

OCTOBER 2025

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Photo by Philippe Marchand

BeechFest brought live music, local vendors, and family fun to Beechwood Ave. on September 6, 2025.

Major development on Sussex headed to RFP

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Plans for a major luxury apartment development on three blocks in New Edinburgh – bounded by Sussex Drive, Stanley Avenue, Thomas and MacKay Streets – are moving to the next stages before any further public consultation. There will be “community engagement” on this project only after a proponent is selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, according to the National Capital Commission (NCC).

The Sussex Blocks proposal by the NCC would be the largest real estate development to date in New Edinburgh. It would reshape a key section of Confederation Boulevard, also known as the Ceremonial Route, between Rideau Hall and Parliament Hill. It bounds the north end of the neighbourhood across from the French Embassy and 24 Sussex Drive.

With the NCC board’s approval of the National Capital Core Area Plan in June 2025, NCC staff can now develop volume two of the plan with specific projects, including the Sussex Blocks proposal for a high-end rental development. (Note: the NCC has not yet stated whether there will be affordable units, and the renderings reflect a luxury development.)

No consultation until the NCC chooses a proponent

“Once the concept development evolves into a formal project, the proponent would initiate a community engagement process to ensure that local perspectives continue to inform the planning and

design,” says the NCC.

It seems the NCC will move from a one-sentence proposal in the Core Area Plan to a full project, seeking proponents, without any further public consultation. At the RFP stage, it is likely that all the key features and requirements of the huge apartment development will be baked in when the NCC seeks a proponent capable of meeting its requirements for the project.

The lack of public consultation in its early stages is in contrast and out of step with the City’s planning process which now typically includes a pre-consultation stage – with representatives from New Edinburgh Community Alliance’s (NECA’s) Heritage and Development Committee – in advance of applicants’ submitting their applications to the City’s planning staff.

It appears the NCC plans to take a less transparent and less collaborative approach to this major project in New Edinburgh, which seems ill-advised given its scale and location.

Growing awareness of the proposed development

Awareness of the NCC’s Sussex Blocks development proposal – and its scale and potential effect on the community – has grown since the NCC’s workshop in New Edinburgh in March 2025. While residents expressed differing views at NECA’s May 20, 2025 board meeting, the overwhelming sentiment was deep concern about the proposal. Residents’ views

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City Council approves zoning by-law amendment for development at 47 Beechwood

By John Leefe

Ottawa City Council has approved zoning by-law changes for an eight-storey, mixed-use building in Lindenlea, despite concerns expressed by neighbourhood community associations, individual residents, and Councillor Rawlson King, who dissented when the matter was tabled at a meeting on Aug. 27.

Prior to council’s approval, the City planning department tabled a report for discussion on Aug. 20 at the Planning and Housing Committee, which recommended some minor changes to the developer’s original proposal, based on the city’s “Urban Design Review

Panel” process and feedback from community consultations last fall.

The developer is seeking to demolish four existing buildings in Lindenlea to construct an eight-story, mixed-use building at the end of the block bounded by Springfield, Beechwood Avenue, and Douglas Ave. This space is currently occupied by the following seven businesses: the restaurants Dante, Schoolhouse Pizza, Edinburger, Shawarma King, and Beechwood Diner, as well as Rockcliffe Chiropractic, and Melanie Hair Cutters.

The developer had requested the by-law amendment to permit an increase in the

building height from six stories to eight.

During last fall’s public consultations, the most significant concerns raised by the community included the eight-storey height of the building on such a small lot, adequate provision of green space and trees, and crucially, the impact of the development on the traditional main street and existing businesses.

The planning department’s report endorsed the eight-storey limit requested by the developer, but contained the following recommendations to address some of the concerns expressed during last year’s

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The Villagers: History of the people and life of New Edinburgh

By Janet Uren

Elmwood School is hosting the book launch on Saturday, Nov. 29. 2-4 p.m. See p. 35.

Thirteen years of joyful labour are about to come to an end, and the history of New Edinburgh is almost complete. As I write this, I am reviewing the page proofs for *The Villagers*, with plans to send the files to the printer in mid-October and place the book in readers’ hands at the end of November. The book launch will feature a brief reading and refreshments at Elmwood School in Rockcliffe Park. Please plan to be there to help me celebrate – especially all

those many people who have shared their stories with me. This is our book.

Order now!

By the time this newspaper goes to print, pre-orders for *The Villagers* will be available at Books on Beechwood.

Introduction to The Villagers

This history has been a labour of love for 13 years, ever since the president of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance approached me and another writer in 2012 to co-author a comprehensive history of the village. In the end, the project gave rise to

two different books with two different authors—one a historian, the other a storyteller. This book focuses mainly on the human history of the community, on “the villagers”: the people who founded New Edinburgh, lived here, and left behind generations of descendants and a legacy of buildings.

I have lived in New Edinburgh for the past 24 years, in a house roughly a century and a half old. I have enjoyed a neighbourliness here I had never experienced elsewhere, and I have delighted

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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.

Our next meetings will take place on **Tuesday October 21, 7:00 p.m.** and **November 18, 7:00 p.m.** Meetings are held in person at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave) and may be hybrid at times so please contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for details.

Your NECA Representatives 2024-2025

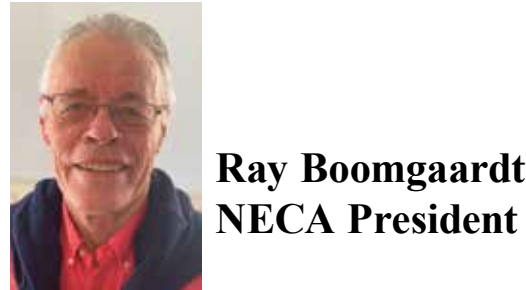
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NECA President's Report



Ray Boomgaardt
NECA President

This month I'd like to touch on two issues: the challenges facing our businesses on Beechwood, and traffic calming in the neighbourhood.

The businesses along Beechwood are an important part of our community. One of NECA's mantras with our councillor, Rawlson King, with City planners, and among ourselves as a Board, is the importance of fostering a 15-minute community: a place where people can reach a wide range of goods and services within a 15-minute walk. That's why we continue to press the City to ensure that new developments along Beechwood provide space for ground-floor retail.

Our local businesses are vital. We celebrate their offerings in the *New Edinburgh News*. They contributed to the success of the recent BeechFest block party (wasn't it great to see so many people out and reconnecting?). They provide advertising support for the *NEN*, and in turn the *NEN* provides distribution to their target audience. Yet these businesses are under pressure. COVID-19 was hard on them, as people went out less. And now a new challenge has emerged: random damage and vandalism, particularly along Beechwood. These incidents raise costs, consume management time, and demoralize those affected. What is to be done? There are no easy solutions, but we continue to discuss this with Councillor King and would welcome ideas from the community.

The second issue is traffic calming. The lead for the Board on this file is Jason Tavoularis. Over the years, NECA has supported a range of City measures that have proven effective: bulb-outs (curb extensions which narrow the roadways), additional stop signs, street humps, and reduced speed limits, to name a few. More recently, the City even installed a speed camera on Crichton Street. Some of these measures were controversial at the time, but on balance, the community has

supported them.

Recently, Premier Doug Ford criticized speed cameras as cash grabs and suggested the province may prohibit municipalities from using them. From my perspective, the speed camera on Crichton is a useful complement to other measures the City has taken. Police do not have the resources to consistently enforce speeding, and creating a cost-effective mechanism to do so strikes me as a great idea. If only we could find a similarly effective tool to address vandalism along Beechwood.

That said, any law enforcement program is open to review. Speed cameras are effective, but are they as fair as they should be? Should they be better marked? If their purpose is to protect school zones, are fines being issued during times when schools are closed? Are infraction notices sent promptly, or weeks later? Should a first infraction trigger a warning rather than a fine? These are fair questions, and ones we should press the City and the Province to consider carefully in pursuit of the best solution.

Finally, a reminder that the NECA Annual General Meeting will take place Oct. 28. We look forward to seeing you there. Until then, see you in the neighbourhood!

PSA: Vehicle idling times updated to improve air quality

The maximum idling times for vehicles in Ottawa were updated earlier this year to help make Ottawa's air cleaner. Idling times for vehicles on public and private property are set in the City's Idling Control By-law. Last fall, City Council approved the following by-law changes which took effect January 1, 2025:

- Maximum idling time is three minutes per hour when the outside temperature is between 0 C and 27 C for occupied vehicles.
- Maximum idling time is 10 minutes per hour when the outside temperature is colder than 0 C or warmer than 27 C for occupied vehicles.
- For unoccupied vehicles, the maximum idling time limit is one minute per hour,



Photo courtesy City of Ottawa

regardless of the temperature. Exceptions continue to exist for certain vehicles and situations. For details, please visit ottawa.ca.

Letter from the Managing Editor



Sharon Nyangweso
Managing Editor

As autumn settles over New Edinburgh, our neighbourhood feels alive with both reflection and renewal. This edition of the *NEN* captures that spirit: we celebrate milestones, remember stories from our past, and shine a light on the issues shaping our present. You'll read about MacKay United Church's 150th anniversary, a reminder of the deep roots that continue to ground our community life. You'll also find news of The Villagers, a long-awaited book that captures the history of the people who made this neighbourhood what it is. Together, these stories speak to a legacy of resilience and continuity. But we also look squarely at the present: the challenges facing businesses on Beechwood, the ongoing questions about traffic calming, and reflections on what it means to make our community safer, healthier, and more connected. From the return of the

Rockcliffe Park Book Fair to the vibrant arts programming at Linden House Theatre and MacKay, there's no shortage of opportunities to gather and celebrate together. As always, this edition has been shaped by the voices and contributions of neighbours who care deeply about this place. My thanks go to our writers, photographers, advertisers, and volunteers who make each issue possible, and to you, our readers, whose engagement gives this work meaning. I hope as you read these pages you feel both the weight of our history and the spark of what lies ahead. Autumn reminds us that change is constant, but community endures. See you in the neighbourhood.

Letter from the Co-Editor



Karen Squires
Co-Editor

Looking back at the summer season and as we lead into fall, we have a lot to be thankful for – not only here in the neighbourhood, but right across our amazing country! MacKay United Church delivered another great Jazz in June concert series and the River House started their swimming season in June – what a great way to lead into summer and early fall! The Beechwood Diner opened and as you read through the Burgh Business Briefs section, La Taqueria has now opened next to the Diner from Thursday through Sunday evenings – so keep strolling! As well, you'll learn what's happening on our main street this fall, such as the new patio opening soon at Linden Pizza – and while you're there, sample their exquisite Fogo Island Cod in addition to their many delicious pizza offerings. To beat the heat and enjoy ocean air, we took our summer vacation in Newfoundland and discovered new locations for hiking, exploring seaside communities and great dining not far from the St. John's area. So remember, when you have friends and relatives coming to visit you, think about all the amazing things we have right in our own back yard! Then, refer to the Events section or throughout the paper for new ideas. In New Edinburgh, we've got dining options on Beechwood,

green spaces to explore on the grounds of the Governor General's Residence in addition to Stanley Park or simply enjoy our beautiful heritage district. I never get tired of walking the lanes and especially as we lead into the holiday season, with the lights on River Lane, in particular. The Holiday Lights event at the Fieldhouse takes place end of November, so invite your friends along! Or, read about all the unique markets including the MacKay Night Market and St. Barts Bazaar this fall. Wanting to explore further? Then cross over Sussex to view the Falls (near Tavern at the Falls) or continue walking to experience the amazing NEW foot bridge behind The National Gallery of Canada. We now have access to amazing river views just minutes from our community! Being nestled into this unique green space is not only soothing for those of us living here but also for those who come and visit! There are many options to learn about our neighbourhood this fall season; even a new book launching by our very own Janet Uren (The Villagers: History of the People and Life of New Edinburgh) so let's keep reading, strolling and connecting with our neighbours because our history will inform us that it's the people who make all communities healthy and vibrant!

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newedinburgh.ca

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Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sharing Matthieu Gagnon's story in your June issue about how he got cut off by a car while commuting to work on his bicycle. This reminds cyclists, such as myself – I also commute to work – of the risks of riding in the traffic. But blaming careless drivers is not the solution (they will always exist); defensive riding is. A high-vis safety vest such as that worn by construction workers is best, as it sends out a message like a street sign does. Slow down in busy streets, because there is a lot going on and it is easy to miss something.

–Paul Barrette

Dear Editor,

Since 1984, when I moved into New Edinburgh, I have always thoroughly enjoyed reading the *New Edinburgh News*. So, the latest issue came as quite a shock on two counts:

First, to have the Managing Editor describe the US Administration as “a fascist government wreaking havoc” is a completely gratuitous and inappropriate opinion to be expressing in a local Canadian, neighborhood [sic]

newspaper.

Second, Eleanor Dunn's article “Looking back at life in the Burgh” is a bigoted and libelous attack on the Sisters of Good Shepherd [sic]. Referring to the convent as a “Dickensian workhouse,” “a sort of prison,” as a place of “incarceration” and the young women as “perceived as immoral women” and “locked up” demonstrates the author's ignorance of the socio-economic conditions in Lower Town [sic] and of the valuable role played by the Sisters in the life of St Anne's parish for nearly a century. A retraction is called for. If the author wants to write an essay on all the good that de-institutionalization has brought in more recent times, I will be the first to read it.

The article contrasted sharply with the well-written and informative article written by Josee Maillette on the history of the St. Patrick Street bridge.

–Paul Benoit

Dear Mr. Benoit,

Thank you for your letter and for being such a long-time reader of the *New Edinburgh*

News. I appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective, and I understand that certain passages in the most recent issue prompted a strong reaction.

As Managing Editor, I take seriously both our role as a local, neighbourhood newspaper and the fact that we exist in a broader city, country, and world. We strive to balance our hyperlocal focus with awareness of the larger political, cultural, and social currents that inevitably affect our community. While we are a Canadian publication, the events and policies of other nations, particularly those as close and influential as the United States, can and do shape life here.

Regarding the phrase you've highlighted, I want to note that the use of the term fascist in reference to Donald Trump's administration is the subject of serious and ongoing public debate, including in established outlets such as *The New Yorker*, *NPR*, and *Rolling Stone*. These articles illustrate that while there are conflicting interpretations, the question of whether fascist is an appropriate descriptor is

far from settled, and is part of a legitimate, documented political conversation.

Our editorial approach is not to isolate *New Edinburgh* from these conversations, but to reflect the reality that local life exists within wider political and historical contexts. Readers may agree or disagree with particular word choices, but they are not made casually.

On the second matter, Eleanor Dunn's piece was intended as a personal reflection on the changing character of the neighbourhood. As with all personal essays, the views expressed are those of the author and reflect her own experiences and

interpretations. That said, I recognize that historical institutions, particularly those connected to faith communities, carry deeply held significance for many, and that accounts of them can evoke strong feelings. Your perspective on the Sisters of Good Shepherd is now on record, and I appreciate you sharing it.

Thank you again for writing. The *New Edinburgh News* values respectful dialogue and the diversity of views in our readership. I hope you will continue reading and engaging with our work.

Sincerely,
Sharon Nyangweso
Managing Editor

Send us your letters:

editor@newedinburgh.ca

Letters to the editor must include writer's name, address and contact info. We will print your contact information only if explicitly requested to do so in your letter. Opinions expressed are the writer's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

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Parks update: Trees, pathways, and park care

By Karen Squires and Katherine Lloyd

Let's begin with some good news, along with a few questions we'd like to share for your feedback.

In July, the City of Ottawa planted nine new trees, two near the skating rink, four by the tennis courts, and three near the pump station. These trees will be watered regularly over the summers for three years, after which they will receive structural pruning and re-mulching, according to Reem Itani from the City. In addition, the National Capital Commission (NCC) has planned a significant tree-planting program to support the park's green canopy, according to NCC Forester Engineer Bruno Chicoine.

The plan for Stanley Park is now included in the fall planting tender package. Bruno confirmed that everything looks good for planting this fall, likely between October and November.

- All 81 trees have been approved, but a few of them may be relocated depending on underground utility locations.

- Included are nine different species to boost resilience, including such large canopy trees as silver maple, sycamore, basswood and white pine.

- Planting locations are chosen to maximize shade on pathways and trails (see map).

Friends of the Park have also raised ongoing concerns about the excessive speed of cyclists and e-bikes on both paved and gravel pathways. Unfortunately, no meaningful solutions have yet been implemented. We are aware of serious accidents on other city pathways that caused significant injuries, and we continue to liaise with the City to help mitigate the risk of similar incidents in our area.

We are also in discussion with the City about mowing practices in the dog park area at Stanley Park. Mowing close to newly planted trees has damaged their bases, which can threaten survival. Friends of the Park have repeatedly



NCC's suggested tree planting in Stanley Park.

Image by National Capital Commission

suggested mowing smaller areas to protect natural habitat and biodiversity, but no changes have been made to date. Please contact Friends co-manager Katherine with your thoughts at katherine@pikorua.com. We hope to share more updates on these discussions soon.

Another concern is the growing amount of garbage in certain areas of the park, particularly near the Fieldhouse, the soccer field, and along Stanley Avenue leading to the St. Patrick Bridge. This litter seems to result from users parking for games and events, as well as individuals sleeping in cars overnight. Despite the presence of many bins, it is surprising how often cans and plastics are left behind rather than disposed of properly. We will continue discussions with the City and the Crichton Community Council about how best to address this ongoing issue. One side effect of unmanaged waste is

an increase in raccoon activity around neighbouring properties – the animals are encouraged by the buffet of garbage in the park and along Stanley Avenue.

Friends of the Park organizes one cleanup per year, in the spring. For the past two years, we have partnered with Ottawa Riverkeeper, and turnout from the community and beyond has been excellent. However, more support is needed from other sources, particularly groups that use the park regularly in summer. It should not fall solely to residents, Ottawa Riverkeeper, and Friends of the Park to manage garbage. Responsibility must be shared by all users and groups. We will continue liaising with stakeholders to determine how this can be done moving forward.

Karen Squires and Katherine Lloyd sit on the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) board and co-manage Friends of the Park.



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Report on Beechwood’s preliminary plan for 2026



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

The plan to transform Beechwood Avenue into a proper complete street is taking shape. I am pleased to share that the next steps in the Beechwood Avenue Public Realm Design Plan are underway. The City’s 2025 budget allocated \$400,000 for a design study of Beechwood Avenue. This investment represents the first comprehensive step toward addressing the fragmented public realm and improving

missing transportation links along the corridor. The funding covers planning and design work to shape Beechwood’s future. Streets are no longer simply for cars; they are shared spaces where cyclists, pedestrians, and transit intersect. A strong public realm supports small businesses by drawing foot traffic, offers residents safe and attractive places to walk, cycle, and gather, and creates a sense

of identity for the neighbourhood. Burying hydro lines and realigning the roadway enables Beechwood to function more efficiently for all modes of transportation and public realm enhancements bring the vision to life. Wide, accessible sidewalks, landscaping, and seating areas encourage people to linger and connect. To date, staff have undertaken a preliminary review of needs, opportunities, and challenges. The project is now in its second phase, where a consultant team will begin work on the functional design this fall. Their scope includes reviewing sidewalk replacement from Vanier Parkway to Beechwood Cemetery, the realignment and completion of the cycling track, and a feasibility review for hydro burial.

These foundational steps will ensure Beechwood’s transformation is not piecemeal but coordinated. Once the analysis is complete, the community working group will meet again for a second session. The group includes myself, the Vanier BIA, Councillor Stephanie Plante, local organizations, and resident representatives. Following this meeting, broader public engagement begins. With thoughtful public realm investments, Beechwood Avenue can truly become a complete street. It can balance movement with vibrant public spaces, reflect the needs of the surrounding community, and strengthen its unique character. As the last Main Street to receive this type of investment, the transformation is

long overdue. I remain committed to championing Beechwood as more than a corridor but rather a community destination. Beechwood already brings the community together, as seen at BeechFest, with more than 5,500 people on the street this past Sep. 6, 2025. With the right plan and improvements, it could offer even more opportunities for connection and celebration. A draft functional design is expected to be presented to residents by spring 2026. As always, you can contact my office by email at rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca or by phone at 613-580-2483. Please subscribe to my newsletter at rideau-rockcliffe.ca for ongoing updates about our community.

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Fireworks: From rare spectacle to regular concern

By Daniel Hébert

As the sights and sounds of summer fade, we can reflect on the memories created during the summer of 2025. Kiweki Point, which opened in May, offers a higher view of the confluence of the Rideau Canal and the Ottawa River and an excellent vantage point for fireworks displays near downtown. Ottawa is privileged to host so many fireworks shows that we can see from the 'Burgh – whether walking to the St. Patrick Bridge, Rideau Falls, or Rockcliffe Park. From almost anywhere in the neighbourhood, Canada Day lights up the sky with flashing bursts and booming echoes. Most of us have at least one childhood memory of fireworks on a summer night.

For me, it was 1975, when my small town celebrated its 100th anniversary. The event was truly special, as our town had never hosted fireworks before. For many of us, it was our first time seeing them.

According to online sources, in 1975 Ottawa had just one major show: Dominion Day celebrations on Parliament Hill. A half century later, fireworks pepper the city all summer long. This year there were displays for Victoria Day at the Tulip Festival, several more for Canada Day, and five competition-level shows during Les Grands Feux du Casino Lac-Leamy, with each team trying to outdo the other. The Festival des Montgolfières de Gatineau also lit up New Edinburgh skies. More fireworks are planned for New Year's Eve. In 50 years, we've gone from a one-show city to one with dozens. We are indeed privileged.

A few years ago, a group of us bought tickets to the Casino Lac-Leamy show. We sat facing the barge on the Ottawa River, waiting for the 30-minute performance to begin. With the first flash of light and the sharp crack of sound, the spectacle unfolded. But within five or six minutes, smoke from the fireworks began to obscure the sky. The organizers had not accounted for the wind; without a good breeze, smoke settled between the river and the crowd. Soon we could only hear explosions in the sky, unable to see any light. For the next 20 minutes, the audience sat in darkness, soot slowly coating our clothes and hair. That was the moment



Photo courtesy Les Grands Feux du Casino Lac-Leamy

“Les Grands Feux du Casino Lac-Leamy” pyro-musical fireworks competition.

I began to consider the pollution caused by fireworks.

I discovered Geofirma Engineering, a Canadian-owned consulting firm in the Glebe that provides environmental solutions and services. Before the fireworks show was relocated from Lac Leamy to the Ottawa River, the National Capital Commission (NCC) retained Geofirma to assess surface water and sediment quality at Lac Leamy. Over three years, samples indicated aluminum, copper, iron, lead, zinc, and phosphorus levels above federal and provincial criteria following fireworks displays. Sediment samples confirmed that fallout zones showed elevated metal concentrations. The study does not cite this as the reason for the relocation, but it clearly shows the environmental impact of fireworks residue.

According to Ontario's Air Quality Health Index, Ottawa had Moderate to High ratings on 15 days in 2025, with Jun. 6 reaching a “Very High Risk” rating of 10. The number of wildfires across Canada grows each year, and climate change will only make this worse. As a society, is it time to question our need for so many fireworks shows? Should cities begin limiting the number of

licences they approve?

According to the City of Ottawa's Fireworks By-law (No. 2003-237), the sale of consumer fireworks is prohibited except on Canada Day and the seven business days leading up to it. Yet alongside dozens of formal shows, countless private fireworks displays also take place. According to the Canada Wildfire website (canadawildfire.org), fireworks are recognized as a human-related ignition source, though data on how many fires they cause is not publicly available.

Living in the suburbs, I never realized how frequent fireworks are in Ottawa – perhaps an “out of sight, out of mind” issue. But in the Burgh, we hear the explosions all summer long. I am not advocating for a ban, but I hope we begin to reconsider the number of shows we host. My 1975 memory of seeing fireworks for the first time remains vivid because it was rare. In 2025, how can young children form lasting memories if they are overwhelmed by fireworks nearly every weekend?

Daniel Hébert lives in New Edinburgh with hopes of a greener future for his grandchildren.

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Friends of Sussex Drive welcome members for advocacy on NCC development

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

A major development is proposed for Sussex Drive by the National Capital Commission (NCC), and a new group in Ottawa – the Friends of Sussex Drive – formed late last spring to advocate from the perspective of citizens who care about this special road and its unique role in the nation's capital.

The group is urging the NCC not to proceed with its Sussex Blocks proposal until the future of the Prime Minister's official residence at 24 Sussex Drive is determined, and to reconsider the most appropriate use of the three blocks proposed for development along Confederation Boulevard, close to Rideau Hall.

The following is an interview with Friends' co-founder John McNee. Mr. McNee is a former career diplomat who was Canada's permanent representative to the United Nations from 2006–2011.

Why did the Friends form, what is their mission and who do they represent?

The Friends of Sussex Drive is an informal group of New Edinburgh residents and other concerned citizens in Ottawa who are alarmed at the NCC's plan to put up a major, multi-storey, mixed-use

rental apartment complex on the unique green spaces along Sussex Drive that border the north end of New Edinburgh.

The Friends came together after the NCC revealed the full extent of its plans for the first time at a public meeting last March.

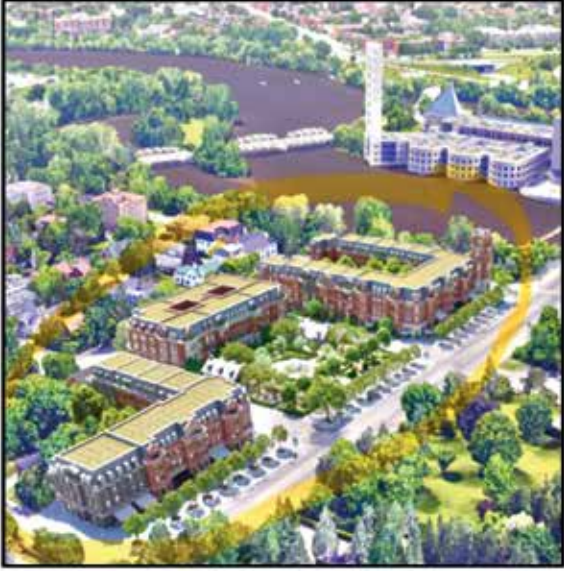
Our mission is to raise public awareness of the NCC's plans. We want to galvanize action before shovels hit the ground and this becomes a major real estate development.

Our key goal is to convince the NCC – and the federal government – to reconsider the plan and to come up with other ideas for these unique spaces in the heritage quarter of New Edinburgh. We hope the NCC will open a consultative process so that the community is able to express its views on different options for the future.

At the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Board meeting last May, there was an outpouring of opposition to this project. We hope that everyone who shares our concerns will join us in advocating for a future for the Sussex Blocks that is in keeping with their national significance as a critical part of the historic Ceremonial Route that links Rideau Hall

SAVE SUSSEX DRIVE

The NCC wants to build these luxury apartments opposite the French Embassy and the Prime Minister's official residence on Sussex Drive because "they need the money."



SUSSEX DRIVE IS NOT FOR SALE

Please consider writing to our federal minister in charge of the NCC, the Honorable Joël Lightbound, Minister of Public Works, at joel.lightbound@parl.gc.ca, our local MP Mona Fortier at mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca, the NCC itself at exec@ncc-ccn.ca or raising awareness on social media to ask that a more respectful use be considered for this heritage part of Ottawa's national ceremonial route.

Image courtesy Sarah Anson-Cartwright

This Friends flyer encourages letter-writing to relevant federal elected officials and the NCC's CEO.

to Parliament Hill.

What is the focus or goal of the Friends' efforts?

The Friends' focus has been three-fold: first, to generate public awareness in the neighbourhood and beyond, especially because many citizens are unaware that the NCC has been going ahead with this project. Second, to convey our concerns to the NCC's Board of Directors, CEO Tobi Nussbaum, and planning staff. Third, to alert the federal government, which has ultimate responsibility for the National Capital, to this misguided plan for Sussex Drive.

What have the Friends done so far in terms of advocacy?

The advocacy is taking many forms. There has already been

considerable media attention to the issue, including several major articles and opinion pieces in the Ottawa Citizen, an interview with the Friends in the Citizen and local radio. The Citizen has also published a stream of letters to the editor from New Edinburgh residents and beyond.

The Friends have written to the NCC Board of Directors individually. We have posed a series of written questions to the NCC to seek clarity on the size and scope of their plan.

Further, we have encouraged people across the capital to send emails to the key audiences: the NCC; our Member of Parliament, the Hon. Mona Fortier; the Minister responsible, the Hon. Joel Lightbound; and the City of Ottawa (the Mayor and our Councillor,

Rawlson King).

The Friends want to persuade the NCC and the federal government that the current plan should be set aside in favour of more imaginative ideas that would be more in keeping with the importance of these green spaces to the National Capital.

What has been the response of our MP on this project?

Both NECA and the Friends have met with our MP, Mona Fortier. She told us that she has received many emails on the issue. She assured us that she would raise our concerns with Tobi Nussbaum, the Minister, Joel Lightbound, and her colleagues in the National Capital Region Caucus.

What is your sense of how the NCC is managing this project? Do you have concerns about the process?

So far, the NCC's approach has been neither transparent nor accountable. They have shown a surprising unwillingness to listen or to take citizens' views into account.

There has been little transparency. Although the NCC Board have approved the proposal for developing apartment buildings on the Sussex Blocks, the NCC have not revealed the height and scope of the proposed buildings, the number of rental units, or how many people would be accommodated, the sort of housing – whether luxury, moderate, or affordable – or the nature of the planned commercial spaces. So, there is no clear idea of what is being planned. Nor is there clarity on the implications for traffic, which is a big problem on Sussex Drive in both the morning and evening, or on parking, which is already a nightmare.

In terms of accountability, the NCC have told us that there will be "community engagement" only after a proponent (i.e., a developer) is chosen through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The NCC are leaving it to a prospective developer to consult with the community, rather than exploring alternatives with the public.

Still, I am convinced that by sustained advocacy, by making clear to the NCC the depth of concern in the community and beyond we can



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Photo by Susan McNee
John McNee, co-founder of Friends of Sussex Drive, stands where the NCC proposes an apartment complex development over three blocks between Stanley Avenue and MacKay Street.

convince the NCC leadership to reconsider.

What is the Friends’ biggest concern about the NCC and the process around this project?

The NCC have offered two rationales for their proposal: to generate revenue for the NCC and to contribute to addressing the housing crisis in the country. Neither holds water. The NCC is already making a major contribution to increasing housing supply by making important parcels of land available for housing

development. Look at the NCC website: ncc-ccn.gc.ca. Three such parcels – 1200 Ledbury Avenue, 1460 Riverside Drive and a site on Walkley Road – are currently on offer to developers. The sale of those lands will also generate significant revenues for the NCC.

Under Tobi Nussbaum’s leadership, the NCC has shown great creativity and impressive vision in reimagining Kiwecki Point and building the beautiful pedestrian bridge linking it to Major’s Hill Park.

It is perplexing that the NCC have not come up with

similarly creative ideas for the Sussex Blocks that would respect their role as a key element of the Ceremonial Route on Confederation Boulevard.

What role do you see for citizens if they are interested or care about what’s proposed? How can people get involved with the Friends?


As a first step, I urge people to join the Facebook Group Friends of Sussex Drive to stay informed or become active. You can also reach the Friends via email at

FriendsofSussexDrive@gmail.com.

Also, I encourage writing to the NCC’s CEO, Tobi Nussbaum; our MP, Mona Fortier; and to the Minister responsible for the NCC, Joel Lightbound. Here are the email addresses of each of those individuals:

tobi.nussbaum@ncc-ccn.ca
mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca
joel.lightbound@parl.gc.ca

Sarah Anson-Cartwright is a member of the board of New Edinburgh Community Alliance.



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Reflections after a collision on Beechwood Ave.

By **Matthieu Gagnon**

On Apr. 7, while riding on Beechwood to get to work, I suddenly ended up in an ambulance with no recollection of how I got there. According to the police and paramedics, an OC Transpo driver had given their right of way to a driver turning left on Acacia. The driver turned without ensuring that nobody was riding on the bike lane, and I got left-hooked. My first reflex was to move my arms and toes. Luckily, they were moving pain-free, which made me calm down since I was not paralyzed. To the surprise of every first responder and healthcare professional I saw that day, I ended up with only a couple of lacerations on my face and a broken jaw. I wanted to share some of my reflections since the incident.

The first question people asked, and one that was resolved quickly, was: “Will you continue to ride?” Rationally, the risk remains unchanged. Cycling to work has been shown by studies to add more years of life than driving, despite the added risk due to collisions. Rationally, changing that does not make sense. Irrationally, as much as I am more nervous riding where

there are cars, the thought of going back to driving around everywhere is nauseating. Once you experience the joy of cycling as a mode of transportation, it’s tough to go back. There’s a reason why people ride bikes recreationally; it’s fun. Beyond that, riding in the community has allowed me to get to know the community better. There are several people I have met riding over the years. I have also noticed significant improvements in my mental and physical health. Cycling for transportation has improved my life too much for me to change. Having your jaw broken is horrible. Having your jaw wired shut is much worse than I had imagined, and there’s a lot of pain and discomfort involved with rehabilitation once the wires come off. That said, if the choice were to break my jaw again or go back to driving everywhere, I would enthusiastically say, “Bring on the wires!”

Another reflection, which was the subject of my May 4 op-ed in the Ottawa Citizen, is that the City expects people to switch away from cars towards public and active transportation without providing much support to those individuals.

Reducing reliance on cars has a significant impact on our ability to build housing, address climate change, maintain a low tax rate, reduce air and plastic pollution, and create a more accessible city. There’s a reason why even conservative politicians like Matt Luloff have endorsed plans like the Orléans Corridor Secondary Plan, which are designed to reduce our reliance on cars. It’s simply not sustainable to maintain our current model. Urban design is a technology, and its adoption will follow the technology adoption life cycle.

Supposing we want to cross the chasm and have enough people using active transportation to reap the benefits, we need to support innovators and early adopters while creating an environment that encourages the early majority to adopt the technology. However, the Transportation Master Plan lacks ambition in its proposals, and the timeframe for implementation is unrealistic. We can already see developments being proposed in our community that assume that not everyone will drive. However, if the infrastructure does not support non-drivers, we’ll end up with further congestion and parking problems. People who use active transportation are

part of the solution to many of our city’s issues, and it would be nice if we didn’t ask them to put themselves in danger.

My situation is very privileged. Firstly, I choose to ride to work. I could afford to buy a car and park at work. Because of the externalities, I don’t think it would be a moral choice, and I also enjoy having money to spend at local businesses instead of giving it to the car industry and oil and gas companies. I’m also a relatively fit middle-aged man with above-average reflexes, thanks to years of martial arts training. I also have a reasonably robust frame, which is probably why I ended up in better condition than all medical professionals would have expected at the Civic Trauma Centre. My employment situation means I didn’t experience any loss of income (beyond using sick leave), and our household has excellent medical insurance coverage. I also had a nice spot in my house where I could recover quietly, and a support network that provided me with plenty of soups until I was able to make my own (I’m happy to share recipes with people on liquid diets who want to avoid feeling hungry or losing weight). Several people I see

on my commute do not have such privileges. I see many people who don’t have high incomes, have precarious work (such as delivery riders), likely don’t have a home, or appear to have less resilient builds (like children). Changing any of the elements above would have made recuperating from this collision much more difficult. Safe active transportation infrastructure is not for people like me, but for people who have no other choice due to disability (I recommend reading Anna Zivarts’ book *When Driving is Not an Option*) or due to lack of income. They stand to lose a lot more in a collision than I.

The time since the collision has been brutal for me and my family. However, it did make me realize what I’d gained since I started riding for transportation, and it reinforced my resolve to get the active transportation infrastructure we need to address our city’s issues and to build a more inclusive society.

Matthieu Gagnon is Vice-President of the Convent Glen Orléans Wood Community Association and Director at Large for the Federation of Citizen Associations.

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Vanier Museopark announces new Executive Director

By **Annick Normand**

The Board of Directors and team at the Vanier Museopark are pleased to announce the appointment of Yves Turbide as Executive Director. A dedicated cultural leader, Turbide has been working at the heart of Canadian Francophonie for over three decades. As an actor, cultural manager, and builder, he has brought his talent and passion to numerous artistic and community organizations in both New Brunswick and Ontario. He notably served as Deputy Executive Director at Théâtre Action and, from 2011 to 2025, as Executive Director of the Association des auteurs et auteurs de l’Ontario français (AAOF).

“It is an honour for me to join the Musée Vanier as Executive Director,” says Turbide. “The mission to

preserve and promote Vanier’s Francophone heritage – as well as that of the Richelieu estate, a valuable legacy left by the Society of Missionaries of Africa, the White Fathers – deeply inspires me. I am very much looking forward to joining the team and getting to know the Vanier community.”

About the Vanier Museopark

The Vanier Museopark is a non-profit organization in the heart of Vanier, a working-class neighbourhood near downtown Ottawa, which celebrates the community’s rich heritage and history. Through exhibitions, talks, workshops, school programs, and interpretive tours, the Vanier Museopark helps curious people of all ages and cultures discover and learn about the habits and customs of the local

Francophone community. The Vanier Museopark is Ottawa’s only French-language museum and one of the few Canadian museums devoted entirely to the Francophone community outside Quebec. The Museopark operates an authentic sugar shack in the heart of an urban maple forest – the only one of its kind in Canada. It also hosts the Sugar Festival, an annual event that promotes maple syrup culture, showcases Franco-Ontarian and Indigenous artists, and is a hugely popular family activity. Proud of its roots, the Vanier Museopark has been a fixture of the community since it was founded in 2004. Visit museoparc.ca to learn more.

Annick Normand is the Communications & Marketing Manager at Vanier Museopark.

Community, classrooms, and collaboration: A message from MPP Collard



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

As summer winds down and the 2025–2026 school year begins, I want to take a moment to reflect on the season behind us and the important work ahead.

This summer was filled with connection and community spirit. From Canada Day celebrations and corn roasts at Beechwood Market and Optimist Park, to representing Ontario at the 50th Plenary Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie in Paris, I was reminded of the strength and diversity that define Ottawa–Vanier.

Closer to home, I visited Thunder Bay to meet with Francophone leaders and employment service providers, toured the soon-to-open Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, and met with local organizations to discuss how we can better support our most vulnerable neighbours.

Now, as students return to class, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all students, families, educators, and school staff. To our students: embrace this year with curiosity and confidence. To our educators: thank you for your dedication and compassion. As a former school board chair, I remain committed to inclusive, equitable, and high-quality public education, supporting French-language schools, student well-being, and sustainable investments in mental health and infrastructure.

Looking ahead to the fall session at Queen's Park, I'll

have the opportunity to bring forward one of my Private Member's Bills for second reading. Each bill reflects a different but urgent priority: improving mental health care and dignity in correctional facilities, protecting Charter rights from political overreach, strengthening regulations around exotic animal ownership, and promoting online safety and digital literacy for children. These proposals are rooted in community concerns, and I'm eager to hear which one resonates most with you.

As always, I remain focused on the everyday issues that matter, holding the government accountable for underfunding our schools and healthcare system, advocating for inclusive investments,

and pushing for real action on homelessness in Ottawa–Vanier.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we can build a more just, inclusive, and resilient Ontario.

**

Alors que l'été s'achève et que l'année scolaire 2025–2026 débute, je prends un moment pour revenir sur les moments forts de la saison et les priorités à venir.

L'été a été marqué par des rencontres enrichissantes. De la fête du Canada aux épluchettes de blé d'Inde au Marché Beechwood et au parc Optimiste, en passant par ma participation à la 50e session plénière de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie à Paris, j'ai été inspirée par la force et la diversité de notre communauté.

En Ontario, j'ai visité Thunder Bay pour échanger avec des leaders francophones et des prestataires de services d'emploi, visité la nouvelle clinique dirigée par des infirmières praticiennes, et rencontré plusieurs organismes pour discuter de solutions concrètes pour nos voisins les

plus vulnérables.

En cette rentrée, je souhaite une année remplie de découvertes et de succès à tous les élèves, familles, enseignants et membres du personnel scolaire. À nos élèves : abordez cette année avec confiance et curiosité. À nos enseignants : merci pour votre engagement. En tant qu'ancienne présidente de conseil scolaire, je reste déterminée à défendre une éducation publique inclusive, équitable et de qualité.

Cet automne, j'aurai l'occasion de présenter en deuxième lecture un projet de loi d'intérêt public à Queen's Park. Chaque proposition répond à une priorité urgente : améliorer les soins en santé mentale dans les établissements correctionnels, protéger les droits garantis par la Charte, mieux encadrer la possession d'animaux exotiques, et renforcer la sécurité en ligne pour les enfants. Ces projets sont inspirés par les préoccupations de la communauté, et j'ai hâte de savoir lequel vous interpelle le plus.

Je continue aussi de défendre les enjeux du quotidien : dénoncer le sous-financement

des écoles et du système de santé, promouvoir des investissements inclusifs, et chercher des solutions concrètes à l'itinérance, particulièrement à Ottawa–Vanier.

Merci de faire partie de cette démarche. Ensemble, bâtissons un Ontario plus juste, inclusif et solidaire.

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Karen Squires, John Leefe, Daniel Hébert, and Councillor Rawlson King

For our Fall edition, we are taking a collaborative approach to reflect on the summer season as there have been a few changes (some closures, new restaurants, relocations, new outside spaces and challenges!) on main street. It's worth noting that several businesses have closed, including Dhruvees Restaurant, Red Roots and Art House Custom Framing. There have been many sighs of regret at losing Dhruvees, but it's worth noting that there is a history of restaurant turnover at this location. According to **Donald Wingell's** sign on the front door, they'd opened during COVID and as such they've had many challenges to deal with. A local real estate developer also mentioned it's difficult to attract retailers to Beechwood due to low foot traffic. And tourism research (from Toronto Metropolitan University) indicates while locals are the "bread and butter" for main-street businesses, these customers further increase volume and revenue by inviting family and friends. However, the community needs to have a cluster of experiences – desirable retailers, entertainment and a good selection of restaurants – to attract more people. So, on the "experience" front, let's applaud Vanier BIA for their concert series as they "hit the ball out of the park" this year with their Akoustik performances bringing more people out to our main street and further supporting local businesses. We've included more details on this summer's concert series in this edition!—KS

Updates at Linden

Other good news includes Linden is about to open a wrap-around patio this fall, and they just hung a new painting from well-known local artist and former New Edinburgh resident **Catherine Willis-O'Connor**. This restaurant deserves a mention as the service and ambiance are outstanding, their menu includes an excellent selection of healthy small plates such as Chicory Caesar, Summer Cod (poached Fogo Island cod), Carpaccio, and a great selection of pizzas, desserts, and wines! Seems **Tracey Clark** is building on a solid foundation



Photo by Karen Squires

Linden's manager Camille Hopper-Naud, chef Mackenzie Coombes, owner Tracey Clark with new painting by artist Catherine Willis-O'Connor.

of her experience in the industry, right here in this community. She clearly understands the nuances between good food, storytelling, and art, and is now extending her seating capacity this fall with a new patio complete with blankets and heaters.—KS

Align Massage moves to Springfield Road

The owner of the Align Lindenlea location of Align Massage Therapy is pleased to announce that the practice has relocated to 1A Springfield Road, above the Edinburger restaurant. In October 2022, as Align Beechwood (which was originally located above what is now Café Sachi's @ Beechwood for 16 years) grew out of its space, two things happened: the main clinic moved to Charlotte Street and changed its name to Align Sandy Hill; and **Krista Dicks**, who had been a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) with Align Massage Therapy since 2009, took a leap and opened up her own clinic at 137 Beechwood Ave. Staying in the community was important to Krista and to avoid confusion with the original Beechwood location her new clinic became known as Align Lindenlea. Her new boutique clinic was well received by

the community and provided a charming environment. In three short years, the clinic grew to include 12 practitioners including RMTs, a Reflexologist, and with a specialist from Ash Posy offering Signature Holistic Facials – and in fact outgrew their cozy clinic space. The new clinic entrance is off Springfield Road and upstairs to the second floor. Clients can take advantage of on-site parking or free three-hour street parking off Barrette Street.

Owner Krista was excited to talk about the move, saying: "We are so fortunate to find our new clinic space while remaining in the Lindenlea neighbourhood and we will bring the charm of our previous location to our new space too! Our new space is bigger, with more treatment rooms, which means more opportunities for existing practitioners and the addition of new team members. It also means more availability for patients. We look forward to welcoming our patients at our new location and for their continued support."

Align blends the art and science of massage therapy with skilled practitioners who are new to the profession and veterans in the field. Working together they can create a

unique treatment plan for your needs. Whether you're looking for relaxation, pain relief, or maintenance to stay injury free in your sport, Align Lindenlea can help.—DH

La Taqueria opens on Beechwood

Situated next to Beechwood Diner and Scoops Ice Cream Parlour, manager **Amin Kaz** and **Chef Regina** introduced us to their "new concept" take-out location: La Taqueria at 51 Beechwood Ave. We sampled their delicious tacos with fillings including pork, shrimp, beef, lamb, as well as vegetarian taquitos. You can order fiesta fries and Mexican corn salad: delectable offerings served with homemade salsa ranging from mild to hot. The prices are very reasonable and you can always cool your palate with an ice cream from Scoops just inside the Diner! Seems co-owner **Tony Garcia** is building on the overall Beechwood dining experience, having already established Edinburger, Schoolhouse Pizza, Beechwood Diner and Scoops. The diner is open during the day until 4 p.m.; then customers can enjoy tacos in the evening. Thursday through Sunday: customers can eat in or take out. Please note there is no service

provided at the diner during 5-10 p.m. so you simply order your tacos etc. at La Taqueria to go or eat inside at the diner! The team is working toward a liquor license and hoping to have this finalized by the fall. This growing combination of restaurants offers a true blend of Canadian, Mexican, and Italian cuisine with international flavours from a team of seasoned professionals! They've been asking their customers for feedback and are building their culinary experiences based on responses, so let's keep talking at the table!—KS

New Haitian restaurant opens on Beechwood

With colder weather on the way, you don't need to book a trip to enjoy some hot and spicy Caribbean food in our neighbourhood: look no further than the corner of Putman and Beechwood Avenues! Here, the new Haitian restaurant Gedro Koupe Dwet (163 Putman Ave.) has reopened after a break-in which occurred shortly after their initial kick-off launch in April. Located in the same bright, funky turquoise building as the former Hot Peppers and Bibi's, Koupe Dwet is a family-owned and -operated restaurant with three generations

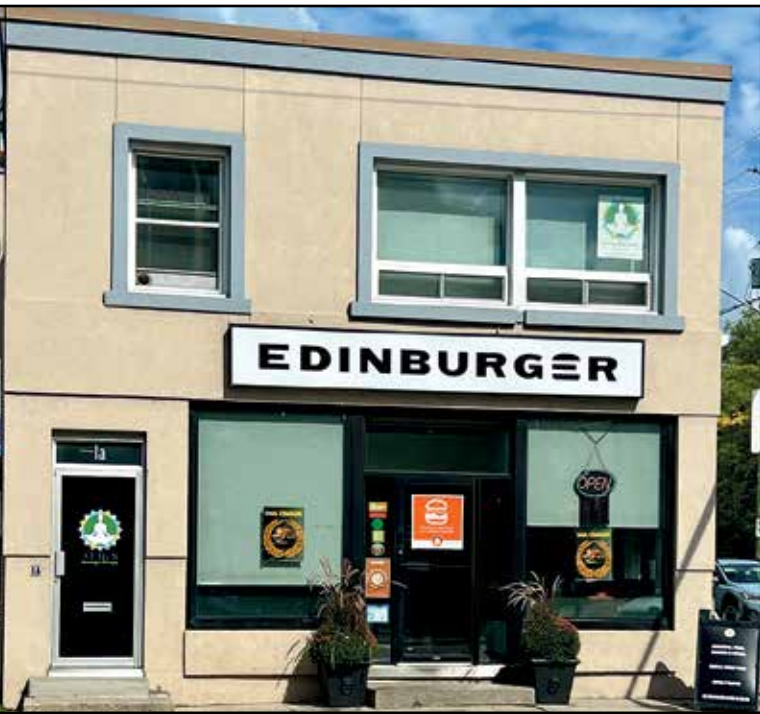


Photo by Daniel Hebert
Newly relocated to 1A Springfield Road, Align Lindenlea’s entrance is the door on the left side of the building, and up the stairs.



Photo by John Leefe
New Haitian restaurant Gedro Koupe Dwet exterior.

pitching in. Owner **Gedro Robas** and her daughters **Esther** and **Fausena** manage the restaurant with **Gelena**, Gedro’s mother, working the kitchen. Originally from Au Caves, Haiti, Esther came to Canada about six years ago. Gelena joined them last year and created her own authentic Haitian spice blend for many of the menu items (which she also sells to local grocery stores): a mix of garlic, onions, paprika, parsley, oregano, thyme, allspice, cayenne, and celery seeds. Esther says the most popular dish is griot: a savoury pork shoulder dish marinated in citrus that’s braised and fried. They also serve fritay, a platter of fried foods that includes fried plantains (bannan peze). Also popular: black mushroom rice and fried red snapper. Some

of these menu items appear on the colourful sign out front, enticing customers to sample Caribbean food distinctive in both taste and presentation. The few tables for inside dining seat about 15, but about half of the business is take-out. Gedro Koupe Dwet is open Monday to Saturday from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.—*JL*

EarthTreks relaunches
Neighbourhood resident **Alison Braun** has relaunched EarthTreks, her sustainable travel and retreat company registered here in New Edinburgh. Alison has been leading small-group adventures for over a decade, with trips through Ecuador’s Amazon, Andes, and Galapagos, as well as to Mexico for the Monarch butterfly migration. She also runs

retreats at her own small centre in the Ecuadorian Andes. After testing a neighbourhood-based business last year, she has returned to her original passion: helping travellers connect deeply with nature, culture, and themselves. Learn more at earthtreks.ca.—*KS*

Vandalism on Beechwood
Recently, we’ve seen a rise in vandalism on Beechwood, with windows and doors broken – multiple times in some cases, and businesses are paying the cost of replacements for damage and theft. There’s been much frustration: if it happens once, it’s an issue; twice may be a coincidence; but three times (at one location) is a trend. If you are a business owner who’s had to deal with these issues, please consult with the Vanier BIA to

determine whether the group can offer support: Executive Director **Natalie Carrier** has mentioned a grant the group received for “broken windows.” Otherwise, Ottawa Police encourage any business or individual who believes they have been a victim of a crime to report it. Reports can be submitted online or by calling 613-236-1222, ext. 7300. For crimes in progress or life-threatening situations, always call 911.—*KS*

Update on crime and Beechwood design plan from Councillor King
At the request of Councillor Rawlson King’s office, Ottawa Police reviewed data for reported commercial break-and-enters along the Beechwood corridor. Between the beginning of 2025 and

the end of May 2025, there were five reported incidents, all involving an individual or individuals breaking glass to access the interior of a business, including restaurants, offices and stores. Once inside, it appears that whatever was present and easy to remove was taken, including alcohol, food, spa products, jewelry, and personal consumables.

Police indicated at that time that these incidents were likely crimes of opportunity committed in the simplest manner, a trend that has been observed across the city. They advised that location-hardening measures, such as break-resistant glass, window bars, or accordion gates, may help prevent such offences. Police recommend locking away or concealing high-value items outside business hours. However,

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suspects may still break in to search the premises, even if nothing of obvious value is visible. Security cameras are also highly recommended.

Ottawa Police also promote CAMSafe, a new initiative designed to enhance crime prevention and assist in investigations by leveraging community security cameras. Businesses and residents can voluntarily register and provide their contact details and indicate their willingness to share recorded security footage with police when needed. When a crime occurs, officers can consult CAMSafe to identify registered cameras in the vicinity. For more information on CAMSafe or to register, please visit ottawapolice.ca/camsafe or email camsafe@ottawapolice.ca.

Ottawa Police are available to provide crime prevention guidance to businesses, including tips on physical security. Businesses are welcome to contact the local Ottawa Police Neighbourhood Resource Team or Community Policing Unit. Councillor King's office can assist in making those connections.

In mid-July, Councillor King invited Ottawa Police



Photo by Karen Squires

La Taqueria's Chef Regina at Beechwood Diner with assortment of tacos.

Chief Eric Stubbs and two Staff Sergeants with the Central Division Community Policing Unit to tour a number of neighbourhoods in Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward. The tour included a visit to an impacted business on Beechwood. The Chief and officers shared security and location-hardening guidance.

In late August, the Ottawa Police Break and Enter Unit

confirmed that a man had been arrested and charged in connection with the commercial break-ins. They also confirmed there have been no further reported incidents of commercial break-ins or smashed windows and doors along the Beechwood corridor since May. Additionally, Councillor King has coordinated with Rideau-Vanier Councillor Stéphanie Plante in

liaising with police regarding the elimination of unlicensed cannabis dispensaries along the corridor.

Councillor King's office also regularly liaises with the Vanier Business Improvement Area (BIA), which represents and advocates for businesses from McArthur Avenue to Beechwood Avenue. The BIA provides support to its members, including access to

grant opportunities for safety improvements, beautification, and business development.

On Aug. 23, Councillor King visited several Beechwood businesses with Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, including Edinburger, Schoolhouse Pizza, and the newly opened Beechwood Diner. Supporting local small businesses and improving the streetscape remains a priority for the Councillor, who notes that several new businesses have opened along the corridor this year, including Linden Pizza, Scoops Ice Cream Parlour, and Café Miracle. (please see Councillor Kings full report in this edition on the Beechwood Avenue Public Realm Design Plan for 2026).

Through these ongoing efforts, multiple community representatives, along with Councillor King's office, are working to enhance safety, support small businesses, and improve the streetscape along Beechwood, making it a safer and more vibrant corridor for the community.

The Death Dialogues: Honest Discussions and Expert Insights - What You Need to Know for a Legally Sound Death with Dylan McGuinty Jr.

Join us at Beechwood Cemetery for a candid and informative evening with executor and estate lawyer Dylan McGuinty Jr. of Mann Lawyers, as we explore what every family should know when navigating the legal realities following a death. This essential session will help demystify the process and prepare you with practical knowledge.

- Tuesday, October 14, 2025
- 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
- Borden/Fleming Room, Beechwood National Memorial Centre 280 Beechwood Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario

The evening will open with remarks from Beechwood on the importance of preparation, planning, and clarity during life's most difficult transitions. Dylan McGuinty Jr. will then guide attendees through the legal framework following a death in Ontario.

The 30 minute session will conclude with an open Q&A period, allowing attendees to ask questions in a respectful, informative setting.

280 Beechwood avenue - 613-741-9530 - beechwoodottawa.ca
Owned by the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and operated by the Beechwood Cemetery Company



New bulletin board at School of Dance reflects New Edinburgh history

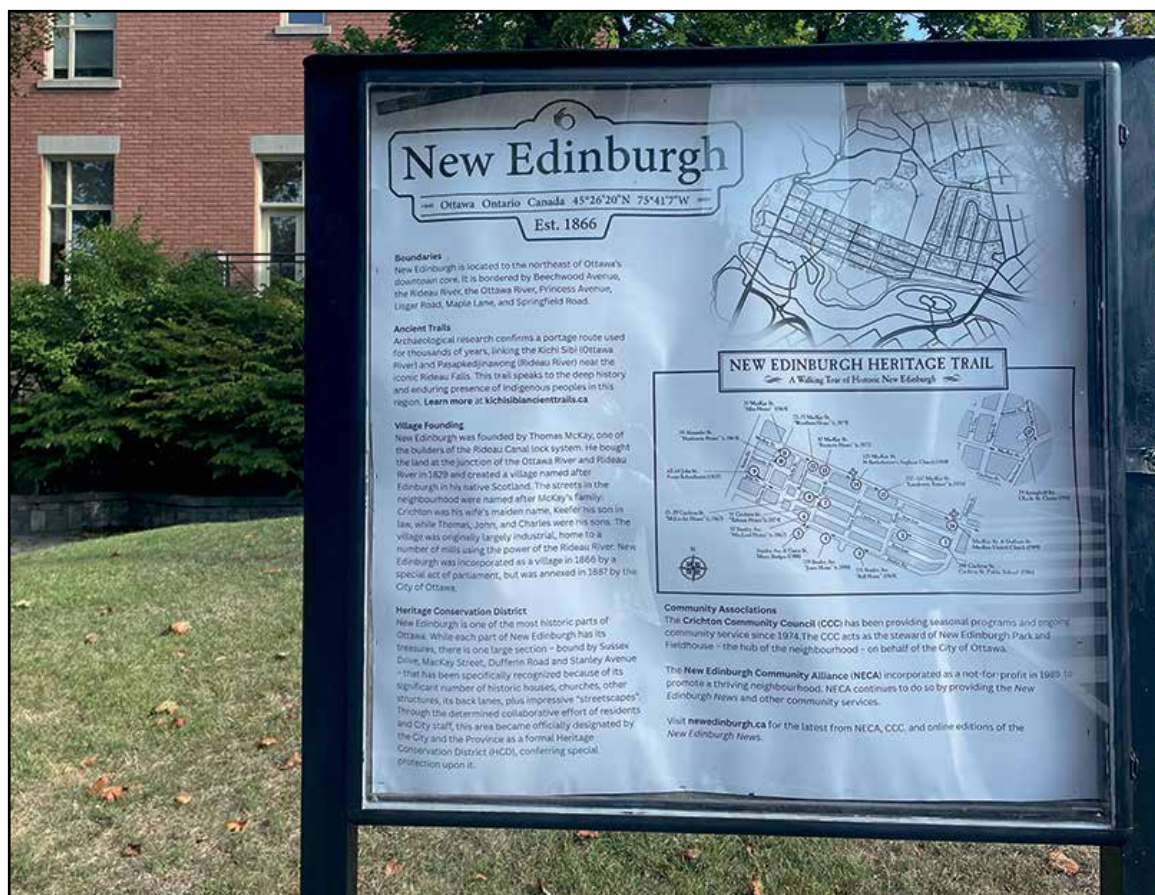
By Jason Tavoularis

You may have noticed that the bulletin board at the School of Dance on the corner of Crichton Street and Dufferin Road got a much-needed face-lift this summer. For years, it had fallen into decline: the plexiglass had clouded into near-opacity, the paint was sun-bleached, and the large 47 by 47-inch display showed nothing more than two faded letter-sized notices about local associations.

Once, bulletin boards were the heart of community communication. But for over a decade, websites and social media have been the real hubs for local news, leaving the old board largely forgotten. Still, whenever I passed it – several times a day – the neglected structure left me feeling discouraged.

Last year, I asked fellow New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) board members what should be done. Removing it didn't sit right. Too much history was tied to the board, dating back to Crichton School days when it was a vital community notice hub. So, we agreed: it deserved a proper refresh.

I arranged for new plexiglass to be installed and, on a sunny afternoon, gave the frame a fresh coat of black paint. But what should go inside? Instead of multiple small notices, I envisioned one large poster



New bulletin board at School of Dance.

celebrating New Edinburgh itself.

Digging into newedinburgh.ca proved a gold mine: I discovered historical notes on the village's founding and Indigenous heritage, a charming map and logo from the Crichton Community Council (CCC) Store, and best of all, a Heritage Walking Trail Map that begins right at the board's location. Using a popular online graphic design tool, I

pieced these visuals and blurbs into a poster design, with feedback from NECA board members (and a little AI assistance)

to polish the text.

The technical side wasn't without challenges. A couple of graphic designers declined

my request to enhance the resolution, so I did my best with the tools I had before sending the file to a local printer. I chose the largest print size available – perhaps too bold, as fitting it into the frame proved tricky. The poster isn't perfectly straight (yet!), but I may tackle that again on another sunny afternoon.

Even with its imperfections, the board now feels alive again. I believe there's truth to the "broken windows" theory: when we let small things fall into disrepair, it promotes further decay. By contrast, caring for our shared spaces fosters pride and beauty.

Thank you to NECA for supporting this little revitalization, including funding the plexiglass, paint, and printing. The board once again reflects the spirit of New Edinburgh: valuing history, caring for our community, and finding joy in the details.

Jason Tavoularis sits on the NECA board and represents the Traffic and Safety Committee.

Photo by Karen Squires

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Major development on Sussex headed to RFP

Continued from page 1

and reactions to the project shaped NECA's comments to the NCC on the proposal later that month. (To view NECA and NCC correspondence, go to newedinburgh.ca and search "Sussex Blocks" to locate the webpage titled "NCC proposes Sussex development.")

Several community members expressed concern that the NCC may be misguided in considering adding to housing supply at the high end of the market, rather than supporting the addition of affordable housing elsewhere in the city, in keeping with Ottawa's – and indeed the country's – needs in this housing crisis. (In this regard, we note the NCC's collaboration on the Federal Lands Initiative for the goal of stimulating housing developments on federal lands.)

The City's role needs clarification

The Sussex Blocks proposal is "consistent with the City's Official Plan which permits housing in these blocks as part of the Parliament and Confederation Boulevard Special District," according to the NCC in response to NECA's submission. Official Plan documents state that "unique planning approaches are required for these Special Districts," which suggests they may not be subject to the usual planning requirements



Image by National Capital Commission

The images are illustrative of intent with respect to: the symbolic importance and prominence of these blocks along Confederation Blvd and next to Rideau Hall; proactive integration with the heritage character of the surrounding context; the introduction of mixed uses including housing; the creation of a new park and the level of quality envisioned for this park; the height and volumetric attributes of the buildings. There is no timeline for this to become a project. There may be other designs that can be considered, along the lines of the intent illustrated and as articulated in the proposed policy language.

under the zoning by-laws, for example.

Rawlson King, Councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe, was present for part of NECA's May 20, 2025 board meeting and said that it would be important for his office to examine this specific case and that his expectation is that there may be either a rezoning request and/or a planning application submitted by the NCC to the City, as and when

appropriate.

Next steps in the NCC's process

The NCC staff will develop the project for the board's approval as part of volume two of the Core Area Plan on or before June 2026. It is possible that the project could be released for review and approval by April 2026, according to comments by NCC staff.

To better understand the NCC process for this project, I sent a long list of questions inquiring about its financing, business model, City planning involvement, and so forth.

NCC staff replied to say that "at this early stage in the planning process, many aspects

of the project are still being defined."

"The business process and development model for this project is still under consideration and the eventual proponent could be from the private, public, or not-for-profit sectors – or a combination thereof," replied the NCC.

They did state the "intention that the NCC would retain long-term ownership of the land and any new buildings through a ground lease model."

Ground leases "permit the lease of land for a period of time during which tenants could construct infrastructure for their use over the course

of the lease term," according to the NCC's latest published Annual Report for 2023–2024.

NECA has raised, and will continue to raise, community concerns with regard to respecting heritage policies (as the three blocks are located within the Heritage Conservation District), parking and traffic congestion, the flood plain (as it covers a fair portion of these blocks) and trees and parkland, which would be lost forever with the development, notwithstanding a proposal for a formal park in the middle of the buildings complex.

NECA's president and I met with the Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier, Mona Fortier, in early July to discuss the proposal, share the community's concerns and request her engagement on this proposal. NECA will stay in contact with the NCC, the MP and the Councillor regarding the next steps on this major development proposal.

For further insights into the project and community concerns, please see the article on the Friends of Sussex Drive on page 8.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright is a member of the board of New Edinburgh Community Alliance.

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A Few Tips for Fall

- Watch for overloaded school bags (and make sure to keep shoulders back!).
- Workstations need to be ergonomically appropriate to maintain good neck and shoulder posture.
- Smartphones - Keep your head up!
- In addition, shovels, whether in dirt or snow, need ergonomic attention. Get your garden put to bed sooner rather than later to save your backs and necks.

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Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

As autumn settles in, I hope everyone is enjoying this season of changing colours. The new school year is now well underway, with high schools, colleges, and universities back in full swing. I wish all students, parents, teachers, and professors a successful academic year.

Thank you to the educators, and to the staff in our schools, colleges, and universities, who make these learning environments welcoming and inclusive.

Families continue to see support through federal programs. The Canada Child Benefit has increased this year, with families receiving up to \$7,997 per child under 6

and up to \$6,748 per child aged 6 to 17. The Canadian Dental Care Plan is also available to all eligible Canadians without private dental insurance and with a net family income under \$90,000, helping cover essential dental care.

Canada is also taking steps to protect and build strategic industries while ensuring workers have the tools to thrive. The government has introduced a new industrial strategy to make our economy more resilient to global trade shocks. This includes reskilling programs for tens of thousands of workers, a new Strategic Response Fund to help businesses adapt and grow, and a Buy Canadian

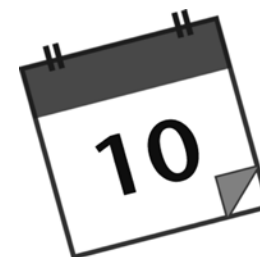
Policy to strengthen domestic supply chains. Immediate liquidity support for small and medium-sized enterprises and targeted programs for agriculture and biofuels is also part of this strategy. These measures are designed to safeguard local jobs, support Canadian workers, and ensure our industries remain competitive globally.

Canada has also taken steps to protect Canadian industries during challenging trade conditions. In response to U.S. tariffs, the federal government launched the Regional Relief Tariff Initiative (RRTI), providing \$160 million in targeted support through FedDev Ontario to small and medium-sized enterprises and non-profit organizations in the region. These measures complement the new industrial strategy, helping safeguard jobs and strengthen economic resilience.

Additionally, the Major Projects Office was launched this year as a single point of contact for governments, proponents, and Indigenous

communities to submit proposals for nation-building projects – such as ports, railways, and energy grids. These projects will help connect our economy, create high-paying careers, and ensure environmental standards and Indigenous rights are respected.

My office remains available to help residents access federal programs and services. I encourage everyone to stay engaged in community initiatives, continue supporting local businesses, and take part in neighbourhood events.



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CCC President's Report



By Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse,
Crichton Community
Council (CCC) Park
Director

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Crichton Community Council was held Jun. 11 at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Highlights of discussions include:

- Re-election of the officers of the board: Christopher Straka, Jean-Christophe Amado, Helin Burkay, David Pyman, Nick Charland, Loic Berthou, and Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse.
- Planning more events such as the successful comedy nights, music concerts, and open-mic nights, and expanding other various community-led programs to broaden the demographic appeal of programming and events.



Photo by Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse

The summer BBQ included more options like a bouncy castle for kids to have fun in the park.

the Fieldhouse to mark the local Algonquin Anishinaabe history of our community. Families came to participate in traditional drumming, dancing, and singing, and

on enormous bouncy castles while adults enjoyed oysters and grilled meats. Special thanks to the amazing Flatcaps Jazz Band for entertaining the neighbourhood, and to our wonderful team of volunteers, who make our events possible.

Upcoming events

- Every Wednesday, 7–8 p.m.: Yoga with Solmaz. Reserve your space in advance, for \$150 for 12 sessions by emailing: perisasolmaz@hotmail.com
- Saturday, Oct. 25, 2–4 p.m.: Halloween Howl. Come in your spooky costumes for games and treats.
- Saturday, Nov. 29, 4–7 p.m.: Holiday Lights Gathering. Come meet Santa, ride the wagon, and share some mulled wine with neighbours.
- Saturday, Dec. 27, 2:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9 p.m.: Craig Cardiff in concert. Buy tickets at NewEdinburghFieldhouse.eventbrite.com

New Edinburgh apparel

New Edinburgh apparel will be available again soon! Print designs were developed by the CCC to celebrate our neighbourhood. T-shirts feature a map of New Edinburgh and a unique road sign inspired by the Heritage Conservation District. A link to the online store will be provided in the CCC's next news and

celebrate the First Nations in New Edinburgh's past and present. Later that evening, the CCC lit up the sky with the popular Canada Day fireworks in celebration of our country.

On Aug. 29, the CCC hosted a community barbecue to catch up with neighbours and friends after summer holidays and welcome the new school year and the arrival of fall. The event was a great success once again. Children had their faces painted and bounced



Photo Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse

The summer BBQ included The Oyster Peddler so folks could sample and savour some new culinary options.

• Celebrating improvements to the Fieldhouse, such as new soft flooring, improved indoor and outdoor lighting, accessible doors, and improvements to the hydroelectric capacity of the facility for use in emergencies with external generators. We plan on further improvements to improve sound, and to repair the windows in the building soon.

Recent events

On Jul. 1, Chief Pinesi Day celebrations took place at

information email.

Call for volunteers

Winter is coming, and that means rink planning! If you have a teen looking for part-time work over the winter as a rink attendant, or you're an adult looking to help out as a New Ed Hoser, contact Alain-Rémi: cccrinkmanager@gmail.com

Please reach out to the CCC if you plan on coming.

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 and you can subscribe to our



Photo by Nick Charland

Flatcaps Jazz Band brought music and much ambiance this year for everyone to enjoy at the summer BBQ.

CCC meetings

Regular meetings of the CCC are typically held the second Wednesday of every month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Fieldhouse. Occasionally, meeting times, dates, or locations change to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors or guests.

good old-fashioned mailing list by sending a request to CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

On se voit au parc!
Alain-Rémi La Jeunesse is a Director on the CCC Board and lives in the community with his wife and family.

Fix it, don't toss it: Repair Café in Vanier Oct. 18

By Carmen Bohn

I've lived, worked, and played in New Edinburgh since 2010. Recently, I've been having fun helping at the Ottawa Tool Library (OTL), where I'm determined to learn the difference between a jigsaw and a reciprocating saw – and maybe even how to use them! In that spirit, I invite you to: "Fix It, Don't Toss It: Come to the Repair Café in Vanier Oct. 18."

Do you have something broken, worn out, or just needing a little TLC? Rather than sending it to the landfill, bring it to a Repair Café! Sponsored by the City of Ottawa and hosted by the Ottawa Tool Library, the event takes place at the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre (300 Pères-Blancs Ave.) on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What's a Repair Café?

It's a free community event where volunteers help fix everyday items – saving them from the trash, sharing skills, and bringing neighbours together. Part of a worldwide movement, they've become

popular in Ottawa, with past events giving second life to everything from toasters to torn jackets.

What to bring and what to know before you arrive

- One item per person only, as time and space are limited.
- Good repair prospects: electronics, small household appliances, toys, clothing for mending, jewellery, bikes, knives for sharpening, etc.
- If your item needs a part replaced, bring the new part along.
- Textile items must be clean.

Registration happens on-site. You'll sign in, enjoy a coffee and sweet treat while you wait, and leave with your item fixed – or with advice on next steps. If an item can't be repaired, responsible electronic recycling is available through support from the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA).

More important details

- The event is free to attend, but donations are welcome to support the volunteers who make it possible.
- Interpretation services in Somali and Arabic will



Photo courtesy Carmen Bohn

Repair Café volunteer fixers Richard and Henri with happy clients, learning new skills and celebrating another item FIXED!

be available, thanks to EnviroCentre and Immigrant Women Services Ottawa.

- The venue is wheelchair accessible and offers on-site parking and bike racks; seating will be provided if there is a queue.

- Please note that some fumes from glue or solvents may be present.

About the Ottawa Tool Library

The Ottawa Tool Library is a not-for-profit tool-lending

library located at 877A Boyd Ave. Since its launch in 2014, OTL's mission has been to foster sustainable, community-centred solutions by promoting a circular economy – a model that emphasizes sharing, reusing, repairing, repurposing, and reducing waste.

OTL membership gives you access to thousands of tools, from drills and saws to gardening gear and sewing machines. You borrow tools just like books from a regular

library. Members also receive discounted workshops and priority access to the Workspace. It's an affordable, space-saving alternative to buying tools you rarely use, and it helps support a greener, more collaborative city.

Why you should come to the Repair Café

Whether it's a lamp that won't light up, a jacket with a broken zipper, or a wobbly chair, bring it to the Repair Café in Vanier. You'll save money, learn hands-on skills, and connect with your community. You'll also be supporting local organizations like the OTL that are building a culture of repair, reuse, sharing and resilience. For more information on the OTL and other upcoming events: ottawatoolibrary.com

See you on Oct. 18 at the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre!

Carmen Bohn has lived and worked in New Edinburgh with her family since 2010.

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The Hay Fever season is only beginning!

By Janet Uren

Janet Uren as Judith Bliss in *Hay Fever*, opening this November at the Linden House Theatre Company.

As the days grow shorter, one local company refuses to be gloomy. The Linden House Theatre Company – founded 19 years ago with the slogan "Theatre for the joy of it" – is once again bringing light, laughter, and sparkle to the stage. This year's annual production, *Hay Fever* by Noël Coward, pays tribute to Coward's idea that "there is nothing trivial about merri-ment."

It is an especially fitting year to stage *Hay Fever*, as 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of its first performance in England. It is also a personal anniversary for me. Twenty years ago, I moved to New Edinburgh and rediscovered theatre after a long hiatus. The first role I took on was Judith Bliss in the New Edinburgh Players' production of *Hay Fever*. That early experience inevitably led to the founding of Linden House. Since then, it has been a long road of



Image by Maria Vartanova

See *Hay Fever* at Elmwood School this November!

learning, stretching, and celebrating drama in partnership with wonderful actors and a growing audience.

My mother would have said of *Hay Fever* that "there's not a lick of sense in it." While I wouldn't go quite that far, the play is less about depth than it is about sparkle. And what delicious sparkle it is!

Coward was a master of wit and repartee, and unsparing in his portrayals of the characters he encountered in 1920s artistic circles. The eccentric Bliss family in *Hay Fever* was based on real people – and a real house party Coward attended. This hilarious story of social catastrophe grew directly out of his own experience, which makes it all the more delightful.

Linden House has long enjoyed the support of the community. We are honoured again this year to acknowledge the sponsorship of Elmwood School, Steve McIlroy of Edward Jones, sezlik.com, and the Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward of the City of Ottawa through Councillor Rawlson King. We are also grateful, as always, to Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence for generously providing rehearsal space.

Please join us this fall! A special benefit preview for Elmwood's Old Girls Scholarship Endowment Fund will be offered on the evening of Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. (tickets \$20). The show then opens

Nov. 21, with a post-show reception for cast and audience to follow. Performances continue Nov. 22 and 27–29 at 7:30 p.m., and on November 23 and 30 at 2 p.m.

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Cyclist collisions highlight risks on Beechwood Avenue

By Kenneth Watson

Note from the Managing Editor:

This article raises important questions about the risks of cycling alongside heavy traffic. It is true that collisions at busy intersections can feel inevitable, and that painted bike lanes alone do little to change the risk. At the same time, international and Canadian research suggests that well-designed infrastructure can make a significant difference. In Toronto and Vancouver, the risk of injury on separated cycle tracks was found to be about one-ninth that of riding in mixed traffic. New York City reported a 20 per cent reduction in total

injuries after adding protected bike lanes on major avenues, even as cycling volumes increased. And in Montreal, new cycle tracks not only attracted more riders but also lowered the rate of injury.

Readers should note, however, that this opinion piece contains some factual inaccuracies and questionable use of data. For example, cycling practices in the Netherlands have long differed from those in Canada, with separated infrastructure forming the backbone of their system—not cyclists sharing lanes with cars, as suggested here. The claim that cycling injuries in Canberra are “five times more frequent than car drivers

per kilometre travelled” oversimplifies a complex set of international comparisons and leaves out crucial context. Similarly, conflating painted bike lanes with protected infrastructure ignores well-documented differences in safety outcomes.

This underlines an important point: when forming opinions that influence how we vote, who we elect, and ultimately the city we build, we must ensure that those opinions are grounded in strong evidence rather than in anecdotes or the desire to confirm existing biases.

**

Between 2019 and 2023, there were 62 collisions between cyclists and motorists in Ottawa that resulted in a major injury or fatality, and many more that caused injury.

On Apr. 7, 2025, just before 9 a.m., there was a serious non-fatal collision between a cyclist, Matthieu Gagnon, and a motor vehicle at the intersection of Beechwood Avenue and Acacia Avenue.

An inbound bus, travelling slowly in rush-hour traffic,

paused to cede the right-of-way to an outbound motorist turning left from Beechwood into Acacia. Before the motorist could complete the turn, Mr. Gagnon, inbound in the bike lane on the curb side of the bus, ran into him head on. Several factors appear to have contributed to the accident. The stationary bus may have obscured the motorist’s view of the bike lane (and vice-versa) until the last second. The location of the collision is close to a curve in Beechwood Avenue that may also have limited visibility. And the cyclist was probably travelling faster than the car traffic, which allowed little time to react.

The speed limit on Beechwood Avenue is 50 km/h (although at rush hour, 20 km/h is more usual for car traffic). A good cyclist might average about 30 km/h in the bike lane. To put it another way, only about one and a half seconds may have separated the earliest time the cyclist and the turning motorist could have seen each other and the collision itself. Unless both had exceptional reflexes,

the crash may have been unavoidable. It is not necessary to assume negligence on anyone’s part – just bad luck on a heavily trafficked road that will never accommodate cyclists well.

Nevertheless, there is more going on. A bicycle is classified as a vehicle subject to the same traffic regulations as cars. In the past, a bicycle was required to stay in-lane with other traffic. One still sees this in other countries, like the Netherlands. Zipping up the inside of car traffic was illegal and regarded as foolhardy. However, attitudes change. Ottawa has painted white lines on roads to designate bike lanes, and what was once foolhardy is now the norm. But the risks remain.

Mr. Gagnon, the injured cyclist, subsequently wrote an op-ed in the Ottawa Citizen (May 4, 2025: “Moving away from a car-centric city requires better safety measures”) and in the *New Edinburgh News* (June 2025, p. 7: “Safety a constant issue for cyclists and



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pedestrians”).

In the *NEN* article, Gagnon said he does not remember the circumstances of the accident, due to trauma, but he is “sure that someone decided to turn left without making certain the bike lane was clear” and “was just trying to save a few seconds.” He spoke of “driver entitlement,” meaning aggressive and careless driving. This popular assumption – that the cyclist must be right and the motorist wrong – obscures fundamental issues about bike commuting in heavy traffic. I hope I can, without offence, suggest a different perspective.

Mr. Gagnon’s article in *NEN* covers two topics: first, the causes of his accident; and second, the difficulty cyclists face at the intersection of Beechwood Avenue and the Vanier Parkway, about 0.8 km away from the collision site at the St. Patrick Street Bridge. The two are not related, so I will consider them sequentially.

Accident at Beechwood and Acacia

The corner where the collision occurred is only about 30 yards from the traffic lights at Beechwood and Putman Avenue. Typically, car traffic there is very slow at rush hour. When I’ve made the left turn from Beechwood to Acacia, inbound vehicles have often waited to let me turn, because Canadians are generally polite and because, at rush hour, they know they are not going anywhere quickly anyway. I have often experienced the courtesy of Ottawa drivers and, having lived and worked in more than 30 countries, I have a broad framework for comparison.

I have never seen a cyclist stop in courtesy to a left-turning vehicle at that location – or indeed any other. I think that idea is unknown among cyclists. Indeed, some cyclists (not referring to Mr. Gagnon, whom I do not know) have developed aggressive habits: riding through stop signs and traffic lights without stopping, with just a glance to each side. I do not suggest that was the case in this instance, only that the assumption that motorists act as if “entitled” and cyclists do not, does not match my experience.

This is not just an Ottawa problem. A recent edition of *The Economist* (June 7, 2025,

p. 24: “Squeezing the brakes”) noted that the NYPD has begun issuing criminal summonses for cyclists committing a slew of “seemingly low-level fouls.” Running red lights or stop signs, not stopping at pedestrian crossings, riding on the footpath, exceeding the speed limit, not wearing a helmet, or wearing headphones now require cyclists to appear before a judge. What?! Running red lights and ignoring stop signs are “low-level fouls”? Now that’s entitlement.

Back to our case: can anything be done to make the Beechwood–Acacia intersection safer for inbound cyclists? It is difficult to imagine. Forbid drivers to turn left off Beechwood? That seems impractical and might not make much difference. Cyclists could just as easily collide with cars turning out of Acacia as into it.

A wider perspective is useful. Cyclists commuting from Orléans, often take the dedicated bike path parallel to the Sir George–Étienne Cartier Parkway, then cut up Birch Street or St. Laurent Boulevard to Beechwood Avenue and proceed downtown.

For cyclists, the most dangerous part of Beechwood Avenue is from the site of Mr. Gagnon’s accident to the St. Patrick Street Bridge. Conceivably, cyclists could be re-routed one street over to Barrette Street, a residential road parallel to Beechwood. There is little traffic on Barrette, but as a residential street it would be slower, so it might not suit bike commuters. Residents might also object. Still, it could be done.

If money were no object, the city could dig an underpass under the Vanier Parkway, linking a Beechwood–Barrette bike path with the excellent north-south off-road path along the Rideau River. That would be costly and disruptive, but in the long run it might save lives.

The lesson, I think, is that commuting by bicycle in heavy traffic is very risky, and retrofitting a busy road to safely accommodate bicycles may be impossible. The statistics are clear: even in cities with better cycling infrastructure than Ottawa’s (Canberra, Australia, for example), cycling injuries and deaths are about five times more frequent than those of car drivers per

kilometre travelled.

The Beechwood–Vanier Parkway Intersection

The second part of Mr. Gagnon’s *NEN* article focuses on the intersection of the Vanier Parkway and Beechwood Avenue. He complains that “most of the infrastructure is there to accommodate cars.” Yes, it is. Counting traffic in all four directions, including the bridge, 14 lanes cross that intersection. In my opinion, it is unwise to cycle across it, especially when making a left turn.

Ottawa has done what it can. Recently, left turns from Crichton Street into Beechwood were banned, and a green-arrow system was added to the turning lights. But as far as bikes are concerned, it is a hopeless case. The traffic is simply too heavy and complex for on-road cycling to be safe.

If you arrive at that intersection by bicycle, you should dismount and walk your bike across the pedestrian crossings, then remount on the other side. If you are heading for the off-road Rideau River path, use the underpass under the St. Patrick Street Bridge (presently under renovation) to avoid crossing Beechwood Avenue.

Blaming drivers for bike collisions misses the crucial point. The only thing that would really change the situation is hundreds of millions of dollars spent on cycling underpasses beneath busy roads. That is unlikely in a city where cycling is seasonal and fewer than 5 per cent of trips are made by bike. Cycling is a great sport and excellent recreation on dedicated off-road paths. But people should abandon the idea that commuting by bike in heavy traffic can ever be safe. A few painted white lines on city streets will not change the fundamentals.

Kenneth Watson is a long-time resident of Lindenlea and Rockcliffe. He is a keen hiker, cyclist, and cross-country skier; and a member of the Ottawa Rambling Club. He has a M.Sc. in urban planning from the University of British Columbia and is a past-President of the Harvard Club of Ottawa.

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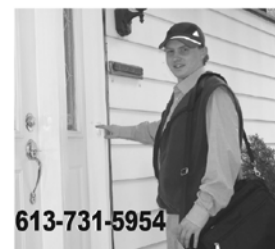
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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

For the Birds is due for a catch-up after missing the June edition of the *NEN*, when our family was on a long-planned holiday in Suffolk, England. From a local New Edinburgh perspective, the timing was regrettable, as June is normally packed with reports of bright and tune-

blackbird population appears thriving, with **rooks**, **carion crows**, **European jackdaws** and **European magpies** in evidence throughout the countryside.

We returned to Ottawa in May, in plenty of time to enjoy the many species of breeding songbirds and waterfowl that



Photo by David Howe

American Goldfinch



Photo by David Howe

Northern Waterthrush

ful breeding birds flocking into the neighbourhood for the summer season. But in Suffolk we were delighted to find that the spring migration was in full force, and our days were filled with bird activity and song.

Southern England lies on the migration route for birds using the East Atlantic Flyway. Thanks to our peaceful location in the countryside, the birds around us were abundant, undisturbed by urban noise and bustle. On a short stroll down the lane near our holiday residence, I logged an astonishing 25 species, from **European robins** to **Eurasian blackbirds**, **European black-caps**, **common chaffinches**, **common cuckoos**, **European wrens**, **White-and Gray wag-tails**, **common woodpigeons** (whose lovely soft cooing caused us to mistake them for doves), **European goldfinches**, and many more. As in North America, the UK's

had also returned from their southern habitat. On and around the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, we spotted **ring-billed gulls**, **common terns**, **turkey vultures** cruising overhead, **mallards**, **hooded mergansers**, **common mergansers**, **wood ducks**, **double-crested cormorants** and (somewhat regrettably, given their numbers!) **Canada geese**. Much to my disappointment, **great blue herons** did not return to their accustomed spot on the Rideau near our house, presumably displaced by the overwhelming goose population.

Also on our local bird list in spring and early summer was a familiar cast of characters: **American robins**, **red-winged blackbirds**, **Common grackles**, **European starlings**, **common ravens**, **Northern cardinals** and **black-capped chickadees** (which never left us over the winter), **Eastern phoebes**, **blue jays**, **chipping**

(including the resident nesting song sparrow family in our backyard), a **chimney swift**, **downy-**, **hairy-** and **pileated woodpeckers**, **house wrens**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, **mourning doves**, **rosy house finches** and **American goldfinches** in their brilliant yellow breeding plumage. Close to our home, directly across the street in Stanley Park, a very vocal **warbling vireo** regaled us each morning on our dog-walking rounds.

In late May and June, we had some wonderful sightings in our walks along the Rockcliffe Parkway close to the Ottawa River. The tally included a **Northern mockingbird**, **great-crested flycatchers**, **cedar waxwings**, **American redstarts** (in extraordinary abundance), **yellow-rumped**

warblers, **pine warblers**, **black and white warblers**, **black-throated green warblers**, **black-throated blue warblers**, a **broad-winged hawk**, a **red-shouldered hawk**, **Eastern wood pewee** (on our radar in all our locations this summer), and a **veery**, a thrush-like bird with a piercing and unmistakable veeer call.

Amid all this avian abundance, the highlight was discovering a **scarlet tanager's** nesting site in the forest near the Rockcliffe Pavilion. Despite the dazzling plumage of the breeding male – scarlet body with black wings and tail – the tanager is difficult to spot amid the trees. Its distinctive chip-burr call, repeated frequently on our walks, proved the key to locating it.

sparrows, **white-throated sparrows**, **song sparrows**



Photo by David Howe

Palm Warbler



Photo by David Howe

Canada Goose



Photo by David Howe

Magnolia Warbler

Our suspicions were soon confirmed when it flashed across the road in a blaze of red.

In late June and early July,

double-crested cormorants, common terns and Arctic terns.

In mid-summer, we were

of admiring humans and obligingly posed for photos.

Mild though the weather remains as I write in early

beginning to appear. Flocks are beginning to form, and foraging activity is ramping up as birds gather and fuel up for the strenuous journey ahead. We're already spotting groups of peripatetic American robins, dark-eyed juncos and Northern flickers in the shrubs and trees in the neighbourhood. Early this morning, two very beautiful Northern flickers appeared in our garden directly outside the kitchen window. They were soon joined by others and flew off into our berry-filled mountain ash tree, flashing their white tail feathers as they departed.

The *NEN's* neighbourhood birder and bird photographer David Howe has had a remarkably successful summer of birding in and around the community. His impressive list of local sightings features a who's who of **warblers**, including **bay-breasted-, black-poll, Cape May-, magnolia-, mourning-, palm-, pine-, common yellowthroat,** and

yellow warblers, along with a **Northern waterthrush**. Other highlights in his summer repertoire were a **Baltimore oriole, Eastern kingbird, Eastern wood pewee, rose-breasted grosbeak, purple finch** and a **scarlet tanager**. Many thanks to David for sharing some of his fine photographs to accompany this column.

To keep track of what others are spotting in the region as the autumn unfolds, visit the Ottawa Field Naturalists website at ofnc.ca/recent-bird-sightings and the Ottawa e-bird site: ebird.org/region/CA-ON-OT

We'll be back in December when "all the birds have flown," and when it will be time to turn our attention to replenishing our bird feeders for the coming winter!

Jane Heintzman is a long-time contributor to NEN, well known for her pieces about local businesses as well as her dedication to For the Birds.



Photo by David Howe

Song Sparrow

we spent 10 days at our cottage near Parry Sound in Georgian Bay. Here, too, the bird life was abundant: **common loons, Eastern phoebes, song sparrows, bluejays, American robins, black-capped chickadees, European starlings, common grackles, Northern flickers, common ravens, red-eyed vireos,** and a nightly **whippoorwill** were all the scene this summer, as were several **warbler** species, including **pine warbler, bay-breasted warbler, black and white warbler** and **yellow-rumped warbler**. Happily, the **osprey** nest across from our cottage was active again this year, with the nesting pair producing two healthy offspring. On and around the water, we spotted **ring-billed gulls,**

on the move yet again for our annual visit to Brackley Beach on the north shore of Prince Edward Island. Regrettably, two of our favourite species were missing this year. The majestic **bald eagles** traditionally nesting close to our lodge appear to have abandoned the site. And the tiny **piping plovers** that for many years have skittered across our nearby beach, were nowhere in evidence – not a good sign, given their endangered status and their concerning population declines in recent years. But the good news on the island was that **osprey, herons, herring gulls** and (my favourite) great **black-backed gulls** were plentiful. The handsome (vain?) **black-backed gulls** appeared to enjoy the presence

September, the early signs of the coming Fall migration down the Atlantic Flyway are



Photo by David Howe

American Redstart

The fractured road to understanding autism

By Ralph Hesse

In my 47 years of work in the field of psychology, no form of mental disorder has been subject to as much misinformation and misrepresentation as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Understanding this lifelong condition has too often been clouded by confusion, fear, and even politics. It is no wonder, then, that scientists and researchers struggle to find uniform practices to address its symptoms and reduce its debilitating effects. If you cannot even agree on what ASD is, finding a path to effective treatment becomes unlikely.

So, let's begin by clarifying what ASD is – and what it is not.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is characterized by three broad

sets of symptoms:

1. Deficits in communication. At the most severe end of the spectrum, an individual may have limited verbal skills, engage in parrot-like speech (echolalia), or repeat certain phrases over and over. Severe symptoms may also include incorrect use of pronouns and language delivered in a flat or robotic manner. At the mild end of the spectrum, the person may have an excellent vocabulary, but use language literally and mechanically, unable to grasp sarcasm or idioms. I once worked with a child who, upon seeing me, would always greet me with: "Greetings and salutations." A perfectly correct phrase, but not one you would expect from an eight-year-old.

2. Deficits in socialization. In its most severe form, the

individual appears oblivious to making social contact, avoiding eye contact and displaying no social smile. The absence of desire to connect is so pronounced that, in infancy, many parents mistakenly suspect hearing impairment, as the child does not respond when spoken to. At the mild end of the spectrum, individuals may eagerly share their own thoughts and interests, but show little interest in others' feelings or situations. They can be perceived as cold or socially awkward.

3. A strong need for order and predictability. This can manifest in narrow but laser-focused attention on specific subjects or behaviours. At the severe end, a person might spend hours twirling an object, or react with extreme distress if a room is rearranged or a favourite shirt is damaged. At the mild end, individuals may develop encyclopedic knowledge of a particular topic – hockey statistics, train schedules, or another niche subject – and spend much of their lives immersed in its details. Across the spectrum, focus is narrow, habits are

rigid, and attempts to redirect attention or alter routines are met with strong resistance.

Although the catalogue of ASD symptoms has been well summarized in psychology reference texts, diagnosis remains challenging.

There are also important misconceptions to dispel.

ASD is not simply being "odd" or peculiar. Many people are shy, socially awkward, or struggle to make friends, but this alone does not indicate autism. ASD requires the presence of all three clusters of symptoms described above.

ASD is not contagious. You cannot catch or contract ASD – you are born with it. The long-debunked claim that vaccines, including the measles vaccine, cause autism has been proven false. There is absolutely no causal relationship between vaccines and ASD.

ASD is not usually accompanied by multiple other disorders. Be cautious of a diagnosis that includes ASD along with ADHD, obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety, or depression. In my professional experience, nine times

out of ten this reflects multiple professionals offering multiple labels, rather than the presence of multiple conditions.

There is not an epidemic of ASD. What we are witnessing instead is an epidemic of over-diagnosis. The reported rise in autism cases is, in my professional opinion, largely artificial – fuelled by social pressures, politics, myths, and misunderstandings.

In the next edition of the New Edinburgh News, I will discuss the dynamics behind this so-called epidemic and why the numbers are being misunderstood.

Ralph Hesse recently retired from teaching Psychology at the State University of New York at Cortland. He taught there for 25 years and taught online courses since moving to Lindenlea. His primary work had been as a Civil Service Psychologist serving persons with developmental disabilities, retiring at that job after 30 years. He holds a Master's Degree in Experimental Psychology.

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Honouring the cycles of feminine power

By Sophia Wood Massicotte

We live in a culture that praises productivity. To be busy is to be valuable. To multi-task is to be efficient. To always be “on” is to be worthy of reward. From an early age, we are taught to measure success by output, speed, and consistency.

But here’s the truth: nothing in nature sustains a single rhythm. The tides rise and fall. The moon waxes and wanes. Trees stretch toward the light, then release their leaves. Seasons shift in an eternal dance of growth, harvest, death, and renewal. When we cling to one mode of being – constantly producing and endlessly striving – we pull ourselves out of alignment with the very cycles that sustain life.

The feminine is attuned to change

The feminine, by her very nature, is attuned to subtle shifts. She feels the turn of the season in her bones, the pull of the moon in her body, the ebb and flow of her energy from day to day. She knows there are times for blossoming and times for rest, moments to say a wholehearted yes and moments to honour a necessary no.

Yet this wisdom has been buried under a cultural narrative that equates rest with laziness, slowness with weakness, and receptivity with passivity. Women in particular have been conditioned to override their inner knowing: saying yes when depleted, pushing through when their bodies beg for a pause, waiting for permission to rest. Many do not believe they can slow down, ask for help, or speak their truth. This fear has deep roots, and if left unattended, can trap us in a loop of anxiety, overwhelm, and exhaustion.

The cost of living out of rhythm

Women are wired for love and connection, yet if love was not given unconditionally in childhood, many grow up seeking it in ways that deplete them. In a world that prizes her giving nature, a woman’s energy is easily pulled outward, leaving her frustrated, exhausted, and unfulfilled. In the effort to feel worthy and safe, she often abandons herself – running on a default program of “safe and survive” rather than

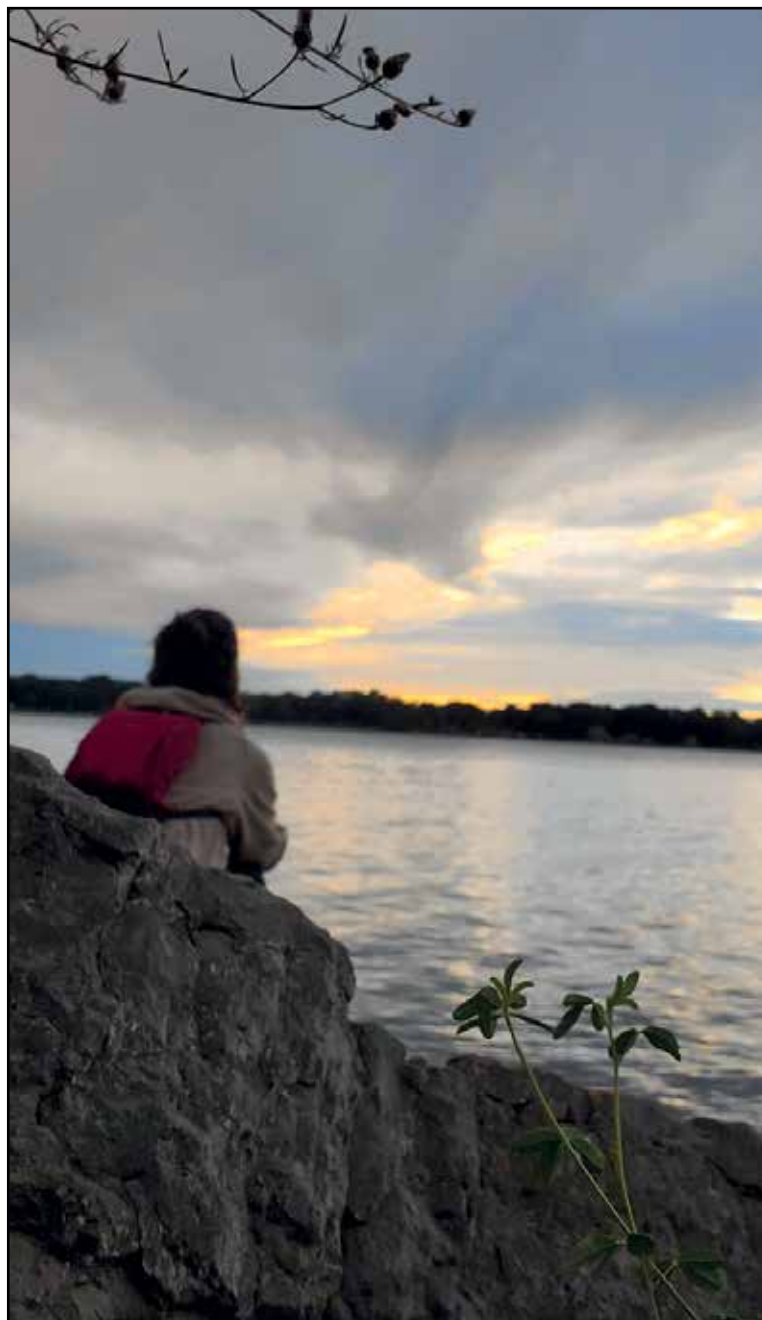


Photo by Sophia Wood Massicotte

A reminder that, like the setting sun, our energy follows natural cycles of ebb and flow.

“create and thrive.”

Living in the rhythm of “always on” takes its toll. We scramble to complete endless to-do lists, leaving us tense, stressed, and sleepless. We disconnect from the simple joys of daily life, from the aliveness of our bodies, and from the magic of our creativity. Our desire for intimacy, authentic expression, and meaningful connection goes unmet as our vitality is siphoned away.

We are human beings, not machines. The more we override our natural cycles, the further we drift from our source of feminine power – our life force energy, our vitality, and the innate rhythm that sustains us.

Reclaiming feminine power
Feminine power invites us back into harmony with change. It asks us to honour our energy with honesty: to say yes when we feel lit up

your heart or belly. Ask: How is my energy today? What does my body need? Let the answer guide your activities and priorities.

Practice the sacred “yes” and “no.” Before committing to anything, pause. Ask yourself: Does this feel expansive or depleting? Say yes only to what feels aligned, and trust that your no creates space for the right opportunities.

Track your rhythms. Journal your energy levels, emotions, and creativity throughout the month. Over time, patterns will emerge, helping you plan in alignment with your natural cycles.

Journaling prompt: When do I feel most energized? When do I crave stillness? How can I honour both?

Create mini-rituals of rest. Rest doesn’t always mean hours of sleep. It can be

stepping outside to breathe with the trees, closing your eyes for five minutes, or brewing a cup of tea in silence. These pauses reset your nervous system and restore balance.

A final whisper...

When we honour our inner yes and no, when we rest as deeply as we act, when we allow ourselves to ebb and flow with nature’s pulse, we discover a new kind of strength – one rooted not in striving, but in truth.

Sophia Wood Massicotte is a multi-faceted artist, visionary, guide and embodiment coach devoted to awakening the wisdom of the body. Learn more at alkimiahealingarts.ca



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from the inside out, and to say no when something depletes us.

This is not about doing less for the sake of it or spending a day on the couch with Netflix. It is about living in right relationship with our energy, so that when we act, it comes from authenticity rather than obligation. Feminine power is not linear, but cyclical. It recognizes that rest is not the opposite of productivity – it is the fertile soil from which inspiration, creativity, and impact grow.

To embody this power is to reclaim sovereignty over our lives. It is a refusal to be dictated by external timelines and expectations, and a devotion to living in tune with the deeper rhythm of the soul.

Practices to honour your energy cycles

Check in with your body each morning. Before reaching for your phone, place a hand on



Then and now: Remembering Jersey Milk and the chocolate bar maps

By Eleanor Dunn

How was your summer? Mine? Not so great. I lost another piece of my childhood. How so?

In July, the American company that now owns the William Neilson Company announced that Neilson's Jersey Milk chocolate bar would no longer be produced. Sadly, this is part of a familiar pattern when a U.S. company buys out a Canadian one: the Canadian product withers away, replaced by something with more "global" appeal.

I've always associated Neilson's Jersey Milk with maps and Miss Kidd's Grade 3/4 class at Crichton Public School. I was in that second-floor class in 1943–44. Today, the School of Dance occupies the old building, and a dance studio has replaced some of the classrooms.

As a curious kid, I wondered why a pull-down window blind hung on a wall with no windows. Like a blind, it had a string with a metal ring attached. On the morning of the reveal, we lined up for our free government-supplied cod liver oil (with our own metal teaspoons for this "treat"), handed in quarters to buy war savings stamps for our booklets, and turned over crushed toothpaste tubes, flat 50 cigarette tins, and silver paper for the growing collection on the window ledge. Then Miss Kidd announced it was time for geography.

She went to the wall, hooked her finger through the metal ring, and pulled. Down came a huge map of the world! Across the top were the

words: "Neilson's, The Best Chocolate Bars in Canada." Across the bottom: "Jersey Milk...Made from Fresh Milk Daily." In each corner was an image of a Neilson chocolate bar: Jersey Milk, Jersey Milk with Nuts, Malted Milk, and Crispy Crunch. We were transfixed.

I hope the man (remember, this was the 1940s when women's jobs were mostly limited to teaching, nursing, secretarial work, and factory work) who came up with this advertising idea was well paid. It was genius. Beginning in the 1930s, the William Neilson Company distributed these maps free to schools across the country. By the time the program ended in 1953, some 55,000 Canadian classrooms had chocolate bar maps hanging on their walls.

School supplies cost money, and school boards of the time – often made up of local businessmen – weren't about to refuse free maps when budgets were tight. So, Neilson got advertising, and no one seemed to worry about commercialism in the classroom.

Back in Miss Kidd's Grade 3/4 class, the map measured four by five feet. Canada was coloured pink, as were many other parts of the globe: the United Kingdom, a slice of Ireland, islands in the Caribbean, parts of Africa, India, Southeast Asia, New Zealand, Australia, and islands in the South Pacific. Miss Kidd explained that pink signified parts of the British Empire.

While all this was interesting, I confess I was thinking about chocolate bars. With the

25 cents my dad gave me on Saturdays, how many could I buy? For a nickel, I could get a lot of penny candy at a local shop, or a mellow-roll ice cream or popsicle at Archie's. But my heart was set on a Crispy Crunch. I'm sure my classmates were also calculating how to stretch their allowances, or how to earn money if they had none.

There were 30 kids in Miss Kidd's class in 1943–44. By 1953, when Neilson's chocolate bar maps hung in tens of thousands of classrooms, that meant an audience of about 1.65 million Canadian children. It's no wonder the company updated the maps regularly to reflect changes in world geography. As the British Empire shrank, there was less pink on the map. And while Jersey Milk always had pride of place, Malted Milk and Crispy Crunch were sometimes replaced with newer Neilson bars in need of promotion.

As for those crushed toothpaste tubes, flat 50 cigarette tins, and silver paper we collected? At the time, we were told vaguely that they "helped the war effort." Only later did the government reveal that the material was dropped from Allied bombers over German installations to distract anti-aircraft gunners on the ground.

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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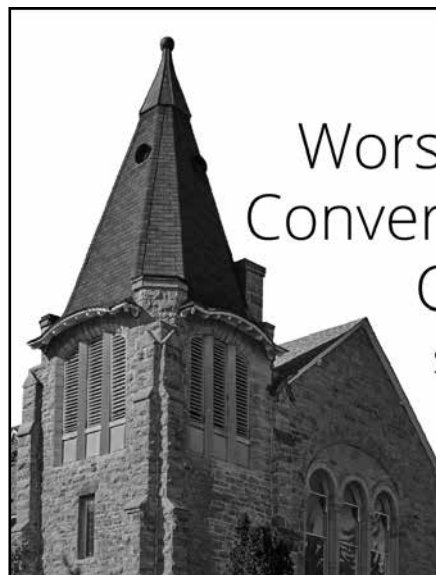
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City Council approves zoning by-law amendment for development at 47 Beechwood

Continued from page 1

consultations:

- The implementation of at-grade amenity room that directly interfaces with the outdoor amenity space;
- The provision of communal amenity areas which meet the zoning requirements;
- Increased setbacks of the building along Douglas Avenue for levels four to seven, to improve transition to the residential context to the north, along Douglas Street;
- Increased setbacks between north facing units from the rear lot line, abutting the traditional Mainstreet zone to provide for more natural sunlight, transition, and functionality of the rear communal amenity

area;

- The provision of street trees;
- Reconfiguring the location of waste and garbage storage areas to locate them adjacent to the service lane;
- Adjustments to commercial units to enhance their usability;
- The implementation of more dark red brick, as opposed to black brick, to improve the corner element at Springfield Road and Beechwood Avenue.

Despite council's endorsement of the planning report and concomitant approval of the by-law amendment that would permit the development to move forward, Councillor King voted against it, citing "concerns centered on massing that dominates

the Springfield-Beechwood corner without adequate transition and unclear operational impacts on neighbouring homes." However, he added that he's "encouraged by the commitment by the applicant to ongoing discussions with planning staff and community members to address continuing concerns, including enhanced green space, better buffering for Douglas Avenue residents, and improved cycling connectivity".

Douglas Avenue resident David Orfald has been monitoring this application since the public consultation phase began last fall and remains unconvinced that this development will be beneficial to the neighbourhood. He argues that an eight-storey building is too

large for such a small lot and the council should not have agreed to allow the developer to amend its proposal from its original six-storey limit.

In an email to Councillor King on Aug. 26, after the planning and housing committee's endorsement, Orfald wrote: "City staff suggested that Beechwood Avenue is already full of eight-storey buildings, and this proposal would be consistent with that approach. This is not true. By my count, there are only four eight-storey buildings along Beechwood. All of these are on much larger lots and have more significant set-backs from the street. Had the owner of 47 Beechwood adhered to the six-storey maximum for the site, and the required set-backs, it might have been compatible with these other developments in terms of scope and scale. As proposed, it is simply too much for a small lot".

Furthermore, Orfald warns that this development will "damage years of efforts to improve Beechwood as a village linking five of Ottawa's neighborhoods," specifically raising the following concerns: half of the restaurants along Beechwood will be lost for years to come; the creation of a "tunnel like" feeling along what is supposed to be a main street; permanent traffic and parking problems with no affordable housing, and far too

few family sized units.

The by-law amendment approval is subject to a possible appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal, pursuant to the Planning Act. Filing an appeal is limited to the following: i) the applicant, ii) the registered owner of the property to which the by-law applies; iii) a "public body" (like the Lindenlea Community Association) or a "specified person" that made oral or written submissions to council before the by-law was passed. An appeal must be filed by Sep. 29, 2025 upon payment of a \$1,100 fee.

Orfald has "zero faith" that an appeal would be successful. However, in terms of realistic next steps, he suggests that Councillor King should work with the developer to address community concerns by convening a meeting at the earliest possible opportunity.

There is still ample opportunity for such a meeting to occur because, despite the by-law amendment approval, the proposed project remains subject to a Site Plan review, the timing for completion of which is not yet known. Site Plan agreements are required to determine details of drainage, parking, and landscaping. Based on a new report from the city's auditor general's office, the time to register a site plan agreement increased from 284 days to 649 days in 2024.

Retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

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From the puzzler

By **Fédéric Lavoie**

Hello neighbours!

In this crossword, you'll recognize an Ottawa intersection: answers intersect to recreate street names drawn from our city map! Here, the street names you're looking for fall within our neighbourhood – not far from Rideau Hall, in fact. The Governor General mentioned at 22-Down was always a big hit with visitors when I worked there as a tour guide, as was Governor

General Earl Grey – think football, not tea (that would be his grandfather) ... and that's about the extent of my sports knowledge, sorry.

I'm also quite limited in what I can say about actors. I first watched The Lion King in my last year of high school; and only saw The Lord of the Rings movies earlier this year. I did, yes, grow up under a rock.

The list of movies to watch is long and continues to grow. The other thing keeping it in

check is free screenings, put on by groups like the public library or Capital Pop-Up Cinema. If you're looking for quality, low-cost entertainment and movie education, those are great places to start. That's how I saw Fantastic Mr. Fox!

For the solution, more puzzles, or to share your thoughts, check out centreforcanadiancrosswords.ca – puzzle #024. You can also find the solution on page 36.

ACROSS

- 1 Fruits that become raisins
- 7 Gameshow host and uOttawa alum Trebek
- 11 Canada's Got ____: entertainment show with a 2025 win by singer Jacob Lewis
- 12 As opposed to pre-recorded
- 13 Sailor's "Affirmative!"
- 14 Evil villain's stereotypical headquarters
- 15 Sings along to Eminem, Lil Wayne, or Cardi B
- 17 Promise one might make at an altar
- 18 Unceremoniously snatches
- 21 Meghan, Duchess of ____
- 23 Modernist poet T. S. ____
- 25 Rock
- 26 Gave a head's-up to
- 28 Bugs with a queen
- 29 Make an attempt
- 30 Time right as the sun peaks over the horizon
- 32 Country bordering Yemen and the United Arab Emirates
- 34 Picture-changing option on Instagram or TikTok
- 38 Restaurant's hand-out
- 39 Like River Lane or St. Patrick Street, but not King Edward
- 40 Made some changes
- 41 Winnie-the-Pooh's donkey friend

DOWN

- 1 _reater _oronto _rea: Ontarian metropolitan sprawl
- 2 Little ____'s Nature Centre: Ottawa animal rescue
- 3 Brew option from Ottawa's Beyond the Pale
- 4 Toronto airport
- 5 Irish singer seen in Kenya?
- 6 What a pedometer counts
- 7 "True patriot love, in ____ of us command...": O Canada lyric
- 8 Go-between
- 9 Absolutely obvious
- 10 Makes a copy of something
- 16 ____picious, in slang
- 18 Like something I might have gotten off Kijiji or our Buy Nothing group
- 19 More than a little concerned
- 20 Mixed-rice dish from South Asia
- 22 Governor-General inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame for his Dominion Hockey Challenge Cup
- 24 Potential nickname for Edward
- 27 Actor Willem ____ (The Grand Budapest Hotel, American Psycho, Fantastic Mr. Fox...)
- 31 LCBO purchase, perhaps
- 33 Almond, pistachio, or macademia
- 35 Number it takes to tango, they say
- 36 Place for a helix, tragus, or lobe piercing
- 37 Hearty kind of bread

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
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The Villagers: History of the people and life of New Edinburgh

Continued from page 1

in the old-fashioned grace of the streets and lanes. Writing this book has been a way to give back by telling part of the story of this extraordinary survival of village life at the heart of a large, modern city.

A village, by definition, is a collective of many people. New Edinburgh has been home to governors general, prime ministers, industrialists, civil servants, artists, and military leaders. But most of those who built this community were not history-makers. They did not shape the history of Canada so much as they were shaped by it – and they are the focus of this book.

Of necessity, only a handful of lives are highlighted, often of people who came from Europe or the United States, bringing with them traditions they passed on to their children and grandchildren. In telling their stories, my intention has been not only to illuminate the larger history that shaped them, but also to reveal something of the character of everyday life here – the work people did, the shops they owned, the sports they played, and the churches they attended.

The book is organized around four defining characteristics of

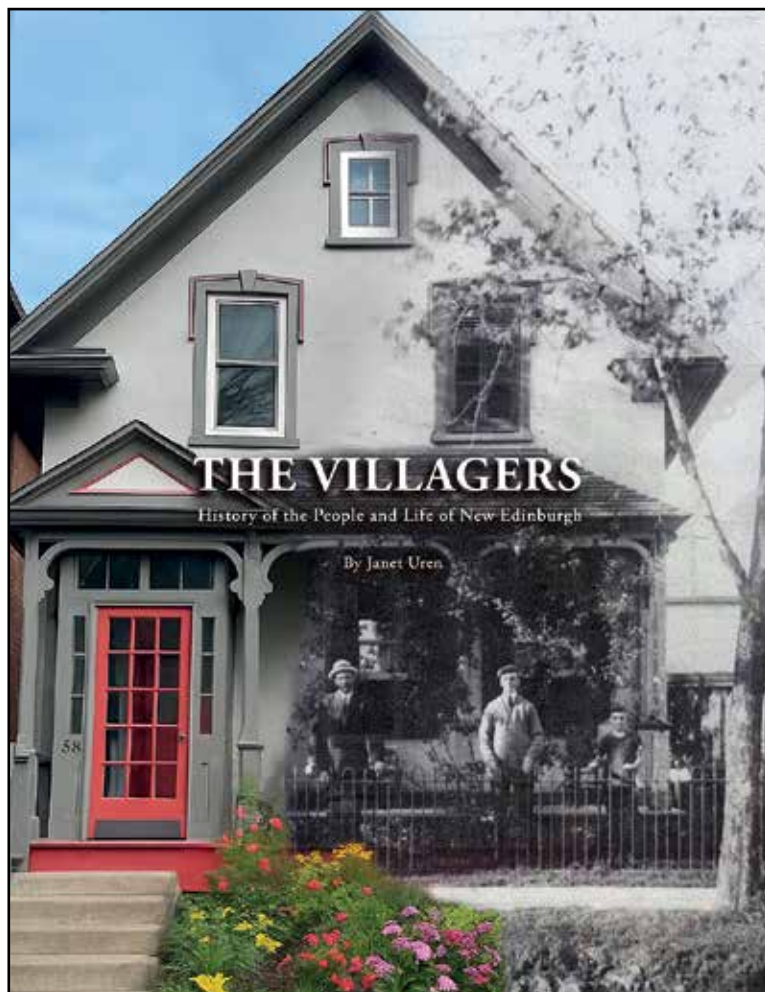


Photo courtesy Robert Short

Book cover of The Villagers: History of the people and life of New Edinburgh.

New Edinburgh: The multi-generational families whose continuity gave unusual stability to the village. The endurance of its historic houses,

which carry layers of human history. The cultural diversity etched on this small canvas by successive waves of immigration. The richness of institutions, from seven churches to 17 schools, each reflecting unique cultural and educational narratives.

While focused on the “little people,” the book also delves into larger stories: the influx of German-speaking immigrants after Confederation, and the community’s 30-year battle to prevent a highway

from cutting through its heart, among others.

Much of the information comes from existing sources, but much more has been gathered through newspaper research and countless interviews with residents and descendants of village families. The stories are told through individual narratives, unafraid of small details – the

shared their memories of that time with such passion and joy that I knew they had to be preserved. Was it important? I think so. That generation stood with one foot in the old world and one in the new. Their childhood represents a pivotal moment in our history – and in this book.

This is not a comprehensive history. Rather, it is a portrait



Photo by Karen Squires

Author Janet Uren in front of her home on Crichton St.

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SAT + SUN 9 - 4

42 Crichton at Union

MackKay United marks 150 years as a living hub of community life

By Andy Bethune

This November, MacKay United Church will celebrate a milestone that few institutions in the neighbourhood can match: its 150th anniversary. The event, to be held on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 10:30 a.m., is fittingly titled “A Living Church” – a reminder that while MacKay’s roots run deep in New Edinburgh, its role today is as vital and varied as ever. A reception in Memorial Hall will follow the anniversary service.

Founded in 1875, MacKay began as a Presbyterian congregation serving the growing community around Thomas McKay’s mills on the Rideau River – the church’s name preserves a variant spelling of McKay’s surname. Its landmark stone building on Dufferin Road, with pointed Gothic windows and a tall spire, soon became a fixture of the village skyline. In the 1925 church union that created the United Church of

Canada, MacKay joined the new denomination and has remained an anchor in local spiritual and social life ever since.

While Sunday services continue at 10:30 a.m. under the leadership of Rev. Peter Woods, MacKay’s activities today extend far beyond the sanctuary. Music, meditation, and community gatherings animate the week, with music director Nick Gummesson curating concerts and open-sanctuary evenings that bring neighbours together across traditions. From September’s Blessing of the Backpacks for children returning to school, to October’s Blessing of the Pets on Thanksgiving weekend, to the annual Remembrance service in November, the calendar reflects both heritage and innovation.

The fall season also sees MacKay opening its doors to the wider arts community. Memorial Hall hosted artists during the New Edinburgh

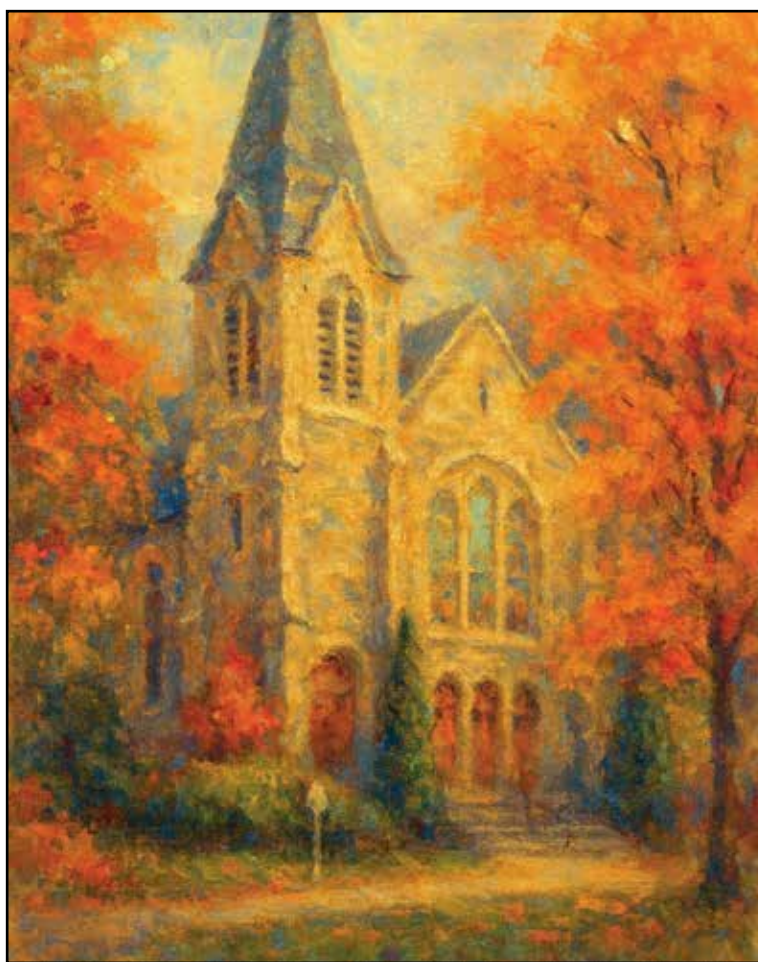


Image courtesy of Andy Bethune

MacKay United marks 150 years as a living hub of community life.

Studio Tour (NEST) on Sep. 28–29, and later this season the church will partner with the Beechwood Night Market, welcoming visitors into its historic space. Regular Music and Meditation evenings and immersive arts events add further richness to the cultural life of the neighbourhood.

Community service also remains central. Dry goods are collected for the Food Bank on the first Sunday of each month, while volunteers support Centre 507, a downtown adult drop-in, with food donations on the third Tuesday.

As MacKay approaches its 150th year, the church remains steadfast in its role as a place where worship, fellowship, and service bring the community together.

Visit mackayunited.ca for more information on anniversary events and other programming,

Andy Bethune lives in Vanier with his wife and young daughter.

St. Bart’s Bazaar returns November 1

By Linda Assad-Butcher and Liz Heatherington

The Church of St. Bartholomew Annual Bazaar is one of the most popular events on the fall calendar. It’s not only a great place to meet friends, enjoy tea together, and see your neighbours, but also to browse an array of bargains. Expect tables filled with antiques, gifts, jewellery, books, preserves, attic treasures, toys and games, crafts and knitting, Christmas decorations, and a superb bake table.

You can enjoy shopping knowing that your purchases help support important community causes and global relief initiatives. Proceeds from the 2024 bazaar supported not only St. Bartholomew’s ministries, but also many others, including:

- Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre programs
- Belong Ottawa (Centre 454, The Well, and St. Luke’s Table), which provide safe spaces and foster dignity for those who are homeless or



Elegant tea cups for sale at St. Barts Bazaar.

Photo by Gilles Venzina

precariously housed

- Alongside Hope (formerly the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund), which offers aid nationally and internationally to those affected by war, violence, and natural disasters, and works in rights

relations with Indigenous Peoples.

The success of the St. Bart’s Bazaar is thanks to you – the generous community members who donate and attend. We are only as strong as the donations we receive! If you

are downsizing or decluttering, please consider donating items to the bazaar. We welcome unique souvenirs, classic tea sets, glassware, costume and fine jewellery, books, attic treasures, toys, games, and handmade items. Closer to the

date, we would also appreciate donations of home baking and preserves.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call Liz at 613-745-4677 or Linda at 613-298-9980. We would be happy to pick up boxes from you. Thank you in advance for considering St. Bart’s, and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 12–4 p.m. at 125 MacKay St.

Linda Assad-Butcher and Liz Heatherington are Co-Conveners of the Church of St. Bartholomew Annual Bazaar.



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New Edinburgh News.

Enjoying more live music in the burgh

By Daniel Hébert

In last October's edition of the *New Edinburgh News*, we included a review of the 2024 season of Akoustik's free music events sponsored by the Vanier Business Improvement Association (BIA). Akoustik is an offering of free live performances by local artists across a variety of genres. Based on the success of the past two years, this year, the Vanier BIA decided to have weekly shows from Jul. 16 to Sep. 17. Every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m., local musicians entertained hundreds in front of the St. Charles Church on Beechwood Ave. A total of 18 bands and solo artists were showcased. New this year were meal deals ranging anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent savings offered by such local merchants as Edinburger, Schoolhouse Pizza, Café Miracle, and Sachi's on Beechwood. The events also included games for children, a merch tent, and a cash bar



Photo by Daniel Hébert

Angelique Francis took centre stage and provided a dance-worthy set with three of her sisters on her right, and her father playing the drums.

every week – one evening saw 300 people in the crowd dancing and singing. Dillon, a resident, attended every week and said, “free music is great. I don’t live far. It’s been a great summer of free music in Vanier. I loved School House since the beginning.”

RBC Stage at Bluesfest before Hozier the previous week, – to step in. Munson delivered poetic, melancholic songs inspired by personal experiences with raw, heartfelt vocals.

The second week brought bluegrass to the ‘Burgh with C.A. & Sonny, an Ottawa-based duo focused on preserving folk traditions through stringed instruments and timeless stories. They were joined by the Monroe Sisters, who offered fresh material alongside traditional songs. With each band member able to sing lead, the audience was treated to a wide variety of beautiful sounds.

The third week was reggae night, starting with Dumisani Chirwa (stage name Dumis9ne I), an award-winning Malawian reggae and Afro-dancehall artist. Inspired by Bob Marley and hip-hop, he energized the crowd before Ras Lee, known as Ottawa’s “Reggae Ambassador,” took the stage. Although a recent hospitalization limited him to one song, cane in hand he belted it out to a cheering crowd. His bandmates carried the rest of the evening without missing a beat.

The following week featured Indigenous artists. Aspects, from Quesnel, BC, but now based in Ottawa, showcased his ability to perform across genres from blues and jazz to reggae and hip-hop. He was joined by his daughter Illiyah Rose, who shared stories of meeting Robert Plant backstage. They were followed by Qattuu, an Inuk throat singer from Pangnirtung, NU, performing alongside Jessy Lindsay. Many in the crowd

experienced throat-singing for the first time, and feedback was glowing. Jessy captivated listeners with jazz-infused melodies and bilingual lyrics.

The next week, 14-year-old Chloé Boulianne opened with covers including Vance Joy’s Riptide. Despite her age, she impressed with a voice mature beyond her years. She was followed by 15-year-old Illiyah Rose, returning after performing with her father the previous week, and then by OK Naledi (Naledi Sunstrum), whose Afro-Fusion group wove emotion and vibrant sounds into stories rooted in Motswana heritage.

The largest crowd of the summer gathered for Mikhail Laxton, an Australian singer who moved to Canada for

on to perform at CityFolk at Lansdowne Park. Their guitarist played a Gibson J-45 Special, part of their prize from winning the Emerging Artist Showcase at the 2025 Boots and Hearts Music Festival in Oro-Medonte, ON. They were followed by Jessica Pearson & The East Wind, who delivered a harmonized folk set.

Due to publishing deadlines, this review doesn’t cover the final two evenings of Akoustik: The Shawn Tavenier Band on Sep. 10 and French Music Night on Sep. 17, led by Sophie D’Orléans with Beau Nectar closing the season.

The only Wednesday without music was Aug. 20, when Vanier BIA volunteers turned their efforts to the Partage



Photo by Daniel Hébert

School House returned to Akoustik for a second year, adding a drummer to the mix.

offering beer, wine, and coolers. Shawn Tavenier, a musician who played with his band on Sep. 10, was the emcee each week. Each event brought its own vibrant energy, turning summer evenings into a shared community ambience of music under the open sky.

Some residences of the adjacent condo building at 135 Barette Street would listen to the performers from the comfort of their own balconies while others brought chairs and blankets to supplement the tables and chairs set up each week by the volunteers from the Vanier BIA. Attendees brought their own meals or takeaway food from local eateries. There were a handful of dedicated folks who attended

The Akoustik season opened with Nova Scotia-raised and Ottawa-based Malia Rogers, a folk singer-songwriter known for her warm, introspective sound blending folk, bluegrass, and Celtic influences. Her EP Chameleon, released May 30, includes six songs. Malia regularly collaborates with award-winning Jessica Pearson & The East Wind, who also played Akoustik this year.

Originally slated to open the season, Jeff & the Falcons had to cancel after one of the band members was involved in a serious bicycle accident and required emergency surgery. At the last minute, the Vanier BIA tapped Claude Munson – who had performed on the



Photo by Daniel Hébert

Although she spent the evening throat-singing gentle melodies alongside Jessy Lindsay, for this song Qattuu strolled through the crowd singing her song entitled, “The Ones Forgotten” while entertaining, yet gently scaring, the audience.

love. His soulful, feel-good songs explored faith, love, and resilience. He was followed by the Angelique Francis Band. Juno Award-winner Angelique Francis led the family ensemble: her father on drums and her three sisters on horns. The band played an eclectic mix of various musical genres including blues, soul, folk, jazz, gospel, and rock. Angelique delivered a flawless rendition of Peggy Lee’s song “Fever.” The band had the entire crowd on their feet, dancing when the Vanier BIA successfully encouraged the band to play an encore past the planned ending time.

Also returning was School House, awarded Group of the Year at the 2024 Ottawa Music Awards and Album of the Year by Ottawa Faces Magazine. After two summers at Akoustik, the trio went

Vanier dinner at Beechwood Cemetery, which raised \$68,000.

From first note to final chord, Akoustik carried a vibrant feeling that made every week feel like a celebration. Looking ahead, concertgoers should keep an eye on the Vanier BIA website for 2026 scheduling updates, since the 2025 program wasn’t finalized until early July. One thing is certain: 2026 promises even more free music in the ‘Burgh. If you missed out this year, make it a priority to join the festivities next season; you’ll be glad you did.

Daniel Hébert lives in New Edinburgh and is an avid fan of such music events as CityFolk, Nostalgia Music Fest, and free music events organized by the Ottawa Music Industry Coalition (OMIC).

Musica Borealis brings music education to the community



Photo courtesy Jane Heintzman

Karol Mabel Contreras Jaramillo playing Cello.

By Jane Heintzman

In addition to its natural and architectural charms, New Edinburgh has a wealth of recreational amenities, ranging from outdoor sports to Pilates, yoga, choir, and dance. For the past three years, a small group of talented young musicians has offered lessons in piano, cello, and music composition to local students from age five to 75 and beyond.

Borealis – Musica musica-borealis.ca – is the collaborative effort of three musicians: pianist and composer Yanik Filion-Murphy; cellist Karol Mabel Contreras Jaramillo; and Karol's sister, violinist Amanda Judit Contreras Jaramillo. While their studio is currently located in the heart of our community on Crichton Street, changes are coming this fall. Yanik's piano lessons will move to Stevens Avenue (near the Rideau Sports Centre), while Karol will be based at 200 Rideau Terrace. Amanda is now a teaching artist in New Brunswick, but she will continue to offer online lessons to aspiring violinists. To contact the faculty or enquire about lesson schedules, call 343-551-5854 or email MusicaBorealis@gmail.com.

Yanik's musical path has taken him from west to east across Canada. He grew up in Vernon, BC, where he began

selected as a winner of the Ottawa Pops Orchestra's New Works Project.

About a quarter of Yanik's students are adults, ranging from advanced pianists honing their skills to beginners eager to explore a new creative outlet. His older students are generally self-motivated and ready to take on the daily practice required, particularly those following the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) curriculum.

For younger students, Yanik adapts his approach to each one's individual interests and abilities. Some thrive within the highly structured RCM track, supported by parental encouragement to sustain regular practice. For others, this degree of rigour is not a fit, and lessons are guided instead by the student's own musical choices, often in the popular domain. Lesson length varies by age and level: younger students typically begin with 30 minutes per week, while advanced RCM-track students progress to 45 minutes or even an hour.

Karol, originally from a small town in Mexico, performed with several symphony orchestras there before coming to Canada. Like Yanik, she studied at Brandon University, earning her M.Mus. in Cello Performance. After performing widely in Manitoba, she moved to Ottawa, where she now teaches cello through Musica Borealis.

Karol's students range in age from five to the late 70s, though most are teens and adults. Many adult learners are beginners, strongly motivated to take up an instrument they have long admired. Some have specific goals, such as playing in a church setting, while others follow the RCM track to achieve a certain skill level, even if they do not plan to take examinations.

Karol begins each lesson with an instrument maintenance check, emphasizing



Photo courtesy Jane Heintzman

Yanik Filion Murphy, pianist and composer with Musica Borealis.

the importance of treating the cello with care. "I tell them to look after their instrument with the gentleness you would show a puppy or a baby." She recommends that beginners begin by renting their cello, but purchasing a music stand and cello straps. She also focuses on developing comfortable posture – a foundation evident at Musica Borealis' spring recital, where her students'

performances reflected both confidence and care.

For information about connecting with Amanda to explore online violin lessons, contact Karol at 343-551-5854.

Jane Heintzman is a long-time NEN contributor known for her pieces about local businesses as well as for her dedication to the For the Birds column.

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Rockcliffe Park Public School book fair returns with a fresh look

By Igor Zosymenko

This November, one of Ottawa's most beloved traditions is back – and promises to be bigger and better than ever. The Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) Book Fair will take place from Friday, Nov. 7 to Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025, at Queen Juliana Hall (360 Springfield Road).

For more than 60 years, the RPPS Book Fair has been a cornerstone community event, bringing together booklovers of all ages, volunteers, families, and local businesses. What began in 1961 as a small school fundraiser has grown into one of Ottawa's largest and most anticipated used book sales, featuring tens of thousands of gently used books, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, and more.

This year, the Book Fair comes with a new website, new volunteer opportunities, and exciting upgrades to make the experience even more enjoyable. "We've worked hard to modernize while keeping the warm, community feel people love," said one committee member. "Whether you've been coming for decades or you're new to the neighbourhood, we want everyone to



The RPPS gym transformed with rows of shelves and tables filled with books, puzzles, vinyl, and more for the Book Fair.

Photo courtesy Book Fair Committee archive

feel welcome."

The Book Fair is powered entirely by volunteers, from sorting donations to setting up displays to running the busy sale days. Students, parents, and neighbours come together to make it happen. A special

Book Fair Club even pitches in to help prepare.

Beyond being a much-anticipated community event, the Book Fair has a deep impact. Proceeds support Rockcliffe Park Public School and its library and extend to literacy

programs and different initiatives beyond the neighbourhood.

Why should you attend?

- Discover hidden gems and classics among tens of

thousands of books.

- Enjoy unbeatable prices while supporting local education.

- Meet neighbours, reconnect with friends, and be part of one of RPPS's longest-standing traditions.

- Experience the energy of an event that brings the community together.

Save the dates!

Queen Juliana Hall, 360 Springfield Rd.

Friday, Nov. 7 – 10 to 9

Saturday, Nov. 8 – 10 to 6

Sunday, Nov. 9 – 10 to 4

Everyone is welcome — long-time supporters, first-time visitors, and families new to the neighbourhood. Come for the books, stay for the sense of community, and leave knowing you've supported a meaningful cause.

For more details, to donate, or to get involved as a volunteer, visit the brand-new website: at rockcliffeparkbookfair.com

Igor Zosymenko is a New Edinburgh resident and proud RPPS parent who has been volunteering with the Book Fair since 2023, now serving as Communications Lead.

Urban Gardener: Leave the leaves to help ecosystems and wildlife

By Victoria Walker

New Edinburgh, with its many large canopy trees, is covered with autumn leaves this time of year. But rather than raking, bagging, and tossing the leaves, do yourself a favour and save yourself some work – leave the leaves in the garden beds.

One of the most important reasons for leaving the leaves is to support wildlife. Leaf litter supports a vibrant ecosystem. It provides a winter home for pollinators such as bees (most of which are solitary, do not make honey,

or live in hives), butterflies, fireflies, and moths. It's also an important habitat for other wildlife including birds, toads, and frogs.

Leaves are the cheapest and easiest fertilizer and mulch you can provide for your garden. They release nutrients as they break down, improve soil texture, encourage beneficial microbes, and insulate plant roots. And a layer of leaves helps retain moisture in the soil – particularly useful during dry spells.

While the City of Ottawa has an admirable composting program, recycling and

composting at home is the greenest way to manage garden "waste" and support your patch of nature.

Some pointers on leaving the leaves:

- Experts suggest a leaf layer of 10–12cm is a good for most beds. Don't pile them on top of your plants: put them around plants as you would with other types of mulch. They may blow around a bit initially, but once they are wet, they will stay put.

- If you have a lawn, rake leaves off it and into the garden beds to avoid smothering grass.

- If you have too many leaves, add them to your compost or pile them in a corner of your yard for use in the spring. Run a lawn mower over them to break them into smaller pieces to help with decomposition.

- Neighbours unhappy that your garden doesn't have a clean-swept look? You may want to share with them research supporting the value

in leaving fallen leaves in urban areas such as: entomology.umd.edu/news/rake-less-see-butterflies-more

There are other ways to prepare an Ottawa garden for winter that also help the environment. While it's important to remove and dispose of any diseased plant material in the garden, do leave behind perennial stems and seed heads such as echinacea and black-eyed susan. They provide food for birds and shelter for beneficial insects over winter. And they add interest to the winter garden. Add compost or organic matter to the fall garden to ensure the soil is well conditioned in spring. No need to rake it in or till the soil – earthworms, insects, and the natural freeze-thaw cycle will do the job for you. Make sure to continue watering conifers (like pines, firs, spruce and cedars) and broad-leaf evergreens (like rhododendrons) well into the fall. This will ensure they're well hydrated

before the ground freezes and better able to withstand the cold and wind of winter.

Garden Calendar for October/November

(Source: Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton website: mgottawa.ca)

- Plant spring flowering bulbs

- Dispose of diseased or damaged plants

- Leave the leaves (see above)

- Ensure new plantings, especially trees, are well watered before the ground freezes

- Place shelter around newly planted evergreens to protect them from winter's drying wind and sun

- Ensure ceramic pots, garden hoses – anything that can be damaged by the winter freeze – are put away before temperatures drop.

Victoria Walker is a New Edinburgh resident and keen gardener with a particular interest in gardening practices that are kind to the environment.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

October

Every Wednesday – Yoga with Solmaz at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.; 7–8 p.m. | Reserve your space in advance, for \$150 for 12 sessions by emailing perisasolmaz@hotmail.com

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 – Beechwood Market at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Oct. 7 – Moonlit Memory Walk | This event returns, with the goal to raise \$100,000 for End-of-Life and Grief Support Services. Where: In-person local Ottawa Walk at 1411 Hunt Club Road, as well as virtual participation options. Register: moonlitmemorywalk.org

The Senior's Social Group Speakers Series (CCC) at the Fieldhouse 203 Stanley Ave. | Local area "celebrities" will speak about their special contributions to our community. Presentations will lead to questions, discussion and social time with refreshments. All seniors, friends and family members are invited. There is no cost, only your interest and participation as we get to know each other.

Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. Margot Silver, a long time New Edinburgh resident will speak and help us discover the world of olive oils and fine Italian food.

Oct. 13 – Crichton Community Council (CCC) Board of Directors Meeting at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.; 7:30–9:00 p.m. | Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at same location. Meeting times, dates, and locations may vary to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors or guests. Contact crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Oct. 18 – Ottawa Tool Library Repair Café: Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre: 300 Pères-Blancs Avenue, Ottawa.; 10 a.m.–2 p.m. | A great opportunity to repair such small items as electronics, small household appliances, toys, clothing for mending, jewellery, bikes, knives for sharpening, etc. More info:

ottawatoollibrary.com or read the article in this edition.

Oct. 21 – New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Board Meeting at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.; 7 p.m. | In person. All residents are welcome to attend. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com if you have any questions in advance.

Oct. 25 – Halloween Howl at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave (CCC); 2–4 p.m. | Come in your spooky costumes for games and treats!

October 28 – NECA's annual general meeting will be held at the Fieldhouse at 7p.m. View newedinburghnews/events for more information.

November

Every Wednesday – Yoga with Solmaz at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.; 7–8 p.m. | Reserve your space in advance, for \$150 for 12 sessions by emailing perisasolmaz@hotmail.com

Nov. 10 – Crichton Community Council (CCC) Board of Directors Meeting at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.; 7:30–9:00 p.m. | Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at same location. Meeting times, dates, and locations may vary to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors or guests. Contact crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Nov. 18 – New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Board Meeting at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.; 7 p.m. | In person. All residents are welcome to attend. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com if you have any questions in advance.

Nov. 29 – Holiday Lights Gathering at the Fieldhouse (CCC), 203 Stanley Ave.; 4–7 p.m. | Come meet Santa, ride the wagon, and share some mulled wine with neighbours.

Nov. 29 – The Villagers: History of the People and Life of New Edinburgh Book Launch: Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Road; 2–4 p.m. | Thirteen years of joyful labour are about to come to an end, and the history of New

Edinburgh is almost complete. The book will be launched with a brief reading and refreshments. Please plan to be there to help celebrate, especially all those many, many people who have shared their stories. This is our book! By the time this newspaper goes to print, pre-orders for The Villagers will be available at Books on Beechwood.

Ongoing Weekly Events at Rockcliffe Park Library, 380 Springfield Rd.

Upcoming Children's programs:

Family Storytime | Stories, rhymes and puppets for children and a parent or caregiver. Mondays at 9:30 a.m. (except for Monday holidays)-Drop-in.

Weekly Pop-up STEAM Activities | Drop in every Thursday 3–4:30 p.m. for some self-directed math, science or art fun!

Upcoming Adult programs:


Crafternoon | Do you like to knit, crochet or do handwork of some kind? Join like-minded individuals for an enjoyable afternoon of crafting. Bring any project you are working on. Mondays from 1–3p.m. Drop-in.

Rockcliffe Park Book Club | First Tuesday of every month, 1:30–2:30 p.m. Drop-in

Oct. 7: *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton

Nov. 4: *Of Time and Turtles* by Sy Montgomery

**** NEW** Rockcliffe Park's Acoustic Music Circle – Tuesdays: Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9 from 6–7:30 p.m.** | Are you looking for a cozy place to jam with other musicians? This is a drop-in for musicians ages 16+ to make some music. Bring your acoustic musical instrument: wind, string, keyboard or percussion. (Instruments are not provided). This is for emerging artists or for more experienced musicians looking to hone their performance skills, experiment with new material, and test out ideas. This music performance circle can provide exposure to a variety of music genres (classical, jazz, rock, folk, pop, etc.), as well as



Classified Ads

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new and experimental forms. Drop-in. Please note that any registrations can be done in person, by phone or online at bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en

Upcoming Senior programs at the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave:

The Senior's Social Group Speakers Series (CCC) | Local area "celebrities" will speak about their special contributions to our community. Presentations will lead to questions, discussion and social time with refreshments. All seniors, friends and family members are invited. There is no cost, only your interest and participation as we get to know each other.

Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. Peter Woods of MacKay United Church will speak about "Exploring 'wonder' in music and story." Please contact Dawn at 705-930-1991 or CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com with any

questions

Beechwood Cemetery Tours and Events | Please check online for more details for upcoming tours, music and events during the autumn at beechwoodottawa.ca/en/foundation/events



Have an event coming up?

Send us the details:

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The night I met Tracey Clark, owner of Linden
By artist **Catherine Willis-O'Connor** (former New Edinburgh resident and a *NEN* contributor)

You never know who you'll meet – or which doors will open – unless you try.
The opening night of my solo exhibit *Ottawa Then and Now* at the Gordon Harrison Canadian Landscape Gallery this past February, was a cold, wintry evening made a success thanks to gallerist **Phil Edmond**, many familiar faces, and new friends, including **Tracey Clark**. Guests enjoyed snacks and wine while I shared my stories of cherished memories of Ottawa's independent businesses and

the communities they served. I was delighted when Tracey asked me to paint the story of her latest endeavour: *Linden* on Beechwood. The painting includes many little stories: a man patting a dog, a ladies' night out, a chef tossing pizza dough in the air, and Tracey herself caring for the wine.

Condolences



It is with great sadness that

Beth and David Arnold said goodbye to their beloved black Labradors, who were such an important part of their lives for many years. They had to put Bentley down at home just before his 16th birthday on May 20. Ella missed him terribly and, with other health issues and the loss of her best friend, she declined quickly. She could no longer move around or get up, and she passed away in mid-August at the age of 12. Beth shared that Ella had endured a lot of pain and was heartbroken after losing Bentley. Our condolences go out to Beth and David on the loss of these two wonderful dogs, who were such cherished members of their family.



Bertie, the Miniature Wire-haired Dachshund, formerly known in this paper as the naughtiest dog in New Edinburgh, passed to a higher

service in early August, at 15 incorrigible years old. His people left bereft are Bruce Nesbitt and Carolyn Strauss. May he gambol forever through Hillsdale and Stanley parks unseen to all earthly creatures.

Welcome!



The *NEN* team is thrilled to welcome **Philippe Marchand** as our new production manager, effective with this edition. (**Dave Rostenne** is still overseeing production for this issue, so stay tuned for more updates on Dave in our December edition.) Philippe is not new to the team, but his role has expanded significantly. We would also like to congratulate Philippe on his new full-time position at the University of Ottawa as

Advisor for Communications and Marketing in the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation. The university is fortunate to have him – and so are we. Congratulations on both new roles, Philippe! We look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Michelle McLean** (our advertising manager) and **Taghi Farmani**, who celebrated their marriage with family and friends in Niagara, ON, on Saturday, Jun. 28, 2025. We wish them many happy years together! Michelle is a valued member of our team; she also operates a cat-sitting service that brings her to the neighbourhood often.

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We warmly welcome **Dean Miller** and **Monique Goffinet** to their new home in New Edinburgh at the corner of Keefer and Crichton streets. Since moving to Ottawa, they have already made a mark with their beautiful gardens and the inviting community space they've created along the extended sidewalk, where neighbours can sit, chat, or even play a game of chess. Congratulations as well to Monique on her appointment as Executive Director of the Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum. While it's 44 km from New Edinburgh, this underground bunker is worth the drive to Carp. Designated a national historic site in 1994, the Diefenbunker is recognized as Canada's most significant Cold War artifact and is also known for its unique underground construction. Consider it for a fall or winter excursion with family and friends. Please join us in welcoming Dean and Monique to the neighbourhood!