



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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Westmount Postal Outlet
50 Westmount Rd N
Waterloo ON N2L 2R0

Recreation Centre:
293/5 Shakespeare Drive

Web Site: www.bpha.ca
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SPRING NEWSLETTER

May 2018

BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

President	Ivy Friedman	Maintenance Director	Don Capes
Vice President		Social Director	Sue Edwards
Secretary	Alison Frayne	Tennis Director	Mark Baetz
Treasurer	Luke Eret	Co-Pool Directors	Christine Valente
Payroll Officer	Lisa Heaton	Co-Pool Directors	Deborah Morden
Past President & Bookkeeper	Dianne Ratcliffe	Membership Director	Tracey Nairn

We're celebrating 50 years of community spirit! Come join us!

2018 BPHA Board Message

Thank you to everyone who registered for BPHA membership. Your support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you at the recreation centre and at our 50th Anniversary Events. If you have not registered yet, you still can by visiting our website, www.bpha.ca and completing a 2018 membership registration form. Please remember your membership is only complete once full payment has been received so please don't forget to send your payment by e-transfer or cheque upon registering. We encourage everyone who receives this newsletter to become members and join us in celebrating BPHA's 50th Anniversary. Through community spirit and countless volunteers, BPHA has been making memories since 1968. We're working to ensure the Association continues to make memories for 50 years more.

Board of Directors and Officers. We have an outstanding Board of Directors working energetically to make this year a fantastic one. Luke Eret, Sue Edwards, Don Capes, Alison Frayne, Mark Baetz, Christine Valente and Lisa Heaton return in their roles and we welcome Deborah Morden and Tracey Nairn on to help make our team even more successful. Dianne Ratcliffe has handed the president's baton to Ivy Friedman, but Dianne returns as Past President and serves as invaluable support to each role.

Additionally, we want to say thank you and send a fond farewell to Jun Jiang who is stepping away from the Board to welcome a new member to the family in May and wants the time to spend with her growing family. We wish her and her family all the best.

If you want to join our team, we are looking for volunteers to fill the roles of Vice President and Bookkeeper. It's a great way to get involved in the community. Please email us at info@bpha.ca for more information.

Making Memories since 1968! Come celebrate BPHA's 50th anniversary and commemorate this incredible achievement. Events include:

- A 50th Anniversary Neighbourhood Festival & Open House, June 2, 1-5:00 pm at our Recreation Centre (293 Shakespeare Drive). This event will kick off a season of celebration for our entire neighbourhood. Mayor Jaworsky and Councilor Henry will be in attendance; there will be food, entertainment and activities for the kids; loads of opportunities for residents to meet, swap stories and get involved with our 50th projects. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The unveiling of a Commemorative Stone and Plaque dedicated to the Wiebe Family. Abram Wiebe had the foresight to create this Homes Association, donating 2 lots of land for the Recreation Centre. We believe this is a long overdue recognition.
- A new sign for the recreation centre site! An updated sign, commissioned by Jukes Signs was installed April 18. Stop by and have a look! The old sign will be repurposed to make an artistically-designed towel rack near the change rooms.
- 50 trees for 50 years. Thanks to funding from the City of Waterloo Neighbourhood Matching Fund grant, BPHA is ordering and delivering 50 trees to interested residents so we can renew the aging tree canopy and maintain the beautiful green environment that makes us so distinct. Watch for updates at www.bpha.ca on how to claim your tree.
- History Book of our Neighbourhood. We want to share your stories about Beechwood Park in a commemorative booklet. If you have photos, stories or article clippings you wish to include in the history of the neighbourhood, please email us at info@bpha.ca.

A special thank you to the City of Waterloo for funding most of our 50th anniversary events.

2018 Social Events. With dreams of warm weather, Sue has been busy putting together some fun social events for this 2018 BPHA Season!

- Saturday, June 16th 7:30-11:00 pm: Adult Patio Party (19+) - Come join us as we celebrate the year 1968 with music from "Another Blind Date." Dress to impress! Cost is \$15.00 per person.
- Friday Night Pot Lucks and BBQ: 5:30 pm- 7:30pm, July 6th and August 17th
- Ladies Summer Social: more details to come
- Thursday, August 30th, 12:00pm- 2:00pm - Seniors Luncheon
- Monday, September 3rd, 5:00-7:30 pm - Labour Day Closing BBQ and Talent Show:
- Saturday, September 22nd - Fall Adult Social, more details to come
- Sunday, September 30th – Beechwood Golf Tournament, more details to come
- Wednesday December 5th - Adult Holiday Social and Cookie Exchange, more details to come.

Please welcome our summer staff! Christine, Deborah and Mark have been busy since last fall hiring lifeguards, and swim and tennis instructors for the summer months and they have a full and fantastic line up.

Poolside, you will see some familiar and some new faces! We are so pleased to welcome back our returning staff members, Zoe Andres, Abigail Toman, Victoria Giguere, Shealyn DeCoppel, and Carly Knibutat! Zoe is our Facility Manager, and Abigail Toman is our Assistant Manager.

Please join us in welcoming new staff members, Erin Dawdy, Liam Fast, and Nikesh Mehta-Spooner. Erin is a high school student who lives just a stone's throw away from the pool. She and her family are part of the Beechwood II community. Liam and Nikesh's families have been long-time members at BPHA; it's so nice to see these BPHA "kids" growing up and becoming the leaders for our current little ones!

On the tennis courts, we are pleased to have a full complement of experienced tennis coaches for the upcoming season: Oscar Judelson-Kelly, Kimia Kordestani and Jessie Bauer. They look forward to helping your children develop their tennis skills and abilities.

What's on Deck?

- Online registration for summer swimming and tennis lessons opens May 10. Visit bpha.ca for more information and to register.
- **New!** BPHA PD Day Camps (June 1 and June 29) run from 9am - 1pm, with lunch and snacks provided. Visit bpha.ca for more information.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help make Beechwood Park great!

Volunteers are essential to our community. It is a selfless service, but rewarding in so many ways. It is an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people, and contribute to the wellbeing of our neighbourhood. Life is busy, but if you have just a little time to spare, please consider volunteering with BPHA. If you are interested in any of the following committees or projects below, please email us at info@bpha.ca:

- 50th Anniversary Festival - we are looking for 10-15 volunteers to help set up before the event, tend to information and craft tables, slice and serve cake, BBQ burgers and hotdogs, and clean up afterwards.
- History Book Committee - we are looking for 4-6 volunteers to help collect and scan photos and stories, interview residents, design and organize layout, write up stories and edit content, and publish a BPHA keepsake. Students are encouraged to volunteer!
- Opportunities at the recreation centre - we are always looking for an extra helping hand or two (or three). Some tasks include: flipping pancakes, setting up board games, landscaping, painting, etc.

Pass it on. It's spring-cleaning time. As you empty garages and closets, please consider donating craft supplies, pool toys, BBQ supplies, and specifically a pancake griddle to BPHA. If you have something to donate to the association, please email info@bpha.ca and we will gladly pick it up. Thank you in advance!

On behalf of the entire board, we are looking forward to an amazing year of 50th anniversary events and connecting our past with the present and welcoming the future. Please join us!

Sincerely, Ivy Friedman

BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND

Our upcoming season begins again on Wednesday June 13th. Dolores and I and our dedicated group of volunteers look forward to providing our community fresh, delicious, locally grown fruits, vegetables, bread, and honey at our stand in front of the Recreation Centre on Shakespeare on Wednesdays from 12:00-6:00 pm all summer. If you or your children are interested in volunteering at the stand weekly or once in a while (we're flexible), please contact Dolores Penner at pennerfamily@rogers.com. So mark Wednesdays down on your summer calendar. We look forward to seeing you all.

Sincerely, Farmer Steve and Dolores

SUMMER BREAK-IN SEASON IS HERE

Here is a reminder - Neighbours please take care and secure your homes and vehicles, especially in the evenings and overnight. We recently had several break-ins involving neighbours' cars, and it serves to remind us all that locks discourage opportunistic theft. While we do live in a wonderful neighbourhood, we still need to be vigilant about security as this has been an ongoing problem for many years. If you should have a break-in (even minor), please report it to the Regional Police.

NEW NEIGHBOUR ARRIVALS IN BEECHWOOD

On behalf of the entire neighbourhood, we welcome the following new families to our community. We know you will enjoy living here as much as we all do.

- 338 Coleridge: Dalia Tubis, Scott Mellen and their 2 children Michael and Andrew recently moved here from Toronto.
- 311 Hiawatha: Peter Baxter and his wife Wendy and daughter Hailey 25 just moved here from Laurelwood. Peter has been the Director of Athletics at Wilfred Laurier for 20 years and Wendy manages the Coop program at Conestoga College.
- 324 Coleridge: Gin Ji, Vivian Guo and their 6 month old daughter Oliviiia recently moved here from Toronto.
- 285 Shakespeare Drive: Malcolm McRae and Dominique Kennedy and their 2 children Amelie 6 and Elodie 3 have moved here from Toronto.

NEIGHBOURS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Jim and Carole Wilkinson, who lives on Mohawk, had another successful Eye Mission Trip to Guatemala at the end of January 2018. This year's trip was to the remote mountaintop village of La Union in Zaca. They saw 911 patients, referred at least 100 of them for surgery and dispensed over 1000 pairs of eyeglasses. Despite this, the need is still very great and restoring sight makes a huge difference in these people's lives. Donations of used eyeglasses for this project can be dropped off at either of their optometry offices. Monetary donations are also appreciated and charitable receipts are available for financial gifts. You are welcome to email them at jimcarolewilk@gmail.com should you wish to make a contribution to this project. Thank you.
- Lorraine Stillaway, who lives on Mohawk, is interested in starting a discussion/reading group regarding issues of truth and reconciliation, as well as creating indigenizing projects in Waterloo and Kitchener. She would propose meeting once a month and hopes to schedule the first meeting in May, once a group of interested people have been identified. All meetings will be held using circle format and last no more than two hours. If anyone is interested or has questions. Please email at lorraine@stillaway.net. Thanks.
- Katie Gibb and Ed Korschewitz, who live on Longfellow, have been involved with a dog rescue group for several years. Their organization, Pound Dog Rescue is holding its 4th Annual HOWLER Dog Walk Fundraiser and Family Fun Day, June 9th 10:30-2:30, at the WRPA Recreation Centre, 1128 Rife Road, Cambridge. All proceeds raised go to helping dogs in need in our community. For more info and tickets go to PDRHOWLER.ca. You can also check out Pound Dog's website at <http://pdrhowler.ca/>. Thanks.

THE STORKS HAVE LANDED IN BEECHWOOD

As another generation of young families move into our area their new arrivals keep on coming. We congratulate:

- Goran and Erin Rakita (Coleridge) on the birth of Saffi Jean Rakita on March 1st, a little sister for Angela (6) and Ronin (2). They look forward to lots of stroller rides to the pool this summer.
- Paul and Kiyomi Harrington (Mohawk) on the birth of their daughter Noriko on December 10th. A baby sister for their daughter Mika.
- Zana Jalal and Marina Ivanova (Iroquois Place) on the birth of their daughter Alina on February 6th and little sister for their 5 year old son Theo.
- Briana and Danny Zur (Shakespeare Place) on the birth of their 5th grandchild to their daughter Jordana and son-in-law Aaron Horvath. Jordana grew up in Beechwood with her sister Elana (Amos Ave).
- 256 Shakespeare: Maryam and Hamid welcomed a sister Areesa for their 6 year old daughter Parmida on Nov. 30th last year.

BEECHWOOD POOL BOTTLE DRIVE - Tuesday May 22, 4-8 pm

The BPHA Pool Directors are organizing a bottle drive to be held on Tuesday, May 22 from 4-8pm. All money raised will be used to fund BPHA Youth Programs this summer. Please visit www.bpha.ca to add your address to the collection list, and have your refundable bottles and cans ready for pickup on that day in plastic bags or cardboard boxes left on the porch. Thanks for your support!

KEATSWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Keatsway P.S. is excited to announce that we have met our playground fundraising goal, which means we break ground this May! Many thanks to our supportive community, including our generous anonymous donor, who matched funds in the amount of \$25,000. Our ribbon-cutting ceremony takes place on May 31, 4:30 -7:00 pm, with food trucks, the unveiling of a special feature, and reflections on our 40th anniversary. We hope to see you out there – this playground will be a phenomenal resource for the children in our neighbourhood. The challenge circuit alone will be the largest in the region! For more information, please contact keatswayschoolcouncil@gmail.com. *Thanks, Christine Abicht.*

RECYCLING UPDATE FROM THE REGION OF WATERLOO

Last March, the new curbside collection changes started. These changes included lower garbage bag/can limits, garbage collection every other week, expansion of blue box and green bin collection to the Townships, and much more. Here are some impressive results:

- Green Bin tonnage increased by a whopping 120%,
- Blue box tonnage increased 8%,
- Yard waste tonnage increased 4%,
- Garbage tonnage decrease by 29%,
- A one-time giveaway of over 60,000 Blue Boxes,
- 22,000 Green Bins distributed,
- 500,000 fewer stops made per month by collection staff. (Results are less trucks on the road).

We have an amazing community! There was a lot to get used to with these changes. Thank you for your efforts and dedication to recycling more.

YOUTH JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

- **DOG WALKING:** Rhea 10 and Eshan 8 are available for dog walking in evenings in our Beechwood community. They love dogs. Please call 519-893-7854. Thanks, Sanjay Govindraj.
- **CHILDSITTING, TUTORING, YARDWORK:** Do you need someone to look after your kids? Oscar Judelson-Kelly is a responsible, hardworking, fun, and caring babysitter. He is certified by St. John's Ambulance and is available to tutor school subjects and musical instruments. Oscar is also available for house and pet sitting as well as yard work and snow shoveling. Please contact him at judelsonkelly@gmail.com or 519-342-4764.
- **CHILDSITTING & PET CARE AVAILABLE:** Emy Sanita, niece of Stefan Anne Marie (Shakespeare Dr.) is in Grade 8 at Centennial and has completed the Red Cross Babysitting course. She is experienced and available for after school, evening and weekend child care, and can also care for pets while you are away. Please contact Anne Marie at 519-886-5602 or emyloo531@gmail.com.
- **DOG WALKING:** Whether you're stuck in traffic and require a visit on short notice, or you wish to leave your pet at home whilst away on vacation, Lucas Midwood (Craigleith Drive) is able to visit your pet, and feed and exercise as instructed. He has familiarity with fish, birds, reptiles, cats and dogs. Lucas can be reached at 519-957-9136.

YOUTH ATHLETES IN OUR COMMUNITY

We have some amazing youth athletes in our neighbourhood. Here are a few of them.

- Bennett Ruby (Longfellow) is 16 years old in Grade 11 at WCI and plays golf at the Westmount Golf Club. Last season Bennett finished top 15 at the Ontario Junior Spring Classic and 4th in a National event in Fernie, B.C. with a final round 68. This year he was selected to play on the U19 Team Ontario team as well as Can-Am matches in South Carolina. Bennett's goal would be to earn a scholarship to a U.S. university and play golf all year round.
- Nathan Kim (Coleridge) is 11 years old and attends Our Lady of Lourdes P.S. and has been curling since he was 7 and loves it! He practices 3 times a week and competed in 10 bonspiels, placing first, second, or third, in nine of them. Nathan's team took 1st place in a 2 day Challenge Cup event sponsored by Curling Canada. His mom Julie wanted people to know that there are junior programs for new curlers at Westmount G.C. Thursdays and Sundays and the Granite Club on Sundays.
- Elizabeth Slawson (Shakespeare) is 16 years old and attends WCI. Elizabeth has been Synchro Swimming since she was 6 years old. Synchro is a busy sport entailing 15-20 hours a week of training from Sept.-June. She is in her 4th season swimming at the National level and competes on teams with swimmers from all over Ontario at provincial and national event. She competes in solo, duet, and team events. She was recently at the Canadian National Championships in Windsor representing Ontario.
- Kamilah & Adrienne Henderson (Mohawk). Kamilah Grade 9 at KCI where she participated in basketball, volleyball and rugby school teams. She also plays club volleyball and basketball. KCI's team won the city championship this year! She is currently recovering from a broken ankle...but hopes to back playing sports in June. Adrienne Grade 5 at Keatsway and participates in volleyball, track, and basketball. She also has played club basketball the last 3 years.
- Alina Armbruster (Shakespeare) was born in February and had to wait three months for the BPHA pool to open to get started swimming. From that point on she swam wherever she found water and joined the Region of Waterloo (ROW) Swim club when she was 8. Alina now swims 6 times/week with the Gold Group and recently swam at Provincials in Etobicoke, placing in the top 20 in breaststroke. She loves pushing herself to always swim faster!

THE 3 MUSKETEERS – Kathryn, Kendra, and Jazmine

Kathryn Frazer, Kendra Phillips, and Jazmine Heaton, 3 friends from our community, volunteered at our Produce Stand for several years when they were younger. We always enjoyed their time with us, helping customers, setting up the stand, and discussing a variety of topics during the slow times which produced lots of laughs. They still come by the Stand to say hello from time to time. Kendra introduced me to the Harry Potter series (we also share the same birthday exactly 50 years apart) while Jazmine used to visit me while I was recuperating from hip replacement surgery. Kathryn and Kendra used their Stand experience to work for Naumans at the Waterloo market the past several years as well as do a lot of child care in our neighbourhood. Alas, tempus fugit (time flies) and they are now all grown up and going off to university/college. Kendra will be taking a business degree (location to be decided), Jazmine will be taking Fashion Management at George Brown College, and Kathryn will be entering the Physics program at Queens. We wish them lots of luck!

THE HARES ARE LOOKING FOR HOME TO RENT JULY 2019-AUGUST 2020

After 17 years, 4 kids and 2 cats, we've sold our treehouse (and home with it) at 271 Shakespeare Drive and are moving on. We'll be sending the next year in Nova Scotia, and then we'll be back in this area for another year.

Apropos of all that we would like to rent a home in Beechwood for about a year and are quite flexible about the dates. We are also looking for a home for our 2 cats 9 and 17 for the year. They are short-haired females, healthy, sprayed and declawed indoor cats. If you are interested please get in touch.

Finally, we'll be having a garage sale at our home on **Saturday May 26th, 9:00-noon** (June 2 as rain date). Please drop by to say hello and goodbye and take home that little (or big) something that you've never (always) needed.

Dave & Kathryn Hare 519-746-8141, deghare@aurigaimaging.com.

A MILK BONE RECIPE FOR ALL DOG LOVERS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

My wife Myrna was not happy with some of the artificial ingredients in the store bought Milk Bones she was buying for Sparky and Eddie. So she went online and found the following special recipe you can make right at home with all natural ingredients. Sparky and Eddie absolutely love them and we hope your dogs will too!

Ingredients: 3 cups of whole wheat flour, ½ cup of dry milk, 1 cup of hot water, 1 teaspoon sea salt, 1 package beef stock or beef flavoured bouillon cube, 1 egg.

Preparation Instructions: In a large bowl add flour, dry milk and sea salt. Prepare beef stock or bullion in hot water and pour into bowl. Add egg. Thoroughly mix and place in fridge for 15 minute to chill. Roll dough out to ½ inch thick and cut with a bone shaped cookie cutter. Place on lined cookie sheet. The dough won't spread so they can be placed close together. Prick each treat with fork tines to allow steam to escape. Since these are thick this will prevent the bottom from burning before the center has cooked. You can brush the tops with egg white to make them look pretty but this is totally optional! Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Remove to rack to cool.

Follow the instructions above and you will end up with a tasty treat that is crunchy on the outside and soft and chewy on the inside. For harder treats, turn off the oven and leave the treats in for a few hours. Leftovers should be put in an airtight bag and can be stored in the freezer for months.

WILD KINGDOM

You don't have to go to the Zoo, the African Lion Safari, or Northern Ontario, to see wildlife these days. Just step outside your door here in the neighbourhood, especially at dusk or in the early morning, and there's a good chance you will see a herd of 6-7 deer, a slinky coyote or a sly fox (I haven't seen him giving the Gingerbread Man a lift on his nose across Clair Creek - yet), all of whom have decided to call our greenbelt home (and sometimes our front yards and streets); along with the usual bebies of birds, ducks, geese, and rabbits. Why not, when our area has lots of protected forest and creek, no predators to speak of, no pesticides, friendly neighbours (that's us), and abundant food sources which unfortunately includes our plants and shrubs. It's great to see but a note of caution about letting your small pets out in the backyard; especially since coyotes can jump over fences 6 feet high! And be careful driving!!

BEECHWOOD PARK HISTORY

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Beechwood Park and its Homes Association. With this in mind, we have put together what we hope you will find to be some interesting facets of its history in the articles below.



BEECHWOOD PARK: A CHRONOLOGY

- 1962** First homes are constructed in the Longfellow/Tennyson area.
- 1965** Incorporation of the Beechwood Park Homes Association
- 1968** Opening of the Recreation Centre at 293-295 Shakespeare Drive
- 1987** Proposed high rise development on Keatsway becomes low rise townhouses instead due to the work of the Beechwood Park Homes Association.
- 1988** Associate membership category is created.
- 2003/05** Beechwood Park Homes Association and its membership are instrumental in convincing the City of Waterloo to review and ultimately change their long term student housing strategy that was threatening residential neighbourhoods throughout the city.
- 2005** 110 of the 40 year home covenants expire.
- 2007** New Gazebo is built by Beechwood Park residents at the Recreation Centre.
- 2010** The remaining 35, 40 year home covenants expire and Beechwood Park becomes a completely voluntary neighbourhood association.
- 2012** The local boundaries of the Beechwood Park Homes Association are formally expanded.
- 2015/17** The Clair Lake Beautification Project is completed by the City of Waterloo.
- 2017** The Clair Lake Park Playground is officially opened in the greenbelt beside Centennial School.
- 2018** Beechwood Park Homes Association and the community celebrate 50 years of neighbourhood building, honouring the Wiebe family's original vision for our community.

THE WIEBES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEECHWOOD PARK

Beechwood Park was the vision of Abram Wiebe, who through his company Major Holdings created our award winning community between 1956 and 1976. Abram's wife Dorothy and daughter Sheila, who still live in the family home built in 1962 at the top of Tennyson Drive were invited to speak about the early history of Beechwood Park at an AGM of the our homes association in 2009. Here are a few fascinating excerpts:

"Dad started purchasing land in 1956. He wanted to create neighbourhoods that were divided from one another by parklands with no road access between them. Communities that had places for single families, green spaces for public use, recreation facilities, shopping areas, land for a fire station, higher density areas for high rise apartments and townhouses as well as industrial areas. Dad introduced the concept of a Homes Association for residents, and a recreation centre provided free by the company, which was turned over to the residents to manage and maintain. Dad built our Recreation Centre because there was a strong presence of families with children; our street alone had about 40 children who needed to have a place to play. By building and providing a central meeting place that had a pool and tennis courts, it would create a closer community feel for the families as well as recreational facilities that were close.

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." New innovations included having all services already installed prior to the start of house construction, as well as underground wiring for street lights, connecting walkways, wooded slopes and winding streams that were to be preserved for public use. When the foundations to houses went in, only the most necessary trees were to be taken down and the rolling topography of the land was maintained.

Dorothy Wiebe built many of the beautiful custom homes in our neighbourhood through her company Vintage Homes which began in 1963. These homes varied widely in design and were patterned after Georgian, French Provincial, American Southern Colonial, Frank Lloyd Wrights' Robie House in Chicago as well as a house designed after John Keats home in Medway, England. In conclusion, here is a final random thought from my dad that 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.”

THE CLAIR FAMILY AND BEECHWOOD PARK

Joan (Clair) Wolf, who still lives with her husband Michael in the original farm house built in 1822 at 15 Braeburn Place, Waterloo, was the granddaughter of George Clair. Her father Clarence “Bud” Clair, who was in the masonry trade, bought their farm from Hannah Martin, granddaughter of Amos Weber Sr., after whom Amos Ave. is named and built the dam that created Clair Lake in 1949. (The year 1949 is still etched in the concrete buttress of the dam today! The first dam had been built by Amos Weber Sr. in the 1870’s to provide water power to run a lathe, water pump, grinder and other small implements on the farm a half kilometer away.)

In 1959, the developer Major Holdings, bought a large portion of the farmland from Bud Clair. Bud kept 10 acres on which he built a new modern home adjacent to Clair Lake where he moved to with his family. At that time the address was 157 Amos Ave., since Amos was a pathway across the bridge of the dam that ran past the original farm buildings over to Columbia St. In 1973, when Amos Ave. was truncated at Marlowe Drive, 157 Amos became 344 Marlowe (now the home of Kay Wentzell). The 8 acre parcel of land that Centennial Public School sits on was sold by Bud Clair to the Waterloo Public School Board in 1967.

In the early 1960’s, Bud Clair made an agreement with the City of Waterloo that if they loaned him a pair of Swans, he would give them half of the cygnets each year. Everyone was astonished when he raised 22 swans on Clair Lake in 5 years. He also stocked the lake with trout and invited residents to use the area for fishing and picnicking until a few began to take advantage of his generosity and he restricted fishing to those under 10 years of age. In 1967, the City of Waterloo officially named this waterway, Clair Creek and Clair Lake. Bud Clair passed away at the age of 90 in 2006. Clair Lake and the surrounding greenbelt park has remained a central feature of Beechwood Park and provides much pleasure for the residents and visitors to the area. When I moved here in 1973 with my husband Roy and daughters, Ruth and Susan, we realized that we had found a corner of beauty in the City of Waterloo, and we saw that the lake would need some attention in order to preserve its natural charm. With that in mind, Roy and Hugh Lemon, an ardent naturalist who lived on Craighleith, worked together for years to remove and replace the boards in the dam at the appropriate times of the year to mitigate flooding and preserve the integrity of the lake. As time passed, it became increasingly clear that the lake needed to be dredged to improve the health of the lake for the aquatic life and human enjoyment. It was partially dredged by the City of Waterloo in 1983. It was dredged again in 2015, after a task force, chaired by Brian Dixon (Marlowe Drive) and supported by enthusiastic Beechwood Park Homeowners was created in 2005 to work with the City of Waterloo for the better part of a decade to see this \$1.5million dollar project through to completion. The project included new dredging, new plantings, and silt traps to prevent silt building up in the lake down towards the dam.

May Beechwood Park provide enjoyment for all who visit Clair Lake and area for many generations into the future!

By Kay Wentzell

EARLY BEECHWOOD MEMORIES

My earliest memories of Beechwood Park are as a high school student. (I babysat my cousins and took them to the pool. Many years later we purchased my Aunt and Uncles home on Mohawk. Our family spent many happy hours at the pool and tennis courts. Beechwood Park is a very special place to raise a family. Our daughters worked as lifeguards at the pool; a super place to work! Our summer holidays were always planned around the mini Olympics; the winner got their name on a trophy and ribbons were handed out. The penny carnival was a highlight of the summer too! Senior bus tours were a regular sight at Christmas as many neighbours went all out decorating their homes.

A generation later our 3 grandchildren, Sloan, Eleanor, and Brynn are signed up for pool lessons at our Rec Centre for the first time and I am still playing tennis there. Exciting stuff!

Sincerely, Sherry Hauser

BEECHWOOD PARK & COMPUTER SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

A Creation Story That Changed Our City

Words like Visionary and Foresight are the only way to describe the decision by the Board of Governors of Waterloo College to create the new University of Waterloo in 1957. Industrialists including: Carl Pollack of Electrohome, Ira Needles of B.F. Goodrich, A.R. Kaufman of Kaufman Footwear and Gerald Hagey, President of Waterloo College and formerly of B.F. Goodrich decided it was time to establish a university centered around Engineering and co-operative education (coop: 4 months' work, 4 months school). And it was Abraham Wiebe, the developer of our Beechwood Park neighbourhood, who provided the land for the University of Waterloo South and North campus under very favourable terms.

Faculty at the new university quickly decided to offer courses in the use of computers to Engineers within the Mathematics Department in the Faculty of Arts and made a game changing decision to purchase its first IBM digital computer in 1960. But who was going to teach these new Computer Science Courses to a rapidly growing group of bright and motivated engineering and mathematics students from throughout Ontario?

Don Cowan had just finished an Engineering Physics degree at the University of Toronto in 1960. At the age of 22 he made the life-altering decision to forego a job with Atomic Energy of Canada in Chalk River after being recruited to join UW as a teaching assistant in 1960 (the pay was \$250/month plus free tuition) in the Department of Mathematics while pursuing a Master's Degree. By 1965 Don had completed his PhD in Applied Mathematics and in 1967 was appointed the founding Chairman of the Applied Analysis and Computer Science Dept. within the newly created Faculty of Mathematics, one of the first of its kind at North American universities; the same year that the new \$5 Million Math and Computer building opened on campus, complete with most powerful computer in Canada at the time, the IBM 360/75 which cost more than the building itself. In April of 1968 Don and his wife Marg moved into their home at 276 Shakespeare Drive, joined the newly created Beechwood Park Homes Association, and began raising their children John, Mike, and Christine.

John Brzozowski immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1949, after surviving 9 years of World War 2 and its aftermath in Kazakhstan, Persia, and Lebanon. In 1957, John graduated from Electrical Engineering at the University of Toronto with a Bachelor degree followed by a Master's degree in 1959. He was accepted into the highly competitive PHD program in Electrical Engineering at Princeton University (home of Albert Einstein) where he completed his degree in

Mathematical Models of Computers in 1962. Ironically, John had taught Don Cowan in 1958 when Don was a U. of T. undergraduate, perhaps foreshadowing the twinning of their future career paths. After stints as a professor at the Universities of Ottawa and Berkeley, John was attracted to the upstart University of Waterloo that was beginning to develop a worldwide reputation for its computer science excellence and was working hard to attract world-class talent; he was hired by none other than Don Cowan. In August 1967 John with his wife Maria moved into their new home at 289 Shakespeare Drive, just up the street from the Cowan's future home. They too became charter members of the neighbourhood association where they and their children Mike and Teresa developed many friendships and a lifelong love of tennis. John like Don before him was the 4th and 6th Chairman of Computer Science, serving from 1978-1983 and again from 1987 to 1989.

Don and John were part of a group of bright, tireless, and innovative professors that laid the foundation for U.W.'s world-class David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science of today. Competing against the likes of University of Toronto, Princeton, M.I.T. and Stanford, these apostles of spreading computer science education to the masses created a revolutionary approach that emphasized: attracting world class faculty globally, maximizing hands-on computer training of undergraduates, coop education, close ties with industry and government, innovative software solutions to performance and throughput of their teaching computers, aggressive promotion of computer science at high schools (6000 high school students, including my wife Myrna, were visiting UW annually by 1965), and a willingness to take risks that larger more established programs at other universities would not.

Don and John were not the only Computer Science faculty that lived in our neighbourhood. Starting at one end of Shakespeare they included Gaston Gonnet (244) a founder of MapleSoft, George Labahn (still resides at 250) also a MapleSoft founder, Paul Dirksen (272) who became Director of the Computer Centre and was instrumental along with Paul Cress and Wes Graham in writing the high-speed compilers Watfor and Watfive and the accompanying books that became the gold standard in programming education globally, John Vellinga (279) who flew for Air Canada and also taught computer science at UofW, and Charlotte and Pat Fischer (306), Americans who came here from UBC and Cornell. It's hard to imagine the huge impact these individuals had locally, nationally, and internationally. The City of Waterloo has become Silicon Valley North and companies like Open Text (which originated from the Oxford English Dictionary Computerization Project undertaken by UofW in the 1980s) MapleSoft, Desire to Learn, Blackberry, Kik, and many others that employ tens of thousands of Computer Science graduates worldwide, all owe their beginnings to the teaching and research in Computer Science at the University of Waterloo.

Don and John both formally retired in 1996 but remain active in their profession. They still reside in their original homes on Shakespeare Drive. Don and Marg have 5 grandchildren, John and Maria 3 and they have been continuous members of the Beechwood Park Homes for 50 years. John was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement award by CS-Can/Info-Can, the national organization of Canadian university computer science departments in 2016; Don will be receiving the same award for 2017 this year; both for being pioneers in the development of world-class computer science education in Canada whose long term economic and social impacts are incalculable. What wonderful lives they have lived and continue to live!

THE SAGA OF HIAWATHA DRIVE

On April 1st 1957 John and Magdalena Putschli and their 3 children moved from Louisa St. in Kitchener into the farmhouse on Amos Ave. that was situated on 5 acres of farmland they had recently purchased. John and Magdalena had both immigrated to Canada from Europe in 1950, met at the Schwaben Club, and married. John went to work at Burns Meats and they lived with Magdalena's parents. Raised on a farm in the old country John had a desire for some land and so bought the 5 acre parcel that was eventually to become Hiawatha Drive.

At the about the same time Abraham Wiebe's Major Holdings Developments was busy accumulating farmland in the same area that would eventually become our neighbourhood of Beechwood Park. They purchased the Bauman land (Coleridge), the Gill farm (Marlowe), and the Clare farm (Shakespeare, Mohawk, and Clair Lake etc.) and began building their first homes about 1962 in the Longfellow, Iroquois Place, Tennyson area.

As time went on John and Magdalena moved from the original farmhouse to a home they built themselves at 128 Amos in 1968, across from the new Centennial School. At about the same time John approached the City of Waterloo and set about creating a Plan of Subdivision for 22 house lots on Hiawatha that was completed in 1972. One of these lots John and Magdalena kept for themselves and built a new home in 1976. The remainder were sold to another builder after they could not come to an agreement with Major Holdings to buy their Plan of Subdivision.

Because of the unusual boundaries of their different parcels of land, John and Major Holdings arranged a land exchange at the end of Hiawatha near Coleridge that resulted in Major Holdings owning 6 lots. The homes on these lots became covenanted members of the Neighbourhood Association that began in 1968 and could use the Recreation Centre that had been built on Shakespeare Drive. The remainder of the homes on Hiawatha, having been built by someone else, were not able to join the association or use the Recreation centre.

This stroke of fate lead to the unfortunate situation that families who lived on the same street and whose kids went to school and played together could not go to the Beechwood Rec Centre together except as occasional guests. Many of the unaffiliated families wanted to join the Association but for various perceived legal reasons their successive requests were denied by the Beechwood Board until 1987. In September of that year the Board received yet another letter from 4 families on Hiawatha, the Adairs, the Morbeys, the Reynolds, and the Wynnes, requesting that they be considered for associate memberships in the Association that would be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Steve Singer, who was President of The Board of Directors at that time asked Gary Hauser, his Legal Director, to provide a legal opinion as to whether admitting associate members would jeopardize the covenant agreement with its existing membership base. Gary provided a well-researched, detailed legal review that concluded that "the applicants could legally be admitted to membership and that existing members would not be able to legally withdraw as a result of the inclusion of new members. I feel it would only be logical to admit as members the rest of the residents on Hiawatha to resolve once and for all the hiatus of Hiawatha."

On May 4th 1988, at a Special General Meeting convened by the Board in the library of Centennial School, the membership approved the creation of an Associate Membership category. Of note is the fact that Beechwood Park was the first of the 12 Beechwood Associations to create an Associate Membership classification. Ultimately, in 2010 the "Local" catchment area of the BPHA was formally extended to include Hiawatha and other adjoining streets in our neighbourhood that were not part of the original development, meaning that all homes are now on an equal membership footing.

John and Magdalena Putschli, now in their 90's, still live in their home at 302 Hiawatha; they are most probably the longest standing residents of our community, 61 years!

That's all for the 50th anniversary Spring Issue of our Newsletter. We hope you find it both informative and enjoyable and we encourage feedback on anything in this issue or ideas for future issues. Once again, a big thanks to our amazing newsletter editor, Tracey Nairn, and to all the volunteers who deliver it to the 400 local homes in our community.

Sincerely, Steve Singer, BPHA Newsletter Editor, singercutt@golden.net