



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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Recreation Centre:
293/5 Shakespeare Drive

Web Site: www.bpha.ca

FALL NEWSLETTER

November 2015

BPHA DIRECTORS and OFFICERS

President	Nader Mohazab	Past President	Joanna Armbruster
Vice President	TBA	Legal Director	Kathryn Craig
Secretary	Michelle Bridgman	Tennis Director	Kathryn Craig
Bookkeeper	Sue Edwards	Maintenance Director	Don Capes
Treasurer	Luke Eret	Social Co-Director	Sue Edwards
Pool Co-Director	Susan Rosenblum	Membership Director	Shelley Nippard
Pool Co-Director	Christy den Haan-Veltman	Member-at-large	Mark Church

BPHA BOARD REPORT

Another BPHA summer has come and gone, but what a wonderful summer it was! We had 121 local families and 34 associate families join the Association this year. With a great team of lifeguards and swim and tennis instructors, led by our pool and tennis managers Eliana Rosenblum and August Knubitat, the courts and pool were hives of activity. From morning lessons, to afternoon public swim, to the weekly Wednesday afternoon special events like the Penny Carnival, to arts and crafts, fun was had by our kids every day! Also not to be missed were the lunchtime aqua aerobics lead by Eliana and Maggie! Our summer season ended with an extremely well attended end of season BBQ and Talent Show which included Morgan and Alexis doing their amazing blocks routine, A.J., Zack and Josh demonstrating their martial art talent, and Summer serenading us with some enchanting ballads of her own creation. Monday evening youth water polo was really well attended and exciting as always, and we even tried a few evenings of Yoga which we are hoping to bring back on a more regular basis next year.

The annual Pool Patio party was a great success. Approximately 75 people came out to enjoy an Island Paradise themed evening. We were sipping beverages to the wondrous sounds of Traces Steel Drum Band, dining on an amazing BBQ by Chef Tony Antunes and danced the night away with music by the talented DJ Dan Rocha. Our community also enjoyed the 8th season of our own Beechwood Produce Stand Wednesday afternoons from mid-June to mid-September to buy locally grown produce. The stand sponsored two speaker events at our Gazebo including our own Bruce Frayne who spoke about global food security, and Elsie and Howard Herrle who described the journey of Herrle's Markets over the past 50 years.

JOINING OUR BPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Have you been thinking about how you can participate in our community? Nominations are now open for positions on your Board of Directors. Your involvement in helping to run our programs, serve on the Board and maintain our facilities will ensure that the BPHA will continue to thrive and be run solely by local residents without the input of the City of Waterloo. Please take a minute to look at our website, www.bpha.ca, where you will find all sorts of information and email contacts if you have any questions. Supporting the BPHA is a group effort, as we all benefit from a thriving neighbourhood association that began almost 50 years ago. Sincerely, your BPHA Board of Directors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BPHA Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Conrad Grebel in the Schlegel Community Education Room.

BPHA Cookie Exchange: Thursday, December 3rd at 7 p.m.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBOURS

Since the spring, we have had several new arrivals move into our Beechwood community. You have all come to a very special place that prides itself on community togetherness. Welcome, and we hope you enjoy living here as much as we all do, and being part of the neighbourhood.

- **187 Mohawk: Kiyomi and Paul Harrington.** Paul and Kiyomi had their first child born a couple of weeks ago while in the midst of house renovations. Paul works at Manulife and Kiyomi at Blackberry.
- **323 Longfellow: Bob, Laura, Summer, and Michelle Lemieux.** The Lemieux family came from Kingston's Queens University to the University of Waterloo where Bob is the new Dean of Science.
- **284 Shakespeare: Kathleen, Blake and Clint Nielsen.** Kathleen pulled up stakes in Toronto to be closer to her two sons who both are studying at the University of Western Ontario. She just loves her new home and the quieter pace and is busy sprucing up her new place.
- **337 Marlowe: Amy and Chris McPhee** and their children, 8 year old **Ben** and 4 year old **Owen** who now attend Keatsway School. Chris works for Toyota in Cambridge and Amy is a teacher.
- **312 Longfellow: Dave Hinton** moved here from Kitchener to be walking distance from UW where he is the Manager of their I.T. dept. Dave had heard a lot of good things about Beechwood from friends at work.
- **325 Marlowe: Dan, Oana, and Glad Dragos.** Dan and Oana also moved here from Toronto and their son **Glad** is studying at Queens University.
- **290 Hiawatha: Steven Watt, Lila Kari,** and their children 13 year old **Althea Draghici** and 11 year old **Lori Watt.** Steven is the new Dean of Mathematics at UW, moving here from London's University of Western Ontario.
- **144 Amos: Elana and Navin Chand** and their baby son **Ari** who was born on March 10th. Elana grew up in the neighbourhood on Shakespeare Place where her parents Briana and Dan still live. She loved it so much she is back with her own family, after spending almost a decade working for Microsoft in Toronto and Seattle.

Apologies to any of our new arrivals that we may have missed. You will be in our next edition for sure!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- **Lori Dawson and Bernie Verbanac** on the birth of their son **Magnus** on July 16th.
- **Erin and Goran Rakita** on the birth of their son **Ronin** on the 29th of August; a brother for sister **Angela**.
- **Scott and Nonie Furlong** of Boston and proud grandfather **Jim** on Marlowe; on the birth of Jim's 7th grandchild **Charlie**.
- **Jan and Rob Phillips** on the acceptance of their son **Mitch** to the prestigious Mechatronics Engineering Program at UW. Besides working at our Produce Stand as a teenager Mitch was also co-Mayor of the Student Council at Waterloo Collegiate last year.
- **Sean McKenna and Christy den Haan-Veltman**, two of BPHA's most recent Master's graduates. Both pursued degrees at the University of Waterloo in the Digital Technology field. Sean from the Engineering faculty with a Masters of Business, Entrepreneurship, and Technology from the Conrad School, and Christy from the Arts faculty with a Masters of Digital Experience Innovation.
- **Steve and Myrna Singer** on the engagement of their youngest son **Alex to Sarah Lim** of New Jersey. They will be married next Labour Day weekend in Boston. Alex is a software engineer for Twitter and Sarah is an emergency veterinarian.

- **Mel and Sharon Lavoie** of Shakespeare Dr. on the birth of their second grandchild, **Vivian Violet Elizabeth**, on September 16th, a sister to brother **Cameron** who spends every Wed. with Grandma and Grandpa. Proud parents are **Justin and Dana Lavoie**.
- **Joanna Armbruster** on the engagement of her daughter **Nathalie to Geoff Oldfield**. They both attended Keatsway School, where Geoff's mom Kathy Shortt is a teacher. They became a couple during their WCI years. You may know Geoff from the work he has done around the neighbourhood with driveways and hardscaping his landscaping company, Keldee Landscapes (www.keldeelandscapes.ca). Geoff proposed to Nathalie on their fall canoe trip in Algonquin Park, a wonderful surprise for all, and the wedding is planned for the summer of 2017.
- **Nancy and Rick Ozkowski** whose daughter **Jane** has self-published her first novella entitled "The Best and Most Beautiful". It can be purchased online through her website, www.JaneOzkowski.com, where readers will also find a sampling of her work. "You'd visited this café once in a dream where you were small and everyone was pant legs and you could not remember how to speak. You drank raspberry tea in your re...." Jane will also be having her first novel published next year by a well-known Canadian publisher. Jane grew up in the neighbourhood and who knows, she may mention our community in her acceptance speech when she wins the Giller Prize for Canadian fiction in a few years' time.

JULY 21ST INTER-BEECHWOOD YOUTH WATER POLO TOURNAMENT

Our BPHA water polo team, including Hugh McKenna, Kira Milroy, Patrick Benest, Derik Milroy, Brock Stephenson, Ben Stephenson and Max Straatford, participated in the 2015 Beechwood Water Polo Tournament hosted by Beechwood West 2. After the preliminary games, our team was in last place. Then, unexpectedly, in the semi-finals, they beat the first place team and made it into the finals! In the last game, with the score tied 2-2, Patrick Benest scored right before the buzzer went off. BPHA won the tournament which hadn't happened in a very long time. Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches who did us proud this year.

SEPTEMBER 12TH YEAR END BEECHWOOD DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Once again our year-end doubles tournament saw fierce competition with battles of Biblical proportions (the grinding of bones and the smashing of rackets?) Participating were a host of characters of ill repute and questionable lineage. In other words, our usual Wednesday night doubles crew that played together all summer including: Dante "the inferno" Pocrnich, Scott "the rev" Brubacher Zehr, Karl "eye in the sky and racket over the net" Czekus, Franz "it vas out" Esser, Luke "the NSF Czech" Eret, Mark "tax re" Baetz, Frank "the flying Dutchman" Janssen, Mike "the wall" Dixon a.k.a. Dixione. We also welcomed some relative newcomers including Tom "the kid" and Alex "the dad" Paraschuk, Don "the great S" Capes, and Sebastian "Brideshead Revisited" Roussel as well as two legacy members and former doubles tournament winners; Mike "Can't" Singh, and "Shoeless" Joel Blit.

In this year's event, after the round robin bloodshed (think of a melee from Game of Thrones), the two surviving teams were: Team 1 Frank Janssen and Joel Blit versus Team 2 Mike Dixon and Franz Esser. A true clash of the titans - youth against age, untenured faculty versus full professor, sportsmanship versus Hogwarts-like line calls. It had it all. The teams were incredibly even; Shoeless Joel's roadrunner-like court coverage made mockery of Dixon's glacial movements, but Blit had trouble with the wall's 12 foot reach. As for Frank and Franz, they were separated by the merest vowel. In the end the geezers prevailed.

Special nods to Brad "neutral" Stephenson and Bob "on the DL" Gibson. Neither played but both brought heckling to new and admirable heights. This year's tournament was organized by Karl C. and Mike D. with help from Sue "short arms deep pockets" Dixon. (She managed to feed us all for 5 bucks each!) The organizers want to thank Casi Zehr and Sue Edwards for backup and help with emails, BBQ availability and booking of courts. A great time was had by all!

In closing, a quote from Sue Dixon. "When are you going to get that G-d awful trophy out of the house?"

Editor's Note: This wonderful tournament summary was provided by co-champion Mike Dixon.

A NEW BLOG RIGHT IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Dave Hare, my next door neighbour, has recently retired from Maplesoft, a technology company where he was involved in Research and Development for about 25 years. To fill his spare time and his penchant for original thought, (which I can attest to after numerous backyard, over the fence conversations) Dave is writing a blog which I highly recommend. You can access Dave's articles at <https://supperdad.wordpress.com>.

THE "BEATSWOOD RAP" GOES ON

Katherine Frazer and Victoria Giguere continued the tradition began by Nick Penner several years ago by rapping about our community at the closing talent show on Labour Day. Here is this year's version.

"In Beechwood, Waterloo born and raised, by the pool where I spent most of my day.
Chillin' out, maxin', relaxin' all cool, Playing some tennis outside of the pool.
When a couple of kids who were up to some good, Started a talent show in the neighbourhood.
They asked us to Emcee so pull up a chair, Or sit your bums down, right over there.
We pulled up to the pool 'round 4 or 5, Saw some kids in the deep end doing some dives.
We talked to the life Guards, we were finally here, To emcee the show and crown the champ of the year!"

NEED HELP WITH BABYSITTING, PROPERTY, SCHOOL WORK, MUSIC?

CHECK OUT OUR YOUTH JOB ADS BELOW

Hannah (16) and Oscar (14) Judelson-Kelly. Are you in search of someone to look after your kids? Well, you're in luck? We are friendly, local (Hiawatha), responsible, and reliable babysitters (certified by The Red Cross & St. John's Ambulance). Oscar is also available for garden work such as weeding, lawn-mowing, leaf raking, as well as snow shoveling, when the season arrives. If you are interested, please contact judelsonkelly@gmail.com or phone 519-342-4764.

Micah Brubaker-Zehr. I live on Coleridge Dr. and am the founder of KW French Tutor! I went to Keatsway and Centennial and am currently in my third-year of French Studies at UW. Need help in French? Want to learn French from scratch? KW French Tutor teaches the French language in an efficient way that caters to the student's priorities, interests, and skills. If you are interested you can learn more about me and what I offer, and my experience on my website: www.kwfrenchtutor.ca Feel free to check out our Facebook page as well, which is linked to our website. I learned French in the Beechwood community, and now I'd like to teach it here!

Peter and Daniel Marshall. Professional Lawn Maintenance available. Booking for the 2016 season. Compare price and service with your current provider! We are high school students living on Mohawk Ave. We specialize in full lawn care services as well as minor landscaping projects; i.e. sod, mulch. Open to working under seasonal contract or a job by job basis. Licensed and insured for April 2016. Please contact for more information at 226-929-1825 or danieljmarshall01@gmail.com. We also can supply your winter firewood needs with dry hardwood for sale. Quantities come in Half Face Cords 4'X4'x16", Full Face Cord, 4'x8'x16", or Bush Cords of 3 Face Cords. Pricing varies depending on pickup or delivery.

Shannon (17) and Megan (15) Nairn. (Marlowe) Need a babysitter? The Nairn sisters are here to help. We are both experienced babysitters with our Red Cross Babysitter training. Please call us at 519-747-0827 or tgnairn@gmail.com.

Going away for a day or several? Need your mail picked up or your pet taken care of? **Daniel Nairn (13)** has helped neighbours with this and can help you too! Please call 519-747-0827 or e-mail tgnairn@gmail.com!

Jenn Czekus (Longfellow) I am a recent math physics grad from UW and current graduate student available for elementary and high school tutoring in math and the sciences. I am also available for piano lessons. Please contact me at Jennifer.czekus@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED: LOOKING FOR TEENAGE HELP NEXT SUMMER

Sebastien and Shelly Roussel at 274 Shakespeare are looking early for an experienced, responsible and energetic teenager to care for their 3 children next summer on a part-time, as-needed basis. Tommy will be 10, Oliver 7, and Lucie 5 by then. This will be part-time and we need someone with flexibility that we could call on when my husband is away at work. We are estimating an average of 10-12 (8 hour) weekdays per month. We are looking for someone to take the kids to the pool for their lessons, be active outside with them and keep them safe and busy while mom works from home in the house. Lunch meal prep and kitchen clean-up would also be required. We have no pets and are a non-smoking family. If you are interested, please contact Shelly at snippard@yahoo.com to arrange an interview. Thank you.

DINING ROOM SET FOR SALE

Velmon and Alex Haag from Algonquin Drive would like to sell their dining room set. Table and 6 chairs, magnificent vintage, "Drexel Heritage" Made in the U.S.A. Chairs are of solid mahogany; in excellent condition. \$5600 O.B.O. Please call Alex at 519-847-7097.

THE LAST CLAIR LAKE TASK FORCE REPORT

On Oct. 15th the Clair Lake Citizen's Task Force held its last meeting. We discussed with the city their efforts last summer to finalize the remediation work. The low greenbelt areas, which experienced flooding, had been filled and reseeded. These areas no longer have big pools of water after the smallest rain. The chicken wire, which was meant to protect the water plants that had been seeded, has been removed and now Mother Nature can take over and fill in some nice water vegetation. The only other item that remains to be addressed is the wet meadow area on the north side of the inlet to the lake. This area does not drain in the required 2 days following a rainfall and encourages people to walk along the muddy bank-a safety hazard from the city's point of view. Thus, sometime very soon the green mesh will be removed and the lip of mud will also be excavated connecting the wet meadow area to the rest of the lake. With that, all of the work the city had planned will be done and the project will be closed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BPHA and all the citizens in the Beechwood neighbourhoods who have supported this project over the years. Every time we needed a crowd, either beside the lake or at a council meeting, you have always been there in large enthusiastic numbers. I would also like to thank the citizen members of the task force, Joan McKinnon, Kay Wentzell, Sheila Brown, Karl Kaufman, Emil Frind and Dick Schnarr, and many others too numerous to mention, who have endured many, many meetings-monthly for several years- since I became involved in 2008 and for several years before that in the case of the individuals named above. This committee has become a model for citizen involvement in City projects (to the degree that a Brazilian professor came to study our group and wrote an academic paper about it!) and that, in large part, is due to the tenacity and drive these individuals exhibited. I would also like to thank the City, the staff that served on the task force over the years and former Mayor Brenda Halloran for having the foresight to form this committee to involve the citizens in the remediation process.

So, with that, after 7+ years of chairing this Task Force I am signing off. In the end, we still have Clair Lake as the center point of our neighbourhood, remediated and dredged and any way you look at it, that is a legacy for both our citizenry and the City that will live on into the future. It has been my pleasure to serve you all and I hope to see you beside Clair Lake enjoying the peace and serenity it brings to our community.

Sincerely, Brian Dixon, Chair of The Clair Lake Citizen's Task Force, Marlowe Drive

Editor's Note: On behalf of all the communities that surround Clair Lake Park we thank you Brian, as well as your dedicated committee for providing us the Clair Lake legacy as a gift for future generations to cherish.

THE HAUSERS ARE PLANNING TO DOWNSIZE

Sherry and Gary Hauser, longtime residents on Mohawk, have decided to downsize in the next couple of years. They will join a growing group of dedicated Beechwoodites including the Beamishs, Hendleys, Riedlingers, and Kaufmans who have decided to move to a simpler abode. Gary and Sherry have been members of our BPHA since their arrival and have dedicated themselves to its success. Their children, Sylvia and Andrea, were swim instructors at our pool. Sherry has been involved in so many ways including Neighbourhood Watch, delivering newsletters, helping with the Patio Party Auction Fundraiser, and tennis. And Gary was the legal director of our Association at a very critical time in its history. We wish them well.

THE NEW LITTLE LIBRARY AT THE REC CENTRE

Our new handpainted Little library was installed this summer and has become very popular with everyone in the neighbourhood. It's so neat to see kids looking through the books or sitting on the ground around the library reading away on a hot summer day. Many thanks to Raegan Little who had the idea for the library and made it happen. Raegan, who lives with her family on Longfellow and is a talented photographic artist, (we are the proud owners of several of her compositions) decided that our library should be the most beautiful and unique library ever to grace a neighbourhood. She therefore enlisted the help of three of our communities' talented artists who created original artwork on the four sides of the library over a period of several months. Denise Strong from Shakespeare Dr., who is exhibiting her work at Connect 2015 as a member of the Artists Critique Group, decided to paint a very old Beech tree that stands in front of the Riedlinger's old home (now the Thompsons) on Mohawk Ave. As she explains, "I like objects much better when in a state of deterioration, so this tree with some sprays of pale reddish brown leaves dangling about, was the inspiration I was looking for".

Kathy Chandler, also from Shakespeare Dr., is a talented painter who has been deeply involved in the K.W. art community and galleries for many years. She painted a whimsical portrait of two children dancing and playing in front of a bookshelf that really conveys the joy of reading. And Sherry Czekus of Longfellow Dr., whose paintings are on display at local galleries and who was recently highlighted in Grand Magazine, painted both the Rainbow Front as well as a muted, fairy like, nature scene on one of the sides. Many thanks to all of you for taking on this daunting task of doing fine art on an outdoor structure for all the neighbourhood to enjoy. Many thanks also to John Holmes, who along with Rob Phillips, designed and built our wonderful Gazebo several years ago, who led the install of the library beside our pool parking lot. Finally, we appreciate the donation from our Beechwood Produce Stand that paid for the library's construction. We look forward to installing additional libraries in other parts of our neighbourhood down the road.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS TO THE RECENT FEDERAL ELECTION

- Congratulations to **Sean McKenna**, who lives on Shakespeare Dr. with his wife Katie and their 4 children, whose sister Catherine is the new federal Minister of the Environment in the Trudeau government.
- Congratulations to **Nicholas Penner**, son of Paul and Dolores Penner, who works full time for the Liberal Party of Canada in Ottawa. Nicholas has been involved in politics since his teenage days, working on local campaigns for municipal, provincial, and federal candidates. (He also was our first youth volunteer at our Produce Stand!) His hard work for the Liberal Party since graduating from Carleton University was probably instrumental in the Liberal Party's victory.

THE FUTURE OF LEAF COLLECTION IN WATERLOO

As you are probably aware, this has been a confusing year for leaf collection in our neighbourhood with the City's trucks showing up on a Saturday morning with very little notice while our neighbours scrambled to get leaves to the curb. Due to budget concerns the city is reviewing their future leaf collection policy with the 3 options being: Continuing the program as is with an additional 1½% levy to our water/sewage bill; leaf collection only in heavily wooded neighbourhoods as they do in Kitchener, and the elimination of curb side leaf collection. To provide input to the city please access the following link: <https://www.peakdemocracy.ca/portals/151/1619>. Input is being accepted until November 20th.

POUND DOG RESCUE ORGANIZATION

Katie Korschewitz, who lives with her husband Ed at 293 Longfellow Dr., is heavily involved with a great organization called Pound Dog Rescue. It's a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming abandoned and surrendered dogs in Southern Ontario. It is their mission to place their rescued dogs into secure and loving forever homes. This means they never again face the prospect of being homeless or euthanized due to space limitations at overwhelmed pound facilities. Their organization focuses on quality, which allows them to dedicate their time to rehabilitating and training dogs while live comfortably in the homes of loving foster families. They also provide support for adoptive families to ensure their new furry family member settles in nicely. Since founded in 2012, Pound Dog Rescue has placed over 250 dogs into caring forever homes across Southern Ontario. For more information please check out their website at www.pounddog.ca or contact Katie at e.korschewitz@gmail.com.

THE BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND

Thanks to the dedication of our great group of youth and adult volunteers as well as the support of the entire community, the 8th season of our very own Beechwood Produce Stand was a tremendous success. Our stand ran from "strawberries to squash" (mid-June to mid-September), and truly became a "village square" every Wednesday afternoon, where neighbours strolled by to buy their fresh local produce and have a chat. Though a small venture in the scheme of things, our stand provided several thousand dollars of purchasing stimulus to the local farm community which via the magic of the "multiplier" effect created an even more significant boost to our local agricultural economy. It also generated enough surplus at the end of the season to make significant donations to local institutions that are key to the health of our community including Centennial and Keatsway School (\$500 each towards their breakfast program), the Balsillie Cancer Centre (\$500), St Johns Kitchen and the FoodBank (\$500) as well as our own Beechwood Park Homes Association for capital improvements at our Recreation Centre. In addition, with the help of Maria Brzozwski one of our stand volunteers, we also made significant donations in kind of leftover produce each week to St. Johns Kitchen and the FoodBank depot at Lourdes church operated by St. Vincent de Paul. We were also able to purchase flowers for our Recreation Centre and fund the Little Library installed this summer.

Finally, one of the most unique and satisfying elements of our stand was that it once again demonstrated the vitality and enthusiasm of our local youth who contributed so much to our success. Whether it was helping out with set up each week, serving customers or hanging our street signs, selling lemonade for charity, doling out ice cream cones or painting faces, they provided an intangible dimension that was priceless. There were so many of them that helped out this summer that they are too numerous to mention. However, we thank you all. We look forward to next year's start up. Farmer Steve and Dolores.

SOLAR POWER IN BEECHWOOD

Sebastien and Shelly Roussel of 274 Shakespeare Drive have recently decided to take advantage of the Provincial Green Energy Act by installing a 10kw Microfit solar array on the roof of their home through a local solar contractor. Their home is perfect for a solar array, having a south facing roof with a nice roof angle and minimal tree shading which together will help to maximize solar production from the array. The array will consist of approximately 50 250w solar panels assembled by Canadian Solar in Guelph which will feed A.C. power to the grid. Sebastien and Shelly will be paid about .38c/kwh for their solar power for a period of 20 years under a contract signed with the Independent Electrical Safety Organization. (IESO). With an approximate investment of about \$30,000 and annual generation of about 11,000kwhs of production, the installation will be paid for in about 7 years. Additional benefits of their solar installation will include less roof maintenance and air conditioning load due to the protection and reflection of the sun's rays; not to mention the additional value to their home. Solar technology efficiency and reliability has come a long way in the past several years which continues to reduce the installed cost/watt of installing a system. There are also several experienced contractors in the area who have been doing quality installs for several years. So if you have funds earning almost no interest in the bank and want to hedge your exposure to future hydro rate increases you might want to do what Sebastien and Shelly are doing and look into the feasibility of installing a solar system on your home.

Alternatively, if your roof is not suitable for an array but you are still interested in investing in solar energy you can look at investing in Solar Bonds available through the largest Community Solar Cooperative in North America called Trec Solar Share based in Toronto. To date Solar Share has sold about \$14million dollars of 5 year bonds with an interest rate of 5%. The proceeds from these bonds are used to finance in part the installation of their 34 large rooftop solar projects that currently generate almost 6MWs of power annually. Check them out at www.solarbonds.ca.

SOME HISTORY OF OUR BEECHWOOD PARK COMMUNITY

Beechwood Park, was the vision of Abram Wiebe, who through his company Major Holdings created our award winning community over a period of almost a decade between 1960-1970. Abram's wife Dorothy and daughter Sheila, who still live in the family home at the top of Tennyson Drive, were invited to speak about the early history of Beechwood Park at the Annual General Meeting of the Beechwood Homes Association on Feb. 8th, 2009. A few fascinating excerpts from their presentation follow below.....

In 1960, residential construction was ready to begin on the first part of an overall development of some 1200 high quality building lots. A full page ad was placed in the Record on Oct. 15th, 1960, inviting people to come during the weekend and enjoy the view, before the houses were started to be constructed "come, park your car, walk around and have a picnic lunch anywhere you please, weather permitting". This hilly area had been fondly known to generations of Waterlooites as Devil's Hill. Westmount Road was opened temporarily for the weekend to allow cars to be driven into the area. It was a very busy weekend in Beechwood!

A new innovation at the time was "having all services already installed prior to the start of house construction, as well as underground wiring for street lights, for its walkways, wooded slopes and winding streams that were to be preserved for public use. Abram directed the planner, to have surveyors mark out the streets and add approximately 6 feet beyond the proposed curbs. No trees were to be taken down beyond these corridors. As well, when the foundations to houses went in, only the most necessary trees were to be taken down. Abram named the streets after Authors, Poets and Indian Tribes. Our family moved to Beechwood in 1962 and became the sixth family to have moved in. The other firsts that I can remember were the Masterman's, the Mckeown's, the Gerster's, and the Cowan's. The closest public elementary school was Empire which meant all of the children that lived in Beechwood at the time who went there, either walked, biked and/or received rides from their parents. It was a great hike, since there was no traffic to speak of beyond Erb Street, just lots of flowers, trees and nature!

It was in Beechwood that Major Holdings introduced the concept of Homes Associations for residents, recreation centres provided free by the company, which were turned over to the residents to manage and maintain. In 1966, Major Holdings was recognized as the "Best Subdivision Developer" in Ontario by the Urban Development Institute for its 1000 acre Beechwood project. In the opinion of the judges, Beechwood "displayed the most effort by the developer and planner to accomplish good groupings and provision of open space. It was evident that every effort had been made to overcome site problems. At the same time, however, the degree of effort to reflect economies and maintain specification was considered excellent."

In conclusion, here is a final Random thought from my dad I found in a file box: "The sheer fun of having been involved with so many fine people, associates, suppliers, customers, in this exercise. The satisfaction of participating in a very successful venture, helping to build a community which we are all happy to call home".

We hope you enjoy this Fall edition of the BPHA Community Newsletter. Many thanks to Tracey Nairn, who agreed to take on the editing of the newsletter from Andrew Beamish who did it so well for so many years. If you have any comments feel free to contact me, Steve Singer, at singercutt@golden.net.