

NEW EDINBURGH NEWS

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Do you hear what I hear?

If not, join us for our
Winter Choir Performance

Monday December 16th 2019
at 7:30pm

New Edinburgh Community Choir
Directed by Joe McDonald
Mackay United Church,
39 Dufferin Rd
Freewill Donation



New Year's Day Brunch

New Edinburgh Park Field House
203 Stanley Avenue

January 1st 2020
10:30 to 1:30

- ☑ Food
- ☑ Coffee
- ☑ Wagon Ride
- ☑ Entertainment
- ☑ Cook & clean the day after the night before



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NEW EDINBURGH COMMUNITY'S
ANNUAL EVENTS!

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House is sold, but NECTAR remains active until spring

By the NECTAR Board of Directors

It is with an enormous sense of relief, coupled with a twinge of sadness, that the New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre (NECTAR) Board of Directors can formally announce the closing of the sale of 255 MacKay St. on Nov. 5. This sale represents a significant milestone in the journey that NECTAR and this community has taken over the last two decades. In one way or another, almost everyone in New Edinburgh and its surrounding neighbourhoods has seen the benefits and influences of NECTAR's programming and outreach.

Routeburn Mackay Corporation is the purchaser of the house, and has no immediate plans to develop it until after the winter of 2020 at the earliest. Therefore, NECTAR will continue to occupy 255 MacKay St. until Mar. 31, 2020, continuing its current level of programming and rentals, as it has for the last year or so.

With the close of the sale and payouts of NECTAR's liabilities, the board has been advised that the City of Ottawa's original \$250,000 grant will remain within the



255 MacKay St., home of the NECTAR Centre, officially sold on Nov. 5. But programming will continue to run in the house until Mar. 31, 2020.

Photo by Alexander McKenzie

community. Likewise, some additional Cash-In-Lieu funds totalling \$27,000 (the amount provided to NECTAR

for upgrades to the house) will also be earmarked for our community. Discussions with

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Time is right to fix the missing bike path link on Stanley Avenue

by Chris Straka

One can cycle on a paved path segregated from motorized vehicles through every neighbourhood on the east side of the Rideau River, from Hog's Back Falls to Rideau Falls – except for New Edinburgh. The 150m stretch of Stanley Avenue between the bend at Dufferin Road and the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse is the only break in the entire length of the Rideau River Eastern Pathway, the National Capital Commission's 13.4km-long paved multi-use path.

The uncontrolled interaction of bicycles, motorized vehicles and pedestrians on this section of Stanley Avenue is a longstanding public safety issue. From ends of the existing bike path, cyclists must manoeuvre between parked vehicles in an attempt to

merge onto a poorly-signed roadway, then flow with traffic as they search for the pathway's continuation. The intensity and diversity of users in this narrow public corridor increases the risk of collision.

A grade-separated bike path link between the truncated ends of the existing bike path – at Dufferin Road and at the Fieldhouse (the current CSST Site 5 exit) – would allow car, bike and pedestrian traffic to flow through the narrowest part of New Edinburgh Park without the need to merge.

I have lobbied for bicycle path continuity through New Edinburgh since 2015. The connection has been discussed over the years as a potential extension to other infrastructure works in the area: the Dufferin Road east sidewalk, River Lane recon-

struction, CSST electrical service/Crichton Street north verge. But no project has presented as good an opportunity as the road resurfacing currently planned for Stanley Avenue following the completion of CSST construction. Prospective synergies and efficiencies associated with constructing a new grade-separated bike path along a roadway already slated for work cannot be ignored.

As President of the Crichton Community Council, I, together with Cindy Parkanyi, President of the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA), recently wrote to City Councillor Rawlson King expressing both groups' unanimous support for constructing this link.

Although City staff have not made a firm commitment to

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Taking care of our most vulnerable during the holidays



Jim Watson
Mayor of Ottawa

The holiday season is an occasion to reflect on the past year, to take a moment to count our blessings and to find opportunities to help those less fortunate than us.

But the holidays can also be a hard time for those living in poverty, in temporary housing and shelters or even on our streets. Like many Canadian cities, Ottawa has been experiencing a high demand for emergency housing. Our local shelters are struggling and the low vacancy rate of less than

1.6 per cent makes it hard for individuals and families to find adequate housing.

City Council is committed to helping our most vulnerable residents and to providing safe and affordable housing for all. Last year, we invested \$15 million to build new affordable housing in Ottawa, the first investment of this magnitude in the City's history. This unprecedented investment allowed us to approve the building of 266 new affordable units.

I am pleased that we will be repeating this investment with Budget 2020 by investing an additional \$15 million into affordable housing.

Further to securing safe and affordable housing, many families are also struggling to make ends meet and to put food on their tables, particularly during this time of year. In Ottawa alone, more than 39,000 people visit an emergency food bank program every month. This holiday season, I urge you to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate in our city.

Each year, several food drives are organized across the city in support of the Ottawa Food Bank, including:

- the 35th annual OC Transpo/Loblaws Christmas Food Drive on Nov. 30
- CTV Morning Live's

Holiday Helpers Food Drive on Dec. 5

- my 19th Annual Christmas Celebration at City Hall on Dec. 7, and

- CBC's Project Give on Dec. 13

In addition to these food drives, you can fill donation boxes with canned and non-perishable items at several City of Ottawa facilities, local schools, workplaces or community centre, or make a monetary donation to the Ottawa Food Bank by visiting ottawafoodbank.ca/donate.

I invite you to support the various food drives in our city by donating non-perishable items such as peanut butter, pasta, rice, tomato sauce, any canned food items, baby food and formula and diapers.

Visit OttawaFoodBank.ca to consult the Ottawa Food

Bank's calendar of events and find out where you can donate.

Last year, your generosity helped the Ottawa Food Bank collect and distribute hundreds of thousands of food and non-perishable items and thousands in cash and food vouchers to those in need during the holiday season. Together, let's try to make an even bigger impact this year.

I am proud to support the Ottawa Food Bank each year and hope that you will join the City in spreading a little bit of holiday spirit. Every donation, whether big or small, goes a long way in helping the most vulnerable in our community.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season.

New committee working to design bike path link for Stanley Avenue

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construct the grade-separated bike path, King has indicated his support in principle for the project.

At NECA's Nov. 19 meeting, members established a

Pathway Design Committee to work with our councillor and City of Ottawa staff on the collaborative design of a new bike path link. The committee currently comprises myself (Chris Straka, Chair), Marc Dorgeville, Sean



Photo by Chris Straka

The uncontrolled interaction of cyclists, motorized vehicles and pedestrians on this section of Stanley Avenue is a public safety issue.

Flynn and Joana Chelo. The Pathway Design Committee has a mandate to provide the City with detailed recommendations for the design of a new bike path link on behalf of neighbourhood residents.

Given the significant width – 18m – of the existing asphalt roadway and its packed gravel shoulders, space exists to accommodate the new infrastructure. A bike path on the river side of Stanley Avenue,

separated from the roadway by a curb and narrow verge, could be added without compromising the Fieldhouse's east lawn-ice area; without requiring any trees to be removed; while still maintaining parking along Stanley Avenue. We will explore specific design details in the new year.

The Committee hopes that plans can be resolved, budget allocated, and approvals obtained in 2020, so that the two ends of the Rideau River Eastern Pathway can be completed in 2021.

Thank you for your business this past year.
Happy Holidays and best wishes in 2020!

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