

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

newedinburgh.ca



Photo by Richard Aubry

Holiday Lights Event brings joy to the festive season for all ages.

National heritage designation for New Edinburgh in process

By Ann Davis

A group in New Edinburgh is applying to Parks Canada for this village to be recognized as a national historic site. Several buildings in New Edinburgh have been placed on the register, but the fabric of the village as a whole has not been recognized. The members of this group are Ann Davis, Gail McEachern, and Victoria Solan. Janet Uren contributed to early stages of the project. The National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan introduced a thematic framework as a way of addressing sites in the National Program of Historic Commemoration. The history of Indigenous Peoples, environmental history and diversity are their priorities.



Photo by Ann Davis

247 MacKay St.

third area Parks Canada seeks greater recognition of diverse peoples and their history. This expands to include ethnocultural communities' history and women's history so all Canadians can see themselves at heritage places. The priority recognizes that diversity existed in the past and is now present.

Parks Canada notes that, for them, the history of Indigenous Peoples include all Indigenous experiences, from time immemorial, and also comprises Indigenous Peoples' interactions with non-Indigenous peoples, the state and society. As well, in the context of truth telling and reconciliation, more needs to be done to recognize Indigenous history and to foster dialogue. Secondly, environmental history for Parks Canada includes how humans affect the environment and how the environment affects us. This history includes the story of Canada's waterways, the evolution of urban areas and cultural landscapes. These themes provide opportunities to understand our past and our relationships with the environment. In the

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Living in New Edinburgh without a car: A decade in review

By Jennifer Manning

André and I moved to Ottawa from Montreal a little over 11 years ago with our two young school-age kids. We had been living without a car since our second child was born. When we divorced our car, we had grown tired of (and poor from) the parking tickets we were racking up as a result of unsuccessfully managing a small family and opposite-side street cleaning on multiple days of the week, a Montreal specialty. Though we later purchased a house that had a shared driveway, we couldn't get over the feeling of glee when winter snowstorms rolled through and we didn't have to stay up late or rise early to unbury a car, and then attempt to navigate the

snowbank-filled streets and deal with street parking.

We moved to Ottawa on somewhat of a lark, a story for a different day. The result was that we moved here quite spontaneously without a car. The first year was our "Ottawa Experiment" in which we assessed the viability of our family in this city. The car decision was postponed. We agreed to go without and, if we couldn't manage, we would break down and buy a car later. In Montreal, we had grown comfortable as non-car-owning people. We rented for out-of-town trips, we occasionally used car shares, Communauto (me) and Car2Go (André), but mostly, we walked and biked and, very rarely, skied. I often pulled the kids on a sled to

pre-school – it was fun but also might be a testament to the condition of sidewalk snow removal in the neighbourhood. We loved our reduced environmental impact, but even more, we adored the impact on our budget and our well-being.

After our first year in Vanier, we decided that Ottawa was for us and bought a home on MacKay St. Our kids were in school in Vanier at Trille-des-Bois, a 15-minute walk. André was still regularly commuting to Montreal for work and, from our new house, the train station is less than 10 minutes by taxi. Beechwood offered a grocery store, bank, pharmacy, natural food store, butcher, and options for cafés, dentists, massage, physio and

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Petition to stop the NCC's housing development on Sussex Drive

By Susan McNee

There is marked opposition in the community and across the city to the National Capital Commission (NCC) proposed housing development on Sussex Drive, opposite the French Embassy and 24 Sussex. There is a complete lack of transparency from the NCC as to what this development would entail, planning timelines, and how many rental units they are proposing. It would turn the already impossible traffic and parking situation into a complete nightmare. This is public land that the NCC is proposing for

private use. Furthermore, there is no rapid transit in this area to accommodate a huge influx of residents.

According to the NCC, the prime rationale for their plan is to generate revenue for the NCC by leasing the land to a developer. The question remains: why does the NCC need to start leasing land on the Ceremonial Boulevard to developers?

Worth remembering is the \$3.9 million of taxpayer money the NCC spent renovating O'Brien House in 2018 in Gatineau Park, a property which has sat empty since 2019. Additionally, there are

currently six empty storefronts sitting empty on Sussex Drive in the ByWard Market area, and finally, the Prime Minister's Residence in a state of total disrepair.

During the March 2025 public consultation with members of the New Edinburgh community at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, the NCC announced the proposed development would include 285 underground parking spots; we cannot begin to imagine how many units that would then mean! Thirty per cent of the land proposed for

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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 pm (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 info@newedinburgh.ca.

Our next meetings will take place on **Tuesday January 20, 7 pm** and **February 17, 7 pm**. Meetings are held in person at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave) and may be hybrid at times so please contact info@newedinburgh.ca for details.

Your NECA Representatives 2024-2025

Contact anyone below through info@newedinburgh.ca

Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Ted Bennett **Co-Treasurer**

Ray Boomgaardt **President**

Sean Flynn **Co-Treasurer**

Kostyantyn Frolov

Katherine Lloyd **Friends of the Park**

Karen Squires **Friends of the Park**

Gail McEachern **Heritage & Development**

Jason Tavoularis **Traffic & Safety**

Cindy Parkanyi **Secretary**

Ex officio:

Chris Straka **President, CCC**

Sharon Nyangweso **Editor, New Edinburgh News**
sharon@newedinburgh.ca

Learn more at
newedinburgh.ca

NECA President's Report



Ray Boomgaardt
NECA President

I am writing this shortly after Remembrance Day 2025, eighty years after the end of World War II, when my parents in the Netherlands were liberated from Nazi oppression. Celebrating the lives of those who died in war makes our celebration of community events, like our Annual General Meeting (AGM) seem small and insignificant by comparison.

But our celebration of our community builders: Monique & Dean and John, is important because in celebrating their contributions we are celebrating a free and vibrant community. We cherish the values of freedom and individual worth, values made possible by the battles fought against the Nazis. Let us respond to the irritations and obstacles of life not with anger and resentment, but with a renewed commitment to hope, openness, mutual respect and, yes, love

of neighbour.

We had great attendance at our AGM in October. One of the issues that drew people there was the NCC's proposal to develop Sussex Blocks. At the meeting it was decided that I should write to Tobi Nussbaum, Chairman of the NCC, to request a meeting to discuss the NCC's plans, and widespread community opposition to the NCC's plans. The community wants to be consulted on the terms of any request for proposals for development of the Sussex Blocks that the NCC may issue.

I can report that the NCC has responded, indicating a willingness to meet. At our last board meeting we set up a task force, headed by Sarah Anson-Cartwright, to lead the community's response.

Thinking about the AGM, I would be interested in hearing from you what issues you

think should be given priority.

That takes me to my final thought for this month. Watching developments south of the border, I am astonished and dismayed by the breakdown in civility.

This brings to mind a story. Early on in my career in the foreign service, at my first posting abroad, we communicated by telex with Ottawa. All our messages needed to be retyped by the communicator, who encoded them for transmission to Ottawa. So messages needed to be short. But, the ambassador also emphasized the importance of tone. The person on the receiving end is going to read the message, and then reread it. Maybe several times. So, read it several times before you send it. Is there anything in it that will annoy the recipient? If so, soften it. Couple it with praise. Give your critique a positive spin. You want the recipient to become part of your team, not someone who is working against you.

Another thought. Michele Obama famously said "If they go low, we go high". But here, in New Edinburgh, let's go further. We should not think: "they"; we should think: "us". See you in the neighbourhood!



Image by Gavin Murphy

In a secluded corner of the 'Burgh at Sussex Dr and Stanley St is the CANLOAN Memorial. Made of polished granite and unveiled in 1961, the memorial honours Canadian officers who served with the British Army during World War II. CANLOAN was a volunteer program that loaned Canadian officers to the British army. A total of 673 officers volunteered and suffered 465 casualties, including 128 fatalities.



DEADLINE for the next edition of the *New Edinburgh News*
January 10

editor@newedinburgh.ca

Letter from the Managing Editor



Sharon Nyangweso
Managing Editor

If there's one thing I love about putting this paper together, it's how often someone stops me, on the sidewalk, at the grocery store, sometimes mid-dog walk, to say, "I read something in the NEN and...". What follows is always interesting. Occasionally fiery. Sometimes delightfully unhinged. Always heartfelt.

That's the magic of a community paper: it isn't meant to be read quietly and filed away. It's meant to spark conversations, across driveways, over coffee, in long email chains sent at curious hours. A good issue should give you at least one thing to agree with, one thing to disagree with, and one thing you absolutely must

tell someone about immediately. So consider this your formal invitation to talk back. Disagree with us. Add nuance. Ask questions. Tell us what you've noticed, what you're worried about, or what you think we've missed. The New Edinburgh News is a community paper in the truest sense: it only works if the community is in it, responding to it, arguing with it, and shaping it.

Write us, stop us on the street, or send that passionate, late-night paragraph you drafted in your Notes app. We're here for all of it - and the paper is better when you are too.

A warm welcome to new readers!

New Edinburgh News is expanding its reach to our neighbours in Vanier, Lindenlea and Rockcliffe Park!

We are excited to have your eyes and your words.

Reach out for a chat, an idea or an article submission :
editor@newedinburgh.ca

Letter from the Co-Editor



Karen Squires
Co-Editor

With the holiday season approaching, and the 50th anniversary of *New Edinburgh News* around the corner, we've got a lot to be thankful for. The paper comes together with much effort from the *NEN* team as well as good content from contributors in this community. As we head into our 50th anniversary year, we are happy to share we've increased our distribution substantially to some businesses in the area. In addition, we've expanded our reach into neighbouring areas including Vanier, Lindenlea and Rockcliffe. We try to provide a good balance of content and keep you updated on events but we encourage you to check out our website newedinburgh.ca.

ca/events regularly. We've got information on new businesses under 'Burgh Business Briefs as well as details/updates on well-established businesses. As we are unable to include everyone, I wanted to mention the great service and amazing food in recent weeks I've personally experienced from Muckleston and Brockwell -A Fine Butchery on Beechwood which is ready for your orders this season. And remember that Linden Restaurant offers much more than pizza as we just celebrated a special occasion and sampled their seafood dish and other options on the menu. Then for prepared foods, Epicuria Food Shop and Catering and Jacobsons can lift all occasions (or simple

meals) to a new level.

Otherwise, I'd like to congratulate our BRICK Award winners John Leefe and Monique Goffinet who go above and beyond to make life in the neighbourhood more enjoyable! Plus, lots of great content around heritage and development, traffic and parking, green spaces and what some folks in the 'hood are doing to improve your health and well-being, so keep reading!

We look forward to seeing you around the neighbourhood! We hope you participate in the events at the Fieldhouse, in the park or at the skating rinks, including what's offered at the Governor General's residence. During the winter months, we encourage you to stay active outside and in the community. Please reach out in the new year should you have anything to include in the February edition. We hope you enjoy this holiday edition and wish you and yours the very best for 2026!

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

203 Stanley Ave., Ottawa, ON K1M 1P2

Publication dates: Oct. 1, Dec. 1, Feb. 1, Apr. 1, Jun. 1

Deadlines: Sep. 10, Nov. 10, Jan. 10, Mar. 10, May 10

Publisher: New Edinburgh Community Alliance

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Submission Guidelines: Articles, photos and letters to the editor may be submitted to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, content and legal considerations. Submissions selected for publication will be published in both a hardcopy and an electronic version. Letters to the editor must include the writer's name, address and phone number to be considered for publication.

The *New Edinburgh News* (*NEN*) was established as a non-profit community newspaper in 1976 and is published five times a year by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) and supported by its advertisers. The *New Edinburgh News* is distributed free of charge by volunteers to residents of New Edinburgh as well as to area schools, libraries and local businesses. As of December 2025, our distribution is increasing to include additional businesses and residents in Vanier, Lindenlea and Rockcliffe. Views expressed in the *NEN* are those of contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff, the publisher or the advertisers.

The *New Edinburgh News* is also made available online at the New Edinburgh community website:

newedinburgh.ca

Printed by Transcontinental Printing

ISSN 0703-9042

Letters to the Editors

Just finished (took me two days!) the October 25 edition of the *New Edinburgh News*. Heartiest congrats to the editorial team on this excellent community newspaper. I read it cover to cover and will hang onto it for reference until the next issue is released. I'm a consumer of community newspapers – pick them up whenever I spot them – but have to say, *New Edinburgh News* is a rose among thorns. Look forward to picking up the next issue.

–Ann Blake

John McNee and his team are to be congratulated and thanked for their campaign to make New Edinburgh residents aware of the travesty being planned by the NCC for Sussex Drive. Until the NCC has succeeded in: restoring 24 Sussex and thereby lending some contemporary meaning to the historic Ceremonial Route; attracting and retaining independent retail businesses adjacent to the Market; and somehow bringing life back to the barricaded embassy mausoleums; the NCC should desist from any future attempts at planning for Sussex Drive. Passive green space is good.

–Paul Benoit

Setting the Record Straight on the Sussex Blocks

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to articles published in the October 2025 edition of the *New Edinburgh News* with the intent of clarifying several misperceptions that are

circulating within the community regarding the Sussex Blocks. This is a regrettable situation, and I hope this letter helps to correct the record.

The updated 2025 NCC Core Area Plan, approved by the NCC Board last June, included a change to the permitted uses of the Sussex Blocks, which had been slated in the 2005 plan for future development as institutional uses only, such as the diplomatic missions that have been built further west on Sussex Drive (including the Saudi Arabian Embassy and the Ismaili Imamat). The 2025 plan broadens the permitted future development of those blocks to include mixed-use buildings that could include housing and retail uses. This change reflects several considerations, including the NCC's efforts to contribute to [addressing] Canada's housing crisis, but also offering future uses that are more compatible with the primarily residential nature of the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District.

Beyond housing, the NCC also recognized the public benefit of a more dynamic use of these lands, one that avoids the closed-off nature of modern diplomatic compounds and instead offers retail amenities, generous open and green spaces, and a more seamless integration with the character of New Edinburgh.

To help the public visualize what such a future might look like, our planning team developed a demonstration plan. This was shared at a

community meeting in New Edinburgh in April 2025, by our Vice-President of Capital Planning and other NCC colleagues. The intent was to illustrate the potential character and layout of what mixed-use development could look like – not to present a finalized development proposal.

The NCC also addressed these issues in an opinion piece published in the *Ottawa Citizen* on May 30, 2025, while also noting the history of active buildings on those blocks right up until the 1960s – from a fire station to a hotel. We also clarified that the Core Area Plan is directional in nature, that there is no current proponent for development of the Sussex Blocks, and that any future project would be subject to public consultation.

Further clarification was provided in response to questions from the New Edinburgh Community Alliance on Jul. 8, 2025. The NCC reiterated that any future development would be enacted through a long-term lease – not a sale – and that no decisions have been made regarding housing unit counts or affordability requirements. For reference, the NCC has set a 25 per cent affordable housing target for its lands at LeBreton Flats. Any potential future development on the Sussex Blocks would also respect existing City of Ottawa zoning and the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District.

To be clear: there is no active project currently proposed for the Sussex Blocks.

The area was studied as part of the renewal of the Core Area Sector Plan, a strategic document intended to guide the future evolution of the nine square kilometres at the centre of the nation's capital for the decades to come. Much like a municipal zoning by-law update, the plan sets parameters for future possibilities without committing to a specific timeline or project.

While current advocacy efforts that appear to be opposed to any kind of development of these parcels, whether institutional or mixed-use, may reflect genuine concerns and questions, they contribute to misinforming the public about the intent, scope and impact of the 2025 Core Area Plan changes. For its part, the NCC remains committed to its policy of transparency and community engagement for developments on NCC lands, including any potential future project on the Sussex Blocks site.

–Véronique de Passillé
Vice President, Public, Legal and Corporate Affairs
National Capital Commission

Letter to the Editor on NCC Plans for Sussex Blocks

I am writing regarding the "letter to the editor" from the NCC which the NECA president and NECA board members received, as part of a reply to the NECA president's letter and request to meet with the NCC CEO, Tobi Nussbaum.

Since the NCC's letter says there are "misperceptions...circulating within the community regarding the Sussex Blocks," I wanted to write regarding my front-page article in the October issue of *NEN*.

Regarding the article "Major development on Sussex headed to RFP," please note that the headline is shorter than what I submitted, which had

indicated the RFP stage would be in advance of consultations, according to the NCC. In alignment with the content of the article, I should have written "may head to RFP without advance consultation."

While the NCC's proposal is at the "concept" stage currently, the article does explain the process for it becoming a project and a potential timeline, based on the NCC's process and responses from the NCC. Additionally, *NEN* has always included the descriptive caption by the NCC to explain the illustrative nature of the rendering that has been published in the paper.

My reporting was intended to ensure the community knows that there would not be any consultation until after the RFP process and the choice of a proponent, according to the NCC's response. There is nothing in the NCC's letter to the editor to help us understand the timing of any further public consultation (i.e., before or after a proponent is chosen, and that sequence would matter in terms of any potential impact of the consultations).

Whether it takes a year or several years or longer to become a project – and although there is no proponent now and may not be one for some years to come – the development of the Sussex Blocks by the NCC is now a future possibility.

Given the possible scale and impact of that prospective development (whenever it becomes a formal project and whatever shape it takes), I believe we have served our community well with reporting in *NEN* to give residents the heads-up on this huge potential project by the NCC in New Edinburgh.

–Sarah Anson-Cartwright
Contributor to New Edinburgh News

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

2025 Brick Awards presented to three deserving area residents

By Gail McEachern

The Brick Award was created by NECA in 2009 to recognize the successful restoration of existing buildings in New Edinburgh or new infill developments sensitive to the aesthetic of the surrounding neighbourhood. The original focus was on “bricks and mortar” projects, but it has since expanded to include a separate award for a “Community Builder” — an individual whose generous sharing of their time and talents has enriched our community.

This year, we are honouring three individuals in the Community Builder category: John Leefe, and Monique Goffinet and Dean Miller.

John has made significant contributions to the sustainability of the *New Edinburgh News*, not only as a writer of well-researched, informative articles, but also by managing distribution and developing ad sales, which are critical to the survival of our special paper. He also reaches out to the broader community by engaging in additional volunteer activities with St. Bart’s Church and Meals on Wheels.



Photo by Karen Squires

John Leefe receives award for community builder.

Rich in talent and experience, John is one of those rare people who, when he sees a need, steps up and offers his services.

When Monique and her husband Dean moved into the neighbourhood in 2024, the City-owned traffic-calming area outside their house at the corner of Crichton and Keefer was in a state of neglect. Suckers, saplings, and weeds filled the plot. After consulting with neighbours, Monique

set about transforming the space into an oasis of multi-coloured blooms surrounding a brightly painted chess table and two chairs. Her intent: to improve visibility and safety at the corner where the school bus stops, and to create a beautiful, welcoming neighbourhood gathering space to prompt people of all ages to slow down, smile, and interact. Her efforts have achieved



Photo by Karen Squires

Brick Award recipient Dean Miller and Monique Goffinet.

just that.

The Brick Awards were presented to the recipients at New Edinburgh Community Alliance’s (NECA’s) Annual General Meeting on Oct. 28. The awards plaques are engraved as follows:

John Leefe

Presented in recognition of your dedicated involvement in countless endeavours which have enhanced the quality of life for the New Edinburgh

community.

Monique Goffinet and Dean Miller

Presented in recognition of your achievement in creating a special place of floral beauty which enhances the streetscape and invites community connection.

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

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City of Ottawa: Proposed updates to local street parking limits



Rawlson King
City Councillor, Ward 13

Working alongside community volunteers and City staff, my office has been addressing long-standing parking challenges linked to limited short-term parking, commuter overflow, and congestion on narrow local streets.

The ongoing efforts to improve parking management and safety throughout New Edinburgh have resulted in a petition process that began in November.

Several street petitions proposing adjustments are being distributed. The changes are for daytime parking regulations on several local streets, including MacKay St., Crichton St., Thomas St., Charles St., Queen Victoria St., Keefer St., John St., Alexander St., and Dufferin Road. The proposal would convert unsigned parking zones – currently limited to three hours on weekdays – to 90-minute parking between 7 am and 5:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Weekend limits would remain unchanged at six hours

between 7 am and 7 pm. Any segment already displaying time restrictions will remain as-is.

The intent of this change is to promote greater parking turnover, making spaces more available to residents and visitors, while discouraging long-term commuter parking.

Additionally, following a recent review by City staff, parking on the west side of Queen Victoria St. between Stanley Ave. and Crichton St. will soon be restricted. With a narrow roadway width, parking on both sides of the street creates unsafe conditions for residents and limited sightlines for drivers. Vehicles often must reverse or pull onto the curb to allow oncoming traffic to pass. The new restriction will align this portion of the street with the same restrictions already in place on Queen Victoria St. between Crichton and MacKay streets. Increased parking enforcement will accompany this change to help maintain safe

and accessible conditions for all users.

Alongside the petitions to change parking restrictions, my office also requested staff prepare petitions for both residential on-street and guest parking permits to further address parking pressures on streets impacted by overflow from commuter parking for nearby federal buildings. Residential on-street permits allow residents without any available off-street parking to park beyond posted time limits. Guest permits provide short-term visitor options. My office would like to offer both options to residents to allow for a unified approach to parking.

For either option to succeed, at least 66 per cent of homeowners must sign in support. “Permit Holders Exempt” signage would then be installed on applicable street segments.

More information about the New Edinburgh parking proposal is available on my website at rideau-rockcliffe.ca > Updates > Oct 31, 2025: “New Edinburgh Parking Regulation Updates – Fall 2025.”

These petitions are being circulated by my office with support from community volunteers. Residents interested in helping with circulation are encouraged to contact my office by emailing rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca

As always, I invite residents to subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter at rideau-rockcliffe.ca to stay informed about these and other initiatives improving quality of life in our community.

//

Mon bureau s’occupe, avec l’aide de bénévoles et de membres du personnel municipal, des problèmes de stationnement de longue date associés au manque de places

de courte durée, au débordement des navetteuses et navetteurs et à la congestion sur les rues locales étroites.

Les efforts pour améliorer la gestion et la sécurité du stationnement à New Edinburgh ont débouché sur une pétition en novembre.

Des pétitions pour des changements visant plusieurs rues sont actuellement distribuées. Ces changements concernent la réglementation du stationnement en journée sur plusieurs rues locales, dont MacKay, Crichton, Thomas, Charles, Queen Victoria, Keefer, John, Alexander et Dufferin. Selon la proposition, les zones non balisées, où le stationnement est actuellement limité à trois heures en semaine, passeraient à 90 minutes entre 7 h et 17 h 30, du lundi au vendredi. La limite de six heures la fin de semaine entre 7 h et 19 h ne changerait pas. Les zones balisées ne changeraient pas non plus.

L’objectif est d’améliorer le taux de rotation des espaces de stationnement afin de libérer des places pour les résidentes, les résidents, les visiteuses et les visiteurs tout en décourageant le stationnement de longue durée chez les navetteuses et navetteurs.

En outre, à l’issue d’un récent examen par le personnel municipal, le stationnement du côté ouest de la rue Queen Victoria, entre l’avenue Stanley et la rue Crichton, sera bientôt limité. Vu l’étroitesse de la chaussée, lorsque des véhicules sont stationnés des deux côtés de la rue, les conditions sont dangereuses pour les résidentes et résidents, et la visibilité est limitée pour les conductrices et conducteurs. On voit souvent des gens faire marche arrière ou monter sur le bord du trottoir pour laisser passer

des véhicules venant en sens inverse. La nouvelle restriction imposera la même interdiction que celle en place sur la rue Queen Victoria, entre les rues Crichton et MacKay. Ce changement sera combiné à une application accrue des règles de stationnement pour assurer l’accessibilité et la sécurité de l’ensemble des usagères et usagers.

En plus des pétitions pour faire changer les restrictions de stationnement, mon bureau a demandé au personnel de préparer des pétitions pour les permis résidentiels de stationnement sur rue et les permis de stationnement pour invité afin d’alléger davantage la pression sur les rues touchées par le débordement des navetteuses et navetteurs qui travaillent dans les bâtiments fédéraux à proximité. Les permis résidentiels de stationnement sur rue autorisent les résidentes et résidents qui n’ont pas accès à une place de stationnement hors rue à stationner leur véhicule en dehors des limites indiquées. Les permis de stationnement pour invité permettent le stationnement pendant une courte durée. Mon bureau souhaite offrir les deux options aux résidentes et résidents pour une approche unifiée.

Pour que l’une ou l’autre option soit fructueuse, au moins 66 % des propriétaires doivent signer les pétitions. Une pancarte avec la mention « Sauf pour les détenteurs de permis » serait alors installée sur les tronçons concernés.

Pour en savoir plus sur la proposition de changement du stationnement à New Edinburgh, consultez mon site : fr.rideau-rockcliffe.ca > Nouvelles > 31 octobre 2025 : Nouvelles mises à jour concernant la réglementation du stationnement à New Edinburgh - Automne 2025

Mon bureau distribue actuellement ces pétitions avec l’aide de bénévoles. J’encourage les résidentes et résidents qui souhaitent nous aider à écrire à mon bureau : rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca

Comme toujours, j’invite les résidentes et résidents à s’abonner à mon bulletin d’information électronique hebdomadaire sur le site rideau-rockcliffe.ca pour être au courant de ces initiatives et des autres projets d’amélioration de la qualité de vie dans notre quartier.

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Neighbourhood traffic congestion requires residents to act now

By Jason Tavoularis

Councillor Rawlson King’s office is seeking volunteers to help circulate multiple petitions aimed at addressing parking issues in the area between Sussex Drive and Dufferin Road. Each petition requires explicit support from 66 per cent of affected residents — a notably high bar.

Even when most residents back an initiative, gathering signatures from two-thirds of non-vacant properties demands persistence. Beyond distributing information, repeated follow-ups with some households are often needed.

Dedicated volunteers are essential to surpass the 66 per cent threshold: I don’t see these petitions succeeding without them. If you believe any of the proposed changes would meaningfully improve your daily life, I strongly encourage you to contact the Councillor’s office at rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca or 613-580-2483 for guidance and materials on circulating the petition.

Councillor King’s column in this edition of the *New Edinburgh News* clearly

outlines each of the initiatives requiring petitions. If you live on MacKay, Crichton, Thomas, Charles, Queen Victoria, Keefer, John, Alexander, or Dufferin, you’ll also find useful details at rideau-rockcliffe.ca.

The proposed daytime parking changes designed to deter parking by Global Affairs Canada employees represent a refined iteration of efforts spanning several years. Earlier proposals – reducing the weekday 7 am–7 pm limit from three hours to one – were opposed for leaving too little time for guests, while a two-hour limit was criticized for still allowing employees too much workable time between switching spots. So, I can’t help but smile that our councillor has now fine-tuned the proposal to a 90-minute limit from 7 am–5:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Does this strike the right balance between giving residents’ guests enough time to visit while discouraging commuter parking? If you think so, you may want to ask the Councillor’s office how you can help make it happen.

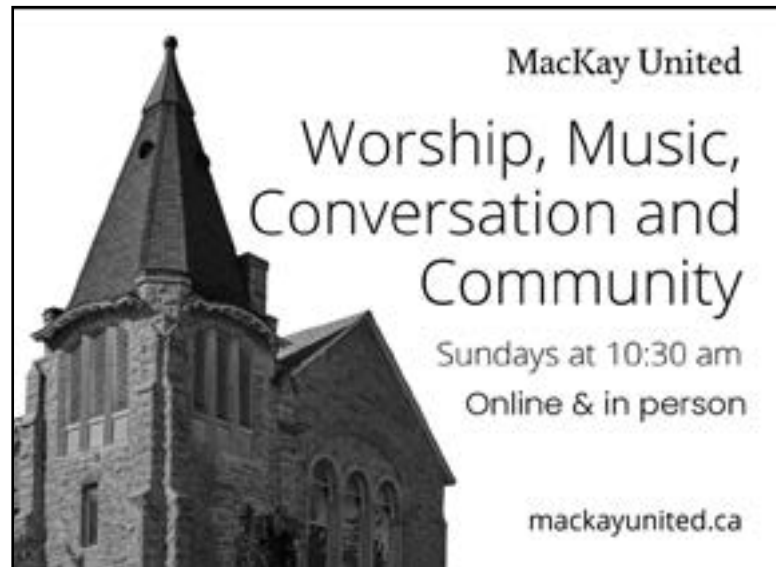
Volunteers are also needed to circulate two additional

petitions: one for Residential On-Street Parking Permits and another for Guest Parking Permits. These options are intended to ensure residents aren’t disadvantaged by the reduced daytime limits. Each petition requires support from 66% of affected households, and because they’re designed to work together, volunteers should consider canvassing residents for all of them at the same time.

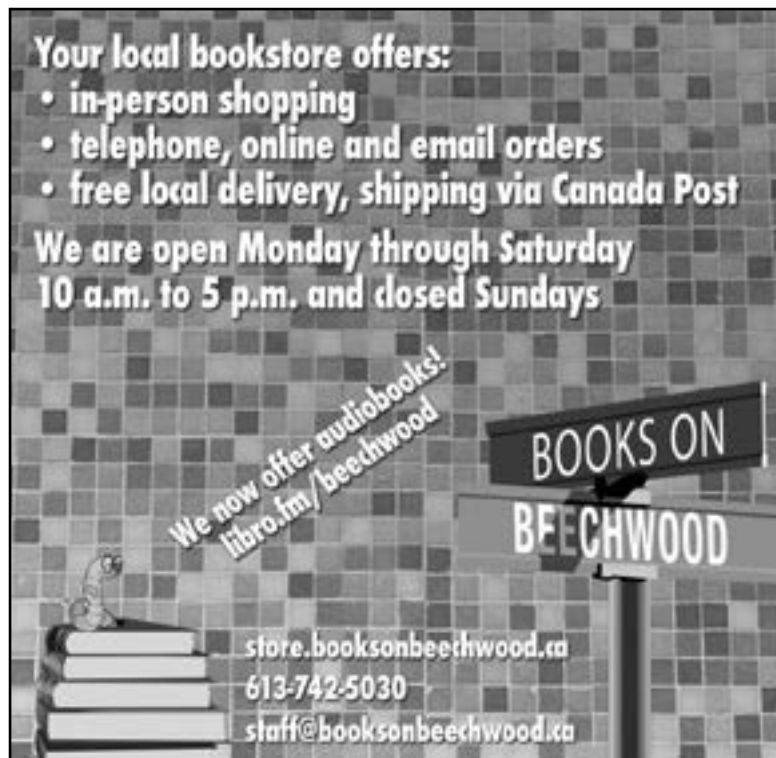
As for me, I don’t live on a street heavily affected by employee parking, so I’m not especially motivated to canvass on this issue. But many residents are eager to see improved parking management in this part of New Edinburgh.

I support the idea of petition-driven change with a 66 per cent threshold. It shows clearly who cares – and how much – about municipal issues. If these petitions succeed, perhaps we’ll see neighbours launching new ones more often.

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



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MPP update on provincial funding to support community decisions and francophone governance



Lucille Collard
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

The return to Queen's Park has been eventful. A serious scandal involving the Skills Development Fund, administered by the Minister of Labour, has raised deep concerns about transparency. Allegations that public funds were allocated based on political loyalty rather than actual need represent a serious breach of public trust. I will continue to stand for accountability and integrity in government spending.

Amid this climate, I have been speaking out about the ongoing homelessness crisis in Ottawa — particularly in the ByWard Market area. Residents, small businesses,

and front-line workers are struggling every day, and they deserve more than words — they need real support. I've called on Premier Ford to fund proven, coordinated solutions: supportive housing, integrated mental health care, and front-line addiction services. I'll keep pressing the government to take meaningful action and deliver the resources our communities need.

I also recently debated my bill to support Ontario's French-language bookstores. These vital cultural institutions are struggling to stay afloat, and my proposal would help ensure their survival as cornerstones of our

francophone identity.

Two other major pieces of legislation now before the legislature also deserve attention. Bill 33, which claims to support children and students, actually centralizes power in the hands of the Minister of Education — undermining local decision-making and francophone governance. Bill 56 removes speed cameras, despite strong evidence they save lives, and weakens environmental and professional safeguards. Both bills reflect a troubling trend of eroding community voices and protections.

//

Le retour à Queen's Park a été mouvementé. Un grave scandale impliquant le Fonds de développement des compétences, administré par le ministre du Travail, a soulevé de profondes inquiétudes quant à la transparence. Les allégations selon lesquelles des fonds publics auraient été alloués en fonction de la loyauté politique plutôt que des

besoins réels constituent une grave violation de la confiance du public. Je continuerai à défendre la responsabilité et l'intégrité dans les dépenses publiques.

Dans ce contexte, je me suis exprimé sur la crise actuelle des sans-abri à Ottawa, en particulier dans le quartier du marché By. Les résidents, les petites entreprises et les travailleurs de première ligne luttent chaque jour et méritent plus que des paroles : ils ont besoin d'un soutien réel. J'ai demandé au premier ministre Ford de financer des solutions coordonnées qui ont fait leurs preuves : des logements avec services de soutien, des soins de santé mentale intégrés et des services de première ligne en matière de toxicomanie. Je continuerai à faire pression sur le gouvernement pour qu'il prenne des mesures significatives et fournisse les ressources dont nos communautés ont besoin.

J'ai également débattu récemment de mon projet

de loi visant à soutenir les librairies francophones de l'Ontario. Ces institutions culturelles essentielles ont du mal à rester à flot, et ma proposition contribuerait à assurer leur survie en tant que piliers de notre identité francophone.

Deux autres projets de loi importants actuellement devant l'Assemblée législative méritent également notre attention. Le projet de loi 33, qui prétend soutenir les enfants et les étudiants, centralise en réalité le pouvoir entre les mains du ministre de l'Éducation, ce qui nuit à la prise de décision locale et à la gouvernance francophone. Le projet de loi 56 supprime les radars photos malgré les preuves solides qu'ils sauvent des vies et affaiblit les mesures de protection environnementales et professionnelles. Ces deux projets de loi reflètent une tendance inquiétante à l'érosion des voix et des protections communautaires.

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Mona Fortier
Ottawa-Vanier MP

As the year comes to an end, our community shines through the generosity, compassion and solidarity that define the holiday season in Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester. From the lights on Beechwood to neighbourhood food drives and artisan markets, this season reminds us what makes our communities strong: people who care for one another.

The federal government is doing its part through programs such as the Canadian Dental Care Plan and the Canada Child Benefit, which offer real support to families. Budget 2025 builds on this progress with new measures focused on housing, affordability and children's well-being.

The housing crisis remains a serious challenge. To help address it, the government launched Build Canada Homes, an agency tasked

with accelerating residential construction and restoring affordability. The plan eliminates GST on first homes under one million dollars and strengthens partnerships with builders, Indigenous communities, and housing co-ops to deliver more affordable housing using Canadian materials.

Budget 2025 also recognizes that a strong Canada means investing in ourselves. With the new Buy Canadian policy, more federal contracts and infrastructure funding will support local businesses and Canadian workers. This approach will help maintain up to \$70 billion in public investment in our economy, creating local jobs and strengthening key industries.

Here in the National Capital Region, Canada's federal public service remains at the heart of our identity. I know many public servants

are feeling uncertainty, and I want to reassure them that our government is committed to implementing changes with transparency, compassion, and respect. Ottawa will always remain the heart of the Canadian public service – a centre of excellence, innovation, and opportunity for the entire region.

As the Member of Parliament, I am working with my NCR colleagues to ensure that the government puts a transition plan in place.

As the holiday season approaches, let's also keep in mind those who are facing difficult times. Ottawa-Vanier is home to essential community organizations: Partage Vanier, the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard, the Rideau-Rockcliffe and Lowertown Food Banks, as well as shelters like the Ottawa Mission and Shepherds of Good Hope, all of which rely on our continued support. Whether through donations, volunteering, or financial contributions, every act of generosity makes a difference. Let's also take this time to support our local businesses, shop local, shop Canadian and help our neighbourhood enterprises thrive.

As always, you can reach my office at 613-998-1860 or mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca for any questions about federal programs and services.

//

Alors que l'année se termine, notre communauté brille par la générosité, la compassion et la solidarité qui caractérisent la période des Fêtes à Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester.

Des lumières de Beechwood aux collectes de denrées et marchés artisanaux, cette période nous rappelle ce qui rend nos quartiers forts : des gens qui prennent soin les uns des autres.

Le gouvernement fédéral fait sa part grâce à des programmes comme le Régime canadien de soins dentaires et l'Allocation canadienne pour enfants, qui apportent un soutien concret aux familles. Le Budget 2025 poursuit dans cette voie avec de nouvelles mesures pour le logement, l'abordabilité et le bien-être des enfants.

La crise du logement demeure un défi. Pour y répondre, le gouvernement a lancé Maisons Canada, une agence qui accélère la construction résidentielle et vise à rétablir l'abordabilité. Le plan comprend l'élimination de la TPS pour les premières maisons de moins d'un million de dollars ainsi que des partenariats avec les constructeurs, les communautés autochtones et les coopératives d'habitation afin d'offrir des logements abordables plus rapidement, en utilisant davantage de matériaux canadiens.

Le Budget 2025 reconnaît également qu'un Canada fort passe par l'investissement en nous-mêmes. Grâce à la nouvelle politique Acheter canadien, davantage de contrats et de fonds d'infrastructure soutiendront les entreprises et les travailleuses et travailleurs d'ici. Cette approche permettra de maintenir jusqu'à 70 milliards de \$ d'investissements publics dans notre économie, créant des emplois locaux et

renforçant nos industries.

Ici, dans la région de la capitale nationale, la fonction publique fédérale demeure au cœur de notre identité. Je sais que plusieurs fonctionnaires ressentent de l'incertitude, et je veux les assurer que notre gouvernement s'engage à mettre en œuvre les changements avec transparence, compassion et respect. Ottawa restera toujours le cœur de la fonction publique canadienne, un centre d'excellence, d'innovation et d'occasions pour toute la région. En tant que députée, je travaille avec mes collègues de la RCN pour assurer que le

À l'approche du temps des Fêtes, pensons aussi à celles et ceux qui vivent des moments difficiles. Ottawa-Vanier abrite des organismes essentiels — Partage Vanier, Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard, les banques alimentaires Rideau-Rockcliffe et de la Basse-Ville, ainsi que des refuges comme la Mission d'Ottawa et les Bergers de l'Espoir, qui ont toujours besoin de notre appui. Qu'il s'agisse de dons, de bénévolat ou de contributions financières, chaque geste de générosité compte. Profitons aussi de cette période pour soutenir nos commerces locaux, achetez local, achetez canadien et faites rayonner nos entreprises d'ici.

Pour toute question sur les programmes fédéraux, contactez mon bureau au (613) 998-1860 ou à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca.

Best wishes for a joyful holiday
and a happy new year



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New zoning by-law and planning rules for New Edinburgh

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright and Gail McEachern

The process to overhaul Ottawa’s planning rules is one step closer to completion with the release of the third and final draft of the New Zoning By-law in September. For New Edinburgh, a critical concern had been whether the new N4 zoning designation – and its higher maximum height allowances – would apply in New Edinburgh’s Heritage Conservation District (HCD).

Fortunately, the 11-metre height maximums applying to properties in the HCD will be maintained, according to the final draft, and that will be consistent with the policies in the Council-approved HCD Plan for New Edinburgh.

The final draft by-law will go to a Joint Committee at City Hall on December 17 and to City Council for approval on Jan. 28, 2026.

A year-long drafting process

This outcome for New Edinburgh is the result of a process over more than a year, which included the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) making submissions to the City, attending workshops, and meeting with Councillor King’s staff to make the case for the alignment of the HCD height policy with the proposed new zoning. NECA has also made other requests for better articulation of the heritage policies in the new zoning by-law provisions.

There had been a concern in New Edinburgh since



Photo by Karen Squires

The maximum building height permitted for the new N4 zones located within New Edinburgh’s Heritage Conservation District will be 11 metres (three storeys) to more closely align with the policies of the district. This example along Crichton St. shows a three-storey development located alongside historic two-storey properties.

Draft 1 of the New Zoning By-law (NZB) was released in November 2024, that the new N4 zoning would apply to the HCD and that N4 zoning would allow maximum heights of 14.5 metres – which exceeds the current 11 metre maximum height for properties in the HCD. Additionally, that a greater height may have been permissible in the HCD relative to the rest of New Edinburgh which is proposed as an N3 zone (with maximum heights of 11 metres).

Throughout the City’s process, NECA has requested that the new N4 zone restricts maximum heights to 11 metres where N4 zoning applies to the New Edinburgh HCD, and

City staff ultimately made changes to ensure that provision.

Assuming the third and final draft new zoning by-law retains the provision through to its final approval as the New Zoning By-law in the new year, then the permissible heights in New Edinburgh’s HCD will be honoured.

Zoning changes in New Edinburgh

The zoning by-law divides the city into zoning areas and sets rules for what can be built and where. Zones prescribe permitted density (number of units on a lot) and maximum building heights.

New Edinburgh’s residential areas are zoned either N4 or

N3 zone, depending on the location, where maximum building heights of 14.5 metres (four storeys) are permissible in the N4 zone, and 11 metres (three storeys) are permissible in the N3 zone. Note that within the HCD, a limitation of 11 metres applies to the N4 zoning, as designated by the suffix H (11), in order to align

with the policies of the district.

Neighbourhood character is regulated through the A–F subzones which establish minimums for lot width, front yard setbacks, and rear yard setbacks, as well as maximum building widths, and so on. The whole of New Edinburgh is subzone B – e.g. N4B or N3B. (For more information on zones N3 and N4 and subzone B, visit Part 8 – Neighbourhood Zones at engage.ottawa.ca/zoning.)

HCD provisions

New Edinburgh features a HCD, the boundaries of which are Stanley Ave., Sussex Drive, MacKay St. and Dufferin Road. Properties designated under Part IV or Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, which include those within HCDs, are subject to certain provisions.

Any alterations, demolitions, or new constructions involving designated heritage properties, or properties within an HCD, require a heritage permit from the City of Ottawa.

Gail McEachern is the chair of NECA’s Heritage and Development Committee and Sarah Anson-Cartwright is a member.

Looking to volunteer?
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OP ED - Sussex, Beechwood and who gets to belong

By Sharon Nyangweso

Walk along Beechwood Ave. on any given day and you'll see the signs of a main street that has never quite become what it should be. The bones are there: good restaurants, coffee shops, a grocery store, and an enviable proximity to downtown. But where Wellington hums with life and Hintonburg feels perpetually on the verge of a festival, Beechwood still carries an air of hesitation — storefronts turning over, cafés struggling to stay open past dinner, and a steady refrain of “it just doesn't get enough foot traffic.”

We talk about this a lot as a neighbourhood, but the explanations we reach for — safety, traffic, parking — tend to miss the mark. The simpler, less comfortable truth is that commercial rent on Beechwood is high, and population density is low. Entrepreneurs aren't willing to take on the financial risk when the daily customer base simply isn't there (possibly even at the rent levels established by the newer developments). We can't

sustain a lively main street without people who live close enough to walk it daily, and we can't have more people without more homes. Yet, over and over again, we resist the very developments that might make that possible.

The proposed NCC residential development on Sussex is only the latest in a long line of examples. Alongside it, we've seen the same pattern play out with the development on Springfield and with smaller infill projects across the area. Each one triggers a familiar cycle: concern, petitions, meetings, and eventually, opposition — always couched in the language of care for heritage, character, or livability. These are worthy values. But as Ottawa faces an escalating housing crisis, we have to ask ourselves harder questions about what we are really protecting, and at what cost.

The housing crisis is not a distant policy issue; it is a present and worsening reality. Across Ottawa, people are being priced out of the city or trapped in precarious

rentals. Younger generations see homeownership as a fading dream. Newcomers struggle to find stable housing close to work or transit. Meanwhile, neighbourhoods like ours — well-resourced, stable, and beautiful — remain largely frozen in time, resistant to any change that feels uncomfortable. The result is a city increasingly divided by income and access: dense and struggling in some areas, static and exclusionary in others.

There is a moral tension in the way we frame these debates. To live in New Edinburgh or Rockcliffe Park is to enjoy immense privilege. That privilege carries responsibility. When residents who already have security resist moderate, carefully designed housing nearby, what they are often defending is not heritage — it is comfort. It is the ability to maintain things as they are, for people who are already here. And that, however unintentional, is how protectionism takes root.

The NCC's Sussex proposal has become a flashpoint, but much of the conversation

surrounding it has tipped into moral panic. The proposal, as described, is not radical: a development of no more than five storeys, with underground parking and design guidelines to ensure it fits with the surrounding streetscape. The notion that this represents an existential threat to the neighbourhood borders on fantasy. It may change the skyline slightly; it will not erase the character of the area. What it will do is bring more people within walking distance of Beechwood — something nearly everyone agrees the street desperately needs.

Part of the resistance to development often takes the form of what could be called aesthetic moralism: the belief that visual harmony or historical continuity should always outweigh social need. There is a certain comfort in speaking about “village feel” or “architectural integrity.” But those phrases can easily become a polite way of saying, we like things the way they are because they suit us. Maintaining a “look and feel” is not in itself a civic virtue

when the cost of doing so is the exclusion of others who cannot afford to live nearby.

In cities across North America and Europe, planners have long warned about this tension. When neighbourhoods freeze development to preserve an imagined past, they inadvertently create the conditions for inequity elsewhere: pushing growth to less wealthy districts, driving up commuting costs, and exacerbating segregation. The same dynamic exists here, even if we prefer not to name it. Each project we block in a well-served area like ours must be built somewhere else, usually where land is cheaper and transit less reliable. That's how cities become spatially stratified — wealth in the centre, strain at the edges.

There is also a persistent fallacy in the argument around “green space.” The Sussex site, we are told, represents an important natural asset, and that building on it would be a loss to the community. The site is not a park, nor is

Continued on page 13



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Parks review 2025: Here's what we've done!

By Karen Squires and Katherine Lloyd

While much of the work to remove invasive species at Monarch Meadow in Stanley Park took place in spring 2025, we are currently liaising with Ecology Ottawa to determine whether further work will be done. We have essentially been told that because the project “fell into disuse,” the City has returned the application to the beginning of the approval queue. It is now being treated as a completely new application. This has been frustrating for Ecology Ottawa, but they will keep us updated on any developments for next year.

During the spring 2025 river clean up activity, Friends of the Park, in partnership with Ottawa Riverkeeper, had an excellent turnout, with almost 100 volunteers collecting more than 270 pounds of garbage.

With respect to tree canopy improvement, the City of Ottawa planted nine trees in and around the Fieldhouse area. The National Capital



Photo courtesy Vicki Henry

81 trees ready for planting by NCC in Stanley Park.

Commission (NCC) planted an additional 81 trees in late fall, along the multi-use pathways, at and beyond the beach, and on NCC-managed

land between the Fieldhouse and River Lane. The goal is to create a green canopy along the pathways to provide sun protection during hotter

Continued from page 12

it used by residents as one. It is a vacant piece of land — an empty plot that contributes little to the environment or to daily life. To describe it as a green space worth preserving is to mistake the appearance of nature for actual ecological or communal value. The same could be said of several empty lots along Beechwood, held up as evidence of openness while in reality offering nothing to the public realm. There is a kind of moral convenience in calling emptiness “green.” It allows us to feel virtuous while refusing change.

In the larger historical frame, this pattern carries echoes of something older. The logic that underpins many of our modern ideas about preservation — the belief that land must be protected from human habitation in order to be “cared for” — is the same logic that justified the creation of Canada’s first national parks. Those parks were established by displacing Indigenous communities under the pretext that the state could be a better steward of their territories. The impulse to protect land from people rather than for people has deep colonial roots. Today’s heritage and planning debates are not equivalent to

that history, but they rhyme with it in unsettling ways. When we insist that certain spaces are too special for ordinary living, we risk repeating a moral hierarchy about who belongs and who must remain outside.

None of this means development should happen without conditions or scrutiny. Cities can and must set guardrails to ensure new housing contributes to, rather than erodes, local character. Many have done so successfully. Form-based codes, height limits, façade continuity, and requirements for active ground-floor uses — cafés, shops, or community spaces — can preserve a neighbourhood’s feel while allowing it to grow. Design review can be used as a tool of quality, not delay. These mechanisms exist precisely to reconcile progress with preservation.

When we oppose development out of fear rather than principle, we also rob ourselves of the chance to shape it meaningfully. Instead of setting terms — insisting on good design, accessible pricing, public realm improvements — we default to blanket resistance and leave the conversation at “no.” In doing so, we abandon the opportunity to make projects better, to insist

on beauty, affordability, and sustainability all at once.

If the goal is a thriving main street, more walkable neighbourhoods, and a sense of community that endures, then population density is not the enemy: it is the precondition. Beechwood will not come back to life through wishful thinking or the next round of small business grants. It will come back to life when there are enough people nearby to make it hum from morning to night. Every café, dry cleaner, florist, and bookshop depends on the steady rhythm of nearby homes. Without them, no amount of aesthetic coherence will make a street thrive.

What is at stake here is not just one plot of land or one proposed building, but a broader vision of what kind of community we want to be. A city that treats heritage as a living legacy, not a museum exhibit, must make room for people — people of different incomes, ages, and stories.

The NCC’s Sussex development is not perfect. No development is. But it offers us an opportunity to practice what we claim to value: thoughtful design, environmental responsibility, and community vitality. The alternative — preserving emptiness in the name of purity — only ensures that

weather.

Friends of the Park have also continued working with the City on cycling safety and speed management in the park. Although signs were installed along the paved pathways, they were removed without explanation, despite multiple follow-up attempts. Discussions also continue regarding reducing the “mowed areas” in the dog park to protect tree bases from erosion. This remains an ongoing concern for Friends of the Park, but to date the City has not suggested any solutions. We hope to continue working with the City on these issues to ensure the long-term health of trees throughout the park.

Friends of the Park also engaged the City on the soil erosion resulting from ice-clearing in the beach area in early 2025. Only minimal work was completed to address the issue, so we are hopeful for better planning to minimize further erosion in 2026. On the topic of ice safety, we continue to remind residents to stay off the river ice — with or

without dogs — as City officials have confirmed that the ice is never safe to walk on. If you see anything concerning in the park, please call 311 to report it, or 911 if a threat or crime is in progress.

Finally, two items with regards to the tennis courts: a request was submitted to add pickleball lines to the courts, and the City recently completed some other much-needed repair work on the courts. Thank you for actively helping to keep the park clean, picking up litter, and reminding others to use the garbage bins throughout the area. Please note that many of the tri-waste bins will be removed for the winter months, so users may need to walk a bit farther to use remaining bins near the Fieldhouse. We wish you a good holiday season, see you in the park and stay tuned for more updates leading into our spring clean-up!

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

our main street remains quiet, our population stagnant, and our moral imagination small.

We can, if we choose, design our way through this. We can set clear expectations for aesthetics, scale, and public benefit, and still say yes to growth. We can protect what is truly beautiful while acknowledging that beauty loses meaning when it excludes human life. And perhaps most importantly, we can look inward — at the fears, habits, and privileges that shape our reflex to say no — and begin to reimagine

stewardship not as protection from others, but as invitation to them.

Because the truth is this: a lively Beechwood and a fairer Ottawa are not separate goals. They are the same.

Sharon Nyangweso is the Managing Editor of New Edinburgh News and the Owner and CEO of QuakeLab, a consulting agency. The opinions expressed here are meant to foster a fuller examination of the issue at hand and do not represent a NECA position on the proposed development.



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'BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Randy Mar, Daniel Hébert, and Karen Squires



Photo by Jessica Valentini

Owner Carol Steuri stocks her shelves exclusively with products made from recycled paper and next-generation materials not made from trees and chosen with care and conscience.



Photo by Karen Squires

Rachel Mathies, General Manager Jacobson's showing holiday Season has arrived.

A Love Letter Paper Boutique

A childhood dream has come true in our neighbourhood. From a very young age, **Carol Steuri** has loved everything about paper: its tactile and sensory appeal, its connection to writing and thinking, and the creativity and crafts it can motivate. She's just opened her new shop, **A Love Letter Paper Boutique**, to share her passion with the world.

Carol said: "I've always wanted to have a European-style paper shop. After many years of working across different industries and sectors, it was time to make that little dream a reality!" Carol grew up in Winnipeg and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship from McGill University. She's lived and worked in places across Canada, the USA, and Europe. In 2020, Carol and her family returned to Canada from the Swiss Alps and settled in Wakefield, QC. She has worked in climate science and forest conservation since returning to Canada. All that she's learned, she's pouring into the shop, to inspire and educate the community about protecting forests – working towards a world where paper is forest-free, and creativity flourishes in the written word.

Paper itself symbolizes possibility: a blank page waiting to be filled. It starts as

something natural and unrefined (trees, plants, fibres), then is transformed into something smooth, delicate, and purposeful. This transformation mirrors the act of creativity itself: turning rough ideas or raw emotions into something coherent and meaningful. When people say they "love paper," they're not just admiring a material, they are responding to what it represents: the intersection of potential, creation, and permanence. Carol describes her shop as "a quaint, nature-inspired paper shop, offering only recycled paper or next-generation beautiful paper things like cards, notebooks, stationary, and more."

Most people can understand what is meant by "recycled paper," but "next-generation materials" may not be so clear. Carol explains: "Trees are still needed for some industries, but with tons of low-impact waste alternatives, there is no reason paper should come from new trees." Why not use wheat straw fibre to create paper? More than three billion trees are cut down each year to produce paper and packaging. Why use a perfectly good living tree to make paper when there are so many other by-products to use instead? Another missed opportunity: throwing cotton rags in the trash. These can be used to produce excellent

quality paper as well.

Carol's new boutique is inspired by trees and the beautiful, majestic forests that we depend on and must protect. The boutique carries only recycled and next-generation paper products from conscientious suppliers. Choosing recycled paper gives old paper a second life without cutting down new trees. Meanwhile, materials like wheat or flax straw and textile waste (viscose and rayon are made from trees or other plant cellulose sources) that would otherwise be landfilled, can be turned into stunning paper. These materials help divert waste and lower emissions. If tree fibre is used to make paper, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification ensures forest-based products come from responsibly managed forests and sustainable sources. When shopping, look for high recycled content percentages on the label, as there are different grades. The best choice is "FSC Recycled," made with 100 per cent recycled fibre. The next best is "FSC 100%" which is made entirely from FSC-certified virgin material. And if you cannot find those two, then opt for "FSC Mix," which is a blend of FSC virgin fibre, recycled content, and controlled wood.

While the recycled and next-generation paper products will take up the main floor, the upstairs will initially

house a separate pop-up boutique operated by Kate Wightman (@kiosk.route105 on Instagram), offering vintage clothing and decor. Carol plans to offer workshops once the paper boutique has established a client base. It seems that may not take long: some neighbours have already left "love letters" in Carol's mailbox, welcoming her to the neighbourhood.

Carol said: "After scouting out many different areas and neighbourhoods, 137 Beechwood Ave. felt just right. I can't wait to grow some roots here and get to know my neighbours. Please pop in anytime and often since I plan to bring in new, exciting products throughout the year." A Love Letter Paper Boutique | 137 Beechwood Ave. | aloveletter.com | @alovelettertothetrees
-DH

Jacobsons prepares for the holiday season

By early November, **Jacobsons Fine Food** was already filled with their usual selection of Christmas ornaments and lots of other holiday merchandise. Festive aprons, napkins, tea towels, and tablecloths; cheese knives and cheese boards; pinch bowls, serving trays, mugs, and more: as great gift ideas or to brighten up your own events. They're also offering some new cheese and charcuterie trays to order ahead for your holiday party. Note, however, that due to Lumpy Skin

Disease (which affects cows), some raw milk cheeses from Italy, Switzerland, France and Spain, may not be available, including Vacherin Mont D'Or.

Discover a range of specialty fine foods from around the world, especially from the UK and Europe, including holiday favorites like Christmas crackers, Christmas cakes, plum puddings, mince pies, and Italian Panettone. Tackle your gift and party shopping lists with a terrific selection of olive oils, vinegars, specialty chocolates, candy, cocktail mixes, biscuits, crackers, and chutneys and other preserves.

The amazing Jacobsons team can help put together a host gift or a holiday basket for your favourite foodie. Please note: they are not accepting delivery or pickup orders for Dec 23 or 24 – they encourage people to shop in-store those days! So, get in early: the shop will be closed Dec 25 and 26, as well as Jan 1 and 2.

Jacobsons Gourmet Concepts | 103 Beechwood Ave. | 613-746-6002 | jacobsons.ca
-KS

Almos Barbershop celebrates their two-year anniversary

Almos opened at 10 Beechwood Ave. in February 2024: since then, owners **Ali Almoala** and **Hasan Mohasar** have become an integral part of the New Edinburgh community. Back in 2024, they



Photo by Daniel Hebert

Ali Almoala (left) and Hasan Mohasar (right) are the proud owners of Almos Barbershop.

weren't certain their new business might succeed, but it's flourished and they now have four barbers onsite, each equally masterful in their trade.

Ali said: "We are extremely happy to be located in such a tight-knit community. There are so many activities in the area. We opened with a dream and a pair of scissors. Two years later, we're proud to still be part of this community and we're just getting started. This is the type of community I wish I lived in."

The name of the barbershop is a creative play on words: A-L-M-O are the first four letters of Ali's surname and "almos" is Arabic for "straight razor." Both the word and the blade are integrated into the shop's logo. Being open seven days per week, even on holidays, it exceptionally convenient. The shop offers everything from traditional cuts to beard trims, blending classic barbering traditions with a modern touch to cater to all ages. Regular customers praise the relaxed atmosphere, skilled staff, and sense of connection that keeps them coming back.

Almos Barbershop | 10 Beechwood Ave. | 613-842-8383 | @almosbarbershop
-DH

Dream Vintage offers curated clothing, décor and more

Dream Vintage opened on Nov. 1 at 63 Beechwood Ave., the location recently vacated by Art House Custom Framing. The company's Instagram feed has documented all the work

She developed ways of hunting through thrift stores and estate sales to find treasures she could repackage, repurpose, and resell. She said, "I believe that rather than throwing things away, items deserve a second chance. I like to bring new life to items and making vintage affordable. People like the stories attached to the things I find." It is with this passion that her visions of opening a store became a reality.

In addition to Katherine's own inventory of clothing, several other vintage resellers will offer their own curated collections of clothes for men and women, and the shop will showcase vintage ceramic Christmas trees in unique, funky colours. The goal is to keep things affordable. Katherine will head up the storefront with her vibrant love of all things vintage, with business support from her husband, Patrick – himself a small-business owner of The Great Canadian Poutinerie.

Store hours are yet to be formalized, but they're starting by opening five days per week: Wednesdays to Sundays. Stay tuned for a new website launching too.

Dream Vintage | 63 Beechwood Ave. | @



Photo by Daniel Hebert

Opening day smiles: owner Katherine Herbert (left) and her husband, Patrick (right) welcomed more than 20 people in the first 10 minutes after doors opened.

dream___vintage
-DH

Luna Glass Studio to close on Crichton St.

The Luna Glass Studio at 299 Crichton St. is small but

cheerful. Owner **Jennifer (Jen) Kelly** is sad to announce that she will be closing the studio at the end of the year. Jen has been in a glass trance since 1992 when she took her

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ROYAL LEPAGE



Photo by Randy Mar

Sarah Green in front of her new location in Vanier.



Photo by Karen Squires

Dr. Brett Nightingale with Posie.

first class; glass has fed her spirit ever since. She describes herself as mainly a kiln-formed glass artist with a little dabbling in stained glass, which was her first love. She has also challenged herself with some flameworking. Jen said: "It has been an amazing experience, but life is taking me in a new direction. The studio ... will continue to offer classes until the last day December 2025; then I will be moving my art practice. Unfortunately, I will be discontinuing my teaching schedule."

The studio will be open for shopping Dec. 20 and 21. The *New Edinburgh News* wishes Jen all the best as she transitions her business to a new phase and continues to display

her creativity.

Luna Glass Studio | 299 Crichton St. until year's end | studio@jenniferannekelly.com

—DH

Remember to take care of yourself!

Our April and June BBB columns showcased an array of local personal services, ranging from therapeutic massage, chiropractors, and holistic medicine to pharmacare and medicinal cannabis. There have been a few changes and additions to note since then, so we are adding **Mindhouse Wellness** and **Align Massage** and have listed some others below as a reminder from

previous editions.

Mindhouse Wellness Ottawa

Meet **Sarah Green**, a therapist who supports and works with adults facing anxiety, depression, trauma, mental health issues, addictions, and grief and loss. Sarah recently relocated her psychotherapy practice **Mindhouse Wellness** from downtown Antigonish, Nova Scotia to new space on Laval St. in Vanier (with a brief stop in Lowertown)!

Remote work during the pandemic initially drew Sarah to Antigonish, and as her experience and expertise grew, family brought her to Ottawa. Sarah holds a Masters degree in Clinical Social Work and is a Registered Social Worker with over seven years of clinical practice. Clients will find her approach based on Narrative Therapy supplemented by her EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) training. Both modalities are available as suited to each client and situation. She also incorporates mindfulness based on elements of Buddhism. The practice motto: "Take care of your 'Mind House,' your brain, your thoughts... you!"

While Sarah is currently the sole therapist, she plans to slowly expand the Mindhouse presence and counselling and psychotherapy services in Ottawa as her clinical practice grows. She is a proponent of assisting those new to the profession and will bring in and mentor post-graduate interns on practicums. Sarah can be reached at:

Mindhouse Wellness Ottawa | 184 Laval St., Unit A | 613-218-2202 | mindhousewellness.com —RM

com —RM

Align Massage Therapy – Lindenlea

Align Massage Therapy has opened their new space on Springfield Road on the second floor above Edinburger and has expanded its roster of therapists. Owner **Krista Dicks** saw an opportunity to continue serving long-time neighbourhood clients as her RMT team grows in both size and expertise.

Align Massage Therapy – Lindenlea | 1A Springfield Road, #2613 | alignmassagetherapy.com

Other local body and mindfulness services include: Anytime Fitness; Athlete's Care Sports Medicine; Beechwood Chiropractic; Beechwood Physical Medicine (BPM); Belanger Massage; Bellefleur Physiotherapy; ChiroHouse; JM Nutrition; Matnik Wellness Therapy; Ottawa Chiropractic Studio; PTI Physiotherapy; Rockcliffe Chiropractic; Santé Health Beechwood; and Sequence Wellbeing. Editor's note: visit newedinburgh.ca to explore our Beechwood Wellness articles in the April (physical health and wellness) and June (styling/grooming, spa/wellness, pharmacy and others) editions. —RM

Beechwood Animal Hospital and Beechwood Veterinary Services

In addition to **Purrdy Paws**, **Chew-That**, and **PetValu**, local pet owners are likely familiar with another important and long-serving neighbourhood pet service: **Beechwood Animal Hospital**. Established in 1996, BAH will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in

August!

Practice Manager **Emily Hill** said: "We're excited to be reaching this service milestone and are already gearing up for a number of month-long special events as well as gathering client stories, memories, and fun happenings over the years into an anniversary booklet."

With a team of six vets, nine registered technicians and certified assistants, and a client care team of three – all led by **Dr. Poulin** and **Dr. Sandoz** – BAH offers a full range of veterinary care. In addition to **Dr. Nightingale** (pictured above), **Drs. Serafini, McConnachie**, and **Amar** round out the certified veterinarians on staff.

Deidicated to offering a low-stress environment, the BAH team is Fear Free-certified, American Animal Hospital Association-accredited, and up to date on College of Veterinarians of Ontario and Ontario Veterinary Medical Association of Ontario guidelines and procedures.

BAH offers preventative care and early detection services from puppy and kitten stages through to adulthood and senior care, with individual treatment plans complemented with advanced diagnostics, vaccination, bloodwork, nutrition advice, parasite control, micro-chipping, and dental care. They can also diagnose soft-tissue and skeletal issues with full ultrasound and x-ray capabilities.

Families with pets can explore programs and packages including Healthy Start for Puppies and Kittens, and Senior Wellness Care. Of course, other "pocket pets" receive the same quality and breadth of care! A full line of

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pet care and nutrition products is available in clinic or online, including pet food, toys, treats, and other supplies.

BAH opened a satellite office – Beechwood Veterinary Services – on St Laurent in 2021: each location has two examination rooms and the same range of technical services and capabilities.

Beechwood Animal Hospital/Beechwood Veterinary Services | 266 Beechwood Ave., 407 St Laurent Blvd. | 613.748.9820 | welovepets@beechwoodah.com | beechwoodah.com

–RM

Our neighbourhood fire station

How many times have you driven past 220 Beechwood Ave. without a second glance? Let's take a closer look at **Ottawa Fire Station 57**, one of Ottawa's 45 urban, suburban, and rural stations!

First opened in December 1987, Station 57 is currently home to 24 firefighters, one pumper truck, and an aerial unit. Its primary response area covers New Edinburgh, Lindenlea, Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park, Vanier, and part of Lowertown: from the

Ottawa River, to De La Salle High School, and across Montreal Road to St. Laurent Boulevard.

Neighbouring depots include Station 13 (King Edward Ave.–Laurier Ave.: the busiest station in Ottawa), Station 56 (Coventry Road), and Station 51 (Montreal Road). All stations provide continuous coverage and mutual response support as needed.

Since 2019, all Ottawa Fire Service (OFS) career* firefighters work an average of 42 hours per week: a 24 hours on/24 hours off/24 hours on schedule, followed by 96 hours (4 days) off. The four-platoon system generally means six trained fire suppression staff are on duty at any one time, with station duty, assignment to nearby stations to maintain shift staffing levels, and training requirements affecting shift numbers. And yes, firefighters do eat and sleep while on the job! Three of the 24 firefighters deployed at Station 57 are women, including one Station Captain on D Platoon.

Beyond service calls, the daily fire station routine includes shift and fire service activity updates, scheduled

training, station upkeep, equipment maintenance (including breathing apparatus and individual protective gear), operational procedure review, and truck inspection and upkeep.

In a conversation with *New Edinburgh News*, **Captain Tony Prud'homme** said "firefighting is a great career, and I wouldn't trade it for another." Many would agree, as the OFS maintains a pool of eligible candidates (as many as 400 in 2022) to fill openings owing to retirements and turnover. Pre-qualifications are rigorous and include a minimum requirement of pre-firefighter certification at a community college. Upon hiring, all recruits go through a 13-week drill school.

Although calls for service statistics are not released to the public, Station 57 has a steady call volume. They are responding to more medical calls, with frequent response to calls from neighbourhood retirement and assisted living homes. Of note, they are recording an increasing number of "lift assists" due to falls by more elderly residents. Motor vehicle collisions along main roadways like Vanier Parkway and

Beechwood/St. Patrick also draw their response, as well as the occasional water rescue assist during boating season. Increasing density (including the St Charles and 88 Beechwood high-rise developments), an aging population, proximity to the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers, severe weather events, and traffic volumes all contribute to demands for service.

While an integral part of Ottawa's Tiered Response Protocol along with paramedics and police, fire services, with fixed stations, are often the first on-scene compared to mobile-response paramedic trucks and police units. Ottawa Police Services also carry automated external defibrillators (AED units) and are often dispatched alongside fellow emergency responders. Fire service calls are dispatched from a central Fire Communications Centre housed on Randall Ave. in Alta Vista. All OFS vehicles are equipped with encrypted radios, along with Mobile Data Terminals and Automatic Vehicle Locators and response routes are displayed on the

cabin GPS panels

Readers might recall one of the most devastating neighbourhood fires in recent memory: the March 2011 blaze is thought have started in the basement of Beechwood Home Hardware. It rapidly spread to adjoining businesses including Parker Cleaners, Time Sharpening, Nature's Buzz, and Lester's Barbershop, along with second-floor residences. Today, the Minto Condominium sits on the redeveloped site. The fire resulted in a six-alarm response with more than 100 firefighters attending from Station 57 and other nearby stations (See *New Edinburgh News* April 2011 front page).

Remember: call 9-1-1 for police, fire, or ambulance!

Ottawa Fire Services Station 57 | 220 Beechwood Ave. | ottawa.ca: search "fire services"

*Editor's note: Ottawa Fire Services has full-time (career) as well as volunteer firefighters. There are 45 stations across the city, with three composite (staffed by career and volunteer FF), and 16 fully volunteer stations.

–RM

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CCC Festivities, concerts and outdoor fun at the Fieldhouse this winter



By J-C Amado, Crichton Community Council (CCC), Treasurer

As we turn the page on a warm fall season and approach the year-end, the CCC has lined up a series of fun community events.

humans for putting up such a great event.

As we head into the winter, we have a full slate of events scheduled at the Fieldhouse. We hope that as many neighbours as possible join in the festivities.

Craig Cardiff folk concerts

For those of you in town the weekend after Christmas, mark your calendars: Juno Award nominee Craig Cardiff is returning to the Fieldhouse for two concerts on Saturday



Photo by Loic Berthou

Comedy night at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse.

would like to host a community event at the Fieldhouse, please get in touch at CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

Volunteers and rink attendants wanted

We hope many residents and visitors come enjoy our two outdoor ice rinks (ODR) in Stanley Park next to the Fieldhouse during the winter season. During skating season, the Fieldhouse will be open to

skaters for gearing up indoors from 4-7 pm during weekdays and from 9 am to 8 pm during the weekend.

As always, the quality of our ODRs relies on the herculean efforts from a team of volunteers known as the CCC Hosers. CCC Hosers work afterhours all winter long to prepare the ice for skating including flooding the ice surface and snowblowing the ODRs after heavy snowstorms.



Photo by Loic Berthou

Children dressed up for Halloween Howl at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse.

Kicking off the festive season with the annual Holiday Lights event

The first pitstop in our holiday season calendar was the much-awaited Holiday Lights event at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse, a festive gathering with holiday decorations, horsedrawn wagon rides, caroling, hot beverage and snacks, and of course a white-bearded man. Many thanks to the CCC's roster of volunteer elves and

December 27th: a family-oriented concert at 3 pm (doors open at 2:30 pm) and an evening concert at 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). To buy tickets head to www.newedinburgh.ca/events/

Potential winter events in the works: A New Year brunch, a Family Day Rink Fest, a comedy night, and more. We will be posting about these events on our website as they are confirmed. If you have ideas and



Photo by Loic Berthou

CCC volunteers working hard to set up the Stanley Park ice rink for the winter season.

A rotation system ensures that the burden is not too much on any single person. More help is always welcome, so please email the CCC Rink Manager at CCCRinkManager@gmail.com if you want to learn the art of ice making.

The CCC is also recruiting paid ice rink attendants who will maintain the ODRs in Stanley Park, organize the ice maintenance and sports equipment, open and close the Fieldhouse and do some light cleanup inside the Fieldhouse. Ice rink attendants are expected to work from 4-7 pm Monday to Friday and 9-11 am and 5-8 pm during the weekends. Interested applicants should send an expression of interest along with a summary of relevant experience and capabilities to the CCC Rink Manager at CCCRinkManager@gmail.com

Fieldhouse rentals, donations and season's greetings

As a quick reminder, the Fieldhouse is open to private bookings online on our website, and all proceeds from the rentals cover facility maintenance costs and community events like the annual Holiday Lights, Canada day fireworks and summer barbecue events. If you would like to make a donation to support the CCC you can donate online by clicking on the link available at the bottom of our webpage at www.newedinburgh.ca/cc/ or contact our Treasurer at CrichtonCCCfinance@gmail.com

The CCC wishes all residents of New Edinburgh a happy holiday season and a fun winter – See you in the park and at the rink!

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National heritage designation for New Edinburgh in process

Continued from page 1

Pasapedjinawong, “the river that passes between the rocks,” and the Rideau Falls as Pasabikedjiwan. One of the important Algonquin leaders was Grand Chief Pierre Louis Constant Pinesi (1768-1834). Pinesi in Algonquin means “big bird.” This chief’s favoured hunting grounds extended through what is now New Edinburgh. However, traditional Algonquin hunting and gathering practices were severely disrupted by the arrival of the British military and loggers in the early 1800s. Poverty and disease became major challenges. By petition Chief Pinesi complained repeatedly to the British authorities about the lack of an Algonquin land cessation treaty, but the government did not act on these petitions in any meaningful way.

Under the category of environment, we discuss the founding of New Edinburgh. Just as water brought Indigenous peoples to New Edinburgh, so too did water bring the first European settlers. One of these was Thomas McKay who was selected by Lieutenant Colonel John By to execute the masonry work on the eight entrance locks of the Rideau Canal. In 1829 McKay started acquiring land east of the Rideau Falls and by 1832 had constructed a sawmill there. On the east bank of the Rideau River McKay established New Edinburgh, laying out lots in about 1834. He attached family names to the streets: Crichton, his wife’s maiden name, and John, Charles, Thomas and

Alexander after his sons, and invited former canal workers to come and settle there. Many were Irish navvies, for the Irish greatly outnumbered their Scottish counterparts. In 1838, McKay completed an 11-room limestone residence with an extensive garden which the family simply called Rideau Hall. Since 1865, this refined Regency-style villa on an estate of 87 acres has been the residence for the Governor General. In 1907, a fire devastated the W.C. Edwards and Company planing mill and many adjacent buildings. Two hundred and fifty workmen lost their jobs. While the Edwards mill was rebuilt, soon



Courtesy Google Map

Kichi Sibi Trails, Wayfinding Map: Chief Pinesi's Portage.

coloratura soprano Dame Nellie Melba, sang at morning

not uniformity. St. David’s opened in 1889, followed by St. John Lutheran in 1895 and St. Luke’s Lutheran in 1915. Only in 1955 was a Roman Catholic church added, with a chapel decorated with frescoes by Ugo Chyurlia.

New Edinburgh also boasts natural diversity, a hard-won park. In 1969 the Ottawa Regional Municipality proposed a six-lane elevated highway along the Rideau River, turning Stanley Ave. into a feeder lane. The local inhabitants were very much opposed. Community activists worked over many years to raise awareness about the possible threat. This was successful only in 2000 when the arterial was finally removed from the plan. Stanley Park is now a central defining feature of New Edinburgh.

Indigenous activity is also back. Much of the credit for



Photo courtesy Library and Archives Canada

The Gothic revival architecture of the Parliament Buildings was echoed in 24 Sussex Drive (in background).

the milling operations began to slow down. The industrial heyday in New Edinburgh came to a close.

Then we turned to the category of diversity. The great importance of the lumber business in New Edinburgh in the 1860s and the result of Ottawa being declared the capital encouraged a new range of people and of building. The earlier houses for labourers were modest in scale and included wood framed gable-roofed structures. Some more opulent houses were built, including that of Joseph Merrill Currier, who in 1868 commissioned an impressive Gothic Revival villa that became known as 24 Sussex Drive. The community also built a large number of churches. St. Bartholomew’s Anglican Church, opening in 1868, enjoyed considerable Vice-Regal support. Here the arts were featured, in December 1915 the wonderful

service. The sitting Governor General, Connaught, also



Photo by Peter Stockdale

Algonquin artist Doreen Stevens describes the concept of the mural Bloodline – Miskwi, which she and her daughter, Charlotte, created to celebrate and tell the story of this area’s Indigenous history.

sponsored the stained-glass artist Wilhelmina Geddes, to produce for the church a major war memorial. The creation of other churches followed, an indication of difference

this long-awaited return is due to Wendy Jocko. Former chief of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, along with non-Indigenous historians, Jocko set up Kichi

Sibi Trails in 2021. Again water is key. One result is Chief Pinesi’s Portage Loop, a modern trail with interpretative and directional trail markers through New Edinburgh. At each marker specimens of culturally significant plants are indicated. For the Rideau River terminus, near the St. Patrick Street Bridge, this is the Eastern Walnut tree, whose bark was used to make dye and nut rinds chewed for colic. Another aspect of the Pinesi recognition is a permanent mural mounted on the west-facing wall of the New Edinburgh Field House created by a mother/daughter pairing of Algonquin artists from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Doreen and Charlotte Aki Stevens.

For centuries, Indigenous peoples, avoiding the Rideau Falls, Pasabikedjiwan, portaged and hunted on the land that became New Edinburgh. The same geography then prompted the creation of the Rideau Canal, and the hiring of Thomas McKay. With his resulting fortune, McKay bought a large tract of land east of the falls, formed a settlement of workers and built his eleven-room grand house. Soon a diverse range of inhabitants, predominantly labourers living in frame cottages by quiet lanes, were interspersed with a few mill owners and professionals who constructed more substantial houses. This population’s racial diversity has expanded today, with the employment balance shifting toward the professional, including foreign service workers, the staff of Rideau Hall and a number of embassies. Recognition of the role of women and the arts is rising. The 2001 provincial historic conservation designation of the early part of the village and the fight for Stanley Park demonstrate that the inhabitants have considerable pride of place, a conviction that preserving their history is worth the fight. Chief Pinesi’s Portage Loop and the Algonquin mural memorialize Indigenous land trails and water routes.

For these compelling reasons we believe New Edinburgh should be given federal historic designation.

Ann Davis is an art historian and a retired museum director. She has lived in New Edinburgh for 15 years.



Sustainability through collaboration: Lessons from the tourism sector

By Karen Squires

Having spent several decades in the tourism sector, including in senior management roles for destination marketing organizations, I was pleased to finally attend my first IMPACT–Sustainability Travel & Tourism Conference. The event was hosted by Rock + Water | Stan Cook Travel, based in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The conference brought together academia, industry, and business leaders, primarily from the Atlantic Canada region and British Columbia, where the national conference first launched a decade earlier.

Before the conference began, we visited Petty Harbour, a location just outside St. John's, to experience firsthand how this historic fishing village in Newfoundland not only survived the cod moratorium announced by the federal government in 1992 but also pivoted to create an authentic and educational tourism experience. With climate change upon us, the question now is: how can the tourism sector – together with local communities – protect natural habitats while sharing stories and educating both tourists and residents alike?

The speaker series opened with Professor John Colton of Acadia University in Nova Scotia, who stated that tourism accounts for eight per cent of global emissions. He noted that almost one million Canadians experience serious climate anxiety, or “ecological grief.” This may not come as a surprise, given such recent tipping points as extreme weather, wildfires, warming oceans, and coastal erosion, to name a few. We are all affected. But the question remains: how can we help mitigate these complex issues while also navigating economic challenges such as the ongoing trade war with the United States?

As John mentioned, we must begin by recognizing the “power or magic” of tourism. What I found most comforting about this conference was the diversity of people attending: not only those from academia and industry, but also chefs, tourism fishing boat operators, scientists, students, and individuals involved in emergency



Photo by Karen Squires

Sustainable Tourism - Scientist Ashleigh Noseworthy speaks about community engagement.

preparedness. Alongside them were tour operators, small and midsize enterprises, hoteliers, UNESCO site representatives, national, provincial, and city tourism officials, port authorities, and small cruise operators. One thing worth noting is that people in the tourism sector tend to be outgoing and open to new partnerships.

Take Ashleigh Noseworthy, a local scientist now based in London, UK, who began her session by saying, “A great place to live is a great place to visit.” She spoke about the intersection of science and tourism and introduced the idea of “tourism as a guardian.” Her company, Edgewise Environmental, liaises with tour operators, vessel providers, and fishermen, reporting back on such issues as biodiversity loss or environmental changes observed firsthand at sea. She emphasized collaboration as a powerful tool – ranging from minimal involvement to contribution, collaboration, or even co-creation. Scientists, she noted, cannot be everywhere at once, but operators, communities, and even tourists can play a role.

Ashleigh highlighted that the tourism industry can and often does play a crucial role in vessel support, staffing, environmental monitoring, and workforce development. These efforts help participants become more knowledgeable about the wildlife they encounter through science and data collection. She stressed that working in silos is ineffective and issued a clear call to action: tourism

and tourists should not just visit ecosystems – they should protect them.

The conference also featured Synergy Academy, a “carbon accounting firm” that has developed a tool to make sustainability data more accessible to those in the industry.

Several local hoteliers, including the ALT Hotel (part of the Germain Hotel chain), confirmed their participation in the Green Key program: a leading standard of excellence for environmental responsibility and sustainable operation within the tourism industry. Other speakers highlighted initiatives to reduce food waste and strengthen partnerships with local producers. A tour operator spoke about collaborating with Green Key-certified hotels, noting that their organization is part of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council and features sustainable packages and hotels on its website. The Indigenous community was also well represented, including an operator called Jen Shears Natural Boutique, who shared insights into her business model.

Another major takeaway was the collaboration between smaller operators, farmers’ markets, and artists. One example is FoodArtNature, a slow-travel initiative in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley. Programs like this require significant time and leadership to bring together local products and experiences rooted in authenticity, knowledge, and storytelling – ultimately creating a truly unique visitor

experience.

Communities also play a major role in places like Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Newfoundland’s west coast. There, citizen-led development has driven the co-creation of experiences. Jonathan Foster, a representative from the Gros Morne Institute, explained that this approach helps preserve culture and protect the environment by fostering authentic visitor experiences. He suggested starting small and asking what the community is most proud of, to build a shared sense of pride, purpose, and place.

Adventure Canada, a small family-owned business, was also featured on the agenda. They discussed the programming they offer through small-ship expedition cruising and their extensive list of local team members who bring subject-matter expertise to their Canadian itineraries.

Here in Ottawa, I’ve recently been approached by people asking about sustainable tourism, which is not surprising. Having lived in New Edinburgh for over 21 years, I’ve seen how residents have come together to protect our green spaces and built heritage, while supporting our shared history and managing issues like traffic congestion, environmental concerns, and safety. This is what engaged communities do: they work collaboratively with the City, the National Capital

Commission, and other stakeholders to ensure everyone can enjoy protected spaces through active community involvement.

To summarize a few key takeaways from the conference: overtourism and climate change are real and pressing issues, but we can all play a meaningful role by seeking out tourism experiences that have a positive impact on natural habitats, infrastructure, and local ways of life. There are countless choices available – so let’s choose wisely. Travel during off-peak periods when possible. Support local Canadian businesses. Be mindful of areas already struggling with overtourism.

A particularly interesting book I recently read on this topic is *The New Tourist* by Paige McClanahan. As travelers, we should consider the carbon footprint we leave behind and the positive impact we bring to our destinations. Terms like “sustainable,” “regenerative,” and “responsible tourism” are more than buzzwords – they represent a growing shift in how we engage with the world. Hopefully, these ideas provide inspiration as you move into the holiday season and begin setting new, sustainable travel plans and meaningful connections for 2026.

Karen Squires sits on the NECA board, co-chairs Friends of the Park, and co-edits New Edinburgh News.



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For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

By Jane Heintzman

Since our last report in October, thousands of migrating species have passed through the area, en route to wintering grounds where food will remain abundant, and the climate less harsh. An estimated four billion birds will make the trek from their breeding grounds in North America to warmer regions in the Caribbean and Central and South America. Migrating flocks from our region will follow the **Atlantic Flyway** from Eastern Canada and New England to the Caribbean and northern South America.

Critical to the survival of these intrepid travellers are the stopover locations along the flight path, where birds can rest and fuel up for the final leg of the journey. Major stopover points on the Atlantic Flyway include

Chesapeake Bay; Delaware Bay; Cape May, New Jersey; coastal marshes in Maine; and Lac Saint-Pierre, Quebec, an important fuelling station for migrating waterfowl.

You may have wondered why these avian hordes haven't been more visible in the autumn skies in recent weeks. The simple answer is that most migrating flocks fly at night, under cover of darkness. They do so for many reasons: to evade predation by hawks, falcons and other raptors; to use the moon and stars for navigation; to take advantage of calmer nighttime air and reduced turbulence; and to free up daytime hours for food foraging to refuel after their energy-intensive flights.

Unlike late spring and summer, when breeding songbirds were abundant in our neighbourhood, the birding



Swainsons Thrush

Photo by David Howe

landscape is much quieter (and less colourful) as I write in mid-November. Our recent sightings have been largely limited to peripatetic flocks of **American robins**, many of which will remain over the winter if food and open water sources permit; busily foraging **black-capped chickadees**; raucous **blue jays**; **dark-eyed junco** flocks; ever-present **American crows**; and **common ravens**, including an enormous raven which landed outside our kitchen window on Hallowe'en (appropriately spooky!). I was also lucky enough to spot a late-lingering **golden-crowned kinglet**, a **song sparrow** and a **white-crowned sparrow** before they departed the region.

As always, our *NEN* bird photographer **David Howe** has been active in his autumn expeditions along the Rideau River in Stanley Park. Dave reports that "the fall migration of songbirds was busy along the Rideau River corridor

through our neighbourhood. We saw a good selection of notable species this fall has been the arrival of **Black-**



Northern Flicker

Photo by David Howe

warblers, vireos, thrushes, and sparrows... The other **backed Woodpeckers** in Ottawa. They appear to be



Black-backed Woodpecker

Photo by David Howe



Hermit Thrush

Photo by David Howe

having an [irruptive] year.”

In early November, David posted a variety of sightings on the Ottawa-region page at eBird.org, notably two **bald eagles**; **bufflehead ducks**; **common goldeneye**; a **Lincoln's sparrow**; a **winter wren**; a **red-breasted nuthatch**; a **Tennessee warbler**; **white-crowned sparrow**; **hooded merganser ducks**; and a **wood duck**.

If you haven't already discovered it, Ottawa eBird is a goldmine of recent sightings from around the region, including such local spots as Beechwood Cemetery; Rideau Hall; Strathcona Park; Rideau River Eastern Pathway; and the Rockcliffe Airport woods. An early November eBird report from the Rockcliffe

gathering in the treetops along River Lane and swooping into the garden to consume the last supplies of crabapples and mountain ash berries. These crops were scant this year, so perhaps the waxwings found better pickings elsewhere.

Northern yellow-shafted Flickers were also no-shows this fall, after several years of regular appearances in our garden, where they foraged contentedly on the lawn. Flickers are beautiful, gentle creatures with heavily spotted black-and-white breasts, striking black “necklaces,” bright yellow undertail feathers, and white rumps which are highly visible in flight. I'm still on the lookout for them at press time, but hopes are fading!



Purple Finch

Photo by David Howe



Dark-eyed Junco

Photo by David Howe

Airport woods recorded several interesting species, including a **long-tailed duck**; a **red-breasted merganser**; a **brown thrasher**; and two late-departing **warblers**, a **Tennessee warbler** and a **Nashville warbler**.

Two lovely species which have traditionally turned up in our neighbourhood each autumn were missing this year. Flocks of migrating **cedar waxwings** were once annual visitors to our garden,

A cautionary tale

Perhaps the most dramatic birding report of the fall came from “Avian Bistro” proprietor **Philip MacAdam**. On a recent early morning dog-walk near the Rockcliffe Pavilion, Philip spotted a **barred owl**. Much to his surprise, the owl took violent offence at his presence and proceeded to attack him fiercely, striking the back of his head. Philip wisely made a swift exit as the owl gave evidence of preparing a second

attack, coming away with a sore head and a salutary, if uncomfortable, lesson.

Barred owls are, in fact, reported to be highly territorial, and known to attack humans whom they perceive as threats to their nests or their young. But this attack was puzzling since nesting season is long over, and there seemed no obvious provocation; unless, for some reason, Philip had been misidentified as prey!

Winter bird feeding

Backyard feeders will soon transition from the avian warm-weather equivalent of restaurant meals (“nice to have”) to a critical food source in harsh winter weather (“necessary for

survival”). One recent study showed that in temperatures below -10 degrees Celcius, black-capped chickadees without access to bird feeders had twice the mortality rate of their feeder-using counterparts. In a single night, songbirds may use 75–80 per cent of their reserves of fat: their primary energy source. Of course, birds' daylight hours must be devoted to replenishing this critical fuel supply, so our feeders can become a lifeline.

Such high-fat foods as **black oil sunflower seed** (a favourite of most species) and **suet** are among birds' leading menu options in winter, so stock up for your feeders now. And if you're planning a trip

somewhere warm, it's important not to leave your regulars in the lurch: ask a friend or neighbour to restock your feeders while you're away.

On the horizon

The annual Winter Finch Forecast predicts a busy winter for irrupting winter finches in our area, thanks largely to a poor seed and cone crop in their northern breeding grounds. Watch for **purple finches**, **evening grosbeaks** and **common redpolls** as the winter unfolds.

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



Wood Duck

Photo by David Howe

New Edinburgh resident pledges major donation and challenges the community

By Paul McConnell

Long-time resident of the 'Burgh, Gavin Murphy, has done it again. A few years ago, Gavin donated \$500,000 to the Ottawa Hospital in support of innovative research and technology for cancer treatment. But his generosity hasn't stopped there. Gavin has just made a second major donation, this time to the Kemptville District Hospital.

Gavin is a semi-retired lawyer who doesn't slow down. After a busy career in Ottawa and the UK, he continues to lecture, mentor students, write scholarly articles, edit legal journals, figure prominently in Ottawa's international university alumni community, and win medals at Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club.

He also maintains a passionate interest in the well-being of our universal, publicly funded healthcare system. He strongly believes that everyone should have access to healthcare services because it's just and equitable. Gavin demonstrates that support in the most tangible way, by putting his own money to good use for the



Photo by Jenn Westendorp

New Edinburgh resident Gavin Murphy recently pledged \$230,000 to pay for half the cost of a new x-ray machine at the Kemptville District Hospital and challenged the community to match him dollar for dollar.

benefit of others. His latest donation will make a big difference at Kemptville District

Hospital (KDH) by assisting with the purchase of a new and

advanced x-ray machine.

Ottawa residents are becoming acquainted with the KDH due to its successful partnership with the Orthopedics Department at the Ottawa Hospital. Many Ottawa residents get referred to the KDH to reduce their wait-time for surgery. Gavin had hip surgery there last year and was

greatly impressed by the staff and the care he received at every stage. He wanted to find a way to show KDH his appreciation and became aware of the hospital's need to replace an old x-ray machine long past its anticipated expiry date. The new machine would be a welcome upgrade, incorporating the latest technology; it would significantly enhance critical diagnostic capabilities and patient care in a wide range of applications.

As a result, in partnership with the KDH Foundation, Gavin has pledged \$230,000 (approximately half the cost) in support of the hospital's campaign to raise funds for the new x-ray machine. He is challenging the Ottawa community to participate with him, and he will match contributions dollar for dollar, in effect doubling every donation.

If you wish to contribute to this project and have a practical impact on local healthcare, you can donate, or obtain further information, by visiting kdhfoundation.ca.

Bravo to Gavin for such a generous gift, and for promoting the value of donor support to enhance our health care system.

Paul McConnell lives on River Lane with his wife Bev and served on the New Edinburgh Community Alliance board in past years.

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Coats for kids by local Knights of Columbus

By Denis Côté

The Coats for Kids initiative, spearheaded by the Knights of Columbus, is committed to ensuring that no child faces the winter cold without proper care and warmth. Since 2008, Ontario Knights have distributed more than 100,000 coats to children in need. In 2024, the Ontario Council set an ambitious goal of distributing 15,000 coats, building on the momentum of 16,900 coats distributed in 2023. These coats are distributed through schools, parish events, and social agencies, bringing comfort directly to children in vulnerable communities.

Many Ottawa Knights Councils participate in this initiative, with the Notre-Dame Council focusing on two elementary schools in Lowertown and Vanier to deliver coats to children who need them most. Parishioners and community partners also play a vital role: Metro Beechwood and Rideau Groceries were partners in the Canada Day BBQ fundraising event to support Coats for Kids.

Nate Nuntjens, manager for Beechwood Metro, expressed



Photo by Denis Côté

Knights of Columbus

pride in their contribution: “As corporate citizens, we are honored to have contributed tangibly to such worthwhile fundraising activity for the good of our community.”

Assumption School Principal Tara-Jo Hunter highlights the importance of the initiative, saying: “My school sits right in the heart of Vanier, a community filled with resilience, diversity, and strength. Many of our families face challenges, and the Knights of Columbus’

thoughtful support helps ensure the children can walk to school, play outside, and learn in comfort and warmth throughout the cold months ahead.” Her words reflect the deeper significance of the program—not just providing warmth, but demonstrating community, kindness, and compassion in action.

As professional educator Rita F. Pierson once said: “Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give

up on them.” This perfectly summarizes the importance of connection and support in a child’s development. The generosity shown through Coats for Kids is a tangible expression of that caring community spirit – helping children feel valued, protected, and connected as they face the realities of winter. These words resonate well in our New Edinburgh community.

Surely, providing a warm coat for the winter is a

meaningful start toward nurturing hope and resilience among our youth. For more information check out Ontario Knights of Columbus website Ontariokofc.ca

Denis is a semi-retired psychologist and ex-cadre of the Public Service of Canada. He enjoys volunteering on many initiatives in the 'Burgh and elsewhere to generate compassion and build healthier communities.



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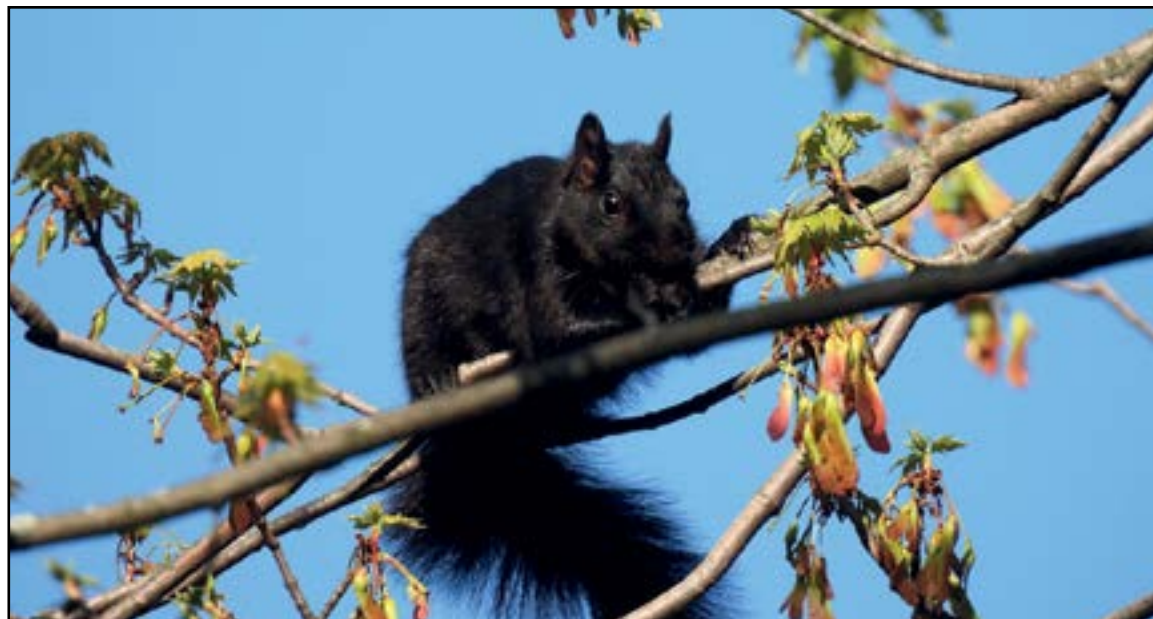
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Going nuts: The tiny winter survivalists outsmarting us all

By Tony Gaston

Supposing you had nothing to keep you warm in winter: think how much food you would need to eat to keep going. Now think of a squirrel, perhaps one per cent of your body weight, and with a per-kilogram metabolism about four times higher, despite having a nice fur coat. Suitably dressed, you could probably manage in winter on 3,000 calories a day: about 500 g of peanut butter, or less than one per cent of an average human body weight. The squirrel, on the other hand, needs 200 calories to survive, about 30 g of peanut butter, nearer 10 per cent of its body weight. To compound this discrepancy, while all humans need to do is head to the supermarket once a week, the squirrel needs to go and find food among the



Grey (Black) Squirrel (going nuts)

trees, shrubs, and lawns of the 'Burgh. While supermarket shelves are always stocked

seasonal: in winter snow may cover most foraging sites.

In anticipation of this lean spell, squirrels in fall indulge in frantic food gathering that concentrates especially on tree seeds. Among those found commonly hereabouts, oaks and walnuts provide the best sources of food in this season and they are collected ruthlessly. Many acorns and walnuts will be cached at ground level or in tree stumps. It would take a huge effort for the squirrel to carefully detach an acorn high up in an oak, carry it down to the ground and bury it. Instead, many squirrels adopt the tactic of biting off whole twigs, along with their attached acorns, so that they fall to the ground at the base of the tree. This results in untidy piles of oak twigs and leaves littering footpaths and sidewalks, as well as

the occasional passer-by being surprised at being struck by an acorn on the noggin. Grey (Black) squirrels are the main exponent of this specific technique.

Walnuts are dealt with differently. Squirrels mostly allow them to fall off the tree of their own accord. However, once the nuts are on the ground, squirrels swiftly move them a little way and then chew off the tough outer skin and moist inner flesh, discard those, and carry the inner nut off to storage. The material outside the walnut contains a poisonous compound – juglone – that squirrels avoid. Juglone can cause blistering to human skin, but apparently not to squirrels. Near my condominium, both red squirrels and chipmunks were involved in carrying off the local walnuts: the result was a series of untidy patches of fragmented walnut coverings. For some reason, the squirrels preferred to strew them on our pathways and stone walls, rather than among the flowerbeds where they would have attracted less attention.

Squirrels and oaks certainly have a long history of coexistence, so the apparent damage the oaks suffer at the paws of the squirrels is presumably compensated by the squirrels' work in dispersing and burying the nuts. After all, an oak tree lives several hundred years and needs just one acorn to grow into an adult tree for its legacy to be assured. Oaks are playing the long game. There may still be trees in the Ottawa Valley that were here before the colonists came – and they may yet outlast us.

Tony Gaston used to be a member of the Canadian Wildlife Service. He has lived on Dufferin Road since 1980 and would welcome any comments on his articles at tonygastonconsult@gmail.com.

Photo courtesy of Tony Gaston

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Coyotes in our neighbourhood?

By Jean-Pierre Bacle

Although seldom seen in our neighbourhood, coyotes (*Canis latrans*) have been on the increase throughout the Ottawa region. The trend is attributed to several factors: for one, they are highly adaptive to various environments including woodland, grassland, suburban neighbourhood, and urbanized areas. As carnivores, coyotes are also opportunistic feeders and can consume a wide range of food sources depending on what is most easily available at any given time of year. The coyote diet will include small mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, fruits, and even food scraps. As scavengers, they often feed on carrion, including roadkill. Coyotes have few predators, which allows their populations to grow and expand, even as human development continues to encroach upon their natural habitats. Coyotes are now adapted to living in proximity to humans.

In New Edinburgh, sightings are few and far between; the last documented one was Oct. 7, 2020. A blog post from the National Beechwood Cemetery details the presence of a coyote living in the southern part of the grounds for a few months (photo 1). Since then, additional anecdotal sightings have been reported by the groundskeepers – and by this author. In October 2024, I observed a coyote stalking a flock of wild turkeys in the cemetery grounds with an unsuccessful outcome. More recently, in July 2025 a coyote was seen in the grassy fields along Birch Road heading towards the Ottawa River.

Documenting coyotes is a challenge because they are elusive creatures, and when seen they quickly flee. Trail cameras – also called motion detector cameras or camera traps – are useful tools to document and monitor wildlife. Photo above shows such a camera positioned on a tree. These battery-powered devices can be programmed to take photos day and night, as well as short video clips of wildlife passing by. With approval from the Beechwood National Cemetery administration, a trail camera was installed at a strategic location within the woodland on the north sector of the cemetery grounds.

The trail camera yielded a variety of wildlife pictures



Photo courtesy of Beechwood National Cemetery

Coyote lying on the road.

which included raccoons, squirrels (two species), skunks, wild turkeys, one red-shouldered hawk, and a pair of coyotes. Photo above shows a coyote passing during the night on Jul. 11, 2025, at 12:29 am. It is noteworthy that coyotes usually forage in pairs or groups, whereas foxes are solitary hunters. The trail cam monitoring will continue until late fall.



Photo by Jean-Pierre Bacle

Trail camera in action.

The first record of coyotes in the Ottawa region dates to early 2000; thereafter, reports are better documented and more frequent. In municipal reports from 2019 to 2021, city and press summaries show an uptick in complaints or sightings: from approximately 21 in 2019, to approximately 438 in 2020, and approximately 476 in 2021. Reports indicate coyotes were commonly seen roaming in areas adjacent to green spaces, woodland edges, parks, and conservation areas, and within suburbs. Just this

past October, CTV Ottawa reported on several close encounters between coyotes and dog walkers on public trails in Orleans. Although the City of Ottawa states that “coyotes are not typically dangerous,” incidents such as these should raise public awareness and guide us on how to adjust to these encounters.

The coyote closely resembles a German Shepherd dog but is

usually half the weight. It is recognizable by its bushy tail and large, pointed ears. On average, a coyote weighs twice as much as a fox. Although coyotes are mainly nocturnal, they can be active during the day, especially during spring and summer as they forage for their young, and during fall when they prey on diurnal animals such as rabbits and wild turkeys.

Coyotes serve an essential function in our ecosystems, helping to control rodent populations. While



Photo by Jean-Pierre Bacle

Coyote captured at night by a trail camera.

their adaptability has led to increased encounters with humans, if we seek to understand their behaviour and habitat needs, we can foster better coexistence.

Jean-Pierre Bacle is a retired Canadian graduate from the University of Ottawa living in both Ottawa (near

the Beechwood Cemetery) and Alexandria, VA. His background is in geography, natural resources, and natural sciences. Since retiring, he's engaged in citizen science activities ranging from wildlife monitoring and habitat assessment to natural resources.

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Fern Hill School's amazing race

By Keith Willey

Many people in our neighbourhood know that Fern Hill School offers children an exceptional place to learn, to grow, and to develop. But did you know that as well as delivering a strong academic curriculum designed to equip children for success in life, the

school also promotes active learning, often outside the confines of the classroom?

Located in New Edinburgh, the school community is made up of a diverse group, including families from the area, across the city, and around the world, and given its geographical position, provides close

proximity to many local parks, the riverside, downtown, and the grounds of Rideau Hall. The school frequently makes use of this abundance of space to help students thrive.

Most recently, supported by the fantastic Mr. King, grade 6, 7 and 8 students took part in the Fern Hill Amazing Race (based on the popular TV show) using their initiative, resilience, deduction, and problem-solving skills to race around the city (under appropriate supervision) to solve clues, complete challenges, and finish the race. The day was a huge success, as the pictures show, with the children having a lot of fun while applying the knowledge they have acquired in a classroom setting to solve real-world problems all with a healthy dose of friendly competition thrown in.

Fern Hill's Preschool to Grade 8 classes each share the same caring, nurturing environment. The school is small, and in many ways, feels like family – with small class sizes and minimal staff turnover. The school calls this the "Fern Hill advantage." By thriving in their early years, Fern Hill students develop the confidence and skills they need for success – now and later in life – so that they are in the best position possible to live happy, healthy lives, and to win the Amazing Race of life.

Keith Willey lives on Noel St. and is a parent of two children (JK and Grade 6) at Fern Hill School.



Photo by Mike King

Fern Hill students competing in the Amazing Race.

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Thank you to all my friends, neighbours and clients who worked with me and referred me business this year. I am privileged to have the opportunity to live and work in this great community.

Best regards to all for a happy and healthy 2026. I look forward to assisting you with your real estate questions and needs in the future.

J'aimerais remercier tous mes amis, voisins et clients qui ont travaillé avec moi cette année et qui m'ont référé des nouveaux clients. Je me sens privilégiée de vivre et de travailler dans notre communauté.

Je souhaite à tous santé et joie pour l'année 2026. Je suis toujours disponible pour répondre à vos questions au sujet de l'immobilier et pour vous servir.

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Living in New Edinburgh without a car: A decade in review

Continued from page 1

other alternative health care. We found a doctor on the uOttawa campus, an easy bike ride even with kids. New Edinburgh was a perfect location for us without mentioning the quiet, tree-lined streets, Stanley Park and the river, an amazing community newspaper, fun neighbourhood activities, and many great residents we have met since.

This November marked a decade of living in New Edinburgh. Our family has changed a lot. Our small children both graduated from high school and started their young adult lives. It seems like a good time to reflect on the last 10 years living in this neighbourhood without owning a car.

Here are some of the adventures we've experienced.

Getting to work and school

André and I primarily work from home, removing the necessity of a daily commute. André takes the train to Montreal or Quebec City every two weeks.

Our daughter attended Colonel By Secondary School for their International Baccalaureate program. Colonel By is a 17-minute drive from our house. By bus, though, it takes almost an hour and most of the time, far longer. Her day usually included at least two and a half and often three hours of commuting. There are no centrally located IB programs offered in Ottawa. Perhaps in part because of his sister's experience, our son chose to attend De La Salle Public High School which is an easy 15–20-minute walk.

Fun times

Choosing extracurricular activities was largely influenced by our carlessness. There were extracurriculars that were ruled out due to their timing and/or distance. Nonetheless, our kids were able to take swimming lessons at the Lowertown pool, play RPL soccer in Rockcliffé, dance at the School of Dance, play pickleball at school after hours, take piano lessons, attend camps at ONEC, and get their black belts in Taekwondo. There were real benefits to only participating in activities in our area. Foremost, our children were autonomous early on. They could walk themselves to their

lessons and their activities. We parents were not spending our evenings and weekends driving. That early independent mobility meant that our teens later walked on their own to the orthodontist for their monthly braces checkups.

Car-sharing

Every year, we assess our transportation expenses which include car rentals, car sharing, public transportation, and bike maintenance and repair. We consistently spend less than we would if we owned a car which, of course, includes the costs of oil and tire changes, maintenance, insurance, registration, the car itself, and those parking tickets.

Eating

Another side effect of the pandemic is that we discovered grocery delivery. We have always participated in a local farm's CSA (community supported agriculture) summer basket that we can pick up within a few minutes' walk. Having milk, eggs, vegetables, fruit and other products delivered to our doorstep was a game-changer. Last year, we also found CSA baskets of local vegetables delivered to the neighbourhood throughout

the year – another food-supply breakthrough.

Staying healthy

One of the hidden benefits of being mostly carless is that we get our "steps" in. We all walk and bike a lot more than we would otherwise. Aside from walking, biking, and running in the neighbourhood for exercise and as transportation, we've also had plenty of options in the area for fitness activities at the gym, community centres, and yoga and fitness hubs.

In our ten years without a car in New Edinburgh, we have had many wonderful discoveries. We have a December tradition of walking to ByWard Market to collect boughs or a tree. For summer outings, Tavern on the Falls opened years ago and now Tavern at the Gallery and Kiwecki point are fun easy-walking destinations. The Riverhouse is a perfect bike-and-swim or watch the sunset with a nice beverage option.

At the end of this decade, we are thankful for this neighbourhood and its surroundings. Along the way, there have surely been some frustrations. Beechwood still hasn't

become the 15-minute village that we imagined, though we remain truly grateful for the businesses that offer their services there. The traffic around us has significantly increased and public transportation has become even less reliable and, seemingly, less efficient even with the addition of the light rail. Nonetheless, we have no plans to buy a car

anytime soon and will continue to enjoy what is nearby, our physical and mental well-being, and the lighter load on our wallets. Hopefully, we are reducing our impact on the environment as a bonus.

If you have questions about our experiences living without a car or car-sharing in Ottawa, please contact me at jmanning@fastmail.fm



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This season my wish for all is to return to the simple joy of the holidays - consider some new and old fashioned ideas for gift giving:

- Donation to The Food Bank for whomever you would be buying something who needs nothing
- gift certificate to The Pet Pantry to nourish some of our "best friends ever" when these costs have also soared
- home made jams, jellies, pickles or cookies
- gift certificates for cleaning by local providers - especially nice after festive gatherings
- colourful hand made socks and mittens made by loving hands from local, gifted knitters
- a post Christmas massage for tired Angel Moms
- certificates for babysitting so parents can have a time out and a special meal in a local restaurant
- gifts of a fitness assessment by local professionals to kick start those New Year's resolutions
- prepaid physiotherapy assessment re: fall prevention or pre-op strengthening for a loved one

All these ideas can be sourced locally. We can make a difference together in our community, take care of one another and spread the real joy of Christmas.

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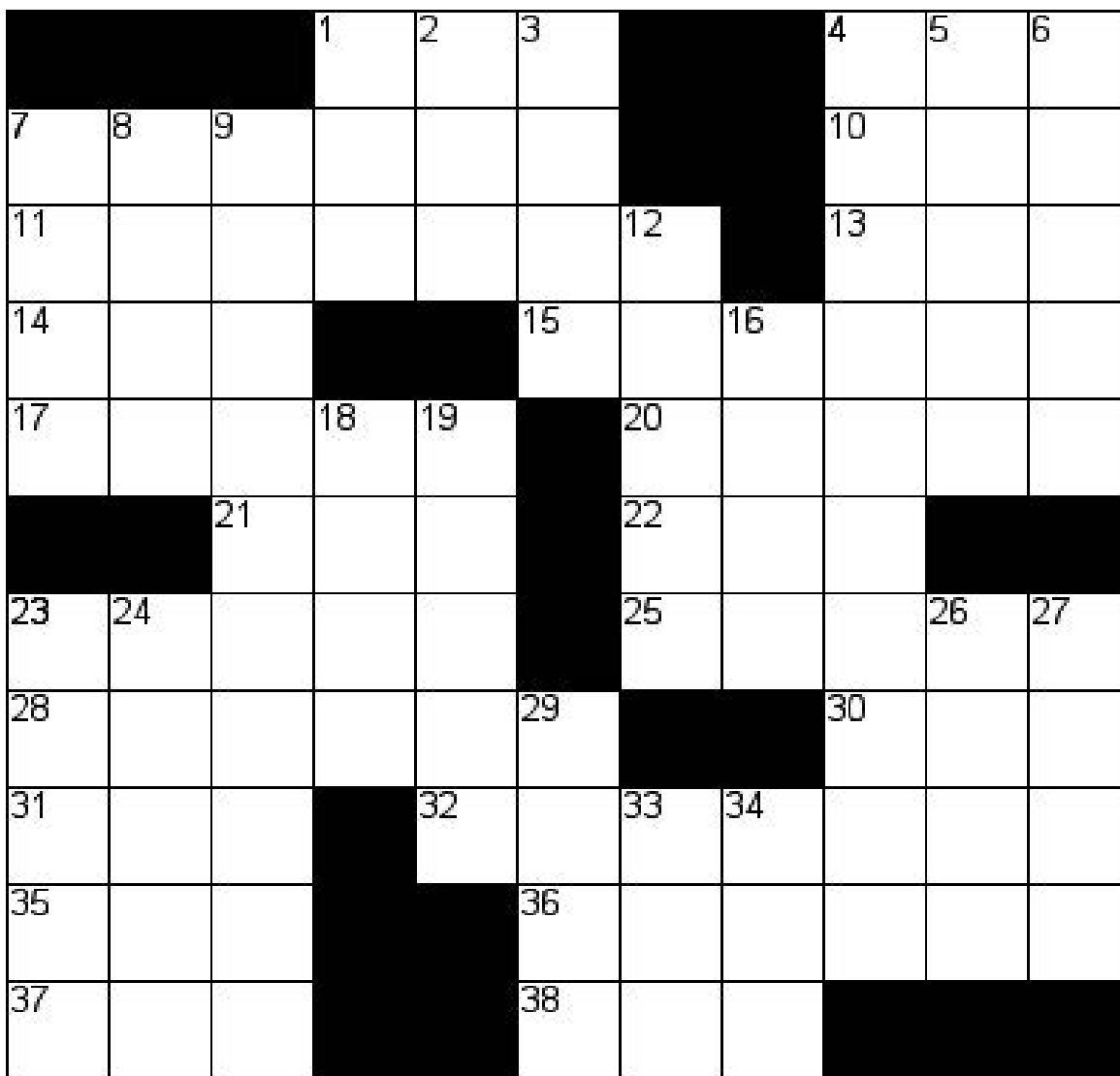
From the puzzler

By **Frédéric Lavoie**

In making this puzzle, there are two specific clues where you can probably tell I was having a bit too much fun: 24-Down and 26-Down, where I do hope a little voice in your head sang the clue. I'm also quite amused just by including 9-Down, although my wife being from a bowling family – both lawn bowling and alley bowling – I know I can't afford

to throw too many of those! Spoilers: The inspiration for this location – and why I'm picking an intersection out in Manotick – is the One World Bazaar, hosted not too far away! (I did take some creative liberty, as the actual closest intersection is Mitch Owens Road crossing Manotick Station Road, with Manotick Station being, bluntly, a longer and less crossword-friendly concept than Stagecoach.) The One World Bazaar is stocked with artisanal crafts

from around the globe, with each of their fall weekends dedicated to a different part of the world - while I can't quite tell you my favourite creation, I can tell you the items below have a special place in my heart! The One World Bazaar is now finished for the season, but you can find it online at oneworldbazaar.ca. **You can also find the solution to this puzzle on page 39.**



ACROSS

- 1 Counterpart of 'Yep'
- 4 _ussex_nnex_orks: group of artist collectives
- 7 Steam purchase that used to come on a CD
- 10 Black goop used to repair roofs and roads
- 11 Red branched vegetable that might be made into crisps, muffins, or sauces
- 13 "Right you ___!"
- 14 Flake in porridge
- 15 Creature painted on many racing boats, in a yearly festival by Mooney's Bay
- 17 Stand-up comedian Hedburg
- 20 African-American athlete who excelled at the 1936 Berlin Olympics in track and field
- 21 "It's the end of an ___"
- 22 World of Warcraft race
- 23 Singer Lavigne (Girlfriend, Sk8er Boi, Complicated)
- 25 Japanese city that is an anagram of its capital
- 28 It might be cut with oversized scissors
- 30 "Eureka!"
- 31 Woman's name hidden in 'holiday'
- 32 Seat for a motorcyclist's passenger
- 35 Long, slithery fish
- 36 They get longer in winter
- 37 Predecessor to 🤖 or 🤨
- 38 Emotional rock genre

DOWN

- 1 Unceremoniously snatch
- 2 Q&A on Reddit (_sk_e_nything)
- 3 Group of cattle
- 4 Horse-drawn carriage
- 5 CBC's parliamentary bureau staple ___ Wherry
- 6 Chunky little birds
- 7 High school graduation party
- 8 Spiced black tea
- 9 Sign it might be time to put up the bumpers
- 12 Babbling waterway in many neighbourhood names (Over___, Falling___, Beaver___)
- 16 Go ___: not go according to plan
- 18 Bed for a baby
- 19 Heavenly hoops
- 23 Disney mermaid princess
- 24 It killed the radio star (and then got uploaded to YouTube/TikTok)
- 26 The Backstreet Boys want it _____ way
- 27 Rowboat's paddles
- 29 'Nicky nicky ___ doors': ding dong ditch
- 33 Not that bright
- 34 Possibly-inflated sense of self



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Christmas then and now

By Eleanor Dunn

Am I a monarchist today because the Earl of Athlone gave me an orange when I was seven years old? Is that why the Daily Mail's weekly YouTube program "Palace Confidential" is my guilty pleasure today?

It was 1944: Canada was at war, and the Duke of Athlone was the Governor General at the time. His family name was Alexander Cambridge, but he was also known as Prince Alexander of Teck. A member of the extended royal family, he was the great-grandson of King George III (aka the "Mad King"). was Queen Mary's brother, uncle of disgraced King Edward VIII (who abdicated to marry a twice-divorced American) and King George VI, who succeeded Edward after he gave up the throne. The Duke of Athlone's wife, Princess Alice, was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

Canada was feeling its oats after World War I: nationalism was nascent and there were calls in the 1930s to appoint a Canadian to the Vice-Regal post of Governor General. The unexpected death of Lord Tweedsmuir (John Buchan, author of *The 39 Steps*) in February 1940, created an opening for a new Governor General. According to some historians, King George VI was not unwilling — except for the fact Canada's then-Prime Minister, MacKenzie King, advised the King that the time was not right to change the Vice-Regal tradition, what with Canada being embroiled in World War II.

So the Earl of Athlone, Princess Alice, and aide-de-camp the Earl of MacDuff set off to Canada by sea. They had an interesting voyage across the Atlantic, with their ship using submarine-evading zig-zag patterns until it reached Halifax, Nova Scotia. The group then travelled by train to Ottawa. They took up residence in Rideau Hall, where their social life included tobogganing parties, skating lessons on the grounds, and skiing in Gatineau Park. The vice-regal couple's three grandchildren also lived with them at Rideau Hall.

Imagine the surprise when the invitations arrived in our

New Edinburgh homes. Kids from the Sunday Schools at neighbourhood churches were invited to a Christmas Party at Rideau Hall! We could hardly believe it: we felt the daily foot patrols by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police just inside the fence were designed to keep us out! Looking into the grounds, it was a kid's paradise: trees to climb, places to hide — so naturally it became a challenge to climb the fence and get in without getting caught. If you were caught, the RCMP constable would march you to your house and turn you over to your very embarrassed, very angry mother. Parenting was very different in those days: giving one's parents a "red face" usually resulted in corporal punishment.



Photo by Eleanor Dunn

Special pass for Rideau Hall was an important memory for Eleanor Dunn.

As the Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice were minor royals, curtsying and bowing would be required when greeting them. We practiced at home, but today I can't remember whether it was left knee bent with right foot tucked in behind or vice versa. We dressed in our Sunday best — in my case it was a kilt in the ancient hunting Stewart tartan and a Fair Isle sweater. My mother, an immigrant from Scotland, while not a royalist, thought dressing her daughters like Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret was the height of fashion. The "little princesses" were frequently photographed wearing kilts and Fair Isle sweaters.

Arriving at Rideau Hall, we kids went through a receiving line, curtsying and bowing our way into a very large room. We were fed sandwiches,

cookies and ice cream, entertained by a clown, there was a Santa Claus who gave out candy canes. The Earl himself handed out the oranges, which were a real treat because we didn't see much fruit during wartime, other than apples or strawberries grown in our parents' backyard victory garden. I remember taking my orange home where it was divided and shared.

That was my first encounter with royalty, but not my last. During my reporting career I met Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on a royal tour; and Prince Charles when he came to the National Press Club on one of his Canadian trips — women journalists had only recently been admitted to the club as members. I met

Princess Anne in Scotland when she opened the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club indoor rowing facility when my brother was club president. And I shook Prince William's hand when he got out of the limo to do walk-about among the people lining the drive up to Rideau Hall when he and Catherine were on tour. I really had wanted to see Princess Catherine, but it was not to be: she exited the limo on the other side, and I was on the wrong side of the road!

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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Seventeen Voyces returns to St. Bartholomew's Church for a festive holiday concert

By Clare Jackson

Seventeen Voyces will return to St. Bartholomew's Church in New Edinburgh with a festive afternoon concert of carols and seasonal favourites on Sun., Dec. 21. Conducted by founding director Kevin Reeves, Seventeen Voyces is celebrating its 29th season this year.

The choir, made up of singers from across the National Capital Region, has built a strong reputation for presenting unusual and eclectic programs to Ottawa audiences. Over the years, Seventeen Voyces has collaborated with many of the city's top ensembles, including Thirteen Strings, the Ottawa Baroque Consort, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra. In addition to traditional choral concerts, the choir has staged a wide variety of creative productions, including silent films accompanied by choral and organ music (now a beloved annual tradition), semi-staged operas, and multimedia

dramatic performances.

Following two years of well-received Christmas concerts at St. Bartholomew's, Seventeen Voyces returns to New Edinburgh this December with another festive program sure to lift the holiday spirit. This year's concert will feature the choir's signature blend of traditional and contemporary choral works, including such Renaissance pieces as *O magnum mysterium* by Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548–1611) and *Quem vidistis, pastores?* by Richard Dering (c. 1580–1630).

Other seasonal highlights include works by English composer Benjamin Britten (1913–1976) and UK-born Derek Holman (1931–2019). The choir will perform Britten's hauntingly beautiful *Hymn to the Virgin*, written when the much-lauded composer was just a teenager, as well as Holman's *Mary is a Lady Bright*, which sets a 15th-century text to lyrical and angelic harmonies. Holman, who spent most of his career in



Photo courtesy of Clare Jackson

Seventeen Voyces in concert.

Canada, received the Order of Canada for his contributions to music in 2002.

A medley of English carols arranged by Ottawa-based composer and frequent Seventeen Voyces collaborator Gustav Holst will also be

performed, along with other festive gems.

This year's Christmas concert will be presented twice: Sat., Dec. 20 at 7:30 pm at St. Matthew's Anglican Church (130 Glebe Ave.) and Sun., Dec. 21 at 4 pm at St.

Bartholomew's Church (125 MacKay St.)

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for students, and free for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased online at seventeenvoyces.ca/concerts/ or at the door: cash, credit, and debit accepted.

The concert will take place at St. Bart's on December 21. Audiences can also mark their calendars for the remaining two concerts of Seventeen Voyces' 2025-26 season.

A concert featuring the Ottawa Baroque Consort will showcase works by Rosenmüller, Bach, and Mozart on Sun., Mar. 29, 2026, at 4 pm at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in the Glebe. The final concert of the season will present favourite choral motets and anthems spanning four centuries, accompanied by piano and organ, on Sun., May 17, 2026, also at St. Matthew's Church.

Clare Jackson sits on the Seventeen Voyces Board

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Rideau Chorale celebrates 10 years of music

By Peter Robb

A 10th anniversary is a milestone worth marking. For a community choir, the gift of music is what matters on these important dates and Rideau Chorale's 10th anniversary gift is a December performance of Handel's Messiah.

Rideau Chorale began as the Tuesday Choir in the Ottawa Folklore Centre, an informal collection of interested singers working mainly on pop and folk pieces.

In 2014, Roland Graham, director of music at Southminster Church assumed leadership of the group. Within a year the Folklore Centre had closed, but, after discussion with the singers, Graham led the group into a new incarnation called the Rideau Chorale. The group pivoted to focus on classical works, beginning with a 2016 performance of Carmina Burana by Carl Orff. Since then, the choir has grown to some 60 members from across Ottawa and Western Quebec.

"The Rideau Chorale is a lovely community of people, and I really enjoy stretching my abilities and technique," says tenor Janice Manchee, the current Chair of Rideau Chorale.

Tim Schobert, a member of the bass section, says the



Photo by Peter Polgar

Rideau Chorale celebrates 10 years of making music.

choir provides a great addition to his retirement activities. A member since the early days, he says he has "enjoyed classical music since early childhood and the choir enhances and broadens my experience of this wonderful genre of music." To prove his commitment to the form, Schobert has started and maintains classmusic.ca which offers a comprehensive listing of classical performances in the city. His personal musical highlight with Rideau Chorale was a performance of Brahms' A

German Requiem, "a truly spiritual journey." He adds he is looking forward very much to performing Messiah.

The choir has tackled a wide range of repertoire from composers such as Handel, Mozart, Duruflé, Fauré, Palestrina, Rutter, Haydn, Vaughn Williams, and Charpentier, not to mention pieces written or arranged for them by local composers.

Graham stepped away from the choir in 2022. After a brief job search, Kevin Reeves, who founded the Seventeen Voyces

ensemble and who has worked with several choirs in the Ottawa area, took the baton.

For the 10th anniversary, Reeves decided to return to Messiah. Despite being performed many times by many choirs in many venues since its debut in Dublin, Ireland in 1742, the oratorio seems new and fresh in every performance. For Reeves: "There is so much nutrition within those pages. This is the beginning of my third season with the ensemble, and I'm constantly buoyed by the sheer enthusiasm of its singers. When I announced the prospect of singing Messiah for the anniversary, I was worried about a lacklustre response. But no, I received a chorus of polyphonic cheers."

In the performance, the choir will be joined by soloists:

soprano Ania Hejnar, counter tenor Mark Donnelly, tenor Jean-Philippe Lazure, bass Alisdair Campbell and a small orchestra. A graduate of Ottawa's School of Dance, Sarah Zaugg, will perform during the Pastoral. "We know this is a crowd-pleaser, but we want to make this a particularly special event, for our anniversary and for our audience," Manchee said.

Rideau Chorale will perform Messiah on Sat., Dec. 13 at 7:30 pm in Southminster United Church. Doors open at 7 pm. Tickets are available at zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/rideau-chorale-messiah Find information about Rideau Chorale and their upcoming performances at rideauchorale.com.

Peter Robb sings tenor with Rideau Chorale.

Petition to stop the NCC's housing development on Sussex Drive

Continued from page 1

development is on a floodplain, and the whole area is part of the Heritage Conservation District of New Edinburgh, dating back to 1829.

As the largest landowner in the National Capital Region, the NCC is already offering surplus lands for development, including: 1200 Ledbury Ave., 1460 Riverside Drive, 2391, 2630, 2646 and 2650 Walkley Road, according to the NCC website.

There is no need to offer up Confederation Boulevard for housing development.

There might be an opportunity for the NCC be more creative. Perhaps a contemporary sculpture garden similar to the one in Regent's Park, London, UK, in partnership with the National Gallery of Canada? Another option is a beautiful urban park, designed

to welcome those with disabilities that would attract both tourists and residents.

To quote one signatory of the Petition:

The NCC's plan to build apartments on Sussex Drive risks permanently altering one of Ottawa's most historically significant and culturally symbolic corridors. Sussex Drive

is not simply a piece of real estate – it is a national landmark that connects Canada's Parliament, major embassies, heritage buildings, and cherished public spaces. Introducing high-density residential development in this area could undermine its heritage character, compromise public access, and set a dangerous precedent for prioritizing short-term economic interests over the preservation of iconic national sites. Urban growth can and should be directed toward areas that need revitalisation, not at the expense of irreplaceable heritage and the public's shared cultural landscape.

Please sign the Petition to Stop the NCC's Housing Development on Sussex Drive.

Sue McNee is part of the Friends of Sussex Drive and lives in New Edinburgh.



Scan QR Code or go to change.org/p/petition-to-stop-the-ncc-s-housing-development-on-sussex-drive-ottawa

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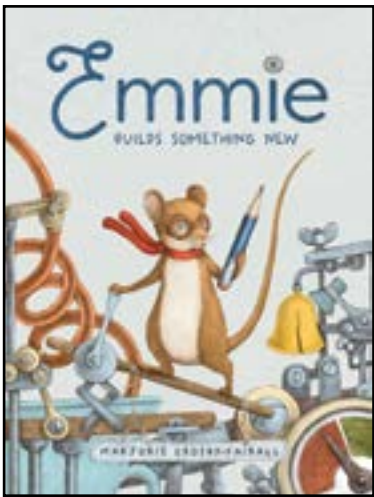
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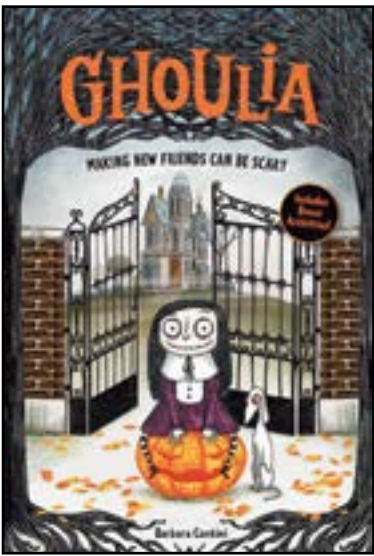
Books on Beechwood christmas reading recommendations

KIDS & TEENS



Emmie Builds Something New by Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (Ages 4–7)

Beautifully illustrated, this picture book features an imaginative mouse and an interloping cat who may turn out to not be so bad after all. –Hilary



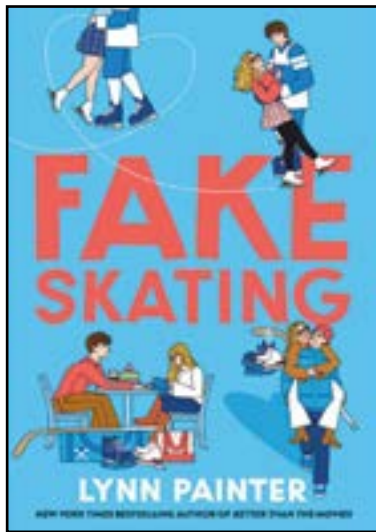
Ghoulia: Making New Friends Can Be Scary by Barbara Cantini (Ages 6–8)

This is a sweet, funny book about a young girl – who just happens to be a zombie – and all her hilarious attempts to make friends. –Hilary

The Last Resort by Erin Entrada Kelly (Ages 8–12)

A spooky ghost story full of interactive puzzles and a

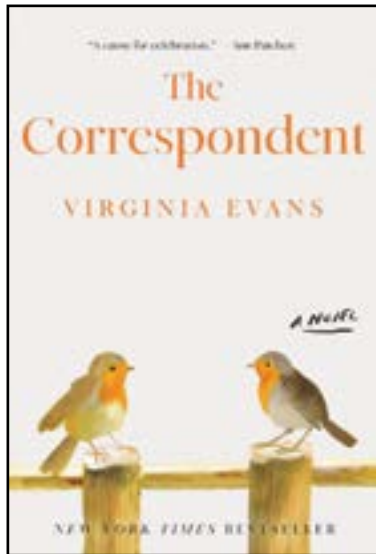
thrilling mystery to solve! –Hilary



Fake Skating by Lynn Painter (Ages 12+)

This fun hockey rom-com is a sweet, entertaining story about two childhood best friends who reconnect as high school seniors after a heartbreaking falling-out. –Hilary

FICTION



The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

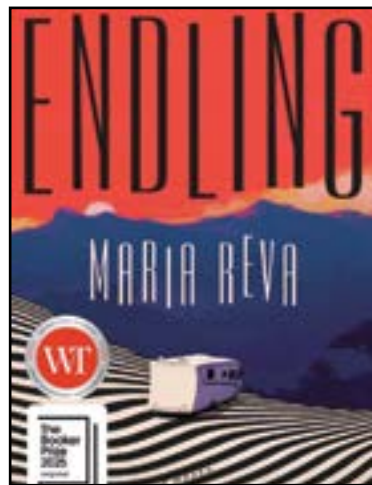
My favourite book of 2025 so far! We meet 72-year-old Sybil through the letters she writes and the replies she receives over many years of her life. Having led a full life, Sybil is a no-nonsense, well-read,

opiniated, thoughtful, and intelligent protagonist. She may even get me to start writing real letters to my friends again! –Cathy



What We Can Know by Ian McEwan

If you've ever wondered how people living in the year 2119 will look back at our current moment, this novel may provide some answers. It describes us as currently living in "... a paradise." This novel is a warning as well as a love letter to poetry, history, and humanity. It gently guides the reader away from despondency to an appreciation of all that we have and could be. –Michelle



Endling by Maria Reva

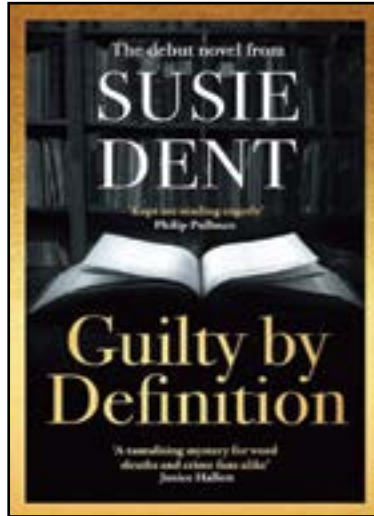
Yeva, a Ukrainian woman who dedicates her life to saving endangered snails, funds her activities by participating in "romance tours" between lonely foreign men and disinterested Ukrainian women. When she meets two sisters who plan to hold some foreign men hostage to draw attention to the problems of the bridal industry, an almost comic heist ensues. Nominated for many awards, this novel is humorous, compelling, original, and intelligent! –Michelle

MYSTERY

A Bitter Wind by James R. Benn

The twentieth book in the Billy Boyle saga is as much

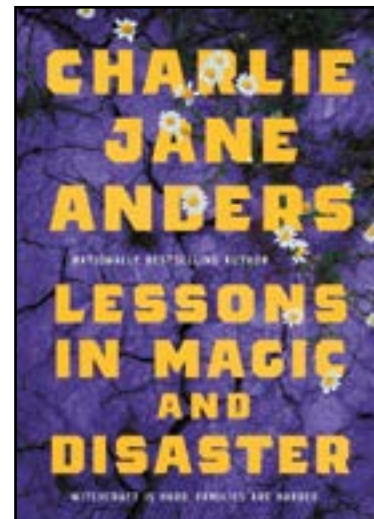
a page-turner as the previous books in the series. Billy Boyle, former Boston detective, is now a Captain in the US Army in WWII. His latest mission takes him back to England and his girlfriend. It is Christmas 1944, and all is peaceful until Billy stumbles upon the body of a US Air Force officer. He is then drawn into a world of codebreakers and espionage, and another thrilling adventure unfolds. –Mike



Guilty by Definition by Susie Dent

This is the debut mystery novel by lexicographer and etymologist Susie Dent. If you love words, puzzles, Oxford, and the OED, then this might be a perfect read for a cozy winter weekend. –Cathy

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY



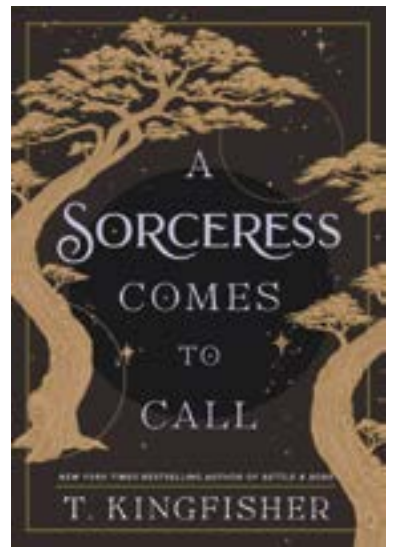
Lessons in Magic and Disaster by Charlie Jane Anders

This is a tender and thought-provoking novel that explores grief, love, and healing through the lens of Queer family survival, academia, and eighteenth-century literary intrigue. –Dave

The Tainted Cup by Robert Jackson Bennett

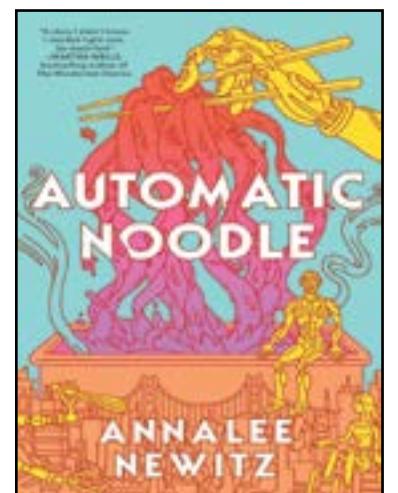
Winner of the 2025 Hugo and World Fantasy awards for best

novel, this book is a thrilling, clever mystery laid out in an intricately plotted fantasy set in a world where biotechnical magic and leviathan threats loom. –Dave



A Sorceress Comes to Call by T. Kingfisher

Darkly enchanting, this novel is a fairy-tale retelling of the Brothers' Grimm's Goose Girl. Set in a regency-adjacent world and told through layered characters, dry humour, and a haunting atmosphere, the novel is an exploration of coercive control and autonomy. –Dave



Automatic Noodle by Annalee Newitz

A cozy, near-future novella about a crew of food service robots who start a noodle restaurant in post-war San Francisco. This slim book touches on many big themes: immigration, slavery, social media manipulation and the rights of sentient artificial intelligence. But it is ultimately an uplifting, eye-opening story of autonomy and community. Vivid descriptions of biang biang noodles also made me hungry. –Dave

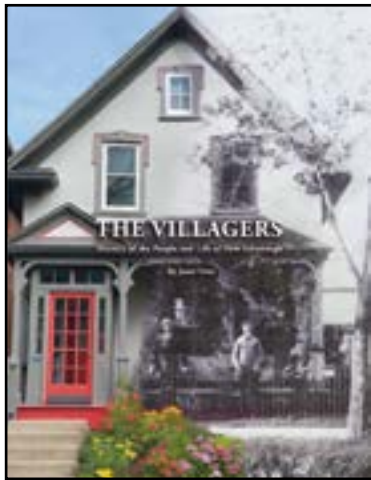
Alien Clay by Adrian Tchaikovsky

An imaginative and bold work of science fiction, this



is a provocative exploration of science, power and resistance. Imprisoned dissident scientists must survive a ruthless regime and a wild alien ecology. Readers who enjoy big ideas, mysteries, and strange ecologies will find it rewarding. –Dave

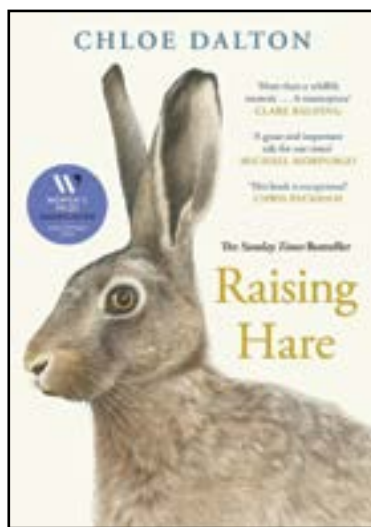
HISTORY



The Villagers by Janet Uren

Fascinating and thoroughly researched, this much-anticipated in-depth history of New Edinburgh is now available! Full of beautiful photographs and artwork, this coffee table book is a must for all 'Burghites! –Hilary

BIOGRAPHY



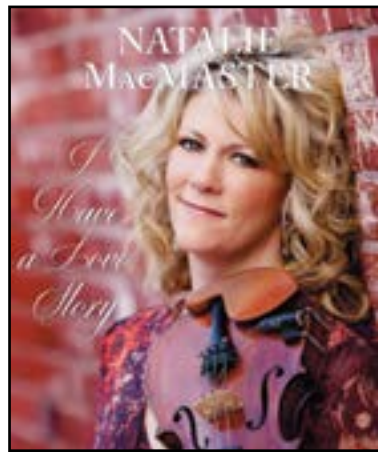
Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton

A heartwarming memoir by a young British woman who finds a baby hare. Their remarkable bond is told with love and lyricism. It is a love letter to the natural world. –Stephanie

Lafleur: The Legend by Steven Finn

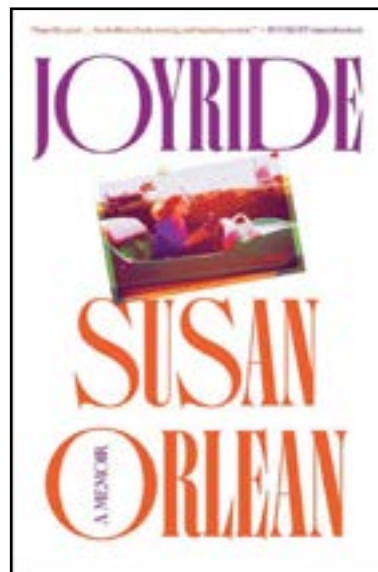
The life of the hockey legend, told in interviews and recollections by Lafleur's family, friends, and colleagues. Born in Thurso, QC (about 40 minutes from Rockliffe and New Edinburgh), Lafleur was the greatest hockey player of his

generation, and this book reveals all his successes and struggles. A must have. –Mike



I Have a Love Story by Natalie MacMaster

MacMaster's love of fiddle music, like many Cape Breton Islanders, grew from playing music with family and friends. This lovely memoir charts her journey from "steppin' her off" in kitchen parties to international fame. Humorous, heartfelt, and entertaining, reading this book feels like sitting in a warm kitchen, having a nice chat with a good friend. –Michelle



Joyride by Susan Orlean

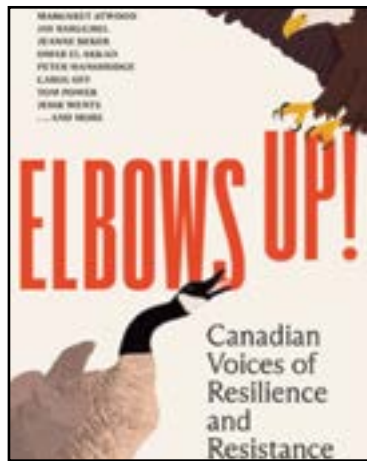
This memoir invites us to explore ordinary and extraordinary people and places, to seek the marvels that surround us, and to be curious about everything. Orlean's story is told with humour and wit. –Stephanie

Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy

This memoir portrays the grief of a daughter after her mother has died and contemplates how their tumultuous relationship shaped her as a writer and person. It is beautifully written and honest in its depiction of how parents and caregivers can hurt and influence their

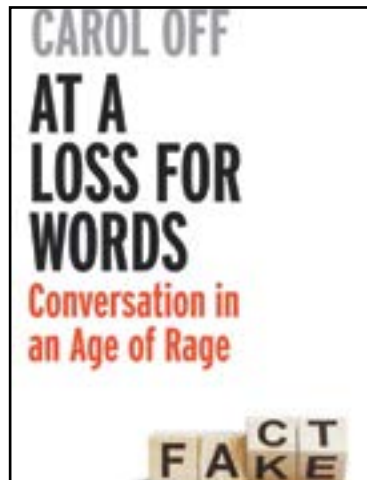
children in equally profound ways. –Michelle

POLITICS



Elbows Up by Elamin Abdelmahmoud

This is a new collection of essays that asks many of Canada's cultural leaders how we should be answering this fraught moment of aggression from our neighbour to the South. Refreshing, hopeful and illuminating, it brings some answers to the question of who and what we are in this time of resistance. –Cathy



At a Loss for Words by Carol Off

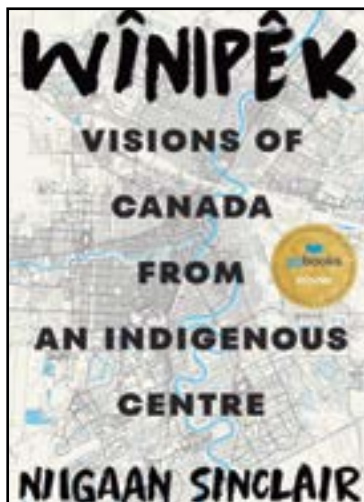
Perfect for our time and place, this book dissects six words – Freedom, Democracy, Truth, Woke, Choice, and Taxes – providing historical context to how our language has evolved over time. Enlightening, this may help us all separate fact from fiction. –Cathy

SOCIAL ISSUES

Universal: Renewing Human Rights in a Fractured World by Alex Neve

As the 2025 CBC Massey Lectures book, Universal is a reminder of the promises made with respect to "universal" human rights, the historical context of the concept and reality of human rights, and steps we need to take to renew Canada's commitments in this area. The author has included inspiring details and examples from his research and work with incredible human rights

activists around the world. –Michelle



Wînipêk by Nigaan Sinclair

Made up of a collection of essays written for the Winnipeg Free Press, this book is nominally about Winnipeg but is really about all of Canada. Sinclair has a talent for bringing clarity to our complex, difficult, and confounding history. –Cathy

Have an event coming up?

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LET'S GET TO THE HEART OF YOUR DEAL

For climate advocates and women in politics, McKenna's book is a tonic

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

With changes underway to Canada's path forward on climate action, any despondency over how we'll tackle rising emissions and their harmful impacts is understandable. That's why I was delighted to read *Run Like a Girl*, Catherine McKenna's new book that is both energizing and grounded in lessons and wisdom to take to heart in these times. McKenna is the former MP for Ottawa Centre from 2015–21 and former Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

To be bold, like McKenna herself is, I'd suggest her book be required reading for

climate change advocates and for any girl or woman considering political life in Canada.

The contrast between 2016 and today is stark. Back then, McKenna was leading the country's climate plans and Canada was geared to meet its 2030 emissions reductions targets. Today, those targets will definitely be missed, according to the Canadian Climate Institute.

The targets are in the Paris Agreement, the international climate change treaty which was negotiated just after McKenna and the Trudeau government were elected in October 2015. Canada owes McKenna a debt of gratitude for her role in the negotiations on the binding agreement.

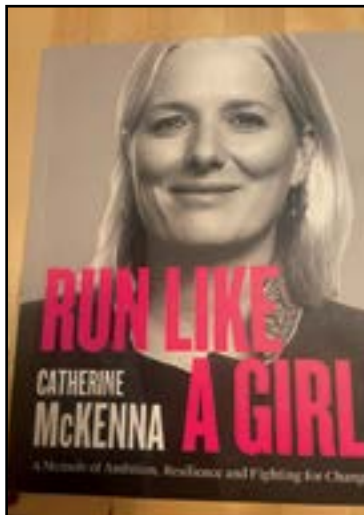


Photo by Karen Squires

For Catherine McKenna, “climate isn't just an environmental thing. It's an economic, justice, national security, jobs, Indigenous, innovation, gender, health, infrastructure thing!”

While she writes factually and with humility, it is clear her negotiating skills contributed to the agreement being reached, despite some cliffhanging moments.

That section alone is worth the purchase of the book, in my opinion – to gain insights into high-stakes international negotiations that often hang on individuals' not ceding to

personal threats. I am only guessing that her accomplishment at that venue won her the admiration of dozens of foreign politicians who have no doubt become global allies as she has continued her fight for climate action in her post-political career.

With the end of carbon pricing this year, McKenna makes clear that Canada will have to be “much tougher and more strategic” on climate. As she repeats often: “Hard things are hard.”

Always a straight talker and clear communicator, McKenna's book resonates with her voice and her honesty. An easy-going storyteller, she admits openly to her errors and does so with humour.

This is an eminently readable book that is enhanced by its visuals and often bite-size sub-chapters. While filled with behind-the-scenes episodes involving then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister's Office staffers, cabinet colleagues, and others — which makes for great reading — McKenna's advice for women in politics and for climate activists is its

greatest asset.

What is most troubling from McKenna's experience – and she is not alone in being the target of this — is that misogyny and climate change denial seem to go hand in hand.

Personal threats became a leitmotif of McKenna's political career in Ottawa. The book's “scrapbook” nature, filled with photos and visual mementoes, reveals both what she faced and how she confronted and coped with it. Calling out abuse was her first line of attack.

“Add women, change politics,” was one of McKenna's slogans in the 2015 campaign. Her book is compelling evidence of the difference women can and do make – including on the hard issues like climate change.

May many more women and men be encouraged to step up and do the “hard work” after reading this book.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright has volunteered on municipal campaigns and on community issues including climate and environmental action.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Join us as we celebrate Christmas!

December 7 at 7pm

Advent Lessons & Carols, a time of anticipation & preparation.

December 24 – Christmas Eve

4pm The Christmas Story – A Children's Pick-Up Pageant!

8pm Choral Eucharist with Carols & Choir

11pm Candlelight Midnight Mass, a more contemplative celebration

December 25 – Christmas Day

10.30am Sung Eucharist

For more information, call or visit.

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IT'S A PICK-UP PAGEANT!

DECEMBER 24TH AT 4PM

125 MACKAY STREET

There will be a costume for every child.

A 50-minute service with Christmas carols and the Christmas story told through the pageant.

Cookies & cider to follow.

Come and meet New Edinburgh's favourite donkey - Esther!

Rockcliffe Park Library: Programs for all ages

By Martha Hodgson

The Rockcliffe Park Library at 380 Springfield Rd. has a full calendar of exciting programs to enjoy this fall and winter. Much of this programming is made possible thanks to proceeds from the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale: a beloved community event that directly supports library activities throughout the year.

Whether you're looking for something to do with your family or a way to connect with fellow readers and crafters, there's something for everyone at the library. Registration for any of the events below can be completed in person, by phone, or online at bibliooottawalibrary.ca.

Family Programming

Family Storytime at the Library – Every Monday at 9:30 am

Join us for stories, rhymes, and songs for children and

their parents or caregivers.

All ages welcome. Drop-in. English program.

Pop-Up Fun for Kids – Every Thursday, 3:30-5 pm

Drop by the branch each week for a new self-directed pop-up activity in art, science, games, or puzzle challenges. Drop-in. Ages 3+ (with adult supervision).

Family Music in the Stacks: Winter Edition – Thursday, Dec. 18, 6:30-7:30 pm

Step into the enchanting world of Louis Mercier: *Habitant Voyageur*. His holiday performance brings French-Canadian stories, songs, and dance to life in a captivating celebration of culture and tradition. Drop-in.

Adult Programming

Crafternoon – Every Monday, 1-3 pm

If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or any type of handwork, join other craft enthusiasts

for a relaxing afternoon at the library. Bring your current project and share ideas and inspiration. Drop-in.

Rockcliffe Park Adult Book Club – First Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 pm

Join fellow readers for lively discussions of thought-provoking titles.

• Dec. 2, 2025: *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman
• Jan. 6, 2026: *The War We Won Apart* by Nahlah Ayed.

Drop-in. All are welcome.

Highlights from recent events

In October, the Rockcliffe Park branch hosted local visual artist Samia Be Salah for a Paint Night, where participants were guided through the process of creating an abstract work of art. The results were outstanding! Keep an eye out for future Paint Nights featuring local artists who will share their tips, techniques, and creative inspiration.

Telling so as not to forget: Three unforgettable stories from Poland's past

By John Leefe

New Edinburgh author Anna Brychcy's *The Soldier, the Spy and the Orphan* compellingly chronicles fragments of Poland's wartime history.

There's an old saying that everyone has at least one book in them. For New Edinburgh resident Anna Brychcy, an inauspicious fall on Mackay St. in 2019 resulted in a broken hand, but also a golden opportunity to write her first. While she says the book is neither a chronological history nor a memoir, the true stories depicting the lives of three remarkable individuals provide both historical insight and heartbreaking human drama in Poland's struggle for survival amidst the upheaval of two world wars.

While Anna's fall may have triggered the writing, the genesis for her book began much earlier when she worked as executive director of a long-term care centre, Montreal's CHSLD Polonais Marie-Curie-Sklodowska, from 1979–2010. In that capacity, Anna met many Polish immigrants whose lives were marked by the dramatic historical events in Europe during the first half of the twentieth century. Despite the many stories she heard, Anna focuses in her book on three individuals whose lives reflect ideals of courage, patriotism, resistance, and resilience. Each story is factually self-contained, but all of them showcase the transcendent power of the imagination – a linchpin for survival in seemingly impossible circumstances.

The first story, "The Soldier," chronicles the multifaceted experiences of Dr. Franciszek Kozlowski, born in Prussian-occupied Poland in 1900. At age 15, he decides to fight on the Eastern Front of World War I against Russia. Captured by the Russians and sentenced to life imprisonment for treason, his fate changed dramatically with the outbreak of the Russian Revolution in 1917. Kozlowski then served in the Polish-Bolshevik War from 1919–21 and in several uprisings against Germany. He eventually studied medicine in Paris, but in 1940, he narrowly escaped the Nazis and was smuggled out of France to Portugal before sailing for

Canada, where he lived until his death in 1989.

In "The Spy," the life of Michal Rybikowski (code-named "Peter Ivanov") is depicted in a manner reminiscent of a dramatic spy novel. Anna says that Rybikowski – described by the notorious Heinrich Himmler as "the most dangerous Pole alive" – was a brilliant Polish intelligence officer who "ran an effective spy network, providing information on German and Russian activities to the British from the Japanese embassy in Stockholm." He develops an unlikely friendship with Major General Makoto Onodera, the Japanese military attaché in Stockholm. And due to their mutual dislike of Russia, they cooperate on sharing intelligence, facilitated by a mutual fluency in the Russian language.



In the third story, "The Orphan", Anna chronicles the life of Leokadia Kacpura, in the voice of a young girl affected by war. It is perhaps the most heartbreaking story of the three, beginning in 1940, when thousands of Polish families from eastern Europe were deported to forced labour camps in the Soviet Union. Leokadia is only 14 when her parents and five younger siblings are deported to the Russian Arctic Circle. In a tragic twist of fate, Leokadia is separated from her family during a chaotic and tumultuous train journey. Suffering from hunger and malnutrition, she steals a handful of biscuits – and is sentenced to three years in a Soviet prison.

I sat down with Anna for a brief interview about her new book. What follows is an



Photo by John Leefe

The Soldier, the Spy and the Orphan author Anna Brychcy.

edited transcript of our conversation.

John Leefe: What do you hope readers take away from the stories of these heroic individuals, especially in 2025 when the world seems to be going through a similar period of instability?

Anna Brychcy: I wrote this book primarily to reveal the other side of the war – what truly happened in Poland during both WWI and WWII. My goal wasn't to write a pure history book, but to focus on human stories: how war affects and changes individual lives. Ultimately, I want people to connect with the resilience and courage these individuals displayed in enduring what could have completely broken them. I hope these stories show that change is always possible.

JL: In "The Soldier," you describe the dramatic life of Dr. Franciszek Kozlowski, who was devoted to the cause of Polish independence from the age of 15. What aspect of his character most inspired or surprised you?

AB: He was so patriotic — a level of devotion that we Canadians rarely see. He grew up at a time when Poland was partitioned. The eastern part was in the Russian Empire, the western part was in the Prussian area of Germany, and the southern part was in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. What truly surprised me was that even as an older gentleman, at 78, he had a great

sense of humour and a remarkable capacity for kindness. I distinctly remember his love for animals; he absolutely cherished his dog. During a visit to his family farm, I observed that even the geese and chickens followed him. His wife told me that he wept whenever one passed away. He was a truly decent man with a caring heart.

JL: You had personal relationships with most of the people you write about in this book at a time when the World War II was only 30-plus years past. Can you say more about this unique circumstance?

AB: I am among the last generation to have heard the stories of the soldier, the spy, and the orphan in their own words.

I can still hear their voices telling me about their past, and I have tried to recreate their life experiences with utmost accuracy. Though all three have passed away, I hope that their stories will live on. I also hope that by making their experiences accessible to non-Polish readers, these inspiring stories of Poles, victims of Hitler and Stalin, can be heard by a new generation of English readers. I feel privileged to have been a witness to their lives.

JL: You moved here to New Edinburgh after a long career in Montreal with the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. How do you like living in the neighbourhood?

AB: I love it here. My husband retired the same time that I did, and we wanted a smaller home. My sister lives here, too, so I knew this area from the restaurants on Beechwood, some of which are no longer there. I always wanted to live in a village atmosphere within walking distance to downtown. The people are also very friendly. We brought three girls over from Afghanistan when the Taliban took over, and people were so helpful here when we found them an apartment – donating clothing, furniture, toys. Everybody pitched in to make it a success.

The Soldier, the Spy and the Orphan is now available at Books on Beechwood, and everywhere you find books!

Retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.

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Putting the humanity back in art

By Christine Osborne

As artificial intelligence, or AI, continues to permeate the online art world, it's refreshing to be reminded that incredible art in the real world is still being made by human hands. We must not overlook human artists who have spent years perfecting their craft.

ArtLending of Ottawa (ALO) is bringing the humanity back into art through a new and exciting feature at their shows: Live Art Demonstrations. In addition to browsing the works of more than 40 local, juried artists available for both rent and sale, visitors will now have the rare opportunity to watch an artist at work. You'll be able to see art materials up close, observe creative techniques in action, and chat directly with the artist about their process.

At the upcoming art show on Dec. 13th, ALO is pleased to feature a live demo by long-time member Linda Bordage. Originally from Saint John,

New Brunswick, Linda's life-long love of colour and drawing has led her to explore many mediums over the years. Recently, she has been creating stunning mosaics and experimenting with printmaking and alcohol inks. During the December event, Linda will share how she crafts her intricate mosaics, a process that is sure to inspire!

The show is also the perfect opportunity to finish your holiday shopping while supporting local artists. You'll find one-of-a-kind gifts that are full of heart and creativity. And if you're looking to refresh your space for the holidays, you can even borrow a piece of art to brighten your home through ALO's unique art-lending program.

Join us Sat., Dec. 13 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre, 1265 Walkley Road. Admission and parking are free.

Christine Osborne is an artist and member of ALO.



ARTIST
Marlene Munroe de Montigny

"Metro Carolers"

10" x 7"

A Mother and her daughter take in the seasons joy.

Original watercolours are now available at www.marlenemunroe.com

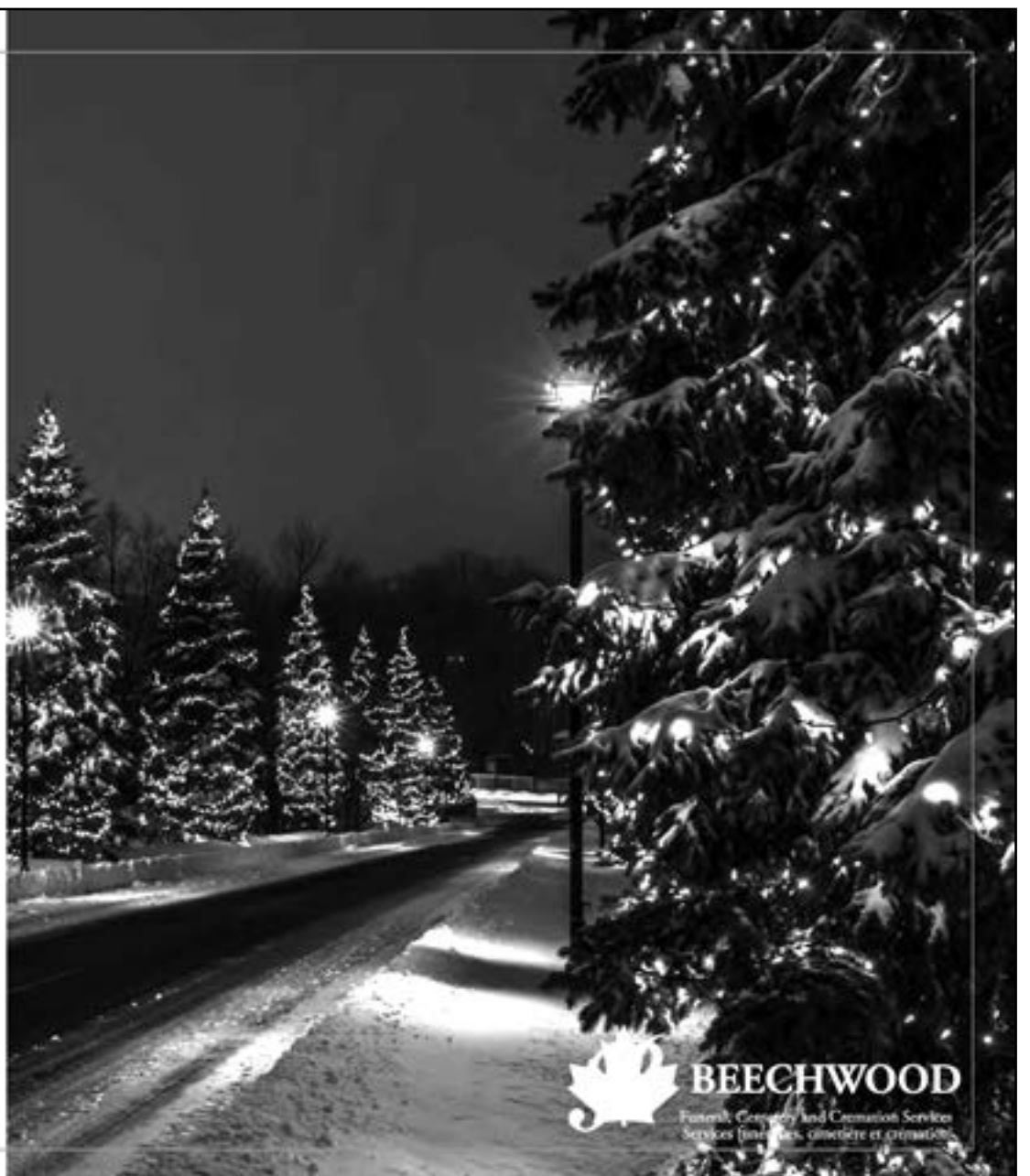
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EVENTS CALENDAR

December

Yoga at the Fieldhouse, Every Wednesday starting December 3 @ 7-8 pm Sessions - \$15, Unite breath and movement through an asana practice. Join Solmaz Hicks on her yoga journey, which changed the way she deals with stress entirely. You can too! Demand for yoga regularly exceeds the capacity so reserve your space in advance, for \$150 for 12 sessions by emailing: perisasolmaz@hotmail.com

Beechwood Market's Farm Store at 1805 Gaspé is open ALL YEAR, Mon-Fri 3-6 pm, Sat 9am-4pm Find all the info at www.ottstreetmarkets.ca

New Edinburgh Community Choir meets every Monday evening at 7:30pm in the Stanley Park Field House. Open to everyone. No audition needed. Come and try us out for a one-time drop-in fee. For more information contact ibisby@gmail.com or newechoir@gmail.com.

December 10 @ 8-9 pm, Meetings of the CCC Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of every month at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Meeting times, dates and locations may vary to accommodate CCC Directors or guests. Please contact us by email if you would like to attend, if there is a topic you would like to discuss or if you are interested in joining us as a volunteer. Always check newedinburgh.ca website for any updates on meeting times etc.

Seniors Social Group @ Fieldhouse on December 12, noon – a small group of residents have decided to hold a Christmas Potluck Luncheon at the Fieldhouse. All seniors are invited to attend and to bring one food item for the luncheon table. Please call and inform Dawn at 705-930-1991 in advance of the day of the event. We will need to know that you are coming and what



New Edinburgh community choir meets weekly at the Fieldhouse.

Photo courtesy of Isobel Bisby

item you will be bringing.

December 14th @ 7 pm Christmas at Mackay - musical concert at MacKay United Church, (Corner of Dufferin and Mackay in New Edinburgh)



Image courtesy of Andy Bethune
MacKay United Church digital rendering in winter.

December 16th @ 7 pm - MacKay's Bittersweet of Christmas service - for the "heart work" of the season at MacKay United Church

December 24th @ 4:30 pm - MacKay Christmas Eve Family service at MacKay United Church

December 24th @ 8 pm - A Candlelit Concert of Classics & Carols" by Erik Johnson-Scherger (violin) & Renee Dahn (violin) in the MacKay Sanctuary.

December 21 @ 4-5:30 pm -Christmas with Seventeen

Voyces, St. Bartholomew's Church 125 MacKay Street, Join Seventeen Voyces - Ottawa's premier chamber choir, celebrating its 29th season! The concert will feature the choir's signature blend of traditional and contemporary choral works. Cost: \$30 adults, \$20 students, children 12 and under free

December 27 @ 3 pm and 7 pm - Juno Award nominee Craig Cardiff is returning to the Fieldhouse for two concerts -a family-oriented concert (doors open at 230pm) and an evening concert at 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). To buy tickets head to www.newedinburgh.ca/events/ Check website for ongoing updates on events at the Fieldhouse!

January

January 14 @ 8-9 pm, Meetings of the CCC Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of every month at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Meeting times, dates and locations may vary to accommodate CCC Directors or guests. Please contact us by email if you would like to attend, if there is a topic you would like to discuss or if you are interested in joining us as a volunteer. Always check newedinburgh.ca website for any updates on meeting times etc.

January 20-New Edinburgh Community Alliance – (NECA) Board of Directors meeting at the Fieldhouse,


203 Stanley Ave. at 7 pm In person or virtual. All residents are welcome to attend. Contact newedinburgh@outlook.com if you have questions in advance.

Yoga at the Fieldhouse, Every Wednesdays starting January 7th @ 7-8 pm Sessions - \$15, Unite breath and movement through an asana practice. Join Solmaz Hicks on her yoga journey which changed the way she deals with stress entirely. You can too! Demand for yoga regularly exceeds the capacity so reserve your space in advance,

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Seniors Social Group @ Fieldhouse on January 11th at 1 pm - Heather Matthew is confirmed to speak about her long 80- year history of living/working in New Edinburgh. A Drop- In Craft Group is being considered to begin January 22nd from 1-3 pm and continuing monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting in February. Attendees should bring their own projects, such as their knitting, sewing, crocheting, paper craft or any other hand craft. If you have any questions or ideas about our upcoming events, please email or call Dawn Straka at dawn@straka.ca or 705-930-1991.



Classified Ads

RATES: \$10, first 25 words; \$5, each additional 25 words, payable on submission of ad. Public service ads (such as lost & found) free. Email your ad as well as e-transfer to Nicholas at bookkeeper@newedinburgh.ca.





Have an event coming up?

Send us the details:
editor@newedinburgh.ca

Burgh Breezy Bits

Thank you



We'd like to express our thanks and gratitude for the work which **Dave Rostenne** has done, for 13 years as production manager with *New Edinburgh News*. Dave has lived in New Edinburgh for

over 30 years with his wife, Pia. Working as production manager has been a family affair with their two children: Johanna, who's provided some photos for the paper over the years, and Joshua, who's helped Dave ongoing with archives, by photographing decades of old issues to build our electronic archives.

Dave was brought on board by Cindy Parkanyi after his involvement with the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA). He started shadowing Cindy with the goal of taking over her role as production manager in 2012, so she could focus on being our editor. Things were very different then, as most of the production work was done manually and there were many late nights getting the paper to the printers. However, much

has changed since with technology, under the direction of Christina Leadley for almost a decade, and more recently with our current co-editors.

The big transition now is our recent shift over to Google Workspace; this will be an ongoing process to assist new production manager Philippe Marchand and the entire *NEN* team. The good news is that Dave will not be leaving us entirely! As a consultant with a focus on tech support and training here since the mid-1990s, Dave will be providing services required by both *NEN* and NECA ongoing. Having been in the community this long, supporting businesses and people, Dave's expertise and transfer of knowledge has been and will continue to be invaluable moving forward.



Deadline
for the next issue

Jan 10

editor@newedinburgh.ca

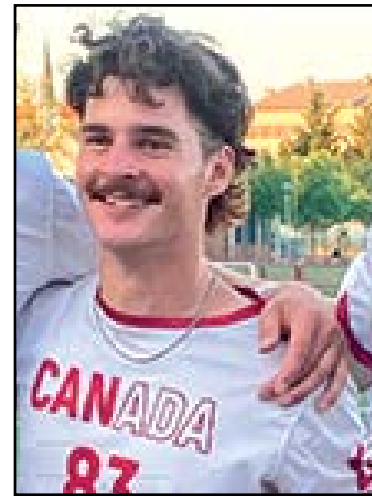
For now, we just wanted to say: thank you, Dave, for all you've done and for staying on to support our needs, while maintaining a better work-life balance with your consulting business. We're grateful to you, and for you.

Welcome



Mandy and Paul Bailey are pleased to announce the birth of their third grandchild, **Ruby Mei Langford-Bailey**, on Oct 3, 2025. Ruby is the first daughter of **Alison Bailey** and **Nicholas Langford** of Toronto and Hugo's first sibling.

Congratulations



Congratulations to former New Edinburgh resident **Max Ayad** on his recent success in the World Ultimate (Frisbee) Competition in Logrono, Northern Spain. Max was a member of Team Canada (under-24 age group) in the international competition, which put in a strong performance and came away with a bronze medal. Max's father **Adel Ayad**, a resident of Stanley Ave., is justifiably proud of his son's impressive achievement. Well done, Max!

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