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# Youth Director's message

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by Maureen Forsythe

Last year was a great year for youth engagement in Blackburn Hamlet! We were able to read (here in the BANAR) the poems, stories and essays of young people who participated in a series of writing contests. We saw their artistic talents on full display with the painting of the new mural that adorns the side of the Lois Kemp Arena. Seniors in our neighbourhood benefitted from pairs of young volunteers who helped out with yard and garden work in the spring and fall. And young people had fun at a number of outdoor events in the park around the Community Hall, including the popular Spooktacular Halloween event!

As we head into the new year, the BCA is planning a new slate of activities that will hopefully engage the amazing youth of Blackburn Hamlet.

In this issue, we are announcing the winners of the most recent youth short story contest whose theme was *the power of words, written or spoken*. A Valentine's Party in the Park event will have taken place just before this issue is delivered. In the next issue, we will be announcing a new Spring Poetry Contest and sharing details about the planned second year of the *Young Helping Hands for Seniors* program which aims to get more young people involved in helping seniors with garden and yard work this spring. Stay tuned and do visit the BCA website if you wish to check out what is happening next in our community!



Logan Ryan cycling to school. Photo by Nina Ryan

## Contents

- 6 What's happening at the library
- 8 Speeding tickets on Bearbrook
- 9 Spring Community Closet
- 9 Activity registrations
- 10 Adopt a Bench
- 10 Christmas Market thank you
- 11 Board meeting highlights
- 12 BCA Annual General Meeting
- 12 Fraud prevention month
- 14 Blackburn heritage properties
- 15 Councillor's message
- 15 1972 plan for Blackburn
- 16 Pancake breakfast wrap-up
- 17 Story: False hope
- 17 Dangers of lithium-ion batteries
- 18 2023 Garden Tour
- 18 Story: Echo
- 20 FunFair 2022 Honourariums distribution
- 21 Story: The Leaf named Liko
- 22 Neighbourhood Watch
- 23 Tree Talk: About native trees
- 24 Bicycle corner
- 24 Story: Ghost Whisper
- 25 Le coin vélo
- 26 Story: Humanity



## Websites

[www.BlackburnHamlet.ca](http://www.BlackburnHamlet.ca)  
[www.BlackburnFunFair.ca](http://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

**BOARD**  
Beautification: Miriam Hampson beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Communications: Nina Ryan and Barbara Whitaker communications@blackburnhamlet.ca

Community Liaison: Jenny Lawrence jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Environment: Sarah Morgan-White enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Facilities and Operations: Brent Lawrie vp@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Membership: Heather McCuaig Edge membership@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Parks: Kiel Dixon Kiel@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Seniors: Maureen Forsythe and Sarah Morgan-White Seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Rinks: Mark Lister and Brent Lawrie parksanddrinks@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Safety: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Youth: Maureen Forsythe youth@blackburnhamlet.ca

**COMMITTEES**  
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Climate Change: Anna-Sarah Eyrich climate@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Community Hall: Pamela Barton hall@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Transportation: Robert Bellizzi transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Tree Team: Sarah Morgan-White treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Website: Steve Vesely webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca

**EVENTS**  
Bike Rodeo: Robert Belizzi robert@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Canada Day: Lino Demasi canadaday@blackburnhamlet.ca  
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](mailto: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 March 16, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

**April BANAR Deadline:  
March 9, 2023**

**April BANAR Delivery:  
April 1, 2023**

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

## SAVE THE DATE Upcoming Enviro Events!

### SATURDAY APRIL 15

Community Closet (see BANAR article in this issue!)

### SATURDAY APRIL 29

Spring Cleanup (rain date April 30)

### SATURDAY MAY 6

Community Garage Sale

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 13 & 14

Neighbourhoods Training

*For an up-to-date list of BCA events visit:  
<https://blackburnhamlet.ca/events/>*

## 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](http://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.

# What's happening at the Blackburn Library

## Family Storytime/Contes en Famille

Join us **Wednesdays at 10:15am for 30 minutes**. 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.

## Baby Time / Bébés à la biblio

**Thursday/Jeudi, 2pm for 30 minutes:** Stories, rhymes, and songs for babies 0-18 months and a parent or caregiver. Contes, comptines et chansons pour les bébés de 0 à 18 mois.

<https://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/event/baby-time-b%C3%A9b%C3%A9s-%C3%A0-la-biblio>

We will have activities for kids in-branch through the March break so please visit our website for more details!

Keep an eye on the OPL website for some great events and programs for adults and children coming soon to the Blackburn Hamlet branch.



## 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 about how to rent our meeting room at the Ottawa Public Library website.

## Friends of the Ottawa Public Library book sale

Come explore the shelves of Mille Feuilles at the Blackburn Hamlet branch. Books, music, and DVDs are available for children, teens, and adults in both English and French. Prices range from \$0.50 to \$3.00. It's a bargain!

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Dr Bernard Vincelette, DMV & Dr Annie Séguin, DMV

Dr Amber Covello, DVM & Dr Alexandra Phoenix, DVM

### Ticks in winter, really???



\* Unfortunately ticks starts to be active when it is above 4C regardless of the season. Ottawa might see ticks in January and February (like Kingston see every year) because of the recent exceptionally mild weather.

\* Ticks mostly live in tall grass, cedar edges and wooded areas. When there is only a mild snow coverage or vegetation is exposed ticks can be present. It's always a good idea to do a tick check on your pet and yourself after going in those areas.

\* Ask your veterinarian about tick

prevention or if the lyme vaccination is a good option for your dog. More and more veterinarians are discussing the option of all year round tick prevention if pets are going in high risk area.

\* There are several species of ticks. Please make sure the tick prevention you are using for your pet is effective against the Deer Tick (*Ixodes Scapularis*). This tick is the one that can transmit Lyme Disease and the main one in the greater Ottawa area. Although less common, there are several other diseases that ticks can give to your dog besides Lyme.

\* A good tick prevention should protect your pet for a minimum of one month against several tick species

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# Speeding tickets issued by the photo radar cameras on Bearbook Road

*Christopher Brett*

Last year the City of Ottawa installed an automatic radar enforcement camera on Bearbrook Road (between Centrepark Drive and Innes Road). That camera issued 4,536 tickets in the period from February to October, 2022, well behind the new photo radar camera set up on St. Laurent Boulevard (close to Queen Elizabeth Public School) that issued more than 19,000 speeding tickets in its first six months of operation, and lower than many of the photo radar cameras set up across Ottawa.

On its website the City of Ottawa mentions that since the Automated Speed Enforcement program began in July 2020, over 125,000 tickets have been issued at priority school zone locations, which have generated approximately \$8.1 million in revenue, which is all reinvested into the city's Road Safety Action Plan program. The average ticket yields \$65 in revenue for the

city, which suggests that the average speeder is driving about 10 to 15 km/hour over the speed limit.

The amount of a photo radar camera ticket is comprised of not just the fine for speeding (which goes to the city), but also the victim surcharge and court costs. The victim impact surcharge is a variable amount that increases with the amount of the fine for speeding. The speed limit on Bearbrook is 40 km/hour. If you drive 2 km/h over (i.e., 42 km/hour) the ticket will cost you \$25, made up of a fine of \$10, a victim surcharge of \$10 and court costs of \$5. If you drive 10 km/h over (i.e., 50 km/hour) the ticket will cost you \$65, made up of a fine of \$50, a victim surcharge of \$10 and court costs of \$5. If you drive 20 km/h over (i.e., 60 km/hour) the ticket will cost you \$185, made up of a fine of \$150, a victim surcharge of \$25 and court costs of \$5. If you drive 30 km/h over (i.e., 70 km/hour) the ticket will cost \$450, made up of a fine of \$360, the victim surcharge of \$85 and court costs of \$5.

**Thinking of selling or buying this Spring?  
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# Spring Community Closet!

**WHEN:** April 15, 2023 9am to 5pm  
**WHERE:** Blackburn Community Hall,  
190 Glen Park Drive

**DROP-OFF:** Drop off clothing donations starting February 1 at 9 Catalpa Court or 2188 Orient Park Dr.

Do you have enough JOY in your closet? Do you want to refresh your wardrobe *and* support sustainable fashion?

Then you absolutely cannot miss our Spring Community Closet event organized by the BCA's Environment Committee!

Bring your friends, family and loved ones to the Community Hall on April 15. We will have a variety of new-to-you clothing that is freshly laundered, *free*, and ready to be rocked by you!

To ensure we are creating an inclusive space at our swap, we will be inviting participants to come according to the following schedule:

9am to 11 am: seniors and adults who benefit from a quiet environment

11am to 1 pm: families

1pm to 5pm: everyone

Donations for the swap will be accepted from February 1. Please provide *gently used clothing donations only* (we will not accept accessories, shoes, or undergarments). Drop off at 9 Catalpa Court or 2188 Orient Park Drive.

We are looking for volunteers to help on April 15. Email [enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca) to sign-up!

## Activity registrations

Registration information for volunteer run, not-for-profit activities in Blackburn Hamlet. To feature your group's activity, please email [BANAR@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:BANAR@blackburnhamlet.ca) with the registration details (100 words or less).

**Blackburn Ladies Softball League** – a fun, recreational orthodox pitching softball league for women 18+ of all skill levels. All games are played on Mondays and/or Wednesdays at the diamond behind the Blackburn Hamlet Arena. Registration begins online on February 1, 2023 with in-person registration opportunities listed on the website ([www.blackburnladies-softball.ca](http://www.blackburnladies-softball.ca)). Inquiries can be sent to [blslvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:blslvicepresident@gmail.com)

**1st Blackburn Scout Group** – Since 1954, 1st Blackburn Scout Group has provided opportunities

for local youth to learn more about themselves and their environment, while giving back to the community. Scouting offers gender-inclusive programs to all youth, including Beavers (5-7), Cubs (8-10), Scouts (11-14), Venturers (15-17), and Rovers (18-26). The program runs

from January 1 to December 31, with meetings on Monday evenings at Emily Carr Middle School. It's not too late to join! Register at [www.myscouts.ca](http://www.myscouts.ca). Check out [blackburnscouting.com](http://blackburnscouting.com) to see the types of activities in which each section of 1st Blackburn participates. Interested volunteers please contact Joanne at [gc@blackburnscouting.com](mailto:gc@blackburnscouting.com).

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# Adopt a Bench

**Bonnie Schroeder,**  
*Program Director, Age-Friendly  
Ottawa, The Council on Aging  
of Ottawa*

The Council on Aging of Ottawa's Snow Moles need your help to keep city benches cleared of snow and ice, so they are safe and accessible this winter.

Over the past 5 years, the Snow Mole Campaign has collected information on winter walking in

neighbourhoods across the city. That information shows that most of Ottawa's 3,000+ city benches are not cleared of snow and ice and are not accessible for people to rest on their winter walks.

We are asking you to adopt a bench or two in your neighbourhood and keep them clear of ice and snow from January to end of March 2023.

Send photos to celebrate safe seats for everyone. Cleared bench-

es located near medical buildings, senior residences, libraries, pharmacies, senior centres, transit, and shopping routes are especially needed in wintertime. Send bench locations and photos to: [snowmoles@coaottawa.ca](mailto:snowmoles@coaottawa.ca) with subject line "Adopt a bench."

Join the 2023 Snow Mole Campaign (<https://coaottawa.ca/snowmoles/>) "Adopt a bench or two. Clear off the ice and snow for safe seats."

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## Thank you Blackburn, from your Christmas Market organizers!

**Jenny Lawrence**

Our Christmas market was a *huge* success and it is all thanks to our amazing volunteers and *you*, our community members! Together we raised 1,731 dollars for the Patient Comfort Fund at the Ottawa Hos-

pital. Thank you for your generous donations and for supporting our local Ottawa vendors. Over 350 people came to visit our market! We were amazed and grateful for your patronage.

A big thank you to our volunteers Sarah Morgan-White, Bar-

bara Whittaker, Don Kelly, Ericha Braun, Diane Charlebois, Brett Lawrie, Lynn Lefevre, Nina Ryan, and Steve. And thank you to Mark Lister for his insight and encouragement as we worked to get this thing done!

If you have any questions on a specific vendor, feel free to email [jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca). We will see you next year!



### **Sheena Challenger, CPA**

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## Blackburn Community Association (BCA)

# Board meeting highlights

## November 2022 & January 2023

The BCA is a grassroots volunteer-run organization that supports and advocates on behalf of residents, businesses and groups in Blackburn Hamlet, Ottawa, Canada.

The BCA board meets nine times a year on the third Thursday of every month, excepting July and August. Meetings are open to Blackburn Hamlet residents. Contact [secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca) for the Zoom credentials.

Minutes from past meetings can be found on our website at <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/about/meeting-minutes/>

Highlights from recent meetings and board discussions include:

### November 2022

- The repairs to the Blackburn Hamlet entrance signs were completed by John Sharkey Renovations in early November.

- The students hired to clean the parks the past summer did a phenomenal job.
- Robert Bellizzi was appointed to take over the vacant Transportation Chair position.
- Transition of the Membership Chair to Heather McCuaig Edge has been completed.

### January 2023

- Due to challenges with the 2022 Cancer Chase location, we are investigating alternate locations to hold this event.
- The BCA has joined with other community associations to request the City of Ottawa to provide public Wi-fi at city facilities, including our Community Hall.
- The BCA Canada Day and Bike Rodeo events will be returning in 2023.
- Planning for many new and returning 2023 events is underway and details are being posted on our website regularly.



# Laura Dudas

Councillor Orléans West - Innes | Conseillère Orléans Ouest - Innes

[LauraDudas.ca](http://LauraDudas.ca)

613-580-2472

[Laura.Dudas@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Laura.Dudas@Ottawa.ca)

# Blackburn Community Association (BCA)

## Annual general meeting (AGM)

**Please be advised** that our AGM will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm. Participation is open to all residents of Blackburn Hamlet. However, voting privileges are only for residents who have renewed their BCA membership at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting (BCA Memberships are valid from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023).

To ensure the health and safety of all, our AGM will be held by way of a ZOOM video conference. You will be able to participate in our AGM using your computer, smart phone or tablet, or by dialing in to a Toronto number with a standard phone if you prefer. While this may be a first for some of you, you will see that participating in our AGM by audio or video conference is quite easy. You'll be able to follow the discussion and vote, just like you do at a normal AGM, but all of this from the comfort of your

home. You will also be able to ask questions at the end of each presentation.

The two main areas of discussion at the AGM will be:

- 1) a review of our 2023 activities
- 2) election of the board.

Board positions include President, vice-president, treasurer, secretary and up to 11 directors. Our directors cover a number of different activities – some directors cover more than one area and other areas have multiple directors. If you are interested in joining the board, please submit your candidacy, with a short bio to [secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca). If more than one person stands for the position you seek, you will be asked to describe to the voters why you qualify.

You will find all documents for this AGM on our website at the following links:  
**Agenda:** [https://blackburnhamlet.](https://blackburnhamlet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BCA_agenda_2023-03-23.pdf)

[ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BCA\\_agenda\\_2023-03-23.pdf](https://blackburnhamlet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BCA_agenda_2023-03-23.pdf)

**Draft minutes from the March 24, 2022 Annual General Meeting:**  
[https://blackburnhamlet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BCA\\_minutes\\_2022-03-24-AGM.pdf](https://blackburnhamlet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BCA_minutes_2022-03-24-AGM.pdf)

BCA board roles

<http://blackburnhamlet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BCA-Roles-2021.pdf>

**BCA by-law:** <http://blackburnhamlet.ca/about/bca-by-law/>

To ensure the security of the Zoom meeting, participants will need to send an email to [secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca) at least three (3) days before the AGM in order to register. A link to the meeting will be sent to all registrants the day before the AGM.

We look forward to your active participation in this year's AGM!

---

## March is fraud prevention month

*Don Kelly, BCA Safety*

**Each year,** Canadians lose millions of dollars to fraud. Educating yourself on the most common scams is the easiest way to prevent yourself from being a victim. March is Fraud Prevention Month and the OPS website provides tips against the common scams like home improvement scams, identity theft, mass marketing scams, elder fraud and on-line sales. Remember, NO government agency or legitimate business will ask you to purchase gift cards or bitcoin in order to settle an account.



<https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/community-safety-and-crime-prevention/scams-and-fraud.aspx>

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# Blackburn Hamlet heritage properties

**The Heritage Inventory Project**, a city-wide heritage study, began in January 2016 and was completed in December 2019. City staff studied Ottawa's urban, suburban and rural areas and evaluated buildings for design and context. The project resulted in the inclusion of 3,402 properties on the Heritage Register as non-designated listings, which includes two properties in Blackburn Hamlet: Glen Ogilvie Public School and 2389 Pépin Court.

## Glen Ogilvie Public School

**Address:** 46 Centrepark Drive

**Built in:** c. 1969

**Style:** Modernism

**Cladding:** Concrete

**Architectural Description:** Low, horizontal massing and symmetrical footprint with corner cutouts. Sloped, overhanging, metal-clad second floor exterior walls punctuated with evenly spaced groups of narrow windows. Sloped concrete walls extend to ground level to conceal entries.



**Glen Ogilvie Public School.** Photo by Nina Ryan

## 2389 Pépin Court

**Address:** 2389 Pépin Court

**Built in:** c. 1906

**Style:** Vernacular

**Cladding:** Brick

### Architectural Description:

L-shaped Ontario farmhouse with cross-gabled metal roof, barge-board, finials, and brick chimney. Centre gable with half-width enclosed porch covers a central door. Side has full-width covered verandah with pediment. Flat brick arches with voussoirs.

**Comments:** Located within the NCC greenbelt. Site of the former Blackburn Tree Nursery. Source: National Capital Commission. Proper-



**2389 Pépin Court.** Photo by Lynn Lefevre

ty is now leased to Just Food Farms.

### Property Ownership:

Crown to Allan McDonell December 1, 1802 (absentee owner)

To Right Reverend Alexander McDonell May 24, 1822 (probably absentee)

To Prosper Oliviere (unknown date)

To Haroine Lionaise December 22, 1853

To Stanislas Robert December 23, 1873

To James Sorley December 31, 1879

To James Sorley Jr. June 15, 1883

To Samuel Kennedy November 24, 1888

To John Hudson February 25, 1890

To William N. Scharf May 31, 1901

To National Capital Commission July 25, 1961

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# Message from Councillor Laura Dudas

While the Federal Government's decision to have their workforce return to the office has been much discussed, I want to comment on two points pertaining to the City's role in this debate: funding transit and the impact to downtown businesses.

Some have argued that Ottawa's transit system is reliant on public servants' return to work in order to remain financially viable. This is the kind of backwards thinking that led to OC Transpo failing to provide effective, convenient, neighbourhood routes. Routes that get us where we need to go in our own community, and not just funnel us into the core. While we will always need

commuting routes, by being singularly focused on them, it became a self-fulfilling financial prophecy.

I will be working with OC Transpo to review local routes in the lead up to Stage 2 LRT launch and consult with riders, and the community, on how we can improve local routes, and create a system that we actually want to use.

The other concern highlights the issue surrounding the long-term financial sustainability of Ottawa's downtown core, which has one of the lowest residential densities of any of Canada's major cities. The trouble with relying on Federal workers to sustain the core, is that

they leave after work is done. We need more housing in our downtown; people who will live and shop in the heart of our city. Fast tracking residential opportunities there is a better means of providing sustainable economic growth downtown. While this may take time to accomplish, if it is not made a priority, then it will never happen.

The success of transit, and the financial well being of the downtown, cannot be borne on the backs of public servants commuting from the suburbs. Now is the time to shake off this thinking and look to long-term, sustainable solutions for our city.

---

## A 1972 plan for Blackburn Hamlet

*Kendra Brett, BANAR Editor*

Recently, **Mary Edwards**, who has lived in Blackburn for 50 years, donated some zoning maps and documents on the development of Blackburn Hamlet.

In 1972, as a member of the Civic Affairs Committee of the BCA, Mary's husband, the late Peter Edwards, helped prepare the report "A Plan for the Future Development of Blackburn Hamlet". (Others authors: W.J. McGuinty, R.L. Mortimer, and J.F. Otterman) The purpose of the report was to "detail the wishes of the citizens of Blackburn Hamlet concerning the type, rate and manner of development within the community". A letter to the editor in the September 1972 BANAR, says the report was delivered to all residents of Black-

burn. The letter thanked the men for the many hours they spent preparing the report, and "their wives, who, I am sure, at times wished they had never heard of the project".

The zoning maps, dating from the late 50s to the early 70s, show various iterations of plans for Blackburn - some areas look the

same, others drastically different! The proposed zoning map in the 1972 BCA report, shows plans to build a high school in what is now the location of the Community Hall! In future BANARs I will share other information from the 1972 BCA report. Thanks to Mary for sharing these documents!



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# BCA pancake breakfast wrap-up

*Co-Chairs, Angie Jodoin and Don Kelly*

On December 10 2022, the BCA held their annual pancake breakfast, marking the return of the event after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. The response from the community was fantastic, with over 250 community members stopping by the Community Hall for a feast of pancakes, sausages, Timbits, fruit, and refreshments. Indeed, it was a feast, with 600 pancakes and 500 sausages served!

The BCA would like to thank our strong community partners, Metro, Tim Hortons, and Lafarge Canada, for their support. All were major contributors to the success of the event. Chris Shaeen, the manager of Metro, was so engaged with the event that he personally cooked the 500 sausages. It is also rumored that Derek Tanguay, the manager of Tim Horton's, was the master of the delicious and wide variety of Timbits served. Now that's community support.

Once again, Santa played a major role in the event by listening to the wishes of children and their desired gifts for Christmas. This year Santa not only took requests for Christmas gifts but actually gave many gifts to participants during the event. A big thanks goes to the Frangian family and staff at the Blackburn Pharmacy who donated most of the gifts, set up and operated the Santa's Corner and, through incredible power of scheduling, was able to have Santa stay for the duration of the event.

Another notable aspect was the wonderful spirit of Christmas and the gaiety of families and friends in sharing a meal. Led by Angie Jodoin and her band



of merry elves, the ambiance of the hall was further heightened with a variety of Christmas decorations, inside and outside the Hall. Many of the decorations were handmade. And to keep the young members active, Sarah Morgan-White maintained a children's activity center where the participants could decorate and create different works of art.

While the BCA is thankful to the many who participated in this year's event, we are equally grateful to the Team of 25 volunteers who made it happen. For those who stood hours in the kitchen mixing and flipping pancakes, for those who stood hours serving the food and refreshments, and for those who gave hours in the set-up and clean-up, we say THANKS. A special thanks also must be given to the event's MC, Rainer Bloess, who, with wit and wisdom, kept everyone entertained.

The BCA looks forward to seeing everyone again next year.



# False Hope

By Theia Taylor

“It gets better, I promise.”

And I believed that.

Everyone says that. In movies, if someone’s struggling at the start, they’re better by the end. Something bad happens and things always get better.

Time is supposed to heal all wounds, isn’t it?

After months of this, I told my sister that she was wrong. That it doesn’t get better. Her solution? Give me a slightly more realistic version of what she’s already

said.

“The pain never really goes away, you just learn to live with it.”

I shouldn’t have believed her again. She was wrong the first time, so what were the odds that she’ll be wrong the second time as well?

The first part was right. The pain is still here. The gaping hole in my chest that used to be filled up by him -- it’s still here and I don’t think it’ll ever go away.

But that gaping hole still torments me every day. It still keeps me up at night. It still makes me cry every time I realize that it’s never gonna get filled back up again.

So my sister was wrong.

It never actually gets better.

---

## Dangers of lithium-ion batteries

Don Kelly *BCA Safety*

**Most households today** have numerous devices powered by lithium-ion batteries, including cell phones, tablets, laptops, e-bikes, lawn mowers, and snowblowers. While the batteries are inherently safe they do not come without risk.

In 2022, the Calgary Fire Department reported eight calls related to fires caused by lithium-ion batteries. The Vancouver Fire Department reported five deaths related to lithium battery fires in 2022-2023. And the Ottawa Fire Department reported that they had three related lithium-ion battery fires in the past three months, including a New Year’s Day e-bike battery fire.

Most lithium battery fires happen while a device is charging, and most often indoors. The term “thermal runaway” is often cited as the cause. This refers to a chemical reaction that occurs during the charging process. If a short circuit were to occur the result could be overheating. A thermal runaway may be the result of a damaged battery casing or one that has lost its insulation. A lithium-ion battery fire burns very hot and can give off toxic gases. Warning signs of a potential problem include bubbling, popping or hissing sounds, followed by a white vapour cloud coming from the battery, as well as a sickly-sweet smell. There have also been events of a lithium battery exploding.



The following are some simple rules to help prevent battery fires:

- a. Always follow the manufacturers’ instructions for storage, use, charging and maintenance of the battery;
- b. Never tamper with the battery;
- c. Never charge a damaged battery;
- d. Always use the correct charger for the type of battery and remove the battery from the charger when fully charged;
- e. Never overload the outlets;
- f. Never charge a cellphone under a pillow or blanket.
- g. Recycle devices that contain lithium-ion batteries, fires have been reported in landfills.

Remember, lithium-ion batteries are safe to use, if handled properly.

# Announcing the Blackburn Hamlet Garden Tour 2023

*Cynthia Hoisak*

**Mark your calendars** for the 2023 Blackburn Hamlet Garden Tour, scheduled for July 8 and 9, from 10am to 4pm.

After last year's success of 16 gardens on tour, and hundreds of visitors, we are looking to increase the number of gardens this year. We also hope that many who showed their gardens last July will show them again this year, in addition to new homes.

Front and back gardens, or just one area, take your pick. The more the merrier for the tour, as visitors can take home wonderful new ideas and inspiration for their own gardens.

Please contact Cynthia Hoisak at 613.799.9514 or [gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca). Further information will be available in the months ahead.



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# Echo

*By Amber Chu*



**Amber Chu, Emily Carr MS**

In a quiet rural village near the northern Appalachian Mountains, there lived a small community of people known as the ordinaries.

As you might be thinking from this label, these inhabitants were, in fact, pretty ordinary, but the people seemed content living with this simple lifestyle. However, each new day came to feel more and more repetitive, and always with a lingering feeling of wanting something more from this monotonous routine. This is the story of how everything was changed.

That morning began like every other. As dawn broke, the ordinaries woke up and started about their day. The rumors started only like a minuscule whisper - a mysterious new girl in town. They said she was different from anyone they had ever seen, carrying a certain brightness with her, almost as if she was glowing. In fact, it was her and her one small compliment that started it all.

Acts of kindness then started spreading like an echo chortling through the air, the sound waves reverberating back from the great mountain range. This powerful force resounded all throughout this once murky village, lighting it up like a moon in the dark night sky and giving the ordinaries a feeling of uttermost joy that no amount of money would ever be able to buy.

And to think that it all started with a single kind word.

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# Honourariums distribution for FunFair 2022

*Brent Lawrie, Blackburn FunFair Chair*

Thanks to the whole community for supporting 2022's excellent FunFair. With all the great participation and sponsorship support, we were able to raise \$15,015 which has been put directly back into our Blackburn community. This is an amazing accomplishment, as we successfully held an old-time FunFair! Please see the Honourariums distribution list. Each honorarium was worth \$231.

Make sure to mark your calendars for this year's FunFair which will be June 2 to June 4, 2023. Planning has already started with a fantastic volunteer appreciation party to kick off our first meeting of the year. We have a great team of volunteers to help organise the FunFair and we are always looking for more people who would like to contribute to a wonderful community event. Please consider giving some of your time to help us keep this annual tradition a great success, you won't regret it. Send your email to [funfairchair@gmail.com](mailto:funfairchair@gmail.com), or check the Volunteer Box on our BCA website if you would like to join our excellent team.

## Honorariums Distribution List

Amount	Organization
\$231	Emily Murphy Non-Profit Housing Corporation
\$231	Library
\$231	Gloucester Giants Minor Football
\$231	Gloucester High School Council
\$231	Emily Carr Middle School Council
\$231	Association Parent Enseignant de l'école St-Marie
\$462	Glen Ogilvie School Council
\$462	Good Shepherd Parish
\$462	GCGH Stars U18+
\$462	Good Shepherd School Council
\$462	GRDO
\$462	170th Blackburn Hamlet Brownie Unit
\$462	The Dapo Agoro Foundation for Peace
\$693	Scouts Canada – 1st Blackburn Scout Group
\$693	Norman Johnston Secondary Alternate Program Food Cupboard Program
\$693	Just Food
\$693	4ieme Cordé de Blackburn Hamlet
\$924	Blackburn Ladies Softball Association
\$924	GCGH Stars U18
\$1,155	Knights of Columbus, Good Shepherd Council 9005
\$1,848	Life Center Food Bank Blackburn Hamlet
\$2,772	Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet

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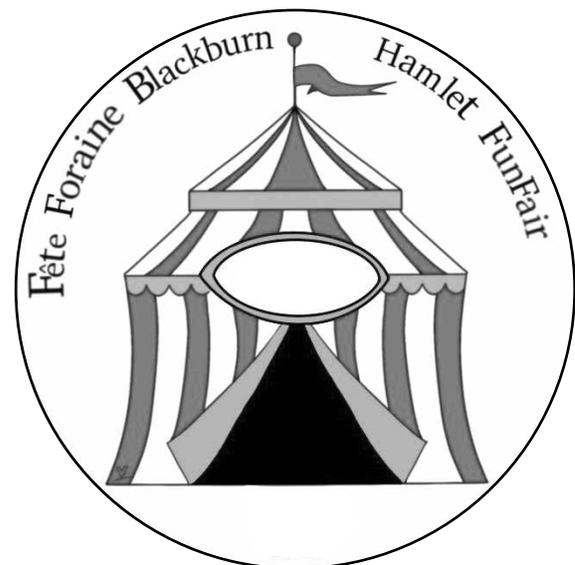
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# The Leaf Named Liko

By Henry MacWha

Hi, I'm Liko. I am a maple leaf on a branch of a maple tree. I sprouted a bit late and was quite weak. One of the leaves, Jeanie, was a real jerk. She thought that I would never make it. "Just give up and let yourself fall," she said, over and over. "It's not like anyone likes you anyways." Eventually, Jeanie started convincing other leaves to start ignoring me. Whenever someone would talk to me, they would act like I was a person they did not know. Eventually, I started to not talk to anyone anymore and just wanted to complete my life quietly. But there was another leaf, Benigno. Benigno was a really kind leaf, and he would always help me. He always would talk to me if I felt sad, or tell people to stop being mean. One time Jeanie was being mean, and Benigno came up and told her "Jeanie, just go away. You're not helping anyone." Of course, she didn't go away, (because she was stuck in place) but she did start being less mean. Funnily enough, Jeanie was one of the first to fall, the last words I heard were "I'm sorry." After that, I fell around the same time as Benigno. I had a bad life, but I hope I get reborn next year.



It's a winter wonderland! Photo by Sara Walsh

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## BCA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

# You and your security

*Don Kelly, Neighborhood Watch*

**Are you satisfied** that your home is safe for you, your family and friends, and that your home is protected enough that you are not a target for burglars?

One of the best means to ensure your home is not in a vulnerable state is to be aware of the safety precautions you can take to make your home safer. For example, do you ensure that newspapers and flyers are collected, the driveway is shovelled, and the grass is cut when you are away for an extended period of time? Do you leave lights on timers (both inside and outside) when you are away? Do all of your exterior doors have a deadbolt lock? Do all of the windows with a single locking device have a secondary security feature? Does your patio door have a security bar and/or security lock? Remember, patio doors can be lifted out of their tracks. These are just some of the things to consider.

One of the best means to evaluate your home is by becoming informed on home safety. The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) website discusses a home security inspection program to help you reduce the likelihood that

your home will become a target for crime. This program has a police representative visit your home and use a checklist to assess its security. The OPS website provides the information on how to request this service.

On **June 8**, the BCA will be holding a **Home Security Inspection information Session** at the Commu-

nity Center from 7 to 10pm. It will be open to all Blackburn Hamlet residents. This presentation will highlight the features of the home security inspection program as offered by the OPS and will be presented by OPS representatives. More information will be in the next issue of the BANAR.

The Government of Ontario, as well as many police forces in Ontario, offer a Home Security Audit Guide that can help you reduce

the risk of burglary around your home. These guides offer inexpensive and do-it-yourself suggestions. This information can be found online by searching Home Security Audit Guide. Another valuable source of information is the BCA Neighbourhood Watch program where neighbors watch out for neighbours. If you want to know more about the Neighborhood Watch program, contact [safety@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:safety@blackburnhamlet.ca).



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# All about native tree species

By *Stephen Fanjoy*

**What is a “native tree”?** This is a surprisingly complicated question, authoritative sources don’t agree, and the answer is an increasingly moving target.

First, native trees are species that have thrived in this region for millennia, migrating here after the ice sheets retreated over 13,000 years ago. Surprisingly though, the word “species” is insufficient information to know if a specific tree in that native species can thrive here. For example, red maple has a native range extending from northern Newfoundland, westward to Manitoba, and south to Texas and Florida. However, this doesn’t mean a seedling from Florida swampland is likely to thrive or survive if it is transplanted in Newfoundland, or in Blackburn for that matter.

Little is known about how much the DNA of red maples has evolved over millennia, however today it is sufficiently common across the species in this wide geographical range. But the stable DNA sequence of a species is not all that determines its hardiness and survival when planted in a given environment. Epigenetic expression of DNA is an additional, adaptive genetic mechanism to enhance a tree’s survival rate. The epigenome can vary significantly within a given species, especially across different environments. Some of this gene expression is sufficiently stable to become a heritable trait, passed from a specific parent tree to its seeds, in order to improve the chances these seeds will also survive and thrive in the same local environment.

But what does the local environment mean? Many gardeners will know that Ottawa is in a “5b” plant hardiness zone, but this is based only on seasonal temperature ranges and covers a range from the Maritimes through much of Southern Ontario. The government of Ontario has further adopted a hierarchical ecological land classification system of increasingly specific subunits. This system divides the province’s land mass based on its geology, hydration, climate, vegetation, wildlife, terrain, and soil. Blackburn is located in the 6E-12 ecodistrict of the 6E ecoregion, which is the



most eastern region of the province’s Mixedwood Plains ecozone.

All of this means that, within a given species, the seed from one tree can have significantly different viability from that of another from not far away. But, as if this isn’t complex enough, climate change is now having profound effects on local ecology at timescales that challenge the intergenerational capacities for some species to adapt. One thing is sure, nature will adapt. But the “native species” here in the future may not all be the same as today.

# The bicycle corner

*Robert Bellizzi*

The BCA is holding a **Youth Bicycle Rodeo** event in the Hamlet on **Saturday, May 13, from 9-12 am**. The exact location will be provided at a later date. The event is designed to introduce young bike enthusiasts, aged 6-10, to proper bike-riding techniques. The focus will be on having participants learn how to start, stop and turn. The event will be conducted by a qualified instructor and a cadre of volunteers. The event will be provided in French and English, and is free to all residents of Blackburn Hamlet.

The BCA is also planning an **Adult Bike Riding**, planned for **Saturday, June 10, from 9am-12pm**, also here in the Hamlet. This event is designed to provide adult cyclists (18+) with safe, effective bike riding strategies. Held at the Community Hall, we are planning to hold information sessions on law enforcement, developing safe and effective biking strategies, introduce new bike safety features for large vehicles, and provide bike maintenance sessions. We may also have

a demonstration session where participants can learn how to load their bikes on OC Transpo buses.

After the info sessions there will be a bike ride on roadways in the Hamlet, including a controlled bike ride down Bearbrook Road where riders will have the opportunity to put into practice lessons learned from the information session and interact with large vehicles provided by Lafarge Canada.

More detailed information on both events will be provided in the next BANAR.

*If you would like more information on this event or want to help us with this event, please contact Robert Bellizzi at [Robert@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:Robert@blackburnhamlet.ca).*

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## Ghost Whisper

*by Jack Williams*

There was once a legend. Some villagers say that there is this ghost that will spread rumors of the future. For example, one day it said that a small meteor will hit a mountain in a month. And it happened! But this changed one day when an eight-year-old kid went to school. His name was Martin, he had blue eyes and brown hair. Anyway, he was walking to school, and he heard a small whisper in his ear. "Your teacher will give you a pop quiz today." Martin knew immediately that this was the ghost. So, Martin went to school. It was a small school made of bricks and stuff. He walked inside and was greeted with a pop quiz. Meanwhile the ghost was floating in air watching over the village. It was getting bored by telling the truth all the time. So, it decided to play a trick. It would say to this boy that he was dumb, and he would think that it's true. Back to Martin, he was about to start the pop quiz when he heard a whisper in his ear; "You are stupid." And then Martin thought well I guess there's no point in school anymore. And then he quit school and ended up being dumb. And that's why maybe you shouldn't listen to random voices in your head.

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# Le coin vélo

*Robert Bellizzi*

L'association communautaire de Blackburn Hamlet (ACB) organise un événement de **rodéo à vélo pour les jeunes le samedi 13 mai de 9 h à 12 h**. L'emplacement exact sera communiqué ultérieurement. L'événement est conçu pour initier les jeunes passionnés de vélo, âgés de 6 à 10 ans, aux bonnes techniques de conduite à vélo. L'accent sera mis sur le fait que les participants apprennent à démarrer, à s'arrêter et à tourner. L'événement sera dirigé par un instructeur qualifié et un groupe de bénévoles. L'événement sera offert en français et en anglais et est gratuit pour tous les résidents de Blackburn Hamlet.

L'ACB prévoit également une **randonnée à vélo pour adultes, prévue le samedi 10 juin, de 9 h à 12 h**, également ici à Blackburn. Cet événement est conçu pour fournir aux cyclistes adultes (18 ans et plus) des stratégies de conduite à vélo sûres et efficaces. Tenu au centre communautaire, nous prévoyons de tenir des



**Brianna W.**

séances d'information sur l'application de la loi, l'élaboration de stratégies de vélo sécuritaires et efficaces, d'introduire de nouvelles caractéristiques de sécurité à vélo pour les gros véhicules et d'offrir des séances d'entretien des vélos. Nous pouvons également organiser une séance de démonstration où les participants peuvent apprendre à charger leurs vélos dans les autobus d'OC Transpo.

Après les séances d'information, il y aura une balade à vélo sur les routes du quartier y compris une balade à vélo contrôlée sur le chemin Bearbrook où les cyclistes auront l'occasion de mettre en pratique les leçons tirées de la séance d'information en s'exerçant à interagir avec les gros véhicules fournis par Lafarge Canada.

Des informations plus détaillées sur les deux événements seront fournies dans le prochain BANAR.

*Si vous souhaitez plus d'informations sur cet événement ou si vous voulez nous aider avec cet événement, veuillez contacter Robert Bellizzi à [Robert@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:Robert@blackburnhamlet.ca).*



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# Humanity

By *Chloe Smith*

There was a tangible absence in my creation. The human race was at war with itself, killing with basic bloodlust. Their societies were full of senseless hierarchy, with no logic to their violence. There was no meaning or substance to them. They were no different from animals; nothing set them apart. They acted with such mindlessness, with no regard for the effects of their actions.

Yet, how could I expect them to look deeper when I had never offered them a way to communicate with one another or contemplate their reality? Thinking of everything I had envisioned for humanity and imagined as the heart of their purpose, I realized what would lead them to their intended compassionate, logical nature. Words!

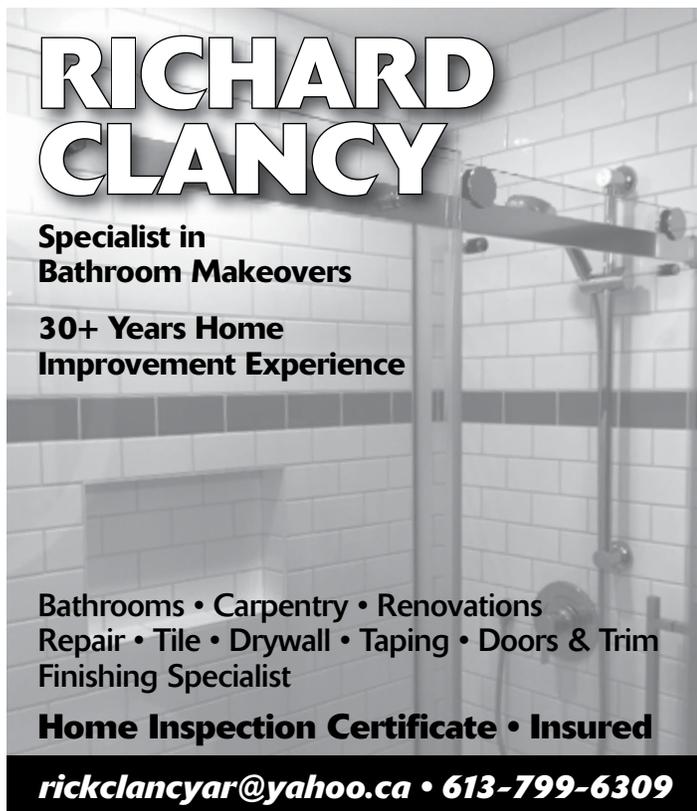
I pour beautifully intricate language into their world, giving them consciousness and thought. This



**Chloe Smith, Emily Carr MS**

opens the door to emotions, relationships, and connections. They can now go above and beyond senseless conflict. They can rationally consider themselves and how their actions will affect those around them. Humanity might use these words for war,

but despite continual conflict, they will now have a conscience to guide them. Sentience from language will be what marks human nature and sets them apart. There will be highs and lows to the depth that words have brought to their world, but no matter what they collectively suffer, they will persevere.



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**A lovely blanket of snow.** Photo by Sarah Walsh

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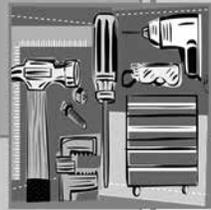


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