learn more at [domlaporte.com](http://domlaporte.com))

The new mural is to be painted directly onto the brick of the store’s side wall, rather than on canvas, as was the original. Dominic currently plans to begin work in late summer or early fall. He expects the project to take between seven and 10 days to complete, and while work is underway, the parking spots in front of the wall will be blocked off. –JH

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# Opposing private healthcare, welcoming funding for Vanier housing project, all in a day's work for MPP



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

In my work at Queen's Park, I have been actively engaged in championing the rights and well-being of Ontario's citizens, and specifically the constituents of Ottawa-Vanier. It has been a very busy spring, and I am pleased to share some updates.

Following feedback from residents, I have spoken in opposition to the passage of Bill 60, a controversial law that introduced a for-profit healthcare component. I firmly believe that it disregards Ontarians' needs and exacerbates the shortage of healthcare professionals, compromising the quality of care provided that every Ontarian deserves.

During Francophonie Month, I had the privilege of participating in a gathering of women parliamentarians from several francophone countries. This occasion provided a platform for discussions on crucial issues and solutions affecting women worldwide. I have been a consistent advocate for addressing gender-based violence and discrimination, as well as supporting survivors of human trafficking through initiatives like Bill 41, a measure to forgive coerced debt. The passage of this bill required two years of work and obtaining the support of all parties at Queen's Park.

In my role as the Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, every Tuesday I have the honor of presiding over debates, maintaining order, and ensuring the diligent adherence to parliamentary procedures. While it can be challenging at times, serving in this capacity has allowed me to contribute to the smooth functioning of the legislative process and upholding democracy's fundamental principles.

I have used various channels, including questions, statements, petitions, and

press conferences, to raise concerns about inadequate funding in Ottawa from the province. I have been a vocal proponent for more support for mental health and addiction services, affordable housing, healthcare, local programs combating food insecurity, and French-language services. The announcement of \$24.1-million in provincial funding for a supportive housing project in Vanier fuels my motivation to continue to be a strong voice on your behalf at Queen's Park.

I successfully proposed amendments to the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, which were passed in the committee to which it was referred (a rare privilege afforded by the government to a member in the opposition).

I actively participated in debates about bail reform. Voting in favor of stricter bail conditions for repeat and violent offenders, I emphasized the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration. I also questioned the government on accountability and transparency in law enforcement, pointing out an example of a suspended police officer who remained on payroll long after his criminal conviction.

I had the privilege of participating in intergovernmental initiatives fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. I delivered a speech during the EU flag-raising ceremony on Europe Day, May 9. I accepted Speaker Ted Arnott's invitation to join the Ontario delegation for the 27th General Assembly of the Ontario-Quebec Parliamentary Association, as well as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Ontario branch to host a delegation of UK Parliamentarians. These events provided valuable opportunities to address common issues, engage in coop-

eration, and foster relationships with counterparts from other jurisdictions.

Overall, my commitment to serving the people of Ottawa-Vanier and Ontario and advocating for their rights and well-being has remained unwavering throughout my tenure. I will continue to strive for positive change, leveraging my position to enact policies that benefit all.

*Please contact my office at 613-744-4484 or by email at [lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org).*

\*\*\*

Dans le cadre de mon travail à Queen's Park, je me suis activement engagée à défendre les droits et le bien-être des citoyens de l'Ontario, et plus particulièrement des résidents d'Ottawa-Vanier. À cet égard, le printemps a été très occupé et j'ai le plaisir de partager les mises à jour suivantes.

Après avoir pris connaissance des réactions des résidents, je me suis opposée à l'adoption du projet de loi 60, une loi controversée qui introduit une composante de soins de santé privé. Je suis fermement convaincue que cette loi ne tient pas compte des besoins des Ontariens et qu'elle intensifie le problème de pénurie de professionnels de la santé, compromettant ainsi la qualité des soins fournis que chaque Ontarien mérite.

Au cours du mois de la francophonie, j'ai eu le privilège de participer à un rassemblement de femmes parlementaires de plusieurs pays francophones. Cette occasion exceptionnelle a été l'occasion de discussions importantes sur des questions et des solutions cruciales concernant les femmes du monde entier. J'ai toujours défendu la lutte contre la violence et la discrimination fondées sur le genre, ainsi que l'appui aux survivants de la traite des personnes par le biais d'initiatives telles que le projet de loi 41, une mesure visant à annuler les dettes contractées sous la contrainte. L'adoption de ce projet de loi a nécessité deux ans de travail, tout en obtenant l'appui de tous les partis à Queen's Park.

En tant que vice-présidente

de l'Assemblée législative, j'ai l'immense honneur, tous les mardis, de présider les débats, de maintenir l'ordre et d'assurer le respect des procédures parlementaires. Bien que parfois difficile, cette fonction m'a permis de contribuer au bon fonctionnement du processus législatif et de défendre les principes fondamentaux de la démocratie.

Pour faire entendre mes préoccupations quant à l'insuffisance du financement provincial à Ottawa, j'ai eu recours à divers moyens, notamment des questions, des déclarations, des pétitions et des conférences de presse. Tout au long de mon mandat, j'ai plaidé avec force en faveur d'un appui accru aux services de santé mentale et de traitement des dépendances, aux logements abordables, aux soins de santé, aux programmes locaux de lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et aux services en français. L'annonce d'un financement de 24,1 millions de la province pour un projet de logements supervisés à Vanier alimente certainement ma motivation à continuer d'être une voix forte en votre nom à Queen's Park.

J'ai proposé avec succès des amendements à la Loi sur l'amélioration des écoles et des résultats scolaires, qui ont été adoptés par le comité auquel ils avaient été renvoyés (un rare privilège accordé par le gouvernement à un(e) député(e) de l'opposition).

En matière de justice pénale, j'ai participé aux débats sur la réforme de la mise en liberté sous caution. En votant en faveur de conditions de mise en liberté sous caution plus strictes pour les récidivistes et les délinquants violents, j'ai simultanément souligné l'importance de la réhabilitation et de la réin-

sertion. J'ai également interrogé le gouvernement sur la responsabilité et la transparence dans l'application de la loi, en citant l'exemple d'un officier de police suspendu qui est demeuré salarié longtemps après sa condamnation pénale.

Au-delà du travail législatif, j'ai eu le privilège de participer à des initiatives intergouvernementales qui ont favorisé la collaboration et l'échange de connaissances. J'ai prononcé un discours lors de la cérémonie de lever du drapeau de l'Union européenne, commémorant l'histoire et les valeurs partagées entre l'Ontario et l'Europe à l'occasion de la Journée de l'Europe, le 9 mai. J'ai également eu le plaisir d'accepter l'invitation du président Arnott pour me joindre à la délégation de l'Ontario pour la 27e assemblée générale de l'Association parlementaire Ontario-Québec, ainsi qu'à la section ontarienne de l'Association parlementaire du Commonwealth pour accueillir une délégation de parlementaires britanniques. Ces événements interparlementaires ont fourni des occasions précieuses d'aborder des questions communes, de s'engager dans la coopération et de favoriser les relations avec des collègues d'autres juridictions.

Dans l'ensemble, mon engagement à servir les citoyens d'Ottawa-Vanier et de l'Ontario et à défendre leurs droits et bien-être est resté inébranlable tout au long de mon mandat. Je continuerai à me battre pour un changement positif, en tirant parti de ma position pour mettre en œuvre des politiques qui bénéficient à tous.

*Contactez mon bureau au 613-744-4484 ou par courriel à l'adresse [lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:lcollard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org).*

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# Summer opportunities for youth; grocery rebate coming soon to your wallet



**Mona Fortier**  
Ottawa-Vanier MP

Dear Residents:

We are already in June. I hope you had a great Spring season! For me, it has been very busy.

Our government launched the Job Bank to allow young people between the ages of 15 and 30 years to apply for a placement under the Canada Summer Jobs program. In our riding of Ottawa-Vanier, that's a total of 385 positions to 88 organizations. These are meaningful and quality summer jobs for young people.

Young jobseekers can now find new opportunities in their communities on [jobbank.gc.ca/youth](https://jobbank.gc.ca/youth) in various important sectors, including the digital economy, green jobs, environmental science, technology, and so much more.

Around the end of March,

the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, released *Budget 2023 – A Made-in-Canada Plan: Strong Middle Class, Affordable Economy, Healthy Future*. Budget 2023 builds off the work we're already doing to help make life more affordable for Canadians, strengthen our universal public health care system, and build a clean economy that will create good jobs across the country.

In April and May, we were busy in the House of Commons debating and passing important bills including the 2023 Budget and to advance the legislative agenda. We voted unanimously for the Grocery Incentive on April 19, and it will support families in Ottawa-Vanier who are among the 11 million

Canadians who are eligible to receive the amount.

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

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.

*Mona Fortier is the Member of Parliament, Ottawa-Vanier. Contact her at [Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca) or 613-998-1860.*

\*\*\*

Chères résidentes, Chers résidents,

Nous voilà déjà au mois de juin. J'espère que vous avez passé un beau printemps ! De mon côté, ce fut très occupée.

Notre gouvernement a lancé le Guichet Emplois pour permettre aux jeunes âgés de 15 à 30 ans de demander un poste dans le cadre du programme Emplois d'été Canada. Dans

Ottawa-Vanier, c'est un total de 385 postes au sein de 88 organisations. Il s'agit d'emplois d'été intéressants et de qualité pour les jeunes.

Les jeunes chercheurs d'emploi peuvent trouver de nouvelles possibilités sur le site [guichetemplois.gc.ca/jeunesse](https://guichetemplois.gc.ca/jeunesse) dans divers secteurs importants, notamment l'économie numérique, les emplois verts, les sciences et technologies de l'environnement, et bien d'autres encore.

Vers la fin mars, la vice-première ministre et ministre des Finances, Chrystia Freeland, a publié le *Budget de 2023 – Un plan canadien : une classe moyenne forte, une économie abordable, un avenir prospère*. Le budget de 2023 s'appuie sur le travail que nous faisons déjà pour rendre la vie plus abordable pour les Canadiens, renforcer notre système universel de soins de santé et bâtir une économie propre qui créera de bons emplois dans tout le pays.

En avril et mai, nous avons été occupés à la Chambre des communes pour débat-

tre et adopter des projets de loi importants dont le Budget 2023 et avancer l'agenda législatif. Nous avons voté à l'unanimité l'incitatif pour les épicerie et cela pourra soutenir les familles d'Ottawa-Vanier qui font parties des 11 millions de Canadiennes et Canadiens qui sont éligibles pour recevoir le montant.

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

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.

*Mona Fortier est la députée fédérale pour Ottawa-Vanier. Veuillez contacter son bureau à [Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca) ou 613-998-1860.*

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# Successful Garden Day, AGM on June 12, and many summer events to come

By Chris Straka, CCC President

For more than 20 years, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, New Edinburgh residents have purchased their plants in front of the Fieldhouse at 203 Stanley Ave.

This year on May 13, the event included a speaker series featuring **Mélanie Ouellette** from the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library who promoted the local native seed library exchange program; Tina Liu, a landscape architect and head of the National Capital Commission's Floral Program, who spoke on edible and productive gardening; **Sarah Coulber** with the Canadian Wildlife Federation on the importance of pollinator gardens; and **Brian Holley**, a horticulturalist from the Canadensis Botanical Garden, who gave expert gardening advice.

**Nora Lee** with Wild Pollinators provided resources to support pollinator gardens. A representative from Social Harvest spoke about the urban farm operating out of the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre.

Children helped revitalize the garden near the Fieldhouse sign with **Stella Byers** and **Chris Straka**. Volunteers replaced invasive species with a collection of flowering native perennials. Youth also planted additional enhancements north-east of the Fieldhouse. The rocky ground of the former industrial landscape was opened up thanks to **Collins** excavation crew. Amendments were made to the growing conditions courtesy of a donation of materials by **Kevin Lynch** at Tarstone Canada Ltd. The bases of two walls of the concrete storage shed – a.k.a. “the bunker” – will soon be adorned with Virginia creeper vines, a native plant that will provide food and shelter for birds as well as softening the bunker's exterior. A red oak tree, native to the region, now anchors the north edge of the eastern ice-lawn near the multi-use path.

**Charlotte Scott** sold a wonderful collection of edible plants from Ferme Lève-tôt and answered questions about their Community Supported Agriculture pro-

gram. **Christine Garand** offered pastries, coffee, and other refreshments from the Union Street Café.

Within a couple of hours, we sold out of our stock of hanging baskets and planters from Les Serres Oli-Ève Charbonneau. Next year we plan to order more plants of a greater variety, confident that the neighbourhood will buy local and continue to support the CCC financially.

The tradition of Garden Day in New Edinburgh continues thanks to the leadership of **Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse** with the support of an energetic team of green-thumbs: **Adrian Di Giovanni, Ashley Hansson, Alex Dosman, Ally Wilson, Caroline Matt, Chris Straka, Christian Hansson, David Pyman, Julia Chandler, Loic Berthou, Lucy Collins, Lynda DeGuire, Mary Granger, Maya Dubuc, Meghan Andrews, Meaghan Byers, Roxie Clark** and **Stella Byers**.

## Marathon Cheering Station

The last seven kilometres of the Ottawa Marathon are



Photo by Chris Straka

Children helped revitalize the garden near the Fieldhouse sign on Garden Day, May 13.

often the most difficult. This year the race leg between the 35th and 36th kilometers of the 42.2 km course ran along MacKay Street – the usual route was modified due to construction on Stanley Avenue. On the morning of May 28, the New Edinburgh cheering station between Dufferin and Keefer Streets energized runners for the marathon's home stretch.

By 10 a.m. all the elite runners had long finished the race, but those 5,000 who remained on course benefited from the positive energy and support of the dozens who turned out to share our community spirit.

CCC event leaders **Frederick Gietz** and **Laura Jarecsni** partnered with **MacKay United Church** to organize the cheering station. Supporters called out loud words of encouragement and waved written signs. Upbeat music filled the air. Many thanks to all who took part!

## Annual General Meeting

The CCC's Annual General Meeting will be held Jun. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse. The agenda features:

- 1) Opening Remarks;
- 2) Approval of the 2022 CCC AGM Minutes;
- 3) President's Report;
- 4) Treasurer's Report;
- 5) Comments by Members of the Board of Directors;
- 6) Election of Officers; and
- 7) Adjournment.

The AGM will be followed by a regular meeting of the CCC. Both meetings are open to the public.

Regular CCC board meetings are typically held

the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Occasionally, meeting times and dates are rescheduled to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors and guests. Please email the CCC if there is a topic you would like to discuss with the board: **CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com**

## Films at the Fieldhouse

May 13's plant theme continued into the evening with a screening of *Little Shop of Horrors*, a classic featuring a giant plant that demands to be fed.

Silver-screen aficionados **Andre Gagne** and **Lynda DeGuire** will continue the Fieldhouse Films series on Jun. 17 with *The Kid* and other short films in a tribute to silent film comedy. And to celebrate Indiana Jones's return to theatres this summer, come to the Fieldhouse Jul. 22 to see his first adventure, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

All film screenings are free and shows start at 7:30 p.m. Come early for free popcorn! If you'd like this series to continue, contact the CCC indicating your interest in supporting the Fieldhouse Films by volunteering your time.

## Shakespeare in the Park

A Company of Fools is presenting *Hamlet* on Jul. 15 at 7 p.m. on the east lawn of the Fieldhouse.

Their fast-paced, 90-minute rendition of the Bard's greatest tragedy will feature disemboweled puppets, a swordfight to the death, live underscoring, and five actors

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**Chief Pinesi Day**, Jul. 1 – See p. 1 and Events Calendar for more details.

#### **Pick-Up Soccer (and other sports)**

The Fieldhouse is surrounded by an excellent collection of sports fields and courts. These play spaces are used by individuals (at their leisure) and by organized leagues (who reserve the spaces through the City of Ottawa's Centralized Allocations group).

If you like to play with others, but don't want the commitment of playing in a league, consider joining or starting a regular pick-up game at New Edinburgh Park.

"The beautiful game" is played on Sunday afternoons at the New Edinburgh field by a group of friendly footballers who welcome players of all ages and skill levels. If you like to play soccer, come from 4–6 p.m. with a willingness to run and have fun.

If you would like to announce a pick-up game in the park (or a group run, or a mass ride, or a hike) please email **CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com**.

#### **Keymasters**

The CCC's Keymasters are a dedicated group of volunteers who keep the washrooms and water fountain area of the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse accessible to the public during daylight hours until the end of October. Keymasters monitor the building and report any service needs. If you see a need for service at the park, please call 3-1-1 to report it.

#### **Toy Box**

Used to store salt in the winter, in the summer the yellow box located near the playground becomes a storage box for playthings left in the park for the enjoyment of all.

If you have unused outdoor toys at home, consider leaving them in the yellow box. If you find toys left behind at the playground, splash pad and lawns surrounding the Fieldhouse, please put them in the yellow box!

#### **Event Leaders**

Key to the CCC's raison d'être is building community by providing opportunities

for neighbours to gather in and around the Fieldhouse by providing indoor facilities and stewardship of the surrounding public spaces.

If you have an event idea and want to contribute your time to make it happen, please email us. We will support Event Leaders committed to creating inclusive opportunities for the greater good.

The CCC is seeking additional event leaders to help support the following events: Bike Day (August or September); Neighbourhood Sale (September); Halloween Howl (October); Holiday Lights Celebration (November). Email **CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com** to get involved.

#### **CCC Communications**

CCC's initiatives and events are communicated through a variety of methods.

Event information is posted on **newedinburgh.ca/events**, on the CCC's Facebook page and on Twitter.

We communicate with neighbours via two open email lists. Subscribe by emailing **newed@perambulatorposse.ca** and **new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com**.

We also contact neighbours directly using a closed email distribution list that is used exclusively by neighbourhood associations. To join this list, please email: **CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com**.

#### **Fieldhouse Rentals**

Proceeds from Fieldhouse rentals and donations to the CCC contribute to the facility's improvement and to events. With these funds, the CCC recently purchased an 85" television screen and rolling stand. Contact the CCC Fieldhouse Director know if you'd like to use this at your next event.

The Fieldhouse at 203 Stanley Ave. is available year-round to rent for birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, and other celebrations. Learn more at **newedinburgh.ca/ccc/fieldhouse**. To make a reservation, visit **nefieldhouseccc.skedda.com/booking**.

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# How can Ottawa cope with climate change impacts?

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Every season, it becomes harder to ignore the impacts of climate change on life in this city. A derecho storm in 2022, an ice storm in April 2023, and the first winter it was not continuously cold enough for us to skate on the Rideau Canal – these are a few examples over the past year.

The impacts are palpable, with severe heat waves and flooding among the other extreme weather events we’ve come to expect and must cope with.

How can Ottawa prepare for and respond to these impacts of climate change? Well, a climate resiliency strategy

is now in development by the City of Ottawa and it’s intended to provide answers to that key concern.

Engagement with the public and stakeholders started this spring. Once complete, City staff will share a draft strategy for public feedback by the end of this year or early next year. A final strategy is expected to be released in 2024.

The strategy’s intent is to develop practical solutions to reduce climate risks and prepare for changing conditions. At a virtual presentation on creating the strategy, held Apr. 4, officials from the City and from the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (an applied research centre based at the University of Waterloo) shared insights and some helpful advice.

This city’s climate is already changing. On average, our summers are getting hotter and our winters are getting less cold, and Ottawa will continue to get much warmer over the coming decades, according to a recent comprehensive study by the City

of Ottawa and the National Capital Commission.

Winters in the future will become shorter with less snowfall, and there will be an increase in precipitation in all seasons, except for the summer. We’re also expecting more extreme weather such as freezing rain, ice storms, and severe winds.

By taking action to tackle climate change, we can focus on how we can make life better, according to Joanna Eyquem from the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation. And she adds that there is the added benefit that taking personal adaptation actions can help us reduce the climate anxiety that some of us may be experiencing.

**Home flood protection**

Taking steps to prevent basement flooding is a tangible action, and the Intact Centre has a home flood protection resource (available at [intact-centre.ca](https://intact-centre.ca)). There is also a check-up app that you can use on your smartphone to go around your house to understand what specific actions you could take to improve

flood protection. It’s available online at [Homefloodprotect.ca](https://Homefloodprotect.ca).

Among the other preventative actions:

- If you have a backwater valve, you need to maintain it. If you don’t have one, consider getting one.
- If you have a sump pump, test it.
- Remove debris from nearby drains or eavestroughs.
- If you have valuables in the basement, be sure to raise them off the floor.

For those who want to take protective measures against the risk of sewer backup and basement flooding, the City offers the Residential Protective Plumbing Program. The program provides financial assistance to qualified property owners for “the installation of protective plumbing devices, such as sump pumps and storm and sanitary backwater valves to prevent water and sewage from flooding homes as a result of increased water level (surcharging) in the City’s sewer system.”

For home heat protec-

tion, the Intact Centre will be releasing a resource guide soon, with equally practical tips.

**How to provide your ideas and input**

The City wants to hear from residents on how to prepare for climate change impacts. Please weigh in with your ideas, or see what others are suggesting.

Visit the Engage Ottawa webpage to get informed and contribute your thoughts and ideas for action: [engage.ottawa.ca/climate-resiliency](https://engage.ottawa.ca/climate-resiliency)

Once there, you can share your ideas on what Ottawa needs to do to become climate resilient.

Meanwhile, the Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES Ottawa) in partnership with the City hosted a Climate Resiliency Community Dialogue on May 30. These community engagement sessions are happening throughout Ottawa.

*Sarah Anson-Cartwright lives in New Edinburgh, is a member of NECA, and works in public affairs.*

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# Protecting and enhancing green spaces is a group effort

By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) annual park clean-up took place on Apr. 22, Earth Day, and about 35 people took part. This year, the Riverkeeper team of volunteers came out to clean around shorelines, so our combined efforts along the Rideau River and throughout the entire New Edinburgh-Stanley Park area brought positive results.

NECA would like to thank everyone who came out to clean the park. This year, Katherine Hall organized some refreshments afterwards so people could have a social connection. We aim to do same again next year. Let's all keep some maintenance going during the summer months. Of note, more seasonal waste bins have arrived in New Edinburgh Park.

## Park inspection with RVCA and City reps

In mid-April, NECA's Friends of the Park committee met with representatives from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and the City of Ottawa for a full site inspection of the park and river shoreline, with the goal to protect green spaces and improve biodiversity. We learned a lot from such experts as RVCA's Jennifer Lamoureux and were impressed by the group's willingness to partner with NECA, the City and the National Capital Commission (NCC) (both landowners) to best reach our collective goals.

Jennifer explained that areas with fallen trees along the river may have important wildlife habitat features for fish, turtles, frogs, waterfowl, and shorebirds, so therefore some of these trees should remain to allow for spawning, basking, or feeding. However, there were other areas where such invasive species as buckthorn might be removed and replaced with dogwoods and willows, but the landowners – like the NCC or the City – need to be involved. We've also shared this information with Crichton Community Council and Ecology Ottawa to determine if there might be



Photo by Dave Rostenne

Residents came out to support Friends of the Park's annual clean-up event on Earth Day, April 22.

an interest to work together.

Around the beach area, severe soil erosion was noted in areas where the ice-breaking equipment and trucks go in and out each year. According to Jennifer, methods of improving this access point should be explored to maintain soil stability and reduce further erosion. She suggested solid structures like boulders might help to define this area. Her idea of planting trees along the flood plain area near the beach was well-received by those in the group.

The Monarch Meadow area was also discussed, with the view to add more seeding mix and enhance pollinator habitat. The RVCA will monitor this over the spring and summer and will have to obtain approvals from the landowners such as the NCC. Again, the idea of partnering with stakeholders and volunteers is required as this land is owned and managed by multiple organizations.

Also, there were specific areas along the shoreline where more bird-friendly shrubs including nannyberry, serviceberry, and elderberry could be planted. Jennifer suggested the RVCA come out to clean this area in the fall when river levels are lower.

NECA will continue to liaise with the RVCA and all stakeholders to build momentum on specific projects. The goal is to begin some work this year and continue into 2024, but all will depend on stakeholder approvals and input.

## More park updates

Talks are underway to deter-

mine whether the tennis courts might include some modifications so that folks may be able to play pickleball this year at the tennis court location in Stanley Park!

City by-law team members will be out monitoring the park a bit more this year relating to safety issues in the park as the volumes and diversity of people increase.

Finally, we would also like to thank the City of Ottawa for their new anti-idling campaign just launched this spring. #SpareOurAir aims to increase public awareness on the harmful health and environmental impacts of idling vehicle engines, increasing awareness on the Idling Control By-law, reducing the number of vehicles idling in the city and the length of time they idle. Visit [ottawa.ca/SpareOurAir](http://ottawa.ca/SpareOurAir) for insights into idling myths. Ottawa Public Health's website also details the harmful health impacts of air pollution caused by idling.

We encourage all readers to share or point out this information whenever you have the opportunity so everyone can be aware of the harmful effects of idling. There's no need to keep your engine running when temperatures are 5°C and above!

Small initiatives like this can have huge impacts to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality, not to mention noise!

*Karen Squires and Katherine Hall are members of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's Friends of the Park committee. Contact them at [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca).*

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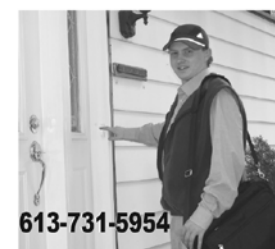
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# Public school board updating policies before summer break



**Lyra Evans**  
Public School Trustee, Zone 6

Ontario's Ministry of Education released proposed changes to the education act on Apr. 17. These changes have caused grave concern amongst the trustees for their potential to remove local school board autonomy.

The last day of school is Jun. 29 for elementary students, and Jun. 27 for secondary students. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) traditionally has not met over the summer, so our work will resume in September.

## Previous board decisions

On Mar. 28, the board approved changes to the Field Trip Policy. The changes were focused around ensur-

ing that field trips are linked to curricular outcomes, and reasonably costed to ensure all students can participate without financial barriers.

That same day, the Board has approved that a mandatory recycling and composting program be put into place at all OCDSB schools by the end of the 2023–2024 school year. This also includes a component on education related to how to recycle and compost, and their importance in environmental sustainability.

The Board also approved academic staffing: the component related to teachers. The remainder of the budget comes forward

later in the spring.

On Apr. 25, the Board struck an ad hoc policy committee to address the backlog of policies which have not been reviewed in a timely manner. The first meeting is May 31, and meetings are open to the public.

The board changed the makeup of the Special Education Advisory Committee to include Indigenous representation.

The OCDSB also changed the student senate governing documents to increase the number of student senators from each school and ensure that some of them are not in grade 12. The goal is to empower student voices and build institutional knowledge in the student advocacy group.

At this same meeting, the board reviewed and updated the language in the bylaws around public delegations. The result was to limit participation to those with dependants in, or who are, students in the system, or

who reside in Ottawa. This prevents people with no connection to the district using the delegation process as a platform to make political points. These changes also codified the maximum length of replies to questions and empowered the chair to defer delegations to a more appropriate meeting, where the topic may be on the agenda.

## 2023–2027 strategic plan

In June, the board will finalize the 2023–2027 strategic plan. This is the guiding document which directs the district for the next four years. Last term, the strategic plan sought to create a culture of Innovation, Caring, and Social Responsibility.

## Update to trustee code of conduct

The OCDSB began updating our code of conduct for trustees in May. The change is to become more in line with municipalities by hiring an independent integrity commissioner, with a goal

of achieving greater accountability for trustee behaviour.

## Annual budget

The board began working on the 2023–2024 annual budget throughout last month, with a target of approving it before Jun. 30. Annually, the combined operating and capital projects budget is approximately \$1 billion. If you have thoughts about district priorities, I encourage you to send me an email, or to submit a written or oral delegation to the Budget Committee on Jun. 6 or Jun. 12.

## Hiring of a new director

Finally, the school board will be hiring a new director to replace interim director Michele Giroux. The process is well underway, and assuming everything continues to go well, the new, yet-to-be-picked director will be starting over the summer.

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

# St. Bart's new minister aims to make new connections

## By Marta M. Reyes

Reverend Catherine Ascah is on a mission to make the close-knit community of St. Bartholomew's Church even closer. After just a couple months on the job, the newly appointed reverend has already touched base with her counterparts in New Edinburgh's other churches – she's a strong believer in the power of connection.

"Making connections is important to me. Being the newbie on the block allows me to check in and ask ques-

tions and find out how we can all partner for the wider community," says Rev. Ascah. "New people bring new ideas."

Catherine Ascah joined St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church at 125 MacKay St. back in March, to lead the congregation after Rev. Canon David Clunie retired at the end of 2022. Previously, she served at St John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Smith Falls, Ont. Born in Montreal and raised in London, Ont., Rev. Ascah earned her Bachelor of Arts

and her Master of Divinity at Huron University College, Western University, also in London.

Rev. Ascah is eager to connect with other local organizations that share her strategic goal: to best serve the neighbourhood and community at large. "I believe if all congregations collaborate, we can bring value to the community if we share resources and ideas," she says.

She says that New Edinburgh's different places of worship are hardly new to working together. She cites strong past collaborations such as Bethlehem in the Burgh and other histor-



Photo courtesy Judy Wiesinger

**St. Bartholomew's new Reverend Catherine Ascah.**

tions, bringing people together," Rev. Ascah says.

"The Church has always gathered the faithful in worship, but the role of the Church is also to serve the community, so I am looking forward to working with everyone to provide a place for all to engage in various ways," Rev. Ascah tells the New Edinburgh News.

To be closer to St. Bartholomew's, Rev. Ascah has moved from Smith Falls to a downtown Ottawa apartment. She's been enjoying New Edinburgh's charms beyond her duties at the church.

"I can confirm I do spend a lot of time here, so I have made very good friends already, especially at Union Street Café," says Rev. Ascah. "It's a very vibrant community, and I'm already enjoying getting to know it and appreciate it."

*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.*

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# From manse to rental units: the history of 255 MacKay St.

**By Gail McEachern, chair, Heritage and Development**

The heritage property at 255 MacKay St. has had its fair share of real estate drama of late. Here are the highlights.

The red brick house next to MacKay United Church was built by Henry Avery, a cabinet maker for Thomas MacKay. It was donated to the church in 1894 by MacKay's daughter Christina for use as a manse: the primary residence for the church's ministers and their families. The house was in residential use for over 100 years. It was purchased in 2011 by the New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre (NECTAR, previously known as the Crichton Cultural Community Centre) with proceeds from the sale of the community's interest in the school building at 200 Crichton St. (now owned by the School of Dance).

NECTAR's mandate was to create a centre for cultural development and be the primary community resource for recreational activities for individuals of all ages in New Edinburgh and surrounding areas. It offered a rich variety of artistic and cultural programs and organized and promoted community events. However, in Spring 2017, it became evident that, despite staff and volunteers' dedicated efforts, carrying out NECTAR's mandate was no longer economically feasible. The decision was made to sell the property.

In fall 2017, Routeburn

Urban Developments offered to purchase the property, and developed a proposal to transform the manse into two semi-detached residential dwellings. The original footprint would have been retained, and new, two-storey zinc-clad projecting bays were to be added to the west and east façades. The mansard roof was to be enlarged to include bigger dormers to provide more light and useable space on the third floor of the two units. The existing front porch and peaked roof entrance would have been replaced by a double entrance, mimicking the architectural style of the original. The New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Heritage and Development Committee endorsed the proposal based on the following criteria:

- 1) The property was being returned to residential use;
- 2) The expansion of the original dwelling into two independent living units offered a restrained but realistic approach to the viable use of this unique property; and
- 3) The proposed materials for the new sections were distinct from the original brick house, but didn't overwhelm it.

Although the project received approval from the city's Built Heritage Sub-Committee, the Planning Committee and City Council, it did not come to fruition. COVID and the ensuing economic chaos took its toll, and the developer opted to sell the property.



*Photo courtesy Charles Van*

**Once again for sale, newly renovated 255 MacKay now offering four rental units ranging from \$1200 to \$3600 monthly.**

By fall 2021, NEN learned that the property had been sold and representatives of the new owner had met with one of the city's heritage planners to review a new proposal for the site. The architectural renderings shared with NECA's Heritage & Development Committee showed two large, three-storey additions projecting to the front and rear of the house and another, narrower three-storey addition on one side, essentially enveloping the house which was submerged in the middle. The resulting structure was to comprise 26 apartments. Neither the city's heritage staff nor NECA endorsed this proposal as it did not adhere to the key directives governing additions to buildings in our Heritage Conservation

District and contained in the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation Plan. The design failed to meet the requirements that:

- 1) Additions must be subordinate (i.e., smaller) to the existing building;
- 2) Additions cannot project out beyond the façade of the existing building; and
- 3) Significant architectural elements on the existing building must remain intact.

It was evident that this project would not be approved by the city's heritage staff, the Built Heritage Sub-Committee or the Planning Committee without dramatically changing the proposed additions by reducing the height, size, scale and massing.

Taking a new approach,

the owner decided to invest in reconfiguring the interior of the 255 MacKay St. to create four rental apartments. There is one three-bedroom apartment on the third floor (\$3,000/month); two apartments on the second floor: a three-bedroom (\$3,600/month) and a two-bedroom (\$2,800/month); and a studio apartment on the main floor (\$1,200/month). All apartments are fully furnished with IKEA-style furniture. The monthly rental fee includes TV, internet, and heat. To view photos of the apartments, visit [REALTOR.ca](https://www.realtor.ca) and search for "255 MacKay."

Now, in 2023, the property is once again listed for sale, priced at \$2,199,999. According to RE/MAX Canada's website, the down payment required is \$440,000 (20 per cent of the asking price), the interest rate would be 6 per cent. Under this scenario, monthly payments would be \$11,261. The property taxes in 2022 were \$12,000.

The building permit issued in 2021 for the first redevelopment proposal by Routeburn Urban Developments is still valid, and if built according to the drawings and specifications attached to that permit, there would be no need to repeat the initial heritage permit process.

There are still opportunities here for this unique, beleaguered property. The question is: who will step up to the plate?

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# The piano that carries more than a tune

Continued from page 1

national border as porous as the provincial boundaries that snake through our own national capital region.

Over the years, my father would learn to love the piano. It followed him to Ottawa, where the music it emanated changed. The classical sheet music was replaced by works by Billy Joel and Kenny Rogers. I knew dad was home – and not travelling – when the sounds of “Piano Man” and “The Gambler” filled the house.

Upon his passing, the piano moved to my house in New Edinburgh, where it took up real estate in the living room, sitting untouched except for the occasional dusting. It was not in its meant-to-be home. She had more life in her yet. She was waiting for her next chapter.

This is when a new friendship, sparked by a love of caffeine and fuelled by the sharing of maternal wisdom, opened that next chapter.

Sandra and I were enjoying lattes at our favourite café on Crichton Street when I invited her to come to my house to “just take a glance” at the piano and help me brainstorm strategies to re-home this heirloom. As she walked through the front door, she did more than just glance at it. Her eyes welled. She dropped to the ground and inspected the wood underneath the instrument with a few knocks in



Photo by Ali Elmousa

The author's family Steinway, first purchased second-hand in Detroit in 1929, has found much love in a new home on Crichton Street.

all the right places. Then, she stood up and played the keys. The connection was instant.

The piano is strikingly similar to the one her family lost 30 years ago, looted from her grandmother's home during the Bosnian War. The lid had been separated from the rest of the structure, butchered and left, never to be reconstructed again.

In my house that morning, she was brought back to the moment when she last saw her family's Steinway, when the shelling had started in Sarajevo and she was set to leave for Croatia for safety. It brought her back to playing love songs from the *Dr. Zhivago* soundtrack and

“Za Vsaku Dobru Rijec,” her grandmother's favourites, at her request when she had friends over for tea. The music her grandmother played, Sandra would later tell me, was neutral in a world of suddenly questioning who and what you are. Her family's piano brought a sense of calm, a feeling of peace, amongst the growing tensions around her.

Sandra became a piano teacher when she arrived in Canada. It was at first a means of survival, but now it is so much more. It is what she boasts as her purpose.

The Steinway now sits in her studio. Sandra has graciously become the piano's

steward, its next owner. It made the short and safe journey down Crichton Street, three blocks from the café where we first met. She is dedicated to restoring it and committed to replacing all the necessary parts to give it another 100 years.

In the initial inspection of the piano, Sandra found a piece of matzah under the lid, close to the strings. This was the afikomen hidden long ago by my father – but never found – during a Passover seder when the piano was still in his house. It is tradition that the seder can't be concluded until the matzah is found. Fitting that Sandra would find this little gift. She

knew exactly what it was and who left it there for her to find.

The Steinway is not alone in her new home. She sits next to a new, gloss-finished, modern Yamaha GC2 grand piano. Both have their virtues. When a student chooses to learn on the Steinway, with its heavier keys and velvety sounds, Sandra recounts that it continues to unlock the happier moments spent with her grandmother during what were tumultuous times in Bosnia.

Sandra says the piano has wisdom. I couldn't agree more. She has the wisdom to weave the history of two families – from different countries and across decades – together. She has the wisdom to cement two women's friendship, both adoring of and grateful for the gifts left by their grandmothers, our bobbies. She has the wisdom to find herself a home on Crichton Street, where the strings continue to sparkle in the sun's rays, where she holds an antique wood metronome in position, and where students can explore their own love of the instrument no matter the sheet music in front of them.

*Elizabeth Gray-Smith has lived on Crichton Street since 2005. She does interesting things in the political arena, but finds solace in the community.*

## Local volunteers raising funds to bring Afghan refugee family to Canada

By Karen McDonald

Flora Liebich is a long-time resident of New Edinburgh who has worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Justice Canada, the Immigration and Refugee Board, and the former Canadian International Development Agency. On a volunteer basis, she also supports a children's home in Cambodia.

Over the past year, Flora has become involved in helping Afghans escape the Taliban regime. She is currently leading efforts to bring two Afghan families, as well as a young Afghan woman, to Ottawa. It is hoped they

will arrive this year, under a Government of Canada program for Afghans.

Flora's private sponsorship group includes many concerned citizens from the New Edinburgh neighbourhood and beyond. Local volunteers and advisors include Ann Davis, Eileen Olexiuk, and myself.

The first sponsorship is for an Afghan who worked for many years with Canada and its allies on democratic development, peacebuilding, and human rights. He contacted Flora last summer, indicating that he and his family were being sought by the Taliban. Their sponsorship began as soon as they fled Afghanistan, and the funds required for

their settlement have now been raised.

The group is now raising money to bring this gentleman's sister and her family to Ottawa. The family comprises the sister, Dr. H (a practicing doctor), her husband (a surgeon), two sons aged 21 and 15, and a daughter aged 10. Dr. H is an educated, talented woman who has worked for domestic and international non-governmental organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, and at several hospitals including the “American Hospital” in Kabul.

Owing to her work with internationally funded organizations, Dr. H was perceived as an enemy of the Taliban

regime. She was repeatedly threatened; she witnessed close friends and medical colleagues injured or killed by the Taliban. She and her family were accused of “working for foreign interests” and “being spies.” Last fall, their eldest son was kidnapped and held for seven weeks. He was released after payment of a large ransom, for which the family had to sell most of their assets. In February 2023, the family fled Afghanistan and is now hoping for resettlement in Canada.

Based on Canadian government guidelines, settlement costs for the family's first year in Canada amount to \$55,400. Some \$46,000 has been raised so far, leaving a

shortfall of more than \$9,000.

Many in New Edinburgh have already contributed to efforts supporting refugees. We are a generous and giving community! If you can help bring this deserving family to Canada, we would be most grateful. For further information, please contact [Newcomers36@gmail.com](mailto:Newcomers36@gmail.com). Donations go through St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Ottawa, which will issue tax receipts.

On behalf of the family and their sponsorship group, warmest thanks in advance. We'll update you about the Afghan arrivals in an upcoming version of the *New Edinburgh News*.



# New Edinburgh Studio Tour returns this fall



Photo by Lori Brethour Coulter

Lori Brethour Coulter's studio is among the many you can visit at NEST in September.



Photo by Sara Mullen

Sara Mullen is an oil landscape painter and the founder of NEST.

## By Josée Robillard

After a three-year hiatus, the New Edinburgh Studio Tour (NEST) is delighted to announce its return this fall and is set to feature 29 talented artists at 10 locations!

NEST will take place Sept 23–24, 2023, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at various locations throughout New Edinburgh. Admission and parking are free, along with free draws for door prizes at studio and gallery locations.

With studio and gallery destinations within walking distance from each other, this self-guided tour offers the public a special opportunity to discover and connect with local and guest artists, professional and emerging, while experiencing the charm of New Edinburgh.

NEST provides the artists – typically tucked away in their studio spaces and engaged in creative expression – an occasion to step out, exhibit their work, and share their creative processes. Media represented includes works in oil, acrylic, mixed media, encaustic, textile, printmaking, jewelry, photography, ceramic sculpture, and glass.

The participating artists include Tracy Armstrong, Iris Arnon, Susan Ashbrook, Carmen Bohn, André Breau, Lori Brethour Coulter, Pat Carbonneau, Jane Cass, Mira Culham, Karen Dyrda, Lynda Dyson, Sarah Jane Estabrooks, Johanna Jansen, Jennifer Anne Kelly, Clara Kim, Leslie Lambert, Aileen Leo, Ariel Lyons, Cathy Mavriplis, Andrea Mueller, Sara Mullen, Martha Nixon,

Josée Robillard, Beth Stikeman, Maureen Tracey, and Musica Borealis (Karol Mabel Contreras, Yanik Fillion-Murphy, Eva Penner).

Artwork will be for sale directly from the artists, and live demonstrations will occur at various locations throughout the two days. A brochure will be available at select local businesses prior to NEST with the artists' information, their locations, and a tour map.

This event is possible only through the collaborative efforts of our outstanding local business sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, artists, and those who have donated spaces, all of whom contribute to elevate and strengthen the artistic and cultural profile of our community. We are sincerely

grateful for the ongoing support and title sponsorship of Natalie Belovic of Urban Ottawa, and sponsors Align Massage Therapy Lindenlea; Beechwood Cemetery; Beechwood Market; Books on Beechwood; and Pandore Innovations. Thank you to our advertisers Mona Fortier, MP and Lucille Collard, MPP. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Irene and Michael Tobis from the Electric Street Gallery for their support of our journey over the years.

NEST is organized by a dedicated volunteer group of local artists who have combined their collective passion with a vision to build a vibrant arts scene in New Edinburgh. The planning committee includes founder Sara Alex Mullen, Josée Robillard, Ariel Lyons,

Susan Ashbrook, and new to the committee this year is Beth Stikeman.

NEST is looking for volunteers to direct attendees and hand out brochures at various locations on the weekend of the studio tour. If this interests you, please contact Josée Robillard at [josee.robillard@gmail.com](mailto:josee.robillard@gmail.com).

If you are a local business, and would like to sponsor our event, please contact Beth Stikeman at [beth.stikeman56@gmail.com](mailto:beth.stikeman56@gmail.com).

For more information on NEST please visit our website at [neststudiotour.ca/](http://neststudiotour.ca/). Follow us on social media: [instagram.com/neststudiotour](https://www.instagram.com/neststudiotour) or [facebook.com/NewEdinburghStudioTour](https://www.facebook.com/NewEdinburghStudioTour) or contact us at [neststudiotour@gmail.com](mailto:neststudiotour@gmail.com).

# Weekly jazz returns to MacKay United Church in June

## By Eleanor Dunn

When was the last time you saw a tuba fronting a jazz group? Maybe it was back when the Preservation Hall Jazz Band from New Orleans was in town as part of the Ottawa International Jazz Festival.

The tuba has long been a mainstay of New Orleans Dixieland jazz bands. When they weren't playing in a marching band leading a funeral parade, New Orleans tuba players could be found playing in clubs substituting for the double-bass in the rhythm section.

The tuba will be featured in one of the groups appearing at this year's Ottawa International Jazz Festival which will be playing at MacKay United Church at noon on Jun. 22 as part of MacKay's popular Jazz in June concert series. They play the Jazz Festival later that evening.

Yes, Jazz in June is back at MacKay United for its sixth year. As there are five Thursdays in June in 2023, there will be five concerts, each starting at 12 p.m. As usual, the concerts are free, but goodwill donations are gratefully accepted and

used to defray the costs of MacKay's music program.

Here's the lineup:

- Jun. 1: Leah Cogan and Chris Jackson
- Jun. 8: Megan Jerome and Together Ensemble
- Jun. 15: Field Notes: Jazz and Atwood, Woods, Jordan, and Clarke
- Jun. 22: Keith Hartshorn and Erik Lawrence
- Jun. 29: Tom Reynolds and Pete Woods

A bit more about the Jun. 22 concert: Keith Hartshorn-Walton is an Ottawa jazz tuba player. He'll be joined by saxophonist Erik Lawrence from Pittsburgh, PA, who

is a veteran musician with an extensive list of accomplishments in jazz, rock, and meditative music. Keith and Erik first met backstage at Massey Hall in Toronto when Erik was touring with Levon Helm. Erik came to Ottawa for a series of collaborations with local musicians including Peter Woods, MacKay United's minister and jazz saxophonist.

Keith and Erik will be joined for this performance by drummer Bram Kincheloe, from Woodstock, NY. During their careers, these three have played with an impressive list of internationally recog-

nized musicians. It's a major coup to have them perform at this year's Jazz in June at MacKay.

Learn more about Jazz in June at: [mackayunited.ca/upcoming-events](http://mackayunited.ca/upcoming-events). MacKay United Church is located at 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.*





# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

Spring was slow to arrive, but by mid-April, a flood of migrating birds surged back into our region, making their presence known with a chorus of familiar songs and calls. In our Stanley Avenue garden, and throughout the neighbourhood, the piercing *cheer, cheer, cheer* of the **Northern Cardinal** was a welcome sign that the breeding season was underway.

Cardinals are lusty singers throughout spring and summer, but never more than when breeding pairs are protecting their turf, building their nests, and nurturing their young. Both the male and female of the species are singers, in the female's case as a way to tell her mate to bring food to the nestlings or stand alert for a predator. If you have a backyard feeder, you may see a cardinal pair engaged in "mate feeding," as the male brings seed to his mate, and touches her beak as she receives it.



Photo by David Howe

Palm Warbler.

Our garden played host to successive waves of **black-birds**: noisy **red-winged blackbirds**; **common grackles**, glossy and splendid in their breeding plumage; **European starlings**, and a single **brown-headed cowbird**. Although starlings are not a favourite in our household, they can be useful, consuming grubs and other destructive insect life in the lawn. The largest black-birds, **American crows** and **Common ravens**, are especially active now, frequently spotted with twigs and grasses in their beaks as they build their large nests.

**American robins** were a welcome arrival in April with their glorious "*cheery up, cheerily*" songs. Robins are members of the **thrush** family, and share the species' characteristic fluid, musical vocalizations. They are typically the first birds to sing in the morning – as early as 4:30 a.m.! – and the last at night. In recent years, we've had nesting pairs very close to our house, and witnessed more than a few near disasters, as nestlings toppled from precarious nests built too close to human activity (e.g., on doorframes).

On Apr. 12, the **Eastern phoebe** made its first appearance in our neighbourhood, belting out its piercing *feebee* call. Phoebes have a habit of returning to their previous nesting spots, notably the Rockcliffe Parkway lookout and a large garden on Rideau Gate. The male is an aggressive defender of its breeding territory, continuously vocalizing to convey its "back off" message, and if need be, giving chase to marauders. Phoebes are handsome, grey-

and-white flycatchers, with the sharply pointed bills of insectivores, and a distinctive habit of twitching, or "wagging" their tails – a dead giveaway to their identification!

Apr. 13 marked the long-awaited return of our resident **song sparrow**, belting out its cheerful call. The song starts with several repeated notes, reminiscent of the iconic opening bars of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* (*da da da dum*) and progresses into a buzzing trill. The song sparrow's most distinctive field mark is a prominent dark splotch on a streaky white and brown breast. The crown is reddish brown, with a grey stripe down the middle.

About a week later, I heard my first **white-throated sparrow** of the season along the Rockcliffe Parkway. Since then, they have become ubiquitous, and turned up in our garden, where they joined a sizeable group of ground-foraging **dark-eyed juncos**. White-throats are perhaps the easiest of all sparrows to correctly identify, thanks to their iconic *Oh Canada* call. They are striking little birds with boldly black and white striped heads; yellow "eyebrows"; a white throat and a clear grey breast. Their close cousin, the **white-crowned sparrow**, typically appears in late May, en route to its Arctic breeding grounds. The white-crown has very similar markings, but is slightly larger than the white-throat, and lacks the latter's distinctive yellow eyebrows.

As I write in May, **chipping sparrows** have returned in force, signaling their presence with their piercing, mechanical trills. They are not the only local trillers: both **dark-eyed juncos** and **pine warblers** are also known for their distinctive trills. But there are a number of noticeable differences among the three versions: the junco's trills are slightly shorter, more musical, and generally slower in pace than



Common Grackle.

Photo by David Howe

the chipping sparrow's rapid, drill-like call, while the pine warbler's trills are also shorter and less mechanical, alternating in pattern between fast and slow. Visit [sibleyguides.com/bird-info](http://sibleyguides.com/bird-info) to learn more.

A highlight this spring is the profusion of **ruby-crowned kinglets** which arrived in mid-April, and have since been fluttering in trees and shrubs, regaling us with their long, babbling, musical songs. Ruby-crowns are tiny (4.5"), grayish green birds, named for the male's red top knot, which is typically visible when the bird is riled up. They are notoriously peripatetic, rarely pausing long enough to allow a clear identification of their field marks. But that frantic behaviour is itself a reliable clue to their ID, so if a small, frenetic, butterfly-like bird turns up in your yard, chances are high that it's a ruby-crown.

By late May, numerous other spring regulars had arrived in the neighbourhood, notably: **Northern shrikes**, **red-eyed vireos**, **Northern mockingbirds**, **gray catbirds** and **great-crowned flycatchers**, the latter readily identified by their piercing, single-note *fweep* call.

Numerous **warbler** species have reportedly returned to

the area, although regrettably, I have yet to see or hear more than a handful. Reports from the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club note the arrival of **common yellowthroats**, **yellow warblers**, **Nashville warblers**, **Black-throated green warblers**, **palm warblers** and **pine warblers**, and there are many more to come.

Our *NEN* birding photographer and reporter **David Howe** has already spotted **pine-, palm- and yellow-rumped warblers** here in our neighbourhood. So far, my own sightings have been limited to **pine warblers** on the Rockcliffe Parkway, and a fleeting glimpse of a **black-poll warbler** in our garden. Before long, however, many more warbler regulars will be back in our environs, notably **American redstarts**, **yellow warblers**, **black-and-white warblers**, **Blackburnian warblers** and **ovenbirds**.

Out on both the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers, waterfowl abound. On the Rideau River in Stanley Park, we've spotted **hooded mergansers**, **common mergansers**, **common goldeneye**, **mallards** and hordes of **Canada geese**. So far, there has been no sign of the beautiful wood ducks that are typically around here for summer, but they'll surely



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White-breasted nuthatch.

Photo by Mike Leveille

be back soon.

#### Reports from our readers:

**Mike Leveille** reports that the Macoun Marsh is humming with numerous **Northern cardinals**; **red-winged blackbirds**; **Common grackles**; **black-capped chickadees**; **mallards**; **wood ducks**; **turkey vultures**; and a breeding pair of **Canada geese**.

The Avian Bistro at Thomas and Alexander Streets is equally alive with bird

activity. Proprietor **Philip MacAdam** reports a steady stream **American goldfinches** in their bright yellow breeding plumage, along with **house finches**, **purple finches**, **house sparrows**, **Northern cardinals**, **black-capped chickadees**, **red-winged blackbirds**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **white-throated sparrows** and **downy woodpeckers**. **Wild turkeys** have also turned up around the Bistro, though hopeful-

ly these lumbering critters made no attempt to perch on the feeders! Highlights of Philip's spring to date are two encounters with a **barred owl** just before dawn in mid-April, and a fleeting glimpse of a "super-charged" **ruby-crowned kinglet** outside his kitchen window.

Bird photographer and reporter **David Howe** was temporarily sidelined this spring by a bout of COVID-19. But while cooling his heels, David has been enjoying the "strutting and puffing" behaviour of the glossy **Common grackles** as they stake out nesting turf in Stanley Park. In late April, David observed a wave of migrating **broad-winged hawks** pushing through the region, spotting at least 40 birds passing through Stanley Park within a 15-minute period.

#### Safe Wings Ottawa

Safe Wings Ottawa is an initiative of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, established to address the problem of bird mortality from window collisions through research, prevention, and rescue. In Ottawa, an estimated 250,000 birds collide with windows

each year, particularly during the spring and fall migration seasons. Most of these birds will not survive.

Throughout the month of May, Safe Wings carried out a Residential Bird Collision Solutions Spring Campaign, urging homeowners to prevent collisions by equipping their windows with collision prevention markers. Visit [safewings.ca](http://safewings.ca) for details.

**Summer birding resources** [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org). Cornell Lab of Ornithology's comprehensive guide to species identification and information, plus access to the **Merlin ID App** to help identify birds you may see or hear in your travels; and [ofnc.ca](http://ofnc.ca): OFNC guides on where to go birding in the region, and what species you may encounter at each location.

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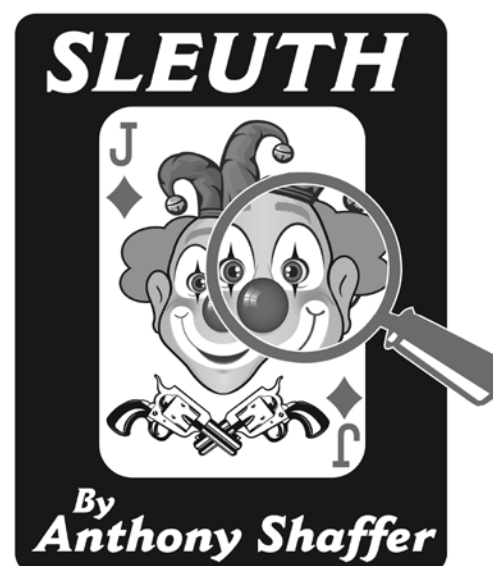
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# Burgh author explores ancestry, heritage, and fantasy

By Christina Leadlay

Many of us had exciting travel plans for 2020 which had to be shelved thanks to the pandemic. New Edinburgh-based author Carole Logan is one such person who had to toss her suitcase back in the closet three years ago, putting a much-anticipated trip to her ancestral homeland of Northern Ireland on ice.

"My original plan, focused only on genealogy research, was to take the entire summer of 2020 to visit Ireland, attend a family history conference, and become familiar with the area around the Giant's Causeway," Carole explained to the *New Edinburgh News*. "But it all coalesced into fiction writing in mid-2020 when I was stuck at home due to COVID. My imagination drifted away from reality and took the form of a fantasy novel where events might be coincidence or fairy magic."

Carole says the inspiration for her new novel, *The Irish Within Us*, had been in her head for a while, the germ being her grandfather's roots in Bushmills in Northern

Ireland. "I had been using Ancestry DNA for my genealogy research in 2019 when I was drawn into an online dispute between two distant cousins from Antrim that I had never met," she says, describing *The Irish Within Us* as a low fantasy escapade set in 2016.

The protagonist, Kara, is a retired civil servant who visits her grandfather's native village of Ballybeg on the north coast of Northern Ireland, where she is both enchanted and skeptical of the area's perceived magic. After meeting distant cousins Imogen and David, Kara is drawn into a fight over land that may be enchanted. Imogen is a reserved heritage conservationist; David is a self-obsessed American real estate developer who came to build a large leisure facility.

"I had previously looked at the arts and heritage issues in the area and knew about the conservation issues," Carole says. Heritage and art issues have featured prominently in Carole's career. Originally from Burlington, Ont., Carole studied English and History



Photo by Alexander McKenzie  
Carole Logan is the author of *The Irish Within Us*.

at the University of Toronto. In the 1980s, she worked as an administrator for dance and theatre companies, eventually leading to a career in the grant and contribution programs at Canadian Heritage, first in the Toronto regional office and then in Ottawa. She moved to New Edinburgh 13 years ago.

Carole says the plot of her novel centres on saving the land and historical objects. "Originally, there was too much detail that I pared down to keep it light and readable, but in reality there is a constant battle there against over-ambitious development. And the layers of history [are] reflected in the voice of the land balancing [Kara's] love of humans (and fairies) with her own existence."

Carole has been writing fiction all her life, and now that she is retired from the public service, she can focus on writing what she wants to full time (no more grant applications!). While some aspects of the novel's protagonist are autobiographical (Kara is retired from the federal "Culture Department," she's nostalgic for Toronto's 1980s bohemian art scene, she's an amateur genealogist from Scottish immigrant parents with a maternal link to Northern Ireland), Carole says that's where the connection ends.

Carole finally made it over to Northern Ireland in 2022, when public health restric-

tions were relaxed and travel opened back up. "Before I finished the book, I was able to travel from Belfast and along the coast from Cushendall to Coleraine and found a land of intriguing contrasts," she recalls. "As my mother had said, the people are very warm and talkative so there was 'craic' or pleasant chatter everywhere. When I talked about my grandfather, the locals were especially friendly and treated me like the long-lost cousin I am. So I knew I had got it right in my novel."

When asked what new projects she's working on, Carole explains she has three notebooks on the go for different story ideas. "The third is a historical interpretation of the life of my real great-great-great uncle, the notable Victorian convict Archie Sloss. I might finish the first, skip the second and plunge into the third," she says.

*The Irish Within Us* is also available in ebook format. Learn more online at [electricstreetbooks.ca](http://electricstreetbooks.ca).



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# One gardener shares the challenges and joys of beautifying their corner of the neighbourhood

By Beverley McConnell

Gardens in New Edinburgh must cope with so many challenges. In addition to extremes in weather, gardens fronting sidewalks and the lanes suffer damage from winter salting and snow clearing. Typically, there is only limited soil depth above shale or rock, or perhaps even industrial or other waste. Gardeners often need to work with awkward spaces located in full sun or full shade, sometimes both in one day.

Yet many residents do invest time, labour, and money to collaborate with nature and make our neighbourhood a pleasant, green, and colourful place to stroll for three seasons of the year. The enormous popularity of the annual spring plant sale at the Fieldhouse in May is evidence of local gardeners' eagerness to get started after long months of hibernation. Enforced isolation and working from home during the pandemic also seemed to have stimulated residents' interest in beautifying their local environment.

Every garden has its own unique setting and circumstances, but I'm happy to describe what happens in mine during the spring and summer. I have gardened on River Lane for over 40 years. So much has changed on the property and surrounding area in that time, including sudden loss of shade from trees that have succumbed to bad weather, and new shade due to maturing trees plus nearby construction. Gardeners always need to adapt, which is part of the challenge and the satisfaction. On the other hand, some resilient plants have survived happily on the property longer than I have, with Yellow Loosestrife, Phlox, Bloodroot, Periwinkle, Lily-of-the-Valley, Violets, and a Blackcurrant bush all predating my arrival.

My home is on half of a narrow lot between Crichton and River Lane. We have a small, terraced front garden that faces southwest and a slightly larger rear garden that gets a lot more shade. I love trees as well as flowers, and I sometimes need to referee their competing needs. There always seems to be



Photo courtesy Bev McConnell

**Gardeners always need to adapt, which is part of the challenge and the satisfaction, writes local gardener Bev McConnell.**

plenty of work in the garden, so I'm a great believer in reliable perennials, rather than planting from scratch each year. I don't use weed killer, pesticides, or other chemicals. I have not bothered too much with native plants, but I do have Daylilies, Bloodroot, Ferns, and a few others. I like the idea of a busy cottage garden, with a non-stop sequence of flowers and colours from early April to early November. I do not grow fruit and vegetables. Flowers and foliage, along with the birds, bees, and butterflies they attract, are what bring me pleasure.

In early April, I wait impatiently for the first signs of life pushing through the retreating snow. About 15 years ago, I planted a few snowdrop bulbs and they have repaid me by spreading throughout the garden, providing the season's first flowers. They generally get snowed upon at least three times, but these resilient flowers hold their ground. They are soon joined by other small but bountiful blossoms growing from tiny bulbs planted decades ago, including Puschkinia (Squill), Glory of the Snow, and Scylla. You can find carpets of these blue gems throughout the neighbourhood in April. Then the Crocuses and the resilient Dwarf Daffodils arrive on the scene. All these flowers take advantage of

the spring sunshine reaching them before the nearby trees start to leaf and produce shade. Next to flower will be the Bloodroot and Hyacinths. I buy Hyacinths in bloom at the supermarket and plant the bulbs in the garden when they've finished flowering. I've not had much success with Tulips, as the squirrels enjoy digging them up.

Late spring sees my trees in bloom. I have lots of trees. Most of the original ones have gone, but a valiant crabapple and hardy Norway Maple remain in my rear garden. They have been joined by a columnar pear, a tree lilac, and an Amelanchier (Serviceberry), the latter two arriving as part of the City of Ottawa's campaign to maintain the urban forest. At the edge of my small front garden, I planted what I was told was a small shrub; it turned out to be a muscular crabapple. It has done well over the years, despite being almost surrounded by paving and surviving assaults from road reconstruction, caterpillars, the weather, and other trials. I have it pruned professionally and try to keep it watered. I've transplanted three of its saplings into the rear garden. Also in the front garden is a younger crabapple, again obtained a few years ago from the City. The two older crabapples bloom spectacularly each May, though

they are starting to show their age (one dazzling us only in alternate years).

By the start of summer, our patio at the side of the house will be decorated with a vast display of colourful potted geraniums; I have about 25 of them, all grown from cuttings. Joining them are my three hibiscus shrubs in pots, plus three hanging baskets of English Ivy. Overflow geraniums will be relocated to the front steps of the house, though I need to be careful with full sun. Meanwhile, in the rear garden, the next wave of plants is flowering—Bleeding Heart, various Hostas, Daylilies, Turtlehead, Phlox, a giant Monkshood, and tall spikes of Dames Rocket—all perennials that do fine in partial shade. I also have some climbers for "vertical gardening": Clematis, Honeysuckle, and a rambling rose that climbs the fence on the sunny side of the garden and requires regular pruning. Apologies to all the many other plants that I've not namechecked. Some of my plants are potentially

invasive, but I do keep them under control. It can be a battlefield for space out there.

I have more Daylilies at the front and along the narrow verge across the lane, facing our house. I kept in close touch with City staff during reconstruction of River Lane a few years ago and they agreed to replace the soil along the verge and provided us with several pots of various Daylilies to plant there. The familiar hardy, orange variety has proved most successful, together with some perennial geraniums.

Whether simply adding some hanging plants in the porch or patio, to more ambitious plans for converting patches of neglected roadside verge or lane into interesting floral features, and everything in between, residents help ensure New Edinburgh remains a special urban neighbourhood.

*Beverley McConnell has lived on River Lane with her husband Paul for over 40 years and enjoys gardening, and travelling when the gardens are not in bloom.*

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# Jardin botanique de Kisantu revisited

By Janet Ruddock

Anyone else jetlagged on King Charles III coronation weekend last month? I was completely knackered without the bonus of flying to London. We were not on the drastically reduced guest list. So, at the crack of dawn, we watched the whole thing on television. My husband, Frank, provided coffee and croissants to make the early hour less painful. Five a.m. is early even for him, the early riser.

Four hours later, festivities concluded, we watched highlights over a celebratory full English cooked breakfast. We had done our bit for the new monarch, but I felt like someone had just hit me over the head. Jetlag in honor of the King. I did the sensible thing and went back to bed.

Sunday, I was not faring much better with my phantom jetlag. Fresh air was needed. We headed to the Governor General's grounds for a wander and perhaps a look round the greenhouse. Strolling the wide expanse of driveway, we bumped headlong into the changing of the guard. "We can get out of the way," said Frank, "if you

hurry." I haven't stepped that lively in quite a while.

We skipped the guided tour of Rideau Hall and headed straight to the greenhouse. We'd been there only at night during some overcrowded official function when we didn't see much. I don't remember counting dinosaurs in the lush foliage, either. Those arrived with then-Governor General David Johnston's grandchildren. Spoiler alert: there are 15 in total (dinosaurs, not

the jungle road. Interested in visiting the gardens next time you're in Bas-Congo? If you reach the village of Kisantu, you've gone too far.

Our three-car convoy of embassy day-trippers bumped along the one way, dirt road to seemingly nowhere. When the road ended, we assumed we had arrived, but not necessarily. In those days in Zaire, roads did all too often just end. Ever the avid explorers, our group disembarked in the clearing and followed the one

sized flowers of every hue spread overhead. I knew how Gulliver felt in the land of giants.

The grandeur of the Jardin botanique became dramatically less splendid when the Belgians left in 1960. The Congolese gained independence and having won it, everything in the country fell into disrepair, including the Jardin. Abandoned for 20 years, tropical vegetation developed unchecked to mammoth proportions.

were enormous orchids and other tropical flowers beyond anything I had ever seen.

The plants in the greenhouses, the trees looming outside, everything was triple or more its normal size. We felt like misplaced Lilliputian explorers. Even the bugs were oversized.

A particularly grandiose breed of spider, one hefty fellow larger than a hand, hung ominously from overhanging vines. Flying creatures darting from dark corners could have been overgrown moths, or bats, or both. Whatever they were, they clearly did not want their secret, broken-down sanctuaries infiltrated. Constantly bombarded by their divebombing attacks on our heads, we left the mesmerizing wonders of the greenhouses.

Returning to our cars via the wilds of the encroaching jungle, the lead members of our party suddenly stopped dead in their tracks. A battalion of enormous soldier ants, disturbed by our approach, broke ranks and swarmed in all directions. Fierce and frightened, they attacked everything in sight with their penetrating pincers. It was not a good day to be wearing sandals.

The Jardin botanique had the best of the worst greenhouses I've ever seen. Flash forward 40 years. A 2019 review of the revamped Jardin say it's a "must-see on your trip to Kisantu." The new guesthouse has indoor plumbing "with toilet paper." Sounds good to me, or maybe it's just the phantom jetlag.

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

*"The plants in the greenhouses, the trees looming outside, everything was triple or more its normal size. We felt like misplaced Lilliputian explorers."*

grandchildren).

The palms, the tropical flowers, the humidity! We have a weakness for greenhouses. A lifetime ago, we stumbled upon the mother of all greenhouses, a two-hour drive from Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (known as Zaire during our stay). "JARDIN BOTANIQUE" read the weather-beaten sign nailed to a tree, easily missed on

overgrown path on offer. It led to another time and place.

In 1900, a Jesuit priest from Belgium, with time on his hands, I guess, created this haven of trees and plants transplanted from all over Africa and elsewhere. The dirt path opened into broad avenues of crumbling bricks lined with towering trees of colossal girth. Think California redwoods on steroids. Thick vines with out-

Mega-sized; fit for dinosaurs.

A collection of collapsing greenhouses filled-to-overflowing with lush plants adorned in oversized leaves and flowers. The ornate metal structures, falling into ruin, were magical in their own way. One greenhouse connected to another by a canopy of vines creating one sprawling conservatory. Spilling from broken glass doorways and missing windowpanes



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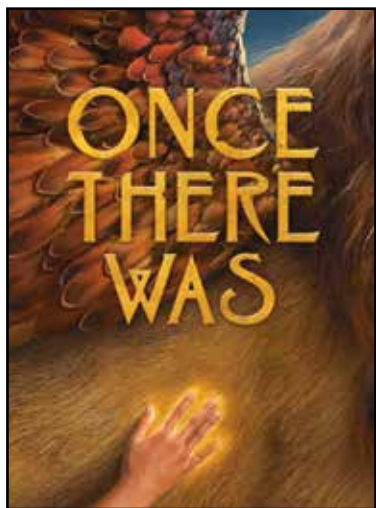


# Summer survival kit: Sunscreen, cold drinks, and lots of books

## By the Books on Beechwood Staff

The staff at our local bookshop – Bridget, Cathy, Dave, M., Hilary, Michelle, Stephanie – once again share their picks for what to read on your summer vacation. Visit in-person Books on Beechwood at 35 Beechwood Ave., call 613-742-5030 or shop online at [booksonbeechwood.ca](http://booksonbeechwood.ca).

## For Children and Teens



*Once There Was* by Kiyash Monsef (Ages 10+)

Beautiful, magical, and thrilling, this novel follows a young girl's adventures as she tries to deal with her father's sudden death and the revelation that his veterinary practice specialized in creatures that she thought existed only in bedtime stories. –Hilary

*The Firefly Summer* by Morgan Matson (Ages 8–12)  
Ryanna thinks she's headed off to spend a quiet summer

getting to know her grandparents at Camp Van Camp. What she doesn't expect is to find a camp full of cousins, a mysterious treasure map, and...a lizard funeral? Funny, sweet, and charming, this is a perfect read! –Hilary

*The Ogress and the Orphans* by Kelly Barnhill (Ages 10–14)

This warm, loving story is a richly told fairy tale of orphans, ogres, dragons, and crows – I guess the crows should have gotten top billing! A true balm for a cold, hard world with lessons for all. –Dave M.

## Fiction



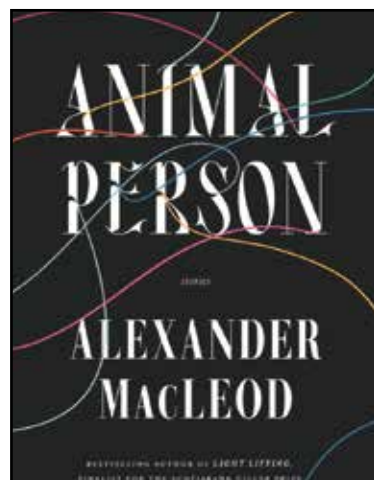
*Snow Road Station* by Elizabeth Hay

A 60-year-old seasoned actress blanks her lines on stage. Shattered and uncertain, she retreats to Snow Road Station, a dot on the map east of Smiths Falls. This is a beautiful novel about the bonds of female friendship, thwarted ambition, and love's capacity to surprise us at any

age. –Bridget

*Old Babes in the Wood* by Margaret Atwood

Moving, tender and wryly amusing, this story collection encompasses everything we love about Atwood. From the touching and funny stories of Tig and Nell, to a daughter who believes her mother is a witch, to an alien tasked with retelling human fairy tales, Atwood charms and delights! –Bridget



*Animal Person* by Alexander MacLeod

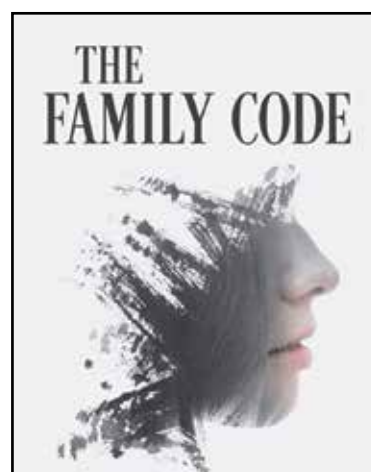
I don't often pick up short story collections, but I'm so glad I picked up this one! Nova Scotia's Alexander MacLeod invites readers into sibling rivalry, a piano performance at a community centre, the unease of finding oneself adjacent to a crime, the love and loss of a pet, and its implications for family relationships. Though these eight stories might seem simple on the surface, they operate on many levels. A great read! –Michelle

*We Spread* by Ian Reid

At once compassionate and uncanny, this genre-defying novel explores conformity, relationships and what it means to grow old. –Stephanie

*All the Colours in the World* by C.S. Richardson

This is the story of the restorative power of art in one man's life, set against the sweep of the 20th century from Toronto in the 1920s and '30s, to Sicily in the 1960s. A beautiful book. –Stephanie



*The Family Code* by Wayne Ng

Wayne Ng is an Ottawa author who brings decades of experience as a social worker to this moving family drama about a feisty single mother doing all she can to protect her children. The novel is narrated from two points of view – the mother's and the son's – and weaves together a portrayal of unresolved family pain, loyalty, and love. This heartbreaking novel is

gritty, painful, honest, and hopeful. –Michelle

*My Face in the Light* by Martha Schabas

If you enjoy stories with introspective, perceptive characters, and poetic language that catches you offguard, then you will love this book! Each paragraph contains a beautifully written, thought-provoking perspective. It is not heavy on plot, but every scene is carefully and deeply rendered, and I didn't want it to end. It is a book to be read slowly and savoured. –Michelle

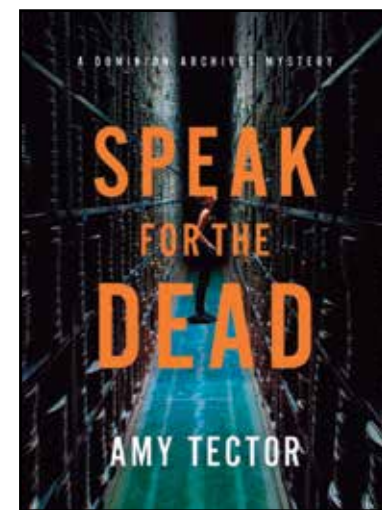
*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

In this book we find Tova Sullivan working the night shift at Sowell Bay Aquarium. She is befriended by the resident Giant Pacific Octopus, Marcellus, and the two form an amazing connection. Part mystery, part meditation on grief, this hopeful novel is a delight. –Cathy

*The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese

If you read (and loved) *Cutting for Stone*, you will not be disappointed by this gorgeous, absorbing, sweeping, yet intimate story of three generations of a South Indian family cursed by the power of water to claim a life from each generation. –Bridget

## Mysteries and Thrillers



*The Foulest Things* and *Speak for the Dead* (Dominion Archives Mysteries) by Amy Tector

It has been a joy to discover the novels of Ottawa's own Amy Tector! *The Foulest Things* finds a junior archivist amid murder, history, art fraud, and romance, and *Speak for the Dead* (which is predominantly set in our end

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of town) finds a local corner faced with an intriguing puzzle that keeps you hooked right to the last page. —Cathy

*The Golden Spoon* by Jessa Maxwell

Take a pinch of *The Great British Bake Off*, add a spoonful of Agatha Christie, and you have a tasty concoction that will satisfy readers of classic mysteries. —Bridget

*The Peacock and the Sparrow* by I.S. Berry

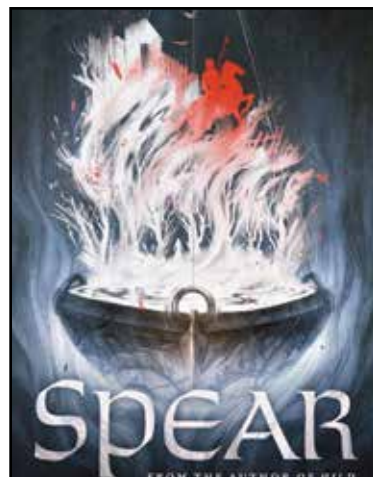
A suspenseful page-turner in the tradition of John Le Carré written by a former CIA operative. A timely story of the elusiveness of truth and the human desire to be part of a cause greater than yourself. —Stephanie

*The Bullet That Missed* by Richard Osman

After the two previous wonderfully fun reads, this third book in the Thursday Murder Club series feels like saying

hello to an old friend one really enjoys spending time with. Clever and funny, this is a rollicking, fun, cozy read. —Cathy

### Sci-Fi & Fantasy



*Spear* by Nicola Griffith

*Spear* is a queer feminist retelling of the myth of Percival and the Holy Grail. Richly written, and a delight to read, this book stayed with

me long after I finished it. —Dave M.

*Siren Queen* by Nghi Vo  
Alluring, ferocious, vivid and ingenious, Vo's blending of folklore, magic, and fantasy provides a critical take on the golden age of Hollywood and an exploration of the realities of fame in this riveting book. —Dave M.

*A Mirror Mended* by Alix Harrow

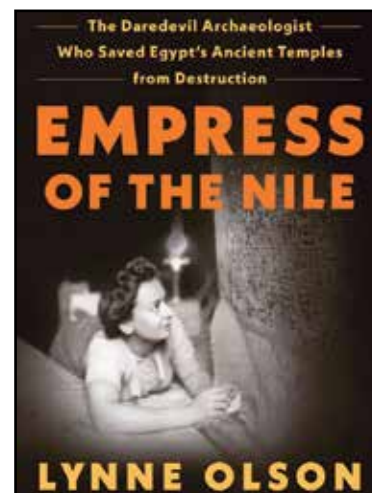
Both this book and its predecessor, *A Spindle Splintered*, are feminist retellings of pre-Grimm folk tales (*Snow White* and *Sleeping Beauty* respectively). The narratives of the fairy tales are skillfully woven, reflecting the countless variations that have come down to us through time. Characters are fully realized, and Harrow has a gift for capturing chemistry. —Dave M.

### Biography

*A Private Spy: Letters of John Le Carré* by John Le Carré

An exhaustive collection of John Le Carré's letters, revealing some of his loves and laments, sensitively edited by his son. The emphasis is on his best self and his long literary career. Illustrations by Le Carré are interspersed with the letters. —Stephanie

### History



*Empress of the Nile* by Lynne Olson

This is the fascinating story of the largely unsung woman who was at the heart of the rush to save countless monuments and artifacts at risk of being washed away due to the construction of the Aswan Dam. She faced down Nazis, Nasser, and de Gaulle, among others, and ultimately saved her beloved monuments from destruction. —Bridget

*The Wager* by David Grann

This hefty book tells the riveting account of *The Wager*, wrecked in 1742 in pursuit of a treasure-laden Spanish galleon. Two separate groups of survivors showed up over the following year, both claiming to be heroes, but one suspected of being mutineers. The courts martial, what they reveal, and the masterful accounts of life on these ships are riveting. —Bridget

## Kids' used book sale to take place June 10

By Carolyn Brereton

The Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale is re-emerging! Volunteers with the sale had been talking for some time about holding a "mini-sale" of just children's books, DVDs, and CDs. After sorting through the dozens of boxes of donated children's books collected over the last couple of years, we realized that we do in fact have plenty of material, so our Children's Book Sale is a go!

The Children's Book Sale will be held, rain or shine, on Jun. 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Rd. Tables will be set up in the hall, but in the event of good weather, we hope to be able to spread out on the lawn. And the sale will not be "mini" in terms of content. We have hundreds of great quality, gently used children's books for sale at very competitive prices. Most of the material is in English, but we also have a significant number of books in French, with a few books in other

languages.

Come and purchase summer reading material for your children and grandchildren. We encourage customers to use debit and credit cards (with chip technology) to pay for purchases, but we will also accept cash.

As always, we would like to thank this community for your continued support. Proceeds from this sale will help to pay for new materials at the Rockcliffe Park Branch and for programming both at this branch and more widely throughout the Ottawa Public Library.

Regular patrons at the branch will have noticed the increase in events as pandemic restrictions have been lifted. Perhaps you enjoyed the performance in the library by the NAC String Quartet last month as part of Music in the Stacks, or you brought the family to meet the parrots on PD Day? These and other programs are made possible with proceeds from the Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale.

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# StreetFest returns with a focus on heritage and music on September 9

By Janet Uren

StreetFest will return to New Edinburgh this September for a second year in what might turn out to be annual event, although that was not the organizer's original intention. The program of events will run between 10am to 6pm this year.

"If we proved successful in the first year, we actually planned to move the festival to another neighbourhood in its second year," says Marian McLennan, Laurentian Chapter IODE president. "But then the Ottawa Scottish Society came forward to partner with us, and they are very, very interested in the heritage of this old Scottish neighbourhood."

A second factor in the return to New Edinburgh is an awareness that there is more – much more – to celebrate in this old village: more houses to explore, more fun to be had.

Once again, the fair will be organized by Laurentian Chapter IODE, and funds raised will go to the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and

Families. "I think this is a wonderful opportunity for us all to play a real part, a joyful part, in peace and reconciliation," says this year's convenor, Skye MacDiarmid. "The Inuuqatigiit Centre is doing important work with Inuit children in Ottawa, and it's a chance for all of us to look forward to better times."

It is also a good time to look back on the history of one of Ottawa's oldest neighbourhoods. I will soon be collaborating on a written history of New Edinburgh for publication, and we will draw on my research and that of historian Martha Edmond to open doors – literally – into the heritage of this fascinating neighbourhood. As well as a heritage talk and Doorstep Guides, this year there will be three open houses, so people can see the inside of some of New Edinburgh's oldest and most interesting dwellings.

After some 60 years of House & Garden Tours in Ottawa, Laurentian set out to launch something new in 2022 (StreetFest) and it stretched out in almost every direction – with musicians, heritage talks, dance, arti-



Photo by Sam Garcia

StreetFest 2022 performer Skye MacDiarmid (seen here with Mikki Adams from the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families and Counsellor Rawlson King) returns to convene StreetFest 2023.

sans, horse rides, a bake sale and even an antique car show. Organizers learned a lot from that inaugural experience, and this year's event will be more focused to build on two central aspects: heritage and music.

Those of you who attended StreetFest last year may remember Skye MacDiarmid who sang "Wild Mountain

Thyme" so beautifully at the opening ceremonies and later, with guitarist Ron Roach and bagpiper John Virag, at the old John Street School. Skye is returning with energy and ideas in 2023 as the event's new convenor. She is determined to build on the musical program, reaching out into Ottawa's music community to find musicians to present

a day-long program of short concerts on village verandahs throughout New Edinburgh and in local churches. Thanks to the Scottish Society, we will also have pipers in the village streets throughout the day, and there will be a ceilidh – a kind of Celtic jam session – to close out the day from 4–6 p.m. Laurentian invites the public to gather and to join in singing and even to bring their own instruments along.

As for heritage, several homeowners have agreed to open their houses to the public. These buildings will include the gracious Bell House and the old stable-cum-shop-cum-residence at 48 Crichton St. A third house is still being negotiated. These open houses will be complemented by a number of "doorstep guides" throughout the village aimed at sharing with passersby the stories of a number of old, historic houses. There will also be heritage talks at St. Bartholomew's Church on MacKay Street, and horse-drawn wagon rides in the afternoon.

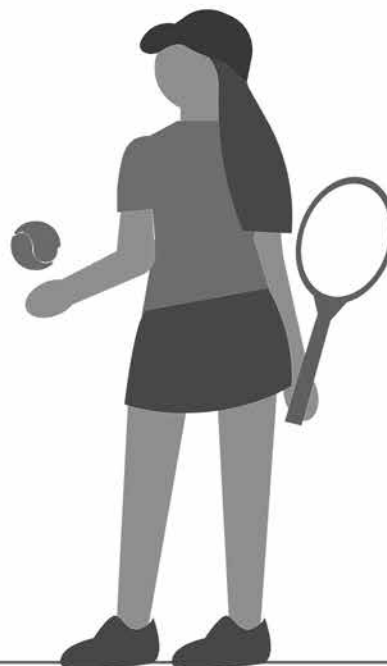
If you have a verandah and would like to participate in the verandah music program – or, indeed, to participate in any way – please contact Skye MacDiarmid at skyemacd@rogers.com. Tickets will be available online iodelaurentian.com and at Books on Beechwood in August for \$30 each. There are good times ahead!



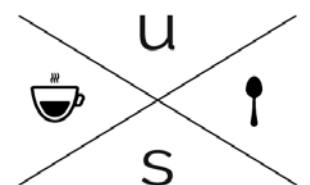
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# Library gears up for Summer Reading Club

By Martha Hodgson

Rockcliffe Park library branch staff are busy planning many fun children's activities for this summer's Reading Club. All Ottawa families are invited to visit the Ottawa Public Library this summer to take part in the annual, Canada-wide TD Summer Reading Club literacy initiative.

The TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) is Canada's biggest, bilingual summer reading program for children of all ages, interests, and abilities. This free club is offered at more than 2,200 public libraries across Canada, as well as online. The TDSRC celebrates Canadian authors, illustrators, and stories, and inspires children to explore

the fun of reading their way. This is key to building a life-long love of reading.

Children are invited to pick up their free TD Summer Reading Club kit at any OPL branch starting Jun. 12, and to join us at the library for free Club programs. At the Rockcliffe Park branch, our summer 2023 theme is Breakfast on Pluto. With

every book read, kids will help us travel across the universe! In July and August, we will be offering free craft and science programs, an escape room, the Humane Society, a life-size Candyland game, and an astronomy program! Please check the library website for more information: [bibliottawalibrary.ca](http://bibliottawalibrary.ca).

We hope to engage all chil-

dren in our city in the joy of reading this summer, supporting their continuing success at school next year.

*Martha Hodgson is a librarian at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd. Learn more at [bibliottawalibrary.ca](http://bibliottawalibrary.ca).*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Send event listing details to [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com) Visit [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events) for the most up-to-date listings.

### JUNE

**May 19–Sep. 3 – Rideau Hall Tours** at 1 Sussex Dr. [gg.ca](http://gg.ca). Call 613-991-4422. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. The residence of the Governor General is open daily for tours. Reservations are not required from Jun. 24–Sep. 3.

**Until Aug. 20 – Exhibit: “Canadian Women Artists in the Modern Moment”** at National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr. [gallery.ca](http://gallery.ca). Celebrate a generation of extraordinary women painters, photographers, weavers, beadworkers, and sculptors from a century ago in this summer exhibition: “Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in the Modern Moment.”

**June 3–4 – Doors Open Ottawa** at various locations. [ottawa.ca](http://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 3 – Vanier VéloFest** at the Centre Francophone Vanier, 270 Marier Ave. [vanier-association.com](http://vanier-association.com). 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. A free event presented by the Optimist Club of Vanier. Vélofest will feature a bike rodeo, simple bike repair, a barbecue, refreshments, and snacks. The first 100 children will receive a helmet and water bottle.

**June 6 – Music and Meditation** at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. 7 p.m. [mackayunitedchurch.org](http://mackayunitedchurch.org).

**June 6 – Book Drive** at 360 Springfield Rd. from 6–8 p.m. [rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](http://rockcliffeparkbookfair.com). Book Fair at Rockcliffe Park Public School is holding a drive-thru book drive. Pull up to the doors of the small gym in the southeast corner of the public library parking lot off Springfield Road. Volunteers will help you unload.

**Thursdays at noon – Jazz in June** at Mackay United Church, 38 Dufferin Rd. 12 p.m. [mackayunitedchurch.org](http://mackayunitedchurch.org). Jazz in June returns! Over five Thursdays in June, there will be five concerts, each starting at noon. Concerts are free, but goodwill donations are gratefully accepted and used to defray the costs of MacKay's music program. Details, p. 25.

**Saturdays until Oct. 7 – Beechwood Market** by the Stanley Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. From Jun. 3 until Thanksgiving weekend, Oct. 7. Visit [beechwoodmarket.ca](http://beechwoodmarket.ca).

**June 10 – Kids Used Book Sale** at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre, 380 Springfield Rd. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Volunteers from the Rockcliffe Park Library's Spring Book Sale are holding a one-day sale of children's books, DVDs and CDs, rain or shine. Details p. 33.

**June 12 – CCC Annual General Meeting** at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse 203 Stanley Ave. 7 p.m. The Crichton Community Council will hold its annual general meeting. Volunteering is a way to know your neighbours, socialize and make your community a better place! Details

at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca).

**June 14 – Infrastructure Master Plan** consultation at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Register: [imp-pdi@ottawa.ca](mailto:imp-pdi@ottawa.ca). The City of Ottawa hosts a public consultation on the Infrastructure Master Plan, a strategic document that sets growth-related policies, objectives, and priorities for municipal water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to support the City's New Official Plan. Your valuable input and expertise are critical to its success!

**June 15 – Book Drive** at 360 Springfield Rd. from 6–8 p.m. [rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](http://rockcliffeparkbookfair.com). Book Fair at Rockcliffe Park Public School is holding a drive-thru book drive. Pull up to the doors of the small gym in the southeast corner of the public library parking lot off Springfield Road. Volunteers will help you unload.

**June 17 – Films at the Fieldhouse** 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca). Come join us as we pay tribute to silent film comedy. Details, p. 18.

**June 20 – NECA Meeting** at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30 p.m. All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance. [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca).

**June 25 – Cemetery Stroll** at the Beechwood Cemetery, 280 Beechwood Ave. [beechwoodottawa.ca](http://beechwoodottawa.ca). 1 p.m. This event is a guided historical tour through Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada. Tours take place rain or shine starting from the Beechwood National Memorial Centre. Trained volunteers focus on local history, notable features, and sections within this National Historic Site. Free. Family friendly. A

gentle 90–120-minute walk. Wheelchair accessible.

### JULY

**July 1 – Chief Pinesi Day** at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. The second annual Chief Pinesi Day will celebrate the area's Algonquin Anishinaabe history. It is an opportunity for learning and reconciliation. Sacred Fire Ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. Land Tours also available from New Edinburgh Fieldhouse to Rideau Falls at 10:30 a.m. (Schedule is subject to change.)

**July 15 – Shakespeare in the Park** at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. 7 p.m. Pay what you can (suggested donation \$20/person). A Company of Fools returns with Shakespeare in the Park. This fast-paced, 90-minute rendition of *Hamlet* will feature disemboweled puppets, a swordfight to the death, live underscoring, and five actors taking on 15 different roles.

**July 22 – Films at the Fieldhouse** 203 Stanley Ave. 7:30–9:30 p.m. [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca). Visit the website to learn more about the Crichton Community Council's next film screening.

### AUGUST

**Bike Day** —Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) to confirm the details about the Crichton

Community Council's Bike Day, taking place either in August or September.

### SEPTEMBER

**Garage Sale** – Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) to confirm the details about the Crichton Community Council's community Garage Sale, date to be announced.

**Sep. 9 – StreetFest** throughout New Edinburgh. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. [iodelaurentian.com](http://iodelaurentian.com). Tickets at Books on Beechwood or online at the URL noted after Aug. 1. StreetFest is now in its second year. The heritage program will include live music, viewing several heritage homes including Bell House on Stanley Avenue with guided tours, plus heritage talks at St. Bartholomew's Church. A not-to-be-missed event to support Inuit children, youth and families in Vanier. Details, p. 34.

**Sep. 23–24 – New Edinburgh Studio Tour** is delighted to announce its return this fall (after three years) and is set to feature 29 talented artists at 10 locations! From 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at various locations throughout New Edinburgh. Admission and parking are free, along with free draws for door prizes at studio and gallery locations. Details, p. 25.



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# Burgh Breezy Bits

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Julia Heintzman** who was selected as one of the region's **Top 40 Under 40** in the Ottawa Business Journal and Ottawa



Photo by Sarah Jane Estabrooks

Rockcliffe Park Public School celebrated its 100th anniversary with a high tea on May 13 in the Jubilee Gardens near the school. City Councillor **Rawlson King** (centre) dropped by to deliver a proclamation from Mayor **Mark Sutcliffe** to RPPS Principal **Brian Chiasson** (left) and Vice-Principal **Christopher Wereley** to honour the occasion. The event was a wonderful chance for alumni, former and current RPPS staff, parents, and the community to gather in celebration of “the little school at the top of the hill.”



Photo courtesy Eleanor Dunn

Thanks to a close relationship with MacKay United Church, many artifacts from St. Paul's Eastern United Church (which closed its doors in 2021) have found a new home in New Edinburgh. These artefacts include all the bronze and brass memorial plaques which had graced the walls of the Sandy Hill church. As they were too heavy for the plaster walls in MacKay's sanctuary, a heritage carpenter built a false wall for the plaques. A custom shelf has also been erected to hold the St. Paul's Eastern bible (which has been restored and re-bound). A framed photo of the old church and a framed article on its history will also be installed in time for the dedication ceremony on Jun. 11. Incidentally, Jun. 11 is the 100th anniversary of the creation of the United Church in Canada as a result of an act of Parliament granting church union involving Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregationalist churches. —Eleanor Dunn

Board of Trade's annual business awards. The Top 40 are chosen from an extensive list of nominees, and the winners picked for their outstanding business accomplishments, personal and professional leadership qualities, and strong commitment to the local community. Well done, Julia! And welcome to Julia and husband **Geoff's** new Australian Labradoodle puppy, **Alfie** – another reason for the family to celebrate this spring!

## Condolences



Longstanding New Edinburgh resident **Christina Lubbock** died peacefully on Apr. 19 at the age of 89. A resident of Governor's Walk on Stanley Avenue, Christina was well known in the neighbourhood and in the wider Ottawa community as a woman of strong character, graciousness, and striking elegance. Her active engagement in the community spanned close to four decades. In 1979, she and her husband **Michael Lubbock** played a leadership role in Project 4000, helping to sponsor 4000 refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia for settlement in Ottawa. She later became CEO of WaterCan (now WaterAid Canada), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing clean water and

hygienic sanitation conditions for the world's poorest populations. More recently, Christina launched a private voice-coaching business, Voice Matters, and helped many aspiring lawyers, entrepreneurs, and assorted professionals to hone their skills in public speaking and presentation. Christina was an ardent devotee of CBC Radio, where

her eldest daughter, **Shelagh Rogers**, has been a leading light for several decades. We extend our sincere condolences to Shelagh and her siblings **Margot (Pratt)**, **John** and **Rob**; Christina's five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and her stepchildren: **Judith**, **Jeremy**, **Jessica**, **John**, **Joanna**, and **Inga**.

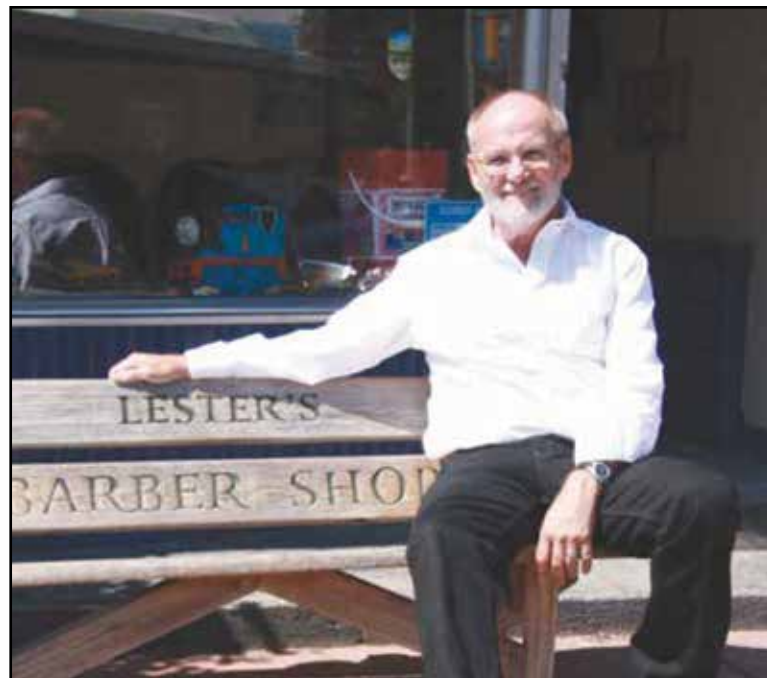


Photo by Jeff Aaron

Our community's well-known and beloved former barber, **Lester Clark**, died suddenly on Apr. 15 at the age of 68. For over two decades, Lester's Barber shop was an institution on Beechwood, serving generations of residents from the 1980s until fire destroyed the building in 2011. Lester was a friend to all, from the elderly to the youngest toddlers, whose first trims were sweetened by his inexhaustible supply of suckers.

Lester was an attentive and sympathetic listener to the joys and sorrows of his clients, and an irrepressibly cheerful presence, who saw the good in every situation and in every human being (“It’s all good,” was his favourite phrase!). In fine weather, he was a fixture outside the shop, seated on “Lester’s bench” and chatting amiably with passers-by, often accompanied by his beloved golden retriever.

Two decades ago, Lester enthusiastically embraced the Baha’i faith, a commitment which he described as “like falling into a bed of roses,” and which he pursued seriously until his death. He supported and mentored Baha’i students barred from studying in Iran, and in the process met and married one such student, **Shabnam Mohammadhosseini**. We extend our condolences to Shabnam and to all of Lester’s family and many friends. Lester and his legendary Beechwood Barber Shop are greatly missed, and will be fondly remembered in our community.

Our by-law

**prohibits idling**

for more than  
3 minutes in a  
60-minute period when  
temperatures are  
between

**5°C and  
27°C**

**More than 3?  
Turn the key.**

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ottawa.ca/SpareOurAir