



Blackburn Area News And Reports BANAR

Vol. 55 No. 5

June 2022

FUNFAIR IS BACK FOR 2022 June 3 to 5

*Brent Lawrie, Co-Chair,
Funfairchair@Gmail.com*

We hope everyone is excited about the return of our annual Blackburn Hamlet FunFair. This year is a special year, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, so bring the whole family and help our community celebrate this fantastic milestone.

We have some exciting main attractions on the fair grounds that are guaranteed to entertain all ages:

- Northern Screams Thrill Tent and Attractions
- Ry-J's Climbing Adventures, with rock climbing walls, mega slide, inflatable obstacle course, Zorb Balls
- Bren Walker's Vengeance Van, axe throwing, car smash, glow target shooting, and other games
- Pitch Speed Exhibition sponsored by Exit Realty
- Ben Lavellee's Mojo Magic Show
See all of you at our 50th FunFair!

See pages 8 and 9 for the full schedule for this year.



Please Note: *Bearbrook Road will be closed for the parade on June 4 from Louis Riel High School to the Blackburn Arena from 9:45 am until 10:45 am. Please respect the barricades and monitors at streets and entrances to parking lots along the route.*

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President's message

The FunFair is back!! It's an exciting time of year for the community as our beloved annual FunFair celebration returns after a two-year hiatus for COVID-19, this year we celebrate the FunFair turning 50! Our community organizers and volunteers have been hard at work planning this year's fair and I am sure you will all enjoy it. Come join us June 3 to 5 for the celebration!

After a slow start to the year, the BCA has kicked into high gear this spring with the successful return of the spring cleanup (page 10) and garage sale. It was great seeing so many familiar faces again in person and seeing our community engagement return was great for our BCA volunteers! Thank you to all our volunteers for the work they did to help prepare for both events.

Our volunteers have also hosted a number of new events recently with great success, those curious about home energy efficiency can check out the articles on page 24 – the BCA hosted, along with EnviroCentre, an info session for home retrofits to help improve home efficiency. If you missed the presentation but wanted more info, check out the BCA website or reach out to our volunteers for more information.

On April 9 local youth participated in a *Wild Poetry Party in the Park* event that included poetry and kite flying (page 26). In this issue of the BANAR the winners of the *BCA Spring Poetry Prize for Youth* will be announced (pages 14, 15 and 31). Looking forward, local youth are invited to participate in a *Midsummer Poetry Party in the Park* event on June 11, and to participate in the design and painting of a new community mural with mural artist **Ryan Smeeton** (page 26).

As we roll into summer and look past the FunFair, we are also eagerly looking forward to a few more BCA events coming up. The Blackburn in Bloom nature photo contest (page 12), garden tour (page 30) and Cancer Chase (page 16) are all coming up as well this summer.

It's awesome to see BCA events returning. Our volunteers have been hard at work, and to see them finally get the chance to hold in-person activities again after a hard two years is great to see. Thanks to all our BCA volunteers for their hard work and dedication!

I want to finish by saying thank you to Miriam and her team for bringing back the lovely gardens at the entrances to Blackburn, if you can look past the political posters, I am sure you will be wowed. Great job Miriam!

Mark Lister, BCA President



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Websites

www.BlackburnHamlet.ca
www.BlackburnFunFair.ca

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

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

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Director at Large: Laura Smith laura@blackburnhamlet.ca

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Tree Team: Sarah Morgan-White treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca
Website: Steve Vesely webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca

EVENTS

Cancer Chase: Barbara Whittaker cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca
FunFair Chairperson: Vacant funfairchair@gmail.com
Garden Tour: Cynthia Hoisak gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca
Garage Sale: Laura Smith and Miriam Hampson enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Grad Walk: Nina Ryan & Satinder Sahota nina@blackburnhamlet.ca
Hockey Day: Mark Lister rinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup: Lisa Margeson cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca

BCA board meetings

The BCA has been holding their monthly board meetings virtually since the beginning of the pandemic. BCA meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. If you are a resident of Blackburn Hamlet and wish to attend, email secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca to receive an invitation and the Zoom access code. 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.

Next BCA meeting: Thursday June 16, 2022

*Unfortunately, there will be no
BCA sponsored Canada Day
festivities in the Hamlet this
year. If you would like to
volunteer to run the event in the
future, please email
president@blackburnhamlet.ca*

BCA Membership!

NEW **RENEWAL** **DATE** _____

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, as well as numerous initiatives for youth, seniors and local groups. One membership covers 2 adults and their dependents living at the same address. Please either fill out and mail this form or provide the same information in an email to membership@blackburnhamlet.ca.

ADULT NAME(S): _____

HOME ADDRESS including postal code: _____

PHONE(S): _____

EMAIL(S): _____

Add to BCA e-newsletter distribution: **Yes** **No**

Add to BCA critical/emergency issue texting distribution:
Yes **No**

Add to BCA volunteer list: **Yes** **No**

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash or Cheque mailed to BCA Membership,
P.O. Box 47062, Ottawa, ON. K1B 5B0

E-Transfer to treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca. Remember to include your name and email or phone in the memo field.

All memberships expire on June 30 each year.



ADVERTISING in the BANAR

Prices range from \$40 to \$300 per issue depending on the size of the ad. Annual subscribers get 10% off). Tax will be added to the invoice.

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

The BCA does not endorse or guarantee products or services sent in for the BANAR or 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 2 H (business card)	\$50	\$225
3.65 W x 1.75 H (smallest ad)	\$40	\$180

Circulation: 3,500

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

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

**Month BANAR Deadline:
August 4, 2022**

**BANAR Delivery:
August 27, 2022**

**For BCA updates go to
BlackburnHamlet.ca**

URGENT! BANAR Distribution Coordinator needed

Kendra Brett, BANAR Editor

The BCA is currently looking for a volunteer in the Hamlet to be the Distribution Coordinator for the BANAR. The BANAR is delivered five times a year to homes and local businesses in Blackburn Hamlet, and this wouldn't be possible without the Distribution Coordinator and those who deliver the BANAR routes. Responsibilities of the BANAR Distribution Coordinator include: accepting the shipment of BANARs from the printing company (Thursday or Friday before the BANAR delivery weekend); coordinating with an established team to deliver BANARs to 15 different neighborhood routes; delivering BANARs to local businesses; and recruiting new individuals for delivery routes as needed. The BANAR delivery schedule is established at the beginning of every year, which is great for those who like to plan in advance.

*Those interested in volunteering as the BANAR Distribution Coordinator or who have questions, please contact
BANAR@blackburnhamlet.ca*

THE BANAR is published five times a year

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. BANARs are then refilled at the Blackburn Library, Metro, and Shoppers Drugmart while quantities last as well as online at blackburnhamlet.ca.

BANAR Submissions

Articles can be emailed in the body of an email or attached as a Word document. High resolution photos (i.e, 300 DPI) to accompany articles can be submitted as email attachments.

BANAR Contact Information:

Please email Kendra Brett at

banar@blackburnhamlet.ca

Call 613-265-7661 if you do not get a confirmation that your email has been received.

Councillor's message: Laura Dudas

Blackburn Hamlet is almost synonymous with greenspace. It is flanked by NCC lands, city parks, and trails that wind through gorgeous, wooded areas, for which we are truly fortunate.

Something that I hear about often is the need to care for and maintain these greenspaces. Whatever activity takes you there, whether walking the dog or having a picnic with the family, it is important we be mindful of the impact we are having on other users, as well as the environment itself.

Sustainable Greenspaces

The city will be hosting an online event: Happy Trails! Safe and Responsible Hiking in Natural Areas, on the evening of Wednesday, June 8. This event is geared to ensuring that all trail users know how to stay safe and enjoy their experience, with minimal impact on the natural environment. Residents are invited to join this presentation by

local outdoors enthusiast and wellness advocate, Vickie Lanthier of GirlGoneGood. To participate or find out more, visit Ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/wildlife-and-plants#wildlife-speaker-series

Another excellent resource on the topic is Leave No Trace Canada, an organization that works to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation. They are an excellent resource for how to ensure that we are mindful of minimizing our footprint while we are outside enjoying the abundant natural areas we are fortunate to have in the community. You can find more information on their website at LeaveNoTrace.ca.

Rain Ready Ottawa

Rain Ready Ottawa is a pilot program that encourages and supports residents in reducing harmful impacts of rainwater runoff on their property. There are opportunities for residents

to access information about rainwater management projects at home, and the opportunity to apply for a home assessment offering custom advice and solutions to onsite rainwater problems. Some eligibility requirements apply. Visit Ottawa.ca/rain.

In the future, the city will also be adding an e-learning program, which will provide a self-guided learning opportunity about rainwater management techniques that can be put into practice around the home.

Greening the right of way

Recently, I brought a motion to council directing city staff to establish a process for communities to adopt portions of the city-owned right of way with the intent of light ornamental gardening and naturalizing the space. The process will set clear standards and would consider best practices from other jurisdictions.

My intention is for a streamlined process for residents who wish to adopt and naturalize these right of way spaces (e.g., certain grass boulevards), thus improving the local environment and adding sustainable options to shared spaces benefitting the community. I look forward to continuing to work with residents and community groups on this environmental project.



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PLEASE NOTE: For everyone's safety, all theatre staff and audience members will need to wear masks inside the theatre.



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FunFair 2022 schedule of events

Friday June 3rd

- 4 pm to 10 pm** – Fair opens – Blackburn Park grounds featuring our main attractions
- 5 pm to dusk** – Recreational mixed softball tournament – Tauvette ball diamonds
- 5:30 pm to 6 pm** – Mojo Magic Show in the arena before the movie starts.
- 6 pm to 8 pm** – Movie night – arena (check website for this year's exciting movie)
- 5 pm to 10 pm** – Craft Brew Night – with three east Ottawa brewers – Beer Gardens – no cover!
- 7 pm to 10 pm** – 'The Wild Cards' – stage behind Community Centre
- Grounds close at 10 pm, beer gardens close at 10:30 pm**

Saturday June 4th

- 8 am to 10 am** – Pancake Breakfast – in the community centre
- 9 am to dusk** – Recreational Mixed Softball Tournament – Tauvette ball diamonds
- 10 am to 10:45 am** – FunFair 50th Anniversary Parade – Bearbrook Road (start at Louis Riel School; end community centre). *Please note the street closures outlined on the cover.
- 10 am to 3:30 pm** – Showcase – arena
- 10 am to 3:30 pm** – Used Book Sale – arena
- 10 am to 3:00 pm** – Silent Auction – Arena
- 10 am to 5 pm** – Mixed Volleyball Tournament presented by MAX Volley Inc. – soccer field
- 11 am to 10 pm** – Main Attractions Blackburn Park and parking lot.
- 11 am to 10 pm** FunFair Games – South side of arena – duck pond, Plinko, toilet bowl toss, ring toss, clothes pin drop
- 11 am to 3 pm** – FunFair BBQ – near community centre (featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages)
- 11 am to noon, 1 pm to 2 pm, and 3 pm to 4 pm** – Ray's Reptiles, arena
- 11 am to 3 pm** – Fruit Stand – west of community centre
- 11 am to 4 pm** – Bouncy Castle – arena
- 11 am to 4 pm** – Dunk Tank – west of community centre
- 11 am to 7 pm** – Face Painting – east of community centre
- 11 am to 5 pm** – Free Live Entertainment – stage behind community centre
- 11 am to 6 pm** – Beer Garden – behind community centre (**closes at 6 pm to set up for the main attraction)
- Mojo Magic Show**, three shows, please check website for scheduled times
- 1 pm** Cake cutting ceremony – beer garden
- 1 pm to 4 pm** – Field Games featuring: hoola hoops, 3-legged race, basketball throw, egg race (ping pong balls), parent-child race, life ring toss – soccer field



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7 pm to **11:45 pm – Beer Garden – featuring Little Miss Taken and main attraction – SOS: The ABBA Experience, behind community centre (cover charge)

10 pm – Fireworks Show – Blackburn park baseball diamond

Grounds close at 10 pm, beer gardens close at 11:30 pm

Sunday June 5th

8:45 am – In-person registration for Fun Run – community centre

9 am to 10 am – 5K Family Fun Run/Walk – start and finish on main field (check Fun Run webpage for route and registration)

10:15 am to 10:30 am – 1K Kids Fun Run/Walk – start and finish on main field (check Fun Run webpage for route)

10:30 am to 3 pm – Showcase – arena

10:30 am to 3 pm – Used Book Sale – arena

11 am to 3 pm – Main Attractions – main grounds
Mojo Magic Show, two shows, please check website for scheduled times,

1:00 pm – FunFair Dog Show – ball diamond

Check out the FunFair web page at, www.blackburnfunfair.ca, for schedule updates, music line-up and live updates, as well as registration for the Fun Run, softball tournament, volleyball tournament and to volunteer.

***Please respect the posted hours of the beer gardens as we need to adhere to our permit allowances.*



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Some of the participants from this year's Spring Clean Up

2022 Spring Clean-up was a huge success

Lisa Margeson

Over 220 people of all ages participated in the 2022 Spring Clean-Up and made a big difference in the look of Blackburn's main streets and parks. The whole event ran from 9am to 1pm on April 30. While signing up, participants enjoyed coffee and Timbits that were donated by the Blackburn Tim Horton's, then, with gloves and garbage bags that the City had provided, the participants cleaned up the Hamlet and brought back what they found. They found carpets, furniture, hoses, BBQ tanks, broken green bins, and much, much more. Dedicated participants cleaned up the

Green's Creek parking lot, the ditches along Innes and forest trails throughout Blackburn. Finally, the participants were treated to a barbeque with food and drinks donated in part by Blackburn Metro and Shoppers Drug Mart, and some great prizes!

Many thanks to those who organized and ran the clean up, those who ran the BBQ, and to everyone who showed up to help clean up the Hamlet. We couldn't have done it without you!

This was the first large community event since the COVID-19 pandemic – it was a beautiful day, a great turnout and hopefully a reflection of the rest of the year's events.

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Do you have a COVID puppy?



It can be quite challenging to socialize a puppy during a pandemic, the optimal time is between 2 to 4 months of age. Unfortunately for several puppies they were isolated from the world at that age.

Luckily there are some things we can do to help puppies succeed in the real world. Start with finding your dog high valued reinforcer this can be a special treat or a toy.

- Reward your dog for being relaxed around novel sounds like dogs barking, birds singing, thunder storms, sirens.
- Going outside in your yard or walks in the neighborhood will offer your puppy a variety of smells and visual stimuli.
- If your dog gets scared of a situation, the best is to remove him from the unpleasant situation, punishing him while he is scared will just worsens his anxiety.
- Puppies need time alone too, set your puppy up for success by leaving him alone for short periods of time and gradually increase time alone. This can be facilitated with puzzle toys filled with treats.

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Blackburn In Bloom nature photo contest

The BCA Environment Committee is holding a Blackburn in Bloom Photo Contest between June 1 and July 11, 2022. This photo contest will give residents the opportunity to showcase the wonderful gardens and greenspaces that make Blackburn beautiful! Three winners will be selected. Photos must be submitted on Facebook, Twitter or by e-mail.

- a) Facebook: Share photos to the Blackburn Hamlet Community Association Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlackburnHamletOttawa> and use the hashtag # **BlackburnInBloom**
- b) Twitter: Be sure to tag the Blackburn Hamlet Twitter account @BlackburnOttawa and use the hashtag # **BlackburnInBloom**
- c) Email: Send photos to photocontest@blackburnhamlet.ca and include "Photo Contest" in the subject line of the email.

Please include a caption to explain the photo. For example, what is in the photo or why you chose to capture this photo.

By submitting the photo, you are giving the BCA permission to share the photo, either on social media, via email, on the BCA website, or in the BANAR.

Photos must be of gardens or nature (e.g., plants, flowers, trees), and taken in Blackburn Hamlet or surrounding area.

To protect privacy please do not include people or buildings. Photos that include people who are not identifiable (e.g., photo does not include faces) will be accepted.



For complete details, please see: <http://blackburnhamlet.ca/> or the Blackburn Facebook page.

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Winners of the BCA Spring Poetry Prize for Youth

by *Maureen Forsythe*
BCA Youth Director

In February 2022, the BCA invited local youth aged ten to 14 to write a poem about *finding beauty in unexpected places*.

We received a total of 26 eligible submissions, including two poems written in French. Congratulations to all of the young people who found time to put their thoughts and observations into words and submit a poem!

We are very happy to announce that the first place winner of the BCA Spring Poetry Prize for Youth 2022 is **Daveyon Octavian Barbu** for his poem "Trees".

In his poem Daveyon explores the beauty of a forest and "the science side of things". Daveyon attends Emily Carr Middle School. He will collect a \$100 cash prize.



**Daveyon
Octavian Barbu**

We are also pleased to announce the following winning poems: "Beautiful" by **Amber Chu**; "The wonder of space" by **Navid Rowhani** and "One Stumbling Spring" by **Chloe Tang** (see page 31). Each of these aspiring young poets will receive a cash prize of \$50.

Each poem was reviewed and scored by the award-winning poet and playwright **Henry Beissel** in collaboration with his wife **Arlette Francière**, who is a distinguished painter and literary translator. Henry, who now lives in Blackburn Hamlet with Arlette, has been writing and publishing poems and plays since the 1950's. His most recent poetry collection, *Footprints of Dark Energy*, won the 2020 English-language Ottawa Book Award in the fiction category.

A special shout-out again 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!

Trees

by *Daveyon Octavian Barbu*

People think that beauty is flowers.
They are pleasing to stare at for hours.

But my definition of beauty is fully different.
I look at the science side of things that is magnificent.

Looking underground for the secret root system
of a forest,
It is something that you might never find
just like dirt in sawdust.

For you are not able to find it by looking around.
You cannot use your sense of sight to find it
underground.

No mortal eye can see it,
But the roots do not just sit.

It is bigger than a mountain's peak,
And it is something you can not seek.

A forest is a community.
The trees are always in unity.

They reach far and wide,
But the roots always hide.

The fungi help create this beauty.
The fungi make helping its duty.

They have duties to complete.
They help trees and plants to eat.

This is the true beauty in my eyes.
A beauty that never dies.

Beautiful

by Amber Chu

Some say that beauty is
A crown with jewels adorned
Some say that beauty is
A new life being born

Some say that beauty is
The tranquil sunset glow
Some say that beauty is
A world without sorrow

But I say beauty's more than that
It's a seed that grows within you
And deep inside each villain's mind
There's a small sprout of hope to find

Beauty is the unexpected
Beauty is a kind, humble heart
There's beauty hidden all around
Anticipating to be found

A stranger's generosity
A friend's support during tough times
The smallest acts are plentiful
And that's what's truly beautiful

The wonder of space

by Navid Rowhani

Space, lonely, hostile and dark,
Not at all like Earth.
Emptiness and silence I remark,
No trees, no houses, no people, no mirth.

The planets have diverse hues.
Twinkling, beautiful, bright stars.
An artist would like it as a muse,
Is there any life on Mars?

Overall, it's an extraordinary place.
Do alien species look like us, I wonder?
You should see the smile on my face,
When it's the beauty in space I ponder.

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How far can five kilometers take you?

Join the Cancer Chase and find out!

Barbara Whittaker, Co-chair,

Blackburn Hamlet Cancer Chase 2022

Did you know that a five kilometer walk/run from the Hornets Nest Clubhouse will take you to places where you can get groceries, renew your health card, play a round of golf, hone your hockey skills, buy furniture and dine out at restaurants?

Did you know that if you take the same five kilometer walk/run – but as a proud participant in the **September 25, 2022 Cancer Chase** – you can help take us all to a place where cancer is but a distant memory?

In the 2022 Blackburn Hamlet Cancer Chase, participants will walk/run around Hornets Nest Park and through the stunning Green's Creek area. As one of the few walking/running events that includes nature trails in the route, it offers participants a special opportunity to take in the autumn beauty of our area, while at the same time raising funds for important cancer research right here in Ottawa. There will also be a raffle, refreshments, a silent auction, a selfie station, a Loonie Line and more.

We are now just four months away from the Cancer Chase. Planning is well underway, but it takes a large group of people to make this a success. Here are a few ways you can show your community spirit and support the Cancer Chase:

- register to walk/run the course



- encourage your family and friends to register and/or support you
- donate an item for the silent auction
- provide in-kind support for the event
- make a financial donation to the Ottawa Hospital Foundation (all financial donations over \$15 will receive a tax receipt)
- volunteer to help us with the planning or on the day of the event
- bring your spare loonies and toonies for our Loonie Line
- come to the event and cheer us on!

Visit the Cancer Chase page of the BCA website or our social media feeds for registration and donation information. Prefer to get your info or sign up in person? Come by and see us at the FunFair.

If you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or wish to join our great volunteer team, please contact us by email at cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca.

See you on September 25!

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Thank you to all the Blackburn Minor Hockey Association volunteers

by Michael De Lisio

The Blackburn Minor Hockey Association (BMHA) provides hockey programs for players aged four to 20 through their Initiation Program, House League, and Competitive operations. Their catchment includes Blackburn Hamlet, Chapel Hill South and Bradley Estates, and runs out of the Lois Kemp Arena in Blackburn.

This association is run by many dedicated volunteers. Parents and other community members offer their time and effort to coach, manage, supervise, organize, encourage and support young kids who just want to play hockey.

This year, the **BMHA would like to highlight three volunteers for their contributions:**

Louise Tailleir is retiring from the board after four years of dedicated service as the VP Finance. Louise combined her background in accounting, love for hockey, and passion for giving back to her community to provide professional-level accounting services for our association.

Marc Sabourin was awarded the inaugural BMHA Coach of the Year award. Marc is BMHA's longest serving coach; volunteering for over 12 years in our association and is known for promoting fair play, sportsmanship, and encouraging each player to reach their full potential.

Caitlin Anstee volunteered for several roles this year to win the inaugural BMHA Volunteer of the Year award. As U7 Manager/COVID Safety Officer for the past 3 seasons, Caitlin organized team events and was first to the rink at 6:30 am on freezing winter mornings to ensure that ev-



everyone had completed their necessary screening prior to entering the rink. Additionally, Caitlin served as Ice Scheduler in her first year on the board. Caitlin's dedication, organization, attention to detail, and determination ensured that all our teams were able to participate in their full practice and game schedule.

If you would like to be part of the incredible group of volunteers, please email info@blackburnstingers.ca.

For the 2022-2023 season, BMHA is excited to announce our new "Try Hockey" programme. Thanks to generous donations from BMHA alumni, we are able to subsidize registration and equipment costs for all players who are new to hockey. If you've always been interested in trying hockey but were concerned about the costs, this is your perfect opportunity. **Registration opens in June** and can be found at www.blackburnstingers.ca or @BMHA_Stingers (Twitter).

Blackburn Community Association's Enviro Team needs you!

The **enviro volunteers** have been hard at work this spring sharing information about home retrofits, engaging youth and leading the Spring Clean-Up!

We are building our enviro team! This is an

open invitation to everyone. Whether you are interested in learning more, sharing your ideas, helping out, or even leading initiatives – everyone is invited! Join us by emailing enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca.

Register today!
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Tree Team

Special thanks to our Tree Team volunteers!

*Sarah Morgan-White,
BCA Environment Director*
Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped with the LDD/Spongy Moth initiatives this spring! We held three very successful egg removal events where we removed close to two pounds of eggs! (That is a lot considering each egg is usually 1mm or less in diameter!). A very special thanks to Sun Shan who led one of the events and to Miche and the 170th Blackburn Girl Guides for organizing an egg-scraping extravaganza!

We also received from the City of Ottawa 92 meters of burlap, which was distributed to residents in the Hamlet to wrap their trees.

We distributed over 300 cards to Hamlet residences promoting Tree Team initiatives and asking residents to check for Spongy Moth eggs on their properties (thanks to Monica, Scott, Thomas, Heather, Lee, Luisa, Clifton and Regina for distributing).

We are currently working on getting 200 eastern white cedar



Volunteers at an LDD/Spongy Moth egg removal event

and white spruce seedlings in the ground. On May 6, Tree Team volunteers gently packaged our bareroot seedlings to prepare them for distribution during the Blackburn Garage Sale the next day! Thanks to all of you, and to those who agreed to hand out trees at the sale!

Regina and Clifton were hard at work preparing for the Neighbourhoods training taking place the May 20 weekend! Through this training and ongoing project, Blackburn will build its own

tree inventory with types of trees, sizes, health etc. Imagine the possibilities!

Finally, Chris is working hard with me on "Adopt a Tree". Hope you will enjoy what we come up with!

If you are interested in joining the Tree Team or just keeping up-to-date on tree-related issues and opportunities affecting our trees in Blackburn, we have just created a Google Group! To join, just email blackburn-hamlet-tree-team@blackburnhamlet.ca.

Adopt a tree (or bush)

*Sarah Morgan-White,
BCA Environment Director*
We have purchased a Pin Cherry, Black Elderberry, Canada Plum and Highbush Cranberry from Ferguson Tree Nursery and will be putting them up for adoption to Blackburn residents! If you are interested in

adopting one of these trees/bushes, please stay tuned to the BCA's website and Facebook page for more details!

Adoptez un arbre (ou un arbuste)

Nous avons acheté un cerisier de Pennsylvanie, un sureau noir, un

prunier du Canada et une viorne trilobée de Ferguson Tree Nursery et nous les mettrons en adoption pour les résidents de Blackburn! Si vous êtes intéressé à adopter l'un de ces arbres/arbustes, veuillez rester à l'écoute du site Web et des pages Facebook de l'Association Communautaire de Blackburn pour plus de détails!

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Attention Young Mural Artists

The Blackburn Community Association (BCA) is looking for local **youth** to work with **artist Ryan Smeeton** to create a **new mural** in our community!



WHAT: The chance to brainstorm and work with an established mural artist on a **new mural** to be painted on the side of the **Blackburn Arena** during **August 2022**.



WHO CAN APPLY:
Youth ages 10-17 who live in Blackburn Hamlet.



WHEN: Initial brainstorming session with artist Ryan Smeeton to be held in person outdoors by the Community Hall on **July 11, 2022**. The actual painting of the mural will be done over an estimated **1-2 day period starting August 8, 2022**.



HOW: If you are interested in being part of the mural painting team, please send an email to **youth@blackburnhamlet.ca** as **soon as possible** (ideally before June 16th). Please put **"Mural Applicant"** in the title of the email. Up to **twenty participants** will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU: You will help determine what kind of mural design is chosen. You will work with an established local mural artist. **Pizza & drinks will be provided** each day during the painting of the mural. All paints and supplies, including masks and hand sanitizer, will also be provided.

Ottawa Special Hockey Stars

Jeff Kelly, Head Coach

Many, many years ago, I began volunteering, coaching hockey in Blackburn Hamlet. I have come full circle, back on the ice at the Lois Kemp Arena, with the best team in hockey, one I am very proud of.

The Ottawa Special Hockey Stars began playing in Blackburn in 2019. Renovations to the arena make it a gem of a facility for our roster of 18 special needs athletes to play hockey. Our players range in age, and have a variety of life and/or health challenges that do not permit them to participate in regular stream hockey. Their dreams of playing hockey come to life for them every Saturday.

Our program is "More Than



Shooter, the Mascot.

Hockey". It is about building confidence, trust, respect, team play, new friendships and, of course, lots of fun. The Celebration of People award was presented to our group in the past, being recognized for a community program of excel-

lence. The organization is 100% volunteer based, and the amazing volunteers allow success to be enjoyed by all.

This year, our friends, the Russell Coyotes women's team, brought added excitement for our group coming out to play two games. A great display of growth and inclusion.

The real credit goes to our players, who courageously come to the rink each Saturday, eager to learn and work hard to succeed.

Have a peek at our web page, or drop by some Saturday and see first hand why Blackburn Hamlet would be proud to be part of this journey.

www.ottawaspecialhockeystars.ca

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Improving home energy efficiency

*Anna-Sarah Eyrich,
BCA Environment Committee*

Do you live in one of the older Blackburn Hamlet buildings? If so, you may well be familiar with the intricacies of these buildings and their poor energy performance! Not only do the wasted energy from air leaks, uninsulated basements, poorly insulated attics, and fibreglass batt 2x4 walls (to name just a few common aspects of these buildings!) result in unnecessary money spent in extra heating and cooling costs, it is bad for the climate. This is particularly true if the building is heated with gas, because gas is a fossil fuel that creates carbon and methane pollution.

Motivated by economic, environmental and health reasons, many people are interested in doing more to improve the efficiency of the buildings they live in. This can be a daunting and overwhelming thing to do, especially now

as the cost of everything is high. However, there are a number of resources and supports available to help people, and a group of interested people right in our community! The supports available include grants, rebates, and zero-to-low-interest financing provided by programs from utilities, the federal government, and the municipality. To access these, there is a specific process one must follow, which all include a home energy audit.

On April 27, a number of residents joined a virtual presentation by the BCA Environment Committee's climate team and EnviroCentre to learn more. If you're interested in learning more about home retrofits or want to join a growing network of interested people, contact climate@blackburnhamlet.ca. For general information contact info@envirocentre.ca, or check out the Better Homes Ottawa Loan program's website for a comprehensive set of resources.

Tree Talk Flowering abundance

Walking through the Hamlet's streets, parks and urban forests, flowers are everywhere, and not just on the ground. Higher up, the magnificent magnolias have finished their performance while cherries, apples and crabapples are getting warmed up. More subtle, but more plentiful are the big tree flowers.

From flowers come seeds. We owe a big thank you to everyone who responded to the Tree Team call for donations of native species tree seeds. This summer we should have a bumper crop of maple, basswood and elm seedlings! The elm seeds are a particularly happy surprise. There is a possibility that this tree has natural resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. If so we'd love to help rebuild the local elm population.

Many people in the Hamlet are now planting potted annuals. The Tree Team would love to have any leftover pots you'd otherwise be put-



ting out on garbage day. In our hands they will get reused many times over growing seedlings and saplings. It would be great if they are left separately at your curb so that we, or anyone interested, can put them to good use.

One final message, we expect to see plenty of LDD caterpillars soon (a.k.a. "gypsy moth"). Please keep an eye out and do what you can to minimise the damage. We have information about this on the blackburnhamlet.ca website and the facebook.com/bhtreeteam site. If you need any help, or have any questions, you can always reach us at treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca. Have a wonderful summer!

What's happening at the Blackburn Hamlet library?

Summer is almost here and that means that it is almost time for Summer Reading Club! We will be offering lots of fun programs and activities for the kids. Kits are available at the branch starting June 13 and the club kicks off June 27. Visit our website for more details at bibliooottawalibrary.ca

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 bilingual storytime / Heure du conte bilingue en direct

Join us online for live stories, songs and rhymes for children of all ages. | Rejoignez-nous en direct pour des histoires, des chansons et des comp-

tes, pour les enfants de tous âges. Wednesdays, at 10:30am until Jun 8, 2022

Library Hours

Closed Friday, July 1 and Monday, August 1

We are currently operating under modified hours, but please see our website for updates. Mondays 10 am - 6 pm, Tuesdays 1 - 8 pm, Wednesdays 10 am - 6 pm, Thursdays 1 - 8 pm, Fridays 1 - 6 pm, Saturdays 10 am - 5 pm, Sundays closed. The book drop is available 24/7. 613-580-2940

Come and visit our booth at the FunFair! We would love to see you!



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Wild poetry party in the park

by *Maureen Forsythe*
BCA Youth Director

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 9, fifteen local youth gathered outdoors near the community hall to have fun with friends and peers. Special shout-out to the youngest participant, Amelia Cartwright-Roome, who is a grade-five student at Glen Ogilvie Public School.

The event kicked off with each participant telling a joke aloud about spring; participants won small prizes if they could successfully guess the answer to the joke within a few seconds. Several young people were able to guess the answer to at least one of the jokes, including Danny Walker, who quickly guessed the answer to several of the jokes!

After the joke telling, everyone took off toward the wood line in small groups in search of six carefully hidden bags of chocolate surprises that included a copy of a poem about spring. Each group took turns reading aloud their poem when they returned with their hidden treasure.

Next, participants formed small groups, with each group receiving a medium or large kite to fly. Everyone took advantage of the favourable winds and managed to get their kites airborne within minutes. It was a perfect spring day for kite flying!

After almost half an hour of flying kites, everyone gathered around the picnic table for



Pinxit White (left) attends Emily Carr MS and Amelia Cartwright-Roome (right) attends Glen Ogilvie PS.

photos (with funny props), birthday cake (happy birthday, Pinxit!) and hot chocolate. Last but not least, everyone listened to a few poems about perseverance before leaving. The poems included “You Will Never See Me Fall” by Joyce Alcantara, “Success” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and “Can’t” by Edgar Guest.

Special shout-out to Valerie du Plessis, former resident of Blackburn Hamlet and mother of volunteer Kate Beshiri, who helped out at the event, and baked and decorated the bunny-themed chocolate cake that everyone enjoyed!

Looking for young mural artists for new community mural

by *Maureen Forsythe*, BCA Youth Director

As part of its youth engagement activities, the BCA is once again supporting the creation of a new outdoor mural in our community.

Local youth aged 10 to 17 are invited to collaborate with Ottawa mural artist Ryan Smeeton in the design and installation of the new mural this summer. The new mural will be located at 200 Glen Park Drive, on the side of the Lois Kemp Arena that faces toward the Metro.

Ryan Smeeton will hold an in-person consultation with interested youth in mid-July outdoors by the community hall, which is the location of the beautiful mural that he designed and painted last summer in collaboration with Blackburn youth.

Youth who would like to participate in the design and installation of the new mural are invited to send an email to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca before the end of June 2022.

Diary of a garbage picker

Jacqueline Madill

Summer 2021: A couple strolled by with a nifty tool to pick up garbage and mentioned that it was available at the dollar store.

Spring 2022: It was shocking when I took to the streets. Litter was everywhere, so I finally bought that tool.

March 25: On a cheerful sunny morning, I phoned my friend as soon as I got back from garbage picking. I said, "I feel nauseous." I had cleared the laneway between Innes and Glen Park Drive heading toward Gravelle Crescent. In the ditch, thin plastic bags were entangled in branches and required careful manipulation since they were filled with dog poop. Besides the usual litter, someone tossed a garbage bag, instead of putting it out for pickup. I was not smiling. Also, I was worried, since thin plastic will decompose into tiny particles that would infiltrate the soil, and into the food chain. I remember a scientist reporting on how plastics spread as far as the Arctic Ocean, affecting the internal organs of birds. Very



scary stuff. So, I targeted plastics first. My back and hands were stiff from the work. When I invited my friend to try out this newly pristine route a few days later, the ditch had already been littered with new garbage. My friend commented, "Nobody cares."

April 4: I decided that I would only pick up face masks and a few cigarette butts. Much more fun! I used the opportunity to train my eyes to see the world differently. One lady walking her dog thanked me and said that all she can think of is to teach her children how to "respect" the land.

May 1: Thank you to the spring cleanup activity. I encourage all Blackburnians to keep up the good work throughout the year.

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Classic Theatre Festival relaunches in Ottawa

BANAR readers will enjoy “Summer Theatre in the City” with August’s relaunch of the award-winning Classic Theatre Festival, renowned for its productions of hits from Broadway and the London stage, featuring some of Canada’s top theatre talent. Playing at their new Arts Court home (2 Daly Ave.) will be *The Fourposter*, a beloved Broadway favourite that follows a couple through 35 years of marriage from a nervous wedding night through childbirth and parenting, mid-life crisis, empty nesting, and the realities of aging. The show will run August 5 to 28, Wed. to Sun at 1:30 pm, and Wed., Thurs. and Sat. at 7:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased at (613) 695-9330 and classictheatre.ca. For everyone’s safety all theatre staff and audience members will need to wear masks inside the theatre.

The festival spent a decade in Perth before moving to Ottawa, a difficult decision brought upon us by the pandemic. As we emerge from this hiatus, the festival continues to make theatre



accessible through its Save-a-Seat program, which distributes free tickets to low-income individuals through area social services agencies. The festival also accepts donations of used books, the sale of which supports Save-a-Seat. Meanwhile, to get involved with the theatre by hosting a visiting performer or volunteering as an usher, contact them at (613) 695-9330 or info@classictheatre.ca.

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Blackburn Hamlet Brownies and Sparks learn about the environment

*Devon Ellis and Anna-Sarah Eyrich,
BCA Environment Committee*

What do the Brownies and Sparks groups in Blackburn Hamlet know about the environment and about recycling? Lots!

To celebrate Earth Day, the Brownies and Sparks joined Anna-Sarah and Devon, members of the BCA Environment team, to talk about and learn about the environment, and to play a few games as well. In this session, the girls shared their knowledge and eagerly participated in a story telling about a seed's journey to becoming a full grown plant, and they learned all about waste triaging and recycling. Bby the end of the recycling relay they could tell what goes where!

The environment is important to all of us – it's where we all live and intrinsic to every part of our lives – and there is certainly a lot to learn about! It was incredibly encouraging to see the enthusiasm and passion this next generation has

for learning, sharing, and caring for each other and for our world. Kudos Brownies and Sparks!

If you're a group looking to plan an environmental activity, the Environment Committee can help. Contact us at enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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FRANK'S Excellence

Cynthia Hoisak – garden connoisseur and Blackburn Hamlet garden tour lead!

Cynthia Hoisak returned to Canada in late 1985, having spent seven years in Saudi Arabia, settling here in Blackburn Hamlet with her husband and son. It took her several years and many tries to find her style, torn between the flower gardens and lush Canadian landscapes, versus the Arizona and Japanese styles she had visited while travelling. After removing all the grass from inside her hedge and having ten tons of one-inch river stones delivered to the driveway, so began her garden “style”!

Over many years, Cynthia has had the opportunity to participate in numerous public and

private garden tours around the world: Canada, England, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the USA. Inspired by the High Line gardens in New York City and the hundreds of volunteers that keep it looking its best at all times, Cynthia's love of gardens remains forever present. She is encouraging the community of Blackburn Hamlet to join her in this year's free local garden tour. An opportunity to share and view many beautiful neighborhood gardens and gather ideas for your own back yard! Contact Cynthia at gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca for more information.

Blackburn Hamlet garden tour

Cynthia Hoisak

There is still time to put your garden on the Blackburn Hamlet tour for both July 9 and 10, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Let's see what you've been up to for the many years, or only a year or two. What's behind those hedges, fences, garden walls, or open spaces? We'd love to have a peek, so

you can share with us your successes, and inspiration, and the uniqueness of your garden experiences. But mostly, it is about opening your garden to the community, with your own personal style and interests.

Your entries need to get to me by June 15. There is no judging, participation is free, and it is open for all to attend. Please

contact gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca

See you on the garden path!

Volunteers needed!

Miriam Hampson

Are you an eager gardener? Are you a high school student looking for volunteer hours? Are you wanting to give back to your community? If you are interested in helping water our four Hamlet gardens at the entry points of our beautiful community, please contact beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca. We would love for you to join our team!



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One Stumbling Spring

by Chloe Tang

One excruciating winter,
When smog consumes everything
That won't harden under its reign,
Rotting meat scatters on sidewalk
Fly abated brains.

One unbearable winter,
Withered pink hands clutch
Eyes like Indian grass to rain.
On TV, liars charmingly choke and spit
Bile-covered campaigns.

One empty winter,
The vacant walls say,
You see,
There's fourteen ways to say alone;
Your fingers are at least three.

(The streets glisten with a hungry sheen, potent creature of arrogance. It screams,
raw-throated.

(The spaces where it gasps air hide a thousand words, wheezing just try and have me, angry
estranged daughter of Nature.)

The sky is unblinkingly milky.

The flaking ball of gas we worship hangs from two strings instead of seven, weeping infant on oil,
For a split second. Death is almost guilty.)



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So one glorious stumbling Spring,
When the eight-legged all-nighter shrivels to die,
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Watch the sun rise one last time

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