



**RPR Community Committee**

**Chair**

Vacant

**Vice Chair**

Daniel Goldberg

**Activities**

- Rockcliffe Library Book Sale
- Speakers Series
- RPR Community Email
- RPR Website
- Christmas Party / Tree Lighting
- Outdoor Movie Nights
- Trash Bash
- Welcome committees
- Soccer Field and Program
- RRCRC Fundraiser

**Update on the Restoration of the Centennial Garden**

By Jane Panet

Landscape Architect Linda Dicaire and I met with Councillor Rawlson King via Zoom on June 29 to discuss next steps in the restoration of the Centennial Garden.

The Village Green with its two gardens – the Jubilee Garden and the Centennial Garden – is owned by the City of Ottawa since amalgamation. It is a green space at the heart of Rockcliffe Park and it is central to the spirit, psyche and identity of the Village. Neglect and lack of ordinary care have taken their toll on the Centennial Garden. Its condition reflects badly on our community and on the City of Ottawa. Many have been working for a long time to rectify this situation.

At our meeting, Rawlson was more than generous with his time and energy, especially as he was in the throes of COVID. Linda and I were filled with admiration for his dedication to the cause of getting Centennial Garden restored to its former glory.

The Plan for the Restoration of the Centennial Garden was submitted to Rawlson March 30, 2022, after receiving approval in principle from the Rockcliffe Park Foundation and the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association. Rawlson said that the next step would be for him to call a meeting of City staff to look at the preferred process going forward.

The route of the city for restoring the garden could either be retaining a consultant landscape architect to prepare final plans followed by the city selecting a contractor to execute the work; or it could be the route of a one-stop, design-build contractor with a heritage conservation team and experience.

Linda who has a lot of experience in heritage restoration supports the design build route as it has efficiencies and can produce excellent results provided that: the chosen contractor and their team are knowledgeable and dedicated to principles of heritage conservation

practice, agree to work with Rockcliffe Park’s representatives, demonstrate an understanding of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan, and are committed to implementing Rockcliffe Park’s vision for the Centennial Garden.

For purposes of funding, we also talked with Rawlson about whether the process could fold in the City’s art program if any aspect of the restoration was considered ‘art’ as per the city’s criteria. Rawlson stressed that there are city procedures that must be complied with but that he is very enthusiastic about the project, and about parks and green spaces in general in his ward.

We talked about a timeline for completion of the restoration and he expressed that a 2026 public launch with a 2025 completion of the hardscaping and planting should be ‘doable’. 2026 is the 100th anniversary of Rockcliffe’s incorporation as a municipality. It is also the year that the time capsule buried in the Jubilee Garden is to be opened. 2026 is the ideal year for the project to be complete and for us to celebrate!