

Blackburn Area News And Reports

BANAR

Vol. 55 No. 2

November 2021

Winners of the BCA Youth Poetry Prize

by *Maureen Forsythe*
BCA Youth Director

In September 2021, the BCA invited local youth aged ten to twelve to write a poem about COVID-19. Many young people took up the challenge and had quite a bit to say!

We received a total of eighteen submissions, including three poems written in French. Congratulations to all of the young people who found time to put their thoughts and feelings into words and submit a poem!

We are proud to announce that the first place winner of the BCA Youth Poetry Prize 2021 is **Ivy Wynne** for her poem "Unexpected." Ivy attends Emily Carr Middle School. She will collect a \$75 cash prize.

We are also pleased to announce the following winning poems: "We Shall Not Fall" by **Nura Rowhani**; "Stronger Together" by **Amber Chu**; "La Pandémie pour moi" by **Shanika Parent** and "Numbers on a Screen" by **Chloe Tang**. Each of these budding young poets will receive a cash prize of \$25.

Each poem was reviewed and scored by a panel of four independent judges. The panel of judges included well known local poets **Alice Green**, **Courtney Symons**, **Khaleefa 'Apollo the Child' Hamdan** and **Margaret Cook**. All of



these individuals graciously shared their time, expertise and love of poetry to support the contest, and the BCA extends a big thank you to each of them!

Special shout-out to volunteer **Kate Beshiri**, a grade eleven student who attends the IB program at Colonel By Secondary School, for her great work in designing and translating the youth poetry contest posters!

Read Ivy's winning poem on page 22 and other winning poems throughout this issue of the BANAR.

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President's message

As the leaves on the trees have all mostly fallen and we await the coming winter, I take a moment to reflect on the fall and realize everything that has been happening in our community. It was busy for many of us as we sent kids back to school and crossed our fingers that interruptions from COVID-19 would be limited. Some are preparing return-to-office plans as vaccination rates in the city increase. With everything going on, many of our community volunteers have started to take advantage and run programs for the community. Maureen Forsythe, our youth engagement director, has been especially busy these last few months, coordinating activities for youth in the community and working on some new initiatives as we move into winter. Maureen organized a fantastic BCA Youth Poetry Contest. I hope you will enjoy the winning poems, which are published in this month's BANAR! Following up on the success of the poetry contest, Maureen hosted a spooky poetry party on October 30 (page 10). Thank you Maureen, for your amazing work! It's great to see youth engagement in the community. If you have a youth looking to take part in future BCA events and programs, or have suggestions for future events or programs see pages 6 and 7 and reach out to Maureen – she would love to hear from you!

Our environment team has had another busy season organizing tree giveaways (page 16), planting, and tackling invasive moth species in our community (page 11). Great job by Devon Ellis, Miriam Hampson and Sarah Morgan-White – thank you for all your work!

Don Kelly has been working tirelessly to make our community safer, and this past month added another street to the Neighborhood Watch program (page 18) – fantastic work by his team. If your street is interested in receiving this special designation, please reach out to Don.

We are truly blessed with so many volunteers looking for ways to help improve our community. We are always looking for those wanting to help out, and sometimes we need to fill vacancies; if you are interested in running or helping organize the 2022 FunFair (page 15) please let Brent Lawrie know, and as you will see on page 14, the FunFair has a long history in Blackburn Hamlet and is always a blast!

Thanks,
Mark Lister
President BCA

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Be sure to read all the Poetry contest winners in the grey boxes throughout this issue:

See Pages 9, 11, 13, 15, and first prize poem by Ivy Wynne on page 22



Websites

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



Facebook

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



Twitter

@BlackburnOttawa

Blackburn Community Association (BCA)

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

2021 BCA Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

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Community Hall: Pamela Barton	hall@blackburnhamlet.ca
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Transportation & Community Safety: Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Environment: Devon Ellis & Miriam Hampson	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Membership: Satinder Sahota	membership@blackburnhamlet.ca
Rinks: Mark Lister	parksandrinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Parks: Kiel Dixon	Kiel@blackburnhamlet.ca
Website: Vacant	webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca
Funfair Chairperson:	chair@blackburnfunfair.ca
Seniors: Don Kelly	Seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca
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Cancer Chase: Barbara Whittaker	info@cancerchase.com
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	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Bike Rodeo: Dave Garand	transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca
BANAR Editor: Kendra Brett	banar@blackburnhamlet.ca
BANAR distribution:: Joanne Smith	joanneesmith@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.

Please check the BCA website for the date of the next BCA meeting

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 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, FunFair, 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:
membership@blackburnhamlet.ca

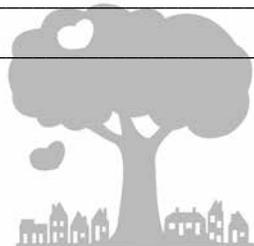
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ADVERTISING in the BANAR

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 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.

*To advertise, contact Kendra Brett
banar@blackburnhamlet.ca or 613-265-7661*

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 1.75 H (business card)	\$40	\$180

Circulation: 3,500

* First-time advertisers who purchase a subscription of ads marked with a star (*) receive a free half-page profile (225 words, written in the 3rd person, plus photo).

The next BANAR will be published in February. Please check the BCA website for the updated dates and deadlines for 2022.

All payments and submissions are due by the deadline date.

PAYMENT, ADVERTISING, ARTWORK, AND ARTICLES ARE DUE BY THE DEADLINE DATE

Please put 'BANAR' in the subject line of all emails.

Blackburn Hamlet Outdoor Rinks

Call for Volunteers

The BCA is seeking ice-making volunteers for the upcoming season. If you are interested in volunteering for our ice-making team for the upcoming 2022 season, please email Mark Lister at president@blackburnhamlet.ca

The BCA is also seeking rink attendants for the upcoming 2022 season. If you are interested in joining our rink attendant team and want to learn more about the position, please email Mark Lister at president@blackburnhamlet.ca

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.

Calling all youth (and their parents)!

By Maureen Forsythe,
BCA Youth Director

Are you ready to have fun and get more involved with your local community? If so, the Blackburn Community Association wants to hear from you!

The BCA is creating new opportunities for local youth to get together with their peers and engage with the wider community. The BCA would like to support new ways for youth to:

- socialize and have fun
- learn something new
- develop or improve a skill, including leadership skills and
- have a greater say in the type of youth activities, projects and clubs that are supported by the BCA

If you have any ideas about how to engage youth in our community or if you have ideas for a specific activity or project, **the BCA wants to**

hear from you! Please send an email to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca to share your ideas.

You are also invited to visit the BCA website regularly at <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/youth/> for the latest news on upcoming youth activities in our community, such as the new **Very Short Story Contest for Youth** that will be launched in early December.



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Appel à tous les jeunes (et leurs parents)!

Maureen Forsythe, Directeur de la jeunesse de l'ACB

Êtes-vous prêt à vous amuser et à vous impliquer davantage dans votre communauté? Si c'est le cas, l'Association communautaire de Blackburn **veut vous entendre!**

L'ACB cherche à créer de **nouvelles possibilités** pour les jeunes locaux de se rassembler avec leurs pairs et de s'engager avec la communauté plus large.

L'ACB aimerait appuyer de nouvelles façons pour les jeunes de :

- socialiser et de s'amuser
- apprendre quelque chose de nouveau
- avoir davantage leur mot à dire sur le type d'activités, de projets et de clubs pour les jeunes qui sont appuyés par l'ACB
- développer ou améliorer une compétence, y compris des compétences en leadership

Si vous avez des idées sur une façon d'engager les jeunes dans notre communauté ou si vous avez des idées pour un activité ou projet spécifique, **envoyer un courriel à youth@blackburnhamlet.ca pour partager vos idées.**

Nous vous invitons également à consulter régulièrement le site Internet du ACB à l'adresse <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/youth/> pour obtenir les dernières nouvelles sur les activités jeunesse à venir dans notre communauté, comme le nouveau *concours de nouvelles très courtes pour les jeunes qui sera lancé début décembre.*



Laura Dudas

Councillor/Conseillère
Quartier Innes Ward

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

A black and white portrait of Laura Dudas, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, smiling. To the right of the portrait is her name in large bold letters, followed by her title and contact information.

Underground oil pipes in Blackburn Hamlet

Kendra Brett

In June 2021, I asked whether any members of the community had information on the underground oil pipes in the Hamlet. A few residents provided some details (based on the best of their knowledge), which I have summarized below. Many thanks to Denis Cudahy and those who wished to remain anonymous for their contributions!

When Costain was building homes in Blackburn Hamlet in the 60s and 70s, each home was equipped with an underground pipeline that brought oil directly to the home from a large oil tank (or tanks). The tanks are reported to have been located at the northern corner of Bearbrook and West Park (currently an empty lot across from Louis Riel High School). The pipeline was connected at each house to a meter, which was read annually, usually by the homeowner or an oil company representative. The pipeline kept large trucks off the residential streets, and ensured that

there were no outages during the winter months.

However, the oil pipelines were not without risk – with one reported oil leak more than 30 years ago. Soon after the leak was discovered, workers dug a huge hole, removed the contaminated soil, capped the pipeline, and had the hole filled and covered with new sod by the next day. For the first few years after the leak, the slight smell of oil remained, although it was investigated by the Ministry of the Environment and deemed safe.

Over time, residents started switching to heating with gas, and eventually the large oil tank and pipeline system was shut down. It was reported that the pipelines were blown out to clear remaining oil residue from the underground pipes. The large oil tanks have since been removed. After the pipeline system shut down, those who heated with oil had to have an oil tank installed on their property, which was filled regularly by an oil company.

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How to reduce water runoff in your yard

Miriam Hampson
enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca

With rainy weather and change of season, it is a good opportunity to think about how we can manage, prepare and benefit from this water! It is never too late to start planning. Here are two easy ways to catch rainwater at home:

Set up a rain garden: A rain garden contains a combination of plants and shrubs that tolerate moist conditions. It can also help manage rainwater from the roof or eavestroughs before it reaches our storm drains and helps reduce storm water overflow in water treatment plants. Always check with the City first in case a permit is needed for excavation.

Set up a rain barrel. Saved water keeps your garden blooming and saves on your water bill!

All residents of the Hamlet are eligible for a home assessment delivered by our partners at EnviroCentre (envirocentre.ca/rain-ready). Sign up for the waiting list at envirocentre.ca/rain-ready. Follow Rain Ready Ottawa on social media for ways to help protect your property and our local environment.

[@rainreadyottawa](https://www.facebook.com/RAINOttawaPluie)

Numbers on a Screen

by Chloe Tang

Put your mask on, wash your hands
Stay calm.
The booming voices pierce the screen
Waves are rising, cinqtuple digit numbers
"Next week, next month, next year," they say
They really mean that we'll be okay.

I nod and smile and say "okay."
Though I know what they really want to say
Airbrushed faces talk about gruesome numbers
So I cringe and turn away from the screen.
The only way I can stay calm
Is ignore the shaking in my hands.

The reporter, glossy-tongued, hands
Me another platitude to stay calm,

Another impossibility made possible on a screen
There's no more heart to give to numbers.
Though the numbers are people, who are screaming to have a say
People who aren't calm, can't be okay
People who endure, even as the passive parliament gives the okay
For greedy power-fisters to have the biggest say
People whose sanity is tied to a screen,
The only thing keeping them in stagnant calm.
Because the nursery rhymes lied; the whole world has slipped out of our hands.
But, despite it all, I still believe in us. So I put my mask on, stay home,
and wash my shaking hands.



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Spooky youth poetry party

by Maureen Forsythe
BCA Youth Director

On the afternoon of Saturday October 30th, despite grey skies and light rain, five young poetry enthusiasts in our neighbourhood gathered outdoors near the community hall to read and present scary poems and have fun. The event kicked off with the reading of a scary short story called *The Golden Hand*.

Next there was the Great 'Pumpkin' Search, with participants taking off across the field to find three orange squashes carefully hidden along the tree line.

Participants also played a game in which they tried to match questions and answers that formed a Halloween joke, such as "What do skeletons order at a restaurant? – Spare ribs!"

Next, participants worked in pairs to practise reading spooky poems, including *The Witch* by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge, *The Vampire* by Conrad



Erin Dawson, Elynn Zeng, Pinxit White, Nura Rowhani, Clara Barrette participated in the Spooky Poetry Party.

Aiken, and *Lucy Gray* [or *Solitude*] by William Wordsworth. Each pair then bravely presented their poem for everyone to enjoy. Volunteer Kate Beshiri, dressed as Captain Hook, did a dramatic reading of *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe.

Shout-out to Clara Barrette who also presented her very own poem while everyone enjoyed cupcakes and treats before heading home.

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BLACKBURN HAMLET YEAR END MARKET UPDATE

RESIDENTIAL DETACHED HOMES	RESIDENTIAL ATTACHED HOMES	CONDOMINIUMS	
 19.9% INCREASE NOV 2020 Average Sales Price: \$611,123 NOV 2021 Average Sales Price: \$732,852 NOV 2020 Avg Days on Market: 27 NOV 2021 Avg Days on Market: 11	 18.4% INCREASE NOV 2020 Average Sales Price: \$474,214 NOV 2021 Average Sales Price: \$561,559 NOV 2020 Avg Days on Market: 9 NOV 2021 Avg Days on Market: 11	 24% INCREASE NOV 2020 Average Sales Price: \$322,827 NOV 2021 Average Sales Price: \$400,470 NOV 2020 Avg Days on Market: 7 NOV 2021 Avg Days on Market: 9	<p>If you have any questions about real estate in Blackburn Hamlet we would be happy to talk!</p> <p><i>Thank you Blackburn Hamlet for always putting your trust in us.</i></p>



Angie and Charlie Jodoin scraping LDD moth eggs from a tree.

Blackburn Hamlet tree team tackles invasive moths

On Sunday Oct 17 some tree team members were off searching for eggs. Not Easter eggs but LDD/gypsy moth eggs, scraping them off trees behind Parkridge Crescent. Blackburn will hopefully have several thousand fewer LDD/gypsy moth caterpillars in the spring thanks to their efforts. Thanks to everyone who helped!

To learn more visit: <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/ldd-moth/>

Appel pour des lecteurs francophones – Sentier d’interprétation du parc Diceman

*Sarah Morgan-White,
BCA Tree Team*

Je suis très heureuse de partager avec vous que grâce aux services d’interprétation d’une bénévole formidable, Elisabeth Prince, nous sommes sur le point de terminer la traduction pour le sentier d’interprétation du parc Diceman! Tous ceux

intéressés à prêter leur voix à ce projet sont priés de communiquer avec Sarah au courriel suivant: treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca. Entre temps, la version anglaise de ce sentier d’interprétation demeure disponible en ligne au lien suivant: <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/diceman-park-interpretive-experience/>

La Pandémie pour moi

by Shanika Parent

Je ne peux plus respirer
Quand je suis masquée
Encore un autre deux ans
Ça ne durera pas trop
longtemps.

Déjà un changement de
routine a repris
Encore un peu d’espoir
Je sors mon dernier masque de
l’armoire

Maintenant je peux jouer avec
mes amies.

Mon masque est rose
Mais la vie est mauve
Attache ta tuque avec de la broche
Car l’hiver va se passer toute
croche.

Le vaccin ne fait pas mal
Il est petit comme un pépin et
goute les raisins
Ça ne fera pas trop longtemps
au total

Dr Bernard Vincelette, DMV & Dr Annie Séguin, DMV

Dr Daniel Guirguis, DVM & Dr Amy Jewiss, DVM

News about the expansion!



Yes we are getting bigger!

The expansion was carefully planned and the much-needed space will allow for a total of 5 exam rooms and a larger waiting room/storage for food, supplements, medications or anything else your pet could need.

More Fear Free accommodations:

The larger waiting room will allow for a cat specific waiting area, a feline exam room (no dog smell, sorry canine friends!). We are also building a larger exam room for special needs pets that need more space to be

examined. We are hoping this extra space will allow for more owners to be able to come in the hospital (we are limited by the spare footage and the current COVID regulations).

Larger team:

New faces are sometimes scary but we work as a team to continue to provide the best personalized care as possible. Every team member is helping us to maintain our culture of family oriented veterinary medicine. We strive to continue to connect with owners on a regular basis to get updates on their pets and to continue our friendly service.

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The Irish Mile

by Francis Kenny

Traveling north on Bearbrook Road out of Blackburn, folks arrive at St. Joseph Boulevard. Over the years, this stretch of road has had many name changes. Initially it was the Montreal Road, as all traffic from Ottawa heading east to Montreal travelled this road.

In the late 1940s, construction began on a new highway 17 (now the 174). With the completion of the Queensway in the mid 1960s, the original "road-to-Montreal" became known as Old Montreal Road. In recent times, this same stretch was re-named St. Joseph Boulevard in recognition of the Parish and village of St. Joseph d'Orleans.

My grandfather, Michael Kenny, often referred to the part of the road between Green's Creek and the Grey Nuns' farm (now Youville Drive) as the "Irish Mile", as so many of the original farmers along this stretch were of Irish descent.

It is hard to imagine that this four-lane highway, today jammed with traffic, was once a quiet two-lane country road. As a child growing up in the 50s, I recall little day-time traffic, and 'rush-hour traffic' lasted about 20 minutes. At four o'clock, the whistle would sound at the DND Land Engineering Test Establishment across the road from our farm, and a fleet of busses and many cars would come down the hill carrying the military and civilian workers back into Ottawa. Traffic on the road after that time was light, and apart from the Colonial Coach bus operation, evenings were relatively traffic-free.

They say that you cannot stop progress, nor should we. However, when I think back to those quiet summer nights as a child, or the excitement in the wintertime rushing to the kitchen window to watch the snow plough coming down the road, I can only wonder as to what those earlier settlers and farmers would think of the Irish Mile today.

Stronger together

by Amber Chu

On December thirty-first of 2019
The first case of the coronavirus was seen
It started only from a little chinese town
Then spread so rapidly some thought it was
a dream

Our beloved country went into full lockdown
Humanity's memories were starting to drown
Each person had to self-isolate for ages
And we were all having our own mental
breakdowns

But people had hope and we got through
the stages
We worked as a team to be freed from the
cages
We learned about trust and how to work
together
And people WILL get through this pages by
pages

I believe that we have hope as tough as leather
Although sometimes we're at the end of our
tether
But we will get through this and we will
grow stronger
Because we will have hope – now better
than ever

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FunFair 1994 and 1995

The fair that wouldn't go away!

Brett Maxwell

By 1994, no one in Blackburn Hamlet wanted to accept the task of coordinating FunFair, and the BCA reached out to me in early April, only eight weeks before the scheduled dates of June 3rd to 5th. I accepted the challenge and, with the help of many residents who had experience running FunFair, we managed to pull it off in 1994. In 1995, we did it again despite it raining on the Saturday, which made us feel like we were holding the fair in "Bearbrook Lakes"! Both years we managed to raise the expected \$11,000, which was distributed among 33 groups in the Hamlet.

In 1994 and 1995, we modernized FunFair in many ways:

- Split the share value to achieve a more equitable distribution of the proceeds
- FunFair became "FunFair / Fête Foraine" to recognize our francophone residents
- We scheduled more events on Sunday, including new ones like a community picnic and a volleyball tournament
- We added a silent auction at the dinner dance
- We had professional signs made for the activities
- We were lucky enough to have a dedicated pastry chef at Loeb create a *huge* (4' X 8') cake!
- We had an incredible 187 sponsors in 1995!



The parade theme in 1994 was "Family Fun" and, yes, Blackburn had a Shell station then!



A cake large enough for the entire community!



Bed races were a popular event at FunFair in the 90's!

FunFair is back in 2022!

Coming June 3rd to 5th

Brent Lawrie, Interim Co-Chair

As we all know, due to COVID-19, we haven't been able to host this great event since June 2019. As we get ready for winter, planning has already started for FunFair 2022, starting with the recruitment of volunteers to join some of the 'old guard' to form another great organizing team this year. Our first meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 22 at 7 pm in the games room of the Sienna Retirement Residence (corner of Innes and Bearbrook).

Currently, we have three past chairpersons, (Brent Lawrie, Mike Murphy and Trish Cloutier), who have stepped in to get the fair going in the interim, but we are still looking for someone to take on the

key position of FunFair Chairperson. Whoever that is, they will get lots of support to ensure a smooth transition for 2022 and future FunFairs.

We also need volunteers to help run other FunFair events, including the softball tournament and dunk tank. And we need additional support with facilities, sponsorship/Silent Auction and the arena showcase.

Consider joining our great organizing committee, you'll have a great time and meet lots of fantastic people. You can send me an email if interested to funfairchair@gmail.com. Also keep checking out our FunFair web page for all the latest updates at:

www.blackburnfunfair.ca

We Shall Not Fall

by Nura Rowhani

Thus it came from realms afar
Wreaking havoc from ground to star
Many were left looking for work,
Trying to find light in their lives of murk

And so the beast pounces to feast from our
insides
So we must stay apart no less than two strides
No more interactions,
No more transactions

On our devices we must stay
For so many this beast will slay
"With a friend may I please play?"
"No, call them on your Huawei"

So much pain,
So much loss,
So much sorrow.
Will there ever be a good tomorrow?

Glimmers of hope are coming to light,
Dark clouds parting stars shining bright in the
dead of night.
How can this be?
Are we finally free?

Knowledge and people around the world united
Against this beast they have sided
No longer will it cause us such great harm
For with inoculations it has been disarmed.

Yes it's still in the air
And of it we will always be aware
Even under all this ruckus
There's a newfound consciousness
Of our undeniable interconnectedness.

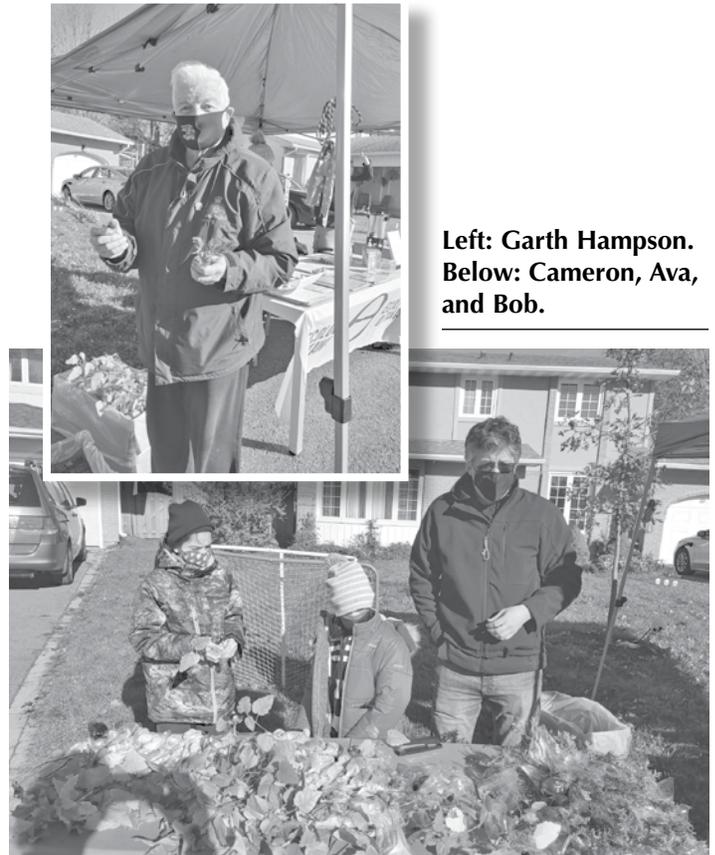
Isolated,
But not islets.
Facing new frontiers we shall not fall
Knowing the needs of one are the needs of all

BCA Tree Team hosts a successful tree giveaway

Sarah Morgan-White, BCA Tree Team

On Sunday October 24th, in partnership with Ecology Ottawa, the BCA Tree Team held a tree giveaway to spruce up our community with beautiful eastern white cedars and white birch. Thanks to everyone who came out, enjoyed cookies, coffee and tea, and picked up some trees!

A very special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped with the event: Bob, Ava, Cameron, Garth, Charles, Alexandre, Theodore, Sean, Serena, Rachel, Stephen and, last but certainly not least, a special thanks to Ecology Ottawa and its team: Natasha, Lauren and Jaden.



Left: Garth Hampson.
Below: Cameron, Ava,
and Bob.

Tree Team and the environment committee

A special thank you to the many residents who have planted a new tree this year in Blackburn Hamlet, and to Ecology Ottawa, who wrapped up their tree giveaways for the 2021 season.

A reminder that there are still many free city tree-planting

programs if you are interested in planting a tree on your property. More information is available on our website.

BCA is also very happy to be working with the CAFES Neighbourhood Canopy Regeneration Project. In

conjunction with Ecology Ottawa, CAFES is hoping to dispense 200-250 white cedars and 100-150 white birches in our communities.

The BCA environment group, in conjunction with the Tree Team, is working hard to regenerate the tree canopy in Blackburn. If you are interested in volunteering with the Tree Team contact treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca.

If you are interested in planning an environment-related initiative, please contact enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca and be part of our environment team! We would love to hear your ideas!

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Community Safety:

Neighbourhood Watch

Don Kelly & Brad Hampson

The value of Blackburn's Neighborhood Watch program revealed itself recently on one of our Hamlet streets, when multiple overnight crimes (thefts from vehicles in driveways) occurred. When the block captain was queried the next morning, an immediate notification was sent to the 83% of the street residents who are signed up for Neighborhood Watch on this street. Other victims came forward, including a neighbor who had night vision video of a suspicious person and vehicle on the street at 3am.

The Neighborhood Watch block captain engaged all his members to immediately contact police, who now have leads for the follow-up investigation. The quick, decisive actions by these residents highlight the effectiveness of the Neighborhood Watch in assisting the police. Remember that reporting of suspicious activity, even if you believe insignificant, can provide valuable information to the police for proper intelligence-gathering, investigation, and dissemination to patrol officers and residents alike. This is crucial, and highlights why anything suspicious should be immediately reported to police.

As mentioned, this incident highlighted the value of motion-activated home security cameras that are now fairly inexpensive, and easy to set up outside, or indoors looking out through a window viewing the exterior front or back yard.



Parklane Court has now become an official City of Ottawa Neighborhood Watch street. Celebrating this achievement is (left to right) Brent Lawrie, Vice President of the BCA, Constable Marc Leroux, our Community Police Officer, Don Kelly, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Brad Hampson, the Block Captain for Parklane Court, and Mark Lister, President of the BCA.

Whenever the camera is activated by motion, notification settings by the owner can ensure they are made aware for viewing. While the camera may not prevent crime, a small investment can capture suspicious activities which can be shared afterwards with police. Many new cameras can capture images both day and night and are available for purchase online. Speak to a Neighborhood Watch block captain if you would like more information on this.

Our Neighborhood Watch program is alive and well in our community and has shown its value towards crime prevention. However, there are still many streets in the Hamlet where the Neighborhood Watch program is not represented. If you are interested in joining the program, notify the coordinator at safety@blackburnhamlet.ca for help in starting the program on your street, or finding out if it already exists. Remember, protecting your community is protecting yourself. Safety and crime-prevention tips are available on the website at www.ottawapolice.ca.

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Community Safety

Keeping safe, even when you're away

Don Kelly & Brad Hampson

With the opening of the border many residents will be looking for the warm sun rays to the south. Remember that leaving your home unattended for any extended period is not a safe policy. Consider asking a friend or neighbor to visit your place on a regular basis. There are also companies, such as HomeCheckers, that provide safe, reliable home-checking services. Try to get a company that is bonded, which gives you an additional level of insurance protection.



BEFORE YOU GO AWAY, even if it is for a weekend trip, consider these safety measures for your home:

1. Have a security bar for sliding patio doors.
2. Ensure your mail and flyers are picked up.
A mailbox full of papers suggests no one is home.
3. Ensure you arrange for snow clearing while you're away. A snow pile in front of your front door says – GONE AWAY!
4. Always lock your doors, sheds and cars, especially when not home, and overnight.
5. Set up adequate lighting both in and outside the home by using automatic light timers.
6. Do not leave a message on your answering machine that announces you are away.

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Bumper harvest shared by all

By Stephen Fanjoy

The Hamlet is a wonderful community for walking, in part because of its trees. We can easily appreciate trees for their beauty but it is often the case that their bounty is overlooked.

My wife and I are regular walkers, and during one beautiful, late-summer walk we heard the sound of things plunking into a bucket. We looked over and all we saw was a small step ladder and a pair of legs. The rest of this neighbour was hidden in the canopy of her beaming crab apple tree. The tree was simply bursting with a bumper crop of its ripe, red fruit. We couldn't help but stop to strike up a conversation.

While she was harvesting, her husband was inside orchestrating a large-batch production line of crab apple jelly for the year ahead. Jelly for themselves and for gifts to family and friends. After trying a new pruning technique this year there were so many crab apples it was almost overwhelming. She invited us to take as many as we liked and we gratefully accepted. On our walk the next day we saw she had more buckets of apples at her curbside with a "Free" sign inviting any takers. And she is by no means alone; for decades another neighbour has been giving away fresh-picked McIntosh apples from the tree in his backyard.

When plants produce flowers they share their beauty and nectar to achieve pollination and produce seeds. Plants have roots, of course, so as a means of distributing those seeds, some plants entice animals with legs by encasing their seeds in fleshy fruit. In the case of this particular crabapple tree I was one of those animals and, yes, I set aside some seeds.

But the deeper story is how the care this resident gave to her tree was shared back by it to her, then from her to many others. When I bite into a slice



Crabapples that were shared from a neighbour's bountiful harvest!

of toast and jelly I am reminded of this generosity and inspired to pay-it-forward in my own way.

If you have a plant that produces surplus fruits or nuts, consider spreading this bounty with family, friends and neighbours. Also please consider registering with Hidden Harvest Ottawa (ottawa.hiddenharvest.ca) so they can collect your excess fruits and nuts to share with people experiencing food insecurity.



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Poetry contest first prize winner

Unexpected

by Ivy Wynne

Welcome to Earth,
It's been poisoned since birth,
But more so when humans came,
There was world war one,
We all know polio wasn't fun,
This is truly no easy game,

Now covid-19,
Sure wasn't foreseen,
The world still struggles to thrive,
For now we sit here wishing it to survive,

Depression hit hard like a thunderous storm,
Some don't even have a bed to keep warm,
Our people keep passing,
Pollution's continuously amassing,
Will we have to move to mars?
Will our children still play on monkey bars?

You see before the world worked in peace,
Never covered in waste and grease,
Things were always feeling better,
Like a birds sweet song or a favorite sweater,
This virus never ran like rain,
Creatures never felt the pain,
Now we sit here stuck inside,
Hoping this dear planet won't lose it's pride!


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Photo radar cameras to issue speeding tickets on Bearbook Road in January

Christopher Brett

If you drive down Bearbrook Road near Good Shepherd Catholic School you may have noticed signs announcing the installation of automated speed enforcement cameras. Those signs have to be posted 90 days before any tickets can be issued. Starting in January, the cameras will be brought online and speeding tickets will be issued by the radar cameras. Since tickets from photo radar cameras are mailed directly to the registered license plate owner of the vehicle, not the person driving the vehicle, these speeding tickets are not associated with demerit points. Between mid-July 2020 and mid-July 2021, eight photo radar cameras in school zones across the city of Ottawa issued over 100,000 tickets, generating \$5.4 million in revenue.

The cameras are to be put in place to control speeding on Bearbrook Road from Centrepark Drive to Innes Road, which is designated as a school zone (it is, after all, in front of Good Shepherd, and a short walk from Emily Carr Middle School, Glen Ogilvie Public School and École Élémentaire Catholique Sainte-Marie). Because it is a school zone, Bearbrook south of Centerpark has been designated a Community Safety Zone, and under the Highway Traffic Act fines for speeding are doubled.

Schedule D of the Highway Traffic Act sets out the fines for speeding in a Community Safety Zone:

- a) if you drive 1-19 km/hour over the maximum speed limit, the fine is \$5 per kilometre
- b) if you drive 20-29 km/hour over the maximum speed limit, the fine is \$7.50 per kilometre
- c) if you drive 30-49 km/hour over the maximum speed limit, the fine is \$12 per kilometre

The speed limit on Bearbrook is 40 km/hour. If you drive 10 km/h over (i.e., 50 km/hour) the fine will be \$50. If you drive 20 km/h over (i.e., 60 km/hour) the fine will be \$150. If you drive 30 km/h over (i.e., 70 km/hour) the fine will be \$360.

For more information visit:

<https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/how-do-i-set-fines/set-fines-i/schedule-43/>
or
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/940339>



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Improved snow clearing planned for this winter season

Councilor Laura Dudas

The City of Ottawa is responsible for maintaining 6,000 kilometres of roads, 2,400 kilometres of sidewalks and pathways, and a 50-kilometre Winter Cycling Network.

The City's priority when it comes to winter maintenance is to keep residents safe and to keep our City's primary transportation networks, including roads, sidewalks, cycling infrastructure, and transit routes, accessible and passable during and after a storm.

It's a big job for City road crews, who have to contend not only with Ottawa's geographic enormity, but also varying weather conditions in different sectors of our city.

As we all know, snow clearing has had its problems

in the past. However, since 2018 the City has taken steps to improve its winter maintenance standards, and are in the process of updating those standards, relying on public feedback.

As a result, several changes are planned for this year's winter snow-clearing operations, a few of which include:

- Alternating the starting point of residential beats to make plowing more consistent and equitable. For instance, in previous years if your street is tenth on the list for clearing, it would always be tenth on the list. Now it may be tenth on the list for one week but the following week it may be second on the list.
- Crews concentrating on sidewalks and residential areas to prevent rutting

and icy conditions.

- Responding more aggressively and proactively to smaller winter events and earlier in the season to prevent ice and snow from building up.
- Replacing all steel plow blades with rubber blades to decrease salt use, maintenance costs, and noise complaints.
- Informing decision-making based on winter barriers and challenges for people with disabilities.

I am hopeful that these changes will continue the trend of improved snow clearing that Ottawa has seen in the last couple of years. If you do have any issues with your streets this year please let me know, so that I can work with staff to find solutions and improve the level of service.

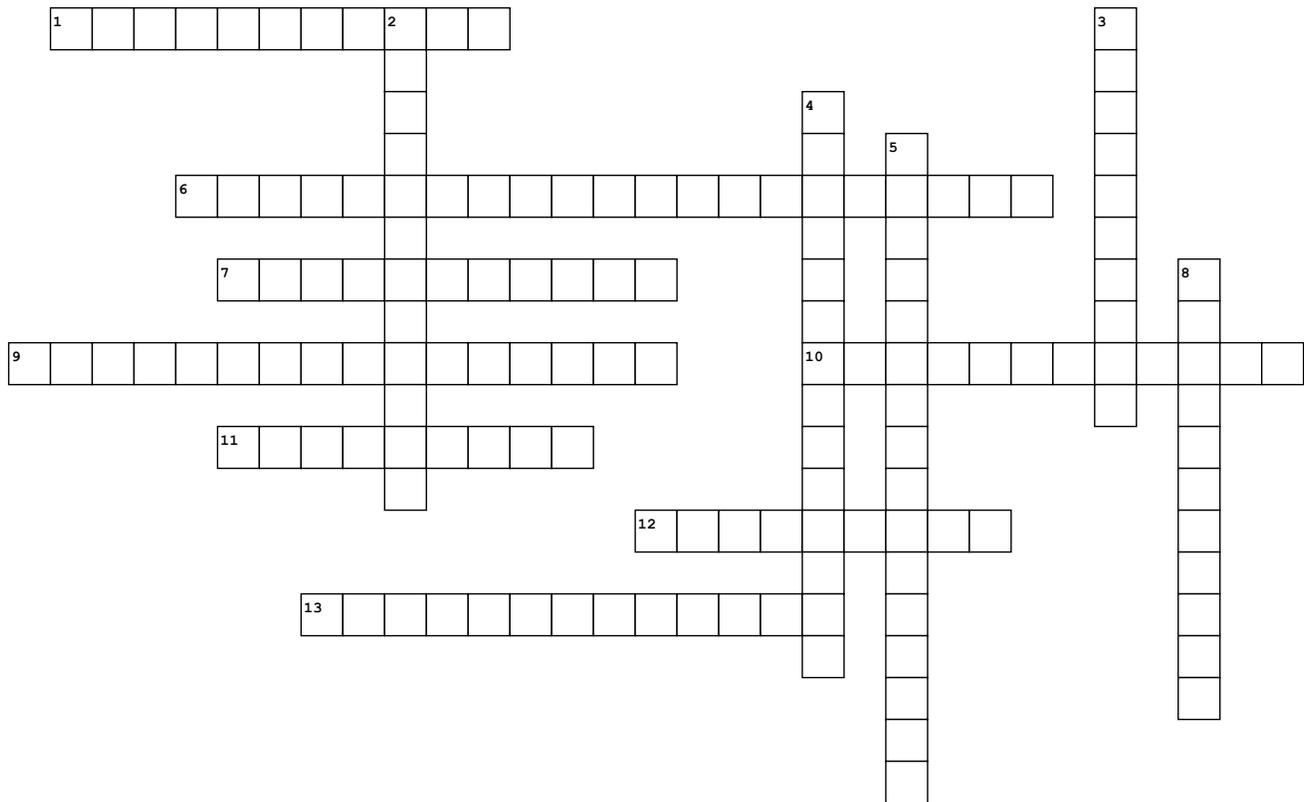


An invitation to connect outdoors

Sarah Morgan-White

Are you new to Canada, Ottawa or even Blackburn? Interested in meeting outside in our parks and trails for short walks where you can learn about our community, the environment and also meet new people? If you are interested, please email Sarah at: treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca.

History of Green's Creek



Across

1. He operated a toll booth on the west side of the creek (after the bridge had been built)
6. People came to this hotel to consume and bathe in the mineral rich waters (from the 1870's)
7. His early exploration of the Ottawa River is generally well known
9. The name of the horse racing track that was adjacent to the hotel with sulphur springs
10. The first European to cross by the mouth of Green's Creek in 1610
11. The band who was almost certainly using Green's Creek immediately before European contact
12. Another mineral spring, located near the current intersection of Anderson and Ridge Roads
13. He owned and operated a sawmill on the upper end of Green's Creek in the 1860's

Down

2. The oldest thoroughfare that ran through Gloucester Township
3. The Algonquin people in whose traditional territory the lands around Green's Creek fall
4. Acted as a port of call for the Ottawa River steamer "Empress"
5. The first permanent resident of Gloucester Township, for whom the community of Billings Bridge was named
8. The river watershed traditionally occupied by the Weskarini Band

The first person to submit a correctly completed crossword to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca will be declared the winner and have their name published in the next issue of the BANAR.

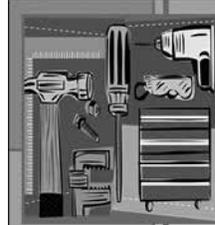
*Congratulations to **Janna Regnier** for being the first person to correctly complete the Blackburn Notables crossword puzzle that appeared in the September issue of the BANAR.*

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BANAR CORRECTION

In the November 2021 issue of the BANAR we accidentally omitted the last line in one of the winning poems from the BCA Youth Poetry Prize. Our sincere apologies to Shanika for this mistake!

La Pandémie pour moi

by Shanika Parent

Je ne peux plus respirer
Quand je suis masquée
Encore un autre deux ans
Ça ne durera pas trop longtemps.

Déjà un changement de routine a repris
Encore un peu d'espoir
Je sors mon dernier masque de l'armoire
Maintenant je peux jouer avec mes amies.

Mon masque est rose
Mais la vie est mauve
Attache ta tuque avec de la broche
Car l'hiver va se passer toute croche.

Le vaccin ne fait pas mal
Il est petit comme un pépin et goute les raisins
Ça ne fera pas trop longtemps au total
J'ai hâte de donner des câlins.