



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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Recreation Centre:
293/5 Shakespeare Drive

Web Site: www.bpha.ca

FALL NEWSLETTER

November 2016

BPHA VOLUNTEER DIRECTORS and OFFICERS

President	Dianne Ratcliffe	Maintenance Director	Don Capes
Vice President		Social Director	Sue Edwards
Secretary	Alison Frayne	Membership Director	Shelley Nippard
Treasurer	Luke Eret	Pool Director	Susan Rosenblum
Bookkeeper/Officer	Lisa Heaton	Tennis Director	Mark Baetz

Currently Recruiting for: Vice President, Membership Director & Pool Co-Director

2016 ACTIVITY UPDATE FROM THE BPHA BOARD

Thank you to all of those friends & neighbours who have volunteered over the past 10 months! There is a legion of people to thank- too many to list by name in this newsletter.... **You know who you are**.... People who have just decided to do one or two 'small things'; like sweep the tennis courts, take a shift at the produce stand, trim bushes & tree limbs, deliver newsletters, donate plants, bake bread, flip burgers, fix the tennis gate, etc, etc ... It is a beautifully long, endless list of 'neighbourliness'.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of this community; without you, we would never have been able to achieve such a long list of accomplishments in 2016. Including:

- The ambitious repair & update project at the Rec Centre including the entire interior of the main building, the new roof, the deck & pool coping, the interior of the storage shed... In fact, work is still underway - with ongoing repairs on the tennis wall, the pool deck & the front & side gardens. In the Spring of 2016 we organized a series of 4 Saturday morning work sessions & were grateful to have members who showed up ready to work for all of them! Special acknowledgement must be given to John Holmes, John Midwood, Bill Ratcliffe, Seb Roussel, Jim Wilkinson & of course Don Capes, our fearless Maintenance Director. Also, special thanks to Monica Furniss & Deanne Hawes for answering our call for making over the front gardens - they are in the process of transforming the spaces with donated plants!
- Our very successful series of social events, led by Sue Edwards (Social Director) & ably assisted by several stalwart volunteers. All events were very well attended and well organized. And it's not over yet – our Annual Cookie Exchange is booked for December 1st! Please put it in your calendar now; it is a delicious event for all members.

- Our programming for children. Including:
 - a) Our Spring & Summer lessons/camps; lead by our 2 Directors, Kathryn Craig (tennis) & Susan Rosenblum (pool). Their leadership in planning, supervision & troubleshooting helped us create many positive memories for our children & grandchildren... one of our fundamental objectives!
 - b) Our 2 Spring Bike Clinics for all neighbourhood youth could not have been accomplished without the help of Charlotte Schwartztruber Holmes & Dolores Penner. Plus, a small army of neighbourhood volunteers, including members of the Waterloo Regional Police Services and the Waterloo/Wellington Brain Injury Association. The funding for this event was garnered through a City program, the 'Neighbourhood Matching Fund' (NMF) and we were pleased to be able to present the Clinics at no additional cost to the community or the Association.

BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- As with all volunteer organizations, ours has seen a 'passing of the torch' from volunteer to volunteer. Specifically, in 2016, we want to **acknowledge the efforts & contributions of departing Board members** including: Michelle Bridgeman (Secretary- approx. 1 yr. of service); Christy Den Haan Veltman (combined service of 3 years as co-pool director & V.P.); Mark Church (4 years' service as Member-at-Large); Kathryn Craig (estimated 16 years' service to BPHA, including President to Tennis director.). **Thanks to all of you for your service, our community is forever in your debt for your contributions and will continue to benefit from your ongoing involvement.**
- **New to the Board & BPHA Officers in 2016** we welcome Alison Frayne (Secretary); Mark Baetz (Tennis Director); Lisa Heaton (Bookkeeper). A full list of our current Volunteer Board & Officers, can be found on our website at www.bpha.ca.
- **We welcome new involvement!** Currently we are recruiting for a **Vice President** (formerly filled by Christy, who has recently relocated to Vancouver). The V.P. role takes on numerous special projects & provides assistance to all other Directors, as needed, with their various priorities. Ideally it provides a successor to the current Board president, ensuring continuity and smooth transition. 2018 is our 50th Anniversary, it would be a great time to lead the Board! Please, do not hesitate to contact us at info@bpha.ca if you'd like more detail on this role OR if there is **any aspect** of our Association you would like to become more involved with.

IMPORTANT DATES TO RESERVE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Nov 12/ Saturday: BPHA Rec Centre **Fall Clean-up**; 9-noon; details to follow via email & website.
- Dec 1/Thursday: **Cookie Exchange**: 7:00 pm, location TBA; details to follow via email & website.
- Dec 3 /Saturday: - **Local Art Market** / Clair Lake Playground Fundraiser - 1-4pm, at Centennial Public School (141 Amos Ave, Waterloo).
- Dec 7/Wed: **BPHA Annual General Meeting**, 7:30pm, Community Room at Conrad Grebel College.

REMINDER REGARDING AREA LEAF PICK- UP

Waterloo residents have two main options for street tree leaf disposal:

- The Region of Waterloo's bi-weekly **yard waste** service, where residents collect street tree leaves and put out with their usual waste pick-up. In 2016, this service ends the week of Nov. 28 to Dec. 2.
- The City of Waterloo's **loose leaf collection service**: residents rake street tree leaves to the edge of the road for curbside collection according to **their zone** and projected date of service (see details below). Our BPHA is in collection **zone W-4**. Please check the city website for estimated pick-up dates for leaves raked to the curb - this is quite weather dependent - so very hard to predict. <http://www.waterloo.ca/en/living/leafcollection.asp>

CLAIR LAKE RECLAMATION PROJECT UP-DATE

The City of Waterloo has been working hard to build a commemorative site at Clair Lake to recognize the efforts of the devoted committee work on this 8-year long project. Specifically, as per committee request, a plaque will be placed at the site, acknowledging the efforts of community involvement. To date, a large stone has been placed near the benches in the park & is awaiting its plaque; & a Copper Beech Tree has just been planted behind the stone (on the trail side). The plaque is expected to be installed over the next month. The project requires a great deal of co-ordination between various City departments as well as the co-operation of the weather- we'll keep our community posted as this exciting event evolves! The fact that the committee selected a very special tree to add to our aging tree canopy is significant and demonstrates their continued thoughtful approach. Our City is growing rapidly and the existing tree canopy is aging and is far too small. *Trees* contribute to the environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, *trees* take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. Their importance to our ecosystem & their beauty cannot be underestimated. Kudos to the Clair Lake committee for their foresight! Great food for thought, as we are all raking leaves over the next few weeks.

CITY OF WATERLOO NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY PROJECT

The City of Waterloo, together with about 100 residents from different Waterloo neighbourhoods, is leading an 18 month project whose goal is to build stronger neighbourhoods. Once a month for the next year these resident panels will be meeting to answer questions such as:

- What is great about our neighbourhood already and what successes are already happening?
- What would we like our neighbourhood to look like 10 years from now?
- What challenges do we face when working to strengthen our communities? What is not going well?
- What changes/trends in the city (diversity, intensification, transportation, university expansion, etc.) will impact our community positively or negatively and how can we plan for these?
- What can the City do in terms of planning, regulations, communication, to strengthen our neighbourhoods?

While this Strategy exercise may seem at first glance to be perhaps of little consequence to our neighbourhood, our area has had a lot of firsthand experience dealing with issues like Apartment High Rises, Student Housing, and Clair Lake, among others that have threatened the long term health of Beechwood. Two of our neighbours, Steve Singer (singercutt@golden.net) and Dianne Ratcliffe (dianne.b.ratcliffe@gmail.com), are attending these monthly strategy sessions. So if you have any ideas, complaints, or visions that you want to share please let them know.

As well, the City is hosting two strategy discussions that will be open to the public that you are free to attend.

Nov. 3, 7-9 p.m. at Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex

Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m. at Manulife Sportsplex at RIM Park

If you cannot attend one of these in-person sessions, you can complete the Neighbourhood Strategy survey online at: www.waterloo.ca/engage.

BEECHWOOD'S BEST: LOCAL ART MARKET

Saturday, December 3rd from 1-4pm at Centennial Public School (141 Amos Ave, Waterloo).

The Clair Lake Playground committee is hosting an Art and Craft sale **in support of the Clair Lake Playground. The event is open to the public so please invite your friends & family to do their Holiday shopping with us, in a way that supports our community and benefits our children.**

- This is an excellent opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind goods made in our very own backyard, supporting local artists and, with a portion of sales going directly toward the Clair Lake Playground initiative. We are **accepting applications from vendors** until November 4th and welcome all local artists and craft-makers to apply. Please share this opportunity with any potential vendors you may know.
- In addition to having original art and crafts available for sale, we are also providing neighbours a chance to purge your homes of “previously enjoyed” art that is no longer serving your family by donating it to this event. 100% of proceeds from the sale of this “second-hand” art will go to the Clair Lake Playground.
- We are also looking for donations for our silent auction and raffle. If you can provide any items or packages to feature in this portion of the event, please let us know.

If you are interested in applying as a vendor, donating “second-hand” art, or donating an item toward our silent auction, please email us at clairlakeplayground@gmail.com.

Background info on the Clair Lake Playground Project: The Beechwood Park Homes and Beechwood South neighbourhoods have beautiful green spaces, but no playgrounds for our children and grandchildren. As the number of children in our community steadily grows, our Ward still has far fewer playgrounds than others in the City. Playgrounds are vital for the social, emotional, cognitive and physical well-being of children, and provide spaces for community members to connect.

We invite you to get involved and help us raise the funds needed to construct a playground -- designed for children ages 18 months to 12 years but open to everyone -- on City property adjacent to Clair Lake. To learn more or make a donation, please check out and ‘like’ our Facebook page www.facebook.com/clairlakeplayground or email us at clairlakeplayground@gmail.com.

STATUS OF FUNDRAISING TO DATE

After over 18 months of planning & applications the committee began its fundraising drive in June 2016 & many members will have met us at either the BPHA Produce Stand or at a summer BBQ Social. To date, we have raised over \$20,000 (11k collected & 9k pledged), covering the cost of the playground equipment itself. We are now working to raise the remaining \$25,000 needed for labour, landscaping, safety inspection, and HST. A \$2500 matching funds offer from a BSHA family was met in full! And a second matching funds challenge (also for \$2500) has been generously extended by Greg, Nicole & Lily Hallman, a BPHA family for donations collected by December 1st. **This type of matching offer effectively doubles your donation, so we urge all those interested in helping** to email us at clairlakeplayground@gmail.com to **make a donation** (donations over \$20 are eligible for tax receipts). We are also actively working with local businesses and organizations to secure in-kind donations of materials, labour, etc. to defray the remaining portion of the budget. To meet our fundraising goals and get closer to setting a construction date, we’re counting on your support. Here are **some specific ways** that you and your family can help make this playground a reality for our children and grandchildren:

1. **Art sale event:** Attend our Art Market (Saturday, Dec. 3rd) & bring all your friends & relatives; apply as a vendor; donate “pre-owned” art from your home for resale; and work with us on a silent auction and event preparations.
2. **Bottle drive:** Please donate bottles and cans by dropping them off to Julia Hutton at 375 Briarcliffe Place (on the right side of her house) or putting them by the curb for pick-up on Sunday, Nov. 27th.
3. **Finding sponsors:** We’ve contacted over a dozen local organizations about contributing and have leads on several more. Please let us know if you work for SunLife Financial, attend Creekside Church, are associated with the Rotary Club or Optimists Club, or if you have connections to other organizations that might want to support our playground.
4. **Canvassing neighbours:** We have visited homes on McCarron Cr and Briarcliffe Cr, but need additional volunteers to talk to their neighbours about getting involved. If you could talk to a few neighbours, please let us know and we’ll provide all the materials.
5. **Colouring book fundraiser:** Please contact us if your family could help sell (or buy) some beautiful coloring books (designed by Waterloo artist Paint by Munzy). These amazing books are suitable for adults or children, are about \$20.00 each with half of the sales coming to our playground.

Thanks for all of your support,
The Clair Lake Playground Committee

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.

- 301 Shakespeare Dr.: **Josh and Kate Windsor** and their 2 children Stratton (15) and Emma (13). Josh is a V.P. at Eastwood Collegiate while Kate is in Health and Safety at U.W.
- 256 Shakespeare Dr.: **Hamed Holisaz and Maryam Goudarzi** and their 4 year old daughter Parmida. Hamed is doing his doctorate in Electrical Engineering at U.W. while Maryam is a nurse.
- 324 Coleridge Dr.: **Fabrice Mugishu** and his mother are renovating their home with the intention of selling it next spring.
- 300 Shakespeare Dr.: **Ryan and Sydney Richards** relocated from Toronto and are expecting their first child in October. Ryan works in medical sales, while Sydney is a public relations consultant. They are currently working on a few updates to their new home and are looking forward to settling into the neighbourhood.
- Lions Gate Court: **Brian and Holly Bauer** and their 4 children, Jessie 16, Ben 14, Brooke 12, and Riley 8. They are very excited to be back in Waterloo in the Beechwood neighbourhoods. They have lived in Hawkesville for the past 19 years and recently moved to Waterloo this past August. They are looking forward to meeting all of the new neighbours and being part of such a great community of people.
- 184 Mohawk Dr.: **Bobby Campbell and Jun Jiang** and their 17 month old son Zian. Jun and Bobby moved here from Milton. Bobby is a guidance counselor at Eastwood Collegiate and Jun is a stay-at-home mom.

BACK TO WORK

After a year’s sabbatical at home looking after her young daughter Mika with her husband Paul, we wish Kyomi Harrington good luck as she reenters the workforce as a Public Relations manager with the technology firm Axonify. Kyomi had spent the previous 10 years with Blackberry doing media relations.

YOUTH JOB ADS

- Hannah (17) and Oscar (15) 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 and snow shoveling and Hannah and Oscar can housesit and look after your pet as well. If you are interested, please contact judelsonkelly@gmail.com, phone 519-342-4764 or go to <http://beechwoodhouseandgarden.weebly.com>.
- The Winstor children, Stratton would like to snow shovel for neighbours (swindsor15@gmail.com) while Emma is available for babysitting (winde2003@gmail.com).

GOODBYE FOR NOW

We wish John and Charlotte Holmes a wonderful stay this winter in their “second home” of Wanaka, New Zealand where they will be busy building themselves a new home. We look forward to seeing them back in the spring.

ITEMS FOR SALE OR GIVEAWAY

- We have a barely used **Jolly Jumper** with Stand to give away. First come, first serve. Our boy outgrew it and it was maybe used a dozen times. Please call Laura at 519-880-1469.
- If you like opera, you might be interested in buying some of my **Operas** on CD. There are some excellent recordings at bargain prices. If you would like more information please email me at brzozo@uwaterloo.ca. John Brzozowski
- We have a 52 inch **Portable Reebok Basketball System** for sale for all those times you just want to shoot some hoops. It has a Polycarbonate Backboard, Double Spring Rim, Roller Base, and an overall size of 30”x52”x120”. It can be stored outside year round. Best Offer. Please contact Deanne Hawes 519-747-4277.

A NEW BUSINESS FROM A LOCAL NEIGHBOUR: PARKER LAWRENCE CONCIERGE SERVICES

Michelle Parker, who lives at 270 Shakespeare Dr., together with her business partner Gillian Lawrence have recently launched a new venture with the goal of helping people take care of those daily details that can get in the way of a busy life. Their motto is “You cannot have it all, if you have to do it all”. Their business is all about helping out with the small stuff like grocery shopping, going to the dry cleaners, taking seniors to doctors’ appointments, watching the house or looking after the family pet during holiday times. They can provide Personal, Business, Auto, House Sitting, Senior, and Moving Services of a wide variety. While Concierge sounds posh, there is nothing posh about their services. It’s about getting people the help they need, when they need it, at a reasonable price. For more information about Parker-Lawrence you can call 226-791-8944 or visit their website at www.parkerlawrence.ca.

A NEW NOVEL FROM LOCAL RESIDENT JANE OZKOWSKI

Jane Ozkowski grew up on Longfellow here in Beechwood, went to W.C.I. and lifeguarded at our Rec Centre. She studied English at York University with the ultimate dream of becoming an author. Well, with lots of hard work and talent Jane has succeeded! Her first novel, **Watching Traffic**, was released on August 1st. It is a young adult novel, published by Groundwork Books and has been very well received. The book is available at bookstores such as Wordsworth Books and Chapters as well as on-line. Recently, she had the opportunity to read at the Eden Mills Writer’s Festival as well as the Word on the Street Festival in Toronto. She is still living in Toronto and working hard on her next novel. You can follow Jane at [Jane Ozkowski](http://JaneOzkowski.com) and read a review of her novel on line. Congratulations to Jane as well as her proud parents Nancy and Rick who still live on Longfellow.

UPDATE ON THE REFUGEE FAMILY OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD HAS SPONSORED

After arriving from Uganda in early July, Chantale, Roland, Yolande, Abigaele and Gradie stayed for about 6 weeks in the UW Columbia Lake townhouse complex. Abigaele and Yolande learned to ride bicycles (Gradie and Roland were already able riders). The BPHA very generously donated a membership for the family, so all 5 took swimming lessons at the pool and some of them tried their hand at some tennis. The family came to several BPHA Friday night bbq's at the pool, where they were able to meet many of our local residents.

In the middle of August they moved to their more permanent home, an apartment near Fairview Mall. This location was chosen because of special programs available for them at Eastwood Collegiate Institute and at the Kingsdale Community Centre on Wilson Avenue. Their building has a pool and basketball court and is, of course, quite close to shopping and the bus hub at Fairview Mall. It is a very multicultural area of town.

All 5 are now in school. Chantale is taking ESL and Roland is brushing up on some high school credits, both at St Louis Adult Learning Centre in downtown Kitchener. Yolande, Abigaele and Gradie are attending Eastwood Collegiate. Roland and Yolande both have good high school educations from Uganda and are looking forward to applying to university this winter.

The family has gotten connected with a church in Kitchener and has become quite involved there. Various family members have gone on outings with some of our sponsoring group members to Toronto FC soccer games and a Waterloo Siskin hockey game, among others. Roland participated in the Oktoberfest 5k Fun Run, where we discovered that he is a fast runner – he won his age group and came in 4th overall. And they've enjoyed their first traditional Canadian Thanksgiving dinner.

Winter is fast approaching, and will certainly be a shock to the system, but we hope to get some of the family out on the ice for some skating or into the woods for some cross country skiing. All in all, the family has settled in quite well. No doubt there will be some hurdles to overcome, and we'll deal with those as they arise.

Many thanks to the BPHA Wednesday market for many donations of fruits and vegetables, and to everyone who has supported the family in any way.

Dave Hare, Chair, Beechwood Park Refugee Group deghare@aurigaimaging.com

THE BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND



The 9th season of the Beechwood Produce Stand came to an end in mid-September, spanning 3 months from “Strawberries to Squash”. Thanks to the dedication of all our volunteers it was once again a very successful season. While there are too many to mention, we would like to say a special thank you to the following people: Jan Phillips, Dianne Ratcliffe, Maria Brzozowski, Joanne Struck, Myrna Singer, Bruce Frayne, Theo Van Der Kooy, Daniel Nairn, A.J. Garland, and Thea Andres. We couldn't have run the stand without you and all the other neighbours “big and small” who helped out week to week. It

was so great to see our community flock to the stand each week to “Break Bread” literally and figuratively with their neighbours. The stand, besides a place to buy fresh, local fruits and vegetables was a meeting place where people could pause and chat, get their knives sharpened, faces painted, sign up for a psychology trial at U. W., or learn about the Clair Lake Playground Project. The stand once again raised a significant amount of money which was “ploughed” right back into our immediate community with donations to both Keatsway and Centennial School

for their Nutrition for Learning Program, Kids Ability in memory of our wonderful long time neighbour John Lynch, as well as our own Beechwood Homes Association. Some of the leftover produce each week was given to our sponsored Refugee Family or taken to the Food Bank run by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society, in their Thank You Note conveyed "their utmost gratitude to Beechwood Park for the beautiful produce provided every Wednesday this past summer to our food cupboard. You helped to lift the spirits of many. "

Next June we hope to be back for our 10th season. Sincerely, Dolores Penner and Steve Singer

MEN'S TENNIS TOURNAMENT

It was Sunday, September 11th when twelve angry men gathered to vie for supremacy at the Annual BPHA Men's Doubles Tennis Tournament. Among those present were: Yusuf "the spin doctor" Mnysiwalla; "Shoeless" Joel Blit; "Cool Hand" Luke Eret; Scott "the preacher" Brubaker-Zehr; Mike "the wall" Dixon; Dante "the inferno" Pocrnich; Karl "the eye in the sky" Czekus; Tom "the kid" Paraschuk; Alex "the dad" Paraschuk, Pierre "the player to be named later, 'cause I don't know his last name" and Bob "strumming my" Gibson. Rounding out this apostolic roster was Sean McKenna.

As usual the tournament was marred by controversy even before it began. Sean was assigned the eminently reasonable nickname Sean "could my name be any more Celtic" McKenna by the esteemed organizers. In an egregious breach of etiquette he expressed dissatisfaction and proposed his own nickname: Sean "Safinator" McKenna. I immediately countered with Sean "riverdance" McKenna, but Karl convinced me that the image of multiple Irishmen trying to kick themselves in the arse was too much - even for us. Karl, ever the conciliator, dubbed him Sean "Saffron" McKenna. And so he shall be known throughout the land.

Partners were assigned randomly. Alliances were forged and broken. Unsuspecting partners were smoked in the back by errant serves. Friendships foundered. When the dust settled on the early rounds eight men were left. "Saffron" and "the spin doctor" faced Pierre and "C.H." Luke on court 2; "The wall" and "the preacher" vied against "the inferno" and "he of no shoes" on court one. The carnage that ensued during the semi-finals was akin to the various goings on in Norse Mythology.

Then there were four. "Saffron" and Yusef "the spin doctor" faced off against Scott "the preacher" and Mike "the wall" in the finals. In the early going Yusef's inside- out forehand was a thing to behold. The corkscrew action on the ball caused it to twist and turn like an election promise, leaving both Dixon and the man of God utterly unable to cope. In the latter stages of the set though, fueled by Jalapeno Poppers and loudmouth soup, Dixon and Brubaker-Zehr came roaring back. The battle raged on as the sun set over the field on the west side of the court... (I can hear Farmer Steve saying, "O.K. Dixon cut to the chase"). The long and the short of it was Mike "the wall" Dixon, and Scott "the preacher" Brubaker-Zehr emerged victorious.

Thanks to Sue Dixon for arranging the victuals, and to (El Presidente) Dianne Ratcliff for her support. Thanks to all of the participants named above. Thanks also to Jim "hosta hosta man" Wilkinson who despite being on the DL came to watch and raised heckling to an art form. Thanks also to Karl Czekus who once again did the lion's share of organizing.

Sincerely El Dixione

We hope you enjoy this edition of our Beechwood Park Homes Association Newsletter. It is designed to keep our community informed and connected. It's based on the simple premise that we are stronger if we know each other as neighbours. Many thanks to our contributors, our delivery people Barney Tracy, Jan Phillips and Sherry Hauser and to Tracey Nairn, our able editor. If you have any questions, concerns, or content for our next edition please send it to me at singercutt@golden.net. Thanks!!