

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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June marks CCC's 50th anniversary.

Photo by Chris Straka

## Sustaining trees' vital role in climate action through a new zoning by-law

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

This past winter was the warmest since record-keeping began in Canada. It came after the warmest year on record globally in 2023.

Now as we enjoy the warm sunshine, there's a realization that another hot summer may lie ahead. Temperatures may be persistently warm and at higher levels than are comfortable for many of us.

The need to seek shade while soaking up sunshine is simply one of the ways trees are so invaluable in our urban landscapes.

Most notably too, trees play vital roles in fending off climate change, as they absorb carbon and are the original and continuing agents of carbon capture.

"A single mature tree can

absorb approximately 22 kilograms of carbon per year, and release enough clean oxygen for four people to breathe (Buckles & Clarkin, 2019)," notes the Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES), in a recent position paper on trees and the City of Ottawa's new zoning by-law. (The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) is a member of CAFES.)

The City's consultation on its new comprehensive zoning by-law contemplates rule-making to support the critical role of trees in the face of new developments and redevelopment.

**What is the new zoning by-law?**

The new zoning by-law is being developed by the City

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## Oh, the places your bike will take you!

By Sean Flynn

One of the motivations for taking up cycling is to embrace a more carefree, car-free lifestyle (that yours truly certainly enjoys). And yes, living where we do, we are ideally situated to do this. The question always becomes: "how is this possible in a city like Ottawa with our 18 months of winter each year?" In reality, the true winter conditions for cycle commuting typically materialize after New Year's Day and persist until early April. My advice to any first-time Ottawa winter cyclist is to keep riding into October and November and get a feel for the colder and more inclement conditions and see if it is right for you. Ideally, you'd also have a separate,

less costly bike for winter riding, because the snow and salt really do reduce the lifetime of your bike. In terms of clothing, an easy mistake is over-dressing. We underestimate just how warm one gets when pedalling in the winter. An easy trick: if you feel a bit chilly in your first 500 metres, you're probably dressed ideally for cycling!

Whether you are training for a full Ironman, looking for a convenient way to transport kids (or Christmas trees), or even just steeling yourself to navigate our delightfully menacing Canada geese, riding a bike can get very overwhelming very quickly! However, it's quite possible that almost any bike can (and

will) do the job just fine. It's often helpful to consider a few basic questions:

- How far will you be riding and how fast do you want and need to get there?
- Will you have to pick up your bike (i.e., to carry it up stairs, etc.)?
- Will your commute include rough roads or off-roading?
- Are you going to be climbing hills or is your commute relatively flat?
- Will you be riding in rain and snow?

Reputable local bike shops like Full Cycle, Joe Mamma Bikes, or The Cyclery can help you navigate these questions. However, some basic things

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## New Edinburgh's journey to a 15-minute neighbourhood: Third spaces

By Nathan Bowler

In the journey to find out how New Edinburgh fares as a 15-minute neighbourhood, it's important to recognize "third spaces" and whether any are incorporated into the neighbourhood, or if there is a lack thereof.

What are third spaces, you ask? If you're not familiar with the term, according to famous urban sociologist Ray Oldenberg (urban sociologist: what a fantastic job title), a third space is a location that facilitates social interaction outside of where you

live, work, or go to school. These spaces encourage public relaxation and community engagement. In a fully inclusive sense, a third space should also be free or very affordable. So, although coffee shops and other stores could count as third spaces, you generally need to pay to be there, which creates a barrier for some.

Examples of third spaces that are free or affordable include parks, churches, libraries, and community centres. So, what is the third space situation here in New

Edinburgh? For those new to the neighbourhood or for those who are looking to get out and about for the summer and meet new friends, here are some of the many examples of third spaces you can find:

### Religious institutions

Many religious institutions dot the New Edinburgh landscape, including Mackay United Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church, and St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church. Even for those who

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## What's the New Edinburgh Community Alliance?

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

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

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

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

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

Our next meetings will take place **Tuesday June 18, 7:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday September 17, 7:00 p.m.** Meetings are hybrid: held online and in person at the Fieldhouse. Contact [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com) for details.

### Your NECA Representatives 2024-2025

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

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Ray Boomgaardt **President**

Sean Flynn **Co-Treasurer**

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Katherine Hall **Friends of the Park**

Karen Squires **Friends of the Park**

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

## New Edinburgh Community Alliance – President's Report



**Ray Boomgaardt**  
**NECA President**

One of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) objectives is to build stronger community connections. So I would like to use my space this month to share some recent scientific research on making connections.

Psychologists have found that people are as hesitant to reach out to an old friend as they are to strike up a conversation with a stranger – even when they had the capacity and desire to do so. Across seven studies, these psychologists examined the attitudes of almost 2,500 participants about reconnecting with lapsed friendships, and the barriers and reasons for doing so. They found that most participants – 90 per cent in one study – had lost touch with someone they still care about. Yet 70 per cent of respondents were neutral, or even negative, about the idea of getting back in touch in that moment, even when they felt warmly about the friendship,

Even when participants wanted to reconnect, believed

the friend would be appreciative, had their contact information, and were given time to draft and send a message, only about a third of respondents actually sent that message – 28 per cent in one study, and 37 per cent in another.

### Three reflections on these studies

First, let's think about words. What words should we use to urge ourselves to do better? In his book *The Story of English*, journalist Robert McNeil found that one of the reasons English has so many words with Latin roots is that for more than 100 years after 1066, English was not used by the government or the courts. When English was restored as the language of government, it lacked the words government often needed, so the government turned to Latin.

The Latin expression to be used here is *carpe diem* – “seize the day.” We recognize those words, but we rarely use them. Why not? We have perfectly good English words: “Don't put off to tomorrow what you can do today”,

or, simpler yet, “Just do it.” Reach out to a friend.

Second, I recently had another birthday, and it made me look back over the years and ask myself what I had learned. The surprising thing, after a long life, is to contemplate how quickly it has flown by. I take from that the importance of living each precious moment. And isn't it a great use of time to reconnect with a friend? Again: just do it.

Third, there are some things NECA needs to get done. One of the things the Board recently decided needed doing sooner rather than later, is to make improvements to the Fieldhouse. As you may know, since 2019, the City holds a fund of more than \$200,000 which the City, NECA and the CCC had agreed should be used for Fieldhouse improvements. The CCC has been doing a great job in programming for the Fieldhouse, but some improvements to the building would make it even more useful for creating community connections. As each year passes, that fund depreciates due to inflation. So, we are giving this our attention. Please read the *NEN* article about next steps on page 16. Updates will be presented, if any, at the NECA annual general meeting in October.

See you in the neighbourhood!



Photo by Philippe Marchand

Invite your new/old friends and colleagues to enjoy patio season at Tavern on the Falls - see more details on page 14.

# Letter from the Managing Editor



**Sharon Nyangweso**  
Managing Editor

Neighbours and friends, I'm both thrilled and shocked to say that this issue marks my one-year anniversary of joining the *New Edinburgh News* team. Before taking on this role, I loved our little corner of Ottawa. A year in, and it has taken me by surprise how deeply invested I have become in the development and maintenance of this beautiful neighbourhood. Perhaps it's the flowers in bloom, and the trees at their greenest, but

New Edinburgh is definitely putting its best foot forward and has me feeling hopeful!

But enough about me! Your June 2024 issue is filled with neighbourhood updates, tips to enjoy the summer (and winter) on two wheels, events to fill your days all the way to September, and so much more.

All together this issue speaks as a call to action; our one-of-a-kind neighbourhood is at a precipice. We

have been presented with the opportunity to move forward as a community with accessible roads, green infrastructure, community solidarity, and thriving businesses. This is not a bridge too far because we are already so much of what this transition demands of us. I have no doubt that we will continue to be a strong vibrant community because you, dear readers, are a force to be reckoned with.

Until our next issue in the Fall, we invite all your letters, questions, submissions, thoughts, and we'll never say no to a few compliments here and there! Have a wonderful summer, and see you in the neighbourhood – I'll be the one on the pink bike, looking for a story!

# Letter from the Co-Editor



**Karen Squires**  
Co-Editor

As we wrap up the June edition, it's great to experience firsthand how people from the community step up: so many people contribute in so many ways to support each other, donate their time, energy, and expertise, and share information. As we see fires ranging in Western Canada, I'm encouraged to see more content on environmental stewardship and ways we can all participate by working with the City, Rideau Valley Conversation Authority, and Ottawa Riverkeeper to name a few. During our recent

park clean-up, many people expressed interest in planting more trees, so we've liaised with the City on this and many other park and main street stewardship initiatives.

We also introduce several new team members under the "Breezy Bits" section and say goodbye to others who've supported our work in the past. I'm grateful for the work and time given by so many people to make this community (and elsewhere) a better place to live, work, and connect.

You can see what's upcom-

ing in our Events section and at our website. Also, please don't miss our Summer Patio section under "Burgh Business Briefs" so you can continue to support businesses in and around the neighbourhood. There have been a few changes – mostly good ones, though we are also saying goodbye to one established restaurant.

So please continue reading; then let them and us know what you think! Let's keep supporting our local businesses as our landscape evolves along Beechwood and elsewhere. It's always great to hear from you so thanks again for all your contributions.

Finally, we hope you enjoy the summer season and your summer reading! Stay healthy and let's keep connecting until we embark on the October edition.

*Merci et à bientôt!*

## 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](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca)

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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

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# Letters to the Editor

I noticed the “Scavenger Hunt” in April’s *NEN* contained an unexpected challenge to confound readers trying to identify the architectural features captured in the series of photographs. The location captions for features one and two (87 MacKay and Lansdowne Terrace) were accidentally transposed. But this little twist in no way detracts from celebrating the fascinating heritage of our neighbourhood.

*Paul McConnell*

Good evening,

I was hoping to submit the following as a let-

ter to the editor for the *New Edinburgh News*. I thoroughly enjoyed the April issue of *NEN*! In particular, I really appreciated the “For the Birds” piece by Jane Heintzman. I had been noticing several of the species mentioned prior to reading it and was encouraged by her article to pay closer attention to see even more birds since then. I have only lived in the neighbourhood for a year or so but have already started to look forward to receiving my copy of the *NEN*. I think it is a really good example of the type of community that exists in New Edinburgh and that I

have really enjoyed getting to experience. Keep up the great articles! No worries if there is no room to publish this message - I’d greatly appreciate it if you could pass it along to the author I’d mentioned, though.

All the best,  
*Olivia Wells*

Hello,

My curiosity was piqued at the last City of Ottawa Built Heritage meeting when a Councillor asked why everyone was pronouncing MacKay (Ma-Ki). There was mention that an explanation from NECA might be possible but in the end the Committee moved on and there was no explanation.

I am wondering what the back story is. When did Ottawa make the change and who spearheaded the switch? I know there are many ways to pronounce a name such as MacKay and I’m curious as to how we landed on Ma-Ki. This is purely for my own benefit. If you could point me towards any articles or media posts, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks so much.  
*Marc Legault*

## Public service suggestions from the neighbourhood to avoid rodent infestation

Residents of New Edinburgh and surrounding areas have reported issues recently with rats and other rodents. While these pest problems may not affect you immediately, please note that these problems can escalate quickly, so please be mindful and act to avoid damage to your home, your property, and even adjacent properties. The damage can be quite extensive.

Picking up leftover garbage (in your area or elsewhere) is one way to avoid issues after garbage collection. Ensuring holes in your concrete foundation or your home are filled is a way to avoid easy entry points.

Ottawa Public Health has useful tips on rodent control: [ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/rat-control.aspx](http://ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/rat-control.aspx)

The bigger the rat population grows during the warm season, the more problematic the situation will likely

become when the temperature drops and the animals look for warmer environments. Please note that our pets and wildlife can also be affected, so be mindful how you tackle these issues yourself using poison, etc. Consider some of these alternative control methods: [ourecofriendlylife.com/eco-friendly-rat-poison-7-safe-alternatives](http://ourecofriendlylife.com/eco-friendly-rat-poison-7-safe-alternatives)

When in doubt, contact professionals who can provide pest control services in a humane and well-informed manner. Again, being proactive can avoid huge issues/costs and possibly even entryway into your neighbours’ homes. Remember, once they enter into a larger structure like townhomes, or apartment buildings honestly there are no borders – they just keep exploring so do speak and work with your neighbours as soon as possible if/as necessary.

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# Park Clean Up, City's new Tri-Waste Pilot and Bylaws plus planting more trees with RVCA

By Karen Squires,  
Katherine Hall and Erin McCracken

Leading into Earth Day, on April 21, the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Friends of the Park teamed up with Ottawa Riverkeeper to bring almost 100 people to Stanley Park for our annual park clean up event. We were thrilled to see such a huge turnout of volunteers from in and around the community on this cold grey day – clearly there is interest building to keep our green spaces healthy and free of plastics and other discarded items. Very special thanks to Caroline Gomersall from Ottawa Riverkeeper for such an outstanding job keeping everything well organized for volunteers and for tracking the garbage removal – the total recovered weight turned out to be about 380 pounds!

Julia Ostertag (from Ottawa Riverkeeper), pointed out to the group that on the same day, there was a major press conference from the Break Free from Plastic Movement and a march in Ottawa from Parliament Hill to the Shaw Centre.



Photo courtesy of Ottawa Riverkeeper

**Spring park clean up attracted many more volunteers this year by joining forces with Ottawa Riverkeeper.**

and other discarded items. While regular users pick up discarded items, there is still a lot of garbage buried in the treed areas, so we are grateful to everyone who came out and pitched in. Thanks to those who brought their kids and other group members to support this event. Katherine Hall and her son Quinn took the lead with the City's Clean Up the Capital programming details as they do each year.

The City of Ottawa's three-stream waste receptacle pilot program is expanding this year to one additional park per City ward, as a result of Council approving the program's expansion as part of the 2024 budget process. Since 2017, the City's Solid Waste Services has been operating a phased-in Waste Diversion in Parks pilot program to inform the best way to roll out a future comprehensive recycling program for City parks. The pilot includes the placement of three-stream receptacles, with accompanying signage, to decrease contamination between waste streams and to allow for ease of collection. Each receptacle system comprises a large blue container for recyclable plastics and metals, a large green container for compostable materials, such as dog waste, food debris, paper and other organics, and one large black container for garbage.

In the Rideau-Rockcliffe ward, New Edinburgh Park was selected as a pilot for this program to begin by July latest. During an onsite review in April, City staff accompanied representatives from Friends of the Park, the Crichton Community Council and Councillor Rawlson King's office to choose the preferred locations for each of the five receptacle systems to be installed. Locations have been selected in proximity to the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse and along the pathway system further into the park. One of the recep-

tacle systems, located closest to the Fieldhouse, will remain in place year-round as this location can be accessed by Solid Waste Services vehicles during the winter months.

## City of Ottawa's By-law Summer Student Program

The City of Ottawa's By-law Summer Student Program is once again in operation, continuing a long tradition of hiring post-secondary students for the summer months to assist with By-law enforcement and public education. Forty students have been hired for the 2024 summer program, similar to last year, representing a significant increase over previous years. This is reflective of the growing success of the program, which is welcomed by neighbourhoods and community associations across Ottawa, such as Friends of the Park. The program also allows students to gain important on-the-job experience and exposure to an engaging and important career path.

This summer's program got off to an early start this year. The students, working under the supervision of a senior By-law officer, began their shifts in early May following their training. The students are now conducting a wide range of enforcement activities, most notably parking enforcement and patrolling parks across Ottawa. During their park patrols, the students are monitoring appropriate sports field use, ensuring people refrain from drinking alcohol and smoking in

parks, ensuring unauthorized vehicles do not enter parkland, identifying any encampments and ensuring dogs are kept the appropriate distance from playgrounds, and that dog owners respect all dog-related park designations and rules under the City's Animal Care and Control By-law. The students' work will continue through the summer months until they return to school in late August.

## More Tree Planting in Stanley Park

Friends of the Park have been meeting with Brandon Holden from Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to remove invasive species and to plant more indigenous trees in the park along the floodplain areas. Very special thanks to Brandon for leading this initiative and to Richard Aubry and Megan McDonald for planting indigenous trees on location on May 10. Friends of the Park are pleased that NECA supported this program and that the planting was accomplished with very few volunteers. However, we've had ongoing interest in planting more trees, so we will be liaising with the City on this in the coming months, as time permits. Check out the fall edition for more details.

*Karen Squires and Katherine Hall sit on the NECA board and Co-Chair Friends of the Park. Erin McCracken works for the City of Ottawa.*



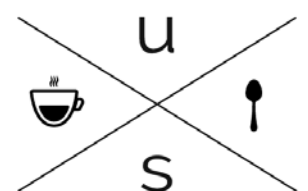
Photo by Karen Squires

**Richard Aubry, Brandon Holden and Megan McDonald planting trees on the Flood Plain in Stanley Park.**

Friends of the Park and Ottawa Riverkeeper would like to give special thanks to the team of volunteers who pulled almost 400 pounds of garbage from the park including an assortment of plastics, metal, fast-food containers,

## New Waste Receptacles in the Park

Earlier in April, representatives from Friends of the Park and Crichton Community Council met with City officials to get tri-waste bins installed in the park in May.



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# Sustaining trees' vital role in climate action through a new zoning by-law

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to implement the policies and directions in Ottawa's new Official Plan, approved by the provincial government in November 2022. The revamped zoning by-law is expected to be presented for approval by Council in 2025. One could say it will become the rule book for implementing the Official Plan, which will guide growth in Ottawa over the next quarter-century.

Trees were the topic of one of seven discussion papers and related surveys released by the City during the consultation that began in 2023. These topics address issues related to implementing the new Official Plan, namely:

Climate Change; Resiliency and Public Health; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; How Zoning Can Regulate Trees; Land Use Strategies for the New Zoning By-law; Neighbourhood Character; Neighbourhood Zones; and Rural Zoning Issues.

## Trees have been under attack

While it is encouraging that trees were identified as a specific topic within the zoning by-law consultation, the assault on trees throughout Ottawa in recent years suggests current regulations and enforcement may be seriously lacking.

Just consider the destruction of a broad swath of mature trees to make way for a parking lot at the new site of the Ottawa Hospital. Or the clear-cutting of the forest in the Hunt Club area. This is happening in a city whose Council had declared a climate emergency and noted the role of trees in climate mitigation.

Keeping the mature trees we already have is a cost-



Photo courtesy Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Trees on Avon Lane.

effective way to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, explains CAFES in its position paper.

"If Ottawa is to reach its 40% tree canopy cover target, it is imperative for zoning to create, regulate and maintain the spaces canopy trees need to thrive," states CAFES. "Not only is a healthy, mature tree canopy essential for the health and wellbeing of the city and its people, trees are among the best and most cost-effective strategies for stormwater management and mitigating the detrimental effects of climate change."

City staff strike a positive tone in their discussion paper, stating that the "new zoning by-law will continue this work [toward achieving urban forest sustainability and growing our canopy cover] and help balance continued growth with the provision of trees."

Here's to a better approach to zoning by-laws where mature trees can be better

protected to support climate action alongside infill and other development. Stay tuned for more details as the consultation process wraps up.

## What is CAFES?

Since 2010, Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) has been a network of local environmental and climate leaders in Ottawa. It includes over 150 individual and organizational representatives from across 20 wards and over 50 neighbourhoods.

CAFES' community association representatives are often environment committee chairs or green point-persons in their local association. With the mission of supporting effective environmental action in the local community and at the municipal level, CAFES is a beneficial and collaborative advocate on behalf of communities, including New Edinburgh.

Which trees thrive best in urban Ottawa?

To help us take direct action by protecting and planting trees in Ottawa, CAFES has produced the useful Ottawa Urban Tree Manual. Open a copy via the QR code on the cover page.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright lives in New Edinburgh and works in public affairs.

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## Former *NEN* editor: Barbara Benoit (1946–2024)

By Janet Uren

Fifty-six years ago, I happened to run into Barbara Boardman while crossing the campus at Carleton University. It was a warm day in late May in that lazy hiatus between examinations and the heady busyness of summer. These were the wild days of the '60s, and as we sat down to chat in the spring sunshine, Barbara said casually, "Would you like to hitchhike to India with me?" So, of course I had to say yes!

Barbara and her husband, Paul Benoit, came to live in New Edinburgh – the old Short house at 123 Noel Street – in 1984. Barbara was pregnant with her second child at the time, and her two children (Charles and Anne) grew up in that house. She lived in the community for 40 years, and she loved it, not least because she always had a dog at her side. She walked many thousands of hours in the forests and along the riverbanks of the neighbourhood.

Barbara gave herself to the life of the community. She acted with the New Edinburgh Players. She helped to take

ownership of New Edinburgh Park in the 1980s by planting trees and flowers in an area condemned as "wasteland" and slated for highway development. She turned out with her placard to protest the closing of Rideau Hall grounds to the public in 1986. For seven years (1993–2000), she edited the *New Edinburgh News* at a time when its survival was by no means certain.

In the 1990s, Barbara was working freelance as a writer and translator. I asked her how she came to edit the newspaper as well. She explained that the paper was at a low point in 1993: "Kathryn Randle, a professional writer-editor who worked producing parliamentary reports, edited the *NEN* for a couple of years. After her, various volunteers tried to keep it going, but the paper shrank to four pages and started coming out at random intervals. Kathryn reluctantly came back to rescue it, stressing that under no circumstances would she stay more than the one additional year. NECA struggled through the fall of 1992 to

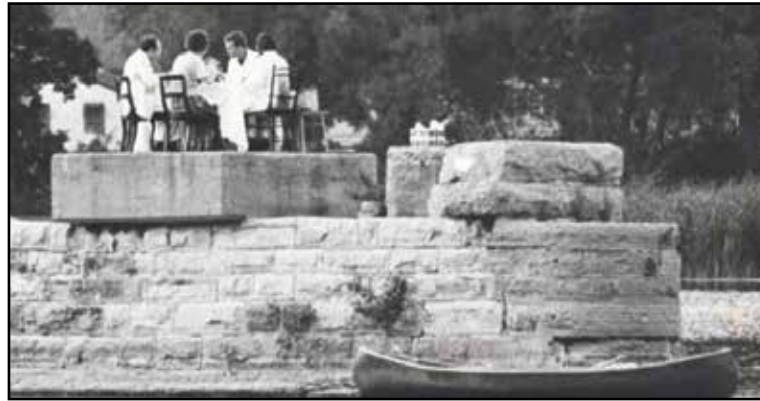


Photo by Le Droit

**Barbara always loved the absurd. In August 1975, she and Paul Benoit and guests ferried out a table, chairs, silver cutlery, and a damask tablecloth to one of the old railway piers in the Rideau River and had a gourmet dinner.**

find a replacement. Someone put my name out as a possibility, and Jane Heintzman was assigned to compel me to take on the job. When I accepted without argument, she was dumbfounded."

I had the opportunity to see Barbara in action in the mid-1990s. One evening, I got an urgent phone call asking for help: She had a tight deadline, her graphic artist colleague had had a heart attack. Her mother had gone into hospital, her dog had died, and the newspaper was due

at the printer first thing in the morning. These were the days of glue and wax, and we spent the night together, writing copy, printing type, and pasting up the layout. At one point, I recall Barbara hunting high and low for a bit of type, only to find it stuck to the bottom of her shoe. We were hysterical. As dawn broke, Barbara got in the car to drive the layouts to the printer in Renfrew. Occasional chaos notwithstanding, by the time Barbara passed the paper on to the next editor in 2000, it

had been transformed. It was regularly 40 pages in size, with healthy ad revenues and a dedicated readership.

Barbara was a woman with a great many loves: her family, books, dogs, theatre, and houses. No friend of hers with a new house was safe from her detailed advice, sketched out on envelopes or napkins and showing how to open up the living room (if only one had any money) or how to arrange the furniture (if one did not). I moved into an old house in New Edinburgh in 2001. Barbara and her dog arrived early on the morning of that first day to find me nearly catatonic, moaning at the centre of chaos. She took charge, driving me to haul boxes out of the way and drag furniture until there was enough of a space for us to sit down and have a cup of tea. She probably saved my life.

Barbara was the kindest, most loyal of friends and, in her day, a dedicated and creative editor of this newspaper.

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

**my metro**

**SAVOUR**

**SUMMER.**

# Less trash, more safe streets for summer 2024



**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

The City of Ottawa is expanding both its automated speed enforcement program and three-stream waste receptacle pilot program to New Edinburgh in 2024.

By this summer, the City's automated speed enforcement system will be installed and operating on Crichton Street from Vaughan Street to St. Patrick Street.

Automated speed enforcement is a system that uses a camera and a corresponding speed measurement device to enforce speed limits. Speed cameras, much like red-light cameras, are designed to reduce the risk of collisions. In Ottawa, speed cameras are currently located in certain community safety zones, near schools or parks, where speeding is a risk to our most vulnerable road users: our children.

Data from the automated speed enforcement program

demonstrates that the City's speed cameras have a positive impact on driver speed and safety in school zones, which on average includes a 200 per cent increase in compliance with the speed limit and a 72 per cent decrease in drivers travelling at 15 km/h over the speed limit. Revenue generated from fines is reinvested into the City's Road Safety Action Plan program, which is focused on education, engineering, and enforcement to promote safer roads. When the system is placed into operation, the speed limit within the Crichton Street corridor will strictly be enforced at 40 km/h.

The City also plans to expand its new waste diversion initiatives in New Edinburgh Park. This move follows consultations with the New Edinburgh Community Alliance and Friends of New Edinburgh Park and aims to address lit-

tering through a three-stream waste receptacle pilot program designed to minimize contamination between recyclable, compostable, and general waste streams.

Over several years, the City of Ottawa has been actively addressing the issue of litter in its parks through a series of recycling pilot programs. This expansion builds upon those previous pilots, which saw more than 70 per cent of waste diverted from landfills in participating parks, indicating progress towards sustainable waste management. These initiatives aim to not only reduce waste but also encourage responsible disposal habits among park-goers.

Through collaboration and community engagement, we will continue to move towards a greener, more environmentally conscious future for our parks and public spaces by way of this program. As the City moves forward with this waste diversion initiative, it will actively and continuously seek input from residents and all involved stakeholders.

As always, you can contact my office by email at [rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) or by phone at 613-580-2483. Please subscribe to my news-

letter at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca).

\*\*

La Ville d'Ottawa étend son programme de contrôle automatisé de la vitesse et son programme pilote de poubelles à trois compartiments à New Edinburgh en 2024.

D'ici cet été, le système de contrôle automatisé de la vitesse de la Ville sera installé et en fonction sur la rue Crichton, entre les rues Vaughan et St-Patrick.

Les dispositifs de contrôle automatisé de la vitesse sont des systèmes dotés d'un appareil photo et d'un appareil de mesure de la vitesse qui servent à faire respecter les limites de vitesse. Les radars photographiques, tout comme les appareils photo reliés aux feux rouges, sont conçus pour réduire le risque de collision. À Ottawa, ces radars photographiques sont situés dans certaines zones de sécurité communautaire près des écoles ou des parcs, où les excès de vitesse constituent un risque pour les usagers de la route les plus vulnérables, nos enfants.

Les données du programme de contrôle automatisé de la vitesse démontrent que les radars photographiques de la Ville ont une incidence positive sur la vitesse des conducteurs et la sécurité dans les zones scolaires. On note en moyenne une augmentation de 200 % de la conformité à la limite de vitesse et une diminution de 72 % du nombre de conducteurs qui roulent à 15 km/h au-dessus de la limite de vitesse. Les recettes découlant des

amendes sont réinvesties dans le Plan d'action en matière de sécurité routière de la Ville, qui est axé sur l'éducation, l'ingénierie et l'application de la loi pour promouvoir des routes plus sécuritaires. Lorsque le système sera mis en service, la limite de vitesse dans le corridor de la rue Crichton sera strictement appliquée à 40 km/h.

La Ville prévoit également étendre ses nouvelles initiatives de réacheminement des déchets au parc New Edinburgh. Cette mesure fait suite à des consultations avec la New Edinburgh Community Alliance and Friends du parc New Edinburgh et vise à s'attaquer aux déchets au moyen d'un programme pilote de poubelles à trois compartiments conçues pour réduire au minimum la contamination entre les déchets recyclables, compostables et généraux.

Depuis plusieurs années, la Ville d'Ottawa s'attaque activement au problème des déchets dans ses parcs grâce à une série de programmes pilotes de recyclage. Cette expansion s'appuie sur les projets pilotes précédents, qui ont permis de réacheminer plus de 70 % des déchets des sites d'enfouissement dans les parcs participants, ce qui indique des progrès vers une gestion durable des déchets. Ces initiatives visent non seulement à réduire les déchets, mais aussi à encourager des habitudes d'élimination responsables parmi les visiteurs des parcs.

Par la collaboration et l'engagement communautaire, nous continuerons de progresser vers un avenir plus vert et plus respectueux de l'environnement pour nos parcs et nos espaces publics grâce à ce programme. À mesure que la Ville ira de l'avant avec cette initiative de réacheminement des déchets, elle sollicitera activement et continuellement l'avis des résidents et de tous les intervenants concernés.

Comme toujours, vous pouvez communiquer avec mon bureau par courriel à l'adresse [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) ou par téléphone au 613 580-2483. Je vous invite à vous abonner à mon info-lettre à [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca).

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# Spring brings hope and challenges: Calls for action on healthcare and accreditation



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

Dear residents of New Edinburgh,

As the warmth of spring and the sun graces our days with its gentle glow, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all. Warmer and longer days provide us with more energy and more opportunities to be active and advance towards our life goals, whether it is personal growth or the pursuit of professional opportunities.

Yet not everyone is able to take full advantage of this positivity. Many people are still struggling with basic needs that draw their energy. Despite several policy changes by the provincial government, many individuals and families are still reaching out

to me and my office requesting assistance to find a family doctor and access to primary care. It's hard to truly enjoy life when dealing with health challenges. At the same time, I met with seven doctors in my office requesting support to allow them to work for our healthcare system. Their professional credentials obtained in another country are not recognized here and the complexity and length of the process to get a license to practice make it very discouraging for them to pursue.

That doesn't sit right with me. On one side we have the needs and on the other side we have the solution. All that's needed is for our governments to take the nec-



*Photo courtesy Office of Lucille Collard.*

**MPP Lucille Collard met with several doctors, highlighting once more the significant challenges for medical professionals in having their credentials recognized in Canada.**

essary steps to allow for these workers to fully participate in our economy, as they wish so much to achieve.

Healthcare is not the only field of work where the recognition of foreign credentials constitutes a barrier to allow a much-needed workforce to provide the services we so desperately need. That's why my first Private Member's Bill was about proposing a way to resolve that. Unfortunately, there doesn't

seem to be an appetite for it by the current government.

We are constantly battling many issues, like access to healthcare, shortage of doctors, providing adequate mental help support and fundamental necessities for all citizens like food and housing. Our province is faced with significant hurdles that demand decisive action. The provincial government plays a crucial role in addressing these issues, we are still wait-

ing for real solutions with a meaningful impact.

In the meantime, I remain committed to accomplish what I can to assist with a solution. By assembling people with common interests, I'm hoping to create opportunities for networking, collaboration, and potential partnership. I hope that by taking the pieces of the puzzle outside the box and working together we can create our solutions.

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# A blast from New Edinburgh's past: The Lighthouse Program, March 1977

By Sharon Nyangweso

The New Edinburgh News is incredibly fortunate to have a rich history, one that is well archived. We'll be featuring stories, ads, events, and content from past issues and reflecting on them in the present – enjoy!

In March 1977, the *New Edinburgh News* was four pages long and edited by none other than current contributor Eleanor Dunn. In the 1977 spring issue was an article written by Craig Kerr on the Lighthouse Program in the now extinct Crichton St. Public School. The Lighthouse Program emerged at a moment when there were anxieties about polarization and a desire to “bring down the barriers so that people would meet and interact with one another.” Sound familiar?

The *Lighthouse Program* sets about this aim in two ways. Educational programs are offered on a wide variety of subjects and interests, such as French, photography and smocking. A new innovation this year is a course on self-contracting. Technical

experts, such as plumbers and electricians, explain methods and give tips on how to improve your home. This course may be expanded next year to include do-it-yourself plumbing, heating, and plastering. A minimal fee is charged for all courses to cover costs.

Just a few weeks ago – that is, in April 2024 – before perusing the old editions of *NEN*, I was hunting around on Google for local classes that would teach basic carpentry. I have a very dreamy image of myself building beautiful things but am intimidated by where to start and the equipment needed. I thought: surely there must be someone in this city, or in our neighbourhood providing adult skill classes! So imagine my surprise when I came across this article of years past.

This piece that both highlighted a desire to spend more time with the people who shared a community, and to make adult learning accessible struck me in how relevant it was today. Unfortunately, 47 years later, the Lighthouse

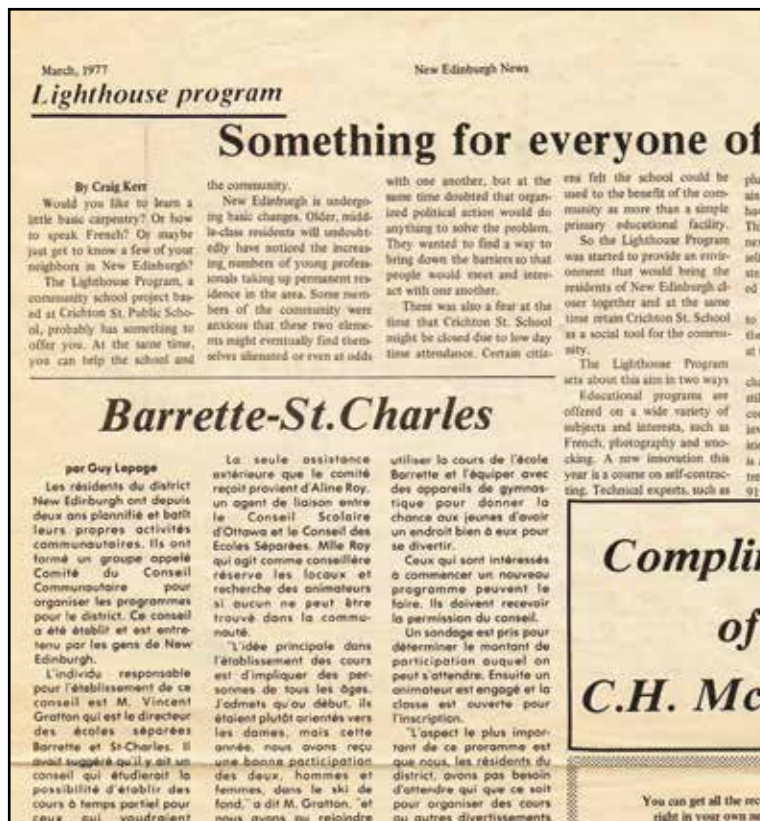


Image from the *NEN* archives  
The March 1977 article as it appears in the original publication. Visit the *NEN* website to view a collection of issues from the past four decades.

Program and Crichton St. School are no more, but what is left is a diverse community

which I think wouldn't mind a class or two in the neighbourhood!

The story of the Lighthouse Program is not just a nostalgic recollection but a blueprint for future community initiatives. It teaches us that, regardless of the era, the fundamental need for connection, learning, and mutual support is constant. As New Edinburgh continues to grow and change, let us carry forward the legacy of the Lighthouse Program, ensuring that our community remains a place where everyone can learn, contribute, and feel a sense of belonging.

In celebrating this legacy, we honour the past while embracing the future, ever committed to the principles that make New Edinburgh a true community. Here's to continuing to build a neighbourhood where every resident, new and old, can find something that speaks to them.

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

## Volunteers needed for Chief Pinesi Day: July 1

Preparations for Chief Pinesi Day are ongoing! We need volunteers in the Fieldhouse area of Stanley Park for the following roles: greeters; mobility volunteers; set-up and take-down of the sacred fire; and T-shirt sellers.

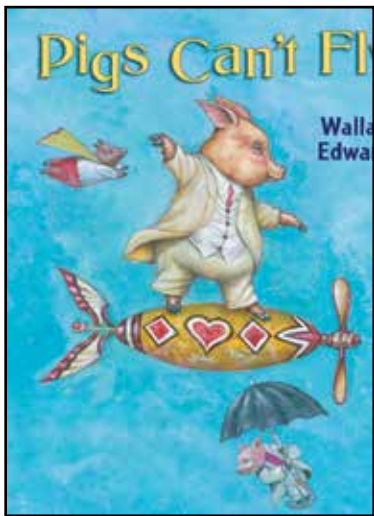
(As of May 17, it was uncertain whether the Indigenous drumming and dancing program and lunch would be provided.)

Please contact Cindy Parkanyi: [cparkanyi@yahoo.com](mailto:cparkanyi@yahoo.com)

# Books on Beechwood summer reading suggestions

*Books on Beechwood* was established in September 1994 at 86 Beechwood Avenue, just steps away from its current location. After one move, one change of ownership, and many milestones in between, the store will be celebrating its 30th birthday this year! Though a specific date has yet to be chosen, there will be fun and festivities to mark this very special anniversary in September. Keep your ear to the ground and your eyes on the store website, newsletter, and social media pages for updates about forthcoming party plans....

## KIDS & TEENS



*Pigs Can't Fly* by Wallace Edwards (Ages 3–6)

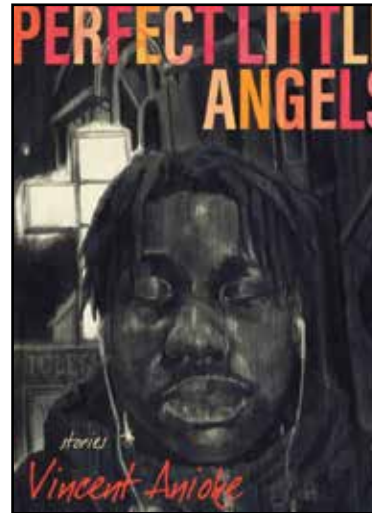
Published posthumously, Edwards' last book is as charming and thought provoking as his many wonderful picture books. In his simple rhyming quatrains, he tells us that, among other things, pigs can fly, frogs can play the bagpipes, elephants can make music, and swans do wear shoes. Edwards' whimsical and engaging illustrations complete the message that anything is possible. –Bridget

*Dalmatian* by Lucy Ruth Cummins (Ages 4–8) What could be better than an adorable dog from space! In this sweet, funny picture book, a young boy and a very special, tail-wagging, interstellar visitor learn that friendship comes in many different shapes and sizes. –Hilary

*Pine Island Visitors* by Polly Horvath (Ages 8–12) This award-winning author has written many wonderful books, all respectful of the inner life of children and all deeply satisfying. In this newest book, four sisters, living independently under the guardianship of the neighbour next door, are challenged by a visitation from the kind woman who cared

for them after their parents died, and her bossy companion. It's a great book to snuggle up with if you're in the mood for spunky heroines and quirky supporting characters. –Bridget

## FICTION

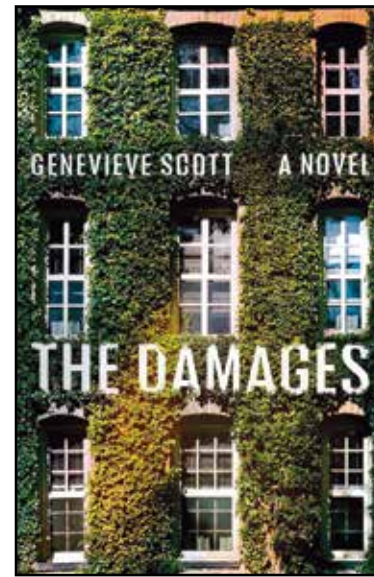


*Perfect Little Angels* by Vincent Anioko A debut short story collection set largely in Nigeria, where the characters are all seeking love in some way or another. The characters' trajectories invite contemplations of masculinity, religion, sexuality, and self-expression. Among other issues, the stories examine personal desires and the ways these can conflict with a sense of duty. –Michelle

*Followed by the Lark* by Helen Humphreys In short episodic pieces, Humphreys charms with this gentle imagining of the life of naturalist, poet, and abolitionist Henry David Thoreau. Living a life as close to nature as possible, Thoreau also experiences the effects of a fast-changing and developing world and the iniquities of the slave trade. –Bridget

*I Need You to Read This* by Jesse Maxwell

Set among the glittering lights of New York City, this is a suspenseful novel about a naïve young woman whose new job as a personal advice columnist may just be her last. –Stephanie



*The Damages* by Genevieve Scott

This intriguing novel will be interesting for anyone who attended university in the late '90s or early 2000s. The main protagonist looks back at her youth while trying to make sense of events that led to her roommate's disappearance. She has to interrogate her possible role in the disappearance and address its aftermath through the fog of memory and evolving social discourse around sexual misconduct. –Michelle

*The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club* by Helen Simonson

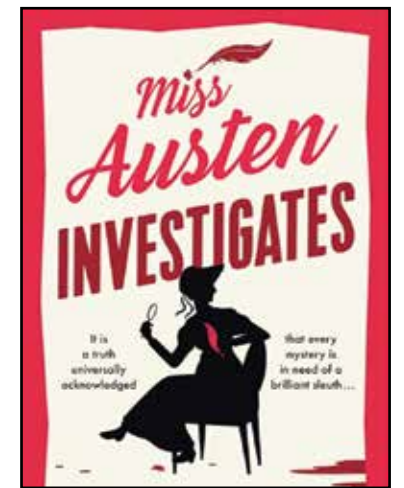
A timeless comedy of manners written by the author of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*. This is the story of a generation of young women facing the tremendous changes after the First World War and imagining the new possibilities available to them. A delightful read! –Stephanie

*Long Island* by Colm Tóibín Feeling isolated both from her family in Ireland and her

American husband's large Italian family, Eilis' fragile world is challenged by a betrayal which sends her back to Ireland. It's there that life becomes even more complicated, and it soon looks like nothing will be easily or fully resolved. Tóibín's wonderful insight and charm keep the reader engrossed during all Eilis' ups and downs.

–Bridget

## MYSTERY

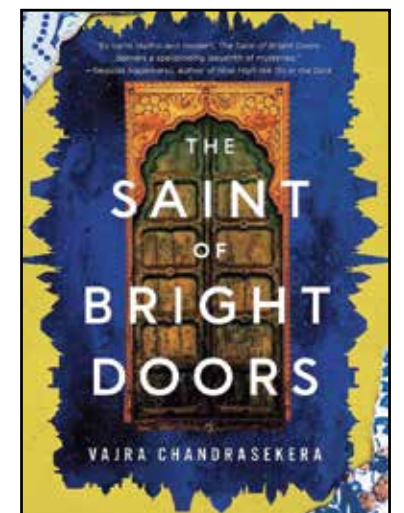


*Miss Austen Investigates* by Jessica Bull

Step back into late 18th century Hampshire where 20-year-old Jane Austen is determined to find justice for a young woman found murdered during a ball thrown by a neighbour. It's more than mere curiosity that drives Jane – fingers are being pointed in her defenceless brother's direction, and she must unmask the true murderer before he is officially accused and deported to Australia! Readers get all this and a love story, too, as Jane juggles hunting for clues with secret assignments from a charming young Irishman who has stolen her heart. Austen fans will appreciate the wealth of detail of the real Jane Austen's world.

–Bridget

## SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY



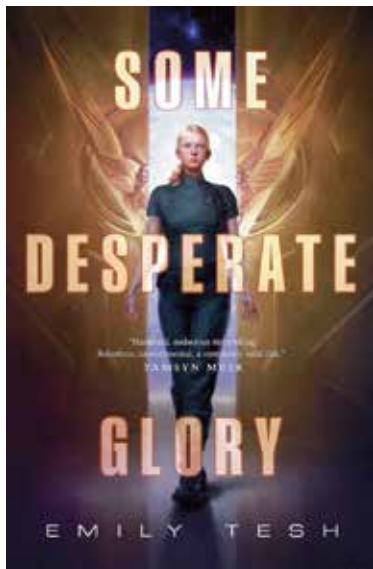
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*The Saint of Bright Doors* by Vajra Chandrasekera  
Original setting, careful prose, unpredictable plot, and a style that shifts between traditional fantasy, magical realism, and dystopia. Reminiscent of China Miéville's *Perdido Street Station*, this brand-new novel is both unique and unexpected. –Dave M.



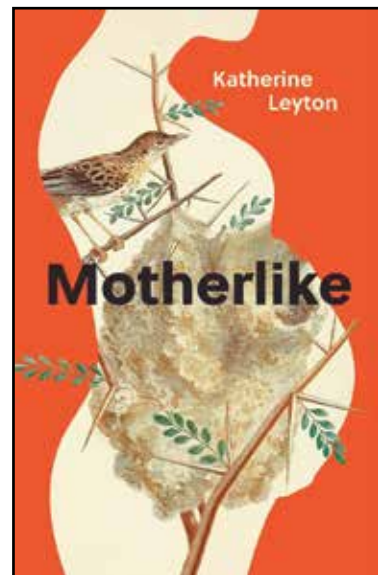
*Some Desperate Glory* by Emily Tesh  
Bold, imaginative, and occasionally grim – this book is an excellent space opera! Fraught with themes around AI, gender essentialism, fascism, and racism. It is ultimately hopeful that individuals can change – and can

make a difference. A page turner with fascinating ideas. –Dave M.

**ART & MUSIC**

*The Summer We Crossed Europe in the Rain* by Kazuo Ishiguro  
Ishiguro wrote song lyrics long before his acclaimed novels, and in this book, readers will find a lovely collection of lyrics he wrote for American jazz singer Stacy Kent. They are infused with yearning and bittersweet romance and are beautifully illustrated by Italian artist Bianca Bagnarelli. A really lovely book. –Stephanie

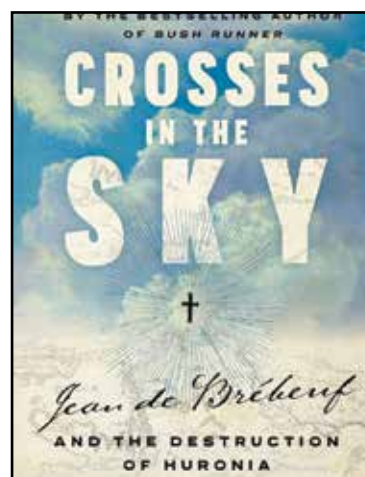
**BIOGRAPHY**



*Motherlike* by Katherine Leyton  
This memoir by a local poet is a beautiful and honest consideration of the experience of motherhood, as well as the social attitudes that so often shape it. Leyton shares her experience of becoming a mother alongside historical research, personal reflections, and cultural commentary – for example, touching on the history of the birth control pill, the objectification of women's bodies, the risks of labour, and life post-partum. –Michelle

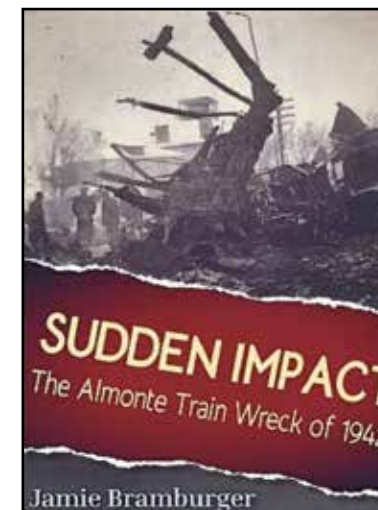
*We Loved It All* by Lydia Millet  
A beautiful “anti-memoir” that uses a strong narrative voice to describe the author's relationship with the natural world, inviting the reader to contemplate their own. Accounts of childhood, professional life, motherhood, and friendships are interspersed with meditations on – and stories about – non-human lives, as a way of connecting the fear and grief of extinction and climate change to the possibilities of love and resistance. –Michelle

**HISTORY**



*Crosses in the Sky: Jean de Brébeuf and the Destruction of Huronia* by Mark Bourrie  
The author provides a deeply researched and clearly told tale of a period in our history when the Jesuits set out to establish their own nation among the Huron and, in the process, caused the near destruction of the established First Peoples. De Brébeuf's “martyrdom” became one of the founding myths of Canada. –Bridget

*Church at War* by Alan Bowker  
A fascinating local history book about our own MacKay United Church and the role it – and its parishioners – played during the First World War. –Bridget



*Sudden Impact: The Almonte Train Wreck of 1942* by Jamie Bramburger  
On December 27, 1942 a train packed full of post-Christmas travellers was hit by a troop train heading to Halifax and then on to Europe, resulting in massive loss of life and destruction. This tragic event in the Ottawa Valley still deeply marks the town of Almonte but is otherwise long forgotten. Here, Bramburger presents a thoroughly researched account that pieces together what happened before, during, and after the deadly crash. –Bridget

**NEW - The Beechwood Bite - Parliament -  
16 June 2024 - 1:00 PM**

The Beechwood Cemetery Bite sized tours are themed guided tours through Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada. These short and specialized tours are for those who love a good theme and are passionate for learning about history.

This Beechwood bite will cover those who had a hand in building the Canadian Parliament Buildings.

**This tour starts from the Gazebo across from the main office.  
16 June 2024 at 1:00 PM**

**Important info:**

- The route for the tour is a gentle 45-60 min walk and is wheelchair accessible.
- The tour is free of charge and is family-friendly.
- Tours are rain or shine, and begin at 11:00 AM.

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# New Edinburgh patios to explore - summer 2024

By Randy Mar

As thoughts turn to blooming flowers, bike rides, outdoor walks and sunshine, we have our second edition of the New Edinburgh Patio Pathway for our readers to explore!

It includes a baker's dozen of outdoor patios stretching from the Rideau Falls, down Crichton, across Beechwood and onto George-Étienne Cartier Parkway, with a few side jaunts. New Edinburgh has it all for folks seeking to relax over a cold beverage, coffee, tasty burgers, salads, and more. Many are pet friendly and offer spots for those sun-lovers or shade seekers!

## Tavern on the Falls

With a grand view overlooking the Rideau Falls and the Ottawa River, Tavern on the Falls attracts Ottawa resi-

dents and tourists alike. One of the uniquely-located seasonal eateries operated by Andre Shad (others include Tavern on the Hill and Tavern at the Gallery – see more details below), Tavern on the Falls offers a full range of cocktails and beverages, along with specialty hot dogs, poké bowls, salads, tacos, and more. Plus: check out live music on Tuesday nights.

1 John Street (at Sussex)  
275 seats; Licensed; Sun and shade  
Open 7 days: 11:00 a.m. 'til late, weather permitting  
thetavern.ca

## Union Café

Situated in an 1890s brick house at the corner of Crichton and Union, the Café is a long-standing neighbourhood favourite, offering an array of baked goods, sand-

wiches and specialty drinks, along with a variety of take-away items. In an effort to keep things green, patrons are encouraged to bring their own mugs, and recycling bins are readily available onsite; take-away supplies (cups, bags, napkins) and food scraps are all composted.

42 Crichton Street  
18 seats; Not licensed; Sun and shade  
Open Mon–Fri 8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.; Sat and Sun 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
onunionstreet.ca

## The Royal Oak Beechwood

A fixture at the New Edinburgh “four corners,” the Royal Oak patio has seating capacity for 60 patrons at high-tops or standard tables. Everything on the regular menu is available outdoors, so indulge in all your favourite pub offer-

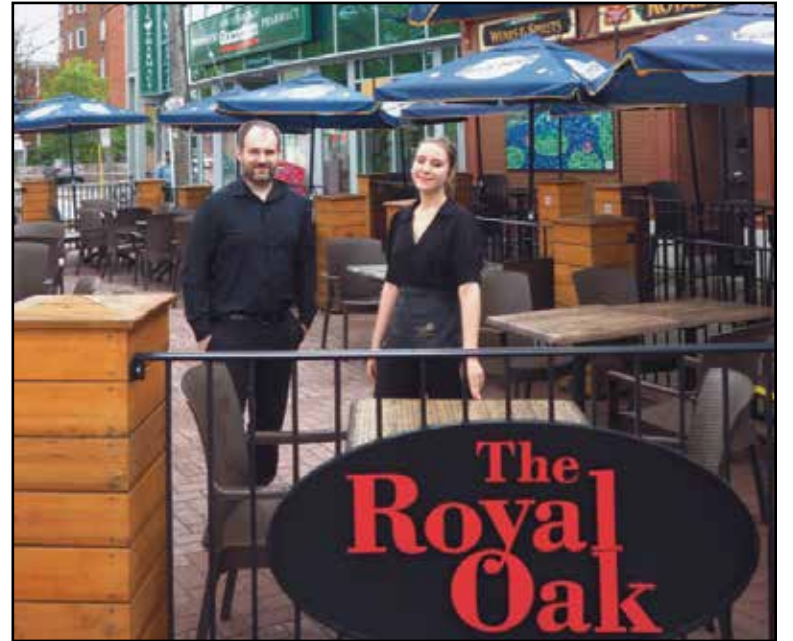


Photo by Philippe Marchand

**Royal Oak Manager Lukas Banks and Assistant Manager Diana Abakumova.**

ings like burgers, wings, fish and chips, wraps, and salads. A full range of Molson products are on tap, as are local breweries. Spirits and non-alcoholic beverages are also available.

1 Beechwood  
60 seats; Licensed; Sun and shade  
Open Mon–Thu 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Fri 11:30–2 a.m.; Sat 10 a.m.–2 a.m.; Sun 10 a.m.–11 p.m.  
royaloakpubs.com  
(613) 680-1130

## Dhruvees and Café by Dhruvees

Newly opened this spring in the former Ministry of Coffee location, Café by Dhruvees offers an extensive menu featuring contemporary Indian, Indonesian, and Sri Lankan treats, as well as specialty coffees, teas, sandwiches, and salads. Of special note is the wide choice of lassis (freshly made, healthy, yogurt and fruit-based thirst quenchers). Dhruvees Cuisine also offers a shaded 18-seat patio.

18 Beechwood  
26 seats; Licensed; Shade  
Dhruvees – Tue– Sat: 11:30–9 p.m.; Sat and Sun Brunch: 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m.; Mon: Closed  
Café by Dhruvees – Tue–Sun: 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.; Mon: Closed  
dhruvees.com  
(613) 744-7888

## Starbucks

Tucked in at the base of Minto residences on MacKay, Starbucks offer the chain's typical range of coffees, beverages, pastries, and sandwiches.

409 MacKay Street  
14 seats; Not licensed; Shade  
Open Mon–Fri 6 a.m.– 7 p.m.; Sat and Sun 7 a.m.– 7 p.m.  
starbucks.com  
(343) 997-5818

## Clocktower Brew Pub

Newly renovated, the Clocktower's sheltered patio is steps off Beechwood beside Books on Beechwood and Scone Witch. Menu offerings include in-house local brews, traditional pub grub and more. Dogs are welcome and can stay well hydrated with a large stainless steel water dish.

(While currently a little off-season, Clocktower's “leave a winter coat; take a winter coat” rack for those in need is also a long-standing tradition.)

422 MacKay Street  
55 seats; Licensed; Sun and shade  
Open Mon–Fri 11:30 a.m. 'til late; Sat and Sun 11:00 a.m. 'til late  
clocktower.ca  
(613) 742-3169

## Chilaquiles

An expanded Chilaquiles offers two patio choices: a 10-seat elevated outdoor patio overlooking Beechwood, and a quaint alleyway seating area for 12 between Chilaquiles and Shwarma Queen next door, with overhanging lights for evening dining. Mexican favourites like tacos, burritos, quesadillas, as well as vegetarian dishes beckon. Steps up to both patios.

55 Beechwood

Continued on page 15

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Photo by Philippe Marchand

**Clocktower Pub with Nicholas, Don, Gregy and Manny Garcia, General Manager.**

10 + 12 seats; Licensed; Shade  
 Open Mon Noon–8p.m.; Tue–Wed 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m.; Thu 11:30 a.m.– 10 p.m.; Fri–Sat 11:30 a.m.–11:30 p.m.; Sun Noon–9 p.m.  
 chilaquiles.ca  
 (613) 699-7100

**Mr. Poke/JnJ Bakery**

Co-housed at the corner of Barrette and Loyer in the former Ola Cocina space, Mr. Poke and JnJ Bakery offer a fresh and tasty respite in a shady spot. Patrons will be greeted by owners of Mr. Poke and JnJ Bakery, Mike Jang and Sun Hae as they choose from a range of healthy poke bowls, artisan coffee, and Korean baked goods.

62 Barrette  
 6 seats; Not licensed; Shade  
 Mr. Poke: Open Tue–Sat 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sun 4–9 p.m.; Mon Closed  
 @mrpoke\_ottawa (IG)  
 (613) 869-5547  
 JnJ: Open Tue–Sat 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sun and Mon Closed  
 JnJ Bakery Café (FB)  
 (613) 489-0564

**Edinburger**

A new addition to the New Edinburgh food scene, at press time Edinburger was in discussions with the City on how to safely accommodate outdoor seating at the busy corner of Beechwood and Springfield. Fingers crossed that we'll be able to enjoy Edinburger's menu – featuring grass-fed smash and gourmet burgers, with vegan and gluten-free options, dipping sauces, milkshakes, fries, and gourmet hot dogs – out-

doors this summer! Recently licensed, the venue features local craft beer on tap.  
 1 Springfield  
 Seats TBD; Licensed  
 Open 7 days 11 a.m.– 9 p.m.  
 edinburger.ca  
 (343) 588-1467

**Red Door Provisions**

Distinctive bright-red Muskoka chairs, tables, and planters out the front, and picnic tables out back complement the wide range of goods at Red Door Provisions. Umbrellas offer the option of shade.  
 117 Beechwood  
 50 seats; Sun and shade  
 Open Mon–Fri 7 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat and Sun 8 a.m.– 5 p.m.  
 reddoorprovisions.com  
 (613) 695-6804

**Bridgehead**

Patrons enjoy coffees, baked goods, and sandwiches on a long-established shaded patio at Bridgehead. It is dog-friendly and a small bike rack is available.  
 131 Beechwood  
 30 seats; Sun and shade  
 Open Mon–Fri 6 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sat and Sun 6:30 a.m.– 8 p.m.  
 bridgehead.ca  
 (613) 744-3735

**The Soca Kitchen/Plantain Cartel**

Now set up for its second summer, the U-shaped courtyard setting offers an extensive menu in a tranquil sheltered space – ideal for brunch, lunch, and dinner.  
 224 Beechwood  
 24 seats; Sun and shade  
 Open Tue–Fri 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5–9 p.m.; Sat and Sun 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. and

5–9 p.m.; Mon Closed  
 thesocakitchen.com  
 (613) 695-9190

**The NCC River House**

Wrapping around three sides, the outdoor patio of the recently renovated, century-old heritage boathouse offers panoramic views of the Ottawa River. Service is from the Café and Bistro that offers a variety of baked goods, sandwiches, craft beers, and Bridgehead coffee. The eastern bike path passes right by the River House, with a switchback path running to the lower level with bike racks.

501 Sir-Georges-Etienne-Cartier Parkway  
 82 seats; Sun and shade  
 Open Mon–Thu 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.; Fri and Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun 10– 6 p.m.  
 ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/ncc-river-house  
 (613) 239-5000

So, along this 13-stop, 2.5 kilometre Patio Pathway (plus another 1.9 kilometres to the NCC River House) where will you choose to spend a leisurely hour or two?

*Postscript:* The nearby **Tavern at the Gallery**, a secluded treed outdoor courtyard tucked in a garden-like setting between the National Gallery and the Global Centre for Pluralism, is open for the season with extended menu including pizzas, sandwiches, salads and a great wine list, plus live music on some nights. Reservations for the Gallery location can be made online: [thetavern.ca/gallery](http://thetavern.ca/gallery)

Readers will also want to know that the popular **Tavern on the Hill** is reopening this season with the Pidaban Bridge connecting Major's Hill Park with Kiweki Point (formerly Nepean Point) now being completed.

**Fraser Restaurant to close New Edinburgh location**

**By John Leefe**

*A note from the managing editor:* The Ottawa Citizen reported on May 22 that Fraser Restaurant Co-owner and chef Ross Fraser shared



Photo by Philippe Marchand

**Red Door with Emilee Brogaard.**

that a new restaurant is to open in the Altea Active Ottawa wellness complex on Carling Avenue.

All good things must come to an end, as the saying goes. After 16 years in operation in our neighbourhood, the Fraser on Springfield Road is permanently closing its doors when its lease expires on June 30. The Fraser is one of Ottawa's most popular and highly rated restaurants and will be greatly missed by its many loyal customers in New Edinburgh.

Co-owner Ross Fraser expressed his gratitude to the neighbourhood community for their years of support. He and his brother Simon

are “looking forward to new projects” which may involve the New Edinburgh community, although he declined to provide any details on a possible relocation.

Long-time patron and Lindenlea resident Jeff Rosebrugh said he and his family were “shocked and saddened” to learn that their favourite restaurant was closing. “I truly hope that they relocate in the immediate neighbourhood as having a fine dining independent gem like Fraser's is a huge bonus for our neighbourhood,” Rosebrugh said. Fraser's final day of operation will be Wednesday, June 26.



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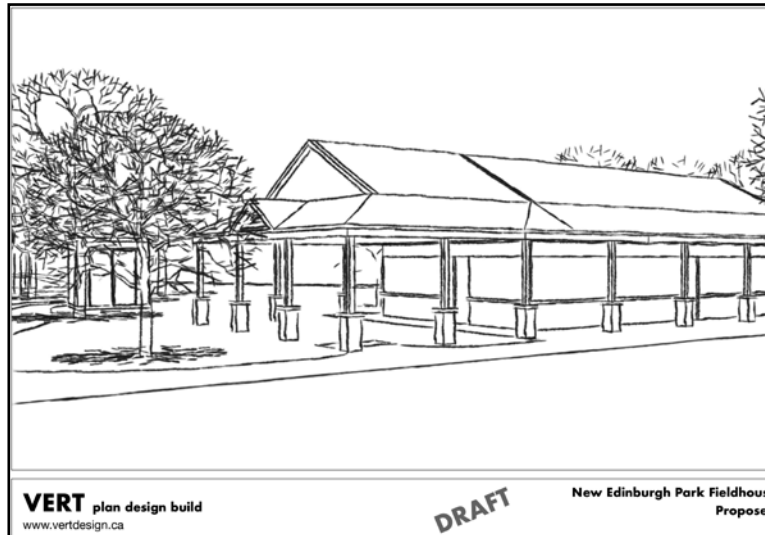
# Fieldhouse extension offers ideal covered setting for outdoor events

By Jason Tavoularis and Chris Straka

The threat of rain has long been a hindrance to community events and programming in New Edinburgh, causing organizers to constantly worry about weather conditions. The uncertainty of precipitation has led to cancellations, postponements, and last-minute venue changes, disrupting the planning and execution of outdoor activities and gatherings. This has not only resulted in wasted resources and disappointed attendees but has also limited the scope and frequency of community events. Sheltered outdoor space can mitigate the impact of rain, and harmful sun in the summer, and improve opportunities for public joy and connection in our community.

The New Edinburgh Community Building Fund was established by the City of Ottawa after the New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre (NECTAR) property at 255 MacKay Street was sold. In 2019 a memorandum of understanding was signed by Crichton Community Council (CCC), New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA), and NECTAR, confirming that the New Edinburgh Community Building Fund is to be used in its entirety for capital improvements to the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse.

The CCC and NECA have consulted with Fieldhouse



Proposed Fieldhouse changes.

users and the community at large to identify and prioritize a list of needed improvements. Subsequently, the groups have jointly worked with Councillor King's office to get City of Ottawa approval to use the New Edinburgh Community Building Fund towards the following additions to New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse:

- rubberized flooring to improve acoustics and allow skaters to walk without dulling their blades;
- a removable wall divider to offer separation to programming users during open skating season;
- sound attenuation panels; and
- preparation for onsite electrical generation for emergency preparedness

No decisions have been made on how to spend the remainder of the fund after

payments go through for the above enhancements. The purchasing power of this fund diminishes every year due to inflation, therefore we are motivated to spend it sooner rather than later. Although there are many improvements needed in neighbourhood public spaces, the fund must be used to improve the Fieldhouse building specifically.

At board meetings, CCC and NECA have discussed how best to use this fund to improve the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse to address current priorities of building users and of the park space in its immediate vicinity. After much thought and analysis, both boards believe the remainder of the fund would be best used to create a covered outdoor space adjoining the Fieldhouse. This portico would be designed to bet-



Proposed Fieldhouse changes.

ter accommodate events like farmers' markets and community barbecues, programming like yoga classes and outdoor films, and general use by folks seeking shelter from sudden downpours or the hot sun.

The need for such a structure is particularly evident in the run-up to the annual Chief Pinesi Day: organizers dedicate \$5,000–\$10,000 in their event budget to renting a tent adjacent to the Fieldhouse.

A portico is "a covered porch leading to the entrance of a building, with a roof structure over a walkway, supported by columns." One approach to creating a covered outdoor space attached to the building is by projecting the existing distinctive roof form above the front door facing Stanley Avenue, supported by columns echoing the traditional forms.

The CCC and NECA directors propose that a portico be created on the street side of the Fieldhouse to provide a covered outdoor space at least 20 feet deep. The Fieldhouse building is approximately 30 feet wide with a roof that provides cover from the elements only about five

feet beyond the building's walls. The proposed construction would cover a five-foot asphalt skirt, a 10-foot-wide muddy pit on the high-traffic street side, and 10 feet of grass. No existing trees would be affected. This area is currently underutilized relative to the surrounding area. A projection of the roof over the Fieldhouse's main entry would create a more usable outdoor space. A sign that this area is well-suited for permanent cover: the Beechwood Market folks usually puts up a tent here on market days in New Edinburgh Park.

NECA and CCC are seeking community input on this proposal. The City of Ottawa would be the designer of any construction on its property. However, a sketch and draft plan contributed by Chris Straka is presented here now to help residents understand the proposal. These graphics were generated for the CCC, in consultation with Fieldhouse users. If community sentiment for this proposal remains positive, NECA and CCC will jointly write a letter to Councillor King and City of Ottawa staff requesting an evaluation of this project's feasibility. You can reach Jason at [newedinburgh@outlook.com](mailto:newedinburgh@outlook.com) or Chris at [crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com) with questions or comments.

Jason Tavoularis sits on the NECA Board and represents the Traffic and Safety Committee and Chris Straka is the President of the Crichton Community Council.




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# 50 Years of community building - 1974 to 2024



**By Chris Straka, CCC President**

The Crichton Community Council (CCC) originated in 1974 when the Ottawa Board of Education introduced the Lighthouse Program to several schools “to keep the lights burning and turn school buildings into a resource for the Community”. The former Crichton Street School was a natural site for the program since New Edinburgh did not have a community centre at the time. The program was overseen by a Community Council and served as a mechanism for volunteers to offer extracurricular activities without the direct supervision of teaching staff. Supported by school staff, as well as through the use of the school infrastructure, insurance and janitorial services, the CCC enriched community life.

The initiatives of the CCC enabled New Edinburgh residents, in partnership with the school and City of Ottawa, to respond creatively to changing community needs in the provision of a variety of services. Community recreational programming was

the largest component of the CCC’s mandate. Social events as well as fundraising in support of the school and park were also important efforts, in addition to creating and maintaining an outdoor ice rink in the park through a service agreement with the City of Ottawa.

The Crichton Community Council was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in the Province of Ontario on June 9, 1993. When Crichton Street Public School closed in 1999, the CCC attempted to run programming out of Mackay United Church for a year. Without operational funding from the school board, the volunteer run organization was unable to sustain the programming previously offered.

In 1998 the City of Ottawa constructed the New Edinburgh Park Field House with the financial support of the CCC. A longstanding Use Management Agreement between the City of Ottawa and the CCC enables the organization to direct the use of the Fieldhouse in the interest of New Edinburgh resi-



Photo by Chris Straka

**The annual plant sale attracts many visitors to the Fieldhouse.**

dents. Revenue generated by the CCC from the rental of the Fieldhouse provides sustainable funding for the organization to achieve its goals.

Over the past two decades the CCC has shifted its mandate from the provision of regular recreational programming to its current mandate: to act as the steward of New Edinburgh Park and the Fieldhouse; to activate the Fieldhouse and surrounding public spaces with events or initiatives; and, to build com-

munity by bringing members of the New Edinburgh neighbourhood together in our public spaces.

Join your neighbours at a CCC event in 2024 to celebrate 50 years of community

building in New Edinburgh! Go to <https://www.newedinburgh.ca/events/> for current information about upcoming events. See you at the park!

## Rockcliffe Park Library is gearing up for the 2024 Summer Reading Club!

**By Martha Hodgson**

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

The TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) is Canada’s biggest bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, interests, and abilities. This free club is offered

at more than 2,200 public libraries across Canada, and online. The TDSRC celebrates Canadian authors, illustrators, and stories, and inspires kids to explore the fun of reading their way. This is key to building a lifelong love of reading.

Children are invited to pick up their free TD Summer Reading Club kit at any OPL branch starting June 10, and to join us at the library for free club programs. At Rockcliffe Park branch, our summer 2023 theme is “To the Stars!” With every book read, kids

will help us travel across the universe! In July and August, we will be offering free craft and science programs, and more special surprises! Please check the library website for more information: [biblioot-tawalibrary.ca](http://biblioot-tawalibrary.ca)

We hope to engage all children in our city in the joy of reading this summer, supporting their continuing success at school next year.

*Martha Hodgson is a librarian at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd.*



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# New Edinburgh's journey to a 15-minute neighbourhood:

## Third spaces

Continued from page 1

are not religious, there are often events and community partnerships that you can get involved with at these venues.

### Community centres

No community centres exist in New Edinburgh itself – the closest community centre would be the Lowertown Community Pool, a 20-minute walk through the neigh-

bourhood and across the St. Patrick Bridge. The Rockcliffe Park community centre and library are also nearby, albeit involving more of a 25–30-minute walk from most residents of New Edinburgh.

You can find the Lindenlea Community Centre in neighbouring Lindenlea and the Fieldhouse right in New Edinburgh Park, both of which host fabulous com-

munity events that are often free or low-cost, though some events may be ticketed or require registration, of course. The Fieldhouse is a valuable third space in the heart of New Edinburgh and provides public washrooms for those visiting the park.

### Community resource centres

We have two of these amazing spots serving the neighbourhood not too far away. The Lowertown Community Resource Centre is co-located with the community pool on Cobourg Street across the St. Patrick Bridge. Many services and community events can be found here. The Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre is located in the former Rideau High School building on St. Laurent. This spot boasts many events and programs, including their social innovation hub, the Incubator13 program, where community members are invited to share their expertise and collaborate around different pressing societal challenges. If you're into coffee, they host a community coffee day on the last Friday of each month from January to June (so the last chance to partake is June 28). It's free and open to everyone. If you're into gardening and of a certain age, you can get involved with the 55+ Social Harvest to join some gardening, cooking, and natural crafts. There are many

other events here for all ages, plus you can buy some locally grown microgreens from their Social Harvest program – proceeds go to support other programs. To learn more about these events, contact the Community Resource Centre – the staff there are always helpful.

### Libraries

The Rockcliffe Park Library on Springfield Road is the main library serving the area. Although it is a bit of a walk and not well-served by buses – the Route 6 ends a few blocks away – it's a great place to hang out, find a book, and join in many of their community events such as book talks.

### Parks

There is abundant park and greenspace in New Edinburgh along the river in New Edinburgh Park (also known as Stanley Park). We also get to enjoy proximity to National Capital Commission land along Sussex and Rideau Falls, most of which is open to the public. The Rideau Hall grounds are usually open to promote walking, cycling, and generally being outdoors, with many community events happening onsite. I would say the neighbourhood has hit a homerun with park space in abundance.

As a small neighbourhood, New Edinburgh is served very well by its greenspace, which incentivizes many to put down roots here. The var-

ious community centres and other third spaces nearby provide a wealth of opportunities and community engagement. However, getting to some of these venues can prove difficult for folks with limited mobility. I'd like to see safer bicycle paths along the main arterial veins of the neighbourhood. On this same note, it would be game changing to have new and existing bike paths ploughed throughout the winter – you CAN ride bikes in the winter, but go extra slow, like driving a car.

If there are any other third spaces I have missed, please send me a message through the *NEN* team at NewEdNews@hotmail.com. I also encourage you to share your thoughts on how these third spaces affect our status as a 15-minute neighbourhood and how they help you to feel connected to the community!

*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 with Adventure Canada on sending people to the Canadian Arctic and beyond.*



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# New Edinburgh and the world: Connecting for humanity

By Sharon Nyangweso

*New Edinburgh is home to the 8,000-year-old portage trail used by the Algonquins. In the early 1800s Pinesi led a band of about 264 families as Grand Chief of the Algonquins. His hunting territory was centered at the confluence of the Rideau and Ottawa rivers, a common travel route for many paddlers travelling to the St. Lawrence and southbound to the Gulf of Mexico. Today, it is home to many who may not have used the portage route but come from far and wide to settle on this land we call New Edinburgh. In this series, we hope to tell their stories. If you know any New Ed locals with a global story, please introduce us by email: editor@newedinburgh.ca*

“No man is an island, Entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, A part of the main...” –John Donne

This timeless poem captures the essence of what it means to be part of a global community. In a recent interview for the New Edinburgh series “New Edinburgh and the World,” South African High Commissioner to Canada Rieaz Shaik shared his perspectives on the interconnectedness of humanity and the importance of solidarity, particularly in supporting the Palestinian people.

Shaik, who resides in the charming New Edinburgh neighbourhood of Ottawa, began by addressing the current state of the world. “We live in a time of polycrisis,” he said. “Our shared humanity is being tested by social, ecological, and existential threats. Global warming, rising violence, and the erosion of empathy are all signs that we need to reconnect with one another.”

This call to action resonated deeply in the close-knit community of New Edinburgh, known for its historic homes and vibrant local culture. Shaik’s connection to the area is both personal and professional, as his Canadian wife and children have roots here. He emphasized that his experience in Canada has been largely positive, reflecting on the country’s historical support for South Africa during its struggle against apartheid.

However, Shaik did not shy away from discussing the challenges he observed

upon his arrival, notably during the anti-mandate protests in downtown Ottawa in the winter of 2022. These events revealed a more conservative and fragmented side of Canada, contrasting with the progressive image many hold. He expressed concern over the nation’s struggles with Indigenous reconciliation and the need for a more inclusive dialogue.

Central to the conversation was Shaik’s unwavering support for the Palestinian people. “Why does the Palestinian question matter so much?” he asked. “Because every man’s death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind,” echoing Donne’s profound words. Shaik drew parallels between the injustices faced by Palestinians and historical atrocities, urging listeners to recognize their complicity through silence.

He referenced the poet Rumi, saying: “Beyond the ideas of right-doing and wrongdoing, there is a field. I’ll meet you there.” This metaphorical field represents a space where humanity can transcend conflicts and focus on empathy and action. “We see genocide livestreamed. Does it not move our hearts?”



Photo by Sharon Nyangweso

High Commissioner, Rieaz Shaik at his home - the South African residence in New Edinburgh.

This must end.”

For Shaik, and by extension South Africa, speaking out against Israel’s actions is a moral imperative. “South Africa cannot keep quiet. We must speak up, so we never have to answer the question, ‘Where were you?’”

He lamented the global trend towards commodification and disconnection, likening humanity’s current path to a boiling frog scenario – slowly dying without real-

izing the danger. The high commissioner linked these issues back to the importance of community, urging New Edinburgh residents and readers alike to continue fostering strong connections with their neighbours.

He pointed to local businesses and social spaces, like Dhruvees Restaurant, the Clocktower Pub and others, as potential hubs for community building. “We need to live life louder, express

happiness, and engage more deeply with one another, and dance on the street,” he urged.

In reflecting on his role, Shaik saw his mission as contributing to the political consciousness, urging Canadians to think differently about global challenges. He believed in planting seeds for future generations, even if he might not sit under the trees that grow from them. “Each of us must plant those seeds, not for our immediate benefit, but for the well-being of future generations.”

Shaik’s message was clear: recognizing our interconnectedness is crucial for addressing the world’s crises. By standing with oppressed peoples, fostering local community ties, and promoting empathy, we can collectively create a more just and humane world. As residents of New Edinburgh, and as global citizens, we are all part of this effort. Let us heed John Donne’s timeless reminder that every tolling bell, every cry for justice, concerns us all.

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

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# Another Tale of Two Cities

By Paul McConnell

I've been fortunate to visit Nice, France several times over the last 20 years. Before visiting again this March, I was intrigued by an article in the February issue of *NEN* by Karen Squires – "Tale of Two Countries" – comparing aspects of life in France and Canada. It made me look at my own experiences in Nice and in Ottawa. I don't pretend this is a rigorous scientific analysis, but I've looked at certain topics that municipal governments in both cities have identified as priorities and which lend themselves to ready comparison, primarily the environment and transportation.

There are some similarities between these two cities: Both have a population of about one million residents; tourism is big part of their economies (albeit day trips and short stopovers for Ottawa, longer stays in Nice); both are home to UNESCO World Heritage Sites; and both have made conspicuous investments in public transit. So, watching them over the last 20 years, how has each city progressed?



Photo by Paul McConnell

**Example of well-run city tram in Nice's downtown core servicing the greater area.**

## Access to the world

Let me start at our arrival point in Nice: its international airport. Yes, Ottawa also has a neat, functional "international" airport but that's where the similarity ends. While Ottawa still awaits the return of the direct flights it lost during COVID, especially to Europe, Nice has become the busiest airport in France outside of Paris, boasting about 100 destinations in 40 countries. (Although, to be fair, it also serves adjacent

communities like Cannes and Monaco.) Ironically, although abandoned by Air Canada, we can now enjoy direct flights to Paris from Ottawa courtesy of Air France.

## Public transit that works

Both cities have invested heavily in public transit — the LRT in Ottawa, and the Tramway in Nice. Both use equipment from the same manufacturer: Alstom. But their systems couldn't be more different. Nice operates a superb, efficient, affordable,

and popular tram network. It was designed to serve the places people want to go: the main hospital, the airport, government offices, the main sports stadium, and the residential suburbs. It also travels along, or under, the major (car-free) shopping streets — think Rideau, Bank, and Carling. The latest model of tram has batteries recharged via a ground-level pick-up during station stops instead of requiring overhead wires. And all trams can negotiate corners without bits falling off.

In contrast, the amazingly unreliable Ottawa network, which had a confused gestation, seems designed to serve the needs of pre-COVID commuters from the sub-

and introducing planters of flowers and shrubs, making streetscapes quieter, cleaner, and more pleasant. Nice also maintains one of Europe's largest greenhouses. True, Nice doesn't have to contend with Ottawa's snow and freezing temperatures, but it does need to invest in irrigation systems and is willing to employ plenty of staff for seasonal plantings and maintenance. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Both cities are creating more bike lanes. Ottawa's retrofitted downtown routes are often close to traffic and can be intimidating. In contrast, the new downtown network of bike lanes in Nice is quite inviting. Substantial stone curbs provide physical sepa-



Photo by Paul McConnell

**Examples of good City planning including trees and wide bike lanes in downtown Nice.**

urbs, and follows a route of least resistance, often along existing railway rights-of-way, which is not necessarily where prospective passengers want to go. Troubled by its design problems, it has yet to achieve its full potential.

## Action on the environment

Both cities have committed resources to protecting and improving the environment, over and above their public transit projects. In recent years, Ottawa has focused on stormwater runoff, as New Edinburgh residents know only too well from the massive construction project in New Edinburgh Park. Nice seems to focus on quality of life and "greening" of the city. Perhaps that's because its population includes a higher percentage of apartment dwellers. Nice has embarked on a major program of creating parks, planting trees,

ration of bikes from traffic. But more impressive is the recent introduction of trees, shrubs, and planters to create a screen for cyclists and pedestrians.

## Promoting heritage

An important aspect of environmental stewardship is preservation of historic buildings, distinctive neighbourhoods, and special sites. Promoting heritage helps establish a sense of identity and character in a place and can set it apart from other towns and cities. In Nice, the streetscapes of the old town and the Belle Époque boulevards — the basis of Nice's World Heritage status — are protected and celebrated. The city publishes free illustrated pamphlets and offers guided tours that interpret the history and significance of various buildings and neighbourhoods.



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Photo by Paull McConnell

**Bike lane in downtown Nice amid green space.**

In contrast, Ottawa’s heritage landmarks and historic neighbourhoods seem under constant threat from influential developers. Despite familiar “Main Street” promises, development in Ottawa often replaces the vibrant local street scene. Shouldn’t there be some legal penalty to prevent this and help protect the vitality of the surrounding community?

Shopping in Nice is a joy. Street markets are common, there are several major supermarkets competing, and they also maintain mini outlets

within walking distance in every neighbourhood. There are lots of small independent stores, too: bakery, tailor, hardware, etc. With the increase in population density along Beechwood and Vanier Parkway, independent stores like these should be more viable, if rents permitted.

We’ve never encountered any safety issues during our visits to Nice. There are a few non-aggressive panhandlers, but major crimes such as murders or shootings are rare. Nice would not tolerate any threat to its tourism.

Most striking is the conspicuous presence of armed police strolling by on foot patrols. The relaxed atmosphere of Nice’s popular Old Town contrasts with the increasingly unwelcoming ByWard Market (whose police presence is based in the Rideau Centre).

Nice is not perfect – far from it. The problems of 20th-century urban sprawl are very evident: strikes happen, street litter can be a problem, French laissez-faire extends to poop-scooping, and so on. But they do get a lot of things right.

**Lessons for Ottawa**

Nice and Ottawa show some interesting parallels with their intentions, but a big difference in implementation. There are always competing spending priorities, but quality of life should be paramount in a city like Ottawa. Realistically, what could Ottawa do at this point? Our version of LRT has already left the station, so not much can be done about that. But greening of the city is still doable. We can make urban bike lanes safer and more inviting. Ottawa already has a few planters for flowers and shrubs, and occasionally



Photo by Paul McConnell

**Tram in downtown Nice amid Green space.**

plants new trees along streets: can we have more, please, for the greening of Beechwood, St Patrick, and King Edward? Let’s take better advantage of Ottawa’s impressive natural resources, especially our waterways – the Tavern on the Falls and renovated River House show the potential. Why not a new path along the south side of the Ottawa River from the Rideau Falls to the locks? Can we restart the dialogue for a serious greenhouse in Ottawa, a year-round attraction and a haven in winter? And it’s not too late to recognize, protect, and

promote the remarkable heritage that still can be found in Ottawa and helps make this city unique.

It feels as if Ottawa has shown good intentions but misses opportunities to deliver. The progress in Nice suggests that so much more could be done in Ottawa to enhance the quality of life if there’s a clear vision and a firm commitment to make it happen.

*Paul McConnell lives on River Lane with his wife Bev and served on the NECA board in past years.*

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# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

For the Birds columnist Jane Heintzman is on the road this spring, but the column will be back in the NEN's October 2024 edition, after a fulsome summer of birding. Local birders can look forward to the ongoing influx of tuneful and colourful species, ranging from warblers to vireos, sparrows, kinglets, orioles, and many more. For tips on the bird species in our area over summer, and on the prime birding locations in and around Ottawa, visit [ofnc.ca/programs/birding-in-the-ottawa-area](http://ofnc.ca/programs/birding-in-the-ottawa-area).

the Rideau River in Stanley Park and looks forward to encountering many more in the course of the summer.



Photo by David Howe  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak.**



Photo by David Howe  
**Red Winged Blackbird.**



Photo by David Howe  
**Barn Swallow.**



Photo by David Howe  
**Scarlet Tanager.**



Photo by David Howe  
**Baltimore Oriole fledgling.**



Photo by David Howe  
**Yellow Warbler.**

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# Oh, the places your bike will take you!

Continued from page 1

to consider on any bike: fenders and chain guards, lights (USB chargeable or Dynamo powered), good all-season tires, and if biking in cold weather, Pogies or Bar Mitts (essential for keeping hands toasty). Dutch and Dutch-style bikes can be a bit pricey, but they offer almost all these features and excellent durability. Likewise, folding bikes like my Brompton provide superior convenience when travelling and can be popped in the trunk of a taxi or Uber, or brought on the train or bus in a pinch.



Photo courtesy Sean Flynn

Sean with his sons riding their Dutch bicycle built for 3 in NYC.

Now, let's talk about the big e-bike in the room. This has been an absolute game changer for many. There are two kinds of e-bikes: ones with pedal assist, and ones with a full throttle. The latter is essentially a mini electric motorbike, whereas the former operates like a classic bicycle, except that it provides an additional power boost when pedalling. Most e-bikes sold in stores must adhere to the Ministry of Transportation regulations of

having a maximum assisted speed of no greater than 32 km/h. It's not impossible to find used e-bikes with custom adjustments to the motor allowing them to exceed this speed. As e-bikes are heavier and often faster than standard bikes, they are liable to cause greater injury to the cyclist and anyone else involved in a collision. It's also important to note that only pedal-assisted e-bikes are allowed

on the National Capital Commission, Gatineau, and Ottawa Multi-Use Paths. They must also adhere to the top speed of 20 km/h – just like every other path user.

*If you have any other cycling questions, you can find Sean Flynn on Twitter or Instagram at the handle @sfyfo or in real life walking, running, and riding around the neighbourhood on any given day of the year!*



Photo courtesy Sean Flynn

Sean hoisting his Brompton folding bike after Meech Lake Triathlon.

## Local author Alan Bowker writes about locals' experiences of World War I

By Eleanor Dunn

Retired diplomat Dr. Alan Bowker is a historian, long-time member of MacKay United Church, sits on the Church Council, and chairs the Property Committee. In addition to this long list of accomplishments, he can now add published author. Alan has recently released *A Church At War: MacKay Presbyterian Church, New Edinburgh and the First World War*.

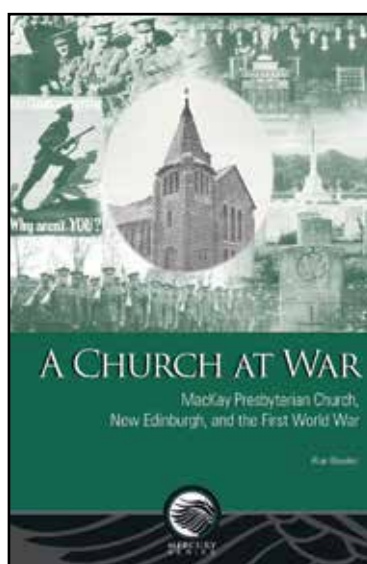
If you're a member of MacKay's congregation, or have attended a function in the church, you've probably noticed the bronze plaques which adorn the walls of the Sanctuary. This ornamentation is a standard feature in most historic churches. These plaques feature lists of names, mostly men, though occasionally a woman's name is included. These are memorials, dedicated to members of the church's congregation who gave their lives in the two World Wars of the 20th century.

Who were these people and

what made them want to join the fight across the ocean?

Alan Bowker answers this question in his book, examining with a historian's lens the lives of the 19 men, all members of MacKay's congregation who fell in the First World War: "some as heroes in desperate battles, others in tragically random circumstances or from illness, several who have no known grave." Each gets a chapter in the book, biographical in nature, detailing their early years growing up in the Burgh: family life, their parents, siblings, wives, and children, and how their survivors carried on after the war ended.

The book focuses on the years 1914–1918 – a period where MacKay was a Presbyterian church and the British Empire was considered "the apogee of Christian civilization." It's easy to see how young men, brought up in that tradition, would so quickly volunteer, believing that in defending Canada and the Empire, they were "fight-



ing for truth and righteousness and for the glory of God."

In today's secular society, some may find it hard to believe Christian belief could hold such sway in society. Canada was not yet fully independent, and the Canadian government frequently had to go cap in hand to the British Privy Council for permission to enact various pieces of legislation. Women did not have the vote. And leaders

of the various denominations were frequently called upon by governments to express views or consult on matters of importance.

New Edinburgh was very much a working-class area during that period, although the Governor General was a close neighbour. Alan Bowker brings the community to life in this well-researched book which includes detailed footnotes and bibliography, and a plethora of historic photographs. It's a wonderful book and a pleasure to read. Run, don't walk because this excellent read is now available at Books on Beechwood.

*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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# “Takin’ Care of Business” in the neighbourhood

By Karen Squires

In the past decade, we’ve heard much about the 15-minute neighbourhood concept globally and it’s amazing how some places thrive while others struggle. We’d love to see our main street thrive and offer residents and visitors a place they can shop, dine, relax, and enjoy the streetscape. This means many changes are needed, like improving the green canopy. Evidently, green canopy is on the list of “to-dos” according to the many reports outlined in ongoing *NEN* content, plus 20 years of ongoing consultation (see the front-page article in the April edition online at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) titled “Beechwood Avenue study guides Secondary Plan”).

As residents, what else can we do to support our local businesses and ensure they continue to operate, evolve, and support what folks in the neighbourhood need? Give these hardworking enterprises our business! It was great to see Dhruvees take the leap and open a new, all-day diner (Café by Dhruvees) at the previous Ministry of Coffee location. I’ve heard residents say they’d missed an all-day diner service previously on Beechwood – we now have one again!

My husband and I have also been transitioning services we’d used elsewhere to businesses located here in the neighbourhood. I started with



Photo by Karen Squires

After working at Rassi for many years, Ray El Hage became owner about a decade ago and works with his team Grace and Elie who have also been with the salon for many years.

Rassi Coiffure about eight years ago because I wanted to find a hair salon using good quality products. I was pleased with the services and products offered by Ray El Hage and the team at Rassi so we made the switch! When Purrdy Paws opened their dog grooming services on Beechwood, it was wonderful to have this service back on Beechwood, so we switched again to support local and love what they offer – so does our dog Coco. Win, win, win!

However, the most recent switch took a little more time as we’d been seeing the same dentist on Queen Street for many years. We knew what to expect there so we hesitated to switch. I’m relieved that we’ve now finally moved over to Dr. Luc DuCharme on Beechwood! We are thrilled by the care and service we’ve both received and will never look back on that decision. Recently when my husband Richard started to have serious back issues requiring physiotherapy, there were

many locations to consider. Based on a recommendation from a neighbour, we’ve rediscovered a long-time local business: PTI Physiotherapy (Physical Therapy Institute). Pamela Siekierski has relocated her business to her home at Genest Street, operating three days per week, Tuesday through Thursday. Richard badly needed some realignment, advice, and support from an experienced physiotherapist and continues to be very pleased with the results after just two visits!

These are just a few examples I wanted to share with you for our summer edition, but I’d be curious to know if you’ve found any new “go-to” services in the neighbourhood which you’d like to share with our readers.

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



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## Next steps for 255 MacKay



Heritage and Development Committee - Comité Patrimoine et Développement



Photo by Louise Imbeault

255 MacKay St.

### By Gail McEachern

In the June 2023 issue of the *New Edinburgh News*, we reviewed the various attempts to revitalize the 1894 Manse which had historically been the primary residence for the MacKay United Church's ministers and their families. In 2011 it was purchased by Nectar as the New Edinburgh Community & Arts Centre, which offered a variety of artistic, recreational, and cultural programs to the community. In 2017, it became evident that it was not financially feasible to continue providing activities with rising operational costs.

The property was then sold to Routeburn Urban Developments which proposed to transform the house into two semi-detached residential dwellings with the footprint of the original building remaining intact. This proposal was endorsed by New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) and the City's heritage staff, but the project did not come to fruition due to COVID-caused economic constraints. The property subsequently went back on the market.

It was purchased in 2021 by a new owner whose representatives proposed a rede-

velopment plan which would have resulted in the original Manse being enveloped by a trio of three-storey additions. The resulting structure was to contain 26 apartments. This proposal was not supported by NECA and the City's heritage staff. The owner then reconfigured the interior of the house to create four furnished rental apartments.

Faced with increasing maintenance costs and the need for structural repairs to the house, the owner requested that he be permitted to subdivide the property to create a new lot on Avon Lane for the construction of a residential home. The idea was that the proceeds from the sale of that lot would help offset the cost of repairs to the Manse. Initially, NECA and members of the City's *Heritage Planning Branch* were reluctant to endorse the request due to the risk of setting a precedent for future development on the lanes. New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation District Plan (Section 8.5.6.5) states that: "The remaining through lots from MacKay, Stanley and Crichton Streets are an important heritage attribute in the Heritage Conservation District (HCD). The sever-

ance of these lots to create new lots on the lanes will not be permitted."

A Heritage Impact Statement prepared by Juxta Architects offered the following: "The rationale for this clause is clear. If the through lots were to be permitted to be subdivided, the historic patterns of development, the population density and the aesthetic characteristic of the lanes would be dramatically altered, and the negative impacts would threaten the integrity of the Heritage Conservation District." However, the report points out that the "green and naturalistic characteristics of the laneways, which are important to protect, are not present in this segment of Avon Lane. What exists is a visual anomaly. The site is dominated by a deteriorating garage, a chain link fence and two non-residential buildings, the Mackay United Church's Memorial Hall and the brick Crichton School, now the School of Dance.

Because of this unique situation, NECA and the city's Heritage Planning Staff agreed to support the proposed severance. NECA's approval as stated at the Committee of Adjustment hearing on April 17 was contingent upon: (1) No new parking spaces will be created in front of 255 MacKay to replace those which will be lost due to the severance; and (2) Approval of the severance is specific to this site and does not apply to the remaining through lots. Any application for new construction on the newly severed lot will require an application to be filed under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and will have to adhere to the policies and guidelines in the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation plan relating to siting, massing and materials when constructing a new building.

Hopefully, we will eventually see a positive transformation: from the current bleak landscape into an appropriate residence which reflects the more attractive aspects of Avon Lane.

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

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# New Edinburgh neighbourhood emblem: Design in progress

By Kostyantyn Frolov

In June 2023 it was reported in *NEN* that the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) had made the decision to redesign the neighbourhood emblem seen on banners around the neighbourhood. This came from a community engagement exercise where we heard from members of the community that they understood the need for a visual symbol of our neighbourhood, both for advocacy as well as community-building purposes, but the current emblem was hard to relate to.

In the summer of 2023, we set out to design an emblem that attempted to balance (1) the history of the land, (2) the built heritage, and (3) would be meaningful to both the current and future generations.

Our NECA President, Ray Boomgaardt, shared with you in the April 2024 edition that we have engaged an acclaimed artist, Simon Brascoupé, to redesign our neighbourhood emblem. You may have seen Simon's work

at several LRT stations, in front of City Hall, or on the Kichi Sibi Trails markers around our neighbourhood. Simon understands the challenges of inner urban neighbourhoods such as ours.

We have now met with Simon on several occasions to share what makes our neighbourhood special. We have told him what we know about its history, and the types of events that are regularly organized within our neighbourhood. We have also taken him on a guided tour of our greenspace and residential streets.

While we give time for Simon's creative process, we are continuing to seek input from the community. We are eager to hear from you on a few questions: What comes to mind when you think of New Edinburgh, what would you like to see reflected in the new emblem, and what does this neighbourhood mean to you? Please email [editor@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca) with your thoughts.

*Kostyantyn Frolov sits on the NECA board.*



NECA and CCC Board members provide guided tour of the park and 'hood (from left) Karen Squires, Sarah Anson Cartwright, Gail McEachern, Simon Brascoupé, Chris Straka, Kostyantyn Frolov.

*Photo by Carol Brascoupé*

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# Emotional misery to emotional mastery

By Sophia Wood  
Massicotte

Emotions are powerful forces in our lives. They are the drivers of the actions we take and can either contribute to our own healing or suffering.

The better we are at regulating and processing our emotions, the more control we have over the decisions we make, and the more likely we are to achieve and attract the things we truly want into our lives.

So why is it important to understand, regulate and process your emotions? Let's explore through a yogic lens.

## The Body-Mind Connection

All of us have feelings, whether anger, joy, sadness, or any other feeling natural to the human experience.

What's unique to humans, though, is we often place the feeling and its accompanying experience in the scrapbooks of our memories. When feelings move from the present moment into the space of memory, emotion is born.

Instead of being able to live in the moment – letting the experience and the feelings move through us – we constantly (and usually unconsciously) reference the old scrapbook “images” from the past. The person who hurt us is gone, the experience is long over, but we're still imprisoned by the emotion.

How do emotions rise? Simply put, the emotion is born from stimuli in our external environment, out of which the mind creates a thought, which then generates a feeling in the body, and expresses itself as an emotion.

Suffering arises when we avoid or turn away from uncomfortable or painful emotions. Freedom comes when we learn how to be present and fully feel our emotions without holding onto them or pushing them away. This is when we get to experience the full range of being human in all its glory.

## Breathe In, Breathe Out

Healing comes from our ability to allow the flow of energy to move through us unobstructed, fully present to the sensations in our body and anchored in our heart.

Every time we push down our feelings, rather than letting them flow, we create emotional residue. Every time we feel trapped and helpless in the face of trauma, or are unsupported in the expression of our feelings, emotional energy is trapped and cannot be discharged.

Once we have the necessary support to process what happened, we no longer need to distract ourselves to numb the pain we've never been able or willing to face.

When we are caught in a heavy emotion, our nervous system goes into fight-flight-freeze. Our breathing gets shallow, pulse rises, and blood is diverted to our limbs so that we can run away from a perceived threat in our environment.

Our breath is our number one resource to bringing ourselves back into a state of equanimity, a state in which we can process our emotions and see them for what they are: sensations in our body, rising and falling. The easiest practice is to place one hand on our heart and one on our belly and take three deep belly breaths.

## Liberation Through Movement

Sometimes, breathing is not enough to bring ourselves back into homeostasis. This is when movement becomes our medicine. When we bend and stretch through yoga asana, we confront our emotions and revisit our scrapbook memories.

During yoga asana, the physical body, known as the *anamaya kosha*, and the energy body realign. In that moment of wholeness, we move forward by living in the present. If, instead, we hold onto the past, the different levels of our body (physical and energetic) can't line up and we create disharmony, stress, and potentially, disease.

Ecstatic dance or intuitive movement is also a beautiful practice (and my favourite) to release blocked and stagnant energy. When we combine breath, sound, and movement and allow ourselves to be moved to the rhythm of our own heart, we express our truth, pain, grief, and anger without the need for words.

We allow the body to do the talking.

## Observing As Witness

While the feelings may be painful or uncomfortable, and the urge is to turn away, or try to “fix” (i.e., stop) the problem, witnessing oneself is a chance for wholeness. I call being able to stay with ourselves and with whatever is arising in the moment as “holding space.”

Holding space means we accept how we feel. It means we see the truth of our own pain and don't abandon ourselves during it.

This kind of presence weaves together the mind and the body, watching and experiencing simultaneously. The essence of this rewiring is to be patient and compassionate with our self.

The more we can honour and allow those experiences and feelings, the more we hold space for and witness them, the easier it is for us to find happiness and freedom, and work with our emotions instead of having them work against us.

*Sophia Wood Massicotte is a certified Yoga Teacher, Life Coach and Ayurveda Practitioner. She is the founder of The Art of Being Well, a Holistic Health Hub which offers her the opportunity to share transformative programs, workshops, one-on-ones, women's circles, and ecstatic dances for women who are ready to explore the fullest expression of their feminine essence. You can visit her website at theartofbeingwell.org or email her directly for questions at sophia@theartofbeingwell.org*

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# This September, join the New Edinburgh Community Choir

By Isobel Bisby

It was ten years ago now that the New Edinburgh Community Choir (formally Nectar Community Choir) began singing once a week, and we're still going strong. If you wander past the MacKay United Memorial Hall on Monday evenings, you might hear us singing our hearts out! We welcome everyone: beginners and experienced musicians alike! You can even try us out on a one-time basis. The repertoire is varied: folk, pop, gospel, spiritual, and much more. We

have three 10-week sessions, in the fall, spring, and summer, and share our music with family, friends, and neighbours at informal recitals in winter and summer. We encourage you to contact us at [neuechoir@gmail.com](mailto:neuechoir@gmail.com) if you are interested and would like more information.

Here are some comments from this year's choir members:

"I find that singing is the best way to lift your mood, especially when it is with a group of friendly choristers, and an encouraging music

director, as I have found in the New Edinburgh Community Choir. Never any pressure, just lots of enjoyment!"

"Singing with the New Edinburgh Choir is always a delightful pleasure that I look forward to every Monday night. The Director, Joe MacDonald, does a wonderful job of engaging, challenging, and encouraging each choir member."

"For me, choir night is the best night of the week. It's lovely to sing in a non-stressful environment with friendly people who are there

for the joy of it all. Our leader is extremely talented and patient. The music he selects is eclectic, so there is something for everyone. Do think about joining the NEC – there is beautiful music to be sung, and there are new friends to be made!"

"I really enjoy our choir practices. I go home humming every Monday night."

"I joined the New Edinburgh Community Choir a couple of months ago with no previous singing experience except for when I sang in a church choir as a child. My

voice has changed over the decades, and I can no longer be a soprano but am finding my way as an alto. It's a very friendly, relaxed group and I feel comfortable and welcomed. The choir master is terrific. He's funny and quite patient. I really look forward to Monday evenings!"

*Isobel Bisby has lived in the New Edinburgh Community for 25 years. Creating opportunities for community gatherings has always been one of her passions, and the choir is the best!*

## In Memoriam: Hugh Robertson

The *NEN* team is saddened to report that local environmentalist and respected educator Hugh Robertson died in early March 2024 at the age of 85. He will be sorely missed by his wife Jo-Ann, their sons Mark and Justin (Pratima), his much-loved grandchildren Uma and Zubin, and his extended family members in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Australia, and the U.K.

Hugh was well known in our community, and in his own Manor Park neighbourhood, for his tireless efforts to "walk the talk" of environmental stewardship, both in the rigorous conservation practices of his own household, and in his eloquent articles on climate change and global threats to the environment, many of which appeared in the *NEN* in the

early 2000s.

The *NEN's* October 2005 edition chronicled the extraordinary suite of waste reduction and energy and water conservation measures which Hugh and his wife Jo-Ann introduced in their Cardinal Glen home, inspired by Canada's commitments made under the Kyoto Accord. Through stringent application the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse,



and Recycle – the Robertsons succeeded in reducing their household garbage to just two bags (one kitchen-sized) between April 2000 and January 2004, an impressive feat for which they received an award from the City of Ottawa.

For close to three decades, Hugh was a widely respected teacher of humanities at Ashbury College, and is fondly


remembered by many of his former students. Among the latter is Sean McAdam, founder of Landlab, an eco-friendly development company which created Hendricks Farm. The Farm is a model community in Chelsea, QC, reflecting a commitment to building on a human scale, with sensitivity to the natural environment.

In addition to his prolific essays on the environment, Hugh wrote a number of educational books, notably *The Research Essay*, which was swiftly adopted in curricula throughout the country as a template for students.

A celebration of Hugh's life was held April 28, 2024 in the Ashbury College Chapel. The family welcomes memorial donations to Environmental Defence, OrKidstra, and the Shepherds of Good Hope.



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# Art Lending of Ottawa: A celebration of local talent and creativity

**By Sarah Bradfield**

Celebrate local art with Art Lending of Ottawa (ALO) at their vibrant showcase on Saturday, June 22, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre. Since its establishment in 1970, ALO has been dedicated to supporting local artists by making original art accessible and affordable through innovative rental, lease-to-purchase, and sales options.

This event is an excellent opportunity to support local talent in an affordable, flexible setting. Attendees can enjoy enhancing their spaces with original art, networking with artists and enthusiasts, and even starting their own collections with ALO's "try-before-you-buy" option. The ALO model provides the flexibility to enjoy art without a full commitment to purchase: ideal for both homes and offices.

ALO's cooperative approach allows local artists to become members through

a jurying process, ensuring all artworks are high quality. This model also offers significant benefits to businesses, including tax advantages for office art rentals, which can enhance workplace aesthetics and boost productivity. ALO provides art staging services for home sales, leveraging art to increase property value and buyer interest.

ALO's diverse collection includes various media including acrylics, oils, watercolors, mixed media, woodworking, mosaics, and photography. There's something for everyone.

ALO member Doreen Dyet is a well-known artist based in the Ottawa area who began her artistic journey in the 1990s. Following her retirement, Dyet devoted herself fully to the arts, both by painting full-time and serving on the executive boards of various art organizations. Her art, inspired by nature and her international travels, typically features landscapes and floral subjects. These pieces



Piltvice Falls by Doreen Dyet

are often painted in oil on canvas, derived from her own photographs and other references, showcasing a semi-representational, colorful, and vibrant style.

Christine Osborne, a self-taught artist and life-long resident of Ottawa, began her artistic career 15 years ago while caring for her young children at home. Starting

with drawing and illustration, she later ventured into acrylic painting, drawing inspiration from Ottawa's local scenery and wildlife. Her realistic art style beautifully captures the everyday beauty of her surroundings.

Christine has been actively involved in the local art community, participating in events across the city. Her works have been exhibited at several notable venues, including the Art House Cafe, Atomic Rooster, and the Electric Street Art Gallery.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore and purchase unique artworks at ALO's upcoming art show on June 22, which also features door prizes and is accessible with ample parking and wheelchair access. This event promises to be a celebration of creativity and community spirit, showcasing the rich artistic talent within Ottawa.

*Sarah Bradfield is an acrylic landscape artist from Ottawa.*

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## Burgh director premieres new work at Ottawa Fringe Festival



By William Beddoe

A savagely funny satirical comedy about bureaucratic obfuscation in the face of climate catastrophe. An explosive meditation on oil addiction, and one woman's deeply personal journey to awareness of the existential forces driving others' lives – all in under an hour. It could only happen at the Ottawa Fringe Festival!

Two years ago, at the Fringe, I had the wonderful experience of working with Ottawa playwright Laurie Fyffe (whose *Beowulf in Afghanistan* will feature in Great Canadian Theatre Company's 2024–25 season). I was directing Chekhov's early farce, *The Proposal* and Laurie created a sparkling "sequel," *The Ring*, to

pair with that play. This year, I'm back in the director's chair again with *The White Crocodile: Three short plays* by Laurie Fyffe.

Fringe always presents the opportunity to sample a wide array of theatrical fare, and this triptych of never-before-performed works is, in a sense, the Fringe in microcosm. These three short pieces by a gifted writer are stylistically completely distinct from each other.

In *Dammed*, an expert trying to warn of an impending climate-induced catastrophe runs into bureaucratic denial and patronizing solicitude. After all, we don't want to cause a panic now, do we?

*I Am Oil* features contemporary dance artist – and Lindenlea resident – Chelsea Passmore in a seductive interpretation of our love affair with fossil fuels and the sometimes disastrous consequences.

In *The White Crocodile*, evocative interwoven narratives paint a portrait of one woman – played by three actors – at three different times in her life, and her awakening to the realities of

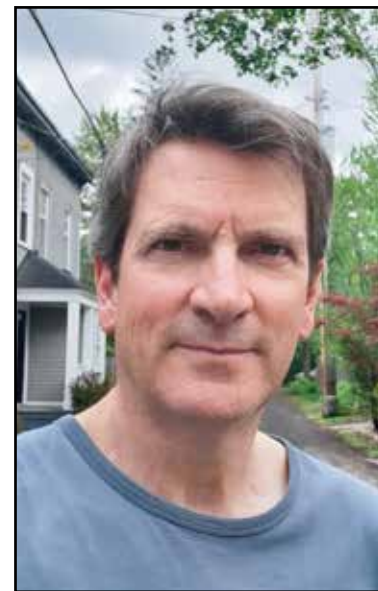


Photo courtesy William Beddoe

**Burgh Film Director William Beddoe on Avon Lane.**

lives touched by war, dislocation, and genocide.

*The White Crocodile: Three short plays* by Laurie Fyffe is being presented by Plan B Productions, as part of the Ottawa Fringe Festival, which runs June 13–23 at Arts Court and the University of Ottawa's LabO. See ottawafringe.com for schedule and ticket information.

William Beddoe is an actor, director, and long-time New Edinburgh resident.

## Jazz in June at MacKay United Church's Memorial Hall

By Eleanor Dunn

There will be a change in venue for this year's edition of the *Jazz in June* concert series at MacKay United Church due to the renewal work of plastering, repainting, and changing lighting fixtures in MacKay's sanctuary. But the concerts aren't moving far: just around the corner to the church's Memorial Hall on Dufferin Road.

There will be cafe-style seating, so attendees at the noon-hour events can bring a lunch if they choose, and some light refreshments may be available. As usual, there is no charge, but we welcome free-will donations to help defray costs.

The series opens on Thursday, June 6 with

Primary Colors taking the stage. This group has just released their debut album, *All Love*, which was recorded in MacKay's sanctuary. They join prominent Ottawa and international artist, guitarist, and composer Roddy Elias whose CD *Moon Over Lake* also used MacKay's sanctuary as a recording studio.

The joint will be jumping on Thursday, June 13 when Rev. Ernie Clow will be at the piano and getting hands clapping and toes tapping with his special brand of gospel music. Rev. Peter Woods will join in on the saxophone.

On Thursday, June 20, Peter Woods will be back on stage with *Wonder*, featuring Kyle Jordan on guitar, Chris Pond on drums, and Rob Grave on percussion. This concert is an official part of the

Ottawa-wide series of shows for Ottawa's pre-International Jazz Festival celebratory week.

No details are available as to the guest musicians on Thursday, June 27, but as Peter Woods is working with the Ottawa International Jazz Festival's artistic director Petr Cancura, attendees at this concert may be treated to a performance by one of the festival's touring artists. We'll just have to wait and see!

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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# EVENTS CALENDAR

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

## Weekly – 132nd Girl Guides Meeting – the Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.

For more information, contact 132nd Ottawa Guide Unit: [girlguides.ca](http://girlguides.ca)

## All summer long – Ottawa Riverkeeper activities at the River House - 501 Sir George Étienne Cartier Parkway

Learn more about our rivers and watershed, watershed biodiversity, and how to protect it – and find activities for your family to participate in. Drop by the learning lab on the lower level when you visit River House for a swim! Explore upcoming events or sign up for the Ottawa Riverkeeper newsletter for a full list of available activities: visit [ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://ottawariverkeeper.ca) or [garderivieredesoutaouais.ca](http://garderivieredesoutaouais.ca)

## JUNE

### June 1 – Jeremy Fisher Concerts at The Fieldhouse 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Jeremy Fisher plays two concerts at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse.

Afternoon Youth Concert: Doors open at 2:00 p.m. The show will run approximately 60 minutes with no intermission. Come sing along! Tickets \$25: [Jeremy-Fisher-afternoon.eventbrite.ca](http://Jeremy-Fisher-afternoon.eventbrite.ca)

Evening Adult Concert: Doors open at 7:00 p.m.; show begins at 8:00 p.m. The show will run 90 minutes with one intermission. Tickets \$35 – [Jeremy-Fisher-evening.eventbrite.ca](http://Jeremy-Fisher-evening.eventbrite.ca)

### June 1 and 2 – Doors Open Ottawa

The full Doors Open Ottawa 2024 list will become available at [Ottawa.ca](http://Ottawa.ca) at the end of May – check it out for details on the many locations you can visit this year!

### June 1 to October 26 – Repeats every Saturday – Beechwood Market – New Edinburgh Park, 203 Stanley Ave – 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Enjoy live music and the kids' play park! Washroom facilities, bike racks, and plenty of street parking available. There will be some returning vendors as well as new faces; not all vendors begin on day one, but you'll see them soon enough. July 27: please join us for a corn roast with MPP Lucille Collard and her team from 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

### June 5 - Repeats every-Wednesday – Yoga at the Fieldhouse (CCC) – 7:00–8:30 p.m. and Sundays 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Unite breath and movement through an asana practice. Join Solmaz Hicks who discovered a profound connection between mind, body, and spirit during the pandemic. Reserve your spot online in advance, for only \$10 per session: [eventbrite.com/e/yoga-flow-with-solmaz-tickets-895673983997](http://eventbrite.com/e/yoga-flow-with-solmaz-tickets-895673983997)

### June 6 - Repeats every Thursday – Drop-in Playgroup – The Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. – 9–11:00 a.m.

Children aged 0–4 and their parents or caregivers are welcome to attend a free drop-in playgroup at the Fieldhouse. This is an informal 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. We are also seeking a volunteer parent/caregiver coordinator so that this community initiative can continue. Their role would be to lead the playgroup by opening and closing the building, setting up the space and communicate with attendees. To volunteer or learn more, please email [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

### June 6, 13, 20 and 27 – Jazz in June at MacKay United Church Memorial Hall

See venue details page 30..

### June 9 – Cargo Bikes & Movie: MOTHERLOAD – Mayfair Theatre – 12 noon

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for fundraiser event. The award-winning documentary film MOTHERLOAD is a part of Let's Bike Month.

### June 10 – The Annual General Meeting of the Crichton Community Council @ 7:30 p.m. in the New Edinburgh Park Field House at 203 Stanley Avenue. The agenda is as follows: (1) Opening Remarks; (2) Approval of the 2023 CCC AGM Minutes; (3) President's Report; (4) Treasurer's Report; (5) Comments by Members of the Board of Directors; (6) Election of Officers; (7) Adjournment. The Annual General Meeting will be followed by a regular meeting of the CCC. All meetings are open to the public.

### June 18 – New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Meeting – The Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. – 7:00 p.m.

All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance – more details at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca). Please note no meetings will take place in July and August.

### June 22, July 21, August 24, and September 21 (THE BIG ONE!) – Kidical Mass Bike Rides

For our kids/parents/for the planet! Ottawa Gatineau meeting locations and routes will vary and will be posted on the website and social media: [bit.ly/kidical-mass-ottawa](http://bit.ly/kidical-mass-ottawa) and [@KidicalMassOttawa](https://www.instagram.com/KidicalMassOttawa). For every ride, meet at 9:30 a.m., depart at 10 a.m. for about an hour. Check out the website [forthekids.ca](http://forthekids.ca) and be part of a community which has come together to tackle the climate emergency by participating in family-friendly activism

activities Come join us this summer!

### June 22 – Art Show – Jim Durrell Recreation Centre, 1265 Walkley Road – 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Come to the Art Lending of Ottawa Summer Show and see the original artwork of more than 30 local artists. Works are available for sale, but also for lease at affordable prices.

### June 25 – 7 p.m. Big Ideas Forum at New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. Seniors and their children / caregivers often face difficult choices when life's circumstances mean changes are needed. What do you do? Who do you turn to for help? Ottawa Panelists: City Councillor, Rawlson King Senior Living Advisor, Sherri Daly CARP-Ottawa VP, Sheryl Bennett-Wilson Free admission, light refreshments

## JULY

### July 1 – Chief Pinesi Day – Stanley Park (near the Fieldhouse)

The third annual Chief Pinesi Day will celebrate the area's Algonquin Anishinaabe history. It's an opportunity for learning and reconciliation. Check out the Events section at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for more details as they are finalized.

### July 8, August 12, September 9 – Crichton Community Council Board of Directors Meetings – The Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. – 7:30–9 p.m.

Scheduled dates for the summer and fall period. Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for more information and updates.

## SEPTEMBER

### September 8 – National Grandparents Day – William Commanda Bridge – 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Connect with the Stephen Lewis Foundation's

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Cross the bridge with Ottawa grandmothers to connect with grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa and Ottawa. Add to the grandmothers' cross-Canada "Clothesline" raising awareness of this important work and affirming support.

### September 17 – NECA Meeting – The Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. – 7:00 p.m.

All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend the board meeting of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance – more details at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for updates on schedules and links.

### September 21 – New Edinburgh Neighbourhood Sale (CCC) – 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Homeowners, condominium groups, religious congregations, businesses, non-profit organizations, and artists are encouraged to hold sales on private property throughout New Edinburgh. The Crichton Community Council (CCC) gratefully collects donations to support neighbourhood events and for the purchase of equipment. We suggest donations of 10 per cent of sale profits earned by neighbourhood vendors. For more information on vendor spaces for rent around the Fieldhouse, see the Events page at [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca)

### September 28–29 – New Edinburgh Studio Tour (NEST)

This self-guided tour takes place annually. Approximately 20 artists, who live or work creatively within New Edinburgh, will be opening their studio doors to the public. Locations of the studios will be scattered throughout New Edinburgh and are all within walking or biking distance. Everyone is welcome and tours are free to the public. Visit [newedinburgh.ca](http://newedinburgh.ca) for more details.



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# Burgh Breezy Bits

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## Congratulations!



**Carol and Ted Bennett** are excited to announce the birth of their first grandchild. **Teddy** was born on April 10th here in Ottawa. Proud parents, **Grace** and **Nick**, are settling into the new routine with Teddy and grand-dogger **Winnie**, who is excited about a baby brother.



To **Katherine Hall** and **Peter Lloyd** for their upcoming wedding now scheduled for July 10th at 50 Sussex overlooking the beautiful Rideau Falls. Friends of the Park and friends in the 'hood would like to wish Katherine and Peter an amazing day at this truly stunning location just minutes from the park – how fitting!! Speaking of fittings, we look forward to seeing photos of the couple and of the dress (which Katherine is making herself) after their big day of celebration. Well done you two!!!

## Welcome!



Please join us in welcoming **John Leefe**, a regular con-

tributor to *New Edinburgh News*, as the new Manager of Distribution for *NEN*. Recently retired from the public service, John has lived with his wife **Meehyun** and son **Christopher** in Lindenlea since 2012 and is actively involved in the community.

Many of you have undoubtedly enjoyed reading some of John's recent articles on Beechwood development and other subject areas (including Indigenous history), so we are thrilled that John has stepped up to take on this important role, among others.

We'd also like to thank John's family (and particularly his son Christopher) who will help out with distribution. There are many volunteers who work tirelessly to get *NEN* circulated to homes and businesses throughout the community. *NEN* is thrilled to have John lead this team of dedicated volunteers as we move into our 25th anniversary in 2026. Thanks so much for accepting this new challenge John and we look forward to working with you in the coming years!



*New Edinburgh News* would also like to welcome **Philippe Marchand** who has put his name forward to support the photography needs of *New Edinburgh News*. Philippe and his partner live in New Edinburgh and during the April edition, Philippe worked with *NEN* Co-editor, Karen Squires, to do some research on business patio sites (for our June edition). He has also taken many photos for the BBB section and will be supporting the paper further in June and beyond. We are thrilled to have Philippe join the team and we look forward to working with him for many years to come. Thanks so much for stepping up Philippe to make our paper stand out even more!

# Another Year, Another Successful Rockcliffe Park Book Sale

By Carolyn Brereton

Congratulations to everyone involved with this year's Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale! The hard work and enthusiastic preparation ensured that the 2024 relaunch of the sale was an outstanding success. We counted more than 3,100 visitors to the community centre over the weekend, and that was only those who came in through the front door on Springfield. A truer estimate might be closer to 3,500.

This year saw the addition of a second tent situated, serendipitously, with the sculpture of the children reading at the entrance, which served to welcome everyone to the Children's Section. The sculpture itself was very popular with many of our younger visitors. Librarians Martha Hodgson and Suzanne White hosted an extremely well-received family story time on the Saturday morning in the library.

Many thanks to local businesses for their support:



Photo by Carolyn Brereton

**Child reading during last year's book sale.**

Epicuria, for keeping volunteers fed during the sale; Metro Beechwood, for donating bags; and Books on Beechwood, Bridgehead, Rassi Coiffure and Movement Union for help with publicity.

Special thanks also to my fellow managers, Jane Newcombe and Kevin Phillips, and my predecessor, Linda McDonald, whose

sound advice, good humour, and seemingly boundless energy made this whole endeavour so much fun! It is a great honour and a pleasure to be a part of such a dynamic community.

No post-sale wrap-up would be complete without acknowledging the importance of all our volunteers, whose herculean efforts make it all possible. It takes a crew of dedicated, tireless volunteers, both on sale days and in the preceding months, to produce such a wonderful event.

We are grateful to everyone who donated books to us – without those donations there would be no sale. Finally, a big thank you to all the shoppers who bought wonderful treasures. Thanks to your support, we will make a generous donation to the library for the purchase of new materials and to help provide innovative programming. As long as this community keeps donating books and buying books, the Spring Book Sale will be a success!

## Farewell



We'd like to express our thanks and appreciation to **Karen Harrison** who has managed distribution for *New Edinburgh News* from her River Lane home for over five years now! She first took on this role after her retirement due to the whole atmosphere, support and appreciation from the community. Karen has managed a team of almost 20 volunteers consistently during this period and she speaks highly about the dedicated volunteers and the businesses along Beechwood

all the way down to Hemlock and St. Laurent Blvd. who have been so supportive. In discussion with Karen, she highlighted that 3500 papers arrive at her home location five times per year, and within 48 hours all papers have left her garage thanks to the dedication of these volunteers who distribute throughout the neighbourhood, including key people who also distribute to businesses along Beechwood. For the past two editions, Karen has been working with John Leefe as she hands over the reins and while she has enjoyed this experience, she feels comforted that this responsibility will be moving into good hands. She also touched on how grateful she is to have been part of such a dedicated group of people, including the *NEN* advisory board and the *NEN* team, who make this paper come to life five times per year. Thanks so much Karen for all the work you've done in the past five years!



Friends of the Park would like to welcome new resident **Patti** who recently moved to the 'hood along with her new rescue **Millie**. Patti told us that Millie is a senior dog and unfortunately had many health issues when she rescued her. However, over the past month or so, we've seen a real spring in Millie's step, in the park, as she settles into her new home as well. It's so encouraging to see her doing much better thanks to Patti's very good care. We'd like to welcome Patti (and Millie) and hope to see you both at more events in the 'hood.