

Fix it, don't toss it: Repair Café in Vanier Oct. 18

By Carmen Bohn

I've lived, worked, and played in New Edinburgh since 2010. Recently, I've been having fun helping at the Ottawa Tool Library (OTL), where I'm determined to learn the difference between a jigsaw and a reciprocating saw – and maybe even how to use them! In that spirit, I invite you to: "Fix It, Don't Toss It: Come to the Repair Café in Vanier Oct. 18."

Do you have something broken, worn out, or just needing a little TLC? Rather than sending it to the landfill, bring it to a Repair Café! Sponsored by the City of Ottawa and hosted by the Ottawa Tool Library, the event takes place at the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre (300 Pères-Blancs Ave.) on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What's a Repair Café?

It's a free community event where volunteers help fix everyday items – saving them from the trash, sharing skills, and bringing neighbours together. Part of a worldwide movement, they've become

popular in Ottawa, with past events giving second life to everything from toasters to torn jackets.

What to bring and what to know before you arrive

- One item per person only, as time and space are limited.
- Good repair prospects: electronics, small household appliances, toys, clothing for mending, jewellery, bikes, knives for sharpening, etc.
- If your item needs a part replaced, bring the new part along.
- Textile items must be clean.

Registration happens on-site. You'll sign in, enjoy a coffee and sweet treat while you wait, and leave with your item fixed – or with advice on next steps. If an item can't be repaired, responsible electronic recycling is available through support from the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA).

More important details

- The event is free to attend, but donations are welcome to support the volunteers who make it possible.
- Interpretation services in Somali and Arabic will



Photo courtesy Carmen Bohn

Repair Café volunteer fixers Richard and Henri with happy clients, learning new skills and celebrating another item FIXED!

be available, thanks to EnviroCentre and Immigrant Women Services Ottawa.

- The venue is wheelchair accessible and offers on-site parking and bike racks; seating will be provided if there is a queue.

- Please note that some fumes from glue or solvents may be present.

About the Ottawa Tool Library

The Ottawa Tool Library is a not-for-profit tool-lending

library located at 877A Boyd Ave. Since its launch in 2014, OTL's mission has been to foster sustainable, community-centred solutions by promoting a circular economy – a model that emphasizes sharing, reusing, repairing, repurposing, and reducing waste.

OTL membership gives you access to thousands of tools, from drills and saws to gardening gear and sewing machines. You borrow tools just like books from a regular

library. Members also receive discounted workshops and priority access to the Workspace. It's an affordable, space-saving alternative to buying tools you rarely use, and it helps support a greener, more collaborative city.

Why you should come to the Repair Café

Whether it's a lamp that won't light up, a jacket with a broken zipper, or a wobbly chair, bring it to the Repair Café in Vanier. You'll save money, learn hands-on skills, and connect with your community. You'll also be supporting local organizations like the OTL that are building a culture of repair, reuse, sharing and resilience. For more information on the OTL and other upcoming events: ottawatoolibrary.com

See you on Oct. 18 at the Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre!

Carmen Bohn has lived and worked in New Edinburgh with her family since 2010.

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The Hay Fever season is only beginning!

By Janet Uren

Janet Uren as Judith Bliss in *Hay Fever*, opening this November at the Linden House Theatre Company.

As the days grow shorter, one local company refuses to be gloomy. The Linden House Theatre Company – founded 19 years ago with the slogan "Theatre for the joy of it" – is once again bringing light, laughter, and sparkle to the stage. This year's annual production, *Hay Fever* by Noël Coward, pays tribute to Coward's idea that "there is nothing trivial about merri-ment."

It is an especially fitting year to stage *Hay Fever*, as 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of its first performance in England. It is also a personal anniversary for me. Twenty years ago, I moved to New Edinburgh and rediscovered theatre after a long hiatus. The first role I took on was Judith Bliss in the New Edinburgh Players' production of *Hay Fever*. That early experience inevitably led to the founding of Linden House. Since then, it has been a long road of



Image by Maria Vartanova

See *Hay Fever* at Elmwood School this November!

learning, stretching, and celebrating drama in partnership with wonderful actors and a growing audience.

My mother would have said of *Hay Fever* that "there's not a lick of sense in it." While I wouldn't go quite that far, the play is less about depth than it is about sparkle. And what delicious sparkle it is!

Coward was a master of wit and repartee, and unsparing in his portrayals of the characters he encountered in 1920s artistic circles. The eccentric Bliss family in *Hay Fever* was based on real people – and a real house party Coward attended. This hilarious story of social catastrophe grew directly out of his own experience, which makes it all the more delightful.

Linden House has long enjoyed the support of the community. We are honoured again this year to acknowledge the sponsorship of Elmwood School, Steve McIlroy of Edward Jones, sezlik.com, and the Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward of the City of Ottawa through Councillor Rawlson King. We are also grateful, as always, to Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Residence for generously providing rehearsal space.

Please join us this fall! A special benefit preview for Elmwood's Old Girls Scholarship Endowment Fund will be offered on the evening of Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. (tickets \$20). The show then opens

Nov. 21, with a post-show reception for cast and audience to follow. Performances continue Nov. 22 and 27–29 at 7:30 p.m., and on November 23 and 30 at 2 p.m.

Venue: Elmwood School, 261 Buena Vista Rd. | Free parking.

Tickets: \$30, available online at lindenhousetheatre.ca or by phone at 613-842-4913.

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