

**Rockcliffe Park  
Residents Association**  
[www.RockcliffePark.ca](http://www.RockcliffePark.ca)

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**VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 1**

The Rockcliffe News, the newsletter of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA), is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December.

Submissions pertaining to the Village are welcomed by mid month before publication.

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# The Rockcliffe News

February 2012

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### FEBRUARY

WED 1st 7:30 p.m.

Heritage Committee Meeting, Community Hall

SUN 5th 11:00 a.m.

“Walk the Village” – Walk in Rockcliffe Park – meet at Community Hall Parking lot just before 11 a.m.

WED 15th 7:30 p.m.

Joint Annual General Meeting of the RPRA and the Village Foundation, Community Hall

THURS 23rd 7 to 9 p.m.

Community Skating Party, Rideau Hall Rink – see details on the last page of this newsletter

THURS 23rd 7:30 p.m.

Master Gardener David Priest, Rockcliffe Garden Club, Community Hall

WED 29th 8:00 p.m.

Andrew Leslie, Speaker Series, Community Hall

### MARCH

WED 21st 7:15 p.m.

RPRA Board Meeting, Community Hall

WED 28th 8:00 p.m.

Anabelle Kienle, Speaker Series, Community Hall

### APRIL

THURS 12th 7:00 p.m.

Ecology Ottawa Talk – Alternative Sources of Green Energy, Ashbury College

SAT 14th 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rockcliffe Park Library Book Sale

SUN 15th 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Rockcliffe Park Library Book Sale

THURS 19th 8:00 p.m.

Victor Rabinovitch, Speaker Series, Community Hall

THURS 26th 7:30 p.m.

Techniques for Creating Spring Containers, Rockcliffe Garden Club, Community Hall

## Hal Steacy's.....The Village Scene



**“John, that new TV was meant for BETTER viewing, not LONGER.  
So up you get.”**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since this is the first edition of The Rockcliffe News in the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best for 2012.

At this time of year, your Board prepares for the Annual General Meeting of the Rockcliffe Park Resident's Association, to be held Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Hall. As in past years, our meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Village Foundation. It may not be well known that the Foundation, through interest earned on its capital, provides a generous annual grant to the RPR for some of our activities. This year, we have been informed by the Chair of the Foundation, Bonnie Robinson, that a grant of \$17,000 has been allocated for programs and activities in the area of heritage, environment and community building. On behalf of the Board of the RPR, I would like to acknowledge the importance of this contribution to our work, and thank the Foundation for its continuing support.

The AGM reviews the events of the past year and also identifies key issues for the future. The interprovincial bridge issue continues to concern us and we expect that the redevelopment of the former Rockcliffe air base will become active this year. We will continue to monitor these issues and take action as appropriate. The AGM also elects a new Board of Directors. If you would be interested in putting your name forward for Board membership, please contact me. We are always on the lookout for residents who would like to run or participate in Village programs and activities.

Within the Village, you may be aware of a proposal, which has received agreement in principle from the City, to construct a permanent rink pad and fieldhouse in the area of the existing rink site. The RPR has reviewed this proposal and has a number of observations. It is expected that there will be a public consultation on this proposed project.

You may recall that in the previous edition of the newsletter we were looking for a Village Coordinator to rebuild and revitalize Rockcliffe Park's Neighbourhood Watch. I am pleased to report that Kay James has agreed to take on this responsibility and will attend the AGM to discuss concerns and an action plan. If you would be interested in assisting with this project by being a Block Captain, please contact Kay by email at [rprnw@gmail.com](mailto:rprnw@gmail.com).

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the RPR's Annual Report for 2011. It provides a good snapshot of the range of our activities as well as the countless volunteer hours that make them possible.

Finally, please renew your membership or become a member of the RPR in 2012 and consider volunteering for an activity listed on the form. Membership levels were up this past year, which give our association greater credibility when we seek to protect and advance community interests. Membership is on a household/family basis and costs \$25.00. Forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Community Police Centre on Springfield Road or downloaded from our website.

I hope you will be able to join us at the AGM on February 15th.

*Brian Dickson*

## JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

**Rockcliffe Park Residents Association and the Village Foundation**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 7:30 p.m. • Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road**

Everyone is welcome to attend.

A review of 2011 in the Village, and 2012 and beyond. Meet your neighbours. Come and ask questions.

Light refreshments served.

# FVRPF CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE AGM 2012

The **Rockcliffe Park Foundation** is a unique organization established over ten years ago. It manages an endowment set up at that time to help fund community projects and activities. Its mandate areas are:

- conservation of the environment;
- preservation of the heritage character of the Village; and
- promotion of a sense of community for all residents.

The endowment fund has weathered the downturn in markets and has largely recovered much of the losses since 2008. With the assistance of **Mark Ellis** from RBC Dominion Securities, a resident and the fund's investment advisor, we conducted the annual formal review of the investment performance and the Foundation's Investment Policy in June. I thank Mark and appreciate the support that our current Treasurer, **Grant McDonald** has provided in this matter.

"**Dining with the Ambassadors**" was held Friday, April 15th, 2011, and again raised more than \$20,000 for the Foundation. Twelve Embassies and High Commissions opened their doors to 135 guests. We thank **Maureen Boyd** for her leadership in this event, and her hardworking committee of Village residents – **Alana Abraham, Jane Clark, Joanne Nelson, Clare Nippard, Donna Roberts** and **Thea Geerts**; and to cocktail sponsor **Chris Lacharity** and Sutton Group-Premier Realty. See [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org) for more information about this event.

We work primarily with the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPR) which largely plans and implements projects and activities to make this community one we are all proud to call home. In 2011, based on proposals from the RPR, the Foundation directed a total of \$17,000 for projects and activities related to the **Environment, Heritage** and **Community Building**. Foundation funds account for about one third of the RPR expenses, to be used in part as follows:

- **Environment** – Contract a landscape firm from April to October to maintain the flower beds and to mow the lawn of the Jubilee Garden. The City no longer provides funds for the gardens in the community and the level of effort required is beyond what the current community volunteers can handle. The City currently provides irregular and infrequent mowing of the lawn.

- **Heritage** – Update the Rockcliffe Park Management Study: The City has completed its inventory of all houses in Rockcliffe Park. The next stage is to update the Study to produce new Management Guidelines, which will be used in approving plans for residential buildings. The Foundation funds will be used to contract a professional heritage planner to advise the RPR and to plan and carry out community consultations.

- **Community Building** – To sponsor the Evening Speaker Program, six issues of The Rockcliffe News, production of the RPR Annual Report, the Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting and, along with RPR School Council and the Lindenlea Community Association, to contribute funds towards the rehabilitation of the soccer field.

Additionally, \$1,000 was directed to the Rockcliffe Park Public School for a tree planting proposal sponsored by a local organization, Loc-Eco Action Families. A generous directed donation from a community resident was also provided to the City of Ottawa to replace the lettering on Queen Juliana Hall.

The endowment fund is now at \$500,000. In recognition that interest rates will remain low for the foreseeable future and that the RPR request for funds for community projects and activities exceed what can be currently supported, this year the Foundation launched its first Community Appeal in order to further build the endowment. I am pleased to report that to date 91 residents have responded to the appeal, raising \$22,500. We urge residents who have not yet made their donation to do so online at [www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org) or by mail to 25 Westward Way, Rockcliffe Park K1L 5A8. Donors will be recognized in the April edition of The Rockcliffe News. Those of you who have been involved in fundraising recognize the significant effort required to implement such a program. I would like to thank **Tom Delworth**, Past Chair of the Foundation and Chair of the Community Appeal Committee, and Committee Members **Cynthia Baxter, Carolyn Buchan** and **Mike McIntyre**.

Another accomplishment of the year was the development and implementation of a **Granting of Funds Guidelines** which documents those qualified to receive funds from the Foundation and the process for disbursing funds, which you will find on the Foundation's website.

At this time, I'd like to recognize the contributions of departing Board members. **Maureen Boyd** has led two very successful "Dining with the Ambassadors" events. **Ted Gibson** has been a member of the Board for several years and has provided sage advice on key matters. **Barbara Darling** has been the Foundation's Secretary; a role greatly appreciated and carried out with great proficiency. I thank you all on behalf of the Board and the residents of the community.

We are all grateful to call this wonderful community home. Serving on the Board is one way we can help manage it responsibly and protect its future.

*Bonnie Robinson, Chairperson*  
*The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation*  
[www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org](http://www.rockcliffeparkfoundation.org)

# ROCKCLIFFE PARK LIBRARY BOOK FAIR

## **Wanted: Books and A-V Material**

Did you make a New Year's Resolution to tidy your house? Are piles of books stowed under the bed, in the basement, or in a faraway corner where you hope no one will notice? Help is at hand. **The Rockcliffe Park branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) is collecting books and A-V material for its annual spring Book Sale on April 14 and 15.**

Deciding which books to give away can be a dangerous activity! Tim Murray remembers an occasion when he was about to buy a particularly beautiful book on Canadian Art at a book sale. When he looked inside the book he discovered it had been given to him as a present from his wife. Another man commented to me as he donated a small box of carefully chosen books – "My wife and I fought over every one." The Library Book Sale committee has received frantic calls from people who have given away other people's borrowed books by mistake. We invited them to come ahead of the sale in the hope of finding it.

Once having brought your books to the library, or called the library for pick up if you need help, you can feel virtuous. The money raised by the April Library Book Sale and the sale shelf in 2011 made an important difference to the level of service a small branch such as Rockcliffe was able to offer. It produced more express reads, additional magazine subscriptions, children's and adult books, more visiting authors for school classes, some teen games, and a family outreach day of activities. A grant to the OPL Aboriginal



*Inveterate books sale volunteers Joan and Tony Kellett (right) and Maggie Knaus prepare for the spring Rockcliffe Library Book Sale.*

outreach program and to the central Friends of the OPL was also made.

## **We Need Volunteers!**

Can you help us by – working a two hour shift on cash, reorganizing the tables as books sell, cleaning up on Sunday at the end of the sale, helping with publicity, picking up donated boxes of books in February and March – and more? To volunteer, please leave your name and phone number address with the library, **613 745-2562.**

*Jane Dobell*

## **Reminder – Your RPRA Membership for 2012 is Now Due**

**\*\*\* And Still Only \$25.00 Per Household \*\*\***

The RPRA's success depends on your support. The RPRA represents the Village at City Hall; a high participation rate gives us a higher profile. And, your membership dollars help support Village activities such as last year's 85th Anniversary celebration, children's sports and The Rockcliffe News.

Mail your membership cheque to the RPRA, 380-A Springfield Road, Rockcliffe Park, ON, K1M 0K7 – or drop it in the RPRA box just outside the Springfield Road door of the Community Hall – or leave it at the Community Police Centre at 360 Springfield Road.

Can't remember if you paid? Call **Iola Price** at **613 746-6145** or email **secretary@rockcliffepark.ca** and we will respond as soon as possible.

# ENVIRONMENT

## Winter Roads Maintenance

*This is further to the article on winter roads maintenance that appeared in the December, 2011 issue of The Rockcliffe News. Please review the 13 items listed in that article!*

After enjoying a relatively benign December we are now starting to see more of our traditional winter weather.

By and large, the City crews appear to be abiding by the guidelines as published and agreed to by the City Works Department approximately three years ago. We are however having difficulty convincing the City that Lisgar Road and Princess Avenue are subject to the same guidelines. They seem to feel that these two roads which are adjacent to Rideau Hall must be treated differently with the application of pure rock salt. In our view this is a misguided approach.

In the official City publication on the treatment of roads and sidewalks, the following statement appears: "Salt is our first defence against a winter storm. Salt is spread early during a winter storm on a priority basis to make a brine solution." While there may be justification under certain icy conditions to apply pure rock salt to melt away the ice, such as on the Queensway, in our view to apply such a criteria to residential streets such as Lisgar Road and Princess Avenue is clearly wrong.

A further meeting with the City Works Department may be required. In the meantime please abide by the roads guidelines to ensure a safe journey along the Village roads.

## Proposed New Ottawa River Crossing

A dedicated group of concerned Rockcliffe residents, together with residents of other affected communities, have been vigilant in following developments in connection with the above longstanding issue.

This matter is currently with the consultants who were reappointed by the NCC more than one year ago. They were given a new mandate to consider the so-called environmental phase of the study, expanded following a public uproar several years ago to include a total of three potential Ottawa River crossings including Kettle Island, notwithstanding the almost universal objection by affected communities and others to Kettle Island as an option.

Submissions to have the NCC and its consultants consider other options such as a tunnel under the Ottawa River as well as a light rail system crossing the Ottawa River on one or more of the existing bridges have not been officially acknowledged by the NCC or its consultants.

Rockcliffe Park together with other affected communities have had preliminary discussions with an independent con-

sultant to receive advice on options other than a new bridge crossing to resolve the river crossings and congestion caused by heavy trucks and other vehicles on the City streets including King Edward Avenue.

At the moment it is anticipated that next month, the NCC's consultants will publish their next report on the river crossing study. It is expected that they will recommend one of the three identified bridge crossings. If it is again the Kettle Island crossing one can expect there will be a major negative reaction from the affected communities, including Rockcliffe Park and Manor Park. If any of the other bridge options are chosen, it is anticipated that those affected communities will object. Virtually a catch 22 situation!



*An aerial view of the former Rockcliffe air base.*

*Photo: <http://www.mercurysys.com/CARAD/>*

## Rockcliffe Air Base Development

The writer was one of Rockcliffe's residents who was involved as an interested person in a study into the redevelopment of the 136 hectares of the former Rockcliffe air base at the bottom of Hemlock Avenue. That study however came to a halt in 2006 when the Algonquins of Ontario laid claim to the land.

Since that time, negotiations had been ongoing on the land claim, resulting in a financial settlement in early 2011. Title to the air base has recently been transferred to Canada Lands Company which has agreed to work with the Algonquins during the development process.

Because of the time that has passed, further meetings with City of Ottawa planners and new public consultations will need to be held. No notice of any such public consultations has come to our attention or the attention of any residents of other affected communities to this date so far as the writer is aware.

*Alexander Macklin, Past President, RPR*

# CITY HALL / QUEEN'S PARK



*From the office of Councillor Peter Clark,  
Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward*

## Any Ideas for Park and Recreation Betterment?

The City established a policy in December 2010, the Cash-in-Lieu of parkland policy, to ensure consistent and wise use of all funds collected for the provision of park and recreational purposes. The purpose of the policy is to identify the purposes for which funds in this account may be used, and to ensure that the funds are used for only eligible projects and in individual wards unless two or more councillors agree to contribute to a common project that benefits one or more of the wards. This policy applies to the Council of the City of Ottawa, Ward Councillors and City Staff. Cash-in-lieu funds collected through the development review will be allocated as follows: 60% of the funds paid will be allocated to use in the Ward in which the development is located, and 40% of the funds paid will be allocated for citywide purposes. Cash-in-lieu funds collected and allocated to both Ward and citywide use shall not be used for any purpose that is an 'ineligible project' as defined by this policy.

Eligible projects can mean:

- Acquisition of land for public park purposes.
- Capital projects for the development of new public parks which may include any associated site preparation and drainage; the provision of park facilities, such as play equipment, sports fields and pathways, or the provision of recreation facilities, such as community centres indoor pools and arenas.
- Capital projects to increase the capacity of existing public parks and/or recreation facilities to accommodate more intensive public use; the provision of additional park facilities, for example play equipment, splash pads and site furniture; and/or the provisions of additional recreation facilities, for example the expansion or upgrading of program spaces in community centres, indoor pools and arenas.

I would like to get your thoughts and ideas on what you would like to see to improve the facilities in our ward. Send your ideas to [peter.clark@ottawa.ca](mailto:peter.clark@ottawa.ca).

### Ward News Email List

If you are interested in being on our ward news email list, please let us know by emailing [Lynda.Moore@ottawa.ca](mailto:Lynda.Moore@ottawa.ca).



There is nothing more valuable to families than time together.

This February 20th, Ontario's Family Day, celebrate with your loved ones.

## Madeleine Meilleur

MPP, Ottawa-Vanier

237 Montreal Road

[mmeilleur.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mmeilleur.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

[www.madeleinemeilleur.onmpp.ca](http://www.madeleinemeilleur.onmpp.ca)

613-744-4484

# HOUSE OF COMMONS



*Mauril  
Bélanger*

## 2011 in Review

Looking back over the past year, we can see that a number of noteworthy events took place.

You will find below a quick overview of some of the initiatives I was involved with in 2011.

### **The Political Event of 2011: The May 2 Federal Election and its Consequences**

On March 25, 2011, Parliament declared that it no longer had confidence in the Conservative government. The next day, a federal election was called for May 2. After an active Liberal campaign, the voters in Ottawa-Vanier chose to re-elect me for a seventh term. Unfortunately, the Liberal Party's results nationwide were not as strong, with only 34 Liberal MPs taking seats in the House of Commons. Actually, make that 35! An NDP MP recently joined the Liberal ranks.

In the aftermath of May 2, the Liberal Party began a comprehensive self-reflection. We are undertaking a major rebuilding effort in which members of the party will be called on to play an important role. The first step was selecting an interim leader. The Hon. Bob Rae is doing a great job in this position. As I write this, the Liberal Party is preparing to meet here in Ottawa for its Biennial Convention, of which I am a Co-Chair.

At the parliamentary level, my Liberal caucus colleagues and I continue to defend the interests of Canadians as part of the opposition in the House of Commons. My priorities are to serve the interests of the residents of Ottawa-Vanier, perform my duties as the Liberal Critic for Official Languages and defend the fundamental values of democracy both within Canada and abroad.

### **Official Languages**

I am a member and a Vice-Chair of the current Official Languages Committee. Ever since this committee was created, its members have worked together to support our communities, regardless of which political party was in power. However, since the election in 2011, I have noticed that the Conservatives on the Committee seem to want to control everything. For example, I think it is unacceptable that the

Conservatives have forced Committee members to discuss matters behind closed doors. So much for transparency! Another example: not completing the work begun by the Committee in the previous Parliament on Northern communities and on immigration.

The appointment of Michael Ferguson to the position of Auditor General of Canada was a hot topic this fall, and for good reason. When people seek out positions at the highest levels of the public service, bilingualism is more than just an asset; it is a necessity. So how did a unilingual candidate secure this position when the job description clearly stated that being able to speak both of Canada's official languages was essential?

The Liberal caucus decided to boycott the vote on Mr. Ferguson's appointment. As the Liberal Critic for Official Languages, I filed a complaint with the Commissioner of Official Languages regarding the nomination. The Leader of the Liberal Party has assured us that the battle will not end there.

On a related note, the 2011 report of the Commissioner of Official Languages identifies a blatant lack of leadership by the Conservatives in the area of official languages.

### **My Community Involvement**

In the fall, the Maison Fraternité began work on its residential treatment centre for young drug addicts, located at 300 Olmstead Street. I have supported this project from the very beginning.

On the evening of November 30, around 2,000 people attended the All Party Party 2011, of which I was Co-Chair, at the Government Conference Centre. This celebration aimed at paying tribute to the employees of the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament, who all contribute to the daily operation of the Parliament of Canada. The Prostate Cancer Canada Network, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Ottawa-Gatineau Snowsuit Fund shared the funds raised at the event, to the tune of \$10,000.

### **Keep an Eye on These Issues in 2012**

In closing, I would like to invite you to keep track of the following hot issues in 2012: the world economy and Mark Carney's work; the evolution of Canada's parliamentary system; and developments in the future interprovincial bridge project and with regard to the former Rockcliffe air base.

Happy New Year!

*Mauril Bélanger, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier*

# SCHOOL REPORTS

## Elmwood School

### Two Elmwood Students Earn Early Admission to Prestigious U.S. Universities

Two members of Elmwood's Class of 2012 will be freshmen at top schools in the U.S. next fall!

**Emma Graham** is heading to the Ivy League. She has received early admission to Yale University, where she is planning to study science. Only 7% of applicants are accepted to Yale each year and it is consistently ranked as one of the leading universities in the world. This is the second year in a row that one of our students has earned early acceptance to Yale – for a small school like Elmwood this is quite an achievement! It is a testament to Emma's hard work, analytical mind and incredible talent that she has been accepted to this outstanding school. Emma has also been asked to join the Yale Rowing Crew.

**Francesca Schembri** has received early admission to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Only 3.4% of international applicants are accepted to MIT and 9.7% of domestic applicants are accepted. She plans to study environmental engineering in the School of Engineering, which has been ranked first among graduate and undergraduate programs in the U.S. by *U.S. News & World Report* since 1994. Frankie is a highly motivated, intelligent and hard-working student who is sure to thrive in MIT's academic environment.

Both girls are already somewhat familiar with the schools they'll be attending in September – Frankie spent part of last summer at the MIT Women's Technology Program in



Elmwood Grade 12 students Francesca Schembri (left) and Emma Graham.

Mechanical Engineering, and Emma was at Yale for six weeks participating in their Discovery to Cure High School Internship Program.

Headmistress Cheryl Boughton said, "Emma and Francesca are exceptional students pursuing the full IB Diploma, and have both taken full advantage of the unique opportunities and experiences offered at Elmwood. They are sure to make their mark at university as they have at Elmwood."

### Save the Date – Open House, February 11, 2012

Elmwood will be holding an Admissions Open House on Saturday, February 11, 2012 starting at 9 a.m. We invite interested families to come meet our staff, students and parents, tour the School and hear about how we inspire each girl to reach her full potential. More information can be found at [www.elmwood.ca](http://www.elmwood.ca).

### 23rd Annual Gala

Mark your calendars now for Elmwood's 23rd Annual Gala! Our signature event of the year will be held Saturday, April 21, 2012, when the school gymnasium will be transformed into a disco bar à la Studio 54! For more details visit the Gala webpage at [www.elmwood.ca/gala](http://www.elmwood.ca/gala).

### Taking the Stage

Elmwood Theatre presents a new adaptation of Euripides's classic, *The Trojan Women*.

Adapted by New York playwright **Ellen McLaughlin**, this drama explores the pride and plight of women caught in the aftermath of war. Following the loss of their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons, the conquered women of Troy must draw on their own strength and spirit in order to survive the future that now awaits them.

In the style of Greek Theatre, the acting ensemble will begin the evening with *A Tall Tale of Troy*, a silly satyr created by Elmwood Theatre's 'Company of Clowns' – with a little help from Homer! The humorous pre-show takes a farcical look at events leading up to the downfall of Troy and promises to be theatre the whole family will enjoy. Audience members will also take pleasure in a special exhibit of paintings by artist **Andrée Chartrand**, a narrative colourist whose style combines Fauvism and Expressionism.

Theatre performances take place Wednesday, February 29 to Saturday, March 3 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for seniors and students, and \$20 for adults. For information and tickets, please call **613 749-6761, Ext 221**.

# SCHOOL REPORTS

Ashbury  
COLLEGE



## Successfully Launching Students into a Changing World

Ashbury's strong academic reputation, with 100% university placement and 85% attending their first choice university, continues to be a source of pride. In our efforts to continually improve, we are interested in tracking the success of our students at university and beyond. Ashbury, together with 50 independent schools across the country, initiated a National Tracking Study of our students' success at university. Families make a large financial investment to send their children to independent schools and we believe that with this study we can better measure and communicate the value and impact of an Ashbury education.

Brock University is helping with this National Tracking Study and while there is not sufficient data yet for any concrete conclusions, we will have a clear picture how our students perform academically in each of their university years. We hear from universities constantly that our students are better prepared for university, especially the IB students. We will also learn how students' co-curricular involvement and leadership experiences impact their university achievements. A number of our students, alumni and family members continue to be recognized for their accomplishments.

- **David Scott** '54 was appointed to the Order of Canada for his charitable activities and his contributions to the legal profession.
- Rhodes Scholarship Recipient **Brendan Alexander** '07 has been studying at Oxford for his Masters of Philosophy with a focus on military history.
- **Ben Barry**, School Captain in 2001, founded his modeling agency, Ben Barry Agency Inc., at age 14 on the premise "A Real Woman is Every Woman." He has been profiled on the Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, and CBC among others.
- Cornell University and U18 Women's World Hockey Championship: **Morgan Richardson** recently returned from the Czech Republic with the gold medal for Canada. Morgan has been actively recruited by Princeton, Yale and Cornell, her first choice.
- Youth Social Entrepreneurship Award: **Bessie Zhang**, Grade 11, created an organization called "Students Teaching Students," an online blog-form website for live peer-to-peer tutoring. Rather than relying on teachers to provide

one-to-one support, "Students Teaching Students" offers tutoring support two hours a day, six days a week from a group of academically strong students.

- National Rugby Team and World Championship Gold Medal: **Julianne Zussman** '04 and **Natasha Turner** '06 represented Canada in Dubai in Women's Seven-a-side Rugby.



## Ashbury's Katie Gwozdecky Named Finalist in NASA Competition

On January 17, 2012, NASA announced the finalists of the global YouTube Space Lab competition, naming Ashbury's **Katie Gwozdecky** '13 one of ten contenders in the Americas region! Students around the world designed real experiments for the International Space Station and, via YouTube, explained their scientific method. A panel, led by Dr. Stephen Hawking, judged the 14,000 worldwide entries including Katie's experiment on Intrinsic Blood Clotting. Winners of the global competition will have their choice of traveling to Japan to watch their experiment launch into space or spending a week in Russia for actual cosmonaut training.

## Student Monte Carlo Arts Night

This annual arts night is an entirely student-run fundraiser organized by current students **Isabelle Baxter**, **Sepand Alavifard**, **Olivia Zed** and **Alexandra Saikaley**. With over 300 students and parents attending, this event raised \$21,000 to support the Do It For Daron Foundation (D.I.F.D.) and for community service supplies to build schools and wells internationally in impoverished communities.

## 24 h Tremblant Relay

Congratulations to students **Kevin Desjardins** '10, **Jessy Desjardins** '11 and **Cole Rechan** '15, who participated in the 11th annual 24h Tremblant Relay event. Their team finished second place in the junior (under 18) division. Each team member finished in the top 20 for personal fundraising amongst roughly 1800 competitors, raising a total of \$20,000 for the Do It For Daron Foundation (D.I.F.D.).

*Continued on next page*

# SCHOOL REPORTS

ASHBURY SCHOOL *(continued)*

## Private School with a Public Purpose

The holiday season is a time when Ashbury students make special efforts to reach out to help neighbouring families with Christmas Hampers and Snowsuits. In January there are visits and work done to support the Gloucester Foodbank. The efforts from various inter house competitions and food sales raised \$3,000, which was presented on January 16 to Christie Lake Kids Board President **Chris Hughes**.



*Junior School students deliver snowsuits.*



## ROCKCLIFFE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Here Comes the Snow!!

After such a glorious fall with our warmer temperatures, it is nice to see the snow falling. Just before the snow started our new play structure opened and all of our students were able to play on it for a short time. It was wonderful to finally have it all together and we are very grateful to the families that helped fund and support the new structure.

The students and staff at Rockcliffe Park Public School have been very busy over the last few months. Our grade 2 students learned how to make Bird Houses and decorated them to help with housing for our feathered friends. Our junior students learned about the game of Cricket from the Aussie X organization. They perfected their bowling technique and were quite skilled by the end of the three-day event.



*Baking linzer cookies: (from left) Edith Betkowski (a mom) with grade 5 students Alexandra O'Brien, Maya Pawlisz, Dollin Someerville, Nick Bohac, Sabrina Idris, and Noor Labeled.*

Proving that learning can be creative and fun, our grade 5 students applied their math skills to baking. Students chose their recipes, doubled the ingredients to make bigger batches to share and converted the quantities between imperial and metric measures. The results were very tasty so they obviously got their math calculations down pat!

During December our students worked on a Holiday Hamper program to help families in our area. Classes were paired with families and our school community rolled up their sleeves and opened their hearts to help out. The Shepherds of Good Hope were ecstatic that we sponsored 17 families and helped to brighten their holiday season. It was so successful and we know that many students benefited from the experience they shared with their parents. Thank you to our Grade 3 teacher, **Tania Lemieux**, and all of our helper elves behind the scenes!



*The Holiday Hamper program was a huge success.*

## Interested in Using Solar Power in 2012?



Save Thursday evening, April 12th at 7:00 p.m., for a special meeting at Ashbury College – organized by Ecology Ottawa – on the latest possibilities for the use of alternative sources of green energy, especially solar.

Ecology Ottawa is promoting the building of 1000 solar roof-tops in Ottawa – already at around 700 – and will demonstrate how you, too, can participate in Ontario’s “Feed-in Tariff” Green Energy Program, guaranteed for 20 years with a typical payback of seven to nine percent. Financial institutions provide financing for this investment, including TD, BMO and RBC banks.

At an initial planning meeting in January with representatives from environmental groups in Rockcliffe Park, Vanier, Lindenlea, Cardinal Glen and New Edinburgh, Ecology Ottawa explained its goal of forming an Ottawa Community Council, similar to the Toronto Environmental Alliance, composed of environment committees from the community associations in Ottawa. Ecology Ottawa – with a paid staff of four – has 400 volunteers and is looking for the best ways to channel volunteer action most effectively. If you have any suggestions, please contact **Janice Ashworth** at **613 860-5353** or through the Ecology Ottawa website, [www.ecologyottawa.ca](http://www.ecologyottawa.ca).

Other good sources of information on alternative energy cited at the meeting were:

- CanSIA – Canadian Solar Industries Association  
[www.cansia.ca](http://www.cansia.ca)
- Community Energy Network, [www.community-energy.ca](http://www.community-energy.ca)
- OREC – Ottawa Renewable Energy Cooperative Inc.,  
[www.ottawarenewableenergycoop.ca](http://www.ottawarenewableenergycoop.ca)
- Bullfrog Power, [www.bullfrogpower.com](http://www.bullfrogpower.com)
- Natural Resources Canada’s Office of Energy Efficiency, [oee.nrcan.gc.ca](http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca)

And save Saturday, April 28th, for the Ottawa Solar Fair... details to follow.

Here’s to our Village getting involved in a greener energy future!

*Tudy McLaine, RPRA Environment Committee*

On December 10, a week before the lake skinned over with ice, six male Common Mergansers exuberantly chased each other. A bird just under the surface would swim at top speed at another bird swimming on the surface who would just stay ahead by dint of violent paddling and beating its wings on the water. After several minutes of this, all six swam peacefully off together, as if nothing had happened.

With the ice now strong enough to walk on, Iola and I have checked the nesting boxes for ducks around the lake. Last summer, ducks had made depressions in the loose wood chips in the bottom of both boxes in the east marsh, but hadn’t nested. And no use was made of the box at the shore of 194 Lansdowne Road. Of the two duck boxes in trees at 245 Sylvan Avenue, the one in a White Cedar had been filled with shredded cedar bark by a Red Squirrel, and the other in a Basswood contained some cut leaves and was in use by four black Grey Squirrels cohabiting. Neither box showed remnants of eggshells to indicate a duck nesting. So I assume the two and possibly three Wood Duck broods seen on the lake last summer came from nestings in natural holes in trees in the vicinity. Nesting at a distance from the lake is risky. In 2006, a brood of just-hatched young on Roxborough Avenue heading for the lake was attacked by Crows.

Of the four swallow boxes at the lake, two had evidence of completely successful fledging of Tree Swallow broods last summer. Good result for a population in trouble.

Elmdale Avenue, a block south of Maple Lane, was alive with birds in warm sunshine on January 5. A flock of at least 40 Robins fed on berries on two separate Redcedars: A lot of activity, birds flying down to take a berry or two then up to perch in nearby trees, and back again. Meanwhile, a tight flock of some 60 Starlings moved from top to top of the tallest trees, not feeding.

Print marks on January 7 showed a Red Fox had walked along the shore edge of the Ottawa River ice for several hundred metres. I wondered why, since there was no possibility of prey animals on the ice. Then I found the print marks crossing from the shore into the woods, and there the fox had sunk deeply into the snow under the trees. Was walking on the ice simply an easier way to cover distance? Returning along the McKay Lake path, I noticed the same thing again, fox tracks going some distance on the ice parallel to the shore, then turning on to the land.

*Anthony Keith*

*14 January 2012*

# END NOTES



## Walk the Village: Walk 3

The Heritage Committee of the RPRA will conduct its third walk using the new booklet **Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park** as its guide.

The walk will take place on Sunday, February 5, 2012. Meet in the parking lot of the Community Hall just before 11:00 a.m. Walk 3 should take about an hour to complete.

*Kathy Day*

*Chair, RPRA Heritage Committee*

## Think Spring!

The Rockcliffe Garden Club's Speaker Series continues with a slide show by **David Priest**, master gardener and originator of the new Ottawa-based website [www.gardenaway.com](http://www.gardenaway.com) on garden design and plantings. The event will take place on February 23rd from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Community Centre, 380 Springfield Avenue. Come and start thinking Spring!



## New Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the Village

The RPRA is pleased to announce that an enthusiastic resident, **Kay James**, has stepped forward with an offer to be the new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the Village. Ms.

James, a resident of Rockcliffe Park since the 1980s, is a former Elmwood School teacher and her children attended Elmwood and Ashbury so she is well qualified to take on this important role. Ms. James has been invited to attend the RPRA's February AGM and say a few words about herself and Neighbourhood Watch.

If you will volunteer to be a Block Captain or want to learn more about what being a Block Captain means, please contact Kay at [rpranw@gmail.com](mailto:rpranw@gmail.com).

## Vandalism in the Village

On the evening of Friday, December 23rd, a group of young boys walking two dogs egged the upstairs window of a house on Manor Avenue. The homeowner has filed a report of the incident with the Ottawa police. Although this might have been considered a harmless prank by those involved, children and their parents should be aware that there may be legal consequences of such actions.



## You're Invited to a Community Skating Party!

The RPRA invites you to a Community Skating Party at Rideau Hall on Thursday, February 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Return to the early days of Rockcliffe-Rideau Hall skating parties and rest from time to time in the heated log hut and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate.

If coming by car, you must enter the grounds by the Princess (back) gate and park only in the designated Parking Lot. We need to know how many people (including children) are attending – there is a cut-off limit of 50 people.

Young and novice skaters are advised to wear helmets, and no hockey sticks or pucks or roughhousing are allowed on the rink. Neither smoking nor alcoholic beverages are allowed on the site. In the event of severe weather or unsuitable ice, the skate will be postponed or cancelled.

You must RSVP to [secretary@rockcliffepark.ca](mailto:secretary@rockcliffepark.ca) by February 16. We will establish a waiting list so if you register and your plans change, please let us know so that we may offer your place to another family.