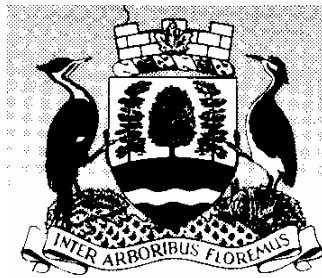


ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2006



Please join us for the Joint Annual Meeting
of the RPRA and the Village Foundation,
to be held on **February 21, 2007** at 7:30 p.m.,
in the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This was a great year for getting together for Village activities. On the day of the June Village Party, the Recreation Committee galvanized teams of helpers to turn a rain day into a huge success in Juliana Hall. The September Garden Party once again marked the opening of the autumn season with croquet and heritage tours, and the Christmas parties were much enjoyed. The Speaker Series attracted fascinating talkers, and audiences that filled the Community Hall. The rinks program brought out a host of skaters. The soccer program, managed with Lindenlea and the schools, goes on from strength to strength.

Because of concerns over the NCC's proposal to bring its Capital Pathway bicycle route through the Rockeries, the RPRA presented an alternative to the NCC Board in May. As a result, the NCC has commissioned a study of the RPRA's simple plan to make use of the Parkway by widening the sidewalk. This would avoid routing a high-traffic bike path through the Rockeries.

Plans for the reconstruction of Princess Avenue and Lisgar Road between Princess & Mariposa are not yet complete. At issue is the form a pedestrian path would take along Princess beside the Rideau Hall fence. The City proposes a concrete sidewalk, the RPRA proposes an informal footpath in the grass. What has been settled is that the short length of Princess between the rear gate of Rideau Hall and Lisgar that the City wished to close will remain open, but to one-way traffic from the gate towards Lisgar.

RPRA directors engaged in the development of the Beechwood Community Design Plan because it includes the Rockcliffe properties along Beechwood between Acacia and Oakhill. Of particular concern were home-based businesses and the permitted height of structures. As finally approved by the City, the Plan allows expanded provisions for home-based businesses to allow a greater floor area and two, rather than one, non-resident employees. The Plan's increase in maximum height from 10.6 to 12.5 metres is to accommodate four storeys in a zone that has for many years permitted apartment buildings.

The zoning by-laws of all the municipalities that formed the new Ottawa have been amalgamated into a draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law. The Zoning committee of the RPRA has been reviewing the emerging text during the past year with the help of discussions with the drafters. In the main, the requirements for the various Village residential zones in the draft by-law are close to the existing ones. There remain some details to be worked out. The RPRA has recommended against allowing bed and breakfast operations. It agrees to home-based businesses but opposes signs advertising them.

The lands of the former Rockcliffe air base are being planned for redevelopment. This large site, that could eventually house ten to fifteen thousand people, is close to Rockcliffe and so two directors have been, and will remain, actively involved in the

planning, in concert with neighbouring community associations. An innovative draft layout of the site was presented to the public on November 29. A key concern remains how the increased traffic will impact nearby roads such as Beechwood and the Parkway.

The Environment Committee and student volunteers have attacked invasive shrubs in the Caldwell-Carver conservation area with the help of a City grant, and the Heritage and Site Plan Committee has used a City grant to begin restoration of the 19th century Birkenfels gates. A grant has also greatly assisted the winter skating rinks.

In providing for the exchange of information amongst us, the *Rockcliffe News* came out in new dress under new editor Julie Beatty; and our long-anticipated web site at <www.rockcliffepark.ca> is up and running.

The directors are especially grateful to The Village Foundation for providing substantial grants for the newsletter, the soccer and rink programs, and environment and heritage projects. The Foundation contributes a major part of the Association's operating budget.

Councillor Jacques Legendre has been, as before, a great support for the directors, patiently attending our meetings and intervening with the City and the NCC on behalf of the Village. We greatly appreciate his help and welcome his re-election.

Vera Cody, Gloria Connelly and Bill Fleury are stepping aside as directors. On behalf of the Association, I offer profound thanks to them for their excellent work and their dedication to the interests of the community. I am also leaving the Board; it has been a privilege to work with such a fine team.

People throughout the Village have volunteered countless hours helping with individual community projects, working on committees or serving as RPRA directors. This generosity of spirit is what makes the community. Long may it continue!

Prepared by Anthony Keith

PLANNING AND LEGAL ISSUES

CFB Rockcliffe Development

The Board of Directors of RPRA has delegated Alexander Macklin and Iola Price to represent the Village interests in connection with the above development. As can be appreciated, this development could have a major impact on us, in particular through its effect on traffic in and around the Village.

If you have not been to the site, either at all or since vacated by DND, we strongly recommend you pay it a visit. It is an easy drive east from the intersection of Hemlock

Ave. and St. Laurent. The area to be developed is in the order of 310 acres but the area of influence is more like 1,000 acres.

Canada Lands Company (CLC), a Crown corporation, is in charge of development. There are presently a number of homes on the site, some occupied, some not, plus a former school which is now CLC's offices. When fully developed in about ten years, there could be 3,000 to 4,000 residences of various types, with ten to fifteen thousand residents, roughly four to five times the size of Rockcliffe Park Village.

CLC has brought together an excellent group of professionals to work on the Rockcliffe development, headed by the Ottawa architect, Barry Padolsky. Thus far, we have been impressed with their approach to the preparation of a Community Design Plan (CDP) for the property in accordance with the City of Ottawa's Official Plan.

To the extent possible, the concept is to produce an innovative, semi-self-sustaining community in which the very latest concepts in urban planning will be employed, including heating and cooling systems, ground water usage and the like, with a mix of parkland, access corridors including bike paths, public transit, shopping areas, residences and community based facilities.

Our main concern has been increased traffic flows along the Hemlock-Beechwood corridor, and the Rockcliffe Parkway and Sussex Drive which, during rush hours, are currently extremely busy. At the moment, Montreal Road appears to be the most likely location for a future rapid transit route into and out of the development, however, Hemlock-Beechwood has not been ruled out.

Iola Price and Alexander Macklin are representing Rockcliffe Park on the various committees that have been formed to provide public interest input into the development. In particular, there is a communities advisory group chaired by Jane Brammer of Rothwell Heights called CARAD. It meets quite regularly. There is a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) chaired by Prof. Caroline Andrew from the University of Ottawa. PAC involves many interest groups, including ones with particular expertise in community design plans, transportation and the like. Iola and Alex are members of PAC. There has been one meeting of PAC with CLC to date.

There is also a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which, as the name suggests, involves people with particular skills. Jane Brammer, Iola Price and Alex will take turns attending TAC and CLC joint meetings and reporting back to PAC and CARAD. Meetings with City of Ottawa planning officials are also contemplated.

Our Councillor, Jacques Legendre, has taken a particular interest in this development, as has our Member of Parliament, Mauril Belanger.

Your Board is also concerned about the continuing use of the name "Rockcliffe" for this new development and the very real possibility of confusion, including responding to emergency calls. Alternative names have been considered, with the name of choice currently being "Viscount Alexander Heights", or variations thereof. Our president,

Anthony Keith, has written to Canada Lands Company advising them of your Board's preference for a name change.

Prepared by Alexander Macklin

HERITAGE & SITE PLAN COMMITTEE

The Heritage & Site Plan Committee holds quarterly meetings to review issues and initiate projects of importance to our Heritage District. Martha Edmond's book *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village* has been selling well all year. The 19th century Birkenfels gates are now being cleaned, painted and repaired with the assistance of a City grant. We hope to see them erected at the Buchan entrance to Jubilee Garden in the Spring. Notice boards for RPRA activities were designed and installed outside the Community Hall. Repairs have been made to one of the two inscribed concrete markers put beside Hillsdale Road in 1930 by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club. They record the origin of McKay Lake and its marl beds.

The revised *Ontario Heritage Act* came into effect with its strengthening of the protection of structures designated individually or within heritage districts. Now, City Council may refuse to issue a permit for demolition, whereas before Council only had power to delay demolition. This applies to every building in Rockcliffe Park.

The Development Review Subcommittee meets on an as-required basis to provide advice to City staff on plans for alterations, demolitions and construction of new buildings. Discussions were completed with the developers of the former yard on Carsdale, and construction is underway. The subcommittee gave advice on a number of proposed alterations. A proposal to replace the houses at 375 Minto and 90 Buena Vista with a single larger house was discussed with the proponents and the design was then modified, at which point the subcommittee agreed not to oppose demolition. The subcommittee has continued to encourage applicants to preserve as much open green space as possible, to retain mature trees and to use natural materials in the construction and alteration of all dwellings.

New Zoning By-law

As a consequence of the creation of the new City of Ottawa, 36 zoning by-laws, in effect in 11 municipalities making up the new City, have had to be consolidated into a single new draft comprehensive Zoning by-law. The initial version of this draft appeared in the spring of 2006. The City asked citizens to comment on the draft by December 1, 2006.

The RPRA executive appointed a Zoning Sub-committee to prepare comments on behalf of the Rockcliffe community. Members named were Peggy Gibson, Peter Hyde, Tony Keith, Bob McElligott, Peter Newcombe, James C. Taylor and Si Taylor (chair). This sub-committee met four times in 2006, reporting to the RPRA Executive's monthly meetings. It prepared comments on the draft By-law which were submitted at the end of November, 2006. The City staff will be producing a revised draft in 2007. At that time debate will continue, with further opportunities for communities to comment.

Broadly speaking, the draft By-law's basic provisions do not envisage major changes in Zoning in Rockcliffe, compared with the provisions of the existing By-law, which remains that of the former village until it is replaced by the new By-law. There has been lively discussion in committee on matters of detail, however. The RPRA, on behalf of the community, has registered its opposition to allowing bed-and –breakfast establishments in Rockcliffe, for example, and to commercial signs, both of which would be permitted in all residential zones if the draft By-law were to be adopted unamended. On other matters – on side-yard setbacks, corner sight triangles and driveway widths, for example, the tenor of the RPRA's comments had been to seek wherever possible to ensure that the provisions of the new By-law maintain the non-commercial, residential character of the Village

Prepared by Sandy Smallwood, J.H. (Si) Taylor & Anthony Keith

Members: John Cook, Linda Dicaire, Martha Edmond, Robin Fyfe, Margaret Gerard, Anthony Keith, Polly King, Joan Kingstone, Vic Lanctis, Robert McElligott, Diana Rowley, Sandy Smallwood (Chair), James C. Taylor, J. H. (Si) Taylor.

Members by correspondence: Brian Anthony, David McRobie, Tim Murray.

ASSOCIATION–SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

For the sixth year, the Speakers Program has attracted outstanding individuals to share their views with us in informal evenings and lunches at the Community Hall. This has been a rewarding experience for all those who came out and took part in discussions on politics, culture, journalism, and science. Please let Susan d'Aquino know if anyone would like to help organize these events in the coming year.

Michael Pantazzi, who is curator of European art at the National Gallery of Canada, told fascinating stories about Nazi looting of art works. Joe Guerts spoke of his experience heading up the new Canadian War Museum. David Halton shared personal tales of his long adventure as a CBC television journalist. Kate Taylor - the *Globe and Mail's* columnist on culture - tackled the subject of the digital revolution and what it means for Canadian culture. Former Washington correspondent and now in Ottawa for CTV, Rosemary Thompson talked about her experiences following elections both in the U.S. and Canada. Renowned scientist Dr. Michael Rudnicki described the astounding potential of stem cells. The final speaker of the year was Eddie Goldenberg - policy advisor extraordinaire to Prime Minister Chrétien - who spoke about "the way it works" inside Ottawa.

Prepared by Susan d'Aquino

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2006 was another year of wonderful community events, attended by a large number of residents and volunteer participation continued to rise as more and more families joined in the planning, set-up, organization and promotion of events of this hard-working and enthusiastic sector of the RPRA.

We did not have a Trash Bash this year in May as many residents advised us that it would be better to have this event every second year. We will advertise for table sales again for May 2007 in the Spring 2007 newsletter and hope that we can again attract Village residents to rent tables and have our popular Community Donations Table which accepts donations from residents who do not want their own private table, but are willing to give us their items for sale with proceeds going to the RPRA for assisting us in developing further community events.

The annual Community Party on Saturday, June 10, 2006 drew the largest number of residents we have ever had participate in a community event. As the cold and rainy weather forced us to move the party to the Queen Juliana Gym of Rockcliffe Park Public School the morning of the event, a large committee of volunteers galvanized to help set up our Mexican themed social, and more than 270 residents attended. When our guests entered the beautifully decorated room filled with tables covered by luxurious linens and topped with piñatas, they were serenaded by a mariachi band that played for an hour. The children were treated to entertainment that included a balloon artist, face painters, magic and juggling stars.

Dinner was catered by Lone Star Catering and was followed by a desserts table that held a cake with a photo image of the map of the Village of Rockcliffe Park. A unique and delicious soft serve Twistee Ice Cream cart was donated for the evening by residents Marilyn and Allan Wilson and all guests indulged in this terrific treat. Entertainment was donated by residents and musicians of the Village. The opening band was comprised of Gerry Wall, Edmond Chiasson and John Witherspoon (teamed with their friend Tim Brennan) and was followed by an all night rollicking rock and roll extravaganza of music by Jim Harmon with his band the Mail Order Brides. Adults and children alike were up on their feet dancing until the evening ended and then the band played one final set while guests remained and helped in the take-down process.

Brian Montgomery and his team of Hosers set up and manned the cantina bar all night and their drink concoctions were enjoyed by all. His team included Gavan Power, Brad Denison, Graham & Katie MacMillan, Gary Zed, Mike Borish, Pam Murray, Dan Trepanier, Mike Iwanoff, Don Finless, Robin Fyfe and Adnan Hadziomerovic. Tom Mosco was there for his police presence, making sure all guests were safe and sound. Committee members were Vera Cody, Deborah Seaborn, Mary Anne Smallwood, Cheryl Rodrigues, Kim Ratushny, Alana Abraham and Donna Roberts. A thank you to the Tepper family – Bryan, Alison, Cassidy and Emily, who were instrumental in the set-up and moving the party from an outside event to inside the gym. Caroline Frewer, Deborah Seaborn, Vera and Jim Cody, Julie Vanderschot, Cheryl and Emile Rodrigues

and Linda Iwanoff also enthusiastically helped with set-up and decorating for this successful annual social.

In September, the RPRA once again held the Village Garden Party, Diplomat Croquet Tournament and Heritage Trolley Tour of the Village. The Village Foundation contributed to this special afternoon by providing a financial grant to the RPRA to support this community endeavour. September 17th was a picture perfect day and the afternoon was filled with wonderful activities. The diplomat croquet tournament was this year organized by Mariane Feaver and her husband Dr. David Esdaile and the champions were Willy Cadham, Dylan Trickett, George Seaden, Marianne Feaver and Dr. David Esdaile. Two trolley tours were conducted on the Bytown Trolley Company trolley, and were guided and narrated by Village author and historian Martha Edmond, who spoke to more than 60 people on the tours about the special homes of historical significance in the Village. The tour was followed by a tea party where more than 120 residents attended. The RPRA sold Village T-shirts, membership renewals to the RPRA and many copies of the Martha Edmond book, *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village*, published by the Friends of the Village Foundation.

In December, the RPRA held its two popular events – Wednesday, December 13th was the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Carol Sing-Along. The Citadel Band of the Salvation Army led all carolers in song and the attendees were treated to a holiday choral performance by the school choir of Fern Hill School, under the musical directorship of Deborah Thompson. Elizabeth Milligan, Principal of the school, parents of the choir members all walked to the Community Christmas tree where the lights were turned on during the musical performance. Revellers enjoyed hot apple cider prepared by Vera and Jim Cody, Alison and Bryan Tepper and Hanneke Boadway. Mulled wine was both prepared and served by Alana and Donald Abraham and enjoyed by all accompanied with delicious Christmas cookies. Deborah Seaborn and Mary Anne Smallwood were integral to the planning of this well attended community-building event. Everyone was encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the Shepherd's of Good Hope.

Sunday, December 17th, the Community Hall was transformed into a winter wonderland as 100 children attended the annual RPRA Children's Christmas Party participating in an afternoon of caroling, karaoke, holiday crafts, Christmas cookie decorating, face painting, parking lot hockey, a chocolate fountain, performances by ballerinas, toy soldiers, elves and a special visit from Santa Claus who gave each child a sweet treat as they were leaving. Children were asked to bring a donation for our Mitten Tree of mittens, gloves, scarves or hats that were then delivered to an organization that greatly benefited from their contribution. New this year, and under the enthusiastic guidance of resident Donna Wishart, poinsettias were sold to fund-raise for the purchase and installation of a new tree for the Village. The Committee for this year included Deborah Seaborn, Mary Anne Smallwood, Julie Vanderschot, Vera Cody, Clare Nippard, Paula Yau, Florencia Trepanier, Margaret Douglas, Melanie Harmon, Linda Iwanoff, Donna Wishart, Micheline McElligott, Arlie Meirins, Chris and Brad Denison, Hilary and Brian Montgomery, and Don Finless.

2006 was a busy year with well attended and well received events for the RPRA and our Committee is already planning for the 2007 season. If there are other kinds of events that you would like to see held here in the Village, contact Vera Cody as we are always open to new ideas and we welcome volunteers of every age because it really does take a Village to realize how special a community we live in.

**Prepared by Vera Cody (Vice President, RPRA and Chair of Community Events)
Community Events Committee:
Vera Cody, Deborah Seaborn, Mary Anne Smallwood, Julie Vanderschot**

ROCKCLIFFE RINKS

In spite of challenging weather, the rinks opened in early 2006 for holiday skating owing to the great work done by the Rockcliffe Hosers.

Global warming? It sure seems like it affected our conditions in 2006. In the month of January there were four thaws followed by snowfalls which caused havoc at the rinks. We persevered though, and the rinks were in better shape than most in the City, thanks again to the Hosers.

The hockey rink was the same size as last year and the city oriented it north-south again. Behind the hockey rink at the Jubilee Garden, we had the free skating rink. Decorative lights (white only this year) made for a more well-lit space and it was really a great place to skate in the evenings.

This year we had 81 Rockcliffe Hosers. I would like to recognize and welcome 2006's 16 new Hosers: Peter Burn, John Pavezka, Bill Fleury, David Weinstein, Allan Wilson, John Stout, Bryan Tepper, Anthony Wilson-Smith, Ryan Kilger, Paul Saucier, Tom Manley, Paul Beaule, Eric Yau, Chris Martin, Gary Zed, and Manny Simantirakis!

I should note and thank Marilyn Wilson for her great help in identifying new potential Hosers who had recently moved into the Village.

Afternoon and early evening supervision was performed by Ashbury students for volunteer hours. Weekend supervision was being done by Rockcliffe Hosers.

At this writing the boards are up and the trailer installed for the 2006-07 edition of the Rockcliffe Rinks. We are just waiting for power to the trailer to commence hosing.

Prepared by Brian Montgomery

SOCCKER PROGRAM

The Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea House League Soccer Program continues to grow and thrive with strong support from a committed group of volunteers and parents in the

community. In 2006, there were a record number of 257 children registered in the RPL League, playing on 19 teams in four different divisions from late April through late June, with the two older age divisions continuing for four additional weeks in September. The Pee Wee Division (ages 4-7) played Saturday mornings at the Rockcliffe Park Public School field. The Junior (ages 7-9), Intermediate (ages 9-11) and Senior (ages 12-15) divisions played at both the school and Hillsdale fields on weekday evenings.

In addition to getting team T-shirts, once again each player received his or her own complementary soccer ball. Unfortunately, the distributor experienced delays and the soccer balls were not delivered until late June. In the Pee Wee and Junior Divisions, all players ended their season with a Fun Day, pizza party and personally engraved participation medals for each player. The Senior Division joined forces with the Manor Park League to play regular weekly games, sharing referees and alternating fields. The four Intermediate Division teams and the three Senior RPL teams also participated in end-of-season tournaments, capping off the session with a pizza finale and gold, silver or bronze medals for all participants.

The conditions of the Hillsdale or Rockeries field are not ideal for soccer (uneven with many potholes and often wet), so the RPL League will continue to explore other options for a playing field but will use the Rockeries again next year if no alternative can be found.

A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers that helped make 2006 a successful season, particularly the 34 coaches and eight referees who dedicated many hours to ensuring the kids had wonderful team spirit, lots of fun and played fairly. Our RPL Soccer Program has been a great community building success primarily due to the partnership between the Lindenlea Community Association and the RPRA in organizing the league. We are grateful that the LCA handles most of the administrative aspects of the registration process, and would like to express our particular thanks to Valerie Devine-Egan, Caryn Kewell, Joy Chow, Daniel Hanson, Sarah Oliver and Alexandra Wood for their commitment to our neighbourhood soccer program. Also, thank you to Ben Marsters who received community service hours for painting the goal posts on the RPPS field.

The RPRA and the Lindenlea Community Association (LCA) are together looking to fill the job of Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea Soccer League Convenor. The League runs from late April to the end of June, but planning and preparations begin in February. This Convenor would be assisted by parent volunteers who together would be responsible for registration, coach and referee recruitment, team formation, game scheduling, allocating/purchasing equipment and supplies, and organizing end-of-season tournaments and family fun days. While the RPL Convenor role has traditionally been a volunteer position, the League has grown and the time commitment involved has increased. So in 2007, some modest remuneration will accompany this position.

Soccer Field Maintenance

The soccer/sports field at Rockcliffe Park Public School is maintained through funding provided jointly by the RPPS Home and School Association, the Lindenlea Community Association (from soccer registration revenues) and the RPRA. For the 2006 season, the landscaping and grounds maintenance contracts for both the school sports field and Jubilee Garden were put out to a competitive bidding process and Heritage Landscape Design won the contract. We wish to thank Heritage for their efforts and also thank RPPS Principal Denis Delorme for his cooperation in maintaining the RPPS soccer field and allowing the League to use the field.

Prepared by Julie Vanderschot

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS

The RPRA web site at < www.rockcliffepark.ca > has been officially launched. It is up and running and includes general information on the RPRA and Village, and will be expanded in time.

The RPRA database of Homes and Residents has been created to assist the RPRA Board and other official committees to better communicate with its constituents.

Prepared by Carmine Domenicucci

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Environment Committee thanks Ann Dale-Harris of Lindenlea for her daily walk around the COPP picking up cigarette butts and miscellaneous garbage. We wish that people would respect the area and place all litter in the waste receptacles.

Susan Shenstone and Marilyn Blattel organized a Spring Nature Walk in the COPP led by Tony Keith and Iola Price. In spite of the rain, we had a good turnout and it was repeated the next day as per the "rain check" promise.

Trees

Thanks to the generous grant from the Village Foundation, nine trees plus eleven smaller White Cedars have been planted in various locations in the Village at a cost of \$4000. Susan Shenstone has agreed to assist in the tree planting effort by telephoning residents whose front or side yard has been identified as a potential location for a beautiful tree.

The Foundation also authorized funds for the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to survey endangered Butternut trees in Rockcliffe. We have 45 Butternut

trees in the Village; only two are free of butternut canker and one of these trees yielded 243 nuts which have been planted in the Ferguson Centre tree nursery in Kemptville. Although the canker is, at present, 100% fatal, we should retain as many Butternuts as possible as it is a slow-acting disease, and there may be a cure someday. The Rockcliffe nuts, if truly canker-free, may be a source of resistant trees for planting out in the Ottawa area.

Pesticide Use

A sub-committee chaired by Marilyn Blattel wrote a letter and flyer explaining the problems associated with the use of pesticides on lawns and gardens. This flyer was distributed to 103 residences in Rockcliffe that displayed pesticide-use signs in accordance with provincial legislation. Britt Sjoestedt worked with the Swedish Ambassador to inform the official residences in Rockcliffe about this issue and perhaps lessen their use of lawn chemicals.

Water Quality in the Pond

The City of Ottawa monitored *E. coli* levels in the Pond during the summer. Levels were relatively low with 10 organisms per 100 millilitres; however, after three days of heavy rain, the levels rose to 130 organisms on August 2nd but returned to normal two weeks later. We continued to monitor the level of nutrients in the Pond. Nitrogen levels continue to climb to alarming levels. At a current high nitrogen to phosphorus ratio of over 43 to 1 rather than the ideal ratio of 15 – 20 to 1, the Pond does not have balanced nutrient levels. The high level of nitrogen can lead to the overgrowth of blue and green algae and aquatic plants. A sign outlining these issues and others pertaining to the Pond has been posted at the Public Access. A letter was distributed to approximately 100 homes near to or bordering on the Pond and McKay Lake explaining the effects of nitrogen-based fertilizers on water quality and asking people to use compost on their lawns rather than commercial fertilisers that run off or travel via ground water into the Pond.

Invasive Species

Iola Price continued to work with students last summer to remove buckthorn and swallowwort from the COPP. The City awarded us a \$2000 grant to hire a commercial brush chipper to reduce 6 piles of buckthorn brush to 2 large piles of chips. Next year the chips will be broadcast throughout the wooded area and on the back COPP trails. Louise Meyer and Linda Dicaire are working to alert residents about swallowwort, a destructive plant also known as “dog-strangling vine”. Small pockets of the vine may be found in the Acacia-Maple Lane to Beechwood area and eradication efforts are underway.

Spring and Fall Cleanups and Schools

Tudy McLaine worked with area students on both spring and fall cleanups in the village on April 29th and October 29th. She is looking for someone to work with school environment clubs for 2007. Over the two cleanups, 5 large, tightly packed bags of recyclables (cans, glass and paper), 12 bags of true garbage and several dollars worth of beer bottles were collected by 165 students and adults.

Gardening

Thanks to Lynne McGuffin and her committee of volunteers (* indicates volunteers from outside the Village): Jane Breen, *Jean Bruce, Barbara Burke, *Nancy Colton, Busy Dale-Harris, Marilyn Donoghue, Gillian Edelson, Suzanne & Mark Ellis, Dagmar Forget, Joan Foster Jones, Margot Gualtieri, Liz Heatherington, Carol Henderson, Linda Ivanoff, *Amanda Jackson, Joan Kellet, Ann Kelly, H  l  ne Lamontagne, Patrick Pickering, Helen McCallum, *Anne McDougall, Bill and Lynne McGuffin, Donna Roberts, Elena Venables) for their gardening at Jubilee Garden and the Community Hall. Over the summer, they put in countless hours of weeding, trimming bushes and planting flowers. These two locations haven't looked this good in years. The climbing Bittersweet planted by Linda Dicaire and Anthony Keith at the base of the pillars at the Pavilion in the Jubilee Garden reached new heights of brilliance, just in time for the Fall Garden Party.

Prepared by Marilyn Blattel, Derek Chase, Lynne McGuffin, Iola Price

Committee Members

Stephen Assaly, Marilyn Blattel, Derek Chase, Tudy McLaine, Louise Meyer, Iola Price (Chair), Britt Sjoestedt, James C Taylor, Ismene Wood

By correspondence

Ann Kelly, Patricia Logrippo, Gordon Rogers

ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Although this committee is under the RPRA for administrative purposes, it draws its membership from the larger geographic area which the Rockcliff Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) serves. This includes New Edinburgh, Lindenlea and part of Manor Park as well as Rockcliffe Park.

In 2006, the Library Committee continued to work with the Library Supervisor, Philip Robert, and the local staff. In response to requests from the staff, the committee spent \$7,544 on children's programs, children's fiction and non-fiction books in both French and English, furniture and magazine subscriptions. Late in October, \$5,000 was provided in time for the main purchasing activity of the OPL. Funds came from the Library Committee's account with the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the proceeds from the Annual Book Sale. These expenditures will meet the demands of the increasing children's memberships.

The two-day Book Sale in April 2006 in support of the public library branch made a net profit of \$5,583.60. The Committee wishes to thank, however inadequately, the Library Staff and the many Volunteers who work during the sale and throughout the year sorting and pricing donations. A special vote of thanks goes to Di Bethune whose knowledge of the second hand book market is invaluable.

The 2007 Book Sale will be held on April 14 and 15 in the Community Hall. Donations of books, selected magazines, cassettes, CDs, videos, etc., can be left at the Library during its open hours.

The Library is never static. The number of users increases and circulation figures go up. The biggest change this year was the departure at the end of June of Jean Allen, who moved to Vancouver, and Martha Ippersiel, who retired. They both did sterling jobs and safely and tactfully guided us through the transition of the Library from a small independent library to a bustling branch of the OPL. Our thanks go to them both. In their place, we have Sonia Doyon and Karen Wylie who have rapidly taken hold. We look forward to their continuing presence.

The Committee would like to see a new central library built in Ottawa as soon as possible and will look for ways to support this initiative. Should branch closures be proposed, the Committee will oppose such a move.

Prepared by Sheila Nelles

Committee Members

Di Bethune, Barbara Burke, Andrew Cohen, Jane Dobell, Joan Foster Jones, Caryn Kewell, Sheila Nelles, Fran O'Brien, Susan Shenstone, Julie Stephens, Ellen Zeiss.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The role of treasurer is primarily one of managing the funds of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and maintenance of the appropriate records. This role mainly involves the receipt and banking of revenues, the payment of expenses associated with approved activities, monthly reconciliation of the bank account and attendance at the monthly meetings of the Association.

The main financial activities of the association are as follows:

Communications

- printing and delivery of the Rockcliffe Park newsletter
- printing and distribution of the annual report
- providing a forum for topics of interest to the village (e.g. Mayoral debate)

Sports and Recreation

- soccer field and rink maintenance
- speakers series
- summer BBQ
- September garden party
- children's Christmas party
- Christmas tree lighting ceremony

Environment

- tree planting and mulching
- Pond water testing
- Village clean-up
- Jubilee Garden summer plantings

Heritage

- trolley bus tour

We would like to take this opportunity to thank The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation for their most generous grant of \$20,700 for 2006. Without these funds, we would not be able to undertake the many diverse projects that make our village so unique.

Financial Statements for the year 2006 will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Prepared by Mary Anne Smallwood

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association provides critical support for the Association's work on behalf of Village residents and as Rockcliffe's voice at City Hall. We encourage every resident to become a member of the RPRA each year.

In 2006, 636 residents of the Village joined as members of the Residents Association. In terms of the number of houses represented, there were 250 in 2006.

Non-resident members receive the RPRA newsletter and enjoy attending events such as the Speaker Series and other community events. The RPRA had 58 non-resident households as members in 2006.

While the total number of members and households is somewhat lower than the past couple of years, the total amount raised from memberships is unchanged, as mailing costs were reduced by combining the membership and winter newsletters in the same mailings.

Prepared by Bill Fleury

LIAISON WITH THE FEDERATION OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

The RPRA's membership in the Federation of Citizens' Associations provides a mechanism for exchanging views on matters of common concern, and organizing mutual support on particular issues with like-minded communities in the city. One such issue discussed in 2006 was the market value appraisal system, currently suspended by the Province in response to widespread public criticism. Another is the problem of spot re-zoning, of which examples abound across the city. Debate on this matter demonstrated once again that vigilance is essential on the part of citizens' groups if the unique characteristics of particular neighbourhoods are to be preserved. This is a

theme that has strong resonance in Rockcliffe, but is widely supported as well across the varied communities that make up the amalgamated city.

Prepared by James H. (Si) Taylor

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ACTIVITIES

The year 2006 was a challenging one for the Rockcliffe Neighbourhood Watch (NW). Iola Price agreed to coordinate activities late in the year to fill the vacancy created by the resignation, in the fall of 2005, of Fernand Renault, who had served in that capacity for more than two years. He was subsequently appointed to the Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee to represent the Central East District which includes Rockcliffe and surrounding neighbourhoods. Iola Price has started to update the list of Block Captains and clarify their area of responsibility.

Over the past year, Neighbourhood Watch activities in Rockcliffe Park continued to focus on crime prevention and safety awareness. The ongoing program of guest speakers at the quarterly meetings covered several topics, including assistance for the elderly through community resources such as the Elisabeth Bruyère Helpline and the art and science of marijuana grow-op detection in Canada. These presentations were enthusiastically received although attendance seldom went beyond a very small group of dedicated NW supporters.

Improved attendance at NW meetings is important in order to ensure that members and all Rockcliffe Park residents are properly informed, and to support the continuation of the guest speaker program. A membership survey performed in the autumn of 2006 showed that there is a sufficiently large pool of Neighbourhood Watch members in the Village to provide this support. Additional strategies to inform members and residents include more frequent distribution of printed material on specific topics, including articles in the Rockcliffe Newsletter, and enhanced use of email.

Prepared by Fernand Renault

OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE – ROCKCLIFFE PARK COMMUNITY POLICE CENTRE

The Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre, managed by Constable Tom Mosco, is open at 360 Springfield Road Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary on December 20 2006, with a continued concentration on problem-oriented policing. The public is asked to assist in this focus by notifying police of any problems or issues that they encounter.

Currently there are 14 police volunteers assigned to the Rockcliffe Centre. Their role is to provide information on crime prevention programs and assist Cst. Mosco to

maintain communication between the Ottawa Police Service and the community, as well as doing outreach programs such as Home Security Inspections, Business Watch and Child Print. Cst. Mosco also continues to organize quarterly Neighbourhood Watch meetings and co-ordinate with area Block Captains.

Prepared by Alison Green