

GLENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2015

VIA Corridor A contractor was hired to cut the underbrush and clean the ditches along the VIA corridor. This work caused drainage issues, preventing water from flowing into the culvert under the railroad tracks. The VIA Rail foreman was contacted and the problem corrected by extending and re-profiling the ditches to prevent any sediment blockage and to minimize standing water. This repair should ensure proper water flow during the spring thaw. The VIA maintenance partner, Rail Term, will be inspecting, cleaning and repairing culverts in the area. Overall drainage will be monitored and assessed to determine whether further action is required. Residents reported that the new ditch is wide and looks very smooth so the runoff water should have no trouble flowing to the culvert under the railroad tracks. Residents noted that this was an excellent example of corporate responsibility and response to neighbourhood concerns.

Traffic Issues in Grenfell Glen Vehicle speed is an ongoing issue in Grenfell Glen. While the 'No Right Turn 7-9 am' sign has reduced morning traffic volume, afternoons are busy. Along Burnbank and Avonlea, drivers rushing to events in Grenfell Park create concern. During July and August, speed boards were positioned on several streets as part of funding available through our Counsellor's office. While traffic volume on Grenfell Crescent (defined as a Collector Road) was short of the standard (2,000 vehicles per day), speed at the 85th percentile was more than 10k/hr greater than the posted limit (40 k/hr). As a result, next spring, Grenfell Crescent will have the speed limit painted on the pavement at 4 locations. Unfortunately, there were no soccer or baseball games in the park on any of the 'speed board' days. A special request was made to paint the speed limit on Burnbank but the recorded speeds did not meet the criteria so that request was denied. Public Works suggested



'Playground Ahead' signs on all streets leading to the park. The signs were to be installed in October. Thank you for displaying the 'Slow Down for Us' signs this summer.

Grenfell Burnbank Intersection Traffic Assessors re-examined this intersection again and reported: 'While there is a non-conventional geometric skew to the intersection', from the final stop position, sightlines exceed the requirements of the Ontario Traffic Manual. All-way Stop Controls are intended to alternate right of way at the intersection. The Manual specifically states that all-way stop signs are inappropriate as a speed control device or as a means to deter traffic in a residential area.

Grenfell Park For many years, vehicles have damaged the soccer pitch in Grenfell Park (by practicing 'donuts') and the cost of repair has been noticed. After many promises for barriers, this year a cedar fence was installed behind the baseball parking area where vehicles used to access the soccer pitch. In collaboration with the NCC, a gate on Avonlea, west of Pratt, now limits access from the south.

Fall Clean-up in Grenfell Glen On October 3rd, 5 seniors filled 8 garbage bags with trash and 3 with bottles, cans and plastic (recycled). The City was quick to collect the bags of trash on Monday morning. Since the spring clean-up, frustrated residents filled at least 2 garbage bags with trash thrown into the bush beside the park or ditches along Grenfell Crescent. The City was contacted at least 3 times to clean up larger deposits, including a load of dirt dumped in the ditch.

Drainage Ditches in the Glens A number of drainage and ditch questions have been raised over the years. Some residents wanted to replace a ditch with a covered culvert to ease yard maintenance while others were concerned about water flow, although flooding does not seem to be a problem. An issue came to light recently when a hole appeared in a driveway culvert. The city replaced the old driveway culvert but the culvert along some of their lot frontage was removed and the area ditched. The GCA contacted the City regarding the possibility of a new policy. A meeting between the city and the Association revealed that there are two options to address requests to alter ditches. The first is to refuse requests and enforce the provisions of the Drainage By-law, which prohibits alterations to existing ditches. The second is to consider requests through a managed process to allow ditch alterations to proceed that are technically feasible, and do not cause detrimental impact to existing drainage on public or private property. Implementation of these drainage improvements must follow the City's Local Improvement process. It is not the City's intention to proactively remove all ditch pipes. However, when a ditch pipe is structurally at the end of its lifecycle and/or is failing or contributing to property flooding, the City will remove the pipes and re-establish the ditch. GCA asked for a review of infill houses where changes in grading resulted in neighbours being flooded.

Investigation revealed that there was a washout of a laneway at the MacFarlane location which was blocking the end of the culvert. Staff have gone in and cleaned the loose sediment out of the ditch and have re-instated the access laneway. The water is moving again and there is no water in the ditch at present time.

Pineglen Park Bonfires in the Pineglen Park have been noticed and police notified. Teens are lighting fires during daytime hours (noon until 6 p.m.) in the basketball court area.

Community Mailboxes On October 26, 2015 Canada Post temporarily suspended the program to convert door-to-door mail delivery to community mailboxes. Unfortunately our 10-month internal and community conversion process was completed so we will continue to collect mail and parcels at the CMB. Inadequate lighting has been identified as a challenge at some of the CMBs. Call 1 800 267-1177 to report problems.

If picking up mail at the CMB causes you undue hardship, contact Canada Post at: 1 844 454-3009 and request mail accommodation. If you qualify for year-long accommodation, you will receive your mail

once a week (usually Wednesday). There are other forms of accommodations available specific to your medical conditions.

If you are unhappy collecting unsolicited mail you have a chance to put an end to all the unaddressed mail that's ending up in mailboxes every day. Call Canada Post at [1-866-607-6301](tel:1-866-607-6301) and request that no more unaddressed ad mail be put into your mailbox. You'll see the difference in about a week. An added benefit is that less ad mail reduces paper waste and is good for the environment. Call today if this matters to you.

Drummond Property The case was settled this fall. The Zoning By-law prosecution against Drummond Family Holdings Ltd. was disposed of before the Provincial Offences Court with a conviction. The Defendant, through its lawyer entered a guilty plea to contravening the By-law on January 20th, 2014 (the "charge date") - using the lands for landscaping storage. The Court heard facts that the defendant had permitted (through its tenant) landscaping storage including storing organic landscaping debris and stockpiling road salt, sand, and gravel and that these uses resulted in complaints of nuisance from nearby residents. The Court accepted the guilty plea and imposed a conviction under the Zoning By-law against the defendant. A joint submission as to penalty was accepted by the Court as reasonable which included a fine, with surcharges, in the total amount of \$5,000. The prior tenant (Zone 5 Landscaping) vacated the property in July 2015, and removed the salt storage structure. Drummonds retained a third party contractor (USL-1 Underground Services Locators Inc.), to conduct a sonar investigation of the property and in August 2015 they concluded that there are no underground storage tanks present. The City has acknowledged the existence of a legal non-conforming right to the property in relation to "a storage yard used for the purpose of the outdoor storing of vehicles, including heavy vehicles, equipment, machinery, and materials, provided such materials do not produce odours, dust or runoff likely to be a nuisance to adjacent residential uses and specifically excluding materials such as road salt, aggregates including sand or gravel, and organic materials including grass cuttings or compost". Residents expressed concerns with the length of time the defendant was able to delay the proceedings. Residents also have outstanding questions related to the death of nearby trees and possible contamination. They are stressing that wells are a serious issue and that our community is extremely concerned. If the City does not take adequate steps ensure our safety in this regard, each homeowner affected will have an independent right to claim damages against the City. Moreover, it could be the subject of a class action suit. Those issues are still being considered by the legal department. We are also waiting for the results from monitoring wells,

The Glens will be celebrating Canada's 150 Birthday in 2017 The City has new funding opportunities to help us celebrate. Any non-profit group with a reasonable proposal can count on \$5,000. The celebration has to coincide with a national holiday (Canada Day, Victoria Day, Thanksgiving, Labour Day etc.). If another date is suggested, Heritage Canada may offer funding. Ottawa will be a centre of celebrations, hosting many events: a Picnic on the Bridge (the Alexandria Bridge will be covered in turf); an Outdoor Video Games Festival; the Juno Awards; special sporting events and more. Plus, the city is hoping for legacy initiatives such as the Aga Khan Centre for Pluralism, Bank of Canada Currency Museum, NAC and Science Museum redevelopment, new community gardens, a million trees planted and maple grooves in each ward. To mark Canada's 150th birthday 150 Canadian maple groves will be planted in all 23 wards.

The over-arching themes for proposals are: how to help celebrate being Canadian; how to ignite our future; and how to inspire new generations. Applications for funding must be submitted by summer 2016 so we have time to put on our thinking caps. If you wish to volunteer, help, or have a great idea to share please contact Pat McLachlan (tel. [613-225-6913](tel:613-225-6913)) or email her at patriciamclachlan@gmail.com

Clearview 2175 Prince of Wales (POW) is no longer listed under development applications. The site orientation and access issues made it difficult to find potential buyers and obtain building approval. It would be a wonderful place for a community centre for our area but the city has no funds to purchase private property. The owner continues to look for the right developer.

Wildlife Issues We live in the territory of a diverse community of animals. Coyotes, racoons, bears, fishers and hawks have been observed. Unfortunately, we sometimes find ourselves in conflict with our wild neighbours. The recent brush clearances done by VIA Rail and Hydro displaced many animals and increased the number of complaints. The best we can do is to keep our pets safe.

P15 parking lot causes concerns again. Cruising Gay Ottawa identifies Slack Road as the place for married business executives to meet. The two main paths are listed and both active at some time of the day. Concerns are related to leftover sex paraphernalia, visibility, and lack of discretion. Although, it's said that the majority of gay men who cruise parks do so discreetly in areas and at times when kids aren't going to stumble across a sexual encounter, a number of residents attest to this not being a reality. Several police complaints were lodged this year.

Development After 40 years, Ottawa landmark Silver Dollar Exotic Club have seen its last exotic dance. The building had a long history. It is remembered as a restaurant that made the best pizza and later a hot spot for well-known Ottawa Valley country acts. It was a hopping country bar back in the late 70s early 80s for live Country and Bluegrass acts that featured local talent (Terry Carisse and "Tracks", Ricky Scaggs and Boon Creek). The new owners (Greenhawk Inc.) are proposing a distribution and retail of equestrian supplies.

Movati Athletic A new stand alone athletic facility will be built on the 'back lot' of the mall that used to house Target. Almost half the building previously occupied by Target is being demolished.

NCC Restoration Project – Update Pinhey Sand Dunes (PSD)
Since 2012, the National Capital Commission (NCC) and dedicated volunteers from Biodiversity Conservancy International have been working to improve the biodiversity of the natural sand dune ecosystem in the Greenbelt. Most recently, the NCC closed P15 parking lot off Slack Road and trails in the area for a few days last fall (2014) to remove 50 trees, some of which were not in good condition. During the summer months (2015), volunteers with Biodiversity Conservancy International removed debris from the site. As funding becomes available, the NCC will remove a few trees to enhance sightlines along the path to the site. The first restoration site, located at Pineland Avenue and Vann Drive is hot and dry and this second site at P15 is adjacent to a swampy area and inhabited by a variety of amphibians. Sand dune grasses will be reintroduced in parts of the second restoration site to encourage different dune species. The NCC will also be identifying one additional restoration new Greenbelt trailhead parking area along the north side of Slack site west of P15 (location and restoration dates to be determined). A new Greenbelt trailhead parking area along the north side of Slack Road and West of

Vaan Drive is also being considered to reduce the risk of parked cars congesting Pineland Avenue.

Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction The City has prepared a protocol intended to help reduce the direct impact of development on wildlife that occurs during construction and to reduce post-construction conflicts between residents and wildlife. Protocol topics include: sensitive timing windows for clearing, pre-stressing, site clearing; construction site management; wildlife encounters; wildlife-proofing; and owner awareness. This protocol will apply to all site control plans for subdivisions, condominiums, and properties that include or are located adjacent to wildlife habitat (areas of tall grass; shrubs; trees or woodlands; watercourses; wetlands as well as rock piles, junk heaps, or vacant structures).

Rideau River Geese Management Strategy The Canada goose population is highly adaptable and grows accustomed to most goose management strategies within days or weeks. Parks surrounding the Rideau River appear to be highly populated with geese and their droppings cause health concerns. A number of strategies are being considered: signage; planting of barrier shrubs; dog and drone hazing; sterilization of goose eggs.

Bylaw Regulations, Complaints, Enforcement GCA has asked for a dedicated contact to pre-empt complains. Although there are situations (such as safety) when it's good to ask Bylaw to intervene, usually it's the best to discuss your concern directly with your neighbour or ask the association to intervene. When you contact 311, complainant information is confidential and will not be released to the person whose property is under complaint. The most common complaints are: excessive dog barking; improper snow removal; noise; untidy/unsightly property; noxious weeds; parking; tree cutting; street obstructions etc.

Down the Memory Lane Nepean Township, originally known as Township D, was established in 1792 and originally included what is now the central area of Ottawa west of the Rideau River. Jehiel Collins, from Vermont, is believed to have been the first person to settle in Nepean Township, on the future site of Bytown. Nepean was incorporated as a city on November 24, 1978. The geographic boundaries of Nepean changed considerably over this time; the original town hall of the township of Nepean was located in Westboro, which was annexed in 1949 by the city of Ottawa. Nepean's centre then moved to the community of Bells Corners. In the 1950s and 1960s, Nepean's urban area began to expand into previous rural areas such as Centrepoinette in the east, and Barrhaven in the south. Nepean was named after Sir Evan Nepean, British Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department from 1782 to 1791. A Nepean quarry provided the sandstone blocks that were the principal building material used in the Parliament Buildings in downtown Ottawa. (Wikipedia, WowCity). The Merivale area was settled in the 1830s by individuals mainly from Northern Ireland. Family names included the Nesbitts, Mulligans, Greers, Langs, Craigs, Davidsons, and Clarks. By 1861, 80% of the families were Irish, evenly divided between Protestant and Catholic (Elliott 36-7, 39). The most prosperous farms were those located near Ottawa, and in particular, in the Merivale area. The Clarks, Nesbitts, Baynes, Honeywells, McFarlands, Bells and Caldwells were just some of the families that operated dairy farms in Nepean (Elliott 150).

Merivale Road - Future Plans. The City rezoned Merivale Road to accommodate densification. The nearby communities are calling for Merivale to become a destination hub rather than a 'drive through'. Merivale is seen as a road for people and businesses. A road that

offers opportunities for a modern urban lifestyle; a vibrant Mid-Town marketplace. Yet a road to walk, cycle or drive safely, with ease, in comfort. The Transportation Master Plan does not provide the support needed for the community or businesses. Merivale Info session is scheduled for January 11, 2016 at Emerald Plaza.

Did you know? Nepean has a humid continental climate with warm, humid summers and cold winters. Nepean is also the Ottawa suburb that has the most hours of sunshine, with an average of 2,100 hours each year. Autumn is the driest season in Nepean with only 100 mm (3.9 in) of rainfall annually. The gardening zone for this area is 6A. (Wikipedia).

Community Businesses for Hire

Free service for youth seeking summer employment. Residents with home businesses: \$30. Commercial businesses: \$100. Fees renewable annually. Includes newsletter and website ads for a year.

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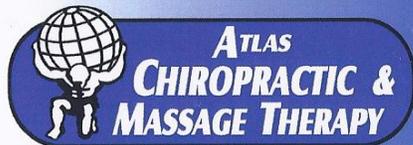
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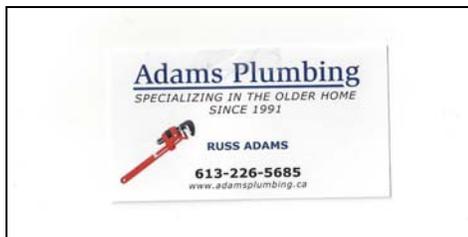
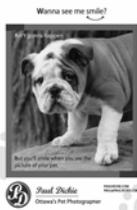
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Christmas Market with many local vendors. December 5 & 12 from 9-3. **Merivale United Church** 1876 Merivale Road at Hunt Club. Find that special gift. Coffee, tea and dessert. Children's Craft area. Call Sue 225-0248; eventsatmerivale@gmail.com

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

CHANDRA ARYA M.P. NEPEAN

House of Commons Ottawa,
Ontario Canada K1A 0A6
Telephone: 613-992-1325; Fax: 613-992-1336
Chandra.Arya@parl.gc.ca

LISA MACLEOD M.P.P. NEPEAN-CARLETON

10-3500 Fallowfield Road
Nepean, Ontario K2J 4A7
Ph: 613 823-2116; Fax: 613-823-8284
lisa.macleodco@pc.ola.org <http://lisamacleod.com/en/>

KEITH EGLI KNOXDALE-MERIVALE WARD

Tel: 613-580-2479
Fax: 613-580-2519
Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca
ward issues: ward9@ottawa.ca <http://keithegli.ca/>

**Glens Community Association
Executive Committee Members
2012/2014**

President	Agnes Warda	226 9576
Vice President	Brian Kelly	222 4205
Secretary	Susan Briard	226 8790
Treasurer	Penny Hammell	224 5159
	Nicole Lamothe	627-5795

Education	Mary O'Donohue	225 7984
Media/Web	Paul Dickie.....	224 8014
Events	Brian Kelly.....	222 4205
Protocol	Penny Hamme.....	224 5159
Clean Water	Dick de Jong	224 5593

COMMUNITY LIAISONS

Grenfell	Marilyn Booth	730 3879
Pineglen	Michele Lajeunesse	225 9630
Neighbourhood Watch	Nardin Ghahary.....	224 8014

OUTREACH

Seniors	Dorothy Reynolds.....	226 5516
Organizational Canada 2017	Pat McLachlan	225-6913

Glens Community Association
5 Pineglen Crescent
Nepean ON K2GE 6X8
E-mail: executive@glenscommunity.ca
www.glenscommunity.ca

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REMINDER

To report:

- .. a life-threatening emergency or crime in progress..... 911 Call
- .. other emergency or an ongoing incident (no violence or threat of violence).....230-6211
- .. an incident (to report a theft, missing person or stolen vehicle).....236-1222, ext.7300