

JUNE 2026

# NEW EDINBURGH NEWS 1976-2026

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Photo courtesy of Helena Chouchani

Beechwood Market offers fresh local produce, great service, local artisans, and good community vibes with great music all summer long!

## Donate your empties to support at-risk youth

By Ellen Hagerman

As of Jan. 1, 2026, Ottawa residents can no longer recycle alcohol containers in curbside blue bins: these items must now be returned to the Beer Store or specific retail locations for refunds. With the number of Beer Store locations shrinking, residents wishing to return their empties face limited options. Residents without cars or easy access to Beer Stores face even greater challenges.

In response to the decline in return locations, Operation Come Home – a youth social services organization – launched BottleWorks in 2008. This monthly bottle drive was established as a social enterprise: residents drop off empty alcohol containers, the deposits for which are collected in support of youth facing barriers to employment.

Starting Sat., Jun. 13, New Edinburgh will play host to BottleWorks from 1–4 pm

at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse at 203 Stanley Ave. The plan is for New Edinburgh to hold a monthly BottleWorks Bottle Drive on the second Saturday of each month.

Look for the tent set up under the Fieldhouse awning: staff and youth employees will be onsite to collect your empty wine, liquor, and beer bottles and cans. They will help carry boxes from your car to the loading site. Not only will you be getting a feel-good way to get rid of your empties, you will also be eligible for a charitable tax receipt for the containers you donate.

To help create awareness and promote partnership, the bottle drive will briefly overlap with the Beechwood Market, which runs from 9 am to 1 pm from early June until the end of October. If you plan to bring a lot of bottles or cans, please note that between 1 and 1:30 pm parking will be limited

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## Beechwood Market Saturdays are back at the Fieldhouse

By Chris Penton

Beechwood Market's 13th season begins Jun. 6, 2026. Sometimes referred to as the Stanley Park Market, the Market in the Park or that thing down by the river, the Beechwood Market was named for its very first location at 99 Beechwood Ave. – now a vacant lot awaiting development.

After two moves, the Beechwood Market landed in New Edinburgh Park for the 2022 season. A good home for our wee market, the folks of New Edinburgh, Sandy Hill, Lindenlea, Rockcliffe, Vanier, Manor Park, and regions further afield have allowed us to return for another season in 2026.

A perfect setting for an outdoor farmers' market, New Edinburgh Park offers a huge play structure with swings for the kids, a dog park for your four-leggers, and a large field

for 30-plus vendors.

This season you'll be able to get local veg from Foster Family Farm, Ferme Colibris (formerly Ferme Marmaille, organic) and Proulx Farm. Please be patient, as they all start on different dates according to their harvest schedules.

Other farms include Hall's Apple Market, Beking's Free Run Eggs, Beechwood Microgreens, Harvest Honey, Ash & Posy (cut flowers), Fossil Ridge Farm (pasture raised meats) and On The Bend Sugar Shack.

Grab a bite to eat from Le Momo, Oneigiri or Two, Easy Crepe and Pie Rogues. Top that off with a cup of Chris' Ice Cream.

Staple vendors like Nat's Bread, Cloudforest Coffee and Bicycle Craft Brewery can be expected every week. On varying weeks, you'll find an array of artisans, crafters, and pet supply vendors.

Each week you'll hear live music, discover a new interest

group at the Community Table and enjoy the odd special event.

In the centre of it all, offering an array of goods, you'll find the Ottawa Street Markets' Farm Store Table. Ottawa Street Markets is the organizing body of the Beechwood Market. We run three community markets in town. Our Online Market runs all year long, as does the Farm Store at 1805 Gaspé in Manor Park.

For a weekly list of vendors, musicians and community table attendees, check out our social media pages or visit [ottastreetmarkets.ca](http://ottastreetmarkets.ca)

The Beechwood Market | New Edinburgh Park, 203 Stanley Ave. | Every Saturday, rain or shine, Jun. 6–Oct. 31 | 9 am–1 pm

Chris Penton is President of Ottawa Street Markets. A longtime local, he is a community builder, proud GenXer and father to a well-fed teenage lad.

## How to (mostly) eat locally throughout the year

By Jennifer Manning

Here in New Edinburgh, where we have access to a wealth of locally grown and produced food, our greatest challenge is winter. With shorter days, bitter cold, and plentiful snow, our region and much of Canada can't cultivate certain types of food at all times of the year. Citrus and avocados, I'm looking at you.

Nonetheless, over the years I have attempted to crack the code of eating as close-to-home as possible year-round.

Here, I offer some tips and highlight the amazing opportunities the next few months will provide to amass your nutritional, local, and delicious food fortune.

In 2005, San Francisco Bay Area chef Jessica Prentice coined the term "locavore" (also called "localvore") as she and others focused on food sourced within a 100-mile radius of their homes. The term and concept quickly became popular. Within a couple of years, author Barbara

Kingsolver, known mostly for her fiction, wrote the book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* in which she describes her family's attempt to eat solely from what was produced on and around their farm in Appalachia.

One common reason for embracing the locavore lifestyle is to reduce the negative environmental impacts of fossil fuel emissions incurred in transportation.

In recent years, other motivations for buying and eating

differently have become evident. During the pandemic, we discovered that shipping routes, borders, and employment practices can divert food supplies. Suddenly, Canadian suppliers became critically important. The recognition that access to food is essential highlights the importance of supporting regional businesses regularly – not only during a crisis. Buying local during non-crisis times ensures farms and businesses can sustain us when it becomes harder

(though often cheaper) to get food from afar.

Of late, the tariffs and generally off-putting conduct of the US government have given many Canadians yet another reason to find different, perhaps regional, sources for their food. Each of these catalysts support participation in a "buy-local insurance policy." Food is not optional. Ensuring nearby farmers and small businesses are successful – now and in the future – is

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## What's the New Edinburgh Community Alliance?

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

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

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

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

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

Our next meetings will take place on **Tuesday, September 15, 7 pm** and **Tuesday, October 20, 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

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Ray Boomgaardt **President**

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Katherine Lloyd **Friends of the Park**

Karen Squires **Friends of the Park**

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

## New Edinburgh Community Alliance – President's Report



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

How are we protecting what we have and adapting to what is new? The April edition of the *NEN* addressed both themes. Celebrating history (what we have) were a story about the Towne Cinema, and an announcement about Jane's walk in June. On the subject of addressing change were comments on the City's proposed design changes on Beechwood and an article about buying heat pumps to help address climate change. Jane Jacob's view of the city, which celebrates lively neighbourhoods as the vital constituents of great cities, is the guiding vision for NECA. But how do we implement and advance this vision? I think we do so by considering both what we want to preserve and how we deal with change.

Consider the National Capital Commission (NCC) decision to rezone the Sussex Blocks from "institutional" to "institutional and residential." The decision has impacts on both Sussex Drive and on New Edinburgh. Community members have indicated that we want to be consulted on any proposed development. So, hopefully we have a process for dealing with change. That's important, and the community has been vocal in insisting on it. I was pleased to be in a position to meet with the NCC to underline that the community insists on being heard.

So what do we want to preserve and enhance? Here the choices are more difficult. When we initially wrote to the NCC, we asked for community consultations. We also asked the NCC to consider burying the hydro lines along MacKay, to help us end the flood plain designation for big swathes of New Edinburgh, including the Sussex Blocks, and to address the confusing land ownership along the Stanley Park panhandle. I was somewhat disappointed, but not surprised, to see that most of these ideas

for change did not attract much attention during community meetings. The focus was almost exclusively on the rezoning issue and the potential changes rezoning might facilitate. In other words, the focus was on fighting change.

Now some 2,000 people have supported a petition to "Save" Sussex Drive. As I understand it, the petition seeks to reinforce a vision of Sussex Drive as a grand promenade lined with institutional buildings and providing efficient vehicular movement. For my part, I am focused on our community, and what is good for New Edinburgh. I am not opposed to efficient vehicular movement. But when we did our traffic calming study years ago, we observed that if there are delays getting onto Sussex Drive during rush hour, that may reduce cut-through traffic in New Edinburgh, and that is a good thing. With traffic, it's a question of striking a reasonable balance where residents of New Edinburgh can use Sussex while not providing a great cut-through option for drivers from outside our community. That idea won the day when we developed our traffic calming study for NECA years ago. I still think it's correct.

Do not get me started on my views about Sussex Drive! I do not particularly like what

Sussex Drive has become. I would not want it to be "saved" as-is. Although the NCC has put a lot of effort into trying to make it attractive, I think it's boring and unpleasant for pedestrians. When I go for walks toward downtown, I avoid Sussex and walk along Boteler and through the Market instead. Indeed, I think the Governor General, when taking the ceremonial ride for the opening of Parliament, should ride through New Edinburgh, across the Minto Bridges and through the Market, rather than using Sussex Drive. I enjoy and celebrate New Edinburgh and the Market, and I would welcome the Vice-Regal representative to join in that celebration! It's our communities – not a promenade lined with institutional buildings – that make our city great.

Sussex Drive is important, but I would like the NCC to develop a Sussex Drive that is a lot more urban, calm, and walkable. I think the current configuration cuts people off from the magnificent Ottawa River. The most beautiful stretches of parkway in Ottawa are the Queen Elizabeth Parkway from Fifth Ave. to Lisgar Collegiate and Colonel By Drive between Bank St. and Bronson. Both are stretches that are lined with residences. Sussex could be enlivened, not damaged, by having residences along it. Of course, the community will have views on scale and design, and the community should be heard. That's my interpretation of what Jane Jacobs discovered. See you in the (New Edinburgh) neighbourhood!

New Edinburgh Park

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# Letter from the Managing Editor



**Sharon Nyangweso**  
Managing Editor

There's something special about New Edinburgh in the summer.

The sidewalks get busier, the pond fills with families and friends, and suddenly the whole neighbourhood feels a little more alive again. After a long Ottawa winter, there's something comforting about

seeing familiar faces out on evening walks, community events filling the calendar, and people lingering just a little longer over coffee, conversation, or an ice cream on Beechwood.

One of the things I appreciate most about this neighbourhood is that people genuinely

use and share public space. We run into one another here, we stop and chat, we gather in parks, along pathways, and on front steps! Those small moments of connection are part of what makes this community feel like home.

As summer settles in, I hope you find time to enjoy all the simple things the season brings: sunshine, fresh air, community events, and maybe the occasional spontaneous treat.

Wishing everyone a safe, joyful, and restful summer ahead.

# Letter from the Co-Editor



**Karen Squires**  
Co-Editor

As you read through this edition, I hope you enjoy the variety and diversity of what's happening throughout New Edinburgh (and beyond) during the summer season. We've included updates in and around the neighbourhood such as Vanier BIA's music events or interesting venues where residents are hosting art exhibits nearby. We include a farewell to Beechwood Auto (end of June) after many decades of servicing this area and welcome McConville's Garage who can support your needs moving forward. We'd also like to welcome Paul Valois, ONEC's (Ottawa New Edinburgh Club's) new General Manager! Living along the shoreline with an abundance of green space is amazing as it offers so many options to enjoy activities on land and on the water. If you have kids who want to explore

and learn, Ottawa Riverkeeper has summer programming as well – so read along to learn more about programming for all ages!

Plus, our Main Street (and area) is buzzing with excitement for patio season, now in full swing so review what's new in the 'Burgh Business Briefs section and Events section. Whether it's great food, patio lanterns or new businesses, this edition has much to offer. And starting in June, Beechwood Market is open for business (near the Fieldhouse) with great local produce and much more every Saturday into October. As well, there are community gardens sprouting up so check out the good vibes at the market and learn more about what's upcoming!

Books on Beechwood and Rockcliffe Park Library offer up many options for great books and indoor events

throughout the summer plus all CCC events are listed in our Events section as well! There is also Jazz in June at MacKay United, Akoustik at St. Charles Market all summer long or if you like outdoor theatre, check out Odyssey Theatre nearby.

Finally, we've included details on interesting programs to support youth such as what Bottleworks is doing at the Fieldhouse starting mid June with their bottle drive – so keep your alcohol bottles and cans and donate to a very good cause! As always, we welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood and say good-bye to long time friends in the Breezy Bits section. In our 50th anniversary year, we hope you enjoy this extensive summer edition, learn more about our history, change makers in our community, and how to get more involved. Thanks to all the amazing contributors, advertisers and *NEN* team who make this paper come to life five times per year – enjoy the summer edition (also available online) and see you in the park or around the neighbourhood this summer!

## NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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**newedinburgh.ca**

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# Letters to the Editors

Re: Aligning your investments with your values, and the climate (part two)

I read with great interest the article on climate investing in the April 2026 edition of *NEN* ("From bank accounts to pensions: Making your money work for the climate" by Sarah Anson-Cartwright).

I am a physician, and am certainly not here to give anyone specific investment advice. However, if it may be helpful, I would like to offer up my climate-informed investment strategy as a concrete example of what is possible.

- Several years ago, I divested all my investments, including my RRSPs, from fossil fuel stocks: yes, fossil fuel companies are raking in windfall profits right now, but this war profiteering bounty will be short lived. Investing in fossil fuels is not only unethical (these companies are literally burning up the planet) but also exposes you to the endless boom and bust cycle of this industry. Furthermore, with the energy transition finally on the horizon, these companies will be sitting on significant stranded assets, so these stocks are a risky investment.

My brokerage firm has a "fossil fuel-free fund" and your financial advisor likely has a similar product.

- I actively invest in exchange traded funds (ETFs) that use strict ESG criteria to select their stock mix (such as Vanguard ESG) or ETFs that are solely focused on the energy transition and renewables (such as lithium and transition metals, solar and wind power, electricity grid components). These are the industries of the future.

- I am in the process of concentrating my banking with an institution that is not listed on the authoritative Banking on Climate Chaos report, so that my money is not used to finance the expansion of fossil fuel projects.

- I have made direct investments with two Ontario-based renewable energy cooperatives that are building local wind and solar projects. I have a sizable number of shares with OREC and bonds with SolarShare. These investments provide a yearly 4 per cent dividend or interest, and can contribute to balancing out more risky investment in the

stock market.

- I make regular donations to environmental non-profits and nature conservancy charities, to enhance nature-based solutions and the protection of critical carbon sinks. If you are incorporated, a donation of publicly-traded securities held by your corporation holds many tax advantages, as the realized capital gain has an inclusion rate of zero (i.e., it is tax-free) and can be applied to your capital dividend account.

I believe it is important to align your investments with your values – and I think most people would agree that leaving a livable planet for our children is more valuable than the temporary increase in the valuation of fossil fuel stocks. A low-to-no carbon investment strategy is within the reach of everyone: just talk to your financial advisor!

– *Nicolas Chagnon*

Dear *New Edinburgh News*,

Our names are Carolyn Boulton and Lana Matson. We are both mothers, to children in kindergarten, grade one and grade two. We are part of a group of three women in Ottawa who have started a petition to the Ontario legislature to end screentime during lunchtime in Ontario schools.

We were shocked to learn that this was happening in the schools our children attend. All four of our school-aged kids are shown television during lunch a few times a week at school. After talking with other parents in Ottawa, across Ontario, and in other

provinces, we realized this is more common than not. There are at least eight schools in east Ottawa alone that have screens on during mealtime, including one private school. To further drive home how widespread the issue is, a mother and physician in Timmins, Ontario, Natasha Larocque, started the exact same petition separately. This is not a phenomenon isolated to eastern Ottawa!

Natasha Larocque is part of a Canadian Physicians Mom Group (9.9K members) and posted about this issue. Here are a few posts of what other mothers describe in their children's classrooms. Examples include:

"Screens often on during snack time (why can't kids just eat and talk to each other?)"

"My kid's brain rots in front a screen watching shows that we don't even approve at home for her to watch"

"The amount of screens my kid gets at school is ridiculous. Even 'tech time,' which to me means they should be doing something useful and educational around technology, means they are just watching music videos and stuff." This issue concerns us as parents as numerous studies detail how screens negatively impact young children. Screen time has been proven to:

- lower academic performance (An Ontario study found that each additional hour of total screen time was associated with the following for EQAO [Education Quality and Accountability Office] scores: 9 to 10 per cent lower odds of achieving a higher academic level in grade 3 reading, grade

3 math and grade 6 math. High screen time was also associated with lower scores in grade 3 reading and math and grade 6 math.)

- increase risk of obesity
- negatively impact language development
- have detrimental effects on social and emotional growth
- increase risk of mental health conditions (e.g., ADHD, depression, and anxiety)
- increase behavioural problems


The Canadian Pediatric Society makes clear recommendations that for children ages 2–5 screens should be limited to one hour per day, and mealtimes specifically should be screen free. It surprises me that so many schools are using practices that clearly go against these recommendations.

We had initially started our petition using the online platform change.org. This online petition has been signed by upwards of 700 Ontarians. Since connecting with Natasha Larocque, our group has collected over 1800 paper signatures.

MPP Jess Dixon in Kitchener, South Hespeler will bring this petition forward to the legislative assembly and MPP Lucille Collard in Ottawa-Vanier and MPP Stephen Blais have both expressed their support for our petition. We are certain this story will resonate with your audience, parents, grandparents and taxpayers alike.

Thank you very much and we look forward to hearing from you.


– *Carolyn Boulton and Lana Matson*



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

# Key issues and challengers in October's Mayoral election

**By Sarah Anson-Cartwright**

Heading into summer, Ottawans have some substantive candidates to consider for mayor in October's municipal election. The coming weeks are a good time to take note of the issues in the city and what the leading mayoral candidates propose for Ottawa's future.

The current mayor, Mark Sutcliffe, is expected to run again, but has not filed his nomination forms at time of writing.

The incumbent mayor said he's "focused on governing, not campaigning, even as three rivals have officially entered the fray," according to a CBC News report on May 4. (Candidates for mayor or councillor have until Aug. 21 to file nomination forms.)

## Poll assesses current mayor's performance

An April poll by Liaison Strategies found "71 per cent (of Ottawa residents) disapproving of Sutcliffe's handling of transit, 58 per cent disapproving of his approach to homelessness and 54 per

cent disapproving of housing affordability," as reported in the Ottawa Citizen on May 6.

There are three main challengers to the incumbent mayor (assuming he does file as a candidate in due course): Jeff Leiper, a three-term councillor for Kitchissippi ward; economist and community organizer Neil Saravanamuttoo (known for the Better Ottawa program); and homebuilder Alex Lawson.

Among decided voters in the April poll, 46 per cent would vote for Sutcliffe and 37 per cent for Leiper. However, at that point, half of the voters were still undecided (and Saravanamuttoo had not yet formally announced he would run).

Incumbents running for re-election, however, enjoy inherent benefits over their challengers.

"Incumbency increases the probability that a candidate will win the next election (at the municipal level) by more than 30 percentage points and accounts for well over half of overall incumbent success," wrote Jack Lucas, an associate

professor at the University of Calgary, in Urban Affairs Review in 2019.

## Unreliable and costly transit

Transit is the issue that is most concerning Ottawa residents at the municipal level, according to the Liaison Strategies poll. Seven out of 10 Ottawans disapprove of how transit is being handled, as noted above.

City Council passed a budget for 2026 which increased OC Transpo fares even while the transit system continued to miss its reliability targets.

Issues with the LRT have persisted since its launch and through to the present day. In April, the Ontario government reaffirmed its commitment to conduct an evaluation toward an upload of the City's LRT costs to the provincial agency Metrolinx, as reported by the Ottawa Citizen on Apr. 21.

The mayor said then that the upload of LRT costs would save the City approximately \$85 million per year.

## Homelessness and housing

Three years into a four-year term, the mayor held "several campaign-style

announcements in the fall of 2025 where he unveiled his ambitious housing action plan, his public safety action plan and a pledge to end youth homelessness by 2030," according to the Ottawa Citizen on May 1.

Homelessness and housing affordability were key issues in the 2022 municipal campaign and are likely to continue to be a concern for voters again in this fall's election.

Almost 3,000 people were homeless in Ottawa in 2024, according to the City's "point in time" survey (which was conducted in October 2024 with results issued in February 2025). That represented a 13 per cent increase over the 2021 number of about 2,600 people.

## Lansdowne 2.0

The questions of city priorities and where spending is needed most arose during the debate over the Lansdowne 2.0 development. Arguably, it was one of the most contentious issues during this term of Council, resulting in a 15-10 vote in favour of investing in Lansdowne 2.0 in the amount of \$419 million.

Notably, 10 councillors opposed the investment at the vote last November. It came as the City planned both transit fare increases (when service has not improved) in Budget 2026 and, according to a City of Ottawa news release, "one of the largest increases in funding for the Ottawa Police Service in the city's history."

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

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# Friends of the Park update: spring cleanup, community gardens, biodiversity, and pickleball

By Karen Squires and Katherine Lloyd

## Parks Cleanup

The big news for this edition is the excellent turnout for our annual Parks Cleanup. Once again, a huge thank you to Ottawa Riverkeeper for their oversight and support. This third-year partnership with Friends of the Park has proven to be very successful.

On Apr. 18, we welcomed another stellar turnout of more than 100 participants, not only from around the neighbourhood, but also from other parts of the city and as far away as Gatineau. Thankfully, the sun came out for our Saturday morning event, allowing people to walk around comfortably and enjoy the experience with family and friends. It was a lovely way to celebrate Earth Day (though we always choose a Saturday close to the official date of Apr. 22 to make it easier for more people to attend).

Many participants brought their children along. One little boy from the neighbourhood came with his dad and proudly told us he had prepared for the event by collecting garbage in



Photo courtesy of Ottawa River Keeper

Ottawa Riverkeeper teamed up for another successful event with Friends of the Park - this partnership continues to grow, build and show great results.

a specific area beforehand. It's so encouraging to see parents teaching their children the importance of protecting our green spaces.

Participants gathered at the kiosk behind the Fieldhouse and, after a few preliminary guidelines, spread out across the park and along the river between Sussex Drive and

Beechwood Ave. After 45 minutes – and often longer – people returned carrying bags

drinks provided onsite, and connect with neighbours. It's always a wonderful opportu-



Photo by Philippe Marchand

People from the neighbourhood and throughout the city came out to our annual park cleanup to support a good cause - thank you!

and buckets filled with bottles, cans, plastics, and some unusual finds, including tire rims. Many stayed afterward to chat, enjoy treats and cold

nity to meet new people and strengthen community connections.

This year, according to Leah Smith and Caroline Gomersall

from Ottawa Riverkeeper, volunteers collected more than 300 pounds (140 kilograms) of waste – even more than last year. I was also very pleased to see that, just two days later, the City of Ottawa had already begun installing additional garbage bins in preparation for heavier spring and summer park use. We hope more people will take the time to walk those extra few metres to properly dispose of their garbage this summer.

Please stay connected with Ottawa Riverkeeper events, summer programming, and workshops by reading Leah Smith's full article in this edition, or by visiting [ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://ottawariverkeeper.ca)

## Community gardens and reduced mowing

There have been ongoing meetings and discussions about the proposed community garden near the Fieldhouse, a project that has been in development for the past three years. The initiative was started by Crichton Community Council (CCC) project lead Adrian Di Giovanni: please read his full article in this edition.

You may also recall earlier articles about the revitalization of Monarch Meadow near the beach throughout 2024 and 2025. Unfortunately, administrative delays related to the garden continue, but we will report on progress as soon as more information becomes available.

Friends of the Park also recently met with a City of Ottawa team to discuss reducing mowing in the area between Monarch Meadow and the pathways near the beach leading toward Sussex Drive, where many people walk – with and without dogs. The goal is to encourage greater biodiversity by allowing more natural growth in these areas. It was a very encouraging meeting, and we hope everyone will notice more birds and wildflowers throughout the park this year.

Finally, the City informed us that repairs to sections of the tennis court are currently underway and that the lines will soon be redrawn so people can begin playing pickleball this summer.

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



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# Sussex Blocks Task Team receives reply from the NCC

By Sarah Anson-Cartwright

The National Capital Commission (NCC) has not agreed to consult with the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) and its Sussex Block Task Team in the definition of the Sussex Blocks project. It does, however, note that engagement and consultation would be defined and led by a proponent – if the project becomes active.

The task team, a NECA committee comprising 10 residents, wrote to the NCC on Mar. 9 with a specific request to engage and provide input

on design aspects before the NCC goes to a “request for proposal” stage to seek a developer-proponent.

The task team’s letter also included 14 questions for the NCC – noting that some might be premature at this stage – relating to the floodplain, the Heritage Conservation District guidelines, the design process and procurement process, the treatment of the Prime Minister’s residence and the City’s process relative to the NCC.

The NCC’s reply of Apr. 15 noted that “the Sussex Blocks are not an active project” and

that “a specific development plan would need to be developed through a development proponent.”

“At that point, appropriate engagement and consultation approaches would be defined as part of a more detailed planning and approval process, led by the proponent,” wrote the NCC.

The task team is disappointed the NCC did not agree to meet in advance of initiating any development proposal for the site, if the status of the site were to change, and that there will be no further consultation until there is an active project

on the table from a proponent. The NCC closed its letter with a commitment to “transparent communication and constructive engagement with the community.”

[For documents related to the Sussex Blocks, please visit

NewEdinburgh.ca and search “Sussex Blocks” for the relative webpages.]

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

## Update on campaign to stop the NCC's housing development on Sussex Drive

By Susan McNee

The campaign continues to gain momentum opposing the NCC’s planned housing development for hundreds of rental apartments on Sussex Drive, Canada’s Ceremonial Route. To date there are 1904 signatures on the online petition to stop the proposed

development.

The Friends of Sussex Drive believe that these unique green spaces should not be used for generating revenue for the NCC and enriching private developers. They should be for an important public purpose.

CBC Radio’s Alan Neal on “All in a Day” and CBC TV News both profiled the issue

this spring.

Many lawn signs are appearing throughout the community in protest. The Friends of Sussex Drive invite readers to scan the QR code and sign the petition.

*Susan McNee is part of the Friends of Sussex Drive group in New Edinburgh.*

## Donate your empties to support at-risk youth

Continued from page 1

as vendors load up after the market concludes.

New Edinburgh will be building upon and learning from the efforts of the Glebe Community Association (Glebe CA). That group began working with BottleWorks in 2020 in response to COVID restrictions on businesses that could no longer donate their used alcohol bottles. The Glebe CA sees BottleWorks as a successful community initiative that can support homeless and unemployed youth.

To prepare youth for employment, Operation Come Home offers skills development, including punctuality, teamwork, initiative, and customer service. Youth are also paired with a social support worker who works with them on collection day. This approach enables youth to bond with social support workers, with whom they can discuss issues, crack jokes, and learn about

the intricacies and experiences of employment. BottleWorks’ social support staff also work with youth in building their resumes, finding future employment, and overcoming obstacles that they may be facing.

Given the connection to waste and environmental issues, a few residents in our neighbourhood are exploring hosting information workshops about recycling and the circular economy and their connection to related issues.

**What:** Accepting empty deposit containers for wine, spirits, and beer

**When:** Sat. Jun. 13, 1–4 pm, ongoing every second Saturday of each month

**Where:** New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.

*In 2024 Ellen Hagerman returned to Ottawa after living and working in South Africa as a Gender Equality Expert throughout Africa. Ellen recently became Chair of the Waste Committee for*

*CAFES (Community Action for Sustainability) and previously worked on environmental issues for Friends of the Earth, CIDA, the UN and the World Bank.*

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**PETITION TO STOP THE**

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**DRIVE, OTTAWA**




Photo courtesy of Susan McNee



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# New Edinburgh Community Harvest Project: Now in progress!

By Adrian Di Giovanni

In the April 2024 edition of the *NEN*, I took to these pages with excitement and fanfare to announce plans to bring back a community garden to our New Edinburgh neighbourhood – an initiative we were calling the New Edinburgh Community Harvest Project.

At the time, the City had frozen applications for new community gardens. A few months longer, we hoped, and we could move forward on our proposal. Then, silence.

What followed was a long bureaucratic winter, which stretched from months into years, as our small team waited out the City's review of community gardens and green initiatives across Ottawa. The process, which began in October 2023, only concluded in late April 2025. At long last, as we entered 2026, a thaw and renewed hope. The City had put in place a new program and team who were ready to begin considering proposals for new community gardens.

Long story short: the City's community garden team

reached out to us last fall, to examine our original 2023 proposal. Our initially proposed location, near the Fieldhouse and playground, were not considered suitable. After some back and forth, however, and a late-March meetup in Stanley (New Edinburgh) Park, we landed on a site that could work. The City's team invited us to submit a full application, and our small team turned it in at the end of April. As part of the process of compiling the application, both the Crichton Community Council (CCC) and New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) supported our plans. If the application is successful, the CCC would enter an agreement with the City to administer the garden.

**Why a community garden?**  
The goals of the New Edinburgh Community Harvest Project are the same as before: to make gardening and food-growing more accessible to people across our neighbourhood, to support more environmentally conscious lifestyles, and to

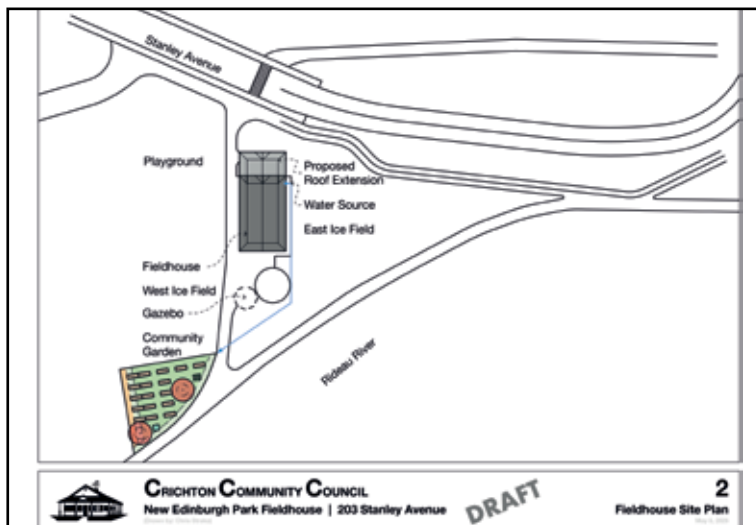


Image courtesy of Chris Straka

**Confirmed location for the community garden between the Fieldhouse and the pathway along Rideau River.**

enrich community life in New Edinburgh.

**Where can I find the community garden?**

The new proposed location appears in the image accompanying this text. It is a small alcove, past the Fieldhouse and gazebo, along the main park path that abuts the river, and on the far side of the skating rink in winter. The small tobogganing hill provides a natural border on the far end. We estimate that this site could host 15 or more above-ground boxes for growing food (about 35 square feet each). A main advantage is the proximity to the Fieldhouse's water taps and hose. Locating the garden next to the park's main path will also help ensure accessibility for all gardeners, young and old, and help foster good awareness and interaction with the larger community. At the same time, we think the site provides good seclusion for gardeners looking to

escape and sink their fingers into the soil.

**What happens next?**

As of writing, we are waiting to hear back from the City. The application to establish the garden covered a full range of details about how we would build and run the garden. We shared plans for: composting and mulching; ensuring the garden is accessible (at least 20 per cent of garden boxes must be accessible); maintaining the site; taking care of weeding and watering; emergency procedures; administration of the garden; coordination of volunteers; and addressing concerns or disputes, should they arise.

We anticipate additional back-and-forth with the City team to work through the details in the coming weeks. If all goes well, and we get a green light, future steps will be to apply for funding through Ottawa's Community Garden Network, which has a fund in place to support construction

of new gardens. We will also be working through many details, from where precisely to locate garden boxes, to the application process for interested community members.

After years of waiting to get to this point, I am reluctant to venture any future timelines. Ever the foolhardy optimist, with extreme caution, my hope is that we might yet have the actual garden and a committee to operate it in place by first snowfall this year (fingers crossed!).

In the meantime, we would love to hear from anyone interested in volunteering to help make the New Edinburgh Community Harvest Project a reality. Please email CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com with questions, concerns, and expressions of interest. To date, we have received questions about how or if the garden might be enclosed, about the regular flow of dog-walkers, and about critters in the park. Stay tuned on local listservs for details of future community consultations, organized by the CCC or through the City's formal EngageOttawa process.

Finally, a special note of thanks and gratitude for fellow community members who have demonstrated an ongoing interest (and patience) over the past couple of years, and for the support and guidance of Councillor Rawlson King and Erin McCracken throughout this whole process.

*Adrian Di Giovanni is a CCC volunteer and is leading the New Edinburgh Community Garden project.*

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# How to (mostly) eat locally throughout the year

Continued from page 1

a worthwhile investment.

Willingness to adjust menus to reflect the seasonal and stored availability is a key part of the transition toward year-round locavore eating. In my strategic sourcing efforts, I have had a flexible definition of “local.” I admit that when I started this journey more than a decade ago, my “region” encompassed the hemisphere – I tried not to buy anything that originated beyond the overlap of the western and northern hemispheres. Over the years, I have expanded our in-house options and can mostly purchase within the continent.

Not far from us in Manor Park, The Farm Store at 1805 Gaspé provides regionally-sourced food all year. Soon, Beechwood Market will return to Stanley Park every Saturday until October. There are two farms offering CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) vegetable baskets for pick up at the market, Foster Family Farm and Ferme Colibris (organic, formerly Marmelle). Two other organic farms – Agricola Cooperative Farms and Roots and Shoots Farm – deliver CSA vegetable baskets to pickup spots in New Edinburgh weekly or bi-weekly.

Throughout the summer and fall, you can pick your own fruit and vegetables at Proulx Farm, Rideau Pines Farm, Millers Farm, Shouldice Farms, and Orleans Fruit Farm. You can even harvest

apples at nearby orchards.

If you have the space – even a balcony – you can grow your own herbs, vegetables, and some fruit. For those of you who don’t have the outdoor space, stay tuned for the exciting development of a community garden at our very own Stanley Park. Thanks to the sustained commitment of Adrian Di Giovanni and the Crichton Community Council for this addition to the community.

Summer presents abundance throughout Ottawa. There are farm stands, stores, and markets big and small, supplying vegetables, meats, and prepared foods. The challenge is what happens when the days get dark and cold. My solution is to think like a squirrel: collect your food in its prime and stash it away to nourish you through the winter. Buying food at the peak of the season often garners great prices and the best flavours. How you store it depends on your space and style. Freezers, food storage pantries, canners, and dehydrators can all support the effort.

For meat, we are blessed with a neighbourhood butcher shop, Muckleston & Brockwell on Beechwood, which serves up fresh, area-sourced meats. You can also buy whole chicken, beef, pork, and lamb directly from farmers in the region and your freezer becomes your grocery store through the colder months. Ottawa Valley Meats also offers whole or cuts



Photo by Jennifer Manning

The author's garden thriving in May 2025.

from a group of area farms.

Fruit and vegetables purchased or picked in large quantities in season can be canned, frozen, or dehydrated. In our house, we can tomatoes, salsa, tomato sauce, applesauce, peaches, plums and raspberry jam. We freeze chopped onions, peeled garlic cloves, rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, celery, kale, corn, apple pie filling, and winter squash. I also freeze pesto made from the garlic and basil grown in our garden. Many other vegetables can be frozen: summer and fall are a great time to make and freeze full meals as well.

I dry the abundance of herbs, many perennial, that grow in my garden – usually by hanging them in bunches for a few weeks. A dehydrator or a warm

oven will also do the trick. You can dry mint, lemon balm, and anise hyssop for herbal teas, and oregano, parsley, sage, and rosemary for your spice rack. With the dehydrator, I have dried sliced Ontario peaches and apples. Last winter’s dehydrating victory was onion and garlic sourced from Rideau Pines Farm turned to garlic and onion powders. I promise it was easier than you might think!

We do not have to give up on fresh non-root vegetables in the off-season. Our neighbourhood eat-local advocate Chris Penton (President of Ottawa Street Markets, The Farm Store and founder of Beechfest) has the answer! Chris has found a way to supply regionally grown tomatoes, cucumbers, greens, and mushrooms through the

Farm Store’s weekly Ontario Box “with a dash of Quebec.” This box also includes onions, potatoes, carrots, eggs, and bread. In addition to that fantastic hyper-close option, Lufa Farms out of Montreal recently started delivering to homes in Ottawa. Lufa grows produce in urban rooftop greenhouses and sources from regional (mostly Quebec) farmers and producers.

For your staples, it is possible to buy flour, oats, grains, dried beans, chickpeas, and lentils grown in Ontario or Canada. Various stores sell flour and grains and Adonis, a Montreal-based chain on Saint-Laurent Blvd., is a great place to find dried legumes and beans.

Aside from the satisfaction of buying into and ensuring a future for our food economy, locavore eating reduces waste in packaging, saves money, and perhaps most importantly, creates a healthy regional economy and community. Each purchase from a business owner or grower carries with it an important investment in our own neighbourhood and city. While transitioning away from “food from afar” may take time – even years – each step makes a difference. Don’t hesitate to start small and prioritize what works best for you. If you are looking for guidance or have questions, please don’t hesitate to email me at [jmanning@fastmail.fm](mailto:jmanning@fastmail.fm)

*Jennifer Manning lives in New Edinburgh and attempts to live lightly on our planet while participating in a vibrant, sustainable community.*

## Nomination for the 2026 Brick Awards

By Gail McEachern

The BRICK award was conceived by members of the Heritage and Development Committee and adopted by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Board in 2009. Its purpose: to recognize and honour a project on a property in New Edinburgh, either inside or outside the Heritage Conservation District, involving an addition to a building, the restoration of significant architectural elements on an existing house, or a new infill development compatible and sensitive to the surrounding neighbourhood aesthetic.

The original focus was on physical, “bricks and mortar” accomplishments. However,

since its inception, the concept has expanded to include a separate award for a Community Builder: an exceptional person who has generously contributed their time and talents to enriching our community. In 2022, a third category was established to acknowledge someone whose creative abilities have contributed to the enhancement of the natural beauty of New Edinburgh’s streetscapes and green spaces.

Since 2020 the following people have been recipients of the BRICK Award.

**Bricks and Mortar category:**

- Toby Greenbaum and Joel Rotstein for restoration of their front porch at 16 Rideau Terrace.

- Royal Azarm for restoration of a front-gabled house at 34 Union St.

- Alcove Holdings for its “community sensitive” infill development at 189 Stanley Ave.

- Martin Normandeau and Dmytro Hys for meticulous restoration of their heritage-designated house at 51 Crichton St.

**Community Builder category:**

- Isobel Bisby for her enthusiastic energy in spearheading community connections

- Barbara Benoit for her involvement in countless community-enriching projects

- Janet Uren for her dedicated commitment to the value of preserving history

and heritage.

- Christine Grand, owner of the Union Street Kitchen Cafe for creating a welcoming community hub .

- Chris Straka for his leadership role with the Crichton Community Council (CCC) in initiating vibrant programs and activities for all ages

- John Leefe for his continuous generosity as a community volunteer.

- Monique Goffinet and Dean Miller for creating a special landscaped space outside their house to encourage neighbourhood connections.

**Environmental Enhancement category:**

- Chip Hamann, creator of the spectacular gardens in

front of Lansdowne Terrace on MacKay St.

- Any resident of New Edinburgh can nominate a project or individual from any of the three categories by emailing a brief description of the nominee’s positive contribution to the community to: [editor@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:editor@newedinburgh.ca) All submissions will be reviewed by the NECA Board and the winners for 2026 will be announced at NECA’s Annual General Meeting in October.

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

# Beechwood Ave. plans spark discussion as parking efforts continue



**Rawlson King**  
City Councillor, Ward 13

## Beechwood Public Realm

The Beechwood Public Realm Plan continues to generate strong community interest and important conversations about the future of Beechwood Ave. As the project moves forward, we have heard clearly that many residents and businesses are seeking greater clarity about what this process is – and what it is not.

At its core, the project is a long-term visioning and functional design exercise focused on improving public spaces along Beechwood Ave., including sidewalks, cycling facilities, landscaping, trees, lighting, street furniture, and gathering spaces. The goal is to create a safer, more vibrant, and welcoming main street for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Importantly, the project does not dictate or approve private development applications, rezonings, or future planning applications along the corridor. Those proposals continue to be reviewed through the City's existing planning and public consultation processes. The Beechwood Public Realm Plan instead focuses on the public spaces surrounding buildings and helping shape the pedestrian experience along the corridor.

Similarly, the current work does not represent finalized construction plans or immediate street reconstruction decisions. The project remains in an early stage intended to explore ideas, identify opportunities, and gather public feedback before any detailed design work begins.

Concepts related to roadway width, parking, cycling infrastructure, public space, and pedestrian improvements have generated constructive feedback from the community. Residents also raised important questions about traffic flow, accessibility, business impacts, and neighbourhood character, and those points form an important part of the

consultation process.

I recognize that there is still uncertainty within the community regarding the ultimate role, weight, and implementation of the Beechwood Public Realm Plan. My office will continue to work with staff to obtain greater clarity on how the plan may guide the future public realm and infrastructure decisions, and I will continue to communicate those details to residents as the project evolves.

The next phase of the project will present draft functional design concepts and provide additional opportunities for public input. Residents are encouraged to continue participating through [engage.ottawa.ca/beechwood](http://engage.ottawa.ca/beechwood)

## New Edinburgh parking

I would like to provide an update on the ongoing efforts to address parking pressures in New Edinburgh, an issue that continues to affect residents, visitors, and local institutions across the neighbourhood.

Over the past several months, my office has been engaging with Global Affairs Canada and City partners to explore solutions that may help reduce pressure on surrounding residential streets. We are also working to connect these discussions with OC Transpo as part of broader efforts to improve transportation options to this area.

Reliable transit remains a critical part of the long-term solution. My office continues to advocate for improved service on Route 9 and across the east end, while OC Transpo works to stabilize its fleet and improve overall reliability.

At the neighbourhood level, a community-led petition process remains underway. This standard City process allows residents to determine, on a street-by-street basis, whether they wish to introduce measures such as weekday daytime parking limits or residential and guest parking permit programs. Any changes would only proceed

where there is clear support from residents.

While there has been interest in these measures, the process has been progressing slowly due to limited volunteer participation. Additional residents are needed to help circulate petitions and ensure all households have an opportunity to participate and make informed decisions.

I encourage residents interested in helping to contact my office at [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) or 613-580-2483. As always, I also encourage residents to subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter at [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca) to stay informed.

//

## Domaine public de l'avenue Beechwood

Le Plan du domaine public de l'avenue Beechwood continue de susciter un grand intérêt citoyen et des discussions importantes sur l'avenir de cette voie publique. Au fil de l'avancement du projet, il est devenu évident que beaucoup de gens et d'entreprises souhaitent en savoir plus sur la nature du plan et ses limites.

Ce projet est avant tout un exercice de visualisation et de conception fonctionnelle à long terme pour améliorer les espaces publics sur l'avenue Beechwood, notamment les trottoirs, les infrastructures cyclables, l'aménagement paysager, les arbres, l'éclairage, le mobilier urbain et les lieux de rassemblement. L'objectif est de rendre la rue principale plus sécuritaire, dynamique et accueillante pour la population, les entreprises et les visiteurs.

Il convient de noter que le projet n'a aucune incidence sur les demandes d'aménagement privées, le rezonage ou la planification sur ce couloir. Les propositions sont toujours en cours d'examen au titre des processus actuels de planification et de consultation publique de la Ville. Le Plan vise plutôt les espaces publics entourant les bâtiments qui influent sur l'expérience piétonnière à cet endroit.

Les travaux en cours ne constituent pas non plus des plans de construction définitifs ou des décisions de réfection immédiate. Le projet est encore à la phase de recherche d'idées et de possibilités ainsi que d'obtention de commentaires publics. La phase de

conception détaillée viendra après.

La population a fait des commentaires constructifs sur la largeur de la chaussée, le stationnement, l'infrastructure cyclable, l'espace public et les améliorations piétonnières. Mais elle a aussi soulevé des questions importantes concernant la circulation, l'accessibilité, l'incidence sur les entreprises et le caractère du quartier. Ces points font partie intégrante du processus de consultation.

Je comprends que l'incertitude persiste concernant le rôle, l'importance et l'application du Plan du domaine public de l'avenue Beechwood. Mon bureau poursuivra sa collaboration avec le personnel pour mieux comprendre comment ce plan pourrait orienter les décisions à venir concernant le domaine public et les infrastructures. Je continuerai de partager cette information avec la population au fur et à mesure que le projet avancera.

La conception fonctionnelle provisoire sera présentée à la prochaine phase. Le public pourra se prononcer à nouveau. Nous encourageons les résidentes et résidents à continuer de participer sur la page [participons.ottawa.ca/beechwood](http://participons.ottawa.ca/beechwood)

## Stationnement à New Edinburgh

J'aimerais faire le point sur le travail en cours pour régler les problèmes de stationnement à New Edinburgh, un enjeu qui a toujours des répercussions pour la population, les visiteurs et les institutions de tout le quartier.

Dans les derniers mois, mon bureau a collaboré avec Affaires mondiales Canada et les partenaires de la Ville pour

trouver des solutions permettant d'alléger la pression sur les rues résidentielles voisines. Nous essayons aussi de discuter avec OC Transpo dans un effort global pour améliorer les options de transport dans ce secteur.

Un réseau de transport en commun fiable demeure essentiel à la solution à long terme. Mon bureau continue de militer pour l'amélioration du service sur le circuit 9 et partout dans l'est, et OC Transpo s'efforce de stabiliser son parc et d'améliorer sa fiabilité générale.

À l'échelle du quartier, une pétition menée par la communauté est toujours en cours. Ce processus normalisé de la Ville permet aux résidentes et résidents de déterminer, pour chaque rue, si l'on doit instaurer des mesures comme une durée maximale de stationnement de jour en semaine ou des programmes de permis de stationnement pour invité ou résident. Les changements ne seraient apportés qu'avec le plein appui de la population.

Bien que ces mesures aient suscité de l'intérêt, le processus avance lentement vu le peu de participation des bénévoles. Nous sollicitons l'aide d'autres membres de la communauté pour distribuer les pétitions et veiller à ce que tous les ménages puissent participer et prendre des décisions éclairées.

J'encourage les résidentes et résidents qui souhaitent nous aider à communiquer avec mon bureau à [rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca) ou au 613-580-2483. Comme toujours, j'invite les gens à s'abonner à mon bulletin d'information électronique hebdomadaire sur le site [rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://rideau-rockcliffe.ca) pour rester informés.

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# 'BURGH BUSINESS BRIEFS

By Daniel Hébert, Randy Mar, Chris Penton, Karen Squires



Photo by Karen Squires

Beechwood Auto with Manager Carl Desjardins.



Photo by Daniel Hébert

Manager Rachel Mathies, third from right, stands in front of the famous Cheese Wall with the Jacobsons team.

## Farewell to Beechwood Auto after 47 years

Back in 1979 when **Gilles Fortier** started Beechwood BP, it was a full-service station until the name change by his son **Pierre Fortier** in 2004 to **Beechwood Auto**. Pierre worked with his dad from 1991, taking over more work gradually until Gilles retired in 1996. Pierre then managed the full-service operation and became full owner in 2004.

**Carl Desjardins** started working for Pierre in 2007 as lead technician, and since COVID has also staffed the front desk as manager of

operations. Pierre speaks very highly about his entire team and cannot thank them enough for all the great work they've done in this community for so many years. Beechwood Auto has always had both great retention and amazing loyalty from the team. Pierre says that working in this environment was something he cherished every day and he found working with the people in the community to be very rewarding – even providing a great social circle!

Pierre wants to thank everyone in and around this community for all the support they've

given Beechwood Auto for so many years. He says that over the years, he has really felt at home here; his values aligned with the authentic community he experienced. He adds that spending so much time over the years on Beechwood was rewarding: he still shops at Metro and loves the “village feeling.” He has cherished his time on our main street – but all good things come to an end and change is inevitable.

Beechwood Auto will be closing its doors on Jun 30. Take time before then to pop in and say good-bye while experiencing the high quality service provided by the Fortier family for almost five decades! The business has performed very well, but it is time to move on to the next chapter, says Pierre. I speak for many when I say that we will miss having Beechwood Auto on our main street with the personalized service and care provided by Pierre, Carl, and the entire team. We wish you all well and we look forward to knowing what's coming next! –KS

## From year one to twenty, Jacobsons remains a community treasure

The owners of **Jacobsons** proudly (and justifiably) use the motto “Purveyors of Fine Food and Artisan Grocery Items.” Their shelves are filled with exceptional foods from around the world. But how did it all begin? As the *New Edinburgh News* marks our 50th anniversary, a look at long-standing local businesses reveals that Jacobsons, whose journey started over

five decades ago, is in fact about to celebrate its 20th anniversary on Beechwood Ave. Founded by **Susan Jacobson**, this special shop was inspired by a lifelong love of food that began with her specialty food importing business, established over 50 years ago. Encouraged by her friend Eric Cardinal of Mood Moss Flowers, Susan seized an opportunity in April 2006 to open a small food shop at Beechwood and Acacia (now the site of Café Miracle). By September 2006, she expanded into the neighbouring space and began offering cheese and pastries, marking the true beginning of the Jacobsons we know today.

Susan's wholesale company continued as a separate business, sourcing exceptional foods and connecting producers with Canadian retailers, including Jacobsons. About a decade ago, Susan's daughter, **Dominique Jacobson**, and Dominique's husband, **Marcus Minshall**, took over both businesses and continue to lead them with the same family values and love for fine food.

Growing up in the business, Dominique, and now also Marcus, carry on the tradition, travelling to the UK and across Europe to discover new products and special stories around food. As time passed, the business grew, and Dominique and Marcus realized that their rented space was becoming too small. Wanting to stay in the neighbourhood, they purchased a property down the street and built a new space to

meet the store's unique needs. In December 2019, Jacobsons relocated to 103 Beechwood Ave., their current location and forever home.

As you stroll the aisles today, you can find a variety of items for your cheese and charcuterie boards, an outstanding selection of patisseries, fine grocery items, and unique gifts and accents for your kitchen or table. Not only is Jacobsons known throughout the city for its cut-to-order Cheese Wall, but they have a beloved “Cheese of the Month Club.” Each month, their expert cheesemonger carefully curates a surprise selection, often bringing in special cheeses just for members. On the first Thursday of each month, members receive a curated box of artisan cheeses, accoutrements, and tasting notes to enjoy.

To mark 20 years since they first opened their doors, Jacobsons will hold several events, with something special coming in September.

If you'd like to share your love of fine food with friends and family, Jacobsons also offers Canada-wide shipping. The store is open seven days a week; opening times range from 9-10 am and closing times from 5-7 pm. Visitors are encouraged to check the website for the most up-to-date hours before planning their visit. –DH

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



## This space could be yours

Your support helps us share the news of local happenings. This year, our reach has increased throughout New Edinburgh, Manor Park, Lindenlea, Rockcliffe, and Vanier.

Join us in celebrating your business during our 50th anniversary year!

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

## Beechwood Patio Pathway

Time again for our annual guide to local patios, starting at the Rideau Falls, meandering down Crichton, crossing Beechwood, and finishing back along the Ottawa River.

Here's the 2026 list, with details on seating capacity, pet-friendliness, availability of shade/sun, and much more:

**Tavern on the Falls** is one of the highlights along the 10-kilometre route, with spectacular views up and down the Ottawa River and featuring their unique take on hot dogs. Entering its eighth year of seasonal operation, it attracts tourists as well as locals who head there to relax and enjoy the casual atmosphere.

1 John St. (at Sussex) | 275 seats; sun and shade; child-friendly | 7 days, 11 or 11:30 to late | [thetavern.ca](http://thetavern.ca)

**Union Street Café** is tucked away in a converted space at the corner of Crichton and Union and features a variety of pastries, sandwiches, coffee and tea, and takeaway treats.

42 Crichton St. | 18 seats; sun and shade; unlicensed; pet-friendly; child-friendly | Mon. 8 am–2 pm; Tue–Fri 8 am–5 pm; Sat & Sun 9 am–5 pm | [onunionstreet.ca](http://onunionstreet.ca)

**The Royal Oak** at the “four corners” boasts one of the largest and most popular patios, offering shaded seating with the full Royal Oak menu. Patrons are greeted by the distinctive blue Corona umbrellas and can choose among seating for 60 at either high-tops or tables. Look for your favourite pub offerings like burgers, wings, fish ‘n chips, wraps, and salads. The full range of Molson products are on tap, as are local brews and other spirits, along with non-alcoholic beverages. The annual mid-summer Lobsterfest is eagerly awaited by shellfish lovers.

1 Beechwood | 60 seats; sun and shade | 7 days, 11 am to closing | [royaloakpubs.com](http://royaloakpubs.com) | 613-680-1130

**Café Sachi's @ Beechwood** is located just off Beechwood, fronting onto Charlevoix. While no details of a possible patio setup were available at printing, outdoor patios have been a fixture at this corner dating back to when Café Dhruvees and the Ministry of Coffee occupied this space.

18 Beechwood | sun and shade; child-friendly | Mon–Fri 7 am–7 pm; Sat 8 am–7 pm; Sun 8 am–5 pm | [cafesachis.com](http://cafesachis.com)



Photo by Randy Mar

**Mr Poke patio is ready for the 2026 summer season!**

ca | 613-223-9966

**Starbucks** on the ground floor at Minto residences offers their usual range of coffees, beverages, pastries, and sandwiches.

409 MacKay St. | 14 seats; shade; pet-friendly; child friendly | Mon–Fri 5:30 am–7 pm; Sat & Sun 6:30 am–7 pm | [starbucks.com](http://starbucks.com) | 343-997-5818

**The Clocktower Brew Pub** has been one of the longest serving patios in the neighbourhood, located just steps off Beechwood beside Books on Beechwood and the SconeWitch. Offerings include a range of in-house local brews, traditional pub grub, and other choices including Thai and Wellness Bowls. Dogs are welcome!

422 MacKay St. | 55 seats; sheltered and shaded; dog-friendly | Mon–Fri 11:30 am to close; Sat & Sun 11 am to close | [clocktower.ca](http://clocktower.ca) | 613-742-3169

**Edinburger** is ready for a second summer, with its fenced “around-the-corner” patio. The menu features grass-fed smash and gourmet burgers, with vegan and gluten-free options, dipping sauces, milkshakes, fries, and gourmet hot dogs – all available for enjoying outdoors this summer! Local and regional craft beer is available.

1 Springfield Ave. | 20 seats; sun and shade; child-friendly | 7 days, 11 am–9 pm | [edinburger.ca](http://edinburger.ca) | 343-588-1467

**Beechwood Diner/La Taqueria/Scoops Ice Cream Parlour** offers a variety of eating experiences unrivalled along Beechwood. While there is no outdoor seating, patrons have been spotted sitting in the

sunshine on the balcony and leaning against the iron railings on a recent weekend.

55 Beechwood Ave. | Sun/shade; child-friendly | [beechwooddiner.com](http://beechwooddiner.com) | 343-588-3152

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

62 Barrette St. | 12 seats; shaded; unlicensed | Mr Poke: Mon–Sat 11:30 am–10 pm; Sun CLOSED | JnJ Bakery: Tue–Sat 7 am–5 pm; Sun 9 am–3 pm; Sun CLOSED 613-869-5547 / 613-489-0564

**Red Door Provisions** has completed their move: the vastly expanded space and more modern interior retains all its ambiance and preservation kitchen focus. Its sister bakery, Café Palmier, is located in Chelsea.

86 Beechwood Ave. | 22 seats; sun and shade; child-friendly | Mon–Fri 7 am–6 pm; Sat & Sun 8 am–6 pm | [reddoorprovisions.com](http://reddoorprovisions.com) | 613-695-6804

**Linden** is new to the patio game, but not the food scene. Owner Tracey Clark is enthused about welcoming new and returning patrons to the combined 400 square feet of patio space, saying: “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



Photo by Karen Squires

**Café Miracle owner Ozlem Aslan with Becca and Bianka plus resident Carole Seguin with her dog Coco enjoying the shaded area.**

deck and lower level patio as the warmer weather arrives.” The sheltered, southwest-facing space has a walkout upper level with banquette and regular seating for up to 22, while the lower, accessible level can accommodate up to six.

119 Beechwood Ave. | 28 seats; sun and shade; pet-friendly; child friendly | Mon–Wed 5–8:30 pm; Thu–Sun 5–8 pm | [lindenpizza.ca](http://lindenpizza.ca) | 613-913-7997

**Bridgehead** patrons have enjoyed coffees, baked goods, and sandwiches on a long-established shaded patio. It offers water for thirsty dogs, and provides bike racks.

131 Beechwood Ave. | 30 seats; sun and shade; dog-friendly | 7 days, 6 am–7:30 pm | [bridgehead.ca](http://bridgehead.ca) | 613-744-3735

**Café Miracle** opened last summer and has been a popular and welcoming space at the corner of Acacia and Beechwood. (For more on Café Miracle, see the February 2026 edition of *New Edinburgh News*.)

141 Beechwood Ave. | 14 seats; sun and shade; pet-friendly; child-friendly | Sun–Tue 8 am–5:30 pm; Wed–Thu 7 am–5:30 pm; Fri–Sat. 7 am–8:30 pm | 613-663-2233

**The Soca Kitchen** is back hosting another patio season. Located in the courtyard of the Kavanaugh condominium complex, Soca offers a quiet respite and memorable dining in a shady, sheltered space.

224 Beechwood Ave. | 24 seats; sun and shade | Mon–Sat 5–9 pm; Sun 6–8 pm | [thesocakitchen.ca](http://thesocakitchen.ca) | 613-695-9190

**The NCC River House** patio wraps around three sides

of the renovated, century-old heritage boathouse and offers panoramic views of the Ottawa River. Most tables are set for only two or three, but views are well worth the stop! The Café & Bistro offer a variety of baked goods, sandwiches, craft beers, and Bridgehead coffee. The eastern bike path passes right by the River House, with a switchback path running to the lower level and bike racks. Don't forget the swimming area as part of the visit!

501 Sir Georges-Etienne Cartier Parkway | 82 seats; sun and shade | [ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/ncc-river-house](http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/ncc-river-house) | Jun 1–Sep 1, 7 days 9 am–9 pm | 613-239-5000

So, with a 15-stop, 2.5-kilometre Patio Pathway, plus another 1.9 kilometres to the NCC River House, where will you choose to spend a leisurely hour or two?

Keep an eye out for activities at your favourite hangout. Of course, other places along Beechwood may not have patios, but also offer respite and a chance to relax and stretch the legs over cooling beverages and munchies.

City permit fees for restaurant patios returned to pre-pandemic rates this summer, so let's get out and support neighbourhood businesses! – RM

*Editor's Note: Tavern at the Gallery and Tavern on the Hill are also nearby patio options in unique locations within walking distance of New Edinburgh under same ownership as Tavern on the Falls.*

## Welcome, Electric Gallery!

In the December 2025 edition of the 'Burgh Business Briefs, we sadly bid farewell to the lovely **Luna Glass Studio** located at the corner of Crichton St. and Electric St. Luckily, in June 2026, our neighbourhood will welcome a new studio called **Electric Gallery**. Co-owners **Lily Woolner** and **Robin Clugston** are pleased to be opening a new contemporary art gallery at 299 Crichton St., a location that has been dedicated to the fine arts for the past four decades. The owners of the building, Peter Honeywell and Rose Mary Plet Chapman had a vision to respect the architectural structure of the building and retain the original intent of street-front interaction with the community, and they are delighted to continue that journey with Robin and Lily.

Lily and Robin first met at age 15 while attending Canterbury High School, an arts magnet school. They

have been friends for over 20 years and opening this gallery is a dream come true for them. This new contemporary art gallery in the heart of New Edinburgh aims to be an accessible, community-rooted space where artists, anywhere in their career, can show their work in a professional gallery setting. The gallery is currently accepting submissions for future programming, focusing on contemporary painting, especially from local artists, but they are open to reviewing anything.

The gallery's Grand Opening will take place Jun. 12, featuring a group exhibition of approximately a dozen artists, on display through Aug. 2. Each artist will present a curated selection of their finest work. The gallery plans to host an annual group exhibition each June, complemented by eight solo exhibitions throughout the year. The gallery will close briefly between shows



Photo by Daniel Hébert

Co-owners Robin Clugston (left) and Lillian Woolner (right) of the Electric Gallery stand proudly before their storefront as it was getting a make-over prior to the grand opening on June 12.

to allow for transitions and installations.

Notably, more than half of the artists in the inaugural group exhibition are local, drawn from the surrounding

neighbourhood. Although the gallery will feature mostly Canadian artists, they are open to artists from all over the world. They will keep their website and Instagram

updated with the opening hours. In keeping with the gallery's focus on showcasing local artists, all paintings will remain on display for the duration of the exhibition. Accordingly, purchased works will be available for pickup at the end of the show, rather than on the day of purchase.

Lily and Robin are very appreciative of the warm welcome they've received from the neighbourhood and especially the local artists who have already submitted their work. They are looking for artists for upcoming programming for both solo and group shows. If you are an artist, especially in the early-to-mid stages of your career, they would love to hear from you and see your work.

Electric Gallery | 299 Crichton St. | Tue, Thu, Sun 9 am–noon; Wed, Fri, Sat: noon–4 pm | electricgallery.ca | Instagram: @electricgalleryottawa –DH

## Honouring Indigenous waterways: The 2026 Chief Pinesi Paddle

By Carl Griffin

For the third consecutive year, Kichi Sibi Trails is organizing the Chief Pinesi Paddle: a six-day commemorative journey that honours Algonquin Chief Pierre-Louis Constant Pinesi, whose hunting grounds were situated along the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers near Rideau Falls in the early 1800s. The 180-kilometre trip follows traditional water routes and highlights the responsibilities of caring for the Kichi Sibi (Ottawa River) and connected waterways.

The paddle begins at noon on Jul. 5 at the Museum of History and concludes Jul. 10 on the Kahnawà:ke reserve south of Montreal on the eve



Photo courtesy Carl Griffin

Chief Pinesi Paddle begins July 5th (for 6 days) to honour Algonquin Chief Pierre-Louis Constant Pinesi.

of the Kahnawà:ke Pow-Wow.

This year, 34 paddlers will travel in three canoes, bringing together participants from multiple Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities,

and supporters who have been invited to learn and paddle together. The route reflects longstanding seasonal Indigenous travel on the Ottawa, Rideau, and St. Lawrence river systems.

Kichi Sibi Trails President Wendy Jocko, former Chief of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation at Golden Lake, emphasizes

the purpose of the journey: "Our goal is to preserve the traditional knowledge of these waterways and foster a deeper understanding between communities through shared experiences on the water. Each stroke of our paddles connects us to the spirit of Chief Pinesi and all those who traveled these waters before us. Every ripple, every bend in the river,

carries whispers of our history and reminds us of our responsibility to protect and honour these sacred pathways."

### Local connections in New Edinburgh

New Edinburgh continues to support learning about the history of the area. Trails at New Edinburgh Park include interpretive signs created by Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg artist Simon Brascoupe. Additionally, the Fieldhouse mural was created by Algonquin artist Doreen Stevens, who is participating in the paddle for the second time this year.

### How to support the paddle

Neighbors are welcome to gather at the Museum of History Jul. 5 at noon to see the canoes launch, or to connect with the group at stops along the route. Full itinerary details are available at [kichisibiancienttrails.ca](http://kichisibiancienttrails.ca)

Note: Due to the timing of this year's expedition, there will be no Chief Pinesi Day on Jul. 1 in Stanley Park. We look forward to the return of this community event in 2027 and thank you for your ongoing support.

Carl Griffin is a member of the Kichi Sibi Trails board. He provides shore support, photography, and communications for the annual Chief Pinesi Paddle.



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# Happy 50th Anniversary!



**Lucille Collard**  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

As the *New Edinburgh News* marks 50 years of telling local stories, my previous article looked back on the legacy of Bernard Grandmaître, who served as MPP for Ottawa East from 1984 to 1999. His death on Oct. 28, 2025, was deeply felt in Ottawa and across Franco-Ontarian communities.

It is also worth remembering another important political figure: Claudette Boyer, who represented Ottawa-Vanier in the Ontario Legislature from June 1999 to October 2003. Elected as a Liberal and later serving as an Independent, Claudette Boyer holds a distinct place in Ontario history as the first francophone woman elected to the provincial Legislature.

Before entering provincial politics, Claudette had already built a long record of public service in education and Franco-Ontarian community life. Born and raised in Ottawa, she studied at the University of Ottawa and worked as a teacher for roughly 30 years. She was active in major education organizations, including the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), the Ontario Teachers' Federation, and the Canadian Teachers Federation. She also served as a school trustee and was active in Franco-Ontarian organizations, which helped make her a well-known figure in Ottawa-Vanier.

At Queen's Park, she served as Liberal critic for Francophone Affairs and Women's Issues, and she also sat on the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills. Those roles reflected the areas for which she became best known: defending French-language rights and services, and speaking for community issues affecting Ottawa-Vanier.

Her most significant private member's bill was Bill 79, the

City of Ottawa Amendment Act, 2000. Through that bill, Claudette tried to have the province formally recognize official bilingualism in Ottawa. She argued that the national capital should reflect Canada's linguistic duality in law as well as in practice. The bill received second reading debate in June 2000, but was defeated.

While Bill 79 failed, Claudette did achieve success through a different legislative route. In 2002, she introduced a private member's resolution concerning *Télévision Française de l'Ontario* (TFO). The resolution called on the government to consider giving TFO greater autonomy through a separate French-language section of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority board, with responsibility for French-language programming and resources. This motion passed, showing that Claudette could still influence debate and win support in the House on matters tied to French-language institutions.

Boyer's committee work also mattered. She helped review what became the Arthur Wishart Act (Franchise Disclosure), 2000, a consumer-protection law requiring franchisors to disclose key financial and legal information to prospective buyers.

Outside formal bills and resolutions, the strongest recurring theme in Boyer's record was her defence of French-language services. In the Legislature, she pressed the government on issues such as Montfort Hospital, Collège d'Alfred, and the broader application of the French Language Services Act.

A necessary part of her story is the reason she ended up sitting as an Independent and ultimately left politics. In 2001, she pled guilty to obstruction of justice in relation to a 1999 incident involving her husband. The matter

damaged her standing within the party and effectively ended her future as a Liberal candidate.

After leaving provincial politics, Boyer remained active in Franco-Ontarian community life. In 2004, she received the Prix anniversaire from the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens in recognition of her years of service, and in 2007 she became president of the Ottawa chapter of the *Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario*. After suffering a stroke in August 2011, her health declined. She died at

transparency, more centralized power, and more pressure on Ontarians already struggling with affordability.

One of the most controversial measures is Bill 97, the Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026. Although presented as a budget bill, it includes amendments to Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The change is especially concerning because it applies retroactively to 1988: even people who had already filed requests, won access orders, or obtained decisions requiring disclosure now lose

governance.

A strong, fair, and prosperous society begins with education. If we want our children to succeed, academically and mentally, we must invest in schools in ways that truly meet their needs. Yet we are seeing concerning trends across Ontario schools: increased violence, rising absenteeism, and growing mental health challenges. These are signs that too many students are struggling, and that we need to address the root causes.

Students thrive in environments where they feel safe, supported, and inspired. That means ensuring access to teachers, educational assistants, and mental health supports, as well as creating inclusive and nurturing school environments. These are not extras, they are essential to student success.

While accountability in education is important, this bill focuses heavily on centralizing decision-making at Queen's Park and weakening the role of locally elected school trustees. Unfortunately, this does little to address the real challenges students face in classrooms every day. Local voices matter, and meaningful investments in student well-being must be at the heart of any reform.

If we want a better society tomorrow, we must invest in our children today.

Students are also facing changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program, or OSAP, through the 2026 budget. The government says the changes are needed to improve the program's long-term sustainability. In practice, they shift OSAP toward a more loan-based model, reduce the role of grants and make postsecondary education harder to afford for students who already rely on financial aid. These measures will increase student debt and create new barriers for lower-income students at a time when housing and living costs are already high.

Closer to home, residents can also mark their calendars for my annual corn roast, scheduled for Jul. 25 from 11 am to 1 pm at Stanley Park. Learn more: [lucillecollardmpp.ca/news](http://lucillecollardmpp.ca/news)

**Corn Roast**  
**Épluchette de blé d'inde**  
Saturday July 25  
samedi le 25 juillet  
parc Stanley Park  
183 ave Stanley Ave  
New Edinburgh  
11:00 - 13:00

maquillage pour enfants  
foire artisanale  
musique live

face painting  
vendor fair  
live music

Lucille COLLARD  
MPP Ottawa-Vanier

BEECHWOOD Market

Photo courtesy Lucille Collard's office

Enjoy some corn from MPP Lucille Collard on July 25.

Montfort Hospital in Ottawa in 2013 at the age of 75.

Whatever the limits of her political career, Boyer helped open space for francophone women in Ontario politics and remained committed to the institutions and communities she had spent decades serving.

## Regular Riding Update

As the Legislature's spring session continues, I've been raising concerns about a series of government bills and policy changes that, taken together, point to a troubling trend: less

that right. In plain terms, the bill gives the government a new legal tool to keep politically sensitive records out of public view.

Education is another major topic at Queen's Park these days. Bill 101, the Putting Student Achievement First Act, expands provincial control over student assessment. Attendance will be reflected in grades and the minister will have broader authority over board budgets, expenses, educational materials and

# Ottawa Riverkeeper summer program

By Leah Smith

Get ready to make a splash this summer! With warm weather heading our way, we're all thinking about spending time at our favourite rivers, creeks, beaches, and lakes. Which one are you most excited to visit?

To make the most of your summer in the Ottawa River watershed, Ottawa Riverkeeper is thrilled to share our top three ways to connect with the river. Let's dive in!

## Get hands-on at the Learning Lab!

Located on the lower level of the National Capital Commission (NCC) River House, Ottawa Riverkeeper's Learning Lab is home to interactive exhibits geared towards youth and the young at heart! Check out a touch-and-feel station about river otters, a hand-made traditional Algonquin birchbark canoe, new murals from the Three Sisters Artist Collective, and peek into our Science Lab to see water scientists at work!

Free admission and daily hands-on activities make the Learning Lab a perfect place for a fun and educational family outing. Subscribe to the



Participants at the Learning Lab at the NCC River House.

Photo by Maxime Chaumont-Lessard

Ottawa Riverkeeper newsletter using the QR code below or follow our social channels – @ottawariverkeeper.gardriviere on Instagram; ottawa.riverkeeper on Facebook – for up-to-date info on activities at the Learning Lab.

**Learning Lab Hours**  
 May 29–Jun. 18 | Fri–Sun 11 am–5 pm  
 Jun. 18–Sep. 7 | Thu– Sun 11 am–5 pm

## Join the chat at Current Conversations!

School might be out, but we believe learning is a lifelong journey! Current Conversations is an evening speaker series where we take deep-dives into all kinds of river-themed topics. Swap out happy hour for a fascinating discussion and join us in the Learning Lab after hours. This summer's events will explore books that inspire kids to become environmental stewards; outdoor swimming as a way to build healthier cities; underwater photography; and poetry about rivers. These events are geared to an adult audience, but are open to all ages.

Mark your calendars and subscribe to the Ottawa Riverkeeper newsletter using the QR code above to snag your tickets. They will sell out, so act early!

**Upcoming Current Conversations Dates**  
 Wed., Jun. 10  
 Wed., Jun. 24  
 Wed., Aug. 19  
 Wed., Sep. 2



QR Code to sign up for Ottawa Riverkeeper's newsletter

## Lend a hand at a Shoreline Cleanup

Want to give back to your community while spending time by the water? Take action against pollution and join an Ottawa Riverkeeper Shoreline Cleanup this summer. Why is it important to remove litter from the shorelines? Cleanups are effective in:

- preventing such local species as river otters, ducks, and

geese from eating hazardous materials;

- removing plastics and waste before they fragment into microplastics, which is key to protecting aquatic ecosystems and human health; and
- safeguarding the Ottawa River to make sure it continues to be swimmable, fishable, and drinkable for generations to come.

We kicked off this year's cleanup season at an event with our friends at New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) on Apr. 18 in Stanley Park. More than 100 volunteers at this event helped us remove 308 lbs of waste from the shorelines – and you can be part of our next cleanup. Get a group of friends, family, or colleagues together, and spend time giving back to the river that gives us so much!

Scan the QR Code to sign up for our Volunteer Newsletter where we'll be sharing upcoming cleanup dates and registration info.



QR Code for the Ottawa Riverkeeper Volunteer Newsletter

## Organize your own shoreline cleanup!

Ottawa Riverkeeper loans out our shoreline cleanup kits for free through our WaterSHED loan program. Search "Ottawa Riverkeeper WaterSHED loan" on your browser of choice: you'll find our WaterSHED loan page where you can send a request. We'll help you with all the details to make a difference in your neighbourhood!

These are just a few of the countless ways to connect with the Ottawa River this summer! We are so lucky to have this waterway winding through the heart of our city, and we hope you'll join us at these activities to learn more and enjoy all that the river gives us.

See you on the shoreline!  
 Leah Smith is the Fundraising and Outreach Coordinator with Ottawa Riverkeeper. She is passionate about the Ottawa River watershed and enjoys inspiring the community to connect with this precious freshwater ecosystem.



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Come visit and shop in person at the Farm Store at 1805 Gaspé Ave. The store is open SIX days a week. Monday through Friday 3pm–6pm. Saturday 9am–4pm.

You can shop online anytime with several pickup locations and local delivery available.

To shop online and more visit [www.ottstreetmarkets.ca](http://www.ottstreetmarkets.ca)

## Ottawa Cat Show

A cat lover's haven...

**Sept 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Nepean Sportsplex  
9:00 am - 4:30 pm



Get ready for the purr-fect weekend, where feline lovers come together to celebrate all things cats!

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



Please note only those cats registered in the show may enter the show hall

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# Summer update from MP Mona Fortier



**Mona Fortier**  
Ottawa-Vanier MP

Over the past year, Canadians have navigated a world that is rapidly changing and increasingly fragmented.

In response, the Government of Canada is focusing on what we can control — building a stronger, more independent, and more resilient economy here at home.

We are acting with speed and ambition to diversify Canada's trade, build major infrastructure, housing, and industries, and support Canadians by making life more affordable.

The Spring 2026 Economic Update represents the next step in our plan to build a strong Canada for everyone. Our plan clearly outlines Canada's financial position and provides Canadians with certainty and confidence in our future, while advancing

our core missions: building the major infrastructure that connects our economy, equipping Canadians by lowering the cost of everyday essentials, and protecting our communities, our sovereignty, our borders, and our way of life.

Our new government is demonstrating fiscal discipline: we have reduced the projected 2025–2026 deficit by more than \$11 billion. The Spring 2026 Economic Update ensures that all Canadians can take part in building a strong Canada and share in its benefits.

We are building a Canada that is not only strong, but also compassionate. Not only prosperous, but also fair. A Canada for everyone, at all times.

The Government of Canada is introducing measures to

ease everyday expenses and support the well-being of families.

Families continue to benefit from essential federal programs. The Canada Child Benefit was increased this year, with payments of up to \$7,997 per child under the age of six and \$6,748 for children aged six to seventeen.

The National School Food Program, now permanent, provides nutritious meals to more than 400,000 children across Canada.

The Canadian Dental Care Plan supports eligible Canadians without private insurance whose adjusted family net income is under \$90,000, making essential dental care more accessible and affordable. In the riding of Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester, 22,087 people are enrolled in the program.

The government is also announcing an enhanced one-time GST/HST credit payment, scheduled for June 5, 2026, in preparation for the new Canadian Grocery and Essentials Benefit. This payment could provide up to \$1,890 for a family and up to

\$950 for a single individual, helping more than 12 million Canadians cope with the rising cost of living.

During this challenging period, the Government of Canada announced a temporary suspension of the federal excise tax on gasoline and diesel across the country. Since Apr. 20, 2026, this suspension has been in effect until Sep. 7, 2026, reducing fuel costs by approximately 10 cents per litre for gasoline and 4 cents per litre for diesel. The government is also temporarily suspending the excise tax on aviation fuel.

To support youth employment, the Canada Summer Jobs program will create 100,000 jobs nationwide. In the riding of Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester, this represents 540 jobs with 167 employers, providing young people with meaningful work experience. This represents \$2.53 million in wages.

This is a direct investment in the next generation: giving our youth the opportunity to gain experience, develop their skills, and build their future

right here at home.

From Jun. 19 to Sep. 7, 2026, the Canada Strong Pass will return for a second year to help residents of the National Capital Region discover their region and the rest of the country at a lower cost.

The program will offer free admission to Parks Canada sites, discounts on overnight stays at its facilities, and free admission to several museums across Canada.

Children and young adults aged 24 and under will also be able to travel for free or at reduced fares through VIA Rail Canada services, making it easier to travel from the National Capital Region to cities across Canada.

Summer 2026 is shaping up to be the perfect opportunity to travel differently by choosing Canada.

Let us continue to support one another, uplift our community organizations, and celebrate the community that makes Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester such a wonderful place to live. If you need to contact our office, please do not hesitate to reach us at 613-998-1860 or

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Chères résidentes, chers résidents,

Au cours de la dernière année, les Canadiens et Canadiennes ont navigué dans un monde en pleine mutation et de plus en plus fragmenté.

En réponse, le nouveau gouvernement du Canada se concentre sur ce que nous pouvons contrôler — bâtir une économie plus forte, plus indépendante et plus résiliente ici, au pays.

Nous agissons avec rapidité et ambition pour diversifier le commerce du Canada, bâtir de grandes infrastructures, des logements et des industries, et soutenir les Canadiens et Canadiennes en rendant la vie plus abordable.

La Mise à jour économique du printemps 2026 constitue la prochaine étape de notre plan visant à bâtir un Canada fort pour tous. Notre plan fait le point de manière claire sur la situation financière du Canada et offre aux Canadiens et Canadiennes une certitude et une confiance en notre avenir, tout en faisant progresser nos missions fondamentales : bâtir les grandes infrastructures qui

relient notre économie, outiller les Canadiens et Canadiennes en réduisant les coûts des produits essentiels du quotidien, et protéger nos collectivités, notre souveraineté, nos frontières et notre mode de vie.

Notre nouveau gouvernement fait preuve de rigueur budgétaire : nous avons réduit notre déficit prévu pour 2025–2026 de plus de 11 milliards de dollars. La Mise à jour économique du printemps 2026 veille à ce que tous les Canadiens et Canadiennes puissent participer à bâtir un Canada fort et en partager les retombées.

Nous bâtissons un Canada qui est non seulement fort, mais aussi bon. Non seulement prospère, mais aussi juste. Un Canada pour tous, en tout temps.

Le gouvernement du Canada met en place des mesures pour alléger les dépenses quotidiennes et soutenir le bien-être des familles.

Les familles continuent de bénéficier de programmes fédéraux essentiels. La Prestation canadienne pour enfants a été bonifiée cette année, avec des montants pouvant atteindre 7 997 \$ par

enfant de moins de six ans et 6 748 \$ pour les enfants âgés de six à 17 ans.

Le Programme national d'alimentation scolaire, désormais permanent, offre des repas nutritifs à plus de 400 000 enfants à travers le Canada.

Le Régime canadien de soins dentaires soutient les Canadiens admissibles n'ayant pas d'assurance privée et dont le revenu familial net est inférieur à 90 000 \$, afin de rendre les soins essentiels plus accessibles et abordables. Dans la circonscription d'Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester, 22 087 personnes sont inscrites au programme.

Le gouvernement annonce aussi un paiement ponctuel bonifié du crédit pour la TPS/TVH, prévu le 5 juin 2026, en préparation de la nouvelle Allocation canadienne pour l'épicerie et les besoins essentiels. Ce paiement peut atteindre jusqu'à 1 890 \$ pour une famille et jusqu'à 950 \$ pour une personne seule et vise à aider plus de 12 millions de Canadiens à faire face au coût de la vie.

En cette période difficile, le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé la suspension

temporaire de la taxe d'accise fédérale sur l'essence et le diesel partout au pays. Depuis le 20 avril 2026, cette suspension s'applique jusqu'au 7 septembre 2026, réduisant la facture à la station-service d'environ 10 cents le litre pour l'essence et 4 cents le litre pour le diesel. Le gouvernement suspend aussi temporairement la taxe d'accise sur les carburants d'aviation.

Afin de soutenir l'emploi des jeunes, le programme Emplois d'été Canada créera 100 000 emplois à l'échelle nationale. Dans la circonscription d'Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester, cela représente 540 emplois auprès de 167 employeurs, offrant aux jeunes une expérience de travail concrète. Ceci représente 2,53 millions de dollars en salaires.

C'est un investissement direct dans la prochaine génération : permettre à nos jeunes d'acquérir de l'expérience, de développer leurs compétences et de bâtir leur avenir ici même, chez nous.

Du 19 juin au 7 septembre 2026, le laissez-passer Un Canada fort sera de retour pour une deuxième année afin d'aider les citoyens de la capitale nationale à découvrir

leur région et le reste du pays à moindre coût.

Le programme offrira l'entrée gratuite aux sites de Parcs Canada, des rabais sur les nuitées dans ses installations, ainsi que des droits d'entrée gratuits dans plusieurs musées partout au Canada.

Les enfants et les jeunes adultes de 24 ans et moins pourront aussi voyager gratuitement ou à tarif réduit grâce aux services de VIA Rail Canada, facilitant les déplacements depuis la capitale nationale vers plusieurs villes canadiennes.

L'été 2026 s'annonce comme une occasion idéale de voyager autrement en choisissant le Canada.

Continuons de nous soutenir mutuellement, d'appuyer nos organismes communautaires et de célébrer la communauté qui fait d'Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester un endroit qui fait bon vivre. Si vous avez besoin de communiquer avec notre bureau, n'hésitez pas à nous joindre au 613-998-1860 ou à mona.fortier@parl.gc.ca



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# Crichton Community Council Summer Report



**By Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse**

After a long winter, spring has finally decided to show itself in the neighbourhood. The Crichton Community Council (CCC) continues to bring the community together for various events over the spring and summer.

The Open Mic series continues to be a great success, with the latest event held on Apr. 11. Many thanks to community resident Susan Sweeney for leading the events. We are calling on all musicians to keep an eye out for the next event to join in the fun!

On May 2, the community celebrated another Bike Day. Thanks to community residents Paola Zurro and Greg Northey for bringing the event back and making it such a success. We are fortunate to have

such a wonderful network of cycling paths through our neighbourhood, which we celebrated with a “Kidical Mass” family bike ride. Many thanks to Eugénie Waters and other volunteers for coordinating this year’s ride. Bike Ottawa was on site to provide information on their cycling advocacy work, and residents could try out a cargo bike from Let’s Go Cargo Bike Rentals. Many thanks to Full Cycle for their expert bike repairs, and to Manor Park Brewing, Taco Bout It and Union Street Café for their food and drink. The CCC had a successful bicycle sale and many bikes were also donated to Vélo Vanier.

As tradition would have it, many came to the park on May 9 to pick up flowers and seedlings just in time for Mother’s



*Photo courtesy of Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse*

**Gabrielle and Léona managed a lemonade stand at the plant sale which everyone appreciated - well done!**

Day. It was a nice opportunity to pick up floral baskets while out on a walk through the park. Ferme Lève-Tot and Vesna’s Seedlings were on site selling seedlings to help kick-start our vegetable gardens. Adrian Di Giovanni presented the CCC initiative to bring a community garden to New Edinburgh Park. Christine of Union Street Café was on site with her delicious treats. This year’s Mother’s Day Plant Pot Painting activity for children

was a great success. The activity was coordinated by Tea & Trending, a new local startup dedicated to bringing neighbours together to learn, make friends, and have fun. To learn more about their upcoming offerings, email [teaandtrending@gmail.com](mailto:teaandtrending@gmail.com) to join their mailing list.

The musical programming continued at the Fieldhouse on May 23, with an evening of soul blues from excellent new Ottawa musician Almyr Jules.

Check him out and encourage a great local act. Thanks to our volunteers that make the evenings possible. Stay tuned for the next act in our concert series. Unfortunately, due to insurance and permitting reasons outside of the control of the CCC, we have had to sunset our local Canada Day fireworks. We hope to enjoy the Parliament fireworks with you along the Rideau River pathway.

The board of directors will share their reports at the Annual General Meeting, June 10 at 7:30 pm We welcome your input and ideas to improve our offering to the community. If you’re interested in participating in local events, but aren’t sure where to start, this would be a great place to find out.

For more upcoming events, check out the *New Edinburgh News* Events listings and check the CCC website for latest updates: [newedinburgh.ca/ccc](http://newedinburgh.ca/ccc)

*Alain-Rémi Lajeunesse is a board member of the Crichton Community Council.*

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# Vehicle engine idling: Just don't do it

By Chris Penton

Most of us have done it: sitting in the car scrolling through memes and videos while the engine hums like a very expensive, very toxic heater (or A/C unit). You justify it by convincing yourself that it's only for a short time, but it never is. If environmental destruction offered an individualized weapon, it would be engine idling.

## Capital idling

According to Ottawa Public Health, idling a vehicle for 10 minutes can waste up to half a litre of fuel. Every litre of gasoline consumed produces 2.3 kg of carbon dioxide. There is a lot of math to do here in order to explain how this number directly affects us; sadly, I am not the man for the job. I'll offer only that every kilogram of pointless CO<sub>2</sub> emission is a kilogram too much.

City staff estimate that if every light- and medium-duty vehicle in Ottawa reduced its daily idling by just two minutes, it would cut carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 31.2 million kilograms over one year. Again, what does that mean? 31.2 million kg is roughly 1 per cent of Ottawa's total transportation emissions. That is significant.

New, stiffer anti-idling by-laws were introduced at the beginning of 2025. To date, there have been 288 complaints, 8 charges laid, 10 written warnings and 19 verbal warnings. All noble efforts on the part of By-law, but how does anyone expect this to effectively be enforced?

## Idle health

Idling exhaust sticks around at ground level, meaning the people closest to it – kids, the elderly, pedestrians minding their own business – get an involuntary lung workout.

You know that feeling when you walk past an idling car and instantly regret all your life choices? Your throat tightens,



Photo courtesy City of Ottawa

**Please be mindful of added carbon emissions caused by idling and consider other options wherever possible to improve air quality for everyone!**

your eyes water, and your soul briefly leaves your body?

Air pollutants can damage the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, leading to asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lung cancer, heart attacks, and strokes. They can also damage the brain, liver, kidneys, and immune and reproductive systems. It can also go as far as increasing the risk for diabetes – just when you cut out sugar!

## Unidling wallet

Gas ain't getting any cheaper. For every 10 minutes of idling, the average three litre engine vehicle loses more than a cup (330 millilitres) of fuel, according to Natural Resources Canada. Depending on the vehicle, those 10 minutes, at today's prices, could cost you between \$0.48 and \$0.52. Mere pennies? Do that 10-minute stretch every day of the year and you're looking at \$180: roughly the cost of a decent pair of AirPods or a date at Le Nordik.

Your house idling all day to keep you warm is already costing you a bundle. Why tack on the cost of pointlessly running your car? Idling for more than 10 seconds is generally less fuel-efficient and produces more CO<sub>2</sub> than turning

the engine off and restarting it.

Plus, machines actually hate idling. Prolonged idling is bad for an engine; not only because it wastes fuel, but it also causes excess wear on components like spark plugs and cylinders, and dilutes fuel in the engine oil. The latter can lead to reduced lubricating properties on many other parts of your engine.

Idling is one good reason why your repairs get more expensive so reducing idling can reduce your car maintenance

costs.

## Idle justification

Let's talk about the classic excuses:

"I'm just waiting for my son to finish school." Then wait inside the already heated building.

"It's cold out!" Your engine warms up faster when you drive it; it works much harder to heat you when sitting still. See above, re: engine damage.

"It's only for a minute." No one in the history of motor vehicles has ever idled for a single minute. Ever. One minute becomes 10, then you become guilty of suffocating the whole grade three class as they return from their field trip to the box factory.

"I'm warming up my vehicle." Wrong again. Since the mid-90's, cars have mostly been made with fuel injection. There is zero need to warm your car up beyond two minutes. Experts suggest, after that two-minute mark, you should drive slowly until the RPMs decrease. At that point, the (winter-grade) engine oil will have circulated properly, making your engine much happier than any 10-minute idling warm up.

"I'm in a drive-thru." I'll spare you my added rant on

drive-thrus being an essential ingredient in the downfall of society and just repeat: park and go into the toasty warm building to get your doughnut.

"I'm just popping in quickly." Perhaps the most egregious offense of them all; the person who is so selfish that they leave their empty car idling while they shop. Truly shocking behaviour: maybe move their car across the parking lot the next time you see this.

## Not-so-idle conclusion

Idling is a rude, obnoxious habit. Like not signaling or using speakerphone in public, it continues only because no one wants to confront it.

But! Is it, indeed, the world's worst choice? Yes. The alternative is just too easy. Turn off your engine.

There are many guilty parties when it comes to global warming, health issues, and economic obstacles, but in the grand list of worldwide problems, engine idling is one of the few with a simple, immediate solution: stop doing it.

*Chris Penton is President of Ottawa Street Markets. A longtime local, he is a community builder, proud GenXer and father to a well-fed teenage lad.*

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# What should we be asking Ottawa mayor hopefuls

By Sharon Nyangweso

Ottawa is approaching its 200th anniversary while the *New Edinburgh News* approaches its 50th. Both milestones arrive during a municipal election year at a moment when many residents feel increasingly frustrated with the state of the city.

That frustration is understandable: housing costs continue to climb. Transit reliability remains a persistent problem. Infrastructure feels strained. Social services are under pressure. Residents see major projects moving forward while other urgent needs appear chronically underfunded. During every election cycle, candidates promise some version of affordability, efficiency, and getting Ottawa “back on track.”

But underneath almost all of these conversations sits something critically important that is unsexy, and rarely discussed clearly enough: how Ottawa is financed.

Most residents understandably assume there is one large city budget that council can freely move around depending on priorities. In reality, municipal finance is far more rigid

and fragmented than that.

In 2025, about 48 cents of every dollar the City of Ottawa received came from property taxes, while another major portion came from user fees and transfers from provincial and federal governments. The challenge is that property taxes and user fees are reaching both political and practical limits, and most residents are already stretched thin. There is a limit to how much additional pressure municipalities can place directly on households before affordability worsens even further.

That leaves provincial and federal transfers as both Ottawa’s greatest financial asset and one of its biggest structural challenges.

Much of the public confusion around city spending comes from the assumption that money allocated to one project could simply be redirected somewhere else. But many funding streams are negotiated for highly-specific purposes and cannot easily be moved.

Take projects like light-rail transit (the LRT) or Lansdowne. Those are largely capital projects funded through long-term agreements involving

municipal, provincial, and federal governments. The dollars attached to them are often specifically earmarked for infrastructure and redevelopment. They cannot simply be shifted into emergency shelters, transit operations, or social programs because residents would prefer different priorities. Reallocating those funds would require entirely new negotiations with upper levels of government, revised agreements, and in some cases, risking the loss of funding altogether.

Policing creates another layer of complexity. Under Ontario legislation, municipalities are required to provide “adequate and effective policing,” which limits how dramatically councils can reduce police budgets overnight. But that does not mean councils are powerless; nor does it mean every increase is inevitable or beyond scrutiny. The Ottawa Police Service requested a 2.9 per cent levy increase for 2025, while long-term forecasts projected significantly larger increases in future years. Council still approves those budgets. Council still shapes broader decisions around housing, mental health

supports, crisis response, and community infrastructure that directly affect policing pressures in the first place.

At the same time, many social services are left competing for what remains after large structural obligations are funded. In Ottawa’s 2025 draft budget, the police budget sat at roughly \$434 million, while Community and Social Services sat at approximately \$639 million – a category that includes housing services, long-term care, homelessness programming, employment supports, and children’s services across the entire city. Those services also rely heavily on provincial cost-sharing agreements and transfers, which means the city often cannot scale them independently in the way residents might expect.

This is the part of municipal politics that often gets flattened during election campaigns because it is technical, complicated, and difficult to fit onto a lawn sign.

There is no mayor arriving with a magic pen capable of instantly solving decades of structural financial pressure. But strong municipal leadership still matters enormously.

Other cities facing similar constraints have still managed to push for new revenue agreements, negotiate more aggressively with senior governments, reform zoning to support more financially sustainable growth, leverage federal housing and transit funding strategically, and rethink how infrastructure investments are prioritized.

Those changes will not happen through slogans! They happen through negotiation, coalition-building, long-term planning, and sometimes being willing to pick a serious fight with the province or federal government when the financial model is no longer working.

That is what I will be looking for in this election: I want to know which candidates actually understand the systems they are hoping to lead, and whether they have the political skill and resolve to fight for Ottawa in a serious way.

In the October edition of the *New Edinburgh News*, I’ll be doing a much deeper dive into the mayoral race and the people hoping to lead Ottawa into its third century. But I do not want that coverage to simply repeat campaign messaging or summarize platform documents you could read online yourself in 10 minutes.

I want to ask better questions, and I would genuinely love residents’ help shaping that coverage.

What do you want to know about the people asking to run this city? What issues feel underexplored? What trade-offs do you want candidates to explain honestly instead of avoiding politically? What concerns are shaping your daily experience of Ottawa right now?

Email me your questions at [sharon.nyangweso@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:sharon.nyangweso@newedinburgh.ca).

Sharon lives in New Edinburgh and is the Managing Editor of New Edinburgh News.

ARTIST  
Marlene Munroe de Montigny



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# For the Birds

By Jane Heintzman

Late April, May, and June are traditionally the highpoints of the year for keen birders in our community, and this year is no exception. It's been a case of avian famine to feast in just a few short weeks!

After a long, cold winter and chilly early spring, which slowed the incoming migration to a trickle, our neighbourhood is now awash in song birds, raptors, and waterfowl. The landscape is alive with colourful species, going about the serious business of finding a mate, breeding, and nesting in the trees and shrubs throughout the neighbourhood.

The eerie silence of the winter months has given way to the glorious warblers, trills, chips, babbles, and signature songs of myriad species, from **sparrows** to **finches**, **robins**, **blackbirds**, **kinglets**, **thrushes**, **wrens**, **jays**, and **warblers**. My idea

worms emerge;

- small flocks of brilliant yellow **American goldfinches**, competing with groups of rosy-breasted **house finches** to outbabble one another in local trees and shrubs (**Philip Macadam's "Avian Bistro"** at Thomas and Alexander Streets is a particular hotspot);

- **red-winged blackbirds** belting out their signature screeching calls;

- **European starlings** and glossy greenish-black **Common grackles**, strutting with their characteristic regal gait in our flower beds;

- an **Eastern phoebe**, first heard in its accustomed spot in the garden at 9 Rideau Gate;

- **turkey vultures**, **ring-billed gulls** and **common terns** cruising overhead along the Ottawa River;

- **dark-eyed juncos** in considerable numbers, trilling heartily en route to their northern breeding grounds;



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Photo by David Howe

feast!

While our very diverse local **sparrow** population tends to be lumped together as "LBBs" or Little Brown Birds, there are important distinctions among the songs and field marks of the different sparrow species. Some important clues to species identity are:

- streaked or un-streaked breast;

- central dark spot or splotch on breast;

- stripes on the crown of the head;

- size (ranging from the diminutive song sparrow at 14 centimetres to the fox sparrow at an imposing 18 cm); and

- calls and songs.

distinctive song, consisting of three single notes (often reminiscent of the opening bars of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony), generally followed by a buzzy trill. Its most prominent field marks are a heavily streaked brown and white breast with a dark splotch in the middle, and a reddish-brown crown with a gray central stripe.

The **white-throated sparrow** is most easily distinguished by its patriotic high-pitched call: O sweet Canada Canada Canada! The white throat has a black and white striped crown, with a signature yellow dot above each eyebrow, and a clear white, un-streaked breast. It's slightly larger than the song sparrow at 17 cm.

Like its white-throated cousin, the **chipping sparrow's** best known trademark is its call: a cheery staccato trill, heard everywhere throughout the community. Its bright rufous crown is easy to spot, while its other defining features – a bold black eyeline and white eyebrows – require closer inspection (not always easy with a tiny peripatetic bird!) The look-alike **American tree sparrow** also has a rufous crown, but has a distinguishing black dot at the center of its un-streaked gray breast, and a high-pitched three-note call descending in a slurry trill. Another clue is the tree sparrow's two-tone bill with a dark top and yellow underside.

The striking **fox sparrow** has been an annual visitor at the back of our garden, where it foraged on the ground, clearing away debris covering its food supply. It has yet to turn up this year, but I remain hopeful for a sighting in the coming weeks. At an imposing 18 cm long, the fox sparrow is

comparatively easily spotted, particularly given the bright rufous streaking on its head and body.

As most readers are well aware, Cornell University's **Merlin app** has revolutionized birding, taking much of the guesswork out of bird identification and revealing the presence of undetected species. In recent weeks, it has been a source of discoveries in our own garden, and in the surrounding lanes: discoveries that would otherwise have gone entirely under the radar.

On a single afternoon in early May, I tallied: **Red-breasted nuthatch**, **Black and White warblers**, **Ruby-crowned kinglets** (amazingly voluble despite their diminutive 12 cm size), **Dark-eyed juncos**, **Song sparrows**, **American robins**, a **Ring-billed gull** (overhead), **Northern cardinals**, **Cedar waxwing**, **House finches**, **American Goldfinches**, **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Red-winged blackbirds**, **Chipping sparrows**, **Common grackles**, a **Blue jay**, **Yellow-rumped warblers** and **Yellow warblers**.

And all that without even taking a walk!

Delightful as it is to have abundant bird life right here in our garden, the threats to these vulnerable creatures have moved in just as swiftly. A large and menacing **Cooper's Hawk** turned up several days ago to lurk in the flowerbed, as visiting songbirds swiftly scattered to the safety of the dense cedar bushes. Equally alarming was the visit of a stealthy gray cat – without a warning bell. Sadly, it's unlikely that the breeding season will unfold without a casualty from one (or both) of



American Robin

Photo by David Howe

of heaven is awakening each day to the cheerful song of an **American robin** right outside my window: how lucky can anyone get?

Among the earliest arrivals in our community this year were a traditional cast of characters:

- **American robins**, growing plumper each day as the

- **chipping sparrows**, rivaling the juncos with their staccato trills;

- and last on the list, but first in my books, **song sparrows**, including our resident friend settled into its accustomed spot close to my kitchen window.

After a virtually birdless winter, the early weeks of spring have indeed been a

In our corner of the world, the most common sparrow species are **song sparrows**, **white-throated sparrows**, **chipping sparrows**, **American tree sparrows**, **white-crowned sparrows** (late spring arrivals) and **fox sparrows**. Of these, the most familiar is perhaps the **song sparrow** which announces its presence with a

these predators.

In addition to enjoying the avian wealth of our home and environs, we also ventured farther afield throughout the spring. We focused our birding efforts on the Rockcliffe Parkway as it winds off Sussex Drive (at Princess Ave.), along the Ottawa River and on to Buena Vista Ave. in Rockcliffe. Notable additions to the list of species spotted close to home included **hermit thrush, brown creepers, a sharp-shinned hawk** which swooped by us at eye level,

headline story for this column, as they have in recent months. On an evening walk along MacKay St. opposite Rideau Hall, we heard what began as a low, haunting hoot, but steadily escalated to a very loud and threatening exchange between two owls. In light of the timing in mid-April, it's possible a female was aggressively defending a nest of owlets. While we didn't linger to witness it, there's a good chance the female physically attacked the intruder, so feathers may have flown in the



Hooded Merganser

Photo by David Howe

a **red-shouldered hawk, American crows, common ravens, white-throated sparrows, Eastern phoebe,** and numerous **wild turkeys.**

On the Rideau River opposite our house, **Canada geese and ducks** began to appear as soon as the raging spring thaw started to subside. Notable among the ducks were **common mergansers, hooded mergansers, common golden-eye, hooded mergansers and mallards** (my favourite, as they often waddle across the road to amble sociably in the park!). The Ottawa Field Naturalists Club also reported several recent sightings of the relatively rare **Barrow's Goldeneye** in both Stanley Park and nearby Strathcona Park.

Once again, the neighbourhood **barred owls** offered a

vice-regal enclave!

As I write in early May, the long-awaited **warbler** population has moved into our area, with **yellow warblers, black and white warblers, yellow-rumped warblers, palm warblers** and others now on the scene in their breeding finery. In early evenings, our garden has been awash in warblers, flitting among the shrubs and bushes in continuous motion. Oddly, I have yet to see or hear an **American redstart**, a species which has been rife in our community in recent years. But the season is young and I remain hopeful. More than 20 warbler species will eventually turn up in our region over the summer, so be sure to explore the local hotspots and beef up your "life list."

Our bird photographer and intrepid neighbourhood birder

**David Howe** has also been enjoying the bounty of **warblers** in early May. He says: "So far, we've spotted **Yellow-rumped, Palm, Cape May, Black and White, (Northern) Yellow, Black-throated Green, Nashville, Northern Parula and Blackburnian**, all coming through Stanley Park."

Since the start of the year, David has recorded 93 species of birds in Stanley Park. "Most notable was an **Eastern Bluebird** that passed through one day, and I managed to get a picture of it. While fairly common in the right habitat outside of the city, it was nice to get this one in a 'downtown' park, even if it was only for a momentary rest in its migratory journey."

One rarity reported in the region this spring was a **Mountain Bluebird**. David reports it was "only the second recorded in the Ottawa region, the last being almost exactly a year ago in the far west of Ottawa! The other notable 'twitch' this spring was a group of **Black-necked Stilts** that made their home in some flooded fields in the Navan area for a few days in mid-April."

Avian Bistro proprietor **Philip MacAdam** has had a busy spring of birdspotting. Close to his feeding stations at Thomas and Alexander Streets, he has tallied a **ruby crowned kinglet**, "a very appropriate name for this dashing little bird!", **white-throated sparrows, chipping sparrows, white-crowned sparrows, chickadees, robins, red-winged blackbirds, raspberry red purple finches, house finches, American goldfinches, white- and red-breasted nuthatches, cardinals, juncos**



American Goldfinch

Photo by David Howe

and **brown creepers** in nearby Rideau Hall.

In his early (very early!) morning rambles, Philip spotted **ring-billed gulls, wild turkeys, ravens** and a pair of **barred owls**. "I heard them courting high in some trees in the dark, pre-dawn light. It sounded like some sort of sylvan skirmish until one of them uttered a sound only an owl can make." Shortly after the first sighting, two barred owls flew in Philip's direction and perched in a tree right in front of him. Thankfully, however, he was not subjected to a second owl attack!

If you're planning a spring or summer birding expedition

in the coming weeks, be sure to check out the local birding hotspots at [ebird.org](http://ebird.org) or at [ofnc.ca](http://ofnc.ca) – high on the list are Britannia Conservation Area/Mud Lake (a prime **warbler** depot), Shirley's Bay, Andrew Haydon Park, the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, the Mer Bleue Bog, Petrie Island, and Stony Swamp.

Happy summer birding to all. We welcome your sightings for the post-summer October edition: [janeheintzman@hotmail.com](mailto:janeheintzman@hotmail.com)

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



Purple Finch

Photo by David Howe

# New shwarma shop owner's long journey to New Edinburgh

By Joe Bolger

On Apr. 1, 31-year-old Dawood Noori made a major life decision when he bought the Shawarma King restaurant on Beechwood Ave. Under its new ownership, the neighbourhood staple was re-named Shawarma City. The change marks a new chapter for the local eatery and a personal turning point for its owner.

Noori's journey to owning the restaurant began far from Ottawa, in his home country of Afghanistan. He arrived in Canada in June 2024 as a refugee, accompanied by his wife, Shukria Shirzad, and their two daughters – then five-year-old Asra, and two-year-old Kowsar.

My wife and I were among the first to meet the family when they landed at the Ottawa airport. The Noori-Shirzads had been sponsored by Ottawa Centre Refugee Action (OCRA), a volunteer group launched by Pat Wilson, a retired Ottawa lawyer, and King Charles III Coronation Medal recipient. OCRA's mission includes helping refugee families manage the transition to a new life in Canada. That



Photo by Joe Bolger

Shawarma City's new owner Dawood Noori, with younger sister Najiba.

can include anything from arranging first medical checks to registering the kids in school or helping the parents find employment. Along the way, OCRA volunteers also try to help the new arrivals adjust to a new culture and language, as well as other challenges such as how to deal with impossibly cold temperatures!

What became clear early on with the Noori-Shirzads was that they were not only up to the task, but were often running ahead of our volunteer group, especially when it came to securing employment. They did that by pounding

the pavement, knocking on lots of doors and relying on a nascent Afghan friendship group. Dawood quickly realized that his Bachelor's degree in Economics from a Kabul university likely meant nothing in this job market. That led him to a variety of early work assignments from nine-hour stretches as a baker at a Tim Hortons outlet to late shifts at various shawarma shops around town. Sometimes both on the same day.

Shukria's experience was much the same: mastering cashiering responsibilities at Tim Hortons within weeks of

arrival while also taking shifts at a local pizzeria, before moving on to house cleaning assignments on weekends. For Shukria, this was far from what she had imagined her working life would entail. She was just a few credits short of securing her degree in dentistry before the Taliban decided that women like her shouldn't be in school.

Dawood and Shukria's initial attempt to leave Afghanistan was not successful. In fact, they were among the thousands left stranded at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul in August 2021 as US and NATO troops withdrew from the country and the Taliban seized control. Dawood had become a Taliban target because of his activism with a Hazara human rights group. His group's vehicle was blown up by a landmine in Kabul early in 2021, an attack which killed their driver. Dawood survived, but sustained shrapnel wounds, pierced eardrums, and burns.

The following year, the family fled to Pakistan and began the process of establishing their refugee status. Two

years later they found themselves on a plane to Canada.

The next big step for the family after they arrived in Canada was to help two of Dawood's "at-risk" siblings (18-year-old twins) and one of Shukria's nephews come to Canada. They were successful on those counts, once again with OCRA's support: the Noori twins, Najib and Najiba, are now partners in the Shawarma City venture, while pursuing their studies at Ottawa's Adult High School. Najiba, as a girl, had been deprived for four or five years of the educational opportunities available to every Afghan boy, including her twin brother, but is quickly making up for lost time.

Bottom line: New Edinburgh now has the good fortune to have an amazing new family-owned eatery in the neighbourhood with a tasty and expanding menu. Drop in and give Shawarma City a try. You won't regret it!

Joe Bolger is a retired international development consultant/project manager and current OCRA volunteer.



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# Distraction theft on the rise in Ottawa

By Karen Squires

I was deeply upset to hear of an incident which took place in our neighbourhood in March, which can happen to anyone here in Ottawa. It is called distraction theft. Thieves often approach victims in parking lots or residential streets, pretending to ask for directions or offering a gift of jewelry while stealing the victim's own valuables. If you google "distraction theft in Ottawa" you will find several postings from the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) warning residents of more than 120 cases of distraction thefts since spring 2025, largely targeting seniors. The number of these thefts continue to rise.

In March, my friend, who is a senior and has lived in the neighbourhood for several decades, was approached by a woman asking for directions. We all try to be helpful, especially if we think perhaps someone is new to the area.

That's how it all started. As soon as she was given the directions the woman returned to my friend thanking her and forcefully imposing upon her

"a gift which happened to be a necklace" and although my friend pushed back saying "no thank you, this is not something I want or is necessary," the women insisted and proceeded to put a dirty large link necklace around her neck. My friend raised her voice and the woman removed her "gift." Without realizing it, my friend was also being robbed of her own gold chain necklace which was tucked under her scarf and sweater and held very special significance for her. All this happened within seconds. She called the police and a report was made on the same day, although nothing has been resolved to date. She is also working with her insurance company to replace the necklace.

It's alarming to hear this happening to someone you know, but after calling the police and doing a bit of investigation herself, my friend learned this is a trend occurring in our own neighbourhood. While she is not interested in being identified, she wants to raise awareness so that other people can be more vigilant and not fall

victim to this crime.

## Notes on distraction theft from the Ottawa Police Services (OPS) website

- Method: Suspects (often in a group and with vehicle) ask for help or directions, then try to place fake jewelry (necklaces) on the target as a "thank-you" gesture, stealing genuine jewelry (necklaces, rings) in the process. They tend to act quickly to create confusion.

- Target areas: Thefts are city-wide, with a higher proportion of incidents reported on Merivale Road, Montreal Road, Bank St. and in areas like Stittsville and Alta Vista.

## Safety Tips from OPS

- Maintain distance: Do not let strangers get close, touch you, or place items on your body.

- Conceal valuables: Keep jewelry covered or leave expensive items at home

- Be vigilant: Trust your instincts, be aware of your surroundings, and walk away from suspicious interactions.

- Report immediately: Call police right away if you are

targeted or witness these, or any other suspicious incidents.

Since my friend's robbery incident, I've told other people and I'm even more mindful about where I'm walking and when. I take precautions about where I park as I've heard about a number of incidents happening in parking

lots along Beechwood, where people want to "help seniors."

*Karen sits on the NECA board, and co-chairs Friends of the Park. This article was written in collaboration with a resident who experienced distraction theft recently in the neighbourhood.*

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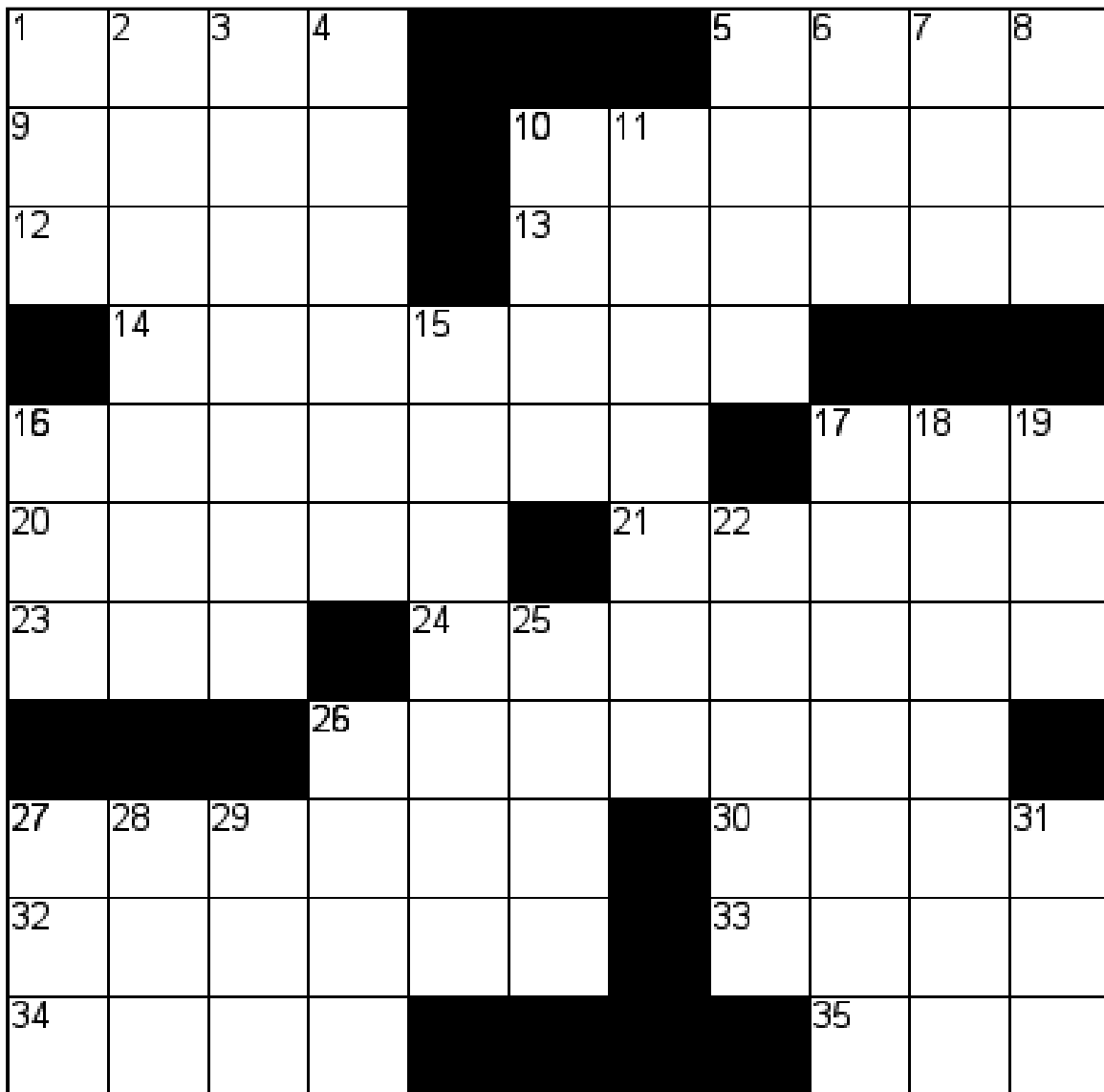


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# From the puzzler

By **Frédéric Lavoie**

This edition's grid recreates an intersection from my undergrad days, right by the University of Ottawa - with the relevant clues marked by an asterisk. That said, I wasn't in any of the name-checked research facilities, instead nerding out over questions of political science - and eventually loosening up to swing dance sessions in Saint Joseph's Church basement.

While I haven't been able to make it in a hot minute, the Ottawa Swing Dance Society socials still seem active, for anybody looking to let off some steam this summer!

After uOttawa, I must confess I did 'go to the dark side'... but That Other University could never overwrite the frosh-week chants etched into my memory: If I had the wings of a sparrow...

For crossword answers, check page 43. Happy solving!

**Across**

- 1 Type of pear
- 5 Imperfection
- 9 Ballerina's outfit
- 10 Animated canary needling Sylvester
- 12 Aptly-named uOttawa building for, say, the Heat Transfer and the Fluid Mechanics research facilities
- 13 Intense, like some TV-worthy Rivalries
- 14 Protective layer for some scientists
- 16 Interlude "Time out!"
- 17 Computer's alternative to an HDD
- 20 Unresponsive, like a noble gas
- 21 Country whose capital is Port-au-Prince
- 23 One 'P' in 'PPM'
- 24 Went viral on social media
- 26 \*First French-Canadian Prime Minister
- 27 They're packed for a moment's notice
- 30 Shelter option in the woods
- 32 "There is no \_\_\_ B": climate-change slogan
- 33 British equivalent (and anagram) to the Canadian Parliament's "yeas"
- 34 Dispatch an email, say
- 35 Important time period

**Down**

- 1 K-Pop giant that was 2 Kool 4 Skool
- 2 Essay writer's roadmap
- 3 Colander-like contraption for preparing vegetables
- 4 \*Sea cu\_\_\_ or Benedict \_\_\_ batch
- 5 Great accomplishment
- 6 Allow
- 7 Chowd down
- 8 "U busy?", in text (\_hat \_ou \_oing)
- 10 'You', in the olden days
- 11 Topic for small talk
- 15 Secondary residence in Calabogie, Chelsea, or Kawartha, perhaps
- 16 Pointy end of a pencil
- 17 Look loaded with questioning concern
- 18 More disapprovingly strict
- 19 Successfully accomplished
- 22 Minister of Foreign Affairs \_\_\_ Anand
- 25 Fate for oxidized metal
- 26 \*Word after 'Newfound' or 'Green'
- 27 It'll give a route and an ETA
- 28 Canadiens' chant
- 29 Make illegal
- 31 \_\_\_ PreCheck, expedited security screening for US-bound NEXUS members

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# Alzheimer's: Five lessons from caregivers

By Ralph Hesse

For seven years, I facilitated a counseling group of people who cared for a loved one who had Alzheimer's Disease. Through that remarkable experience, I learned so much from these caretakers. Here are five stand-out lessons:

## 1. Tell everyone, and tell them as soon as possible

There is a natural tendency to hide the fact that a spouse or family member is experiencing cognitive decline. This is often born of shame, partial denial, or a fear that others will react negatively. The problem is that this strategy will increasingly isolate you and your loved one from others, and drain your energy as you continue to mask everything you hold. Hiding Alzheimer's will eventually become futile anyway, as your loved one's behaviour becomes steadily more uncharacteristic. Instead, take a deep breath, steel your nerves, and tell as many people as you can about the situation. You will be pleasantly surprised and touched by the outpouring of love and support you receive.

It is especially useful to share the truth with your family's social or community

groups. A couple that regularly attended a workout class I frequented immediately let staff and regular attendees know when one of them was first diagnosed. What resulted was a wonderful community of care during workouts where both were able to continue the regular workout, with all of us providing redirection, help, and support where needed.

## 2. Sometimes it's okay to lie

It may appear disrespectful or just morally wrong to deceive someone you love, but sometimes, a lie is kinder than the truth. Imagine if your mother, who has Alzheimer's, wants to know where her car is. You sold it last year after your mother got lost while driving to the local grocery store. Letting her know the truth will only hurt or anger her. Instead, telling her it's in the shop for repairs can innocently avoid the pain of revisiting the loss of her license, car, and autonomy. A young woman in my counselling group shared that her mother with Alzheimer's would regularly ask where her husband was. The daughter would honestly and sensitively inform her that her husband

had died many years earlier. This would spark grief, confusion, and tears. Inevitably, the mother would ask again. Finally, on the advice of several group members, the daughter changed her answer to: "Dad is visiting his brother and he'll be back in a few days." The mother accepted this reply, and both the question and the answer were quickly forgotten. Yes, that's a lie, but it's critical to recognize that sparing your loved one unnecessary pain is more important than sparing yourself any guilt.

## 3. Winning an argument is a lose-lose scenario

When someone we are close to gets a fact wrong, or misinterprets an event, we naturally correct them. Indeed, in a strong relationship, each partner is open to, and even grateful for, gentle correction. So it can be hard to restrain ourselves when a loved one, beginning to cognitively decline, starts to make numerous mistakes. But correction is rarely helpful, and often causes pain. I remember a case in which a husband insisted that he and his wife had once vacationed in Spain. "No, it wasn't Spain, we went to France," said the

wife. But the husband insisted it was Spain. So the wife took out brochures and postcards to prove it had actually been Paris that they visited. Upon seeing the evidence, the husband grew quiet and huffed off to bed, declaring that he hated Paris. So what was the value of the correction? Ask yourself that very question each time you have the perfectly understandable impulse to "prove" that you were right. For the most part, only correct when it is absolutely necessary.

## 4. Distraction can be a solid strategy

"I want to go home," your mother says again and again, even if she actually is home. Rather than argue the point, try distraction. Maybe say, "Let's have a bite to eat," and quickly present a few snack options. Or make a comment about her jewelry or outfit and ask questions about it. Very often, distraction is a useful strategy to redirect the person from a line of thought that can create conflict or distress.

## 5. Technology is your friend

For persons with Alzheimer's, stepping out of the house late at night can be dangerous.

Sensor alarm systems can be especially useful in alerting caregivers to any potentially dangerous situation. There are also tools that can be used to prevent someone from turning on the stove or handling other potentially dangerous appliances. Consult a tech-savvy friend or family member to help you to make your house safe for your loved one. It will save you a ton of worry.

It is extremely difficult to watch your loved one lose their cognitive skills, independence, communication skills, and overall personality. Remind yourself often of this indisputable fact: your loved one is the sum of everything he or she has ever been – not simply a reflection of the moment.

*Ralph Hesse 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.*

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# Between the four walls of 128 Stanley Ave.

By Janet Uren

Like many houses in New Edinburgh, the tall, brick house at 128 Stanley Ave. has a rich and diverse human history that spans time and place: from the Scottish flight from poverty and the tragedy of displaced persons in wartime Europe, to the drama of post-war diplomacy and the glitter of Hollywood.

The story begins with bricks and mortar. Some years ago, there was a debate in New Edinburgh about the fate of 282 Crichton St., the home of local builder August Boehmer, who as a contractor was responsible for building many houses and small apartment buildings in New Edinburgh at the turn of the 20th century. The brick, gable-ended house on Crichton St. – lauded as an example of German-style craftsmanship in Ottawa – was demolished in 2019 to make way for a new five-storey apartment building. Many regretted its loss. However, anyone looking to recall that house need look no further than 128 Stanley. The house there, built around 1914, was an exact mirror image of 282 Crichton, and was built at



Photo courtesy of Janet Uren

282 Crichton

roughly the same time. During recent renovations, the present owner of 128 Stanley discovered German numbers and notations on various bits of wood. Boehmer was almost certainly the builder and probably the designer.

German it may have been in style of construction, but the house's early history is tied to the lumber industry of the Ottawa Valley and to Scottish heritage in Canada. William Lunam was the first resident at 128 Stanley Ave. He moved there in 1914 when the house

was newly built, having lived for well over a decade in an older house next door.

William Lunam was the son of Scottish parents who settled in the mid-1800s in the Pontiac, where William was born. This was logging country, and it was only natural for William as an adult to seek employment in the industry. He came to New Edinburgh in 1901 and worked for over half a century as a bookkeeper or cashier for Gilmour & Hughson and briefly for International Pulp and Paper. When he died in



Photo courtesy of Janet Uren

128 Stanley Ave.



Image courtesy of Janet Uren

Franchot Tone and Jean Wallace

1950, he left his house to his daughters: Annie, Marjorie and Mae. After Mae's death in 1973, the house was sold.

During the 1960s and early 70's, the house was divided into two apartments, with Michails and Marta Bormanis living there much of the time as long-term tenants. They were refugees from Latvia, driven into flight by Russians at the end of World War II. They spent five years in displaced persons camps before emigrating to Canada in 1949. They were among nearly

15,000 Latvians who made a similar journey.

From 1974 to 1978, Gordon Cox and his wife – Beverley Grange, originally from New Zealand – owned 128 Stanley. Cox was killed by a street-car in Vienna in 1978 at age 60, while he was serving as Canadian Ambassador to the East-West troop reduction talks. Born in Britain and a serving officer with the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII, Cox engaged in the action and passion of his times as a diplomat. His postings included London, Saigon, New York, Beijing, and Bangkok, where he was ambassador to Thailand from 1969 to 1972.

Thomas Jefferson Tone replaced the widowed Mrs. Cox at 128 Stanley in 1986 and remained for a decade or so, before the building was briefly turned into offices. Tone is the man who connects New Edinburgh to the glamour of Hollywood, and his presence explains why later renovators found pages from old movie scripts stuffed into the walls to stop drafts. Tone was born in 1945 to actor Franchot Tone and actress Jean Wallace. Tone Senior – said to be descended from the legendary Irish rebel Wolfe Tone – had previously been married to Joan Crawford. But they had no children together, and subsequently he wed actress Barbara Payton. While courting her, Tone was viciously attacked by a rival and had to undergo plastic surgery to repair the bones of his face. It was the scandal of the day, and Tone's marriage to Payton did not survive the year.

One of only two sons, Thomas Jefferson Tone lived with his mother in Los Angeles until the age of 16, after which he joined his father in New York. He met his Canadian wife in 1977 at the family cottage in Quebec and lived in Ottawa from 1979 to 1992, much of that time in New Edinburgh.

Clearly, the story of Canada is one of dramatic diversity, and the house at 128 Stanley plays its part in the Canadian narrative.

Janet Uren is a professional writer. She is vice-president of Laurentian, a women's service group that has produced StreetFest in the past years.

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# Boots, meals, and second chances: Bringing hope to Ottawa's at-risk youth

By **Debjani Mitra**

Terri Hoddinott has spent over a decade organizing charity fundraisers for some of Ottawa's most vulnerable young people. I sat down to talk to her about what drives her work and how others can help.

**We first met on Noel St. many years ago, and since then, I've known you as a strong advocate and volunteer for youth facing mental health challenges and homelessness. What initially inspired you to begin fundraising for this vulnerable group?**

As the mom of three adult children, I've always had a soft spot for teens and young adults. The teen years are a challenging time, for both kids and their caregivers. Youth who are faced with an unstable home life, through no fault of their own, have it especially hard. And when you throw homelessness, addiction, and mental health struggles into the mix, they can feel truly hopeless.

About 13 years ago, I had the pleasure of speaking with an employee from the Children's Aid Society (CAS). It was fall, and the topic of Christmas came up. I found out that the 12-to-16 age group never had enough gifts at Christmas.

People mostly bought for the younger kids. That conversation started my charity Christmas parties. I would host a party, and the price of admission was a gift for that vulnerable age group. My hope has always been that our gift would bring a bit of joy to someone facing hopelessness.

**You've organized several fundraisers for such organisations as Ottawa Inner City Ministries and Restoring Hope Ministries. What drew you to these organizations, and in your view, what kind of effects do they have on our community?**

In the past, youth aged out of CAS when they turned 16; the organization later changed the age to 18. Regardless of whether they are 16,17 or 18, these kids had no safe home to go to. I started looking into other groups serving vulnerable populations and came across Ottawa Inner City Ministries (OICM). They help homeless and at-risk veterans, as well as youth, so I focused my next charity parties on both of those groups. OICM also runs drop-in times for youth to do art and have a meal, so I began cooking once a month for the art group.

When COVID-19 hit, the parties went on hiatus. That's



Photo courtesy Debjani Mitra

**Long-time advocate for at-risk youth, Terri Hoddinott: "My hope has always been that our gift would bring a bit of joy to someone facing hopelessness."**

when I found out about Restoring Hope Ministries, who also serve youth. When I approached them about my charity parties, I asked whether they'd prefer us to provide generic gifts — mitts, hats, socks — or specific gifts that a young person had actually requested. Their staff provided me with a list of specific items, and because of all of my wonderful friends who attended the party or donated, we were able to fulfill many wishes and provide winter boots for the drop-in centre. It's an organization that makes

a real, tangible difference — one young person at a time.

**From your perspective, what are some of the biggest challenges at-risk youth face today? Are there issues that don't receive enough attention?**

The biggest challenges haven't changed and remain unstable housing, mental health, and addiction, but I think what people don't always see is how intricately connected these issues are. A young person dealing with one is very often dealing with all three. And the teen years are already hard enough. The public should know that these kids didn't choose their circumstances. A little bit of compassion and a small gesture can go a long way toward reminding them that people care.

**For someone who wants to support at-risk youth but isn't sure how to get involved, what would you suggest as a meaningful first step?**

Both Ottawa Inner City Ministries and Restoring Hope Ministries are looking

for meals for their drop-in centres. Cooking a meal, donating warm clothing, or even just showing up to volunteer your time: it all matters. You don't have to organize a big event. Sometimes the most meaningful thing is just letting a young person know they're not invisible.

**How can members of our community best support ongoing fundraising efforts?**

You can reach out to OICM or Restoring Hope directly: they'll tell you exactly what's needed. Every pair of boots, every meal, and every small act of generosity adds up. These kids deserve to know that their community hasn't given up on them.

To learn more about how to support Ottawa's at-risk youth, visit [OttawaInnerCityMinistries.ca](http://OttawaInnerCityMinistries.ca) and [RestoringHope.ca](http://RestoringHope.ca)

*Debjani is an occasional contributor to NEN who lives in New Edinburgh. She is a public health professional who is passionate about advocating children's and women's health.*



**Contribute** to the next issue of the *New Edinburgh News*  
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# Our favourite roadside plants

By Jean-Pierre Bacle

When July arrives, a colourful palette of flowering plants emerges along our roadsides, trailsides, woodland edges, and abandoned fields. Most are considered weeds, defined as “undesirable native or introduced species.” With time, however, we’ve come to appreciate their esthetics and benefit to our open habitat experience.

Described below are 10 common weeds easily recognizable by their colours and structural features. Most will grow one to two metres and flower for over four to eight weeks, depending on site conditions. Locally, they proliferate along the Aviation and George-Etienne Parkway corridors and our numerous open area pathways.

## Chicory – *Cichorium intybus*

Easily recognized by its bright blue, daisy-like flowers, chicory thrives all summer from June to September, especially

along open fields, roadsides, and disturbed soils. Native to Europe, the plant was brought to North America by colonial settlers and originally cultivated for culinary and medicinal uses. Its leaves were consumed as bitter salad greens and its roots were used as a caffeine-free coffee substitute. The roots also contain high levels of inulin that enhance digestive health. Although considered a weed, the plant has a well-developed root system that stabilizes soil and its lengthy flowering season provides valuable nectar for a variety of pollinators.

## Wild carrot – *Daucus carota*

Commonly known as Queen Anne’s Lace, Bishop’s Lace, and Bird’s Nest, this plant is ubiquitous, especially in abandoned fields and disturbed soils. This biennial plant native to Eurasia is easily identified by its long and slender hairy stem, capped with an



Bull thistle

Photo by Jean-Pierre Bacle

umbel-shaped cluster of white flowers. After pollination, the umbel curls inward, hence forming the bird’s nest shape. The wild carrot is the precursor of the cultivated carrot we enjoy in our meals. Over time, humans have altered the “wild carrot” into many subspecies, thereby offering the variety and assortment we see today.

## Purple loosestrife – *Lythrum salicaria*

Noticeable with its purple-magenta flower spikes, purple loosestrife is perhaps one of the most coveted weeds in our area. Its eye-catching flower has gained popularity in enhancing garden aesthetics and in attracting pollinators. Despite its appeal as a garden plant, purple loosestrife tends to crowd out native species in wetland habitats, which reduces the overall habitat’s biodiversity and ecological function. On the other hand, the plant acts as a purifier by removing harmful nitrates and

phosphates from runoff water.

## Bull thistle – *Cirsium vulgare*

Although considered an undesirable weed native to Eurasia, this robust biennial plant has a valuable ecological advantage. Its vivid purple blooms lure an array of insects, delivering nectar to many species of bees and butterflies. More than two dozen species of insects are known to feed on the plant’s flower. Armed with sharp thorns, farmers of the past cultivated this species as a defense barrier to deter wild herbivores encroaching on crops. The plant’s root system also reduces soil erosion. After flowering, the plant yields abundant, wind-dispersed seeds topped with a white pappus or tuft similar to our common dandelion.

## Black-eyed susan – *Rudbeckia hirta*

This native plant features stunning, golden-yellow daisy-like

flowers encircling a prominent dark brown to black central cone. It blooms from early summer and can be found in large colonies particularly along the Aviation Parkway and Marina Drive. Equipped with a sturdy stem, the plant can easily reach one metre in height. It is drought-tolerant and adapts well to poor soils. The stunning flower attracts a host of insects, making it valuable for pollinator gardens. It is commonly used in ecological restoration projects.

## Common burdock – *Arctium minus*

This biennial species – also known as lesser burdock – is native to Eurasia but is now considered widely naturalized throughout North America. During its first year, the plant grows rapidly and forms a large basal rosette of broad, heart-shaped leaves with woolly undersides. Such large leaves also remind us of elephant ears. Through the second year, it produces tall, branching stems, holding clusters of purple, thistle-like flowers. Eventually, these blooms develop into distinctive burs covered with hooked bracts that readily cling to animals and clothing, thereby contributing to seed dispersal. This process of seed promulgation is also known as “hitchhiking.”

## Common tansy – *Tanacetum vulgare*

Also called golden button, this Eurasian native was first introduced to our continent for use in folk remedies, and as an insect repellent. Its



Purple loosestrife

Photo by Jean-Pierre Bacle

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**Black-eyed susan**

*Photo by Jean-Pierre Bacle*



**Perennial sow thistle**

*Photo by Jean-Pierre Bacle*

leaves, when crushed, emit a camphor-like odor that repels mosquitoes, moths, flies, and other pests. Its cluster of bright yellow, button-shaped flower heads was commonly used in various rituals and was hung

features in a long-standing ritual – plucking petals as a love prophecy: “He loves me, he loves me not.” While the practice has roots in French folklore, it was widely popularized across Europe.

colonies, and features upright stems with striking golden colored flowers. These blooms provide abundant nectar and play a crucial role in supporting pollinator communities. There is historical evidence that settlers would boil their blossoms to obtain the syrup-like sweetness. A frequent misconception is that the plant causes hay fever, but the true culprit is ragweed. The pollen of the Canada goldenrod is insect-dispersed, and too heavy to be windborne.

a variety of pollinators.

In many ways, these 10 roadside plants remind us that beauty and ecological value are often found in the most overlooked places. While some are classified as weeds because they grow aggressively or have

non-native origins, many also provide important benefits such as supporting pollinators, stabilizing soil, filtering runoff water, and adding colour and texture to our landscapes throughout the summer months. The next time you walk, cycle, or drive along our local pathways and parkways, take a moment to look a little closer, you may discover that these familiar plants have far more character, history, and environmental importance than first meets the eye.

*Jean-Pierre Bacle is a retired Canadian graduate from the University of Ottawa living in both Ottawa and Alexandria, VA. His background is in geography and natural sciences. Since retiring, he has engaged in citizen science activities ranging from wildlife monitoring and habitat assessment, splitting his time between the Ottawa region, Belize, and Panama.*



**Oxeye daisy**

*Photo by Jean-Pierre Bacle*

around homes as ornaments during festive periods. The common tansy has an incredible range of adaptation and can often crowd out native plants. On the plus side, its complex root structure (creeping rhizomes), combined with its fast growth rate, acts as a barrier against soil erosion.

**Canada goldenrod – Solidago canadensis**

Native to most of North America, the species is generally considered an invasive weed due to its ability to proliferate under variable conditions. It grows from creeping rhizomes, forming dense

**Perennial sow thistle – Sonchus arvensis**

This weed is native to Eurasia and easily identified by its bright yellow, dandelion-like flower arranged in loose clusters at the end of long stems. The stems are hollow and have milky sap when broken. The flowering season is followed by the development of numerous small, ribbed dried fruits equipped with a white pappus or tuft that facilitates wind dispersal. Its extensive creeping root system allows for aggressive propagation and makes it a persistent agriculture weed. It thrives along roadsides. Despite its reputation, it does provide nectar for

**Oxeye daisy – Leucanthemum vulgare**

Commonly known as marguerite, the plant is perennial and native to Europe. It is widely naturalized across the continent. It is characterized by its distinctive flower head, featuring white ray florets surrounding a bright yellow central disc. The plant thrives in meadows, roadsides, and pastures, preferring well-drained soil. While attractive, it can spread aggressively, forming dense stands that displace native vegetation. Historically, the flower

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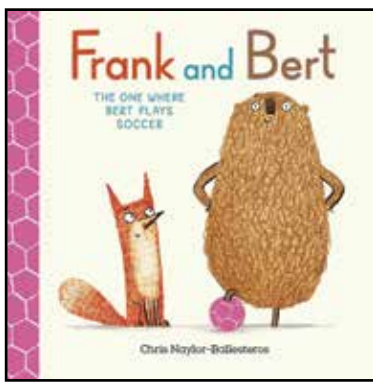
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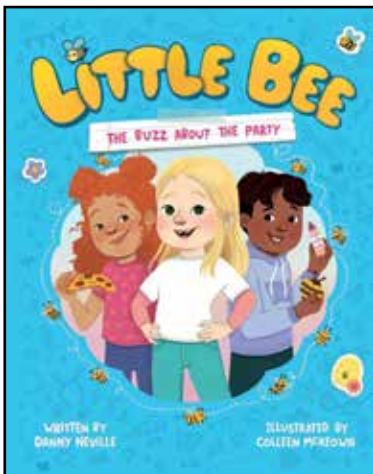
# Books on Beechwood's summer reading picks

## KIDS & TEENS



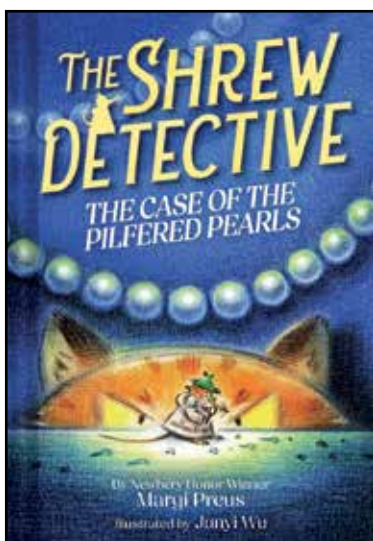
**Frank and Bert** by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros (Ages 4–8)

A sweet, funny soccer-themed story about the power of friendship! –Hilary



**Little Bee: The Buzz About the Party** by Danny Neville (Ages 6–9)

Written by a debut local author, this early chapter book follows the story of Little Bee, a young girl with two dads, as her class plans a party to celebrate Mother's Day. –Hilary



**The Shrew Detective** by Margi Preus (Ages 8–12)

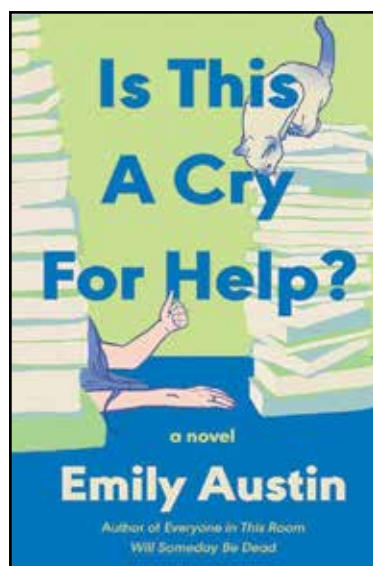
Funny and charming Minerva Shrew sets out to solve a puzzling mystery and save her friends in the most dangerous of places: a human house! –Hilary



**Change of Plans** by Sarah Dessen (Ages 12+)

A sweet, touching summer romance about the things you can discover – about yourself and others – when things don't go exactly according to plan. A real winner from the queen of contemporary teen fiction! –Hilary

## FICTION



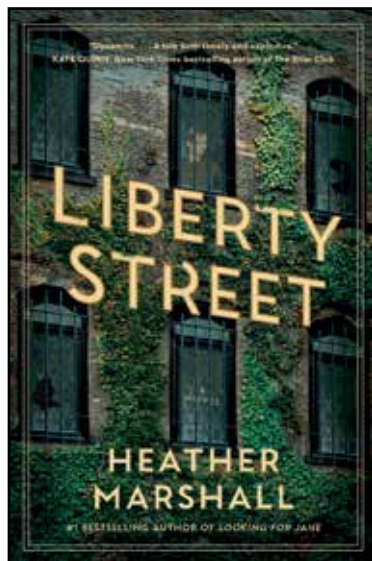
**Is This a Cry for Help?** by Emily Austin

Another gem from a beloved Ottawa-based author! Darcy is a librarian who is confronted with grief and self-reflection when an ex-boyfriend passes away, and she has to parse through her memories to make sense of her present. Her personal drama unfolds as the public library faces book banning threats as well as increasingly polarized social discussions. –Michelle

**The Fall-Down Effect** by Liz Johnston

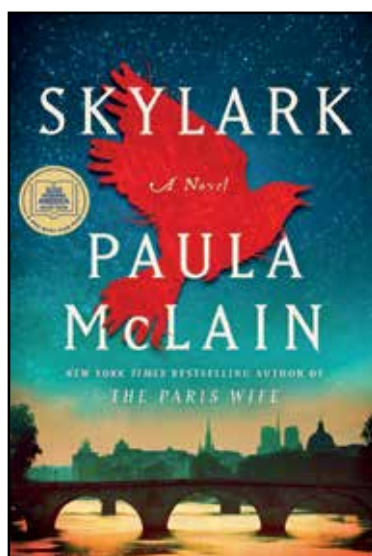
This stunning debut novel explores a family's attempts to reconcile their responsibilities to one another with their responsibilities to their community, which includes the old-growth forest that surrounds their remote logging

town in the Pacific Northwest. The forest is the focal point of the family's fractured relationships, and it challenges readers' assumptions and provokes important questions. How far would you be willing to go to protect the natural world – to forgo your comforts, your safety, or even your family? –Michelle



**Liberty Street** by Heather Marshall

Another heartwrenching and important read examining some of the obstacles faced by women in 1960s Toronto. The amazing characters found in this historical novel propelled the un-putdownable story from beginning to end. –Cathy

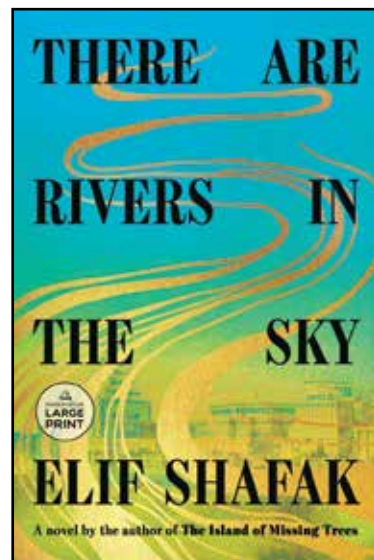


**Skylark** by Paula McLain

A wonderful dual timeline tale that links the 17th-century Gobelin Tapestry works and the Salpêtrière asylum with courage and resistance in Nazi era Paris. Touching on aspects of Paris few know about, this read does not disappoint! –Cathy

**Land** by Maggie O'Farrell  
Bridging Gaelic folklore and Irish history, this beautiful novel begins in 1865, as a

father and son are working to map all of Ireland for the British Ordnance map project. The story addresses the English occupation, people's reliance on the land, religion and superstition, the Great Famine, Canadian emigration, family relationships, and so much more. Based on her own great-great-grandfather's work, this novel is written in O'Farrell's vivid, richly lyrical, beautiful style with stunning descriptions of landscape. –Michelle



**There Are Rivers in the Sky** by Elif Shafak

An amazing centuries-spanning story about a single drop of water, the Tigris, and the Thames. This touching tale connects ancient Mesopotamia, modern day London, the plight of the Yazidi people, hydrology, and the meaning of life. –Cathy

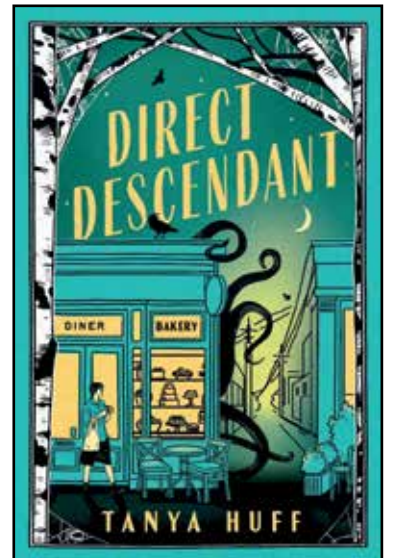
## SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY



**The Everlasting** by Alix E. Harrow

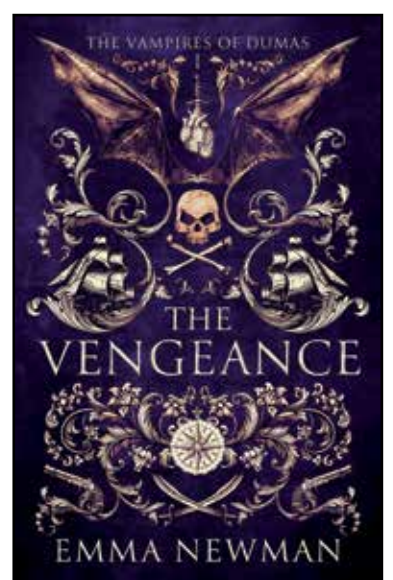
Sir Una Everlasting was Dominion's greatest hero: the orphaned girl who became a knight, died for queen and

country, and whose legend built a nation. Centuries later, Owen Mallory falls in love with her tale, and finds himself thrown into the past, bound to retell the same story over and over. Part Arthurian myth, part meditation on propaganda and the stories nations tell themselves. –Dave



**Direct Descendant** by Tanya Huff

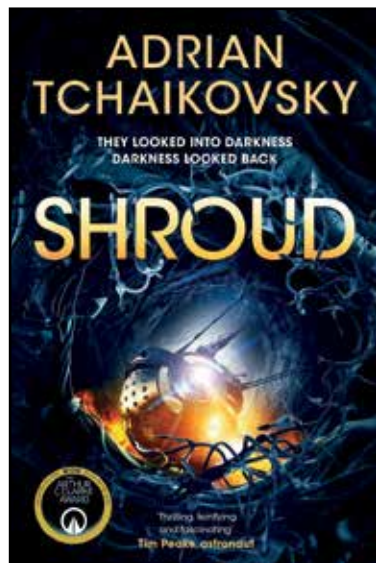
Generations ago, the founders of the idyllic town of Lake Argen made a deal with a dark force — prosperity and isolation in exchange for service. When a visitor goes missing and his family sends a private investigator, town baker and part-time servant of the dark force Cassidy Prewitt must contend with a rising army of darkness and a very cute PI she might just be falling for. Canadian horror author Tanya Huff delivers a cozy Lovecraftian romp that somehow makes eldritch abominations feel adorable. –Dave



**The Vengeance** by Emma Newman

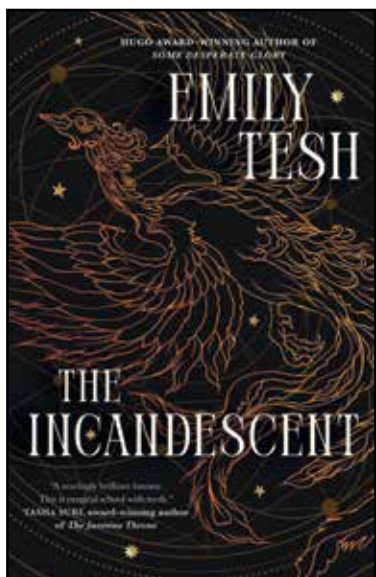
Morgane has grown up at sea, daughter of the fierce pirate captain of the Vengeance. A fun escapist read that mixes

pirates, historical fantasy, romance, and a road trip adventure — with a few surprises best discovered for yourself. —Dave



**Shroud by Adrian Tchaikovsky**

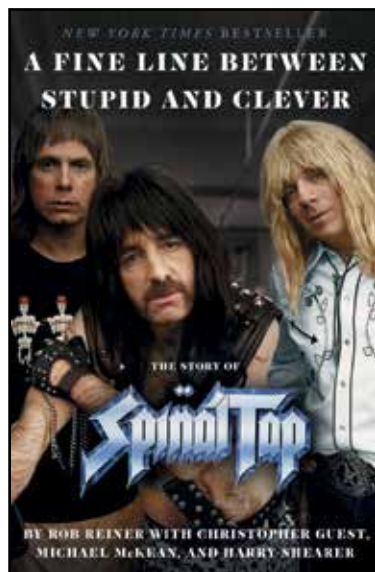
A commercial mission to a distant star system discovers a pitch-black moon, home to an unnerving alien species. An accident strands two crew members on the surface with no way to contact their ship. They begin to understand the aliens — and the aliens begin to understand them. Tchaikovsky's first-contact novel asks what it truly means to encounter a mind nothing like your own. —Dave



**The Incandescent by Emily Tesh**

Doctor Walden is the Director of Magic at Chetwood School: great at her job of securing the school against demonic incursions, managing her sixth-form students, and attending meetings. Hugo Award-winner Emily Tesh turns the magic school story on its head by handing the keys to the teacher — it's funny, dark, and unexpectedly moving. —Dave

**ART & MUSIC**



**A Fine Line Between Stupid and Clever: The Story of Spinal Tap by Rob Reiner**

Rob Reiner, Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, and Harry Shearer tell the complete behind-the-scenes story of how their low-budget indie film took on a life of its own — complete with never-before-seen photographs and backstories. As a bonus, Reiner's fictional alter ego Marty DiBergi weighs in with an in-character memoir interviewing the band about their musical journey and the drummers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to the rock gods. This one goes to eleven. —Dave

**HISTORY**

**The Traitors Circle by Jonathan Freedland**

This incredible true story reads like a fictional thriller.. but it is oh, so real. Set in 1930s and 1940s Germany we learn about some of the courageous Germans who worked to resist Hitler and his regime. —Cathy

**SCIENCE & NATURE**

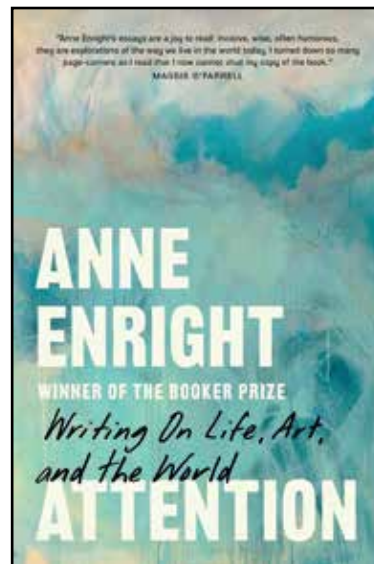


**Here Comes The Sun by Bill McKibben**

Written by one of the most important environmentalists

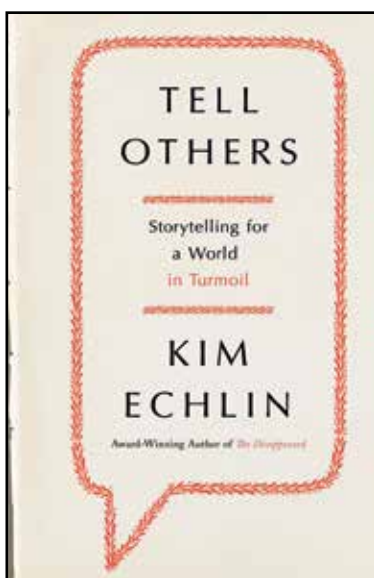
of our time, this book will give you hope that our world can be reordered into a saner and more livable, generous place. —Cathy

**READING & WRITING**



**Attention: Writing on Life, Art and the World by Anne Enright**

This brilliant collection of 24 essays by Booker Prize-winning Anne Enright consolidates thirty years of literary reviews and lectures. The essays touch on Ireland's history, the Magdalene laundries, abortion, motherhood and childbirth, and her own family history. They offer perspectives and commentary on other writers, including Alice Munro, Toni Morrison, James Joyce, and Helen Garner, and even touch on her experience of living in Canada. —Michelle



**Tell Others: Storytelling for a World in Turmoil by Kim Echlin**

This brilliant collection blends the author's lived experience with insights on reading and imagination. Echlin reflects on her experiences teaching in China, researching war crimes at The Hague, as well as her family's personal history, and combines this with insights on Milan Kundera, Salman

\*\*\*\*\*

Books on Beechwood has a Book Club! Currently focusing on Canadian classics, the club meets once a month at a local coffee shop. If you would like to be included on the club's email list, contact us at [staff@booksonebeechwood.ca](mailto:staff@booksonebeechwood.ca) or 613-742-5030.



Photo by Dave Rostenne

New Front Window display shows summer in full bloom at Books on Beechwood. Come check in for your summer read!

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# Vanier Business Improvement Area brings home provincial awards

By Daniel Hébert from BIA press release and website

The Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA) proudly held its 2026 BIA Conference from Apr. 19–22 in the heart of St. Catharines, Ontario, also known as the Garden City. Hosted by the St. Catharines Downtown Association, this annual gathering brings together BIA leaders, municipal partners, and community builders from across Ontario for three and a half days of learning, networking, and inspiration. This year's theme was "Main Streets in Bloom; Rooted in Purpose."

The Vanier Business Improvement Area (BIA) was recognized with two provincial awards at the Awards Gala, held as part of the 2026 BIA Conference. The Vanier BIA received the Award of Excellence for its Merchant Mondays social media series and the Award of Merit for its Merchant Hub & Information



Photo courtesy of Daniel Hébert

**Nathalie Carrier, Executive Director of the Vanier Business Improvement Area (BIA), accepting one of two provincial awards the Vanier BIA brought home at the annual gala.**

Kit. These awards celebrate the work, creativity, and heart the Vanier BIA team pours

into this community every single day. The Vanier BIA said that the awards belong

just as much to the merchants, residents, and partners who make Vanier what it is.

The Merchant Mondays series started with a simple idea: put a camera in front of the people who make Vanier special and let them tell their own stories. Each week, one Vanier business featured their products, their people, and the reason they chose to set up shop here. The series reflected on the full cultural richness of our neighbourhood: Francophone, Indigenous, Black-owned, women-owned, newcomer-owned, and long-standing family businesses alike. It gave our merchants a voice at a time when so much of business feels disconnected, digital, or AI-generated.

The Merchant Hub is a one-stop resource centre for the more than 400 businesses across the Vanier BIA area. It was built to solve a recurring problem: merchants not knowing where to look for resources. Whether it's a new owner just getting their keys,

or a long-time merchant navigating tariffs, grants, safety concerns, or marketing questions, the Hub puts answers, tools, and support in one clean, easy-to-navigate place. It includes a Welcome Kit for new members, grant and contribution opportunities, accessibility resources, Vanier BIA 101 resources, a "Who to Call" guide, and ongoing FAQs tailored to our neighbourhood.

The Vanier BIA would like to thank its merchants for trusting it with their stories and storefronts and to the community for believing in what our neighbourhood can be.

The Vanier BIA represents more than 400 businesses across MacArthur Ave., Montreal Road, and Beechwood Ave. Learn more about their work at [vanierbia.com](http://vanierbia.com)

*Daniel Hébert lives in New Edinburgh and is an avid music buff enjoying free music events.*

Elections  
Ottawa



Ottawa

## We're hiring election workers!

The City of Ottawa's Elections Office is hiring to fill over 5,000 paid election worker positions in the 2026 Municipal Elections.

Positions are available for the following dates:

- **Advance Voting Day: Friday, October 16**
- **Voting Day: Monday, October 26**

The Elections Office is looking for individuals who:

- Are at least 16 years old
- Understand the voting process and learn quickly
- Are reliable and have strong interpersonal skills

For questions or more information on becoming an election worker, contact the Elections Office by phone at 613-580-2660 or by email at [elections-jobs@ottawa.ca](mailto:elections-jobs@ottawa.ca).

Proficiency in English and French is an asset and will be considered for all positions. Proficiency in other languages will be considered an asset, and applicants are encouraged to indicate which language(s) they speak on their application form.

Due to the high volume of applications, only selected applicants will be contacted by the Elections Office between June and October. For more information on the available positions, pay rates and to apply online, visit [ottawa.ca/vote](http://ottawa.ca/vote).

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# Jazz series at MacKay United Church

By Eleanor Dunn

It's back! The popular Jazz in June series of noon-hour concerts returns once again to MacKay United Church. This month, some of Ottawa's most creative jazz artists will be performing in MacKay United's sanctuary: a chance to hear some laid-back, acoustic sounds.

Here's the lineup:

- Thursday, Jun. 4 — Erik Johnson-Scherger and Kyle Johnson, with possible help from the Ottawa International Jazz Festival's "Homegrown" series;
- Thursday, Jun. 11 — Trumpeter Atcheleh Aryee, Peter Woods, Kyle Jordan, and Jacob Clarke;
- Thursday, Jun. 18 — Vocalist Emmanuel Simon,

Sophie Simon, and Nick Gummesson

• Thursday, Jun. 25 — Peter Woods, Nick Gummesson, and Alex Mastronardi.

These concerts are free, although donations are welcome. Musicians must be paid, and events such as this cost the church, which means the congregation is subsidizing these, and other musical events which MacKay brings to the community during the year.

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



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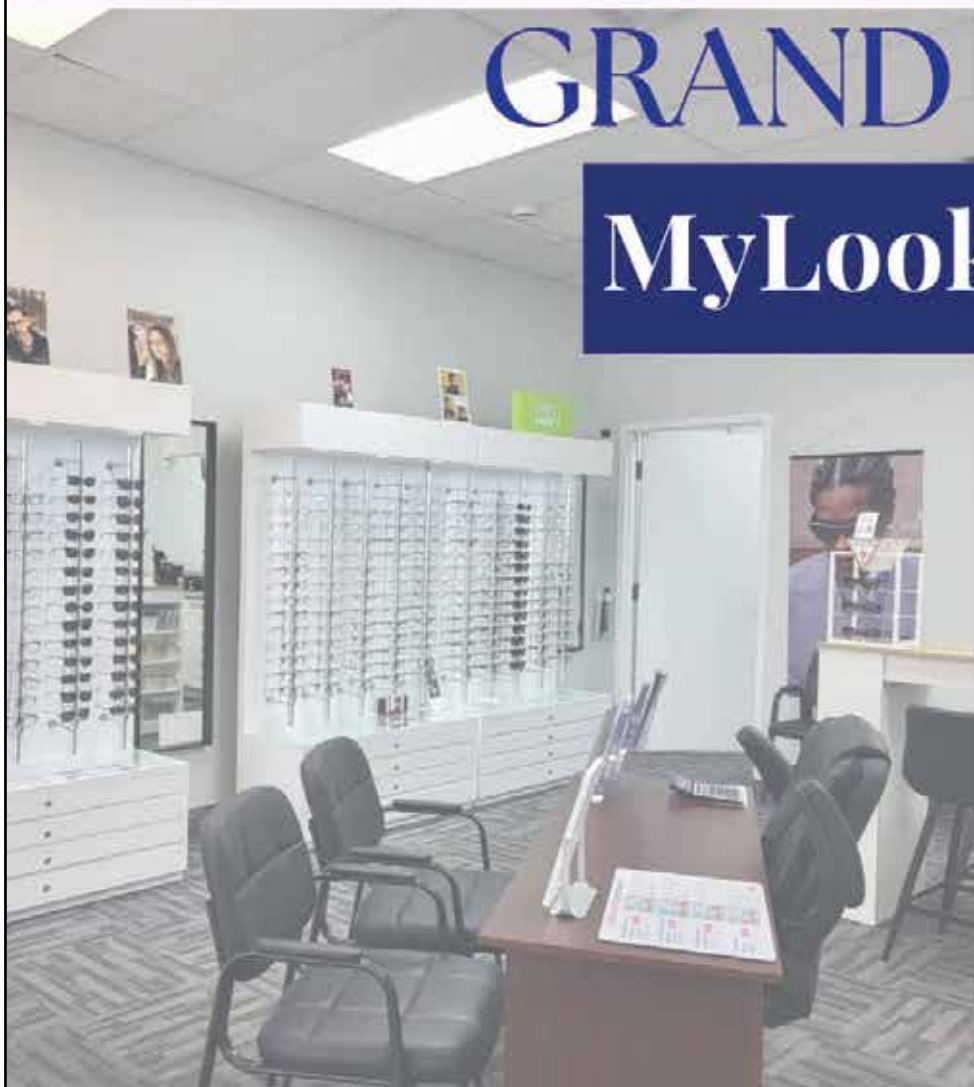
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# Mystery Reader program sparks joy at Fern Hill School

By Cindy Bennell and Joan Robidoux

The weekly Senior Kindergarten (SK) Mystery Reader Program at Fern Hill School, an independent school in New Edinburgh, is a much-anticipated highlight for students and families. Every Tuesday, the classroom buzzes with excitement as children eagerly try to guess which parent, grandparent, or special guest will be walking through the door. Each Mystery Reader submits a

set of clues that are shared during the Morning Meeting: hints that might reveal favourite colours, hobbies, foods, or playful physical details like glasses or curly hair.

These Mystery Readers bring more than just a favourite story. They open a window into language and culture. By welcoming multilingual readers – whether sharing stories in English and French, English and Latvian, or English and Mandarin – the program celebrates the rich diversity of the



Photo by Joan Robidoux

Senior Kindergarten mother and daughter share a special Latvian edition of *Kipper*.

Fern Hill community. Hearing stories in multiple languages helps children see that reading connects us all, expanding their understanding of the world and the people in it.

“I like the books my parents choose,” says one SK student.

“It gives me more time in the school day to be with my family,” adds another, capturing the heart of the program.

Family involvement is a cornerstone of learning at Fern Hill School, and the Mystery Reader Program is a

wonderful example of this philosophy in action. SK teacher Mrs. Robidoux explains that the program sparks curiosity, meaningful conversations, thoughtful questions, and a genuine love of reading. One of the most touching outcomes, she notes, is that learning flows both ways – students learn from the readers, and the readers, in turn, learn from the students.

“I am so impressed by how well the students focused on the story, actively participated in the Q&A, took turns, and spoke so politely with one another,” shared one SK parent. “I actually think I enjoyed and benefited from this experience even more than I expected.”

For the SK students, every Tuesday is a joyful surprise – filled with laughter, learning, and the magic of discovery.

*Cindy Bennell and Joan Robidoux are Grade 2 and SK Teachers at Fern Hill School.*

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## Second Annual Ceremony – Under the Maple Leaf: Respecting the Canadian Flag

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - 7:00 PM  
National Military Cemetery, Beechwood Cemetery.

Beechwood Cemetery proudly invites you to the second annual Under the Maple Leaf - Respecting the Canadian Flag ceremony.

This national initiative ensures the dignified retirement of tattered, faded, and unserviceable Canadian and provincial flags, paying tribute to the symbols that have represented our nation at home and abroad.

As stewards of Canada's history and heritage, Beechwood honours these flags at their final stage, offering a respectful farewell in accordance with Canadian Heritage protocols and environmental best practices.

This ceremony is more than a respectful act, it's a growing national tradition that celebrates our values of service, identity, and remembrance. Join us as we honour our shared symbols and reaffirm what it means to be Canadian.

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# Celebrating creativity: NEST 2026 marks 10 years in the community

By Josée Robillard

What: The New Edinburgh Artists' Studio Tour 2026

When: Saturday and Sunday, Sep. 26–27, 2026 | 10 am–4 pm

Where: 10 studio and gallery locations throughout the New Edinburgh/Beechwood neighbourhood in Ottawa

Admission: FREE! Bring your friends!

The New Edinburgh Artists' Studio Tour (NEST) returns in September, inviting you to explore a vibrant, self-guided celebration of creativity in one of Ottawa's most charming neighbourhoods. Across 10 studio and gallery locations – all within easy walking or biking distance – 30 talented artists will open their doors to share original works spanning oil and acrylic painting, mixed media, printmaking, jewellery, photography, pottery, glass, textiles, and sculpture.

This year also marks an exciting milestone: a decade since NEST was first established in 2016. While the tour was paused for three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizing committee eagerly relaunched the event in 2023. Now, three years later, NEST is once again thriving and in full swing as a cornerstone of



Image courtesy of Josée Robillard

Sara Alex Mullen, *Delight*

the local arts community.

This free event offers New Edinburgh residents and guests an immersive experience right in their backyard. Meet artists in their studios where they create or exhibition spaces, enjoy live demonstrations, and discover one-of-a-kind pieces available for purchase. As you explore, you'll gain a behind-the-scenes glimpse into artistic processes while connecting directly with the creators themselves. Visitors can also enjoy an interactive tour experience through the Toureka! app, which includes maps, artist profiles, and



Photo courtesy of Josée Robillard

Lori Coulter, *Diptych*

sponsor links. Free street parking is available, and visitors can enter to win door prizes at various stops along the way.

NEST is powered by a passionate collective of artists dedicated to fostering a thriving arts community. With the generous support of sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, and donors, the tour continues to grow as a welcoming, inspiring event for all. A special thank you to our title sponsor, Natalie Belovic at Urban Ottawa; our platinum sponsor Chartwell New Edinburgh Square Retirement Residence; and our advertisers, The Hon. Mona Fortier, MP for Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester; Lucille Collard, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier; and Rawlson King, councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe. NEST's mission is

simple yet impactful: to connect artists, engage the public, and support creative talent by bringing art directly into the community.

## Explore options for getting involved

We are seeking friendly volunteers to help welcome and guide visitors, as well as distribute brochures at various locations throughout the tour weekend. If you're interested in taking part, please contact [josee.robillard@gmail.com](mailto:josee.robillard@gmail.com)

If you're a local business interested in supporting our event as a sponsor, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to Beth Stikeman at [beth.stikeman56@gmail.com](mailto:beth.stikeman56@gmail.com) to learn more about partnership opportunities.

## Learn more about NEST

Please visit our website at [neststudiotour.ca](http://neststudiotour.ca) and find us on Instagram @neststudiotour and on Facebook as NewEdinburghStudioTour or email us at [neststudiotour@gmail.com](mailto:neststudiotour@gmail.com)

Whether you're an art enthusiast, a curious explorer, or simply looking for a meaningful way to spend a fall weekend, NEST offers a unique opportunity to experience art up close and be part of something special!

*Josée has been a member of the NEST organizing committee since 2016. She is a printmaker and mixed media artist who also takes part in the tour as an exhibiting participant.*



## Rockcliffe Park library summer programming

By Martha Hodgson

Rockcliffe Park library branch staff are preparing for the most exciting time of the year (according to children's librarians): summer! Every year, more than 2,000 Canadian libraries participate in the TD Summer Reading Club (SRC) program, whose objective is to get kids excited about reading throughout the hot season and retain the skills they gained throughout their year at school.

This year's theme is DIVE IN!

The TDSRC celebrates Canadian authors, illustrators and stories, and inspires kids to explore the fun of reading, their way. This is key to building a lifelong love of reading! The Summer Reading Club is really three exciting engagement opportunities rolled into one.

1) As a way to encourage children to read over the



Image courtesy Martha Hodgson

Illustration by Rockcliffe Park 2026 artist, Andrew Kolb to promote summer reading club.

summer, we give each visitor between 4 and 12 years old a kit which includes a notebook, stickers, and reading recommendations.

2) The national website of the SRC – [tdsummerreadingclub.ca](http://tdsummerreadingclub.ca) – offers a way pass the time on those rainy days of summer (or a long drive), using a phone or tablet; children are invited to vote in an all-Canadian Battle of the Books, answer trivia questions, read and write jokes submitted by others like them and read an exclusive

web comic.

3) Children can participate in fun (and free) activities at their local branch, throughout the city, or even any participating library in Canada! Science experiments, encounters with animals, crafting, storytelling, playing with STEM toys, movie nights – each library branch hosts different programs.

All of this is completely free, and includes lots of options whether you seek French or English content.

We hope that many of you will come spend a bit of your day with us this summer. Some programs will be drop-in, and some will require registration. Please stay tuned through the library website: [bibliottawalibrary.ca](http://bibliottawalibrary.ca)

Kit distribution starts Jun. 8, and activities start the week of Jun. 29. See you then!

*Martha Hodgson is a supervisor at the Rockcliffe*

*Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, located at 380 Springfield Rd. Learn more at [bibliottawalibrary.ca](http://bibliottawalibrary.ca).*

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# New Edinburgh Seniors Social Group: Summer and fall activities 2026

By Dawn Straka, Isobel Bisby, Lee Jolliffe

The New Edinburgh Seniors Social Group (NESSG) has had a successful first year at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse, with 82 seniors now on the mailing list and growing interest in activities and events.

The monthly Speaker Series, held on the second Thursday of each month, has been so popular that it will continue through the summer. These free events feature local speakers followed by tea, snacks, and social time. Recent additions to NESSG programming also include a five-week art course led by local artist Ariel Lyons and free movement workshops offered through a partnership with The School of Dance.

All activities take place at the Stanley Park Fieldhouse and are FREE unless otherwise noted. Suggestions for future activities are welcome. Contact: [newedseniors@gmail.com](mailto:newedseniors@gmail.com)



The New Edinburgh Seniors Social Group attending an art class in the field house. Taught by local artist Ariel Lyons.

Photo courtesy of Isobel Bisby

[gmail.com](mailto:newedseniors@gmail.com)

### Speaker Series

Jun. 11, 1 pm – Susan Sibbit of the IODE Laurentian Chapter discusses the organization's community contributions.

Jul. 9, 1 pm – Psychiatrist Anne Hennessy speaks about mindfulness and psychotherapy, including a guided meditation.

Aug. 13, 1 pm – Resident Sean Flynn shares reflections on years of community involvement.

Sep. 10, 1 pm – Lawyer Paula Thompson discusses refugee sponsorship and community organizing.

### Summer Plein Air Workshops

Jun. 2 and Jun. 9, 10 am – Outdoor art workshops

in Stanley Park with Ariel Lyons. Fee: \$10/session. Register at [arielwatsonlyons@gmail.com](mailto:arielwatsonlyons@gmail.com)

### Ice Cream Socials

Jun. 25, Jul. 23 and Aug. 27, 1 pm – Casual summer socials at the Fieldhouse. Contact Dawn Straka at [dawn@straka.ca](mailto:dawn@straka.ca)

### Walking Group

Dawn Straka is organizing a walking group departing from the Fieldhouse at 9:30 am three days a week. Interested participants can contact [dawn@straka.ca](mailto:dawn@straka.ca)

Dawn Straka, Lee Jolliffe and Isobel Bisby began organizing the New Edinburgh Seniors Social Group in the Stanley Park Field House in 2025. The goal is to serve the senior population of the New Edinburgh area, welcoming long-term residents and newcomers to events and social activities that enrich everyone's lives.

## Love (and laundry), Italian-style

By William Beddoe

For its landmark 40th anniversary season of Theatre Under The Stars at beautiful Strathcona Park in nearby Sandy Hill, Odyssey Theatre presents *Mirandolina*. It's a lively new adaptation of Italian master Carlo Goldoni's 1753 classic comedy *The Mistress of the Inn*.

Adapted and directed by Eleanor Crowder, the production follows razor-sharp innkeeper Mirandolina as she navigates a world of entitled suitors, inflated egos, and dangerous games of attraction. All this while trying to run a

respectable establishment with the highest level of service, thank you very much.

When a haughty cavalier expresses utter disdain for his bed linens (in particular) and all womankind (in general), *Mirandolina* turns the tables on him with dazzling precision. Bursting with humour, physicality, and the vibrant theatrical style for which Odyssey is renowned, *Mirandolina* is a joyful celebration of wit, independence, and the art of staying one step ahead.

Odyssey Theatre occupies a rare niche in Canadian



Photo courtesy of William Beddoe

Odyssey Theatre past production: William Beddoe (left) and Nicholas Koy Santillo in *The Girl With No Hands*, 2025.

theatre. No other company in the country has so consistently produced such high-quality masked theatre

– which is steeped in, but also expands upon, the tradition of Commedia dell'Arte – for so many years.

It has been my great fortune as an artist to have performed with Odyssey many times over the years. After my villainous turn as The Devil in last summer's stunning dark comic fantasy *The Girl With No Hands*, I'm thrilled to be returning to the park in this sparkling comedy as a swaggering nouveau-riche who thinks that money can buy him anything or anyone. Spoiler alert: it can't!

This summer, treat yourself to an Italian holiday by making a booking at the Hotel *Mirandolina* – under the stars and trees by the banks of the Rideau River. The proprietor is pleased to inform you that the laughter is “on the house!” *Mirandolina* runs Jul. 23 to Aug. 16 in Strathcona Park. Please visit [odysseytheatre.ca](http://odysseytheatre.ca) for details.

*William Beddoe is a professional actor and director, who resides in New Edinburgh.*

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# Enjoying live music in the 'Burgh

By Daniel Hébert

We are fortunate to live in a city with a vibrant outdoor music festival scene, from the ever-popular JazzFest, Bluesfest, Chamberfest, and CityFolk festivals, to the Nostalgia Music Festival, where cover bands play classic rock from decades past. Across the river, Gatineau also delivers memorable performances at its renowned FMG (Festival de montgolfières de Gatineau). Beyond these marquee summer events, live music thrives year-round at such local venues as the Overflow Brewing Company (2477 Kaladar Ave.), Red Bird Live (1165 Bank St.), Irene's Pub (885 Bank St.), and The Rainbow Bistro (76 Murray St., just a short walk from the 'Burgh). Last year, I attended more than 50 live music events in the nation's capital: this summer, I'm aiming to top that.

My 2026 musical journey began in Portugal at the famed Parreirinha de Alfama, nestled in Lisbon's historic Alfama district and widely regarded as the city's oldest Fado venue. Fado, a traditional Portuguese

genre, is known for its soulful, mournful vocals and themes of longing, love, and fate. Originating in Lisbon's working-class neighbourhoods in the 1820s, it typically features a fadista (singer) accompanied by a 12-string Portuguese guitar. We were fortunate to attend on a night that concluded with a stirring performance by Maria Amélia Proença, an 87-year-old fadista who began singing at just seven years old. We experienced three memorable live fado acts that evening.

Back in Canada, we caught Ottawa-based group School House at the Overflow Brewing Company. The band was named Group of the Year at the 2024 Ottawa Music Awards, and their debut release was named Album of the Year by Ottawa's Faces Magazine. This marked our fifth time seeing School House, having first discovered them at the 2024 Akoustik event organized by the Vanier Business Improvement Association (BIA) at St. Charles Market.

Summer 2026 marks the fourth year of collaboration between the Vanier BIA and the Ottawa Music Industry



Photo courtesy Daniel Hébert

**Local band School House performs at the Overflow Brewing Company on Mar. 14; School House has played at past Akoustik free music events on summer evenings at the St. Charles Market on Beechwood Ave.**

Coalition (OMIC) to bring live music to New Edinburgh through Akoustik. Billed as a series of "free live performances by outstanding local artists across a range of genres," the program has also welcomed international talent like Australia's Mikhail Laxton, alongside nationally recognized performers like Charlie A'Court, winner of the 2024 East Coast Music Award for Blues Recording

of the Year.

Since 2023, Akoustik has featured performances on Wednesdays from 6–8 pm, on the steps of the St. Charles Church. Audiences are welcome to bring their own chairs or use those provided by the Vanier BIA. Each event includes a merchandise tent and a beverage vendor offering local craft beer, distinctive coolers, and wines not always available at the LCBO.

Local businesses also partner with the BIA to offer special promotions, with takeout discounts typically ranging from 10–20 per cent at spots like Edinburger, Schoolhouse Pizza, Café Miracle, and Sachi's @ Beechwood. Reflecting its growing popularity, in 2025 Akoustik ran every Wednesday and featured a total of 18 bands and solo artists.

The 2026 Akoustik season starts Wed., Jul. 15 and runs until Sep. 23, promising another outstanding summer of free outdoor music in the 'Burgh. Keep an eye on the Vanier BIA website for scheduling updates as the lineup will be announced shortly. One thing is certain: 2026 is set to deliver even more live music close to home. If Akoustik once again presents 18 acts, reaching my goal of more than 50 live performances this year should be well within reach. If you missed it last summer, make it a point to join the festivities this year: you won't regret it.

*Daniel Hébert lives in New Edinburgh and is an avid music buff enjoying free music events.*

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

**Note from the Editor:**  
New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) board meetings are paused between June and August.

## June

**June 4 to 25 Jazz in June at MacKay United Church** (see details on page 37)

**June 6 to October 31st Beechwood Market** (see details on page 1)

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

Canada's premier fundraising event dedicated to raising critical funds and awareness for the lung cancer community. Proceeds support Lung Cancer Canada's Airways of Hope program and the Give a Breath Research Foundation.

More info: [giveabreath.ca](http://giveabreath.ca) (Provided by local resident and volunteer Mandy Bailey)

**June 8 | Discover Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands | New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse: 203 Stanley**

**Ave. | 7–8:30 pm**

Join local resident Alison Braun, founder of EarthTreks, for an immersive evening exploring insight-driven travel, life-changing expeditions, and nature-based retreats in Ecuador's cloud forest. Experience stories, imagery, and flavours from Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands. Optional breathwork and a space for bird lovers will complement the evening.

Reserve your spot: Scan the QR code in the ad below or visit [earthtreks.ca](http://earthtreks.ca)

Contact: [alison@earthtreks.ca](mailto:alison@earthtreks.ca)

**June 9 | Vernissage: Edge Conditions | Inawendiwin | Canada Council Âjagemô Exhibition Space: 150 Elgin St. | Opening reception: 5–7 pm; Exhibition daily until May 2027, 7 am– 9 pm | Free admission**

New Edinburgh resident Leah Snyder invites neighbours to attend the opening of Edge Conditions | Inawendiwin, an exhibition featuring work from the Canada Council Art Bank, one of the largest collections of contemporary Canadian art. The exhibition explores

shoreline ecosystems and examines the tradition of landscape art in Canada through a broader range of voices and perspectives. Leah Snyder, the exhibition curator, is currently pursuing graduate studies in architecture and immersive exhibition design, focusing on how emerging digital technologies shape representations of place. Licensed drinks and snacks will be available. The building is wheelchair accessible.

RSVP for vernissage: [artbank.ca/exhibitions-and-outreach/edge-conditions](http://artbank.ca/exhibitions-and-outreach/edge-conditions)

**June 10 | Crichton Community Council (CCC) Board of Directors Meeting & AGM | New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse: 203 Stanley Ave. | 8– 9 pm (Regular Board Meeting: 8–8:30 pm)**

Meetings of the CCC Board of Directors are typically held the second Wednesday of each month at the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse. Meeting dates, times, and locations may vary.

Email: [CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CrichtonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com)

**June 13 | BottleWorks Bottle Drive | New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave. | 1– 4 pm**

BottleWorks will collect recyclable alcohol containers including wine bottles, beer bottles, and cans. Following recent recycling rule changes, this monthly initiative helps make alcohol container recycling more accessible in the neighbourhood. BottleWorks is a charitable social enterprise engaging youth facing barriers to employment. This collection will take place every second Saturday of the month. Please see details on page 1.



Image courtesy of Ellen Hagerman for Bottleworks

**June 27–31 | Art Camp for Young Artists | New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.**

Join Jana from Marigold Art Studio for a full week of colourful creativity and hands-on fun where imagination takes the lead. This program is offered in collaboration with the CCC. Designed for children ages 5–12, the camp explores painting, drawing, crafting, and mixed media through creative projects and play. Young artists will learn new techniques, build confidence, and make new friends along the way. Spaces are limited to allow for personalized guidance and support.

Program Options:

- Full Day: 9 am–4 pm for ages 6–12
- Half-Day Morning: 9 am–noon for ages 5–8
- Half-Day Afternoon: 1–4 pm for ages 5–8
- A 10 per cent sibling discount is automatically applied.
- Register: [marigoldartstudio.ca/summercamp](http://marigoldartstudio.ca/summercamp)

## July

**CANCELLED-July 1 | Canada Day Park Party (CCC) | New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.**

Canada Day Fireworks and Park Party Cancelled (CCC) at Fieldhouse. Chief Pinesi Event also cancelled for 2026.

On Canada Day, Rideau Hall typically offers a quieter, family friendly alternative to downtown festivities, featuring free guided tours of the residence and strolls through its 79 acre grounds. Please reconfirm any details and updates on their website [gg.ca/events](http://gg.ca/events)

## August

**August 17–21 | Art Camp for Young Artists | New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.**

See the June listing above for full program details and registration information.

**August 29 | End of Summer Park Party (CCC) | New Edinburgh Park, 203**

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### Discover Ecuador & Beyond

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Monday, June 8,  
7:00 – 8:30 PM  
New Edinburgh Fieldhouse

- Free attendance
- Light refreshments

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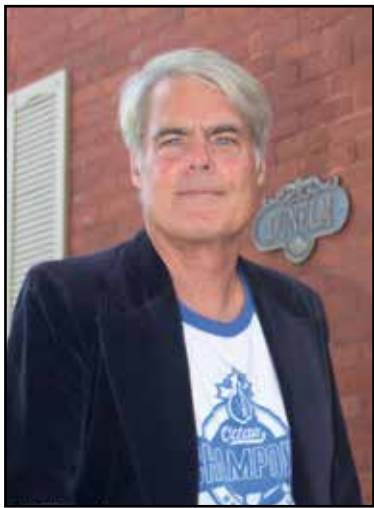
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# Burgh Breezy Bits

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

## Condolences



Friends and relatives were shocked at the loss of long-time 'Burgh resident **Gavin Murphy**, who died suddenly in May. *NEN* readers might recall a recent feature article (December 2025) about Gavin and his successful campaign to raise funds for a new x-ray machine at Kemptville District Hospital. Gavin donated \$230,000 to this project, following on from his earlier donation of \$500,000 to the Ottawa Hospital in support of innovative research and technology for cancer treatment.

Gavin was a graduate of Carleton University and the University of Ottawa Law School, and received a Master of Laws from Durham University, England. After a successful legal career in Ottawa and the UK, Gavin continued to lecture, mentor

students, write scholarly articles, and edit legal journals. He figured prominently in Ottawa's international university alumni community, often hosting events at his home on Union St.

A photographer, YouTuber, cyclist, competitive tennis player, and well on his way to visiting every cathedral in England, Gavin was a fascinating, dynamic, and entertaining individual. He was generous with his time and his money. His loss will be felt by so many people in so many ways, but through his philanthropy and his personality, Gavin leaves behind a remarkable legacy. We've lost a very special person.

## Welcome



Congratulations and welcome to **Paul Valois**: new General Manager of the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club. Paul started

his new role with ONEC earlier this year and is already super busy with the sailing programs, among other activities and events now in place. If you've not checked out what's happening this summer, please get in touch with Paul as ONEC is celebrating 140 years on the Ottawa River, 100 years in the Boat House, and 50 years of summer camp, so there's something available for all ages right in your neighbourhood!



Please welcome **Joanie Bond** and **Dillion Gravelle** who have just arrived with their two dogs, Dante (a one-year-old brown boxer mix) and Sophia (a 12-and-a-half-year-old Great White Pyrenees). Dillion is a refinery manager at the Royal Canadian Mint and Joanie is a cafe manager. Both from small towns, they find this neighbourhood to be a perfect fit; they both love animals and good people, and so have found that sweet spot – charming and welcoming! They look forward to exploring paths in the parks and trying new restaurants in and around the neighbourhood. If you see them walking their puppy Dante, he will be on a leash as they are still training him with the help of their gentle senior dog Sophia. So, please give them all a warm welcome while out strolling or enjoying the farmer's market near the Fieldhouse!

## Farewell



The neighbourhood is sad to be losing long-time residents **Mandy and Paul Bailey**, but we're thrilled they didn't leave without saying goodbye. A note from the Baileys:

"Wow! Time flies. We suddenly find ourselves bidding a sad farewell to this wonderful neighbourhood knowing that finding somewhere else like New Edinburgh will be almost impossible. Our family moved to this neighbourhood in 1996 after our first posting, which was to Malaysia. We first lived on Thomas St. and then on Crichton St. The uniqueness of this neighbourhood is that we are so near to Stanley Park and the Rideau River on one side and the GG's residence on the other, not to mention all the shops and restaurants on Beechwood. We will have to discover new ways to source life's necessities and luxuries, whether pizza, poké bowl, epicurean delights, or fine cuts of locally-sourced meat.

Best of all are the great friends and neighbours surrounding us. Quick walks can quickly turn into long, mostly stationary excursions when we get caught up in deep, or light, discussions with passers-by. We walked our dogs – Rosie then Eddie – over many years in the park. Our kids used to canoe on the river. Our family cycled and walked the area.

With four little grandchildren – two living in France

and two in Toronto – we have decided to move closer to our grandkids...although some may question the wisdom of our choosing Toronto over France.

It's hard to say goodbye. You are just so lucky to live here, one of the most livable neighbourhoods in Canada!"

## Congratulations



Jane's Walk celebrated New Edinburgh's special village vibe.

A full complement of walkers joined local writer **Janet Uren** on May 1 to discover New Edinburgh's 200-year history and challenges, and to learn how it has retained a village feel even to the present day. Jane's Walk is an annual festival of free neighbourhood walking tours in honour of Jane Jacobs, the urbanist and activist whose ideas revolutionized how we think and regard urban spaces and urban life.

Attendees from all over Ottawa – including Westboro, Overbrook, the Glebe, and beyond, as well as Australia and Toronto – followed Uren as she shared the evolution of the village and the campaigns to keep it intact. With its conclusion at the Sussex Blocks greenspace, the walk was a reminder of how New Edinburgh became what it is today and how it may still face steep challenges to its village vibe.

## 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:

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Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.