

# ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2007



Please join us for the Joint Annual Meeting  
of the RPRA and the Village Foundation  
to be held on **Wednesday February 20, 2008**  
at 7:30 p.m.  
in the Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This has been a very busy year for your directors, especially those involved in working to preserve the "Village" atmosphere of Rockcliffe Park.

There is no doubt in the minds of your directors that the pressure to redevelop portions of Rockcliffe Park will increase over time and thus we must be vigilant in meeting the challenges that are and will be presented to us within the next few years.

Several of the challenges that have occurred this year include the successful presentation by Si Taylor and Alan Cohen to the City of Ottawa Planning and Environment Committee (FEC) to reincorporate the Floor Space Index (FSI), which had been proposed for deletion, into the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law. Without the FSI, many of the larger properties within the Village would have been under intense pressure for redevelopment as there would be only marginal control on the size of a home that could be built on a residential lot in Rockcliffe.

Of more immediate concern has been an application to demolish a heritage property as a prelude to the redevelopment of the property with a much larger home, notwithstanding the FSI. In particular, the application to demolish the heritage property located at 456 Lansdowne Road North and redevelop same has thus far been successfully opposed by a group of Village volunteer residents up to and including the City of Ottawa Council. The remaining option for the developer is to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board and this has just occurred. Our congratulations to RPRA Vice-Presidents Brian Dickson and Iola Price and their team who successfully opposed this proposed demolition.

Your Board of Directors is also concerned about the apparent failure of the City of Ottawa's Committee of Adjustments to properly consider the zoning by-law and, in particular, the minimum setbacks from the property lines for residences. Your Board will be pursuing this matter with the City of Ottawa to ensure that the zoning by-law is respected.

The reconstruction of Princess Avenue has occupied much of the time of several of the directors, notably Iola Price. We are striving to preserve the semi-rural atmosphere of Princess Avenue against the proposals of some of the City departments to install concrete sidewalks and curbs and increase lighting.

The proposed development of a new Ashbury boys' residence at the corner of Maple Lane and Springfield has occupied a large part of the time of a number of your directors. We are working with the Lindenlea Community Association (LCA) to develop a common strategy for dealing with the proposed development. At this time, both the RPRA and the LCA are opposed to the proposed orientation of the boys' residence at this corner which could change

dramatically the appearance of this major entrance to the two communities. It is believed that the three heritage houses on Springfield Ave. near Maple Lane can be preserved and the boys' residence constructed behind them, thereby reducing the visual impact of the new building. The application to demolish two of the three heritage houses was heard by the LACAC committee of the City of Ottawa on January 10, 2008.

The Environment Committee, principally Iola Price, and student volunteers, have continued to attack invasive plants in the Caldwell-Carver conservation area, and with the assistance of a City grant removed and chipped large buckthorn trees in preparation for the planting of native trees in 2008.

Thanks to financial assistance from the City and the Village Foundation, the Birkenfels Gates have been fully restored and are permanently installed beside the Jubilee Garden.

The Rockcliffe News continues to be published and distributed, thanks to our editor, Julia Beatty, and a group of volunteers who brave the elements to deliver the "News" to all the homes in the Village.

The redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe air base has been placed on hold and the team that had been working on the same has been disbanded. It is not known when we may see it reactivated. The native land claim filed against the air base lands must first be resolved.

We thank the Village Foundation for providing funding to permit the publication of the "News" and for the operation of the soccer and rink programs, as well as environment and heritage projects.

As in the past, the Village remains an active community thanks to its many volunteers. The Trash Bash and Spring barbecue earlier this year were great successes thanks to the many volunteers who made these events possible. More recently, the children's Christmas party and tree lighting, with Christmas carols performed by the Fern Hill School choir and Salvation Army band, all set on a traditional snowy winter background, created an almost magical scene.

Once again, we appreciate the support Councillor Legendre has provided to your directors. Mr. Legendre attends most of the meetings of your Board of Directors and assists us whenever possible on issues involving the City of Ottawa. We were very pleased with his re-election.

We are losing a number of our directors this year, namely: Steve Assaly Deborah Seaborn, Mary Anne Smallwood, J. H. (Si) Taylor and Gary Zed. We thank all of them for their years of dedicated service to the Village.

To all those residents of the Village who have contributed their time by working on committees, serving as RPRA officers and directors and helping with community projects, our grateful thanks and, in particular, to our two Past Presidents, Jane Dobell and Tony Keith, whose dedication and efforts have helped to preserve the uniqueness of Rockcliffe Park Village.

**Prepared by Alexander Macklin**

## **PLANNING AND LEGAL ISSUES**

### **Post Amalgamation Issues**

Since the amalgamation which created the enlarged city of Ottawa, work has been proceeding on the development of policies, plans and by-laws applicable to the whole new city. Two important steps were accomplished in 2007, related to zoning and lighting. The RPRA was active in the consultation process in both instances.

#### **Zoning**

A new comprehensive zoning by-law will replace the 36 zoning by-laws the City inherited from its 11 constituent municipalities. Apart from a few matters of detail, the new by-law retains the essential features of the former Village by-law it replaces. Within the boundaries of the heritage district, Rockcliffe will continue to be zoned largely as a residential area, mainly of single family dwellings on generous lots, with the balance between construction and green space controlled through a combination of lot size, set-backs, height restrictions and a Floor Space Index. Commercial activities will continue to be excluded. The detailed examination of successive drafts of the new by-law was carried out by a special sub-committee of the RPRA's Heritage and Site Planning Committee. The sub-committee's members were Peggy Gibson, Peter Hyde, Anthony Keith, Robert McElligott, Peter Newcombe, J.C.Taylor and J.H.Taylor. John Cook and other members of the Heritage and Site Planning Committee provided additional guidance on the issue of retaining the Floor Space Index in the new by-law, and Alan Cohen was retained by the RPRA to argue the case for doing so, which he did successfully before the City's Planning and Environment Committee.

#### **Lighting**

Driven by the need to decide on desirable forms of replacement street lighting for the Village as incandescent lighting became obsolete, the RPRA had earlier developed and presented to the City a complete set of recommendations in 2004. These were reconfirmed in 2007. Essentially they were designed to maintain the traditional appearance of Village street lights and familiar levels and

character of lighting, yet be consistent with new technology and the City's lighting policy. While the City has never formally acknowledged in writing that these recommendations are acceptable, the dialogue between the RPRA and the City has been generally constructive and the central recommendation, that so-called "acorn" fixtures, with lights of a certain specified level of intensity, will be the standard for Village streets, does appear to have been adopted. As a heritage district, the Village has, in any event, a guaranteed right of consultation about lighting decisions.

**Prepared by J.H. Taylor**

### **Heritage and Site Plan Committee**

The Birkenfels Gates are now installed in their new location at the Buchan Road entrance to Jubilee Garden. These 19<sup>th</sup> century gates stood at the end of Birkenfels Road forming the entrance to the Birkenfels estate, now subdivided into the properties of Soper Place and Perley Court. These gates, and the wall and stable buildings incorporated into 299 Soper Place, are the community's tangible reminders of the house of Rockcliffe's founding family, the Keefers. The gates are also rare examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century garden design in Ottawa, and so are of regional significance. We are most grateful to the City of Ottawa for two grants and for funds provided by the Village Foundation: Without this money the restoration and installation of the gates would not have happened. We thank Craig Johnson for his expert craftsmanship in carrying out the work.

A new edition of the booklet "Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park" is underway, to bring it up to date and to include new walks. We have started to plan for reviewing the management guidelines of the Rockcliffe heritage conservation district as required by the recent changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. We gave advice on heritage issues in the planned reconstruction of Princess Avenue.

The **Development Review Subcommittee** provides advice to City staff on alterations to buildings, demolitions and new construction on the basis of the heritage district management guidelines. This year, comments were given on 14 properties. The most contentious were 456 Lansdowne Road and the Ashbury boy's dormitory. The owner's proposal to demolish the Lansdowne house was turned down by City Council, and he has appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board.

**Prepared by Anthony Keith**

Committee 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

## 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 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
- children's Christmas party
- Christmas tree lighting ceremony

### Environment

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

### Heritage

- Birkenfels Gate installation

We would like to take this opportunity to thank The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation for their most generous grant of \$14,500 for 2007. Without these funds, we would not be able to undertake the many diverse projects that make our village so unique.

We would also like to thank Historic Ottawa Developments Inc. for providing bridge financing to assist with the completion of the Birkenfels Gate installation.

Financial Statements for the year 2007 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 2007, 270 households representing 800 residents of the Village joined as members of the Residents Association. This is an increase of 20 households and 164 members over 2006 and means that approximately 40% of the households in Rockcliffe are RPRA members. While this is much better than some of Ottawa's other residents/community associations, we would like to see an even higher percentage of residents joining the association in 2008.

Our 40 Non-resident members receive the RPRA newsletter and enjoy attending events such as the Speaker Program and other community events.

**Prepared by Lola Price**

## **ASSOCIATION-SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Speakers Program**

The Speakers Program, now in its seventh year, again attracted outstanding individuals to share their views on diverse topics of interest to residents of the Village and neighbouring communities. Speakers and audiences alike tell me that they very much enjoy the 'give and take' of these informal evenings and lunches at our Community Hall.

This year, one of our country's most distinguished historians and commentators, Jack Granatstein, spoke of the whys and wherefores of protecting Canada in the aftermath of 9/11. Elizabeth May – leader of the Green Party and Tom d'Aquino – head of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives demonstrated a remarkable meeting of minds on environmental challenges. Catherine Clark gave a fascinating account of her life in the public eye. And four authors shared insights from their recently published books: Andrew Cohen on his widely discussed picture of "the unfinished Canadian"; Gordon Pimm and Alan Cumyn on a soldier's life in World War I; and Roy MacSkimming on the life and times of Sir John A. Macdonald.

**Prepared by Susan d'Aquino**

## **Community Events**

### **Christmas Comes to the Village**

Our early snowfalls made for a winter wonderland this Holiday season and nowhere did it feel more festive than at the Community Hall on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

A little over a hundred children and their families came out on December 9<sup>th</sup> for the annual Children's Christmas party. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor Nancy O'Dea of Royal LePage Performance Realty, we were able to put on a truly great party for children of all ages. There were gingerbread house and reindeer crafts and amazing shortbread and Gingerbread people to ice and decorate with almost every Christmas candy one could imagine. The Cow Guy entertained everyone with his unique combination of juggling, magic and anything else he could dream up.

Of course no Christmas party would be complete without a visit for Jolly Old Saint Nick himself, and the children were thrilled to see him arrive with presents for everyone. If noise level were indicative of success, this would have to have been a huge success.

Thank you to Margaret Douglas for organizing the crafts, Lynda Iwanoff and Laurie Hicks for ensuring that we covered all of the important food groups (or at least the fun ones), Colette Nault for all of her help setting up, tearing down and doing everything in between Brian Montgomery for providing the hockey equipment and Sandra Finless for leading us in a round of Christmas carols. Of course we can't forget to thank the big man himself, Gordon Douglas. There were many people who helped with distributing the flyers who deserve a huge thank you. These would include Lola Price, Deborah Seaborn, Lucie Bohac, Raquel Hecker and Lynda Iwanoff. Claude Bonnet and Moulin de Provence graciously provided the amazing cookies. We had a hard time convincing the children not to eat them before they had a chance to decorate them! Donna Wishart and Micheline McElligott organized the Mitten tree again this year and, with the help of Brendan And Chloe Lucas, collected a record-setting number of hats, mittens and scarves to be donated to less fortunate children. Thank you to everyone who donated.

As if the excitement from the children's party wasn't enough, the village gathered at the community hall once again on December 12<sup>th</sup> for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Many village residents came out to hear the beautiful voices of the Fern Hill School choir followed by the Salvation Army band. Thanks to the new LED lights, the tree lit up like never before. Thanks to the record snowfalls, the children spent most of the evening playing on the huge pile of snow in the parking lot; sometimes the best things are the simplest.

Thank you to Deborah Seaborn, Iola Price, Anthony Keith and Peter Lewis for all of their help.

**Prepared by Melanie Harmon**

## **Rockcliffe Rinks**

Last year's wonderful green Christmas and December golf had the unhappy downside of delaying the rink until January 18th. Our rinks were one of the first open owing to the great work done by the Rockcliffe Hosers. The hockey rink was the same size as in previous years and the city oriented it north-south again. Behind the hockey rink at the Jubilee Gardens, we had the free skating rink. Decorative lights (white only again) made for a well-lit space and it was really a great place to skate in the evenings. This year we had 86 Rockcliffe Hosers. The average number of Hosers is rising as more and more express interest in pitching in at the rinks. I would like to recognize and welcome 2007's 9 new Hosers: Dan Goldberg, Steven Bleeker, Robert Milin, John Murphy, Jim Paul, Emile Rodrigues, Laureen Harper, Ian Simpson, David Berks. Once again I would like to 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.

**Prepared by Brian Montgomery**

## **Soccer Program**

The Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea House League Soccer Program had another very successful year and continues to receive strong support from a committed group of volunteers and parents in the community. In 2007, there were 247 children registered in the RPL Soccer League, playing on 20 teams in five different divisions from late April through late June, with the Intermediate division continuing for four additional weeks in September. The Pee Wee Division was split into two time slots this year (ages 4-5 and 6-7) and this allowed over 120 children to play soccer at the Rockcliffe Park Public School field on Saturday mornings. The Junior (ages 7-9), Intermediate (ages 9-11) and Senior (ages 12-15) divisions played at both the school and Hillsdale fields on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

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 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.

After determining that alternate soccer pitches (Stanley Park and Ashbury's playing field) were not available, Peter Lewis and Julie Vanderschot sought to improve the playing conditions of the Hillsdale or Rokeries field. In past years this field was very uneven with many potholes (many ankles have been twisted or worse) and the field is often wet. Heritage Landscape Design was contracted to level the soccer pitch area in the spring which helped immensely. In addition, the RPL League paid All Sports Contracting to mark the soccer pitch boundaries on a weekly basis over the 10 week season.

A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers that helped make 2007 a successful season, particularly the 34 coaches and eight referees who dedicated many hours to ensuring the kids had wonderful team spirit and lots of fun. Our RPL Soccer Program has been a great community building success primarily due to the partnership between the Lindenlea Community Association (LCA) and the RPRA in organizing the league. We are grateful that the LCA handles the registration portion of the program and thank Valerie Devine-Egan, LCA General Manager in particular. Volunteers from Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, New Edinburgh and even some from Manor Park together contributed an estimated 2000 volunteer hours to making the RPL Soccer Program such a great community sports program. In particular, the main organizing committee of Joy Chow, Caryn Kewell, Dan Gent, Alexandra Wood and Julie Vanderschot devoted much time and energy to RPL Soccer this past year.

The RPRA and the LCA are once again together looking to fill the job of Rockcliffe Park Lindenlea Soccer League Convener. The League runs from late April to the end of June, but planning and preparations begin in February. This convener 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 Convener role has traditionally been a volunteer position, the League has grown and the time commitment involved has increased. If an appropriate candidate takes the job, some modest remuneration will accompany this position.

**Prepared by Julie Vanderschot**

### **Soccer Field Maintenance**

The soccer 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. Additionally, for the 2007 soccer year, we also chose to perform some

maintenance of the Rockeries soccer field. The maintenance performed at the Rockeries was minor but proved to be a marked improvement over previous years. Treatment included some minor top dressing and filling of potholes, rolling and mowing every other week (to augment the bi-weekly mowing provided by the City). We also had lines painted on the field to make it look like a "proper" soccer field. We are extremely grateful for and acknowledge the assistance of Guy Lefebvre at the City of Ottawa who provided us with a grant of \$500 towards the maintenance costs of the Rockeries field. Remaining funds came from the soccer league registration fees.

The landscaping and grounds maintenance contracts for both the school sports field, Jubilee Garden and the Rockeries was awarded to Heritage Landscape Design who offered essentially the same service at the same price as last year. We believe that they continue to provide good value for money. Greenscapes Ltd. again provided the opening and closing maintenance services for the sprinkler system for the Jubilee Garden and the RPPS sports field, however we discovered mid season that we were duplicating efforts with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board on the sprinkler maintenance for the school field. This confusion has now been settled and the OCDSB has agreed to maintain (to a limited extent) the sprinkler system at the school, providing opening and closing services as well as limited maintenance. In the event of a costly part replacement being required, the RPPA *may* be asked to provide funds for replacement parts. This remains essentially a "gentlemen's agreement" that will hopefully continue in perpetuity. Greenscapes Ltd. was kind enough to give us a credit for a portion of our contract which was applied to the purchase and stringing of the Christmas lights on the community tree.

The maintenance of the school soccer field remains a challenge. The sprinkler system was re-balanced in the spring and the soaking times increased to ensure that the grass that is there is well watered. Unlike previous years, we elected not to seed the areas in front of the goals on the school soccer field in July. It was advised that to do so was a waste of funds as the new grass would not have enough time to establish a firm covering before the onslaught of children's feet at the beginning of the school year. The challenge that we face is what to do about the wear in front of the goalposts. It is now quite considerable and warrants some serious attention. Any action will require a special allocation of funds.

We wish to thank Heritage Landscape Design Ltd. 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 Peter Lewis**

## **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Rockcliffe Park Public Library**

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

The two-day Book Sale in April 2007 organized by the committee in support of the public library branch made a profit of \$8,000. Following the Book Sale the committee set up three shelves of donated paperback books for ongoing sale. The shelves are located near the window on the side of the parking lot. The money is collected by the librarian at the desk who then gives it to the RPRA treasurer for the library committee's account. Di Bethune makes sure that interesting titles are always available at rock bottom prices. Next time you are in the library why not check it out?

The committee wishes to thank the Library staff who put up with the commotion caused by the problem of inadequate storage for the donated books 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 and to Julie Stephens, the Co Chair of the committee, who plays the lead role in organizing the pricing sessions and inspiring the volunteers.

As in previous years the committee took the advice of Philip Robert, the Supervising Librarian, and donated money to support magazine subscriptions, children's programs (visiting authors) and children's books, and some library equipment.

In addition the library committee supported an outreach program for families on September 29th. In the morning 100 children were entranced by a magician and in the afternoon, 40 children enjoyed a juggler. Craft tables and face painting were also popular. The planning committee for this event – Caryn Kewell, who chaired the event, Wendy Hadwen, Julie Stephens, Joan Foster Jones and Sonia Doyon are to be congratulated on a successful family program which succeeded in signing up new members for the library.

Some members of the library committee keep close watch on the support for the OPL – or the lack of it – at City Hall. An attempt is made to work cooperatively with other community groups across the city to support the budget of the OPL. Susan Shenstone, Caryn Kewell and Jane Dobell made presentations in support of the OPL budget to the Committee of the Whole of City Council. This year the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library played a leadership

role in supporting the OPL at budget time and the Rockcliffe Library Committee voted to make a donation to this organization.

The circulation figures at the Rockcliffe Branch continue at a high level. 2,040 elementary school children participated in class visits to the library which were ably handled in both English and French by the staff and, on occasion, invited authors. At the time of the city's budget debate the Rockcliffe Public Library Branch was listed amongst the top three or four branches as having the most efficient cost per use. This is in part due to the number of volunteers who work under the supervision of the library staff.

**The 2008 Book Sale will be held April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Community Hall. Donations of books, selected magazines, cassettes, CDs, videos, etc. can be left at the library during open hours. Please support our Book Sale which enables us to enhance the local library services.**

**Prepared by Jane Dobell**

Committee members: Di Bethune, Barbara Burke, Jane Dobell, Caryn Kewell, Jill Moll, Sheila Nelles, Fran O'Brien, Susan Shenstone, Julie Stephens, Ellen Zeiss

## **Environment**

### **Street Tree Planting**

Thanks to the grant from the Village Foundation, we planted 7 trees and a line of cedars in 2007 on street verges, the Hillsdale Triangle and the Jubilee Garden. Four flowering crab apples, and one each of Red Oak, American Beech and Sugar Maple will grow to be fine specimens. We also assisted with the planting of three Sugar Maples on the Rockcliffe Park Public School property. Following last year's successful search for canker-free Butternut trees in the Village, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority took leaf samples from a canker-free butternut for DNA analysis.

### **Pond Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting**

We distributed a second annual letter to all those living near to the Pond and McKay Lake about the issues relating to the health of these bodies of water. The focus was, once again, on nutrients, algal blooms and rooted water-weeds. Nitrogen and Phosphorus levels spike on a regular basis, although not always together and the imbalance between these two nutrients is a cause for concern. A higher than normal level of nitrogen is most likely due to the flow of groundwater into the Pond and may reflect the overuse of chemical fertilizers on lawns. As well, the use of pesticides and ice removal chemicals were discussed in relation to their potential impacts on water quality and the Pond's overall health

status. In each case, the best and acceptable practices were recommended. The city's monitoring of *E. coli* levels show that the Pond remained well within safe limits for swimming.

### Pesticide Use

Prior to amalgamation, the former Village Council approved the concept of making Rockcliffe a pesticide-free community. To move us closer to this goal, the Pesticide-use sub-committee began, for the second year, to distribute a letter to homeowners displaying the sign that commercial applicators are required to post. Based on the most current health news connected to the use of lawn and garden chemicals, the letter suggested that residents re-evaluate the products being used on their lawns and consider asking their lawn-care service providers to use organic, safer products. Delivery of the letter was suspended after the RPRA decided that, because the letter was on RPRA letterhead, the lawn care companies might misconstrue the request to modify services as a directive to end them. The sub-committee chair resigned, and the sub-committee has not taken on further projects apart from publishing an article in the Newsletter about health risks connected to lawn and garden chemicals. In 2007, approximately 650 out of 750 homes in Rockcliffe did not spray their lawns, a decrease in spraying from 2006. The sub-committee believed that the letter was appropriate because the use of pesticides is not meant to be anonymous given the associated health risks.

### Invasive Species

The campaign to clear the wooded area of McKay Lake of the invasive Common and Glossy Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard and Dog-strangling Vine continued with student assistance. And, thanks to a \$6,300 grant from the City's Green Partnership Program, we contracted with an arborist company to use chainsaws, a truck-mounted chipper and a stump grinder to deal with really large specimens of buckthorn. After three days of work along Hillsdale Road, the south side of McKay Lake and around the Pond, only small-stemmed buckthorns remain. We thank the condominium owners on Bittern Court for the use of their parking area and access to the woods via their gate.

In cooperation with the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee, we held a nature walk around McKay Lake in August, drawing about 30 people from the Village and around Ottawa. The walk's theme was the rehabilitation of natural areas.

### Village Cleanup

Our two cleanups, done in cooperation with students from RPPS, Ashbury and Elmwood were held at the end of April and October. On the two Sundays, some 100 students, parents and Village residents collected 3 large bags of recyclable cans and plastic bottles, 20.5 garbage bags of

true garbage, and 70 beer and wine bottles plus 24 beer cans. This is a decrease from last year in the amount of litter picked up. The message may be getting out that littering is not socially acceptable.

Thanks again to Anne Dale-Harris who walks the paths around McKay Lake picking up litter and generally keeping a watchful eye on the area.

### Gardening

The Village Gardeners under the leadership of H  l  ne Lamontagne continue to beautify the grounds of the Library and Community Hall, removing Garlic Mustard and planting flowers among the trees and along the entrance path. They have also done wonders at the Jubilee Garden with their countless hours of weeding, trimming bushes and planting flowers. Both locations go from strength to strength under their capable garden shears. We thank (*\* indicates volunteers from outside the Village*): \*Andr  e Baxter, Jane Breen, \*Jean Bruce, Barbara Burke, \*Nancy Colton, Busy Dale-Harris, Marilyn Donoghue, Gillian Edelson, Dagmar Forget, Joan Foster Jones, Margot Gualtieri, Liz Heatherington, Carol Henderson, Joan Kellet, Ann Kelly, \*Barbara Knap, H  l  ne Lamontagne, Jane Little, George Pickering, \*Anne McDougall, Bill and Lynne McGuffin, \*Fran O'Brien, Sheila Perry, Donna Roberts, Elena Venables.

**Prepared by: Marilyn Blattel, Wendy Hadwen, H  l  ne Lamontagne and Iola Price**

Committee Members: Stephen Assaly, Marilyn Blattel, Derek Chase, Brian Dickson, Wendy Hadwen, Tudy McLaine, Louise Meyer, Jane Panet, Iola Price (Chair), Susan Shenstone, Britt Sjoestedt, Ismene Wood.

By Correspondence: Ann Kelly, Patricia Logrippo, James C. Taylor.

### Communications

The six newsletters were hand-delivered to all Rockcliffe residents by Village volunteers under the leadership of Gary Zed and Jim Harmon. We would like to thank the following deliverers who braved the elements to ensure that you received your Newsletters: Marilyn Blattel, Jane Dobell, Anthony Keith, Lou Meyers, Arlie and Jeff Mierins and their 3 daughters, Iola Price, James and Mary Taylor, Ismene Wood and many others who will be acknowledged in the April Newsletter.

We also thank Editor Julia Beatty for her dedication and terrific work in producing 6 interesting and informative issues of *The Rockcliffe News* and to Hal Steacy for livening the *News* with his cartoons.

The RPR web site at < [www.rockcliffepark.ca](http://www.rockcliffepark.ca) > is available and contains information pertinent to the Village. Please have a look!

As well, a new edition of the "Welcome to Rockcliffe Park" will be available soon for distribution.

Thanks also to former RPRA director Bill Fleury who put this annual report together.

**Prepared by Carmine Domenicucci**

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

For a modest fee, the RPRA's membership in the Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA) provides a means of keeping in touch with the concerns of community associations across the city. From time to time the FCA also organizes useful workshops on common problems in municipal government and commissions studies on subjects of general interest, such as property tax reform.

Among topics examined in discussions in the FCA during 2007 were matters of particular importance to specific areas of the City, such as the Carp landfill and the former Rockcliffe air base; and subjects like the City budget and the Comprehensive Zoning by-law of equal concern to voters across Ottawa.

Participation in the FCA is one good way of determining where else in the City support may be found for issues which have been of particular interest to Rockcliffe, such as support for library services and reform of the market value assessment system.

**Prepared by J. H. Taylor**

### **OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE – ROCKCLIFFE PARK COMMUNITY POLICE CENTRE**

The Rockcliffe Park Community Police Centre, at 360 Springfield Road, continues to be managed by Constable Tom Mosco. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The focus of Community Police Centres is to deliver information pertaining to the Ottawa Police Service core programmes - Neighbourhood Watch, Child Print, Operation Identification, Home Security Inspections, and Business Crime Prevention. If you would like further information about these programmes, or to arrange a Home Security Inspection or borrow an engraver to identify your property, call the Centre at 613-236-1222, ext. 5915.

Cst. Mosco addresses quarterly Neighbourhood Watch meetings and has established several new Neighbourhood Watches in the district. There are 13 police volunteers assigned to the Rockcliffe Centre. Their role is to administer

the crime prevention programs and facilitate communication between the Ottawa Police Service and the community. More police volunteers are needed and you can find out more about giving your time in this way by phoning Cst. Mosco at the Police Centre.

**Prepared by Alison Green**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Rockcliffe Neighbourhood Watch was very active in 2007. The new coordinator, Iola Price, conducted an audit of the area. Block Captains and new members were identified and the current file has been updated. More Block Captains are needed. The meeting schedule has been changed. Meetings will be bi-yearly instead of quarterly. **The meetings for 2008 will be April 23 and October 8.** Our Neighbourhood Watch Speakers Series last year featured: Paul McCann, City of Ottawa, Graffiti Management Strategy Program; Sergeant Jim Devine, Ottawa Police, Sex Offender Registry; and Chief Vernon White, Ottawa Police, Meet the Chief.

The Rockcliffe Neighbourhood Watch was involved with a theft reduction project last spring. This was a successful project as suspects were charged and prosecuted for thefts in the area.

For further information on Neighbourhood Watch please contact the Rockcliffe Community Police Centre at (613) 236-1222, Extension 5915.

**Prepared by Thomas Mosco, Constable**