

GLENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2007

Happening in the Glens

GCA welcomes all new residents of Pineglen and Grenfell. There will be many opportunities to meet your new neighbours walking, biking or gardening. However, if you need any specific information on the area or look for particular services we may be able to help. Glens executive collectively hold a wealth of information as some have been residing in the area for many years.

Olympia Homes is developing a site located at 180 MacFarlane Rd. and is planning to construct two blocks of two-storey townhouses totalling 12 dwelling units that will be facing Briggs Avenue.



The ground water characterization study might be finally happening. Residents will be informed at the later date what to expect and how they can participate. The study will include a high level assessment of water resources and testing of a limited number of wells to provide representative results. The study will also help to confirm our water resources and identify to the City any need for more detailed studies.

Glens Community Garage Sale

May 5th-6th



Bargain shoppers will find treasures galore at this annual event. Residents will have a chance to clean out their garage, attic, and closets, and keep those valuable items from going into the landfill. It is a great way to meet your neighbours, build community trust, and spend quality time with family members. Perhaps most important is the strong sense of community spirit.



THE GLENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 15th, 2007, 7 P.M.
St. Monica's School
2000 Merivale Road

- ▶ **Meet our elected politicians, city staff and a special Guest from the Mayor's Office**
- ▶ **Panel Discussion on the Future of the Glens arguing merits of intensification, servicing, traffic and privacy, zoning by-laws**
- ▶ **Pick-up your water testing bottle**
- ▶ **Enjoy coffee and donuts and a good debate with your representatives and neighbours**

Development potential is generally determined by reviewing the available water (hydrogeology) for domestic use and the ability of the surface and underlying rock formation to absorb surface and septic water (septic). These two factors can never be viewed in isolation. Intensification attempts (severances) usually do not involve impact analysis on the abutting properties. It is a growing concern in our neighbourhood. The ideal solution could be that the city does not allow any new developments unless connected to city services. Such development can be accommodated along the Merivale and MacFarlane. Should then the frontage law be extended to the interior of the Glens preventing severance and thus protecting existing water aquifer from additional effluent and run off pollution? Is there an Official Plan amendment needed to protect our area from perils of intensification? Can the zoning allows indiscriminately all kind of housing options (retirement and group homes, secondary dwelling units etc.) without ensuring necessary safeguards to the water supply? How will we live in the next ten to twenty years? These are some of the questions we have to answer as a community.

Pine Glen Park is being rezoned from General Urban Area to Urban Natural Features and from zone EP3 to EP. EP is now a more restrictive zone. The new zoning will show Pineglen Park with an EP zone, which will only permit environmental preserve and education area and forestry operation. Dwelling units and home-based businesses are not permitted in the new EP zone.

South Merivale Business Park is expanding and the RCMP headquarters relocating from Alta Vista to the former JDS campus on Merivale Road at Prince of Wales. The move is staged to be completed in three years.

Two meetings were held to discuss impact on the community, perceived benefits (housing market boom, business growth, increased house values) and problems (traffic, security measures). City Councillors assured the residents that they are working at road widening and improvements in the area. Plans are also in work to ensure the Strandherd Bridge to be built as soon as possible to improve commuting.

It is not clear to what extent Glens will be affected. We might experience some upward movement in the property value and there is renewed talk about traffic increases and the possibility of widening of Merivale Rd. New bus service might be in the picture along Merivale Road. RCMP study indicates that the city will have to move quickly to accommodate transit needs for thousands of employees coming to Barrhaven.

City News

Free Calling Across City of Ottawa. The CRTC has approved a Bell Canada application to make all of Ottawa a single local telephone calling area to include every community across the entire city. The initiative is scheduled for implementation by summer 2007. Other service providers such as Rogers Home Phone treat the entire city of Ottawa as a local calling area with no long-distance charges.

A temporary monthly surcharge of 50¢ per residential phone line and 39¢ per business phone line will appear on Bell invoices for a period of three years. The surcharge will compensate Bell and other service providers for long-distance revenues they will no longer receive once all calls are local.

The city has launched a **Speak@Ease** a voice recognition system. It will allow callers to "speak" the name of the person they wish to reach. Just dial (613) 580-2800 and say the name of the person you are trying to reach. If after three attempts the system does not recognize what you are saying, you will be transferred to a 311 agent.

Task Force on Assessment and Property Tax

Task Force on Assessment & Property Tax came up with a list of recommendations including: (1) a 10-year, phase-in plan to upload all provincially mandated programs (i.e. social assistance and related currently drug costs for low-income families) subsidized by local property tax dollars (other than education). (2) the implementation of the proposals made by the Ontario Ombudsman. (3) FREEZE TILL SALE assessment model until the property is sold or until renovations totaling more than \$40,000 has occurred. (4) Income-tested rebate (5) Optional seasonal property tax class. (5) Re-align the Multi-Residential (apartments) Property Tax Class so that rental apartment units are no longer taxed dramatically above similar residential (condo) units.

Recreational Pathway Project

On March 27, the NCC has unveiled the preferred route for the greenbelt pathway between Woodroffe Avenue and Black Rapids Lock Station. The selected option goes behind houses on Gervin Crescent along the creek. Residents met with the NCC staff for a walk through and explanations in early April to ensure that the selected route offered them greater privacy and safety. The Woodroffe Avenue to Merivale Road section would be constructed starting in the fall of 2007. The Merivale Road to Black Rapids Lock Station section would be constructed starting in the fall of 2008.

Summer is Coming



Three types of grasses make excellent lawns in Ottawa-Carleton - all have leaves under 6 mm wide. Your lawn will be naturally healthier with each in their best areas.

- Bluegrass: V-shaped leaves with fairly blunt ends. If you buy sod, this is what you have. It needs a lot of water and sun compared to other grasses.
- Chewing's fescue: very fine leaves with slightly rolled edges and visible veins. For shady areas, this is the best good-looking grass. Creeping red fescue is best for dry areas.
- Perennial ryegrass: leaves with prominent veins, shinier below than above. If you regularly have insect problems, this is your grass, varieties 'Cutter' and 'Edge' in particular.

The pesticide debate is back. A new poll suggests support is growing for a city-wide pesticide bylaw, although many residents continue to prefer pesticide applications left to their control. Professional firms mostly use pesticides on problems like weeds as a last resort and then only spot treat the problem areas.



Community News

Get to know your neighbours by strolling through our community. All ages welcome. Bring strollers, wheelchairs, wagons, feet and plenty of good cheer!

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of each month, 2pm
 WHERE: Meet at Pineglen or Grenfell Park
 DURATION: Approx. one hour.

We plan to walk in shine, light rain or in snow! – Please dress for the weather.

PINEGLEN PARK	GRENFELL PARK
20 May 2007	15 April 2007 7 June 2007

Tennis Club can be reached at: 613) 225-4488 (membership coordinator). Tennis Club does not belong to GCA.

Your elected officials can be reached at:

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Glens Community Association Executive Committee Members 2006 – 2008

President	Agnes Warda	226-9576
Treasurer	Patricia Kully (acting).....	225-7325

Directors

Environment Development	Sam Alpay/Mark Hinton ...	228-8113
City liaison	David Perron.....	225-7325
Public Relations	Marie Mougeot.....	226-5559
Transportation	Marlene Bakmazian.....	225-4915
	Carol Ermanovic	226-4811

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 Mougeot	226-5559
Membership Coordinator	Susan Roos.....	224-6172

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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

