

THE ROCKCLIFFE NEWS



ROCKCLIFFE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

JUNE / JULY 2023

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The Rockcliffe Park Foundation's popular Dining with the Ambassadors was held this May for the first time since the pandemic. Photo: Leah Mowers Photography

Recap: Dining with the Ambassadors 2023

Scenes from the Pre-Dinner Reception

With a very enthusiastic crowd of 160 neighbours, the stars aligned for Dining with the Ambassadors



The Rockcliffe Park Foundation’s beloved spring event roared back to life on Friday, May 12 with a triumphant in-person return. With the help of our Rockcliffe diplomatic hosts and our event partners, the Foundation raised more than \$30,000 to support programming that keeps our community thriving. More importantly, the event allows us to come together to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

- Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Kanji Yamanouchi and Madam Yukiko Yamanouchi;
- High Commissioner of Cyprus, His Excellency Giorgos Ioannides and Mrs. Christina Panayiotou;
- High Commissioner of the Bahamas, His Excellency V. Alfred Gray and Mrs. Bessley Gray;
- Ambassador of Switzerland, His Excellency Olaf Kjelsen and Mrs. Carine Kjelsen.

From the moment guests gathered under the tent at the Community Hall for the pre-dinner cocktail reception, the evening air was abuzz. Presented by Marilyn Wilson Dream Properties Christie’s International Real Estate, the reception in honour of the heads of mission featured catering by Fraser Cafe and music by Ashbury students.

Foundation chair Sarah Baxter commented that “we are incredibly proud of the success of this event and touched by the support we received from our diplomatic neighbours and our event partners including The Minto Group and Foundation WCPD. The funds raised support the programs and events in our community.”



A key highlight of the evening is the ‘big reveal’ – the moment when guests learn where they will be dining that night. This year, 12 missions shared their traditional hospitality with neighbours:

Event co-chair Fiona Murray said, “while Dining with the Ambassadors is just one night, it is months in the making. Thank you to our amazing group of volunteers: Marilyn and Robert Collette, Joseph Cull, Cynthia Cusinato, Jill Dickinson, Marianne Feaver, Kristen Healy, Jane Newcombe, Sarah Waters and Marilyn Wilson.”

- High Commissioner of New Zealand, His Excellency Martin Harvey and Mrs. Sarah Harvey;
- Ambassador of Thailand, His Excellency Kallayana Vipattipumprates, represented for the evening by the Chargé d’Affaires and Counsellor;
- Ambassador of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Ines Coppoolse and Mr. Alexander Verbeek;
- Ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Patrick Van Gheel and Ms. Isabelle Van Goethem;
- Ambassador of Spain, His Excellency Alfredo Martínez Serrano and Mrs. Rosa Pañeda Usunariz;
- Ambassador of Israel, His Excellency Ronen Hoffman and Dr. Michal Arad;
- High Commissioner of Barbados, His Excellency High Commissioner Gline Arley Clarke;
- Ambassador of Algeria, His Excellency Dr. Noureddine Bardad-Daidj and Mrs. Mounya Bardad-Daidj;

While traditionally a biennial event, Dining with the Ambassadors will be back in the spring of 2024. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy these photos of from the cocktail reception. To view more photos from this neighbourhood event, visit rockcliffeparkfoundation.org/events.

Photos by Leah Mowers Photography, except where otherwise noted.



Photos: Top: The DWA 2023 map. At left, top to bottom: Kristen Healy, Marianne Feaver, event co-chair Sarah Baxter and Marilyn Collette prep for the event. Photo: Joseph Cull | Reception presenting sponsors Marilyn Wilson and Reba Wilson | Foundation vice-chair Ryan Kilger offers welcoming remarks.

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“ Thank you for returning this wonderful event to the community. It was a triumph! It is a privilege to be able to participate in this interesting and stimulating event which is one of the highlights of our community social calendar. ”

Hilary McCormack and Vic Duret



Photos (all from left to right): Top: Guests Beverley Hyde, Peter Hyde, Scott Heatherington, Liz Heatherington, Jim Taggart, Joseph Cull and Nancy Cook Johnson. Second row: Sean Murray and Ian Engelberg | Pam Murray and Janet Pigott. Third row: Bingxin Chen, Lei Wei, Tingting Liu and Ye Chen | Councillor Rawlson King and Linda Grussani | Mark Steeves and Brian Murray. Bottom row: Patricia Woods and Jean-Guy Dumoulin | Sarah Harvey, Lucie Martin and Ryan Kilger.

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“ We enjoyed very much being able to share this special evening with our guests. In Rockcliffe, we have found our home in Canada and we feel part of the community. It was a real pleasure to contribute to the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. ”

Rosa Pañeda Usunariz, Spain



“ In addition to contributing to a good cause, we had the benefit and privilege of meeting very interesting and kind neighbours. ”

Ambassador Olaf Kjelsen, Switzerland



Photos (all from left to right): Top: Mrs. Rosa Pañeda Usunariz and H.E. Alfredo Martínez Serrano, Spain; Thai Counsellor Pam Thitiporn Chuchinnawat and Chargé d’Affaires Mr. Thanapol Wang-Om-Klang; Mrs. Christina Panayiotou and H.E. Giorgos Ioannides, Cyprus. Second row: H.E. Patrick Van Gheel, Belgium, and H.E. Martin Harvey, New Zealand | H.E. Ronen Hoffman and Dr. Michal Arad, Israel. Third row: H.E. Gline Arley Clarke, Barbados; and Mrs. Bessley Gray and H.E. V. Alfred Gray, Bahamas | Mr. Alexander Verbeek and H.E. Ines Coppoolse, the Netherlands. Bottom row: Mrs. Mounya Bardad-Daidj and H.E. Dr. Noureddine Bardad-Daidj, Algeria | Mrs. Carine Kjelsen and H.E. Olaf Kjelsen, Switzerland. The ambassador of Japan, H.E. Kanji Yamanouchi and Madam Yukiko Yamanouchi were unable to attend the pre-dinner reception.

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“ WOW.... a great experience and wonderful memories from our evening with the Ambassador of Japan and Madam Yamanouchi. An absolutely brilliant evening. ”

Dennis and Andrea Laurin



Photos (all from left to right): Top: Members of the Dining with the Ambassadors 2023 Organizing Committee: Jane Newcombe, Marianne Feaver, Marilyn Collette, Sarah Waters, Jill Dickinson, Fiona Murray, Robert Collette, Marilyn Wilson, Cynthia Cusinato, Joseph Cull and Jill Dickinson; absent from photo: Kristen Healy, Sarah Baxter. Second row: Event partners Anabel Bane and Peter Nicholson | Julie Dumas and Brett Knowles. Third row: Reception presenting sponsor Marilyn Wilson with Joseph Cull | Event partners Sarah and Michael Waters | Ashbury musicians entertain the guests. Bottom row: Fraser Cafe employees, hard at work | Guests at the gathering, with Maria Burrows at left.