

Blackburn Area News And Reports

BANAR

Vol. 54 No. 5

June 2021

Blackburn Hamlet's

Class of
2021!

A Celebration for Graduation

*Let's come together to
recognize our graduates!*



Nina Ryan, BCA communications

Join us in celebrating the graduating students of our community on Saturday, June 26th. To participate, all you need to do is submit the requested info through the form on our website to create a personalized message for your graduate: blackburnhamlet.ca/events/2021-grad-celebration

This June marks our second year celebrating the grads of Blackburn Hamlet with an LED sign that will be driven along a route through our community, displaying photos, messages, and even playing songs! Graduates are invited to stand outside of their homes to view their own personalized greeting while neighbours and friends cheer them on!

Before and after the tour, you will also be able to view and take photos with the digital sign at the centre of the Hamlet, along the intersection of Bearbrook and Innes.

This pandemic has certainly posed many challenges, but thanks to businesses like UTG Digital Media, we have come up with a fun alternative to help celebrate these meaningful milestones. Whether you are moving up from kindergarten to grade one, finishing up elementary school, high school, college, or university, we are so proud of your accomplishments and can't wait to cheer you on as you begin the next chapter of your life!



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President's message

Maybe it's the warm weather, increasing vaccinations, the arena progress, or the start of construction on the new splash pad, but it's hard not to feel excited. While the lockdown has been extended into June, I know many families are struggling with home schooling or pandemic fatigue, there is hope moving forward. And while we wait for a return to normal, some exciting projects have been in the works that will make living in Blackburn Hamlet even better!

While there is plenty of optimism, we also had a difficult month as a community, two families in our community lost their homes due to fire. Never an easy event to deal with, and I am sure it's made harder by the pandemic. Those looking to support the family on Autumn Hill, please see page 19 to make contributions to their GoFundMe. It is also a good time to check your home's fire safety and preparedness – see our community safety director Don Kelly's piece on fire safety, in consultation with the Ottawa Fire Services, on page 11.

Last year with the pandemic we introduced the Grad Celebration, it was a great event and we are continuing again this year. If you have a family member who is graduating this year, let us celebrate their accomplishments with you.

With spring moving into summer, our gardens and outdoor spaces are in full bloom. Many of you have likely noticed the added colour at the entrances to the community around the Blackburn Hamlet signs. A big thank you to one of our new BCA directors, Miriam Hampson, for her hard work on this project.

For those of you who have traded in the skis and snowshoes for a bike, a reminder from our community safety director Don Kelly and transportation chair Dave Garand to protect your investments. See page 18 for some helpful tips on bike safety as you explore our great trails and paths.

I would also like to acknowledge Evelyn Budd, former BANAR editor and BCA director, and her contributions to our community. See Laura Dudas' article (page 7) on this long-standing member of our community. It was great to have her honoured at our AGM this year, and we wish her all the best moving forward.

Finally, I would like to thank Lee Stach for all her work on this year's Spring Cleanup Program. We had to cut the program short due to the current lockdown but hope to hold a fall clean-up. Thank you, Lee, for all your hard work and commitment to the community.

Mark Lister
BCA President



Blackburn in bloom – Page 17

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Websites

www.BlackburnHamlet.ca
www.BlackburnFunFair.ca
www.BANAR.ca
www.CancerChase.com

Facebook

- Blackburn Hamlet Community Association–BCA
- Blackburn Hamlet Community Association

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Blackburn Community Association (BCA)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 47062, Ottawa K1B 5B0

2021 BCA Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

**Please note that the specific director portfolios have yet to be assigned for 2021*

President: Mark Lister	president@blackburnhamlet.ca
Vice-President: Brent Lawrie	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Secretary: Lynn Lefevre	secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca
Treasurer: Lisa Margeson	treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Hall: Currently closed	Please contact BCA president
Communications: Nina Ryan, Barbara Whittaker, Patrick Phillips and Dan Gosson	communications@blackburnhamlet.ca
Transportation & Community Safety: Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Environment: Devon Ellis and Miriam Hampson	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Membership: Satinder Sahota	membership@blackburnhamlet.ca
Rinks: Zack Jackson	parksandrinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Parks: Kiel Dixon	Kiel@blackburnhamlet.ca
Website: Vacant	webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca
Funfair Chairperson: Ian Chamberland	chair@blackburnfunfair.ca
Seniors: Don Kelly	Seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca
Facilities and Operations: Brent Lawrie	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Youth: Maureen Forsythe	youth@blackburnhamlet.ca
Canada Day and Santa's Breakfast: Tracy Scott and Jason Wegner	tcwilson@gmail.com jw.jasonwegner@gmail.com
Bike Rodeo: Dave Garand	transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca
BANAR Editor: Kendra Brett	banar@blackburnhamlet.ca
BANAR distribution:: Joanne Smith	joannesmith@yahoo.ca

BCA Board Meetings

The BCA has been holding their monthly board meetings virtually since the beginning of the pandemic, and residents of Blackburn Hamlet are encouraged to participate. Virtual BCA meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month from 7:30pm to 10pm. If you are a resident of the Hamlet and wish to sit in on a meeting, all you need to do is email secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca to receive an invitation and the Zoom access code. Please remember that board meetings follow an agenda, so if you have any questions or topics that you wish to raise, please advise the secretary at least two (2) days prior to the meeting.

The next BCA board meeting is scheduled for:
Thursday, June 17th.

Time to renew your BCA Membership

The membership year is from July 1 to June 30 every year. Each membership is good for 2 adults (who have voting privileges at the AGM) and any dependent family members living at the same address.

To join the BCA or renew your BCA membership, please complete the form to the left or send an email with the same information to membership@blackburnhamlet.ca

Payment:

- **By mail:** Cheque or cash amount of \$10 mailed to BCA, P.O. Box 47062, Ottawa, ON K1B 5B0.
- **By e-transfer:** \$10 emailed to treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca. Include your family name in the message box. You will receive an automated confirmation email from the bank indicating that your payment was received.

Time to renew your BCA Membership!

Your \$10 annual membership helps support BCA activities such as the BANAR, representation to various levels of government, Fun-Fair, Hockey Day, Canada Day, Santa's Breakfast and many other initiatives for youth, seniors, and local groups. Each membership is good for all family members living at the same address.

To renew your BCA membership please email:
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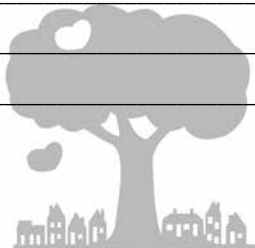
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The BANAR is published and delivered five times a year to Blackburn homes and businesses to celebrate community and provide information on local programs and events (circulation 3500). BANARs are refilled at the Blackburn Library, Metro, and Shoppers Drugmart while quantities last, as well as online at blackburnhamlet.ca.

SUBMISSIONS: Articles can be emailed in the body of an email or attached as a Word document. Original, high resolution photos (i.e, 300 DPI) to accompany articles can be submitted as email attachments. The BANAR editor reserves the right to edit articles for length and comprehension.

BANAR CONTACT: Kendra Brett at banar@blackburnhamlet.ca or call 613-265-7661. Please put 'BANAR' in the subject of all emails.

ADVERTISING IN THE BANAR: Prices range from \$40 to \$300 per issue based on the size of the ad. Annual subscribers get 10% off. Tax will be added to the invoice. Ads, photos, and PDFs are to be the correct size, as noted below, and high resolution (i.e. 300 DPI).

The BCA does not endorse nor guarantee products or services sent in for the BANAR nor take responsibility for the print or web quality, copyright infringements of photos, artwork or text provided by advertisers for the BANAR or BCA website.

Size	Cost per issue	Cost per year
7.5 W x 9.5 H (full page)*	\$300	\$1,350
7.5 W x 4.25 H*	\$140	\$630
4.95 W X 2.75 H*	\$80	\$360
3.65 W X 5.25 H*	\$100	\$450
3.65 W X 4.25 H*	\$80	\$360
3.65 W x 2.75 H	\$60	\$270
3.65 W x 2 H (business card)	\$50	\$225
3.65 W x 1.75 H (smallest ad)	\$40	\$180

* First-time advertisers who purchase a subscription of ads marked with a star (*) receive a free half-page profile (225 words, written in the third person, plus photo).

Upcoming BANAR Dates

BANAR Issue	Deadline	Delivery
September	Aug. 12/21	Sept. 4-5/21
November	Oct. 28/21	Nov. 20/21

All payments and submissions are due by the deadline date.



Photos by Devon Henderson



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a **first-time owner** here in Blackburn Hamlet back in 1968 we are totally supportive of the BCA Tree Team in their efforts to make our community even more beautiful with tree planting. A dream I had for years was to have trees placed on the boulevards on both sides of Bearbrook Road. This main thoroughfare in the Hamlet, used every single day by residents, would be an ideal project for all residents as we move away from our COVID isolation. It seems appropriate that this project, after consultation with residents along Bearbrook Road, could be something to honor our monarch as she celebrates her 70th year of accession in February 2022. If the project is approved, the trees could be planted from Louis Riel School to the newly restored Blackburn arena and the site of our famous Blackburn Hamlet FunFair. I compliment the Tree Team who have worked towards the planting of additional trees on school grounds and within the community.

Garth Hampson



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Shout-out to Evelyn Budd!

By *Laura Dudas*

Evelyn Budd has spent a lifetime giving back to the community. She has volunteered in many capacities, but her most high-profile role has been as the publisher, editor, writer and photographer for the Blackburn Area News & Reports (BANAR).

Evelyn has been capturing the story of our community for the BANAR since May of 1997. In November 2020, she announced she was retiring from the role after overseeing the publication of more than 100 editions during her tenure.

Her in-depth knowledge of the community's history, as well as her involvement with the Blackburn Community Association, will be appreciated



by residents for years to come.

I had the honour of delivering a plaque signed by myself as City Councillor and Mayor Jim Watson to her earlier this year, and she was officially

recognized during a recent community association meeting.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Evelyn for everything she does for the community.



Laura Dudas

Councillor/Conseillère
Quartier Innes Ward

LauraDudas.ca
Laura.Dudas@Ottawa.ca
613-580-2472

Good things growing in (and around) Blackburn Hamlet

Councillor Laura Dudas

Locally grown food has become more accessible in recent years as new farm stands sprout up across the community, complementing the long-established local farms.

The Just Food Community Farm has operated a farm stand at the corner of Pepin Court during the warmer months and occasionally inside the Red Barn on the Just Food property during the winter. I often stop by the Just Food Farm Stand to purchase locally produced



honey, meat, kimchi, and fermented vegetables.

Another nearby farm stand

location is Chantal's Fresh Fruit and Vegetables on Navan Road at Cl rroux Farm. You can see the red barn-style stand from the Blackburn Bypass, and it's always a pleasure to chat with Chantal and her family during a stop to pick up berries and vegetables.

A bit further south-east is Bergeron Gardens on White Street. Brothers Denis and Gilles Bergeron are third-generation farmers, and their farm stand is well known for the large variety of fresh, tasty

Continued on next page



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lettuce, among other treats!

Last but not least, is one of the oldest farms in our community, the Orléans Fruit Farm on St. Joseph Boulevard. The land has been farmed since 1917 when it was purchased by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and has been operated by the Henrie family since 1968. Aside from the vast array of seasonal produce at the farm stand, many families, including mine, make berry picking and apple picking seasonal traditions.

Community farm stands are a great way to support area farmers and purchase locally grown food. I look forward to buying some local treats during my frequent visits to these fantastic nearby farm stands.



Sun Shan from the Chi Garden at the Just Food Farm Stand in early May 2021



BLACKBURN TENNIS
YOUTH
PROGRAM

Come out and Play!

Blackburn Tennis is offering six weeks of full day camps for children ages 5-13. Participants will be divided into groups based on their age and level of play. Register online at www.blackburntennis.ca/full-day-camps

New this Year!

Blackburn Tennis is offering camp to six children whose families are not able to afford the cost of the camp. Available camps dates: July 26-30, Aug 2-6, Aug 9-13

To learn more please contact blackburntennisclub@gmail.com

Blackburn Tennis Club
2669 Innes Road | Blackburn Hamlet | Ontario
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BLACKBURN TENNIS
PROGRAMME DE
TENNIS JUNIOR

Viens jouer au tennis !

Le club de tennis de Blackburn offre six semaines de camps de jour complets pour les enfants âgés de 5 à 13 ans. Les participants sont regroupés en fonction de leur âge et de leur niveau de jeu. Inscrivez-vous en ligne à l'adresse suivante:

www.blackburntennis.ca/full-day-camps

L'offre des camps pourrait changer en raison des mises à jour des règlements provinciaux sur la COVID

Du nouveau cette année !

Blackburn Tennis offre un camp à six enfants dont les familles ne sont pas en mesure de défrayer le coût du camp. Dates des camps disponibles: du 26 au 30 juillet, du 2 au 6 août ou du 9 au 13 août.

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Fire safety at home

Don Kelly

Given the two house fires in Blackburn Hamlet in April 2021, the BCA wanted to remind residents of the importance of fire safety at home.

Most fires are preventable. In 2020, Ottawa had 746 fires. According to Jimmy Fata, Assistant Division Chief of Fire Prevention for the Ottawa Fire Services, 95 of these fires occurred because of things unattended, such as cooking, candles and barbecues. 95 fires occurred because of improperly discarded items such as cigarettes and fireplace ashes, while another 38 fires started because of space heaters too close to combustible material or articles too close to the stove.

Fire safety and prevention is something that we all can do to keep our family and home safe. One critical component is to have a working smoke alarm. Effective March 1, 2006, it is the law for all Ontario homes to have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. This covers single-family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented.

Notes on smoke detectors:

1. Always install the smoke alarm on or near the ceiling in accordance with the

manufacturer's instructions.

2. Test your smoke alarms regularly by pressing the test button.
3. Install a new battery in each alarm at least once a year. When a warning chirp sounds, replace your battery *immediately*.

Other fire safety tips:

1. Develop a fire escape plan that will enable you and your family to get out of the home quickly and safely. Practice the plan regularly so that you can all escape within two minutes.
2. Ensure you have a working fire extinguisher for emergencies.
3. Always properly discard your cigarette and ensure it is OUT.
4. Never leave cooking unattended, especially when using a deep fryer or cooking



with oil.

5. Never barbecue indoors, including inside the garage.
6. Monitor space heaters and always follow manufacturer's instructions.

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Blackburn tree talk

Stephen Fanjoy

One of the most reassuring and inspiring things in nature is when established plants awaken from winter's dormancy and new plants emerge from seed.

I am happy to report that over forty of my sugar maple seedlings from last year survived their first winter and are now eagerly starting their second year. Unfortunately, the Vanier maple sugar bush, my source of seeds last spring, seemed to produce no seeds this past fall. I have learned this happens and is just one of the cycles in nature that isn't annual.

This year my tree-growing priority will be to focus on native trees that are shedding seed now, or will be soon, and are ready to germinate when they do. Fortunately Blackburn has no shortage of these! Silver birch, silver maple and red maple are all good examples of native trees that produce seeds in the spring or early summer and can be germinated as soon as they fall from their branches. As I write this, birch seeds are dangling and

Continued on next page



A sugar maple sapling from 2020



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this season's pine cones have been dropping for months.

Like most people, for years I've simply raked the cones from my prolific eastern white pine into yard waste.

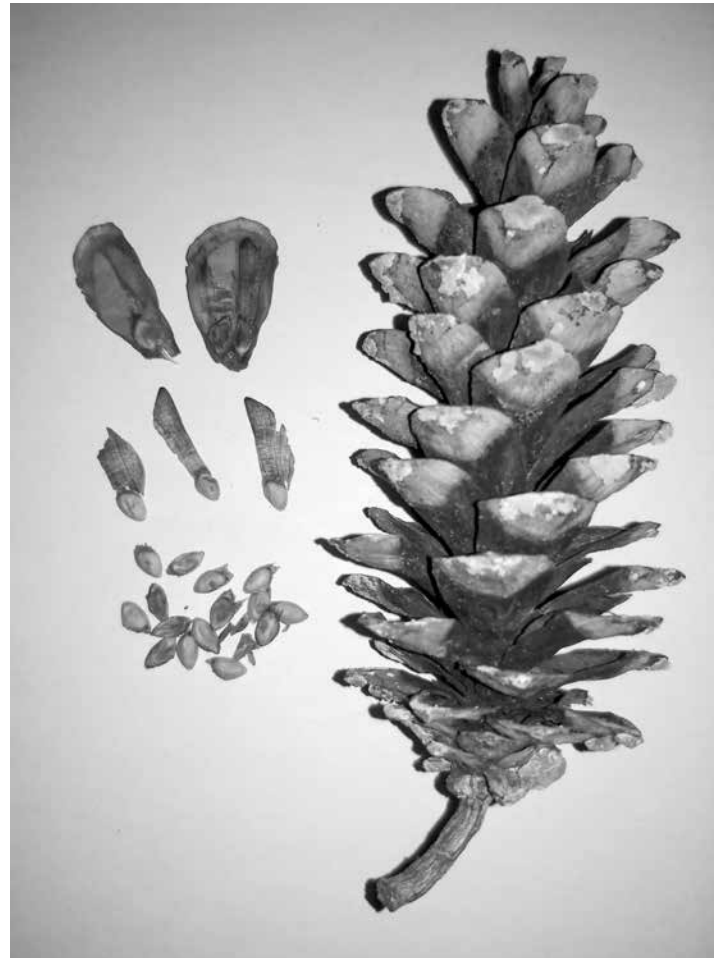
I didn't even know what the seed inside looked like.

This spring I've collected the cones and seed to see how many will grow. Germination normally takes a couple of months but, once they are a viable seedling, they are a fast-growing and strong tree. The seedlings I grow will be donated to a reforestation project starting at Just Food. We'll know more about this to share in a future article.

Eastern white pine is the tallest conifer east of the Prairies. In old-growth forests they can reach over 40 metres high and live for hundreds of years. They are the traditional Tree of Peace to the Haudenosaunee people, the provincial tree of Ontario and the majestic subject of some of Tom Thomson's finest paintings.

Want help identifying the species of tree that interests you? There are plenty of books at the library and online resources to help. If you have a smartphone, you can download the free "citizen scientist" iNaturalist app. You can take pictures of the seed, the flower, the bark, and the leaves or needles. The app can then search, using your pictures, to help you identify the species.

The more I learn about trees, the more they inspire. And I'll never look at a yard of cones the same way again.



A white pine pinecone and seeds

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Harvey Wittenberg: Part 3 – Blackburn Hamlet

Brad Hampson

In the last issue of the BANAR, we explored Harvey's life after the war and what life was like when he first moved to Blackburn Hamlet. Here we learn a bit more about Harvey's involvement in the community.

When Harvey's son began playing hockey, the company Harvey worked for sponsored his son's Blackburn hockey team. Volunteering as the team manager came soon after, and they were playing quite a lot – up to 90 games in one regular season! In the early days, the teams practiced on the outdoor rink at Ste. Marie School, and Earl Armstrong arena was their home ice. A short time later, the Blackburn Arena was built, and Harvey was one of the key individuals involved in creating, building and running the Blackburn Minor Hockey Association (BMHA) from the start. He wrote the first Constitution and bylaws for the BMHA, which were even



Harvey volunteering with the Stingers Hockey at the Blackburn arena

adopted by other community hockey associations. Harvey's passion also led him to publish a very popular monthly BMHA newsletter for the community's fans and team members. It also led to Harvey's volunteer involvement with the Blackburn Community Association, helping to plan community events and other such initiatives. Blackburn has always been a tight-knit community, with volunteers coming out of the woodwork to get involved.



Harvey (3rd from right, in the front) as a Veteran Special Guest of Honour at the Glen Ogilvie Remembrance Day Ceremonies

It makes for special times.

In the 1990's, Harvey was laid up at home due to heart surgery. It was then he decided to take up painting. Since then, he has completed close to 400 pieces of art, many of which hang in homes around the Hamlet. Still on Southpark at 100 years old, Harvey is a loyal community man, proud to live in Blackburn. He has been honoured on Remembrance Day several times, and has been a special guest at the Glen Ogilvie Public School ceremonies.

When asked how it feels to be 100, Harvey said, "I never thought I'd get here. Good genes were on my side, as many in my family lived into their 90's. Sadly, I'm the last one, and most of my friends have passed on. But I'm blessed with my children and grandchildren, and all their extended families, who all call me "Papa". Lastly, I'm blessed to have been part of this great community that will live on for years to come."

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Transform Together is a community agency offering a dynamic combination of counselling, educational consulting and facilitation services.

Directors Leslie Giddings and Dannielle Samuel believe that resilience and mindset matter. “Particularly during this pandemic, the ability to adjust to change is crucial,” says Dannielle, a registered social worker since 2000. “We enjoy the challenge of working with individuals and families through the intergenerational differences in learning and relationships, so people can keep healthy connections”.

Dannielle and Leslie continually look for ways to reflect back to their clients what they observe about their clients’ learning and relationships. “It’s about how we as individuals and families learn to support each other and meaningfully contribute to our community”, says Leslie, educational consultant.

Dannielle’s trauma-informed counselling practice focuses on loss, end-of-life, and adoption issues. Dannielle also has a keen interest in diversity and inclusion work, providing clinical support, information and



workshops on self-awareness, the concepts of anti-racism, and the power of forgiveness.

Leslie is a relationship-driven educational consultant since 2010 and is an IAF Certified™ Professional Facilitator. Leslie works with students to rise to the academic and school challenges they face and provides parental coaching to help manage the stress of school support at home. Leslie also delivers practical actions that non-profits and groups can implement in the community.

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Lacy has been a Blackburn Hamlet resident for more than 20 years, so she’s familiar with the unique needs of the community. She is known for taking the time to get to know her customers and tailors insurance solutions that

makes sense for their lifestyles.

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When Lacy isn’t working with her customers, you’ll find her out and about enjoying everything Blackburn has to offer, which includes supporting local events such as the Blackburn Fun Fair and Dapo Day. Lacy also loves exploring the trails and parks in the area with her two year old.



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The Hamlet
Veterinary Hospital

Dr Bernard Vincelette, DMV & Dr Annie Séguin, DMV

Dr Daniel Guirguis, DVM & Dr Amy Jewiss, DVM

Our team of veterinarians, meet our two new associates



Dr Daniel Guirguis: Graduated in 2019 from the University of Massey in New Zealand. Veterinary medicine is in his blood, both of his parents are veterinarians! Dr Dan has special interest in nutrition and surgery. He has joined our team in December 2020 and we have enjoyed his help ever since. He is fluent in English, Arabic and is working on his French.

Dr Amy Jewiss: Graduated from the University of Guelph in 2008. Since then, she has practiced in various disciplines and on five different continents. She recently joined our team and we are excited to add her expertise to the services we offer. Her special interests include soft tissue surgery

and integrative medicine, earning her Certified Veterinary Acupuncture accreditation from the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society in 2014.

Dr Bernard Vincelette: Graduated from the University of Montreal in 1998. He has a special interest in surgery and dentistry. He founded the Hamlet Veterinary Hospital in January 2017 with his wife Dr Annie Séguin. He enjoys challenging cases and finds great satisfaction at improving the life of his patients and strives to provide compassionate care to everyone. He is fluent in French and English

Dr Annie Séguin: Graduated from the University of Montreal in 2001. Co-founder of the Hamlet Veterinary Hospital. She is dedicated on educating owners about the care of their furry friends and treat various illnesses. She always provides compassionate care and loves to get to know the whole family. She is interested in all aspects of medicine but holds a special place in her heart for aging pets and silly puppies and kittens. She is fluent in French and English

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Blackburn Hamlet is in full bloom

Kendra Brett

As you may have seen, Blackburn was recently made more beautiful, thanks to some volunteers who planted flowers to spruce up the community. In May, Miriam Hampson, a BCA board member, and her father-in-law Garth Hampson, spent four days beautifying two of the Hamlet's entrance signs, as well as the area around the sculpture at the 'four-corners' intersection. This involved weeding, cutting out the sod, adding topsoil, adding rocks to outline the sculpture, and adding flowers to the gardens. Thanks Miriam and Garth for all your hard work!

The flowers were paid for by the BCA and Sienna Living, and Budd's Gardens has offered to donate some perennials to the project, and Lafarge has indicated that they may donate some more rocks, if needed. Miriam is currently looking for volunteers to help water the flowers at the entrance signs. If you're interested in helping water, please contact Miriam at miriam@blackburnhamlet.ca.

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Bike thefts are on the rise

Don Kelly and Dave Garand

Each year thousands of bikes are stolen in Ottawa. The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) recently released bicycle theft data from the past six years:

- Annually 1,000 bicycles are stolen city-wide.
- We've seen a 70 per cent increase of stolen bikes in 2021 from previous years.
- The top three brands being stolen are: Giant, Trek, and Norco.
- The months of June to August have the highest volume of thefts

Daytime thefts are occurring with thieves carrying battery powered cutters or even large bolt cutters. Thus, keeping your bike locked properly with the right and sturdy lock is very important. Ideally, locking the bike in a secure area is best. If using OC Transpo with



your bike, there is a new service called Bikesecure providing customers with a reserved parking spot in a shelter that protects their bikes against theft or vandalism.

OPS has initiated several initiatives as proactive measures to this problem such as 529 Garage, allow-

ing you to register your bike which can help police quickly locate and return your bike to you. It also allows buyers to verify that their purchase is safe and legal. Facebook groups, like Stolen Bikes Ottawa, or Eastern Ottawa Cycling Community can also be helpful in finding your bike.

Remember:

1. Ensure you have a sturdy bicycle lock, such as U-Lock to secure your bike.
2. Store your bike in a secure place or a locked garage or shed.
3. Visit www.ottawapolice.ca/endbiket theft for safety tips and the prevention of thefts.
4. Always report a found or stolen bike to the police.

+

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BHCC is now located in the Life Centre Food Bank building (2675 Innes Rd.) We are currently broadcasting our services online, but we hope to be able to gather with you soon!

Connect with us for more information:
Rev. Arnold Mayorga - arnoldmayorga.21@gmail.com
Sydney Swanson - 43sydmarv35@gmail.com

Being Neighbourly

Help support Hamlet family after house fire

Sarah Arnold, a neighbour

On April 15, 2021, many in the community likely heard the fire trucks race to a house fire on Autumn Hill Crescent, and felt their heart in their throat for the family experiencing this disaster.

As a community, I know we all feel deep empathy for the displacement of their lives, their loss of clothing and personal possessions,

and especially the loss of a family dog. I would like to thank all the Ottawa Fire Services who responded, with a special shout-out to Station 54 here in Blackburn Hamlet.

For those in our community who wish to help the family, a GoFundMe page has been set up. You can go to: ca.Gofundme.com and search the family name "Schperl".

Any donation would be appreciated.

Blackburn Art Group is open to new members

If you are looking for an opportunity to work on your art projects in a spirit of camaraderie with like-minded people, the Blackburn Art Group could be for you!

Before COVID, the Blackburn Art Group met every second Thursday afternoon in the Blackburn Community Hall to chat about their projects and share helpful tips with each other. Currently, the group meets virtually using Zoom, every second Thursday at 2pm for about 30 minutes. The Zoom gatherings allow members

to share their creative efforts and encourage each other to persevere and hone their skills. The Zoom meetings are free to attend.

When we are able to return to the community hall, there will be a nominal annual fee per member to cover the cost of renting the hall.

If you would like to join the Blackburn Art Group, please email your request to Lyn Ragan and Camille Marion at blackburn.art.group@gmail.com

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What's happening at the Blackburn Library

The nice weather is finally here, and outdoor activities are in full swing. If you are looking for books on gardening, barbecue cooking or building that perfect shed, we would be pleased to help you.

Please feel free to come and pay us a visit, but don't forget your mask.

Visit our website to get the latest information regarding levels of service at your favourite branch.

We are not able to offer any programs in the library at this time, but we have all sorts of online activities for adults, teens and kids on our website at bibliooottawalibrary.ca, including online tutorials to help you download e-books, or call us at 613-580-2940 for assistance. There are even resources and reading suggestions available on our website if you're thinking of creating an online book club!

Our very own YouTube channel!

Did you know that we now have our very own YouTube channel? Discover all sorts of fun videos in English and French for kids, teens and adults. We have interviews with authors, gardening tips, creative writing workshops for teens and crafts and games for kids. There is something for everyone!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BiblioOttawaLibrary>

Online programs for adults Rural Road Trip Concert Series

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Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Please

register online. Inscrivez-vous en ligne.

Planning and enjoying your garden

Going Grassless: Meadowscaping Your Yard with Julianne Labreche, Wednesday, June 2, 12 pm

Container Gardening: Dramatic, Changeable and Forever Moveable with Catherine Disley and Rob Stupart, Wednesday, June 9, 12 pm

Jardinage en contenants with Claire McCaughey, in French, Wednesday, June 16, 12 pm

Please register online.
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A history of Green's Creek in four parts

by Shawn MacWha

Part 4: The Creek Today.

The land around Green's Creek was largely agricultural from the 1840s, when the forests were cleared, until the end of the 1960s. Despite some limited development around the lower reaches of the creek, such as the crossing of the Canadian Northern Railway in 1909 and the installation of the Montreal Road interchange during the late 1950s, it wasn't until the 1970s that the city truly came to the creek. That decade saw the development of Blackburn Hamlet, the Shefford Road Industrial Park, and the construction of the Pineview Golf Course, and these changes forever altered the creek and its environs.

Today more than 50 per cent of the creek's watershed is designated for urban land use. Despite the increased level of urbanization, however, this area remains an area of impressive biodiversity. A survey conducted in 2016 found 44 species of fish in the creek including largemouth bass, northern pike, catfish, wall-eye, and yellow perch. The woods that line much of the shoreline abound with deer, coyotes, racoons, foxes, beaver, and even the occasional moose. Even Ramsey Creek, more than 13 kilometres upstream from the Ottawa River, remains home to over 20 species of fish including brook stickleback, creek chub and sand minnows. The streams are also home to a wide variety of birds, reptiles, amphibians and over 500 different types of plants.

Aside from being a home for these animals, Green's Creek now offers its human inhabitants a quick escape from the city. Aside from the world-class soccer facilities and amazing toboggan hill just down the road, the National Capital Commission's P25, P26 and P27 parking lots afford access to the region's entire trail system. People can park there and bike all the way to Kanata or Gatineau Park. South of Blackburn Hamlet the abandoned VIA rail bed offers a multi-use pathway that runs from just east of Green's Creek to Rigaud, Quebec, a distance of over 100 km.

For many of us, Green's Creek is a much-loved urban playground. But we should remember that for



thousands of years Indigenous people hunted and fished these waters, and that for almost 200 years modern settlers made a living off the same forests and fields. We should remember too that 130 years ago people from all over the country drank the sulphur waters that bubbled out of the ground and that scientists around the world knew the name of our little creek and studied the precious little fossils hidden in the clay rocks that line its shores.

It is striking to think that after 10,000 years as a wilderness stream, Green's Creek became an urban waterway within many of our lifetimes.

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Blackburn – a brief history of the area

By Francis Kenny

North of Blackburn runs Old Montreal Road, known today as St. Joseph Boulevard. The actual concession where the road should have run is about a quarter mile south and runs approximately parallel to the quarry on the east-west section of what is now Bearbrook Road. As a child growing up, I knew it as the Canada Cement Road, after the company that operated the quarry.

Old Montreal Road used to carry all traffic between Ottawa and Montreal. In the late 1940s construction began on the new Highway 17 (now Regional Road 174). This road was built adjacent to, and partially over, the old Canadian Northern Railroad that was removed in the late 1930s. The cement footings used for the railroad bridge that spanned Green's Creek still stand, and can be viewed on one of the walking trails behind Green's Creek Toboggan Hill.

The Canada Cement Road (now Bearbrook Road) ran straight south as far as the crusher. There was a T intersection that was part of the Concession Road, running east-west. If you went straight, you entered the Canada Cement crusher area. If you turned east, the road ran about a half of a mile up the hill. My grandmother's family, the Harts, had a farm at the very eastern end of the Concession Road on this hill. My great uncle James Hart sold the family farm to the quarry and built a two-storey stone house on the corner



This photo shows the Kenny farm (circa 1955) looking South West towards what is now Blackburn. The land was purchased by my great grandfather, John Kenny, in 1855, but expropriated in 1939 to construct the Land Engineering Test Establishment (LETE) facility shown here. The former DND LETE base can be seen at the top of the photo.

of Montreal Road at Hart Road, across from the school-house (now a Montessori school).

When you turned west at this T intersection, the road ran parallel to the Canada Cement property and then turned south, as it does today. The new paved road follows the old dirt road over the brook. There were farmers' fields with new growth forest where the Hornets' Nest soccer fields are today.

At Northpark, instead of heading south as it does today, the old road followed a path southeast, staying close to the DND perimeter fence. The old road ended at Innes Road where the child-care centre currently sits. Many of you will remember this location as a convenience store

but before that it was the location of Leo Mainville's Blacksmith Shop.

As the road crossed Innes and went past the Blackburn School (now Norman Johnston) it was called Navan Road. The Cleroux family had a house and barn here. My father knew many and worked closely with some of the farmers along this stretch. Family names such as the McNeeleys (where the greenhouses now sit), Purdy's, Elliots, Kemps and Bradleys, are all names long associated with the Blackburn community. Farmers working together was an age-old tradition and those hard-working women and men laid the foundations for the community that we enjoy today.

The early years

Kendra Brett

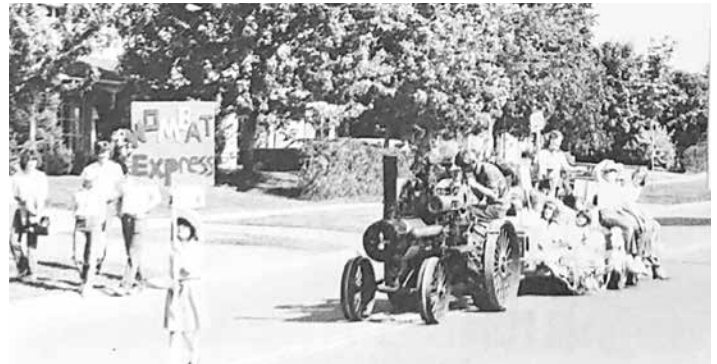
I recently had the privilege of looking at some photos of FunFair from a few of the older issues of the BANAR, and although many aspects of FunFair have changed since 1971, the community involvement and dedication to putting on FunFair has not changed!

In both the 1978 and 1980 issues of the BANAR, the FunFair chair recognized the contributions of the FunFair directors, as well as the involvement from all the different community members and groups, such as the Brownies, Cubs, and Baseball. In 1980, there was even a special shout-out to The Westpark Connection and The Woodhill Wombats (groups of volunteers from different streets in the Hamlet) for their involvement with FunFair. The Westpark Connection organized crafts for kids, entered a bed in the bed race, supplied moving trucks, and helped secure a loan for the stage. The Woodhill Wombats ran the beer tent and won a trophy for their steam engine float in the parade!

While the softball tournament still takes place at FunFair, some other events have fallen to the wayside. In 1980, there was a roller-skating competition that featured prizes such as ‘most graceful’, ‘best backwards’, and ‘funniest’. That year, the teen activities also featured chocolate roulette, basketball toss, nail driving, milk bottle toss, darts, flycasting, and a teen tug-o-war. For the younger kids, there was the 3-legged race, a sac



FunFair dunk tank – June 1975 BANAR cover



FunFair parade Woodhill Wombats – June 1980 BANAR

race, and the ever-popular fish pond game!

If you have any FunFair photos from 1981 to 1990 that you'd like published in the BANAR, please email banar@blackburnhamlet.ca



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A neighbour's kindness

By Lisa Bornn

Like everyone, the pandemic began, for us, with a lot of isolation. We were working from home and learning online. Each day blurred into the next.

One Sunday, our neighbour Diane kindly dropped off some cookies. The next Sunday, she brought date squares and the one after that, donuts. Suddenly, we realized we were looking forward to Sundays and seeing what the 'weekly treat' would be. She became a bright light in a dark time. Her home-baked goods gave our family a feeling of being cared for. Like a warm 'virtual' hug.

We had known Diane since we moved to



Blackburn Hamlet in 2002, but it took the pandemic to really get to know her. We now regularly exchange meals and help each other out. Neighbours helping neighbours is a silver lining during this pandemic. We are fortunate to have gotten to know so many amazing neighbours.

Remember it's never too late to show kindness and brighten someone's day. A random act of caring can change someone's life!

Underground oil pipes in the hamlet?

Kendra Brett

Calling on all long-time Blackburn residents and Blackburn history enthusiasts! A reader recently reached out to the BANAR enquiring about the story of the underground oil pipes that used to serve the houses in the Hamlet. Based on the stories they heard, there used to be a big oil tank at the highest location in Blackburn (i.e., top of Bearbrook road), and underground pipes carried oil downhill to the homes in

Blackburn that used oil-burning furnaces. Eventually, the pipe system was discontinued and replaced by personal oil tanks on individual properties for those still heating with oil.

I have only a vague recollection of this, as I was quite young at the time, so the details are fuzzy. If you know more details about this story and would be interested in writing an article for the BANAR, please contact me at banar@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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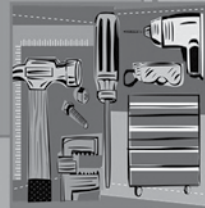
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