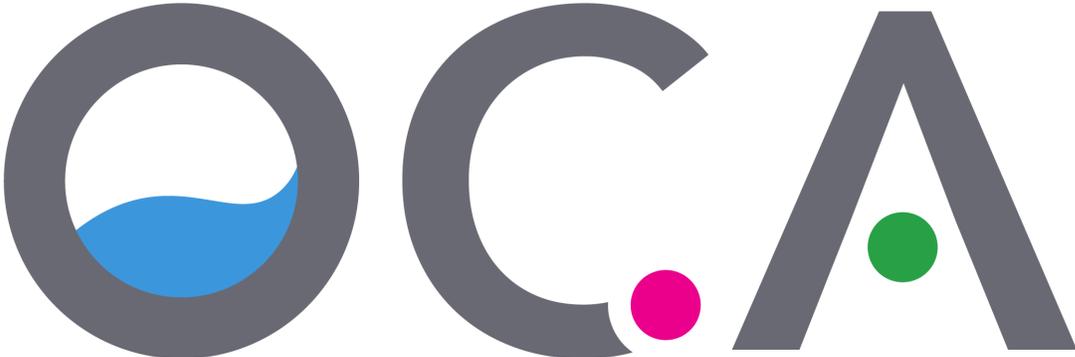


# Overbrook Community Association

## Annual Report 2024

OVERBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE D'OVERBROOK

# Overbrook Community Association

## Annual Report

2024

Board members: Amanda Vyce, Christine Ford, Danika Brisson, David Behn, David Ferguson, Ismael Awaleh, John Hiemstra, Mélanie Stafford and Pamela Mubeza

## Thank you to our volunteers!

<b>Connexions Newspaper</b>	David Ferguson Regan Girard Hind Aliliche Mari-Beth Crysler Heather Amys Enes Aydin Julianna Boucher Steven Boyle Sehajvir Dhaliwal Deborah Doherty Spencer Gignac	Rawlson King Cooper Rogers Mélanie Stafford Diane Stevenson Schmolka Nigil Thomas Michèle Michichiuc Derek Wright Cynthia Munster Robert Smyth Pamella Mubeza Martha Jeacie
<b>Overbrook Winter Party Volunteers</b>	Pam Hilchie Elizabeth Vicky Maria Mackay Rebecca Cadwalader Nick Zrinyi Joshua Shekinah Emily Andruchow Jacob Ryan Wong Danika Brisson	Michèle Michichiuc Deborah Doherty Faidah Jay Howden Derek Wright Brenda Taylor Colin Taylor Luca Mélanie Stafford Joanna Bellamy Yorlini Jimenez
<b>Overbrook Day</b>	Chipochemeso Maria Ailyena Sam Selma Natalie Nafisa Heather Deborah Steven	Ismael Danika Amanda Isabelle Christine Mélanie Pamela David B John Elizabeth

	Sheila Michelle Alex	Pam Meaghan.
<b>Rink Maintenance Volunteers</b>	Derek Wright John Hiemstra Cristine Ford Liam Cunningham Jen	Rob Maxwell Danika Brisson Anne Martin Jarvis Neall Olivier Sabourin
<b>Gardening Volunteers</b>	Deborah Doherty Elizabeth Lavoie Steven Boyle Corrie Rabbe Emilia Michaud Heather Amys Isabelle Brunet Joanne Lockyar Danika Brisson Igor Zagorskiy Guy Herman Zanguim Kieran Wilkins David Ferguson	Valerie Lefebvre Melanie Ouellette Emma Damico Roderick Gillyatt Julianna Boucher Sahar Seif Dira Balson Sehajvir Dhaliwal Cooper Rogers Lynn Olsheskie Nigil Thomas Spencer Gignac
<b>Rideau River Legacy Kiosk Project Volunteers</b>	Steven Boyle Heather Amys Joanna Bellamy Norma Benamra Mercedes Marcano Linda Grussani	Mariette Buckshot Suzanne Benoit Pat Horner Jennefer Hemmings Nelson Edwards Glenn Clarke David Ferguson
<b>Community Planning Committee Volunteers</b>	John Heimstra Maria McKay Heather Amys	Geoffrey Stiles Colin Taylor Steven Boyle (Vice-coordinator) Nora Benamra (Coordinator)

# Word from the president:

Danika Brisson



Thanks for taking a look at our annual report and for being engaged. This annual report covers our fiscal period, from January 1st 2024 to December 31st 2024.

The Overbrook Community Association (OCA) is a gathering of neighbours who come together because they care about their community and want to see us connected and thriving. All of OCA's work is done by volunteers.

The board of directors keeps the OCA running. We are composed of 9 board members : Amanda Vyce (recording secretary), Christine Ford, Danika Brisson (President), David Behn (environmental coordinator), David Ferguson (Connexions newspaper lead) , Ismael Awaleh (Vice-President and francophone liaison), John Hiemstra (Treasurer), Mélanie Stafford (Vice-President) and Pamella Mubeza (Vice-President).

We'd also like to thank these 4 board members who contributed to the board but had to step down before the end of their mandate : Derek Wright (board member until fall 2024 and ice rink coordinator), Elizabeth Lancaster (board member until winter 2025), Isabelle Brunet (board member and co-recording secretary until the fall 2025), Killian Ban Damme (board member until end of summer 2024)

We then have committees that do work on specific topics. The Community Planning Committee has a mandate to discuss and comment on planning and transportation matters that may impact Overbrook. This committee is led by their coordinator Nora Benamra, and their vice-coordinator Steven Boyle.

Members of the Rideau River Kiosk Project & 150 th Anniversary of Hurdman's Bridge have been working hard for a few years to establish a community space, physically along the Rideau River, to

highlight Overbrook's history. This year we will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony and anniversary celebration of Hurdman's Bridge on May 24th from 1pm to 3:30pm near 1 Donald street. We're looking forward to seeing many of you there! This project is lead by community leaders Steven Boyle and Heather Amys.

Another impactful projects this year has been the community gardening initiative along Donald Street—a beautiful effort to revive forgotten spaces with native flowers and plants. Led by the incredible Deborah Doherty, this project has blossomed in so many ways: bringing neighbours together, creating opportunities for learning, and filling our streets with vibrant greenery (and joy!).

From planting days to educational workshops, the team has poured so much energy into making the neighborhood flourish—check out their section of this report to see all the amazing events that made it happen! A huge thank you to Deborah and every volunteer who dug in, literally and figuratively, to grow something truly special.

We were also able to restart our OCA newspaper this year thanks to the hard work of board member David Ferguson. We published three editions of this online newspaper which you can find our OCA website ([overbrook.ca](http://overbrook.ca)). You'll find there many contributions and insights from Overbrook neighbours. This project is currently on hold as we work on setting up a better internal infrastructure to support this project and to protect the integrity of the community association.

Early in 2024, as we were taking care of the ice rink behind the Overbrook Community Centre for the first time, we hosted the Overbrook Winter Party to enjoy our newly maintained ice rink. 2023-2024 board member Emily Andruchow led that event and integrated the amazing community group Ottawa Gear Library who provided free skates for the event. It was a beautiful day with donuts, smiles and pink cheeks from the cold but sunny weather.

With our community partners (Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre, Overbrook Community Centre and Ottawa Community Housing), the OCA hosted an Eid dinner for the community. This was a popular and nourishing event where community members connected, ate and celebrated together.

This year's Overbrook Day was our neighbourhood at its best! By opening the planning to all, we met new faces and co-created a magical August street party together. To our incredible volunteers, partners, and sponsors- your energy and generosity transformed this day into a true community celebration. Thank you for making it so special!

The OCA is a proud member of the FCA (Federation of Citizen's Associations of Ottawa) and CAFES (Community Action for Environmental Sustainability, formerly known as Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability). Special thank you to Board Director David Behn for his sustained environmental advocacy and work on this file.

The FCA particularly had a big victory that was finalized in 2024 which is broadening the insurance the city provides for free to all community associations, not only those that had been legacies from a previous program. OCA has applied to benefit from this insurance.

Last but certainly not least, we are endlessly grateful for the many, many volunteers who bring OCA events and projects to life. Each of you is the heart of our work, and we couldn't do any of this without your dedication, time, and care.

To honour your contributions, we've listed your names above—not just as a thank-you, but as a reminder of the incredible community we've built together. This is what our association truly looks like: people like you, stepping up, showing up, and making our neighbourhood brighter.

From the bottom of our hearts—thank you.

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# Events

## Overbrook Winter party

February 17th, 2024

Leads: Emily Andruchow, Nick Zrinyi and Danika Brisson

On February 17th, 2024 OCA held the first ever Overbrook Winter Party! It was an amazing success. The event started with so many amazing community and OCA volunteers coming together to set up for the day, and they were there until the very end. We had a craft room that was full of snowflake crafts, colouring as well as Volunteers from the Bird-Safe Campus at the Ottawa University volunteering with bird related crafts, books and education. Outside

we had the outdoor rink ready for people to skate and play games, as well as an amazing hot chocolate and donut table full of deliciously sweet offerings. The hot chocolate was generously donated by Frangian Family Pharmacy and the donuts were donated by Councilor Rawlson King. The donuts were delicious and made by a local baker, Friends Forever Treats. The hot chocolate bar was full of candies, chocolate, and whip cream for toppings which included lots of different offerings for differing dietary



styles. Ottawa Public Health set up a table full of great information and offerings and the Ottawa Outdoor Gear Library kindly donated their time as well as skates, helmets and snowshoes for children and adults to use throughout the day.



There were coloured water bottles that children had fun squirting and colouring the



snow. We have over 350 people from the neighbourhood come out to enjoy the day, the smiles, and joy shared by everyone made the day incredible!

# Overbrook Eid Celebration

**April 13th, 2024**

**Leads: Ismael Awaleh & Danika Brisson**

The Overbrook Community Association, in collaboration with the Overbrook Community Centre, (OCH) and Rideau-Rockcliffe CRC successfully hosted an Eid Celebration on April 13, 2024. The event took place from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Overbrook Community Centre and welcomed residents for an evening of food, entertainment, and community engagement.

The Community and Social Service Department for the City of Ottawa was present during the event. Resource tables were set up in the foyer, offering residents an opportunity to access important information on various services available to them.

The event was a great success, with families expressing happiness and appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate Eid as a community. Many attendees expressed enthusiasm for making this an annual tradition to continue fostering community spirit and inclusivity.

## Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ismael, Danika, and Melanie, as well as all volunteers, organizers, and partners who contributed to making this event a success. Special thanks to the City of Ottawa's Community and Social Service Department for their participation and to all community members who attended and supported the event.

We look forward to organizing future celebrations and strengthening community bonds through such meaningful events.



# Overbrook Day

August 10, 2024

Leads: Melanie Stafford and Danika Brisson

Overbrook Day 2024 was a smashing success with amazing turnout from the community. It was estimated that 400 families attended to play games, eat yummy food and connect with community partners.



## SCHEDULE OVERBROOK DAY Block Party (4-8 pm)

## HORAIRE JOURNÉE OVERBROOK Fêtes de quartier (16h-20h)

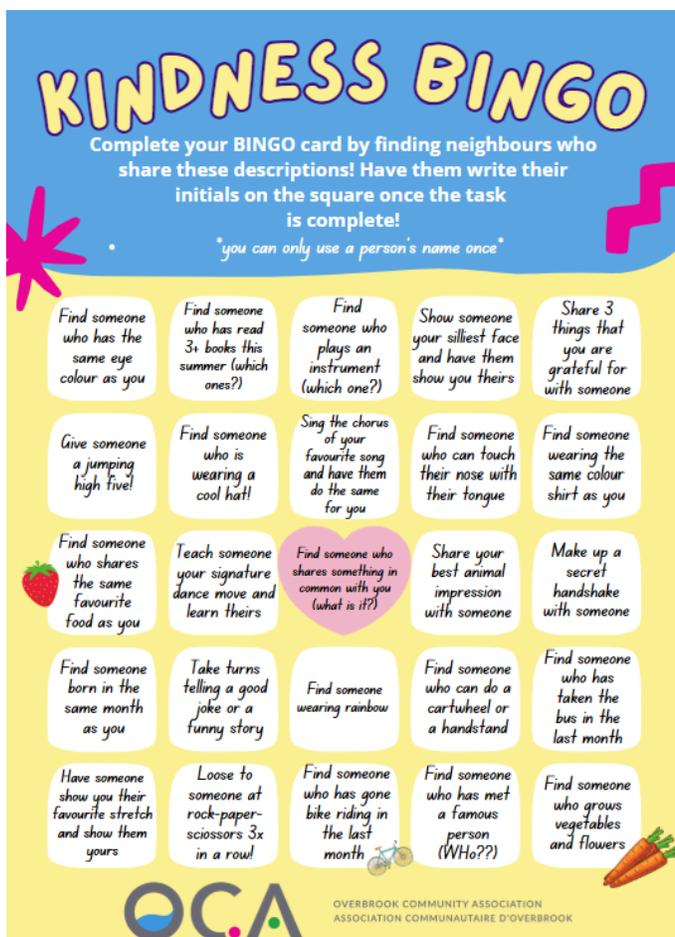
	4-5 pm	5-6 pm	6-7 pm	7-8 pm
<b>Sports</b> Événements sportifs	Rideau Rockcliffe Sports and Games			
	Bean Bag Toss			
	Frisbee Toss			
<b>Art</b> L'Art	Facepainting			
	Balloons			
	Rock painting (Rideau River table)			
	Henna for Children			
	Sidewalk Chalk			
<b>Games</b> Jeux	Bocce Ball			
	Kindness Bingo			
	Fruit Roulette			
<b>Partners</b> Partenaires	OC Transpo Van Bicycle Demo			
	St. John Ambulance Tour			
	Partner Tables			
	OFS Fire Truck Tour			
<b>Food</b> Nourriture	Popcorn (Rideau Rockcliffe table)			
	Freezies (Rawson King table)			
	Apples (Beechwood Market table)			
	Hot dogs (Enbridge / Dumoche / Ottawa Community Housing)			
	Soleil des Îles Haitian appetizers			
	Indian Affair appetizers			
	Soft drinks			
<b>Variety show</b> Spectacle varié	Hansel and Gretel Opera			
	Inuit Throat Singers			
	Dancers			



Using a community development approach, the OCA held community member meetings on a monthly basis (evenings) and partner meetings (daytime). Our community partners include Mijanou from Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Center, Adham from Ottawa Community Housing and Bruno from the Overbrook community Center (City of Ottawa). Our neighbourhood is incredibly lucky to have these three community oriented people who showed up with heart, went above and beyond and supported the community's vision for this year's Overbrook Day. A huge thank you to Bruno and his amazing city team—your hard work coordinating tables, trash cans, and being a welcoming hub for everyone made all the difference (and that's just the start!). Shoutout to

Mijanou and the fantastic RRCRC crew for bringing so much joy with your incredibly fun games and energizing engagement—you kept the spirit alive! And let's hear it for Adham from Ottawa Community Housing, who grilled up hundreds of hotdogs with care—because no gathering is complete without great food. This only scratches the surface of everything you all did, and we're so grateful for each of you!

The organizing committee cared about everyone of our neighbours feeling like they belonged at Overbrook Day 2024. The committee was thoughtful, and in a true Overbrook way, our incident plan was as follows: “Overbrook Day has gone without major incidents for at least the last few years. The atmosphere of kindness and community very much helps in creating an ambiance of fun and joyfulness. St Johns ambulance will be on site in the event of a first aid related issue.



What is frustratingly more common at such events are subtle forms of racism where racialized youth get spoken too in a certain tone, or racialized families are not greeted with as much joy and friendliness. The organizing committee wants to intentionally counter this and hope you'll join us with intentional and genuine kindness and helpfulness at OB day.

Should there be something more aggressive, we favour a de-escalation and compassion approach; we want everyone to feel wanted and welcomed, including homeless neighbours, neighbours who might be using drugs, who might be managing acute mental illness or living with brain injuries. As one of the organizers said "when they get upset, we get creative".

In the event of anything you see or experience that doesn't sit quite right, please don't hesitate to call Mélanie or Danika in for help or debrief with either of them after the incident”.

OCA Board Members Ismael, Danika, Amanda, Isabelle, Christine, Mélanie, Pamela, David B, John, Elizabeth all came the day of to help out. Community volunteers included Chipochemeso, Maria, Ailyena, Maria, Sam, Selma, Natalie, Nafisa,

In the event of anything you see or



Heather, Deborah, Steven, Sheila, Ismael, Michelle, Alex, Pam, Meaghan.

A volunteer appreciation event was held and every volunteer was recognized for their unique contributions.

Organisations with tables:

Rideau-Rockliffe Community Resource Center, City of Ottawa Water, Ottawa Firefighters, Prisoner Legal Support, OC Transpo, St-John's Ambulance, Ingenium, Book Mobile, Overbrook Community Garden, Kiosk Project, City of Ottawa Public Library, Ottawa Public Health, Beechwood Farmers Market, Twice Upon a Time, Enviro Centre, Solid Waste.

Thank you to Rawlson King for popsicles! And Lucille Collard!

Thank you to our business partners, including Donald pharmacy, Dumouchel, Indian affair, Soleil des îles, Costco, Food basics, Respect RX for their important contributions.

# Legal Information Session

August 15, 2024

Leads: Mélanie Stafford and Danika Brisson

Community members voiced the need for greater clarity and empowerment when it comes to understanding our rights during police encounters—whether during stops, searches, or when law enforcement seeks to enter our homes.

In response, OCA Directors collaborated with a University of Ottawa law professor and law students to host a vital community discussion tackling these complex and often intimidating issues. The event, designed to educate and empower, was shared widely via Facebook Live to ensure accessibility for all.

This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering justice, accountability, and community solidarity in the face of systemic oppression.



**Legal Information Session**

OVERBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
**OCA**  
ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE D'OVERBROOK

**This event is free and open to anyone who is interested in learning about the following topics**

**Topics:**

- Your rights when being stopped or searched by the police
- Your rights when police want to enter your home

**Where:** Overbrook Community Centre: 33 Quill St, Ottawa, ON K1K 4E7. Room: Craftsroom

**When:** 6pm to 8pm on August 15, 2024

**Free one-on-one intakes available following the presentation**

**QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH WITH US!**

[ottawa.prison.law@gmail.com](mailto:ottawa.prison.law@gmail.com) ✉

instagram: @ottawapls 📷

[www.prisonerlegalsupports.ca](http://www.prisonerlegalsupports.ca) 🌐

**PLS**  
PRISONER LEGAL SUPPORTS  
613-894-HELP (4357)  
OUR SUPPORT LINE ACCEPTS CALLS ON MONDAYS FROM 1PM TO 5PM

**Kid-friendly event**

**French interpretation available**

**Coffee and snacks provided**

# Overbrook Community Cleanups



May 4th, 2024 and October 19th, 2024

Leads: John, Deborah, Abby, Melanie, Danika

Over the past year, OCA has continued to partner with volunteers to enhance our shared environment through two successful community cleanup initiatives. These events were made possible through the dedication of our organizers and the enthusiastic participation of community members.

On May 4th, the “Great River Clean Up” event was held along the banks of the Ottawa River. This initiative was led by Deborah, Abby, Melanie, and Danika, in collaboration with the Sandy Hill Community Association. The event brought together volunteers who worked to remove litter and debris from the shoreline, contributing to the preservation of one of our city’s most treasured natural spaces. The cleanup not only helped beautify the area but also raised awareness of environmental stewardship within the community.

The “Fall Clean Up the Capital” event took place on October 19th and was organized by John. Volunteers gathered at the Overbrook Community Centre and park, working outward in circles to gather litter and debris in the surrounding area. This event was part of a broader city-wide initiative and emphasized local pride and collective responsibility. The efforts of all participants improved the cleanliness and appearance of public spaces heading into the winter months.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizers, volunteers, and partnering associations for their time, energy, and commitment.

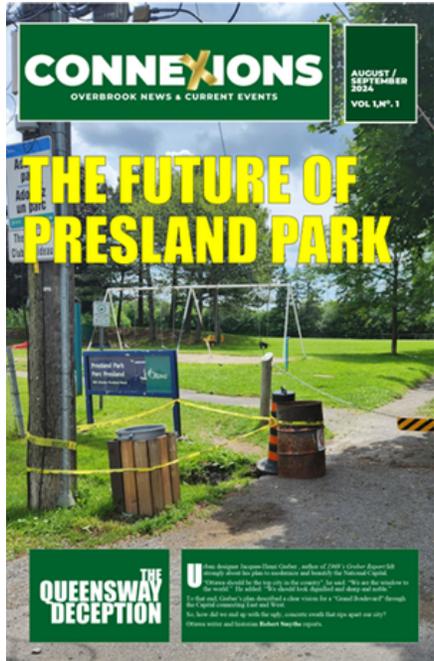
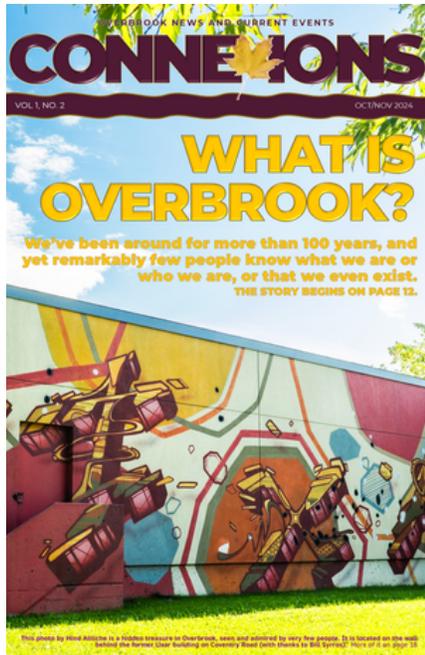
# Projects

## Connexions Newspaper

**Lead: David Ferguson**

We were very excited to be able to restart our Overbrook newspaper this year with the leadership and tireless work of David Ferguson. David poured his heart and soul into creating this community newspaper and published three editions that you can read on our website. David connected researched local issues and connected with local movers and shakers to share their voices.

This project is currently on hold as we work on setting up a better internal infrastructure to support this project and to protect the integrity of the community association.



# Donald Street Pollinator Gardens

Lead : Deborah Doherty

We had a very busy and productive year at the Donald Street gardens. Thanks to the assistance of the City of Ottawa, Rideau Sports Club (storage and water), Ottawa Tool Lending Library, Overbrook Community Association, and numerous volunteers.



## Project Activities

### May - June

- Maintenance contract signed between OCA and the City of Ottawa
- Clean the Capital Event – early May
- Received plant donations from Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, Loblaw's Garden Centre and Overbrook resident
- Two Gardening events held on-site – World Migratory Bird Day (May), Garden Clean up (June)
- Invasive plants and weed suppression with woodchips on 4 of the 8 Garden plots
- Ottawa Tool Lending Library assisted with tools for the June event

### July - August

- Planting, watering and weed suppression continued on a weekly basis throughout the summer months
- Received donation of tools from the Ottawa Tool Lending Library (stored at Rideau Sports Club)



### September - October

- Garden tour – focus on edible plants, invasive plants and pollinators (Deborah Doherty and Corrie Rabbe)
- Funding received under the Ecology Ottawa EcoYouth Pollinator Garden program (Alva Foundation, the Ottawa Community Foundation, and Lift360)
- Carleton University Community Engagement students prepared educational and promotional materials for volunteering in gardens and learning about pollinator gardens
- Carleton University Community Engagement students assisted with planning and planting at a 3-day event on Thanksgiving weekend
- Ottawa Tool Lending Library donated tools to the Donald Street Boulevard Gardens



## Looking Forward to 2025

### January – March

- UOttawa Conservation and Biology Students assisting with Winter seeding of native plants at Ottawa Technical Secondary School
- UOttawa Community Engagement Students assisting with Winter seeding at both Overbrook Community Centre and Ottawa Technical Secondary School. The plan for these plants is that they will be planted at Donald Street, Ottawa Tech, and the OCC. Some students are also taking plants home to grow in their gardens. We would love to set a date to celebrate the planting at Donald Street in the spring. The UOttawa Students are taking lots of photos and would be happy to document the winter seeding activity - perhaps in a blog post.

### ***THANK YOU*** to all 2024 Gardening Project Volunteers!

Deborah Doherty	Heather Amys	Valerie Lefebvre	Sehajvir Dhaliwal
Elizabeth Lavoie	Isabelle Brunet	Melanie Ouellette	Cooper Rogers
Steven Boyle	Joanne Lockyar	Emma Damico	Lynn Olsheskie
Corrie Rabbe	Danika Brisson	Roderick Gillyatt	Nigil Thomas
Emilia Michaud	Igor Zagorskiy	Julianna Boucher	Spencer Gignac
Amy Wolfe	Lynn Patenaude	Sahar Seif	Guy Herman
			Zanguim
Jared Wolfe	Stein Oddvar	Dira Balson	Kieran Wilkins

# Rideau River Kiosk Project & 150th Anniversary of Hurdman's Bridge

2021 to now

Leads: Steven Boyle and Heather Amys

## Accomplishments in 2024-2025

- 2024 was year four of this project led by stalwart OCA volunteer Steven Boyle.
- Having secured the FLUDTA permit from the NCC on December 22, 2023, 2024 was dedicated to fundraising. We gladly deposited a \$5,800 cheque - the city's CEPEG (environmental) grant, which had been secured in 2023. A renewed GOFUNDME page with matching funds from an anonymous donor raised \$3,032. Then in July, OCA board of directors committed \$2,000 to the project and unanimously approved the project budget through to the end of June 2025. Several smaller donations were received, including \$500 from the Rideau Winter Trail.
- We held a logo contest and two awareness/fund raising events including at Overbrook Day.
- In March we applied to the federal Department of Heritage for a Legacy Fund grant.
- Canadian Heritage notified us mid-December that our application was successful. This allowed Steven to begin implementing plans to build the kiosk. The grant also enables us to hold a celebration of Hurdman's Bridge 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary featuring a ribbon cutting and a proclamation.
- In kind and/or financial support was received in 2024 from NAK Design, City of Ottawa, Rideau Winter Trail.

## Work and Plans for 2025

- In January, the Legacy Fund grant of \$36,912 was deposited.
- In January, Heather Amys held the second of several well attended planning meetings to realize the construction of the kiosk, and plan a ribbon cutting ceremony and anniversary celebration of Hurdman's Bridge.
- Steven Boyle, with the NCC and providers, has arranged the long-awaited manufacture, installation, and landscaping of the kiosk which will have six panels about the environmental and historical heritage of Overbrook.
- Volunteers are working on a great program with several musical performances, light refreshments, and VIPs with artisans and community partner information kiosks on site.
- We always welcome new volunteers. Come out to meet your neighbours and get involved. We have gardening to do, party logistics to manage, photographs to take, students to lead, and communications and reports to complete. If you want to join the fun, contact Heather Amys.
- The celebration is on Saturday May 24, 2025, from 1:00-3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited!

**THANK YOU** to all 2024 Rideau River Kiosk Project and 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hurdman's Bridge volunteers!

Steven Boyle

Norma Benamra

Mariette Buckshot

Jennefer

Hemmings

Heather Amys

Mercedes Marcano

Suzanne Benoit

Nelson Edwards

Joanna Bellamy

Linda Grussani

Pat Horner

Glenn Clarke

This is the first wooden Hurdman's Bridge, opened in January 1875. It was rebuilt twice, the last was demolished in 1986 after the Queensway absorbed the local traffic. The concrete footings are still visible today in low water, north of the Queensway. Photo courtesy of the Gloucester Historical Society.





The Overbrook  
Community Association  
cordially invites you to



L'Association  
communautaire d'Overbrook  
vous invite cordialement à

*Celebrate  
Hurdman's Bridge  
150th Anniversary*

*Célébrer le 150<sup>e</sup>  
anniversaire du pont  
Hurdman*

Saturday, May 24th, 2025  
from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Samedi 24 mai, 2025  
de 13 h 00 à 15 h 30

A few steps south of 1 Donald  
Street, next to the bike path

A deux pas au sud du 1 rue Donald,  
aux abords de la piste cyclable



CCN  
NCC



NAK  
design strategies



Rawison King  
Councillor / Conseiller,  
Rideau-Rockcliffe



Canada

## Program - Programme

MC Marjolaine Provost

13:00	Captivate attention Attirer l'attention	Tambours Oto-Wa Taiko Drummers
13:25	Arrival of speakers Arrivée des orateurs	Bagpiper Jonathan Shephard Cornemusier
13:30	Land Acknowledgment ceremony Cérémonie de reconnaissance des terres	Spiritual Advisor Albert Dumont Conseiller spirituel avec Tambours Thunderbird Circle Drummers
13:50	Historical context of this 150th anniversary celebration Contexte historique de cette célébration du 150e anniversaire	Member of Parliament Mona Fortier Députée fédérale
14:00	Proclamation Présentation de la proclamation	Mayor Marc Sutcliffe Le maire
14:00	Ribbon cutting for the kiosk Coupe du ruban pour le kiosque	All Speakers led by bagpiper Tous les orateurs menés par le cornemusier
14:20	Cake Cutting & Acknowledgment Coupe du gâteau & reconnaissance	Councillor Rawlson King Conseiller
14:30	Celebrate Overbrook Célébrons Overbrook	Overbrook kids, Thunderbird Circle & Shaza Drums Les enfants d'Overbrook, tambours Thunderbird Circle et le groupe Shaza



Canada

# Community planning committee

## Ongoing

**Leads: Nora Benamra, Steven Boyle**

### Accomplishments in 2024-2025

- Submitted comments to the city on the Traffic Calming Study proposed for North River Road (Donald St. to Wright St.) and proposed major cycling safety improvements at the Donald Street and Vanier Parkway intersection
- Provided information to the OCA Board of Directors on the Old Railway Rideau River Pedestrian Bridge Renewal Environmental Assessment (EA) Study which proposes replacement of the existing historic structure with a new one just to the south
- Monitored/provided input into transportation Environmental Assessment (EA) studies for the St. Laurent Boulevard Transit Priority EA and the Coventry Road (Belfast to St. Laurent) EA
- Reviewed and in some cases formally commented to the Committee of Adjustment on minor variance applications (primarily for residential infill such as semi-detached or townhouse dwellings) on streets such as Lawson Avenue, Queen Mary Street, King George Street, Prince Albert Street, and Columbus Avenue
- Provided comments to city planning staff and councillor on various planning applications (site plan, rezoning, etc.), including for 304 and 308 Donald Street (at Edith Avenue)
- Reviewed first draft of the city's new Comprehensive Zoning By-law and provided detailed comments to zoning staff for consideration of incorporation into version 2 of the by-law to be released in the spring of 2025
- OCA representatives attended a record total of seven city-organized pre-application meetings for sites that might be redeveloped in Overbrook. These are critical opportunities to convey early input into plans per "OCA guidelines for pre-application consultation meetings." OCA attendance at these meetings is constrained by non-disclosure agreements. The plans become public if/when a formal planning application is submitted to the city.



304 and 308 Donald Street – new low-rise apartment building

**Lessons of 2024-2025**

- We are still seeking two volunteers to discuss/participate in pre-application consultation meetings. One hour of training is provided by the city.
- Slow to no progress on: OCH redevelopment plans; lower speed limits/reduced truck traffic on Donald St. and elsewhere, and reducing tree loss on redevelopment sites

**Plans for 2025**

- Provide feedback on Transportation Master Plan (part 2) and the new Zoning By-law (next phase)
- Comment - to staff, councillor, developers, Committee of Adjustment or Planning and Housing Committee - on applications for redevelopment/infill projects subject to planning application notices in Overbrook
- Renew focus on traffic safety and calming
- Respond to pre-application consultation requests

***THANK YOU* to all 2024 Community Planning Committee Volunteers!**

Norma Benamra (Committee Coordinator)	John Heimstra	Geoffrey Stiles
Steven Boyle (Committee Coordinator)	Maria McKay	Colin Taylor
Heather Amys		

# Overbrook Ice Rink Maintenance

December 2024-March 2025

Lead : Derek Wright



The outdoor rink had a fantastic season this year, opening on January 9 and closing on February 28. We were fortunate to have good weather throughout the season, which contributed to excellent ice conditions for the second half of the season and a high level of use.

This success was made possible by an increase in volunteer support. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated rink crew: Derek, Rob,

Liam, Anne, Christine, and the countless others who were roped into helping along the way. Your time, effort, and community spirit made all the difference and helped create a fun and well-maintained space for everyone to enjoy.

Like last year the learn to skate program through the Overbrook Community Centre used the ice during the season, introducing countless people to the joy of the outdoor rink.

We're already looking forward to another great season next winter! This is a volunteer led initiative and many hands make light work. If you're interested in getting involved or learning more please email [john@overbrook.ca](mailto:john@overbrook.ca).

# Financial Report

**Lead: John Hiemstra - Treasurer**

All our funds had an excess of operating revenue except for the Eid dinner fund which used general funds to cover the expenses. The ice rink honourarium for the 2023-2024 rink season was paid entirely during the 2024 calendar year as well as the first half of the ice rink honourarium for the 2024-2025 rink season which is why the revenue in the statement of operations is notably high. Our large ongoing expense continues to be insurance totalling \$1350.56 under the general fund operating expense. Other projects and funds are usually facilitated as funding is available.

The OCA had a purchase of a snowblower this year which was added to our equipment assets. The purchase was for \$2770.33, the asset is to be amortized using the straight line method with an estimated 10 year life span.

The kiosk fund was awarded a grant from the city of Ottawa during the 2024 financial year to the amount of \$5800.00.

Overbrook Community Association  
Statement of Financial Position  
January 1, 2024

	General Fund	Kiosk Fund	Newspaper Fund	YES Project	Winter Party	Overbrook Day	Eid Dinner
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash	5,130.69	11,435.21	3,272.62	7,373.35			
Accounts Receivable	550.00						
Equipment							
Accumulated Amortization							
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Accounts Payable	413.41			7,373.35			
Unearned Revenue							
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>5,267.28</b>	<b>11,435.21</b>	<b>3,272.62</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Overbrook Community Association  
Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2024

	General Fund	Kiosk Fund	Newspaper Fund	YES Project	Winter Party	Overbrook Day	Eid Dinner
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash	8,843.37	17,419.76	2,555.90	0.00	153.49	(662.42)	(500.00)
Accounts Receivable			4,050.00			919.93	
Equipment	2,770.33						
Accumulated Amortization	(277.03)						
<b>Liabilities</b>							
Accounts Payable	263.80		1,023.92	0.00		154.81	
Unearned Revenue							
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>11,072.87</b>	<b>17,419.76</b>	<b>5,581.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>153.49</b>	<b>102.70</b>	<b>(500.00)</b>

Overbrook Community Association  
Statement of Operations  
Year Ending December 31, 2024

	General Funds	Kiosk Fund	Newspaper Fund	YES Project	Winter Party	Overbrook Day	Eid Dinner
<b>Revenue</b>							
Grant	348.00	5,452.00			1,000.00	919.93	
Donations	631.69	532.55			700.00	400.00	
Rink Maintenance Honourarium	7,646.60						
Advertising Income			4,050.00				
<b>Expenses</b>							
Operating Expense	2,148.67						
Overbrook Day Expense						1,217.23	
Donald Street Garden Expense							
Winter Party Expense					1,546.51		
Eid Dinner Expense							500.00
Newspaper Expense			2,060.64				
Amortization Expense	277.03						
Other Expenses	75.00						
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues</b>	<b>6,125.59</b>	<b>5,984.55</b>	<b>1,989.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>153.49</b>	<b>102.70</b>	<b>(500.00)</b>

### Recommendations

There is a Connexions newspaper bank account with a balance of \$339.26 that has been omitted from the financial statements above. I recommend that the future board/treasurer closes the second bank account and combines that amount into the newspaper fund of the main bank account. I also recommend closing the YES Project Fund now that remaining funds have been returned.

Our accounts receivable accounts are large, notably the newspaper fund. The future treasurer/board should consider a process for ensuring that OCA receives payment in a timely manner.

This was my first time acting as treasurer for a board in this fashion and I made a few errors. The board did not adopt a budget for the year at the start of the year or the term. Moving forward I recommend that the board drafts and approves a budget for the following financial year at the last board meeting of the calendar year.