

# GLENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter – Spring 2015

## THE GLENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"Glens Housekeeping"  
Safety, Progress, Laws

Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 7 P.M.

The MET,  
(Metropolitan Bible Church)  
2176 Prince of Wales Drive

- ☑ Meet our Councillor, ask questions!
- ☑ Volunteer, Have Your Say!
- ☑ Pick-up your water testing bottle
- ☑ Door prizes!!!!
- ☑ Fire Safety, By-Law Concerns, Mail Delivery, Hydro

This year's AGM will deal with "housekeeping issues". Residents frequently raise questions related to by-laws such as maintenance, noise, trees and parking. Residents will have a chance to ask City staff direct questions or to submit written requests/questions if they prefer to remain anonymous. In some cases residents may not be familiar with basic by-law requirements, which may cause frustration for themselves or others. Similarly, questions are being asked about fire safety at home and in the community. Finally, Canada Post's imminent switch to community mail boxes raises questions and concerns. We have invited knowledgeable guests to address your concerns and respond to any questions.

### Have an Idea or Concern? Tell Us About It.

The skills, commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers have been shaping the direction and vision of the Glens community for over 50 years. The dedication, hard work and contributions of volunteers have been integral to the quality of support the Glens Community Association provides to the community. The entire idea of having a community association is to built relationships, identify and promote issues, share knowledge and pressure authorities if necessary, so the entire community enjoys a high quality of life. Our community is blessed having many residents who understand what's happening and are making a positive impact. However, some residents may have a different vision or expectations for the Glens. Occasionally comments are raised with the Executive that the association does not work the way some expect or that we failed you. We welcome your comments and suggestions, both positive and negative, and particularly encourage your ideas for how we can improve and make the Glens an even better place to live. There are over 550

households in our community, with varying backgrounds and passions. At times we may not be able to satisfy everyone. However, if you feel strongly about an idea or issue, please reach out to your neighbours or the Executive. Our goal is to have a strong and inclusive community. Everyone matters!!!

### Merivale - You Either Love It Or Hate It

We all use Merivale Road, avoiding it when we can or suffering through the endless lights and constant traffic. Merivale has been an experiment in the making for over 50 years. At one time it was the largest commercial shopping district within the former City of Nepean, and a major shopping area for the National Capital region. When Ottawa stores would close at 5 or 6 pm, Nepean's longer business hours attracted many downtown dwellers to the area. Some of us well remember shopping at long gone stores such as Towers, Miracle Mart, Pascals, and Kmart, or buying groceries at Steinberg's or Dominion. In the 1970s, Merivale Mall was built with Woolco as a main anchor. Then in came the box stores such as Winners, Home Outfitters, Home Sense, and major chains like Staples and Best Buys (note the recent closure of Future Shop and Target). Metro, Independent Grocers and Farm Boy cater to our grocery needs. We see numerous restaurants, including Tavola, Nate's Deli, Rockwell's, Red Lobster and Hard Stone Grill; and fast food outlets for pizza, Chinese and Thai pick up, and Sushi Buffet that cater to more exotic tastes. Merivale Fish Market, Dairy Queen and A&W can take us down the memory lane. No doubt, Merivale Rd. is an important place to shop and dine. At one time Nepean council dreamed of having a high tech industry hub along Merivale (Nortel, JDS). During the 1990s large box stores dominated the development (Canadian Tire, the Brick, PetSmart, Rona, Costco), followed by the expansion of the Colonnade Road industrial park.

There is now a process underway to re-think what Merivale Road should be all about. Current thinking is to almost double population density along Merivale by building more condos (if the Claridge venture succeeds), add office space and attract new businesses. The zoning will be amended to allow a full range of uses, remove limits on maximum floor space, and permit all types of residential uses. The future Merivale will have two car lanes, two rapid bus transit lanes, and dedicated green pedestrian/cyclist lanes. As a nod to the community, lots greater than 1250m<sup>2</sup> will require 2% set aside for outdoor communal space. Suggestions include building to the edge of the road but interlaced with greenery to avoid wind tunnel effects, reopening of Gran Carman, bringing in LRT, improving connectivity, synchronizing and reducing the number of traffic lights and making Merivale a destination rather than a drive through. The main worries of businesses and residents are the traffic patterns and existing congestion. If you have ideas, suggestions or reactions call our City councillor or let the association know.

### Pineglen and Belledune Intersection

This will be soon an all-way stop, with three stop signs.

## Infill II Final Proposal

The new rules relevant to the Glens community are: bigger back yards; permitted building height reduced to 8.5 metres; projections not permitted above maximum height; a rear yard deck can be built up to a maximum height of 60 cm from the ground (to protect privacy); limit the mass of houses on very large lots to ensure compatibility with established neighbourhoods, limit the façade to only 60% of the lot width, with no garage or carport allowed closer to the front lot line than the front wall of the house. This will allow larger homes but to shape them so that, from the street, their scale appears closer to the established residences and the extra massing is recessed away from the street and therefore has less impact on the streetscape; no balcony, staircase, landing, step or bay window may project into the minimum required side and rear yard setbacks; existing average grade must be calculated prior to any site alteration, based on the average of grade elevations. Improve the preservation of permeable surfaces and vegetation for good drainage.

## Grenfell Glen Outdoor Rink (ODR)

Special thanks to Brian Donnelly who took over the 2014-15 outdoor rink contract. The ODR enjoyed a fantastic season despite the late start. Ice conditions were excellent and the skating season was extended into March, past the February 28<sup>th</sup> end date for City of Ottawa rinks. The ODR saw between 30 and 50 users per week and almost daily use, either by lunchtime users, people out for a daytime skate, nightly games or father/son outings. Snow clearing was handled by John Foubert and his trusty ATV, Brian Donnelly, Gord Wilson and any others Brian could find to help. Appleseed were invaluable on the heavy snow days. Ice making was split between Brian, Gord, his son Mark, and Tom Zouzoulas.

## Ottawa Clean Up

Pineglen Park was cleaned by the Parkwood Hills 115<sup>th</sup> Cub Scout Troop. Approximately 20 Cubs and 5 adult leaders showed up in uniform and worked on removing garbage and debris from 6:30 until 8 pm on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the community - many thanks!!!!



On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Counsellor and Kristen Egli joined 16 residents (14 adults and 2 children) to pick-up litter around the Grenfell play area and sport fields as well as from ditches bordering Grenfell Crescent. In all, 14 garbage bags were filled. A piece of building material, a large coil of cable and a garden hose completed the collection. The week prior to the clean-up, two school girls picked up 430 pieces of garbage in the neighbourhood as part of a fundraiser for the Humane Society. They filled about 4 garbage bags. Another resident collected 11 grocery bags of litter along the trails of the Pinhey Forest, south of Slack Road. Sorted, this material filled a blue box and a garbage can. Since the Fall Clean-up last September, neighbours reported picking-up 10 grocery bags and 3 garbage bags of garbage, mainly along Grenfell through the Pinhey Forest. And within hours of the Spring Clean-up, our ditches had a 'fresh' start, yielding another grocery bag of litter. Why do some people feel that an area of trees is a garbage dump? Following a suggestion to advocate for a campaign to change attitudes regarding littering, a neighbour suggested TV ads sponsored by McDonald's and Tim Horton's (a lot of their cups and



containers line the ditches and paths). Ads aired during family viewing times might make an impact. So if someone wants to throw trash in a ditch, a child will pipe up: 'Don't litter, it is bad for the animals/environment ...' and these children will grow up having more respect for the place they live and work.

## Invasive Plants, Noxious Species



Wild parsnip is an invasive plant that is commonly found in areas of uncultivated land, roadside ditches, nature trails and on rural and urban properties. It may pose a health risk to humans. The plant sap contains chemicals that will cause skin irritation and may result in long-term scarring. Use precaution when attempting to remove plants (gloves, goggles, protective dressing) and wash cloth and hands afterwards. Children should be reminded not to pick wild flowers. Ensure children are able to identify wild parsnip in order to avoid exposure. The City is responsible for Wild Parsnip, Poison Ivy and Giant Hogweed on municipal property. Private property owners are responsible for removing these plants from their property.

## CMBs Are Coming - October 19, 2015

We tried. Suggested rural delivery, proposed alternate sites - the most frustrating experience ever. There are still some unresolved issues, locations, distance and traffic concerns. Unfortunately Canada Post knows best. We encourage our seniors and differently able residents to apply for delivery accommodation whether permanent or for winter month. The application is challenging, you may provide medical proof but if you feel that walking far is not in your best interest do not hesitate.

## Trees in Trust

This program offers free trees to be planted on your City-owned street frontage. The trees are free, with delivery and planting will be provided by the City. The property owner must pledge to assist with the proper tree care (watering) for the first three years of the tree's life. Trees will be a minimum size of 50 mm diameter, or 2 to 3 meters in height. Limit of one tree per single fronting household or two trees per corner lot. Forestry will evaluate possibility of planting (other trees, utilities, soil quality, traffic safety, maintenance or other obstacles). Requests will be received on an ongoing basis and placed in the next available planting season (spring or fall). Call 311.

## Developments

2175 Prince of Wales (POW) is still on hold for the serviceability study. Novatech did not contact the planning department for a while, so the file might be closed in the near future. The already limited accessibility of the area might be further constrained by the upcoming widening of the POW. To date staff rejected a car dealership as an appropriate use.

## Review of Parking Requirements

Each time you are looking for a spot to park near your favourite restaurant or when visiting friends in a fancy new condo in Little Italy or in downtown Ottawa, remember that the City of Ottawa is reviewing the minimum parking requirements (rules that specify how much on-site parking must be provided as part of any new development). The parking requirements are the same under today's zoning as they were in 1964. The new Official Plan calls for these requirements to be reduced or eliminated in certain parts of the city,

notably near rapid-transit stations and in the inner urban area. Read more at: [ottawa.ca/minimumparking](http://ottawa.ca/minimumparking) and have your say.

**Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)**

The RVCA press release from May 8, 2015 warns about emerging drought conditions and encourages everybody to always use water wisely and apply water conservation measures, particularly during this period of low precipitation.

The **Mayor's Rural Expo and Food Aid BBQ** is taking place at Festival Plaza, City Hall, Thursday, June 4, 2015. Rural Expo helps urban residents learn more about what rural Ottawa has to offer.

**Farmers' Markets:** *Manotick's Farmers Market* open Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 7<sup>th</sup> - October 11<sup>th</sup> across from Watson's Mill. *North Gower Farmers' Market* (Big Red Barn), 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday from May 31<sup>st</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>. Local produce, plants, meat, eggs, homemade food and baking, handcrafted pottery, jewelry, art, knitting, woodworking etc.

**Give-Away weekend** - June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

A **Private Approach Permit** is needed to widen a driveway. Zoning regulations and/or site plan control may impose restrictions on the width and location of your driveway.

A **building permit** is not required to build or replace your fence, however, you are required to comply with the Fence By-law that set out minimum standards for the installation, maintenance and repair of fences and institutes a "good neighbour policy" (more attractive side of the fence must face toward the neighbours and street).

A shed bigger than 10m<sup>2</sup> requires a **building permit**. It has to meet the zoning requirements for your property, such as setbacks, height and lot coverage.

**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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**Glens Community Association  
Executive Committee Members  
2014/2016**

**President** Agnes Warda.....226 9576  
**Vice President** Brian Kelly.....222 4205  
**Secretary** Susan Briard.....226 8790  
**Treasurer** vacant

**Directors**

**Education** Mary O'Donohue.....225 7984  
**Media/Web** Paul Dickie.....224 8014  
**Planning** Susan Briard.....226 8790  
**Servicing** Elizabeth O'Connor.....225 3187  
**Events** Brian Kelly.....222 4205  
**Protocol** Penny Hammell.....224 5159  
**Task Force on 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

**Seniors Outreach**

Dorothy Reynolds.....226 5516

**At Large**

Trish Ferguson

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REMINDER**

**To report:**

- a life-threatening emergency or crime in progress ..... 911
- 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