

Blackburn Area News And Reports

BANAR

Vol. 56 No. 2

November 2022

BCA's Holiday Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, December 10 • 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Hello everyone! Come join us for a menu of pancakes, sausages, fruits, tea, coffee, and juice boxes

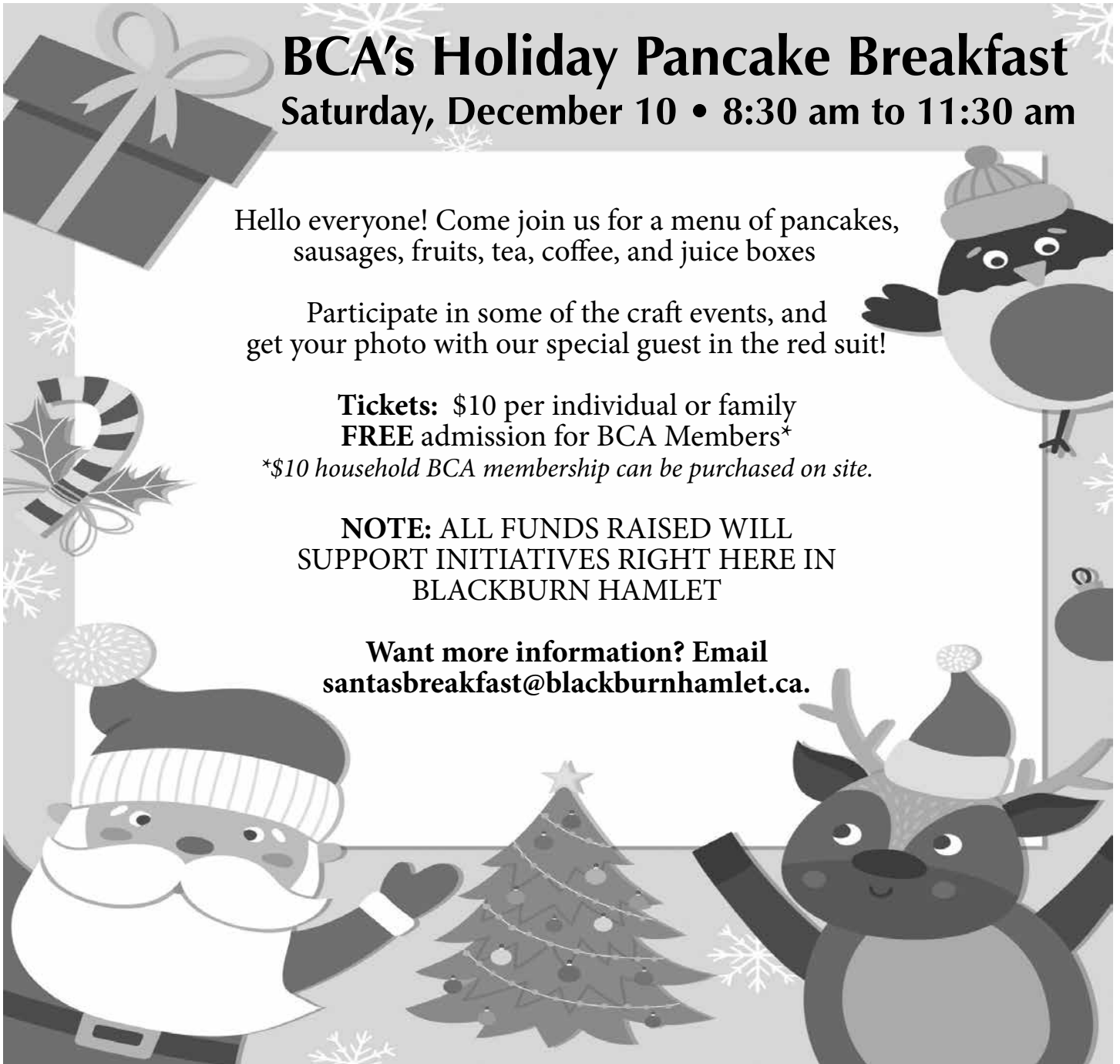
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Dr Bernard Vincelette, DMV & Dr Annie Séguin, DMV

Dr Amber Covello, DVM & Dr Alexandra Phoenix, DVM

Traveling with your cat



Bringing your cat to the veterinarian or on a trip out of town can be quite a stressful ordeal. These are tips to make the experience better.

Your cat should love his carrier. If you only bring the carrier out to forcefully put your pet into (often sneaking up on him while he was sleeping and with a full bladder) he will learn very fast that carrier = stress.

Before you plan a trip, leave the carrier in your cat's favorite room. We recommend to have a carrier that the door and top half

can be easily detached. This allows your cat to start resting in it without feeling enclosed. You can leave blankets, toys, treats in the carrier. Once your cat accepts to be in the carrier you can continue the training and slowly put the carrier top back on (but keep the door open). You can even feed him in the carrier and eventually close the door. Once he finishes eating you open the door and he can learn that being inside a carrier does not mean something stressful will happen. Training sessions take time and effort but the rewards are worth it.

Pheromone sprays can also help some cats with traveling. Cover the carrier with a blanket and spray it with the pheromones 15 minutes before your cat enters the carrier. Cats feel more protected with the extra blanket hiding them from the unknown.

Finally, ask your veterinarian if a safe medication is a good option. It is often prescribed to make a cat's examination less stressful or for cats that remain reluctant to travel.

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98 & 100 Bearbrook

Two lots across Bearbrook Road from the Good Shepherd Catholic School were purchased together and an application to construct a 9-storey mid-rise apartment on the whole area has been submitted to the City of Ottawa. The plan includes 168 residential units (159 apartment units and nine townhouse units) comprising a 14,674 gross floor area (GFA), with 209 motor vehicle parking spaces (25 surface and 184 underground) and 84 bicycle parking spaces (42 surface and 43 underground).

The BCA has received the following questions, concerns and interests in the proposal:

Q: Who has influence on this development?

A: The owner is the only one that can choose to make changes to the proposal.

The BCA, the residents of Blackburn Hamlet and the Councillor can raise concerns to the City of Ottawa planning staff, which have been included in a formal Planner Review Comment Letter, to which the developer is required to respond. Ultimately, City staff must make their determination based solely on if the application is compliant with existing provincial and municipal by-laws.

Q: What is the zoning for this area and what does it allow?

A: The purpose of the AM – Arterial Mainstreet Zone is to:

1. accommodate a broad range of uses including retail, service commercial, offices, residential and institutional; and
2. promote intensification while ensuring that they are compatible with the surrounding uses

The structures permitted in an AM zone include an apartment building that is more than four storeys but less than ten storeys high.

Q: Will a 9-story building intrude on the privacy of homes that are close?

A: The building is designed to have windows that only face with the Good Shepherd School on Bearbrook Road, and the Saint-Marie School on Innes.

Q: How will this apartment building impact the neighborhood?

A: *There are both positive and negative foreseen impacts.* More residents could bring new customers to the businesses and new customers to the medical services in the Hamlet. They could increase both the street traffic and the usage of public transit. The tall building will not fit the current open sky layout of Blackburn Hamlet. They could increase the vitality of local groups and clubs.

When the apartment building is completed and new people move in, BCA will welcome them as new neighbors within Blackburn Hamlet.



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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

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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COMMITTEES

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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
Hockey Day: Mark Lister rinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup: Lisa Margeson cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca
Santa's Breakfast: Don Kelly & Angie Jodoin santasbreakfast@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, January 19, 2023

BANAR delivery routes

Did you know that people of all ages can earn money delivering the BANAR? Currently, all the BANAR routes are filled, but individuals who are interested in future routes can join the waitlist to take over the delivery of routes when they become available.

Those interested in future routes can email BANAR@blackburnhamlet.ca to join the waitlist.

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 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.

**January BANAR Deadline:
January 26, 2023
BANAR Delivery:
February 18, 2023**

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

Editor's message

It's been 2 years since I became the editor for the BANAR, and it's been quite the experience! There was a lot to learn and many new challenges, but it has been great to work with other BCA volunteers and to get to know other members of the community.

I'm always impressed with the community spirit in Blackburn, and the dedication of the volunteers who spent countless hours organizing events and initiatives to help make this community great. It has been a pleasure to help showcase this work through the BANAR.

Many thanks to our advertisers and to those who submit articles and photos — we couldn't publish the BANAR without you!

~Kendra Brett

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.

The Power of Words: Announcing the BCA's Fall 2022 Short Story Contest for Youth

by *Maureen Forsythe, BCA Youth Director*

Local youth aged 9-14 who either reside or attend school in Blackburn Hamlet are invited to submit an original short story in English or French. Participants must be at least nine years old and not older than 14 years old as of December 31, 2022.

The fictional story must demonstrate or bring alive some aspect of the theme “the power of words, spoken or written” and it must be between 175 and 225 words long.

The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$150 and three follow-up winners will each receive a cash

prize of \$75. The first prize story will be published in the February 2023 issue of the BANAR and all winning stories will also appear on the BCA website. The stories will be reviewed by a panel of at least three judges.

Stories should be submitted by email as a plain text PDF attachment to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca no later than 8 pm on January 19, 2023. The email attachment should be labelled as follows: first name_last name_age as of December 31, 2022_name of school. Tips and guidance on writing a short story will be available on the BCA's website (under youth engagement) as of December 2, 2022.

Co-winners of BCA Youth Essay Contest 2022

*Maureen Forsythe,
BCA Youth Director*

In August the BCA invited local youth to write a short essay on one of three topics. The topics were about coming of age, the idea of potential and limits and individual competence and autonomy.

The BCA is pleased to announce that two young Blackburn residents


took up the challenge posed by this writing contest. Navid Rowhani and Nura Rowhani, who are brother and sister, each wrote a short essay on a different topic. Both of these emerging writers attend Emily Carr Middle School.

In his essay “A Fair Game” Navid, 10, focuses on the limits of individual competence and autonomy. He writes “Let’s say the world is a soc-

cer team. You have to work together to get the ball in the goal. You can’t play the game by yourself...Playing as a team is way better and easier.”

In her essay “From Sapling to Fruitful Tree” Nura, who is 13 years old, focuses on what it means for adolescents to come of age. She writes “Any celebration of the transition from youth to adult shouldn’t produce a sense of finality, but should instead stimulate in youth a sense of responsibility and commitment to put them on a path of growth, service and contribution for their entire lives.”

The BCA is happy to confirm Navid and Nura Rowhani as co-winners of the *Wonderful Writers Contest 2022*. Each will receive a cash prize of \$125. Both essays will be published on the BCA website under Our Work/Youth Engagement. Congratulations to both Nura and Navid!



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Beautifying Blackburn

By *Miriam Hampson*

Communities like **Blackburn Hamlet** are fortunate to have an incredible legacy of wonderful volunteers who help enrich our neighborhood in so many ways. Recently, I took a moment to read previous issues of the BANAR on the BCA website. These past BANAR articles were full of history and interesting Blackburn activities dating back to 1967! It was truly amazing to read about all the past work of dedicated volunteers and of their incredible contributions to our community.

For the past two years, the BCA's beautification goals have focused on beautifying the entry points to our community by establishing gardens at our gate-way signs, and by the art installation structure at the four corners. These four gardens have been watered and cared for throughout the spring, summer and fall months by volunteers. This was no small feat. Water is not accessible near these gardens which makes it difficult to maintain the gardens. Volunteers were assigned to water daily for five to six weeks of the schedule, collect large enough containers to hold the water, and carry these water jugs to the garden locations. I would like to thank the 2022 watering team: Erik Leicht, Tammy Bedard, Monica DeRomer, Christine Varley, Karen Barrington and Os Hoch, Christina McNiven, Pierre-Luc Scott, Heather McCuaig Edge, Don Kelly, Margery Thomas, Dana Brown, Richard Manicom, and Esther Cormier. I would also like to thank the BCA and Friends of Mer Bleue for their monetary support to help purchase the plants and materials for these gardens.

Another beautification objective this year was to revive the Garden Tour. This event was held over two days in July and it attracted over a hundred visitors from various parts of the city to have some fun, learn more about gardening, and support a good cause: Over \$1,100 was donated to the local food bank here in Blackburn from this event. It was a terrific way to see the beautiful work of the many gardeners in our community and at the same time, raise money for a worthy local cause. I would like to acknowledge the following gardeners for sharing their gorgeous gardens: Jean Clark and Jean Moreau, John and Gloria Peddie,



1st place Blackburn in Bloom — Pierre Lacroix



2nd place Blackburn in Bloom — Sarah Howlett



3rd place Blackburn in Bloom — Julie Linton

Bin Gravelle, Wilbrod Le Clerc, Fred and Sue Ellis, Eric Snow, Isobel Hubble, Sarah Walsh, Richard and Yvonne Hayter, Louise, Joe Potter, Johanna Barefoot, Diane Arseneault, Cliff Seibel, Lorna Mwikalo, Cynthia Hoisak (for also spearheading this wonderful garden tour event this year) and to Lino Demasi for creating a virtual map for our garden visitors.

Lastly, in keeping with the garden theme, a photo contest, Blackburn in Bloom, was organized to allow Blackburn residents an opportunity to showcase their own gardens through social media. Thank you to Jen Read who kindly accepted to organize the event and to our winning participants for their lovely floral photo submissions: Pierre Lacroix (1st place), Sarah Howlett (2nd place), and Julie Linton (3rd place).

Our beautification goals next year include encouraging our local businesses to beautify the front of their shops along the business strips with floral arrangements. Thank you to Hair Alive and to the Blackburn Arms who voluntarily spruced up the front of their establishments this summer with beautiful planters.

If you are interested in helping beautify our community, please contact beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca or join one of our monthly BCA meetings.

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Cancer Chase 2022

A great event for a great cause

Don Kelly and Barbara Whittaker, Co-chairs, 2022 Blackburn Hamlet Cancer Chase, with photos by Susan Sloan and Deborah Zepeda de la Barrera

On the morning of Sunday, September 25, over 170 people gathered at the Hornet's Nest Park for the BCA's 2022 Cancer Chase. Due to the outstanding community participation, we raised \$15,000 for cancer research at the Ottawa Hospital.

This year's event included the 5K walk/run through the beautiful Green's Creek area, a loonie line, a refreshment table, a raffle for participants, a selfie station, and a silent auction. There were also displays by the Ottawa Hospital Foundation and Imerman Angels, a wonderful group that helps facilitate communication between people dealing with cancer.

The day started with speeches by Marie-France Lalonde, Member of Parliament for Orléans, and Dr. Rozanne Arulanandam, Ottawa Hospital Senior Scientific Manager. After Jan Quinn of Jan's Workout got everyone warmed up, the participants were off for the walk/run. The weather was excellent and a great time was had by all.

An event like the Cancer Chase could only be organized with the support of many wonderful volunteers who gave countless hours of their time. A huge thank you to the organizing committee, to the emcees who guided us through the



event, and to the many people who helped us with logistics, refreshments, registration, photography, promotion, social media, the website, the display and activity tables, the coordination of the walk/run and the organization of the silent auction. What a wonderful team we had!

Special thanks to: Jan Quinn; PSMK First Aid Training Inc. for volunteering to provide us with medical support; Tim Hortons for donating those

much-needed morning cups of coffee; the BGM Real Estate Team for providing water on the trail; and the Running Room for the use of the start/finish inflatable. Our appreciation as well to Natasha De Sousa and her team from the Ottawa Hospital Foundation for their tremendous assistance. The Cancer Chase Committee is very grateful to these caring people.

Again this year, businesses and individuals from the Hamlet and across the city offered generous



support for the event. The list of these wonderful contributors is shown on page 21. While it is not possible to acknowledge every single donor, a special note of appreciation must go out to the Frangian family at the Blackburn Pharmacy, Dr. Chantal Plant at Blackburn Shoppes Dental Centre, and Sandra Crabtree of the Crabtree Foundation for their incredible support and contributions.

Lastly, our appreciation goes to all of those who came out to walk and run with us. We thank you for your participation and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Planning for the 2023 Cancer Chase begins this month. If you are interested in becoming part of the organizing team for this amazing community event, please contact us at cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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FUNFAIR SPONSORSHIP 2022

by Brent Lawrie,
FUNFAIR Co-Chair

Thanks to all for another excellent FUNFAIR. With the participation of our great community and all the excellent sponsorship support, FUNFAIR raised \$15,000 to be put directly back into our various not-for-profit Blackburn community groups, organizations and associations, via our Honourariums Distribution Program, (distribution will be highlighted in the next BANAR).

I would like to extend a special thanks to all of the FUNFAIR 2022 sponsors who continually support our annual tradition and the new ones who we hope will add to this tradition.

Always greatly appreciated.

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Blackburn Community Closet 2022 a success! Now for 2023!

The BCA's Environment Committee held Blackburn's first Community Closet event on Saturday October 15th, and wow was it ever a success! Over the course of the day we had hundreds of people attend and take home new-to-them clothing. Clothing that was left over (there wasn't much!) was donated to Dress for Success, Clothespin, and Emily Murphy.

A very special thanks to all those who donated clothing and to all the volunteers who helped wash clothing, set up the hall the night before the event, lent clothing racks/hangers/mannequin for the event, helped during the event (folding clothing, helping people find clothing etc.) and who helped with the tear down. Thank you to Pineview Community Association for lending us two clothing racks for the event.

A very special thank you to the organizers Jenny, Robyn, Angie and Sarah as well as our phenomenal volunteers: Sonia, Chantal, Auramarina, Aaron, Maksim, Irina, Benjamin, Irene, Linda, Corey, Brody, Kevin, Devon, Bob, Scott, Ericha and Rebecca! The event could not have been as great of a success without your help. Thank you!!!!

The biggest takeaway from the event was that we want to do it again! and soon! Save the date for Saturday April 15! We will start accepting donations of gently used clothing (no undergarments, shoes or accessories) on February 1, which can be dropped off

at 9 Catalpa Court. Stay tuned to the BCA website and Facebook page to find out more. If you are interested in helping, let us know by emailing enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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Tree Talk

More to dirt than meets the eye

By Stephen Fanjoy

“Dirt”, of course, is a dirty word. Simplistic and dismissive. “Soil” is better, suggesting that maybe there is more to dirt than meets the eye. I prefer the word “earth” because it alludes to a deeper truth. The earth beneath our feet is a vast and essential part of our biosphere. For all the majesty of life on earth, the diversity, complexity and abundance of life *in the earth* is astounding.

For most of my life, I didn’t think a lot about the ground I stood on. I knew of soil’s basics: clay, sand, humus, pH, nitrogen, earthworms, ants and such. But this doesn’t scratch the surface of what is going on below. The layer of earth shared with plant roots is called the *rhizosphere*, and it hosts a staggering amount of biology and biochemistry. This is where plants, bacteria, fungi, microbes and other animals cooperate to produce life for and with each other, life upon which we ultimately depend.

We have a lot of clay in Blackburn. A gram of fine clay particles can have a total surface area of as much as 800 square metres and, near roots, almost all of this is home to bacteria and microbes. Scientists estimate that a square

metre of natural soil contains hundreds of thousands of animals comprising thousands of microscopic species, and a gram of soil can contain a kilometre of fungal hyphae.

Using the sun and water, plants produce a great deal of complex sugars and other compounds, not just for their own growth but also to “intentionally” and selectively feed the fungi, microbes and bacteria in the earth around their roots. This way plants signal what nutrients they need and the teeming rhizosphere responds by making and delivering them. Plants even feed specific bacteria that specialise in selectively killing pathogens that prey on organisms which are beneficial to the plant. Plants do this, not generally but specifically, when and where needed. Like our own digestive microbiome, the rhizosphere is literally the gut of our earth.

As you take in the beauty of the woods, the parks and gardens around us, I hope you also take a moment to reflect on the unseen fascination below it all that it depends upon. A great way to learn more about this is through Merlin Sheldrake’s book *Entangled Life* and George Monbiot’s *Regenesi*s. Both are available from the Ottawa Public Library.

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News from your Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch, Don Kelly & Brad Hampson

This November is Crime Prevention Month and the Blackburn Hamlet Neighborhood Watch, in cooperation with the Ottawa Police Service (OPS), would like to make residents aware of two criminal activities that are becoming quite prevalent in our area.

Car thefts in Ottawa are on the rise. Over 230 vehicle thefts have been reported this year compared to half that number for the same period in 2021. Newer model Honda CRV are a favorite target, though thieves are also stealing all makes and models of vehicles equipped with a proximity key, or push-button start.

Most commonly, the driver-side door is mechanically breached and the thieves access the vehicle's Engine-Control Module (ECM) port to reprogram a new key. Residents can take measures to prevent thieves from doing. For example, do not keep your key fob near doors or windows that could allow thieves to scan your ECM from the outside. You can also use a Radio Frequency Shield, also called a Faraday bag/box.

The OPS is recommending vehicle owners consider

these preventive measures:

- Park inside a garage (no vehicle has been reported stolen from inside a garage)
- Install an ECM port lock
- Install an after-market vehicle immobilizer
- Use a steering wheel lock (The Club) to deter thieves;
- Install motion detection lights and exterior cameras at your home

The OPS is also advising residents to be aware of the "grandparent scam", whereby a person (primarily an elderly person) receives a phone call saying that a family member has been arrested and they urgently need to send money for their bail. These callers are incredibly convincing and count on the emotional factor involved. The OPS advise everyone: DO NOT SEND MONEY.

Whenever criminal activity is involved, theft, fraud, or other illegal activity, the right thing to do is always contact the OPS. It is imperative that the OPS be made aware of all incidents. The reports are used extensively by the OPS Intelligence to determine trends of crime and address appropriate resources to their prevention.

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From Food Bank to table

Cynthia Hosiak

How many times have I driven by without a thought of what goes on behind the doors, with an overhead sign, Lifecentre: Food Bank.

Sure they supply food for those in need in the community — but how does this all come about?

The Lifecentre Food Bank here in the Hamlet opened in the fall of 2011. The facility is owned by Lifecentre and operates under the umbrella of the Ottawa Food Bank, with 60% of donations coming from them. The balance comes from us, the community. It is made up of partners which include several schools, farmers markets, Cobs Bread, and your donations and food drives.

The pace starts on Tuesdays with a delivery from the Ottawa Food Bank. Volunteers then stock the shelves, along with other donations that come in until Wednesday evening with the delivery from Cobs Bread. On-Thursdays from 9 am to 8 pm, at set times, an average of 62 families pay a visit to the facility. Deliveries are also available. Recipients visit to a maximum of every two weeks. The past few months have seen a 20% increase in demand.

Not all requirements are met with the donations from the Ottawa Food Bank, so a shopping list is made up for additional or insufficient items, like pouches of milk, that are purchased. There are some items that are universal which cross many cultures, such as diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, corn kernels, chickpeas, and canned peas. These basics are some of the most popular items, other than Kraft Dinner.

It takes Julie Frereault, the Foodbank Director, 20 hours per week along with a newly hired Coordinator for an equal 20 hours per week, and 28 volunteers per week, to serve the clients efficiently, and to make sure the operation runs smoothly and fulfills its mandate.

The BCA was very pleased to contribute, through various events held this year, several cash donations to the Lifecentre Food Bank. Many thanks to all, for contributing, in so many ways, to the food tables of those in our community.



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Young Helping Hands for Seniors in 2022

by *Maureen Forsythe*
BCA Youth Director

In early 2022 the BCA invited Blackburn Hamlet seniors to participate in a new program that aimed to recruit youth volunteers to help them with garden and yard work, especially during spring and fall. A total of 20 local seniors signed up for the *Young Helping Hands for Seniors* program and six Blackburn youth volunteered to participate in the program.

The program was officially launched on May 21, with two local volunteers, Owen and Thomas Gottfried, assisting Norman and Marie Swarts with a variety of yard and garden tasks. According to Norman Swarts “they did a lot in a short period of time”. Owen and Thomas went on to assist six different senior households from May through mid-October, including that of Marion Hall who appreciated that the brothers completed her list of tasks “much more quickly” than she expected.

A total of eleven volunteer visits were carried out by the six volunteer youth (and one parent) in 2022. One



Cameron, left, and Liam MacDonald — volunteers with the Young Helping Hands program.

of the seniors, Shirley Shea, especially appreciated the visit by Hoda Rowhani and her daughter Nura, who happen to be her neighbours! Special thanks to Owen and Thomas Gottfried, Cameron and Liam MacDonald and Nura Rowhani and Chloe Smith for volunteering with this new program and helping to make it a success!

Youth aged 12 to 17 who might be interested in volunteering with this program next spring (mid-May through end of June) are invited to send an email to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca

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What's happening at the Blackburn Library

Family storytime/Contes en famille

Join us Thursday mornings for bilingual stories, rhymes and songs for children 0-6 years and a parent or caregiver. Please see our website for more details and to register online.

Activities for children

We will have fun activities for kids in the branch through the holidays so please stop in and visit us!

Meeting room is now available

Whether you are scheduling a meeting with your

colleagues, planning a community gathering, or need a place to work quietly, our meeting room has you covered. You can find all you need to know to rent our meeting room at the Ottawa Public Library website.

Social media

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. Ottawa Public Library / Biblio publique d'Ottawa — YouTube

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Spooktacular Halloween Party 2022

by Maureen Forsythe, BCA Youth Director

On the sunny afternoon of October 29 some 31 local youth, wearing an astonishing variety of original costumes, descended on the park outside the Blackburn Community Center for a couple of hours of ghoulish fun and games. Sophie Nicolas (as YouTube personality Technoblade), Matts Robinson (as Marshmellow) and William Michaud (as Captain Cardboard) shared top honours for best costume, as voted by fellow participants.

After a game of Ghost in the Graveyard – with Téa Bedard volunteering to be the first ghost – everyone gathered in a circle to listen to the story *The Haunted Grove* by S.E. Schlosser. A planned game of Balloon Soccer Relay morphed into a less formal game, with participants trying to kick their balloons up and down the soccer field. Everyone then sat in a large circle for a game of Pass the Pumpkin, trying not to be eliminated each time the Cuban dance music stopped playing. Finally, there was a spooky Scavenger Hunt, with teams of participants trying to find the 28 mini-pumpkins



and three ghosts hidden in Blackburn's own haunted grove beside the soccer field! Winning teams were invited to reach into a bag and select their own prizes (with no peeking).

Captain Cardboard, also known as William Michaud, won the Jelly Bean Guess contest, taking home his prize of 618 jelly beans. Treats and refreshments were available during the event and treat bags were distributed at the end.

Special thanks to Valerie du Plessis for helping to set up the scary decorations before the event and fellow BCA board member, Barbara Whittaker, for being on site to help with the various activities.

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BLACKBURN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Come do your Holiday shopping with us! The BCA is hosting a Christmas Market at the Blackburn Community Hall on December 3. Check out services and wares offered by local vendors!

All registration fees collected from vendors will be donated to Mental Health research and patient support at the Ottawa Hospital.

Where: 190 Glen Park Dr., Blackburn Community Hall
When: Dec. 3 from 10 am to 3:30 pm

Are you a local Blackburn business? If you are interested in hosting a table at the Christmas Market, visit our page for vendors at: <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/christmasmarket/>

Space for vendors is limited so don't wait! For more info contact jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca

Cancer Chase 2022 supporters

Thank you and merci mille fois to those who donated to the silent auction and provided in-kind support for the Cancer Chase. Thanks to them, and to the long list of those who generously donated to the Ottawa Hospital Foundation, we are one step closer to chasing cancer out of our lives.

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The other season is approaching

Don Kelly, BCA Community Safety

According to the Farmer's Almanac the winter of 2022-2023 in Ontario will be a time for us to shake, shiver, and shovel. We can expect freezing rain, wet snow, blowing snow, blizzard conditions and the beloved cold arctic temperatures! The BCA is urging our residents to prepare for these joyful times by taking some safety measures for your home and vehicle.

Your Home

Winter is the time when most house fires happen. We urge everyone to take precautions to mitigate your risks. Ensure the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are fully charged and they are in good working order. If you have a fireplace, consider having it cleaned and inspected before you start building those cozy fires. The Ottawa Fire Services website has more fire safety tips.

Ensure your furnace is ready for winter. Change your filter regularly and consider investing into an inspection with professional service. And before the cold check the caulking and replace any that is old, cracked or missing.

Frozen water pipes in winter can cause serious damage to your home, so before the cold weather settles in, shut off the water valve to your outside taps. Ensure the water is drained out of the lines.

Ensure you have salt, grit for the melting ice and



sand for better traction on slippery stonework and driveways. Remember to get the salt recommended for your type of stonework.

Each year Ottawa residents are seriously hurt by climbing ladders to remove snow on their roofs. Consider using a professional roofer.

Your Vehicle

Winter provides booming business for garages and tow trucks because of the service calls for disabled vehicles. The battery that starts your vehicle in a second in the summer at 30C may be dead in -30C in the winter. And, if you notice streaks on the windshield after every swipe of your windshield wipers, it's usually time to replace your blades with new ones. A winter vehicle check up may be the answer to having safe and reliable transport.

We know that all season tires perform very well most of the year. However, they are not ideal for sub-zero and icy conditions, as they tend to lose grip at temperatures below 7C. This is why you should consider having winter tires. Winter tires feature big blocky treads, which move water and slush more efficiently, and softer rubber that maintains flexibility in cold temperatures.

And remember to keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle throughout the winter!

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