

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Photo courtesy Joana Chelo

The NEN Team would like to thank Joana Chelo for her outstanding work as Advertising Manager for New Edinburgh News. Michelle McLean has now taken on the role. Details p32.

Construction at 88 Beechwood on schedule

By John Leefe

After many years of construction at 88 Beechwood – and COVID-related supply chain delays—the project remains on schedule, with first occupancies expected in late April and final occupancies planned for December 2024.

“We’ve been extremely lucky with weather and trades ... and the construction team has managed any unforeseen obstacles very well ... fingers crossed that this trend continues,” project manager Kevin Harper recently wrote in an email to Chris Greenshields of the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA).

As was reported in the October edition of *NEN*, residents are eagerly awaiting news about street-level retail space leasing. The surface area is just under 6,000 square feet and Minto is working to find commercial tenants. Although negotiations with prospective tenants are ongoing, Harper reiterated that the developer is work-

ing to curate the commercial space using the preferred list provided by the BVA. Citing the challenges in finding brick-and-mortar commercial tenants, Harper said: “we’ll do our best to find uses that are active and contribute to the day-to-day needs of the neighbourhood.”

In an email from February, Chris Greenshields of the Vanier Community Association and BVA raised several additional issues concerning the development. Key issues include the status of a new pedestrian passageway and easement agreements with the city for the Beechwood frontage, street landscaping, and other public realm features. Harper confirmed that the final design of the streetscape from Loyer Street to St. Charles Street has been approved.

“The finished public realm areas are significant and represent a major upgrade from the existing condition,”

Continued on page 25

Chief Pinesi Day will begin with a paddle from Oka to Governor Bay

By John Leefe

In what is quickly becoming an alternative to Canada Day events and an opportunity to participate in reconciliation, New Edinburgh will once again host the annual Chief Pinesi Day on Jul 1, 2024. Kichi Sibi Trails, in concert with the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) and the Crichton Community Council (CCC) will coordinate the event in New Edinburgh Park – in and around the Fieldhouse – to honour Algonquin Anishinaabe stewardship of the National Capital Region and beyond.

Chief Constant Pinesi (1768–1834) had hunting

grounds in Ottawa, at Rideau and Chaudière Falls before being forced to move to Algonquin Park. He and his four sons fought in critical battles in the War of 1812 in Niagara as allies of the British, united by their common desire to beat the United States. Pinesi was appointed Grand Chief by Governor General James Kempt in 1830.

For the first time in its three-year history, Chief Pinesi Day will begin with a unique Indigenous-led paddle following the annual journey from the summering place at Oka to the hunting grounds of Ottawa. A group of dedicated paddlers – descendants of Chief Pinesi, Algonquins

and non-Indigenous participants – will first assemble in Oka, Quebec, where Chief Pinesi was buried in 1834. On Jun 25, they will hold a ceremony to honour his memory, the highlight of which will be the unveiling of a new monument to Chief Pinesi and his many contributions to his home. There will be speeches by various dignitaries: former Algonquin Chief Wendy Jocko; the Grand Chief of Kanosatake Victor Bonspille; Bishop Monsignor Raymond Poisson; Oka Mayor Pascal Quevillon; and a senior Indigenous member of the Canadian Armed Forces, among others.

Continued on page 25

Beechwood Avenue study guides Secondary Plan consultation process

By John Leefe

As previously reported, the City identified Beechwood Avenue for a Secondary Plan in 2025, the framework for which was released last winter by the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA). While progress on the Plan has been slow, an urban study on Beechwood Avenue entitled “Restitching the Urban Fabric of Beechwood Avenue” was recently released, prepared for the City by a group of students in Queens University’s School of Urban and Regional Planning.

The study’s objective is to

provide “design interventions and strategic recommendations that improve the connectivity and public realm along Beechwood Avenue and its surrounding areas.” Through both “tactical and design interventions and long-term recommendations,” the approach here is to improve the walkability of Beechwood and “establish a dynamic and resilient public realm through the creation of new open spaces and community programming opportunities.”

If this sounds similar to some of the broad objec-

tives of the BVA’s framework, a closer examination of the four guiding principles reflects some similarities: the creation of a dynamic main street for people of all ages and abilities; supporting the 15-Minute Neighbourhood concept; and giving a distinct sense of destination to Beechwood Avenue. A fourth principle – “Reunification” – requires that all design interventions for the street should give priority to the “transition and integration with surrounding land uses.”

Perhaps the most innova-

Continued on page 11

New Edinburgh Park

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What's the New Edinburgh Community Alliance?

NECA is the umbrella organization for all residents and community organizations in our neighbourhood. Every resident of New Edinburgh is automatically a member of NECA.

Its mandate is to develop and foster a sense of community among the residents; to research, develop positions and make representations to various levels of government on matters affecting the community; and to coordinate activities between organizations.

NECA's committees include Traffic and Safety; Heritage and Development; Beechwood Development, Friends of the Park; and Environment and Climate Change. It also publishes this newspaper.

The NECA board meets nine times a year, normally on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (no meetings in July, August or December). Its annual general meeting takes place in October.

Meetings are open to all New Edinburgh residents. Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board should please contact Cindy Parkanyi in advance at newedinburgh@outlook.com.

Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday April 16, 7:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday May 21, 7:00 p.m.** Meetings are hybrid: held online and in person at the Fieldhouse. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com for details.

Your NECA Representatives 2024-2025

Contact anyone below through info@newedinburgh.ca

Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Ted Bennett **Co-Treasurer**

Ray Boomgaardt **President**

Sean Flynn **Co-Treasurer**

Kostyantyn Frolov

Katherine Hall **Friends of the Park**

Karen Squires **Friends of the Park**

Gail McEachern **Heritage & Development**

Sean McNulty

Jason Tavoularis **Traffic & Safety**

Cindy Parkanyi **Secretary**

Ex officio:

Chris Straka **President, CCC**

Sharon Nyangweso **Editor, *New Edinburgh News***
newednews@hotmail.com

Learn more at
newedinburgh.ca



Ray Boomgaardt
NECA President

When Mary Ellen and I moved to New Edinburgh in 1975, the community was mobilizing to stop the construction of the "Vanier Arterial". The City had plans to build the Arterial along the old railway right of way that ran from Beechwood along the river, through Stanley Park and across the river at the point where the old bridge abutments remain visible to this day. Looking back at the community in those days, I suspect that the threat of a major road through our community helped to spark a spirit of volunteerism that continues to enrich us to this day.

At the NECA Board meeting in March we discussed the experience of NECTAR, and what we can learn from

that experience. What I took from our discussion is the importance of individuals and small groups becoming champions of programs. Dedicated volunteers, who organize and run programs, are vital to our community.

Even though we no longer have the use of the school or the manse, we have the right to use a great facility, the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse. Chris Straka and the CCC have been organizing some great programming at the Fieldhouse. Also, working with NECA, they have asked the City to make significant improvements to the Fieldhouse, (e.g., sound-absorbing flooring and moveable partitions) using some of the funds in the Community

Fund held in trust for the community by the City. So, the Fieldhouse will be getting even better.

There is time and room for more programming at the Fieldhouse. Consider volunteering or contributing ideas for additional programming. Also, mark April 21 as the day for park clean up!

In March, the Board decided to commission Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg artist, Simon Brascoupe to design a new emblem for the community, and we agreed to provide \$300 as the community share of a tree-planting program along the river. We have funds for these initiatives because of the success of the *New Edinburgh News*, which not only provides a community voice, but raises money for these community initiatives by providing a valuable advertising service to local businesses. We are grateful to the volunteers who run the newspaper.

See you in the neighbourhood.

Trees in Trust

Plant a tree by your home

The City's Trees in Trust program needs your help to find suitable locations for street trees. Trees are available by request on a first-come, first-served basis. If your City-owned street frontage lacks trees and you have the time and desire to help care for one, please contact the City at ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa > Environment, Conservation and Climate > Public Spaces

and Environmental Programs > Tree Planting > Trees Trust

Before you begin

Things to consider:

- The program applies only to homes with street frontage (the space between your property line and the roadway).

- The property owner must pledge to assist with the proper tree care (watering) for the first three years of the tree's life. Instructions will

be provided.

- Trees will be a minimum size of 50 mm diameter, or two to three metres in height.

- There is a limit of one tree per single fronting household, or two trees per corner lot.

Eligibility

The following criteria will be used to assess potential planting sites:

- Is there enough space? (Other trees or obstacles must be a minimum of seven metres away.)

- Are there overhead or underground utilities?

- Does the soil quality appear to be acceptable for tree growth?

- Are there any conflicting uses on the planting site?

- Has the request been made by the homeowner? (i.e., the person who pays taxes on the property)

- Is there an obvious conflict with traffic safety requirements or City maintenance (i.e., sightlines or snow removal operations)

Apply

To participate in the program please see details at the webpage cited above or call 3-1-1.



Photo by Richard Aubry

Lilac tree provided by the city.

Letter from the Managing Editor



Sharon Nyangweso
Managing Editor

As we tiptoe into April, shedding our winter coats like a snake sheds its skin (hopefully with less drama), I can't help but feel an electric buzz in the air. Perhaps it's the promise of spring blooms or the anticipation of Easter egg hunts. Or maybe, just maybe, it's the excitement pulsating from our community's collective effort towards sustainability.

Yes, you heard that right! Here in New Edinburgh, we're not just chasing rainbows; we're planting them, watering them, and watching them flourish into vibrant gardens. It's like a superhero

movie, but instead of capes, we're sporting reusable tote bags and bamboo toothbrushes. And let me tell you, saving the planet never looked so stylish!

This month, as we bid farewell to the remnants of winter frost, let's welcome the warmth of sustainability into our hearts and homes. Let's challenge ourselves to think outside the recycling bin and embrace inventive ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Who knows, you might discover a hidden talent for upcycling old furniture and become the next small business owner on Beechwood

Avenue!

But sustainability isn't just about saving the planet; it's about building a stronger, more resilient community. It's about coming together to create a brighter future for generations to come. So, whether you're organizing a community cleanup, advocating for a 15-minute neighbourhood, or swapping tips on zero-waste living, know that every small action counts.

As we embark on this journey towards a greener tomorrow, let's not forget to sprinkle a little laughter and joy along the way. After all, what's sustainability without a side of whimsy? So, grab your reusable coffee mugs, don your dancing shoes (Clothes Encounters has some fabulous options), and let's march into April with a skip in our step and a commitment to making our world a better place, one compost pile at a time!

Letter from the Co-Editor



Karen Squires
Co-Editor

As we move into spring and wrap another edition of New Edinburgh News, I'm reminded of how much the community spirit gets us through winter and just how much "folks in the 'hood" care about each other. In the park, I chat with many people and when NEN comes up, I'm always encouraged to hear that all ages seem to enjoy reading this little paper and keep it near to reference events, etc. We are a small team and this past year has brought about many

changes with more to come so stay tuned for additional updates in June. Sometimes change can be good but we also remember our history and heritage and I think you can see this throughout each edition. I'm thrilled this edition brings more details on Beechwood Development; it's such a vital part of our community, having undergone many changes with more to come. On new developments, please welcome (with me) the new Café by Dhruvees where the old Ministry of

Coffee used to be. So many people have mentioned they miss the diner which used to be just across the street so check out the new Café, as they serve breakfast all day long! Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you in the park (especially on clean-up day - April 21st) or around the 'hood enjoying a coffee with more options outside now! I hope you enjoy our Burgh Business Brief section which includes a sneak preview of what's upcoming for patio dining this summer! Enjoy the spring and expect more color and ideas in the summer edition to keep us entertained while out and about! Having already had a sneak preview of this edition, I'm already getting some ideas to brighten our home for spring!

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Send us your letters

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

Send us your letters: editor@newedinburgh.ca

Letters to the Editor

Hi Karen and Sharon,

I love the New Edinburgh News and look forward to reading it all, every issue. It is especially good at recording community events, both past and future. And I particularly check the Letters to the Editor to discover what people in the Burgh are thinking. In the February issue I was saddened to see that the surnames of writers were removed. Why? As far as I can tell, none of the content was especially contentious and certainly not offensive. Please explain. Most newspapers I believe publish full names of the authors. The Globe and Mail does, even including the city of the writer. If you print this letter, please include my full name.

Best wishes,

Ann Davis

(Response from the Editors – Please note that some letters to the editor include only one name as that is the author preference but we will continue to encourage full names.)

While reading the article by Nathan Bowler on the 15-minute neighbourhood in your last issue, it occurred to me that the Vanier of my '60s

childhood could have been described then as a 15-minute neighbourhood had the concept been around. Montreal Road was our "Main Street" shopping area, the town had two high schools and at least three grade schools. Beechwood had a cinema roughly where the Guardian on Beechwood is today. A Saturday matinee ticket cost 35 cents! My friends and I spent many hours at the arena, gratis at the time, and the local bowling alley offered free lessons to kids, including myself at the age of nine. The Public Library in the basement of the former City Hall, now condominiums, was across the street where Marier Street ends at Montreal Road. My father worked at one of four supermarkets within the town's boundaries. The school nurse took care of my basic health needs. Even our family pet had quick access to medical care courtesy of the animal hospital at the corner of Cummings and Montreal Road. When I broke my wrist at seven, the Montfort Hospital was close by. We rarely ventured downtown except to view the

beautiful Christmas decorations adorning the shops on a once vibrant Rideau Street and to marvel at the July 1 fireworks on Parliament Hill. One could spend their whole life in Vanier without ever needing to leave it even after death! The Notre Dame cemetery is close by, after all.

Sylvie Paquette

Greetings,

When I walk through our neighbourhood, it strikes me how many posters advertising meditation are tacked to lamp posts, etc. I interpret it as a sign that our neighbourhood is open to introspection and interested in exploring a realm of consciousness which is beyond the din of mis- and disinformation.

Working in the language industry, I am keenly aware of the enormous amount of lies that are served to the public on a daily basis, the most recent variant coming from fake guardians of truth, who use their warning as an even more subtle layer of lies trapping the unaware.

But meditation alone is no guarantee for truth, as all levels of individual awareness can be manipulated either

from the outside or from within - deception and self-deception are nothing new. Only when one transcends the boundaries of concepts, both true and false, can one reach a level of awareness which is beyond the grasp of manipulation and lies. The awareness of pure being is nothing esoteric. Its beneficial effects on the mind and body have been amply studied and quantified.

It is encouraging to witness in my neighbourhood that the inward search for truth seems to take precedence over the reliance on social media and mass media with their explosive potential of mass distraction and destruction.

Truth radiates light. So does a nuclear blast. I do hope that all those who meditate will make the balance tilt towards peace.

Michael Larrass

Hi there,

I read Eleanor Dunn's piece on turkey and butter hunting at U.S. grocery stores. The answer to her question, "Why are turkeys and butter so expensive in Canada compared to the U.S.?" is very simple: supply management.

Marketing of dairy, poultry and eggs in Canada is controlled by marketing boards, which set price floors for the farm products. This is a conscious decision that Canada made, in part, to protect Canadian farmers from U.S. agricultural product dumping, for which the U.S. is legendary on a global scale. Supply management is the reason Canada's dairy and poultry farms are generally smaller than their US counterparts, because a smaller farm can still support itself. It's also one reason the quality of these products is gener-

ally higher in Canada.

The U.S. is no free-market utopia: the U.S. government subsidizes the production of feedstock outrageously, essentially paying farmers throughout the Midwest to raise corn and soybeans. As a result, inputs to livestock farming in the U.S. are much cheaper than in Canada. The U.S. is also generally permissive in the use of growth hormones in animals grown to produce food, which has been banned for decades in Canada. As a result, a dairy cow is a lot cheaper to raise and milk in the U.S.

But in my experience living in the U.S., the shelf life of dairy products there is short. To obtain comparable quality in a U.S. grocery store you have to buy USDA "organic," and sister, that isn't cheap.

kindest regards,

Joel Henderson

Bravo to Nathan Bowler on his February letter to the Editor re: 15-Minute neighbourhood: Unlocking New Edinburgh's potential. Much needed endeavour. Looking forward to the next articles.

Michèle Charbonneau

Hello Sharon,

Thanks for a super interesting February issue of *NEM*! I was intrigued by the article by Nathan Bowler about New Edinburgh becoming more of a 15-Minute neighbourhood.

While Nathan didn't specifically ask for a hand at this point, I'm wondering if you could please either put me in touch with him, or forward this email to him, as I'm wondering if he would be open to any help with the initiative. Thanks very much, and have a good day!

Regards,

Barbara Mendel

Correction: in our February edition, the article entitled Soak It Up included an image caption with an error, pointed out after press time by both the author, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, and the writer below. NEN regrets the error.

Hi there,
One of the photo descriptions in the noted article says: "Impermeable surface on a driveway to allow water absorption." A PERMEABLE surface would allow water absorption.

Cheers,

David Cameron

Smile. ☺

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“Talkin’ ’bout my generation”: The relevance of age in climate action

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

“There is no known way to prevent old people from voting,” American author and environmentalist Bill McKibben told an audience in Ottawa in early February. That line got a laugh. Yet it lies at the conundrum of tackling climate change on a timely basis.

McKibben has been writing and organizing against climate change for over 30 years, since his 1989 book, *The End of Nature*, explained global warming to a general audience. He thinks we have been relying too much on young people to advocate, when in fact the votes and the financial assets rest with older people.

Young people don’t have the “structural power to make the difference” required on the very short timeline, according to McKibben. People over 60 – “with hairlines like mine,” he said – have to “come on board behind our kids and grandkids to help them get the job done.”

Too many people in McKibben’s age group were telling him it will be up to the younger generation to fix the crisis left to them. To mobilize the over-60 crowd on climate action in the U.S., McKibben launched Third Act in 2021. (McKibben is possibly best known as one of the founders of 350.org, an international climate campaign that works in 188 countries around the world.)

One of Third Act’s key goals is to support youth-led change – believing that “building an intergenerational movement is how we affect change in Washington and on Wall Street.”

The actions and voices of youth cannot be underrated. Greta Thunberg, who began her “school strikes” for climate action at the age of 15, delivered her “How Dare You” speech at age 16 at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019. It was a hard-hitting reminder that the younger generation is affected by the actions of older generations – and it was a powerful call to action aimed at world leaders.

The pace of action must step



Bill McKibben in Ottawa.

Photo by Mahatma Gandhi Peace Council of Ottawa

up to meet the moment. And that moment, so to speak, is the warmest ever. McKibben noted that the year 2023 had the hottest days ever measured on Earth in 125,000 years, according to scientists.

When wildfires in Canada sent dense smoke down to Washington, D.C. and to New York City last summer (remember the apocalyptic-looking, orange-coloured photos?), McKibben took consolation that for a few days, people in powerful places were experiencing what some people breathe every day. “It’s important, once in while, that the powerful feel what the powerless deal with all the time,” he said.

There are alternatives to fossil fuel combustion; McKibben thinks solar power is the best. “The cheapest way to produce power is to point a pane of glass to the sun,” he said.

With the next Canadian federal election to take place on or before Oct. 20, 2025, the role of older generations in campaigns for climate action is pertinent and timely.

Canadian voters ages 65–74 years old had the highest voter turnout rate over the past four federal elections – averaging

85 per cent -- while those 55–64 years old (my own category) were second-highest at 81 per cent on average. That contrasts with voters ages 25–34 years old, whose voter turnout rate averaged 68 per cent over those elections, according to Statistics Canada data.

McKibben made the case for older generations to make a difference in the campaigns for climate action. “We are past the debate about whether

climate change is real,” said McKibben. “Now we have to move really fast.”

“Climate change is the trag-

edy of the horizon,” writes Mark Carney, the UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, in his 2021 book *Value(s)*: “Its catastrophic impacts will be felt beyond the traditional horizons of most actors – imposing a cost on future generations that the current generation has no direct incentive to fix.”

“The climate legacy we leave, depends on how much we value the future,” he adds. “To paraphrase, are boomers OK with leaving an insoluble mess?”

At the closing of the UN climate summit – COP28 – in December 2023, the UN climate change executive secretary Simon Stiell said: “My final message is to ordinary people everywhere raising their voices for change.... In the crucial coming years, your voices and determination will be more important than ever – so I urge you never to relent.... We are still in this race.”

Sarah Anson-Cartwright is an independent public affairs consultant and NECA board member.

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Friends of the Park clean-up

By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall

In fall 2023 we interviewed the CEO of Ottawa Riverkeeper regarding their recent move to the National Capital Commission (NCC) River House. We were eager to identify opportunities to work together on project like our annual Earth Day park clean up. In early February we met with Julia Ostertag (Director of Education and Community Engagement) who is responsible for numerous programs including shoreline clean ups to discuss potential collaboration with our upcoming Stanley Park annual event.

In discussion, we provided them with some background on the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Friends of the Park priorities and some of the projects we've worked on. With the work they do for shoreline clean-ups with schools and the public, it seemed like a great fit to join forces, invite volunteers in the community, and bring everyone together at Stanley Park. After a meeting with her team in early February, Julia confirmed that the Riverkeeper team will work with Friends of the Park for a joint clean-up event at Stanley Park in April!

Since Earth Day (Apr. 22) is on a Monday, we decided Apr. 21 would encourage greater participation (between 10 a.m. and noon). Friends of the Park will continue to liaise with the City to get support for bags and gloves, and meet all volunteers at the gazebo behind the Fieldhouse. Ottawa Riverkeeper's team will bring their own supplies and provide some guidance to the assembled volunteers. They anticipate a good turnout based on last year's numbers. Please note if there is heavy rain, we will move the date to the following Sunday, Apr. 28, at the same time.

We look forward to a good day outside, connecting with community members and working together to pick up garbage throughout the park and near the shoreline areas. As always, be mindful not to handle sharp objects, broken glass, needles, or to carry heavier items. You can always point those out to the team on location. Once you've filled up your bag or bucket, return the trash to the Fieldhouse area so all the receptacles are in one location for pick up.

As always, volunteers can pick up bags and gloves on site. There will be someone at the gazebo to answer any questions, or you can email info@newedinburgh.ca in advance.

To learn more about Ottawa Riverkeeper shoreline clean-ups, activities this summer at their Learning Lab and projects they are working on to protect the health of the river, please sign up for their newsletter at: ottawariverkeeper.ca/newsletter-sign-up

More trees planted this spring with the support of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Friends of the Park is pleased to confirm that there will be some additional trees planted near the floodplain area this spring, a project which was started last year with support from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's (RCVA's) Shoreline Program Coordinator, Brandon Holden and the NCC's Land Manager, Ian Grabina. We would like to thank both organizations for their ongoing support on these important initiatives to remove invasive species and ensure more indigenous trees are planted in these floodplain areas of the park. As this is a smaller project in 2024, we do not require additional volunteers beyond the RVCA and Friends of the Park.

Ice safety on the river – be careful with your dogs



Photo by Karen Squires
Ottawa Riverkeeper's Julia Ostertag and Caroline Gomersall, at their new NCC River House location, will join forces with Friends of the Park for the park clean up this spring.

On Feb. 28, the Ottawa Fire Services were called to rescue a dog at approximately 11:45 a.m. The dog had ventured out on the ice on the Rideau River and had fallen through. According to the Ottawa Fire Services report, upon arrival the firefighters confirmed the dog was 20 feet from the shore, clinging onto the ice shelf, half submerged. They confirmed that their ice rescue technicians made their way out to the dog and secured her. The dog was brought back safely to shore at noon and was doing well. They also said the owner did the right thing by calling 9-1-1 as their team is highly trained and have the right equipment to make the rescue. In the February 2023 edition of NEN, we featured an update around ice safety concerns as in past years, we've seen people walking on the river and in earlier years we actually saw people crossing the river – obviously with current changes in temperature due to climate change, it is recommended not to go on the river at all and please watch your pets carefully to avoid another rescue mission. We are pleased this one worked out, as we've known of earlier cases which did not have the same outcome. Things have changed with ice conditions in more recent years, so please avoid the river entirely during winter season.

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

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New Edinburgh

New Edinburgh's journey to a 15-minute neighbourhood: Are we already there?

By Nathan Bowler

In our previous piece, we introduced the roadmap for how New Edinburgh can position itself as a role model for the coveted title of 15-minute neighbourhood.

But what if I told you we already might be the perfect 15-minute neighbourhood?

If you live closer to Sussex, it takes a mere 10 minutes on the route 9 bus and only 20 minutes to walk (slightly over the 15-minute mark) to the businesses along Beechwood. There are greenspaces along the way, schools like Fern Hill, Macdonald-Cartier Academy, shops, and restaurants for all your needs. So, you could argue that we are a 15-minute neighbourhood based on those parameters. However, some gaps linger in the utopian facade.

Let's peel back those layers: the schools mentioned are private schools where tuition starts at \$3,250 per year. It's great that these institutions are available, but they are financially inaccessible for a large portion of the population. The closest public school for New Edinburgh residents is Rockcliffe Park Public School, a 25-minute walk (slower with small children) if you live along Stanley Avenue. I didn't mention medical needs above, a necessary amenity in a 15-minute neighbourhood. We have pharmacies like the Guardian New Edinburgh Pharmacy and Beechwood Whole Health Pharmacy, but not a walk-in clinic in sight. The rising cost of food puts some household budgets in jeopardy, yet the closest food bank outlet is at the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, located in the former Rideau High School building on St. Laurent Boulevard. This centre is an amazing place and serves residents for the entire area including Manor Park and Overbrook – yet it can be up to a 35-minute ride from New Edinburgh if you're taking the Route 7 bus.

How does the community feel? It's difficult to poll all 4,000 residents of New Edinburgh. And I'm sure residents will have mixed opinions about improving infrastructure for cycling, walking, and bus routes versus



Photo by Nathan Bowler

Beechwood on a Friday afternoon looking relatively quiet, with little foot traffic.

the idea of widening roads and creating more parking spots for cars. One thing is clear; if you walk along the streets of analogous communities like Wellington West, you can typically find a more vibrant tapestry of life. Plenty of people are out walking their dogs or enjoying their lattes, in contrast with the quieter streetscape along Beechwood.

The number of businesses in both neighbourhoods also speaks volumes. There is a higher cluster of shops and services along Wellington Street West – a whopping 510 businesses to be exact, according to Westboro Village West's BIA webpage. In comparison, there are a measly 100 businesses on Beechwood Avenue. (This is my approximate count from Saint Patrick Bridge to the Beechwood Cemetery, because the Vanier BIA's webpage has no directory of businesses.) This includes New Edinburgh, Vanier North, Lindenlea, and Rockcliffe Park: approximately 15,594 residents according to the 2021 population figures (census tracts 0103, 0104, 0057, 0058, and 0110 of Ottawa-Gatineau). The Wellington Village West BIA serves Wellington West and Hintonburg: approximately 16,452 residents (census tracts 0043, 0044, 0045, and 0046).

The populations of are similar, so why is Beechwood lacking in vibrancy? There could be several factors, like the geography of the surrounding neighbourhoods. Perhaps the Beechwood Cemetery takes up a huge chunk of space that would otherwise be inhabited by residents to fill up the

streets. Perhaps Rockcliffe Park is considerably more sparse than other intensified neighbourhoods, and most of Rockcliffe Park relies on cars to get into the heart of Beechwood, where there's



Photo by Nathan Bowler

A bustling Wellington St. also on Friday afternoon.

not much parking. Perhaps the skyrocketing rents for new businesses along Beechwood are unaffordable, hindering new economic opportunity especially for smaller, independently owned businesses.

I've heard from some business owners that the lack of parking along Beechwood is what hinders development. This is a good point made by those who rely on cars. However, a compelling counterpoint emerges: that reducing reliance on cars could actually invigorate our communities. According to several studies, it is more beneficial for businesses to have safer and well-protected cycling and walking routes. It allows more residents to ditch their cars in favour of alternative modes of transit, thus reducing both traffic and dependence on sprawling parking facilities.

Beechwood has bike lanes, but as a cyclist, I do not feel completely safe and have witnessed several near-accidents on MacKay and on Beechwood. Could the solution lie in reimagining streets like Springfield, MacKay, Acacia, and Crichton, carving out wider, better-defined bike lanes and revitalizing sidewalks, including green additions to beckon residents outdoors? Such enhancements not only beautify our neighbourhoods, but foster a sense of safety and accessibility crucial to promoting active lifestyles (As a side note, does anybody find the stretch of sidewalk between the Clocktower Pub and Vaughan Street notoriously slanted? I can't imagine what it would be like trying to traverse that sidewalk in a wheelchair in the winter).

The point here is that if there were safer options for walking and cycling, people would not need to clog up the streets in cars, even to get from the hinterlands of Rideau-Rockcliffe to the heart of Beechwood – and then parking wouldn't be as much of an issue.

Where do we go from here? The answer lies not in individual voices, but in the collective will of our community. Organizations like Ecology Ottawa offer a beacon of hope, spearheading initiatives for greener, walkable neighbourhoods. Ecology Ottawa is offering program and resources throughout

2024 and 2025 including connecting with City staff, creating toolkits, hosting training workshops, and engaging in the Zoning By-law review process, according to their last press release. You can find out more by going to ecologyottawa.ca/newsletters to sign up for their updates.

The city of Ottawa has indicated that principles of 15-minute neighbourhoods are integral to the strategic directions contained in Ottawa's new Official Plan, first outlined in the City's "Five Big Moves" concept. With councillors like Rawlson King advocating for change, the wheels of progress are in motion, albeit slowly.

Next time, we're going to explore and highlight some ideas and organizations in our community that embrace the community-thinking approach. I do not want this to be a monologue, but an invitation to dialogue! I encourage you to share your thoughts at NewEdNews@hotmail.com. We can shape this narrative together. So, what are your thoughts on the gaps in New Edinburgh's journey to being a 15-minute neighbourhood?

Nathan Bowler is an adventurer, geography enthusiast, and resident of Ivy Crescent in New Edinburgh. When he's not cycling through the streets of the neighbourhood, he's working on sending people to the Canadian Arctic and beyond with Adventure Canada.

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Updates on Secondary Plan and Transportation Master Plan for Beechwood



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

Over the mid- to long-term, Council will continue to enhance policies concerning planning and transportation that will ultimately improve New Edinburgh and surrounding communities. An excellent first step was a commitment to the “15-minute neighbourhood” concept in the City of Ottawa’s new Official Plan. The concept aims at creating livable neighbourhoods where residents can meet most of their daily needs within a 15-minute walk or bike ride from their homes. The concept emphasizes proximity, accessibility and mixed land uses to promote sustainability, health, and quality-of-life. To fully operationalize this vision, Ottawa has started the lengthy process of rewriting

its comprehensive zoning by-law for approval by Council in 2025. I invite all residents to be involved in the zoning review public consultation, as well as in the process to develop a Secondary Plan for Beechwood Avenue. A Secondary Plan will ultimately provide a more detailed direction for land use along the corridor. The new Secondary Plan will provide specific policies beyond the general framework provided by the Official Plan. Consideration of the Secondary Plan will be addressed in 2025 and 2026, after the completion of the comprehensive zoning by-law review.

I also invite residents to get involved in updating Part 2 of Ottawa’s Transportation Master Plan (TMP). Last

spring, Council approved Part 1 of the new TMP which focused on active transportation and transit, as well as creating a framework for prioritizing road projects. Part 1 of the new TMP was a significant step forward for the City, since it creates new policies that can enable major streetscaping and public realm interventions to be completed as standalone projects. In the past, the City only undertook large road reconstruction projects during major underground water and sewer infrastructure renewals. As a consequence, the City only delivered a limited number of these renewal projects per year and undertook them often in an incremental fashion. The new Transportation Master Plan Update will now provide new opportunities to implement complete street reconfigurations before underground infrastructure renewal, which could permit the full reconstruction of Beechwood Avenue. The funding implications of this policy change will be explored, including impacts to existing programs, during Part 2 of the new TMP

update, which is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. Depending on the results of this exercise, specific complete street projects, such as a Beechwood Avenue renewal, may eventually be identified and funded within the TMP Part 2.

I invite you to be involved in all these upcoming public consultations and as always, you can contact my office by email at rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca or by phone at 613-580-2483. Please subscribe to my newsletter at rideau-rockcliffe.ca.

**

À moyen et à long termes, le Conseil municipal continuera d’optimiser les politiques sur la planification et les transports qui finiront par améliorer New Edinburgh et les collectivités des environs. Une excellente première étape a consisté à adopter, dans le nouveau Plan officiel de la Ville d’Ottawa, le principe du « quartier du quart d’heure ». Ce principe vise à créer des quartiers habitables, dans lesquels les résidents peuvent répondre à la plupart de leurs besoins quotidiens à moins de 15 minutes à pied ou à vélo de leur logement. Ce principe met en valeur la proximité, l’accessibilité et la polyvalence de l’aménagement du territoire afin de promouvoir la durabilité, la santé et la qualité de vie. Pour opérationnaliser pleinement cette vision, Ottawa a lancé le laborieux processus de refonte de son Règlement de zonage général, à approuver par le Conseil municipal en 2025. J’invite toutes les résidentes et tous les résidents à participer à la consultation publique sur l’examen du Règlement de zonage, ainsi qu’au processus qui permettra de mettre au point le Plan secondaire de l’avenue Beechwood. Ce plan permettra en définitive d’établir l’orientation plus détaillée de l’aménagement du territoire dans ce couloir. Le nouveau Plan secondaire prévoira des politiques spécifiques, au-delà du cadre général que constitue le Plan officiel. On se penchera sur l’étude du Plan secondaire en 2025 et 2026, lorsqu’on aura terminé la refonte du Règlement de zonage général.

J’invite aussi les résidentes et les résidents à participer à la mise à jour de la partie 2 du Plan directeur des transports (PDT) d’Ottawa. Au printemps 2023, le Conseil municipal a approuvé la partie 1 du nouveau PDT, consacrée au transport actif et aux transports en commun, ainsi qu’à la création d’une structure-cadre pour la priorisation des projets de voirie. La partie 1 du nouveau PDT a constitué un pas de géant pour la Ville, puisqu’elle a donné lieu à de nouvelles politiques qui permettent de mener, dans les projets autonomes, des interventions majeures dans le paysage des rues et dans le domaine public. Auparavant, la Ville ne réalisait les grands projets de réfection des routes que pendant les grands chantiers de renouvellement des infrastructures d’aqueduc et d’égouts. C’est pourquoi la Ville ne réalisait chaque année qu’un nombre limité de ces projets de renouvellement et qu’elle en a peu à peu augmenté la fréquence. La nouvelle mise à jour du Plan directeur des transports offrira désormais de nouvelles occasions de mettre en œuvre les travaux de reconfiguration des rues complètes avant de renouveler les infrastructures en sous-sol, ce qui pourrait permettre de réfectionner intégralement l’avenue Beechwood. Nous étudierons les incidences de cette modification de la politique sur le financement, de même que ses impacts pour les programmes existants, dans le cadre de la partie 2 de cette nouvelle mise à jour du PDT, qui devrait être achevée d’ici la fin de cette année. Selon les résultats de ce travail, on pourrait finalement répertorier et financer, dans la partie 2 du PDT, certains projets d’aménagement de rues complètes comme la réfection de l’avenue Beechwood.

Je vous invite à participer à toutes ces prochaines consultations publiques. Comme toujours, vous pouvez contacter mon bureau par courriel (RideauRockcliffeWard@ottawa.ca) ou par téléphone (613-580-2483). Je vous invite à vous abonner à mon infolettre (rideau-rockcliffe.ca).

Writers wanted

Are you interested in writing? Our Burgh Business Briefs team is looking for a new writer or two. Exercise your word-processing and grammar skills while meeting neighbourhood business owners and getting the latest scoop on local events. Bring your ideas to our virtual brainstorming meetings. Requirements include a computer, internet access, and good English writing skills.

NEN is a volunteer-run community paper that publishes five times a year (October, December, February, April, and June).

Contact the editors at newednews@hotmail.com for details.

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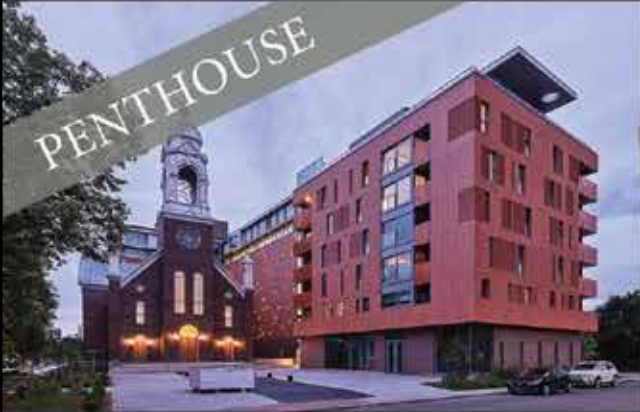
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Finding community and confidence on the court

Elizabeth Gray-Smith

The last thing you likely want to see are the words “Coming out of COVID.” But in the months and weeks emerging from lockdown, I’d lost track of so many things: time, routine, learning, and forward momentum. It had been ages since I had even considered anything new.

In the years and years I have lived in New Edinburgh, this community has been steadfast in playing a reliable role. It’s kept the balance during those trying times. It remains the village it takes to raise two kids. I didn’t know it, but the community had a little rebalancing in store for me. It arrived in the unlikely shape of a racket.

A call came from a neighbour, asking me to join a group lesson at the Rideau Sports Centre (RSC). What did I know about tennis? I knew I had a racket in the basement. That nearly summed it up.

I’ve watched tennis and could more or less follow a match. I’d attended tennis tournaments long ago, and once found myself vowing to

become a sleeper tennis pro – or at least an adult ball girl – after watching Federer slamming balls at Indian Wells.

There are times not to search for reasons why or why not, but simply shrug and mutter, as convincingly as possible, “might as well.” I hopped on my bike, hugging the river for the five-minute cycle to RSC at the Adawe Crossing Bridge. My imposter syndrome was along for the ride. Perched on my shoulder, it babbled incessantly in my ear like an unwelcome parrot.

Dismounting in front of RSC, I felt like the girl in the teen movie who shows up at a new school halfway through the year. My threads met a standard of “tennis outfit” only by virtue of accompanying me to a tennis court. I needn’t have worried. Visions of being confronted by phalanx of all-white clothing vanished. I was only just in the door and was instantly breathing the first sigh of relief – one of many to follow.

As I took steps to the court, the next worries followed; I didn’t know the rules. Everything was new. Where

should I stand when I served? I had an inkling – on the back line, or possibly near, behind or in front of it. How to serve? I saw how experts did it. How to keep score? I knew it started with love.

Exiting the court that day, I left my imposter syndrome out of my definitely-not-a-tennis bag, smashing it out of bounds for good. My first lesson was done, and I felt completely invigorated. I learned two things. The first was that I could surprise myself. The second thing ... was tennis! I wasn’t just learning; the curve was surprisingly easy. Most shockingly, the welcome was instant – uncooperative limbs, questionable familiarity with the rules, mismatched socks and all.

I returned to the courts the week after, and the week after that. I met new people. I joined round robins. I was invited to a WhatsApp group of RSC folks looking for novice and intermediate players. I could barely keep up, but they all encouraged me. The dome was a year-round place of zero judgment.

On sunny days I hit Stanley Park, with my furry friend



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Gray-Smith

Practice your game inside at the Rideau Sports Center before summer so you can get outside on the courts soon!

retrieving every serve. He may not be allowed on the courts, but there wasn’t always a human available to hit that ball back. The Lindenlea courts began to play host to many afternoons with friends – the human kind.

Ultimately though, that judgment-free dome kept calling me back. I signed up for private lessons at RSC with one goal: one day I’ll play my brother-in-law. He’s pretty good; he accepted the challenge by buying me a proper tennis bag. The game keeps opening up to me.

Rideau Sports Centre has doubled its indoor tennis capacity for the 2024 season. Now with a whopping 864 hours of weekly court time, there isn’t a larger indoor tennis facility in the Capital Region.

I’ve learned that a lot grows from love – I mean the tennis version – starting at zero. It’s funny how much can come from nothing. There is nothing like the sound of that thwop when the racket hits the ball just right. There is nothing like squashing that imposter syndrome. There is nothing like finding an extension to the community you thought you knew completely. There is nothing like the pride that comes with learning something new. There is nothing like being welcomed back to the domes – formerly one, now two. The courts already expanded my life enormously. This second expansion is an unbelievably lucky bonus.

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

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Beechwood Avenue study guides Secondary Plan consultation process

Continued from page 1

tive proposal is the suggestion to redevelop two demonstration sites on Beechwood: the Metro grocery store and Beechwood Mews, a low-density strip mall near Marier Avenue (between Marier Avenue and Chapleau Street). Both sites are described as having “great development potential” and there are some specific proposals here, the most controversial being building height limits for these parcels.

For example, increased height and density for these sites should be between eight to 10 storeys, in keeping with land use intensification policies. There should also be mixed-use development, sustainable urban landscaping (i.e., greenspace) and a continuous and well-articulated street wall along Beechwood.

A second design concept focuses on streetscaping and improving active transportation linkages with both short- and long-term design interventions. Consistent with the framework, one intervention would involve introducing street furniture, urban landscaping, and greenspace throughout the corridor. More controversial, however, is the suggestion to remove the cycling network along Beechwood and relocate the lanes to Barrett Street as an alternative interim route.

The report contains a total of 20 design interventions and recommendations, with 10 being described as “tactical design interventions” and 10 “long-term recommendations.” Two particularly interesting ideas: initiating a pilot project to reduce the speed limit to 30 km/h along Beechwood Avenue; and reducing the right-of-way for

vehicles and expanding sidewalks to a minimum of 2.5 metres. (See the table below for a complete list of recommendations).

Chris Greenshields of the BVA and the Vanier Community Association (VCA) has provided input on many local community projects and attended a meeting to discuss the study with Councillor Stéphanie Plante. While Greenshields said there are “some interesting ideas,” he cautioned that some of the recommendations may not be doable and that they “illustrate the challenges involved given the relatively narrow right-of-way especially with the pending reopening of Hemlock Road to Wateridge [Village].”

We contacted David Atkinson, an urban planner with the City, regarding next steps. He replied in an email that the study’s proposals do not allow for broad community consultation: “The resulting plan is not an approved or endorsed plan by the community or the city. There are, however, several interesting ideas and proposals that came through the work and precedent studies that can be brought forward for discussion and consideration as part of any future plans or capital investments in Beechwood Avenue.”

A quick perusal of the Executive Summary will no doubt trigger more discussion and debate on how we move forward with improving Beechwood and incorporating the best elements of the framework into a finalized Secondary Plan by 2025.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

Tactical Design Interventions	Long-term Recommendations
Improve the pedestrian amenity space along Beechwood Avenue with temporary street furniture, surface treatments, and vegetation.	Utilize continuous sidewalks and invest in permanent street furniture, lighting, and public art.
Activate underutilized spaces to improve the pedestrian environment.	Increase programmable space within the Beechwood Community.
Temporarily pedestrianize minor intersections through the placement of tactical urban landscaping and street furniture.	Fully pedestrianize minor intersections with raised sidewalks, bollards, and landscaping features
Address deferred maintenance on existing pedestrian sidewalks.	Reduce the right-of-way for vehicles and expand sidewalks to a minimum of 2.5 metres
Implement a pilot cycling network along Barrette Street.	Invest in a dedicated cycling route on Barrette Street and remove the north street parking lane.
Experiment with parklets.	Incorporate sustainable landscape features such as bioswales and pervious strips.
Create bump-outs and reduce corner radius of key intersections along Beechwood Avenue.	Complete a full streetscape redesign.
Experiment with the temporary restriction of the Quickie parking lot as an access onto Beechwood Avenue.	Transform Loyer Street and St. Charles Street into flexible spaces such as woonerfs.
Experiment with gateway and wayfinding design elements.	Promote the development of high-density, mixed-use buildings at key nodes.
Initiate a pilot project to reduce the speed limit to 30km/h along Beechwood Avenue.	Invest in traffic calming measures at key junctions by implementing raised intersections, additional street crossing, and curb extensions.

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BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Jane Heintzman, Randy Mar, Sharon Nyangweso and Karen Squires



Photo by Nathan Bowler

Monique Dugas, owner of Clothes Encounters, with her kitty companion, Clara, in their eclectic treasure trove of a clothing store.

Local consignment store promotes sustainable living

Nestled in New Edinburgh at 67 Beechwood Avenue, consignment store **Clothes Encounters of a Second Time** has quietly served for over four decades, championing sustainable living. Founded in 1982 by three compassionate residents to support Vietnamese refugees, it started humbly, and grew into a beloved institution.

Offering pre-loved clothing and accessories, it stands out for its commitment to sustainability.

Since taking over in 2002, owner **Monique Dugas** has transformed the venture into a vibrant hub of creativity and inclusivity. She ensures all are welcomed warmly, fostering an environment of acceptance. Monique encourages self-expression through fashion, promoting individu-

ality.

The store's core principle is sustainability. It offers gently used items at affordable prices, promoting circular fashion to reduce waste. From locally made garments to global treasures, it caters to conscious consumers.

Supporting the local community, Clothes Encounters hires students, supports artists, and donates proceeds to charity. In a changing New Edinburgh, it remains a symbol of authenticity amidst commercialization, embodying community spirit and compassion.

Amidst fast fashion, it offers a refreshing alternative, where quality, creativity, and sustainability thrive. Whether a fashion enthusiast or conscious consumer, Clothes Encounters welcomes all to discover the joy of sustainable living, one pre-loved treasure at a time. If you're seeking unique treasures to add to your closet, but are looking to live more sustainably in 2024, look no further than this Beechwood



Photo courtesy Sophia Wood Massicotte

Sophia's skill and expertise is obvious in her practice.

gem! –SN

Guiding your journey to wellness through yoga and Ayurveda

In a world filled with noise and distractions, achieving inner peace and balance can seem like an impossible task. Yet amidst this chaos, Sophia – a devoted yoga instructor and holistic wellness coach – offers a pathway to self-discovery and healing.

At the **Pilates on Beechwood** studio at 140 Beechwood Ave., **Sophia Wood Massicotte** leads transformative yoga classes that transcend mere physical exercise. Drawing from ancient practices like Ayurveda and the 8 Limbs of Yoga, she takes a holistic approach, integrating movement, breathwork, mindfulness, and intention-setting into her teachings.

Sophia's own healing journey fuels her mission to create a sanctuary for others seeking transformation. With a passion for movement, nature, and nourishing food, she infuses her classes with a unique blend of expertise and enthusiasm. Her inclusive classes cater to practitioners of all levels, emphasizing safety and authenticity. Sophia also offers personalized private sessions tailored to individual needs, combining yoga, meditation, and Ayurvedic principles to foster empowerment and vitality.

Ready to embark on a journey of self-discovery? Sophia invites you to explore the wisdom of yoga and Ayurveda. The journey home

to wellness begins here. For more information, visit theartofbeingwell.org or email sophia@theartofbeingwell.org. –SN

ALMOS Barbershop, new name, new faces for haircuts on Beechwood

Welcome to Ali Almoala and Hasan Mohasar, the friends, barbers, and now business partners at the new **ALMOS Barbershop** located at 10 Beechwood Ave.

In a creative play on words, A-L-M-O are the first four letters of Ali's surname and almos is Arabic for "straight razor," one of the main tools of his trade – the word is imaginatively integrated into the Barbershop's logo.

Ali previously cut hair from his home while Hasan worked at various shops and salons across the city. The partners heard of storefront space becoming available on Beechwood and leapt at the chance to begin a business partnership.

"We liked the neighbourhood and the ongoing residential and business development along Beechwood and felt like this would be a great place to continue barbering and to launch our business," explained Ali in a conversation with NEN between customer cuts.

While they are starting small, with a focus on customers and the details of starting and growing their own business, Hasan and Ali plan to provide more services and promotions as they move into the warmer months. They're currently offering a



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Photo by Randy Mar

Hasan Mohasur (left) and Ali Almoala (right) in their new barbershop at 10 Beechwood Ave.

range of cuts including barber, skin fades, buzz, senior, and maintenance or clean-up cuts, as well as beard and goatee trims, and face shaves.

Patrons of the former Beechwood Barbershop will immediately notice the interior upgrades, including LED rings that create a brighter working environment, along with fresh, updated paint colours, and brass fittings and accents. The shop's focus, however, is still to provide a great cut and conversation.

A wall sign capture these

essence of what Ali and Hasan offer at ALMOS:

Barber [baa-bur] noun A low-key therapist as well as a talented and creative individual, with the ability to transform hair and beards with a comb, clippers and scissors.

Walk-ins are welcome, but for convenience, clients can also book online at ali.4440.setmore.com. ALMOS is open seven days a week and offers senior and youth rates. Call (613) 842-8383

to make an appointment or for more information. -RM

Metro buckles down on waste diversion

Regrettably, the City of Ottawa is far from a leader in the critically important domain of municipal Waste Diversion. Although some progress has been achieved since the Green Bin program began in 2010, the 2022 city-wide diversion rate remained at 46 per cent (53 per cent for curbside collection and 17 per cent for multi-residential properties), a rate well below comparable-sized municipalities across the country. Efforts to boost that rate to extend the life of the Trail Waste Facility Landfill are ongoing at the City level, but so far the evidence suggests that our wasteful habits are hard to change.

The good news is that our flagship grocery store, **Metro Beechwood**, has recently buckled down on Waste Diversion, and has made remarkable progress over the past six months, boosting its diversion rate from 54 per cent to almost 86 per cent in that short period.

“Our team is passionate about playing a central role in

the community’s environmen- recycling bins within each



Photo by Philippe Marchand

Metro team members (from left) Kevin MacLead, Kevin Carrier, Bella Segreto, and Manager Shawn Steinburg.

tal stewardship,” says Metro Manager Shawn Steinburg. “We’ve recently rolled out a series of programs, and by following a few simple practices, our store has seen notable results, of which we’re very proud.”

We’d also like to recognize Dominic Lalonde who was instrumental in actioning this important initiative.

Among the measures recently introduced in Metro’s waste diversion project:

- installation of additional

store department, as well as in the staff lunchroom and offices;

• removal of several generic waste bins from within and around the store, which, according to Shawn, “were serving as a catalyst for excessive waste that could otherwise be diverted, recycled or disposed of in more eco-friendly ways”;

• increased education for employees about the importance of diversion, repurpos-

Continued on page 14

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

The Beechwood Personal Memory Book can help you have the conversations that are needed and ensure that everyone can be aware of what your wishes are ahead of time.



We encourage you to fill out the Beechwood Personal Memory Book with your loved ones, your family and your friends.

Download Your Personal Memory Book and write your story today!

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Owned by the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and operated by the Beechwood Cemetery Company



Continued from page 13

ing and recycling.

Shawn points out that all these new measures serve to reinforce Metro's ongoing programs to reduce landfill waste, notably:

- price reductions on foods that are close to expiry;
- donation of any unsold, close-to-expiry but still consumable products to the Ottawa Food Bank through Metro's One More Bite program, including high-protein sources such as meat, seafood, cheese, milk, and eggs, as well as staples such as bread and juice; and
- ensuring that paper, plastic, cardboard, and organic waste recycling programs are being fully utilized throughout the store.

"We're always looking for ways to improve," says Shawn, "and we'd be happy to receive suggestions from people in the community"

about possible further measures to boost waste diversion at Metro, and support the collective effort to reduce pressure on the City's aging Trail Waste Facility Landfill. Hats off to Shawn and his team for their impressive achievements – may they serve as an example for the rest of us! –JH

Dhruvees expands with exciting new concept

The corner of Beechwood and Charlevoix continues to emerge as an epicentre of culinary excellence and intrigue. After launching **Dhruvees Cuisine** in February 2022, featuring Indian, Indonesian, and Sri Lankan cuisines, and adding the **Seoul Station** shortly afterward, Donald Wingell's vision continues to evolve: he unveiled **Café by Dhruvees** on Mar 20 in the former Ministry of Coffee location.

In many ways, the availabil-



Photo by Philippe Marchand

Café by Dhruvees team with Chef Ambagaspiyiye, Danya, Victoria and owner Donald Wingell.

ity of this space helped anchor the next phase in Donald's food studio and emporium. The central food preparation area, with two adjacent, but distinct and complementary

spaces, along with a soon-to-be opened outdoor patio, vaulted this vision forward.

Neighbourhood foodies will love what Donald and newly arrived Chef Chaminda Ambagaspiyiye have created. As Chef Mentor and Consultant, Ambagaspiyiye brings a vast international perspective, repertoire, and creative flair. "We're so excited to have a chef of Chaminda's calibre and experience join our team," said Donald during a tour of the new premises. "Chef Ambagaspiyiye has been Executive Chef for many world-renowned hotels and restaurants, as well as for private clients. He'll be our chef mentor and help bring my vision to the table."

Boutique wine flights and tasting sessions; private social and corporate events and catering; live music evenings; chef-featured cooking lessons; and afternoon tea; all with a complementary and contemporary Southeast Asian twist, are among the upcoming events at Café by Dhruvees. But first, croissant offerings including roasted shrimp and asparagus salad; turkey cranberry; pesto chicken; and vegetarian delights will appeal to a wide range of palates, as will chicken tikka wraps; Jaffna-style crab puffs; Ceylon egg rotis; and lentil and spinach patties. Also on the must-try list: spicy mutton rolls; fish buns; spiced fish cutlets; *seeni sambol* (stuffed, mildly spiced onion relish) buns; *rendang* pies (a signature Indonesian dish); egg hoppers (Sri Lankan rice flour pancakes); coconut roti; and *medhu vada* (Indian donuts)!

Specialty coffees from Indonesia (Wild Lumak and

Bali drip), along with traditional café favourites like espresso, Americano, cappuccino, latte, together with Mumbai Masala Chai, Moroccan Mint, and other teas make for a special indulgence or an everyday treat. Not quite categorized as "street food," much of the menu caters both to those looking for a leisurely sit-down meal as well as busy "grab-and-go" customers. The extensive menu also features a wide array of lassis: freshly made yogurt- and fruit-based thirst quenchers. The classic mango lassi is featured, as are strawberry, rose, pistachio, chocolate-cherry, and passionfruit, among others.

All this is available in a bright and airy, window-wrapped 40-seat café, that will easily convert to an event space. Café by Dhruvees is open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Mondays. The venue will be available for private events – such as small cocktail parties, celebration dinners, or charity events – after 5 p.m.

To experience Dhruvees, Café by Dhruvees, Seoul Chicken, or Yo Lassi, stop by 18 Beechwood Avenue (southwest corner of Beechwood and Charlevoix). For more information, visit dhruvees.com, or call (613) 744-7888. –RM

Patio Season – What's new and coming soon in our June edition!

As we move into the spring season, we now have longer days and brighter skies – so let's bring more light into our lives and get outside!

One suggestion for getting outdoors without travelling far: meet a friend to enjoy one of the great patios nearby, just opening for the season! Let's begin with **Café by Dhruvees**, just opened on corner of Beechwood Avenue and Charlevoix Street (see details above). Stroll deeper into the neighbourhood and check out **Union Street Café** on Crichton Street to enjoy a healthy treat outdoors. It's not a huge patio, but they are very creative with their seating space and delightfully dog friendly!

There are many patio options on and off Beechwood Avenue which we plan to feature in our June edition. Starting at Crichton Street and Beechwood, you've got **The Royal Oak** – Beechwood on

Continued on page 15

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Lights, camera, (a safer Crichton Street), action!

By Jason Tavoularis

An automated speed enforcement camera will be installed on Crichton Street between Vaughan Street and Beechwood Avenue, according to a City of Ottawa Transportation Committee report. The report, from a meeting on Nov. 16, 2023, outlined a plan for 20 new camera locations in 2024.

The posted speed limit for this section of Crichton Street is 40 km/h, but threshold speeds for triggering fines are not disclosed. According to aseontario.com, the official automated speed enforcement information site for Ontario:

“As speed limits are not guidelines – they are the law – there is no need to disclose threshold speeds. Driving at, or below, the posted limit will ensure a ticket is not issued.”

Comments on social media speculate that fines are issued if drivers are caught going more than 10 per cent above the limit. So, following those unconfirmed rules, one can expect a ticket if exceeding 44 km/h on Crichton Street once this camera is operational.

It is safe to assume that many *NEN* readers have already been ticketed by the notorious speed enforce-

ment camera at St. Laurent Boulevard between Noranda Avenue and Clarke Avenue: the stretch in front of Queen Elizabeth Public School. This camera issued 23,761 tickets over 12 months, with a monthly peak of 3,977 in July 2023 (Source: open.ottawa.ca).

I received one such ticket for traveling 62 km/h when the posted limit is 50 km/h. I have no idea whether it was my wife or I driving during this offense, but we’re both a lot more mindful (and anxious) about staying under the limit now. We used to primarily base our speeds on

the flow of surrounding traffic. Now we’re paying much more attention to posted speed limits, which can be distracting as they change between 60 km/h and 50 km/h amidst many other types of signs along St. Laurent Boulevard.

My wife and I are not the only ones driving slower because of automated speed enforcement. The City of Ottawa website states their yearlong pilot study had the following impact: a 200 per cent increase in compliance with the speed limit; a 11 per cent decrease in 85th percentile speed (the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is

travelling or below); and a 72 per cent decrease in drivers traveling at 15 km/h over the speed limit.

The City of Ottawa also states: “All revenue generated from tickets issued via the Automated Speed Enforcement program is reinvested into the City of Ottawa’s Road Safety Action Plan program, which uses education, engineering and enforcement to promote road safety for all road users.”

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

Continued from page 14

the corner, then Starbucks at the corner of MacKay and Beechwood, and the **Clocktower Pub** just across the street (lower level of the Chartwell building). So: lots to choose from for breakfast, lunch, or dinner while enjoying a few rays!

We were also told a few months ago by Mike, the owner of **Mr. Poke** (a new restaurant on Barrette Street) that they have a patio at the back, so check them out for very healthy menu options. Or head further down Beechwood Avenue to the quaint patio at **Red Door Provisions** for coffee, brunch, and amazing desserts. Otherwise, you can always connect with friends on the treed patio at **Bridgehead** for a coffee and panini – YUM.

Wine and dine anytime – **The Soca Kitchen** (Kavanaugh Building on Beechwood near the cemetery) offers a large, comfortable patio space with extensive menu options for a casual brunch or lunch, or for special dinners. It’s quiet and well worth walking a few extra blocks from others already noted!

Stretch your legs a bit more to enjoy an amazing sunset and a glass of wine at **Tavern on the Falls** on Sussex (near Stanley Ave) overlooking the Rideau Falls. Or for more extensive menu options, continue your journey along Sussex: just before the National Gallery of Canada, turn right to discover the hidden gem **Tavern at the Gallery** – nestled in a courtyard with lovely trees and live music on some nights!



Photo by Philippe Marchand

Union Street Café’s small but charming patio.

Otherwise, going in the other direction from Tavern on the Falls, turn right on Sussex towards the **Rockcliffe Boathouse Restaurant** or the NCC’s **River House café** with river views along the Sir-George-Étienne-Cartier Parkway.

Hopefully our sneak preview will inspire you to get out and see these patios early, so by our next edition, you’ll have already spent some sunny hours al fresco. Stay tuned, as we plan to feature many more patios in our June edition. Happy meandering in the neighbourhood, bon appétit and we look forward to seeing you out and about this spring and summer! –KS

BiBi’s Beechwood location now closed

The message below was copied from the door of **BiBi’s** restaurant: a note from owners Adam and Kelly Weiss as to the reason for their closing the Beechwood location.

“Due to unforeseen circumstances related to our building’s condition, we regret to inform you that our Beechwood location is now

closed indefinitely. This decision, though heartbreaking for us, is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of our valued guests and staff. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support you’ve shown us over the past four years. Building BiBi’s here has been a journey filled with cherished

memories and community connections and we remain hopeful that we can return to this neighbourhood in the future. While we say farewell to this location, the journey continues! Our Hintonburg location is eagerly awaiting your visit, and we’re still just a click away on Uber Eats for those cozy nights in. Your understanding and continued support mean the world to us, and we’re excited to keep serving you with the same passion and quality you’ve come to love. Thank you for being a part of our BiBi’s family. Here’s to new beginnings and continued culinary adventures together!”



Photo by Phillippe Marchand

The building that formerly hosted Bibi’s Middle Eastern Kitchen.

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CCC President's Report

By Chris Straka, CCC President

Children's playgroup needs a leader

Thanks to the initiative of Liz McIntyre, a playgroup for children ages 0-4 (and their parents or caregivers) has been re-established in the Fieldhouse on Thursday mornings from 9-11 a.m. This is an informal and unstructured opportunity to socialize with other families in your community. Please bring your own toy and snack for your child. Some warm beverages are available for adults. The new playgroup initiative has quickly grown to include a group of 30 parents and caregivers from New Edinburgh and adjacent neighbourhoods who are regularly attending with their children. Thanks to those parents and caregivers, as well as the Lindenlea Community Association for the many loaned or donated toys.

For this community initiative to continue beyond Apr. 15, the CCC needs to identify a playgroup co-ordinator. Their role is to lead the playgroup by opening and closing the building, setting up the space, and communicating with participants. To volunteer or to get more information, please email us: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

If there is any initiative that excites you enough to contribute your free time into making it a reality, please email us (see above). The CCC will support leaders



committed to creating inclusive opportunities in service of the greater good.

Skating season finishes early

The final skate blades cut the ice at the Fieldhouse on the last night of February – a couple of weeks earlier than in years past. Fortunately, the ice at New Edinburgh Park opened earlier and remained skateable much longer than most neighbourhood rinks in the city. This was largely due to the exceptional volunteer efforts of Bruce McLaurin (Chief Base Builder) and Sean Fraser (Ice Technician), along with Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse (CCC – Director Park) and his crew of 24 hosers. Thanks to all!

Films at the Fieldhouse

Free film screenings returned to the Fieldhouse on the weekend of Mar. 22. Featured were Trolls Band Together – the third in the DreamWorks Animation series – and Dune, the first of a two-part science fiction saga. This epic was directed and co-produced by Canadian Denis Villeneuve. The two popular selections – one chosen for children and one for teens and adults – drew dozens together for no-cost entertainment, snacks, and drinks. Interested in free film screenings – espe-



Photo by Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse

Fieldhouse hosers: (from left) André Deslauriers, Sean Fraser, Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse, Suneil Kanjeekal, Peter MacDougall, Loïc Berthou, Jennifer Manning, (kneeling) Rachel Aslan, Aubrey Charette and Chris Straka. Thank you to additional hosers: Bruce McLaurin, Christian Hansson, Greg Northey, David Pyman, Jason Tavoularis, Lucas Lawson, Martin Hicks, Nick Charland, Yuji Satoh, Alexandra Dosman, David Millard, Manon Desgroseillers, Hope Celani, Pascal Dubuc, Caroline Matt, Arlen Matt, Bryan Vaughan, Chris Hamilton, Steve Krigas and Ian Krigas.

cially summer films outdoors – at the Fieldhouse? Let us know. We need an event leader to continue the tradition ...

Keymasters needed

Needed: a dedicated group of volunteers to keep the washrooms and water fountain area of the Fieldhouse accessible to the public during daylight hours until the end of October. Keymasters also do quick tours of the building to monitor its condition and to report any service needs. If you ever see a need for service at the Fieldhouse or in the park, please call 3-1-1 to report it.

If you have 15 minutes to give a few times per month, please let us know you would

like to join the Keymasters.

Girl Guides

Did you know that the 132nd Ottawa Guide Unit meets weekly at the Fieldhouse? For more information contact info@girlguides.ca or 1-877-564-6188. If your community service group would like to use the Fieldhouse on a regular basis, please contact the CCC by email: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

CCC Director-Secretary needed

The CCC is seeking a Director-Secretary to join the Board of Directors. Primary duties involve minute taking at monthly meetings; file management; and communications. Additional duties include email management; digital file organization; and administration of policies and procedures. The CCC welcomes expressions of interest in the role by email: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

CCC Director meetings

Regular meetings of the CCC's working volunteer Board of Directors are typically held on the second Monday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Fieldhouse. Occasionally meeting times, dates, or locations change to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors or guests. Please email the CCC if there is a topic you would like to discuss:

CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

CCC Communications

Event information is posted at newedinburgh.ca/events, on Facebook (NEfieldhouse) and on Twitter/X (@NEfieldhouse).

The CCC communicates with neighbours using two open email lists that you can subscribe to by visiting newedinburgh.ca/ccc

The CCC also contacts neighbours directly using a closed email distribution list that is used exclusively by neighbourhood associations. To have your contact information added to the CCC's email distribution list, please send a message to: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse rentals

The New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse is available for rentals throughout the year. It is an excellent venue for birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, and other celebrations of all kinds. Proceeds from the rental of the Fieldhouse and donations to the CCC contribute directly to the improvement of the facility and to neighbourhood events.

For more information visit: newedinburgh.ca/ccc/fieldhouse

To check availability or make a reservation go to: nefieldhouseccc.skedda.com/booking




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Introducing: New Edinburgh Community Harvest Project

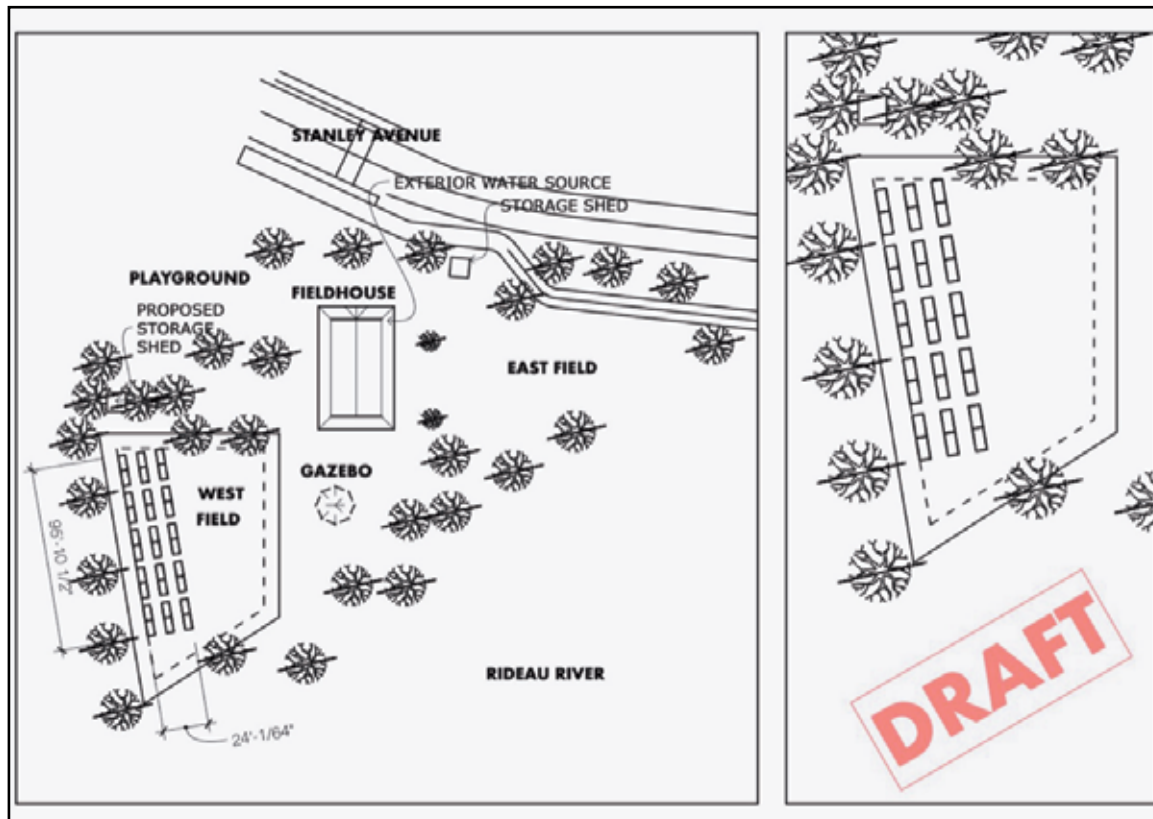
By Adrian Di Giovanni

By the time you've cracked into this edition of the NEN, the gardeners among you will likely be fingers deep in the recently thawed soil.

Since 2004, as our gardens lay dormant, a small team of us started the process to bring a community garden back to the neighbourhood, an effort we're calling the *New Edinburgh Community Harvest Project*. Included in our small organizing team are community members who helped run the garden boxes at the old NECTAR community centre before it sadly closed, a couple of executive members of the Crichton Community Council (CCC), and me, a spirited if workaday gardener and proud father of two.

Our goals and vision: In returning a new community garden to New Edinburgh, our hope is to make gardening and growing spaces more accessible. We suspect there's deep untapped demand, especially for people living in apartments, multi-unit homes or retirement communities.

This year's abnormally warm winter was a reminder for the need to adopt climate conscious lifestyle. A community garden would be a small, vital way to promote awareness about sustainable, urban food production. We've



The proposed layout of the New Edinburgh Community Harvest Project that would be located near the Fieldhouse off Stanley Ave.

Image courtesy Adrian Di Giovanni

seen a similar spirit shine through in welcoming the Beechwood farmer's market, and its local, sustainable food to New Edinburgh Park.

Our vision would be for the garden to join the roster of mainstay events, while tapping into the collective wisdom of New Edinburgh's gardeners. Imagine a seed exchange to kick off our community growing each year,

a Harvest Moon Autumn Festival and Fundraiser and more.

Our initial idea is to set-up the garden close to the Fieldhouse, with a few rows of boxes, which are typically 4'x'8' in size. Thanks to its

existing agreements with the City of Ottawa, the CCC could provide free access to watering taps and storage space at the Fieldhouse. Crucially, the Fieldhouse already serves as a community hub where people come together, which

the community garden could build on and bolster. The specific location has not yet been decided and awaits discussion with the City. In scoping options, we are very attuned to the need to find a balance in preserving the Park's many sources of enjoyment. A successful garden will need a space that enjoys ample sunshine, convenient access to water and won't be too exposed to traffic.

In recent years, funding for community gardens has been through Just Food and last Fall we submitted the materials to get our application rolling. New Edinburgh's chances are promising given the absence of a community garden and the CCC's support. In late-2023, however, the City put a freeze on new projects, after City Council ordered a review to revamp and simplify the process to establish community gardens on city lands. While we wait for a new process, we're keen to receive feedback and questions from the community, about the *Community Harvest Project*. Please drop by our booth at the Plant Sale on May 11 at the Fieldhouse or send feedback by email to NEpark@gmail.com.



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Looking to the 2024 budget and the gaps it can fill



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Whether it is access to health-care, access to justice or even access to basic necessities, like food and housing, Ontarians are facing serious issues that need bold action. The provincial government has an important role to play in addressing these issues, but since we returned to Queen's Park after Family Day, they have introduced bill after bill of weak measures that will have very little real impact and that are not backed up by the required financial resources.

Community organizations play a crucial role in addressing various social issues and inequalities, but many of them are in dire need of financial support from this government. From food assistance to mental health programs

and housing aid, these groups bridge gaps in government services and advocate for a fairer society. Their dedication strengthens community bonds and emphasizes the power of collective action and fosters an inclusive spirit among residents.

As a Franco-Ontarian, I know that French-language education has a critical role to play in promoting and protecting our language and culture. I continue to advocate for solutions to address the serious lack of qualified French-speaking professionals in our elementary and secondary schools. At the post-secondary level, French-language education faces funding challenges and study permit restrictions. Unfortunately, the government's proposed

legislative and funding solutions to these issues are woefully inadequate.

When it comes to health-care, a new nurse practitioner-led clinic that will focus on mental health and addictions in Ottawa-Vanier was awarded \$2.5 million in funding. While this is far from sufficient to meaningfully fill the gap in access to primary care, I am encouraged to continue pushing for more investments. Additionally, the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health are doing incredible work providing reasonable, innovative, and achievable solutions to the mental health and addictions crisis. They too, however, need the provincial government's support.

With the 2024 provincial budget to be announced before the end of March, I will be looking for the government to finally step up to the plate and provide the financial support that Ontarians need.

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

**

Chers résidents, chères résidentes de New Edinburgh,

Qu'il s'agisse de l'accès aux soins de santé, de l'accès à la justice ou même de l'accès aux nécessités de base, comme la nourriture et le logement, les Ontariens et Ontariennes sont confrontés à de graves problèmes qui nécessitent des mesures con-

crètes. Le gouvernement provincial a un rôle important à jouer dans la résolution de ces problèmes, mais depuis notre retour à Queen's Park après le Jour de la famille, les projets de loi présentés proposent des mesures faibles qui auront très peu d'impact réel et qui ne sont pas soutenues par des ressources financières.

Les organismes communautaires jouent un rôle crucial dans la lutte contre les inégalités et les problèmes sociaux, mais nombre d'entre elles ont un besoin urgent de soutien financier de la part du gouvernement. Qu'il s'agisse d'aide alimentaire, de programmes de santé mentale ou d'aide au logement, ces groupes comblent les lacunes des services gouvernementaux et plaident en faveur d'une société plus juste. Leur dévouement renforce les liens communautaires et souligne le pouvoir de l'action collective.

En tant que Franco-Ontarienne, je sais que l'éducation en langue française joue un rôle essentiel dans la promotion et la protection de notre langue et de notre culture. Je continue de militer en faveur de solutions pour combler le grave manque de professionnels francophones qualifiés dans nos écoles primaires et secondaires. Au niveau post-secondaire, l'éducation en langue française est confrontée à des défis de financement et à des restrictions en matière de permis d'études. Malheureusement, les solu-

tions législatives et financières proposées par le gouvernement à ces problèmes sont terriblement inadéquates.

En ce qui concerne les soins de santé, une nouvelle clinique dirigée par des infirmières praticiennes qui se concentrera sur la santé mentale et la toxicomanie à Ottawa-Vanier a reçu un financement de 2,5 millions de dollars. Bien que cette somme soit loin d'être suffisante pour combler le manque d'accès aux soins primaires, je suis motivée à continuer à faire pression pour obtenir davantage d'investissements. De plus, la ville d'Ottawa et Santé publique Ottawa accomplissent un travail incroyable en proposant des solutions raisonnables, innovantes et réalisables à la crise de la santé mentale et de la toxicomanie. Cependant, ils ont eux aussi besoin du soutien du gouvernement provincial.

Le budget provincial 2024 devant être annoncé avant la fin du mois de mars, je m'attends à ce que le gouvernement prenne enfin ses responsabilités et fournisse le soutien financier dont les Ontariens et Ontariennes ont besoin.

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

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Embracing spring in New Edinburgh



Photo by Sharon Nyangweso

Amanda and her little one exploring their new neighbourhood.

By Sharon Nyangweso

As the brisk winds of winter fade away, residents of New Edinburgh eagerly welcome the vibrant hues and renewed energy that spring brings to the neighbourhood. New Edinburgh boasts a unique charm that comes to life particularly during the spring months. Through conversations with neighbours, it's evident that there are several aspects of spring in New Edinburgh that truly captivate and enchant its inhabitants.

One recurring theme among neighbours is the joy of strolling through the community's walkable streets. Whether it's a leisurely walk along the river or a jaunt to a local establishment like Joe's Shoemaker, locals cherish the opportunity to embrace the outdoors. Despite the occasional challenges of uneven terrain due to melting ice, residents like Elizabeth appreciate the lively atmosphere and the sight of families and their furry companions enjoying the fresh air.

For others, like Amanda and her little one, the allure of spring lies in the anticipation of outdoor activities and community events. From street festivals to splash pads for kids, New Edinburgh comes alive with myriad opportunities for residents to connect and celebrate the season.

The transition from spring to summer is seamless in New

Edinburgh, with the warmer weather beckoning residents to tend to their gardens. Ian from Rideau Terrace knows he's a "summer person," and spring is just one step closer to summer – we caught him prepping his garden for his months ahead.

"I'm excited about golf, good weather and hopefully, the garden will look decent!"



Photo by Sharon Nyangweso

Elizabeth taking in a beautiful spring walk and a visit to Joe's on Beechwood.



Photo by Sharon Nyangweso

Wes and Carmen on their way to Stanley Park and Union St Café.

Carmen and Wes, newcomers to the neighbourhood, are excited about exploring the local eateries and cafés that dot the area, with local must-visit spots like Edinburger and Union Street Café just a few steps away, ready to offer the flavours of spring. They both emphasized how thrilled they are to live in a neighbourhood that is friendly, clean, and

walkable. Wes has already started enjoying impromptu street hockey games with kids on Ivy Crescent!

As the days grow longer and the flowers bloom, New Edinburgh is really putting its best foot forward. Our lovely little neighbourhood offers something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're a long-time resident or a newcomer,

springtime in New Edinburgh is a season to embrace the beauty of nature, foster connections with neighbours, and create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Sharon Nyangweso is the Managing Editor of New Edinburgh News and the Owner and CEO of QuakeLab, a consulting agency.



Photo by Sharon Nyangweso

Ian on Rideau Terrace getting his front garden summer-ready.

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New Edinburgh and the world: A Polish lens on local wonders

By Sharon Nyangweso

New Edinburgh is a neighbourhood that pulses with history, yet breathes with modern vitality. For Malgorzata (Gosha) Potocka-Tyc, a Polish Canadian who has made this charming district her home, New Edinburgh is a canvas of unexpected inspiration waiting to be explored. With her camera in hand, she embarks on daily and nightly walks through the streets, capturing the essence of this community in every frame.

Born and raised in Poland, Malgorzata finds comfort in the architectural charm of New Edinburgh, which reminds her of the buildings of her childhood. The absence of garages and the prevalence of red brick homes evoke memories of a simpler time, a sentiment echoed in the pages of the Swedish children's books she cherished growing up.

What sets New Edinburgh apart in Gosha's eyes is its timeless beauty and sense of community. Here, neighbours greet each other warmly, and the streets are lined with old



Photo by Malgorzata Potocka-Tyc

Gosha often uses objects as conduits for her feelings and experiences, but every so often, she turns the camera upon herself.

trees that stand as silent witnesses to the passage of time. The absence of fences fosters a sense of openness and connection, allowing Gosha to wander freely and immerse herself in the neighbourhood's stories.

Despite having lived in Canada for over two decades, Gosha has retained a deep connection to her Polish roots. While she may not adhere strictly to traditional customs, she keeps her language alive in her home, speaking it with her son and her husband Jarek. Through small gestures like making pierogies for neighbours, she also preserves a piece of her heritage in the relationships she's formed in the neighbourhood.

When asked about her stress-free approach to life, Gosha attributes it to a combination of factors: avoiding caffeine, maintaining a positive attitude, and finding solace in her photography. Taking pictures has become more than just a hobby; it's a form of meditation, a way to quiet the mind and find beauty in the mundane.

For Gosha, every object she photographs tells a story – a story of resilience, of impermanence, of the passage of time. Whether it's a wilting flower or a discarded toy, each image speaks to

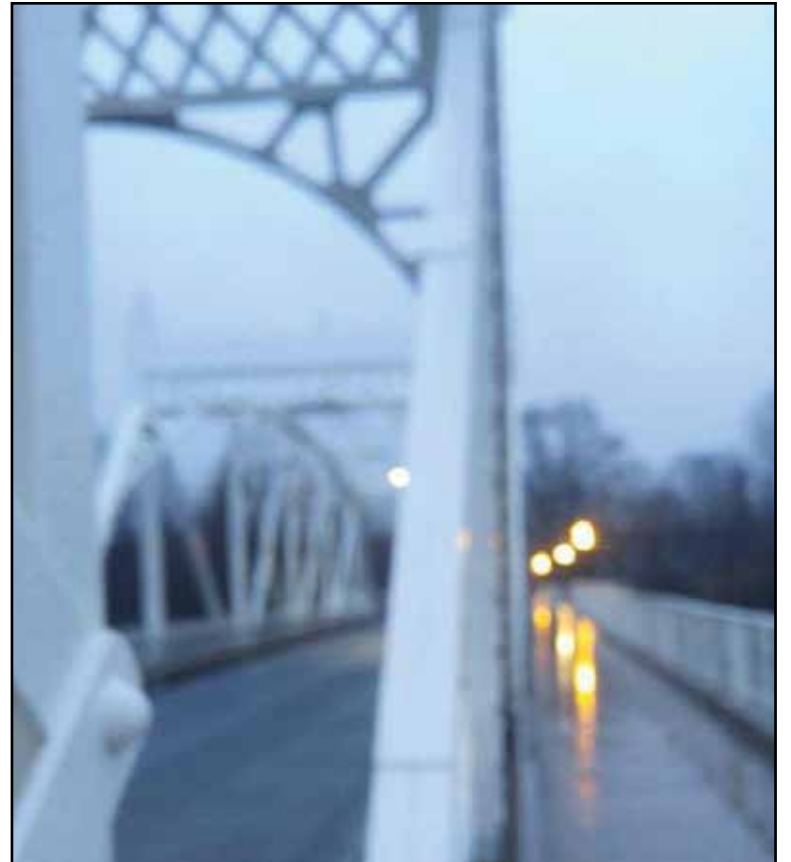


Photo by Malgorzata Potocka-Tyc

An example of Gosha's work: an image of the Minto Bridge. She is most interested in images that focus on a smaller piece of a larger object, forcing the viewer to use their imagination to complete the photo.



Photo by Malgorzata Potocka-Tyc
Self-portrait during the winter months.

vigilant, ever curious, ever open to the stories that await her. With her camera phone as her guide, she navigates the streets with a sense of wonder and awe, capturing moments of beauty in the world around her.

In a neighbourhood steeped in history and tradition, Gosha is a living testament to the power of art to transcend boundaries and connect us to our shared humanity. Through her photography, she invites us to see the world through her eyes – to see the beauty in the small moments, the magic in the everyday, and the stories waiting to be told.

the ephemeral nature of existence and the enduring power of memory. One of Gosha's favourite subjects to capture are shadows. She is drawn to their ephemeral beauty, their ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. In the play of light and shadow, she finds echoes of her own journey – one marked by moments of darkness and moments of illumination.

As Gosha continues her daily walks through New Edinburgh, she remains ever

The next time you look out your window and see a small blonde woman taking a picture of your garbage bags, or dead flowers in the dark of night – don't be frightened! You are simply experiencing the privilege of witnessing one of the many incredibly talented artists in the community: Gosha, the photographer from Poland.

Sharon Nyangweso is the Managing Editor of New Edinburgh News and the Owner and CEO of QuakeLab, a consulting agency.



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Makeover on MacKay: Facelift for MacKay United Church

By Eleanor Dunn

Caring for a historic property is a big responsibility, and with its 150th birthday quickly approaching in 2025, MacKay United Church certainly qualifies as a historic building! One does not have to look far to see what happens when a historic building is neglected — witness 24 Sussex Drive being left to deteriorate by a succession of governments.

Fortunately, when work needed to be done at MacKay United through the years, members of the Church Council have always found a way to make it happen. And MacKay's congregation has always found the money — with assistance from grant-funding organizations, including the City of Ottawa, which have an interest in preserving historic buildings.

For the past two summers, there has been scaffolding up around the exterior of the church allowing for repairs

to the bell tower, buttresses, and roof. Now it's time for the interior — the narthex, sanctuary, and chancel — to get a facelift, including lighting upgrades.

When you're dealing with a historic building with old plaster made from a mix of horsehair, lime, and other materials, it's not a question of getting a few guys together with rollers and ladders. You need to find a contractor who specializes in plastering and painting historic buildings. MacKay's council has found specialist Corrado Abretti, whose company — Abretti Painting and Renovations — has worked to restore historic churches in Ottawa and surrounding area.

Work began during the first week of March. The narthex (which is the foyer of the main entrance to the church on MacKay Street), the stairs up to the balcony, and the balcony itself, have seen extensive repairs to the plaster — which in some areas



Photo courtesy MacKay United Church

Restoration at MacKay United Church is underway.

was falling off the walls in chunks. Painting comes next, and to this end, members of the Property Committee asked Corrado Abretti's designer to assist in choosing a paint colour. In a large space with stained-glass windows, choice of paint colour

is very important: the appearance of a colour can change depending on time of day and how it's affected by light streaming in from the vibrant windows.

Erecting scaffolding in the sanctuary has been done in such a way as to limit its

effect on regular church services in the sanctuary as the work progresses. The sanctuary ceiling is 33 feet high, so some pews have been temporarily removed to properly anchor the scaffolding. If safety issues emerge, services may have to move to the Memorial Hall, as will many other popular activities such as the Music and Meditation program and the Jazz in June concert series. MacKay's Church Council is hoping the work will be completed by mid-June, with few disruptions — and the spirit of renewal will carry forward into the 150th anniversary year.

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

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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

In lockstep with the early spring of 2023–24 came waves of migrating birds, returning from their southern wintering grounds to get a head start on the breeding season. The results of a 2016 ornithological study reported in *Science Daily* suggest that in the spring migration, birds fly faster, and put more effort into staying on course, than on their southerly journey in the fall. Breeding is a highly competitive process, so they make heroic efforts to reach their destinations in time to stake out their territory and attract a suitable mate before competitors beat them to it.

The annual spring migration is triggered by a combination of cues, notably: longer daylight hours, which stimulates hormonal changes in the males; weather conditions; food availability in breeding areas; and the pressure of competition for nesting territory and food resources. This year, all systems were go sev-

eral weeks ahead of schedule, thanks to mild (occasionally even warm) temperatures, lack of snow cover, open water and abundant food supplies. Ample quantities of buckthorn berries, mountain ash berries and crabapples remain on the snow-free bushes, and insect life has begun to emerge from winter dormancy. While I have yet to spot an **American robin** pulling an earthworm from our lawn, the surface layer is already beginning to thaw, so a juicy avian feast is in the offing.

As always, the earliest returning species are among the noisiest: by late February, **red-winged blackbirds** and **Canada geese** had turned up in large numbers, staking out their nesting turf and driving off competitors. We watched frequent testy encounters among male geese, when interlopers were aggressively charged and sent packing by a dominant male with a nest

nearby. **Red-winged blackbirds** are ubiquitous in our community, particularly close to the Rideau River. Like the geese, the male red-wings are vigorous defenders of their nesting turf, and won't hesitate to deliver a painful peck on the head if you happen to wander too close to their nests – be warned!

In our daily walks along the river close to the Rideau Falls, we've spotted numerous **common goldeneye**, **hooded mergansers** and **mallards**, all braving the hordes of noisy Canada Geese that have tended to crowd them out in recent years. The male ducks are now resplendent in their bright, breeding plumage, particularly the glossy mallards, which seem well aware of their strikingly handsome demeanour. We watched with our five-year-old grandson as the drama of a mallard "triangle" of 2 males and one female unfolded just offshore. The dominant male, whose mate was the focus of the drama, charged and drove off an interloping competitor, only to have the latter return several times for another try. The intruder finally gave up in the face of fierce resistance, but it was a close call.

Among the other markers of an early spring was the return of birdsong in late February, and now in full force as I write in mid-March. The familiar *feebee* call of **black-capped chickadees** can be heard throughout the community, as can the **Northern cardinals'** *cheer, cheer, cheer, or birdie, birdie, birdie*. Both male and female



Photo by David Howe

Great Blue Heron.

cardinals are singers, but at this time of year, the males' lusty vocalizing is at its peak. You're certain to hear the cardinals' metallic chip chip call in walks through the neighbourhood: the call serves to warn off intruders in nesting territory, as well as to signal the approach of predators.

Closest to my heart in the spring's avian chorus is the *cheerily, cheer up, cheer up,*

cheerily song of the **American robin**, first to be heard in the mornings, and last at night. Although numerous flocks of robins have remained in our area throughout the mild winter, their singing has only reached full volume with the arrival of the breeding season, when they form mating pairs and settle in to produce their broods. Happily, we appear to have a nest not far from our house, so the robin's cheerful serenade is a daily pleasure.

Much to my surprise, I have yet to hear the piercing *feebee* call of the **Eastern phoebe**, a handsome flycatcher which is normally one of the earliest returning migrants to our area. In recent years, it has been a close neighbour of ours, returning to a nest in a garden on Rideau Gate across the road from the grounds of Rideau Hall. Another phoebe nest on our daily walking route is near the lookout over 24 Sussex Drive on the Rockcliffe Parkway, but so far this year, it too remains unoccupied. As insect life ramps up in the days to come, I look forward the return of this annual summer resident, with its buzzy signature call.

In trees, bushes and roadside shrubbery, this time of year heralds an exuberant chorus of "finch babble", a cheerful,



Photo by David Howe

Snow Bunting.

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twittering chatter signaling the presence of **American goldfinches** in their brilliant yellow spring plumage, along with rosy **house finches** and **purple finches**. If you have backyard bird feeders on the go, now's the time to make sure your finch feeders are kept fully stocked with their favourite nyjer seed.

Although they are not melodious singers, **Pileated woodpeckers** are prodigious vocalizers and percussionists. They are ubiquitous in our community throughout the year, and in spring, make their presence known through their high-pitched, piping calls, and resonant, drumming tattoos. While both males and females drum loudly when they mine tree trunks and branches for insect life, in late winter, the males use drumming to stake out their nesting turf and serenade their mates.

In our corner of the neighbourhood close to Sussex Drive and the Rideau Falls, **Common ravens** are a regular presence, typically nesting in the area around 24



Photo by David Howe

Turkey.

Sussex Drive and the French Embassy. This year, they've turned up several times in our garden, greeting us with their low-pitched, bullfrog-like *gronk* noises. Much as I enjoy their interesting, often companionable behaviour, I'm hoping that they don't decide to nest here, where their imposing presence would inevitably keep my favourite small songbirds at bay.

Soon to arrive are familiar songbirds such as **song sparrows, chipping sparrows, fox sparrows, white-throated sparrows, dark-eyed juncos,** and **golden- and ruby-crowned kinglets**. In recent years, a song sparrow pair has nested in our garden,

directly outside our kitchen window, regaling us with their signature song. While the song varies slightly by geographic location, in our environs, it is typically a series of repeated notes reminiscent of the opening bars of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*: *da, da, da, dum* – followed by a warble or buzz. And spring will not be complete until the white-throat's iconic *Oh Canada, Canada, Canada* call is echoing throughout the neighbourhood.

By late April, we can look forward to the arrival of the first warblers in our region: the **palm warbler, the pine warbler** and the **yellow-rumped warbler**. They are all regulars in Stanley

Park and in wooded areas throughout the summer, as are later arrivals such as **yellow warblers, common yellow-throats, blackburnian warblers, black and white warblers, American redstarts** and **ovenbirds**, which come on the scene in May. The Britannia Conservation Area/Mud Lake area is well known to local birders as a prime warbler hot spot, where as many as 34 warbler species have been spotted in recent years.

Reports from Our Readers: Birder/Photographer, **David Howe** encountered a **Barred owl** which is resident in our neighbourhood, and a **Northern hawk owl** in Ottawa's south end. Echoing many of the reports to the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club

(OFNC) in recent months, David also noted many unexpected species overwintering in our neighbourhood (notably a hardy **golden-crowned kinglet**), taking advantage of the mild conditions.

Avian Bistro proprietor **Phil MacAdam** kept his feeders at Thomas and Alexander Streets fully stocked through the winter, supporting a small community of overwintering diners, notably **Northern cardinals, white-breasted nuthatches, American goldfinches, House finches, Black-capped chickadees, Downy woodpeckers,** and **Dark-eyed juncos**. In a recent visit to Pine Hill in Rockcliffe Park, Philip heard a pair of **Common ravens** conversing in their distinctive guttural tones.



Photo by David Howe

Red breasted Nuthatch.



Photo by David Howe

Downy Woodpecker.



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Spring update from your Member of Parliament



Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

En ce début de printemps, je vous partage des nouvelles de la part du gouvernement fédéral. Le 12 février, le gouvernement fédéral a annoncé un investissement de 176,3 millions de dollars à la ville d'Ottawa grâce au Fonds pour accélérer la construction de logements. Cet investissement permettra d'accélérer la construction de 4 400 unités, ouvrant la voie à 32 000 logements dans la prochaine décennie. Cet investissement à la ville d'Ottawa a pour but de simplifier les démarches administratives au niveau municipal, modifier les lois de zonage et mettre les pelles en terre pour construire plus de logements, plus rapidement.

Nous avons mis en place un prix sur la pollution pour lutter contre les changements climatiques tout en redonnant plus d'argent aux Canadiens afin qu'ils ne soient pas obligés d'en supporter le fardeau. C'est pourquoi, nous avons récemment annoncé les montants que les familles admissibles peuvent recevoir tout au long de l'année 2024 dans le cadre de la Remise canadienne sur le carbone. Une

famille de quatre personnes en Ontario peut recevoir jusqu'à 1,120 \$! Le premier paiement de 2024 dans le cadre du remboursement est prévu à la mi-avril.

Nous allons aussi continuer à offrir des allègements aux familles qui en ont le plus besoin pour aider à combattre l'inflation par la mise en place de services de garde à 10 dollars par jour et l'Allocation canadienne pour enfants (ACE) qui est indexée pour tenir compte de l'inflation. De plus, nous avons instauré le Régime canadien de soins dentaires qui profitera aux gens de chez nous, y compris les jeunes de moins de 18 ans et les personnes âgées de plus de 70 ans.

Enfin, je vous invite à soumettre votre candidature au Conseil jeunesse d'Ottawa-Vanier, pour les jeunes de 16 à 24 ans ou au Conseil des aînés d'Ottawa-Vanier pour les personnes de 50 ans et plus. C'est une bonne occasion pour jouer un rôle de citoyen engagé et pour me fournir vos conseils et idées de comment le gouvernement fédéral peut contribuer à l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des résidentes et résidents d'Ottawa-Vanier et de la région.

Comme toujours, si vous avez besoin d'appui avec les programmes et services fédéraux ou si vous souhaitez partager vos pensées et opinions, vous pouvez communiquer avec mon équipe au (613) 998-1860 ou nous envoyer un courriel à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

**
As we enter into spring, I am happy to share some news from the federal government. On Feb. 12, the federal government announced an investment of \$176.3 million in the city of Ottawa through the Rapid Housing Initiative. This investment will expedite the construction of 4,400 units, paving the way for 32,000 homes in the next decade. The purpose of this investment in the city of Ottawa is to streamline municipal administrative processes, amend zoning laws, and break ground to build more homes faster.

We introduced a price on pollution to fight climate change while returning more money back to Canadians so they're not stuck carrying the burden. That's why families in Ontario can receive up to \$1,120 through the Canada Carbon Rebate. The first payment for 2024 will be delivered by mid-April.

We will continue to support the middle class by creating good jobs, building more housing, and preserving our clean air. We will also continue to provide targeted relief from inflation to families who need it most, including the implementation of \$10-a-day childcare services and the Child Care Benefit, which is indexed to consider inflation. We are also establishing the Canadian Dental Care Plan that will benefit Canadians, including youth under 18 and seniors, and we are also working together to build more housing, faster.

Finally, I invite you to submit your application to the Ottawa-Vanier Youth Council, for individuals aged 16 to 24, or to the Ottawa-Vanier Seniors Council, for those aged 50 and above. This is a great opportunity to play a role as an engaged citizen and provide me with your insights and ideas on how the federal government can contribute to improving the quality of life for residents of Ottawa-Vanier and the surrounding region.

As always, if you need any assistance with any federal programs or services, contact the team at 613-998-1860, or send us an email at mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.



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Chief Pinesi Day will begin with a paddle from Oka to Governor Bay

Continued from page 1

On Jun. 26, the paddlers will begin their journey to Ottawa, reaching Governor Bay (below Rideau Hall) on Jul. 1. The Ottawa event will begin at the Fieldhouse at 8 a.m. with the Sacred Fire ceremony, led by Indigenous elder Doug Comegan. After the fire ceremony, an educational walk will take place along the Rideau River to greet the paddlers. Members of the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club will also welcome the paddlers in their canoes.

The program is led by the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. It will feature drumming, singing, and dancing by the Spirit Wolf Singers. Councillor Merv Sarazin will be master of ceremonies, with opening prayers being offered by Kokom Jane Chartrand.

At the Fieldhouse, participants can see the *Bloodline – Miskwi and Gathering Phases – Bakaan Asiginan* murals of the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, now with panel descriptions in three languages.



es. These colourful ceramic and paint murals were created by the Algonquin mother and daughter team of Doreen and Charlotte Stevens. *Miskwi* means “bloodline” and the murals depict Algonquin lineages. *Bakaan Asiginan* signifies the gathering of Indigenous people living in harmony with nature through all phases of their lives.

Sample volunteer opportunities noted below. If you’re interested or have other suggestions, complete the form at kichisibiancentrals.ca/contact-us

Pinesi Day Greeters (10 a.m. to noon, and noon to 2 p.m.) – Answer questions, and guide attendees regarding the schedule for the day. Guide media to locations for good pictures, schedule, and resources to speak with for

additional background.

Mobility Volunteers – Assist individuals walking up from Governor Bay to New Edinburgh Park; at the park, assist attendees with mobility challenges.

Set Up (8–10 a.m.) – Assist with tent, chairs, and other set-up tasks.

Take Down (5–6 p.m.) – Assist with tent, chairs, other take-down tasks.

Lunch Volunteers (12–1 p.m.) – Assist with serving, etc.

Sacred Fire Volunteers – Assist with set-up and tending.

Sales Volunteers (10 a.m.–3 p.m.) – Assist with selling t-shirts and other items.

Water Station Volunteers (10 a.m.–3 p.m.) – Assist with filling, distributing, and cleaning up.

For more information, please visit kichisibiancentrals.ca

If you’re interested in any of these volunteer roles, please contact Cindy Parkanyi at cparkanyi@yahoo.ca.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

Construction at 88 Beechwood on schedule

Continued from page 1

Harper wrote.

Another issue concerns Section 37 *Planning Act* funding. This statutory authority allows Ottawa to ask for benefits to construct, fund, or improve facilities when a development like 88 Beechwood requires a zoning by-law amendment. The threshold for triggering Section 37 is a development that is at least 7,000 square metres and the requested density represents a minimum 25 per cent increase from the permitted as-of-right zoning (i.e., zoning at the time of application).

In his February e-mail, Greenshields pointed out that Section 37 funding has contributed to road safety improvements in adjacent areas of Vanier “and the BVA has continued to work towards improvements on the north side of Beechwood for cycling safety and a project in this regard has been approved for the Active Transportation



Photo by Philippe Marchand
88 Beechwood Ave.


Master Plan project list.”

Section 37 funding will be used to construct a new bike path along the Loyer-to-St Charles stretch. This path and related road and sidewalk design and landscaping will not be complete before first occupancy in late April. However, Harper confirmed that work on the streetscape and landscape will commence in July 2024, and is expected to be completed about four months later.

With respect to the issue of affordable housing, 88 Beechwood will be a market-rate building with no units designated formally as “affordable.” Unlike other more recent developments like Lansdowne 2.0, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding was not pursued. Harper added, however, that “several of the 227 total units in the building could be considered ‘attainable’ based on the fact that these units will rent for less than \$2,145/month, which represents 30 per cent of the annual median household income in Rideau-Vanier and Rideau-Rockcliffe Wards of \$85,822.”

Finally, no public art is planned for 88 Beechwood, and the interior courtyard area will be for resident use only and not publicly accessible.

Recently retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.



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A New Edinburgh scavenger hunt

By Beverley and Paul McConnell

We always enjoy our strolls through New Edinburgh. The special character of the streets, buildings, and green spaces creates a unique and interesting environment. True, we may not be able to

enjoy the gardens and verdant lanes throughout the year, but there's no shortage of other features to appreciate. Indeed, it's possible to focus on details that we perhaps miss or take for granted when passing by. As a winter project, we started taking photos of some of these details

that have caught our eye and we've put together a sample of them here: you've got to look up to see them.

Do you recognize where these pictures were taken? Try to identify them – then find out how you did on the back page of this edition, under Breezy Bits.



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 1



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 3



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 5



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 8



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 2



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 4



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 6



Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 9



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Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 7

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Photo by Paul McConnell

Quiz Picture # 10

A new Linden House show for November

By Janet Uren

A new director has come on board, a play has been chosen, and a dynamite cast assembled for a fall production of *Steel Magnolias*, a truly wonderful play by Robert Harling about the strength of friendship and the healing power of laughter! This is the 17th annual production by the Linden House Theatre Company, founded in 2007 in New Edinburgh.

With eight months to go before opening night in November, you don't need to worry about buying your tickets just yet, though you might want to mark your calendars. For the Linden House team, work has already begun under the leadership of our new director, Angela Boychuk. Angela was formerly a professional actor at the Stratford Festival and more recently, a drama teacher at Elmwood School, where she was known for her extraordi-



Photo by Karen Squires
Janet Uren, founder of the Linden House Theatre with details of her new play.

nary productions with young actors. Now retired, Angela is going to try her hand with a (more or less) grown-up cast.

Returning to Linden House for this show are four women

who first explored the theme of friendship in the very popular *Savannah Sipping Society* in 2019. Venetia Lawless also featured in *Outside Mullingar* in 2022 with Jennie Sheffield,

Lindsay Laviolette, and Janet Uren. Linda Webster, who premiered with Linden House in last year's *Italian American Reconciliation*, will also be returning. Jane Morris, a veteran of the Ottawa Little Theatre, is a wonderful new arrival in the company.

The slogan for Linden House is "Theatre for the joy of it," and this is a play that radiates joy, even if the laughter is experienced through

tears. We are looking forward to bringing the story to life. Stay tuned for more news, with details as they become available at lindenhousetheatre.ca. Hope to see you in November!

Janet Uren is a professional writer. She is actively involved in the theatre world in Ottawa and also founded Linden House in 2007.

Upcoming spring events at MacKay United Church

By Eleanor Dunn

MacKay United Church's Memorial Hall will be the site of the "Bubbles and Blooms" Beechwood Spring Market on Saturday, Apr. 13 from 2-6 p.m.

The market will feature a variety of vendors, including the popular United Church Women's (UCW) home baking table. This one sold out quickly at last November's Beechwood Night Market at MacKay. There will be mocktails, flowers, and an oracle (predicting the future?), as well as other surprises.

MacKay's UCW has lined up some interesting speakers for its regular monthly meetings between now and June, including Patricia Power. Patricia, a long-time member of MacKay's congregation, who has completed her theological education and will be ordained later this year (hopefully at MacKay) spoke about her life's journey to the group

at their March meeting.

The UCW's April meeting will feature the CEO of GEM Healthcare Services, Gaye E. Moffet, RN, BScN, MED (Admin). GEM Healthcare Services offers home care and staff relief, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, filling a growing need as more people are deciding to age in their own homes. This meeting will be on Wednesday, Apr. 10 at 1 p.m. in the Ladies' Parlour at the church.

The May UCW meeting – Wednesday, May 8, at 1 p.m. in the Ladies' Parlour at the church, will address the topic of homelessness among youth.

A real treat is in store for the June UCW meeting: award-winning photographer Rod MacIvor will be the speaker and will illustrate his talk with his photographs. His iconic image of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau making his way from

24 Sussex to Rideau Hall with future Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, then a toddler, tucked under his arm, was just named one of the best 100 news photographs of the twentieth century by United Press International. Now retired, Rod uses his cameras to capture rural scenes around the Ottawa Valley, birds at his feeder, and the flashy birds of Florida. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jun. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Ladies' Parlour at the church.

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

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253 MacKay and the case for protecting heritage buildings



Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement

By Gail McEachern

New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation Plan was adopted by the City of Ottawa in 2001 and updated in 2015. The main goal was to provide guidelines and objectives which would preserve the architectural integrity of New Edinburgh's primarily late 19th century and early 20th century buildings.

253 MacKay Street was constructed around 1913. It is an unusual example of Neo-Gothic institutional style in a residential neighbourhood. It was built by the federal government specifically for the Surveys Branch of the Department of the Interior to carry out testing on the comparison of length standards. Its use was expanded to include the testing of thermometers, and later the testing and repair of instruments

used by the Royal Canadian Air Force. During the evaluation process leading up to the establishment of New Edinburgh's HCD, this building was identified as a "contributing" building, which means that it contributes to the special character of the HCD because of its architecture and history.

When it comes to proposing additions to existing buildings, two key principles in New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation Plan are clear: (1) All additions to contributing buildings shall be subordinate to the original; and (2) New construction must be compatible with the architectural character of the HCD and respect the scale and massing of the existing adjacent buildings and the broader streetscape. Clarity is added by section 60 of

the City's Heritage Overlay by-law which stipulates that the addition's height cannot exceed that of the existing structure, and requires that it be inset from the side walls by 0.6 metres. The purpose of these directives is to ensure that the proposed addition does not impose on the original building and in fact is discreetly hidden behind it.

So what is being proposed for 253 MacKay? The construction of a large addition plus an extended terrace which will occupy more than two-thirds of the roof and substantially alter the appearance of the existing building. City by-laws and goals explicitly stated in New Edinburgh's Conservation Plan are being disregarded by the property owner who has applied for a Heritage Permit to build. Unfortunately, the City's Planning Staff appear to be quite forgiving and comfortable in helping the applicant obtain "relief" from the existing zoning by-laws – which if upheld, would prevent the present proposal from becoming a reality.

Before the applicant is granted a Heritage Permit to



Rendering by RMA+SH architects

Before and after rendering of 253 MacKay proposed extension.

build, the proposal must be reviewed by the City's Built Heritage Committee on Apr. 9, 2024, and City Council on Apr. 17, 2024. Any member of the public is welcome to attend these meetings.

If the City ends up approving this proposal, the result

will be the desecration of a unique landmark in New Edinburgh's Historic District.

Gail McEachern lives in New Edinburgh, sits on the NECA board and represents the Heritage and Development Committee.

Spring has sprung at the Rockcliffe Park Library

By Martha Hodgson

The Rockcliffe Park Library, located at 380 Springfield Road, has a lot of exciting programs for you to enjoy this Spring! Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale, held Apr. 28 and 29,

2024. Come in and visit us any time, or join us for any of the following programs. Please note that any registrations can be done in person, by phone or online at bibliottawalibrary.ca/en

Upcoming Family Programs

Family Storytime – Every



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Brereton

Previous Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale.

Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes, and songs for children of all ages, and their parent or caregiver. This is drop-in, English program.

Upcoming Adult Programs

Rockcliffe Park Book Club

– The first Tuesday of every month, 1:30–2:30 p.m. On Apr. 2, we'll be discussing *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel, and on May 7, *Hamnet and Judith* by Maggie O'Farrell. This is a drop-in program.

End of Life Options with

Dying with Dignity Canada – Thursday, Apr. 18 from 6 p.m. Learn about options for mitigating suffering at life's end: palliative care, treatment options, and medical assistance in dying (MAID). Registration is required.

Staff Book

Recommendations

If you are looking for your next great read, come in and chat with our knowledgeable staff! Or have a look at our display of Staff Picks. Here's a snapshot of what you might

discover:

Tim's favourite genre is Horror Fiction; he also likes mysteries and knows a lot about good teen fiction. Tim's April pick is *A Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby.

Suzanne loves Science Fiction; one of her all-time favourite books is Becky Chambers' *To Be Taught, If Fortunate*.

Elizabeth reads Historical and Dystopian Fiction; her favourite Historical Fiction is *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. This month she recommends *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.

Martha's favourite genre is Contemporary Fiction; this spring she is reading one Maggie O'Farrell book after another and recommends them all! Maggie O'Farrell's latest book is *The Marriage Portrait*.

Martha Hodgson is a librarian at the Rockcliffe Park Library branch of the Ottawa public library located at 380 Springfield Road. Learn more at bibliottawalibrary.ca.

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Bytown Voices' spring concert features songs of home

By Mary Forster

The Bytown Voices Choir welcomes you to attend their spring concert entitled "Home: Songs of Belonging, Land and Connection." Please join us at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Apr 28 at Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar Street. The choir performs under the direction of Joan Fearnley with accompanist Carla Klassen.

Among the featured songs you'll hear Canadian classics like "Un Canadien errant" and Gilles Vigneault's "Mon pays." Songs celebrating Georgian Bay and the rivers of Canada will be performed, along with a very special premiere of the song "Home to Africville" composed by local musician and teacher, Lyndsey E. Bolden, in which she remembers Africville, the vibrant and unjustly displaced Black community of Halifax. A bluegrass band will accompany a suite of songs entitled "Dear Appalachia" while another beautiful trio of songs celebrates Emily Carr and the divinity she found in the pulse of nature. This cel-



The Bytown Voices Choir in all their glory.

Photo by Howard Sandler

bration of nature and relationship can also be found in "She is the Woman Who Sang Me the Birds" with music by the Anishinaabe composer Beverly McKiver and words by poet Wendy Duschenes.

Tickets for the concert are

available at bytownvoices.com – adult admission is \$20; children 12 and under are free. Free parking is available on-street and for \$2 at the nearby City Hall lot: enter from Laurier Avenue.


Joan Fearnley has directed

the choir for over eight years. She brings with her many years of experience and leadership, including time with both the women's and children's choirs of the Notre Dame Basilica in Lowertown along with a notable career as


a soprano soloist.

The Bytown Voices (BVs) is a "no-audition necessary" choir of mixed voices, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. Children aged 9 and up are eligible for membership, too, making the BVs a true community choir. We encourage parents to join along with their children, especially interested tenor or bass voices – we need your participation! No previous choir experience is necessary, and members benefit from many online learning supports in a nurturing environment. The Bytown Voices Choir practices at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights at St. Basil's Church on Maitland just north of the Queensway. Registration for Fall 2024 begins in August: check our website in late summer for information on repertoire and starting dates: bytownvoices.com.

Mary Forster has sung with the Bytown Voices for four years. She strongly encourages anyone who loves music and singing to try them out: they're a fine choir with a supportive ethic.



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The Rideau Chorale sings Fauré

By Pamela Robinson and Janice Manchee

Gabriel Fauré was a great champion of modern music. He provided an essential link between the Romantic tradition of Chopin, Schumann, and Brahms and the Modernism of Debussy and Mahler. It's not surprising, then, that Rideau Chorale is pairing him with two modern, locally-based composers at their upcoming May concert.

Fauré was born in France in 1845, and by the age of nine, Fauré's musical gifts and a scholarship found him in residence at the far-from-home Ecole Niedermeyer de Paris. Here he remained for 11 years. While in Paris, Saint-Saëns introduced him to then little-known composers like Liszt and Wagner who were busy innovating traditional music. It was here he composed "Cantique de Jean Racine."

Upon leaving school, Fauré took up a series of positions playing organ and teaching private students. When the Franco-Prussian war broke



Photo by Peter Polgar

The Rideau Chorale in concert.

out, he volunteered, saw action, and won the Croix de Guerre. On his return, he resumed his work as an organist and teacher and continued composing various works, including pieces for the violin and piano.

Fauré married a woman he was reportedly quite fond of, but this didn't stop him from seeking passion elsewhere! Contemporary reports agreed that he was extremely attrac-

tive to women and that his conquests were legion in the Paris salons.

Although Fauré had been known for his cheery nature as a young man, by his thirties he was suffering from bouts of depression. This was partly due to his struggle for recognition.

Fauré began work on his "Requiem" in 1887, in his own words: "purely for the pleasure of it." He selected

the text to emphasize the idea of rest and peace. The original composition had only five movements, which is not a complete liturgical requiem. The final two movements were completed later.

Things began to change for Fauré in the mid-1890s when he was hired by the Conservatoire de Paris as a professor of composition. Fauré's students found him open-minded and fair. Maurice Ravel recounted that Fauré was initially unimpressed by one of his compositions, but later asked to see the score again. He told Ravel that he might have been wrong.

In 1905, Fauré was appointed head of the Conservatoire and immediately modernized and broadened the range of music taught. There were resignations, but Fauré stayed the course.

Toward the end of his life, Fauré lost much of his hearing and music sounded distorted to him. He retired from the Conservatoire and was awarded the Grand-Croix of the Légion d'honneur, a

distinction rarely given to a musician. When he died in 1924, Fauré received a state funeral.

Fauré would be pleased to share the stage with two modern composers. Ottawa's own Andrew Ager composed the music for "Garden Shadows," with text by Canadian poet Bliss Carman. Rideau Chorale Music Director Kevin Reeves drew on Archibald Lampman's poem "In Beechwood Cemetery" to compose a piece for this concert. Lampman specialized in poems about nature, and it is this poem that welcomes visitors to Beechwood Cemetery, where he is buried.

The concert takes place Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at Southminster United Church.

Information about Rideau Chorale and its virtual and upcoming performances can be found at rideaurochale.com. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.ca. Pamela Robinson (alto) and Janice Manchee (tenor) are members of Rideau Chorale.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Happy Holidays

As we welcome Spring 2024, the New Edinburgh News would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy Ramadan, Nowruz, Passover, and Easter to you and your loved ones. Local Easter services will be held at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church at 125 MacKay Street – details at sbarisottawa.ca – and at MacKay United Church, located at 39 Dufferin Road: details online at mackayunited.ca.

April & May

Free Yoga at the Fieldhouse – Crichton Community Council (CCC) ongoing; The

Fieldhouse: 203 Stanley Ave. Yoga classes are now offered at no cost in the Fieldhouse twice weekly, courtesy of New Edinburgh resident Solmaz Hicks. Join her in a low intensity asana practice on Wednesday evenings from 7–8:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Classes are appropriate for individuals new to yoga as well as those who have been practicing for years. Please bring your own mat. Solmaz began her yoga journey during the pandemic when she discovered a profound connection between mind, body, and spirit. Through her yoga practice she changed the way she deals with stress entirely.

You can, too!

Beechwood Cemetery – Events for April and May; 280 Beechwood Avenue. Explore diverse cultural and community events: visit beechwoodottawa.ca/en/foundation/events for details

April

April 4 - Children's Playgroup – (CCC) 9–11 a.m.; The Fieldhouse: 203 Stanley Ave. Children aged 0–4 years and their parents or caregivers are welcome to attend a free drop-in playgroup. Visit newedinburgh.ca for ongoing programming.

Rockcliffe Park Public Library – 380 Springfield

Road Spring programs for children and adults – details on page 28.

April 5 & 6 - Jim Bryson in concert: Friday and Saturday Music at the Fieldhouse (CCC) – 8–10 p.m.; 203 Stanley Ave. Crichton Community Council proudly presents two Jim Bryson concerts: live at New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Only a few tickets remain for this local performer who's traveled extensively as side player for such groups as The Tragically Hip. The hard-working Housemates will welcome ticket holders at the door and happily help them to wet their whistle before the show. Watch NewEdinburgh.

ca/events for more music at the Fieldhouse later this spring. Know a musician who might like to play in our neighbourhood? We're happy to take requests!

April 8 - Crichton Community Council (CCC) Board of Directors meeting – 7:30–9:00 p.m.; 203 Stanley Ave. Meetings of the CCC Board of Directors are held on the second Monday of every month at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Meeting times, dates and locations vary check newedinburgh.ca for updates.

April 11 - Children's Playgroup – (CCC) 9–11

Continued on page 31



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Continued from page 30

a.m.; The Fieldhouse: 203 Stanley Ave. Children aged 0–4 years and their parents or caregivers are welcome to attend a free drop-in playgroup. Visit newedinburgh.ca for ongoing programming.

April 12 - From the Ashes: A celebration of banned books – 6:30–9:30 p.m.; Heartwood House 404 McArthur Ave.; \$50; Tickets available online via CanadaHelps.org Six local authors will take the stage and share excerpts from their favourite banned books over the course of an evening with food, drinks, and a silent auction. The authors include Kate Heartfield, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Nathan Burgoine, Natalie Hanna, Ellen Chang-Richardson, and ASL storyteller Denise DeShaw. The evening will be a fundraiser for ALSO (Alternative Learning Styles and Outlooks): a local literacy program located at Heartwood House that has supported low-income adults and families since 1981.

April 16 - New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Board meeting – 7–9 p.m. via Zoom All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the virtual board meeting. Join the meeting using this link: us02web.zoom.us/j/88095370312. The agenda will be posted closer to the meeting at newedinburgh.ca

April 20 - “Joy of Sharing” benefit concert – 7:30 p.m.; Trinity Anglican Church, 1230 Bank St.; Doors open at 6:45, Adult tickets \$25, children under 12 are free. Foodsharing Ottawa presents “Joy of Sharing” featuring music from Big Soul Project and Deep Groove Band. Proceeds will be used by Foodsharing Ottawa to support fairer, more sustainable ways of distributing, using, and disposing of food.

April 21 - Annual Park clean-up – 10 a.m.–12 p.m.; Stanley Park: 203 Stanley Ave.; Rain date the following Sunday at the same time. Meet behind the Fieldhouse at the gazebo to collect your bags and gloves. NECA’s Friends of the Park teams up with Ottawa Riverkeeper for the first time, with additional support from the City of Ottawa who are providing bags and gloves. Come out

and help us keep our beautiful park clean and join other members in the community: this year one day prior to Earth Day! See more information on page 6.

April 27 - So Chic fashion show – At noon; The Royal Ottawa Golf Club, 1405 Aylmer Road, Gatineau, QC; \$60; Come celebrate Spring at a great venue with a delicious lunch, a wonderful introduction to spring colours and styles, and a chance to contribute to an important cause: the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families. IODE Laurentian Chapter invites you to attend a fashion show featuring all the latest from Three Wild Women, a locally owned boutique known for its wide range of comfortable, flattering, and stylish clothing. For just \$60, you will be offered an elegant luncheon and a beautiful show, at the same time making a contribution to the welfare of Inuit children in our community. Seats are limited, and tickets are already selling. Mark your calendars and register at Eventbrite.ca (\$60 plus tax) or call Elizabeth at 613-745-4677 (tax-free). Janet Uren and Liz Heatherington both look forward to seeing you there!

April 27-28 - The 2024 Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale – Saturday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Rockcliffe Park Community Centre: 380 Springfield Road; Free admission The last time local bibliophiles gathered like this under the big tent was in April 2019, so we are excited to welcome the community back to an in-person event! Please join us at the Community Centre, where thousands of literary treasures are waiting to be discovered, all at bargain prices. Browse through a wide selection of books ranging from fiction to non-fiction, children’s books to classics. Whether you’re a bookworm, a casual reader, or just looking for a good read, this Sale is not to be missed!

May 5 - Rideau Chorale sings Fauré - 7:30 p.m.; Southminster United Church. See more details on page 30.

May 10 to 14 - 2024 Ottawa Children’s Festival – Shows at Lebreton Flats, the Canadian War Museum

and Downtown Rideau (Arts Court) Tickets available now at Ottawachildrensfestival.ca

May 11 - Plant Sale (CCC) – 9 a.m.–1:00 p.m., New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. For more than 25 years residents have purchased their plants on the Fieldhouse’s front lawn the Saturday before Mother’s Day. Come with your wagon and your wallet! The Crichton Community Council will be selling potted flowering plants, hanging baskets and planters, as well as vegetable plants. Proceeds support neighbourhood events and community initiatives, as well as for the purchase of equipment for public use.

May 13 - CCC Board of Directors meeting – 7:30–9:00 p.m. New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave Meetings of the CCC Board of Directors are held on the second Monday of every month at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Meeting times, dates and locations may vary so check newedinburgh.ca for any updates or changes.

May 21 - New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Board meeting – 7–9 p.m. via Zoom All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the virtual board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA): join the meeting using this link: us02web.zoom.us/j/88095370312. The agenda will be posted closer to the meeting at newedinburgh.ca

May 25 - May Fair Festival (hosted by Manor Park School) – 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Manor Park School: 100 Braemar St. This is the biggest fundraiser for the student council of the year – now on a Saturday! This year is shaping up to be the best May Fair yet with great entertainment from Bubble Birthdays; a performance by Northern Knowledge; face painters; balloon artists; and more! Snack and food offerings include pizza from Golden Crust; a hotdog BBQ by Edinburger; cotton candy; popcorn; and a bake sale with delicious treats! Not to mention many amazing items from local businesses for our silent auction! Funds raised at this event help with many needed items for students including supplies and workshops.



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Burgh Breezy Bits

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Welcome!



Mandy and Paul Bailey are pleased to announce the birth of their second grandson, **Hugo John Langford-Bailey** (pictured above), on Feb 7, 2024. Hugo is the first child of **Alison Bailey** and **Nicholas Langford** of Toronto.

Thank you & Farewell

After over five years of service, the *NEN* Team would like to thank **Joana Chelo** for her outstanding work as Advertising Manager for the *New Edinburgh News*. As a full-time teacher and busy mom, Joana has serviced and grown our base of advertisers to keep our community newspaper and other important initiatives going. We are so grateful for all the work she's done including mentoring and training our new Advertising Manager **Michelle McLean** over the

past two editions. Thank- you Joana for all your important work, ongoing support; while we will all miss you, we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Community Builders



Beatrice, with her mom **Lisa** removing litter from MacKay Street in front of their home at the end of February. Well done, both! Hope to see and hear more about these proactive outings to keep our neighbourhood safer for our furry friends and clean for everyone to enjoy.

Condolences



Friends of the Park (New Edinburgh Community Alliance) are saddened to hear of the passing of our

dear friend **Simon Gittens**. We will miss his presence in the park and in our community.

Simon was the devoted husband of **Carole Desjardins-Gittens**. Father to **Alexandre** and **Bianca**. Grandfather of **Teo** and **Yuna**. Much-loved son of the late **Rudy Gittens** and **Betty Hope-Gittens**. Loved by brother **Garth** and his family **Wendy** and sons **Quinton** and **Noah**. Ever the humorous brother-in-law to **Julie Desjardins**. Donations can be made to the *In From the Cold* supper hospitality program at Parkdale United Church.



It was with heavy hearts we said goodbye to our beloved friend, **Di Bethune**.

Di was a lifelong booklover, a passionate reader, and an irreplaceable member of our bookstore family. A book with Di's stamp of approval was always guaranteed to become a Books on Beechwood best-seller! She was incredibly kind and caring, exhibiting a sharp, quick wit, often when you were least expecting it. She adored dogs and always delighted in visits from our canine customers, sometimes even running to meet them on the sidewalk with lots of love and a biscuit.

Di loved reading all the newest children's books and was an expert at putting the right book in the right child's hands. This talent extended beyond our store and was in evidence during her many years volunteering and while running no fewer than two second-hand bookstores with her husband, **Don**.

All our love to the Bethune family, and our heartfelt thanks to Di's children, **Margot** and **Andrew**, for sharing their lovely Mum with us for so many years.

- *The Staff at Books on Beechwood*

Quiz Answers from page 26



Quiz Picture # 1 - Lansdowne Terrace on MacKay



Quiz Picture # 2 - 87 MacKay



Quiz Picture # 3 - 98 Stanley



Quiz Picture # 4 - Minto Bridge



Quiz Picture # 5 - Dunelm - 52 Union



Quiz Picture # 6 - Union Street Café



Quiz Picture # 7 - 151 Stanley



Quiz Picture # 8 - Maison Frechette -73 MacKay



Quiz Picture # 9 - Minto Bridge



Quiz Picture # 10 - Garage on River Lane



Ashbury student **Lenore Liu** (pictured above), in addition to being a very fine pianist, has a relatively long career as an artist of Chinese Calligraphy. On May 14 at 7pm there will be an exhibition of her works at Ashbury College, featuring soprano **Ania Hejnar** from Ottawa's New Opera Lyra, who will perform a new set of Chinese songs by New Edinburgh composer **Andrew Ager**. Refreshments will also be served.



New Edinburgh's history as one of Ottawa's oldest villages was featured at the City of Ottawa's Heritage Day on February 20, thanks to the efforts of **Gail McEachern** (pictured above), chair of NECA's Heritage and Development Committee.

Three banners set out the story of the village of New Edinburgh, including its founding in 1832 by Thomas McKay, the history of the mills and factories (where Stanley Park, the Embassy of France and 111 Sussex Drive are now), and other local amenities. Additionally, printed copies of the New Edinburgh Heritage Walking Trail booklet were available for visitors to take and discover the historic charm of the neighbourhood on their own.

Gail has been promoting New Edinburgh's heritage at City Hall each year since 2013 - cultivating more awareness and appreciation for the historic area, its industrial past and the role it played in the growth of the capital. Of course, there is also the appeal of its fine houses, quaint lanes, and generous park alongside the Rideau River. -SAC