

GLENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2007

Happening in the Glens

Grenfell Crescent has been paved. Although it is good news, it encourages cut through traffic to move faster and refrain from using Slack Road that is also newly paved.

Residents are trying to introduce traffic calming measures and later they may ask the council to consider turn restrictions. The petition was circulated in the Grenfell area to establish resident's preferences. Residents are employing their own measures such as walking three abreast, driving with the speed limit and displaying "stop cut through traffic signs". City of Ottawa is aware of the problem as the initial traffic study conducted in 2006 confirmed speeding problems. The latest study (October 2007) confirmed that speeding is a definite issue on Grenfell. As a result police reinforcement has increased. The new study also indicated that there is now an evident (at least 100 cars an hour in early morning traffic) concern with the cut through traffic which has warranted a full traffic count that the city will conduct in the coming days.

Speeding is also a problem on other streets. Merivale, MacFarlane and Pineglen are also getting their share of speeders. St. Monica Catholic School and the School Community Officer are also concerned with the speeding, heavy traffic volumes and limited signage identifying the school zone.

Responding to other resident's concerns, Councillor Hunter asked staff for a "hidden intersection" road sign to be added near the Portuguese community centre to alert drivers.

NCC is going ahead with the pathway project. The path have been moved further (55' to 60') from the residences, The plan is to proceed with the pavement and the tree planting and the fencing will be done upon the completion of the project in Spring 2008.



GCA's executives took part in the city planning primers to help residents become more aware about the land-use planning process. Execs also took part in a transportation workshop identifying various traffic issues and possible solutions and the rural settlement strategy discussing water and planning related issues. As it is now the rural forum is the only venue we can use to discuss concerns related to private servicing. As we cherish our "rural" ambiance and park-like setting we have to find the way to let our concerns reach the city staff.

To date plans are unknown for the development of the Deakin site (former ESSO) although remediation efforts seemingly have been conducted. The fate of the deep lot on MacFarlane is also unknown although there might be attempts to acquire land from the abutting neighbours to provide additional access.

Do you know where your teenagers are? Or what they or their friends do in our community? Illegal night gatherings in Pineglen Park are on the rise. City By-laws prohibit anyone from remaining in and entering Grenfell and Pineglen Parks after 11:00 p.m. The police will respond to complaints. The community is considering a request for increased police presence and the safety audit of both parks if warranted.

Unknown individuals caused destruction of the community information board at the Pineglen Park. The board was just repaired last year. It is sad that something built by community spirit has been abused so many times.

Real estate and developer's agents have been seen scouting our community. They may approach you directly, look over your property or even offer you a deal. Some residents reported visits by such individuals even going into their property uninvited. Please remember, if you consider selling approach a reputable agent whom you can trust, have him/her provide you with a listing of all sales in the area. Prices might be on the rise and a seemingly good deal offered on the spot might not be so good after all.

Once again a reminder "poop, scoop and carry"!!!! Residents are complaining about the growing incidence of "doggy poo and doggy bags" left behind on people's lawn and in the parks. Please respect your neighbours. The by-law prohibits disposal of dog waste in park garbage bins. When you walk in a park and there's a basket and there's dangling white bags of dog poo there, it isn't exactly inviting and it's also very smelly in the summertime.

GCA has not been successful to have a representative on the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee. Our nominee was not chosen. We like to think that there were more qualified individuals. Janet Stavinga will be chairing this committee.

The long awaited Strandherd-Armstrong Bridge is again on the agenda. Whether it is called a “great mistake” or a “missing link” you be the judge.

Several residents commented about the garage sale timing and other issues. We are looking for dedicated individual(s) ready to take charge of this important event, set up new dates, contact other local associations, coordinate advertising and generally make this a success it used to be.

Special Feature Water



“Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to Drink” The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Quality. We are all worried what’s “lurking” in our water, how to ensure the safe water supply and what to do if testing discovers something that is just esthetics or may be considered a health hazard.

Generally, ground water is protected from immediate contamination by its location below land surface and from long-term contamination by its slow rate of movement. So it will be protected from man made and natural disasters for years, decades, or longer.

However, groundwater qualities are being steadily affected by many natural (chemical composition of snow and rain, earth’s surface, rock material in the aquifer) and man made activities (misusing agricultural chemicals, improperly locating septic tanks, disposing of industrial wastewater and mining, toxic, and oil field wastes, discharging contaminants into the atmosphere, spilling toxic wastes, contaminants leaking from underground storage tanks, applying salt to roads, runoff from the construction of buildings, roads, and sidewalks, emissions generated by travel and the use of chemicals for landscaping).

Quantity. Although Canada has the largest supply of fresh water in the world, this supply of water is steadily decreasing. Evaporation, use of water by plants, natural outflow to seeps and springs, and pumping from wells deplete ground water. When we pump too much ground water, we may also degrade its quality. Long-term pumping from an unconfined aquifer may leach soluble salts from the soil and gradually increase the mineral content of the ground water. Rural

residents are already complaining that uncontrolled growth of estate lots and existing semi-rural well owners are responsible for significant lowering of water table by not conserving water (using sprinkler systems, heat water pumps and filling up large pools). This year there is already a draught alert in some parts of Ontario. It might be wise to consider conservation measures before your well develop problems. Although the groundwater is treated legally as a basic property right ideas of controlling water resources through various means (including metering) are being heard from different sources.

Protection. Protection of water resources is finally getting attention. White papers prepared by volunteers stressed that water knows no administrative boundaries. Recognizing health and safety concerns of the community Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee directed staff to consider semi-rural areas in the upcoming Ottawa Groundwater Management Strategy and Development Work Plan by ensuring that the common denominator in all water initiatives be reliance on private services (well water and septic), not geographic location and that clean water initiatives are extended uniformly to all privately serviced neighbourhoods, including those within urban boundaries. GCA is continuously monitoring all city initiatives. At the local level we can protect our ground water by preventing contamination and depletion of aquifers. However, being a community surrounded by industrial parks and agricultural land and lacking city protection of wellheads we can exercise rather limited control. The GCA has been actively campaigning to have our area better protected by either extending zoning protection or seeking extended protection under the Clean Water Act. Dense clusters of private drinking water wells or intakes may qualify for such protection and inclusion in source protection plans.

Solutions. Whether there is iron, odor, low pH (acid), bacteria, hard water, nitrate, arsenic, salty water or just sediment - solutions exist. The province allows well owners to pursue alternatives such as installing treatment rather than requiring that wells producing non-potable water to be abandoned. Chlorinators, iodicators, ultraviolet light (UV), distillers, ozonators and various filters (glass, ceramic, carbon) exist to disinfect water. Unfortunately unless the issues qualify as a health hazard and more than few residents are affected neither the city nor the ministry will not offer any financial help.

We have been promised that the city grant program (for new wells, repairs or bringing wells to the code) will be extended on a pilot basis to include areas like Glens, however it seems that the current budgetary climate will delay this proposal until new funding is received from the province.

The ground water characterization study will commence in 2008. The study was delayed by the new contracting rules instituted by the city. It will establish a quality and quantity of area’s water resources.

The city has no plans to connect our area to the municipal water or sewer. The only possibility would be to apply for local improvements program that requires 2/3 of residents to agree. To date, most residents are happy with the status quo and there is a very strong opposition motivated by the high connection costs, increased property

taxes and service fees and the ultimate threat of lots severance and increased density. Once the water passes by your property you will be charged city fee even if you chose not to connect.

City News

By-Laws. A new Idling Control by-law came into effect on September 1, 2007. If you are not in traffic and are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn your engine off. Vehicles are prohibited from idling more than three minutes in a given 60-minute period when the temperature is between 5°C and 27°C. Idling is allowed during extreme outdoor temperatures to ensure heating or cooling inside the vehicle when occupied, picking up or discharging passengers.

The city is reviving a Good Forestry Practices by-law aimed at cutting trees that will prohibit or regulate the destruction, injuring or harvesting of trees in sensitive natural areas and on a site located with 30 metres of the boundary of such designated area. The by-law may affect residents of Grenfell.

The new Drainage by-law will require property owners to undertake corrective work if they have somehow changed or interrupted the natural drainage flow on their property to the detriment of others. The by-law would allow the City to go after the property owner who refuses to correct the problem. The City will have the authority to enter the property, do the work and add the cost to the offender's tax bill.

Other News. Transit SmartCard will be introduced in 2008. The system concept is based on wallet-sized SmartCards that will act as a bus pass or bus tickets, depending on each individual's choice. The card can be configured as any form of pre-paid pass. Cash will continue to be accepted for the foreseeable future, although pre-paid fares will be encouraged through discounts as they are today.

The city is currently revising its growth forecast to form a basis for an Official Plan review. As of the end of 2006, growth since 2001 was only 59% of projected. Over the last 2 years (2005-06), growth has been only 50% of projected.

The City of Ottawa offers tax deferral programs for low-income seniors and low-income people with disabilities. Eligible homeowners may apply for a full or partial deferral of annual property

taxes. Tax deferral applies to current taxes only and not tax arrears or outstanding taxes.

The massive city's transportation plan is undergoing review. Much focus centers on future transit and the need for roads building and widening. Urban core councillors and residents are opposing accommodating more traffic heading downtown and calling for increased focus on transit, walking and biking.

To help lower budget increases parking meters will be installed in many urban areas. Fees will increase to 3\$/hour and will be charged on weekends and evenings.

The growing costs of expanding and maintaining infrastructure also focused renewed attention to the greenbelt development. NCC has already mapped areas it will target for expansion.

City of Ottawa launched in 2005 "Are you Ready?" campaign (to raise awareness on the easy steps residents and businesses can take to prepare themselves in the event of an emergency). Two new components have been added to the program (Pet Preparedness and Emergency Preparedness Kit for Businesses). Further expansion is planned.

City is looking for volunteers on advisory committees or boards that provide advice to City Council, and contribute to the development of policies, programs and initiatives. The City can benefit greatly from your expertise, enthusiasm and civic pride. Get involved and play an active role. Open House will take place on January 9, 2008 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive.

Community News

Nepean Seniors Home Support offers several services for seniors and adults with Physical Disabilities: including transportation to medical appointments, shopping, meals, household tasks and yard chores, friendly visits and much more. Call (613) 829-1133 or visit them at www.nepeanseniors.ca

Good Companion's Centre located at 670 Albert Street offers programs and services to promote, enhance and support the well-being, independence and zest for living of both seniors and adults with physical disabilities in the Ottawa area. Call 613 236-0428 or visit www.thegoodcompanions.ca

National Capital Commission invites you to the 2008 Winterlude, North America's greatest winter celebration! February 01 to 17, 2008.

Parliament of Canada joins Winterlude festivities inviting to a stroll through selected areas of Centre Block at your own pace. February 02 to 17, 2008 from 1:30 to 5:30 pm.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your elected officials can be reached at:

**Gord Hunter Councillor
Knoxdale - Merivale**
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
Ph: 580-2479; Fax: 580-2519
Gord.Hunter@ottawa.ca
<http://www.gordhunter.ca>

Pierre Poilievre M.P.
250-B Greenbank Road
Nepean ON K2H 8X4
PH: 990-4300; Fax: 990-4333
poilip@parl.gc.ca
www.fightingforyou.ca

Lisa MacLeod M.P.P. Nepean-Carleton
10 Green Street
Nepean (Ontario) K2J 3Z6
Telephone: (613) 823-2116
Fax : 613-828-2020
lisa.macleodco@pc.ola.org
<http://lisamacleod.com/en/>

Glens Community Association
P.O. Box 65095 Merivale P.O.
Nepean ON K2G 5Y3
executive@glenscommunity.ca
www.glenscommunity.ca

**Glens Community Association
Executive Committee Members
2006 – 2008**

President Agnes Warda226-9576
Vice President vacant
Secretary Mary O'Donohue.....225-7984
Treasurer Patricia Skully.....225-7325

Directors
Environment Sam Alpay/Mark Hinton228-8113
Development David Perron.....225-7325
City liaison Marie Mougeot.....226-5559
Transportation Carol Ermanovic226-4811

Directors at Large
Betty-Anne Wilks.....226-5021
Penny Hammell.....224-5159
Wilma McCormack.....274-0143

Past President Betty-Anne Wilks.....226-5021
David Perron.....225-7325

Social Coordinators/Contacts
Community Events Wilma McCormack.....274-0143
Neighbourhood Watch (acting) Marie Mougeot226-5559
Membership Coordinator Susan Roos.....224-6172

Neighbourhood Watch Reminder

To report:	Call
• ..a life-threatening emergency or crime in progress.....	911
• ..an ongoing incident (no violence or threat of violence)	230-6211
• ..an incident	236-1222, ext.7300