

Rec'd Jan 9 2002 from Barb S.

We did it!

You may recall that following a community visioning process held last February, the BCA defined a list of 32 projects in areas ranging from Youth to Environment to Small Town Dynamics. These projects, listed in the May 2001 issue of the BANAR, provided direction for BCA Directors as we planned and undertook community based initiatives throughout this past year. We are pleased to inform you that the BCA completed 72% of these projects and another 6% are still in progress! The projects that were not completed were either "long-term" initiatives or were of a lower priority. The following is a summary of the BCA's accomplishments in 2001:

Youth

BCA Youth Director, Gord Hawley, continues to be very active in the youth community. Biweekly teen dances are consistently sold out in Blackburn Community Centre and the Cyrville Community Centre. And, after discussions with Blackburn youth, a quarter pipe was added to the Skateboard Park. The BCA also continued to support its outdoor swimming pool with the purchase and installation of a pool slide and additional lawn furniture. Discussions with the City and the Tennis Club on a mutually agreeable solution to public access to the courts are still underway.

Environment

Blackburn Hamlet's Spring Clean-up 2001 was a great success. Blackburn residents scoured roadsides and ditches, forests and parks, the community gardens and streams. In all over 100 bags of litter were collected by more than 70 volunteers on the morning April 28. A few weeks later, Blackburn hosted its very successful annual community garage sale and plant exchange.

Later in the spring, several Blackburn residents gathered to learn about the environmental and health dangers of pesticides, as well as very practical solutions for organic gardening. The literature presented that evening was also requested by over a dozen other residents unable to attend, and 10 signs showing commitment to a pesticide-free lawn were also purchased.

Finally, although environmental issues have not been fully explored with Lafarge, the environmental considerations of a new office building to be constructed at the site were discussed with City staff.

Greenspace & Recreation

The BCA presented its request for increased lighting on our pathways to the City. At this point, other locations in the City have been identified as higher priority. Similarly, a request for an outdoor skating oval near the arena was put forward to the City, but was turned down to logistical complications.

Small Town Dynamics

The Community Centre continues to be booked solidly for a variety of programs. BCA volunteers continue to manage the facility. To better support these initiatives, the BCA organized a City of Ottawa grant and supervised the building expansion to improve storage capacity. The BCA also coordinated volunteers responsible for the creation of the patio.

Articles featuring Blackburn businesses have been written for several issues of the BANAR. As well, to increase business growth in the community, the BCA also engaged the Beer Store, LCBO, and Tim Horton's on exploring the possibility of placing outlets in the Hamlet. To date, both the Beer Store and LCBO have declined the opportunity; possibilities still exist for a Tim Horton's.

The Family Fun Run was held twice in 2001, with enthusiastic participants each time (we're always looking for volunteers, though!). And, as always, the BCA continued to support the annual Fun Fair in June.

Opportunities for Oktoberfest and caroling events were explored, but were deemed not feasible at this time.

Membership

A very active group of canvassers have successfully launched the BCA membership drive again this year. A list of volunteers continues to grow and be maintained by the BCA Director for Membership.

Traffic

New traffic control measures were established this year along Bearbrook Road near the Hornet's Nest, including warning signs and No Parking signs along the west side. These initiative, and regular policing of traffic speed, all contributed to a safer road environment in our community.

BCA Modus Operendi

Each BCA Director has prepared a "job description" for their position, and presented it to the Board for approval. As well, through the planning process, Directors have been able to identify annual goals, which collectively embody the goals and objectives for the association. A committee has been actively reviewing the BCA's constitution and by-laws, and will be making recommendations to the directors for approval in the new year.

What's Next?

The BCA held its planning meeting for 2002, and a series of new and ongoing projects were identified and are illustrated in the following table.

Project	Key Contact	Timeframe	Estimated Funding	Priority
YOUTH				
1. Add a “grinder rail” to skateboard park	Paul Graham	Short term		1
2. Expand asphalt to increase surface area of skateboard park.	Paul Graham	Long-term		3
3. Reach agreement between City and the Tennis Club on public access of the courts.	Jessica Tranquility-Doherty	Mid term		2
4. Purchase sound system for Youth Dances at Blackburn Community Centre.	Gord Hawley	Short term		1
5. Support swimming pool’s youth programs and initiatives.	Paul Graham	Annual		1
ENVIRONMENT				
1. Host Blackburn Environmental Fair.	Barb Sweazey	Short term	\$200.00	2
2. Host a public consultation on the City of Ottawa’s Pesticide Use policy.	Barb Sweazey	Short term	\$200.00	1
3. Provide information about alternative lawn care choices (BANAR, literature, signs, etc.)	Barb Sweazey	Short term	\$50.00	1
4. Explore environmental issues with Lafarge.	Barb Sweazey	Long term	NC	3
5. Organize and publicize community garage sale, including plant exchange.	Barb Sweazey	Annual	\$50.00	1
6. Organize community Spring Cleanup.	Barb Sweazey	Annual	\$200.00	1
7. Develop and implement Litter Reduction campaign in Blackburn (garbage cans, work with schools, cooperation with OC Transpo, etc.).	Barb Sweazey	Mid term	\$100.00	2
GREENSPACE & RECREATION				
1. Identify Blackburn resident willing to “head-up” NCC relations on behalf of the community.	Al Ross	Short term		1
2. Establish relationship between BCA and NCC regarding planned uses for greenspace (including nursery) surrounding the Hamlet.	TBD	Mid term		1
3. Report to community (through BANAR) trails and NCC policy on recreational use of greenspace surrounding the Hamlet.	Al Ross	Short term		1
4. Where feasible, establish link with organization that grooms recreation trails at Green’s Creek.	TBD	Long term		2
5. Identify specific pathway lighting requests for Blackburn, and formally lobby City for increased pathway lighting.	Paul Graham / Paula Rosenquist	Mid term		2
EDUCATION				
1. Contact schools to identify opportunities for community involvement and cooperation.	Paula Rosenquist	Short term		1
2. Explore options of BCA Citizenship awards.	Paula Rosenquist	Mid term		2
SMALL TOWN DYNAMICS				
1. Add shelving to Community Centre storage area.	Paul Graham	Short term		1
2. Enhance Community Centre’s surroundings (e.g. landscaping, picnic tables, patio furniture, etc.)	Al Ross	Mid term		2
3. Ask Lafarge to offer a community Open House.	Barb Sweazey / Paul Graham	Mid term		2
4. Include “Spot Light on Business” articles regularly in BANAR.	Sandra Quaia	Ongoing		1
5. Formally thank businesses which contribute to BCA and general Blackburn events.	Sandra Quaia	Ongoing		1

6. Organize fall and spring "Family Runs".	Paul Graham	Ongoing		1
7. Explore option of constructing a gazebo or band shell near Community Centre, using Trillium Funding sources.	Gord Hawley / Chris Noyes / Jessica Tranquility Doherty	Mid term		2
MEMBERSHIP				
1. Organize annual membership drive.	Monica de Romer	Annual		1
2. Expand volunteer base to assist BCA directors in completing projects (add request in Membership Form in BANAR, as well as specific requests for help). Maintain list in database.	Monica de Romer	Ongoing		2
TRAFFIC				
1. Continue to request increased policing of speeding on Bearbrook.	Rainer Bloess	Ongoing		2
2. Investigate options for increasing Bearbrook crosswalk between Bush and Centre parks.	Rainer Bloess	Short term		1
BCA OPERATIONS				
1. Approve revisions to constitution and by-laws.	Chris Noyes	Mid term		1
2. Plan and evaluate BCA performance annually.	All directors	Annually		1
3. Assign budgets to each project identified.	All directors	Annually		1

- Short = by Spring of 2002 Mid = by end of 2002 Long = into 2003 TBD = To be determined