

Hunt Club: My Community



The Long Road to the Park

Matthew Page

Rima watched as Adnan burst through the screen door and spilled out into the summer sunshine. It was as if the boy had no recollection of the past four years of his life, and maybe he didn't. Hopefully he didn't. Of course Rima knew that it wasn't true. He still had the nightmares.

Adnan had been born, through no will of his own, into a world that was crumbling into civil unrest and eventually war. By the age of two, his father had been killed defending his home from three armed men, leaving Rima just time enough to escape into the night with Adnan. He had spent his next two birthdays in a refugee camp, where the two lined up daily for food and water; their patience was not rewarded everyday but they were provided with just enough to survive. And then one hot morning, cloudless and already scorching, Rima was approached by two UN representatives, who informed her that she and Adnan had been identified for resettlement. They told her that she would be leaving Syria and Jordan behind for Canada. The rest was a whirlwind.

"Come on, Mommy!" Adnan called back, as he waited impatiently at the end of their walkway.

A paved walkway lined with green grass was a stark contrast to the cracked desert of the refugee camps, a fact that was completely lost on Adnan. Rima stood on the front step and absorbed the moment - her son standing, without a care, beckoning for her. She choked back her joy. If only her husband could see their boy standing so innocent, so free.

"I'm coming, Adnan" she called back as she started after him.

Adnan waited for his mother to catch-up and took her hand. They followed the pathway out to McCarthy Road and turned towards the community centre. The night before, as she tucked him into bed, Adnan had made Rima promise they could go to the park to play. His eyes had been so wide and hopeful; she could never have said no.

His little hand was hot with anticipation in hers, and his gait was as restrained as any four-year-old's on a mission could be, as they walked across from the

church, past the fire station, avoided the candy at the gas station, and stopped to practice reading the English on the signs outside the grocery store parking lot.

Once through the intersection at Paul Anka Drive she loosed her grip on his hand, and Adnan was off in a full sprint for the playground. Without a moment's hesitation he was involved with two other boys, lost in a land of imagination. When Rima caught up she found a bench and sat down beside another mother. The two exchanged smiles. It was so nice to see a stranger's smile. She was about to introduce herself when she was interrupted.

"Mom! Can I have my birthday at the park?" Adnan asked. Before Rima could respond, he followed with, "And can Paul and James come? They're my new friends."

This time Rima couldn't hold back the tears, "Of course they can come."

"Yes! Guys, did you hear that?"

Paul Landry Park is Looking Good

Christine Johnson

If you haven't seen the 1500 new trees that were planted the week of May 16th, here's another good reason to head over to Paul Landry Park: our monthly clean ups at Paul Landry Park have started, with the next one scheduled exceptionally on a Sunday: June 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We'll be serving refreshments afterwards at noon. We meet at the picnic table near the Uplands Drive end of the park.

Please plan to join us as we focus on cleaning up the main pathway and the network of interior pathways. Discover the creativity of local residents, who have built a super cool fort in the park. Start to imagine the many possibilities of what this park could look like with a little local TLC from the residents who live nearby. We'll be launching an Art Project for residents to submit their ideas to paint some of the park's fences.

This is OUR park. Show that you care by coming out and meeting a few new neighbours.

Other scheduled clean ups are on the following Saturdays, always starting at 10:00 a.m.: July 9, August 5, September 3 and October 1.

Art History Returns to Ottawa

John Flood

John Flood, a local resident, is the son of painter Wilfrid John Flood (1904-1946) who was a noted Canadian and Ottawa artist during the 1930s and early 1940s. 'Bill' was a contemporary of artists Henri Masson & Maurice Haycock as well as of A.Y Jackson of Canada's famed Group of Seven painters.

During his short life, Wilfrid produced more than 400 paintings in all mediums, but was most noted for his watercolour paintings of landscapes and cityscapes. However, he also produced many portraits of noted Ottawa dignitaries and families, some of which have never been located or photographed.

His paintings have been exhibited at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Ontario Gallery of Art, the National Gallery, and at the 1939 New York World's Fair along with some Group of Seven artists' paintings.

As a child, Wilfrid had rheumatic fever which damaged his heart. On 28 March 1946, he died from a heart attack. "Canada lost one of her outstanding artists at the young age of 42" (eulogy by Henri Masson).

For years after Wilfrid's death, his paintings were kept in his wife Herietta's closet, unseen by the world until her death. His children, Frances and John, then sought to ensure that his paintings would be properly displayed in Ottawa. As a result, more than 88 paintings by him have returned to Ottawa, to the Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG), willed to the OAG for their preservation and for historical purposes.

Most of the paintings returned to the OAG are watercolours and oils. There are several paintings of mine heads of Cobalt, Ontario from around 1939 after Cobalt had become a ghost town, as the silver had run out. The Ottawa Art Gallery plans to exhibit some of Wilfrid's paintings during a yearlong exhibit in conjunction with the completion of their gallery renovations in 2017.

John Flood has up to 100 of Wilfrid's paintings hanging in his home, some of which will be included the OAG exhibit in 2017. John has devoted many years of his life in recovering, framing and promoting his father's artwork. He has created a catalogue of all of his located art works, along with many other historical artifacts including history books, pamphlets, Canadian Geographic Journals, etc., to which Wilfrid contributed maps and drawings. If you wish to view some paintings by him, a web site was created in 2000 following an exhibit of some of his paintings at the Carleton University Art Gallery. The web site, kindly created and maintained by Keith O'Connor, is at <http://www.tinmangallery.com/WFLOOD.html>.

John requests that if anyone has a painting or sketch by Wilfrid, that they get in contact with him through the web site, so that he may get a photograph and details to include in the catalogue. John has titles of more than 75 paintings that have never been located.

John Flood has carried on his sister's and his own wish that their father's art not be forgotten but displayed for others to enjoy. Now that devotion has come to fruition.

Additional information on the Wilfrid Flood collection can be found on the web site of the Ottawa Citizen.



The Alexandra Bridge 1946 - Wilfrid John Flood

Shout Sister Choir Fundraiser Concert

Christine Johnson

On Saturday, April 23rd, the HCCO's 'Refugee Action Committee' presented a Shout Sister Choir fundraising concert at our Hunt Club Community Centre. Led by dynamic choir director, Jody Benjamin, the choristers presented two sets of songs that resonated in the hearts of choristers and audience members alike.

The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the government sponsored Syrian refugee families living in our area. Several of these families, adults, children and toddlers, were our guests of honour at this performance. Other fellow Canadian friends were there too, all listening intently to Jody's presentations of each song. Some of the children were either walking around, skipping about, or giggling on their chairs, then clapping just towards the end of each song, instinctively sensing the end. My sister choristers, along with the audience members, were all moved; in fact, there was a rather magical synergy throughout the whole evening.

A team of dedicated HCCO volunteers planned and worked with half a dozen young and energetic student volunteers to set up the chairs, assemble the borrowed risers, have tea, coffee, and cookies ready at intermission, dutifully tending the 'snack bar' counter. The energy in the Hunt Club Community Centre came alive with music. It was ... beautiful!

What next, our new neighbours, the Syrian families asked - will we visit them? Will we be part of their life? Let's hope that we will be open to capitalizing on all possible ways to reach out to them, help them develop a sense of belonging here and help them find their new purpose here, fully integrating into their new community, their and our home - Canada.

River Ward Strawberry Social

Hunt Club residents are warmly invited to join me at my annual River Ward Strawberry Social for Seniors, to be held on Wednesday June 8 at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre from 1-3pm. In addition to enjoying delicious strawberries and cake, the Brookfield HS band will be in attendance to provide musical entertainment. Celebrity servers have been invited and door prizes will be drawn. This is the hottest ticket in River Ward! Please email Sarah Barber at Sarah.Barber@Ottawa.ca to reserve tickets or call 613-580-2486.

Paul Landry Park

The City of Ottawa planted approximately 1,500 trees in Paul Landry Park on May 17, as part of the reforestation plan following last year's removal of trees due to emerald ash infestation. Eight different species, native to Canada, were planted. In cooperation with the Hunt Club Community Organization, I will be engaging the local community later this year on design elements for new play structure infrastructure for the park. The

intent is to have improvements completed by next summer, if funds dedicated to this project can be released ahead of schedule.

The ward office is located nearby in the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre, open Tuesdays and Fridays. You are most welcome to drop in any time to say hello and discuss local matters.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Riley Brockington,
City Councillor, River Ward
613-580-2486

Community Festival

Planning has already started for Hunt Club's revitalized Community Festival to be held rain or shine at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre on Saturday, September 10th from 11 am to 2 pm. The festival, a partnership with the City of Ottawa, the Hunt Club Community Organization, the South East Ottawa Community Health Centre and the Riverside Park Community & Recreation Association, will feature entertainment, exhibits, activities and taste treats for the whole family. Mark the date on your calendars! More details to come. Check our website <http://hunt-club.ncf.ca/> and our Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/HuntClubCommunityAssociation/> for emerging details.

2nd Annual "Hunt Club Cares"



June 4th, 2016
8am-12pm

Rain or Shine

★ Setup in front of your home or by the Community Centre*
(*Registration required)

★ Support the South East Ottawa Community Health Centre (SEOCHC)

★ Meet your neighbours & enjoy

\$5 fee in support of SEOCHC summer camps

You will receive:

- Signage for your property
Delivered to your home with help from
- Address included in Garage Sale adverts
Social media and printed listings



metro



For more information call Linda King at 613-260-7897

Find "Hunt Club Cares" on: **Eventbrite** or email: huntclubcares@gmail.com by May 31

Whispers Pub and Eatery is holding their Annual Charity Golf Tournament this year on Monday, July 25th at Club de Golf Hautes Plains (Club Link course) in Gatineau. Registration on the 25th will start at 10 am with a shotgun start at noon. The cost is \$135 per player which includes lunch, green fees, cart and dinner. There will be silent and live auction items donated by local businesses. The MC and auctioneer for the evening is Michael O'Byrne from CTV News Ottawa. All proceeds from the tournament will go directly to the South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre in support of their children and youth programs in the Hunt Club/Riverside Park area.

If you wish to participate in the tournament or donate an items or gift certificate to be used in the auctions, please contact Diane Rose at 613-247-1600 or dianer@seohc.on.ca

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If you have an article that you would like to submit for our next issue, e-mail it to suemccarthy1952@gmail.com
We welcome your ideas for future issues; please submit them to us or come to our monthly meetings to discuss them.

We thank our local businesses who make **Hunt Club: My Community** possible and ask that you support them.

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Summer Program
Lingua Arabic Language and Activities

July & August
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10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To register & for more information
please contact **Loubna or Farah**
613-224-4934 or 613-979-3530