

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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

## Chief Pinesi's Fight for Justice

By John Leefe

*Below is the second instalment to "Chief Pinesi Day: A small step towards truth and reconciliation," published in New Edinburgh News' October edition. What follows is a summary of the research of Dr. Pierre Desrosiers and Jim Stone, two non-Indigenous researchers who, working in conjunction with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, were speakers at Chief Pinesi Day on July 1.*

In 2022, former Chief Wendy Jocko (a direct descendant of Chief Pinesi) requested Dr. Pierre Desrosiers to search the museum's collections for any items on Chief Pierre-Louis Constant Pinesi. Desrosiers, an archeologist with the Canadian Museum of History, and speaker at Chief Pinesi Day 2023, complied. After an exhaustive search at Library and Archives Canada, applying various permutations on the spelling of "Pinesi," a war club was discovered and is now part of the museum's permanent collection.

"Knowing he was an important fighter in the War of 1812, it was very exciting to discover this club because the only text associated with it is a short sentence when the object was transferred to the museum which read 'Indian war club which belonged to Chief Pininse of the White Oak Tribe which was used in the War of 1812,'" commented Dr Desrosiers.

But instead of clarifying the matter, this intriguing line created a mystery, because Chief Pinesi was associated with the Anishannaabe of

the Ottawa Valley and it was unclear which collectivity the White Oak Tribe was referring to.

"We don't know who wrote this line, and the White Oak Tribe does not correspond to what we have learned about Chief Pinesi," Desrosiers added.

In an attempt to unlock the mystery, a name search was done using different spellings, revealing only one reference to the name in the Rice Lake Treaty #20, signed in November 1818. But this is not an Algonquin treaty, and the area is more in the south of Ontario close to Peterborough.

Desrosier wondered: Could this be referring to the same Chief Pinesi?

The treaty referred to him as the "principal man of the Chippewa Nation of Indians inhabiting the back woods of the Newcastle district of the other part." It turned out the "Newcastle district" included the area Lake Nipissing, north of the Ottawa Valley. However, in Chief Pinesi's many petitions to the Crown requesting land to compensate for what was being affected by settlement, there were other chiefs of the Nippising area on the petitions, so Desrosiers concluded Pinesi had a connection there.

Desrosiers is also quick to point out that the name Pinesi was not uncommon, leaving open the possibility that there may have been another Chief Pinesi.

"When you look at the treaty, the signature is in the shape

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## Union Street Cafe and Alcove Holdings receive BRICK Awards

By Gail McEachern

The BRICK Award – the Burgh Renovation, Improvement, and Construction Kudos – was created by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) in 2009 to recognize projects on New Edinburgh properties involving an addition to a building, the restoration of significant architectural elements on an existing house, or a new infill development sensitive to the surrounding neighbourhood aesthetic. The main criteria for evaluating a project are: the quality of the design; consideration of heritage issues; and the impact on the streetscape and green spaces. The original focus was on physical "bricks and mortar" accomplishments. However, since its inception, the concept has expanded to include a separate award for a Community Builder: an exceptional person whose contribution of time and talent have enriched the New Edinburgh community.

The BRICK awards for 2023 were announced at NECA's Annual General Meeting in October. In the Bricks and Mortar category, **Alcove Holdings** was selected for its infill project on Stanley Avenue. Two semi-detached brick dwellings, each containing four independent living units, have replaced the original bungalow at 189 Stanley, seamlessly blending into the surround-



Photo by Karen Squires

**Union Street Kitchen Café's Owner Christine Garand receives well-deserved BRICK award for community building.**

ing streetscape. A Cultural Heritage Impact Statement by Commonwealth Historic Resource Management as part of the City's approval process concluded: "The massing, scale and design enhances the continuing architectural evolution of the historic district while complimenting the neighbourhood character." The City of Ottawa also honoured the developer with a heritage award for an example of a successful

infill built between January 2019 and December 2022. The jury said: "This project is admirable for its contextual urban design, material palette and stylistic gestures all of which take their cues from the neighbourhood. This infill development is proof that densification and visual compatibility are achievable goals."

Christine Garand, founder

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## Resolution for the City: recirculate more, waste less

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

For those of us in the midst of an autumn clean up, what we do with our stuff really matters to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the future of this city's landfill. The two topics – landfill and emissions – are connected, to be sure. Less stuff into the landfill means fewer GHG emissions coming out of it. As we work on lowering our carbon emissions in every way possible, how we deal with our stuff is vital to that effort.

In Ottawa, this topic is coming home to roost as our City Council looks to review and, in early 2024, to adopt a new Solid Waste Master

Plan (SWMP). That plan will guide how the City manages waste over the next 30 years. Expect to read and hear more in the coming months about the future of Ottawa's landfill – a resource the city has relied on for far too long.

Our waste-induced emissions must go on a diet – and none too soon. This starts with upping efforts to keep waste out of the landfill and stemming the rise of methane emissions, one of the most powerful GHGs and a key driver of climate change.

The most valuable step any of us can take to reduce garbage-related emissions and the need for a larger landfill for Ottawa is to keep organics

– especially food waste – out of our garbage and into our green bins instead.

Organic waste goes beyond food, however, to include yard waste, wood, paper products, and cotton cloth that ends up in our landfill, emitting methane.

A whopping 45 per cent of Ottawa's residential garbage should go into green bins instead, according to the draft SWMP. (See my article in the February 2023 *New Edinburgh News* for more on that topic.) Clearly the City has huge scope to better promote and support residents' efforts at using the right bins (green versus garbage) to

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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 7:00 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 meetings will take place **Tuesday January 16, 7:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday February 20, 7:00 p.m.** Meetings are hybrid: held online and 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)

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

# Report from the President



## Report from the NECA Board

By Ray Boomgaardt

As I begin to write this, it's early November, the leaves have fallen from the trees, we sometimes have frost at night, but the ground is still unfrozen. At times like this, when global climate change, and humanity's increasing impact on ecosystems threatens the survival of numerous species; while two major wars also shake our sense of security, it seems almost irrelevant to be discussing local developments.

But, I believe that it is also at times like this, that it is important to build ties of friendship and cooperation; not to give into despair, but instead to celebrate things that are going right, and to strengthen our sense of community.

At our NECA Board meetings, and at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) we celebrated the continuing vitality of the *New Edinburgh News*. Recently a major Canadian chain of local newspapers went out of business. The numerous communities it served lost these voices. Businesses also expressed concern that they had lost a vehicle to advertise to their communities. So let us continue to celebrate and support the *New Edinburgh News*. And think of making a contribution, whether in writing, photography, or some other way.

Another way we celebrated at our AGM was by honouring the recipients of this year's BRICK Awards: Union Street Kitchen's **Christine Garand**, won the Community Builder award, and **Alcove Holdings**, developer of the 8 unit heritage compatible development at 189 Stanley Ave, won the award. Congratulations!

The invitation, in the *New Edinburgh News*, for suggestions as to who should receive a BRICK Award, generated some additional great ideas that gave us a lot to consider, and we hope to be able to take up some of those ideas in future years. Our thanks to everyone who contributed. We appreciate your suggestions. Keep them coming.

Councillor King's office has confirmed that the City has agreed to the CCC's proposal for WiFi to be installed at the Fieldhouse. This will increase the attractiveness of the Fieldhouse for meetings, and in an emergency, the utility of the Fieldhouse as an emergency shelter will be greatly enhanced. Thanks to Councillor **Rawlson King**, the City, **Chris Straka** and the CCC team for making this happen.

At the recent AGM, NECA elected its new board, with one member stepping down and no new members. Departing board member **Heather Matthews** comes from a long line of New Edinburghers and has contributed tremendously to the vibrancy of the community, recounting stories of the old days and supplying us with lovely fare over the years. Thank you for all your community service over the years!

There are still a couple of seats available on the NECA board, so if you are looking for a way to get more involved in the community, come join us at our next meeting – which will take place on January 16, 2024, beginning at 7 pm.

# Letter from the Editor



## Sharon Nyangweso Managing Editor

We're officially in the throes of holiday season and I couldn't be more excited to bring you a December issue that's filled to the brim with events to enjoy with loved ones, local businesses to support this season, and opportunities to support your community in big and small ways (check out the calls to action from the food bank, compassion wreaths, and the annual worldwide candle lighting). We are also deeply grateful for all the kind letters to the editor we received!

As we prepare to welcome 2024, I would like to take this opportunity to look forward. In the last few weeks, events around the world have left a lot of us feeling devastated and grief stricken. Although our little newspaper cannot solve the biggest challenges of our world - even our city or neighbourhood, we want to ensure we are harbouring community care and joy. So

here's what you can expect from us in the new year; more content focused on the diversity of our community, highlighting the knowledge keepers and elders of the Burgh', and learning more about the First Nations peoples who have been the rightful caretakers of our neighbourhood, like Chief Pinesi. We will also continue to share content on heritage, traffic and safety, the environment, local businesses and more.

Hanukkah Sameach, (Happy Hanukkah), Merry Christmas, Happy holidays, and Wishing you wisdom and joy this Kwanzaa!

Read the *NEN* online: [www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca)

# Letters to the Editor

## Reconciliation at 24 Sussex

In response to your recent article by Ken Grafton, concerning 24 Sussex, I have a suggestion that I have been mulling over for some time, but recent events have given me a better focus on that idea.

Every time I attend an event, I am reminded of the fact we are occupying unceded land of Indigenous peoples. My question, then, is: Are they getting it back?

Then I see the questions surrounding the role of the monarchy and the future of the royalty in Canada. Then there is the question of what to do about the Prime Minister's dilapidated residence on Sussex in Ottawa.

There are a host of other issues that need to be more adequately addressed, which only adds to my concern. So, here is my idea: I would like the Prime Minister's residence to be handed over to Indigenous peoples. Move the Prime Minister into Rideau Hall and have the Governor General move into the cottage now being occupied by the PM and his family. It can stay that way as long as it takes to sort out our role in the Commonwealth. Besides, it is a very large and beautiful property that can easily be shared and secured.

The 24 Sussex property could then be cleared. From those ashes, a structure could arise that would become a grand assembly place, with a design and energy representative of Indigenous culture in a location that signifies Canada's willingness to share the land we inhabit. Now, wouldn't that be a major tourist attraction?

Sincerely,  
David Greenberg

## Kind words from P and B

Bev and I both agree you've done an amazing job with the latest issue of *NEN*. Each

issue is both a complex puzzle and a work of art, yet *NEN* maintains incredibly high standards. But the October issue really is a masterpiece, providing news, information, and entertainment. (We confess, as one-time zoologists, we found the bat article to be special: educational but also positive about the health of the Stanley Park oasis.)

We know production is a lot of work but the end product has great value, is permanent, and is a remarkable contribution to our community. In fact, for the majority of residents, *NEN* is the most tangible and visible evidence of what New Edinburgh is all about.

Many thanks, and well done!

P and B

## A request for some eats

Firstly, I would like to thank you for bringing us *New Edinburgh News* on a regular basis. It's nice to know what is going on in our neighbourhood.

I read the article on 88 Beechwood. It will be pleasant to have a new building on Beechwood. Some people have expressed their wish regarding retail stores at 88 Beechwood. For my part, and many of my friends, we would like to see a nice restaurant, like the ones they have in Westboro. We don't have many in the hood and it would be an attraction for local residents as well people outside our neighbourhood.

Many thanks for passing it on.

Pauline Sauvé

## A park for all

Just a quick note to thank you for publishing the article "Off-leash" doesn't mean 'anything goes' in our parks." As it turns out, the newsletter arrived in our homes the day after my cousin ended up in the hos-

pital with a broken kneecap following an incident with a dog in Stanley Park. In her case, I believe it involved her protecting her 13-year-old cocker spaniel from an overly aggressive/excited large dog. While he was on leash at first, the owner admitted he lost control, as his dog is just too strong.

I hope people take this article as a reminder that this park is for everyone and it's a privilege to have such a fabulous and vast off-leash area. Thanks again for all your work and dedication to our community.

Louise Meredith

## We love heritage!

Just to let you know that I enjoyed reading your articles in the October issue of the *New Edinburgh News*. And the paper is to be congratulated for its heritage content.

Gilles Séguin

## A fresh take on crime

Just wanted to send a quick note to say thank you! We (my household and I) are so happy for your presence at the *New Edinburgh News*. Your Editor's Note for the "Property theft in the 'Burgh" article was right on point. As fellow renters in this neighbourhood, we appreciate your fresh take on issues that actually matter! Enjoy the weekend and thank you again :)

Natasha

## CORRECTION

*New Edinburgh News* made an error in the October edition relating to a photo credit. We would like to thank Sandy Beeman for providing the image on page 5 for "Classic Community Bazaar at St. Bart's."

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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**newedinburgh.ca**

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Letters to the editor must include writer's name, address and contact info. Opinions expressed are the writer's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper. Editor reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

Send us your letters: [editor@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca)



# Chief Pinesi's Fight for Justice

Continued from page 1

of a tree, a reference to the White Oak Tribe. But another signature of Chief Pinesi is a partridge bird, so looking at them both, it became impossible to determine if it was the same guy," Desrosiers acknowledged. He concluded by saying that "we may never know if we don't find original documents relating to the acquisition of the item when the Public Archives received it. There are bushes everywhere on this research path."

Like Desrosiers, Jim Stone has also been researching the life of Chief Pinesi since retiring from the foreign service a couple of years back. While he spoke briefly about his research on Pinesi's life on Jul. 1, he gave a more comprehensive virtual presentation on Sep. 27 at the Historical Society of Ottawa's speaker's series entitled "Chief Pinesi and His Pursuit of Justice." Stone's presentation focused on the turbulent times in which Chief Pinesi lived, and provided a general history of the Algonquin peoples of the Ottawa area in the 150 years or so since Chief Pinesi's birth. Not Indigenous himself, Stone assembled



Photo courtesy of Pierre Desrosiers, Curator Canadian Museum of History

**War club presumed to be associated to "Chief Pininse of the White Oak Tribe and which was used in the War of 1812." This is the only information that was attached to this object when it was transferred from the Public Archives of Canada to the War Museum in the 1960s.**

the information from published and archival sources, not traditional Algonquin knowledge, although he has consulted with the people of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation where some of Chief Pinesi's descendants live, including both Councillor Merv Sarazin and former Chief Wendy Jocko.

Stone provided important historical context by describing how Algonquin people were ravaged by a series of European diseases and their consequences, resulting in a depopulated Ottawa Valley that was not reversed until the "Grand Peace" of 1701 between the French,

Algonquin, Iroquois, and others lead to new settlement. Prior to settlement, Stone explained, Algonquin hunting grounds were fairly fixed and well respected, with the exact boundaries following natural landforms.

Stone located surveys and maps through online secondary sources that shed light on where these trails were located before 1800. After that time, many were destroyed when the Rideau Canal was built and Philemon Wright constructed the dam. Estimating that the total area might be as much as 1,800 square kilometres, Stone says that this area likely includes

about 20 kilometres on each side of the Rideau Falls along the Ottawa River and about 40 kilometres south to about Kemptville. Chief Pinesi and his 12 children would have travelled widely throughout the greater territory, especially to the Lake of Two Mountains (now Oka) where there was a summer gathering of Algonquin, Nipissing, and Mohawk peoples, along with a French Catholic Mission.

Stone's examination of many historical maps provided insight into how dramatically the Ottawa area was changed by the arrivals of loggers in the early 1800s as both Indigenous peoples and European settlers competed for the same fish and animals that fed Chief Pinesi and his family. He pointed out that construction of the Rideau Canal was especially devastating as dams along the Rideau River transformed it into a series of essentially long lanes, destroying fishing grounds at the base of rapids and flooding traditional camping and cultural sites along the shores and its islands.

Stone also mentioned that Chief Pinesi and four of his sons were among the many Indigenous warriors who fought with the British in the War of 1812 in such key battles as Queenston Heights in 1812, and Chateaugay and Beaver Dams in 1813.

But perhaps most significantly, Stone emphasized Chief Pinesi's efforts to

protect Algonquin rights to their ancestral lands. After the Chief's valiant service to the British during the War of 1812, Pinesi submitted approximately 20 petitions to the colonial governments of Ontario and Quebec requesting recognition of title, as well as compensation for lands already settled. But no recognition was ever granted, which eventually resulted in the comprehensive land claim being submitted in the 1980s, still in the process of being finalized.

In an interview prior to his Sep. 27 presentation, we asked Stone about his ongoing research. He said he's identified as many as 1,200 Algonquin place names in their traditional territory. For example, there are about five names used for the Gatineau River, as specific names would have been used to describe the physical feature of a particular section, such as its depth. Based on French maps he's examined from the 1750s, Stone said Chief Pinesi would likely have canoed up the Ottawa River across "numerous and challenging portages...some more than eight kilometres," to spend time in Oka, where an Algonquin and Nipissing settlement existed. So close were the Chief's ties to Oka, he was buried there in 1834, Stone added – he's trying to identify the site. Pinesi died in a cholera epidemic that swept across the region.

If educating locals about the history and accomplishments of Algonquin people is part of reconciliation, it is evident that Desrosiers and Stone are making important contributions. Regarding how his work is relevant to Canada's ongoing reconciliation efforts, Stone sums it up succinctly: "My bottom line is that history is truth and unless you understand [Indigenous] history, reconciliation is hard to understand."

*We wish to thank David Kent of the Ottawa Historical Society for providing a summary of Jim Stone's presentation to the HSO, some of which was used in the preparation of the article. For a link to view Mr. Stone's presentation, please visit [historicalsocietyottawa.ca](http://historicalsocietyottawa.ca)*

*Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.*

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**New Edinburgh News.**



# Traffic and Safety Update: Beechwood Development Plans Pushed Forward Year After Year

By Jason Tavoularis

As I was preparing to write the traffic and safety update for the October edition of New Edinburgh News, I checked the City of Ottawa's Construction and infrastructure projects webpage to find out what road work was on the horizon for New Edinburghers. I was surprised to see "Road – Sidewalk Renewal" along Beechwood Avenue from Vanier Parkway to Joliette Avenue was targeted to start this year.

My initial reaction was excitement at what appeared to be big news flying under the radar, but upon reflection I downgraded myself to cautious optimism because the posted timeline didn't seem realistic. In response to my enquiry, Councillor King's office confirmed my suspicions that this project is not anticipated to proceed this year with the limited time remaining in the 2023 construction season. The mis-

leading expectation still appears on the City's website as I write this on Nov. 14, but I now know that the project doesn't have any firm plans whatsoever.

As a New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) representative for the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA), I was forwarded an interesting email thread that gave insight into this project's repeated deferrals. I learned that in November 2022, City of Ottawa staff told the Ward 12 Councillor that sidewalk repairs for Beechwood Avenue were a priority for spring 2023, and that a similar statement had been made the year before with a 2022 target.

An October 2023 statement from the Program Manager responsible for this project indicates "the sidewalk segments that we had planned on replacing have been deferred until next year at the earliest."

Clearly there is no more certainty that improvements

to the sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure along our traditional mainstreet will happen in 2024 than in any of the previous years in which similar promises were broken.

Some may argue that sidewalk renewal should be postponed until it can be achieved as part of a broader revamp of the Beechwood Avenue corridor, similar to the holistic revitalization of Montreal Road which was completed recently. In 2006 the *Beechwood Community Design Plan* was approved by the City and remains a significant tool guiding development today. In January 2022, Councillor King published the *Beechwood Corridor Public Realm Proposal*, a comprehensive document calling upon the City to adopt an updated plan. In February 2023, the BVA published *Proposal for a Framework for a Secondary Plan Planning Process for Beechwood – Hemlock*, an even more comprehensive document recom-

mending a Secondary Plan for this corridor that ensures it evolves in alignment with its well-documented community interests.

I disagree that enhancements to Beechwood Avenue must wait for an approved Secondary Plan which might never happen. Large sections of this sidewalk were identified for repairs repeatedly, over many years, by the five community associations surrounding Beechwood Avenue. The current sidewalks and cycling infrastructure are dangerous and ugly, especially on the Vanier side of the corridor around Springfield Road. This important mainstreet deserves immediate action towards improved safety and enjoyment. The City of Ottawa needs to stop kicking this can down the road to "next year."

Jason Tavoularis lives in New Edinburgh, sits on the NECA board and represents the Traffic and Safety Committee.

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If you look forward to the next edition of *NEN* and are looking for a way to contribute, this is a great opportunity!

*NEN* publishes five times a year: October, December, February, April, and June. To apply or learn more, please contact Sharon at [newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com).



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

This update marks one year since the 2022 election. This year we kicked off by welcoming more than 74,000 new students and 14,000 full- and part-time staff. Over the past year the Board has accomplished several major milestones:

### Budget

In June, the Board approved the 2023–24 budget. The operating budget came to more than \$1.1 billion, and the capital budget \$140 million. The priorities in the budget were early learning, de-streaming for grades 9 and 10, and special education supports.

### Pandemic Learning Gap

Over the past year, and into this year, significant work has been undertaken to improve the learning gap caused by the pandemic. Much of this

work has been targeted at students who were struggling with early literacy and numeracy. Research clearly shows that not having solid reading fundamentals down causes students to struggle, and ultimately disengage with school throughout their education.

### Strategic Plan

The OCDSB has created a strategic plan for 2023–27, including a plan to review the programs offered at the elementary level and special education supports. The foci of the plan are education and learning, wellbeing and happiness, and social and ethical responsibility.

### Policy Review

We also began a multi-year review process to modernize existing policies, some of which are decades out of date. The upcoming policies for review can be found on our website – [ocdsb.ca/board/consultations](https://ocdsb.ca/board/consultations) – and will include the following: Advisory Committee on Equity; Employee Conflict of Interest; Student Suspension and Expulsion; Extended Day Programs; Graduation and Commencement Exercises and Awards; Child Care

Programs in Schools; Opening and Closing Exercises; Display of Flags by Schools; Indigenous Voluntary Self-identification; Student Safety Patrols (Rescission); School Naming; Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students; Privately-Paid Professionals, Paraprofessionals, and External Agencies; Appeals Hearing Panel (Student Transfers); as well as a yet-to-be named policy on the use of AI in schools and assignments.

### Advocacy for Public Education

One of the roles of public school boards is advocacy, particularly as boards are not funded directly by property taxes and are more than 90 per cent dependent on the province for funding. Over the past year, we have advocated with the ministry about several things, including: how the existing funding formulae for students does not fully meet all our needs; the weaknesses in the changes to the transportation funding formula; the lack of sufficient provincial funding for special education; rapidly rising staff replacement costs, and the lack of incentives that exist to train people to go into specific fields; and raising the bar on acceptable behaviour and increasing possible sanctions for trustees who violate that code of ethics.

As always, if you have concerns, questions, or thoughts, I am happy to hear from you.

*Lyra.Evans@ocdsb.ca*  
613 913 1695 – text or call

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# Holiday greetings and provincial update



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Dear residents,

I hope you are all doing well. As we slowly get into the holiday season spirit, I want to express my gratitude to those who have stood by me and helped me throughout the year in my efforts to bring more fairness in Ottawa-Vanier. This time of year serves as a poignant reminder of the significance of unity, generosity, and sharing. It's an opportunity to reach out to our neighbours, extend support to those in need, and show compassion for the most vulnerable members of our community. I am so thankful for the family spirit that people in our community always exhibit, in so many ways.

In Ottawa-Vanier, and during the weeks I spend in the constituency, I make it a point to actively participate in community events that bring together various organizations and residents. I believe in the power of community engagement, and by attending these events, I gain valuable insights into the concerns and

aspirations of our community. In my role at Queen's Park, I am dedicated to working tirelessly for the well-being of everyone in our community. Ottawa-Vanier remains at the forefront of my concerns, and I am intensifying my efforts to engage with ministers to find solutions to the pressing issues that deeply affect us. Housing, drug addictions, health, including mental health and seniors' care, and support for our businesses all demand special attention. I've always counted collaboration as one of the best tools towards achievements. And I'm so proud that I was able to obtain the support of all parties at Queen's Park for my Private Member's Bill to help survivors of human trafficking. This kind of cooperation is rare in politics, and it would be great to see more.

On a note of celebration and shared achievement, I extend my warmest congratulations to Edith Dumont on her historic appointment as the first Franco-Ontarian Lieutenant Governor. This milestone not

only reflects her individual accomplishments but also signifies progress and representation for our diverse community.

I wish all of you a joyful holiday season and urge you to continue demonstrating unity and solidarity. Together, we can tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

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

\*\*

Chères résidentes et résidents,

J'espère que vous vous portez bien. Alors que les fêtes de fin d'année approchent à grands pas, je souhaite exprimer ma gratitude à ceux qui m'ont soutenu et aidé tout au long de l'année dans mes efforts pour instaurer plus d'équité dans Ottawa-Vanier. Cette période de l'année est un rappel poignant de l'importance de l'unité, de la générosité et du partage. C'est l'occasion de tendre la main à nos voisins, d'apporter notre soutien à ceux qui sont dans le besoin et de faire preuve de compassion à l'égard des membres les plus vulnérables

de notre communauté. Je suis très reconnaissante de l'esprit de famille dont les membres de notre communauté font toujours preuve, et ce de différentes manières.

Dans Ottawa-Vanier, et pendant les semaines que j'y passe, je me fais un devoir de participer activement aux événements communautaires qui rassemblent diverses organisations et résidents. Je crois au pouvoir de l'engagement communautaire et, en assistant à ces événements, j'acquies des connaissances précieuses sur les préoccupations et les aspirations de notre communauté.

Ottawa-Vanier reste au premier plan de mes préoccupations, et j'intensifie mes efforts pour discuter avec les ministres afin de trouver des solutions aux problèmes urgents qui nous affectent profondément. Le logement, la toxicomanie, la santé, y compris la santé mentale et les soins aux personnes âgées, et le soutien à nos entreprises requièrent tous une attention particulière. J'ai toujours considéré la collaboration comme l'un des meilleurs outils pour parvenir à des résultats. Je suis très fière d'avoir pu obtenir le soutien


de tous les partis à Queen's Park pour mon projet de loi d'initiative parlementaire visant à aider les victimes de la traite des êtres humains. Ce type de coopération est rare en politique, et il serait formidable d'envoyer davantage.

Sur une note de célébration et de réussite commune, j'adresse mes plus chaleureuses félicitations à Edith Dumont pour sa nomination historique en tant que première Lieutenant-Gouverneure Franco-Ontarienne. Ce jalon ne reflète pas seulement ses réalisations individuelles, mais signifie également le progrès et la représentation de notre communauté diversifiée.

Je vous souhaite à tous de joyeuses fêtes de fin d'année et je vous invite à continuer à faire preuve d'unité et de solidarité. Ensemble, nous pouvons relever les défis qui nous attendent.

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

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# New Year, New Edinburgh – Improvements coming to the ‘Burgh in 2024



**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

With winter upon us, my office is working with City staff to improve snow clearance and snow removal throughout Rideau-Rockcliffe, and especially in New Edinburgh, where large accumulations of snow last year impeded streets and bus routes. Since last year's challenges occurred due to a quick succession of significant weather events, it will be my intention to work with City staff this year to improve winter road conditions in real-time, especially on Crichton Street. Due to enhanced freeze and thaw cycles, along with rapidly changing weather conditions, it will be important that snow removal operations be adjusted, especially to accommodate bus routes. We will work with residents and the New Edinburgh Community

Alliance (NECA) to implement improvements.

My office has also been working with the Crichton Community Council (CCC) to pursue improvements to the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse in New Edinburgh Park. During this term of Council, it is my intention to work to improve park amenities across the Ward, especially our recreational fieldhouses. The CCC has made recommendations to the City concerning improvements to this facility, which they manage. They have recommended the installation of new flooring and movable partitions to modernize the space and accommodate more popular community programming. My office has been supportive of their efforts and City staff recently enlisted an

architect to review the feasibility for flooring that would be rubberized for the skating season, along with acoustics upgrades, and a room divider. The City also recently approved the eventual rollout of wireless internet in the fieldhouse which can be leveraged for community use, including for meetings and point of sale for retail payments onsite. We are excited to be working with the CCC on these material improvements to the fieldhouse, which will not just enhance the capacity to provide more community programming, but also the logistical capabilities needed to better leverage the fieldhouse during major emergencies. Funding for capital improvements outlined by the CCC will be covered by a community fund being held in trust by the City which is reserved for facility improvements to the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. All operating costs associated with eventual wireless internet operation will be covered by the CCC.

I wish you all a happy, healthy holiday season as

well as a prosperous year ahead!

*As always, you can contact my office by email at [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) or by phone at 613-580-2483. Please subscribe to my newsletter at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca).*

\*\*

Avec l'arrivée de l'hiver, mon bureau collabore étroitement avec le personnel de la Ville pour améliorer le déneigement et l'enlèvement de la neige dans toute la région de Rideau-Rockcliffe, et en particulier à New Edinburgh, où d'importantes accumulations de neige l'année dernière ont entravé les rues et les circuits d'autobus. Étant donné que les difficultés rencontrées l'année dernière proviennent d'une succession rapide de phénomènes météorologiques importants, j'ai l'intention de travailler avec le personnel de la Ville cette année pour améliorer en temps réel les conditions de la circulation hivernale, en particulier dans la rue Crichton. En raison de l'intensification des cycles de gel et de dégel, ainsi que de l'évolution rapide des conditions météorologiques, il sera important d'adapter les opérations de déneigement, en particulier pour tenir compte des circuits d'autobus. Nous travaillerons avec les résidents ainsi qu'avec la New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) pour mettre en œuvre les améliorations.

Mon bureau a également travaillé avec le Conseil communautaire de Crichton afin d'améliorer le pavil-

lon du parc New Edinburgh dans le parc New Edinburgh. Au cours de ce mandat, j'ai l'intention d'améliorer les équipements des parcs dans l'ensemble du quartier, en particulier nos pavillons de loisirs. Le Conseil communautaire de Crichton a recommandé à la Ville d'améliorer l'installation qu'il gère, notamment par l'installation d'un nouveau revêtement de sol et de cloisons mobiles afin de moderniser l'espace et d'accueillir une programmation communautaire plus populaire. Mon bureau a soutenu ses efforts, et le personnel de la Ville a récemment fait appel un architecte afin d'étudier la faisabilité d'un revêtement de sol caoutchouté pour la saison de patinage, d'une amélioration de l'acoustique et d'une cloison de séparation. Récemment, la Ville a également approuvé le déploiement éventuel d'Internet sans fil dans le pavillon, qui peut être utilisé par la communauté, y compris pour des réunions et des points de vente pour les paiements au détail sur le site. Nous sommes ravis de travailler avec le Conseil communautaire de Crichton sur ces améliorations matérielles du bâtiment, qui permettront de proposer davantage de programmes communautaires, et d'augmenter les capacités logistiques nécessaires pour mieux exploiter le bâtiment en cas d'urgence majeure. Le financement des travaux d'amélioration définis par le Conseil communautaire de Crichton sera assuré par un fonds communautaire détenu en fiducie par la Ville et réservé à l'amélioration des installations du pavillon du parc New Edinburgh. Tous les frais de fonctionnement liés à l'exploitation éventuelle d'Internet sans fil seront couverts par le Conseil communautaire de Crichton.

Je vous souhaite à tous de bonnes fêtes et une année prospère!

*Comme toujours, vous pouvez contacter mon bureau par courriel à [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) ou par téléphone au 613-580-2483. Veuillez vous abonner à mon bulletin d'information à: [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca).*

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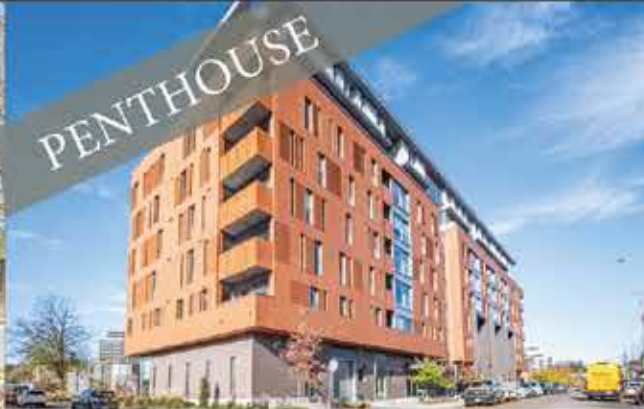
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# ‘Tis the season for holiday wellness

By Karen Squires

As I work my way through the amazing book, *Generations*, by Jean Twenge PhD., I’m learning that the extensive data collected over three decades suggest mental health and physical health have been trending in a negative direction in some areas. I will self-identify as a young Boomer, so in my youth working out was a huge trend and the fitness craze was in full swing. I feel very grateful to have been part of that movement as it not only started good habits early but maintained momentum – with adjustments along the way. For example, I’ve shifted my focus towards yoga postures, walking (sometimes with poles), and swimming when weather permits. But as we move into winter, less daylight and colder temperatures can limit us somewhat and affect our moods, motivation, and ultimately our well-being.

I was moving into my thirties when I first heard about Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and sure enough, my doctor said that this may be something affecting me, so I

tried light therapy. However, I found keeping busy, connecting with people, and making new friends to be incredibly effective. I met many like-minded people at health clubs and yoga studios. We began to depend on each other for support and often met outside just to walk, have lunch, or try an outdoor activity such as skating – great for light exposure!

Some of these friendships have lasted for over 30 years, but I’ve not frequented health clubs or yoga studios for a while. When walking outside with my dog Coco, I find connecting with people to be helpful and have made a few friendships along the way. If you don’t have a dog, trust me, your neighbours and friends will be grateful if you lend a hand walking their pups on occasion or join them on a stroll. After years in studios, I found it convenient and just as enjoyable to do my exercise routine at home with nothing but a video and yoga mat! Recently, I added a large fitness ball (a New Edinburgh Garage Sale find), weights, and a wide resistance band to enhance my routine.

For those of you who thrive in group settings, there are many options to take local classes again – you don’t have to walk farther than St. Charles Market for **Pilates on Beechwood** (with new yoga classes available) or fitness training right above the Guardian pharmacy at **Anytime Fitness**. There are also broader health-related service providers along Beechwood, so if you’re new to the neighbourhood or looking to find excellent services (dental, general health, etc.), it’s worth the stroll. The 15-minute neighbourhood concept is a work in progress in New Edinburgh, and hopefully continues to improve so we can find what we need more easily, without driving or parking fees!

As the holiday season approaches, it’s important to keep busy, stay physically active, and socially connected. As we age, we also think about more moderation: balance is important with your lifestyle. We’ve seen plenty of advertising more recently on alcohol consumption over the holidays. With invitations to holiday par-

ties comes flowing wine and liquor. Sorry to be a buzzkill here, but yes, we should keep this in moderation as well. No need to get overwhelmed trying to keep track of everything, small choices like pacing ourselves, eating well and regularly, and reducing stress for better sleep are always excellent steps.

Peer coaching has also been an incredible resource to help me stay on track and provide support to others, especially during the long winter months. Remember we need to take care of ourselves first to better support others!

I would like to give special thanks to our two pharmacies here in New Edinburgh as they now provide us with even more information and more services since the pandemic began. We appreciate these extra services more than ever, between our regular medical checkups of course! Big shout-out to **Guardian Pharmacy** and **Beechwood Whole Health** – I live closer to Guardian and cannot thank the staff enough for their advice and support. I also hear amazing things about the good people at Whole Health

as well!

Finally, we’re fortunate to be surrounded by so many great restaurants and specialty shops where we can find a wide array of delicious holiday meals, snacks and gift certificates – both for us and our pets. Check out the *‘Burgh Business Briefs* section in each edition for more information and please keep strolling along Beechwood and off Beechwood to sample the new restaurants mentioned, including **Edinburger** and **Mr Poke**!

Let’s embrace the season and support the new and established businesses in and around our neighbourhood! Happy Holidays everyone and hope to see you at one of the events listed in our Events section (see the back pages) or out walking in the neighbourhood and the park!

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

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# Union Street Kitchen's Christine Garand and Alcove Holdings Receive BRICK Awards

Continued from page 1

and owner of the **Union Street Kitchen Café**, was chosen as the BRICK Award winner in the category of Community Builder. Christine opened the café at the corner of Crichton and Union in 2008. Since then, it has evolved into a thriving neighbourhood hub. Eager customers line up throughout the day to savour lattes, teas, breakfast wraps, extravagant sandwiches, exotic salads, croissants, muffins, and other mouth-watering treats. Union's delicious food is always accompanied by Christine's warmth, quick humour, and generosity of spirit.



Photo by Karen Squires  
New infill houses on Stanley demonstrating good quality design, consideration of heritage, streetscape and greenspace.

Running a café was not originally on Christine's radar. Her early career was not connected to food but involved working for 12 years in public relations and marketing for an IT company. This was followed by a period at home raising two children, during which time she became interested in Ayurveda: a natural system of medicine originating in India, based on the idea that illness is due to an imbalance or stress in a person. Ayurveda encourages lifestyle changes and offers natural therapies to help regain balance between the body, mind, and spirit. Christine started a clinic teaching the use of nutritional whole foods for

healing and offered private cooking classes with customized dishes designed to correct specific health problems. Her home soon became a centre for "food fests." She welcomed friends and neighbours for regular dinners with the goal of providing healthy food, friendship, and a space to make meaningful connections in a safe, relaxed environment. Opening a café then seemed a natural next step, and Union provides a venue which supports Christine's belief that giving and receiving food can make a person feel happy and enhance their sense of belonging and well-being.

## Q&A With a Yoga Teacher

By Debjani Mitra

The following is an interview with **Alison Melia**, a community-based social worker who has recently started teaching yoga at **The Mat Lab** Beechwood. This new class will be offered in the New Year.

**What inspired you to teach yoga? Has yoga always been part of your life?**

I began taking yoga classes at a friend's home studio in Hintonburg. Her background was in modern dance, and she was a very close friend at the time. Her classes had a strong spiritual element to them. After leaving my first yoga class (probably around 2004) I felt this amazing sensation of being both energized and calm at the same time. I fell in love with the practice then. A few years later a friend asked me to join her at a 26-and-2 yoga class [a series of 26 yoga postures and two breathing exercises performing in a studio or room heated to approximately 40 degrees Celsius –Ed] The practice of 26-and-2 pushed me past my comfort zone, and in that state I was challenged to find steadiness in my mind and body. In 2015 I decided to take teacher training at [Ottawa yoga centre] PranaShanti under the direction of Laurie Howe. Teacher training was a very therapeutic experience for me. We learned yoga as a way of life,

not just a physical practice. Since then, I would say yoga is now integrated into my life both on and off the mat.

**What is your favourite aspect of teaching?**

I really enjoy the coming together of people and getting to lead them through something that will hopefully leave them feeling better than when they first arrived. I love the community feel of seeing the same faces every week and welcoming new ones. Teaching is very nourishing for me: it's a time where I get to impart little bits of what I've learned and experienced from my own practice throughout the years in a way that is unique to me. I feel very grateful to those that show up to my classes because without them, there would be no one to serve.

**In your other vocation as a social worker, you are passionate about advancing women's rights and social issues such as affordable housing. Tell me more about how you bring aspects of community building and connection into your yoga practice.**

My current social work is primarily focused on domestic abuse; I have worked with perpetrators in court-mandated group therapy and with victims, providing support and resources. It is heavy work to be with peoples' suffering daily; it is also work



Photo by Stéphane Ippersiel  
Alison Melia is a community-based social worker and yoga teacher who brings a compassionate, embodied, and trauma-informed approach to yoga. You can find her classes on Beechwood at The Mat Lab on Saturdays at noon starting in the new year.

that is very responsive in nature, often after a crisis or trauma has occurred. Prior to this job, I worked in community development, often with vulnerable sectors of a population. I have always felt compassionate towards those less fortunate than myself and felt a strong urge to serve my community. To me, it is the key to fulfillment; as they say: there is no such thing as a selfless act. I also feel very passionate about social injustices and women's issues are close to my heart. I suppose when I teach yoga, the social worker in me is trauma-informed, so I try to create safe spaces where no one feels judged and every-

one feels welcome. I bring a mindful approach to my cues and language in an attempt to create harmony and presence for practitioners. I work to empower people in the room to move in a way that feels good in their bodies, and I try to model moving uninhibitedly, getting out of our own way, so to speak.

**Where can we find out more information about your classes?**

You can find my teaching schedule on the Rideau Sports Centre website: I currently teach there three times per week. I will also be teaching at the new Mat Lab Beechwood on Saturdays at noon in the new year!

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# BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Randy Mar, Jane Heintzman and Karen Squires

## 20 years of Mood Moss

*"What mood is your moss?"* This question has been something of a mantra for **Mood Moss Flowers** owner **Eric Cardinal** since he learned of the existence of "mood moss" (*dicranum scoparium*) while studying floral arts.

Mood Moss Flowers is a long-time business fixture, anchoring the corner of Beechwood and Marier, and adding colour, scent, and decorative elements to homes and businesses. A graduate of Algonquin College's renowned (but now defunct) floral program, owner Eric Cardinal started the business after working at several Ottawa florist shops to hone his skills, learn the business, and develop his customer service approach.

In conversation with *NEN*, Eric recounts that when he first opened Mood Moss in August 2004, the key businesses on the far-east edge of Beechwood were The Works and Pet Valu. He remembers being a bit worried that he was setting up shop too far



Photo by Randy Mar

**Eric Cardinal, (owner of Mood Moss) offers many options to brighten your home or business.**

down the strip. But many people also told him the street was destined to go through a lot of changes, similar to Richmond Road in Westboro.

Today, Mood Moss is about to celebrate its 20th year as we turn the corner into 2024. With great local business

neighbours and the overall growth and improvements from the corner of Crichton and Vanier Parkway, all the way to the new Wateridge Village, Eric says he couldn't be happier to be right in the centre of it all.

Eric is confident he and

his staff of six can enhance any setting or event with a creative and colourful floral arrangement. Mood Moss focuses on meeting client's needs as they celebrate their special occasions and milestones: whether for holidays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, funerals, or just as mood enhancers.

As autumns turns into the holiday season, clients will see a shift to evergreens like pine and cedar featured, along with poinsettias, Christmas cactus, and amaryllis. They'll also see more decorative items such as candles, tree ornaments, and table-setting elements.

Eric tries to source from local Ontario, Quebec, and other Canadian growers, suppliers, and artisans. (One of this writer's favourite indulgences is the Maple Chai Cream scented candles made in Ottawa by Cabin Fever!)

You will likely have noticed Mood Moss creations in local homes and nearby hotels, schools, and embassies. Not only do Eric and his team work in their 800 square-foot storefront on Beechwood, they'll also come to client's homes to create and maintain seasonal arrangements in outdoor pots.

For those without access to a vehicle, or who just prefer door to door service, Mood Moss offers low-fee delivery to New Edinburgh, Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Manor Park, and Vanier – a service which started during the pandemic and continues today.

Eric credits clients and neighbours as having been "nothing short of amazing" to him and his team since day one. Eric closed our chat by saying: "I'll especially be forever grateful to them, for the outreach of support they gave me and my fellow Beechwood business owners, throughout the pandemic when the future was so uncertain. We are truly blessed to be a part of this incredible community!"

For more information, visit Mood Moss at 186 Beechwood Avenue, or online at moodmossflowers.com, or call (613) 741-1774

—RM

## Food, Glorious Food

From its earliest days in the 1990s, **Epicuria Fine Food and Catering** has been an institution in our community, lifting the food prep burden throughout the year, and particularly during the holiday season. Though some may treasure happy memories of cozy Christmas days labouring in the kitchen with matriarchs, those days are, for the most part, gone. With the combined demands of busy jobs, fully packed children's schedules, and countless family obligations, time is a precious commodity. During the holiday season, when families gather and parties abound, a reliable local source of unfailingly delicious, prepared meals and gourmet treats is a treasured resource.

Topping the list of Epicuria's labour-saving seasonal offerings is its annual Take-Home Turkey Dinner for eight people. Dinners are available for pickup Dec. 23 and 24, but supplies are limited, so the sooner you place your order, the better. This year's menu features "Turkey Two Ways"

– Butter-and-Rosemary Roasted Breast and Confit Drumstick; artisan herbed bread stuffing with caramelised onions; Dominion City beer gravy; scalloped potatoes; roasted heirloom carrots; acorn squash; brussels sprouts; green beans with lemon and thyme; and heirloom tomato and beet salad. A feast by any measure!

Should you still have room for dessert, Epicuria's seasonal options include Vanilla Bûche de Noël with coffee-flavoured cream filling and buttercream icing; mince tarts; and gingerbread cake with cream-cheese icing.

For smaller scale entertaining, Epicuria has fulsome supplies of the holiday side dishes, and a single turkey dinner option, for in-store purchase and online order in the weeks before Christmas. Turkey alternatives are also on the regular menu between mid-December and Christmas Eve: Beef Short Ribs; Herb-crusted Salmon; and Chicken Supreme. For casual meals and entertaining, you'll find tasty tour-

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Photo by Karen Squires

Be sure to stock up on the many baked goods Kristie Fellows prepares on site at Epicuria along with a wide array of meal options now available

tières; quiches; Ishina Indian foods; pizzas; charcuterie; cheeses and Epicuria’s signature (and highly addictive!) nibbles.

At the helm in the kitchen preparing all this bountiful fare is Executive Chef **Scott Lucano**. Scott took over from long-time chef and owner **Tracey Black** in March 2022, bringing with him many years of experience in a variety of local restaurants, large and small. “I like to keep things simple,” says Scott. “Don’t

overcomplicate things.” Amen to that: his consistently excellent cuisine proves the wisdom of this formula!

At the heart of holiday food traditions is, of course: baking. Epicuria’s hard-working pastry chef **Kristie Fellows** takes the lead on this all-important job, overseeing the production and gift packaging of hundreds of fruitcakes and thousands of holiday shortbreads. Shoppers will find a tempting range of options in the store all

season long, including dark almond fruitcake; plum pudding and orange brandy hard sauce; decorated gingerbread; ginger-chocolate bites; and shortbreads of all descriptions, from candy-cane to orange cranberry pecan-, and funfetti. These delicacies are all beautifully packaged for gift-giving (should you manage to preserve them unscathed, once they’ve been spotted by hungry kids).

On a wistful note, this will be Tracey Black’s last contribution to the Business Briefs, a watershed after more than two decades as a faithful supporter of our paper. The month of December marks Tracey’s final departure from Epicuria, where she became the heart and soul of the business in the years following her store début in 1995. Tracey was at the helm through some challenging years, guiding Epicuria through a succession of hurdles from the Beechwood Fire of 2011 to the COVID pandemic, while steadily building its catering operations and maintaining the remarkably high standards of its cuisine.

As reported in an earlier issue of the *NEN*, Tracey’s worthy successor is **Michelle**



Photo by Karen Squires

A snapshot of the many speciality items, baked goods and gift ideas for the holidays at Jacobsons.

**Lafrance**, who takes over as owner of the business and looks forward to maintaining its tradition of welcoming customer service and outstanding food. We wish Tracey a happy and healthy retirement and extend a warm welcome to Michelle!

—JH

**Celebrate the holidays**

Since its opening on Beechwood in 2006, **Jacobsons Gourmet Concepts** has pulled out all the stops to celebrate the

holiday season with flair and imagination. The store’s founder **Susan Jacobson** is passionate about Christmas traditions, many of them grounded in her own British roots, and focused on specialty foods, decorative touches, and gifts of all shapes and sizes. If that hard-to-please friend or family member on your list appears to have everything, think again: Jacobsons’ artfully stocked shelves are almost certain to

**Continued on page 14**

Given how busy our lives can be, it is important to record and organize the relevant information, share memories and make your final wishes known to your loved ones.

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offer the perfect – often one-of-a-kind – treasure.

In 2020, the store moved from its original spot at 141 Beechwood (at Acacia) to its current headquarters in a purpose-built, light-filled building at 103 Beechwood. In mid-November, the shelves were swept clean to make way for a bountiful display of Christmas holiday fare, from gourmet gifts to sumptuous holiday treats and the array of the fine cheeses that are its signature offering.

In the nearly two decades since Jacobsons' first year, the Christmas tradition has been maintained in all its glory, and now flourishes under new owners **Dominique Jacobson** (daughter of Susan) and **Marcus Minshall**, Dominique's husband. The store is very much a family affair: when you visit over the holiday season, chances are you'll encounter Dominique,

Marcus, and their two children, greeting guests and stocking the shelves, while Susan works her own magic, creating gift baskets and eye-catching displays.

Jacobsons Marketing and Communications Manager **Lauren Watson** is delighted by the wealth of seasonal treasures now in store. "We have so much for gourmet gifting," says Lauren, highlighting in particular "a variety of gourmet gift baskets, curated Cheese Boxes, and a range of reusable tote gift bags loaded with goodies. New this year is a Santa's Snack Sack: a classic red sack filled to the brim with our favourite snacks!"

Among the more modest gift options are seasonal tins from the Shortbread House, which Lauren suggests "can be paired with a beautiful box of tea and a gourmet chocolate bar for a perfect teacher's

gift." Other tempting possibilities include boxed chocolates, holiday Panettone, and specialty bottles of olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

Jacobsons' traditional gourmet gift baskets have long been a favourite for many shoppers. They're available for local delivery or in-store pick up, visit [jacobsons.ca](http://jacobsons.ca) for details.. "This year, our range of reusable gift totes filled with gourmet treats are also available for local delivery, pickup, and Canada-wide shipping," adds Lauren.

And yet another gift possibility (popular in our household) are Jacobsons' Cheese of the Month subscriptions. There are currently three subscription programs from which to choose: the Aficionado, which includes four cheeses and three accompaniments; the Enthusiast, including two cheeses and two accompaniments; and the Mommy-



Photo by Karen Squires

**Check out this new restaurant and bakery which offers take out options for healthy meals and desserts by owner Mike Jang and Sung Hae Lee.**

to-Be, with three pasteurised selections.

As we know (to the bane of our waistlines), holiday traditions are predominantly food-focused, and Jacobsons has no shortage of gourmet specialties. "Perhaps most exciting is our jarred mincemeat – a British recipe suitable for vegetarians – and our special mulled cranberry chutney made by local artisan Top Shelf Preservers," says Lauren. "We've also collaborated with Bayfield Granola on a Christmas morning blend, and with Ministry of Coffee on a whole bean Christmas coffee."

No account of Jacobsons seasonal fare would be complete without mention of its legendary cheese counter: mouth-watering cheeses are arriving weekly in the lead-up to Christmas, and guests can look forward to finding favourites such as Christmas Stilton, Raclette and Vacherin Mont d'Or. To round out your holiday cheese platter, the store offers a full selection of chutneys and other condiments, notably a new line of Hawkshead relish featuring Christmas marmalade, cranberry sauce, and mint jelly.

For those with a sweet tooth, Jacobsons' bountiful range of gourmet chocolates is certain to have powerful appeal – especially in the holiday season when dietary constraints tend to give way to blissful indulgence. "There's something for every budget and palate," says Lauren, "ranging from boxed pralines to mulled wine truffles, locally-made bonbons from Anne Stubbe, festive gift bars, and gourmet drinking chocolate. Still to come is a new range of chocolates from the U.K."

Last, but not least, in keeping with a long tradition at Jacobsons, **Santa Claus will pay his annual visit to the store on Saturday, Dec. 9:** bring the kids along and scour the shelves for holiday goodies while they're engrossed with Saint Nick!

–JH

#### Mr. Poke Finds a New Home

While many readers lamented the recent closing of Ola Cocina, a new restaurant that will bring unique flavours to New Edinburgh has taken over the corner of Barrette and Loyer!

**Mike Jang**, owner of **Mr. Poke**, quickly moved his Korean-style poke spot from Jeanne Mance once the space on Barrette became available. "I started as a ghost kitchen renting space in Vanier and this great location came up," said Mike. He has continued to build a strong following since moving in the middle of September.

Mike brings to the business four years' experience as a sushi chef in Vancouver. Mr. Poke's simple but varied menu featuring shrimp, tuna, eel, salmon, veggie, tofu, pork, bibimbap, and chicken, makes the most of that experience and training.

There is a poke bowl for every palate, including the signature Korean BBQ pork and chicken bowls, which reflect Mike's heritage and blend in Japanese and Hawaiian cuisines. Homemade sauces include spicy mayo, teriyaki, Korean spicy paste, and Hell Fire. Several varieties of gyoza, along with tempura and edamame appetizers round out the menu.

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sweet finish to their take-home meal, check out **JnJ Bakery**, Mr. Poke's next-door neighbour, which offers a range of Korean baked goods. More on the bakery next edition!

Takeout and delivery are available. For more information, visit Mr. Poke at **62 Barrette St.** or online at **mrpoke.cc**, or call **613-869-5547**.

—RM

### Pathway Yoga relocates

We recently chatted with **Barbara Young**, founder of **Pathway Yoga** (originally located at 200 Crichton in the old Crichton School), where she taught Iyengar yoga for about eight years before moving location. Barbara's dedi-



Photo courtesy Barbara Young

Visit **Pathway Yoga's** newest location near Pretoria Bridge for Iyengar Yoga classes.

cated following here in New Edinburgh shared that the business has now relocated nearer the hood. Now in the Pretoria Bridge area, Barbara and her supportive group of seven seasoned Iyengar yoga teachers have formed a collective, converting to a not-for-profit business model. The collective is now located in a spacious hall at the Church of the Ascension at 253 Echo Drive with parking nearby.

Barbara explains that the Iyengar philosophy is about students building their practice over time, beginning with the basics, and moving at their own pace. They move and adapt their poses under the caring guidance of highly competent teach-

ers. Barbara says that these teachers hone their skills over years of apprenticeship with an experienced mentor; once ready, they attend a national assessment, before receiving an internationally recognized teaching certificate.

There are many types of class package options to consider so it's up to you to determine what best supports your needs. To learn more about Pathway Yoga, view their calendar of classes and meet the dedicated teaching team, visit **pathwayyoga.ca** or email **welcome@pathwayyoga.ca**. Barbara also mentions there will be an open house in January, so keep an eye out on their website for a date.

—KS

## Resolution for the City: recirculate more, waste less

Continued from page 1

reduce waste and its GHGs.

Urging the City to support better availability and use of existing programs – green, blue, and black bins – is a short-term, relatively low-cost measure to reduce landfill needs and emissions. As results improve, those reductions could spur movement toward a circular economy and ultimately a zero-waste goal.

“The concept of a circular economy is one option that's gaining traction as a way to loop material into the climate conversation,” writes Calvin Trottier-Chi in a blog for the Canadian Climate Institute.

“A more circular economy could reduce consumption, keep valuable material out of landfills, and slow global climate change,” according to *Turning Point: The Expert Panel on the Circular Economy in Canada*, a 2021 report of the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA).

In terms of opportunities for Canada to improve, the CCA

report noted that just nine per cent of plastics are recycled, over one-third of food produced and distributed is never eaten, and 85 per cent of textiles end up in landfills.

The City's draft SWMP calls for a circular economy strategy which is intended to support an “aspirational” zero waste goal.

“The vision for a zero waste Ottawa is aspirational, a philosophy and a call to action rather than an absolute target,” states the draft SWMP. Until Ottawa achieves higher rates of recycling and waste diversion – the table stakes, as it were – the talk of zero waste will be only aspirational. In fact, the City even states that it won't achieve zero waste even within the 30-year term of this master plan. It should not be this way.

“When we conserve, reuse, recycle, and recover resources we already have, we keep their value and shift towards a circular economy that uses waste as a resource and,



Photo courtesy Council of Canadian Academies

A circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

above all, towards a zero-waste future,” states the City of Vancouver's Zero Waste 2040 long-term plan to become a zero-waste community. Like the City of Ottawa, Vancouver acknowledges that no one player can achieve this target alone; it takes collaboration.

However, when one reads City of Ottawa documents, the cautions seem to give the City an out. Rather than looking to lead toward a goal, Ottawa appears to hedge its bets, uncertain whether it will corral enough support from elsewhere.

At home, as I sort through old stuff – from partially used craft supplies to wooden window shutters – I've wondered how I can keep everything out of the garbage. Fortunately, I can turn to the Trash Nothing website – [trashnothing.org](http://trashnothing.org) — and app, where people post stuff to give away or browse to find stuff locally. I can also check the City's online Waste Explorer tool or Terra Cycle's website – [terracycle.com](http://terracycle.com) — for other recycling or take-back options to avoid the landfill. Thrifting also seems to be having a moment, and you don't need to look further than Beechwood store **Clothes Encounters of a**

**Second Kind** to thrift and shop. Our local **Guardian Pharmacy** offers non-plastic packaged bar shampoos (also available from NU Grocery, Ottawa's first zero-waste store, where we bring our containers to fill up on cleaning supplies and more at the

Main Street location).

Let's hope all these actions become part of a systemic shift toward a sustainable approach for the future.

*Sarah Anson-Cartwright is a NECA board member and a public affairs specialist.*



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Environment and Climate Change Canada shares some ways we can be part of the circular economy, “finding creative ways to repurpose items, reduce food waste, and repair things instead of throwing them out.” Here are some ways we can help, according to ECCC:

Use sharing programs like tool libraries, vehicle and

bike shares, and movie and music streaming services, buy products made from recycled materials, fix items or buy refurbished products instead of new ones, support businesses that will take back their packaging or products after they are used, reuse or upcycle used household items, look for package-free and zero-waste options.





**By Chris Straka, CCC President**

### Holiday Lights Gathering

Hundreds of neighbours kicked off the holiday season on the evening of Nov. 25 with a festive gathering at the Fieldhouse, which is all decked out with coloured lights. The **New Edinburgh Community Choir** performed holiday music and the outdoor fire burned as throngs waited to welcome our special guest. The visit from a photogenic Santa Claus delighted children and parents alike. While waiting for their turn to meet the white-bearded man, children were creatively engaged in ornament-making and face-painting. Guest of all ages shared sweet and savoury snacks and enjoyed the horse-drawn wagon rides to view the lane lights proliferating year over year.

Many thanks to the CCC's team of volunteer elves who

have made this event a neighbourhood tradition. We are all very fortunate to live within a community of givers who regularly contribute to the greater good!

### Ice Attendants Needed

The CCC is recruiting paid ice rink attendants. Members of this crew of responsible teens work throughout the skating season. Ice attendants are paid \$15.50 per hour to clear the ice of snow; organize the ice maintenance and sports equipment; assist ice users; open or close the Fieldhouse; and maintain the Fieldhouse interior. Ice Attendants work from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday. On Saturday and Sunday they work from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. then from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.. Interested applicants should send an expression of interest along with a resume of relevant experience to the CCC by email: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

@gmail.com

### Hosers Needed

So long as nature cooperates, New Edinburgh's Hosers will have ice ready for skating at the Fieldhouse by the New Year. The herculean effort needed to make this happen is possible thanks to the effort of the CCC Hosers. This legion of volunteers works after-hours to prepare the ice for the next day of skating. Nightly tasks primarily involve flooding the ice surface after it has been cleared by the Ice Attendants. Following heavy snowfalls, volunteers use a snowblower to clear the ice surface. Hosers typically work for an hour or two after 8 p.m., once or twice in a two-week period. The adult crew of Hosers is looking for a few new members to fill out its ranks. If you would like to learn the art and science of making and maintaining ice for skating, or if you simply want an excuse to get out of the house this winter, email the CCC: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

### Skating

Once the ice is ready for skating, the Fieldhouse will be open as a place to put on skates and warm up from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Please respect signs indicating when the ice surfaces are open and closed, especially on days when the temperature climbs above zero. A few footsteps (animal or human) on melting ice can create dozens of hours of extra work for the Hosers.



Photo by Karen Squires

**Children line up eagerly to take their turn on the horse and wagon ride from the Fieldhouse during the Holiday Lights Gathering in November.**

### Assistant Needed

The CCC's Board of Directors is seeking to fill the role of assistant. The primary duty involves minute-taking at monthly meetings, typically held on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse. Additional duties may include: email management; digital file organisation; and administration of policies and procedures. The CCC welcomes expressions of interest in the role of assistant by email: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

### WiFi at the Fieldhouse

More than a year ago, the CCC asked that the City of Ottawa install free, high-speed, wireless internet in the

Fieldhouse. With a financial commitment from the CCC, the support of Councillor King, the diligent work of his staff, and ultimately, a successful motion to City Council, members of the public can access high-speed wireless internet at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Simply join the "Ottawa Free Wifi" network when inside the building or in the park immediately outside. Bandwidth is limited to four megabytes per second for general public users. Additional bandwidth is available to renters of the facility upon request.

### Emergency Respite Centre

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*Photo by Karen Squires*  
The New Edinburgh Choir sang holiday music while the outdoor fire provided a lovely glow to start the evening off at the Holiday Lights Gathering in November.

ciency, neighbourhoods will need to be collectively resilient. As the steward of the Fieldhouse — the only publicly accessible, City-owned building in New Edinburgh — the CCC accepts a responsibility to prepare the building to serve our neighbourhood in times of emergency. With modest improvements to its electrical infrastructure, including added capacity for onsite electrical generation, the Fieldhouse could serve as

an emergency respite centre for the neighbourhood. The CCC would like to ensure that neighbours have a space to come together in times of crisis. The next time all or a part of our neighbourhood is without electricity, we would like to be able to provide a bright, warm space (along with access to a kitchen, washrooms, and internet connectivity) to affected households. The CCC is working through Councillor King,

who has lent his support for this initiative, to encourage the City of Ottawa’s collaboration in making New Edinburgh a model of local resilience in times of emergency.

**Event Leaders Needed**

An important part of the CCC’s *raison d’être* is to build community through opportunities for neighbours to gather in and around the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. If you have an event idea that excites you enough to contribute your time to making it a reality, please email us. The CCC will support Event Leaders committed to creating inclusive opportunities in service of the greater good. The CCC is currently seeking Event Leaders for the following events: Outdoor Curling Bonspiel (January–February); Bike Day (April); and the Plant Sale (May).

If you have time to give but aren’t ready to take on a leadership role, the Housemates may be for you. This group of volunteers provides occasional support with event operations: setting up chairs, selling tickets, decorating, and serving food or drinks. Please email the CCC if you are ready to get involved: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

**CCC Meetings**

Regular meetings of the CCC are typically held on the second Monday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Fieldhouse. Meeting times, dates, or locations occasionally change to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors or guests. Please email the CCC if there is a topic you would like to discuss: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

**CCC Communications**

Information about the CCC’s initiatives and events is communicated through a variety of methods.

Event information is posted on the New Edinburgh neighbourhood website – [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events) – and on Facebook and Twitter/X @nefieldhouse.

The CCC communicates with neighbours using two open email lists – send an email request to subscribe to: [newed@perambulatorposse.ca](mailto:newed@perambulatorposse.ca) and [new-ed-talk@google-groups.com](mailto:new-ed-talk@google-groups.com)

The CCC also contacts neighbours directly using a closed email distribution list used exclusively by neighbourhood associations. To join the distribution list, please send a message to: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

**Fieldhouse Rentals**

Proceeds from the rental of the Fieldhouse and donations to the CCC contribute directly to the improvement of the facility and to events. With these funds the CCC recently purchased an 85” television screen and rolling stand. Please let the CCC Director responsible for the Fieldhouse know if you would like to use this amenity at your next event. The Fieldhouse is an excellent venue for birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, and other celebrations of all kinds. For more information, or to make a reservation, visit [newedinburgh.ca/cccf/fieldhouse](http://newedinburgh.ca/cccf/fieldhouse).

**Season’s Greetings**

The Crichton Community Council wishes all residents of New Edinburgh a very happy start to the holiday season – see you in the Park!

Check out the Events Calendar at back of the paper for more information on: New Year Brunch; and Comedy at the Fieldhouse.



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# Park Update: Floodplain Restoration Launched

By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall

After a busy summer, it was nice to see a reasonable turn out of volunteers for the floodplain restoration outlined in the October edition of *NEN*, led by **Brandon Holdon** from the **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)**. **Amanda Lange** from the RVCA who manages the Stream Watch program, was also able to bring volunteers to support this initiative. **Ian Grabina** from the **National Capital Commission (NCC)** also came out to determine how they might support fencing around the area, as the NCC is the landowner for this shoreline initiative.

Representatives from RVCA and **Friends of the Park** (including **Katherine Hall** and her son **Quinn**) worked to remove invasive plant species and plant new native trees along the shoreline. The group of volunteers will return in the spring to do more of the same, due to the volume of plants which need to be removed. Although some like Quinn Hall were “voluntold” to attend, anyone wishing to help with the Spring event



Group of volunteers came out for the flood plain restoration including representation from NCC, RVCA and NECA along. Stay tuned for more details in the spring!

Photo by Karen Squires

can find additional information on the Spring Clean-up for Earth Day in the April 2024 *NEN* edition! We will continue to liaise with Ottawa Riverkeeper and RVCA on upcoming projects for 2024. Unfortunately, the memorial pollinator meadow

project was delayed due to mixed land ownership of that area. We hope to share more updates from **Ecology Ottawa** on this project soon. The City of Ottawa implemented a city-wide program which included Bylaw officers (40 students) on park


patrol this past summer. Part of their mandate was to ensure that resources were dedicated to enforcing dogs-off-leash provisions, stoop-and-scoop, the dumping of waste in receptacles at City parks, and multiple other enforcements such as illegal

parking, etc.

One of the objectives of proactive park controls was to increase visibility of enforcement staff in parks to deter problematic behaviour. Park patrols were implemented in all 24 wards across the city including ward 13, and there were approximately 5,500 park patrols completed this past summer. From the data outlined, it appears that parking infractions issued city-wide were by far the largest volume of enforcement activities.


City of Ottawa’s initial report shows that the 2023 summer student program was effective in deterring offences and monitoring for compliance. The 2,160 tickets issued city-wide included the following locally: seven tickets in New Edinburgh Park; seven tickets for 203 Stanley Ave. (the Fieldhouse area); one Dispatch Note (which simply means that a note was added to the file); four Patrol Negative notices (meaning that patrol attended and found no violations of the bylaws); and two verbal warnings. We hope to receive more details from the City in the coming months, but overall we are pleased this initiative is underway, as the volume of people in the park has increased substantially. The overall objective is to keep our parks clean and safe for all users.

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



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# Beechwood misses out on Bus #17

By John Leefe

A report to the Transit Commission has recommended the restoration of OC Transpo route #17 from Wateridge Village to downtown. The proposed new route would have #17 going from Wateridge Village to Rideau Station via Montreal Road and Brittany, ending at the Rideau Centre.

Councillor Rawlson King, along with Wateridge Village Community Association (WVCA) had been urging the restoration of #17, which was cancelled during the pandemic due to low ridership. Readers may recall that King sponsored a motion back in March directing OC Transpo to assess the feasibility of restoring the route.

This proposed new route would no longer go down the Beechwood-Hemlock corridor, but rather Montreal Road. Feedback on the proposal is being sought before the report is tabled and potentially passed in the city budget on Dec. 6.

Despite the proposed elimination of Beechwood Avenue in favour of Montreal Road, some community associations have been supportive of the changes. Jason Tavoularis, Chair of NECA's Traffic and Safety Committee says "this

news is still positive for New Edinburgh as it should divert some of the cars that currently travel along Beechwood between Wateridge and downtown. This new bus route should help reduce the number of cars contributing to rush hour congestion on Beechwood."

Darren Kipp of the WVCA was also positive, writing: "from the perspective of the WVCA, we are very happy with the results of the bus route view (pending council approval on Dec 6th). Councillor King was very instrumental in pushing for this result using all the facts and statistics that we collected. This is a huge step towards the original vision of Wateridge becoming a viable 15-minute community with sustainable transportation options. It has been roughly a two-year journey to get to this stage. We are looking forward to schedules getting finalized as well as the service start day getting determined."

Other proposed changes of interest to neighbourhood residents include revisions to route #9, which would provide two-way service on Sussex Drive between Boteler and Murray streets, and extended to Carleton University via



Image courtesy John Leefe

Proposed route for the #17 bus.

Billings Bridge, replacing part of route #10.

OC Transpo commissioned the report as part of the "Bus Route Review." The review is designed to examine and confirm transit service planning principles, determine network design changes in relation to the opening of State 2 O-Train extensions, and be reflective of changes to customers' transit use and

travel patterns since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since January 2023, feedback has come in from across the city through various consultation methods. In its executive summary, the report states: "The feedback from residents, advocacy groups, businesses and other stakeholders was shared with the consultant, Dillon Consulting to facilitate their review of

the bus service network," noting that "Dillon Consulting is a recognized expert in public transit with a presence in Ottawa."

The report can be found online at: <https://pub-ottawa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=151782>

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

## Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale – Start Planning Early!

By Carolyn Brereton

The success of our **Children's Book Sale** in June has encouraged us to start planning for a return of the full **Spring Book Sale** in April 2024. This will be welcome news to all those who have missed the event, but we are not there yet, and a lot of work remains to be done. Many of the concerns that made us reluctant to proceed with a full Sale this year remain: COVID is still circulating in the community, most of our volunteers are older, and given the popularity of the Sale, our event space gets very crowded.

After a four-year hiatus (if you recall, we were all ready to go in 2020 when the first COVID lockdown closed everything), we are looking to re-launch the Sale. We do not anticipate that it will be exactly like the enormous Sales of the past. But we hope we can achieve the

same energy, enthusiasm, and strong sense of community, even with a pared down event.

Historically, we culled and sorted books from September to March in the window bay in the Rockcliffe Park Library branch, but that was less than satisfactory and is no longer possible. Starting this month, we will be using the Community Room on Springfield Road on a bi-monthly basis to collect and sort your donations. We have now found a temporary solution for our storage needs, so we encourage you to bring your donations of gently used books to the Rockcliffe Park Library during opening hours, as was done in the past. If you have a sizable donation (more than a couple of bags or boxes) please contact Jane Newcombe [janenewcombe08@gmail.com](mailto:janenewcombe08@gmail.com) or Carolyn Brereton

[cbrereton@mac.com](mailto:cbrereton@mac.com) to arrange a pickup.

We also expect to hold another Book Drive soon in the parking lot behind the library. Please watch for

notices on your local listserv. We have just over five months until the end of April and the launch of what we hope will be the 2024 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale!

Carolyn Brereton is a previous editor of New Edinburgh News, lives in New Edinburgh and sits on the New Edinburgh News advisory committee.



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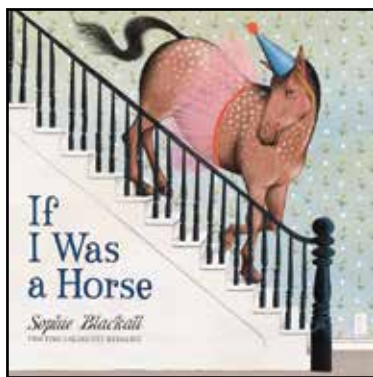




# Books on Beechwood Christmas Reading Recommendations

By Hilary Porter

## KIDS & TEENS



*If I Was a Horse* by Sophie Blackall (Ages 4–8)

A charming picture book about a girl who imagines what her life would be like if she were a horse. Ridiculous and perfect, every page will make you laugh! –Hilary

*The Tragically Hip ABC* (Ages 5–7)

Featuring lovely illustrations by four Canadian artists alongside well-known phrases from *The Tragically Hip*'s songbook, this book is perfect for the bands' long-time and future fans alike! –Hilary

*Dust* by Dusti Bowling (Ages 8–12)

Dusti does it again! This is a beautiful story about friend-

ship, courage, and overcoming adversity. You'll immediately fall in love with the heartwarming duo that is Avalyn and Adam! –Hilary

*Curious Tides* by Pascale Lacelle (Ages 14+)

Magical, mysterious, and riveting, this novel set in the world of dark academia is a wonderful, page-turner by a debut Ottawa author! –Hilary

## FICTION

*Normal Rules Don't Apply* by Kate Atkinson

At once startling and filled with sharp observations on human nature, this short story collection delivers a satisfying emotional wallop. It's a true feast for the imagination! I loved it! –Stephanie

*When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill

Set in an alternate 1950s America where thousands of women have spontaneously transformed into dragons, readers are charged with imagining different ways of living, loving, and caring for each other. The result is a complex, heartfelt story about following your heart and opening your mind to new

possibilities. –Dave M.

*Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton

A page-turning thriller and exploration of climate catastrophe and capitalism, this is a book about friendship and all the ways we try and fail and try again to care for each other. –Stephanie



*And Then She Fell* by Alicia Elliott

This debut novel touches on the feelings of an Indigenous person who tries to connect to her culture and heritage while dealing with the challenges of motherhood and mental illness. These all combine in

a genre-bending mystery that includes sci-fi, fantasy, and magical realism. –Michelle

*A New Season* by Terry Fallis

In this book, we meet Jack McMaster as he struggles to learn to live again after the death of his wife. This is a lovely read that somehow brings together the joys of community hockey in Toronto and 1920s Paris. Hope and love in all its forms will warm your heart this winter. –Cathy

*The Housekeepers* by Alex Hay

If you're looking for a fun, light, quick read this winter, this revenge heist set in 1905 London might be the one! –Cathy

*So Late in the Day* by Claire Keegan

This collection of three short stories/novellas is elegant, sparse, and deeply Irish. Each of the stories explores the dynamics that corrupt what could be between women and men. Keegan ranks as one of the best story writers of our time! –Bridget

*Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang

This novel feels like a thriller that somehow also manages to provide a satisfying critique of the publishing world. Exploring the themes of cultural appropriation and plagiarism, this is a fiction debut not to be missed! –Cathy

*Let it Destroy You* by Harriet Alida Lye

Inspired by the physicist Leó Szilárd and the letters he wrote his wife, this historical novel is truly stunning. Set in 1945, the protagonist is about to be tried at the International War Crimes Court for inventing a radiation machine to cure his daughter's cancer, knowing that the technology is capable of great destruction. –Michelle

*Held* by Anne Michaels

Like everything by Michaels, this is an intensely beautiful novel that explores the ways the desire to find meaning can manifest itself. This slim and poetic novel moves through centuries, full of unforgettable characters and compassion. –Michelle

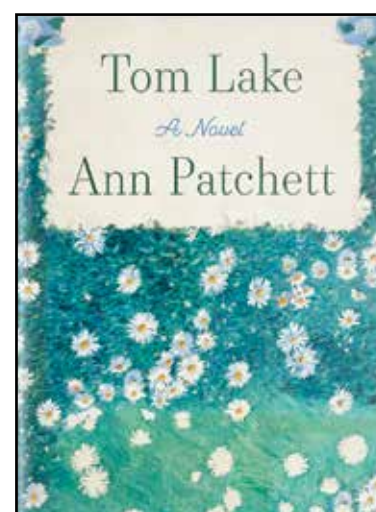
*How High We Go in the Dark* by Sequoia Nagamatsu

A collection of intricately linked short stories describing humanity's struggle to

rebuild itself in the aftermath of a pandemic. The narrative flows easily, emphasizing family, mutual acceptance, and the often unorthodox ways in which we are all connected. –Dave M.

*Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

What a wonderful, complex, and layered read! The story follows the lives of the four Padavano sisters in Chicago. A meditation on love, loss, mental illness and the meaning of family, this beautiful book will stay with you long after the last word has been read. –Cathy



*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

This novel is a beautiful meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents live before their children are born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. –Bridget

## MYSTERY

*Murder Most Royal* by SJ Bennett

In this third irresistible mystery featuring the late Queen as a secret sleuth, the setting is Christmas at Sandringham and the story involves the murder of a neighbour and fellow aristocrat which is a bit close for comfort. –Bridget

*The Last Devil to Die* by Richard Osman

Osman hits the mark yet again in this fourth book featuring Joyce, Elizabeth, Ron, and Ibrahim and their crime-solving skills! Great dialogue, wonderful friendships, the trials of aging, and warm humour – all are found in this entertaining read. I want to move to Cooper's Chase! –Cathy

*The Mystery Guest* by Nita

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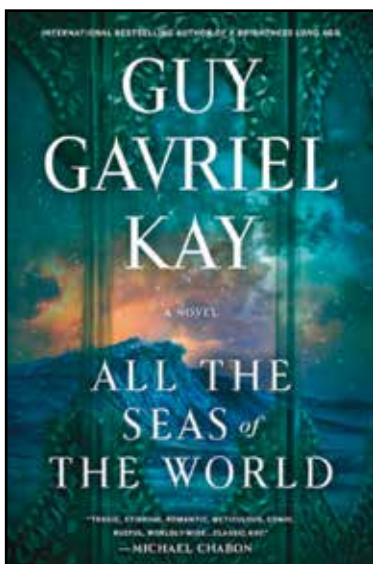
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## Prose

Since rising to the rank of Head Maid at the Regency Grand, things seem to be falling into place for Molly. That is, until death comes knocking once more when a world-renowned mystery author drops dead on the tearoom floor. Delightful and fun, this murder mystery is a must-read! –Cathy

## SCIENCE-FICTION &amp; FANTASY



*All the Seas in the World* by Guy Gavriel Kay

Loosely based on pre-Renaissance Italy, this novel's first few chapters are a rude bap-

tism of world-building, jargon, and geography that takes time to sink in. It's worth it though, to experience the rich, intricate tale that is equal parts ponderous and beautiful. –Dave M.

*The Scandalous Confessions of Lydia Bennet, Witch* by Melinda Taub

A fun, entertaining read that successfully brings together Jane Austen and witches! Featuring beloved characters imbued with magical abilities and a snide, quirky first-person narrative, this book is delightfully charming. –Hilary

## BIOGRAPHY

*Mary Pratt: A Love Affair with Vision* by Anne Koval

Pratt's luminescent paintings capture reality few other painters have been able to achieve. Her work elevates the traditional still-life by transforming the everyday into the iconic. –Stephanie

*Wandering Through Life* by Donna Leon

More of a collection of memories than a linear autobiography, Leon – prolific writer of the highly regarded Commissario Brunetti

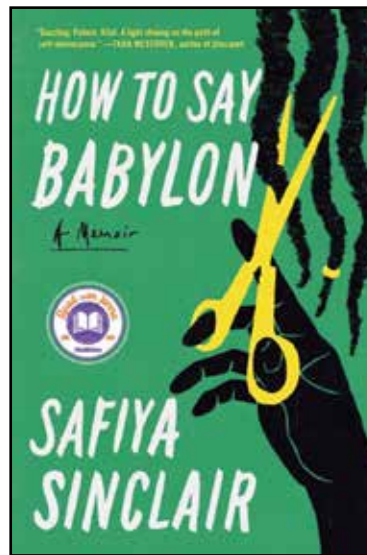
Venetian mysteries – presents a surprisingly acerbic and insightful look at her life. From teaching at universities in Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia to her life-long love of opera and Venice, she is not necessarily what one would expect from reading her novels. –Bridget



*A Memoir of My Former Self: A Life in Writing* by Hilary Mantel

In this collection we get a wide range of opinion pieces, stories from Mantel's own life, and illuminations of the world as she found it. This is a book to dip into at any time

and come away satisfied, informed, and challenged. –Bridget



*How to Say Babylon* by Safiya Sinclair

Sinclair's lyrical memoir brings us right to the heart of Jamaica. The author's parents adhered to a strict sect of Rastafari and they tried to protect her from the threat of Babylon – the corrupting influences of the Western world. Literature and poetry became her means of escape. This book is a thought-provoking read about patriarchy, tradition, and the legacy of colonialism. –Michelle

## HISTORY

*Magnificent Rebel: Nancy Cunard in Jazz Age Paris* by Anne de Courcy

Social historian extraordinaire de Courcy is in fine form with this rich and enjoyable study of the accomplished and electrifying Nancy Cunard who abandoned her position in the stultifying world of the British aristocracy to become the muse of a host of artists and writers in 1920s Paris. –Bridget

*The Duel: Diefenbaker, Pearson, and the Making of Modern Canada* by John Ibbotson

This is a remarkable and gripping analysis of how these two political rivals forged the Canada we live in today. Despite their very different formative years and their fiery confrontations in the House, they shared many of the same goals and ideals that we don't necessarily see in the politicians of today. –Bridget

*Hilary Porter (manager) and Books on Beechwood staff are regular contributors to New Edinburgh News.*

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# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman



"Tame" golden-crowned kinglet.

Photo by Mike Leveille

As we advance all too swiftly into winter, the local bird population has progressively thinned out. Waves of migrating species are heading south along the Atlantic Flyway to warmer habitat, ranging from the southern U.S. to the Gulf of Mexico and Central and South America. But in our region, this exodus has been tempered by relatively mild conditions, combined with a bumper crop of berries and fruit, so many species remain on the scene.

In addition to such year-round residents as **black-capped chickadees**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **Northern cardinals**,

**Blue Jays**, **woodpeckers**, **American crows**, **Common ravens** and **American robins**, we've recently encountered such unexpected lingerers as **white-throated sparrows**, **golden- and ruby-crowned kinglets**, and flocks of **dark-eyed juncos**. In birding hotspots in the wider Ottawa region, Ottawa Field Naturalist Club (OFNC) reports indicate that several warbler species were still in evidence in late October, notably **yellow warblers**, **American redstarts**, **Common yellowthroat**, and **orange-crowned warblers** (ofnc.ca).

For perhaps the first time

ever, our most rewarding birding encounters over the past two months have taken place right in my backyard. The explanation for this bounty: all three of our berry- and fruit-bearing trees are laden with a dense, bumper crop of readily available sustenance for the hungry avian hordes. The most numerous of our regular diners are **American robins**. They've been arriving in fast-flying waves, swooping from our mountain ash to our crabapple tree and back again, performing spectacular (and un-robin-like) aerial acrobatics.

I watched in fascination recently as an equally energetic and purposeful flock of blue jays swept in to challenge the robins at the crabapple tree. I'd assumed that the jays might be more aggressive in the competition: not so. After an uneasy interval in which both species cohabited in the tree (though at a distance from one another), the blue jays were first to move along, leaving the robins to carry on with their zealous refueling.

Slightly earlier in the fall, our fruit and berry harvest attracted two flocks of smaller visitors: first, a cloud of both **ruby- and golden-crowned kinglets** which swept in at the tail end of October to perform a frenetic, almost dizzying, dance in the crabapple tree. Perpetual motion is characteristic of kinglets, often making identification of field marks difficult or impossible. Thankfully, the frenzied behaviour was itself a giveaway clue!

In early November, we witnessed a brief, but impressively large, **finch** invasion of our garden, as **American goldfinches**, rosy **house finches**



Common Merganser.

Photo by David Howe

and **purple finches** took their turns at the apple, crabapple, and mountain ash trees. They were no match for the territorial robins, however, and soon moved along when the latter arrived to reclaim their turf. If you're out for a stroll in our neighbourhood, you're very likely to spot a number of these lingering finches: while the American goldfinch has morphed into its drabber, olive-coloured winter plumage, the rosy red heads and breasts of male house- and purple finches remain bright spots on the dreary late autumn landscape.

**Dark-eyed juncos** were also recent visitors to our garden, though in this case not as competitors for the fruit and berry crops. Typical of most sparrow species, the juncos were content to forage on the ground in our flower beds,

in search of fallen seeds and insects. Like other ground feeders, juncos prefer to forage in a covering of leaf litter, so before you get too vigorous with the rake, it may be wise to leave a leaf blanket in place until the sparrows have moved on.

A **European starling** horde has also made frequent appearances in the garden, descending on the lawn to mine the soil for such insects as beetles, caterpillars, millipedes, and spiders. While they reportedly eat fruit from a range of plants, this crowd made no move to approach the nearby mountain ash tree.

Beyond the confines of our garden, we've encountered many of the same species on our walks along the Rockcliffe Parkway, and past the Pavilion through Rockcliffe Park. Notable



Trumpeter Swan.

Photo by David Howe



Black-bellied Plover.

Photo by David Howe





Great Blue Heron.

Photo by David Howe

recent additions to the robin, finch, and blue jay list have been **Pileated-**, **downy-** and **hairy woodpeckers**, all hard at work noisily mining the bark of vulnerable trees.

One unexpected encounter in early November took place on the Parkway close to Sussex Drive, where I saw and heard a **white-throated sparrow**. While its song was fainter than the robust melody of breeding season, it was unquestionably the white throat's signature *Oh Canada, Canada, Canada* call. I was grateful for a tip on the OFNC website that alerted birders to the high pitched *tsip-tsip* sound emanating from shrubbery throughout the region this fall, denoting the presence of late-lingering

sparrows. That sound was my first clue that sparrows were close at hand.

A family of **wild turkeys** also remains on the scene as we head into December, appearing in or near what we assume to be their permanent home on Manor Road, north of Buena Vista. Whether or not this familiar group is actually "wild" is debatable. Not only are they a year-round fixture in this location, they seem entirely unfazed by the presence of humans, barely taking the trouble to move off as we walk by, at least until one of our dogs lunges in their direction.

#### Winter Finch forecast

Each fall, the Finch Network produces a forecast for the movement of **winter**

**finch species**, based on the availability of wild food crops, such as spruce and pine cones and mountain ash berries, in the birds' northern habitats. When pickings are good, the finches remain in the north through the winter, but where crops are scanty, southward finch irruptions (or movements) are likely to occur. For details, visit [finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2023-2024](http://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2023-2024).

Biologist and ecologist Tyler Hoar takes the lead in the preparation of the annual forecast, this year against the backdrop of a mixed picture in the north: cone crops range from poor to below average in some parts of the vast boreal forest region, to bumper white pine cone crops in

the eastern boreal forest from Lake Superior to the Atlantic coast.

In our area, the data suggests that **purple finches**, **pine siskins**, **white-winged cross-bills** and "moderate" numbers of **common and hoary redpolls**, will be around over the winter months. Their foods of choice are nyjer seed and black oil sunflower seeds, so stock your feeders to attract the finches to your backyard. Not on the list of irruptive finches this year are **red-breasted nuthatches**; **evening-** and **pine grosbeaks**, and **Bohemian waxwings**, species which remain well supplied in their northern habitat.

#### Reports from our readers

**Philip MacAdam**, proprietor of the flourishing Avian Bistro at Thomas and Alexander Streets, has had a predictably increasing throng of visitors to his four feeding stations in recent weeks. **Blue jays**, **Northern cardinals**, **downy** and **hairy woodpeckers**, **American goldfinches**, **house finches**, **purple finches**, **dark-eyed juncos**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, and **black-capped chickadees** are now regulars at his avian buffet, where black oil sunflower seeds, "deluxe" finch feed, raw peanuts, and safflower seeds are in ample supply. A late-departing pair of **white-throated sparrows** also turned up at the Bistro, foraging on the ground in sparrow fashion. (Visit [ritchiefed.com](http://ritchiefed.com) or [ottawa.wbu.com](http://ottawa.wbu.com) for seed supply orders.)

**Mike Leveille** reported an influx of **golden-crowned kinglets** at the Macoun Marsh this fall, one of which

he managed to photograph as it rested quietly on his hand. This little guy was clearly not interested in the frenzied, perpetual motion typical of the species!

Birder and photographer **David Howe** has kept a close eye on late-lingering migrants moving through Stanley Park and environs this season. Among his notable sightings, David reports **Cape May** and **Magnolia warblers**, **song sparrows**, **house wrens**, **Eastern phoebe** and two of his favourites: the **blue-headed vireo**, flocks of which swept through in early October, and **Lincoln's sparrows**. David notes that "these sparrows can always be found in the scrub behind the off-leash dog area," where they forage on the seeds from wildflowers and long grasses. While very similar to the song sparrow, the Lincoln's are distinguished by their puffy breasts with fine black streaking, and pale eye ring.

David's autumn bird list includes numerous ducks spotted on the Rideau River from Stanley Park to Strathcona Park: **common goldeneye**; the odd **Barrow's goldeneye**; **common-**, **red-breasted-** and **hooded mergansers**; **greater and lesser Scaup**; **Northern Pintails**; **Buffleheads**; **White-winged Scoters**; **Black ducks**, and "copious **Mallards**." He's looking forward to a significant irruption of **pine siskins** this winter but cautions birders to stock up on birdseed: "these aggressive finches can dominate your feeders: you'll hear them before you see them with their distinctive 'zipper pull' shrill call."

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

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# Holiday at MacKay United Spreading Joy and Support

By Eleanor Dunn

The holiday season is upon us, and special events are planned at MacKay United Church!

Recently Peter Tilley, CEO of The Mission was presented with a \$1000 cheque by MacKay's United Church Women. This generous gift

was part of the proceeds of the organization's Big, Big Bake Sale which followed the Christmas at MacKay concert last year.

The Big, Big Bake Sale returns on Sunday, Dec. 17, following the Christmas at MacKay concert. The concert features seasonal music with performers including pianist

Tea Marmaladze; violinists from the Vyhovski Strings; Eric Johnson-Scherger; Peter Woods; and more.

Join us for a wonderful evening, completely free, starting at 7 p.m. Come early, as it's usually standing room only! Goodwill donations for the concert are used to provide funding for local outreach

programs, as are bake sale funds raised by the UCW, which tries as much as possible to help organizations which support women and girls.

See our Events Calendar at the back of the paper for MacKay United Church holiday season events schedule.

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.

## Rockcliffe Park Programming this Winter

By Martha Hodgson

Rockcliffe Park Library (380 Springfield Road) has a lot of exciting programming for you to enjoy this winter! Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the annual **Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale**, which is on hiatus but still raising funds through periodic book drives. Come in and visit us any time or join us for our programs. Please

note that any registrations can be done in person, by phone or online at [biblioot-tawalibrary.ca](http://biblioot-tawalibrary.ca)

Please see the Events section of this newspaper for more information on Family and Adult programming.

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



A fall walk in New Edinburgh park.

Photo by Maryana Nikoula



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# Charlotte Gray Places Mothers Centre Stage

By Marta M. Reyes

Charlotte Gray, a long-time New Edinburgh resident and award-winning historical author has a new book out: *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt*. This ambitious work sheds light on two powerful and compelling women whose sons – Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt – made history.

This is Charlotte's twelfth historical book, and one of the few that do not focus specifically on Canadian history.

"I am interested in women's lives. I find that women are generally minimized in history. Historians elbow them out of the way."

Not this historian. In this new book, Charlotte puts these two women at centre stage, revealing them as protagonists in their famous sons' lives, rather than relegated to behind-the-scenes characters. The axiom "behind every great man stands a great woman" takes on a slightly alternative meaning in the context presented in *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons*.

Charlotte says she likes writing history books for selfish reasons: "I find something intriguing that I'm interested in, and I spend three or four years researching subjects I typically have lots of ques-

tions about." Which is one of the reasons she started writing books about Canada's history after she emigrated from England.

"I wanted to read about the history of Canada and only found a few books, mostly about politics and engineering, none of which I really enjoyed," she explains. "I wanted to learn about what people's lives were like and there was nothing." In her books, Charlotte aims to tell readers about an interesting bit of history that will make them think about issues they hadn't considered before.

Born in Sheffield, England, Charlotte studied at Oxford University and the London School of Economics. Before she moved to Canada, she was a magazine editor and newspaper columnist in London. Having arrived in Ottawa, she worked as a book reviewer and magazine columnist, contributed to several publications, and eventually started writing historical biographies and history books. She is an Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University's Department of History.

As for her arrival in New Edinburgh, it was love from the start. She moved to Ottawa in 1979 with her Canadian husband, George Anderson, whom she met while studying at Oxford, and married in a fourteenth-century church in the Derbyshire village where



Photo courtesy of Donald Wingell

Charlotte Gray with Donald Wingell, owner of Dhruvees during one of her book launches at New Edinburgh event organized by Books on Beechwood and Dhruvees.

her parents lived. Charlotte says she agreed to the move on the condition that it be temporary. Forty years, three sons, and two granddaughters later – and three different houses in the neighbourhood – Charlotte is definitely at home in New Edinburgh and loving it.

"I have found a stable and warm community here," she says. "I have made many wonderful friendships and

meet people I know just walking on the street and can always call a friend and go for a coffee." Charlotte says some of the friendships she made in the neighbourhood date back to the days of wait-

ing for the yellow school bus with other parents when her kids were little. Others were made later in life, and at the tennis courts nearby. "I feel privileged to live in this magical neighbourhood."

Charlotte has held a couple of literary chats in the neighbourhood to talk about *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* – one sponsored by Books on Beechwood and Dhruvees Restaurant, and another one at the Rockcliffe Park Library – both very well-attended. Charlotte had the opportunity to talk about the book and her extensive research process, which was made more challenging amid COVID-related travel bans. The book has been published in Canada, UK, and USA.

*Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* is available at Books on Beechwood.

To learn more about Charlotte and her other best-sellers books of history and biography, visit her website at [charlottegray.ca](http://charlottegray.ca).

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.

## Local Business, Volunteers and Community Come Together for Rockcliffe Park Book Fair

By Laura McCurdy

Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) overflowed with books and booklovers from Nov. 3–5 as it hosted the 62nd **Rockcliffe Park Book Fair**. School Trustee **Lyra Evans** and Principal **Brian Chiasson** helped open the event, which was once again an inspiring show of teamwork between school and community!

RPPS and the Book Fair Committee are grateful for the generous support from members of New Edinburgh and nearby areas. You donated books, baked goods, and

in one case an antique bookcase: thanks, Cindy! Many volunteered and even more bought books, vinyl, CDs, and DVDs, helping make the sale a success. We also extend our warmest thanks to **Dinner by Six** for the tasty, hot food at the Fair – and for feeding our volunteers during set-up! Many thanks to the Embassy of India, Embassy of Kazakhstan, and Embassy of Afghanistan for donating delicious treats for the bake sale, and to our sponsors **Sezlik Royal Lepage**; **Kelly Santini LLP**; **WCPD** and the **Foundation WCPD**;

**GLOCAL Foundation of Canada**; **Rytec Printing**; **Black Squirrel Books**; **Bridgehead**; and **Metro**.

Last year's proceeds helped fund education initiatives and resources at RPPS as well as at five other schools and at the OCDSB Education Foundation. Thanks to this year's success, we can again help to fund learning opportunities and support for many local students. Once again, thank you! Happy reading, and we'll see you in 2024.

Keep up-to-date with the Book Fair at [rockcliffeparkbookfair.com](http://rockcliffeparkbookfair.com)

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# History of New Edinburgh – New book coming soon!

By Martha Edmond and Janet Uren

Work continues on our history of New Edinburgh, and the story is even more engaging than either of us – the authors – suspected when we began. The book will be a substantial one in form and content and will provide new information in a coherent way that spans the 19th and 20th centuries. It will also introduce many of the people who have shaped this community.

One of the startling discoveries has been the richness and diversity of the story. The oldest part of New Edinburgh is very small, stretching from Sussex Drive to Dufferin Street and from the gates of Rideau Hall to the Rideau River. This is the area that

was declared a Heritage Conservation District in 2001. This tiny area, defined by a mere 10 square blocks, contains a rich history of industrial settlement; early Confederation; compelling stories of immigration; the response by Canadians to war and epidemics; the struggles of the Great Depression; the foundation of six churches over time, each representing a different ethnic group; the effects of urban planning; the heritage movement; and many other themes, including Hockey Hall of Famers and the heroes of such rarified sports as cricket.

As authors, we are moving forward on a chronological approach, decade by decade, as well as creating several



Photo by Catherine Willis-O'Connor

Co-authors at National Archives Canada doing research for this new book which has been in the works for several years.

thematic chapters: the shops of New Edinburgh; German immigration; the 30-year battle to preserve the Rideau River shoreline from development; and of course, the families of New Edinburgh. Our intention is to continue writing over the winter and spring. In the meantime, we will be coming to the public at some point to seek crowd-funding as well as pre-sales of the book to offset the costs of design and printing. Stay tuned for a notice of that appeal in the *New Edinburgh News*.

*Janet Uren is a professional writer, currently working with Martha Edmond on a history of New Edinburgh.*

## Hobbies that traverse generations

By Eleanor Dunn

When you live in an older part of any Canadian city, you've got to be prepared to live "cheek by jowl" as my Scottish mother used to say. "Cheek by jowl" aptly describes New Edinburgh, with its mix of single-family homes, townhouses, duplexes, apartments, and condos all in close proximity. What you do may not please your neighbours, and what they do may not please you. To live in harmony, getting along with

neighbours is a must, which is why I chose quilting as a good hobby for my retirement years.

I recognized that after 40 years spent in the high-energy world of reporting and broadcasting that life in a rocking chair was not for me. I have some musical talent thanks to years of Mrs. Robertson's piano lessons which gave me the ability to read music. I wanted to be a jazz pianist, but unfortunately, I didn't have the chops, and I even-

tually donated my piano to MacKay United Church.

So, I thought about taking up another instrument: violin? Yes! I always admired people who played the violin and wondered how they could hit their notes when there are no frets on the fiddle. Bagpipes? Yes! Learning to play my forebears' national instrument would be in keeping with my heritage, but after years of smoking, would I have the wind for it?

So, I settled on the ukulele – tenor and soprano – contenting myself with emulating Patsy Cline (without her vocal range). When I'm belting out "Crazy" or "Sweet Dreams," I keep my windows shut in order not to offend the neighbours, some of whom might be real Patsy Cline fans.

I was educated at a time when Canadian schoolgirls learned how to sew and make applesauce in what were known as home economics classes. I am eternally grateful that I had this opportunity, and am sorry that when cuts became necessary, school boards chose to cancel home economics and shop classes. The skills taught in both are extremely useful when times are tough – as they are right now.

Quilting is a nice, quiet hobby – if you exclude the expletives which erupt when the quilter finds a piece which does not fit, a seam which is not straight and doesn't



Photo courtesy Eleanor Dunn

Eleanor shares her beautiful work and highlights quilting as one of her many hobbies.

quite work, or a measurement which has somehow gone wrong despite measuring twice before cutting the material.

Making a quilt is a great winter project for those days when it's too stormy to venture outdoors. Quilting was also a lifesaver, letting me occupy my time during the pandemic lockdowns. I have made 11 quilts of various sizes since I started this hobby back in 2013. Three of these are on beds at The Farmhouse at Cape Traverse, PEI; my son John has one; I have five in my home; and a new addition to the family will have two.

I recently learned that my first great-grandchild would arrive in January 2024. With a baby shower on the way, it was only natural that I should

make a quilt for the baby – so I made two! I admit I got carried away, but the small size made them easy to manage and I would recommend to anyone thinking of taking up quilting that they start with a baby quilt or lap throw. Hopefully, like the Paddington blanket which I gifted the baby's dad (grandson Jeff) when he was born, these quilts will become heirlooms, too, handed down to future generations.

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

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# Introducing Christmas Compassion Wreaths: Symbols of Care

By Denis M. Côté

The **Christmas Compassion Wreath Project** proudly announces its launch, inspired by a day of action and reflection on how to alleviate the afflictions of Mother Earth. Following a heartwarming discussion around a campfire last August, our grandsons expressed their desire to help those in need within our community. Recognizing their limitations as children, they sought guidance for a meaningful solution. I created a wreath made of ivy vines, reminiscent of the ones I used to make as a Boy Scout, and in the morning, their eyes lit up with a newfound determination. That's when the idea of making and selling compassion wreaths was born!

## Crafted with love and care

Each compassion wreath features a circular infrastructure made from pliable ivy vines. These vines were graciously contributed by neighbours in New Edinburgh, who had noticed them growing invasively on the walls of their houses. Another significant portion of our supplies comes from our own country house. Every wreath is individually handcrafted by

a different teenager, ensuring its uniqueness and personal touch. We have aptly named them Compassion Christmas Wreaths to resonate with the generosity and empathy that New Edinburgh embodies.

The Compassion Wreath Project believes that our community is a haven of compassion, and we want to contribute to further enhancing the spirit of compassion in our neighborhood. Compassion is a gift, symbolizing our ability to help and attend to the needs of our fellow human beings.

## Join us in spreading love and cheer

Our main objective is to sell 100 wreaths leading up to Christmas, including at an afternoon event at the Field House in Stanley Park on Dec. 9. To ensure you don't miss out on purchasing your very own Compassion Christmas Wreath, we will post reminders to the Lindenlea and Manor Park listservs. You can also order by phone at 613-744-2926.

## Making a difference together

Proceeds from the sale of these wreaths will be distrib-



Photo courtesy Denis Côté  
Denis Côté started this program with his grandchildren to raise funds for multiple good causes.

uted among several organizations, including the Ottawa Food Bank, the CHEO Mental Health Program, and various school projects. By purchasing a Compassion Christmas Wreath for the suggested price of \$20, you not only adorn your home with a symbol of care and giving, you also contribute to meaningful causes that support our community.

*Denis is a semi-retired psychologist and ex cadre of the Public service of Canada. He enjoys volunteering on many initiatives to generate compassion and build healthier communities.*

# Food Bank Holiday Appeal

By Sebastian Gaissert

The impact and reach of Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Center (RRCRC) services in our community have flourished thanks to the unwavering support of our cherished partners, devoted volunteers, and generous donors. With your continuous support, we are able to provide essential social services to children, families, newcomers, refugees, and all community members facing financial hardships throughout Ward 13 and beyond.

Last year alone, our Centre served more than 27,000 residents, and the Poverty Reduction initiative assisted more than 10,400 individuals and families. Moreover, our Local Emergency Food Bank supported on average almost 900 individuals each month, sadly marking

an all-time high due to escalating food insecurity. Our Good Food Box and Social Harvest Social Enterprises delivered 20 tons of affordable and nutritious food. The Community Support and Development Team organized some 136 resident-led activities and events, engaging around 12,000 participants in our neighbourhoods, and provided essential counselling and social support.

Food insecurity is not going away and is only getting worse for many residents in our neighbourhood, particularly in the face of rising inflation and the cost of living. Our Emergency Food Bank and the array of services provided by the Centre continue to be a lifeline for many of our neighbours.

RRCRC's vision is to achieve a dignified and rewarding life for all community

residents and to support those needing a helping hand. With the Holiday Season fast approaching, the Centre cordially invites you to support our vision and visit [crrc.org](http://crrc.org), where you can make a donation that will make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. We kindly ask you also consider becoming a monthly donor directly through our donation website: [canadahelps.org/en/charities/rideau-rockcliffe-community-resource-centre](http://canadahelps.org/en/charities/rideau-rockcliffe-community-resource-centre)

To learn more about our work, please sign up for our newsletter, peruse our Annual Report, consider becoming a volunteer, and please follow us on social media. For more information visit the website above or contact the Executive Director: **Sebastian. Gaissert@crrc.org**

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# Art Lending of Ottawa: giving the gift of art

By Christine Osborne

Looking to give meaningful gifts this holiday season? Consider the timeless gift of art! A one-of-a-kind artwork is an incredibly unique and personal gift. With a piece of art, you can evoke memories of special moments, enhance a living space, and create an excellent conversation starter – art really is the gift that keeps on giving. You may even spark a lifelong appreciation of art collecting.

Giving art as a gift has the added benefit of helping to support local artists and the art community. Gifting art is a great way to introduce the recipient to different artists and art styles. **Art Lending of Ottawa (ALO)** is hold-



*Flowers by Ratto Allard.*

*Photo courtesy Leslie Firth*



*This Land Our Life by Jane Barlow.*

*Photo courtesy Leslie Firth*

ing its final show of 2023 on **Saturday, Dec. 16 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.** at the RA

Centre: 2451 Riverside Drive. You'll find art of all styles by more than 30 local artists,

for sale or for rent. Not sure what art to choose? You can also purchase gift certificates

to be redeemed online at **ArtLendingofOttawa.ca** or at ALO's March 2024 show.

## Compassionate Friends – Worldwide Candle Lighting for families grieving loss of children

By Terry Masnyk,  
Publicity and Candle  
Lighting Ceremony Chair;  
Mikaela's Mom

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an international, non-profit, peer support organization, offering friendship, understanding, grief education, and hope for the future to all families who have experienced the death of a child at any age, from any cause.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to aid in the positive reconciliation of grief and foster the physical and emotional health of bereaved parents and their surviving children and to help others be supportive. TCF has

no religious affiliation.

The Compassionate Friends' 27th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting (WCL) on the second Sunday in December unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit on Dec. 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor the memory of all children who have left us. Now believed to be the world's largest mass candle lighting, the annual WCL creates a

virtual 24-hour wave of light as candles burn down in one time zone and are lit in the next.

TCF's WCL started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance and has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held, and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes, as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died but will never be forgotten. We can be comforted in knowing that we are not walking alone, for as we light our candles, there are simi-

lar commemorations taking place globally. The flickering flame of a candle has been used to represent a serene, intangible presence beyond the commotion of the everyday world. On this evening, we light candles to reach out to those who have gone from our physical sight and touch, but who live on in our memories and our hearts.

All parents, siblings, families, and friends of children who have died from any cause, at any age, from infant to adult, are invited to attend the local, non-denominational celebration of remembrance. Please bring a free-standing picture of your child(ren) and arrive by 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10,

2023 for a prompt 7 p.m. start. Candles will be provided. After an evening of readings, music, and candle lighting in our children's names, a light reception will be provided.

Location: The Garden Chapel –Tubman's Funeral Home, 3440 Richmond Road in Nepean. For further information, please visit **tcfottawa.net**, email **tcfottawa@gmail.com** or call **(613) 612-4951**.

The ceremony will be live-streamed and available for viewing at any time. Registration will be available as of Nov. 27 and the website address for link is **tcfottawa.net**.

Kevin Reeves, conductor

# Noël

Music of Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Rideau Chorale



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# Full Bazaar Returns to St. Bart's

By Roslyn Butler

It took four years to finally open the doors of St. Bartholomew's Church on a full Bazaar after the dreary years of COVID lockdown. On Saturday, Nov. 4, the church was filled with goodies and the public walked away with full hands – and some empty wallets!

The Bazaar offerings included delicious baked goods; homemade jams and jellies; handmade knitted dolls, hats, and mittens; hand quilted tablecloths, runners, and placemats. There were gently used Christmas decorations; stunning jewelry and accessories; fine china; crystal glassware; tea sets; ornamental items and lacy linens; paintings and artwork; toys and puzzles. For the true bazaar-goer looking for a unique find, there was a room full of Attic Treasures which consisted of everything imaginable including a hand forged horseshoe, two pieces of anthracite coal, and a perfectly good stove hood and fan – in white. I was on

hand as the “Attic Treasures Head Fairy.”

And we had books – hundreds of interesting books in good condition – as well as CDs and DVDs available to browse and buy. There was a Tea Room offering a sit-down English Tea with small sandwiches and fancy desserts, all served by handsome and charming young men.

More than 125 parishioners volunteered to make this day a huge triumph and had

plenty of fun doing it. Our Ward 13 Councillor Rawlson King officiated the opening ceremony and joined all the volunteers and organizers in a group photo. More than 1,000 people came to shop, making this a very successful Bazaar indeed. Don't miss next year's St. Bart's Bazaar in early November!

*Roslyn Butler is a former NECA board member; now sits on the New Edinburgh News Advisory Committee.*

## Distribution Manager Required

NEN is looking for a volunteer distribution manager.

This involves coordinating distribution of the newspaper for residential and commercial routes in the community with the delivery force of community volunteers. Your responsibilities will include finding new volunteers as needed. Access to a garage to take delivery of the papers is required as you will receive a pallet of bundles; a car may be required to deliver some papers from time to time. If you are looking for a way to contribute, this is a great opportunity!

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# Seventeen Voyces Christmas Concert

By Clare Jackson

Come celebrate the holiday season with **Seventeen Voyces** this December! Ottawa's premier chamber choir, directed by musician and filmmaker Kevin Reeves, will be bringing Christmas cheer to St. Bartholomew's Church in New Edinburgh on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Seventeen Voyces is thrilled to have Ottawa-based harpist Lucile Hildesheim joining them for this concert. Lucile has recorded extensively with the CBC, both in studio and live concert performances. Her music career has taken her across Canada, the United States, and Europe. Lucile is a well-known part of Ottawa's music scene, having performed at the Music and Beyond festival as well as with the Ottawa Jazz Orchestra and Ottawa Jazz Festival. She has produced three solo harp albums and teaches both classical and Celtic harp. Lucile has been a frequent collaborator with Seventeen Voyces. She has joined the choir for a performance of the 1924 silent film *Peter Pan* as well as several previous Christmas concerts.



Photo courtesy Clare Jackson

Ottawa based choir Seventeen Voyces will bring some holiday cheer to St. Bartholomew's Church in New Edinburgh this month.

Seventeen Voyces' Christmas concert this year will feature Benjamin Britten's enchanting *A Ceremony of Carols* for three-part women's chorus and harp. The piece features 11 short movements celebrating the spirit of Christmas and elements of the story of Jesus' birth. The piece's text is mainly written in Middle

English with some Latin and Early Modern English sprinkled in. Britten composed the piece in 1942 while sailing across the Atlantic from the United States to England.

The concert will also feature some jazz-inspired arrangements of secular holiday favourites, including a show-stopping version of "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,"

as well as classics like "Let It Snow," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "Jingle Bell Rock."

The concert will take place twice: on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Anglican Church (130 Glebe Avenue, Ottawa) and on **Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Church** (125 MacKay Street, Ottawa).

Tickets are \$30; \$20 for students; and free for children 12 and under. Purchase tickets online at **seventenvoyces.ca/concerts** or at the door – cash, credit, and debit accepted.

*Clare Jackson is a Seventeen Voyces choir and board member.*

## Update on Sponsorship of Two Afghan Families

By Flora Liebich

After some last-minute visa challenges, we were thrilled to welcome our two privately sponsored Afghan families to Ottawa at the end of September!

One family is headed by a public-health professional, who later worked with Canada and its allies on democracy building and human rights. He and his wife have three young boys (aged 6, 5, and 2). The second family consists of his sister who is a practicing doctor, and her husband who is a surgeon and former hospital director, and

their three children (aged 21, 16, and 10). Both families are settling in well.

We are very grateful to all those who made their sponsorship possible! Both families are particularly thankful to be living in a welcoming and peaceful place where, in their words, they "no longer have to be afraid."

Thanks to our Constituent Groups – **Ottawa Centre Refugee Action (OCRA)** and **St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church** – permanent accommodation was found for both families in a brand-new building managed by **Centretown Community**

**Housing.** We were particularly fortunate to find three apartments for all 12 family members in the same building. This means that grandmother Fahima can visit her children and grandchildren without stepping outdoors in winter!

The time since their arrival has been spent obtaining OHIP and SIN cards, enrolling the children in school, and attending medical and dental appointments. While all the adult family members want to work, the first step has been English-language assessment, now followed by daily classes at their indi-

vidual levels. Our volunteers have been amazing, helping to move stored furniture and household items, driving to appointments, tutoring in ESL, and coming on "buddy visits" to check in with the families. A doctor, dentist, and pediatric dentist have been found for both families.

The children and young people are enrolled in school while the 21-year-old, who is fluent in English, is taking a five-week pre-employment workshop, followed by job placement, provided by **Youth Ottawa Carleton Immigration Services** and **Immigration Organization**

(YOCISO). His long-term hope is to study computer science.

Though much has and is being done, we are still in need of additional funds to deal with such unforeseen expenses as the unexpected exit visa cost: \$400 USD per person. For further information, please write to **newcomers36@gmail.com**. Should you wish to donate, please send a cheque made out to Refugee Sponsorship Group Ottawa to 213 Crichton Street, Ottawa, ON K1M 1W3. With warmest thanks and best holiday wishes!



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# Rideau Chorale returns to Baroque for Christmas concert

By Janice Manchee

Over its seven-year history, Rideau Chorale has explored several different musical periods. For its December concert, it's returning to Baroque on **Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at Southminster United Church.**

The Baroque era was sandwiched between the Renaissance and Classical periods and lasted from about 1600 to 1750. The term "Baroque" wasn't used until the end of the period; it's the French translation of the Portuguese word for "broken pearl," leading some music historians to think it was meant as an insult to this "modern" music.

Baroque music can be incredibly lively, characterized by lots of vocal ornamentation with intricate and complex details. It has a continuous bass line underpinning the more expressive higher voices and includes frequent key changes, especially between keys near one another. It is, in short, lots of fun to sing and to hear.

But how to choose the pieces? There's early Baroque (1600s) and high Baroque (1700–1750) with masters that include Handel, Monteverdi, Telemann, and J.S. Bach. The French distinguished themselves musically from the Italians, often by the instruments they used and the way in which they used the rhythm of the text. Rideau Chorale's new Music Director Kevin Reeves has selected a French master of Baroque, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, for Rideau Chorale's December concert.

Charpentier was the son of a master scribe, thus well-connected to influential families in Paris. He was well-educated by the Jesuits and attended law school for just one semester before taking off for Italy. He headed to Rome and spent two or three years studying with Giacomo Carissimi, a master of early Italian Baroque.

Upon his return to France, Charpentier immediately began working for the aristocratic Guise family, with whom he remained for 17 years. He was given an apartment in the Hôtel de Guise, which showed that he was



Image from Wikipedia

Portrait presumed to be of Baroque composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

considered not a servant, but rather a courtier. During his time with the family, Charpentier produced a sizable collection of oratorios, operas, masses, hymns, and other works that brought some of the Italian flavour to French Baroque.

The Guise family and their influence with King Louis XIV helped Charpentier break Jean-Baptiste Lully's monopoly on the composition and performance of opera in France. When Molière finally had his fill of Lully, he turned to Charpentier for the incidental music in his plays.

Later in life, Charpentier worked for the Jesuits, when he stopped writing his larger works and focused on putting Christian text to music. Charpentier was prolific, writing between 500 and 800 works, many now seemingly lost. But his music lives on today, with his *Te Deum* providing the fanfare for the Eurovision Network.

Reeves has chosen three Charpentier pieces for performance by Rideau Chorale. The longer *Messe de Minuit de Noël* is based on 10 traditional French carols and,

instead of the solemn sound of many masses, has a lyrical, dance-like quality. *Magnificat H. 79* and *Salve puerule* are shorter pieces revealing more of Charpentier's style.

"So, put our concert in your calendar," says Reeves, "and come experience the joyous atmosphere of a Baroque Noël."

The concert takes place Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Avenue, Ottawa.

Find information about Rideau Chorale and its virtual and upcoming performances at [rideauchorale.com](http://rideauchorale.com). Tickets are available on Eventbrite.ca. Janice Manchee is the Chair of Rideau Chorale and sings tenor.



**Deadline**

for content submissions

**January 10**

[newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com)



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP / Députée Ottawa-Vanier

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# 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.

## December

**Dec. 4 – New Edinburgh Community Choir** 7:30 p.m. come share and enjoy listening to our fall repertoire in the MacKay United Church Sanctuary, 39 Dufferin Rd.

**Dec. 9 – 12–2 p.m. Manor Park Community Council**, 100 Thornwood Road, Ottawa – Now is the perfect time to sow native seeds. Join the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library to learn about native plant gardening and receive free native seeds for winter sowing. No gardening experience required.

**Dec. 9 – 7:30 p.m. Big Soul Project Community Choir Christmas Concert** Enjoy some classic R&B, gospel, soul, and seasonal favourites at Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre at Cooper and Lyon Streets. Tickets available on Eventbrite: \$25.00 for adults; \$15 for students ages 13–25; free for children 12 and under. In Support of Ottawa Food Bank. The venue has a ramp and is wheelchair accessible; doors open at 6:45 p.m. [eventbrite.com/e/big-soul-project-christmas-concert-tickets](http://eventbrite.com/e/big-soul-project-christmas-concert-tickets)

**Dec. 10 – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Vanier Museopark is “Creating Christmas Magic”** Come spread the joy at the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre and Vanier Sugar Shack: 300 des Pères-Blancs Ave. Admission by donation of any kind: toys, gift cards, money. This is a family event to collect new toys, gift cards, and monetary donations for Vanier children in need. Event includes: The Elves’ Workshop with gift-

wrapping stations and a magical conveyor belt; festive music and a Christmas show by Mélissa Ouimet at 1 p.m.; an enchanting trail in the forest to the Sugar Shack, where you can take a photo with Santa and savour hot cocoa!

**Dec. 10 – 6 p.m. Beechwood Cemetery Christmas Candlelight Service** A special way to remember loved ones, featuring a candlelight memorial with carols and a treelighting ceremony.

**Dec. 12 – The Bittersweet of Christmas service at 7 p.m.** An evening to share in the “heart” work of the Christmas season. An hour of meditation, prayer, and music. MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd.

**Dec. 15 – 7 p.m. Holiday Extravaganza: Let in the Light!** Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre, 355 Cooper Street. Join a joyous celebration of the winter solstice and the festive season, Chamberfest-style. Featuring past and present laureates of the Canada Council for the Arts’ Musical Instrument Bank, with special guests, in a festive program exploring all the season’s splendours: light, love, homecoming, pageantry, and peace. Common themes, no matter how you celebrate. Visit [chamberfest.ca](http://chamberfest.ca) for more information, rates, and ticket information.

**Dec. 16 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Art Lending of Ottawa** is holding its holiday show at the R.A. Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. Art by local artists for sale or rent, gift certificates and door prizes. Free admission and free parking. Visit [artlendingofottawa.ca](http://artlendingofottawa.ca)

ca to learn more.

**Dec. 17 – 10:30 a.m. The Children’s Christmas Pageant** MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. featuring the children of MacKay Sunday School.

**Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. – “Christmas at MacKay”** MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. featuring the Vyhovskyi Strings as well as Peter & Campbell Woods and Friends.

**Dec. 17 – 4–5:30 p.m. Christmas with Seventeen Voyces** at St. Bartholomew’s Church, 125 MacKay St. Join Ottawa’s premier chamber choir for a lively choral Christmas concert featuring Lucile Hildesheim on the harp. Pieces will include the sublime “Ceremony of Carols” by Benjamin Britten, as well as some secular favourites like “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch!” and “Let It Snow.” Cost: \$30 for adults; \$20 for students; free for kids 12 and under.

**Dec. 19 – 7–9:00 p.m. NECA Board Meeting** All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the virtual board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). Meeting link and agenda will be posted on [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca).

**Dec. 21 – 6:30–7:30 p.m. Music in the Stacks: Winter Solstice edition** Susan Toman and Andrew Mah on Celtic harp and classical guitar. Drop-in at Rockcliffe Park Library Branch, 380 Springfield Rd.

**Dec. 24 – 4:30 p.m. MacKay Family and Community Christmas Eve service** MacKay United

Church, 39 Dufferin Rd. The Christmas story with carol singing and special musical guests. There will be no morning service.

board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). Meeting link and agenda will be posted on [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca).

## January

**Jan. 6 – New Year’s Brunch at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse**, The Crichton Community Council (CCC) invites you for plentiful homemade food, and the good company of neighbours. Please bring your own cutlery and dishes to reduce the cleanup work of our volunteers. Although there is no fixed cost for this event, donations are gratefully accepted and volunteer help on the day of the event is welcome. Follow your meal with a skate on the ice rinks or some cross-country skiing around the park. To volunteer some time or culinary skills to this event, please email the CCC: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

**Jan. 16 – 7–9 p.m. NECA Board Meeting** All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the virtual

## February

**Looking ahead: Feb. 24 – Comedy at the Fieldhouse** CCC welcomes comic and host Hart Shouldice and a lineup that will keep people laughing throughout the evening. Tickets will be available in the new year.

## Ongoing

**Rockcliffe Park Public Library**, 380 Springfield Rd. offers the following ongoing programming. Drop in anytime!

**Mondays – Family Storytime** 9:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes, and songs for children and a parent or caregiver. All ages. Drop-in. English program.

**First Tuesday of the month – Adult Book Club:** all are welcome. Dec. 5: *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews; Jan 2, *Red Notice* by Bill Browder

For more information on Advent and Christmas services in the ‘Burgh, visit the church’s website or contact them directly.

**St. John Lutheran Church** – 270 Crichton St. [stjohnlutheran.ca](http://stjohnlutheran.ca), 613-749-6953

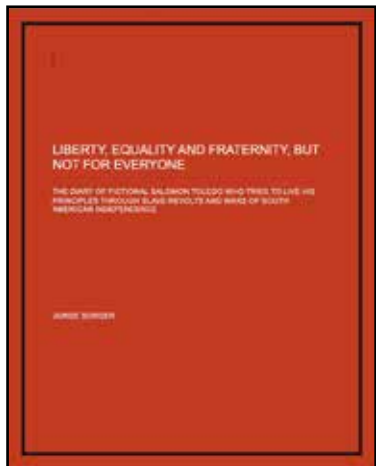
**St. Bartholomew’s Anglican Church** – 125 MacKay St., [stbartsottawa.ca](http://stbartsottawa.ca), [judyatstbarts@gmail.com](mailto:judyatstbarts@gmail.com), 613-745-7834

**McKay United Church** – 39 Dufferin Rd. [mackayunitedchurch.com](http://mackayunitedchurch.com), [admin@mackayunitedchurch.com](mailto:admin@mackayunitedchurch.com), 613-749-8727

**St. Luke Lutheran Church** – 326 MacKay St., [stlukeottawa.org](http://stlukeottawa.org), 613-749-1731



## Congratulations!



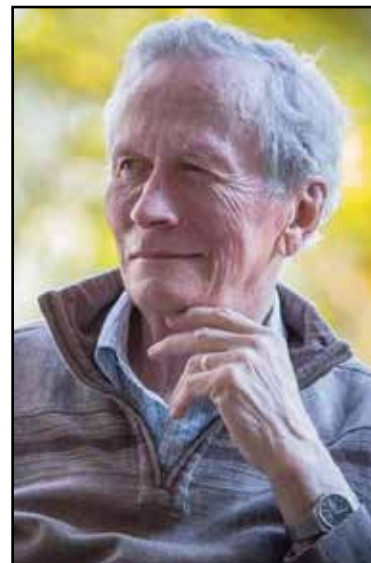
New Book in the Burgh  
Congratulations to **George**

**J. Sorger** who has written an ebook recently published by Kindle. *Liberty, Equality and Fraternity but Not for Everyone* explores slavery and the wars of independence of South America seen from the point of view of a fictitious character whose brother is a descendant of a slave. He joins the war for idealistic reasons but finds that slaves and Indigenous people don’t see the independence movement and war as something benefiting them, but rather as a quarrel between white Spaniards and Creole land- and slave-owners – they fight on either side opportu-

nistically. The Spaniards and Creoles, on the other hand, are often relatives. In the end, our hero asks: Was this all worth it?

**In Concert for Cambodia** will be selling beautiful Cambodian silk shawls and cotton scarves right here in New Edinburgh – just in time for the holiday season! All proceeds go to The Peaceful Children’s Home in Cambodia for the education of children and young people, with an emphasis on university studies for girls. Please contact [inconcert4cambodia@gmail.com](mailto:inconcert4cambodia@gmail.com) to see the scarves.

## Condolences



Condolences to **Paula Thompson, John Arnold** and family on MacKay St. on the passing of Paula’s father, **Ray Thompson**. Ray was a gentle giant and he will be missed.

**Burgh Breezy Bits**

[newednews@hotmail.com](mailto:newednews@hotmail.com)