The Lindenleader
Newsletter of the Lindenlea Community Association Spring 2026

Spring Has Sprung!

Spring has arrived in Lindenlea bringing warmer weather and plenty of reasons to gather together. We hopped our way into the season with our annual spring egg hunt. We had around 80 children come to the community centre to search for hidden eggs and exchange them for a treat bag. Thanks to our volunteers, Karen, Elizabeth and Fregine for helping us out.

The fun has continued with spring soccer getting off to a fantastic start. We have a great group of enthusiastic kids and committed volunteer coaches who are having a blast on the field.

Meanwhile, our tennis courts have been freshly cleaned and are now open and ready for the season. Whether you're picking up a racket for the first time or returning for another year, it's the perfect time to get outside and enjoy everything spring has to offer.

Here's to a vibrant and active season in our community!

If you have news or notices of local interest, contact our team at lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com.

EST. 1919 LINDENLEA

The Lindenlea Community Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

Beechwood Public Realm Study

The City of Ottawa is working to improve street design and enhance the public's experience of Beechwood Avenue. This follows a series of initiatives that began with the community-led Beechwood Avenue Revitalization Plan (2002), the designation of Beechwood Avenue as a "Main Street" in the Official Plan (2003), the Beechwood Community Design Plan (2006), and subsequent ad hoc street improvement projects over the past 20 years. The aim of the current study is to develop a 'complete street' design that will create a functional and desirable streetscape, to improve the physical state of the public realm and experience of the street for users. The study, which suggests many changes to beechwood and surrounding streets in Lindenlea (particularly Champlain, Chapleau, Commanda and Douglas) can be viewed here:
EN: https://engage.ottawa.ca/beechwood
FR: https://participons.ottawa.ca/beechwood

The Lindenlea Community Association (LCA) drafted a response to the Beechwood Avenue Public Realm Study. This is a brief summary of our concerns, we highly recommend you read our full response letter on our website here: http://www.lindenlea.ca/board-communications.html

1. Public Engagement and the Planning Process
The timelines provided for community consultation were inadequate. We ask that the City organize broader community sessions beyond PAC meetings as the project continues to unfold, and submit a consultation plan to the communities it represents and are affected by the study.

2. The Pedestrian Experience
Optimizing pedestrian movement deserves dedicated analysis. We encourage the City to explore prioritized pedestrian crossing signals and make a concerted effort to achieve consistently wider sidewalks, continuity of the walking experience along the full length of the road, and full compliance with accessibility standards is essential.

3. Cycling Infrastructure
There is strong community support for protected, continuous bike lanes and, where feasible, raised cycle tracks. We would also draw attention to the accumulation of signage, utility poles, and other street furniture within the cycling and pedestrian zone. Designers should take a holistic view of the shared streetscape with the explicit goal of reducing clutter and improving the collective experience for all users.

4. Transit Integration
The section of Beechwood between Vanier Parkway and Marier supports four OC Transpo routes. Traffic management along this stretch is complex at peak hours. The positioning of the bus stop at the Metro (Loyer Street stop) is a particular concern. We recommend a comprehensive review of the transit user experience, bus stop placement, and the interaction between bus operations, vehicle traffic, and cycling infrastructure.

5. Vehicular Traffic Management
We disagree with the traffic forecasts presented in the plan. Data suggesting a decrease in traffic along Beechwood does not reflect the lived experience of community members engaged in this process. Furthermore, the forecasts do not account for projected traffic increases due to intensification of nearby neighbourhoods. We are concerned that no Traffic calming measures and speed reductions are being studied on Beechwood. Several specific intersections and corridors warrant further attention including the Vanier Parkway Intersection, Putman Avenue, Springfield and Beechwood and Acacia and Beechwood. Parking availability along Beechwood and on adjoining streets is insufficient to support local retail.

6. Urban Design and Public Realm
We encourage the City to pursue every available opportunity to plant trees within the Beechwood right-of-way to maximize shade and improve the street environment. We recommend that the City prioritize thoughtful, context-specific, and where possible custom urban design and public art strategies, alongside a consistent palette of materials and street furniture, to ensure a high-quality and cohesive public realm. Attention must also be given to all-season maintenance,

particularly the management of snow removal and storage during winter months, and to ensuring bulb-outs do not compound existing street clutter from signage, utility poles, and waste receptacles.

We support the proposed narrowing of intersections at Douglas, Commanda, Champlain, and Chapleau, as these changes will create safer and more comfortable crossings for pedestrians and cyclists. The protected intersections proposed at Springfield and Putman/ Marier are also strongly supported given the serious existing safety concerns at both locations. We request that the LCA be consulted on any proposed changes and have the opportunity to provide input to design concepts for these intersections, before any changes are approved.

We also strongly support the underground placement of hydro lines along Beechwood — not only for aesthetic reasons, but to liberate space within a constrained right-of-way. We view this as a high priority and encourage the City to identify a path forward even if it extends project timelines.

7. Commerce and the High Street

Significant concern has been expressed by community members regarding the state of retail along Beechwood — an issue that falls outside the scope of this study but which must be considered in the broader planning context. City Planning guidelines do not appear to reflect small business needs in terms of leasable space types, nor does the City promote design guidelines for storefront coherence. Other jurisdictions have demonstrated that such guidelines can contribute meaningfully to vibrant, attractive commercial streets.

As noted above, parking availability is already inadequate to support local retail. The majority of local patrons travelling to Metro, the LCBO, and nearby pharmacies do so by car. We ask the City to explore whether a future Metro redevelopment could incorporate validated parking, and to ensure that any reduction in parking through this project is accompanied by a credible plan for replacement supply. If sufficient parking is not maintained, community members will shop elsewhere — to the detriment of the local commercial street.

Conclusion

The communities along Beechwood Avenue share a genuine desire to see this corridor improved and are committed to constructive engagement with the City as this project moves forward. We ask that the City respond to the specific questions and recommendations raised in this letter, and that a revised engagement plan, one that meaningfully includes all affected community associations be established before the next phase of the project proceeds.

Spring is here!

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when it matters most

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From Parliament Hill

After one year in office, the government led by Prime Minister Mark Carney is now a majority government. I sincerely thank the residents of Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester for their trust. Representing you in the House of Commons is an honour I never take for granted, and I remain committed to serving you.

Since the beginning of the year, the government has been working to support Canadian families. The National School Food Program, now permanent, provides nutritious meals to more than 400,000 children across Canada, helping improve student health and reduce food insecurity.

Our government has introduced measures to help middle class Canadians manage the cost of living. These include a tax cut for 22 million middle class Canadians, the elimination of the GST for first time homebuyers purchasing homes valued at $1 million or less, and the cancellation of the federal carbon tax as of April 1, 2025, helping Canadians save money.

In addition, we have launched the Canada Grocery and Essentials Benefit, providing up to $1,890 this year for a family of four and about $1,400 annually over the following four years. A single person can receive up to $950 this year and approximately $700 per year thereafter. This is complemented by increases to the Canada Child Benefit and expanded dental care coverage.

We have also introduced a temporary suspension of the federal excise tax on gasoline, unleaded aviation fuel, diesel, and aviation fuel from April 20 to September 7, providing relief to Canadians during a challenging economic period.

To support youth employment, the Canada Summer Jobs program will create 100,000 jobs nationwide. In Ottawa–Vanier–Gloucester alone, this represents 540 jobs and 167 employers, offering young people opportunities.

Canadians have asked us to meet today's challenges with unity. We remain focused on affordability, infrastructure, and economic growth.

Hon. Mona Fortier
MP, Ottawa-Vanier-Gloucester

Flamenco for Food

We are excited to welcome Marna and Suenos Flamencos (and students) back for another fabulous food drive event. Join us in Lindenlea Park on Saturday June 27th from 3:00pm-4:00pm to watch a flamenco dance performance with live music.The event is free but we will be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Rideau-Rockcliffe CRC Emergency Food Bank. At the previous Lindenlea event, we collected over 200 lbs of food. We would love to beat that number! Marna has been organizing her flamenco dancers and collecting food donations for over a year. Her goal is to increase awareness regarding local food security and create avenues for encouraging and facilitating more regular and consistent food donations for people in need. We are grateful for all that Marna does for our local community!

From City Hall

Thank you to Lindenlea residents, local businesses, and the Lindenlea Community Association for your thoughtful participation in the recent public engagement for the Beechwood Avenue Public Realm Plan functional design.

The plan will guide future improvements to Beechwood Avenue, including sidewalks, cycling facilities, trees, lighting, and public spaces, with the goal of creating a more vibrant, safe, and welcoming main street for residents, businesses and visitors.

We have seen strong interest in this project, with 438 survey responses received by mid-April. Notably, approximately 90 per cent of respondents identified themselves as residents of the surrounding area. The project page has also received nearly 3,900 visits, reflecting strong community interest.

The project team has reviewed all feedback and has consolidated it into a "What We Learned" report, which was expected to be posted on the project web page by the end of April.

Looking ahead, the next step will be to present the draft functional design to the public, which will include further opportunities for community input. Additional feedback from residents and businesses will continue to help shape the next phase of work.

We have heard clearly from the community that Beechwood Avenue needs reinvestment. This current phase represents an early concept, and detailed design has not yet begun. There will be further opportunities to refine and strengthen the plan as it evolves. Importantly, $1.5 million secured in the 2026 budget to support the next phase of detailed design.

My office and Councillor Stéphanie Plante's office will coordinate with multiple City departments to ensure the Beechwood Public Realm project prioritizes and sequences asset renewal projects to align with the plan.

Project updates will continue to be shared at Engage. Ottawa.ca/Beechwood.

As always, residents are welcome to contact my office at rideaurockcliffeward@ottawa.ca or613-520-2483, and are invited to subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter at www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca.

Rawlson King
Councillor, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward

RCC turns 50!

Rockcliffe Child Care Centre is proud to mark the beginning of its 50th year Monday, April 20th, 2026 celebrating five decades of supporting children, families, and the surrounding community.

Since opening in 1976, the Centre has grown and evolved alongside the families it serves. While it has not been in its current location for the entire 50 years, finding a permanent home has allowed the organization to build a space that reflects its philosophy—an extension of home—where children feel safe, supported, and inspired to learn.

This milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on the people who have shaped the Centre over the years. Dedicated staff, both past and present, have been at the heart of its success. Educators bring passion, creativity, and care to their work each day, creating meaningful experiences for children—whether through uniquely Canadian-themed activities or imaginative programs that spark curiosity and joy.

Support from families has always played a vital role. Generations of families have placed their trust in the Centre, contributing ideas, offering feedback, and remaining connected long after their children have moved on. Many return years later to visit, donate materials, or enrol their own children, an enduring testament to the relationships built over time.

Rockcliffe Child Care Centre is also grateful for the guidance of its Board of Directors, whose leadership has helped ensure stability, strong governance, and a clear vision for the future. Partnerships with Rockcliffe Park Public School and the broader community have further strengthened the Centre's ability to provide a safe, welcoming, and enriching environment.

As Rockcliffe Child Care Centre enters its 50th year, it does so with a deep sense of appreciation and a continued commitment to serving families and fostering a strong, connected community for years to come.

Canada Day Pancake Breakfast

This year marks the 30th year that we have celebrated Canada Day with a pancake breakfast.

This annual tradition was started by John Verdon of listserv fame and continues to be a much loved tradition in our community. The event will take place on July 1st from 9:00am to 11:00am. We will be serving fluffy pancakes with fresh strawberries, other fruit and a variety of fun toppings. We will also have freshly brewed coffee and orange juice for you to enjoy. The cost of the event is $6 per person or $15 per family - a real bargain with today's food prices!

You can find out more information on our website later in June.

Spring Gardening

Our fabulous butterfly way gardening volunteer , Elizabeth Sheehy, has organized a fantastic event for us this spring. Join us, on Sunday May 24th from 1-3 pm to hear Mélanie Ouellette, founder and brain-child behind the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, talk about why we need to gather, plant and share the seeds of our native plants. Mélanie will tell us how the Seed Library, a fully volunteer-led organization, came into being and does its work and how we can contribute to preserving our native pollinators. She will bring some seeds to share and, weather permitting, we will plant some seeds in the Community Centre's garden.The Presentation will be in English, but Mélanie is fully bilingual.This event is free. Donations will be gratefully received.

Upcoming Programs

The LCA offers a variety of different programs throughout the year. Our programming restarts every two months with new classes added. Our next session begins March 1st and runs until April 30th. Registration is now open and our full program list and class descriptions can be seen on our website – lindenlea.ca

Volunteer with Us

We're always looking for volunteers to help with our community events and students can earn volunteer hours! Our events are fun, friendly, and a wonderful way to meet your neighbours. If you're interested, please reach out to us at lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com. We are currently looking for volunteers for our upcoming Canada Day Pancake Breakfast and student helpers for RPL Soccer on Saturday mornings.

Board of Directors Meetings

Our Board of Directors meets monthly on the second Thursday. Meetings are open to all community members If you'd like to attend, email lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com for details. Most meetings are held online, though we occasionally meet in person.

Wednesday Artist Group

Join our free artist group every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the community centre! Bring along your current art project and enjoy a relaxed afternoon creating alongside fellow artists. Coffee and tea are provided feel free to bring a snack if you'd like.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us at lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com.

Advertising Opportunities

You can advertise your business in our community newspaper, *The Lindenleader*, by purchasing an ad online. Visit our website and look under the "Lindenleader" tab for details and pricing. We're now featuring our advertisers online as well as in print! A big 'thank you' to all our current advertisers, many of whom are also residents, for their continued support. Your contributions make this newsletter possible!

Ottawa Race Weekend

Just a reminder that there will be some street closures in the neighbourhood for the Ottawa Marathon on May 24 2026 from early morning until around 12:00pm. We will post the closures on our website before race weekend. Our friends in Manor Park are hosting a hydration station on the corner of Acacia Avenue and the Sir Georges-Etienne-Cartier Parkway. They are looking for volunteers to help out, To find out more information and to volunteer please email Ben at: events@manorpark.ca.

Summer Events in Lindenlea

We love hosting events in Lindenlea and we will keep the community updated on dates and times on our website and on the lindenlea listserv. We are looking forward to watching a movie in the park, doing some craft drop-ins and having an ice cream social!

Lindenlea Community Association Board

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Seanna Kreager	***Edtor-in-chief***
Donna Kemp	***Editor***
Mike Kreager	***Layout***
BCT Ottawa	***Printing***

LCA Board meetings take place on the second Thursday of every month and are open to all residents. Please contact lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com.

Upcoming meeting dates:
May 14 • Jun 11 • Sep 10 • Oct 08

Meeting time: 6:30 p.m.