

GLENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2008



In the Glens

Glens Community Association (GCA) made inquiries regarding the former Drummond Station and Esso Station, two well known brown fields of concern to residents. A site inspection has been carried out on the Esso site and the order was issued to the property owner to clean up inside the metal fence area of the property (cut grass and weeds, remove the piles of concrete and asphalt). The Drummond site, however, does enjoy legal non-conforming rights for the exterior storage and parking of commercial vehicles, so bylaw is only able to deal with things such as long grass and debris. The property is rented to a company that stores crowd control barriers and equipment. GCA wanted to establish what measures were taken to ensure that this property was properly cleaned up after ceasing the operation, the scope of grandfathering clauses and how to uphold maintenance standards. Unfortunately to date no inspection of the site has been reported, despite several follow ups.

Grenfell Park maintenance and location of the gazebo were raised at the 2008 AGM. The city responded that different crews have been responsible for different tasks (grass maintenance, sports field maintenance, system maintenance, play structure maintenance and hedge trimming). As there are different cycles for each of these operations one crew cannot perform all operations and maintain proper standards.

The gazebo location was chosen based on the accessibility to power and water required for most special events. The gazebo budget was insufficient to extend power supply elsewhere in the park. The safety issue also played a role in the location to prevent a night time "hang-out". The gazebo is on concrete footings. To relocate, new footings would be needed and a new building permit required. The cost has been estimated at \$12,000-\$15,000. Should the residents insist on relocating the gazebo, an application can be made for Community Partnership Minor Capital Program to obtain funding on a cost-sharing basis to a maximum of \$7,500. Community will have to cover all additional costs.

Former diamond space continued to be a problem as the ice skating rink kills the grass. Every year the area is over-seeded but again the grass is killed every year by the outdoor rink.

We had two local gasoline spills this year and we have been greatly concerned about our environment and safety of our water supplies. The GCA obtained the

following responses from the Fuels Safety Program at the City and the Community and Protective Services: "The leak that occurred in Ottawa at the Petro Canada storage facility was gasoline. There are dikes built around the tanks. The dikes are designed and constructed in accordance with the Liquid Fuels Handling Code to contain the gasoline that is released should there be any leaks or spills. With gasoline you are more likely to have a large contained fire than an explosion. The fire would be contained in the dikes. Should there be a contained spill as was the case here, the Technical Standards and Safety authority is the lead agency, visits the site, assesses and monitors the situation for any potential hazards and may issue orders to assess the impacted area. TSSA inspectors have visited this site and have issued orders in response to the spill/leak. There is sometimes confusion caused when news reports state that the spill was on the ground, rather than the spill was contained in the dike." GCA asked that the groundwater study currently underway assess the potential risk. As we have snow on the ground the water sampling most likely will be postponed until spring of 2009.

Park Problems Persist. There have been a number of incidents reported at the Pineglen tennis courts and playground. Residents observed bags (6-10) containing dog feces thrown over the fence of the tennis club onto the courts. Those responsible (boys between the ages of 11-13 on bikes) lowered the bar even further by opening 6 of these bags and spreading their contents on the blue slide of the playground. We are again asking all dog owners to pick up after their furry friends and NOT TO LEAVE the bags in the garbage cans surrounding this area. The City by-law (#2003 – 77) requires owners to bring their pooch's waste home for disposal.

Some residents have been observed with unleashed dogs at the playground. Under the same City Bylaw, dogs should not be off the leash at Pineglen Park, especially at the City playground. Furthermore, out of respect for the community's children, please do not walk dogs on the sandy areas where the children are playing. Many of our residents are afraid of dogs, so please take extra care with your pet while neighbours are out enjoying their stroll.

The Basketball court on Mayo Avenue has become an area for some potentially criminal activities (e.g. drug smoking). As well, Grenfell Park, especially the area behind the soccer and baseball fields, has also been a scene of some unusual activities with the procession of cars arriving one by one, staying a few minutes and then leaving. Often street races take place as well. The ground is littered with broken empty liquor bottles and other items. Although we would hope that these activities should cease during the winter months, if you do observe any suspicious activity you are asked to call the Ottawa Police Call Center at 613-236-1222. Incidents are tracked so that appropriate resources may be assigned.

Stock Buses on Grenfell. There are several Stock buses that have to use Grenfell as part of their regular "home to school" transportation routing. Resident's concerns were forwarded to the Stock Parking Garage to ensure that drivers do not use Grenfell as a "short cut". Suggestions were made to the drivers to use a different route when they are heading back empty.



Grenfell Traffic Issues Hopefully Resolved. Residents have been actively working toward decreasing traffic and speed along Grenfell and ensuring safety of pedestrians. The October 2nd initiative (residents parking cars on the street) caught attention of the local media. The final resolution was approved by the committee of transportation voting to introduce a turning restriction prohibiting turning from Woodroffe onto Grenfell from 7a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Several residents (Bob, Darlene, Frank and Suzanne) were instrumental in organizing the community, traffic counting, preparing for the committee, and raising awareness about the issue among councillors. Councillor Hunter introduced the motion. The motion was approved by the full Council. The sign should be in place as early as December 2nd. Ottawa Police has increased patrolling of the area. Please note that the restrictions apply to everyone (including Grenfell residents) and police will enforce the new signage.

Corner of MacFarlane and Deakin St. continues to have traffic problems. Due to GCA intervention parking along Deakin has been prohibited, but continue to be an issue on MacFarlane. The MET church Sunday services in particular are causing parking spillage in the Glens area especially along MacFarlane and O'Donnell.

Deakin and Prince of Wales intersection improvements will have to wait until the POW widening, which might be postponed due to a budget constrains. It is impossible for now to have a dedicated right turn only lane from POW.

Task Force on Clean Water. Following amalgamation, our community has been excluded from the Rural Clean Water Program providing modest grants for septic and well improvements. The issue has been on-going for several years with many representations made by the GCA executives to city committees. As the program will be undergoing review and requesting new funding, we feel that it is time to press the issue. A new task force led by **Dick deJong** will address this topic with local authorities and also make representation to the provincial government. The city suspended the pilot program for urban well owners slated for 2008. One of the factors in reaching this decision was the possibility of residents asking for water through the local improvement program (based on Winding Way application). To respond to that, GCA will run a community survey, establishing interest in municipal servicing paid entirely by residents. Dick will also work with the city and the province to ensure safe supply of water for Glens.

Local Improvement Process and Costs. Once in a while the issue of municipal servicing and the community options is raised. The fact remains that the city has no intention to provide municipal servicing to the community unless there is a documented water crisis caused by the city actions or a documented mass pollution. The only other way residents can obtain municipal servicing is through the City's Local Improvement Process. The process involves many steps and cost of the work is paid by residents. Although the numbers will differ in each

area, there are some standard charges that will apply. The response received from the city indicates that "it is not uncommon for charges to be in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per property per municipal servicing type, though it can be more or less depending on a variety a factors, such as the density of properties, soil type (rock removal will increase costs), distance from existing system, etc. Winding Way residents with comparable lots were charged for water in the range of \$18,500 to \$39,000 depending on property characteristics. The city's portion of the sewer work was estimated for the entire Pineglen at about \$30,000 per household. Residents pay for the city's portion of the work (engineering, design, and construction) bringing water to their property line. The cost may be added to the tax bill (financing charges will apply, water can be repaid in 10 years, sewer in 25 years; the charges must be paid in full once the property is sold as the charges are not transferable to the new property owners).

Local Improvements only cover the work on public lands, most commonly road allowances, and include the main lines and the portion of the service laterals between the main and the edge of private property. The work directly on private property is the full responsibility of the property owner to complete and pay for (directly to the licensed contractor). It can include, but is not necessarily limited to: the portion of the service lateral from the residence to the property line (@ \$175.00 per metre for water, @\$200 per metre for sewer), landscaping reinstatement/changes and associated permits; internal plumbing changes and associated permits, as required (for municipal water, installation of a water meter(@\$250); decommissioning of septic tank (starting @\$1,000) and well (\$5,000-\$7,000) and water/ sewer usage charges once connection to the municipal system is complete. Generally speaking, it is not unreasonable to expect the average private property costs to be roughly in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000, assuming one service type only, current prices, and landscaping and internal restoration are extra. The amount could vary per home depending on such factors as pipe installation method, soil type, location/orientation of the house/septic system from the edge of property, type of existing landscaping, degree of internal plumbing changes, internal finishes to re-instate, etc. By-law requires that access pipes are located at the front of each house (not at the back or side like septic systems). Conversion may involve extensive renovations. The city will evaluate whether the property can be fully serviced by gravity or if the pumping system need to be used (starting @\$1,500). Winding Way residents were unable to connect to the municipal sewer. Once the application is accepted and work commences those who are not interested in connecting will have to pay the city portion/development fee even if not actually connected.

The property improvement will result in upward changes to the tax assessment and the property taxes will rise. In addition residents will now be required to pay fire protection delivery and supply charges. Monthly water charges are currently \$1.159 per cubic metre with adding costs of sewer surcharge (costs for transporting clean water and carrying wastewater away). Information is prepared based on data from the Winding Way project (involving 7 households) and the city provided explanations.

The Ottawa Police Service is asking for help in identifying the suspect(s) responsible for three break-ins in the Pineglen area. All three incidents, which involved break-ins to garages, occurred overnight between October 8 and 9, 2008. Police are reminding residents to ensure sheds, garages and vehicles are always properly secured, and articles/valuables are stored out of view. Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to contact Det. Randy Selig of the West District Investigations section at 613-236-1222 ext. 2287 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).



New Developments. A new commercial carwash is proposed to replace an existing carwash at Merivale Rd. and fuel retailing business. Please inform GCA or the planner in charge if you are concerned with this proposal.

Greenbelt development. The city has jumped early on a NCC review of the Greenbelt suggesting possible "nibbles" and higher density development along few selected routes (i.e. Hwy 416, transit lines, existing neighbourhoods north/south of Hunt Club). The "white paper" produced as a response to comments by the NCC chairman and a subsequent media debate outlined several suggestions and possible areas for development. The newly established Greenbelt Coalition is seeing the greenbelt as a "natural oasis" with expansive views of the Capital, significant natural areas, and agricultural, forest and heritage landscapes, that make Canada's capital a truly unique green city to live in and visit". The coalition plans to promote the preservation and enhancement of the Greenbelt. The NCC position is that no decisions will be made until the new Greenbelt Master Plan is ready in 3 years. Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association has expressed concerns about the prospect of loss of the hospital and is suggesting on-site expansion.

City News

During the summer months the City of Ottawa has conducted an exhaustive series of public consultations. The topics addressed included: transportation, intensification (central core, suburbia, and rural areas), parking rules, high profile buildings, gateways and planning and design. The new transit plan is in its final stages although our area will not benefit much from the changes. The City is also reorganizing to improve delivery of municipal services and address the fiscal challenges. External administrative support and a management hiring freeze were also announced.

The 2009 budget is being discussed, deferral of programs, cuts to infrastructure spending, cultural/social programs, recreation, deferral of new programs (green box), new user fees, increase in charges and fees and corporate restructuring will result in either 4.9% or 7% tax increases.

The city is also considering a three point sustainability plan to ensure Ottawa survives natural and man made disasters and is ready for other challenges (energy, food shortages) and opportunities, entitled "*Choosing our Future: An Integrated Approach to Building a Sustainable and Resilient National Capital Region.*"

Tree conservation. The City's policy is to maintain a 30 per cent tree cover across the city. Currently in urban areas of the city, there is only 17 per cent tree cover. The City is now considering how best to support tree conservation on private properties in urban areas. Ottawa is now one of the few cities in Ontario that does not have any regulations for tree cutting on private lands. Public consultation will establish whether we will opt for

by-law regulation, stewardship or other forms supporting tree conservation. Residents are invited you to provide input. More at: ottawa.ca/urbantree.

Parks can provide a pleasant and safe environment in which to exercise dogs. Safety for other park users is also a consideration however. The City is harmonizing different by-law "designations" for dogs in parks based on the set of criteria and community consultations. Note that the "Dogs Allowed" designation means that dogs may be off-leash. There are however standard rules that apply to all parks. Dogs must always be under the control of their handler, even if a leash is not required. Signs are posted to inform the public of whether dogs are prohibited or if they must be leashed. Dogs are prohibited from being **within five metres of all children's play areas and pools.** Grenfell Glen has no dogs designation and Pineglen has leashed dogs only designation. Country Place Finger at 36 Amberwood allows dogs. **Dogs are prohibited in the Pinhey Forest Dec1 to Apr 15.**

Reminder - Dial 311 Remember last year's snow fall? If this year is anything like it, you'll want to dial 311 to report blocked streets and intersections! The City launched the 3-1-1 service connecting residents with its "one-stop" Contact Centre, providing answers on everything from recreation and marriage licenses to recycling and parking. Urgent calls also include issues such as: a broken water main, no water, sewer back-up, flooding, defective traffic lights, stop or merge signs knocked down, discarded needles, hate graffiti and health issues such as outbreaks. Potholes can also be reported and action will be taken by the City to repair.

The City of Ottawa is proceeding with the construction of the Strandherd-Armstrong Bridge planned for 2010- 2011. Consultations address design, technical and planning/policy issues.

Provincial News

The Ontario government is committed to protecting families and children through tough new environmental laws, including a new toxics reduction strategy to reduce pollution and protect Ontarians from toxic chemicals. On April 22, 2008, the government took the first step towards fulfilling this commitment by introducing new legislation that bans the use and sale of pesticides that may be used for cosmetic purposes. The legislation was passed on June 18, 2008.

The government has listened to medical experts – like the Canadian Cancer Society – who have made a convincing case for reducing our exposure to pesticides, particularly children who are generally more susceptible to the potential toxic effects of pesticides. The use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes is already being phased out – it's being banned or restricted in some 34 municipalities across Ontario covering 47 per cent of the province's population. A provincial law would create a consistent level of protection for all Ontario residents, rural or urban, particularly children who are generally more susceptible to the potential toxic effects of pesticides. It would also establish one comprehensive law for all Ontario communities and businesses.

On November 7, 2008, the government released a proposed new regulation containing the specifics of the ban. It was posted to the Environmental Registry for a 45-day public comment period which ends December 22, 2008. You can provide input through the Environmental Registry at www.ebr.gov.on.ca (Registry #010-5080) or submit your comments to the address below. **The deadline for input is December 22, 2008.**

Robert Bilyea, Senior Policy Advisor
Ministry of the Environment, Strategic Policy Branch
135 St. Clair Ave. W., 11th Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Community Reminder

Winter is coming. Please remember Ottawa by-law "prohibits depositing snow on a road allowance. A person can only deposit the snow from their driveway on the boulevard in front of their residence and not across the street." Fines may be involved, as some contractors have already learned. Most contractors obey the rules.

Your Elected Officials

Can be reached at:

Gord Hunter Councillor Knoxdale - Merivale

110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
Ph: 613 580-2479; Fax: 613 580-2519
Gord.Hunter@ottawa.ca
<http://www.gordhunter.ca>

Pierre Poilievre M.P.

250-B Greenbank Road
Nepean ON K2H 8X4
Ph: 613 990-4300; Fax: 613 990-4333
poilip@parl.gc.ca
www.fightingforyou.ca

Lisa MacLeod M.P.P. Nepean-Carleton

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

Glens Community Association Executive Committee Members 2008 – 2009

President	Agnes Warda	226-9576
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Mary O'Donohue.....	225-7984
Treasurer	Betty-Anne Wilks.....	226-5021
Directors:		
City Liaison	Michele Lajeunesse-Matson	225-9630
Transportation	Carol Ermanovics	226-4811
Septic Issues	Elizabeth O'Connor.....	225-3187
	Vatslav Kujbida.....	274 2661
Directors at Large		
	Penny Hammell.....	224-5159
	Nardin Ghahary.....	224-8014
Past President	David Perron.....	225-7325
Task Force on Clean Water	Dick de Jong.....	224-5593.
Community Events	Wilma McCormack.....	274-0143
Web Master	Nancy Glover.....	228-9289
	Lee Glover.....	228-9289

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

Happy New Year!

Neighbourhood Watch Reminder

To report:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • ..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 |