

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Sketch by Martha Markowsky.

“You Don’t Know What You’ve Got til its Gone...”

Announcing the formation of the New Edinburgh Historical Society

By Janet Uren

Do you remember that Joni Mitchell song from the 1960s, about paving paradise to put in a parking lot? What were the words? “Don’t it always seem to go, that you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone?” That is a truth that rings loud and clear for a small group of people in New Edinburgh who have decided to form an historical society here.

The first lots in New Edinburgh were laid out in 1834, and the village still maintains much of its historic shape and character. We believe that the streets and lanes of New Edinburgh are precious, not only as a pleasant place to live, but also because they act as a rare and visible memorial of Canada’s past. We also believe that the heritage value

of our neighbourhood is something we need to understand and communicate better.

When I first came to New Edinburgh in 2001 and walked my dog along Avon Lane, I was astonished. I felt as though I had left behind the stressful 21st century and escaped back to an older world, a quiet, tree-lined community with very few cars and loads of children playing safely. Such lanes were common once in Ottawa, when houses typically sat on much larger lots and backed on to unpaved access routes. That was before intensification in the late 19th and early 20th century, when so many properties were sub-divided, many new houses were built and almost all the large gardens in New Edinburgh disappeared. The lanes survived, however, and nowhere in Ottawa is there such an intact system of these as in New Edinburgh.

This neighbourhood is, in many ways, a living example of a Canada that has mostly disappeared. In fall 2013, a small group came together, its objective being to communicate and to promote the value of New Edinburgh as one of Canada’s flagship heritage districts. The New Edinburgh Historical Society is little more than an idea at the moment, an informal gathering of interested people (Joan Mason, Rosemarie Tovell, Ann Davis and myself). We have met twice so far to talk about ways that we can promote understanding and protection of our wonderful old neighbourhood. We would like you to join us if this goal resonates with you. (Email Ann Davis at adavis@ucalgary.ca)

The group’s first project is the New Edinburgh History Book,

Continued on page 16

Intensification: It’s Not All Bad News...

By Joan Mason

To help keep the City from sprawling outwards indefinitely, the Province has encouraged intensification of “underdeveloped” parts within the existing urban area. This makes sense; commutes would be shorter and the demand for new services lessened. Official priority locations include downtown, mainstreets, transit hubs, and vacant sites such as former factories and train yards. That’s the theory but, in practice, this policy has played havoc with mature neighbourhoods such as New Edinburgh. Intensification has often been invoked as an excuse for building oversized and incompatible infill projects in locations far removed from the target areas. The situation has been compounded by inadequate municipal by-laws and weak enforcement by the City. But change is in the works.

In 2010, responding to community complaints from across Ottawa, the City began looking into the insensitive way many developers and architects were going about

intensification. NECA’s Heritage and Development Committee actively participated in consultations and provided suggestions to remedy the situation. NECA also helped organize a public consultation here in the neighbourhood that was well-attended and provided valuable input. The City planners heard similar concerns from other established neighbourhoods and found overwhelming evidence that existing voluntary guidelines were not working.

Their research led to a comprehensive report on “Low-Rise Infill Housing in Mature Neighbourhoods”. The findings and recommendations were accepted by City Council, which then approved their incorporation in 2012 into a new Infill Zoning By-law; the companion Urban Infill Housing Design Guidelines were also updated. The new rules address thorny issues such as determining compatibility with community character, how to measure grade (and height)

Continued on page 8

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Report from NECA President Tim Plumptre

Every year, at its Annual General Meeting, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) welcomes new board members. This October, three new directors were elected. Leslie McKay, a relatively new resident of our community, left the high-powered world of corporate finance in the UK to seek a less pressured life and to enjoy the charms of our community. Patricia Begin, an experienced public servant from Treasury Board decided to retire and fortunately for us, she's made NECA one of her new commitments in retirement.

In addition, we were fortunate to reconnect with Gail McEachern. Gail has served as President of NECA in the past and it was a very pleasant surprise when we heard she was prepared to return to the board table. She contributes a wealth of experience to our deliberations, and a long-term perspective. All three new appointees bring real strength to the board.

Last year, we also added three directors. The board has 11 members now, so about half are relatively new. With every addition, and with departures of past directors, the character of the board shifts somewhat.

When I assumed the Presidency of NECA this fall, there were several things that struck me about our board today. Our directors are deeply interested in our community and its welfare. In this, they carry on a long tradition. NECA directors historically have made many valuable contributions to life in New Edinburgh.

Today's directors are remark-

ably effective. They all have busy lives and many obligations outside their work as board volunteers. Nonetheless, they have a can-do attitude that's impressive. When they say they're going to do something, they do it and they do it well.

They're a talented, intelligent and engaging group of citizens. They're also fun. This means that board meetings are convivial and enjoyable. New Edinburgh is fortunate to have such individuals at its service, and as President I feel it's a privilege to be able to work with this group.

Board meetings are open to the public, so if you'd ever like to drop by, you'll find details of our meetings on the New Edinburgh web site. Usually we meet at 7:30 pm on the third Monday of each month, except in December and during the summer.

We're an inquisitive lot. We are always pursuing a number of questions. Here are some we're looking into at present.

One question heads the list. What do the people who live here want New Edinburgh to look like in 5 or 10 years? What do residents and local businesses like about this community? What ideas do they have about improvements? What aspects must we be careful to protect as years roll by?

At the AGM, we asked everyone whether they'd be interested in taking part in a **Forum on the Future of New Edinburgh**. We had no idea what the response would be—but it was remarkable. Nearly everyone raised their hand.

So our most important initia-

tive this year will be to organize an event where community members can discuss our future.

Some readers may remember we organized a similar event last year to learn more about Minto's plans for the fire site at MacKay and Beechwood, and to provide Minto with feedback. Nearly everyone who attended—well over 150 residents—seemed pleased with the event, and some ideas put forward by the community (though not as many as we would have liked!) were adopted by Minto.

Events like these reflect a theme that runs through nearly all our board discussions: our desire to communicate effectively with members and to be responsive to citizens' interests.



Coming back to the **Forum on the Future of New Edinburgh**, one of our directors, Paula Thompson, has launched an on-line conversation. Here's some of what she wrote:

"We just had a meeting of the NECA Board and this question -- Why did you chose to live here? -- came up in the context of a community forum we plan

to have late winter or early spring. I ... thought ... I could perhaps prompt a discussion here....What do you love about the neighbourhood?

I'll start: First, I chose to live here for the beauty. I love the rivers, the falls, the park space, Rideau Hall, the quiet historic lanes and the varied and interesting architecture.... Second, history and character. New Edinburgh is so closely tied to the history of Ottawa and of course the history of Canada. My family has historic ties to the community as well. Third: location! I can easily walk or cycle to work, the Market, Beechwood, etc. Commutes by car are typically short.

Why do I stay here though? The people I've met since moving here. Because I may stop to chat with friends and neighbours at least five, if not ten times, walking from Beechwood home. Because my children are being raised in a caring village where we look out for each other and know someone on nearly every block."

If you'd like to join this conversation, go to the New Ed Talk listserve and share your thoughts: new-ed-talk@googlegroups.com.

Some other questions our board's exploring are:

- What can we learn from other community associations? What good ideas do they have that we might benefit from adopting here?
- What should we do about our relationship with the City of Ottawa on development proposals? Our Heritage and Development Committee, year after year, puts in hours of work reviewing development proposals and trying to protect New Edinburgh's character. But we lose far too often. City planners and elected officials seem constantly willing to change zoning to accommodate developers. Gail McEachern's excel-

lent article in this edition of NEN provides a classic example of the frustrations we encounter. Should we just give up and stop objecting – or is there another strategy that might be more effective?

- Should we be working more closely with other community associations? What might be the benefits of such relationships?
- What measures could we adopt to encourage a greater degree of engagement of local residents in the work of NECA?

I look forward to sharing more information about our work with you in future. In the interim, please be assured that board members welcome suggestions. You'll find our contact information below; feel free to contact any of us if you have ideas related to our activities or the community.

I would be remiss if I did not mention one more matter. Among the departures from the board in October was the Interim Chair, David Sacks. David has served the interests of New Edinburgh with remarkable devotion for many years, only one example of which was his willingness to step forward when it became evident, a year ago, that the position of President was becoming vacant. David took hold of the reins and those of us who worked with him for the next 12 months were constantly impressed with his knowledge, his dedication and his unfailing courtesy. He continues to support NECA's work through membership in the Heritage and Development Committee, but we shall certainly miss his wisdom, as well his dry wit, on the board. Thank you David, from all your colleagues.

In closing, I would like on behalf of the board to send all New Edinburghers our very warm wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season. It's just around the corner!

NECA MEETINGS: All Welcome

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the **third Monday of each month at 7:30 pm**. No meetings in July, August, or December. During October, NECA holds its annual general meeting (AGM) and a regular board meeting.

The January meeting will be held in the Activity Room of the **Governor's Walk Retirement Residence**, located at **150 Stanley Ave**. Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Tim Plumptre in advance to arrange scheduling. Our next meetings are:

No meeting in December

Monday, January 20, 7:30 pm, Governor's Walk

Any changes to this schedule would be posted in advance on the New Edinburgh website, www.newedinburgh.ca.

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From the Editor's Chair

Editors' Lament: Until recently, NEN reporters have had ample and ready access to the departmental staff members at the City of Ottawa who were best positioned to provide up-to-date, detailed information on a host of municipal issues of concern and interest to our community. Regrettably, however, the City has now adopted the federal government's model of tighter

control over communications, consigning all inquiries from the press (ourselves included, despite our modest neighbourhood orbit) to its Media Relations department where questions are referred to the relevant experts on City staff. Carefully polished, and often formulaic responses are eventually produced.

From our perspective as a small community paper, the

disadvantages of this system are significant: first, the addition of an intermediate layer of bureaucracy between question and answer inevitably involves delay, sometimes to the point that publication deadlines come and go before any useful information becomes available. (And indeed, on occasion, calls from the NEN have elicited no response whatever). Secondly, the responses that do emerge rarely address the issue at the level of detail we would aim for if able to speak directly with an expert on City staff. While it is of course theoretically possible to pose further questions via the Media Relations group, once again

this involves additional delay, with no guarantee that all the necessary ground will be covered in Approved Response, Round Two.

Ironically, any one of our readers should have no difficulty making direct contact with City staff to get timely and meaty information on a specific local issue of concern to them. But should they misguidedly identify themselves as associated with our community newspaper, the cone of silence will descend, and their questions will be filtered through the Media Relations team at a slower pace, and with far less likelihood of a fully satisfactory response. It

seems to us both regrettable in principle that a policy of Information Control should prevail at the City level, dealing as it does with local issues directly affecting our daily lives, and illogical in practice since those who are best positioned to provide information to the community at large have least (and slowest) access to the background facts required to do so. An issue for the civic election of 2014, perhaps?

Jane Heintzman, Associate Editor/Senior writer

Cindy Parkanyi, Managing Editor

The Domtar Lands: A New Transportation Hub?

By Roderick Taylor

Fast forward to 2025. The VIA train from Montreal to Ottawa makes its usual stop at the east end Alta Vista train station. Some passengers disembark, but others remain on board as the train's journey is not quite ended. Re-starting again, the intercity express momentarily accelerates south-westwards, until just past Billings Bridge where it veers to the right over a connection to join the north-south O-Train line. The train then glides northwards past admiring O-Train patrons awaiting their local trains, at Confederation, Carleton, Carling, and Bayview stations, before treating its remaining onboard passengers to magnificent vistas of the Ottawa River as it threads its way through the steel girders of a refurbished Prince of Wales railway bridge, en route to its final destination. Upon clearing the venerable crossing, the train turns sharply, to the right and travels briefly along what used to be a railway spur line serving the erstwhile Domtar paper mill on the Gatineau waterfront, adjacent to the Chaudière Bridge and the downtown. Instead of a paper mill, however, the train's passengers arrive at its replacement and journey's end: a new, multi-platform regional rail terminal hosting local O-Trains, together with some VIA Rail intercity services.

The Parliament Buildings beckon from just across the river and form an iconic backdrop as our travellers alight to a station adorned with artistic murals commemorating the rich industrial heritage of the Chaudière. On adjacent platforms, meanwhile, O-Trains bound for South Keys and

Kanata get ready to depart. A desirable vision for the future of our national capital region as a whole, and for the Domtar lands in particular? Surely at least, a little more imaginative than the all-too-predictable proposals for yet more condominiums and restaurants on these properties, which has framed much of the contemporary discussion on their future of late.

On a more fundamental level, however, what reasonable person could argue against the desirability of a more centrally-located rail terminal, especially in a city where the main inter-city rail station is some four kilometres removed from the downtown and where our O-Trains approach no closer than Bayview station? And a rail terminal situated adjacent to downtown Hull/Gatineau, almost in the shadow of the Peace Tower, would certainly be quite centrally located. In fact, the potential availability of the Domtar lands for redevelopment presents our capital region with a unique opportunity to reverse much of the destructive anti-rail legacy of city architect and planner, Jacques Gréber, whose principal accomplishment in this city was, arguably, the removal of rail lines and corridors from our core and their replacement with wide swaths of asphalt. In this respect, Ottawa/Gatineau could follow in the footsteps of Quebec City and other enlightened jurisdictions, which have recognized the folly—including the inconvenience to rail travellers—of situating rail terminals well beyond central cores, and which have since relocated or reopened these in downtown areas in conse-

quence. A central railway terminal on the Domtar lands would have the added bonus of being practically realizable and relatively cost-effective. Given that a rail corridor and terminal—albeit for freight—already exists, the securing of lands for a transit right-of-way would be largely obviated, while necessary works would essentially entail conversion of rail facilities designed for freight to those designed to accommodate passengers. Moreover, existing or former railway rights-of-way in the vicinity of the north end of the Ottawa River rail bridge could easily facilitate the reversal of longer trains for operational purposes, when that would be required. In addition, the absence of road crossings, at least as far as the Chaudière Bridge, means that such a rail route would be relatively unobtrusive—remarkably so, in fact, for a routing that would be so close to the central areas of both Gatineau and Ottawa. (A plethora of road crossings was ostensibly why the rail connection to our former downtown Union Station was closed in the 1960s.) As far as costs go, a good, basic terminal, together with the costs of a region-wide diesel O-Train/commuter system, for which such a station would be a central destination point, could probably be had for about \$500-million—a modest fraction of the costs of Ottawa's current light rail plan, needless to say.

Editor's Note: Roderick Taylor has written widely on railway and rail transit topics since the 1990s, including an article in the December 2007 *New Edinburgh News* on rail transit in Dublin, Ireland.

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Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

61 Queen Victoria Street: A View from the Community

By Gail McEachern

**Chair, Heritage and Development Committee
New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA)**

In his article entitled "A View Fit for a Queen" (appearing in this issue of the *New Edinburgh News*), **Mark Larose, President of Capital View Developments**, describes his company's project "in the heart of historic New Edinburgh" that involves the renovation of an existing home at 61 Queen Victoria Street, and the construction of a 3-storey 2,509 square-foot residence on a newly created lot with access from River Lane. Mr. Larose points out that this is the first approval of its kind by the City of Ottawa in over 20 years.

In the view of NECA's Heritage and Development Committee, this is not an event that is widely supported or celebrated by the New Edinburgh community. In fact, it flies in the face of over 30 years of effort by dedicated residents to maintain some control over how the physical attributes of this historic neighborhood will

be managed and developed.

More than three decades ago in June 1981, a former NECA President, Jim Kingham, wrote in the *New Edinburgh News*: "It is becoming clear that the main issue for our community this year, and perhaps for years to come, is going to be that of dealing with developers who want to fill New Edinburgh's green spaces with lot-line to lot-line buildings". This was a prophetic statement.

In 1982, the construction of a large eight-unit townhouse development, which filled the land from Crichton Street to River Lane, precipitated a request by the community for a land-use study by the City of Ottawa. The study focused on redevelopment, heritage protection and increased traffic on the lanes. In an analysis of 500 questionnaires completed by local residents, 73% indicated that building more homes with primary access from the lanes would damage the character of the lanes.

As a result of the study and the recommendations that emerged from it, the City instituted a new by-law to prohibit further construction on the lanes. This by-law (Zoning Exception 900) effectively prohibits development on a lane unless the property can be accessed from a public street. This by-law has been a significant tool in preventing the severance of the long landscaped lots typical of New Edinburgh, and the construction of new housing that

Continued on page 5

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Continued from page 4

would reduce or eliminate the traditional gardens and green spaces.

An additional tool was the establishment of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District (HCD) in 2001, and its Conservation Plan, which was created by a residents' steering committee and a City of Ottawa heritage planner. The primary aim of the New Edinburgh Conservation Plan is "To preserve and enhance the village character of New Edinburgh. This will be accomplished through the application of guidelines that will direct the management of the HCD to ensure the retention and conservation of the district's heritage resources."

What does this actually mean? From the perspective of the working committee that helped shape the HCD guidelines and the present day Heritage and Development Committee, the meaning and the intent of the words that describe the primary aim of the HCD are not ambiguous. According to the Oxford Dictionary, the word "conserve" has its roots in the Latin word "*con-servare*" meaning to "to keep". "Preserve" means "to keep safe or free from harm, to maintain something in its existing state, to keep undisturbed for protection".

So what are we attempting to "keep undisturbed for protection"? Primarily New Edinburgh's historic village characteristics, which are:

- 1) Modest small-scale houses
- 2) Rural-style laneways *
- 3) Tree-lined streets
- 4) Landscaped backyards
- 5) Green spaces between houses.

*"The verdant green character of the laneways is part of the cultural landscape of New Edinburgh. This character, with its mix of trees and shrubs, should be maintained and enhanced." (From New Edinburgh's *Heritage Conservation District Plan*.)

Back to 61 Queen Victoria Street and Capital View Developments' plan to build a 2,509 square-foot residence on River Lane. To be able to do this, Capital View requested and was granted permission to (1) remove the Heritage Overlay Zoning on 61 Queen Victoria to permit a reduced side yard for an addition, and (2) set aside parts of the zoning by-law, including Zoning Exception 900 (which prohibits new access from a lane) and Zoning Section 59 (which requires frontage on a public street to provide access to a new dwelling on a lane).

This complex maneuver has

magically converted the 'lane' into a 'public street' for the full width of the property, so that it is no longer in violation of City by-laws to build on this section of the lane or have vehicular access from the lane. In our view, this is a clear cut case of bending the letter and spirit of the rules through 'spot zoning'. What Mr. Larose and Capital View have done (with the support of the City Planning Department), is to set a precedent for future development on the lanes, and with it the potential destruction of gardens and green spaces, increased vehicular traffic, and erosion of an important part of New Edinburgh's "cultural landscape".

Capital View maintains that they have made multiple changes to the design of the new infill in response to community feedback. We think this misses the fundamental point. The design features of the proposed development are irrelevant. At issue is whether the company should have been permitted to build on this site at all, and it seems clear to us that—according to the City's own by-laws and heritage guidelines—they should not.

Mr. Larose concludes that the controversy over infill projects is not caused by developers, city officials or community associations. Rather he argues that it is a direct result of potential homebuyers' expectations and demands, which require the developer to provide larger living spaces. From our perspective, this is simply not the case. The controversy is in fact caused by developers determined to shoe-horn oversized suburban-style infill projects into historically smaller-scale urban landscapes, and going to extreme lengths to do so. Insult is added to injury by developers' failure to respect the community's concerns, or the limits set by the existing zoning by-laws and (in the case of New Edinburgh) the Heritage Conservation District Guidelines.

How can we make this a more agreeable situation? The solution is very simple. Honour the spirit and intent of New Edinburgh's HCD, refrain from encouraging the city to "spot-zone", build mega-houses in areas of the city that are not characterized by historically small lots, and be creative—smaller spaces are becoming very attractive to those who wish to downsize and move into the urban core. It's our hope that when Capital View Developments and other Ottawa area developers see the wisdom of following these suggestions, the infill controversy will melt away and we will all get along just fine.

A View Fit for a Queen

By Mark Larose

President, Capital View Developments

My company, Capital View Development Inc., recently obtained approval to sever the L-shaped lot located at 61 Queen Victoria Street in the heart of historic New Edinburgh. This is the first approval of its kind in over 20 years. The controversial project, which we have dubbed 'a view fit for a Queen,' includes the restoration of the existing home located at 61 Queen Victoria Street and the construction of a three-storey, 2509 square-foot detached home on the newly formed lot located at 112 River Lane. This article presents the views of our company on how we believe "the view" benefits the community, and the steps we have taken to ensure that the build enhances the character of the neighbourhood.

The City of Ottawa's growth management strategy, set out in its Official Plan, includes the intensification of development in the urban area over the next 20 years. However, the Official Plan also notes that introducing new development in historic neighbourhoods requires a sensitive approach and sets out strategic directions to ensure the compatibility of new development in established communities. We at Capital View Development Inc. are sensitive to the concerns of the community. After all, we too are residents of Beechwood Village. In our view, the Queen Victoria and River Lane development projects exemplify the efforts of sound urban planning.

The approval process becomes more convoluted due to various factors. City planners have a set agenda based on increased intensification. Ward Councillors are following the directives of their constituents. Certain constituents make their voices heard through local community associations, many of whom have differing agendas. A prevailing theme is to preserve the historic characteristics of mature neighbourhoods. Builders and developers cater to the homebuyer's agenda, which is a moving target. Add on top of that several city approval committees, and you have a bottleneck of conflicting agendas.

The Ontario Association of Architects recently completed a thorough review of the province's site plan control process. They have published their

findings which illustrate that the process is most often arbitrary, open to political interference, and fraught with delays that lead to immense costs to developers, homebuyers, municipalities and the general public at large.

The River Lane architectural design was the result of 18 months of planning involving our company Capital View Development, Doyle Homes, Heritage Ottawa and City of Ottawa Planning officials. Community feedback resulted in multiple design changes such as the removal of a rooftop patio and a reduction in square footage from 3,250 square feet to 2,509 square feet. As President of Capital View Development, I took the position that we wanted to design a home that complements the natural beauty of the New Edinburgh lanes, and I am personally very pleased with how the design came together.

In our view, the controversy over infill projects, such as the one located at Queen Victoria, is not caused by developers, city officials, or community associations. We feel that this controversy is a direct result of evolving homebuyer demands! After all, it is the homebuyer that has created a demand for these larger infill homes.

In a recent centretownnews.ca article, Alain Miguez, Ottawa's program manager for zoning, reported that his staff has seen an increase in infill applications. He says that from 2007 to 2012, his staff issued permits for 1,612 infill units in Ottawa's five central wards. "There's no question that if you've got 1,600 in five years, obviously there's a demand for them," says Miguez.

Developers and builders construct homes based on the wants of the homebuyer. As long as there is a demand for larger living spaces, attached garages and modern amenities, entrepreneurs will continue to find ways to build homes fitting that description. So what can we do to make this a more agreeable situation?

In order to properly plan and build sustainable communities,



we believe that developers need to have an open dialogue with homebuyers, neighbours, city planners, politicians and planning professionals. We all have to work together to accommodate change because inevitably, as Bob Dylan wrote, "the times, they are a changing".

It's our view that developers such as my company Capital View Development Inc. build homes that are desirable to the consumer. Where there is a demand there will be a supply. Our team at Capital View Development Inc. invites and actively considers community opinion when designing homes.

We would like an open dialogue with community friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Please email info@capital-viewdevelopment.com with your feedback and suggestions so we can plan smart and sustainable development in the Beechwood Village.

Here are what we consider the top seven infill development benefits:

1. Making better use of urban land supplies while reducing consumption of forest and agricultural land
2. Increasing access of people to jobs, and jobs to labour force
3. Reducing the time, money, energy, and air pollution associated with commuting
4. Strengthening real estate markets and property values and renewing older neighborhoods and housing stock
5. Making better use of existing infrastructure and lowering costs of public services such as: transit, sidewalks, water, sewer, school, public safety, police, fire and ambulance
6. Adding to socioeconomic diversity
7. Restoring park land through cash in lieu of development costs.

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From the Desk of...



Mauril Bélanger
Member of Parliament for
Ottawa-Vanier



The Heavy Truck Problem in Downtown Core

Le problème des camions lourds au centre-ville

I have always supported relieving traffic congestion in downtown Ottawa and removing heavy trucks from the area. Since some of them carry hazardous materials, these trucks pose an ongoing public safety threat to the densely populated core. Their size alone adds another set of problems to already congested traffic, not to mention their environmental impact.

There have been a number of proposals over the last couple of decades to relieve traffic congestion and remove heavy trucks. However, since the National Capital Commission

(NCC) does not have any sound plans for our transportation corridors, many have joined me in calling for the option to build a bridge at Kettle Island to be scrapped.

Further to the proposal by consultants Roche-NCE to build a bridge at that location, the Government of Ontario decided in May to withdraw from the project. Without any support left, the NCC had to follow suit. I wish to congratulate the Honourable Glen Murray, Ontario Minister of Transportation, as well as my provincial colleague, the Honourable

Madeleine Meilleur, for taking responsibility for this important and appropriate decision. However, that still leaves the problem of heavy trucks in the middle of downtown.

Given the lack of serious proposals by the NCC to address this ongoing problem, solutions for reducing the impact of trucks could be developed. Residents have already pointed to various solutions, such as building a tunnel under downtown just for heavy trucks, setting up load redistribution centres in the city outskirts so that heavy trucks could be unloaded and their cargo placed in smaller vehicles, or limiting the hours when heavy truck traffic is permitted.

Obviously, Ottawa City Council and the Government of Ontario will need to work together to resolve this longstanding issue. Let's hope the NCC will get on board, or at least not get in the way of the other levels of government actually trying to fix the problem.

* * * * *

J'ai toujours appuyé l'idée de désengorger le trafic au centre-ville d'Ottawa et d'en sortir les camions lourds. Du fait que certains de ces camions transportent des matières dangereuses, ceux-ci représentent un danger continu

pour la sécurité publique de la zone densément peuplée du centre-ville. La taille de ces véhicules engendre aussi son lot de problèmes au niveau de la circulation généralement très dense à cet endroit, sans parler de l'impact sur l'environnement.

Au cours des dernières décennies, certaines alternatives ont été proposées pour alléger le trafic et sortir les camions lourds. Toutefois, compte tenu de l'absence d'une planification saine de nos corridors de transports par la Commission de la capitale nationale (CCN), nombreux sont ceux qui, comme moi, ont souhaité l'abandon de l'option visant à construire un pont à la hauteur de l'Île Kettle.


Suite à la proposition du consultant Roche-NCE de construire un pont à cet endroit, en mai dernier, le gouvernement de l'Ontario a pris la décision de se retirer du projet. Celui-ci dû conséquemment être abandonné par la CCN faute d'appui. J'aimerais féliciter l'honorable Glen Murray, ministre des Transports de l'Ontario, ainsi que mon homologue provinciale, l'honorable Madeleine Meilleur, d'avoir pris la responsabilité de cette importante et juste décision. Cependant, le problème des camions lourds circulant en plein cœur du centre-ville n'est

toujours pas réglé.

En l'absence de propositions sérieuses de la part de la CCN pour adresser ce problème persistant, des solutions d'amoindrissement de l'impact des camions pourraient être développées. Certains citoyens se sont d'ailleurs déjà prononcés sur diverses possibilités à ce niveau, dont la construction d'un tunnel réservé au passage des camions lourds sous le centre-ville. De plus, des centres de redistribution des chargements pourraient être mis sur pied en périphérie d'Ottawa, afin de transférer la cargaison des camions lourds dans de plus petits véhicules. Enfin, une autre option pourrait être de reteindre les heures de circulations des camions lourds.

De toute évidence, le conseil municipal de la Ville d'Ottawa et le gouvernement de l'Ontario auront à collaborer pour résoudre ce fâcheux problème. Espérons que la CCN acceptera de collaborer également, ou à tout le moins de ne pas mettre de bâtons dans les roues des autres autorités gouvernementales qui, elles, tenteront certainement de résoudre le problème.

Hon. / L'hon. Mauril Bélanger, M.P. / député Ottawa-Vanier



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Associate Artistic Director:
Allison Prowse

Guest Artists:
Students of Nunavut Sivuniksavut




Accompanists:
Nick Rodgerson and Sally Robinson

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From the Desk of Mayor Jim Watson



A Time for Giving

By Mayor Jim Watson

The days have gotten shorter and the weather colder and that means the holiday season is right around the corner.

We are fortunate to call Ottawa home and there is much to be thankful for this year, like every year. But while many will celebrate the holidays with lavish meals and presents, others are at risk of going without a warm meal, let alone a gift.

Ottawa's residents always give generously to those in need and I encourage you to keep doing so during the holiday season.

If you would like to offer donations of food, gifts, or your time, here are just a few of the many organizations that could use your help:

Toy Mountain - The Salvation Army Toy Depot

250 Champagne Drive N, Unit 118, 1st level warehouse
www.toymountain.ca

Free toys for children 12 and under are distributed to eligible families from the end of November until Christmas. They will be given a time and date to return to pick up the

toys.

Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre

786 Bronson Avenue
613-257-2813 ext. 1201

Monetary donations are requested for the purchase of bus tickets, personal items/clothes and present exchange for their clients. Gift cards for Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart or Bayshore Mall are also welcome.

Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa

2825 Dumaaurier Ave
613-828-0428

Donations requested for the annual holiday children's party: decorations, Christmas cookies, food and beverages, as well as new children's gifts (6-13 years old).

Christmas Exchange-Program of the Caring and Sharing Exchange

www.CaringandSharing.ca
Monetary donations are needed to help provide gift vouchers and food hampers to families in need during the holiday season.

Volunteers are needed to help at fundraising events, for data

entry, to phone the parents for toy pick-up appointments and to deliver hampers and vouchers ready for mailing.

Daybreak Non-Profit Shelter

393 Piccadilly Ave
613-236-8070

Donations are needed of men's and women's mitts, hats, gloves, socks, scarves, toiletries (soap and hairbrushes), make-up, pyjamas, slippers, pens, notepads and calendars, gift cards, movie passes and chocolates (sealed packages only please). Please call to make arrangements for drop-off.

Operation Come Home

179 Murray St
613-230-4663

Donations required for youth, such as: toys, socks, underwear, personal hygiene products, sweaters, clean towels, cough drops (Halls) and cereal. Please call ahead.

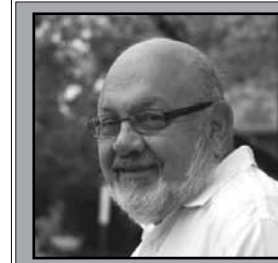
The Snowsuit Fund

225 Donald St, Suite 134
613-746-8719

Donations needed of winter coats, mitts, scarves, hats, and boots for children and adults. Donations can be dropped off at the office or at a Canadian Tire Store or Browns Cleaners. Cash donations can be brought in person or be made over the phone with a credit card.

OC Transpo Annual Christmas Food Bank Drive in support of the Ottawa Food Bank

For more information and participating Food Drive locations see: ottawafoodbank.ca/2013/12/oc-transpo-annual-christmas-food-drive/



Ottawa City Councillor Peter Clark Reports

By-law activity in the Ward in 2012

By-law & Regulatory Services experienced an overall increase of 4% in total call volume in 2012 compared to 2011 for the entire City. In our ward, there has been an 8% increase in overall call volume in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to the same time last year. Animal and noise call volumes remained relatively constant. In our ward the main complaints received over the year were related to animals (primarily dogs off leash); noise; parking and property standards. Those issues remain as the most calls so far for 2013.

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

On November 1, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will begin delivering nearly one million Property Assessment Notices to property taxpayers across the province. The last province-wide assessment took place in 2012 when every property owner received an assessment notice. Some of the reasons for receiving a notice this fall include a change in property ownership; a property value increase or decrease; a change in the classification or tax liability of a property. Property owners are encouraged to visit aboutmyproperty.ca to confirm their property details and compare their property with others in their neighbourhood. Enquiries about the notices and assessment matters in general may be directed to the Customer Contact Centre at 1-866-296-MPAC (6722) or visit www.mpac.ca. The deadline for filing a Request for Reconsideration with MPAC or Appeal with the Assessment Review Board is March 31, 2014.

Ward 13 work for 2014 Resurfacing

- St. Patrick will be resurfaced in 2014, eastbound Murray to Crichton, westbound Crichton to West of Beausoleil.
- Carson's Road from Montreal Road to Den Haag
- Plumber Avenue from Charlton to Bathgate

Signalization

- Street lighting replacement will be taking place at North River Road and St. Laurent Blvd., at Bourassa.
- Upgrading of traffic control signal at May and McArthur
- There will be a pedestrian countdown signal at Montreal Road and Brittany

Donald Street Bridge

The construction of the pedestrian and cycling bridge over the Rideau River will connect multi-use pathways on the east side along Donald Street from North River Road and on the west side from Somerset Street East at Range and Strathcona Park. This will re-establish a walking connection across the Rideau River between the communities of Overbrook, Vanier and Sandy Hill. It will also be a key part of the citywide cycling link.

Minto Bridges

Additional funding for a design cost estimate for construction of phase 2 of the bridge work is in the 2014 budget.

Cycling Lane

The Hemlock east/west bike-way is scheduled to be finished.

Water and Sewer Rehabilitation

Water and sewer work to be done on King George and Quill and in Rockcliffe.



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Intensification...

Continued from page 1

consistently, and clarifying required setbacks at the front of the house.

Clearly, City Council has made remarkable progress in tackling the infill problem. Sadly, the development industry, which has effectively enjoyed free rein until now, objected to Council's actions and has appealed the new by-law to the Ontario Municipal Board. Negotiations continue, but Council does seem determined to introduce these regulatory measures because it wants to ensure the intensification policy can be implemented successfully and with the support of residents.

This discussion is not academic. New Edinburgh, one of the most "mature" communities in Ottawa, has seen a few infill projects that have worked out well, but has also suffered from plenty of poor infill. Currently there is an infill controversy about new construction on the historic lanes of NE that highlights all

that is wrong with the present situation—weak regulations providing insufficient control and, conspicuously in this case, woeful abdication of enforcement of existing rules by City staff and Council. (See articles elsewhere in this issue of NEN.)

Our Heritage Conservation District (HCD) dates back to 1834. But the HCD has been badly neglected by the City and earlier this year it was declared "broken" by Councillor Jan Harder, Chair of the Council's Sub-Committee on Built Heritage. Councillor Clark has been pressing for our HCD to be upgraded, and Councillor Harder has just reported the good news that things are beginning to change. Our HCD Plan of 2001 is to be upgraded to the 2005 Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act which gave municipalities the ability to pass HCD Plans as by-laws, making them more enforceable than the existing guidelines. The study is to have a completion goal of Q4 2014.

These amended by-laws and upgrades are necessary because of "cause and effect". The cause is the development industry, inexorably building to the maximum, disregarding guidelines, and even using rezoning of single lots to get its own way. The effect has been to alert residents, City planners, and Council to the need for tighter regulations that will preserve the character of our mature communities, that will ensure every patch of green and every back yard is

not filled in, that will allow us to enjoy sunlight and privacy. At last, steps are being taken to ensure respect for the special character of the neighbourhood in which we have chosen to live.

These proposed measures are consistent with the views expressed by local residents, most recently in the summer of 2012, when the New Edinburgh HCD participated in a study by Waterloo University/Ontario Heritage Trust into whether the HCD designation was effective in Ontario. In essence, residents of the NE HCD are overwhelmingly pleased with living in the HCD, do not find the regulations and guidelines to be onerous, believe the HCD designation provides some protection from inappropriate infill, and many residents would be happy to see more protection plus stronger enforcement by the City. Hopefully, the new measures—if allowed to proceed—will provide the improvements that residents seek. (The full report can be found by following the links on the Waterloo website at uwaterloo.ca/heritage-resources-centre).

What is at stake, and is known so well to residents, is the "sense of place", the look and feel of the neighbourhood. In years gone by, this ambience might have been difficult to define and protect through by-laws, but now it is increasingly recognized by the planning and heritage community. The new Infill By-law confirms this. We do not think it is too much to ask



Photo: Louise Imbeault

The Locavore Food Fair takes place in Memorial Hall on Saturday, December 7.

Locavore Aritisan Food Fair (LAFF)

The holiday season is just around the corner and it is time to get ready! Over 20 of Ottawa's finest food artisans selling their products in one location, offering tea, coffee, baked goods, breads, oil, condiments, cheese, chocolates, and much more. Proudly, about half of the vendors are NEW this year. Hot gourmet street foods will be served by Flatbread Pizza Co. (residence of New Edinburgh) and Stone

Soup Foodworks. A warm and cozy eating area is also provided. Please visit with an appetite! For more details and updates, follow us at facebook.com/OttawaLAFF and twitter.com/OttawaLAFF, or visit our website, www.ottawalaff.ca.

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2013

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road (beside MacKay United Church)

of the development industry to respect the character of the neighbourhoods in which they generate their profit. They have not done this voluntarily in the past, so now they must be regulated. And let's not forget, there is plenty of opportunity for intensification in priority areas outside the mature neighbourhoods. The transient development industry should not dictate to us how our

community should look and change. We must maintain the course and support the stronger regulations and their consistent enforcement. Hopefully, the status quo is about to change for the better.

Editor's Note: Joan Mason is a member of NECA's Heritage & Development Committee as well as the newly-formed New Edinburgh Historical Society.

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The New Edinburgh Tree Project

By Jane Thompson

Several years ago, a project was initiated by community member **Chris Straka** of Vert Design and the NECA Environment Committee to map locations for possible tree planting in the neighbourhood and to encourage residents to consider planting a tree in their front yard. Last month there was an opportunity to apply for a City of Ottawa Environmental grant to help continue on with this effort. Early in the New Year, we expect to find out whether our application for \$3,000 to cover the cost of tree purchases was successful.

Here is an excerpt from our grant application that explains our project objectives and the environmental benefits that come from planting trees:

“While much of New Edinburgh is graced with mature street and park trees, there are significant areas without trees, and gaps in the existing planting caused by disease or other factors. We would like to achieve a consistency of tree planting in the neighbourhood where all streets and park areas are planted with appropriate

species to provide shade and beauty over many years.

The documented environmental benefits of trees include removing air pollutants, acting as a carbon sink, reducing storm water runoff and flooding, reducing air conditioning demand for homes and cars, and creating complete streets that encourage environmentally friendly forms of transportation like walking and cycling. An American study quantified the environmental value of a single large front yard tree in reducing air conditioning costs by an average of 10%, reducing surface asphalt temperatures by 36°F and vehicle interior temperatures by up to 47°F, absorbing 10lbs of air pollutants, intercepting 760 gal of rainfall, and cleaning 330lbs of CO² from the atmosphere. These benefits will accrue to our neighbourhood and to the city as a whole in its objectives to reduce storm water runoff and flooding, reduce city temperatures, improve air quality, increase recreational opportunities, and to create complete, liveable streets and communities.”

Even if the grant applica-

tion is not successful, there are a number of available City of Ottawa programs designed to support neighbourhood tree planting that we can take advantage of as a community or as individuals. The **Trees in Trust Program** provides the opportunity for a property owner to request that a tree be planted at city expense on the street right-of-way in front of their house in exchange for agreeing to water the tree for its first three years of life. The **Commemorative Tree Program**, which has already resulted in tree plantings in Stanley Park, allows individuals to plant a tree in parkland to commemorate a loved one at a cost of \$400 per tree, plus the cost of an engraved plaque if desired. The **Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program** assists public and private schools with planting trees on their property. A **Parks and Streetscape Tree Planting Program** allows community residents to contribute their suggestions on tree planting on streets and in parks. Ecology Ottawa also has a Tree Ottawa initiative that provides information and support to com-

munities.

In preparation for the grant application, project organizers arranged a meeting with **Kendra Labrosse** of the **City of Ottawa Forestry Services Branch** to discuss constraints, opportunities and suitable species in the New Edinburgh context. As a result of this meeting, several spots were identified for ash tree replacement and noted as good opportunities for greening, including the bare bulb-out at Crichton and Beechwood. As Kendra explained to us, it is important that tree species and locations are selected that ensure healthy trees with long life spans and meet recommended separation distances to streets, sidewalks, utilities and homes.



We were interested to learn that the City has developed a recommended tree species list in response to new pest threats and changing temperatures in an attempt to adapt to anticipated future conditions. Our group was encouraged by Kendra's engagement with the project, and her assurance that her department is there to assist us with getting this right.

A more detailed article on how you can become involved will appear in the next issue of the NEN once we know the outcome of the grant application, and have moved further along with organizing tree initiatives. We hope that in the interim, you will take a close look around your street and neighbourhood for locations that would welcome a tree or two, and send along any ideas you come up with to **Jane Thompson: jtarch@rogers.com**, 404 MacKay Street, or 613 747-8104.

Christ Church Cathedral Boys' Choir: Calling All Choirboys!

By Jane Heintzman

Over the years, many fine young singers from our community have joined the ranks of the Christ Church Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, and enjoyed the enduring benefits of an unequalled musical education; the achievement of a high level of competence and discipline in performance; unforgettable travel experiences, and a wealth of happy memories of the fun of working and playing hard as part of a close-knit group. New Edinburgh and environs are not currently represented in the Boys' Choir- and we're hoping to change that. However, a decade ago, there was a strong and talented contingent, which included such local singers as **Jeremy Runnalls, Nicholas Parker, Geoff and Dave Heintzman, Liam and Thomas Buckley, and John and Mark Holt.**

The Choir has a long history dating back to 1896, and is currently one of the few remaining choirs of men and boys in North America. It includes more than 20 twenty boys between the ages of seven and fifteen, very

few of whom joined the Choir with any previous knowledge of choral music. The majority of the boys learn—and learn quickly—“on the job” at regular practices, church services and performances. In addition to singing at Cathedral services, the Choir offers concerts of both sacred and secular works, and in recent years, has performed at the National Arts Centre, in the Senate of Canada at the Queen's Jubilee Ceremony, at the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, and on CBC Radio and Television.

Travel to other parts of Canada and abroad is an important part of the Choir's development and outreach, and over the years, its itinerary has ranged from the Canadian Arctic, Newfoundland, the Maritimes, and British Columbia, to some of the great Cathedrals and churches in the United Kingdom and France. Last summer, the Choir toured Scotland and England where it sang at St. Mary's and St. Gile's Cathedrals in Edinburgh, and in St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street and St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

Choir Director **Matthew Larkin** is widely respected as one of the leading musicians in Ottawa, combining extraordinary talents as a brilliant organist, a gifted composer and a superb choral conductor, talents that have attracted some of the area's finest young musicians to his choirs. In addition to his ongoing work in building a superb boys' choir at Christ Church Cathedral, he has assembled an outstanding group of adult singers in the Cathedral Men's Choir which performs with the boys at a world class level. The dedication and commitment of his singers of all ages is a testament to Matthew's remarkable musicianship, magnetism and leadership qualities.

If you have young musical talent in your household, this is a chance not to be missed: it offers exciting musical and performance challenges; fun and companionship; opportunities for travel and adventure; and benefits in learning and personal growth that will last a lifetime. Interested readers can reach Matthew Larkin at **613-236-9149 Extension 12**, or at matthewlarkin@live.com.



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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

- By Jane Heintzman -

Da Bombe Desserts: Annual Christmas Dinner on the Horizon

Once again this year, **Bill Ross** and his team at **Da Bombe Desserts** will prepare and host a full, home-style Christmas dinner for those who are down on their luck, or lonely and without friends and family during this season of plenty and celebration. Bill's generous gesture of warmth and hospitality has become an annual event in our neighbourhood, taking place at Da Bombe on Christmas Eve from 4 to 8 pm, and bringing the Christmas spirit to those who don't share the extraordinary good fortune of most of us in this community. His open invitation is extended largely through word of mouth, as well as through churches, missions and food banks, but if you happen to know someone who is in need of a fine meal and an evening of warm hospitality, by all means let them know that they will be welcome chez Da Bombe on Christmas Eve. While Bill is not actively seeking donations to help cover the costs of the Christmas dinner, contributions would be gratefully accepted if you would like to join in the spirit of the season.

For most us, weekends are a welcome relief from the week-day grind, and many families take the time to gather for a leisurely Sunday brunch once the Saturday chores are out

of the way and the laundry is under control. At Da Bombe, the **Sunday Brunch** menu, available from 10 am to 2 pm each week, is a veritable cornucopia of tempting choices, with one of Bill's signature sinful desserts included as part of the package in each case.

Interested readers can find the full mouth-watering roster on Bill's website at www.dabombe.ca but suffice it to say that these run the sweet to savoury gamut from the Sunday Scrambler, with home fries, baked beans, English muffins, bacon, sausage or ham; to quiches with salad; fresh fruit crepes with yogurt and granola topped with whipped cream and chocolate drizzle; banana pecan French toast; sweet waffles with homemade berry compote; savoury waffles with bacon, sausage and scrambled

eggs; and an epic meal called the Big Boy for the bottomless pit in your family, featuring scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, three slices of banana pecan French toast, home fries, baked beans and (gasp!) dessert.

If Saturday happens to be your day of rest, check out Da Bombe's All Day Saturday menu on www.dabombe.ca for an equally tasty array of options.

In late October, Bill reintroduced Da Bombe's **Family Sunday Dinner**, which takes place each week from 5 to 8 pm on Sunday evening, and features a generous home-cooked meal of soup or salad, prime rib au jus, herb and leek Yorkshire pudding, garlic roast potatoes, fresh vegetables and choice of dessert for less than \$25 per person! If you'd like



Photo: Louise Imbeault
Marcie is one of the friendly faces you will encounter at Da Bombe.

to treat your gang to a traditional Sunday feast, you'll need to make a reservation at Da Bombe **before Saturday at noon (613-741-0044)**, and if you're bringing young children along, be sure to let Bill know so he can adjust the portion sizes accordingly.

To all at Da Bombe, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and extend our thanks for your generosity to those in the community who are most in need of your warmth and kindness.

Ottawa Canine School: Doggy Day Care Now Available

The Ottawa Canine School, owned and operated by accomplished dog trainer **Chantal Mills**, is well known by many of the "dog people" in our community, and indeed for several years, operated right in the heart of our neighbourhood at the Crichton Cultural Community Centre at 200 Crichton Street. The school now has its own spacious 3,000 square foot facility at **425 St. Laurent Blvd.**, where it continues to offer both group and private instruction in everything from Basic through Advanced Obedience to Canine Good Citizenship; Agility; Fly ball; Pet Tricks and Recall Crash Courses.

Interested readers should explore the website for more details on its many programs (ottawak9school.com) and if you happen to be in the market for entertaining social activities for your pooch, you might want to check out the schedule for **Fun Fridays** and **Super Sundays**, where you'll find size-appropriate doggy play dates, workshops and other events.

In recent months, Chantal has added another string to her bow at the school. Starting last summer, she introduced a **Doggy Day Care** pilot program which was originally offered one day per week, but has since expanded into an ongoing five day/week operation, available **Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 5:40 pm.**

Pets in the program spend the day with other dogs in pre-screened groups, playing games with a trainer, chasing after balls and other toys, and even enjoying an afternoon nap to recover from all the action of the morning. The flooring in the Day Care and Training area is made from recycled tires, and provides an especially joint-friendly surface for the older canine crowd. There is no shortage of supervision for your pooch, as a team including Trainer **Collette**, Trainer-in-Training **Caroline**, and certified Pet Sitters **Louise** and

Saskia are on hand to keep order and ensure that all their charges have a happy time.

Needless to say, not every dog is ideally suited to the Day Care environment, so enrolment entails an established pre-screening process, starting with a half-day assessment to determine whether Fido is sufficiently tractable and sociable to fit into the group. If he does make the cut and is accepted into the program, there is a further probation period just to ensure that he presents no unanticipated anti-social tendencies. Advance reservations are required to register with the Day Care (**613-296-3643** or ottawak9school@yahoo.ca) and you can book half days (up to 4 hours) at \$15 plus HST, or Full Days at \$25 plus HST. The school also offers special half- and full-day packages to clients pre-purchasing 10, 15 or 20 sessions, as do the majority of those currently in the program.

Another recent innovation at the Ottawa Canine School is the introduction of a **Reactive Rover** program for poorly socialized dogs that may show aggressive behaviour towards other dogs. There are three levels in the course, and classes are kept small (a maximum of five dogs), with three instructors and a volunteer to work with their behaviourally challenged charges.

Chantal first learned about this form of training at a Conference in Kentucky, and though she began with considerable skepticism about the possibility of success in such a program, after closely observing a series of Reactive Rover workshops, she became convinced that she could make it work in her own school—as indeed she has. Interested readers should give her a call to find out the details of how the program works and whether their pooch is a suitable candidate. Suffice it to say that the process is somewhat complex, gradual and painstaking, but those of us with "reactive" dogs can readily see that achieving some success would be well worth the time and effort!

Like the practitioners in any other profession, Dog Trainers engage in a continuous process of upgrading their skills and learning new insights and techniques to improve their effectiveness. In late October, Chantal took part in a five-day Professional Dog Training Conference in Spokane, Washington, where she led a number of roundtable discussions, participated in several workshops, and even engaged

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Photo by Louise Imbeault

Mother-daughter team at Pink Diamond Affair: Norvinda (left) and Elissa Medeiros.

in a Chicken Training session conducted by a leading expert whose work is based on the theory that working with other species can help to hone the skills of trainers in the canine domain (the mind boggles!)

Beechwood Blooms as Bridal Destination

For the past four years, **Kimberley Wilson's Bridal and Fashion Outlet** at 77 **Beechwood** has drawn countless prospective brides to Beechwood in search of bridal gowns and bride's maids' dresses in preparation for the big day. In recent months, Kimberley's shop has been joined by two new complementary businesses, also in the wedding trade but offering a slightly different range of bridal gear and services, and, we hope, firmly establishing our neighbourhood as one of the region's leading bridal destinations.

Pink Diamond Affair: Destination Weddings, Event Planning, Travel Arrangements

In early September, **Pink Diamond Affair** opened its doors at 90 Beechwood Avenue to offer a comprehensive package of services, including wedding and event planning; destination weddings and wedding wear, and personal or group travel arrangements. The new store is operated by mother-daughter team **Norvinda** and **Elissia Medeiros** who have combined their skills and

interests to create a one-stop-shop serving clients in general, and bridal parties in particular, who are planning special events involving travel to far flung destinations. Closer to home, Pink Diamond Affair also offers its planning and coordination services for corporate functions; children's parties; holiday celebrations; milestone birthdays; anniversaries; retirement parties and in short, any of life's passages calling for special celebration.

Elissia Medeiros is the original driving force behind Pink Diamond Affair, having registered the business name several years ago at the ripe old age of 15! While her business focus changed in the intervening years from entertainment (she is an ardent and talented singer with performances at the Civic Centre and the NAC to her credit) to event and wedding planning, the name has stuck, as has her energetic determination to run her own show in a field she loves. Following a brief foray in the Public Relations realm, Elissia earned a diploma as an international event and wedding planner, acquiring a range of skills which cover the gamut from event concepts to décor, menu design and negotiation with suppliers. She is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, French and English, and relishes the opportunity to learn more about other nationalities, cultures and religions through her work as a planner.

Elissia's mother, **Norvinda**

Medeiros, a certified Travel Consultant, has worked in the field for 15 years, travelling the world and acquiring a wealth of experience in the organization of destination events and weddings, group travel packages, personal travel arrangements and cruises. Over the years, she has developed a broad network of contacts at resorts and popular holiday locations with whom she is able to work in the coordination of destination events for clients of Pink Diamond Affair.

As you'll see when you drop into the store, Pink Diamond Affair complements its wedding/event planning, coordination and travel services with a range of clothing for both men and women, specializing in reasonably priced evening and bridal gowns (all under \$300), as well as destination wear for warmer climates, including beach dresses, shorts, tops, bathing suits and natty light-coloured linen suits for the groom who is planning to tie the knot on a sandy beach.

Pink Diamond Affair offers its clients a trio of packages: the **White Diamond**, the **Black Diamond** and the **Pink Diamond**, each of which is geared to the amount of help you are seeking in the arrangement of your special event. You'll find all the details on the website at pinkdiamondaffair.com, but essentially these packages range from basic assistance with concepts and lists of locations, suppliers and prices, to all-inclusive hands-on coordination from the invitation stage to the end

of the wedding day. Interested readers can reach Elissia and Norvinda at **613-875-4444** or inquiry@pinkdiamondaffair.com. We welcome them to Beechwood, and wish them great success in their new

ability of custom made bridal gowns in the Ottawa area, and eager to find what she regarded as a more socially responsible, eco-friendly alternative to the glitz and glitter associated with the average wedding, from



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Pre-Opening of the Handmade Bride with owner Meghan Brunetti.

Beechwood business.

The HandMade Bride: An "Indie Wedding Shop" with an Eco-Friendly Focus.

A second new arrival on the blooming Beechwood bridal scene is **The HandMade Bride** which opened its doors at 292 **MacKay Street** (former home of **Ernest Johnson Antiques** and later, **The General Photography Studio**) shortly before we went to press. Owner/operator **Meaghan Brunetti** was initially inspired to create her new business by the challenges she faced planning her own wedding several years ago. At that time, Meaghan was distressed by the scanty avail-

the clothing and accessories, to stationery, décor and bridal party gifts.

A full year before she set up shop on MacKay Street, Meaghan had hatched the business plan for **The HandMade Bride**, and established a strong social media presence. When her father, who is a local contractor familiar with our neighbourhood, pointed out the MacKay Street location, she moved swiftly to check it out, and was enchanted by its attractive interior with its handsome pressed tin walls, as well as by its proximity to the shopping area on Beechwood. By late November, she had

Continued on page 12

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Continued from page 11

completed the interior renovations, lined up her suppliers and her fulsome array of wedding wear, and opened her doors to prospective brides and their entourages.

Visitors to the shop will find an impressive selection of distinctive bridal dresses created by eight different designers from Canada, the U.S. and the U.K., and ranging in price from about \$600 to \$4,000. The bridal gowns, along with the store's custom petticoats and bride's maids' dresses, have what Meaghan describes as a "vintage, retro, whimsical" flair. The prospective bride is able to customize her pick to meet her precise specifications in size, fabric, decorative overlay and design—in short, she'll get exactly what she wants for that once-in-a-lifetime occasion. Indeed, Meaghan's whole business plan for The HandMade Bride is based on her conviction that the generation of "millennials" who now dominate the wedding scene (those born between 1979 and 2000) "want custom *everything*" and her aim is to provide exactly that at the MacKay Street store, from bridal dresses to boleros to bunting.

Accompanying the gowns is an eclectic range of wedding accessories from bow ties to eco-boutonnieres, suspenders, fascinators and jewellery, along with stationery and invitations from the vintage press machines of Kingston's Ever Lovin' Press, and decorative items for the wedding venue crafted by local artisans. You can check out the new store at www.handmadebride.ca, although at the time of our interview, Meaghan stressed that the website is still a work

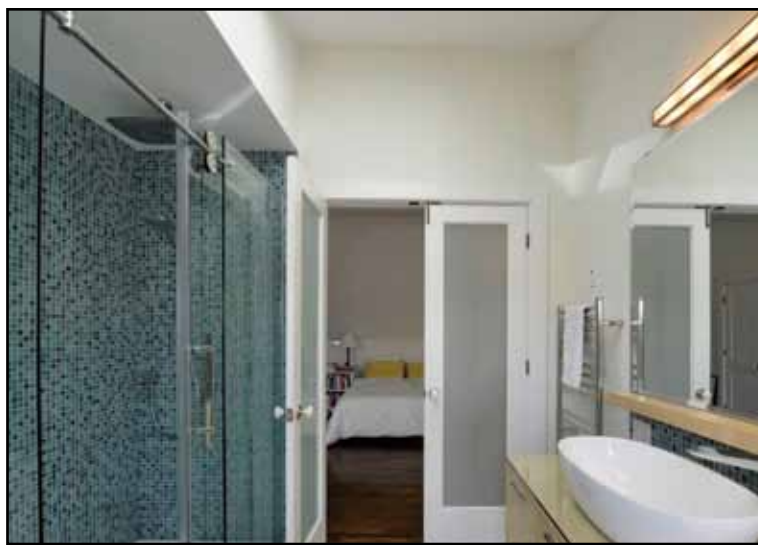
in progress, recommending that readers go to her Facebook site for more details. Better still, drop in to the store at 292 MacKay (corner of Dufferin Road) and have a first-hand look at the attractive display of wedding merchandise and the handsomely spruced-up interior. Best of Luck Meaghan, and welcome to the neighbourhood!

NEN Advertisers Win Big at Annual Housing Design Awards:

Kudos to Award Winners Sandy Hill Construction, OakWood Renovation Experts and Minto Communities.

Three of our regular NEN advertisers captured major awards at this year's Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association (GOHBA) annual Housing Design Awards ceremony in early October. **Minto Communities** once again took the prize for **Green Development of the year** for a project in Barrhaven's Chapman Mills, and also received awards for the design of its model Walnut and Poplar homes in Manotick. Our community is looking forward to seeing Minto's expertise as a green builder applied in the Minto Beechwood project, for which the company is currently targeting LEED certification.

Longtime NEN advertiser **John Wenuk**, owner/operator of **Sandy Hill Construction**, received top marks in the **Renovator of the Year** category, reportedly beating out two leading veterans in the industry with his submissions for a series of four renovation projects, two of them here in New Edinburgh, at **39 Charles Street** and **149 Ivy Crescent**. John built his sterling reputa-



View of award-winning renovated bathroom on Charles Street.

tion quite literally from the ground up, beginning his career with the restoration of the foundations of hundreds of older homes dating back to the mid-19th century, and gradually moving on to full scale three-storey home renovations, kitchen and bathroom make-overs, and major design-build projects.

John's award-winning renovation at 39 Charles Street, home of **Dr. Nicolas Chagnon** and his family, and among the Burgh's more venerable houses, dating back to the year of Confederation, entailed a major interior overhaul to link the family room and kitchen, brighten up the kitchen, install new windows and renovate four bathrooms. But despite the extensive interior modernization involved in the project, Dr. Chagnon is reportedly delighted that John successfully maintained the exterior character and charm of the original house. As he stressed in a recent *Ottawa Citizen* article by **Sheila Brady**, John operates on the conviction that "each traditional home has a really beautiful presence, and (Sandy Hill Construction) makes great efforts to keep

the original character of homes in their traditional neighbourhoods."

Another faithful NEN advertiser **OakWood Renovation Experts**, took this year's prize in the \$60,000-\$99,000 Renovations/Additions category for its outstanding work in the creation of a splendid Rockcliffe Park kitchen, built in a handsome, traditional style but equipped with thoroughly modern conveniences. OakWood was founded by the **Liptak** family, which for four generations has been a force in the Ottawa construction industry over more than half a century, with well over 5,000 successful renovation projects to its credit.

Current **President John Liptak's** father learned the furniture-building trade from his own father before leaving Germany and immigrating to Canada, where he subsequently embarked on small building projects for clients. John's father insisted on the importance of a proper education to equip him with the range of skills required to carry on the family building enterprise, and his present array of credentials includes certification as a licensed carpenter with a background in both computer software and business administration. John's daughter **Patricia Liptak-Satov** is now the Chief Operating Officer of the company, and the family tradition remains strong.

According to John, OakWood has been a trend setter in the Ottawa market, leading the way with its policy of increasing the standard project warranty up to five years, and promising clients that projected project budgets will fall within a 2% margin. The company takes pride in the use of leading edge architectural and design technology in its design-build projects, including 3-D architectural visualization and cloud-based software and iPads that permit its employees to access files wherever they are, and to

send live reports to clients and trade partners.

We congratulate all three builders on their award winning achievements, and thank them for helping to build community as well as housing through their ongoing support of the NEN.


Nature's Buzz: Talking Turkey

It's that time again. With the arrival of the holiday season, the moment has come to place our orders for one of **Nature's Buzz'** organic turkeys from *Les Viandes Bio de Charlevoix* for the family feast at Christmas or New Year's. In fact, if you're expecting a particularly large gathering this year, you may want to play it safe and order two birds, as Manager **Eric Passmore** notes that these fine fowl rarely exceed about 17 pounds, and in general are in the 12 to 14 pound range. To place your order, you can drop in at the store at **55 Beechwood** or give them a call at **613-842-0280**.

Readers who are new to the Burgh may be interested to know that Nature's Buzz, our local supplier of fresh organic, local foods, is heading into its twelfth year on Beechwood, where it is flourishing in its new post-Beechwood Fire location just east of Springfield Road. The store was originally launched by the **Patry** family in 2002, and was subsequently purchased in 2007 by current owner **Dale Heins** whose family now operate the business and are familiar faces in the community. Dale's stepson **Eric Passmore** (a talented musician as well as small business operator) is Store Manager, working closely with his sister **Chelsea Passmore** and his mother **Nancy Philips** to keep the fresh food supplies flowing and serve a large established clientele.

In addition to its regular offering of organic meats, fish, fresh produce and cheese, supplies at Nature's Buzz include natural cleaning products, nutritional supplements (including Vega and other protein powders) and body care products such as **Dr. Hauschka's** all natural skin care line. In recent months, the store has added **Dr. Hauschka's chemical-free make up** to its roster, and has hosted demonstrations of these products featuring a representative from the company.

If you're in the market for small holiday gifts or hostess presents, Nature's Buzz has a new line of Japanese **Shoyeido all natural incense**, as well as attractive beeswax candles from—get this—Tweedle Bee of Tweed, Ontario!



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Café 327: Strictly Local, Sustainably Produced, Home-Made Fare

As we reported in the October issue, in the course of the past summer, our community's venerable French restaurant Le Saint Ô morphed into a new and more eclectic dining establishment, **Café 327**, which is now up and running at **327 St. Laurent** under the direction of Executive Chef **Colin Lockett**. Colin has teamed up with **Annie Durand-Brunet** and **Germain Brunet**, the previous owners of Le Saint Ô, to share ownership of the new restaurant and take charge of its cuisine and overall ambience.

Unlike its predecessor restaurant, which focused exclusively on fine French cuisine, Café 327 plans to put the emphasis, not on a single *style* of food, but rather on the *sources* of the ingredients in its eclectic fare. Colin's aim is to ensure that to



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Café 327 General Manager and Chief Server Jenny Linton.

the extent possible, the restaurant's food will be sustainably produced, fresh, and purchased from local farmers and producers. Many of the suppliers on Colin's list will be familiar to readers, and have acquired a strong reputation for excellence on the Ottawa culinary circuit.

The beef at Café 327 is supplied by **Dan O'Brien Beef**, a local family farm in Winchester that raises its grain fed cattle without antibiotics, growth hormones or steroids, while the duck dishes on the menu will feature fowl from the **Mariposa Duck and Goose Farm**, a legendary local producer now in the business for over 30 years, and specializing in sustainable, chemical free

agricultural practices. Local suppliers of fresh produce for Café 327 include **Rochon Farms**, a longstanding family run business with an extensive greenhouse operation, and **Acorn Creek Garden Farm** of Carp, another large-scale greenhouse operation. The tender shoots and micro-greens in Café 327 salads are produced by **Butterfly Sky Farms**, a small, family-run business whose greenhouse-grown products are pesticide and herbicide free.

If you fancy a hearty feast of game in the cold winter months ahead, Café 327's bison and venison are supplied by Quebec City's **Maison de Gibier**, while pork dishes are created with preservative-

and nitrite-free meats from **Lavergne Beef Products** just east of Ottawa. Café 327 also actively supports local breweries, featuring **Beau's** and **St. Ambroise Beers** on its beverage roster.

Colin emphasizes that almost everything you'll find on the Café 327 menu is made in-house, from the tangy tomato preserve flavouring your entrée to the brioche, sourdough bread, salad dressing and ice-cream. In late October, he introduced a new menu for the late fall months, and starting soon, he plans to introduce a regular Monday or Tuesday **wine pairing evening** with a five- or six-course tasting menu. Diners will be treated not only to a selection of interesting wines and tasty fare, but also to a detailed commentary on the dishes selected, how they are prepared, and the ways in which they are complemented by the wine choices. Both Colin and a sommelier will be on hand as the resident experts, and tickets will be sold online on a first come, first serve basis. Interested readers should keep an eye on the website for details, www.cafe327.com.

Celadon Salon and Spa: Relax, Refresh and Look Your Best for the Holidays

Since opening its doors to

the community in 2007, **CELADON Salon and Spa** has become a neighbourhood institution at **373 St. Laurent Blvd.**, offering a wide range of services not only for men and women, but also for the children in your family. Spa services include therapeutic massages, facials, restorative body treatments, and long-lasting manicures and pedicures, with scrupulous attention paid to infection control by its estheticians.

And if your hair needs attention in this busy season, **Isabel** and **Brittany** offer precision cuts and creative colouring. Celadon's stylists specialize in the use of **Kevin Murphy** products which they find effective whatever the texture of your hair. The newest addition to this line of paraban- and sulphate-free products is called *Young Again*- anti-aging treatments for your hair and scalp.

If the pressures of work, winter and the approaching holiday season have taken their toll on your skin and ramped up your tension levels, Celadon offers customized smoothing skin treatments from **Institute Esthederm**, which you may want to follow up with a relaxing massage. There is still a month left to take advan-

Continued on page 14

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Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season, and a healthy new year ahead. Thank you for your patronage.

Live Entertainment Saturdays at 9 pm

Continued from Page 13

tage of your massage therapy health benefits before the end of the year. CELADON's RMT, **James**, is well known among clients as a consummate massage therapist, and you can inquire about a free infrared sauna to enhance the effectiveness of your massage treatment.

To complete your transformation, Celadon offers **Jane Iredale-The Skin Care Makeup**, along with two new products: **Esthederm's Lift and Repair**, otherwise known as "Botox in a bottle", and **NUFACE**, a bestselling, hand-held facial toning device that is known as the five minute face-lift, and which you can try right in your own home.

CELADON owner **Morna Paterson** reports that her clients love **SHELLAC** the long-wearing nail polish used at the spa, as well as **MISENCIL's** eyelash extensions. Now here's an idea for that special holiday event where you want to look your stunning best: new at Celadon this fall are mink lashes to give you even longer, natural looking lashes without the need for mascara!

Other news of note from the spa is that CELADON is now a proud sponsor of the **Ginette Gratton Show** on Rogers TV. Host Ginette relies on Celadon's **Isabel** to keep her hair done to perfection and television-ready. With Christmas just around the corner, why not save yourself an exhausting trek through the mall by purchasing Celadon gift certificates for those on your list who'd love a chance to relax, be pampered and look their best for the start of A New Year—and that's just about everyone!

To make an appointment, purchase a gift certificate or beauty product, or find out more about Celadon's servic-



Photo: Courtesy of Celadon Spa

Celadon staff sporting their Run for the Cure tee-shirts: (left to right) **Bethany Labyad, Brittany Tosh, Edelaine Piol, Morna Paterson and Patty Jung.**

es, readers can call **746-3500**, drop in **373 St. Laurent Blvd (at Hemlock)**, or check out the website at **www.celadonspa.ca**.

NEW in the 'Hood: **Ola Cocina, 62 Barrette Street**

In the last edition of the NEN, we reported with regret on the closing of MITLA, a small Oaxacan food establishment at **62 Barrette Street**, which owner/operator **Ana Collins** miraculously managed to establish as a destination eatery on the Ottawa culinary scene in the short space of less than a year. Readers will be pleased to learn that since Ana's departure this fall, life has swiftly returned to the little store at the corner of Barrette and Loyer Streets, and in early November, **Ola Cocina** was preparing to open its doors to offer the community both Mexican and other kinds of popular fare for take-out or eat in, as well as catering services.

Ola Cocina's owner/operator **Donna Chevrier** is a veteran of the restaurant business where she has worked for several decades, and in the process, launched no fewer than nine small restaurants. Donna lives in Overbrook, but discovered the location while

enjoying a Oaxacan meal at MITLA, later keeping track of the restaurant's progress via social media. When Ana first revealed her desire to sell the building on Twitter, Donna moved in swiftly with an offer and a deal was struck. Donna wasted no time in moving in to carry out some fairly extensive interior renovations, and by mid-November was on the point of opening her doors to



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Donna Chevrier is the driving force behind the newest venture on Barrette - Ola Cocina.

local clients, many of whom will no doubt have been regulars at MITLA.

Donna describes her fare as "Mexican with a twist", reflecting for example, the addition of prepared dishes such as ravioli to her menu of meals-to-go. Having recently honed her skills in the preparation of fish and seafood during a stint at the Pelican Grill, Donna plans to apply

commercial area.

Donna Edwards House Portrait Commissions: A Great Gift, A Wonderful Keepsake!

For the past four years, local artist **Donna Edwards** has been taking commissions for house portraits, and for much of that time, she has advertised regularly in the NEN, though she is a long-time resident

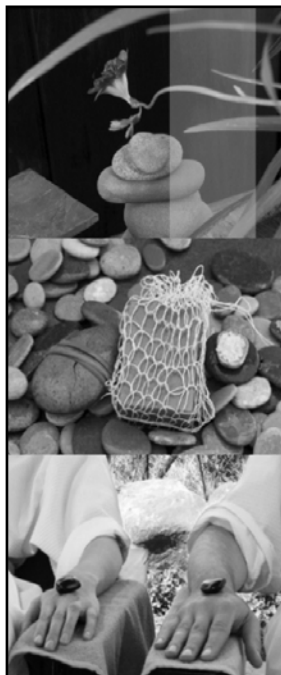
of the Glebe. While Donna's wide-ranging artistic avocation dates many decades, beginning as early as the 1960s with her highly skilled needlepoint work, her career as an artist gained real momentum following her retirement from her profession as a Kindergarten teacher with the OCDSB in 2005.

In April 2012, Donna was featured in an excellent article in the *Glebe Report* where writer **Diane McIntyre** highlighted her broad and eclectic range of artistic activities from needlepoint to hooked rugs and quilts; twig furniture making; pen and ink sketches and drawings; multi-media cards and of course, paintings, including her signature house portraits and landscapes.

As an artist, Donna is largely self-taught, and while she was attracted to the richness and texture of oil paint during her early painting endeavours, as a fast-paced worker she became frustrated with the slow drying time of the medium, eventually turning her attention to quick-drying acrylic. In the course of an Art in the Garden tour, she was inspired to join the Abbotsford House morning painting group where she learned the techniques of using acrylic under the guidance of artist **Jaya Krishnan**, whose work she greatly admires.

In 2007, she went abroad to pursue her artistic training, spending several weeks in Provence where she studied water colour techniques. Once back in Ottawa, she shifted her focus to the architecture of the Glebe, producing, among other works, a painting of Fourth Baptist Church which she perfected under the tutelage of Jaya Krishnan, and which now hangs in the Church thanks to a generous benefactor who purchased and donated the work. In the course of her recent visits to Paris to visit her daughter, Donna filled several enormous sketch books with architectural drawings of Paris streetscapes, many of which formed the basis of subsequent paintings of the legendary city of light, produced following her return to Ottawa.

As noted earlier, since 2009 Donna has been taking commissions for house portraits, as well as for landscapes and cottage portraits, from clients in many Ottawa neighbourhoods. While the timetable for completing these works varies to some degree with her workload at any given time, as a general rule they are completed and delivered to the client in approximately two weeks. The portraits are painted in acrylic



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Local artist Donna Edwards offers house portraits on commission. paint on stretched canvases, reflecting her decided preference for the quick drying, flexible properties of acrylic, along with its capacity to capture greater detail than oil paint. She is also open to the option of pen drawings depending on a client's preferences.

As Christmas is approaching, readers who are in search of a distinctive and long lasting gift for a close friend or family member, or who perhaps take special pride in their own house following a fresh paint job or a renovation, may want to give Donna a call at **613-233-4775**. We wish Donna continuing success with her artistic endeavours in the New Year, and sincerely thank her for her support of the NEN.

Burgh Business Bits

Bread and Roses Bakery Founders Celebrate 25th Anniversary:

25 years ago this December, Burgh resident **Beth MacFarlane** and her friend and colleague **Kim Mimaroglou**, launched the small neighbourhood bakery on Beechwood that has since become an institution in our community, evolving over the years under the management of two subsequent owners, **Jodi Turner** and later **Chris Green**, but in many respects retaining its original character as a warm, welcoming and sweet-scented hub for area residents.

In late November, Beth and Kim organized a reunion of their original team at Bread and Roses, inviting their immediate neighbours **Hamie Saikley** and **Lester Clark** to join them in the celebration of this 25-year milestone at a reception at the Orange Art Gallery in the Parkdale Market. Beth reported before the event that she was planning to take along some baking from the Bread and Roses repertoire in its early days, so it's a fair bet that no one went hungry at this celebratory gathering!

Congratulations Beth and

Kim: those of us who had the good fortune to be part of the bakery's early history continue to miss you both, but your legacy lives on in the community, though sadly no longer right here on Beechwood.

Epicuria: 'Tis the Season for Feasting

Epicuria owner **Tracey Black** reported in November that her team was actively gearing up for the holiday season, so by the time this edition is in circulation, the store will be filled with fruitcake, plum puddings, holiday shortbread and gift items. Once again this year, Epicuria will offer its complete, sumptuous Turkey Dinner for those who prefer to spend time celebrating with friends and family rather than slave in the kitchen. The meal includes a whole grain fed turkey, Beau's Beer gravy, cranberry, stuffing, three side dishes and dessert. If you haven't already done so, you'll need to move swiftly to place your order, as there is a limited quantity and the store has already been taking advance orders for over a month.

As always, Epicuria's December store menu has a host of delicious options for last minute entertaining or simply to feed your household when the preoccupations of a hectic holiday schedule make meal preparation a special challenge. If you're entertaining on a manageable scale, Epicuria's catering department is offering a take-home buffet dinner as well as platters and hors d'oeuvres to impress your guests with minimal demands on your own time and energy. In November, Tracey reported that Epicuria still had some availability in December for full service catering for groups of 30, but if this is of interest to those reading this paper in early December, we'd suggest you waste no time in calling to reserve your evening (**613-745-7356**).

If you haven't dropped by the store at **357 St. Laurent**

recently, you may want to check out the new products at Epicuria, notably specialty coffees, protein salads, Seed to Sausage charcuterie, savoury cheese bites, local maple syrup, Enerjive Skinny crackers and seasonal specials from the savoury and pastry kitchens.

Bytown Highland Dancers: A New Arrival on the Local Scene

We welcome **Erin Mansfield** and her studio, **Bytown Highland Dancers**, which moves on December 1 from its former headquarters on Bronson Avenue to **196 Jeanne Mance Street** in nearby Vanier. Bytown Highland Dancers is among the top schools of



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Epicuria is getting their holiday décor and goodies ready for the season.

highland dance in the Ottawa area, focusing on traditional highland and national dances, as well as original, award-win-

ning choreography. The dancers perform regularly

Continued on page 16

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domicile

Continued from page 15

at local events and celebrations, including the St. Andrew's Day event at **Governor's Walk Retirement Residence** on November 29, where they have made an annual appearance for the past five years. They are also active on the competition circuit, participating in both local competitions such as the Maxville Highland Games and the Montreal-based Scotdance Canada Championship Series, and on the international scene in the Loch Lomond Highland Games in Scotland.

Halifax native Erin Mansfield is herself an accomplished national and international competitor, and initially launched her dance teaching career by establishing programs at the Glebe Community Centre and the Old Town Hall Community Centre, before setting up her own studio on Bronson Avenue in 2011. She currently works with six other fully accredited instructors, offering classes at all levels to over 50 students from ages 4 years to adult. We look forward to providing readers with a full profile of the Bytown Highland Dancers in our February 2014 edition, but in the interim, interested readers can call the studio at **613-864-5761** or check out the website for more details on instructors and programs **bytownhighlanddancers.com**.

Quartier Vanier BIA News:

Congratulations to **Mark Kaluski**, owner of **Monson's Deluxe Cleaners**, who was recently elected Chair of the Board of Management of the QVBIA, replacing Jean Therrien who is retiring after a six-year term. Another of our well-known local merchants, **Marwan El Rassi**, owner of **Rassi Coiffure**, has taken over as Vice Chair of the Board, and we wish them both well in the busy year ahead.

Tea Tyme becomes The Olde Village Gift Shoppe at 81 Beechwood

In our June 2013 issue, we reported on the planned expansion of the premises of **Tea Tyme**, the modest Confederation era white house at 81 Beechwood in which **Philomena (Philly) Kingsley-Perry** has for many years operated a small tea room. Philly now reports that since the renovation project will not be launched until May 2014, in the intervening months she plans to operate **The Olde Village Gift Shoppe** on the site, opening her doors to area residents interested in buying or selling gifts for all seasons and occasions. Store hours will be **Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 am to 4 pm**, so if you're on the hunt for intriguing new options during the Christmas season, drop in and check out Philly's array of merchandise.

NE Historical...**Continued from page 1**

which was featured in the last issue of the *New Edinburgh News*. Historian Martha Edmond and I have agreed to volunteer our time to research and write an authoritative history of a community that we believe has national as well as local significance. It may well take us years to complete the project, but the important thing is to begin. Last month, we circulated 391 questionnaires to householders in the Heritage Conservation District (Dufferin to Sussex, Stanley to McKay), hoping that residents would share knowledge about their houses. The responses are coming in steadily: if you haven't completed yours, please do so and deliver it to 139 Crichton Street. Other projects under discussion are a lecture or two this winter, with speakers addressing aspects of New Edinburgh history. In the

course of time, we may also contemplate a system of outdoor interpretive panels to tell our story.

Join us in the task of learning, communicating and protecting a very important old neighbourhood. We have something precious here. It is vital for us to understand it better so that we can generate support for its protection. Otherwise, before long we may be singing along with Joni Mitchell, about something precious that we have lost. In the last issue of the *New Edinburgh News*, Historian Martha Edmond and I have agreed to volunteer our time to research and write an authoritative history of a community that we believe has national as well as local significance. It may well take us years to complete the project, but the important thing is to begin. Last month, we circulated 391 questionnaires to householders in the Heritage Conservation District

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Burgh's Peter Honeywell Receives Order of Ottawa

In late November, well known New Edinburgh resident **Peter Honeywell** was awarded the **Order of Ottawa** in recognition of his outstanding work

as an activist and advocate for the arts community in the National Capital Region and throughout Ontario. Peter has a background as a visual artist

specializing in textile design, and for several decades has devoted himself to the nurture and promotion of local arts and culture, playing a key role in establishing not-for-profit organizations and arts co-operatives, and serving for close to 30 years on the Council for the Arts in Ottawa (CAO), initially as member of the Board, and since 1991, as its Executive Director.

Over the years, he has served on numerous municipal advisory panels and committees, including a two year stint as a selection committee member for two public art projects in collaboration with renowned architects Raymond Moriyama and Moshe Safdie. He was instrumental in the launch of the *My Ottawa Includes Culture* Campaign in 2004, as well as in the *Imagine Ottawa* social forum in 2006, and since 2010, has been a member of the Ontario Advisory Council for Arts and Culture. In our own neighbourhood, Peter has long been a supporter and advisor to the Crichton Cultural Community Centre (now the NECTAR Centre), and an active participant in and contributor to innumerable community projects and events. The NEN joins his friends and neighbours in New Edinburgh to extend our sincere congratulations to Peter on this well-deserved recognition of his remarkable, and ongoing, contribution to the community.



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Successful Sales Launch Keeps Minto Beechwood Project on Time and on Target

By Jane Heintzman

Readers who were doing their rounds on Beechwood on Saturday, October 5, can't fail to have noticed the long line of prospective condo buyers queuing along the block awaiting entry to Minto's invitation-only pre-launch event for the 2,500 early registrants who signed up on line in the course of the summer. According to Minto Communities' Development Manager **Kevin Harper**, the glorious weather, combined with **Heather Matthews'** tasty offering of SconeWitch scones and coffee for the multitudes, served to keep the waiting crowd happy and set the stage for a resoundingly successful kickoff to the Minto Beechwood condo sales season.

While the official Sales Launch for the general public, which took place later in the month on October 26, was regrettably not blessed with such ideal weather (in fact it was a vile, cold, rainy day), prospective purchasers braved the elements to turn out in significant numbers, and early condo sales have been extraordinarily brisk, with over half (55%) of the units sold by the end of October—Minto's most successful sales launch of the year!

Minto is reportedly delighted by clients' positive response to condo designs, pricing, location and the overall "vibe" of the neighbourhood. Kevin is especially gratified that Minto's market calculations in relation to the project appear to have been bang on, with the majority of buyers being either "downsizers" (many of them from this community) in search of larger suites on the upper floors, or first-time purchasers who are snapping up the smaller units (including the Sold Out *Alexander* 1-bedroom model) located on lower floors. He also notes that the allocation of parking spots appears to be working out beautifully, as a number of the purchasers have declined their one-spot allocation in favour of readily available bus and bike transportation, leaving extra spaces available for those who want parking space for two cars.

Some readers may have heard Minto Vice President **Brent Strachan** in a recent CBO Morning interview, when he addressed the general perception of a lacklustre condo market in Ottawa. In Brent's view, local developers who take the pains to do the groundwork, and to offer an attractive prod-

uct in a prime location at the right price, will find a robust market for their condos, and Minto Beechwood seems to be a case in point.

While a number of the early buyers in Minto Beechwood requested minor adjustments to the design of their suites, which were factored in at the time of purchase, others are seeking more significant changes, including the fusing of several suites on the 8th floor to create a more spacious domain. This is a more complex process, which will take place in the coming weeks, and which requires that great care be taken to ensure that custom adjustments carried out on one floor don't have a detrimental effect on the suites below.

If you haven't had a chance to drop in at the Minto Sales Centre for a peak at the condo selection, you'll be pleased to learn that most of the suite models bear the names of streets in the neighbourhood (including the *Alexander*, the *Crichton*, the *Dufferin*, the *Ivy*, the *Keefer*, the *Stanley* and the *Sussex*), so if you play your cards right, you could move into a condo with same moniker as your previous street address.

Coming Home

Among those with strong ties to the neighbourhood who have staked an early claim to a suite in Minto Beechwood is **Paul Jolicoeur**, a member of the legendary Jolicoeur family that operated our beloved (and much lamented) hardware store on Beechwood for six decades, and prior to that, ran a butcher shop, which flourished during the 30s and 40s. As luck would have it, Paul and his wife Carmen have purchased the 2-bedroom *Noel* Suite directly above the former location of the hardware store, while his son has opted for a spot on the site of Paul's boyhood home at 411 MacKay Street, the actual address of the new building.

It seems clear that family ties to Beechwood run deep, as the Jolicoeurs' return to their roots is mirrored at the north end of the street by **Rupert Kavanaugh's** impending move into Domicile's swiftly emerging *Kavanaugh* project, which is taking shape on the site of the legendary family Esso Station and garage that Rupert ran for nearly 60 years. Change is unquestionably coming to Beechwood, but it's reassuring to know that there'll be continuity in the midst of

that change!

Next Steps

At the time of our interview in November, Kevin Harper reported that Minto was in the process of responding to City's comments on its preliminary site plan application, and will be finalizing the site plan in the coming weeks. The next step in the process, which will proceed full speed ahead in

Retail News: Still to Come

Not surprisingly, Minto reports that interest in the commercial spaces in the building has been intense, and some of the arrangements are now falling into place. With luck, there should be news of our future retail community in Minto Beechwood early in the New Year, but at this point, Kevin reports that the retail-

residents and to the wider community.

On the latter front, NECA has been actively communicating with company executives to reinforce the messages received from neighbourhood residents calling for, in NECA Board member **Catherine Lindquist's** words, "a dynamic mix of businesses"- and of course, a hardware store! At the NECA AGM on October 16,



Photo: Louise Imbeault

The sales team at the Minto Beechwood sales office prepare for the big opening.

light of strong early sales, is the preparation of construction drawings, the nitty-gritty stage in the planning process which is the basis for the issuance of City building permits. It's in this context that Minto will tackle the issue of the western "gateway to Beechwood" wall of the building, and actively explore possible measures such as lighting and/or variegated materials to add interest and appeal to this highly visible face of project.

Another important dimension of the Building Permit application process is Minto's preparation of a detailed construction and traffic management plan to ensure that the impact of the construction phase on pedestrians and traffic around the site is carefully controlled. Given the practical impossibility of using the MacKay Street access for construction crews and heavy machinery, the likelihood is that Minto will apply for temporary use of the parking lane on Beechwood for this purpose.

Thanks to the strong surge of early sales, Minto is currently right on target to start construction (and demolition of the existing pre-fire building shell) in the fall of 2014, so this time next year, we hope to be reporting on all the action as a new community rises from the ashes.

ers in question are pursuing closely guarded retail strategies, holding their cards very close to their chests and as yet unwilling to permit a public announcement of their arrival.

The commercial space in the building will in fact be owned and operated by Minto Properties, a separate company from Minto Communities which owns the residential portion. The two work in close tandem, however, and there are conditions in the rules for the condominium limiting the types of commercial use that can take place on the ground floor. Kevin stresses that Minto's objective in filling the commercial spaces is to provide goods and services that will appeal to both condo

Catherine provided an excellent summary of the unfolding of events in the process of consultation and dialogue between Minto and the community which has taken place since the Minto Beechwood project was initially launched. Interested readers will find the summary online at www.newedinburgh.ca.

Readers who'd like to have a closer look at the suite designs, amenities and other features of Minto Beechwood should check out the website at www.mintobeechwood.com or drop in at the Sales Centre in the former home of Hamie's Diner and Bread and Roses Bakery at 7 Beechwood Avenue (613-696-8188).

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XXI Climate Change: The Road Ahead

Editor's Note: The following is the 21st and final installment in a long-running series of articles on Climate Change by local environmentalist **Hugh Robertson**. All of the articles in this extraordinary series have appeared in the *New Edinburgh News* between 2007 and the present, and are currently available online at www.newedinburgh.ca. Mr. Robertson's series reflects the remarkable depth and breadth of his knowledge of the subject of climate change, combined with his profound personal commitment to respond to the impending planetary crisis through significant changes in his own way of life, as well as through education and advocacy in his community.

His articles cover a broad spectrum, ranging from the intensely practical—includ-

ing concrete measures to reduce energy consumption, improve household energy efficiency and conserve water (**Faceprint**, June 2008; **Domestic Water Consumption**, October 2010)—to the deeper, philosophical and ethical reflections in his recent articles, which attempt to come to grips with the societal forces inhibiting a robust and effective response to the climate change threat on the part of individuals, institutions and governments.

Perhaps coincidentally, Mr. Robertson's series spans the period between the 4th and 5th Assessment Reports of the **International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, a scientific intergovernmental body established by the UN in 1988 that has become a widely accepted authority on climate change. The first component of the 5th IPCC

Report, released in late September 2013, suggests that the news is not good, and that atmospheric concentrations of CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide have now reached levels unprecedented in the past 800,000 years, thanks largely to unchecked fossil fuel emissions from carbon-dependent societies around the world, our own prominent among them.

In this final article, Mr. Robertson concludes that change in our societal blindness and inertia in relation to the planetary threat posed by climate change, will come, if it comes at all, from the collective action of committed individuals: the ball is in our court. With time to turn the tide swiftly running out, he urges each of us to examine our consciences and our way of life, and to address the underlying ethical questions related to the wider impact of our habits of consumption; our concern with our creature comforts; and our obligations to society, to the natural world around us, and to the unborn generations who will bear the consequences of our actions today.

XXI Climate Change: The Road Ahead

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead

By Hugh Robertson

As we surge past 400 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into uncharted climate territory, we need another "ppm"—a People Powered Movement growing out of Margaret Mead's "small group of citizens." But we must never forget that "committed groups" are composed of committed individuals and it is with each one of us personally that transformative change must start.

The first step in the process is taking responsibility for the way we live our own lives. We cannot blame India and China for the climate breakdown until we have reduced our personal consumption footprints. Nor can we blame our government for delinquency on the climate file until we have put our own house in order. Each one of us, without exception, has to set a personal standard of sustainable living and, above all, adjust our fossil fuelled lifestyles.

We must acknowledge that, as one of the most privileged

societies on earth, we have abused nature's bounty. In just about every major environmental category Canada is rock bottom—size of our carbon and ecological footprints, energy efficiency and volume of garbage. If everyone lived at our level of consumption, we would need four more planets.

In our quest to refashion our own lifestyles and ultimately to transform societal principles and practices, we first have to raise some crucial questions—questions that may be both personal and painful. As a society we avoid confronting contentious issues and problems, especially those of an ethical and philosophical nature. Why do we shun moral questions and discussions about values when we have a tradition of moral enquiry going back to Ancient Greece?

Tragically, we have ignored the wisdom of our native people, especially their belief in the indivisibility of the natural and the spiritual world. *Txeemsim*, one of the mythological chiefs of the West Coast nations, urged his people to regard every action or decision as a moral choice and, furthermore, he suggested that selfish behaviour is destructive for both self and society.

While it may be trite to argue that questions are actually more important than answers, perceptive questions do force us to face our consciences and probe our innermost thoughts. It is also not easy to run from the answers when we have personally posed the questions. In many ways the breadth and the nature of our questions are an accurate reflection of our own spirituality and humanity and also the depth of our self-reflection.

We must move beyond the standard existential question "What is the purpose of life" and shift the focus away from narrow personal fulfillment to broader horizons. We have to reframe the question in terms of our relationship with nature, our lifestyle footprints and our commitment to future generations.

There is another compelling reason for raising the questions now: there is still time for remedial action. Alternatively, our offspring will raise the questions in later years—in outrage—when it will be too late for mitigation. A child born today will be almost 90 in 2100 and the questions and inter-generational tensions that will start surfacing by mid-century when climate change kicks in with a vengeance may be very unpleasant and socially disruptive.

Listed below is a selection

of questions that we might ask ourselves as we prepare a strategy for action:

- Why is climate change so widely ignored, minimized or actively denied by the majority of individuals and institutions in our society?
- Is society's failure to tackle global warming the inevitable result of innate, selfish human nature? Do we simply accept this as an unchangeable fact of life or must we challenge complacency through example, education and advocacy?
- Are we doing all that we can in our individual lives and households to reduce our own carbon footprints and live sustainably? What further concrete steps can we take towards the goal of achieving a truly environmentally responsible way of life and an example for those around us?
- Is it sufficient simply to put our own houses in order or do we have a moral obligation to challenge and change the prevailing inertia in society?
- If we do have such an obligation, what steps can we take to discharge it effectively in our workplaces, in our communities, in our schools and institutions, on our Boards of Directors, in our cities and in our dealings with governments at all levels?
- Why do we embrace myths, such as unrestricted economic growth, so readily?
- Why is enough, never enough in our society?
- How do we square our consciences with the impact of our lifestyles on the bi-capacity of the planet?
- How do we reconcile individual "self-interest" with public "social-interest"?
- Our rights, responsibilities and freedoms are constitutionally entrenched. Should Nature not also have constitutional rights?
- Do we have the moral right to unload the costs, both environmental and financial, of our lifestyles on the backs of unborn generations?
- Should the rights of the unborn be constitutionally protected?
- Are we aware that the costs of mitigation **now** are much less than the future costs of adaptation?
- Would it not be prudent to conserve energy resources for the use of future generations instead of pumping every last drop now?
- How can we blame oil companies for leaking pipelines and train derailments when

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they are simply feeding our fossil fuel addictions? Are we not partly culpable?

- Regardless of how we define the divine, can there be any greater peace on earth than peace with nature?

Global society has reached a fork in the road—either we continue the route of planetary plunder or we change course and dedicate ourselves to planetary renewal. As we contemplate which direction to pursue, we might consider revisiting two pertinent books.

The Road (2006) by Cormac McCarthy depicts a haunting dystopian world destroyed by an undefined ecological cataclysm. It is an ominous

a personal journey of emotional and spiritual growth. In a remarkably prescient book, written a decade before global warming became a major concern, Peck focuses on the importance of personal discipline in shaping our place in society. Delaying gratification by making sacrifices and taking responsibility for our own individual problems will bring larger social gains, he argues.

Peck believes that as part of responsible citizenship we must challenge and question continuously and always be prepared to change our views on the basis of new evidence. He contends that love is not only a feeling but, more impor-

tionals and the views and values of our families, friends and networks shape our own views and values. Groupthink or group polarization and the pursuit of social status impose a subtle conformity on our thoughts, actions and moral standards. Acceptance is a powerful driver of behaviour and few have the courage to challenge the consensus views of the group for fear of rejection. Try mentioning global warming in a cocktail conversation—it has a more chilling effect than an ice cube in a spritzer.

Don't waver in your commitment to a sustainable planet and a safer world for future generations. Be resolute and

If everyone lived at our level of consumption, we would need four more planets.

portrayal—and a portent—of a ravaged planet, populated by roving bands of murderers and miscreants. The only redeeming feature, of what is a depressing novel, is the journey of the father and son through the blighted landscape, sustained by their love for one another.

The Road is a brutal warning of what transpires when we pass an environmental tipping point and civil society implodes. It is also a powerful reminder of how humans and nature are bound together in a symbiotic relationship. If we nurture nature and we build co-operative communities, we will be able to slow the onset of climate disruptions and survive the inevitable hardships. If we disregard the warnings, then the apocalyptic world of *The Road* awaits us.

In *The Road Less Traveled* (1978), psychiatrist Scott Peck provides us with advice for

tantly, it is an action-oriented emotion that enhances spiritual growth. But he warns that pursuing an ethical course of action inspired by love and compassion can be a lonely journey. The traits and qualities that Scott Peck describes will help reinforce our resolve as we embark on a crusade of environmental sanity and sanctity—the road more travelled.

As we undertake our journey, we should keep in mind the proverb that “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.” Unless converted into action, good intentions become roadblocks on the path of change. In fact, acknowledging global warming and then doing nothing to mitigate the problem is simply another form of denial. If there is a road to hell, then it must surely be paved with bitumen.

The high road is always the loneliest of roads. As local author, Dan Gardner, points out in *Risk*, we are social ani-

passionate. Take courage: confront conformity, consumption and denial. Let Gandhi's exhortation that we must first transform our own hearts and then be the change that we wish to see in the world empower you. The power of one can be profound. A path of environmental action and advocacy will also put you at peace with your conscience and as the old saying goes: I was born with nothing and all I go out with is my conscience. There can be no more comforting a companion at the end of our own journey than our conscience.



Deadline for the next issue of the New Edinburgh News: January 10th
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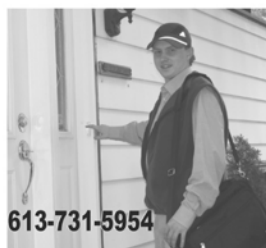
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ONEC Hosts Ninth Annual Canadian Sculling Marathon

On August 25, 2013, the ninth annual Canadian Sculling Marathon (CSM) experienced record beating personal best times on the flat water of the Ottawa River. Suzanne Reid and Sylvain Croteau of Gatineau rowed the full marathon (actually about 40 km) in less than 3 hours. This double was followed by Steve Roedde

(Sault Ste. Marie), Kevin Mahoney (Beachburg) and the Hanlan Boat Club crew of Hugh Fletcher, Eric Hall, Jean Christophe Marly (with coxie Joan Robertson from ONEC). All full marathon participants received medals and striking t-shirts showing scullers under Parliament Hill.

The first finishers in the half

marathon completed the 21 km course in less than two hours. But it was not just about speed. Tom Butscher of Toronto Islands, who is over 70 years of age, Stan Matthews of Austin, Texas, who has participated in every previous marathon, and a senior ONEC full marathon quad crew deserve praise for perseverance, endurance and

athletic ability even though they did not finish first.

The day before the full marathon was a shorter quarter marathon (10.5 km) course around Kettle Island. Incredibly Steve Roedde and Kevin Mahoney sculled both in this event and in the full marathon the next day. They are iron men. Indeed all scullers in the quarter mara-

thon did well since all participants rowed around the iron in less than one hour.

Thanks to all the ONEC volunteers and friends who helped ensure a safe and enjoyable weekend of events, including those involved in behind-the-scenes planning for the safety patrols and refreshments. Special mention goes to Ted Wolvers (OAR Rowing Centre), Scott Curda (Ottawa Rowing Club) and the Gatineau Police Marine Unit.

ONEC is grateful for the support of local New Edinburgh businesses. We thank our sponsor for the 2013 CSM events, Investment Advisor Jeff Hill of BMO Nesbitt Burns. Thanks also for the donations received from Monson Cleaners (110 Beechwood Avenue); Rockcliffe Boathouse Marina Restaurant (off Rockcliffe Parkway); Bridgehead (131 Beechwood Avenue); Metro (50 Beechwood Avenue); and Petra Auster of the European Union delegation.



Scullers lining up before the Canadian Sculling Marathon start outside the ONEC boathouse.

Ottawa Children's Choir

By Sarah Anne Szaboth



The Ottawa Children's Choir made a big move this summer to the beautiful Dominion-Chalmers United Church. The move took place in August and included new rehearsal spaces, a uniform room and a proper music library. The Choirs have performed in Dominion-Chalmers frequently over the years, but are excited to finally call the church their choral home.

It was a challenge to move all of that music into the new library space. A lot of caution had to be used to ensure that it all stayed in order and didn't get damaged. Everything was

moved smoothly and thanks to Sandy Lahey, our volunteer librarian, the music is happily re-shelved.

As a thank you to the church, and as part of our mandate to encourage greater "community connection," the Choir took part in a fall clean-up event. On a beautiful autumn Saturday in September, the choristers gathered in the church, equipped with brooms, dusters and wash cloths.

The clean-up was more than a thank-you to Dominion-Chalmers; it was an opportunity for the choristers to take some responsibility and ownership of their rehearsal space. While sweeping, dusting and washing, they learned that it

is a shared responsibility to keep the space clean. This was also their first opportunity to explore the church and to see



the fully stocked library and uniform rooms.

During the clean-up, the choristers were busy making new friends and catching up with old ones in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. After a delicious BBQ lunch generously put on by the church, there was a mass rehearsal of a newly commissioned piece to celebrate the Choir's 55th Anniversary. This piece will be premiered at our 55th Anniversary Concert in May.

The move to Dominion-Chalmers has been a wonderful change for the Ottawa Children's Choir and we look forward to building a lasting relationship with the surrounding community as a result.

Close to Home. Close to Work.



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A Hardy Tree

By Joseph Cull, New Edinburgh Roving Reporter

Delighted to share the news that a "Sugar Maple Tree" has been planted in Stanley Park in Recognition of Jill and Roger Hardy 40 years of Volunteerism and Dedication to making this Community vital, strong and connected.

Jill and Roger exemplify the "Community Spirit" and it was only fitting as they moved from this neighbourhood to Orleans that we recognize their huge contribution to what makes New Edinburgh so special.

A surprise party was held at the New Edinburgh Pub, as a tribute from friends and family who collected money to

purchase a tree in their honour. The tree was planted in Stanley Park along the path leading away from the Fieldhouse close to the river and overlooking the patch of grass that becomes our Ice Rink every winter (a rink that Roger prepared diligently for years, flooding the rink in the early morning hours on cold winter days).

While the tree will grow for years to come in the park, Jill and Roger also received a special plaque to display their lovely new home.

Thank you Jill, Roger and the Hardy family for being such good role models for those that follow in your footsteps!

Special thanks to Garth Gullekson of Darlington Mediaworks for coming down to the park for a "Hardy" Photo

shoot.



Photo: Garth Gullekson
Roger and Jill Hardy.



Social Column of Outstanding Persons Today

By Louise Imbeault

A Man of Fact and Fiction - Part II

Way back in February 2011 you may remember an interview with Burgh journalist/writer **Alex Binkley** for the "In Our Midst" column; well I'm happy to report back and follow up with you today via this HOT OFF THE PRESS UPDATE on Alex's recent milestone achievement.

Just a few years ago, Mr. Binkley had a dream, a story and a goal. He worked hard perfecting his **Space Age** story and pressed-on to get it published. Harnessing the talents of his family, friends, colleagues, peers and acquaintances (*too many*

to mention), the planets finally aligned and the book physically took form. It is now a reality. That folks is a committed Alliance. So without further delay, please welcome the newest member of the ISBN ranks: **HUMANITY'S SAVING GRACE** (loosecannonpress.com).

Here's a glimpse of the man. "Mr. Binkley is a freelance journalist who, after several decades of reporting on the Canadian Parliament and government, became inspired to write fantasy and science fiction stories. His approach to a story is to start with a "what if" scenario

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

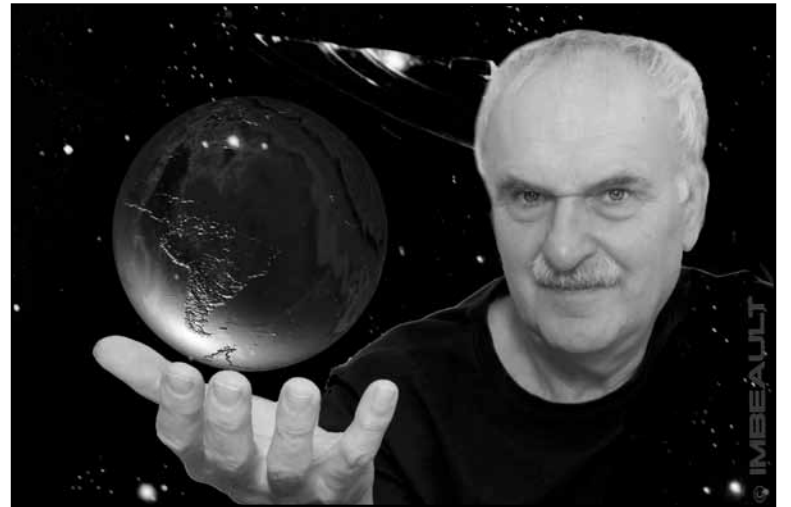
and explore where it might lead".

Whet your whistle a bit with the story line.

"Having barely avoided self destruction, an ancient race has expanded to eight other worlds. While the Beings explored Earth numerous times in two centuries with their flying saucers, they didn't consider the primitive Terrans worth contacting."

"That changes when their worlds come under attack from a relentless, mysterious foe. The First Earth Expeditionary Force battles in space and on land while trying to comprehend how thousands of humans had been conscripted into fighting for the enemy".

"Equally puzzling for FEEF is figuring out the motives of robot-like creatures that serve the Beings, and discovering the origins of centuries-old ruins on several planets and a seemingly uninhabited community under a protective



Alex Binkley.

Photo: Louise Imbeault

dome".

A November 30 book launch will have taken place at **Books on Beechwood** by press time. If you missed it, check in at Books on Beechwood, as they have agreed to keep a few copies on hand. Available on Amazon.com, the E-Book makes for a great stocking stuffer.

On a personal note, I'm

My house fell apart," she laughs. "It is fun and I really like doing it, but it is also a huge job. It is not as difficult as it once was, thanks to the volunteers."

Ms. Kreager is grateful to the countless community members, school parents and staff who donated their time. "We have volunteers who have come back for over 50 years, and we also have the new parents. We have that continuity," she says, adding that it is the volunteers that make Book Fair special.

Principal Shari Brodie agrees. Having previously taught at Rockcliffe Park for seven years, she returned as principal in September 2013 and says she was impressed how much time the volunteers put in.

"I thought I knew everything about Book Fair, but I didn't know just how dedicated the volunteers are," says Ms.

proud to congratulate Alex Binkley wholeheartedly for his success and humbly thank him for inviting me to take part in the celebration. I'm sure we'll soon hear of another novel in the kiln. Stay tuned folks.

Signing off and wishing y'all a very Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noël, Happy Holidays!

Brodie. "It starts in January and continues through the summer. They are just so committed," she says.

Already thinking ahead to next year, Ms. Brodie says she wants to get the students and teachers more involved in Book Fair, and will work on promoting the fundraiser beyond Ottawa. "I love how our school opens its doors to the community and the entire city, to spread the love of reading," she says.

Book Fair falls on Nov. 7, 8 and 9 in 2014, but with Ms. Kreager's daughter graduating from the school in June, she can't stay on as chair. "I will co-chair with somebody," she says, adding that the next chair needs experience, and must be involved throughout the year. "It takes people skills, dealing with a lot of different personalities. I love it. It is what makes Book Fair."

It's the People That Make Book Fair a Success

By Christina Leadlay

If you'd told her four years ago that she'd be running the Book Fair at Rockcliffe Park Public School, Seanna Kreager would've laughed. Back then, having recently moved her family from Orillia, Ms. Kreager says she didn't know anyone, but was invited to a Book Fair meeting, and took the opportunity. Fast-forward to today, and she's unwinding after another successful Book Fair, her third at the helm.

"I feel good," she says. "Book Fair was a big success."

Now in its 52nd year, the Rockcliffe Park Book Fair is one of the largest used book fairs in Ontario. Ms. Kreager says attendance was good during the fair's three days (Nov. 1, 2, 3), book sales were on par with last year, and estimates the fair raised more than \$45,000 for literacy programs not just at RPPS, but also at other Ottawa schools. She also

gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship from local businesses.

The Book Fair Café proved popular once again, helping boost totals. Café Coordinator Gillian Campbell says the Singapore noodles, lasagna and cupcakes were the most popular items.

"We sold out of virtually everything on Friday," Ms. Campbell says, "but we had a great number of generous bakers bring additional items on Saturday and Sunday."

Book Fair 2013 fell on the weekend between Halloween and the change from Daylight Savings, and Ms. Kreager says she was impressed how the volunteers managed.

"Halloween this year was different for us," she says. "It cut a day off the set up as parents took kids trick-or-treating," she says. "But we had about 10 parents come back to help finish set up. That was really

nice to see." She also says the extra hour of sleep on Nov. 3 was welcome.

It takes two weeks to transform the school's Queen Juliana Hall (aka the Big Gym) into a bustling book market, with volunteers helping unload hundreds of boxes of donated books, setting up bookcases, sorting books, pricing them, and decorating the venue.

One change this year was incorporating books once destined for the "Canadiana" section into their respective subjects, like art, politics and literature. "Sections change year after year, depending on what gets donated," explains Ms. Kreager, adding the change helped free up floor space and improved traffic flow.

As Book Fair chair, Ms. Kreager was on site daily. "My days were generally 8:30 am to 10 pm for two weeks," she says. "No laundry was done.



Photo: Seanna Kreager



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For the Birds



By Jane Heintzman

As I write in early November, the bleak, comparatively birdless landscape of winter has yet to set in, and while well advanced, the fall migration is not yet over. In the course of the past six weeks since I signed off the October column, my birding excursions have been remarkably rewarding, beginning with a brief trip back to Georgian Bay to close up the cottage for the winter. To our great delight and amusement, a feisty group of **white-crowned sparrows** had settled in on our island, and were foraging actively in the pines around our dock, apparently unconcerned about the close proximity of dogs and humans. A second, even larger group was in evidence at the marina in Parry Sound as we were packing up to leave, so I concluded that we had been lucky enough to pick **white-crown** weekend for our final Georgian Bay excursion.

Needless to say, raucous **blue jays** were around in abundance on our island, as were **downy-**, **hairy-** and **pileated woodpeckers** whose methodical drumming resonated across the bay, where boat traffic had all but disappeared for the season. On the water, we spotted small flocks of **mallards**, **black ducks**, and **double-crested cormorants** preparing for the long flight south, while the **common loons** in their scruffy post-breeding season plumage had begun their annual molt with a vengeance, littering the surface of the water with downy feathers. And for the first time in four decades on the Bay, I encountered an **American robin** on our island. While common on the mainland in Parry Sound, in our experience, robins don't often venture out to the islands, so it was a special delight to find this character settled comfortably in a tree on our south-facing point.

The first sight to greet us on our return from the Bay was yet another group of **white-crowned sparrows** foraging on the ground in our back garden. In the course of the next few weeks to late October, they were joined by **fox sparrows**, **white-throated sparrows**

(one of which was still singing its signature "O Canada" song), **song sparrows**, **house finches**, **Northern cardinals**, **black-capped chickadees**, **European starlings**, **juncos**, **American goldfinches**, **downy-** and **hairy woodpeckers** and **blue jays**, which turned up promptly when I introduced a seed blend containing peanuts. (As I prepare to sign off this column, a single **white-crowned sparrow** is still around in our garden in the second week of November, marking by far the latest fall departure in my bird-watching experience—perhaps his flock took off without him!)

In addition to the safflower, sunflower and nyjer seed on offer at our feeders, our visiting diners have discovered another menu option this fall: a heavily laden Northern spy apple tree. To all appearances, these hungry birds—the rosy **house finches** in particular—must ascribe to the "apple a day keeps the doctor away" theory, as our first substantial apple crop in a decade has now been ravaged by methodical pecking, leaving many of the apples in a beleaguered half-eaten state on the ground and in some cases, still on the branches.

Though they have not been among the visitors to our garden, **American robins** and **blue jays** have been around the community in significant numbers throughout the fall, and in recent weeks, the robins have begun to form large, agitated flocks in preparation for a move south. For several years, we have encountered these busy congregations of robins at roughly the same spot in the Rockeries, and their fall behaviour is so strikingly skittish and shrill that it's difficult to believe they're the same species as the robust, com-



Hooded Mergansers.

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

placent worm-eating foragers of the spring breeding season. While many robins will head south in the coming weeks, some may stay in our area (as they memorably did two winters ago) if winter conditions are not too severe and food supplies remain sufficiently accessible.

Other notable sightings on



White -crowned Sparrow.

our fall walks have included a handsome **Northern flicker**, a **sharp-shinned hawk**, several **common ravens**, **white-breasted nuthatches**, and 5 enormous **turkey vultures** lurking in the tree tops along Princess Avenue, lifting their massive wings in a menacing fashion to shake off the rain that was falling steadily at the time. As I passed this evil looking group, I was overpowered by a foul smell emanating from the woods in Rideau Hall, directly across the road from the turkey vultures' perch—a smell which I can only assume denoted the presence of a ripe carcass to slake their appetites. As there were reportedly record high counts of turkey vultures in the **Ottawa-Gatineau Mid-Fall Bird Count** in late October, it would seem that this crew formed part of a much larger migratory wave.

A highlight of the fall on our stretch of the Rideau River (close to the Minto Bridges) has been the presence of a group of

half a dozen **wood ducks**. The magnificent male wood duck, with its glossy green, boxy head, artfully accented with vivid white stripes, is akin to a movie star in the water fowl world, despite its comparatively diminutive size. Wood ducks gather in small groups, keeping their distance from other ducks, and if this flock



was any guide, communicating very actively with their distinctive calls. Unlike the familiar quacking of the mallard, the call of the female wood duck is a long, low "oo-eeek, oo-eeek" sound which, to my ear, bears close resemblance to the screech of the **sea gull**.

As I write in early November, a group of 6 **hooded mergansers** has arrived on our stretch of the Rideau River for its traditional late fall feed prior to departure for the south. Like the wood duck, the hooded merganser is a tree cavity nester, and the males are almost equally arresting, with their striking white and black crested heads. In recent years, the "hoodies" have stayed around on the Rideau until freeze up in December, so I'm looking forward to a few more weeks of their vivid presence.

Feisty Felines: Enemy Number One in the Bird World

In a recent study by Environment Canada scientists, it was reported that human-related activity kills approximately 269 million birds and destroys two million bird nests in Canada each year—a sobering statistic. 99% of these deaths are caused by pet and feral cats, and collisions with transmission lines, buildings and vehicles. If you are the devoted owner of a fluffy feline, you might be interested to know that cats kill as many birds as all the other sources of avian attrition combined, taking a staggering toll of over 100 million birds each year. Needless to say, those of us who cherish the vulnerable feathered population of

December 2013

our community are grateful to all the conscientious "indoor cat" owners who ensure that their pets don't form part of the predatory hordes.

Electrical transmission lines are another significant hazard, killing up to 40 million birds each year, while collisions with residential and commercial buildings, preventable though they are, take a similar toll. There are plenty of simple, home-made devices such as decals to make your windows more visible to birds if this is a problem for your household, but if you'd like advice, the folks at **Wild Birds Unlimited** are certain to have helpful tips (613-521-7333).

Winter Feeding: Sorting Seed Types

Most readers are undoubtedly veterans in the back yard bird feeding realm, but if by any chance, you are new to the game and confused by the wide range of possibilities and prices, here are a few of the leading options to attract and maintain our stoic winter bird population.

- **Black Oil Sunflower Seed:** This is by far the most popular of all the seed types on the market, with a high fat and protein content to support winter birds, and a thin, easily cracked shell to facilitate speedy consumption. It attracts a wide range of species from **cardinals** to **sparrows**, **chickadees**, **finches**, **woodpeckers**, **grosbeaks** and **jays**.
- **Striped Sunflower Seed:** While perhaps not as appealing to some species as black oil seed, striped sunflower seed has the advantage of a thicker shell which is more difficult for some of the less attractive feeder birds such as **house sparrows** and **black birds** to crack open, so if the latter are a problem in your yard, give it a try.
- **Safflower Seed:** If you are a **cardinal** lover, this is an essential item, though somewhat more pricey than many other varieties. The seed has a thick, hard-to-crack shell, and attracts a range of medium to large species such as **cardinals**, **grosbeaks**, **chickadees**, **doves**, and **native sparrows**. While it was thought to be unappealing to unwelcome visitors such as **house sparrows** and squirrels, the evidence in our back yard suggests that regrettably, this crowd has also developed a taste for it.
- **Nyjer Seed (thistle):** This oil rich seed is a magnet for **finches**, **siskins** and **juncos**, but needs to be kept fresh as

Photo: Wade Clare

its thin shell makes it vulnerable to spoilage. A good rule of thumb is to refill your nyjer feeders with new seed every 3 or 4 weeks to ensure that it's fresh for the picky eaters in the crowd. (Through trial and error, I have also found that the *quality* of the seed you purchase really does make a difference, so I'd advise against going for the cheapest on the shelf of a large supermarket, and heading instead for a dedicated birding store such as Wild Birds Unlimited—the birds really do notice!)

- **Hulled Sunflower Seeds and Chips:** This no waste, no mess option is rich in oil and high in calories, attracting a wide range of species such as **finches, sparrows, cardinals** and **chickadees**. Its disadvantage, however, (apart from its comparatively high price) is that the hearts and chips spoil quickly and may harbour dangerous bacteria, so don't put out more than can be swiftly consumed. It's also strongly recommended that this seed NOT be offered in tube feeders where moisture can build up to accelerate spoilage.
- **Peanuts:** These are popular with **jays, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers** and **crows**, but also appeal to marauders such as squirrel and racoons. Peanuts tend to spoil quickly, and need to be protected from moisture and changed on a regular basis.
- **Shelled and Cracked Corn:** This is an inexpensive source of oil and starch for large ground feeding birds that some birders use to attract species such as **starlings, grackles** and **house sparrows** away from more expensive seed. Of all the seed types, however, it's the most likely to become dangerously contaminated, so you need to exercise caution to ensure that the seed is kept dry, and that residue is quickly raked up and removed.

In addition to these basic seed types, there is a wide range of commercial **seed blends** available (check out the **Wild Birds Unlimited** website at ottawa.wbu.com), along with **suet** and suet blocks for the coldest months of winter when the concentrated fat content is most critically needed.

Pittaway's Finch Forecast: Winter of 2013-2014 (www.jeaniron.ca/2013/forecast.htm)

Ornithologist **Ron Pittaway**, whose annual Winter Finch

Forecast has become the widely-revered equivalent of the Farmer's Almanac in the birding community, sums up his prognosis for the coming winter in a nutshell: this is **not** an irruption year for finches. The simple explanation is that food availability in the northern and boreal regions of the country is good to excellent, with bumper spruce cone crops, as well as abundant birch, alder and mountain ash berry crops, across the boreal forest from the Yukon to the Atlantic region; good to excellent cone crops in Central Ontario and the Laurentians in Southern Quebec; and heavy crops



Wood ducks by the Minto Bridges.

east through the Adirondacks and the North Eastern New England States.

The result of this comparative wealth of nutritional riches in northern regions is that here in Ottawa, we are unlikely to see large numbers of such traditional irruptive species as **common** and **hoary redpolls, pine siskins, purple finches** and **pine grosbeaks**. Most readers will recall the massive waves of **redpolls** that have descended on our region in recent years, but chances are, your backyard seed supplies will not be under siege to the same degree this year, although the forecast does call for a respectable showing of **evening grosbeaks** (whose numbers are up because of spruce budworm outbreaks in northern forests), **blue jays, red-breasted nuthatches**, and **bohemian waxwings**, which appear to find Ottawa (and Peterborough) an attractive source of crab apples, mountain ash and buckthorn berries.

Project Feeder Watch (www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/pfw/) Project Feeder Watch (PFW), a joint program of citizen

engagement organized by Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, launched its 27th season in early November, and for the next six months, backyard birders like you and me will be submitting reports of the kinds and numbers of birds at their feeders for use by ornithologists in monitoring changes in winter bird populations. It's not too late to get involved, so if your household would like to be part of this vast data collecting process, check out the website or call **1-888-448-2473**. There's a \$35 sign-up fee, and new participants receive a kit with a handbook, bird identi-

pairs of **Northern cardinals** introducing their young to the pleasures of bird feeding facilities. Philip has been fascinated to watch the transformation of the juveniles, which have grown rapidly to near adult size, and whose plumage has gradually deepened in colour as the season progressed. While on early visits, the adult males picked the safflower seed from the feeder and transported it to nearby branches where they fed their young, the latter have since become much more independent and are now able to fend for themselves. Competition at the *Bistro* has included a **white-breasted**

vulture, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, cedar waxwing, common yellow throat, yellow-rumped warbler, song sparrow, white-crowned sparrow and **dark-eyed junco**, to a variety of western species seldom seen by birders in eastern regions. The latter included the **Lewis' woodpecker, acorn woodpecker, red-breasted sapsucker, western wood-pewee, steller's jay, western scrub jay, mountain chickadee, western bluebird, mountain bluebird, western meadowlark** and the **black phoebe**.

Over at the **Macoun Marsh** off St. Laurent Blvd., St. Laurent Academy's **Mike Leveillé** reports that feathered notables this fall have included a **yellow-bellied sapsucker, ruby-crowned kinglets**, a **house wren** and a number of **white-throated sparrows**.

Our Central Alberta correspondent **Dave Collyer** has observed plenty of migratory action this fall, including flocks of **Canada geese, white fronted geese** and **snow geese**, along with **northern harriers, wainson's hawks, tree sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, ruffed grouse**, a **bald eagle** and a **pine grosbeak**. So far his feeding stations have attracted **black-capped chickadees, magpies, downy- and hairy woodpeckers, a red-breasted nuthatch**, and **European starlings**. As Dave is surrounded by heavy cone crops, he's expecting to see good numbers of **crossbills** as the season unfolds.

Former Union Street correspondent **Amy Jane Lawes**, who is now a resident of Val des Monts, had a trip home to the U.K. this fall, joining her parents for an early morning excursion to Snettisham on the Norfolk coast. Snettisham is a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve where Amy was able to observe massive flocks (in the hundreds of thousands) of waders such as **oystercatchers** and **knot** as they were forced from the sandbanks by the onset of high tide, and took off in vast swarms overhead.

Back home in Val des Monts, she has encountered **ruffed grouse**- "quirky looking birds that seem to like observing us as much as we do them", **white-breasted nuthatches, black-capped chickadees, dark-eyed juncos** and a **cooper's hawk**. So far there has been little action at her feeders, but she's confident the picture will change when the winter sets in and food supplies are less readily available.

nuthatch, along with numerous **black-capped chickadees, house finches** and **house sparrows**, but according to Philip, the resident **cardinals** are able to throw their weight around if the others become too pushy.

In the course of his rambles along the Rockcliffe Parkway, Philip has also caught sight of a **sharp-shinned hawk**, several flocks of **dark-eyed juncos** and a large (and vocal) flock of **American crows**.

Our NEN Travel Columnist and regular birding report **Vicki Metcalfe** enjoyed a fascinating excursion to Oregon and California this fall, where she logged an overall total of 121 species, 39 of which were "life birds" for Vicki. Interested readers will find the complete list on the community website at www.newedinburgh.ca.

While in Oregon, Vicki took part in an Oregon Birding Association Field Trip which recorded an impressive 89 species of birds, ranging from many familiar names in our part of the world, including **Canada geese, Great Blue heron, Great Egret, double-crested cormorant, turkey**

fication poster, calendar and instruction booklet.

Highlights of the results from the previous PFW season are published in *Bird Watch Canada* magazine. In Ontario, last winter's highlights included:

- **Red-breasted nuthatches**, which visited a record-breaking 74% of feeders reporting to PFW;
- **White-breasted nuthatches**, which also made a strong showing, turning up at 80% of Ontario feeders; and
- **Common redpolls**, which once again were around in significant numbers, appearing at 77% of feeders.

Of the top 10 feeder birds in PFW reports for Ontario, the **black-capped chickadee** was first on the list (no surprise!), followed by the **downy woodpecker, blue jay, American goldfinch, mourning dove, dark-eyed junco, white-breasted nuthatch, Northern cardinal, common redpoll** and **red-breasted nuthatch**.

Reports from Our Readers: **Philip MacAdam** reports that *Phil's Avian Bistro and Spa* has been hopping this fall, with two

Sussex Scene Notes

McTaggart Heritage Wall

Repair: Just in Time!

*"Something there is that
doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-
swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders
in the sun..."*

*Mending Wall, by Robert
Frost*

In early November, the National Capital Commission put the finishing touches on localized repairs to the **McTaggart Wall**, a handsome stone structure at Alexander Street and Sussex Drive which is among the few surviving remnants in the Sussex area of New Edinburgh's industrial past in the mid-nineteenth century. The wall was built by Isaac McTaggart, scion of one of the Burgh's first substantial families, and owner of a

local distillery which produced whisky on the site of what is now the French Embassy.

In recent years, the ravages of the Ottawa climate's freeze/thaw cycle have taken a dramatic toll on the integrity of the wall, to the point that large portions have been at risk of complete collapse, and, as in the famous Robert Frost poem, many of the "upper boulders" have indeed been "spilled in the sun" along the sidewalk. Because of NCC budgetary constraints, the resources have not been available for a complete restoration of the structure, but thankfully the Commission managed to secure the funds to carry out spot repairs to the areas of most serious damage, and

we're pleased to report that the wall appears to be in shape to brave another winter.

50 Sussex Drive: Still No Takers

Most readers will by now have noticed an imposing Colliers FOR LEASE sign in the middle of Rideau Falls Park along Sussex Drive. While it is now close to nine years since the former Canada and the World Pavilion at 50 Sussex Drive closed its doors, the National Capital Commission (NCC) has yet to find a suitable tenant to take over operation of the building, although we understand that the serious mould problem in the building has been remediated and the premises are ready for occupation. An intensive search for a tenant earlier this year reportedly came close to success, but failed at the eleventh hour when the prospective occupant was unable to arrange the financing.

And so, the hunt is still

on, and the Commission has turned it over to Colliers International to scour the landscape for suitable prospects prepared to meet NCC criteria for maintaining public access to the site. NCC officials indicate that no timeline has been established for completing the process, but continue to stress that the Commission hopes to make it available to the public as soon as possible. Interested readers can find the details at www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca. Both NECA and the NEN will continue to track this seemingly never-ending story to ensure the community's views on public access to the building and the park remain at the forefront in the ongoing search for an occupant.

Security Depot Dismantled at Thomas and John Streets: Green Space Restored

The unsightly, fenced in security check point installed last May on the green space at Thomas and John Streets is

currently being dismantled. The installation of this temporary blot on the landscape took place in conjunction with a construction project to stabilize the slope of the escarpment across the road off Sussex Drive, and was intended to minimize traffic disruptions resulting from the RCMP screening process for crews and equipment working on the project. Several parking spaces along John Street were also commandeered for this period, and one of the diagonal walking paths through the park from Sussex to Thomas and John was blocked off.

When we went to press, a crew had removed the temporary asphalt surface and the chain link fences around the installation, and was in the process of re-sodding the area to return it to its former sylvan state. Just goes to show that you *can* turn Joni Mitchell's lament on its head and "*un-pave* paradise to take down a parking lot"!

From the Archives...

McTaggart's Wall and the History of Sussex Street (formerly Ottawa Street) on the city block between John and Alexander, 1830-1975

Editor's note: The following article appeared in the June 1998 edition of the New Edinburgh News.

By Marc S. Lowell

Isaac McTaggart owned and ran a distillery at the junction of the Ottawa River and Alexander Street, which at the time led directly to the river. A pre-1867 New Edinburgh landmark known as McTaggart's Wall, originally part of Isaac McTaggart's hothouse, still stands today on Alexander at Sussex. Now the property of the National Capital Commission, it may date to about 1830. The absence of City of Ottawa street directories before 1866 makes precise dating difficult.

This stone wall was built by McTaggart as a hothouse, having a glass lean-to throughout its entire length. Its stone construction is similar to that of the Fraser School House on John Street on the same block.

His distillery was described as overlooking the Ottawa River, and from it the whisky was piped down the hill, sealed into puncheons and shipped away on the McTaggart Barge via both the Ottawa River and the Rideau Canal systems.

Local livestock, particularly cows, were fed on refuse from the distillery, as the waste flowed away in open gutters. Nearly all the residents of New Edinburgh owned a pig or two,

and they also fed at the gutters. Each autumn the pigs were slaughtered and the pork was salted and stored for consumption in the winter months.

Around 1867, after demolition of the distillery, several new homes appeared on Ottawa Street (Sussex): #45, #47 and #61. Charles C. Neville, a civil servant, built #61 and occupied it until 1879. He was followed by another civil servant, James Hopkirk, from 1880 to 1882. The next occupant was C. W. Wilmott, an employee of the Geological Survey on Metcalfe Street. The rest of this side of Ottawa Street was undeveloped until 1876.

In 1876, Matthew Patterson moved into #47, on the corner of John. Mr. Patterson was employed at Patterson & Law, a foundry located directly across the street from his home. He lived there until 1889.

In 1890 George McLaurin, a well-known Ottawa barrister, constructed his home at #47. He lived and practised law at this location until 1899. The property was then passed down to a relative, Lewis McLaurin, a lumber merchant. This same year, Ottawa Street was renamed Sussex Street North. Other new houses also sprang up on this block, notably #50, #53, #55 and #57.

For a period of years the Ottawa Electric Railway Company had an office at #43. Then in 1941 it relocated to a new building down the block at #57. In the years following 1941, this building was converted into a restaurant known as Phil's Luncheonette, which served meals until 1950, when the Bytowne Restaurant took it over.

Between 1950 and 1965, all these properties were expropriated by the National Capital Commission and then demolished; only McTaggart's Wall was left unscathed.

During the early 1970s, NECA and the Heritage

Committee of Ottawa approached the NCC with a suggestion that a memorial garden with trees, shrubbery and walking paths be created alongside McTaggart's Wall, to be called The Honourable Thomas MacKay Gardens.

Sources:

- City of Ottawa street directories, 1866-1965
- Walking Tour of New Edinburgh
- Article by Gladys Blair, Ottawa Journal, 5 January 1974



McTaggart's Wall as it appears today.

Photo: Cindy Parkanyi

La Maison Woodburn, un joyau du patrimoine bâti de New Edinburgh

Par Michel Prévost,
archiviste en chef de
l'Université d'Ottawa

Le quartier New Edinburgh compte plusieurs maisons historiques de très grande valeur. La Maison Woodburn, située au 73-75, rue MacKay, à deux pas de Rideau-Hall, s'avère un très bel exemple de ces joyaux de notre patrimoine bâti.

Le magnifique bâtiment en brique rouge et blanche à deux étages aurait été érigé en 1874 par un menuisier travaillant à la scierie MacKay, près des chutes Rideau, afin d'abriter des logements locatifs.

La belle construction se

distingue par de nombreux attributs architecturaux, notamment son toit à forte pente, ses fleurons, son portique à arcs, ses fenêtres en saillie de la façade et les pignons en charpente apparente. En fait, sa riche ornementation rappelle bien le style néogothique.

La Maison Woodburn s'inspire des modèles de résidences néogothiques à deux pignons possédant un comble à forte pente que l'on pouvait voir dans les publications depuis le milieu du 19^e siècle.

Il ne fait pas de doute, que la Maison Woodburn demeure plus de 135 ans après son érec-

tion l'une des plus intéressantes du secteur New Edinburgh.

Heureusement, la maison historique est protégée pour les générations à venir en vertu de Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario et elle est inscrite au Registre provincial des biens patrimoniaux.

Michel Prévost offre des visites guidées pour les groupes de 10 personnes et plus du patrimoine bâti franco-ontarien. Vous pouvez réserver au 613-562-5825 ou par courriel à michel.prevost@uottawa.ca.



Photo: Louise Imbeault

La Maison Woodburn, un des joyaux de New Edinburgh, est située au 73-75, rue MacKay.

Arabella Magazine Features Local Landscape Artist Gordon Harrison

Kudos to well-known local landscape artist **Gordon Harrison** whose life and work were featured in the Fall Harvest 2013 edition of the magazine *Arabella: Canadian Art, Architecture and Design* (www.arabelladesign.com). Gordon has long been an important presence in New Edinburgh, both as a resident and as a working artist who maintained an active studio in the quaint gardener's cottage at 81 John Street for 14 years, before moving the studio to 67 Rideau Terrace (formerly his mother's home) this past summer. He and his partner **Phil Emond** also operate the **Gordon Harrison Gallery** at 495 Sussex Drive, as well as

the **Pine Point Lake House Bed & Breakfast and Studio** in Gordon's old stomping ground in the Laurentians.

In recent years, Gordon's annual Garden Exhibits in June were a popular attraction on the Open Door Ottawa circuit, drawing locals and visitors alike to mingle on the grass enjoying refreshments and live music, while admiring an artfully arranged display of his colourful landscapes. Gordon's subject matter is pan-Canadian, depicting landscapes from the Gatineau Hills to Quebec's Charlevoix Region, the Laurentians, Muskoka, Georgian Bay, Lake Superior, the Prairies and the Rocky Mountains. His rising

professional reputation has earned him representation in art galleries across the country from Quebec City to Victoria, B.C., and his work is regularly featured in both solo and group exhibitions. Interested readers can keep track of coming exhibitions on the gallery website at www.gordonharrsiongallery.com or at info@gordonharrison.com.

His next Vernissage, for the upcoming show *Les manteaux blancs de l'hiver*, an exhibition of winter landscapes in Gatineau Park, the Laurentians and Charlevoix region featuring both Gordon and Quebec artist **René Tardif**, will take place from **December 6**

- 8 at the Gordon Harrison Gallery, 495 Sussex Drive. In addition to his own work, Gordon finds time for an active teaching and coaching career, conducting one-on-one master classes in both his Ottawa and Laurentian studios. In 2009, he launched his signature **Art Inspiration Program** directed to aspiring artists in the younger set. Each year, he selects a local school and coaches a group of its students in the steps in the process towards artistic expression, creativity and skill, assisting each participant to produce a painting which is subsequently exhibited and sold at auction for a charitable cause. Congratulations Gordon: we're delighted to see that your energy and dedication to your art has achieved such well-deserved recognition.



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New Edinburgh News

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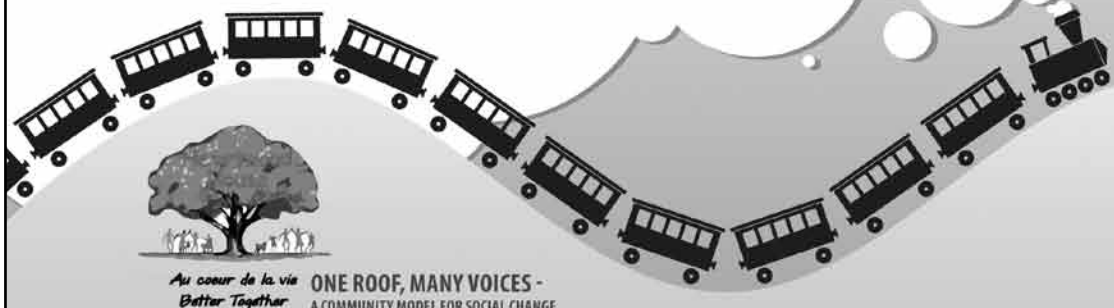
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Update from the Beechwood Village Alliance

By Tobi Nussbaum

This fall's changes on Beechwood have provided hope that the renaissance is truly underway. Sidewalk replacement on the south side, the extension of the east-west bike corridor along Beechwood and Hemlock, improvements to the dilapidated properties between El Meson and the Quickie Mart, and proper

hoarding around the fire site have all contributed in a small way to a more attractive street, more easily and pleasantly navigable by foot or by bike.

At the same time, important developments occurred with regard to some of the key properties on the street.

In early November, City Council approved an application initiated by Vanier resi-

dent Mike Steinhauer to grant heritage status to St. Charles Church. It was not clear at the time of the publication whether this decision would be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board by the Catholic Archdiocese, which had opposed the designation. However, assuming no appeal is launched, a constructive discussion between the Archdiocese and the com-

munity could conceivably help move the sale of the site forward.

Many ideas abound. From an RFP process combined with a design competition, to efforts to maintain a community use for the site, to developers who are contemplating creative uses of the church and surrounding lot, there seems to be no shortage of proposals. It will ultimately be up to the Archdiocese to determine how it wants to proceed, but we hope no matter what course it chooses, the site will soon be a locus of energy and activity, and contribute to the street's revitalization.

With the sale of the Caisse Populaire across the street from St. Charles Church, the middle portion of Beechwood could soon begin to keep pace with the two ends of the street, where the *Minto Beechwood* and *Kavanaugh* projects are underway, as a place of new development. It's exciting to contemplate the beginning of a contiguous mainstreet that draws us from one end to the other if these sites are developed with proper mainstreet principles in mind.

The Beechwood Village Alliance spent the fall advancing work on its Gateway Project to design a public process to finance, design and build public art fixtures at either end of the street. We have applied to the Ottawa Better Neighbourhoods Program for a grant, building on the more than \$5,000 we have already raised, thanks to a Fulbright Program Community grant.

Part of our mission is also to build public support city-

wide for our efforts to make Beechwood a better mainstreet for our communities. In that regard, the op-ed article we published in the *Ottawa Citizen* at the end of September was an important step (you'll find the article at www.ottawacitizen.com/opinion/op-ed/Beechwood+Avenue+renaissance/8978859/story.html)



Winter Solstice Social, Saturday, December 21

And, mark your calendars! We are currently planning the *Winter Solstice Social* to be held on December 21 at New Edinburgh Square (next to The SconeWitch), from 2 to 4 pm. Bring the kids, have a drink of eggnog and celebrate the holidays with your neighbours and with the residents of New Edinburgh Square. There will be crafts for the kids, carolling for the musically inclined, food and drinks and much more. We'll continue to post updates and details on our BVA Facebook page, where you can also sign up to help out (www.facebook.com/MakingBeechwoodBetter), or if you'd like to volunteer, you're welcome to contact Dale Smith at 613-321-6629 or email dale@dalesmithgallery.com. As plans for the Winter Solstice Social unfold, details will also be posted on the New Edinburgh community website at www.newedinburgh.ca.

Minto Bridge Construction

Readers can't fail to have noticed that once again the Minto Bridges are under construction and closed to vehicular traffic, consigning us all to the death defying ordeal of turning left on to Sussex Drive from Stanley, John, Alexander or MacKay Streets, and blocking our handy access to King Edward Avenue. Work continues on the west span of the bridge connecting Green Island to King Edward, and while the City reports that most of the major structural rehabilitation is complete, the crew is currently in the process of placing the final coat of wearing surface on the bridge deck prior to its reopening to traffic in early December.

Thankfully the pedestrian walkway has remained open

throughout the construction, sparing any inconvenience to walking commuters, in particular local employees en route to the Pearson Building. To minimize traffic disruption in the area, the City scheduled the work simultaneously with roundabout construction on King Edward Avenue, where the exit from Union Street is currently closed off. We can only hope that the completion of the project and the reopening of the bridge remain on target for early December. In the first round of construction last year, that December target proved elusive for at least another two months of the winter, cutting off the community from a serviceable (and safe!) access to both Sussex Drive and King Edward Avenue.

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By Cathy McConkey

The **Halloween Howl** is a longstanding tradition in the neighbourhood, giving our littlest trick'r treaters an opportunity to test their costumes before the big day. On Sunday, October 27, the Stanley Park Fieldhouse transformed into a spooky lair filled with fun games and Halloween crafts. The afternoon started off with the costume parade to the Governor's Walk Retirement Residence. It's everyone's favourite part of the afternoon, and we would like to thank all the residents and **Milly Battaion** and all the other staff at Governor's Walk for welcoming these strange creatures into their home and rewarding them with lots of treats. Back at the Fieldhouse, all the children enjoyed digging through leaves and slimy 'brains' for eye balls, creepy crawlers and other prizes. This event is a community effort, with many people to thank: **Roxie Clark** for bravely taking the lead, **Joana Chelo** for delivering the brains to Roxie's pump-

kin, **Debra Conner**, **Paula Pincombe** and **Caroline Matt** for doing whatever it takes to make spooky things happen, and our two student volunteers **Kado Dwivedi-Shresta** and **Harmony Ferreira** for manning the games. Special thanks to **Kerri Connolly**, **Martin Jones** and **Pascal Dubuc** for staying behind and returning the Fieldhouse to its normal state.

Following the spooky annual event of Halloween, the community came out to the Fieldhouse once again on November 1 for a much quieter affair: the annual **Pumpkin Parade**. We have been unlucky in the past couple of years with the weather for this particular event with pouring rain in 2012. So everyone viewed the high winds we got this year as a marked improvement despite some challenges keeping all the pumpkins lit. In the end, neighbours came out and enjoyed seeing their own pumpkins alongside others on the foot path. We especially enjoyed seeing the 13 pumpkins donat-

ed by the Prime Minister's residence. Many thanks to **Michel Giroux** and **Matt DeWolfe** for safely delivering these esteemed guests from 24 Sussex to Stanley Park.

And after the busy fall season, The Crichton Community Council will regroup again before the first snow and get the **skating rinks** get up and running. The initial opening is always hard to predict being a weather dependant event. We have to wait for the snow and in the past few years have been very lucky to get enough just a few days before Christmas.

Michel Giroux and his team of New Edinburgh Hosers will be hard at work tamping down the initial snowfall to use as a base for the rest of the season. Each and every night our team of dedicated **Hosers** will be out scraping and watering the rinks so that we will have the best rink in the city for your use and pleasure. **Brian Torrie (btorrie@hotmail.com or 613-747-7951)** will be making up the icing schedule for the Hosers for the coming season and if you want to volunteer to this illustrious group, please contact Brian so your name can be included. No experience necessary! Michel Giroux (**613-978-3059**) will be looking for Attendants (voluntary and paid) to man the rink and fieldhouse during opening hours. Contact Michel if you want to apply. Please also watch for the opening

hours of the rink.

We all had such a good time last year on New Year's Day at the Fieldhouse that, The Crichton Community Council would like to invite you to our **second annual Winter Carnival** held on **Wednesday, January 1, 2014**, in the Fieldhouse. A pancake brunch with all the trimmings will be served starting at 10 am, and there will be outdoors fun for the entire family including sleigh rides, the 2nd annual 10 Minute Snowman Challenge, and of course, outdoor fun for everyone. Hope to see everyone there!

Please note that from December 15, 2013, until the end of the skating season, we cannot accept bookings for the Fieldhouse. If you wish to make a reservation for next April and beyond, please email **nefieldhouse@gmail.com**.

Council meets every 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 pm at the Fieldhouse. The Council has a terrific base of dedicated volunteers here in the community. For those new or old to the neighbourhood and wanting to make some contact with your new neighbours, this is a wonderful way to make new friends. If you are interested in joining or volunteering please call me at 613-746-0303 for more information. **Merry Christmas to everyone and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2014!!!!**

The Kavanaugh: Strong Sales and Steady Progress at Excavation Site

By Jane Heintzman

Domicile Vice-President **David Chick** is pleased to report that *The Kavanaugh's* condo sales have remained strong throughout the fall, with a total of 86 sales now confirmed, or on the point of confirmation. As readers have no doubt observed in their travels, the excavation of the site also continues apace, and David reports that the construction team is encouraged by the rate of progress. As we reported in our last issue, Hydro Ottawa has completed the installation of new electrical capacity along Beechwood to the *Kavanaugh* site, and thanks to Domicile, we now have new, eye-catching pinkish sidewalks to add a little artistic flair to the project area.

The company is currently working with buyers who are interested in combining suites to create larger units, and Domicile is doing its best to accommodate this group wherever space is available in the building. Design modifications are ongoing as the sales process unfolds, and include the recent introduction of a redecorated one-bedroom and den model, as well as the release of a limited number of small, reasonably priced "**pied-à-terre**" suites, which are modest flats of about 300-400 square feet with a small kitchen, bathroom and "murphy (fold-out) bed" sleeping arrangement—ideal for those whose principal residence is elsewhere, but who are regularly in Ottawa for short periods on business or for family reasons.

Kavanaugh buyers have just been informed by Domicile that they will be the beneficiaries of a new **Extended Warranty program**, which the company introduced in its recently launched projects, *Bergeron Terrace* on Orleans Blvd. and *Nuovo* in Little Italy, and which entails an extension of the industry standard coverage from two to four years.

On the retail front, there is as yet no definite news, but it seems clear that Domicile has no shortage of potential takers and in the coming weeks, will be working to assemble an attractive mix of businesses to serve our increasingly eager market, as well as the residents of the condominiums. David's best guess is that the first definitive news on this front will emerge early in the New Year. We wait in hope!

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Seniors of Distinction Awards (S.O.D.A) 2013: And the Winners Are ...

By Jane Heintzman

In our last issue, we reported on this year's planned presentation of the first ever **Seniors of Distinction Awards (SODA)**, an initiative intended to recognize the accomplishments of senior citizens throughout the Ottawa area, and to mark the **International Day of Older Persons on October 1**, an annual occasion established by the United Nations in 1990 and first observed in October of the following year. The SODA Awards were the brainchild of **Governor's Walk's** parent company **Age Care**, with **Scotiabank** participating as a leading corporate sponsor, and staff at Governor's Walk serving as the energetic planners and principal event organizers.

Throughout late August and September, Governor's Walk received and reviewed nominations from the community of seniors who have made distinguished contributions in the realms of **Art; Leadership; Community Service** and **Healthy Living**, and when the process closed in late September, a Nominations Committee was assembled to decide on the winners in all four categories. On Saturday afternoon, October 5, the residence hosted a gala event to present the awards and pay trib-

ute to the accomplishments of the four outstanding winners. The **Honourable Madeleine Meilleur**, **Mayor Jim Watson**, **Lola Dubé-Quibell** of Ottawa Public Health and **Amanda Smith** of Scotiabank were on hand to do the honours, and to join in the celebration of these remarkable individuals.

The winner in the **Leadership** category is well known and much admired in our own neighbourhood. **Isobel Bisby** has long been an energetic and active participant in the community, serving for many years on the Board of the Crichton Community Council (CCC), and now wearing two hats as both a leading member of the Board of Heartwood House and as the Vice Chair of the New Edinburgh Community and Arts (NECTAR) Centre, where she is active in a broad range of areas from programming to family events and fundraising. Isobel has been indefatigable in organizing, publicizing and fundraising for community activities, including such local events as the annual Jane's Walk, along with family Zumba and Movie Nights at the NECTAR Centre, and was recognized in her award citation for her "long history of social engagement and community building." Our

community has been the fortunate beneficiary of Isobel's unflinching goodwill and dynamism, and we congratulate her on this richly deserved tribute.

In the **Arts** category, this year's SODA award winner was **André Laplante**, who was recognized for his wonderful work as a volunteer supervisor at the Wood Shop in the Good Companions Seniors' Centre. For more than five years, André shared his skills and knowledge as an accomplished craftsman with members of the Centre, and when he was ultimately obliged to close his shop to make the move to Governor's Walk, he donated his workbench and woodworking equipment to the Seniors' Centre to support their ongoing programs. André's award citation paid tribute to his willingness to share "(his) love of the beauty that exists in wood, and his talent in releasing it for all to see."

Manor Park's **Jane Buckley** (who incidentally has been Copy Editor for our sister publication the Manor Park Chronicle since 2009) was the award winner in the **Healthy Living** category. Jane has a life long history of engagement in a host of sports ranging from horse-back riding to sailing, cross country and downhill skiing, activities which serve as background to her current avocation specifically recognized in the award. Since 1995, she has been engaged in training and competing with border collies in challenging dog agility courses, including competitions at the national level. Those of us who have observed these trials with awe (and envy, if we're dog owners) can only imagine the dedication and skill involved in carrying out

the training required to reach a competitive level, and Jane's accomplishment in this field is indeed remarkable.

But in addition to this ambitious avocation, Jane is also a committed and skilled organic gardener, recently receiving

the Street Outreach team and helps to prepare supplies to be distributed to the homeless. She is also involved in OMI's Drop In program at Dominion Chalmers United Church. Her past activities have included work with the Red Cross, the



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Seniors of Distinction Awards: (back row, 1 to r) Amanda Smith (Scotiabank), Mayor Jim Watson, Lola Dubé-Quibell (Public Health), Madeleine Meilleur (M.P.P.); (front row, 1 to r) André Laplante, Florence Hannay, Isobel Bisby, and Jane Buckley. The front and back rows reflect the match - VIP - recipient.

the Trillium Award from the Ontario Horticultural Society for garden design and upkeep. The SODA award citation pays tribute to "Jane's commitment and dedication to the spirit of dog agility; her focus and discipline towards healthy living, (and) her ongoing involvement in the community (which) is an inspiration to young and old alike."

92-year-old **Florence Hanney** was this year's winner in the **Community Service** category, recognized for 27 years of volunteer work in the community, helping the homeless, the ailing and the marginalized. Florence continues to volunteer with Ottawa Innerscity Ministries (OMI) where she is part of

OASIS program at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and the Elisabeth Bruyère Centre. Florence is living proof that it's never too late to reach out and make an important contribution to the community.

We extend our congratulations to all the winners of this year's inaugural awards, to the capable organizers at Governor's Walk, in particular **Community Relations Coordinator Tara Spour**, and to the leading event sponsors, **Age Care** and **Scotiabank**. Be sure to watch for notice of next year's awards and get your nominations in to pay tribute to our many older neighbours who continue to contribute to the community in ways that enrich the lives of us all.



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Report from the Board

By Sean Flynn

The past few months at NECTAR have seen lots of activity and exciting changes, the first of which was the nomination of the new Executive members of the NECTAR Board of Directors. **Sean Flynn** and **Isobel Bisby** have taken on the roles of **Chair** and **Vice-Chair**, respectively, with **Cindy Ryley** as our new **Secretary**.

The Board would like to say a sincere thanks to our departing Chair and Vice-Chair, **Bethann Robin** and **David Horley**, along with **Paula Thompson**, our former Secretary. Bethann, David and Paula bravely stepped up to the challenge of leading the

organization through a time filled with many unknowns and challenges, and were instrumental in guiding the launch of exciting new programming and events in the midst of some major retrofits to New Edinburgh House on 255 MacKay Street. Although all three have stepped down from their positions on the Executive, they are still very active members of the Board and will continue to provide their unique perspectives and guidance to the rest of the Board and the organization as a whole.

In the course of the past eighteen months, the NECTAR Centre Board of Directors, along with community advisors

and staff, have come together to develop and plan the implementation of a clear vision for the Centre in the months and years to come. Their important role is no more evident than in the ongoing transformation of the Centre, a process in which they remain closely involved, and always on the lookout for improvements.

We have been blessed with a staff that is strongly connected to the organization, and has thought deeply about how to make it prosper. It is therefore with great sadness that we said goodbye to two members of our staff: **Kiki Cliff** and **Sue Hall**. Kiki has been with the Centre for three years as bookkeeper and administrator, starting her tenure in its former headquarters in 200 Crichton Street where she became well known in the community for her remarkable work in coordinating the relief effort for residents displaced by the Beechwood Fire of March 2011.

Sue has been working hard as our Programming Director, investing enormous time and care in preparations for the recent launch of the Centre's long-awaited After School Care Program. Both were familiar and welcoming faces in the community, and played a very visible role in our orga-

nization. The Board and all of those associated with the Centre would like to thank Kiki and Sue for all their hard work and dedication to the success of the organization, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

As a consequence of the Centre's serious financial constraints, flowing largely from the challenges of the costly retrofit combined with the ongoing demands and costs associated with our transition to new facilities, staffing at the Centre is looking a little lean at the moment. We are, however, making a major effort to move towards a model that encourages volunteerism and community involvement to help with the running and upkeep of the Centre. We encourage any and all interested members of the community to drop by New Edinburgh House and talk to one of our staff members, **Melanie Davis**, **Anthony King**, and **Susannah Ward**, or contact one of our Board members to see how you can help out.

With Phase 1 of the retrofits to New Edinburgh House now complete, we are looking ahead to 2014, and putting plans in place to embark on Phase 2 of the retrofits, which will include the construction of an accessible ramp for the front entrance to the House.

We're delighted to announce that the ramp will be constructed as part of a partnership with students from **Cité Collégiale**, and are extremely grateful for their participation.

IT'S A FULL HOUSE! One final note about studio rentals at NEH: we are now fully occupied! In November, we welcomed the **Coalition for New Canadians for Arts and Culture (CNCAC)**, who provide valuable information, professional technical support, and marketing/promotional services to new immigrant individuals and communities working in the arts and culture domain. This dynamic group is providing a vital service to the community while at the same time helping to stimulate our economy, encourage diversity, and promote the synergy of arts and culture in Canada.

CNCAC joins our Visual Artists **John Jarrett**, **Diana Bates**, **Pat Fyfe**, **Judy** and **Louise Tanguay**, **Suzannah Robertson**, **Luis Guillermo**, **Leigh** and **Patrick Biggs**; Performance Artists **Mi Casa Theatre**, and Musicians **Micheline Kinsella** and **Erin Puttee**.

Please join us on **December 1, from 2 to 5 pm** for the **Opening Vernissage** of our annual **That's Life Exhibition** and an Open House to meet all the artists in your Community.

and August.

Special Events:

NECTAR Centre's regular schedule of special events such as movie nights and vernis-sages makes an enormous contribution to the collective life of our community. But popular as they are, these activities take planning and organization, and volunteer support is always needed to make them a success. This is an ideal opportunity to make new friends if you're new to community, or to meet and greet old ones if you're a longtime resident. It's not onerous, and it's always fun!

Host a Dinner for a Cause Event:

Our **Empty Seat Program** offers up free spots in our programs for those who cannot afford the registration fees. This is a significant aspect of the NECTAR Centre's service to wider community, and is strongly endorsed by the government and private sector organizations that support us. You can help us to strengthen this important outreach program simply by hosting a dinner party, and inviting your guests to contribute to provid-

Calling All Volunteers: We Need Your Time and Talents And We Think You Need Us!

As our neighbour the Governor General has consistently emphasized as a central pillar of his core message to Canadians: "Study after study has demonstrated that a spirit of giving or volunteerism plays a central role in our happiness and sense of well-being." And, indeed, studies that show that the happiness you feel when contributing your time to a good cause is even more fulfilling than the pleasure you experience when engaged in a "fun" past-time. So readers will be delighted to learn that the NECTAR Centre has a number of opportunities that could enrich your life while benefitting the community... and you can also have fun in the process!

To use a well-worn cliché, volunteering at the NECTAR Centre is like "the gift that keeps on giving." There are always new and interesting activities on the go, and simply by participating, you'll have an ideal opportunity to learn even more about our dynamic community, establish solid relationships, stay up to date on—

or even create—future happenings, and become part of the diverse community that is New Edinburgh. And as a modest expression of our appreciation for your time and commitment, if you work for over six hours at the Centre, you'll receive a \$20 discount on the fees for your next program.

Open Invitation to All Ages:

We are looking for Volunteers of *all* ages, stages and talents, so whether you're an active retiree with some extra time to engage in community life, an energetic teenager in search of community service hours, a busy professional who'd like to share their special skills with their neighbours, or a young parent eager to engage your family in the life of the community, there's a place for you at the NECTAR Centre.

Here are some of the areas in which your help is needed to keep the Centre running smoothly as a lively hub for the life of our community:

Office Reception Assistant:

We are looking for friendly faces to sit in our office and

greet visitors, register program participants, respond to drop-in visitors' inquiries, answer the telephone, and assist with some minor administrative tasks. The two time slots are **9 am to noon, Monday to Saturday**, and **5 pm to 8 pm, Monday to Thursday**. Ideally we would like to establish a roster of "regulars" for each of the time slots, but we are also looking for a back-up list of volunteers who could be called on occasionally, so there's a role for anyone interested, regardless of your schedule.

Playgroup Animator:

If you enjoy working with children, we are looking for an animator for our Monday to Friday Playgroup. You would be supporting our Early Childhood Educator and her assistant by reading stories, singing, helping with crafts, and helping with the set up and take down for the Playgroup. If you're an adoring Grandma whose grandchildren live out of town, this is the ideal spot for you!

Grounds Assistant: Help

Keep New Edinburgh House Neat and Trim

To allow easy access to New Edinburgh House and to maintain our lovely appearance, we need volunteers who would ensure that pathways, porches and walkways are clear of debris; cut the grass; shovel snow; and in the spring, assist with the upkeep and beautification of plantings around the house. If you're a student in need of community service hours, give us a call: you'll meet new people, get some fresh air and exercise, and the results of your labour will be admired by all who visit the Centre. And if you're a seasoned gardener willing to lend a hand with our landscaping, you'll be greeted with open arms.

Home Deliveries:

While we are proud of our website, we realize that many people depend on the paper copy of the NECTAR Guide. We are looking for volunteers to deliver our guide door to door, just three times a year in December, February

Continued on page 31

Continued from page 30

ing an empty seat in one of the NECTAR Centre programs.

New Edinburgh House Caretaker:

A heritage home is always in need of some TLC, and the New Edinburgh House is no exception. There is always a light bulb that needs replacing, a handle that needs jiggling, light maintenance and simple repairs. If you've recently moved to a modern condo and are missing the chance to exercise your skills as a handyman in an older home, please give us a call!

Community Board Caretaker:

Ever noticed that the Community Board at the corner of Dufferin and Crichton Streets is a little drab, and

perhaps not as eye-catching as it could be? If you have even a small amount of time to spare to keep it up to date and engaging, your services would be much appreciated.

Marketing / Graphic Design:

Do you have experience using Photoshop, Illustrator and Wordpress? Can you create posters and images that create impact, are attractive and get the word out on NECTAR Centre events? If the answer to these questions is affirmative, we need you! Our notices reach a wide audience so this could be a golden opportunity to showcase your skills and perhaps lead to future projects.

Program Assistants:

If working with young people is high on your list of preferred volunteer opportunities, we

would welcome your assistance in helping our After-school and Camp program leaders coordinate nature games, sports and other activities. Have fun playing with kids in discovering outdoor adventures in Stanley Park. The NECTAR Centre offers daycare programs throughout the summer, during winter holidays and spring break.

Contact Us: If you have a few hours to spare, either on a regular weekly basis or on an occasional basis, please contact **Isobel Bisby** at ibisby@gmail.com/613-304-9191 or **Jenni Barbarie** at anghiari@hotmail.com / 613-747-6967. You'll also find an online Volunteer Application at our website www.nectarcentre.ca, or you can call the Office at 613-745-7242.

Mi Casa Presents *Collapsible*

December 11 – 15 at NECTAR Centre

Wed. December 11, 7 pm;
Thurs. December 12, 7 pm;
Fri. December 13, 7 pm; Sat.
December 14, 2 pm and 7 pm;
Sun. December 15, 2 pm.

When playwright Emily Pearlman heard the responses from the 5 to 10 year olds sprawled on the floor of the NECTAR Centre, she began to suspect that they should be the ones writing this play. "Can you think of a reason a flood might happen?" co-director **Madeleine Boyes-Manseau** asked. "What if there were 300 birds and then they all sat on a dam?" "What if there were robbers who snuck into a house and left the tap on?" "What if peacocks and seagulls collected water in their mouths and then dumped it down the chimney?"

And so began the collective process of making a piece of theatre where a group of young people creates the framing structure for a play being written as a part of Mi Casa Theatre's dual residency at the NECTAR Centre and at the Great Canadian Theatre Company.

Collapsible, which will be performed December 11 – 15 at the NECTAR Centre, tells the story of a village in which people make all their decisions by consulting a wise, hill-dwelling sage who makes clear rulings to the irresolute via *Beard Ouija*. When the village is left underwater by a flood, everyone seeks refuge in a house at the

of a hill, where it is decided that the only ones to blame for the flood are two women marooned at sea, but who appear to be rowing closer to them every day.

The show takes the audience on an ambulatory journey through transformed rooms at the NECTAR Centre's New Edinburgh House. The young people act as the chorus and guides throughout the cranny-filled house, suggesting pathways, and gossiping about the events unfolding in front of them.

Collapsible is Mi Casa Theatre's fourth full-length show. Their previous work has toured to over 40 venues in 13 cities across Canada and includes the multi-award winning *Countries Shaped Like Star*, which appeared at last

Children's Festival.

The play is written and co-directed by Mi Casa co-artistic director **Emily Pearlman**. The community has also been working closely with co-director **Madeleine Boyes-Manseau** and technical director **Sean Green**, not just as actors but also as co-designers in the process, lending their imaginations to the creation of a giant dollhouse and a top secret basement lair. They will be joined by actors **Andy Massingham**, **Sarah McVie**, and **Katie Swift** who have previously performed at Stratford, the NAC, the GCTC, and in numerous independent productions across Canada.

For tickets visit www.micasatheatre.com.

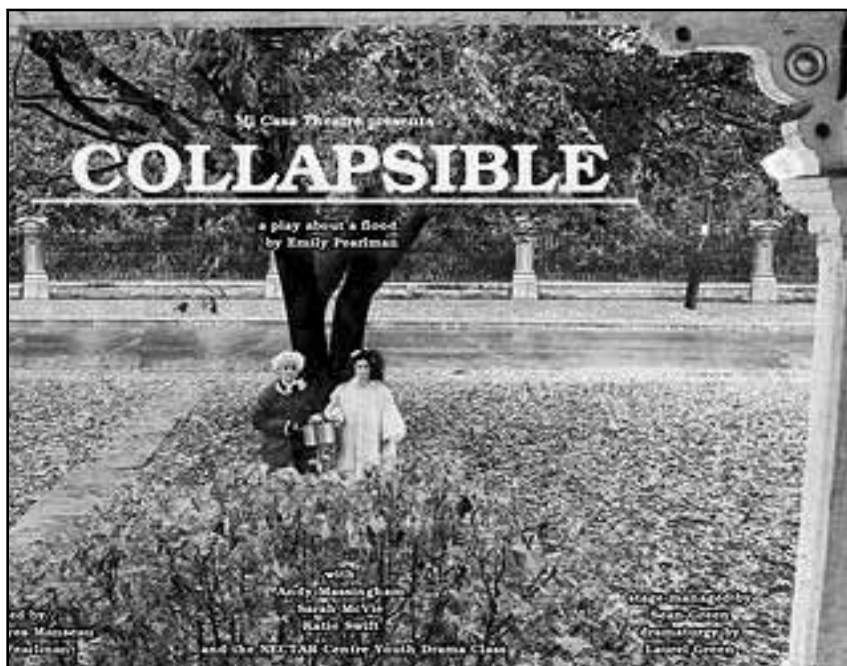


Photo: Cory Thibert

Pictured: Actors Katie Swift and Sarah McVie.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THE NEW EDINBURGH COMMUNITY & ARTS CENTER CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

HOLIDAY

COCKTAIL PARTY

DECEMBER 7TH, 2013

THE DETAILS

THE LOCATION: NEW EDINBURGH HOUSE 255 MACKAY STREET
THE TIME: 7:00PM
THE PRICE: \$15.00/PERSON
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

NIFTY PRIZES, 50/50 RAFFLE, CASH BAR

JOIN US

FOR LIGHT MUNCHIES, MUSIC AND FUN

RSVP IN PERSON AT NEW EDINBURGH HOUSE: 255 MACKAY ST. OR CONTACT US AT

Credit: Margo Blackell

Annual Exhibition of Figure Drawings and Paintings
December 1st - December 28th, 2013

Opening Reception: Sunday, December 1st 2013 2-5pm

For other viewings please call 613-745-2742 as gallery hours vary.
New Edinburgh Community Gallery | 255 Mackay Street

Presented by
New Edinburgh Community & Arts [NECTAR] Centre
Centre communautaire et des arts de New Edinburgh

NECTAR Centre Celebrates Donors' Day

The New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre had plenty to celebrate on October 17 at New Edinburgh House. The first milestone of the three phases in the New Edinburgh House retrofit is finally complete! To mark the occasion, Board and staff members at the Centre organized an afternoon reception to honour those who contributed so generously to the project.

The House welcomed special guests the **Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, M.P.P.**; **Councillor Peter Clark** from the City of Ottawa; representatives from the Ontario Trillium Foundation; President **John Doran** and Vice-President **David Chick** of Domicile, the Centre's lead corporate donor; **Luc Lepanse** from

Cité Collégiale; and **Hugo Lepore**, Manager of Sales for Minto Communities. Many members of the community joined the lively gathering, as did the younger crowd from the Centre's new After School Care program, who turned up to enjoy the splendid cake provided by Board member **Joseph Cull**, a consummate baker, among his many other talents.

We are delighted to announce that thanks to the extraordinary generosity of leading donors and the community as a whole, the Centre raised \$152,685, and was successful in reaching its target to begin the first critical phases of the Fire and Building Code retrofit of New Edinburgh House right on schedule in early July. Our

guests of honour presented the Centre with cheques for their respective donations, and all expressed support for our organization, and genuine pleasure in having the opportunity to participate in the celebratory occasion.

Especially gratifying to all of us at the Centre is the fact that the single largest component of the donations, an impressive total of \$72,000, came from the community at large—our sincere thanks to each and every one of you who came forward when help was most urgently needed, and dug deep to ensure that the Centre could survive and thrive to continue serving our community, now and in the years to come.

We are extremely grateful to our local retirement residences, **Governor's Walk, New Edinburgh Square** and **The Edinburgh**, who provided generous donations of food platters to create an attractive feast at the celebration. These residences have consistently been strong and invaluable supporters of activities at the NECTAR Centre, and have done much to enrich the life of our community.

It is no mean feat to restore and upgrade a venerable heritage property to ensure that it meets City of Ottawa Building Code guidelines, and can con-

tinue to serve as a lively gathering place for the community, but thanks to the generous donors who assured the success of the first phase of our Capital Campaign, that process is well

underway. Later in 2014, we will be moving on to the next stage of the project, with the momentum of this triumphant launch to spur us on to further progress.



Photo: Louise Imbeault

NECTAR Board members and VIPs: (l to r) Hugo Lepore (Minto); David Chick (Domicile); The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, M.P.P.; Councillor Peter Clark; Jane Heintzman; and Vicki Metcalfe.

NEW NECTAR Centre Programs

Photo Marathon Program:

The Nectar Centre is pleased to offer a Photo Marathon Program to local photo bugs this winter. The program offers an inspiring mix of photo assignments, feedback and skill development. Each week, participants will be given new photo assignments and will have an opportunity to share their work, take part in mutually constructive critique, and benefit from expert advice from professional photographer **Martin Lupin**.

Artist-in-Residence Program:

In light of the remarkable success of last year's Artist-in-Residence program, the Centre will remount the program in

2014, but this time with a slight twist. We are pleased to announce that in 2014 the NECTAR Centre residency program will focus exclusively on **Theatre Arts**. The residency program has two interrelated program goals: 1) to support creative artists by offering them the time and space to create new work; and 2) to develop programming in which artists-in-residence collaborate with our local community. The official call for artists will be announced in the New Year. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the call for artists, or if you have suggestions of others who might be, please contact the Centre at 613-745-7242 or info@nectarcentre.ca

What's Happening at the House: Winter Program Guide

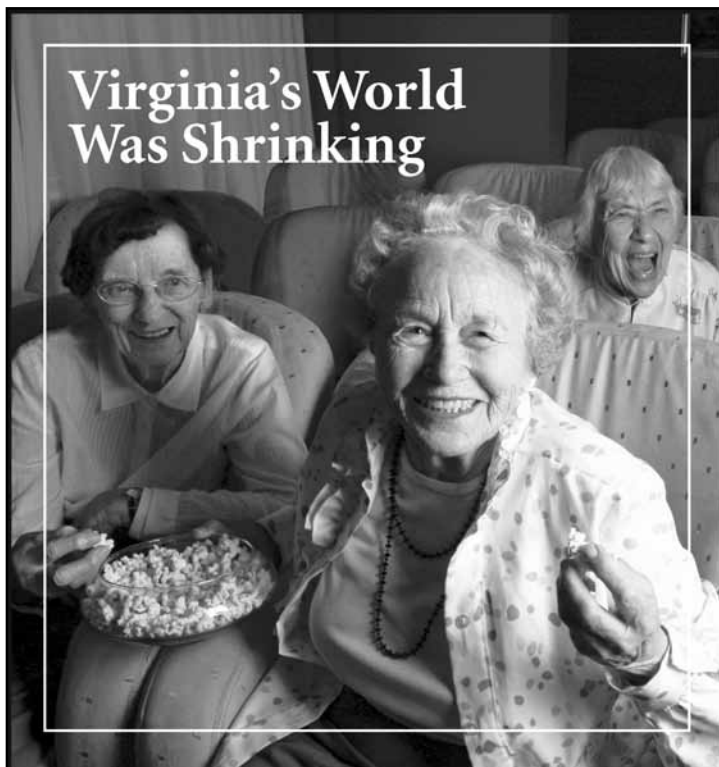
No, we're not bears, and winter is not a time for hibernation! Whatever the weather, you can keep active this winter at the NECTAR Centre. Just check out the **Winter 2014 edition of our Program Guide** and you'll find a wide range of programs and activities that appeal to all ages, skill levels, and interests. There's something for everyone, whether it's a physical

workout in one of our fitness programs; a theatrical venture in a NECTAR Centre drama class; an intellectual challenge and companionable gathering at one of our bridge sessions; an absorbing art class; or a social evening with friends and family at one of our special events. New Edinburgh House belongs to us all: come and make yourself at home!



Photo: Louise Imbeault

NECTAR Board members and VIPs gathered at the recent Donor's event: (l to r) Cindy Ryley; The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, M.P.P.; Melanie Davis; Joseph Cull; David Horley; Bethann Robin; and John Jarrett.



Now she has so much to look forward to

When Virginia was on her own, she lost touch with people. Aside from the holidays and occasional outings with her family, she spent a lot of time at home alone.

Now that Virginia lives in a Chartwell residence, she is surrounded by people with similar interests and experiences. Her new friends are quickly becoming her best friends.

To find out more call New Edinburgh Square at 613-744-0901 or visit www.chartwellreit.ca



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10 Braemar St.
Manor Park

Former NECTAR Centre Board Member Celebrates Successful Season with Beach Café on Rideau Canal

We congratulate former NECTAR Centre Board member and Treasurer **Colin Goodfellow** on the resounding success of his summer pilot project, 8 Locks' Flat, a temporary beach and bistro on the Rideau Canal inspired by comparable, though much larger beaches along the Seine in Paris. Colin's project was one of four approved by the National Capital Commission (NCC) to liven up the shoreline, and a recent NCC report suggests that it was extremely well received by survey respondents, both locals and tourists alike.

Colin reports that he has had

strong support from the NCC in launching and marketing the project, and he is pleased by this summer's promising experience: "ours is the only licensed beach in Ottawa and people like it. They pull up a lounge chair, have an ice-cold beer and watch the boats go by, right in the heart of the city." Given the success of the summer of 2013, Colin is looking forward to reopening the bistro next summer, and indeed, if all continues to go well, it may become a permanent summer fixture on the canal landscape. Well done, Colin: it's great to see your entrepreneurial spirit in action!

Event Listing

December 1 – *That's Life Annual Exhibition of Figure Painting and Drawings* – 2 – 5 pm at New Edinburgh house Gallery

December 1 - **New Edinburgh House Studio Open House** – 2 – 5 pm

December 7 – **NECTAR Centre Holiday Celebration** 7 – 9:30 pm at New Edinburgh House

December 11 – 15 - **2013 Artists-in-Residence Mi Casa Theatre Presents "Collapsible"** www.micasatheatre.com

January 31, February 28, March 28, 2014 - **NECTAR Centre Family Movie Nights**

Looking for a night out for the family? Join us for Family Movie nights for the last Friday of each month through the winter at New Edinburgh House. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Popcorn & juice are free with donation. 7 – 9 pm

January 10, 24, February 7, 21, March 7, 21, April 4, 18 - **Board Game Nights** Join your neighbours in a social evening of playing Board Games at new Edinburgh House. *Settlers of Catan, Torres, Puerto Rico, Quir' Le, Boardwalk,*

Labyrinth, the Walking Dead, Scategories, Dixit, Mille borne, Go and much more! 7 - 10 pm

February 1 – 16 - **Lumière Ottawa Snow Lantern Installation**

Join the NECTAR Centre/Lumière Festival at WINTERLUDE 2014 as we create our first ever Snow Lantern installation in Confederation Park. The Centre is inviting everyone to participate, and help us to light up the dark winter night in the park. With the winter season in full swing, building a Snow Lantern and creating a magical illuminated world promises to be a fun and imaginative way for kids and parents to make the most of the cold winter days. Activities and Snow Lantern-making workshops will take place on **weekends from 12 noon to 9 pm.**

Volunteers Needed: To make this first exciting year of snow lantern-making a real success, the Centre needs special Snow Lantern Volunteers who can help to animate the workshops and oversee the creative process—please call us if you can contribute 613-745-2742 or email volunteer@nectarcentre.ca.

NECTAR Centre Artist John Jarrett Featured at the Cube Gallery

Our hearty congratulations to NECTAR Centre studio artist and longtime Board member, **John Jarrett**, whose fine work was featured in a two person show at Ottawa's Cube Gallery this fall. John has been a resident artist at the Centre for over a decade, and continues to be a highly valued member of the Board and constant contributor to the life of New

Edinburgh House. Since his retirement from a career with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, John has pursued his career as an artist with characteristic energy, skill and dedication. His paintings depict a wide range of subjects from Gatineau landscapes, to historic public landmarks such as the Parliament buildings, to the houses, streetscapes

and picturesque lanes in older Ottawa neighbourhoods, New Edinburgh prominent among them. The quality and professionalism of his work is widely acclaimed in the local arts community. Congratulations John: the NECTAR Centre is proud to claim you as one of its own!

Go to www.nectarcentre.ca for more information

WINTERLUDE 14

LUMIERE

Presents

Snow Lantern Installation

Help us to light up the dark winter night in Jacques Cartier Park.

With the winter season in full swing, building a Snow Lantern and creating a magical illuminated world promises to be a fun and imaginative way for kids and parents to make the most of the cold winter days.

Activities and Snow Lantern-making workshops will take place on **weekends January 31 – February 17 from 12 noon – 6 pm.** Lanterns will be lit nightly.

New Edinburgh Community & Arts (NECTAR) Centre
Centre communautaire et des arts de New Edinburgh

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www.peterdclark.ca

Christmas 2013 Reading Suggestions

Books on Beechwood Staff Antoinette Recommends:

For the politically inclined: *The Big Shift: The Seismic Change in Canadian Politics, Business and Culture and What it Means for Our Future*, by **Darrell Bricker and John Ibbitson**, is about the dusty liberal elite being replaced by a new, powerful coalition based in the west.

Shopping for Votes by **Susan Delacourt**, is about how politicians choose us and we choose them....citizens as gullible consumers.

The Longer I'm Prime Minister by **Paul Wells**, explores Stephen Harper's understanding of Canada. *Fire and Ashes* by **Michael Ignatieff**, is an unsparing memoir of success and failure.

How We Lead: Canada in a Century of Change by **Joe Clark**, is a passionate argument for Canada's reassertion of its place on the world stage.

A Great Game by **Stephen Harper** (not about politics), revels in hockey nostalgia, written by our Prime Minister in his spare time.

Bridget Recommends:

The Massey Murder: Neighbourhood favourite Charlotte Gray does it yet again with a compelling

account of the murder of one of the mighty Massey family. The book is also a fascinating study of Victorian Toronto and the deep impact of the First World War on an evolving city.

How the Light Gets In: New York Times #1 best-selling author and Eastern Townships star **Louise Penny's** 9th Inspector Gamache mystery is masterful and satisfying. It is Christmas in Three Pines, and Gamache is drawn back into the snowy village to help find a missing friend as he escapes the mounting evil forces that are closing in on him at the Sureté de Quebec. Some long building tensions are finally resolved.

Lives of the Family: Ottawa writer **Denise Chong** offers a revealing and poignant insight into the Chinese immigrant experiences of the mid-twentieth century. The linked stories of Chinese families in and around Ottawa are both heart-wrenching and inspiring. They give the reader a real sense of the difficult decisions that had to be made to leave China, followed by the terrible cultural isolation that they faced once they arrived, not to mention the roadblocks thrown up by the Canadian government.

The War That Ended Peace: Historian **Margaret**

MacMillan once again delivers a highly readable and informative historical account, this time of the years leading up to the outbreak of the First World War. Like her best-selling and award-winning *Paris 1919*, Macmillan makes major world events come alive through great literary storytelling that features vividly depicted characters and well-meaning but misguided leaders. I was transported back to a time of great hope and unimaginable upheaval.

David Recommends:

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by **Jacqueline Kelly** (ages 8-12)

Johanna (aged 7) says: "There's a lot of funny stuff in it. Calpurnia wants to learn more about science than cooking." David adds: The story starts in the summer of 1899 in a little town in Texas, and Calpurnia is a young teen. She is expected to learn to keep house, but is fascinated with the nature around her introduced to her by her grandfather. Winner of the Newberry award, amongst others!

Hilary Recommends:

Omens by **Kelley Armstrong**
A brand new adult series from this wonderful Canadian

author. Olivia Taylor Jones seems to have the perfect life – the only daughter of a wealthy Chicago couple, and engaged to be married to a successful high tech CEO. In the course of one night, her life is shattered when she discovers that not only is she adopted, but her real parents are notorious serial killers. So begins Olivia's journey to small-town Illinois in search of the truth about her parents and herself. A delightfully creepy read!

Longbourn by Jo Baker

Following the map laid out by Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*, Jo Baker sets out to tell the stories of the servants who run the Bennet estate at Longbourn. It is an intriguing, riveting read. Great for fans of *Upstairs, Downstairs*, *Downton Abbey*, and of course *Pride and Prejudice*.

Maid of Secrets by Jennifer McGowan (Ages 12+)

An amazing Elizabethan spy story for young adults! Meg is an orphan who, while moving around the country with a traveling theatre troupe, is pressed into service as a spy for Queen Elizabeth. As one of the Queen's Maids of Honor, Meg sets out to protect her sovereign from dangerous threats to Her kingdom – at all costs.

Lara's Gift by Annemarie O'Brien (ages 8-12)

Lara is being groomed to follow in the family tradition and

take over as Count Vorontsov's next kennel steward. Despite the special ability Lara has to understand these noble borzois, when her baby brother is born, he usurps her place as next in line to the kennel stewardship. Can Lara convince her father to let her fulfill her destiny? A beautiful read set in Imperial Russia.

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt


This is an adorable picture book about what happens when Duncan's crayons all decide to quit. Each one writes him a funny letter outlining their grievances. It's a wonderfully funny, entertaining book with quirky illustrations by Oliver Jeffers.

Cinders by Jan Brett


This is a beautifully illustrated retelling of Cinderella starring chickens. Typical of Jan Brett, each page is filled with glorious images. Her chickens all dressed up for the royal ball are exquisite!

Northwest Passage by Stan Rogers

In this lovely picture book, the words to Stan Rogers' famous song "Northwest Passage" are accompanied by beautiful illustrations by Matt James. In addition to the song lyrics and the illustrations, the book also contains a fair bit of history about all the different explorers who have attempted to travel the Northwest



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 <p>For Sale or Rent • Lindenlea \$429,000 or \$1,800/mth</p>	 <p>For Sale • Rockcliffe Park \$1,399,000</p>	 <p>For Sale or Rent • Canal \$965,000 or \$4,000/mth</p>

Passage.

Porcupine in a Pine Tree by **Helaine Becker**

A perennial favourite here at the store, this is an adorable Canadian version of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Peter Recommends:

Cook books that inform, instruct, and are good to look at, are having a resurgence in popularity. Who better to fill that role than **Lucy Waverman** and **Beppi Crosariol**. The latest book is *The Flavour Principle*. It is organised around 11 distinctive flavours with 30 menus and accompanying drink suggestions. The flavours give us a tour of the world.

Death in Sicily by **Andrea Camilleri**

I was in Sicily this summer and stocked up on the Inspector Montalbano series set around Palermo. This book is a collection of the first three of the series and a good introduction if you don't know this incorruptible detective who spends a good fraction of his time thinking about Sicilian food. The latest book in the series is *Treasure Hunt*. They are slim volumes full of local colour and include subtle social commentary. The author's website has a description of all the Sicilian dishes that are mentioned in the his books and many recipes (in Italian- www.vigata.org/cucina/ricette.shtml).

If you can't travel, you might settle for the latest **Ansel Adams Calendar** to gaze at each month. The amazing black and white photographs capture a sense of place in ways that our automated, megapixel SLRs will never match.

For more food for the mind and a fascinating read, there is a paperback re-issue of the classic *Creativity: the Psychology of Discovery and Invention* by **Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi**, originally published in 1996. This was based on in-depth interviews with a hundred highly creative people to search for commonalities in the creative process, in types of upbringing, on working methods, on attitudes and aging etc. There are many intriguing hypotheses which you can check out against any high achieving creative people that you may have met.

For more psychology, there is a challenging book, *Thinking Fast and Slow* by **Daniel Kahneman** who sets out to prove that we have two ways of thinking. There is the fast intuitive response which is frequently in error and readily influenced by bias, and the

slower more rational analysis which only takes over if it is forced to. This duality has an impact on decision-making especially in the areas of risk-taking or forecasting. He presents many case studies and tries to provide guidance on avoiding the pitfalls of intuitive errors.

Jill Recommends:

The Way of 88 Temples by **Robert Sibley**

Robert Sibley, author of *The Way of the Stars: Journeys on the Camino de Santiago*, which was short-listed for the 2013 Ottawa Book Awards, has written about his pilgrimage to the 88 temples in Japan. In *The Way of the 88 Temples*, the reader journeys with Sibley as he describes his experiences visiting the temples on the Shikoku pilgrimage. This is a beautiful read.

In *Conversations with a Dead Man* by **Mark Abley**, the author introduces us to Duncan Campbell Scott, a Canadian poet and the head of the Department of Indian Affairs. Duncan Campbell Scott was responsible for implementing the residential school system. Through "conversations" with Scott, Mark Abley presents a fascinating biography of a controversial Canadian.

Welcome to the Broadcast by **Don Newman**

Don Newman's memoir is a pleasant read. Familiar names are dropped and the reader learns about the life, both professional and personal, of this former news correspondent and host of CBC "Newsworld's Politics."

The Forgotten by **Nathan Greenfield**

In this book, Nathan Greenfield explores the lives of the Canadians taken prisoner by the Germans in WWII. The stories he tells chronicle the horrors of POW camps and the determination of the Canadians to survive.

Di Recommends:

In *What W.H. Auden Can Do For You* by **Alexander McCall Smith**, this celebrated author has set aside his renowned story telling skills to relate his virtually lifelong interest in, and influence by W.H. Auden. It is a fascinating study and autobiographical as well, as the author lets us see so much of himself in his testimonial to the poet. I read it with a book of Auden's poetry by my side which, when reading, was much more comprehensible with McCall Smith's interpretation and understanding. His book is a gem and lovely to have on one's shelves.

Brady Brady by **Chuck**

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

Temple is a great book for the young hockey player. It is an oversized, hardcover chapter book for boys, particularly those around 7-9 years old. Each chapter is a story in itself and covers many aspects of the game like sportsmanship, hard work and sharing. A very Canadian book.

The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail is a delightful romp by **Richard Peck** – a renowned writer for children. For the 8 to 12 audience, it tells the story of a mouse who lives below Buckingham Palace at the time of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Filled with adventure, humour and history, it is a worthwhile book to treasure.

Stephanie Recommends:

Last Friends by **Jane Gardam**

In a style which is witty and graceful, Jane Gardam weaves a tale of love, disappointments, bitter sweet experiences and the consolation of old age. This is the last in the marvelous trilogy which includes *Old Filth* and *The Man in the Wooden Hat*.

The Golden Egg by **Donna Leon**

Commissario Guido Brunetti investigates the death of a "sweet simple-minded man." In the process we explore his Venice in all its beauty, history, crime and corruption. Reading a Brunetti mystery is never just about the crime, but the pleasure of immersing yourself in the atmosphere of Venice.

Prize Winners:

The Luminaries by **Eleanor Catton** (Man Booker Prize Winner) - "She is among the finest of storytellers, drawing us forward through a labyrinth of lives, all of them converging in ways you could never easily imagine" - **Jay Parini**, author of *The Last Station*

Hell Going by **Lynn Coady** (Giller Prize Winner) - The Giller jury said, in part: "Coady offers a worldview full of mournful humour, ready indignation, and vertiginous possibility; the reader feels in the presence of life itself."

The Dogs are Eating Them Now by **Graeme Smith** (Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize Winner for Nonfiction) - This is an impassioned, well-written, and informed look at Afghanistan by the extremely resourceful and brave reporter, Graeme Smith, who grew to love the country and its people, and whose heart was broken by the war.

Books 'n Brew News....Sell Out Crowds!

Books on Beechwood's newest endeavour, "Books 'n Brew"

has been a tremendous success. We have teamed up with **The Clocktower Brew Pub**, 422 MacKay St to offer a series of evenings at which participants can enjoy a meal and listen to a guest author. In September, **Charlotte Gray** spoke to a sold out audience about her new book, *The Massey Murder*. In October, **Nathan Greenfield** read from his book, *The Forgotten*. Our next two events for this year, **Don Newman** on his memoir *Welcome to the Broadcast*, and **Mary Lawson** on her latest novel *Road Ends* are both sold out.

The Books 'n Brew program continues in December with the "Sunday in December" series.

December 1, Denise Chong will be presenting her new book, *Lives of the Family* in which she presents stories of the Chinese who came to and settled in small-town Canada.

December 8, Mark Abley will talk about his book, *Conversations with a Dead Man*, a portrait of Duncan Campbell Scott who was head of the Department of Indian Affairs and a principal architect of the residential school system.

December 15, Robert Sibley will talk about his latest book, *The Way of the 88 Temples*. The Shikoku pilgrimage, which Sibley recounts in the book, is one of the oldest pilgrimage routes in Japan.

Reservations are required as seating is limited. Please call the Clocktower Brew Pub (613-742-3169) to make your

reservations.

Book Club News...

Books on Beechwood's two book clubs are both thriving, and members are enjoying the flexibility of being able to choose the Wednesday that is most convenient to them (or both Wednesdays if they want to continue the discussion).

Antoinette Fracassi will continue to lead **Group 2, the second Wednesdays of each month** at The New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence at 7:30pm in the second floor lounge. **Jill Moll** will lead **Group 1 the last Wednesday of each month** in the Penthouse of The Edinburgh Retirement Residence, 10 Vaughan St at 7:30pm. The books can be purchased from the bookstore at a 20% reduction as they are the Book of the Month for all customers.

New members are welcome to join either group. Please sign up at the bookstore for the Wednesday session that works best for you.

The theme for 2014 is War and its repercussions.

January 15 and 29: In the Garden of Beasts by **Erik Larson**

February 12 and 26: Aftermath by **Rhidian Brook**

March 12 and March 26: The Monkey Puzzle Tree by **Sonia Tilson**

April 9 and 30: Citizens of London by **Lynne Olson**

May 14 and 28: The Apartment by **Greg Baxter**

June 11 and 25: Stella Bain by **Anita Shreve**



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Homeowners Are Encouraged to Test Their Homes for Radon Gas

(Ottawa) This winter Ottawa Public Health (OPH), as a member of the Ontario Radon Working Group, is encouraging residents to test their homes for the presence of radon gas. Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that is colourless and odourless—you can't see, smell, or taste it. Radon is produced by the decay of uranium found in soil, rock or water, and can enter buildings through cracks in foundation floors and walls, gaps in service pipes, open floor drains, or any other area of exposed soil.

Long-term exposure to elevated levels of radon in the home increases your chances

of developing lung cancer. According to the World Health Organization, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

It is important to note that most homes will contain a background level of radon, which is not considered dangerous; however, when average concentrations exceed Canada's guidelines, it is recommended that action be taken to correct the problem. To ensure your home is safe, it is recommended that homeowners:

- Test their home in the lowest lived-in area of the dwelling. Generally, the highest concentrations of radon are found in basements and in the lower levels of homes. Testing should be done over a period of three months using a do-it-yourself test kit purchased from your local hardware store or OPH. You can also hire a professional to test the level of radon gas in your home.
- Take corrective actions if radon levels are found to be above Canada's recommended level of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre

(200 Bq/m³).

Guidelines for safe radon gas levels are available on OPH and Health Canada's websites.

Recommendations to correct high levels of radon gas in the home include:

- Installing ventilation and sealing entry points in the building foundation.
- Contacting a radon professional to assist. The Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program certifies radon professionals. OPH is a member of the Ontario Radon Working Group along with Public Health Ontario and 19 Ontario health units with the support of Health Canada.

For more information on radon gas and the impacts on human health, and where to obtain a radon testing kit, visit ottawa.ca/health or call the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744 (TTY: 613-580-9656). You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter (@OttawaHealth), our Blog and now on Pinterest.



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Flavours of Ottawa: New Edinburgh Stocking Stuffer Specialty Food Fair

Ottawa foodies will not want to miss the *Flavours of Ottawa: New Edinburgh Stocking Stuffer Specialty Food Fair* on Saturday, December 21st from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Church Hall at 125 MacKay St. and sponsored by the Sezlik Group, neighbourhood real estate brokers at Royal LePage.

A diverse group of 20 of Ottawa's celebrated food artisans will be selling their products, including cake pops, macarons, cookies, pies, tortières, teas, coffee, jams, chutneys, salsas, chocolates, salad dressings and gluten free baked goods. It's a one-stop-shop for all your holiday entertaining and gift giving needs. Stockings will be easy to fill this year!

Our talented group of culinary artisans includes *Life of*

Pie (fruit cakes and tortières); *Yummy cookies* (shortbread and gingerbread); *Hearty Bakery* (macarons and cake pops); *Auntie Lulu Jams*; *Snell House Foods* (salad dressing); *Major Craig's Chutney*; *Bez Gluten Free Baking*; *Salty Don* (rubs); *Carolina's Box of Goodness*



(Caramel and Brownies); *Just Wing It* (hot sauces); *Morsel* (baked goods); *Happy Goat Coffee*; *Really Horrible Enterprises* (vanilla extracts).

Be sure to come hungry so

you can sample the gourmet products and enjoy a delicious lunch in the onsite Life of Pie Café.

Admission to this holiday food market is free, but donations are welcome for the Vanier Food Bank. "It is important for us to support a local organization in the community. The Vanier Food Bank fits the bill because it is natural for a group of food producers to give to an organization that feeds people in the area," explains Nicola Maule, the event organizer.

This is the first event organized by the Ottawa Specialty Food Association (OSFA) in New Edinburgh. "We wanted to form an organization that supports local food creators," explains Andrew Craig of Major Craig's

Chutney. "Our dream is for the OSFA to help mentor new food artisans in Ottawa, get better prices from suppliers and promote more established food artisans with events such as *Flavours of Ottawa: New Edinburgh Stocking Stuffer Specialty Food Fair*."

So if you only make it out to one holiday fair this season, why not come and support Ottawa's local artisan food vendors at *A Taste of Ottawa: New Edinburgh Stocking Stuffer Specialty Food Fair* on December 21st. You will come away with delicious gourmet products that will tantalize the taste buds of your friends and family this holiday season. Visit www.osfa.ca for more information.



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Rockcliffe Library Open House and Fun Day

The Rockcliffe Library Open House and Fun Day, held October 5, was well attended by guests who enjoyed a Rag and Bone puppet show, face painting, crafts, live music and refreshments. Library staff were on hand to share information about electronic library services available to the public.

The community generously supported the event by providing donations of food, beverages and prizes.

The Open House was made possible by the April book sale, organized by the Library Committee of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, in support of the Rockcliffe branch of the Ottawa Public Library. The Library Committee is now collecting books for the 2014 spring sale to be held Saturday, April 12 and Sunday April 13.




Juliet Plamondon enjoys a snuggle from Clifford at the Rockcliffe Library Open House.

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Travel Tales from the Burgh

Again this month, we have a report from our neighbours on a recent adventure. I hope you'll find Bob Burchill's article on a guided tour of the battlefields of France and Belgium as moving as I did. We're delighted to report that the article will be reprinted on Canada's History website: CanadasHistory.ca. (Please note that the tour is being offered again in 2014 - CanadasHistory.ca will have details.) Bob and Carol's priority on the trip was not picture-taking, so they've allowed some of my photos from a trip in 2005 to be used to accompany the text.

And again this month, I'm inviting your submissions for the column. We've had a lot of excellent contributions since the column was launched last spring, so keep 'em coming! It's a pleasure to work with our travelers and to get the scoop before the NEN is published. Please drop me a line at 46metcalfe@sympatico.ca or call at 613-747-0714. Vicki Metcalfe.

Battlefields Tour in France and Belgium

By Bob Burchill

In September, Carol and I joined a group of 25 Canadians to visit a number of First and Second World War battlefields in France and Belgium. The tour was largely the brainchild of Deborah Morrison, Publisher and CEO of *Canada's History Magazine* (formerly *The Beaver*). She was able to persuade Dr. Jack Granatstein, Canada's eminent war historian, to lead the group. The weather was agreeable, the group members compatible and, with Dr. Granatstein and Patrick Jacques, our attentive tour director, it was a memorable experience.

Reading ahead of the trip is useful, but nothing can equal the actual sight of the seemingly endless grave markers at Tyne Cot (11,954 British and Commonwealth), Bény-sur-Mer (2,044 Canadians), the American cemetery at Omaha Beach (9,380) or the German cemetery at Langmarck (44,000), to mention only a few. They stand in silent rebuke to the tragedy of war.

A number of memorials have been raised around the battlefields. The most famous is probably the one at Vimy Ridge, a large, dramatic representation of the sorrows inflicted by violent contest. Less

well known is the St. Julien memorial that commemorates Canada's participation in the second Battle of Ypres where our soldiers stayed and fought through the first German gas attack. Designed by Regina born Frederick Chapman Clemesha, *The Brooding Soldier* seems to reflect, in solemn despair, on the tragedy of conflict.

The Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont-Hamel is particularly moving, because it honours, in part, the disastrous assault of the 1st Newfoundland Battalion on July 1, 1916, when, in thirty minutes, its 800 man strength was essentially obliterated. It is also a tribute to the "Mothers of Newfoundland" who raised sufficient funds to buy 74 acres, preserve the battlefield and create a memorial topped by a magnificent statue of a caribou. It is perhaps the best preserved of all the battlefields.

It is amazing, generally, that after nearly one hundred years the evidence of battle remains so vivid. In many areas, shell holes, bomb craters, trenches and tunnels continue to dominate the landscapes. Some have become somewhat overgrown, and the trenches eroded and altered by weather and time. The Newfoundland Memorial acreage seems to have stayed starkly as it was. Growth over some of the battlefields is not



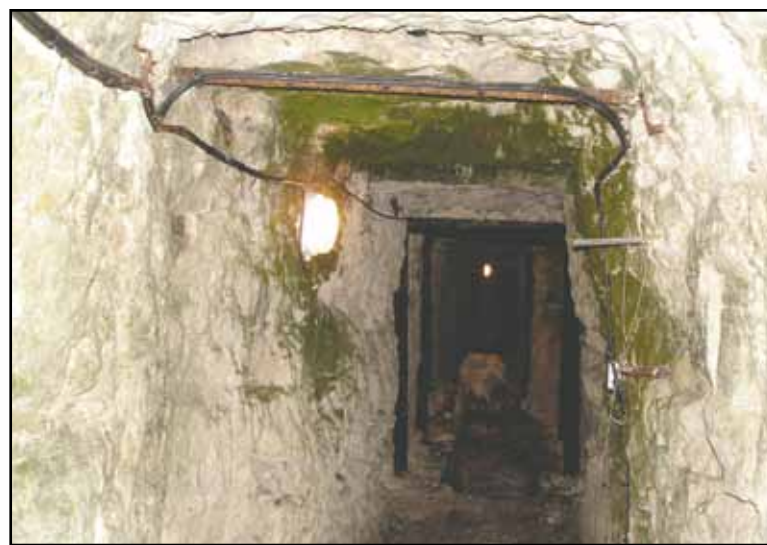
Bény-sur-mer.

a product of neglect, but of the fact that the soil is still full of munitions. Farmers in the area refer to the "Iron Harvest" of autumn when they still turn up military hardware. And so grass on the battlefields is kept in trim by sheep that safely graze where heavier equipment dare not tread.

The Menin Gate at Ypres is an architectural tribute to the some 90,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the battles of the Ypres Salient and whose graves are unknown. Every evening, a ceremony is held at the gate with the laying of wreaths and the sounding of The Last Post.

Photo: Vicki Metcalfe
bling in their extent and in the knowledge of the cost the Allies paid for their taking. Decrepit pill boxes still overlook the sea and the daunting cliffs still stand in mute defiance. Juno Beach holds a special attraction for Canadians, but the whole coastline declares the craft and courage of the attackers. The cost of the landing at Omaha Beach is particularly sobering. Over half the casualties of D-Day were realized there.

Substantial remnants of Mulberry harbours still lie where they were fixed after having been floated across the Channel from England. Their



Vimy tunnel.

Photo: Vicki Metcalfe

A visit to Dieppe is a perplexing experience. Simply looking at the situation there makes you wonder how anyone could have thought that an attack from the sea would succeed. The usual explanation is that many things learned from it were of benefit on D-Day. Recently, rumours of a more clandestine purpose have been mooted. The truth may never be known, but whatever else it represents, the Dieppe raid is a stark reminder of the dangers of reckless undertaking and poor planning. Canada's sacrifice there is well remembered and highly regarded by the people of Dieppe. Canadian flags abound.

The D-Day beaches are hum-

construction in Britain was accomplished in great secrecy, including being sunk in the Thames while waiting for departure in order to protect their nature and purpose from aerial and other observation. Because of them, great quantities of supplies were able to be landed on the Normandy beaches to provide support as the battles proceeded inland.

There are many museums throughout the battlefield areas. Some are simply *ad hoc* collections, but many are well organized and highly informative. At the Flanders Field Museum in Ypres, you are issued the equivalent of an electronic dog tag. Information about you is entered on it, and as you prog-



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ress around the exhibits you are advised, for example, of soldiers from your home town who were involved in actions described in particular exhibits. The Passchendaele Museum includes an extensive display of military trenches, a movie of a trench battle in progress,

of Ypres. Having composed the poem, he then discarded it. Fortunately a colleague rescued it and sent it to England where it was published and went on to great renown.

The wars had profound impacts on Canada. Mobilization, war production



Vimy trench.

Photo: Vicki Metcalfe

periscope guns, and a small room showing how an officer might have been bivouacked there. The Sanctuary Wood Museum near Hill 62 includes a number of stereopticon viewers with reels of photos taken throughout the war.

Essex Farm is of special interest to Canadians because of the John McCrae Cemetery and the nearby field dressing station where he worked and where he wrote *In Flanders Fields*. It was inspired by the death of his friend, Lt. Alex Helmer, in the second Battle

and distant deaths also inspired social change, industrial development and national confidence. Of particular importance to Canada was the sense of identity that came out of the First World War experience. To quote Dr. Granatstein, "When we went there we were British. When we came back we were Canadians."

Readers may be interested to know that a similar tour of the battlefields is scheduled for the fall of 2014. More information is available at CanadasHistory.ca.



By Liba Bender

Neighbourhood Watch: Home Safety

It is most important to make sure your home is secure at all times. The Ottawa Police provide a Home Security Inspection Program to the public. At your request, a police representative will visit your home and give a free safety audit and will inform you of ways to make your home safer. To arrange for an inspection, contact your local Community Police Centre.

Exterior Doors

Glass and hollow core doors are not very secure. All your exterior doors should be solid wood or laminated wood core construction at least 1 3/4" thick. The door frame should be solid or laminated wood or metal.

If you have glass exterior doors they should have a burglar resistant wire mesh or be made of tempered safety glass. This kind of construction should also be used for glass panels near or in a door that would allow a burglar easy access.

If your exterior doors have the hinges on the outside burglars can easily enter. To correct this, either install a set of non-removable hinge pins or a locking pin in the existing hinge plate. Or you can remove the door and remount the hinges on the inside of the frame so the door swings inward.

The door frame should be strong and have a securely mounted strike plate. Ideally this should be attached through the frame into a wall stud by long screws. This is important to prevent entry by means of a knife, screwdriver or celluloid strip.

If you have a key-in-the-knob type lock you should change it. They provide little security and make it very easy for someone to enter. Deadbolt locks provide excellent security. They are available with either a single or double cylinder opening.

Sliding patio doors should definitely be secured. Self-tapping screws can be installed in the upper track. These doors may also be pinned using a "jimmy bar" to prevent someone outside from opening the door, or buy a commercial lock for this.

Windows

Windows are an easy entrance for burglars as they usually can just pry them open. You can pin most of your windows or secure them with a commercial lock. Sliding aluminum windows can also be pinned with a commercial lock or "jimmy bar."

Basement windows are a common place of entry for burglars. Replace them with Plexiglas, glass block or Lexan. These windows can also be reinforced with decorative security bars.

Alarms

You can use an alarm system in addition to other security measures. Remember that there are municipal by-laws in effect for false alarms, so make sure your system is set up properly to avoid false alarms.

Operation Identification

The local Community Police Centre (CPC) offers an Operation Identification program to discourage theft. You can borrow an etcher from their office to mark a personal identification number onto your possessions. In addition, a photographic and written inventory of all items of value should be kept, also listing the manufacturer's serial numbers.

It is important to take the time to make sure that you are protected and live in a safe home.

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MackKay Concert Series Presents Clarinetist Sean Rice and Pianist Patrick Cashin

By Carolyn Bowker

The MackKay Concert Series is excited to present clarinetist Sean Rice and pianist Patrick Cashin on Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 7:30 pm, in a program entitled *The French Connection*.

Both Sean Rice and Patrick Cashin are natives of St. John's, Newfoundland. They met in middle school where they went through the school band program together. Sean credits the excellent teachers he had there for his initial training and direction. At 16, he won the woodwind category in the Canadian Federation of Music Festivals (Kiwanis National level), and began to think of music as a career. In 2010, Sean Rice joined the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

At the same time Patrick was training as a pianist and at the age of 11 began accompanying Sean, then 10, in the

local Kiwanis Music Festival. This collaboration continued through high school and at Memorial University School of Music where they took their first degrees in music.

Sean then studied at the Juilliard School in New York where, under the direction of Charles Neidich, he completed both his Master of Music and, recently, his Doctor of Musical Arts degrees. He has won numerous awards and took first prize at the 2006 Orchestre Symphonique de Québec Canadian Concerto Competition.

Patrick studied at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Montreal under Marc Durand. Besides his classical music career, he performs jazz and other improvised music, and is taking part in an ongoing study of improvisation in Mozart's piano concertos. Patrick is a past winner

of the Atlantic Young Artist Competition, as well as the Petro-Canada Young Artist Competition.

Both have performed extensively. Sean Rice has been heard across Canada, and in 2008, his solo tour under the banner of Jeunesses Musicales Canada took him to 20 cities and towns in Canada. He has appeared as soloist with the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Axiom, the New Juilliard Ensemble, Symphony Nova Scotia, the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, and others. Internationally, he has performed in various concert venues in New York (e.g., Museum of Modern Art Summergarden Series, Alice Tully Hall, Paul Hall at the Juilliard School) and also in Switzerland, Brazil, Japan and Malaysia. He is gaining recognition as an exciting performer of contemporary music. *The New York Times* has reviewed Sean on several occasions and has noted his "technically precise and exuberant playing" and "his ability to play with flair." *The Classical Voice of New England* has praised his talent for bringing out superbly the "nuances of volume and tone."

Patrick Cashin has also been heard in most major Canadian cities, in several performances at the Banff Centre for the Arts, as guest soloist with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, Memorial University Orchestra, and through national broadcasts of the CBC. CBC Radio's Francesca Swann has described



Sean Rice.

Photo: Fred Cattroll

him as "a truly original interpretative voice." During the 2013-2014 season he will be featured as guest soloist with L'Orchestre philharmonique des musiciens étudiants de Montréal.

Drawing on the theme of the French connection, the duo will perform works by Copland, Carter, Debussy and Dutilleux. Aaron Copland, the great American composer, studied composition with French composer, teacher and conductor, Nadia Boulanger. So did Elliott Carter, whose works were an area of focus for Sean's studies and doctoral dissertation at Juilliard. Debussy had a strong influence on the musical languages of both Boulanger and Dutilleux. The remainder of the program will travel back to France and showcase Dutilleux's *Piano Sonata* and Debussy's *Première Rhapsodie*.

Tickets for "The French Connection" (\$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students) will be available at Books on Beechwood, the Leading Note on Elgin Street, or through MacKay United Church (613-749-8727) and on January 26 at the door, 39 Dufferin Road at MacKay Street. Concert time is 7:30 pm.

Readers may want to note future 2014 dates in the MacKay concert series: **Saturday, March 1**, *A French Landscape* with harpist Caroline Leonardelli and pianist Parv Eshghi performing music by Debussy, Ravel, Saint-Saens, and Renié; and **June 8**, music by Schumann and Stenhammer performed by pianist Dina Namer and the Silflay String Quartet (Leah Roseman, Mark Friedman, Paul Casey and Karen Kang).



Patrick Cashin.

Photo: Éliane Delage

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CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT SERVICES

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St. Bart's Annual Bazaar

The Church of St Bartholomew held its' Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 16. Mrs. Catherine Chapman, the wife of the Bishop of Ottawa, graciously opened the event, and Ms. Kate McLean, the daughter of parishioner Martha Patterson presented flowers. As usual there was great support from the New Edinburgh Community and the monies raised support the work of the Church, as well as Cornerstone Women's

Shelter, the Bale for the North and the mission to the Garry J. Armstrong Centre. A fine selection of jewellery, baked goods, books, gifts, toys and games, knitting, attic treasures and Christmas items was available. The well-known Tea Room was very popular as home-made sandwiches and sweets were available during the whole afternoon. The Bazaar opened one hour early to accommodate our parishioners with special needs. We

would like to thank our sponsors for their donations towards this event: The Edinburgh Retirement Residence, New Edinburgh Square, Governor's Walk Retirement Residence, the Rockcliffe Retirement Residence, Goodies Fine Catering, AJ'S Catering, Bridgehead on Beechwood and Second Cup on Springfield.

Please join us again next year!



Photo: Louise Imbeault

Volunteers gathered before the opening of the Bazaar at St. Bartholomew's Church this past November.

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Keeping Your Body Safe from Winter Hazards

By Erica Poirier and Sophie Dupuis

Winter is an opportunity for many people to enjoy outdoor activities. Unfortunately, every winter we have patients walking into our clinic with persistent pain following injuries received from shoveling and falling. Prevention and prompt treatment of injuries is crucial to keeping your body healthy.

Slips and falls

During the season, the risk of slips and falls rise dramatically. Here is some advice on how to prevent them from happening in the first place.

- 1. Exercise:** In general, people who exercise regularly will be better equipped to react to a sudden fall and recover from it. Keeping your body strong and flexible provides more benefits than you can imagine: less health problems, less medication intake, less depression just to name a few.
- 2. Wear thick-soled winter boots that grip** when you go outside.

3. **Take shorter steps**, especially if you feel unsteady.

4. **Use a walking aid;** better safe than sorry.

5. **Learn how to fall:** even if it takes less than two seconds hit the ground, that's precious time to react and knowing a few things might help you reduce the amount of injuries:

- Avoid trying to break the fall with an outstretched hand as that might result in wrist injuries.
- If you're going to fall on the head, tuck your chin and throw an arm out to protect it.
- If you are falling on your back, make yourself as small as possible by rolling into a ball and try rolling your body to the side: it will absorb the shock better than a fall straight onto your back.

Shoveling

Shoveling is a common winter activity that poses a risk for injuries. It is an activity that we do only in the winter and our body gets unaccustomed

to performing it through the rest of the year. Here are some tips to prevent injuries such as back pain, heart attacks, shoulder pain, etc.:

1. **Choose a proper shovel.**

A shovel with an ergonomic handle can make a big difference as it promotes a more upright position, preventing back problems. You also want to consider picking a shovel that's as small and lightweight as possible.

2. **Do not have caffeine or smoke before shoveling**

because they constrict the blood vessels, increasing the demand on the heart, making shoveling that much harder.

3. **Warming up before shoveling** is also a good idea. It progressively prepares the muscles and the heart for activity. For example, walking 5-10 minutes before shoveling is a good warm up.

4. **Use proper technique** to avoid unnecessary strain on the body:

- Keep shovel close.
- Keep the back straight, bend the knees and hips.

• Tighten stomach muscles to protect the back.

• Push the snow instead of lifting it.

• Throw the snow forward. Many back injuries occur with twisting.

5. **Take frequent breaks.**

Listen to your body.

6. **Stay well hydrated.**

But even with all this advice, it is hard to prevent all injuries.

What to do if you get injured

1. Try to get up slowly if you have fallen: it might be easier to get on your hands and knees first, and then try to put one foot between the hands, the other, and slowly get up. Walk slowly, with help if possible

2. Whether you have fallen or you injured yourself while shoveling, apply the RICER principle immediately when you get home:

- Rest: Avoid any activities that might aggravate the injury, give your body time to recuperate.

• Ice the painful/injured area for up to 15 minutes every two hours during the first 24 to 48 hours to decrease the inflammation.

• Compression applied over a swollen area can also provide pain relief.

• Elevation of an injury reduces swelling: this can be done if you injured a part of the arm or leg.

• Referral: Most back injuries will get better within a few days. If the pain lingers longer than that, it is best to consult a health care professional. Injuries are easier to treat if addressed sooner than later. If you have risk factors such as osteoporosis or bone thinning, or if the pain is really severe, it might be best to get an x-ray done to rule out any fracture, before seeing a physiotherapist. In any other case you can consult right away.

We hope these few tips will be useful you and we wish you an injury-free winter!

Editor's note: Erica Poirier and Sophie Dupuis are local physiotherapists (500-595 Montreal Road, 613-746-8223).

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Winter

By Douglas Cornish

The first real snow is the most important event of the year (no matter what month it occurs in)—it brightens up the evenings. This one fact should make winter worthwhile. The evenings, which have been dark, are now lighter—snow makes the difference.

Winter is not necessary. Winter is tolerable. Winter is unnecessary.

Winter has different reactions in people. There is usually not a middle ground—you either like it or you don't like it. If you don't like it, you want to escape from it. If you do like it, you embrace it, or at the lowest end—tolerate it.

Those who think winter is an unwelcome visitor normally have two options: fright or flight. Those who stay and put up with winter do so involuntarily and their grumble metre is usually high and never falls below a tolerable or an acceptance level. For these unlucky souls there is no warmth to winter whatsoever. Winter is the enemy. Winter shouldn't even exist. What kind of intelligent designer put winter in the grand scheme of things? The flight option is normally an economic option: those who have the cash, escape. Those who don't, develop a self imposed and imaginary rash towards the old man of the seasons. Those who escape do it physically in Florida, or

Barbados or in the south of France, but it is interesting that there is a little part of their brain that is still winter wired as evidenced by their phone calls or emails home to ask about the weather or to gloat about the nice weather where they are. Escaping winter is sometimes an 'ego' thing as much as it is an "R&R" thing. Winter escapees love to rub it in.

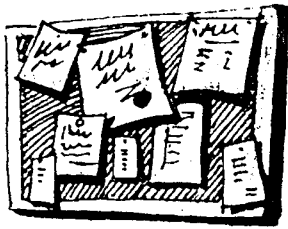
The poor (literally) souls who can't afford to escape, do so inwardly or hibernate in their dwelling, only venturing out when necessary. Every snow storm, every drop of the temperature, every icicle only deepens their despair, and heightens their depression. Even vitamin D can't help these people. They behave as people do towards each other when they can't stand each other. Remaining in town for the winter, though, does not really solve anything, because they won't make friends with winter, even if their life depended on it, and unlike people who can somehow get the upper hand—one can't fight winter—it's just too powerful.

The group who tolerates winter gives into reason. They know winter will cover them and bury them if they let it, so they put up with. They don't actually have a love affair with the season, but they are realistic and attempt to compromise (mostly on their part not on winter's). They will put up with it, and wouldn't think of

trying to escape or ignore it. These are the stoic ones—they trudge on through the snow, through the ice, through the bitter cold. They realize that winter is simply part of life, and winter is one of life's fine examples that life really isn't fair.

Those who think winter is necessary appreciate the season for what it is. They befriend it. They play in it. They walk in it (some even run in it). They see the beauty of it. They realize that winter serves a purpose. It keeps people sane. It keeps people active. It keeps the 4 season economy going. It provides a necessary hiatus and spring moisture for Nature. It is good for the skin! Hasn't anyone noticed that people who spend most of their lives in sunny, hot countries have leathery, blotchy skin, and wrinkles? Northern climes are good for the skin. Winter acts as sort of a refrigerator—producing healthy looking cheeks and soft skin.

These winter souls either loved the season right from the start, or grew to love the season. They have the secret. They know that winter countries are special — they don't take any season for granted. They are not blasé, nor snobbish, nor egotistical about weather. They are open to winter. They don't question it. They don't argue with or try to antagonize it. Winter just "is". It is what it is, as they say. Winter is wonderful. Winter is necessary.



Burgh Bulletin Board

December

Sun, Dec 1, 3 pm

OTTAWA BRAHMS CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT - "Wassail", with guest soloists, will take place at St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church at 2345 Alta Vista Drive under the direction of Denise Hawkins and accompanist Ioulia Binova. tickets: \$20 at door, \$18 advance from choir members or Leading Note, 370 Elgin; Compact music 190&785-A Bank; students \$10; children under 12 are free. Reception following in church hall downstairs. For info: Tel 613-749-2391; 819-568-8169; www.OttawaBrahmschoir.ca).

Beginning Fri, Dec 6 for two weekends THE "GIFTOFCHRISTMAS",

SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE Production in its 15th year! Starts Dec 6 for two weekends. Bethel Church, 500 Viewmount Drive, Nepean. Free admission. Donations accepted for the Christmas Exchange Program, which brings joy and dignity to Ottawa families in need. More details can be found at www.giftofchristmas.ca.

Sat, Dec 7, 10 am - 3 pm

HOLIDAY LOCAVORE ARTISAN FOOD FAIR will be held at Memorial Hall, 39 Dufferin Road (via New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre). Over 20 finest local food artisans gather together, and about the half of them are NEW fabulous vendors this year! Hot delicious meals served all day. Warm cozy eat-

ing area provided.

Sat, Dec 7, 10 am - 2 pm

ST. BRIGID ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR - Christmas crafts and art sale from local vendors; Silent auction; Bake sale; Kids' activities include face painting, kids craft table and Santa Claus will make a special appearance. Free admission. St. Brigid Catholic School, 200 Springfield Road (in the school gymnasium).

Sat, Dec 7, 7 - 9:30 pm

NECTAR Centre HOLIDAY Celebration - at New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street. www.nectarcentre.ca.

Sun, Dec 8, 4 pm

OTTAWA CHILDREN'S CHOIR presents "Joyous Christmas" at Dominion-Chalmers United Church. See announcement on Page 26 for more details.

Wed, Dec 11 - Sun, Dec 15

MI CASA THEATRE presents *Collapsible* at the NECTAR Centre. See article on Page 32 for more details.

Sat, Dec 14 & Wed, 18, 7:30 pm

THE STAIRWELL CAROLLERS present *In Dulci Jubilo*, first-place winners in the 2013 Ontario Music Festivals Association competition, bring focus to the true meaning of Christmas with beautiful interpretations of traditional and modern carols in many languages. All ticket and CD proceeds are donated to local charities and a scholarship fund for local students entering music studies at a Canadian university. Fundraising concerts this season are at Knox Presbyterian Church (120 Lisgar) on Dec.

14 and at St. Columba Anglican Church (24 Sandridge) on Dec. 18. A savory and sweet reception follows. Tickets \$20 at the door or \$15 in advance at The Leading Note, 370 Elgin St., Compact Music, 190 & 785 1/2 Bank St., Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood Ave., or online. For details consult www.stairwellcarollers.com, info@stairwellcarollers.com or 613-746-2779.

Sat, Dec 21, 10 am -3:30 pm FLAVOURS OF OTTAWA - New Edinburgh Stocking Stuffer Specialty Food Fair. See article on Page 37 for more details.

Sat, Dec 21, 2-4 pm

WINTER SOLSTICE SOCIAL at New Edinburgh Square, 420 MacKay Street. There will be carolling, egg-nog, scones, story reading, children's activities and more. See announcement on Page 1 for more details.

Tue, Dec 31, 9 pm

VIENNESE NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA at St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street. See announcement on Page 35 for more details.

January

Wed, Jan 1, 2014, 10 am - 2 pm

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WINTER CARNIVAL at Stanley Park. Join us for a New Year's Day brunch, sleigh rides, skating games and more. See announcement on Page 1.

Sun, Jan 26, 7:30 pm

MACKAY CONCERT SERIES - *The French Connection*, takes place at MacKay United Church. See article on Page 40 for more details.

Fri, Jan 31 - Mon, Feb 17

WINTERLUDE 14 LUMIÈRE Snow Lantern Installation. See announcement on Page 33.

Ongoing

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE at New Edinburgh Pharmacy, 5 Beechwood Avenue. By Appointment. 613-749-4444 (Pharmacist Matthew Tonon). Ontario Health Card Required.



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Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy year to come. Thank you kindly for all your business and referrals again during 2013. I look forward to working together in the years to come.

Meilleurs vœux de bonheur et de santé à vous et aux vôtres pour l'année prochaine. Je vous remercie d'avoir fait affaire avec moi et de m'avoir recommandé vos proches au cours de l'année 2013. J'espère avoir le plaisir de travailler avec vous dans les années à venir.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elmwood School is delighted to announce the arrival of **Laryssa Biesenthal**, a two-time Olympic bronze medalist and former Olympic coach who has joined Elmwood's staff as Head Rowing Coach, taking over leadership of the rapidly growing Elmwood Eagles, Ottawa's largest high school crew of female rowers, now boasting more than 30 team members. Ms. Biesenthal, who recently moved back from Australia where she was Elite Development Manager for Rowing Australia, is considered one of the top female coaches in the world, and the school has high hopes that her expertise will help to position Elmwood as one of the leading high school rowing programs in Canada. The Elmwood crew has already achieved some impressive results, winning two Gold and two Bronze medals in its first regatta of the season, the Head of the Rideau, on September 29. Congratulations girls, and welcome **Laryssa!**

WELCOME (BACK)

The Jolicoeur's are coming back to the Burgh! **Paul and Carmen Jolicoeur** who purchased a beautiful *Minto Beechwood* unit. They can't wait for "ground to break" hastening their return

to the area where the family-run hardware store stood as a landmark for 40 years.

Douglas Avenue welcomed new neighbours this year: **Ryme and Phillippe Seferdjeli** with their daughter **Kenza; Renée and Jean-Louis Causse;** and **Allison Fraser** with her husband **Ramzi** and their children **Faris and Drew.**

FARE-THEE-WELL

Long time Burgh resident **Robert Salisbury** has sold his house on Vaughan Street is moving on after 40+ years. An exemplary neighbour, "Bobbie" is missed by all who enjoyed the privilege of his visits, support and help.



Photo: Louise Imbeault
Robert Salisbury.



Paul and Carmen Jolicoeur.

Photo: Louise Imbeault

Rob, we wish you the best of success on your new path!

BUSINESS BITS

The Burgh has crossed the border! *This Old House Magazine*, a New York based on-line publication has featured the Woodburn House, located at 73-75 MacKay and is one of 17 designated heritage properties in our community. See article by Michel Prévost, Chief Archivist at the University of Ottawa on page [FIXME]. Many thanks to both **Joan Mason** and **Katherine Arkay** for their contributions.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere condolences to **Michal Crawley** of River Lane on the death of her brother **Roderick Crawley** in early October. Roderick, Michal and their four siblings Patrick, Alexander, Jennifer and Mariah, grew up in Canada's first family of film in that era. Their parents **F. R. (Budge) Crawley** and **Judith Crawley** were both legends and pioneers in the Canadian film industry, and co-owners of the ground-breaking Canadian independent film company, *Crawley Films*. Our thoughts are with Michal at this sad time.

CONGRATS

We wish a speedy and full recovery to **Barney Davis**, the beloved young black Labrador of **Ann Davis** of Crichton Street. Barney was recently hit by a car on Stanley Avenue, and suffered a broken leg and some nasty abrasions. We understand, however, that he has received expert care at the state-of-the-art Alta Vista Animal Hospital and is currently on the mend. No doubt he is looking forward to the resumption of his daily romps in Stanley Park.

Welcome to **Corporal Cuddles**, the **Benoits'** new addition of the canine kind. Cuddles is a lovely large three-year-old girl, and is having a wonderful time making new friends in Stanley Park and on Pine Hill.

CONGRATS

Congratulations to erstwhile Burgh celebrity **Tony D** (aka **Antonello Di Teodoro**), a well-known local musician, songwriter and member of the Juno Award winning band **Monkey Junk**. In late November, Tony was awarded the **Order of Ottawa** in recognition of his longstanding contribution to the Ottawa music scene. Long-time Burgh residents will recall that for many years, Tony was



Fall Festival at the Governor General's. Photo: Louise Imbeault

a fixture in our community, appearing regularly at the **New Edinburgh Pub** and adding a welcome dash of local colour to the scene on Beechwood. Well done Tony!

WILD WEATHER

On Friday, November 1, during the high wind storm that hit the neighbourhood, a large tree limb cracked and landed on the front lawn of **Liba Bender's** house on Ivy crescent at Bertrand. Luckily, no damage was done and there were no casualties!

AWWWWWW

PET PHOTOS WANTED! To all the devoted pet owners out there, we need your help to start the New Year with a spe-

cial Pet Page in our February 2014 issue. Please send us a photo of your beloved pooch or fluffy feline, along with name of your companion and any entertaining details about him or her that you'd care to add. We know there is pet pulchritude aplenty in the neighbourhood, and we'd like to share these riches with our readers! Please send your photos to newednews@hotmail.com or janeheintzman@hotmail.com, by January 10th, 2014.

TWITTER

NECA has joined the Twittersphere! Follow us @New_Edinburgh to hear about the latest news in the burgh.



Photo: Louise Imbeault

If a tree falls on Ivy does it make a sound?