

**Blackburn Community Association (BCA)
Minutes for Thursday, January 17, 2013
Annual General Meeting**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Trisha Cloutier	Rainer Bloess
Laura Czekaj Dudas	Jan Whitehouse
Mike Murphy	Paula Rosenquist
Evelyn Budd	Helen Rosseau
Lynn Leduc	Sheryl Tracy
Ali Yassine	Chris Fraser
Jeff Miller	

GUESTS:

Terri Lowe
Francois Trepanier
Autumn Belnap
Lisa Mounteer
Shane Silva
Lesley Silva
Cathy Montpetit
Stephanie Cesar-Young
Moe Garahan
Eileen Emmonds
Yola Tannous
Suzanne Stanford
Meagan Sheridan
Alex Mabbouche

CALL TO ORDER

Laura called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There are three themes that come to mind when I think about the Blackburn Community Association's role in the community this past year: Serving the Community, Transparency, and Building for the Future.

Serving the Community

In 2012, the BCA built upon its 2011 successes in serving the community by expanding its programming levels to meet the needs of even more residents in the Hamlet. We joined forces with community partners so as to maximize our resources and add more programs and services for our residents than ever. Through our partnerships, the

BCA was able to provide many community events, including Movie Night in the Park, swimming lessons for low income youth and children, and continued support for the popular Friday night Youth Drop-in at the community hall to name but a few. This was in addition to the many enjoyable events and programs that have become annual traditions for the BCA; Hockey Day in the Hamlet, free public skates at the arena, the Santa Pancake Breakfast, Volunteer Appreciation Night, our Garage Sale and Clean Up Day. The BCA operates the outdoor rinks in the winter and keep our parks clean in the summer. We also administer the Blackburn Community Hall and we will be looking at ways to improve this much-used facility in the coming year.

Transparency

In an ongoing effort to truly reflect and act on the needs of our community, the BCA has delivered on its commitment to more accountable and transparent processes over the past year.

In September, we hosted a Town Hall meeting, inviting all residents of the Hamlet to learn more about what the BCA does and provide feedback on areas that could be expanded or improved.

The turnout at the event was incredible and I want to thank all those residents who took the time to come share their ideas with us.

The BCA has also undertaken efforts to increase our financial accountability by publishing our annual budget and by regaining control of funds from the city that will now be distributed by our association to enhance our programming capacity and support our community partners.

We continue to work with our City Councillor, our MPP, and MP to advocate on behalf of our residents and to stay on top of issues that impact our community.

Building for the Future

With this strong foundation of community service and accountability, the BCA is well situated to take on even greater projects moving forward.

We will be adding more programming and strengthening our relationships with our partners in the coming year. We will build upon the ideas of residents who attend the Town Hall meeting and we will continue to seek their input to ensure we are on the right track in meeting their needs.

This past year has been one of growth and community service and I look forward to expanding on our achievements in 2013.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – *Insert Here*

Environment - Paula reminded everyone that there are grants available to those who wish to pursue ideas to help the local environment. Ideas are welcome and Paula can point people in the right direction to make your idea a success. The spring clean up will be the next event and all are welcome to come. As usual there will be a BBQ at the end of the day. See Paula for more details.

Communications - Chris wanted to let people know that he is taking part in starting up a local Toastmasters Club. Please contact Chris if you are interested. Chris also mentioned trying to arrange a small business fair in the community.

Parks & Recreation - There will be an opening this coming summer for a park clean up person. The job is approximately 30 hours per week. See Ali for details.

The rinks are open and in great shape. Hockey Day in the Hamlet will be February 16th. Details will be on our Facebook page. Ali is looking for donations that can be used as prizes for the kids.

Ali also wanted to thank all the volunteers and employees for their hard work this past year.

Memberships - Jeff has been speaking to local businesses regarding potentially offering special incentives/discounts to BCA members.

Councillor's Report – Rainer reports that the decision on the inter-provincial bridge will now be postponed until the upcoming spring.

There will also be lane closures on the 174 as work to repair/update culverts has begun.

REPORTS FROM SPONSORED GROUPS:

Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre - Blackburn Drop In AGM Report -

- Between April 1st, 2012 and today the Drop In has received 94 unique individuals
- On average we see approximately 15 to 25 youth per Friday night.
- Activities held at the Drop In include
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Photography
 - Sports games
 - Cooperative Games
 - Cooking
 - Movies
 - Video Games
 - Guest Speakers (i.e. Community Police Officer)
 - Field Trips (i.e. Calypso, 67's games)
 - Participating in Community Events (i.e. Clean up the Community and Blackburn Fair)
 - Volunteering Opportunities
- We are working at engaging older youth...we are in a transition phase right now as some of the younger kids are turning 13 which put them in the older demographic.
- We have a few outings planned for the older youth coming up in February.

Working with community Police to build better youth/police relations

Gloucester Recreation Development Organization - There are approximately 50 kids that utilize the programs throughout the year thanks to the funding received. Some of the programs run by the GRDO are the 'love to skate' which gives children skating lessons that include free skates & helmets. They run swimming lessons during the summer months at the Blackburn pool for children at a greatly reduced cost. The volunteers also provide mentoring for the the kids in the community. Many children who used the program when young end up being volunteers themselves for the organization.

Scouts – I am very proud to announce that enrolment was up again for the 4th year in a row, unfortunately due to space restrictions we have had to cap our numbers and turn away some kids.

Two years ago we were able to re-establish our Scout Section for youth ages 11 to 13. It is holding strong and we are toying with the idea of opening up a Venture Company for the first time.

In 2012 our biggest community event was a project called Yellow Fish Road. The BCA financially backed us for this event. We painted 105 Storm drains and distributed over 400 door hangers. This event contributed to raising awareness of environmental issues in our community.

We were part of our Council food drive that raised over \$10K and 70,000 pounds of food for the Ottawa Food bank.

We again participated in Scout Trees. We planted another 250 trees as well as cleaning up around the 700 trees we planted the year before. We were happy to see that there was an 80% survival rate in those trees. This upcoming year we would like to be able to help plant more trees in this community.

Our annual participation in the Fun Fair and the parade has helped us earn financial shares that we use towards programming for the kids.

This year the BCA allowed us to hold our Rainbow Auction during the Santa pancake breakfast. We raised \$320 to put towards sending our Scouts to CJ13 in Alberta this summer.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Laura is planning to have the skate park cleaned and having some local graffiti artists re-paint the park. A suggestion was made there be a skate show put on that day by some of the local kids.

- There was a suggestion that we have a table at the Metro selling BCA memberships.

- Moe Garahan from Just Food gave an update to the group. She told us that they are still negotiating the lease with NCC for the land with the greenhouses on it. Sadly they are not able to save them due to the decay and age. Despite the plan to have crops planted on the land, all people and dogs are still welcome to come through and use the trails on the property. They do ask that people clean up after their dogs.

There will also be a meeting to speak to the community about the Anaerobic Food Digester. There has been quite a lot of misinformation going around about it. Moe states that there will not be garbage or waste lying around waiting to be used. Only the amounts needed to run it would be delivered. (All deliveries would be accessed via Pepin Court. - Not Tauvette)

- The Meeting is to take place February 7th at 7:30pm at the community hall.

Fun Fair - Due to the bad weather last year, this year's Fun Fair will need to run on a very strict budget. The search for more sponsors has begun.

The sponsored BCA skate - was a success and there is talk of hosting another date.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

The following people were voted in as board members and appointments.

BOARD

President – Laura Czekaj Dudas

Vice-President – Chris Fraser

Treasurer – Al Ross

Community Relations – Autumn Belnap

Environment – Paula Rosenquist

Education/Youth – Trish Cloutier

Seniors – Al Haggarty

Parks and Recreation – Ali Yassine

Memberships – Jeff Miller

Communications – *Vacant*

Website – Helen Rosseau

Secretary – Sheryl Tracy

APPOINTMENTS

BANAR – Evelyn Budd

Community Hall – Jan Whitehouse

Funfair Committee – Trisha Cloutier

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm