

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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



Photo by J.C. Amando

Spring is in the air so come out to the Plant Sale at the Fieldhouse on May 9th for a blast of color.

## City releases Beechwood Ave. design proposal for community input

By Jason Tavoularis

A major planning study now underway could significantly reshape Beechwood Ave. in the coming years, with the goal of turning the busy corridor into a safer, greener and more welcoming “complete street” for residents, businesses and visitors.

Launched in 2025 at a cost of \$400,000, The Beechwood Ave. Public Realm Plan is examining how the street can better balance transportation, safety, and public space. The study area stretches from MacKay St. to Oakhill Rd. and is expected to wrap up its functional design phase by late summer 2026. If funding is approved, implementation

could begin in 2028.

The project seeks to enhance the public realm while improving how people move along and across Beechwood Ave. Proposed upgrades include converting existing bike lanes into raised cycle tracks, introducing protected intersections to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, and upgrading street furniture, lighting, bus stops and on-street parking. Designers are also exploring opportunities for greening the corridor and potentially undergrounding hydro infrastructure to create a more cohesive streetscape. However, planners note that some desired elements may not be feasible due to limited space within the existing

right-of-way as the design is being developed to not require any widening or property acquisition.

Traffic analysis suggests the corridor may be well positioned for changes that prioritize safety and public space. Historical traffic volumes have actually declined by about one per cent annually, and projections estimate only modest growth of about 0.25 per cent per year through 2046. Most intersections along the corridor are currently operating well under capacity, with the exception of Vanier Parkway.

Safety has been a key focus of the study. A review of collision data between 2019 and 2022, plus 2024, found 92 collisions along the corridor.

Injuries occurred in about 24 per cent of cases, though no fatalities were reported. Fifteen collisions involved pedestrians or cyclists, and these incidents were six times more likely to result in injury than collisions involving vehicles alone.

Several intersections have been identified as priority locations for safety improvements. Protected intersection designs are proposed at Springfield and Marier/Putman to reduce conflicts between vehicles and vulnerable road users. The study also recommends clearer lane markings and signage to address frequent sideswipe collisions along the corridor, which often result from lane

changes or weaving.

Another element under review is the potential closure or partial closure of several side streets to improve safety and create new public space for trees and vegetation. Douglas Ave., Commanda Way and Champlain Ave. are being considered for one-way configurations to improve sightlines and reduce conflicts. A partial closure at Ste-Cecile is also being considered to improve the connection between Beechwood and Optimiste Park. Chapleau Ave. could see a full closure, creating additional space for greenery and public gathering areas while maintaining pedestrian access. City staff

Continued on page 17

## To Uber or not to Uber? That's the real question

By Jennifer Manning

“I am going to Uber over.”  
“The bus didn’t come, so I Ubered.”

Have you noticed? Another brand name has turned into a commonly used verb like “to Google.”

On a frigid and snowy Friday night, my spouse and I walked over to Bytowne Cinema for the late movie. Afterward, as we were moseying toward the door, a long-time Bytowne employee announced to the crowd lingering in the lobby: “If you are waiting for your Uber, you have five minutes!” Curious, I asked if that was an announcement she would have made a few years ago or, say, before the pandemic. She laughed and said something

like, “No, people hung around, especially on cold nights, but mostly because they were talking or waiting for the bus. We used to have more buses on the street then.”

Uber Technologies, Inc.’s marketing department is surely delighted that the company name is used as a verb. The question is, are the rest of us delighted?

To Uber...

According to Wikipedia, Uber “is the largest ridesharing company worldwide with over 202 million monthly active users and 10 million active drivers and couriers. It coordinates an average of 42 million trips and delivery orders per day, and has coordinated 72 billion trips

and delivery orders since its inception in 2010.” According to Uber’s last quarter financial statements, “Trips during the quarter grew 22 per cent year-over-year to 3.8 billion.”

From a practical user perspective, Uber is easy to use, reliable, inexpensive, safe, and efficient. The app is easy to navigate, functional, and offers explanations for different aspects of the experience (why give a review, for example). Amazingly, once you have the app, you can use Uber in Ottawa just as easily as you can in Mexico City or Tokyo.

Often it is cheaper for my spouse and I to take an Uber than for each of us to pay \$4.10

Continued on page 28

## New Edinburgh’s Heritage District conservation plan

By Gail McEachern

A 1981 issue of the *New Edinburgh News* features a cartoon showing two men in front of an older Victorian house. The caption reads: “Heritage-schmeritage, we can take down this dump and put up four new townhouses.”

New Edinburgh, like many other traditional urban neighbourhoods, has not escaped the impact of views that causes us to lose a number of early historic buildings – both residential and commercial. The trend to “demolish and build bigger” gradually escalated through the 1980s and ‘90s. This activity – combined with property owners severing their lots to enable an additional dwelling to be built on the

lanes, with the resulting loss of trees, landscaped gardens and open green spaces so characteristic of the neighbourhood – prompted the community to seek heritage designation. The concern was that if the rate and scale of new development and alterations to existing housing stock continued unchecked, the historic and village quality of the neighbourhood would be adversely affected.

The legislation to obtain heritage designation was provided by Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act which permits the council of a municipality to designate the entire municipality or a portion of the municipality as a Heritage Conservation District. This

Continued on page 33

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

Our next meetings will take place on **Tuesday, April 21, 7 pm** and **Tuesday, May 19, 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](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca) for details.

### Your NECA Representatives 2025-2026

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

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

## NECA Board Report March 2026



**Ray Boomgaardt**  
NECA President

This month we spent a lot of time discussing another challenging issue. But before I get to that, I want to note that Sarah and her "Sussex Blocks" task force have written a letter to NCC staff seeking assurances on a number of issues should the NCC wish to move forward with a project in that area. That letter will be available on the NECA website.

At our Board Meeting on a snowy and icy March 17 we had a Zoom presentation by City Planner Ezra Lipton on the the proposals by City Staff for the design of the Beechwood Ave. "Public Realm". Mr Lipton noted that one option being considered is to bury the hydro lines along the street, but this would

require significant funding. The City is seeking public input on their proposals by April 10, so, if you want to make comments please do so by then. Since this edition of the *News* will only be in your hands shortly before April 10, the City may extend the deadline by a few days, but they made no commitment to do so.

After the presentation, Board members and members of the community raised concerns about how the proposals will affect the businesses on the street; how they will impact traffic, including cycling; and whether they will support use of public transit.

Some of the comments:

- One person worried that some of the proposals

would increase the traffic on Springfield.

- Another person noted that, although they live close to Beechwood, they would not go for a walk there: there's simply too much traffic. The proposals won't change this.

- There were questions about the proposal to restrict the ability to turn from Beechwood onto certain side streets.

- The businesses along Beechwood are struggling and developers are resisting providing street-level retail. Will the proposed changes help existing and future commercial and retail activity along Beechwood?

None of these issues are easy, but I was impressed with the amount of work City Staff have put into considering how to improve Beechwood. The Board decided that we should write a letter providing input to the consultation process. We will of course post that letter on our website.

Despite the icy weather on March 17, we continue to look forward to spring! See you in the neighbourhood!

## Spare our air: New idling regulations for Ottawa

As of Jan. 1, a new Idling Control By-law for Ottawa comes into force

Be idle aware! Help reduce unnecessary idling and promote clean air by following the City of Ottawa's new

regulations. Idling is only permitted for a maximum of 10 minutes in temperatures above 27 Celsius or under 0 Celsius, and a maximum of 3 minutes for all other

temperatures.

Some exemptions apply, visit the Idling Control By-law website for more information. Report excessive idling by calling 3-1-1.

## Protégeons notre air : Nouvelle réglementation relative aux moteurs qui tournent au ralenti

Le 1er janvier, le nouveau Règlement sur la marche au ralenti entrera en vigueur à Ottawa

Pensez à couper votre moteur! Aidez-nous à protéger notre air et à éviter que les véhicules ne tournent au ralenti inutilement en respectant la nouvelle réglementation de

la Ville d'Ottawa. La marche au ralenti n'est autorisée que 10 minutes au maximum lorsque la température est supérieure à 27 °C ou inférieure à 0 °C, et trois minutes au maximum en dehors de ces températures.

Temp maximal pendant lequel on peut laisser tourner

son moteur au ralenti, en fonction des températures :

Certaines exemptions peuvent s'appliquer; consultez le règlement sur la marche au ralenti pour en savoir plus. Signalez la marche au ralenti excessive au 3-1-1.



Photo courtesy City of Ottawa

# Letter from the Managing Editor



**Sharon Nyangweso**  
Managing Editor

This year invites reflection. As the *New Edinburgh News* marks its 50th year alongside the City of Ottawa's 200th, it feels like an appropriate moment to pause and consider what it means to belong to a place, and how that belonging is built, sustained, and sometimes eroded.

Lately, I've been noticing the ways it is built.

Working from the new Red Door Provisions location, I've found myself woven more deeply into the rhythm of Beechwood. A quick coffee turns into a conversation. A familiar face becomes a name. At Books on Beechwood, picking up my book club reads often leads to thoughtful exchanges with staff or other browsers. At Jacobsons, searching for the right ingredient for a

dinner with friends becomes its own small pleasure. And, of course, there are the reliably joyful constants, like a slice of pizza from Schoolhouse, somehow as large as my face!

These are small moments, but together they form something larger: a neighbourhood that meets your needs not just through transactions, but through interaction.

And yet, we are living in an age that quietly pulls us away from this. Convenience has reshaped how we move through the world. We send Uber Eats instead of dropping off a meal to a sick friend. We book a ride home from the airport instead of depending on a familiar face to pick us up. We order online instead of wandering into a shop and discovering what we didn't know

we needed. None of these choices are wrong; I make them, too. But over time, they can soften the edges of community, reducing the number of moments where connection might happen.

What excites me right now is the possibility of returning to something more intentional. A version of neighbourhood life where we choose presence over efficiency, even occasionally. Where meeting our needs locally also means meeting each other.

As we move into spring, and as our main street continues to evolve, there is an opportunity here, but it will take collective effort. Supporting local businesses, showing up in public spaces, and even engaging in the less glamorous work of advocacy and feedback to the City all play a role in shaping what this neighbourhood becomes.

If the past 50 and 200 years have taught us anything, it's that community doesn't happen by accident. It is built, choice by choice.

# Letter from the Co-Editor



**Karen Squires**  
Co-Editor

Living in Canada, the spring season brings vitality and sunshine after a long winter of colder weather – so let's spring forward! There's an opportunity now to plan, explore and discover. In the December edition, I wrote an article on sustainable tourism, with some tips for planning and things to consider when travelling OR inviting people to experience our amazing city.

Remember, keeping our tourism dollars flowing within Canada, especially at this time, helps to support good jobs and local businesses like restaurants, events, and retailers. In each edition, we keep you up to date on what's happening locally so you can invite your friends and family to enjoy the neighbourhood. So whether you're staycationing

or travelling from coast to coast, the spring/summer period is ideal!

In preparation for higher volumes of visitors to our parks, check out the parks update and get involved in our annual clean up on Apr. 18. You can also read details about the Beechwood Proposed Plan and get engaged online before the Apr. 10 deadline. Your input is important!

If you're a history buff, this edition won't disappoint you as throughout our 50th anniversary year, we include stories of amazing people and important events - throughout our heritage district. Clearly this community has been engaged (for decades) on protecting our green spaces so we look forward to upcoming changes on our main street to enhance

“placemaking”; we need this for existing and potential new businesses to thrive or even consider this area.

We've been told by local businesses there is low foot traffic on Beechwood, so planting trees, installing benches, artwork, lighting etc. is what many well-known cities do to encourage residents and more visitors to come. Thank you for your exceptional contributions and support to get this amazing community paper out to more readers!

Soon, we can start planting our gardens or potted plants – so let's be creative! Last year Monique Goffinet and Dean Miller won the BRICK Award with their creative gardens, table and chairs at the corner of Keefer and Crichton. Let's rediscover (with friends) the neighbourhood or one of the many events nearby! We have so many opportunities now to connect like the plant sale, music events, market in the park or a stroll along our main street to check out the new patios at Linden Pizza or Red Door – after all, spring is in the air so let's keep exploring!

## 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

### Advisory Committee

Roslyn Butler

Gemma Kerr

Cindy Parkanyi

Carolyn Brereton

Christina Leadlay

### Managing Editor

Sharon Nyangweso

sharon@newedinburgh.ca

### Co-Editor/Photographer

Karen Squires

karen@newedinburgh.ca

### Advertising Manager

Michelle McLean

ads@newedinburgh.ca

### Production Manager

Philippe Marchand

### Bookkeeper

Nicholas Galambos

bookkeeper@newedinburgh.ca

### Distribution Manager

John Leefe

distribution@newedinburgh.ca

### Proofreaders

Adrienne Blair

Inge Vander Horst

### Contributors

Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Isobel Bisby

Daniel Hébert

Ralph Hesse

Frédéric Lavoie

Katherine Lloyd

Randy Mar

Jennifer Manning

Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse

Jason Tavoularis

Bruce White

Cindy Bennell

Eleanor Dunn

Jane Heintzman

Martha Hodgson

John Leefe

Sparrow McGowan

Gail McEachern

Susan Pitt

Peter Robb

Janet Uren

**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

Dear Editors:

A letter in the February issue – about an owl attack near the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club – drew my attention to a story I had missed in December about a similar attack near the Rockcliffe Pavilion. It seems we have a hoo-ligan in our midst.

One morning in September, I was running towards the trail at Pine Hill when a barred owl – the same one, I have no doubt – struck me on the back of the head and flew up into a tree carrying my hat. A ten-minute standoff ensued while the owl tugged at and stomped on the hat and I attempted unsuccessfully to reason with him. Suddenly he dropped the hat, and I snatched it up just as he swooped down after it. He then sat on the ground and stared at me with an expression I can only describe as outrage. I should have known then and there it wasn't over.

As I left the park, hat in hand, he struck me on the back of the head again, flew back onto a nearby branch and fixed me with his defiant gaze.

I wisely adopted a sideways gait so that I could keep an eye on him while making my exit. Undeterred, he dove at me a third time, causing me to lose my footing and fall backward onto the road. On his fourth attempt, I yelled and waved my hat wildly at him until he retreated into the trees. By this time I had witnesses, which must be why he finally gave up. I'm not sure I'd be here to tell the story if he hadn't.

I doubt we've seen the last of him. Hang on to your hats, pets, and kids!

–Liane Tanguay

Good evening Sharon and Karen,

First of all, I would like to thank you all and the team at the *New Edinburgh News* for the excellent work. Living in Vanier, I always enjoy reading the community newspapers of our neighbouring communities, especially with the sad news of the new publication for the Perspectives Vanier. (Editor's note: Vanier Perspectives final edition was

February 2026)

However, I would like to bring forward a suggestion for the "Burgh Business Briefs" section. I believe it would be helpful and considerate to indicate clearly in which neighbourhood businesses are located. I have noticed that several businesses being reported on are not in New Edinburgh. By respect for your neighbours and to avoid creating confusion among readers, I think it would be important to note it when it's the case. It could be added right after the name of the business. Many people are not familiar with neighbourhood boundaries that are over a century old in most cases!

Thanks,

–Charles Nellis

Hi, Sharon

In February one of our walking group slipped and fell on the ice, hitting her head. At the time we were on Noel St., by a house which was being renovated. Within a couple of minutes the crew at the site, under Sharif Mokhtar of Spartacon,

had come over to us, provided their first aid kit and water, and picked up our friend and placed her on the back seat of Sharif's truck. This despite me warning them that our friend was feeling nauseous.... She sat there for over half an hour before the paramedics came, which really helped.

The crew could not have been kinder. Thanks again, from all of the walkers.

Incidentally, our walking group meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week, in the parking lot behind

the Rockcliffe library. We walk for an hour. New walkers are always welcome: just be in the parking lot a little before 9 am on the days mentioned, and introduce yourself to the group of people you will see gathered there – you will be warmly received. We walk in the neighbourhood for about an hour, about five kilometres, at a moderate pace. (We used to go faster, but you know how it is...)

Thanks, Sharon

–Marion Haunton

Send us your letters:  
[editor@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca)

Letters to the editor must include writer's name, address and contact info. We will print your contact information only if explicitly requested to do so in your letter.

Opinions expressed are the writer's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.



**RIVERSTONE RETIREMENT**

# SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Come explore our vibrant communities across Ottawa!  
Each one is uniquely shaped by its neighborhood and the amazing residents who make it feel like home.  
Visit today and get a feel for it yourself.

**APRIL 25**  
**10-3pm**

12 Communities across Ottawa  
Find us in your neighbourhood  
[riverstoneretirement.ca](http://riverstoneretirement.ca)

**RIVERSTONE**  
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Ottawa Owned & Operated

OPEN HOUSE  
RSVP TODAY

# Parks update: Time for the annual spring clean-up

By Karen Squires and Katherine Lloyd

Following the late fall tree planting by the National Capital Commission (NCC) throughout Stanley Park, we are once again gearing up for our annual spring clean-up. We are thrilled that Ottawa Riverkeeper has once again agreed to team up with the New Edinburgh Community Alliance's (NECA's) Friends of the Park leading into Earth Day. This year's scheduled date is Apr. 18 and as usual, volunteers will meet just behind the Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave.) at 10 am for registration. The event will run until approximately noon or whenever you finish your designated area. The rain date is Apr. 19 at the same time. It's a fun way to meet folks from the area and work outside for a great cause!

All are welcome to join the effort to keep our beautiful park and shoreline clean. Ottawa Riverkeeper would like participants to register online to help alleviate onsite delays on the day. To pre-register visit: [ottawariverkeeper.ca/events](http://ottawariverkeeper.ca/events)

The form includes a waiver and photo release. Last-minute attendees can register on site on the day. Come connect with friends or meet some new people!

As Friends of the Park works with the City's Cleaning the Capital program, some bags and gloves are provided, along with buckets and other tools provided by Ottawa Riverkeeper. Please feel free



Photo by Karen Squires

Joint efforts between the Ottawa Riverkeeper team and Friends of the Park continue for this spring clean-up!

to bring your own gardening gloves, buckets, and grabbers if you have them. Last year we had an amazing turnout and collected many bags of garbage throughout the park from St. Patrick's Bridge to Sussex Drive. As always, please avoid picking up sharp objects such as needles or heavy objects: report any concerns from your route to the team.

This is an important annual event to keep our beautiful park clean and safe for everyone to enjoy year-round – your ongoing support is much appreciated! It's surprising how much garbage is left behind throughout the year, but the good news is the City of Ottawa will install additional tri-waste bins in high-volume

areas for the spring, summer, and fall seasons. These bins are in place year-round near the Fieldhouse but many of the others are removed at the end of fall due to volumes and service support. You can find some permanent bins placed by the NCC throughout the park, past the beach.

Friends of the Park work with many stakeholders throughout

the year to ensure that our park area is clean and safe, and that our natural habitat is protected. We appreciate all your efforts to support these ongoing initiatives. Many thanks to the Ottawa Riverkeeper team for their ongoing efforts to protect our green spaces and shorelines!

Anyone interested in learning more about the removal of

invasive species can connect with Ottawa Riverkeeper or Katherine Lloyd at the clean-up event. Stay tuned for more updates on invasive species as we receive more details from the City of Ottawa.

*Karen and Katherine both sit on the NECA board and represent Friends of the Park.*

**FRESH**  
**REDISCOVER YOUR HAIR**  
 75 Beechwood | 613.680.6315  
**MARGOT**

**Michelle's Caring Cat Sitting Services**  
 Drop-in visits in the comfort of your home!  
 @caringcatsitting  
 Professional Cat Sitter | Ottawa  
 caringcatsitting.com | 905.321.9402

Insured & Bonded  
 Fear Free Certified  
 Feline First Aid & CPR

**ARTIST**  
 Marlene Munroe de Montigny

**"The Soper Fountain"**  
 10" x 7"

Last Saturday morning was one of those perfectly exquisite days, with Cobalt Blue sky, sunshine, bright colours and deep shadows. I walked in the Rockeries and took the paths down to the Soper fountain. I was inspired to paint the scene.

Original watercolours are now available at [www.marlenemunroe.com](http://www.marlenemunroe.com)

# From bank accounts to pensions: Making your money work for the climate

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Money talks. What we do with our money says a lot about our values and what we care about. Here's a sobering thought: "The impact of your diet and how you get to work may pale in comparison to the impact of your money in the bank," writes Rebecca Solnit in *No Straight Road Takes You There*. "The vegan on the bicycle may still be contributing to climate chaos if her life savings are in a bank lending her money to the fossil fuel industry."

If you're concerned about climate change, how you invest, save for retirement, and where your bank can make a big difference.

If you are a government pension plan beneficiary or are receiving another public pension, you can advocate for changes to those plans, too.

The "Climate and Your Cash" public session held in Ottawa last November was sponsored by the Glebe Community Association with the support



Photo courtesy Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Climate and Your Cash was a public session last November offering information and practical advice.

of Community Action for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) Ottawa. Panelists offered information and practical advice on how people can take action, including:

- diverting fossil fuels from personal investments and portfolios,
- investing directly in climate-impactful projects, and
- advocating for changes in public pension plans (among

the largest investors in fossil fuel companies).

### Diverting fossil fuels from personal investments and portfolios

Panelist Kate Reekie is a Glebe resident whose story may resonate with many others. She felt her personal finances were out of line with her values and her environmental passion. Yet she was very comfortable with

her bank and her investment firm (RBC and Dominion Securities, respectively).

When she realized that she could not reduce her exposure to fossil fuels by staying with RBC (which is the largest financier of fossil fuels in Canada, according to *Banking on Climate Chaos*, a 2025 international report authored by Rainforest Action Network, Sierra Club, and several other

environmental organizations). She looked to credit unions and made the switch to Desjardins for both banking and investments. Her investments are now all fossil fuel-free and she is doing better with her returns.

Based on her divestment journey, Reekie offers the following advice:

1. Switching to a credit union is a great way to reduce financial exposure to fossil fuels.
2. Find a knowledgeable advisor who shares your values.
3. Dig into individual holdings of sustainable or fossil fuel-free funds: you may find banks that finance fossil fuel, petrochemical, and plastic manufacturers or energy-hogging sectors, like big tech or artificial intelligence.

For climate-aware investing advice, panelist Adnan Shaikh of National Bank shared three approaches to consider for both do-it-yourself investors and investors who partner

## Macoun Marsh Reopening

April 22 2026 - 1:00 PM  
Macoun Marsh - near the St. Laurent entrance

After three years of restoration, Macoun Marsh is coming back to life.

Be among the first to experience this renewed natural space and see the impact of community-driven conservation in action.

This revitalization was made possible through generous donations, with support from the TD Friends of the Environment Grant and the Rural Clean Water Program.

Join us this Earth Day. Witness renewal. Celebrate nature. Be part of the story.

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



with advisors.

First: the direct investment approach through share-ownership in companies that lead in sustainability sectors, like renewable energy and resource management.

Second: exclusionary screening to avoid corporations that conflict with climate goals, such as fossil fuel companies. Shaikh explained: “[P]roviders like MSCI and Morningstar assess companies on Environmental, Social, and Governance factors to help select firms with strong ESG performance and avoid companies that are controversial in nature.”

Third: the impact investing approach, which involves focusing on investments that actively generate measurable environmental benefits, such as reducing emissions or supporting sustainable projects. Shaikh noted: “iA Clarington and NEI Investments lead responsible investing in Canada by actively engaging with companies to improve ESG practices through proxy voting, dialogue, and collaboration.”

**Investing directly in climate-impactful projects.**

For those who want their investments to have a more direct and local impact, the session featured two initiatives as examples. OREC, which stands for Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op, lets people start investing in greening their community with as little as \$500 to support local generation and ownership of renewable energy projects. OREC is creating a decentralized power system. OREC general manager Marion Siekierski said they have raised \$15 million

from member investors to build 31 solar projects and two wind turbines so far. Among its partners in these projects are the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the RA Centre, Mer Bleue High School, and local farmers.

If you are concerned about protecting affordable housing and preventing “renovictions” in Ottawa, Housing Forever Bonds are a new investment opportunity: community bonds offered by the Ottawa Community Land Trust in partnership with Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation.

These bonds enable the purchase of buildings before tenants are pushed out, and help preserve affordable housing through the efforts of these local non-profits. OCLT executive director Mike Bulthuis said: “Only through

non-market ownership will we protect affordable housing.” The trust was founded in 2021 and acquired its first building on Kirkwood Ave. in 2023.

**Advocating for changes in public pension plans**

Did you know that the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CCPIB) is the sixth-largest pension fund in the world? And that the Canada Pension Plan serves 22 million Canadians?

Equally important to know is that there is nothing to stop the CCPIB, or other pension funds, from divesting to reduce its climate risk – or indeed, to divest away from fossil fuel companies.

Shift Action for Pension Wealth & Planet Health is a Canadian sustainable finance

non-governmental organization helping beneficiaries of Canada's largest public pension plans to engage their fund managers on the climate crisis.

Beneficiaries can make a difference by demanding pension fund action on climate risk, said Cheryl Randall, campaign specialist at Shift. She noted the lawsuit filed against the CCPIB by four young people in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in October 2025. The lawsuit claims the CCPIB is breaching its duty to invest in the plaintiffs’ best interests by failing to protect their pensions from climate risk.

Shift tracks the fossil fuel investments and the climate risk disclosure and

management of 11 of Canada's largest public funds. Through its digital campaigns, Shift mobilizes beneficiaries to demand that their retirement savings be invested in a safe climate future.

Whether you are looking to green your portfolio, divest from fossil fuel investments, or advocate for climate-conscious investing by pension funds, there are options and Avenues to pursue.

*Sarah Anson-Cartwright lives in New Edinburgh. She recently joined the board of Community Action for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) Ottawa.*

**NEN Delivery Volunteers Wanted**

Have a couple of hours every few months?  
Join our delivery team and help bring the paper to your neighbours.

Contact **John Leefe**

**613-302-4946**

**distribution@newedinburgh.ca**



**THE MARLAND TEAM** M **FOCUSED EXCELLENCE IN REAL ESTATE**

<p><b>31 AYLEN AVE</b> <b>WESTBORO</b></p> <p>Views that will keep you entertained in all seasons!</p>	<p><b>186 AYLMER AVE</b> <b>OLD OTTAWA SOUTH</b></p> <p>Blending timeless architecture with designer finishes!</p>	<p><b>PHH-300 QUEEN ELIZABETH DR</b> <b>GLEBE</b></p> <p>Ravishing rental, your chance to live like royalty!</p>	<p><b>37 CREEKS END LANE</b> <b>CRYSTAL BAY</b></p> <p>Ravine location with mature trees &amp; landscaped lots!</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**MARLAND TEAM** | **613.238.2801** | **marlandteam.com**

ROB MARLAND - BROKER OF RECORD

**BALANCE HEALING CENTRE**

14 years of experience treating:  
Pain & Injuries  
Sleep & Stress  
Digestion & Autoimmune

**Emily Dunn, R.Ac.**  
Registered acupuncturist

745 Hemlock Rd., Ottawa  
ottawaacupunctureclinic.com

# Beechwood Ave. Public Realm Plan now ready for your feedback, and other news



**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

What should Beechwood Ave. look like in the future? Now is the time to have your say. The Beechwood Ave. Public Realm Plan has entered its first phase of public consultation, and the City wants to hear from residents, businesses, and visitors about what changes and improvements they would like to see along this important corridor.

The plan will guide future improvements to sidewalks,

cycling facilities, lighting, trees, and public spaces. Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by providing feedback and completing the online survey available on Engage Ottawa at [engage.ottawa.ca/beecewood](http://engage.ottawa.ca/beecewood). The survey will remain open until Apr. 10, and community input at this stage will play an important role in shaping the

study.

Beginning with a functional design study, the project will transform Beechwood Ave. into a complete street, integrating transportation improvements, green infrastructure, and placemaking to create a more unified and accessible corridor.

The study is informed by detailed traffic and safety analysis and is examining options such as protected intersections, improved sightlines, cohesive lighting, street furniture, bus stop integration, and potential opportunities to bury overhead hydro. It is also exploring ways to enhance public space along the corridor, including potential opportunities for flexible gathering areas, seasonal programming, and other community uses.

As both a traditional main-street and an important transportation corridor, Beechwood must accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, transit vehicles, local traffic, deliveries, emergency access, and on-street parking that supports local businesses.

The study is therefore evaluating how best to balance these competing needs within the existing right-of-way while improving safety, accessibility, and the overall public realm. Consideration is also

being given to strengthening cycling connections, improving pedestrian crossings, and reducing conflicts between different modes of travel so that the corridor functions more clearly and comfortably for all users.

The functional design is scheduled for completion in late summer 2026, with \$1.5 million secured in the City's 2026 budget to advance the detailed design.

### Crichton St. tree replacements

Residents may notice tree removal work at the corner of Crichton Street and Dufferin Road.

Forestry staff have advised my office that several trees within the greenspace are in declining condition and need to be removed. While the removal of mature trees is never taken lightly, these decisions are based on professional assessments to ensure public safety and to support the long-term health and sustainability of our urban forest.

Looking ahead, replacement trees will be planted during the 2026 planting season. Forestry staff have confirmed that larger canopy species will be prioritized to help maximize long-term shade coverage and environmental benefits as the

trees mature.

Species under consideration include Freeman Maple, Hackberry, Kentucky Coffeetree, Sugar Maple, White Oak, Bur Oak, Ginkgo, and Northern Catalpa.

My office has created a brief survey to gather resident input on preferred tree species before final selections are made. The results will be shared directly with Forestry staff to help inform planting decisions. I encourage residents to participate by completing the survey here: [bit.ly/CrichtonTreesArbres](http://bit.ly/CrichtonTreesArbres)

As always, residents are welcome to contact my office at [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) or 613-520-2483, and I encourage you to subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter at [www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca).

//

### Le plan d'aménagement du domaine public de l'avenue Beechwood est maintenant prêt à recevoir vos commentaires, ainsi que d'autres nouvelles

À quoi devrait ressembler l'avenue Beechwood à l'avenir ? C'est le moment de donner votre avis. Le plan d'aménagement de l'espace public de l'avenue Beechwood est entré dans sa première phase de consultation publique, et la Ville souhaite recueillir les commentaires des résidents, des entreprises et des visiteurs sur les changements et les améliorations qu'ils aimeraient voir mis en œuvre le long de cet important corridor.

Ce plan servira de guide pour les améliorations futures des trottoirs, des infrastructures cyclables, de l'éclairage, des arbres et des espaces publics. Les habitants et les commerçants sont invités à participer en donnant leur avis et en répondant au sondage en ligne disponible sur Participons Ottawa à l'adresse [participons.ottawa.ca/beecewood](http://participons.ottawa.ca/beecewood). Le sondage restera ouvert jusqu'au 10 avril, et les commentaires de la communauté à ce stade joueront un rôle important dans l'élaboration de l'étude.

Commençant par une étude de conception fonctionnelle, le projet visera la transformation de l'avenue Beechwood en une rue conviviale et comprendra l'amélioration des transports, l'intégration d'infrastructures

## Marnie Edwards R.M.T.

Registered Massage Therapist

*Serving New Edinburgh, Rockcliffe and Manor Park for over 20 years*

**Back Pain, Sports and Repetitive Strain Injuries, Whiplash Headaches, Insomnia, Chronic Fatigue, Arthritis, Stroke, and more...**

For an appointment, Call 613-741-3470

10 Braemar St.  
Manor Park



## THINKING OF SELLING?

Let me guide you through the selling process by sharing the knowledge you need to make confident decisions, and practical suggestions to enhance your home's appeal, often at no cost.

Faulkner Real Estate was honoured as *New Business of the Year* by the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce for taking a principled stand against conflicts of interest, introducing lower commission models, and empowering consumers through education.



**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER**  
YOUR RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION

**JUDY FAULKNER**

BROKER OF RECORD

613.231.4663 • [Judy@HomesInOttawa.com](mailto:Judy@HomesInOttawa.com)

## EVEREST RESTORATION

"A Professional Company For Professional Clients"

Exterior Building Repairs

(613) 822-7872

**Over 4 Decades of Service**

[www.everestrestoration.com](http://www.everestrestoration.com) - [estimate@everestrestoration.com](mailto:estimate@everestrestoration.com)



## Space to think about what's next.

Whether your goals are personal, professional, or business-related, Elite Proactive Coaching will work with you to:

- Clarify what you truly want
- Create a clear action plan
- Build accountability

Jacynthe Pouliot, MBA  
Coach bilingue

[eliteproactivecoaching.com](http://eliteproactivecoaching.com)



vertes et l'aménagement de l'espace pour créer un corridor unifié et accessible.

L'étude se base sur des analyses détaillées de l'achalandage et de la sécurité. Elle examine certaines options, comme des intersections protégées, l'amélioration des lignes de visibilité, un éclairage cohérent, du mobilier urbain, l'intégration d'arrêts d'autobus et la possibilité d'enfouir les lignes aériennes de transport de l'électricité. Elle cherche également à valoriser l'espace public le long du corridor, notamment en envisageant des lieux de rassemblement modulables, des programmes saisonniers et d'autres utilisations communautaires.

À la fois rue principale traditionnelle et important couloir de transport, l'avenue Beechwood doit accueillir piétons, cyclistes, véhicules de transport en commun, circulation locale, livraisons, accès d'urgence et stationnements sur rue qui répondent aux besoins des commerces locaux.

Cette étude évalue donc la meilleure façon d'équilibrer ces besoins concurrents dans le cadre du droit de passage existant, tout en améliorant la sécurité, l'accessibilité et le domaine public dans son ensemble. Elle se penche également sur le développement du réseau cyclable, l'amélioration des passages pour piétons et la réduction des conflits entre

les différents modes de transport afin que le corridor soit plus clair et plus agréable pour l'ensemble des usagers.

La conception fonctionnelle devrait être terminée d'ici la fin de l'été 2026; le budget 2026 de la Ville prévoit 1,5 million de dollars pour faire avancer la conception détaillée.

**Remplacement d'arbres sur la rue Crichton**

Les résidents pourraient remarquer des travaux d'abattage d'arbres à l'angle de la rue Crichton et du chemin Dufferin.

Le personnel des Services forestiers a informé mon bureau que plusieurs arbres des espaces verts sont en déclin et doivent être abattus. L'élimination d'un arbre mature n'est jamais envisagée à la légère; ces décisions sont basées sur des évaluations professionnelles visant à assurer la sécurité publique et à favoriser la santé et la viabilité à long terme de notre forêt urbaine.

De nouveaux arbres seront plantés lors de la saison de plantation 2026. Le personnel des Services forestiers a confirmé que les essences à haute canopée seront privilégiées pour maximiser l'ombre à long terme et les avantages environnementaux au fil de la croissance des arbres.

Les essences considérées sont l'érable de Freeman, le micocoulier occidental, l'arbre

à café du Kentucky (chicot du Canada), l'érable à sucre, le chêne blanc, le chêne à gros fruits, le ginkgo et le catalpa du Nord.

Mon bureau a créé un bref sondage pour connaître les préférences de la population en matière d'essences d'arbres avant la sélection finale. Les résultats seront directement transmis aux Services forestiers et orienteront les choix de plantation. J'encourage les résidentes et résidents à y répondre : [bit.ly/CrichtonTreesArbres](http://bit.ly/CrichtonTreesArbres)

Comme toujours, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec mon bureau par courriel à [rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideau-rockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) ou par téléphone au 613-520-2483. Je vous invite aussi à vous abonner à mon bulletin électronique hebdomadaire à l'adresse [www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca).



New Edinburgh - Vaughan St.

Charming single Home w/Garage. 4 Bdrm, 3.5 Bath + fully finished lower level. Many upgrades. Appliances included. \$4,750. Suzanne Robinson, Century21 Action Power Team Ltd. 613-837-8833 [suzanne@c21apt.com](mailto:suzanne@c21apt.com)

**the SCONE WITCH**

**4 Locations**  
 35 Beechwood (corner of MacKay)  
 150 Elgin (enter on Gloucester)  
 393 Winston (Westboro)  
 1638 Cyrville Rd. (entry road to Home Depot)

[sconewitch.ca](http://sconewitch.ca)

**TECHNOLOGY HELP IN YOUR HOME OR OFFICE**

We come to you to fix technology problems.

Compu-Home is a highly regarded family business helping all of Ottawa-Gatineau since 1998. Service is honest, reliable, affordable and prompt.

**HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?**

- On Site or Remote Assistance
- Helping plan, purchase, set up and use new equipment
- Computer slowdown
- Problems with Internet connections
- Spam, spyware and security issues
- Setting up and maintaining home and office networks
- Printer problems
- Transferring and backing up data
- Cell phones, tablets and televisions
- Coaching, leading to self-reliance

**Compu-Home** 613-731-5954 [info@compu-home.com](mailto:info@compu-home.com)

[www.compu-home.com](http://www.compu-home.com) The Harding Family

**Contribute** to the next issue of the *New Edinburgh News*

Submit by **May 10** [editor@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca)

**Solace & SOLIDARITY**  
 KEVIN REEVES, CONDUCTOR  
 DURUFLÉ'S REQUIEM & BERNSTEIN'S CHICHESTER PSALMS

[RIDEAUHORALE.COM](http://RIDEAUHORALE.COM)

Sonya Sweeney, Mezzo - Talented Local Treble -  
 Michelle Gott, Harp - Zac Pulak, Percussion  
 with Matthew Larkin, Organ Rideau Chorale

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH, 7:30PM**  
 SOUTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH, 15 AYLMEY AVE, OTTAWA, ON

**FERN HILL SCHOOL**  
 NURTURING CONFIDENCE - BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE  
 Preschool \* Kindergarten \* Elementary Grades

Independent, non-profit, co-ed school  
 Extended French & Gym programs  
 Enriched curriculum

**Preschool to Grade 8**  
 Call to book a school tour.

613-746-0255  
[principal@fernhillottawa.com](mailto:principal@fernhillottawa.com)  
[www.fernhillottawa.com](http://www.fernhillottawa.com)

50 Vaughan Street  
 Ottawa, ON K1M 1X1  
 Established in 1981

# The lasting impact of Bernard Grandmaître on Ottawa and beyond



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

As the *New Edinburgh News* marks 50 years of telling local stories, it is worth remembering one of the most significant public figures ever elected in this part of Ottawa: Bernard Grandmaître, who served as MPP for Ottawa East from 1984 to 1999. He passed away on Oct. 28, 2025, and his loss was deeply felt across Ottawa and throughout Franco-Ontarian communities.

For many residents, Bernard Grandmaître was more than a politician. He was a steady presence in community life and a representative who seemed to understand that public service begins at the local level. But his impact extended far beyond his riding. He is best known for his central role in the adoption of Ontario's French Language Services Act, then known as Bill 8. As Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs, he led the bill through the Legislature in 1986, helping secure the right to provincial government services in French

in designated areas.

That achievement alone would have secured his place in Ontario history, but it was later recognized at the national level as well: in 2013, Bernard Grandmaître was named a Member of the Order of Canada for fostering the vitality and growth of Ontario's Francophone community.

But his legacy was not limited to one major law. During the David Peterson government, Bernard Grandmaître also served in important cabinet roles, including Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister of Revenue, and Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs. Those were serious responsibilities, and they reflected the respect he had earned as a thoughtful and effective public servant.

What makes him especially worth remembering however, is that he never seemed to lose sight of the people he represented. Even while working on province-wide files, he remained closely tied to Ottawa and to the everyday



Photo courtesy of Lucille Collard's office

**Official opening of the Terrasse Bernard Grandmaître, Chartwell Heritage Residence, Sept. 25, 2022**

**Left to right: Mona Fortier, MP; Lucille Collard, MPP; Jim Watson, former mayor of Ottawa; Bernard Grandmaître; Mathieu Fleury (and his son Jacob), former City Councillor; Daniel Richer Dit LaFlèche, town crier**

concerns of residents.

As the *New Edinburgh News* celebrates 50 years of chronicling local life, Bernard Grandmaître deserves a place in that story. He helped shape the civic and linguistic landscape of this province, and he did so with a kind of public dedication that commands respect. He helped strengthen the place of French in Ontario, and he did so in a way that still matters today.

//

À l'occasion du 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du *New Edinburgh News*, il est bon de se rappeler l'une des figures politiques les plus marquantes de ce coin d'Ottawa : Bernard Grandmaître, député provincial d'Ottawa-Est de 1984 à 1999. Son décès, le 28 octobre 2025, a suscité beaucoup d'émotion à Ottawa et dans l'ensemble de la francophonie

ontarienne.

Pour bien des gens, Bernard Grandmaître n'était pas simplement un élu. Il faisait partie de la vie de la communauté. On se souvient de lui comme d'une présence constante, proche du monde, avec un sens du devoir bien ancré. Son action, toutefois, a dépassé largement les limites de sa circonscription. Son nom demeure surtout associé à l'adoption de la Loi sur les services en français, le fameux projet de loi 8. À titre de ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones, il a joué un rôle déterminant dans son adoption en 1986, ouvrant la voie à un droit concret : celui de recevoir des services gouvernementaux provinciaux en français dans les régions désignées.


Cet accomplissement à lui seul lui assurait déjà une place importante dans l'histoire de

l'Ontario, mais son œuvre a aussi été reconnue à l'échelle nationale lorsqu'il a été nommé membre de l'Ordre du Canada en 2013 pour avoir favorisé la vitalité et l'essor de la communauté francophone de l'Ontario.

Mais son héritage ne se limite pas à une seule loi majeure. Sous le gouvernement Peterson, il a aussi occupé des postes ministériels d'envergure, notamment comme ministre des Affaires municipales, ministre du Revenu et ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones. Ces fonctions témoignaient de la confiance qu'on lui accordait et du sérieux avec lequel il remplissait son rôle.

Ce qui le rend particulièrement digne d'être souligné c'est qu'il n'a jamais perdu le lien avec les gens d'ici. Même lorsqu'il travaillait sur des dossiers provinciaux majeurs, il est resté profondément attaché à Ottawa et aux personnes qu'il représentait.

Alors que le *New Edinburgh News* célèbre ses 50 ans d'existence et sa couverture de la vie locale, Bernard Grandmaître mérite une place dans cette histoire. Il a contribué à façonner le paysage civique et linguistique de cette province, et il l'a fait avec un dévouement public qui suscite le respect. Il a contribué à renforcer la place du français en Ontario, et il l'a fait d'une manière qui reste d'actualité aujourd'hui.



**PTI Physiotherapy**  
SPORTS MEDICINE & FITNESS  
*optimum health*

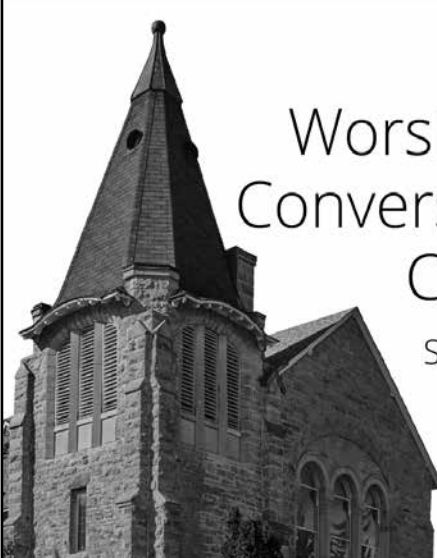
We are booking appointments from 7am to 7pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Call **613-740-0380** to book an appointment.  
Check our availability at [www.pti.janeapp.com](http://www.pti.janeapp.com).

We offer home visits for those who can't make it to the clinic, with a view to recovering and restoring mobility, enabling in-clinic visits in the long term.

- Home care experience
- Working with high level athletes
- Complicated neck and back injuries
- Joint replacement physiotherapy re hips, knees, and shoulders
- Recovery from everyday injuries
- Fall prevention education and exercises
- Referrals to other healthcare professionals in the area

**Pam Siekierski**      **90 Genest St.**  
Trusted Community Physiotherapist      **613-740-0380**  
[ptisportsmed.com](http://ptisportsmed.com)



**MacKay United**

Worship, Music,  
Conversation and  
Community

Sundays at 10:30 am  
Online & in person

[mackayunited.ca](http://mackayunited.ca)

# The Vanier Arterial plan that nearly reshaped Stanley Park

By Daniel Hébert

Did you know that the Stanley Park we know and cherish today was at serious risk just 50 years ago?

The Vanier Arterial, as originally proposed, was envisioned as a high-speed transportation corridor linking the Queensway to the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge. The plan was designed by engineering consultants, Wylie and Ufford, in 1972. The proposed expressway generated mixed reactions in the areas it would pass through, Vanier, Overbrook, and New Edinburgh. Vanier was enthusiastic. Overbrook less so, and New Edinburgh was strongly opposed. Bruce Grant, president of the New Edinburgh Community Association, said the original plan as it affected New Edinburgh called for a four-lane, 60 mph highway, which would be gradually elevated from Beechwood Avenue to Dufferin Road, and would continue as an overpass to the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge. There was also a plan to widen Stanley Avenue for use as a collector street. Opposition by New Edinburgh residents in 1972-73 succeeded in having the plan modified from an expressway to a parkway with a

35 mph speed limit. Grant said the community association received backing from the National Capital Commission for the changes. He said any concessions the association was able to get were for the most part due to NCC interest. Grant said the issue that is concerning residents at the present time is the amount of parkland the community will have to give up. The Parkway will cut through the playground if it proceeds according to the present plan. This will affect the recreational life of the community. He said: "The alignment of the Parkway will determine where the playground will be located and how much space is left over for other uses." The things to consider in relocating the playground are the distance from the school, and how much use will be made of it by residents at the opposite end of the community. Residents are aware that they can still bargain for saving some of the parkland as the final plan is not yet settled. Grant said: "We are being asked to give up a lot for this thing. We want to get the best deal we can out of it." On the positive side, the Parkway, when completed will take through traffic off Crichton Street and will lessen the threat of accidents to community children. Crichton and McKay streets are shortcuts that are used to get to the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge. There is also a plan for the installation of traffic lights at the King Edward interchange, which will slow motorists coming off the bridge. This state of the Vanier Arterial is expected to be completed in 1980-81 as is the Overbrook section. The McArthur to Beechwood section was completed in 1974. Regional Roads construction engineer, O.B. Johnson, said, "The planning is still in the conceptual stage." He said he did not know when the Overbrook or New Edinburgh sections would be completed. He also said he did not know where the traffic lights would be installed. He said, "The final decisions are not made yet."



This image first appeared in the April 1976 *New Edinburgh News*. The map shows the alignment of the proposed Vanier Arterial and its effect on the park and our neighbourhood.

are today. Nice amenities, perhaps, but not at the cost of losing the open sky, tranquility, and natural beauty that define Stanley Park today. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the *New*

*Edinburgh News*, we can thank the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) for more than half a century of steadfast advocacy to keep the neighbourhood green and livable. In 1976, Bruce Grant,

then president of NECA, worked with the National Capital Commission (NCC) to oppose the proposed expressway. Through persistence and collaboration, the plan was modified into a parkway with

a 50 km/hr speed limit – an outcome that would have preserved both safety and scenery. Luckily for all of us, in 2000 the arterial plan was scrapped altogether, sparing the neighbourhood from an intrusive overhead highway.

Within the last decade, NECA once again rose to the challenge by shaping how the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project was implemented. Designed to capture contaminated stormwater that would otherwise flow into the Ottawa River, the CSST addressed a long-standing environmental issue. Until 1963, when the city's first sewage treatment plant opened, every litre of waste flushed into Ottawa's system ended up in the river. How far we have come! Yes, the CSST brought moments of disruption and uncertainty for residents. Yes, there were inconveniences. But the short-term sacrifices delivered lasting benefits: cleaner waterways, healthier ecosystems, and thoughtfully restored green spaces that we can all enjoy.

Soon enough, the snow will melt away, and our beloved Ottawa River Eastern Pathway will return to the open, welcoming, and uninterrupted green space we love – with no overhead highway in sight.

*Daniel Hébert lives in New Edinburgh and is happy with the Stanley Park we have today.*

## UrbanOttawa.com

*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.*



**Natalie's**  
**URBANOTTAWA**  
the art of urban living

Broker | Courtier **Natalie Belovic**



hallmark realty group | brokerage

613.747.9914

# Sezlik.com

OTTAWA LUXURY PROPERTIES

Congratulations NEN on your 50th Anniversary!



ROCKCLIFFE PARK - \$5,490,000



ROCKCLIFFE PARK - \$4,950,000



ROCKCLIFFE PARK - \$2,650,000



ROCKCLIFFE PARK - \$2,390,000



LOWERTOWN - \$729,000



ROCKCLIFFE PARK - \$4,500,000



613.744.6697  
info@sezlik.com



CHARLES SEZLIK, DOMINIQUE LAFRAMBOISE, SARA ADAM, SEBASTIEN SEZLIK REALTORS,  
TRYSTAN ANDREWS, MICHELLE WILSON BROKER.  
Charles Sezlik - One of the top realtors in North America for over 27 years.

# Making the case for heat pumps

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Thank goodness we're into spring now, after such a persistently cold winter.

This past winter really tested heat pumps as temperatures dipped to -20 degrees Celsius and even lower.

With more residents shifting to heat pumps from gas-powered furnaces – and with others considering switching – this is a good time to debunk the myth that heat pumps cannot manage to heat homes in extreme cold. It's also helpful to learn from residents' heat pump experience.

## Driving down emissions

People are adding heat pumps to their homes because they reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy bills. Since they also cool homes, heat pumps replace air conditioners as well as furnaces.

According to Pollution Probe's 2023 report *Decarbonizing Residential Heating*, "space and water heating account for roughly 81 per cent of residential energy consumption" and due to a reliance on natural gas, "emissions from heating are responsible for over two-thirds of residential emissions."

The furnace is usually the largest energy consumer in a house, responsible for the lion's share of energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions in most homes. On the home front, heat pumps are driving emission reductions because they rely on electricity and are clean heating and cooling - meaning without burning fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and



Photo by Sarah Anson-Cartwright

## Heat pump in New Edinburgh

improving indoor air quality.

Since "air source" heat pumps (as compared to "ground source" heat pumps) extract heat from the ambient air, it is important to know that there are "cold climate" heat pumps which can deliver at high capacity even when outdoor temperatures dip to -25 or -30 degrees Celsius.

The Energy Star symbol identifies products that have been certified as energy efficient. Energy Star has had a "cold climate heat pump" certification since 2015 for units that can efficiently heat spaces even when outdoor

temperatures are significantly below freezing.

The Canadian Climate Institute explains that the fact that "heat pumps simply move heat, rather than generating it, is a large part of why they are so efficient."

## Coping in extreme cold

New Edinburgh resident Doug Banks says his Mitsubishi heat pump has worked "flawlessly" over the 11 years since it was installed.

"It's fine (for heating) to about -27 degrees or lower," says Banks, who expects that newer units are even more

efficient than his. When the temperature is too low for the unit, his home has auxiliary baseboard heaters.

Elsewhere in New Edinburgh, Cathy Dickson has a ductless mini-split system by Mitsubishi that was installed in 2022. Until last winter, she used the unit only for air conditioning and has been very pleased with it.

Dickson says that during the winter in her three-storey townhome, the heat from her one mini-split unit on the third floor struggles to push heat down to the second-storey level. (She adds that an additional head or unit may address this issue in a ductless system.) Overall, she relies on a combination of the heat pump, a gas fireplace, and baseboard heaters throughout her home, noting that her baseboard heaters do not work well.

## Cost competitiveness of heat pumps

For those trying to assess the costs and benefits of switching to a heat pump, *Heat Pumps Pay Off: Unlocking lower cost heating and cooling in Canada* is an informative 2023 report by the Canadian Climate Institute. It compares the costs

of different heat pump configurations against gas furnaces and air conditioning, and provides analyses for Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montréal, and Halifax.

It's worth citing some of the report's key findings: Heat pumps are an essential tool for freeing homes from fossil-derived energy. Heat pumps are the lowest-cost option for most households. The biggest drivers of differing cost competitiveness are regional energy prices and climate conditions. In most cases, the cheapest backup for heat pump heating is electric – not gas.

Many people prefer not to heat their homes with gas any more, and the shift toward cold-climate heat pumps is an appealing and viable option.

For local resources, consult the online community Electrify613 ([electrify613.ca](http://electrify613.ca)) and the Better Homes Ottawa website ([betterhomesottawa.ca](http://betterhomesottawa.ca)) to find information on available rebates, incentives, and financing options.

*Sarah Anson-Cartwright lives in New Edinburgh. She recently joined the board of Community Action for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) Ottawa.*



**How does a fierce man with a shrouded past become Special High Representative to the UN Secretary General responsible for co-ordinating UN humanitarian work in Failed States?**

"A story with a sweeping biographical arc and historical-political backdrop."

"A compelling fictional biography that moves from a childhood marked by tragedy through an extraordinary career in military and intelligence circles."

**The fourth novel by Ottawa author, Adrian de Hoog, is now available in Books on Beechwood and through online book sellers.**

<https://www.adriandehoogauthor.com/>

## NEN Delivery Volunteers Wanted

Have a couple of hours every few months? Join our delivery team and help bring the paper to your neighbours.

Contact **John Leefe**

**613-302-4946 | [distribution@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:distribution@newedinburgh.ca)**

# 'BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Daniel Hébert, Jane Heintzman, Randy Mar, Karen Squires



Photo by Karen Squires

**Rassi Coiffure with owner Ray El Hage, Grace Abouzaid and Elie Aoun - an amazing team for many years!**

## Compu-Home: 28 years and counting

For close to three decades, **Compu-Home** has served clients throughout the Ottawa region, offering in-home computer repair, support, and consultation services on a broad range of digital issues: from internet security and speed, to software upgrades, hardware issues, equipment purchasing, and small business support.

Compu-Home has always been a small, family-based operation dedicated to timely, personal service, with a strong educational component and a commitment to clear, jargon-free explanations. Founder **John Harding** continues to play an important role in all aspects of the business, including providing advice and information to clients. His son **Malcolm** is now the principal operator, lead technician, and infinitely resourceful troubleshooter.

Since Compu-Home launched in 1998, digital technology has advanced at lightning speed and now permeates nearly every aspect of daily life. Our growing dependence on devices and the added complexity of artificial intelligence have created both new opportunities and

challenges for every user. As a result, demand for Compu-Home's support has remained steady, with occasional surges – such as in Fall 2025 when Microsoft ended support for Windows 10.

While in-home visits remain a staple of Compu-Home's services, many issues can now be resolved by phone or via remote assistance. Not surprisingly, many of Compu-Home's clients are senior citizens, for whom the whole digital realm can seem like a foreign country with its own baffling language and dizzying rate of change. John and Malcolm are both firmly committed to "speaking a language these folks can understand," not with condescension, but with straightforward clarity and directness. John – with his long background as an elementary school teacher – is a master at this. "In this business," says Malcolm, "there are no stupid questions." Amen to that!

Repairs and upgrades to desktops, laptops, tablets, and other digital devices remain the core of Compu-Home's services. However, internet security against ubiquitous online fraud is an area of growing concern to clients. "The explosion of online

fraud and the wickedly clever nature of the various forms of attacks makes security and safety a huge challenge that is increasing yearly," says Malcolm. "The sad fact is that users now have to remember to treat their email and online research with constant suspicion." From Compu-Home's perspective, the good news is that an increasing number of clients are asking for advice in advance on whether a communication might be fraudulent, rather than after the fact when the damage is done.

Today, obsolescence is baked into digital technology. Where repair is no longer an option, many clients seek Compu-Home's help in researching and locating a suitable replacement for their hardware. Malcolm and John take pains to investigate the best options. Clients are able to fully hand off the whole transaction, commissioning the Hardings to make the final choice, purchase the equipment, and set it up in working order.

We wish John and Malcolm another successful year guiding and supporting clients in the challenging digital world, and thank them for their loyal support of the *New Edinburgh News*, where they have been a

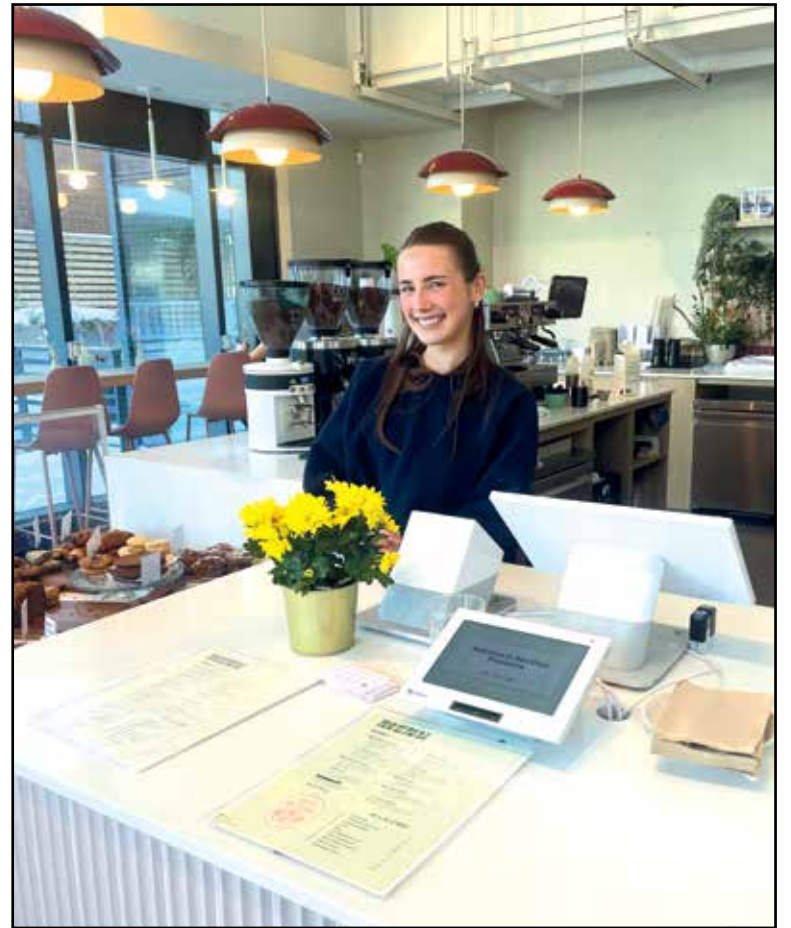


Photo by Karen Squires

**Red Door's new location with Daniella Tkachuk**

regular advertiser for much of the life of their business.

Compu-Home Ottawa: 613-731-5954 | [compu-home.com](http://compu-home.com) | [info@compu-home.com](mailto:info@compu-home.com)

–JH

## Celebrating Rassi Coiffure's long history in New Edinburgh

**Ray El Hage** started working at Rassi Coiffure in 2000 as a stylist. And when the opportunity to take over ownership of the salon arose, he jumped at it. The business started over 30 years ago and continues to serve the community and surrounding areas.

Ray reflected recently on the salon's three renovations since 2014, most recently during COVID-19 when the doors were closed to customers. Despite this restriction, he continued to support clients who needed products and services during what was a difficult time for many. Today, the salon offers a wide range of high-quality products (including non-ammonia options) and maintains a relaxing, professional atmosphere with strong attention to detail.

A long-standing and consistent team is central to the salon's success. **Elie** has worked with Ray since 2011, and **Grace**, who worked with

the previous owner, returned around the same time. Ray places a strong emphasis on stylist development, ensuring staff have access to ongoing education on new products and services. The team is currently preparing to launch a new line focused on scalp health and hair loss for both men and women. Ray also prioritizes a supportive, close-knit environment that allows for work-life balance.

Having moved to the neighbourhood about five years ago, Ray values being part of the local business community. He is committed to supporting community initiatives and takes pride in offering reliable service through a strong, stable team. His approach reflects the spirit of a 15-minute neighbourhood: one built on connection, consistency, and mutual support.

Rassi Coiffure 2 Beechwood Ave. | 613-740-1333 | [rassicof-fure.com](http://rassicof-fure.com) | Mon. 9 am–5 pm; Tue. 9 am–6 pm; Wed. 9 am–5 pm; Thu. 9 am–7 pm; Sat. 9 am.–4 pm; Sun.Mon. CLOSED

–KS

## Red Door opens at new location: oh-là-là!

Red Door Provisions has officially moved to its new



Photo by Randy Mar

Meet Steven Pahl (Registered Massage Therapist and Certified Athletic Therapist), Maxwell MacDougall (seated; Registered Physiotherapist) and Andrea Bacik (Registered Physiotherapist) from Athlete's Care Sports Medicine Centers.



Photo by Daniel Hébert

Find arts and crafts items including an aisle with crayons and other items for the young and old at the New Edinburgh Pharmacy.

location at 86 Beechwood, and it's a noticeable upgrade. The new space is bright and inviting, with floor-to-ceiling windows on two sides, plenty of seating options, and a warm, lively atmosphere shaped by great music and attentive service.

The café offers an all-day brunch menu from 7 am–5 pm, making it an easy choice for breakfast, lunch, or an early dinner. Lighter options like the Breakfast Sammie, grilled cheese, or soup of the day sit alongside more substantial dishes such as avocado or mushroom toast. The “Staff Meal” is a stand-out, featuring a seasonal salad, eggs, avocado, country bread with cheese, bacon, and hash browns. There are also favourites like gravlax, French toast, pancakes, yogurt bowls, and chia pudding – many served with seasonal greens or fruit for a balanced plate.

With a wide selection of specialty coffees and teas, it's just as well-suited for a quick coffee and dessert as it is for a full meal with friends. There's also a takeaway section worth browsing before you leave, and gluten-free options are now available. Bon appétit!

Red Door Provisions: 86 Beechwood Ave. | reddoorprovisions.com | @reddoorprovisions | Mon.–Fri. 9 am–5 pm;

Sat. and Sun. 8 am–5 pm  
–KS

**Athlete's Care offers sports medicine and injury prevention**

Featured in our New Edinburgh wellness services series last year, Athlete's Care Sports Medicine Centres opened in the Beechwood Medical Centre alongside Whole Health Pharmacy at Beechwood and Maquette in 2019.

Founded in downtown Toronto in 1997, Athlete's Care has two other locations in Ottawa, in the Merivale and Walkley areas. All three are part of a broader network of more than 25 Toronto-based clinics, including teaching facilities at the University of Toronto and York University. Although they're rooted in sports medicine, the clinics offer a full range of multidisciplinary services, including physiotherapy, massage therapy, medical acupuncture, chiropractic care, shockwave therapy, fascia stretch, and personal training.

According to Registered Massage Therapist and Certified Athletic Therapist **Steven Pahl**, the clinic is focused on helping clients return to the activities they love as quickly and safely as possible, with an emphasis on both rehabilitation and prevention. The team has particular

expertise in working with runners through its Certified Runners Program, but they support clients at all activity levels. It's all in their slogan: “Move Better, Feel Better, Live Better.”

Athlete's Care: 222 Beechwood Ave. | 613-747-2873 | athletescareottawa.ca | info@athletescare.com  
–RM

**Neighbourhood patio primer**

For those dreaming of summer breezes, here's a quick teaser of an upcoming article on our local Patio Pathway: starting at the Rideau Falls, meandering down Crichton, crossing Beechwood, and finishing back along the Ottawa River.

In the heart of the Pathway will be **Linden's** two-tier patio, set to open this coming May after a delay in clearing some construction, supply, and building permit hurdles. Owner **Tracey Clark** is enthusiastic about welcoming new and returning patrons onto their combined 400-square-foot of patio space. She says: “Our staff have worked hard to establish a strong presence on Beechwood since we opened last May, and we're really looking forward to expanding onto our new upper level deck and lower level patio as the warmer weather arrives.”

In fact, Tracey has readied for the first full melt and will

open the deck with blankets and heaters so patrons can enjoy the fresh air on the sheltered southwest-facing space. The upper level walkout has banquette and regular seating for up to 22 diners, while the accessible lower level can accommodate up to six. Patio patrons will be able to enjoy the full regular menu – a range of starters, cocottes, salads, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and, of course, pizza – as well as some summer specials.

Look for a complete listing of local patio options in the next *NEN* issue, along with details on seating capacity, pet-friendliness, availability of shade/sun, and much more!

In the meantime, here's a quick recap of last year's listing: Tavern on the Falls; Union Café; Royal Oak; Starbucks; Clocktower; Edinburger; Linden; JnJ Bakery/Mr Poke; Bridgehead; Soca; NCC River House and Tavern at the Gallery.  
–RM

**New Edinburgh Pharmacy evolves to meet neighbourhood needs**

In August 2000, **Sue Lacelle** started working at the New Edinburgh Pharmacy while it was still located where the dining room of the Chartwell New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence now stands. Within two months,

the store relocated to its current location at the corner of Beechwood Ave. and Crichton St. Sue, now the store manager, has seen many changes in the 26 years since.

The Beechwood Ave. fire in March 2011 destroyed many businesses, including a hardware store, and changed the streetscape. In 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak changed the world – and the pharmacy had to make changes, too. Sue decided to close the Beechwood Ave. door to help manage the flow of customers. She also changed the product mix in the rear of the store. While the giftware section had previously performed well, Sue noticed a clear shift in customer priorities during the pandemic. The gift section remains, but is significantly smaller.

Last year, Sue and her team introduced a small hardware section, which has proven a good fit for the neighbourhood. Feedback has been very positive, and customers are encouraged to suggest items they would like to see stocked.

The new hardware section at the New Edinburgh Pharmacy fills a clear gap in the neighbourhood. The closest big-box hardware store is more than three kilometres away, making quick trips inconvenient. The pharmacy offers a practical selection of everyday hardware items often at



Photo by Nick Anderson

### Faithfully restored front elevation by Leada Developments.

reasonable prices, and without the overwhelm of larger stores. For example, while larger retailers offer a wide variety of measuring tapes, the pharmacy offers one simple, good-quality option at a great price. The same is true for a basic vegetable peeler: an affordable and functional option is easily found in the pharmacy's hardware aisle. It has quickly become a reliable first stop for small household goods.

The store also features an arts and crafts aisle, with options for both children and more experienced crafters. If you haven't visited recently, consider stopping by: you might find exactly what you need, closer to home.

New Edinburgh Pharmacy: 5 Beechwood Ave. | (613) 749-4444 | Mon.–Fri. 9 am–6 pm; Sat. 10 am–4 pm; Sun. CLOSED

–DH

### Leada Developments shapes homes in New Edinburgh and beyond

Long-time area resident **Nick Anderson**, founder of **Leada Developments**, is a familiar face to many in the neighbourhood. Nick first developed his construction skills as a teenager while working on projects at his family's cottage. He went on to gain six years of hands-on experience in renovation, carpentry, and landscaping with Ottawa-based

companies before founding Leada in 2011. He combines 20-plus years of industry experience with a certificate in Project Management.

Living in a heritage overlay neighbourhood has given Nick a practical understanding of the complexities involved in restoring and maintaining older homes. This perspective helps him guide clients through the challenges of working with Victorian-era properties, while also incorporating a clean, modern aesthetic where appropriate. This summer, Nick will be building his own heritage-sensitive garage on River Lane.

Leada's work can be seen across New Edinburgh and Lindenlea, marked by its recognizable blue and orange signs. The company's reputation has earned them contracts across Ottawa, from Westboro and the Glebe to Britannia Beach and Rothwell Heights. With a core team of six, expanding to 10 during peak seasons, Leada focuses on interior renovations such as kitchens, bathrooms, and basements, as well as exterior updates, window replacements, additions, and custom builds.

Beyond construction, Leada supports clients through design, approvals, and the important work of selecting materials and finishes. A strong network of suppliers

and trades helps ensure projects run smoothly. Much of the company's work comes through word of mouth and repeat clients, reflecting the care and consistency Nick brings to each project. This is further reinforced by Leada's accreditation with the Better Business Bureau.

One standout project is a full rebuild at the corner of Queen Victoria and Crichton for Nick's parents, who relocated from their longtime home on MacKay. The distinctive brick "brownstone," accented with Italian stone, has become a recognizable feature in the neighbourhood and was featured in Ottawa Magazine.

Leada Developments: 613-790-4439 | leadadevelopments.ca | nick@leadadevelopments.ca

–RM

*Editor's Note: Local entrepreneurship adds to the flavour of our neighbourhood – we will feature other home-based businesses in upcoming editions.*

### No closures here: Beechwood businesses reassure the community

When a "For Sale" sign appears outside a local business, the community often holds its breath, fearing the loss of a cherished neighbourhood shop. When the sign stretches across three storefronts, the sense of unease



Photo by Daniel Hébert

### Despite the large 'for sale or lease' sign posted between 127 and 131 Beechwood Ave., all three businesses in these locations plan on staying in the neighbourhood.

deepens. It no longer feels like an isolated change, but a threat to the fabric of the street itself, raising concerns that multiple familiar businesses and the everyday rhythms they support could soon be lost.

**Andrew Muckleston**, owner of **Muckleston & Brockwell Butchery**, reassures customers: "If you hear rumours that we are closing, we are not." **Bridgehead** and **Munchies Cannabis** share the same viewpoint; both plan to stay in their current locations for a very long time.

Recently, Bridgehead and Munchies Cannabis secured long-term leases; therefore, the property at 131 Beechwood Ave. is listed as "For sale" only. Meanwhile, Muckleston & Brockwell (M&B) did not renew its lease, which is why the property at 127 Beechwood Ave. is listed as "For sale or lease." Fortunately, Andrew is planning to keep M&B in the neighbourhood saying, "New Edinburgh is where I want to be. This place is where my butchery belongs." He is currently in negotiations with a local New Edinburgh property owner but since details are still under discussion, the new location will be announced later. Finding a new place for his business is not Andrew's only challenge: recent mechanical failures took out some of his freezers and coolers. Andrew hesitated

about repairing his equipment. His dilemma: Would it be better to repair them now or wait until he moved to a new location? With the equipment out of service, he has been storing all of his products in the coolers at the back of the store, leaving little visible to customers.

This likely explains the rumours about a possible closure: people walk in, see empty coolers on the floor, and assume the shop is shutting down. Andrew now estimates that he will be relocating in summer 2026 so he will forge ahead with the needed repairs. Soon, Muckleston & Brockwell's storefront will be back to normal.

Small businesses in New Edinburgh are what makes our neighbourhood great. We should all aim to support them as best we can.

Muckleston & Brockwell Butchery: 127 Beechwood Ave. | 613-745-2244 | mucklestonandbrockwell.com | Sun. and Mon. 11 am–5 pm; Tue–Sat. 10 am–6 pm

Bridgehead: 131A Beechwood Ave. | 613-744-3735 | Seven days a week 6:30 am–7 pm

Munchies Cannabis: 131B Beechwood Ave. | 613-748-1000 | Seven days a week 6:30 am–7 pm

–DH

# City releases Beechwood Ave. design proposal for community input

Continued from page 1

say the closures are being carefully evaluated for impacts on emergency services, winter maintenance, waste collection, and local businesses.

Residents can weigh in now through an online public survey on [engage.ottawa.ca](http://engage.ottawa.ca). Another round of public engagement targeted for June will present the draft functional design for feedback. With design work continuing through 2026, planners hope community feedback will help shape a safer and more vibrant future for one of Ottawa's most distinctive neighbourhood main streets.

Tracey Clark, owner of Linden Pizza, read the plan and offered the following comments:

Beechwood is one of the last traditional main streets in Ottawa to see development. More is slated for the coming years with the proposed development of Manor Park Estates, the former Caisse building, and likely other sites that are changing hands of late. It's great that the city is developing plans to



Photo courtesy Tracey Clark

**Linden Pizza is just opening their new patio off Beechwood on Chapleau, one of the streets slated for closure and they look forward to better placemaking! Raise a glass to that with Neil Abraham and Hariett Stokes, employees at Linden. Looking forward to spring!**

improve the public realm but these plans must also address how to manage increased traffic along Beechwood and how to preserve our traditional

main street as a 'high street', meaning a place where commercial activity is alive and thriving. The notion of creating one-way streets, and/or

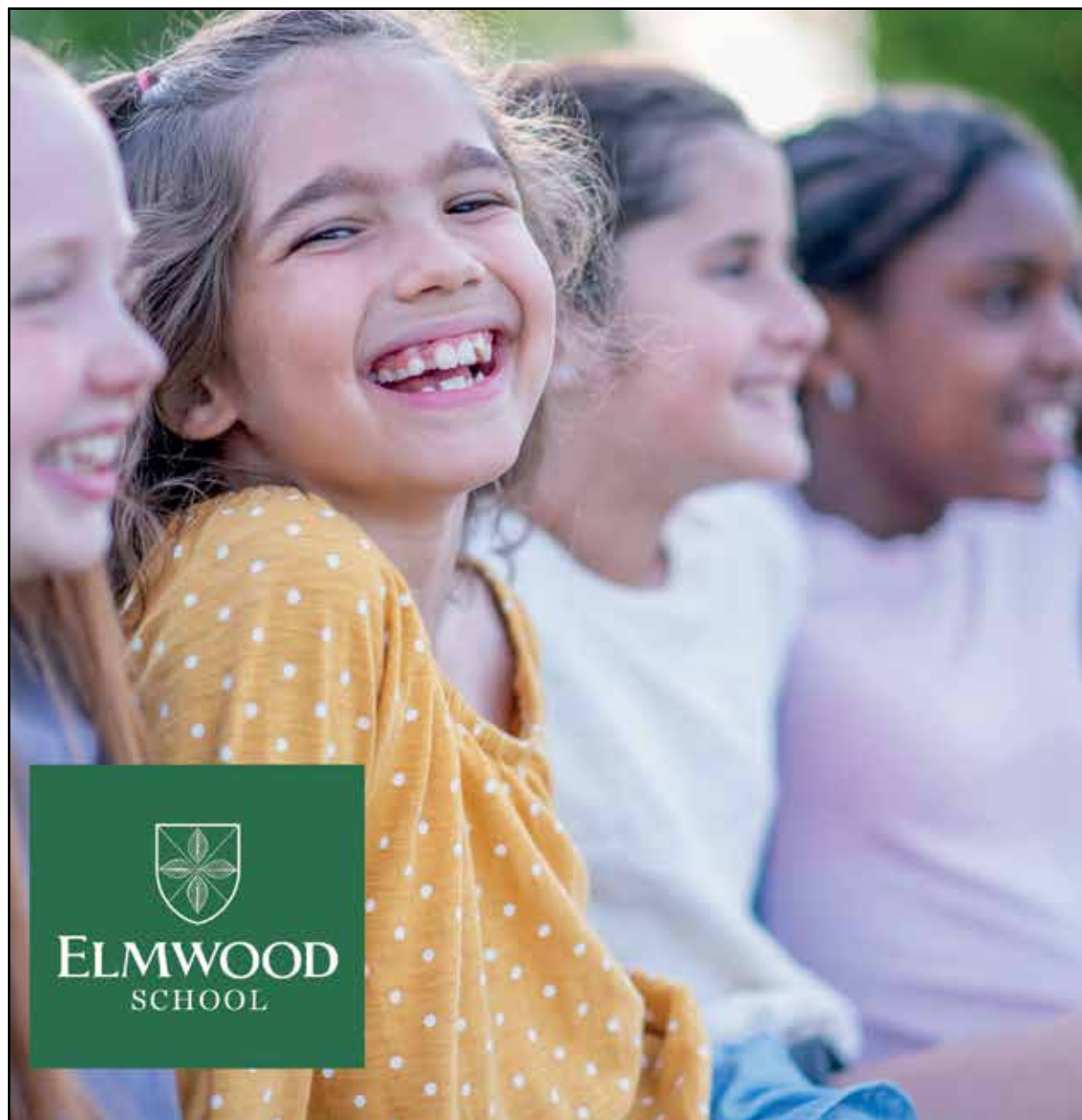
closing off streets in theory should limit the number of left hand turns that impede traffic flow, but what will reduced parking mean for our

commercial sector? We have difficult winters here and as much as we like the idea of multi-modal transportation, it's hard to increase the cycling share because of our winters. And no matter how appealing the public realm, if the commercial isn't there, the people won't come. Especially in winter. Of the plans presented my view is yes, yes to trees, but that bump outs with one way streets is vastly preferable to seasonal or permanent closures.

Councillor King and the Vanier BIA will be hosting a public meeting regarding the Beechwood Ave. Public Realm Plan in April. We have also been advised that the Beechwood Ave. Public Realm Plan Engage Ottawa webpage is now live: [engage.ottawa.ca/beechwood](http://engage.ottawa.ca/beechwood). (French-language version: [participons.ottawa.ca/beechwood](http://participons.ottawa.ca/beechwood))

The deadline for submitting feedback is Apr. 10.

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



## Shine all summer long

Make this summer one to remember with Elmwood Discovery Camps, where girls aged 4 to 13 explore bold ideas, build lasting friendships, and grow through joyful, hands-on learning.

With exciting weekly themes, expert-led workshops, and a warm, joyful environment, every day sparks creativity, confidence, and connection. Whether your daughter is diving into science, painting a masterpiece, or racing through outdoor challenges, she will be supported, celebrated, and inspired, all summer long.

Spots are limited—register now at

[elmwood.ca/summercamp](http://elmwood.ca/summercamp)



ELMWOOD SCHOOL

# Crichton Community Council update



By **Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse**,  
CCC Director

## New Edinburgh Rink Season Recap

Spring has sprung and the time has come to say au revoir to winter fun at New Edinburgh Park. We had an excellent season with more than 60 days of skating! Thanks to our wonderful crew of rink attendants (Everleigh, Eli, Alex, Arniko, Tom, Adam, and Kathleen) and hosers (Aubrey, Justin, Sean, Adam, Adrian, Chris, Christian, Crystal, Alex, Greg, Ian, Jason, Jeff, Kasper, Kathleen, Kyle, Sarah, Loic, Lucas, Max, Rob and Steve). Without these amazing helpers, we wouldn't have one of the most skateable rinks in the city. If you'd like to join the hoser group, or you have a high-school student who would like to be a rink attendant next season, reach out to Alain-Rémi at [cccrinkmanager@gmail.com](mailto:cccrinkmanager@gmail.com)

## Family Day Weekend Rink Festival

The CCC proudly continued this new tradition: families in the community enjoyed hot chocolate, music, hockey, curling, a raffle with great prizes and Olympic action on TV. Thanks to Justin Swan for putting the event together. What a great way to spend the day together!

## Open Mic at the Fieldhouse

Longtime New Edinburgh resident Susan Sweeney Hermon,

harpist and president of Spirit of Rasputin, continued to host the New Edinburgh Open Mic Nights for local musicians and artists. The Open Mic nights kept us culturally satiated through the winter months. If you'd like to perform at the next event, keep your eyes on the CCC events site for upcoming dates: [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events)

## The Flamenco For Food and Fun project

Ottawa art group Sueños Flamencos and the CCC hosted the first Flamenco show, lesson and flamenco juerga in support of Partage Vanier on Mar. 28. Sueños Flamencos always impress with their dance rhythms and guitars!



Photo by Chris Straka

## Comedian Bobby Knauff at the Fieldhouse

## Comedy at the Fieldhouse

Local comedian Hart Shouldice has been putting together comedy nights with

## Family Day at the Fieldhouse

local standup comics for the last few years. The most recent event on Mar. 7 featured comics Khai Tri, Jake Daly, Christina Muehlberger, and Bobby Knauff. 'Burghers were crying from laughter. If you haven't made it out to comedy night, don't miss the next one. You won't regret it!

## Upcoming Events

Bike Day in New Edinburgh  
– May 2, 9:30–13:00

## Yoga at the Fieldhouse

New Edinburgh yoga instructor Solmaz Hicks will be restarting her asana yoga classes at the Fieldhouse this spring. If you would like to sign up for classes (expected to take place Wednesday evenings at 7 pm), contact her at [perisasolmaz@hotmail.com](mailto:perisasolmaz@hotmail.com)

## CCC Communication

The CCC Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fieldhouse. Meeting times, dates or locations may change. Please email the CCC

Full programming for this year's Bike Day has yet to be released, but mark your calendars for May 2. Last year, we saw a great turnout for the Kidical Mass Bike Ride. The CCC will be selling used bikes starting at 10 am. If you have a bike to sell or donate, we will have a drop-off date leading up to the event. The CCC keeps 10 per cent of proceeds to donate to Vélo Vanier. Updates about the event will be available on the CCC website.

Flower Sale – May 9

Spring has come sooner this year! Instead of buying your flower baskets from big retailers, support the CCC and a

local grower on Saturday, May 9. These beautiful baskets are a good deal, and proceeds support local events in the neighbourhood. Grab a coffee from the "mobile" Union Street Café and pick up vegetable seedlings while you're at it! See you there!

## CCC AGM – Date TBD

The board of directors will share their reports at the annual meeting and welcome community input. The date will be shared via the CCC events website: [newedinburgh.ca/events](http://newedinburgh.ca/events)

## Yoga at the Fieldhouse

New Edinburgh yoga instructor Solmaz Hicks will be restarting her asana yoga classes at the Fieldhouse this spring. If you would like to sign up for classes (expected to take place Wednesday evenings at 7 pm), contact her at [perisasolmaz@hotmail.com](mailto:perisasolmaz@hotmail.com)

## CCC Communication

The CCC Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fieldhouse. Meeting times, dates or locations may change. Please email the CCC

([crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:crichtoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com)) if there is a topic you would like to discuss, or to confirm the meeting date. Information about the CCC's initiatives and events can be found on the New Edinburgh neighbourhood website; on Facebook (New Edinburgh Fieldhouse - Crichton Community Council); and on Instagram (@NEFieldhouse).

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

New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse rental proceeds and donations to the CCC contribute directly to the improvement of the facility and to neighbourhood events. The Fieldhouse is available for rent throughout the year for birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, etc. For more information, visit: [newedinburgh.ca/ccc/fieldhouse](http://newedinburgh.ca/ccc/fieldhouse)



Photo by Justin Swan

Why Not Join Us for Mother's Day?

**Il Vagabondo**  
RISTORANTE  
186 Barrette (Near Beechwood & Vanier)

**TUESDAY-FRIDAY** Lunch & Dinner: 12 pm to closure  
**SATURDAY** Dinner: 4 pm to closure  
**SUNDAY-MONDAY** Closed

Mother's Day Special: We will open from 3 pm to closure on Sunday May 10, 2026

info/reservations: 613-749-4877

New Edinburgh Park  
**FIELDHOUSE**  
203 Stanley Avenue

Available for Private Group Rentals  
contact the Crichton Community Council  
[NEfieldhouse@gmail.com](mailto:NEfieldhouse@gmail.com)

# Continuing a legacy: More than 100 years of Laurentian Chapter IODE

By Janet Uren

Women like Lady Sybil Grey – a character right out of Downton Abbey – played a huge role in creating a compassionate society in Canada. Her legacy in Ottawa is the organization she founded more than a century ago.

The year was 1906, and 22-year-old Lady Sybil Grey was about to make philanthropic history in Ottawa. As the daughter of Governor General Lord Grey – the King’s representative in Canada from 1904 to 1911 – Lady Sibyl was born to privilege. She was also raised to a life of service, and she began her charitable career in Ottawa.

Lady Sybil lived in Canada throughout her father’s tenure, travelled widely, and never forgot this country. She said that, had she been a man, she would have emigrated and made a life for herself in our young nation. As it was, she left an indelible mark on the capital as the first vice-regent of a local chapter of a national women’s service group: the *Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire*. Today, the group is known simply as the IODE – with less emphasis on “imperial” and “empire” – and membership is open to all who want to give back to their community.

Lady Sybil Grey continues to inspire the women of Ottawa’s Laurentian chapter with her example. She was born in 1882 in one of Britain’s stately homes, and went on to a life of some adventure. As a volunteer nurse during the Great War, Lady Sibyl set up a Red Cross field hospital on the Russian front. In Russia, she met the doomed Tsarina Alexandra, witnessed rioting in the streets of revolutionary Petrograd, gave shelter to the man who murdered the “Mad Monk” Rasputin, and was wounded when a grenade exploded in her face. Undaunted, Lady Sibyl returned to France, where she organized an ambulance unit to aid casualties on the western front.

In 1906, while living in Ottawa, Lady Sybil met with a group of 15 local women and persuaded them to set up Laurentian: a chapter of a national service organization founded in Montreal a

few years earlier. The IODE was originally conceived as a patriotic club to support Canadian troops fighting overseas during the Boer War and the two World Wars.

IODE Laurentian evolved into an organization serving a broader range of social causes, including public health. Tuberculosis was a major killer in the early twentieth century. Under Lady Sybil’s leadership, the Laurentian chapter raised \$17,000 to build and equip a sanatorium in Ottawa in 1910. The Royal Ottawa Hospital later replaced the Lady Grey Sanatorium; and, illustrating the difference in the value of a dollar over time, when IODE Laurentian contributed the same \$17,000 sum to celebrate the hospital’s 100th anniversary, it was just enough to furnish a single room!

The members of IODE Laurentian are still hard at work in Ottawa. President Susan Sibbit says: “Our mission is to identify some neglected corners of philanthropy in the Ottawa community and to make up the deficit.”

Today, Laurentian’s focus is on people in crisis. Recently, the chapter has supported a hospice for unhoused men and women with terminal illnesses; they have provided clean beds for unhoused youth and cribs for the babies of young single mothers; and they have supported shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

The chapter also focuses on education, through the

provision of scholarships and bursaries at the university and college level, as well as summer programs to support children – many of them new to Canada – in one of Ottawa’s Community Houses. For 20 years now, the chapter has also been sending supplies and reading materials to a school for Indigenous children in Northern Ontario.

For over 60 years, the chapter raised funds through an annual house and garden tour, which Laurentian inaugurated as the first of its kind Ottawa in 1961. More recently, even as numbers dwindle with members aging out, the IODE Laurentian continues to host a number of fundraising events each year, including an annual tea in the spring and a trivia afternoon in the fall. Many community members look forward to our participation in the annual New Edinburgh Garage Sale and the Lindenhouse Theatre benefit night. We think Lady Sybil Grey would approve.

One of the oldest such organizations in Ottawa, IODE Laurentian is still making philanthropic history. We need and welcome all women seeking to give back to their community: come join us for fun, friendship, and fundraising.

*Janet Uren is a professional writer and is currently vice-president of Laurentian, a women’s service group that has produced StreetFest in past years.*



**Geneviève Fontaine, MA, RP (Qualifying)**  
Individual Counselling & Psychotherapy for Adults

- (343) 513-0515
- genfontainepsychotherapy@gmail.com
- 1048 North River Road, Ottawa, ON
- genevievefontaine.com
- English & French

**A journey of self-discovery starts here**

**mood moss flowers**

613 741 1774 ~ moodmossflowers.com

186 Beechwood Ave ~ Ottawa, Ontario ~ K1L 1A9

**Your local bookstore offers:**

- in-person shopping
- telephone, online and email orders
- free local delivery, shipping via Canada Post

**We are open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Sundays**

*We now offer audiobooks!*  
libro.fm/beechwood

**BOOKS ON BEECHWOOD**

store.booksonbeechwood.ca  
613-742-5030  
staff@booksonbeechwood.ca

## ROCKCLIFFE PARK SPRING BOOK SALE!

**25,000+ donated books at bargain price!**

**When:** Saturday, April 25  
10am - 5pm

Sunday, April 26  
11am - 5pm

**Where:** Rockcliffe Park Community Centre  
380 Springfield Rd.  
Ottawa

*Family Storytime Saturday a.m. in the Library*

Proceeds support the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library and wider library system



# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman



Black-backed Woodpecker

Photo by David Howe

By Jane Heintzman

Despite the late-lamented Wiarton Willy's rosy forecast of an early spring this year, the reality is shaping up rather differently. Based on current weather forecasts for Eastern Ontario, cooler than average temperatures and above-normal precipitation are predicted throughout March and April. This suggests a slow start to the spring migration.

In addition, snowy and stormy conditions mean

chipping sparrows, white-throated sparrows, red-winged blackbirds, grackles, house-, purple- and goldfinches, kinglets, flycatchers, phoebes, and many others, will ultimately arrive safely. The coming weeks will tell.

Our own local birding excursions have been limited this winter by heavy snow in some of our favourite haunts, notably the Rockcliffe Parkway, winding off Sussex Drive at Princess Ave., and above the

cardinals, house finches, American goldfinches, downy- and pileated woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches and house sparrows

spotted several ragged looking American robins, I suspect they were winter survivors, and they were not yet singing (small wonder, as winter was no picnic)!

If you happen to pass a large shrub or tree in the neighbourhood, where a bustling cluster of birds is babbling noisily (and seemingly inexhaustibly), chances are good that it's a flock of house finches. The male of the species is spectacularly beautiful in breeding season, when the plumage on its head and breast becomes bright rosy red. Its cousin the purple finch is even showier with its raspberry-red head, breast and flanks, but is less frequently seen on our residential streets.

Of all the sounds of spring, the fee-bee and chickadee-dee-dee of the black-capped chickadee are perhaps the most familiar of all; so familiar that we were baffled earlier this spring by an odd jabbering in a tree near Rideau Gate. While the source of the cacophony was unmistakably a

flock of chickadees, the sound was not one I had ever heard before. In all likelihood, the change of "lyrics" and pitch in the birds' vocalizing was in fact a high-intensity alarm call, signaling the presence of a predator, and sounding the alert to other chickadees nearby. Apparently, even a cat will trigger the alarm.

As I write in mid-March, brilliant red Northern cardinals are now ubiquitous, perched on the tops of trees and telephone poles, regaling passers-by with their signature spring cheer cheer song. It was a great relief in late February when the cardinal's vocalizing began again to break the silence of winter, and herald the start of their breeding and nesting season. We're looking forward to the annual return of a mating pair to our own backyard.

If you have a backyard bird feeder, you may be lucky enough to observe the mate-feeding ritual of cardinal pairs. The male brings a seed to the female, they gently touch



Common Merganser

Photo by David Howe

that insects may be slow to emerge, which affects the returning birds' food supply. Hazardous weather along the Atlantic Flyway – the avian highway north to our area – may result in many birds being knocked off course by powerful winds. And many of the all-important stopover points, on which returning birds rely for rest and refueling, have been buried in snow and ice.

February 2026 saw a series of fierce, back-to-back winter storms, and an epic "bomb cycle" along the Atlantic Flyway, bringing heavy snow and hurricane-force winds to the North Eastern U.S. and eastern Canada. With luck, the casualty rate among the avian travelers has been kept to a minimum. One can only hope the long-awaited song sparrows, American robins,

Ottawa River to the Rockcliffe Pavilion. In past years, these have been fruitful spots for sighting returning turkey vultures, sharp-shinned- and red-tailed hawks, and common ravens, as well as smaller species such as white-breasted nuthatches, Northern flickers, overwintering American robins, black-capped chickadees, and blue jays. Happily, I did spot one exciting spectacle over the Ottawa River: a wild aerial chase in which two American crows aggressively pursued an agile sharp-shinned hawk, presumably to drive it out of their breeding territory.

Our recent walks through the 'Burgh have shown a more hopeful picture. Avian activity has been slowly ramping up, with Northern

joining the spring chorus of black-capped chickadees to signal the start of the breeding season. Though we've also



Bohemian Waxwing

Photo by David Howe

beaks, and she consumes the offering – it's enchanting! As in many species, the female's plumage is more muted than her mate, with a grayish-brown head and buff coloured breast. Her bright red bill distinguishes her from the juvenile cardinal, whose plumage is similar, but whose bill is dark.

On many of our walks, we heard the soft teek teek call of the **downy woodpecker** and spotted several little black-and-white downies foraging industriously along tree branches. In contrast to their imposing pileated woodpecker

notably, in the Metro parking lot, where the foraging is abundant. As I write in mid-March, house sparrows are back on the scene, though still not in their accustomed numbers.

Another of the first spring arrivals in our community is normally the flashy **red-winged blackbird**, making its presence known with its raucous okaleee, check check, and tseeet calls. Red-wings are especially numerous close to the Rideau River in Stanley Park, where their aggressive, turf-protecting behaviour can pose a risk to passers-by on

significant numbers, particularly in and around the grounds of Rideau Hall, and along MacKay St. On one occasion, we spotted a flock of about two dozen very large (well, fat) turkeys, ambling along the path from the side gate of Rideau Hall towards Rideau Cottage, the current residence of the Carney family. (Perhaps they should take caution from the Prime Minister's assertion that "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu!")

The *NEN's* bird photographer **David Howe** has been active in local birding haunts since returning from a winter sojourn in Colombia. David has spotted a variety of winter visitors, including a **Northern hawk owl**; **Bohemian waxwings** and **pine grosbeaks**. But for David, a highlight of the late winter was a lovely (and presumably off-course) **European Robin** spotted in Montreal.

The European robin is readily distinguishable from our local **American robin**. The latter is part of the thrush family, and is noticeably larger and more orange in breast colouring than the rosy red European version, which belongs to the flycatcher family. "You might have heard about this European Robin being the most famous bird in Canada right now," says David. "It's been in Montreal since early January, and is the first-ever Canadian sighting."

Avian Bistro operator **Philip MacAdam** reports that Northern cardinals have been regular visitors to his feeders at Thomas and Alexander St. throughout the winter. They are now joined by **black-capped chickadees**; **white-breasted nuthatches** and a single (much rarer) **rose-breasted nuthatch** – the closest thing to an avian



Cooper's Hawk

Photo by David Howe

elf one can possibly imagine! Philip was relieved to note that the attacking **barred owl** he reported earlier this year seems to have abandoned its habitat close to the Rockcliffe Pavilion – at least for the moment.

To keep track of returning species as the spring unfolds, visit Ottawa e-Bird – [ebird.org/region/CA-ON-OT](http://ebird.org/region/CA-ON-OT) – where you'll find local reports from spots such as Strathcona Park, Beechwood Cemetery, and the grounds of Rideau Hall. Recent reports included several waterfowl species on the Rideau River, notably **Barrow's goldeneye**; **common mergansers**; **hooded mergansers**; and **common**

**goldeneye**. As always, the weekly birding reports from the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club – [ofnc.ca](http://ofnc.ca) – are also a helpful survey of bird life in the wider community.

If you have interesting bird reports or stories to share with our readers, please email [janeheintzman@hotmail.com](mailto:janeheintzman@hotmail.com) and when possible, send along photos of your sightings. Happy spring birding to all!

*Jane is a long-time NEN contributor, well known for her pieces about local businesses, and for her dedication to "For the birds."*



Great Horned Owl

Photo by David Howe

cousins, **downy woodpeckers** are modest in size (six inches to the pileated's 18). They're also far more agile and acrobatic than the bigger birds, foraging on tiny branches and balancing on slender plants and bird feeders. The males are reportedly competitive foragers, elbowing the females out of fruitful feeding locations, and relegating them to scantier spots.

As local birder **Tony Gaston** observed, until very recently, the formerly ubiquitous **house sparrow** has been a virtual no-show this winter. Flocks of noisy house sparrows are typically seen throughout the community in trees and shrubs along residential streets, in backyards, and perhaps most

the walking path. Be sure to cover your head!

But so far this year, I have yet to see or hear a red-wing, and indeed, their population in North America has reportedly declined sharply since the late 1970s, with an estimated loss of 92 million birds. As with many other species, the population decline is attributable to climate change, pesticide use, and habitat loss, particularly through the conversion of wetlands – their prime breeding turf – into urban developments.

No Who's Who of our local avian community this winter would be complete without mention of **wild turkeys**. In contrast to many other species, they have been seen in



European Robin

Photo by David Howe

# Walking 10,000 daily steps in the 'Burgh

By Daniel Hébert

As the nicer weather approaches, most of us are looking forward to resuming our outdoor activities after spending most of the winter indoors. Last spring, as I was preparing to retire, I realized I needed to stay fit as I got older. I set my sights on walking 10,000 daily steps. To be clear, the idea of walking 10,000 steps a day isn't rooted in a specific medical discovery, but it serves as a useful motivational goal. In 1965, the Yamasa Tokei Keiki Company released one of the first commercial pedometers and called it "Manpo-kei" which literally translates to "10,000-steps meter." This was the basis for walking this number of steps each day.

A CBC News article about "Superagers" – people who are at least 80 years old, who retain the memory abilities of those in their 40s or 50s – revealed three key factors to help people live independently and for longer: pursuing meaningful hobbies, staying physically active, and maintaining social connections.

The data showed that a typical Superager aims for 36 minutes a day of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity like walking, biking, or swimming. With the goal to live independently as long as possible, I downloaded the Pacer App and aimed to meet



Image courtesy of Daniel Hébert

Google Map image showing pedestrians only pathways in Stanley Park.

this artificial goal of walking 10,000 daily steps. The app allows users two rest days per week without breaking their streak. I maintained my streak from spring to mid-December until the snow made the trails icy and slippery. To keep my streak alive, I decided to start using a treadmill. To kill the tediousness of walking an hour on a treadmill, I started listening to music. By pure luck, I found a terrific playlist where the first song was slow: a pace of 3.2 miles per hour (mph), where my feet hit the treadmill in sync with the drum beat; this was perfect to warm up. The second song was 4.0 mph; this got my heart rate higher

where I wanted it to be. This was followed by songs ranging between 3.2 to 3.8 mph, bringing my heart rate to a suitable range for my age group.

Having various songs with various paces was perfect; the trouble was adjusting my footsteps to match the beat of the drums. To achieve this, I slowed down at the start of each song, then increased the speed until I got the proper cadence for that song. I found that sometimes, when I was tired and slow, I could keep up with the faster pace song so long as the music was peppy; it almost became more of a dance than exercise. I am sure I looked goofy with my head swaying to the music, but it helped me find my groove and maintain my streak until the snow melted.

I look forward to returning to my favourite outdoor

walking setting: the Ottawa River Eastern Pathway along the Rideau River. The trail officially starts at Hog's Back Park and ends at Rideau Falls. We are so fortunate to have this much green space in our neighbourhood. Generally, this pathway is considered a moderately challenging route and is also a popular trail for birding, fishing, and cycling. From the St. Patrick Bridge, here are some distances to help guide your walks.

Heading North, the Minto Bridges are about 1.4 km away (about 1,750 steps) and Rideau Falls is about 2 km away (2,500 steps). Heading South, the Cummings Bridge is about 1 km away (about 1,250 steps) and the pedestrian bridge where Donald St. ends (at the Rideau Sports Centre) is about 2 km away (2,500

steps).

Cyclists usually respect the signage and stick to the paved paths, but the gravel path between Beechwood Ave. and Union St. is meant for pedestrians only. From time to time, an unexpected cyclist may appear on the gravel path, so it's wise to stay alert.

Unfortunately, the National Capital Commission's website has conflicting information from the City of Ottawa website. It can be confusing but fortunately, the parks and pathways have excellent signage – just remember to look for and read the signs.

Refer to the accompanying annotated map that shows where cyclists are permitted and where they are not. The same goes for dog walkers: the signs are posted where dogs are not permitted, namely near the children's play area at Stanley Park, including the splash pad. There is also a posted sign near the marshy area across from Maple Island where birds nest and wandering dogs may be tempted to "play" with what they find – I have seen a lot of feathers in that area.

Soon enough, the snow will melt away, and our beloved Ottawa River Eastern Pathway will reappear, becoming accessible again to draw people back outdoors. When that happens, the treadmill can rest, and walking will finally feel like it belongs outdoors again.

*Daniel Hébert lives in New Edinburgh with hopes of maintaining his streak of walking 10,000 daily steps all summer.*



## Rawlson King

Councillor / Conseiller  
Rideau-Rockcliffe

613-580-2483

Rawlson.King@Ottawa.ca

www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca

Congratulations on 50 years of local news!

We're happy to be a part of  
your community.

**ART-ZONE.NET**  
613.741.9636 //  
info@art-zone.net  
@artzonefineartservices

**ART ZONE**



FINE ART SERVICES LTD  
EST 1993

# What New Edinburgh teaches us about mental health and connection

By Ralph Hesse

Loneliness and alienation have fuelled increasing rates of depression and aggression, particularly among youth, over the past decade. Among the factors that have led to this rise, three stand out:

- an over-reliance on social media and the internet as vehicles for connection,
- the COVID crisis, which amplified the need to remain physically isolated, resulting in an even greater dependence on social networking via computer and smartphone, and
- the persistent myth that strength of character is measured by self-reliance.

Martin Seligman, the founder of Positive Psychology, argues that the belief that we alone are the masters of our own fate creates an “individualism” mentality that erodes the importance of family and community. When that individual experiences failure, it is more likely to be borne singularly, leading to self-blame and hopelessness which will likely result in depression. This term “individualism” as coined by Seligman involves a general

framework of thought in which emotional strength and resilience is predicated upon relying on your own internal resources in the absence of support from others.

The strength of community (the social collective) is a vital ingredient to offset these trends and factors. Seligman speaks of optimism and hope as two important countervailing forces to depression. But he expands this to communal hope and optimism. Although our most fundamental hopes are likely individual (health, happiness, etc.) our hope for the betterment of others and for the health of our community and our world creates a dynamic that nourishes and satisfies our need for emotional connectivity. Says Seligman: “When learned optimism is coupled with a renewed commitment to the commons, our epidemic of depression and meaninglessness may end.”

C.R. Snyder and David Feldman, psychologists at the University of Kansas, state that hope is for the many, not just the few; and they stress the importance of an environment

that supports both individual and collective goals. It is thus critical for our mental health to find communities that drive us forward, inevitably helping us, collectively, to flourish.

New Edinburgh and its immediate surroundings are communities particularly suited for the mental health benefits of its inhabitants. At first glance, one notices that sidewalks and front porches dominate the landscape. This facilitates communication among neighbours and creates an ease of socialization. Another important ingredient is that shops and businesses are close enough to walk to. Car-centred communities, as seen in the United States, promote isolation.

Alternatively, walking to local establishments promotes social connections and makes it much more likely that you will bump into your neighbours. Recreation centres are also critical, and it is clear that Stanley Park is a beacon for formal recreational programs and casual leisure pursuits. Institutional centres and cultural events are also hallmarks of a healthy community. New

Edinburgh is blessed with several excellent churches: places that not only provide spiritual nourishment but also host and promote many community events. On the cultural front, the annual New Edinburgh Artist’s Studio Tour is a remarkable example of the joy and promotion of the common good.

Perhaps most importantly of all, a central means to communicate via “the collective” is vital. It is here that the *New Edinburgh News* should take its rightful bow, celebrating 50 years of service. The *NEN* serves as a central hub in connecting neighbours to each other, and its contents mirror the curiosity, energies,

worries, political concerns, charities, and talents of its inhabitants; leading each of us to feel a sense of togetherness. It is clear that New Edinburgh offers a social ecosystem that promotes collective hope and optimism, which in turn, advances mental health.

*Ralph Hesse has recently retired from teaching psychology at the State University of New York at Cortland. He has taught for 24 years and has taught online courses since moving to Lindenlea. He is retired from his primary job as a Civil Service psychologist serving persons with Developmental Disabilities. He holds a Master’s Degree in Experimental Psychology.*



**(613)250-8331**  
[help@odd-jobz.ca](mailto:help@odd-jobz.ca)  
[Odd-Jobz.ca](http://Odd-Jobz.ca)

**For all your home renovation and maintenance needs**



Rental Management for the Foreign Service Community

---

**Our services include:**

- market analysis
- preparation of documents
- reporting
- maintenance
- regular inspections
- simplified and competitive fees

*We’ve been there ... we care!*

---

**Aisling Boomgaardt and Bram Boomgaardt**

Tel: 613-746-2367                      5 Beechwood Avenue  
 Fax: 613-746-3050                    P.O. Box 74074  
[GreentreeCo@sympatico.ca](mailto:GreentreeCo@sympatico.ca)      Ottawa, ON K1M 2H9

[www.GreentreeOttawaRentals.ca](http://www.GreentreeOttawaRentals.ca)

**DR LUC DUCHARME & ASSOCIATES**

Esthetic Dentistry - Orthodontic Services  
 Invisalign - Implants

We welcome new patients!



Bilingual Services

613-749-1785    [www.drlucducharme.com](http://www.drlucducharme.com)    230 Beechwood Ave, Ottawa



Drawing of River Lane from former resident artist Catherine Willis O'Connor



Drawing of Avon Lane from former resident artist Catherine Willis O'Connor

# Ode to New Edinburgh

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

Was it crossing the Minto Bridges that clinched it?  
 With the river an appealing entry to the village,  
 Human in scale, residents close in proximity  
 In their homes, snug along the streets?  
 Or was it my first visit to the neighbourhood  
 To a house at the curve of Ivy Crescent  
 That was snug too in all the right ways?

How does a built environment affect how we live?  
 How we connect with one another?  
 The lanes feel safe, almost pedestrian routes if we choose,  
 And we do, coffees in hand, or dog-walking or  
 Simply enroute to the local grocery shop.

Playgrounds and parks, our serendipitous meeting points,  
 Where children gather and parents chat,  
 And plans evolve into playdates and beyond.  
 Would we ever have met without those welcoming spaces?

Spaces that have been under siege,  
 For years when tunnels were bored into our park, and  
 For decades before when that park was  
 Slated to become parkway instead – but didn't.

That parkway threat so heightened, so existential, as to  
 Spur the community into action,  
 Into organizing and then formalizing ways to  
 Give voice through a paper and convening as residents,  
 Caring and sharing, and shaping our future here.

Today and in future, may we also exercise the freedom to  
 walk,  
 To catch the bus to school or elsewhere,  
 To know that others can rebuild their lives here  
 Safe in homes many of us may not realize are among us.

Is it upsetting to fear that affordable rentals were lost  
 With a building's conversion?  
 Will the remaining rentals endure or fall the way of  
 A community turning into itself?

New Edinburgh does not typically turn away.  
 We grieve when deaths occur,  
 The violent and unexpected ones so sharply felt.  
 Does proximity keep us from turning away and  
 Encourage us to show up at a doorstep,  
 With a gesture of some kind in hand?

Here, most of us do not want to cede the  
 Qualities and character that  
 Drew so many of us to New Ed.

Walk along tree-lined Crichton Street,  
 Saunter through Stanley Park along the river,  
 Visit our neighbour's grounds at Rideau Hall and  
 Feel the green character of the village.

Spot the gables of a house that define the kind of  
 Charm we so admire when travelling abroad, and yet,  
 Here it is, in our midst  
 In this very special place.

*Sarah Anson-Cartwright and her partner William Beddoe moved from Toronto about 30 years ago and rented (then purchased) a home on a lane in New Edinburgh where they have lived ever since.*

# Literacy event to feature award-winning local author

**By Sparrow McGowan**

Biographer, historian, and longtime New Edinburgh resident Charlotte Gray will lend her voice to a celebration of the freedom to read on Apr. 17 at an event in support of local literacy organization Alternative Learning Styles and Outlooks (ALSO).

Gray will join four Ottawa-Gatineau authors at the fourth annual event, titled *Unbound: A Celebration of Banned Books*, with each reading from their favourite banned books. “I agreed to participate in the banned book night because freedom of expression is crucial in a

functioning democracy,” Gray says. “I’ve been a member of PEN Canada since the 1990s – serving as a board member and vice-chair for many years – and realised how easily well-meaning efforts to ‘protect’ citizens from language, ideas and stories that authorities find offensive become repressive, ideological weapons.”

Gray, who has lived in New Edinburgh since 1981, is an award-winning author of 12 books of history and biography, including her latest best-seller: *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt*. She has chosen to read from D. H.

Lawrence’s *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* at the April event.

“From today’s perspective, there are offensive words and attitudes in the book – racist and sexist language, for example. But that was not why the book was banned for so long. It was banned because it challenged many of the assumptions that were deeply held within Britain’s governing class. Today, most of the taboos that Lawrence despised have evaporated.”

Joining Gray will be authors Stephanie Anne, Coltrane Seesequasis, and Jennifer Whiteford, along with a performance by spoken-word poet and hip-hop artist Lady



Photo courtesy of Sparrow McGowan  
**Literacy Event local author Charlotte Gray**

la Profeta. There will be finger foods and drinks, a silent

auction, and a book booth set up by Octopus Books. In addition, ALSO is holding an online auction leading up to the event. Funds raised from ticket sales and the auctions will directly benefit ALSO and the adults and families they serve in the Ottawa community.

*Unbound: A Celebration of Banned Books* is set to be an engaging evening in celebration of literacy, the freedom to read and local authors and storytellers. Visit also-ottawa.org/whats-new to learn more.

*Sparrow McGowan volunteers with ALSO and works as a writer and editor.*

## From the puzzler

**By Frédéric Lavoie**

Hi all! In this crossword, two of the answers recreate an Ottawa intersection - and, in this case, it’s a rather meaningful choice!

Spoilers: The two streets cross right by the Montfort hospital - and thankfully it’s a happy reason I’m commemorating with that pair! This puzzle was co-written with a tiny Lavoie, barely a few months old and growing at a

very healthy clip :)

(Of course, by ‘co-written’, I mean that it was put together with me awkwardly pecking at a keyboard as he slept peacefully in my lap)

On very much a different tack, I’ll encourage anybody looking for more crosswords to check out the Walrus, as well as the Globe & Mail’s new Weekender, each putting out a Canadian-made puzzle



every week!

For crossword answers, check page 36. Happy solving!

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9			10		11			
12					13			
14				15				
16				17			18	19
20			21			22		23
	24				25		26	
			27				28	
29	30	31					32	
33							34	
35								36

**Across**

- 1 “What did the fish say when it swam into a wall?”
- 4 Leader of a monastery or a vihara
- 9 Gather what you’ve sown
- 11 Skincare giant
- 12 Egg on
- 13 App-at-a-glance image on a smartphone
- 14 City home to the Biodome, the Jean Talon market, and the 1976 Olympics
- 16 Other name for a purple yam
- 17 Billings \_\_\_: National Historic Site with seasonal activities
- 20 Middle Eastern flatbreads, especially from a ‘Pit’ restaurant
- 22 Refusal on Dragon’s Den: “For those reasons, \_\_\_”
- 24 Members'-only superstore with a 1,50\$ hotdog
- 26 Org. for Tiger Woods, Mike Weir, and Marc-Étienne Bussièrès
- 27 Person who might have been born as recently as 2013
- 29 Shape for a tornado or a whirlpool
- 32 Sum paid to live in uOttawa’s Friel or Thompson student residences, for example
- 33 "Finally!!"
- 34 Delivery from Canada Post or AOL
- 35 Parrot who famously wants a cracker
- 36 Lana Del \_\_\_\_, Summertime Sadness singer

**Down**

- 1 Build and raise, like support or funds
- 2 Like Zumba, biking, or downhill skiing
- 3 X-Men character with power over metals
- 4 Topic for many a pilot project?
- 5 Complete and utter chaos
- 6 Plead, plead, plead
- 7 “It’s been \_\_\_ week since you looked at me”: Barenaked Ladies opening
- 8 Child who might stumble while walking
- 10 Animal companion
- 11 Blows away
- 15 Relax without a worry
- 18 British show about cars
- 19 \_\_\_ Bouchard, former tennis (and current pickleball) pro
- 21 From the stars
- 23 Sharply and a bit unkindly
- 25 Highland Scot, Hibernian, or Breton, e.g.
- 28 Upper limb
- 29 Stuff boiled at the Vanier sugar shack
- 30 Vacation time, in an HR acronym
- 31 Faring poorly

# Remembering “Hurricane Elaine” through her son’s eyes

By John Leefe

Rockcliffe resident Tony Kellett is a retired defense scientist with a passion for books and history. You’ve probably seen him volunteering at the Rockcliffe Library book sale or heading up the book section at the St. Bartholomew Church’s annual bazaar. With a Master’s degree in history from Cambridge University, Tony immigrated to Canada in 1969 and earned his PhD from McGill. He has written two critically acclaimed books about military history in Canada and the life of combat soldiers in battle. His third book, however, is a complete departure from his earlier works in that he tackles a subject near and dear to his heart: his mother Elaine. Her eventful, multifaceted life and colorful personality can best be described as a force of nature.

In *Hurricane Elaine: The Life and Times of Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman*, Tony and his co-author and sister Frances Anne Kellett-Clarke chronicle their mother’s public and personal life in painstaking detail. Elaine’s most significant accomplishment was serving as a Conservative Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom for 27 years (1970–97). But that accounts for just one accomplishment in her remarkable career. From the mid-1940s to 2008, Elaine was also a social worker, farmer, town councillor, barrister, school governor, European Parliamentarian, and last but not least, housewife and mother to eight children.

While much of this unique biography chronicles Elaine’s accomplishments as an MP, we also get a sense of what she was like as a person: her habit of whistling at work, her love of Rowntree chocolate, her Morris Minor car collection, and her disorganized office. Complemented by a treasure trove of photos, what emerges is a vivid, three-dimensional portrayal of a woman who was grounded by her family and faith, and who had a passion for public service. Perhaps more significantly, the book ultimately illustrates how people can overcome personal tragedy and professional adversity through spiritual faith, self-belief, hard work,

and a positive attitude.

We asked Tony via email about the unique circumstance of writing his own mother’s biography.

**As a professional historian, how difficult was it for you to assess your mother’s professional and personal accomplishments in an objective way?**

It was difficult to remain entirely objective, particularly given the divergent audi-

book, I had not seen the photograph of the car crash that killed our father and seriously injured Mum. My personal inclination would have been to leave it out, but I was persuaded that the accident had a major bearing on her life and that it should therefore be included.

**After three attempts to become an MP in the 1950s and the tragic death of your father in 1959, most**

reliable, in *Big Things and Small*).

**This book is deeply researched and you’ve no doubt benefited from your mother’s prodigious record keeping and correspondence. But is there any aspect of her life that you wish you could have asked her before her death in 2014?**

Mum [dictated] memoirs into a cassette-recorder shortly before she died, but did not get past the mid-1960s. Thus, she was unable to describe her parliamentary life, which we know mainly from documentary rather than personal sources. In addition, we did not then know as much as we do now, so we were not in a position to put searching questions to her. In addition, I have lived in Canada since 1969 – the year before she was first elected – and did not witness first-hand her 27 years as an MP. I would have loved to hear her discuss her relations with some Labour MPs, especially Betty Boothroyd and Jack Straw.

**You show how your mother was faithful to several traditional conservative principles, such as belief in markets and trade, support for institutions like the monarchy, and maintenance of morality and family values. But she was also a supporter of social programs and public education and hence was not considered to be a staunch “Thatcherite” conservative. Do you believe this independent approach to politics helped or hindered her career in Parliament?**

Less than four years after Mum was first elected, the Conservatives were ejected from office. Those four years were insufficient time for her to acquire office of any sort. When Margaret Thatcher took the Conservatives back into government on 4 May 1979, Mum was a delegate to the European Parliament and was on the verge of being directly elected (7 June 1979) to that Parliament. Mum was a very committed European and would undoubtedly have preferred her duties as an MEP to office in Britain. Not only was the dual mandate (Westminster/Brussels) very onerous, but even had Mum

been tempted by political office at the age of 56, one commentator remarked that Thatcher (who knew Mum for shared Methodist worship at university) lacked the “sisterly instincts” to reward Mum in any way.

**As a supporter of the European Common Market and a UK member of the European Parliament, how do you think your mother would have reacted to Brexit?**

She would have been appalled by it, as would my stepfather Edward. They were both Members of the European Parliament, and educated two of their sons in Brussels.

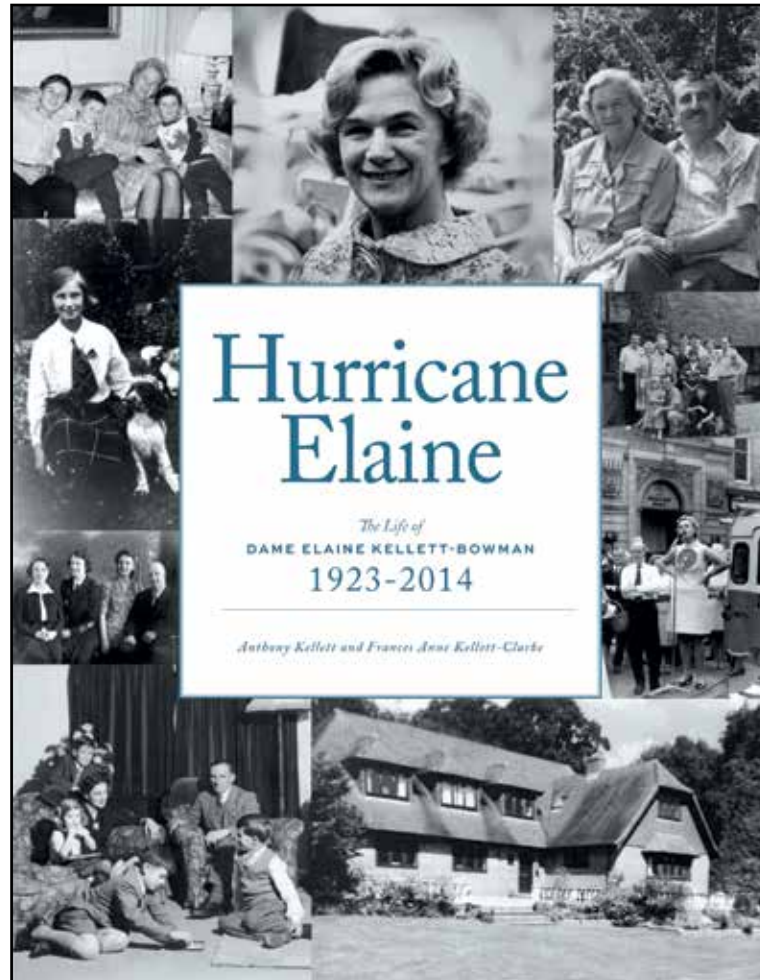
**Your mother was as accomplished a woman as one can imagine, as a barrister, MP, and farmer. Her determined approach to life’s challenges and adversities must have inspired many women, yet she was no feminist. Do you think she was aware of this irony?**

Her political philosophy was formed many years before feminism became an element of British social and political life. I doubt that she ever thought about politics in those terms. Her religious faith, monarchism, and traditionalism would have prevented her becoming susceptible to feminism. She also disliked attempts by some women politicians to use their gender to gain office, such as women-only shortlists for candidates. As she put it, “We [women] are perfectly capable of getting in [to Parliament] under our own steam.”

**Will the book be available only digitally, or will hard copies be printed for sale at local bookstores like Books On Beechwood?**

For copyright and financial reasons, we printed only 100 copies of the books, and these will go mostly to family members, people who helped with the book, and institutions (universities, libraries, etc.). I am quite happy to send PDF versions to anyone who wants one, and have already sent out a number of digital copies. If any reader wants a digital copy, they should telephone me (Anthony Kellett at 613-748-7540) and supply their email address.

*Retired public servant John Leefe lives in Lindenlea.*



ences for the book: family and public (including academic). However, we recognized that Mum would demand honesty of us. When we identified certain issues in Mum’s life that were controversial at the time (and would be more so now) we neither evaded nor belaboured them. Among such issues were her attitude towards homosexuality, her staunch promotion of family values – notably her opposition to abortion – and her highly adversarial attitude regarding political opponents. We decided that they needed to be discussed, but with respect towards her viewpoint rather than concession to our own more “modern” attitudes. In doing so, we kept in mind diverse readers and the value to them of as neutral a description of her life story as possible. Until we were halfway through preparation of the

**people would not have the determination or self belief to try again. But your mom defied this, eventually becoming an MP on the sixth attempt. What qualities do you most respect in your mother and to what extent did these influence your own life and career?**

She was incredibly determined, and would always try to push any activity that she considered worthwhile through to its end. She was intensely hard working and exemplified the “Protestant ethic,” as did her parents. She had a profound commitment to social service, and was a person of deep religious faith. Her attitude to life – described by one commentator as a “stern doctrine of merit” – was exemplified in the motto she chose for herself: In Parvis et in Multis Fides (Faithful, or

# What's upcoming at Rockcliffe Park Library this Spring

By Martha Hodgson

Rockcliffe Park Library, located at 380 Springfield Road, has a lot of exciting programming for you to enjoy this spring! Much of our programming is made possible by proceeds from the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale. Come in and visit us any time, or join us for any of the following programs. Please note that any registrations can be done in person, by phone or online at [bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en)

## Upcoming family programming

Family Storytime at the library

Every Monday morning at 9:30 am Stories, rhymes and songs for children and a parent or caregiver. All ages. Drop-in. English program.

Thursday afternoon pop-up activity

Join us at Rockcliffe Park Branch every Thursday from 3-4:30 pm for a different self-directed pop-up activity in Art, Science, or Games and puzzles. Kids drop-in program. Self-directed with the help of an accompanying adult.

Upcoming adult programming

Writing workshops

Every Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm The Writers Collective of Canada (WCC) and the Rockcliffe Park Branch invite you to join us for our writing workshops: Write With Us! We are all connected through story. Stories have the power to remove barriers of difference and to broaden perspectives. By writing together and listening to others with only positive feedback, we connect with the common humanity that bonds us all. Writers are free to write

to whatever genre they desire and will share and receive feedback on their pieces. Each workshop stands alone so no need to feel that one has missed out. A new writing prompt will be explored each session. Drop-in.

Rockcliffe Park Book Club

First Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 pm On Apr. 7: In Winter I Get Up at Night by Jane Urquhart. On May 5: The Lifecycle of the Common Octopus by Emma Knight. Drop-in. English program.

Crafternoon

Every Monday afternoon at 1 pm. Bring your knitting, needlework, or crochet project and share advice, ideas and conversations with fellow enthusiasts. For adults and teens of all abilities. Drop-in.

Mah-jongg

The introductory meeting will take place on Tuesday, Apr. 7, where our Mah-jongg instructor will discuss with the group: Who has a Mah-jongg set to bring, how the group will run, and the basics of the game. The meetings will take place on Tuesdays, (specific dates will be decided after the first introductory meeting), from 1-3 pm here at the branch. Drop-in.

Rockcliffe Park acoustic music circle

Tuesday, Apr. 14 at 6 pm Are you looking for a cozy place to jam with other musicians? This is a drop-in for musicians ages 16+, to make some music. Bring your acoustic musical instrument: wind, string, keyboard, or percussion. (Instruments are not provided)

Past programming

Rockcliffe Park Library was pleased to host Elmwood


School's Grade 11 and 12 Senior Art Exhibition from Feb.10 through Mar. 6, 2026. The show, entitled Journey, demonstrated how each student expressed thoughts, ideas and emotions through various artistic media. The vernissage took place the evening of Feb. 17, and was attended by students, their families, and Elmwood teachers. Many library clients enjoyed viewing the artwork that evening and over the subsequent weeks!


Martha Hodgson is a librarian at the Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd. Learn more at [bibliooottawalibrary.ca](http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca)


**Explore. Connect. Conserve.**  
Retreats in Ecuador's megadiverse cloud forest.   
Sustainable Trips in the Amazon, Andes & Galápagos.

**www.earthtreks.ca**  
TICO Registration # 50027168


**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**


**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME! BRIDGE CLUB MONDAYS 2PM**  **SPRING 2026** 

**WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS 8.30 & 10.30** 

**CHORAL EVENSONG 7PM FEATURING THE OTTAWA CATHEDRAL GIRLS' CHOIR**  

**STOP BY! WE'RE WIDE OPEN FOR DOORS OPEN OTTAWA JUNE 6 & 7**

**JAZZ VESPERS 7PM TIM PIPER & PETER WOODS** 

**JOIN US FOR A YUMMY PARISH BBQ** 

JOIN US AT 125 MACKAY ST & [WWW.SAINTBARTHOLOMEW.CA/EVENTS](http://WWW.SAINTBARTHOLOMEW.CA/EVENTS) FOR INFO & UPDATES!

**Straightforward · Caring · Dedicated**

**Janny, Jeff & Shan...**  
The Power of Three... Working for You!™

proven performance in New Edinburgh since 1986

**ROYAL LEPAGE RED DIAMOND AWARD 2021 TOP 2% IN CANADA**



**Janny Mills · Jeff Rosebrugh · Shan Cappuccino**  
Sales Representative    Sales Representative    Sales Representative

**ROYAL LEPAGE Performance**  
Brokerage | Independently Owned & Operated REALTY

**613.238.2801**  
[jannyjeffandshan.com](http://jannyjeffandshan.com)

\*Based on gross closed income, 2021

L'HONORABLE | THE HONOURABLE  
**MONA FORTIER**  
Députée | Member of Parliament  
Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester



Bureau de circonscription | Constituency Office  
233, chemin Montréal Road, Ottawa, ON K1L 6C7

Communiquiez avec nous! Contact us!

✉ [Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca)    @EquipeTeamMona  
☎ 613-998-1860    @MonaFortier  
🌐 [MonaFortier.libparl.ca](http://MonaFortier.libparl.ca)    @MonaFortier

# To Uber or not to Uber? That's the real question

Continued from page 1

for the bus. Moreover, the Uber comes when expected to our doorstep and delivers us directly to our destination with no cash or card needed for the interaction. The car is warm, clean, and often offers a friendly conversation with the driver. Why wouldn't we be delighted to use such an amazing, well-designed, prompt service available at our fingertips?

## ...or not to Uber

Uber has its downsides. Perhaps top of the list is that they are inexpensive – except when they aren't. The company has “surge pricing” which means that demand determines the rate. “Bad weather, rush hour, and special events” are identified by Uber as conditions that may increase demand and thereby rates. The app advises passengers of the rate in advance. It can be an unpleasant surprise to discover that a ride that is often \$7 will now be \$30 (real-life experience in our household). By comparison, taxis in Ottawa have a set rate determined by the City of Ottawa.

We all know our buses have been unreliable of late. One of the reasons cited for this

unpredictability is traffic and congestion on the streets. If we opt for individual transport throughout the city due to time, cost, or reliability of our bus service, we may each be incrementally contributing to the failure of our bus system.

Then, there's the plight of the Uber driver. Unlike a taxi driver, the Uber driver uses his own car and determines his own schedule. Each driver is responsible for personal as well as commercial insurance in addition to car maintenance, repairs and gas. Their pay rate is variable, set by the corporation.

## That is the question

Last October, in a moment of desperation, while trying to get to a meeting and after three buses didn't show up as scheduled, I downloaded the Uber app. There I was, stuck on Beechwood, and a car picked me up within a few minutes. The driver, my hero, was charming.

I have mentioned in a previous article that our family lives in Ottawa without a car. Since that fateful first ride, I have occasionally “Ubered” – usually due to a bus (or two) not showing up or the bus schedule not meeting my time

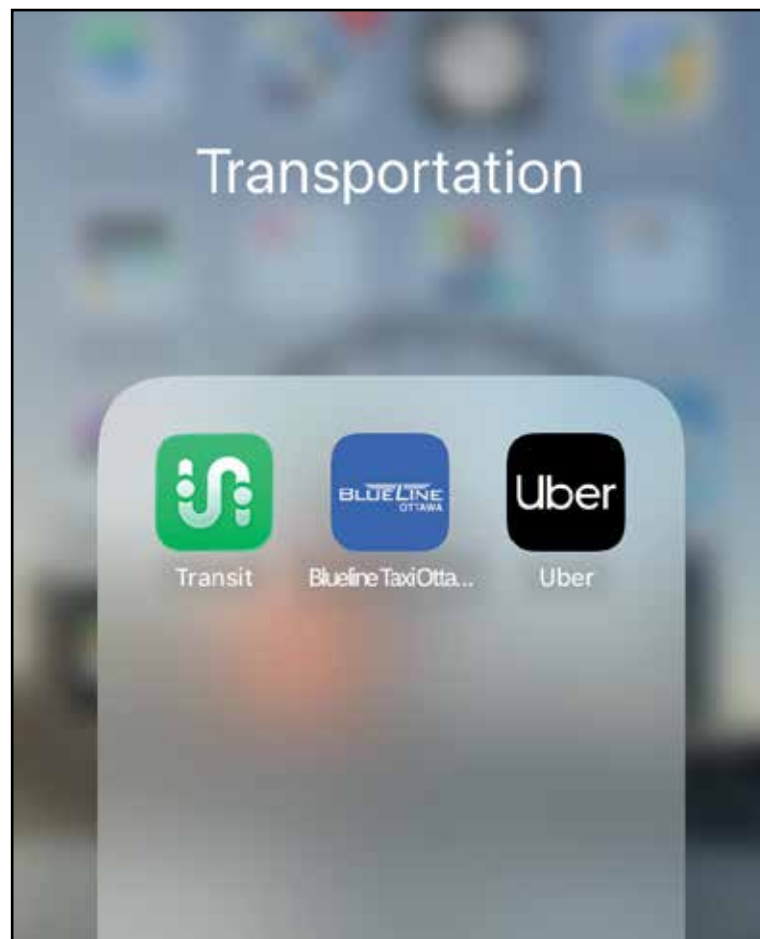


Photo courtesy of Jennifer Manning

## Uber Transportation App

frame, which is incomprehensible to me, because our area is served by four bus routes that usually go where I need.

I have talked to Uber drivers about their experiences. I've met several enterprising, very hard-working young men who consider Uber driving a fun side-hustle with the advantage of making some extra money. They already own a car, they have a full-time job elsewhere, and they enjoy driving. They can decide when they want to work, as one guy said, “My friends are up until 4 am drinking, playing pool...I'm

up until 4 am driving. Same thing, but I get paid!” For these guys, Uber is a nice addition to their full lives.

On the flip side, other drivers have made Uber their full-time job. These men work six or seven days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day. They theoretically have flexibility, but they have to work most of their waking hours to make ends meet. From a recent conversation with a driver, he barely makes minimum wage.

The hours are similarly long for taxi drivers and the wages

are also not great. The difference is that a taxi driver works for a company, is provided a schedule, uses company cars and is unionized. Taxi companies are regulated by the cities in which they operate. Blue Line, Ottawa's largest taxi company, has introduced an app. But generally, taxi companies have had a hard time competing with Uber or other ride-hailing companies and their sophisticated technology, not to mention their oftentimes lower rates. Taxi companies have lost drivers and business since Uber was allowed onto the Ottawa streets in 2014.

In the middle of this, it's useful to ask one key question: what about the bus? In the absence of an efficient, reliable public transportation system in Ottawa, Uber has thrived. We should not allow this to be our future. Transit drivers are paid better and have good benefits. Public transit reduces traffic and pollution and a well-run system allows people of all ages and income to move comfortably and easily around the city.

While I have had to admit that taking an Uber is easy and efficient, I sincerely hope that the City of Ottawa does not create an environment where it is the standard mode of “public” transportation. While Uber may continue to be used as a verb, I prefer to invest my transportation dollars and time in our local community and our environment.

*Jennifer Manning lives in New Edinburgh with her family and they have chosen to live without a car.*

**Congratulations  
New Edinburgh News  
on your 50th anniversary**

You can count on Jane's experience in the Burgh for all your real estate needs.

**JANE DAVIS  
ENGEL & VÖLKERS**

+1 613-422-8688 · jane.davis@evrealestate.com

© 2026 Engel & Völkers Ottawa, Brokerage. All rights reserved. Each brokerage is independently owned and operated. Jane Davis, Sales Representative.

UNION STREET  
kitchen café local store

MON 8 - 2  
TUE - FRI 8 - 5  
SAT SUN 9 - 5

42 CRICHTON STREET  
AT UNION STREET

**LINDEN**

Your neighbourhood spot for  
pizza, wine & cocktails!

JOIN US ON OUR SUNNY PATIO  
THIS SPRING + SUMMER!

Open 7 days a week  
119 Beechwood Ave. 613.913.7997  
Reserve or order online: lindenpizza.ca

**This space  
could be yours**

Advertise in the  
New Edinburgh News!

[ads@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:ads@newedinburgh.ca)

# When the ‘Burgh was our playground

By Eleanor Dunn

The 1940s and 1950s were a great time to be a kid in the ‘Burgh. Helicopter parenting hadn’t been invented. There was no wi-fi so there was no TikTok or Instagram, no TV, no streaming services, no mobile phones (homes with telephones frequently had party lines), and while there were radios, parents had to pay a license fee. During World War II, the government had a fleet of small trucks with special antennas on the roof which drove around cities catching folk who’d not paid their radio license fee. My mother was an immigrant from Scotland who didn’t believe in radio as she didn’t grow up with one in the family home in Inverkip, and also didn’t believe in wasting money on such things. So we were frequently caught out, much to my father’s great embarrassment.

My generation spent a lot of our playtime outdoors. In the winter months, we skated on the rinks in New Edinburgh park, where the fieldhouse is located today. There was a hockey rink complete with regulation-size boards which was the boys’ fiefdom. There

was a smaller ice surface – with no boards – for the girls. While most of us didn’t realize it at the time, this was the first time we girls experienced gender discrimination.

The city supplied a wooden shack for skaters to change from winter boots to skates. We left our boots in the shack because there was no concern for theft. The genders were separated; the shack was divided into three spaces: the rink attendant (usually an older man, glad to have this patronage job courtesy of the local alderman) occupied the space in the middle which separated the boys’ and girls’ changing spaces. There was a wood-burning stove in the rink attendant’s area which heated the small building.

Most of the girls I knew had white figure skates; however, I did not. When my mother learned that boys’ skates were cheaper, my younger sister Gretel and I were outfitted with ugly, black boys’ skates. A lifetime of skating on my ankles was ahead of me until I grew out of these skates (four pairs of socks needed to make them fit). My father eventually took pity on me and I got the figure skates.

My mother was a firm believer in hand-me-downs, so Gretel had to endure the boys’ skates somewhat longer. By the time my sister Miriam came along, the boys’ skates were gone so she started off with new white figure skates. My brother, who was the fourth child and only boy in the lineup of five kids, got CCM TACS. Dreams of the NHL, perchance!

There were a lot of kids in the ‘Burgh at that time and most of us were close in age, either late-Depression babies like me, or early-war babies like Gretel. As the working mother was almost unknown, there were always moms around. It was only when the war was over, and civilians were able to buy cars that “stranger danger” became a concept, and we were warned not to get into strange cars. The neighbourhood was very safe.

When school was out for the summer, we were to come home when the streetlights came on. The corner of MacKay and Dufferin was our meeting place. We would form groups to play Kick the Can, Red Rover or some other outdoor game which required running and hiding from the other

group. Sometimes it was girls against boys, English against Irish, or Crichton school kids against our counterparts from St. Aloysius. There was swimming in the Rideau River at a location where the tennis courts are now, until that came to an end with the polio scare. The big summer event I remember was the outing by streetcar to Britannia Park which was Ottawa’s equivalent of an amusement park at the time. It was organized by some of the moms who packed picnic baskets and shepherded their kids – and friends whose moms had allowed them to go – onto the streetcar which would take us to that wonderful place.

In those days, we had to cross a set of railway tracks to get to the swimming hole, the playground, or the baseball diamond. The tracks were in use by freight trains and if you had a spare penny, you could put it on one of the rails and watch what happened when the train ran over it. Every kid had a flattened penny as a prize possession.

When summer came to an end, we returned to school. There were separate playgrounds at Crichton St. school

for girls and boys: yet another lesson in gender discrimination. The girls’ playground occupied space on Dufferin Road; a row of red brick townhouses is what you see there today. At recess, if you had a stick, you could draw a hopscotch pattern in the dirt. If you had a skipping rope, you could skip, but this wasn’t encouraged as it raised a lot of dust. The boys’ playground on the other side of the school was larger, large enough for a hockey rink with shorter boards in the winter. Boys could enjoy a game of shinny on their recess or play softball in the spring and fall.

They were happy days and I don’t think we missed anything by having to make our own entertainment. Many of us, including myself, made friends we have to this day – now using Facebook to regularly keep in touch.

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

**Mark Sutcliffe**  
MAYOR • MAIRE

Working for **you** to make life  
safer, more reliable, and  
more affordable.

Subscribe to my newsletter  
and sign up to receive a  
Christmas card:

mark.sutcliffe@ottawa.ca 613-580-2496 110 Laurier Ave. W, Ottawa, ON K1P1J1

# The Towne Cinema: A neighbourhood landmark remembered

By Bruce White

When I first walked through the popcorn-scented lobby and up the narrow staircase to the Towne Cinema's sunlit office in 1980, I had no appreciation for the rich history of the building, or its importance to the New Edinburgh community. Portfolio case in hand, I was there to pitch the business owner, Germain Cadieux, on my services as a graphic designer. After getting the contract, I quickly became familiar with a special place in New Edinburgh history.

By the time I arrived on the scene, the cinema was already in its thirty-third year, under its third management, and known by its second name.

Originally built in 1947 to cater to newly settled veterans and young families, the cinema was named The Linden by its owner and first operator, Casey Swedlove. Located at 5 Beechwood Ave., the facade featured an Art Deco design with an oval display window, a handsomely illuminated marquee over the sidewalk and a main entrance set at an eccentric angle to the street. (Today, the glass blocks of the marquee's tower and sloped front of Guardian Drugs' Beechwood frontage still testify to the original design.)

At the time, cinemas were very much a neighbourhood business, drawing most patrons from the immediate area. With television still in the future, cinemas offered something for people to do in the evenings – sometimes several evenings a week. Ticket prices



Image Archives of Ontario, RG56-11 (4.10) AO2866

The Linden Theatre, shown here shortly after opening in 1947.

were low and attendance was high. Originally outfitted with 588 seats, the Linden was prosperous enough that 60 more seats were added within three years.

All across Ottawa, neighbourhood cinemas served their customers with brand-new or almost-new Hollywood movies, and almost all were independently operated. Over the years, however, consolidation in the movie business increased and chain cinemas began to dominate. In 1968, Swedlove leased his Beechwood location to 20th

Century Theatres, a forerunner of Famous Players. They re-named it the Towne Cinema (a name they often used in other cities in the chain) and programmed it for five years.

Casey Swedlove then found a new tenant in Montrealer Germain Cadieux, whose experience at the Montreal World Film Festival and National Film Board gave him the idea that Ottawa could use more French-language and international programming. Cadieux took the reins in 1973, keeping the Towne Cinema name but shifting the

programming radically.

Gone were Hollywood movies; instead, the Towne featured independent, foreign and cult films which were not being played anywhere else in Ottawa, along with a generous sprinkling of cinema classics. The Towne published its schedule of movies – billed as a “Permanent Festival” – in a bi-monthly programme guide, circulated all around the city. The Towne became cool, and adventurous moviegoers from all over quickly learned how to get to New Edinburgh. (Getting home again after a midnight screening, well, that was another challenge altogether!)

Under Cadieux, ably assisted by his young general manager Jean Cloutier and programming guru Paul Gratton, the Towne thrived. This is where I came in.

For three years, I worked adjacent to the Towne crew, and used my new free-movie privileges promiscuously. One day in early 1983, I came up the stairs to the office (note to youngsters: before the internet, graphic designers had to meet clients in person) and found Cadieux and Cloutier deep in what was clearly an important conversation. Long story short: Cadieux was moving back to Montreal, and wanted to sell the business. Cloutier and I pooled

our meagre resources, thus becoming the fourth operators of New Edinburgh's storied cinema.

Despite the challenges – cinemas were beginning to lose audiences to VCRs and cable TV – we had a good run from 1983 to 1988. It's unclear how long the Towne could have thrived, or even survived, if the next turn of events had not occurred.

While the Towne was doing its own niche thing, other cinemas were rapidly changing, moving from single-screen cinemas to larger and larger multiplexes. In 1988, as its new Gloucester Cinemas (12 screens!) was close to completion, Famous Players terminated its lease with the owners of the Nelson Theatre on Rideau St. And just like that, the operators of the Towne Cinema had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to buy the property and go from being tenants to being owners.

At the time, we (perhaps naively) believed that we could successfully operate our new Rideau St. cinema, which we named the ByTowne, along with New Edinburgh's beloved Towne. But we quickly learned that our doubled expenses would never be matched by doubled attendance.

With heavy hearts, we made the decision to close the Towne in the summer of 1989. At this point, Casey Swedlove – still the owner of 5 Beechwood Ave. – was unable to find tenants interested in operating a cinema. After extensive renovations, and an addition on the Crichton St. side of the building, an entirely new tenant arrived in 1992: The Mountain Equipment Co-op. (Fun fact: Linden Pizza proprietor Tracey Clark, before her Bridgehead days, was manager at MEC.) The wildly successful MEC re-located to its larger, purpose-built Westboro store in 2000, and shortly thereafter, the Towne building became the Guardian Pharmacy and neighbourhood post office.

The last time I walked up those stairs to the Towne Cinema office was in 1989. But I regularly use the Royal Bank ATM that sits where the Towne's snack bar used to be. And I swear I can still smell the popcorn, with real butter!

*Bruce White has lived in New Edinburgh with his wife Karen McDonald since 1993.*



## ASHBURY COLLEGE SUMMER CAMPS

Join us for an exceptional lineup of summer camps led by expert instructors.

- Multisport
- Robotics
- Drama
- Gardening
- Adventure
- Digital Arts
- Sport & Science
- And more!

[ASHBURY.CA/SUMMER](http://ASHBURY.CA/SUMMER)



# Grand-Friends program brings generations together in New Edinburgh

By Cindy Bennell

New Edinburgh is thriving with friendship thanks to an inspiring initiative connecting some of the youngest learners at Fern Hill School, an independent school in New Edinburgh, with retired residents in the neighbourhood. The Grand-Friends Community Connection Program pairs Grade 2 students from Fern Hill School with residents of The Edinburgh Retirement Residence to build meaningful friendships through music, conversation, reading, and shared activities.

The program has long been a cherished part of Fern Hill's community outreach. In previous years, students as young as SK visited residents to share songs and piano performances. This year, the program has expanded to include more interactive opportunities for connection, including Colour and Chat, Show and Tell, and shared reading time.

During their visits, Grade 2 students read aloud to their Grand-Friends, proudly sharing their developing literacy skills. Residents have been very impressed with the students' reading ability, fluency,



Grand-Friend Sheila with the Grade 2 students.

Photo by Luisa Romero

and expressive voices. The reading sessions offer a special moment for both generations to enjoy stories together.

The initiative helps students develop confidence, kindness, and strong listening skills while learning about community and empathy. For

residents, it provides a joyful opportunity to connect with younger generations, share memories, and enjoy the creativity and energy of children.

Students are already full of excitement about the program. Aila shares, "I like the partnership program because

I get to spend time with my grand-friends." Isaac enjoys meeting new people: "I get to spend time with people I might not have met before." Ellie values learning from another generation: "We get to see people from another generation, ask them questions,

and learn about their life." For Aaron, the program included a delightful surprise when he met a little service dog named Taffy. "Taffy was very cute, and when I pet Taffy, the fur felt very soft," he says.

Several activities help spark conversation and connection between students and residents. In Colour and Chat, students and residents colour together while using fun question prompts to start conversations. In Show and Tell, students bring a small item or photo from home and share its story, while residents often respond with memories of their own or bring their own items to share with the children. These moments are often filled with laughter, curiosity, and the joy of discovering shared experiences across generations.

Through stories, creativity, and conversation, the Grand-Friends Program continues to strengthen the bonds between Fern Hill students and their neighbours in New Edinburgh, proving that meaningful friendships can grow at any age.

*Cindy Bennell is a grade 2 teacher at Fern Hill School*

## New Edinburgh Seniors Social Group ready for spring

By Isobel Bisby

In the past year, three local senior citizens – Isobel Bisby, Lee Jolliffe and Dawn Straka – have assumed a leadership role in creating the New Edinburgh Seniors Social Group, which meets regularly at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse. Our mission is to serve seniors living in the New Edinburgh community and surrounding areas.

To this end, we are exploring and arranging a variety of possible opportunities for retired friends and neighbours. Over the past months we have organized a community speaker series featuring local residents who have enriched our community, past, present, and future. Starting in May, we will organize Monday afternoon chair dancing classes, in partnership with The School of Dance. In April and May, local artist Ariel Lyons will

teach five art workshops.

### Activities in April and May at the Fieldhouse

The Community Speakers Series: FREE

Presently we have an average of 12 participants, and feedback indicates that everyone enjoys themselves. We encourage people to provide suggestions for how we can improve and grow. Our goal is to provide high-quality social activities which meaningfully meet seniors' community-oriented social needs.

Chris Penton of the Ottawa Street Markets will speak about the Beechwood Market at 1 pm on Apr. 9 at the Fieldhouse on Stanley Ave.

Longtime neighbourhood resident Marion Haunton will speak about her "Great Uncle George and his Untimely End

at the Hands of Slave Traders" at 1 pm on May 14, also at the Fieldhouse.

Each talk will be followed by a social hour.

### Other Seniors' Social Activities at the Fieldhouse

Mondays: May 4 and/or May 11 from 4–5 pm

The Gift of Dance: FREE.

The School of Dance instructor Sarah Hopkins from Rage School, will teach a "Seated Dance Class" set to music that will appeal across different generations. No experience is necessary. Participants are encouraged to dress comfortably. For more information, please call Fern at 613-238-7838 or email registrar@theschoolofdance.ca.

The School of Dance also invites seniors to volunteer

in the Dragonfly Program for learners with Down syndrome. The young people involved regularly walk about our neighbourhood. Their teaching staff are seeking seniors interested in joining the walks and engaging the participants in conversation. For more information, please call Fern at 613-238-7838.

Ariel Lyons Art Classes: these will explore "Art as Education, Creativity and Community." The first two sessions will be devoted to drawing, followed by three classes of painting with colour. The classes will be held at the Fieldhouse from 10 am to noon on five Tuesday mornings: Apr. 14, 21 and 28, and May 5 and 12. There is a fee of \$15 per class: please pay as you go. Everyone is welcome. For more information, email arielwatsonlyons@gmail.com. To register please

email: newedseniors@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about our current or future programming, please contact Dawn Straka via email at dawn@straka.ca or by phone at 705-930-1991.

*Isobel Bisby has lived in New Edinburgh for the past 30 years. She was Vice-Chair of NECTAR (New Edinburgh Cultural Community Centre) and has coordinated Jane's Walk; the New Edinburgh Community Choir; the Beechwood Ukulele Jam (revived and meeting at the Manor Park Brew Pub); and the New Edinburgh Community Meditation Circle. Most recently, alongside Dawn Straka and Lee Jolliffe, she coordinates the New Edinburgh Seniors Social Group.*

# Rideau Chorale's 10th anniversary finale performance not to be missed!

By Peter Robb

The Rideau Chorale closes its successful 10th anniversary season with a pairing of 20th-century masterpieces that attempt to offer solace, solidarity, and hope in uncertain times.

The concert, called Solace and Solidarity, will be performed Apr. 25 at 7:30 pm at Southminster Church, 25 Aylmer Ave. The choir will be joined by Matthew Larkin (organ), Sonya Sweeney (mezzo), Michelle Gott (harp), and Zac Pulak (percussion). For tickets, visit [zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/solace-and-solidarity](http://zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/solace-and-solidarity).

Membership coordinator Marty McCurdy says, "Over 10 years, Rideau Chorale has fulfilled its role as a community choir," and that this has been quite a year for the group.

With anniversary celebrations ending, Rideau Chorale is actively recruiting new members: from students to recent retirees. They welcome members just beginning to explore their singing voices and offer music that challenges more experienced



Photo by Peter Polgar

**Rideau Choral Performance not to be missed.**

singers. The group is proud of its role in the community, and they look forward to the next 10 years providing great music to audiences from the community and beyond.

The pieces chosen by artistic director Kevin Reeves are the Requiem by the French composer Maurice Duruflé

and Chichester Psalms by the American, Leonard Bernstein. Musically, they provide a distinct contrast.

"I chose Duruflé's Requiem and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms not only because they contrast each other stylistically, but also because they are beautifully composed and challenging for singers," Reeves said.

Duruflé's Requiem was composed in memory of his father, who died in Paris in 1945 just after liberation. It was finished in 1947 and is considered one of the major works of the century.

The piece is built on Duruflé's own early training in a cathedral choir, where he

was influenced in the haunting tradition of plainsong and Gregorian chant. As the composer himself said in his program notes: "My Requiem is composed throughout on the Gregorian themes of the Mass for the Dead. ... I have done my best to reconcile, as far as possible, Gregorian rhythm as established by the Benedictines of Solesmes with the demands of modern metre."

The composer says his Requiem "is not an ethereal work which sings of detachment from earthly worries. It reflects, in the immutable form of the Christian prayer, the agony of man faced with the mystery of his ultimate

end." The piece brings forward the idea of solace and hope and in turn offers comfort and a sense of solidarity.

Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, written in 1965 in a tonal style, contrasts deeply with the Duruflé. Bernstein was at the height of his fame in 1965 as a conductor and as a composer. The Psalms follow in the wake of West Side Story and other important works, and in the aftermath of the death of Bernstein's close friend as well as the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Just after the assassination, in early December 1963, Bernstein received a letter from the Dean of the Cathedral of Chichester in England, requesting a piece for a music festival, with "a hint of West Side Story about the music," according to the composer's official website [leonardbernstein.com](http://leonardbernstein.com).

Bernstein provided what he called a "suite of Psalms, or selected verses from Psalms" under the working title, Psalms of Youth. Bernstein wrote the piece to be sung in Hebrew, setting the musical shape of the piece which is set in a typical four-part Christian choral piece, intentionally creating solidarity between the traditions. The website says that in his composition, Bernstein was pleading for peace for Israel, which was in the building crisis that ended up in the 1967 Six-Day War.

*Peter Robb is a singer with the Rideau Chorale.*








Starting March 30, 2026,  
your waste collection day  
may change.

Check your updated schedule  
and sign up for weekly reminders at

[ottawa.ca/CollectionCalendar](http://ottawa.ca/CollectionCalendar)



ottawa.ca • 3-1-1  
 VRS • SRV 613-580-2400  
 TTY • ATS 613-580-2401

ORANGE TURTLE  
BAKERY



Recipient  
2025  
Consumers  
Choice  
Award!

Recipient  
2026  
Consumers  
Choice  
Award!

- Quality Fresh-Baked Goods!
- Artisan & Gluten-Free Cakes!
- Unique Gluten-Free Cookies!
- Amazing Scones!

WWW.ORANGETURTLEBAKERY.C

\*Free 1 hour on street parking

285 St. Patrick St. Open Fri-Sat-Sun 8 - 5 pm Tel: 613-562-BAKE(2253)



Find us on Google. Follow us on Instagram @orangeturtlebakery

# New Edinburgh's Heritage District conservation plan

Continued from page 1

enables the council to manage and guide future change in the district through the adoption of a District Plan with policies and guidelines for the conservation, protection and enhancement of the area's special character.

The task of establishing a Heritage Conservation District in New Edinburgh began in 1997 under the direction of the City of Ottawa's head Heritage Planner. The process was complex and time consuming. A detailed history of New Edinburgh was undertaken by a graduate student enrolled in the Masters in Heritage Conservation program at Carleton University. He also photographed every

category, with category one having the highest value in terms of heritage significance and category four, the lowest. The City's heritage planner took charge of preparing the Heritage District Conservation (HCD) Plan in consultation with the volunteer working group. Once the plan was completed it had to be approved by LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee), the Planning & Economic Development Committee, City Council and the Ontario Municipal Board. After successful reviews, the New Edinburgh Conservation District – bounded by Sussex Drive, MacKay St., Dufferin Road and the Rideau River, which made up the original



Map photo by Karen Squires



Photo courtesy Janet Uren

Janet Uren attended Heritage Day with Gail McEachern at City Hall this year representing New Edinburgh and our heritage district.

building in the proposed district and filled out a Heritage Survey & Evaluation form on each property. The evaluation phase began in the Fall of 1998. A volunteer group of eight residents met with the City's heritage planner once a week well into 1999 to evaluate each building using the City of Ottawa's Handbook for Evaluating Heritage Buildings and Properties. In addition, the community at large was invited to participate via two public meetings and by requests for household histories.

Each of the 272 buildings reviewed received a score rating based on its merits: in terms of its history, architectural integrity, style, and its compatibility with the heritage environment. Based on its rating, each building was assigned to one of four

Village of New Edinburgh as developed by Thomas MacKay – came into being.

The Heritage Conservation District Plan established the principles that underlie the protected status of an HCD. The primary aim of New Edinburgh's Plan was (and still is) to preserve and enhance the historic village character of New Edinburgh. This was to be accomplished through the application of guidelines that would ensure the retention of the district's heritage resources which would include small-scale homes, tree-lined

## New Edinburgh Heritage District map

streets, rural-style laneways, and landscaped backyards.

In 2005, the Ontario Heritage Act was strengthened to provide municipalities within the province with enhanced powers to preserve and promote cultural heritage. HCDs established prior to 2005 had to review and update their HCD plans to develop clear and meaningful goals and language that would strengthen the underpinnings of their plans. In 2015, a working group composed of members of The New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA)'s Heritage & Development Committee, and a representative from Heritage Ottawa, met with Lesley Collins, heritage planner from the City of Ottawa. Over several months they worked together to establish the objectives to be achieved in New Edinburgh's HCD, including a statement of the district's cultural heritage value or interest, a description of its heritage attributes and those of specific properties, policy statements, and guidelines for achieving our objectives.

The present Heritage Conservation District Plan provides us with a blueprint

for managing change. In the future, with the need for intensification, hopefully we can integrate creatively the new with the old, so the essence of what contributes to New Edinburgh being such a special place does not get lost.

To access New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation District

Plan online, go to: [newedinburgh.ca/heritage-development/](http://newedinburgh.ca/heritage-development/)

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

**This space could be yours**  
Advertise in the *New Edinburgh News!*  
[ads@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:ads@newedinburgh.ca)

**Managing Fine Ottawa Homes Since 1996!**

Call us anytime to learn more about problem free leasing.

Posted overseas or across the country?  
**We can help!**

- Advertising • Advice on Rent • Tenant Selection
- Credit Checks • Lease Preparation • Maintenance
- Inspections • Detailed Reporting • Annual Statements
- Emergency Service • NR6 Non-Resident

**We'll be with you throughout the process, from the first day your home is listed, to the day you move back.**

**NESBITT**  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC.

[www.nesbittproperty.com](http://www.nesbittproperty.com)  
613-277-4485  
[dave@nesbittproperty.com](mailto:dave@nesbittproperty.com)



*Ottawa's Premier Expert*  
 We Buy Coins, Paper Money,  
 Tokens, Medals, Gold, and Silver

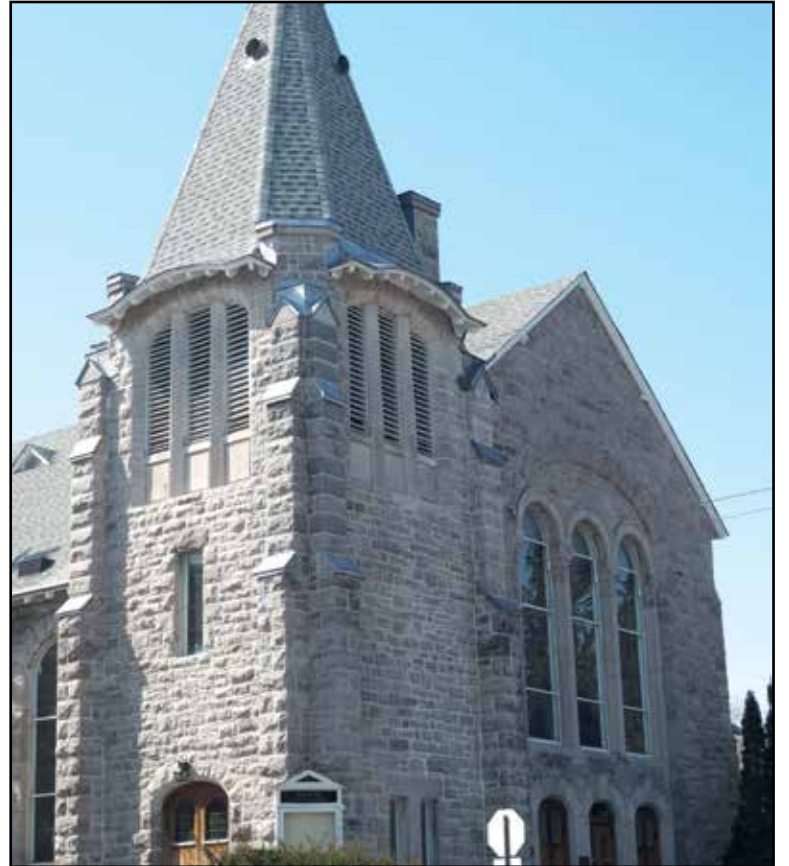
Book Your Appointment  
 Today at  
[jacoblipsonrarecoins.com](http://jacoblipsonrarecoins.com)

451 Daly Ave., Suite 104 | Ottawa, Ontario | K1N 6H6 | (613) 777-2115

# Bell tower restoration complete

By Susan Pitt

The exterior masonry conservation of the 1910 bell tower at MacKay United Church in New Edinburgh at the corner of Mackay St. and Dufferin Rd. is complete. The restoration began in 2021 with repairs to the southern buttresses and was completed in 2025 with the restoration of the northeast tower and steeple roof, including the installation of new lead-coated copper flashing, re-asphalting the tower roof, and reinstating a new lead-coated copper finial cap and ball. The 2025 work was done by Keystone Traditional Masonry Inc. Funding for the Bell Tower restoration was from endowments from Jean Smith and Alyson Smith and Heritage Grants from the City of Ottawa.



*Susan Pitt is a congregant at MacKay United Church.*

Photo by Philippe Marchand

Restored bell tower at MacKay United Church

## THE FARM STORE

4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Market




**Located at 1805 Gaspé Ave.**

Celebrate 4 years of the Farm Store!

On Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a market at the Farm Store. Come meet and shop with some of your favourite vendors, grab ice cream from the Merry Dairy Truck, enjoy live music and more.

May 16<sup>th</sup> - 10am-2pm (Farm Store is open regular hours 9am-4pm)


For store hours, to shop online and more visit [www.ottstreetmarkets.ca](http://www.ottstreetmarkets.ca)

**Contribute** to the next issue of the *New Edinburgh News*  
 Submit by **May 10** at [editor@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca)

## RhodesBarker


LUXURY REAL ESTATE



**Top Team in Canada**  
 for Coldwell Banker  
 1-3 Persons

**Christopher Barker**  
 BROKER  
 613-612-9555  
 CB@RhodesBarker.com

**Tony Rhodes**  
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
 613-276-6061  
 Tony@RhodesBarker.com


 **COLDWELL BANKER**  
 RHODES & COMPANY,  
 BROKERAGE







**613-236-9551**

# www.RhodesBarker.com

Buying or Selling?  
 We can help!!

The Rhodes Barker Team has a tradition of trust.  
 We offer to our clients real value in a changing market with full service agency.  
 Contact us for a free home valuation.  
 No Cost – Market Analysis – Confidentiality – No Obligation



 <p><b>For Sale • New Edinburgh</b>  <b>\$1,095,000   \$3,850/mo</b></p>	 <p><b>For Sale • Sandy Hill</b>  <b>\$749,000</b></p>	 <p><b>For Sale • New Edinburgh</b>  <b>\$1,695,000</b></p>
 <p><b>For Sale • Rockliffe Park</b>  <b>\$2,395,000</b></p>	 <p><b>SOLD</b>  <b>Sold • New Edinburgh</b>  <b>\$2,750,000</b></p>	 <p><b>Coming Soon • The Glebe</b>  <b>\$1,975,000</b></p>

Follow us on Instagram at: [RhodesBarker\\_realestate](#). Connect with Chris Barker on LinkedIn.  
 Like us on Facebook at: [Rhodesbarker luxury real estate](#).

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## April

**Yoga at the Fieldhouse – Wednesday evenings throughout the spring | 7 pm | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave.**

New Edinburgh yoga instructor Solmaz Hicks will be restarting her asana yoga classes at the Fieldhouse this spring. Contact her at perisamolmaz@hotmail.com for more information or to sign up.

**Apr. 8 – CCC Board of Directors Meeting | 8–9 pm | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave.**

Meetings of the CCC Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of every month. Meeting times, dates and locations may vary to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors or guests. Please email us if you would like to attend the meeting, if there is a topic you would like to discuss with the CCC's Directors, or if you are interested in joining us as a volunteer: CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com We recommend checking newedinburgh.ca/cc to confirm dates and times in advance.

**April 11 – Workshop: What does YOUR Soul Want YOU to Know? | 10–11:30 am | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave. | \$30**

Organizer: Carolin Rathbun. Visit carolinrathbun.com or email carolin@carolinrathbun.com for more information or to register.

**Apr. 11 – Open Mic at the Fieldhouse (CCC) | 7–10 pm | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave. | Free**

Bring your talent to share at New Ed's open mic, or simply come and be entertained. Admission is free, but donations (to help pay for our new PA system) are appreciated. The kitchen bar offers a variety of refreshments including alcoholic and non-alcoholic options. Performers have two songs or about 8–10 minutes at the mic. Two microphones, a mixer and speakers are

available. Performers can register at CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com or in person at 6 pm First come, first to fill the bill.

**Apr. 17 – Unbound: ALSO's Banned Book Night | 6–9 pm | Heartwood House – 404 McArthur Ave.**

Local authors will read from their favourite banned books. This year, spoken-word artist Lady la Profeta will perform as well. There will be finger foods and drinks, a fabulous silent auction as well as a book booth. Funds raised will benefit ALSO's literacy program supporting low-income adults and families. Details and tickets at: also-ottawa.org/whats-new

**Until April 19 – Vanier Sugar Shack | 9 am–2 pm | 300 des Pères-Blancs Ave.**

Come visit Canada's only urban sugar shack on the grounds of Vanier Museopark and sample the best of maple season! Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (no reservations); and Wednesday to Friday, they are open for group reservations.

**Apr. 21 – New Edinburgh Community Association (NECA) Board Meeting | 7 pm | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave.**

All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend, in person or virtually by Zoom: us02web.zoom.us/j/88411580165 Meeting ID: 884 1158 0165

## May-June

**Yoga at the Fieldhouse – Wednesday evenings throughout the spring | 7 pm | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave.**

New Edinburgh yoga instructor Solmaz Hicks will be restarting her asana yoga classes at the Fieldhouse this spring. Contact her at perisamolmaz@hotmail.com for more information or to sign up.

**May 2 – Bike Day (CCC) | 9:30 am –1 pm @| New Edinburgh Fieldhouse and closed section of Stanley**

**Ave.**

Full programming for this year's Bike Day has yet to be released, but mark your calendars for May 2. Last year, we saw a great turnout for the Kidical Mass Bike Ride. The CCC will be selling used bikes starting at 10 am If you have a bike you would like to sell or donate, we will have a drop-off date leading up to the event. The CCC keeps 10 per cent of proceeds to donate to Vélo Vanier. Find updates about the event at newedinburgh.ca/events

**May 9 – Flower Sale (CCC) | 9 am–1 pm | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave.**

Spring has come sooner this year! Instead of buying your flower baskets from big retailers, support the CCC and a local grower on Saturday, May 9. These beautiful baskets are a good deal, and proceeds support local events in the neighbourhood. Grab a coffee from the 'mobile' Union St Café and pick up vegetable seedlings while you're at it! See you there!

**May 13 – Crichton Community Council (CCC) Board of Directors Meeting | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave.**

Meetings of the CCC Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of every month. Meeting times, dates and locations may vary to accommodate the availability of CCC Directors or guests. Please contact us by email if you would like to attend the meeting, if there is a topic you would like to discuss with the CCC's Directors, or if you are interested in joining us as a volunteer: CrichtonCommunity



## 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.**

## WEDDING GIFT!

10 place setting of Birk's fine Wedgewood China, Amherst pattern. Simple pattern, Fine royal blue trim on white bone China with a thin line of Platinum. Includes, dinner plate, bread plate, dessert plate, salade plate, soup plate, 1 serving bowl 1 serving plater, 2 gravy boats.

\$1,500

10 White wine glasses, red wine glasses, water glasses.

\$47

White Monaco tea & coffee pot with thin silver line finish, includes 10 teacups with saucer, 10 coffee cups with saucer, milker, sugar bowl.

\$21

Brandy snifters, high ball and low ball, liquor glasses, martini glasses.

\$11

**Contact Serge at 613-236-8165**

Council@gmail.com

**May 19 – New Edinburgh Community Association (NECA) Board Meeting | 7 pm | New Edinburgh Fieldhouse – 203 Stanley Ave.**

All New Edinburgh residents are welcome to attend, in person or virtually by Zoom: us02web.zoom.us/j/88411580165 Meeting ID: 884 1158 0165

**Jun. 1 – New Edinburgh Choir Musical Evening | 7:30 pm | St. Bart's Church Sanctuary – 125 MacKay St. | \$20**

Join the New Edinburgh Community Choir for a live musical evening! All

are welcome, no auditions required. The choir's new spring session also runs Mondays from March 23 to May 25. New drop-ins are welcome for \$20; contact newechoir@gmail.com for details.

**Jun. 6 – Give a Breath 5K | 10 am | Britannia Park Trolley Station – 2805 Carling Ave.**

Give a Breath 5k is Canada's premier fundraising event dedicated to raising critical funds and awareness for the lung cancer community. Proceeds contribute to Lung Cancer Canada's Airways of Hope program and the Give a Breath Research Foundation. For more info, please visit: giveabreath.ca



## Have an event coming up?

New Edinburgh News readers would love

to hear about it!

Send us the details:

**editor@newedinburgh.ca**

# Burgh Breezy Bits

DEADLINE: MAY 10 [editor@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca)

## Honouring a village author



HSO created this prize to recognize individuals who have made an outstanding contribution toward increasing awareness of Ottawa history, which has been the society's mission these past 125 years. The award was named in honour of the late François Bregha, former HSO member and creator of the History of Sandy Hill website and, posthumously in 2022, the inaugural recipient of the eponymous award.

## Congratulations



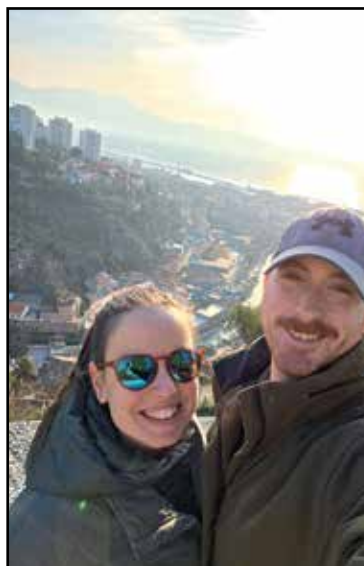
After attending numerous CAFES Ottawa (Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability) meetings in recent years, **Sarah Anson-Cartwright** was just elected to join their board of directors. CAFES Ottawa is a network of local environmental and climate leaders in the city of Ottawa founded in 2010 and incorporated as a non-for-profit organization in 2021. Sarah also sits on the NECA board and writes articles in the *New Edinburgh News* on information pertaining to environment and climate change. We congratulate her on this new achievement: well done, Sarah, and we look forward to your ongoing articles and learnings through CAFES, community networks and other stakeholders!



**Mandy and Paul Bailey** are pleased to announce the birth of their fourth grandchild, **Margot Mei Ngan Bailey Monnier** on Mar. 1, 2026 in Chateauroux, France. Margot is the first daughter of **Amelia Bailey** and **Philippe Monnier** and first sister of **Louis**. Mother and baby are doing exceptionally well.



Cairn Terrier puppy **Poppy** – named for her birthdate of Nov. 11 last year – happily joined Carolyn and Bruce at nine weeks old on Jan. 15, 2026. They are very happy — and busy!



Congratulations to **Vanessa** and **Andrew Zorz** who are moving from the neighbourhood for a new opportunity and to prepare for their baby boy's arrival in May! We will miss seeing you both and your beautiful dog Murphy along the lanes. Very best wishes to you and your new addition to the family in the coming months as you transition into your new home.



Congratulations **Gina Watson** and the team at St. Bartholomew's Church who recently ran their annual Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk for the Ottawa Mission. They had more than 45 walkers on their team, and more than 65 at potluck dinner afterwards. All together they raised over \$37,000 for the important services the Mission offers!

The François Bregha Storyteller Award, 2026  
On Mar. 28, 2026, the Historical Society of Ottawa (HSO) presented **Janet Uren** with the François Bregha Storyteller Award for work on her recently published book, *The Villagers: History of the People and Life of New Edinburgh*. (Available at Books on Beechwood.) The



## Got some news to share?

Anniversaries, weddings, birthdays, retirements, milestones and remembrances: *New Edinburgh News* readers want to hear about them!

Send us your text and photo to:

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

Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.