

# Blackburn Community Association

## Meeting Minutes

### May 18, 2023 7:30 pm

1. Call to order at 7:35pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
  - Motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2023 by Lisa Margeson. Seconded by Brent Lawrie. Carried
4. Councillor Update (Laura Dudas)
  - The City of Ottawa is conducting an Emergency Preparedness road show with Community Associations. Councillor Dudas will ask the City to contact Don Kelly who is working on our BCA emergency Plan.
  - Councillor Dudas has asked City staff to provide some short term options to promote awareness that cyclists and pedestrians are using the Bearbrook road shoulders on the section between Blackburn Hamlet and St. Joseph. This will likely include improved markings and Flex stakes. There are also plans for a feasibility study for more permanent measures to improve safety but it has not been funded at this time. The BCA is encouraged to write a letter to the Chair of the Transportation Committee, the Mayor and Councillor Dudas urging them to fund this study as soon as possible.
  - Innes road, between the two ends of Eastpark, will be resurfaced in early August. Councillor Dudas continues to work on obtaining City funding to complete resurfacing on the remaining portions of Innes.
  - The Gems of Orleans West Innes awards are currently accepting nominations. No nominations of businesses in Blackburn have been received.
  - An OCTranspo Route Review is underway and citizens are encouraged to provide their feedback. Ridership is now starting to increase after pandemic downturn.
  - The Innes Road Flex Post Installation should be completed soon.
  - With increased traffic from additional residential buildings, there needs to be more focus on permanent traffic calming measures on Innes and Bearbrook, but the City has limited options as the roads are designated as collectors.
5. Hall Side Table Vote (Mark Lister)
  - The Bridge Club has offered to sell the BCA their side tables for use by other users of the Hall. The cost is \$406.53 for 24 tables. The BCA will be declining this offer.

6. Movies in the park (Jeff Miller)

- Gagne-Miller Real Estate are planning to organize three free Movies in the Park events this summer (June, July and August) in addition to their annual Funfair Friday movie night.
- The events will be held in the Park behind the Community Hall.
- They have the required equipment and will pay for movie licencing.
- Attendees will be encouraged to bring their own snacks and beverages.
- The BCA help promote the event and will provide the Hall for free so that attendees have access to washrooms and the Hall could be used in case it rains.

7. BCA Finances (Lisa Margeson)

- The BCA Executive have decided that we will be purchasing a short term GIC of \$40,000, which would leave \$50,000 in our bank account.
- We have not received invoices from City for last years Funfair Arena and Park rental. Unspent funds from last year will be reallocated to this years Funfair to offset increased expenses.

8. Cancer Chase & Home Security (Don Kelly)

- Don Kelly met with the group that organizes the Orleans Park Run every Saturday at the Carine Wilson Secondary School where we are planning to hold this year's Cancer Chase. Initial indications are that would be able to organize the walk/run portion of our event. Instead of a building for hosting the event, we would be using tents. We will have access to the washrooms in the School. The name of the event will be Cancer Chase Ottawa East 2023. This year will be a joint event with Convent Glen-Orleans Woods Community Association and it would be expanded to include other East end Community Associations in future years.
- 65 emails were sent out to the Neighbourhood watch contact list to promote the Home Security event that will be held on June 8 at 7pm. There will be an article in the June BANAR and it will be promoted on the BCA website and Social Media.

9. Bike Events (Robert Bellizzi)

- The May 13 Bike Rodeo went well, although expenses were higher than anticipated. We now have a good baseline for future events. There were 40 registrants plus a few extras who joined in. There were just enough Volunteers but we would need more for future events.
- Registration for the June 10<sup>th</sup> Adult event is open. There will be a 529 Garage table to register bikes. The focus is to help adults navigate through traffic and near large trucks, such as the one Lafarge will be providing.

## 10. Seniors (Barbara Whittaker)

- A draft Seniors Program (age 55+) was presented and a final version will be circulated to the board once it has been completed. Details include:
  - Collecting information on existing programs in order to limit overlap with BCA activities.
  - A planned consultation with Seniors to better understand their needs.
  - Continued promotion and engagement at the Seniors breakfasts – the next one will be on June 7 at Broadway Bar and Grill.
  - Enhancement of the Seniors resource list on the BCA website.
  - Call for volunteers to revive the Seniors Action Committee.
  - A monthly speaker series called Re-discovery Café that will be open to everyone, with a focus on Seniors.
  - An engagement plan that considers the challenge of reaching Seniors who do not use electronic communications (social, web, email).

## 11. Beautification (Miriam Hampson)

- Blackburn Hamlet Gateway Gardens
  - 17 volunteers
  - Watering schedule, tips and welcome email sent out this week
  - Schedule is set up from May-Oct
  - Various articles in the BANAR
  - Annuals have not yet been planted due to the abundance of tulips that have bloomed (and the recent cold snap!). A thank you will be sent to Ritchie's for their generous donation (along with the article in the BANAR).
  - If you know of anyone who would like to volunteer to water please let me know!



- Garden Tour
  - Cynthia Hoisak and I have met several times and have begun planning this year's garden tour. We already have 10 interested participants who are willing to showcase their gardens and we anticipate many more once the weather becomes warmer and gardens begin to grow.
  - This year we have added a musical component and we will have certain garden sites with music (violin and flute) performed by professional musicians, Jenifir and David Theiss-Thompson (NACO) and soloist, Garth Hampson.

- Lawn signs have been purchased and last year's signs will be re-used. Posters and Leaflets will be handed out to local businesses.
- Lynn Lefevre has kindly agreed to provide an online map of garden locations.
- Cynthia has provided the BANAR with another article promoting the event which is FREE.
- Funds for the local Food Bank will be collected at each garden location.
- Rain Barrel Sale
  - <https://rainbarrel.ca/BCA> is the link to place an order.
  - There have been 20 barrels sold already.
  - Last day to order is June 16.
  - Delivery will be on June 22 between 4-7pm at the Community Hall
  - Lawn signs and posters have been ordered (free of charge)
  - Volunteers will be needed the day of delivery
  - I posted on our Facebook page and have asked Nina to begin weekly posts on social media.
  - I will send Laura Dudas a copy to include in any out-going communication
  - This is a fundraiser which has the potential to make some money, however, much depends on the number of barrels sold.
  - Hoping the article in the BANAR increases interest.
- Big Yellow Bag
  - Michele Hundertmark, a Blackburn Hamlet resident, contacted me with a great idea: to collect all the Big Yellow Bags in the neighborhood, drive them out to Stittsville and receive a \$5 refund per bag...which we would then donate the funds to the Food Bank. Michele wrote an article for the BANAR and I reached out to Pamela Barton to reserve the Hall for bag drop-offs.
  - Luckily our BANAR editor and Kendra were in contact with the Big Yellow Bag before publishing and realized that the company no longer offers the rebate!!! Thus...article and idea were cancelled.
  - We will explore other options for next year.
- Lightpost Banners
  - I have not given up on the possibility of having our main core aligned with banners (on lightposts).
  - Barbara Whittaker has kindly offered her time to help with the City Banner Application process.

## 12. Youth (Maureen Forsythe)

- Blackburn Birthday Bash event in the park held on 13 May, 12 participated; short article & photo will appear in the June BANAR
- CPO Paint It Up! application advanced to stage 2, it seems likely we will secure funding for the proposed new mural on Blackburn Arena; design consultation to be held on 10 July with mural artist Dan Martelock and mural installation is planned for August 7th-8th; received positive feedback (31 respondents) on initial mural design via the Google Form community poll that was shared by the Comms team on social media platforms; mural posters have been shared and the poster will appear in the June BANAR
- Preparing to launch Young Helping Hands for Seniors 2023 this weekend (May 20-21) or the following weekend (May 27-28), depending on youth availability; six youth and fourteen seniors have so far registered to participate
- May do one more event in the park in August e.g. Art in Park (tbd)

## 13. Funfair Showcase (Heather McCuaig Edge)

- I am planning on attending the Fun Fair day on Saturday to run the Membership table following the parade till probably around 13:00. If anyone is available to cover the afternoon shift (say 13:00-16:00), it would be appreciated, as I can't be there all day.
- Also, it was helpful to have two people at the table last time, to assist with record keeping, payments, and drafting new cards. If there are some people available to help throughout the day, that would be great.
- I'll likely bring my laptop again, so if we could make use of your power pack, please, that would be super.
- Lisa Margeson will help staff the table and will bring the Volunteer for BCA handouts

## 14. Environment (Sarah Morgan-White)

- Summary of Upcoming Enviro & Tree Team Events in Blackburn open to the public!

Date and time	Event	Location	How to Register or Attend
June 4th Sunday 10am-3pm	Enviro & Tree Team table at Funfair Showcase.	Lois Kemp Arena	Come and visit our ever popular table and learn something new!

- Earth Day Coloring Contest
  - We had 145 entries. We did a random draw and Audrey Larue-Bruneau was the winner. Thanks to Metro's manager Sarah for donating the \$50 gift card and thanks to Julie Linton at the Ottawa Public Library (Blackburn Branch) for her help! Some of the beautiful drawings can be seen on display at the library and Metro! Article in the Banar.
- Earth Day with the Girl Guides
  - Devon and Sarah organized several games and activities with Blackburn Hamlet Embers (Girl Guides). We made promise tags of our promises to Mother Earth and hung them in our promise tree outside the Blackburn Community Hall. We

also made wish bracelets and looked at things we collected outside under a digital microscope!



- Ticks
  - Uptick Research Project: As an update, the Uptick Research Project (on ticks and Lyme disease) is continuing in Blackburn Hamlet this year. Their activities will include bi-weekly dragging from May to October, small-mammal trapping in July and deer monitoring by trail cameras from July to October. So if you see members of their team in white protective suits don't worry! If you missed their presentation earlier this year, the recording is available on the BCA website: <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/environment/uptick-research-project/>
  - We will be hosting a focus group in collaboration with the University of Montreal to develop lyme disease intervention plan for Blackburn Hamlet. We need to find volunteers to participate in the focus group. The focus group will either be a day 8:30-4:30pm or two mornings in August. The dates and times are still tbd. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in participating, please share my contact information with them. To note, they must be residents of Blackburn Hamlet.
- Bee Hotel (stay tuned)
  - Stay tuned for a bee hotel construction event. In the meantime, celebrate our wonderful buzzing pollinators on May 20th World Bee Day!  
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/bee-day>
- We are always building the enviro team!
  - We've sent out an invitation in the Banar inviting anyone interested in joining the enviro team to email [enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca). We hope to grow our team and do even MORE in our community. By working together we can accomplish so much!

- Looking for someone to lead the Tree Team
  - Love trees? Have ideas? Interested in helping Blackburn Hamlet with its many tree projects? Please send expressions of interest to [treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca) by June 30th, 2023.
- Update on projects on City land
  - The arboretum and fruit trees in parks are currently on hold. It is our understanding that a public consultation would be required in order to undertake any such projects on City land (eg park or fringe land). We are unclear at this time what this would entail and who would lead this (eg City or BCA volunteers) - our hope is that it would be the former.
- Tree giveaway for Mother's Day
  - We purchased 200 trees from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and they were handed out to Blackburn Residents between May 6th and May 13th. We had 100 red oak and 100 red pine. Thanks to Chris for organizing this event, picking up the trees and handing some out at his garage sale! All 200 were handed out with the 42 red oak and 21 white pine remaining going to Foret Capitale Forest. Thanks to Charles for helping me pot up the trees for FCF. Everyone was very grateful to receive trees and many asked how they could support these initiatives. We reminded them to get a BCA membership online.



- Neighbourwoods
  - We held our second Neighbourwoods training on the weekend of May 13th. Thankfully this year we had great weather (ie no derecho!) and a great turnout! Dr. Kenney and a recent forestry graduate Kevin provided the training to 17 participants. We learned to identify trees as well as assess and record their characteristics and health. Why is Neighbourwoods important? Did you know that most of the urban forest is actually on private property? In knowing what we have and building a tree inventory we can be better prepared to properly steward our urban forest. Learn more about the neighbourwoods project here: <http://neighbourwoods.org/>
  - A very big and special thanks to Clifton and Regina who continue to spearhead and lead this project in Blackburn. Interested in getting involved? Contact them at [treeinventory@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:treeinventory@blackburnhamlet.ca)

15. Holiday Market (Jenny Lawrence)

- The Holiday Market will be in November, we're looking at the 18th. I've asked Pam to reserve the Hall for that day.
- Don has graciously offered to help with the event and this will work well as we coordinate with Santa's Pancake Breakfast.

16. President Updates (Mark Lister)

- There will be paving on the parking lots at the arena following the funfair starting on either the 6th or 7th and the main lot will be closed for 1-2 weeks. Parking in front of the hall will not be affected.
- John Hamilton (Arena) will be retiring. William Hewitt will be assuming his duties effective end of day Friday. We will reach out to William in the coming weeks to follow up on items like the community hall.
- New safety netting will be installed at the ball diamond behind the Arena on or after September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with City staff, Councillor Dudas and Lafarge on Bearbrook road safety concerns and bike lanes. While some measure may be put in place to make the road safer, the proposed solutions will not address bike safety issues with the usage on the road. We continue to discuss this with city staff and the councillor's office and will provide more updates as they come.

17. Funfair

- Planning is going well and it will be a similar format as last year.
- Signs will be installed this weekend.
- The Parade theme is Honoring our Health Care Heroes and BCA Board members and volunteers are encouraged to march with the BCA Banner.

18. Adjournment at 9:15pm (Next Board meeting is June 15, 2023)



## **Attendees**

Brent Lawrie

Lisa Margeson

Lynn Lefevre

Barbara Whittaker

Don Kelly

Heather McCuaig Edge

Maureen Forsythe

Miriam Hampson

Nina Ryan

Robert Bellizzi

Sarah Morgan-White

Satinder Sahota

Chelsey Wynne

Laura Dudas

Marion Hall

Sharon Kes

Susan Roseman

Jeff Miller

# BCA Board 2023-2024

## Executive

President	Mark Lister	<a href="mailto:president@blackburnhamlet.ca">president@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Vice President	Brent Lawrie	<a href="mailto:vp@blackburnhamlet.ca">vp@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Secretary	Lynn Lefevre	<a href="mailto:secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca">secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Treasurer	Lisa Margeson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca">treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>

## Director Portfolios

Beautification	Miriam Hampson	<a href="mailto:beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca">beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
City Liaison	Kiel Dixon-Lawlor	<a href="mailto:kiel@blackburnhamlet.ca">kiel@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Communications	Nina Ryan	<a href="mailto:communications@blackburnhamlet.ca">communications@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Community Relations	Jenny Lawrence	<a href="mailto:jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca">jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Community Safety	Don Kelly	<a href="mailto:safety@blackburnhamlet.ca">safety@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Director at Large	Satinder Sahota	<a href="mailto:satinder@blackburnhamlet.ca">satinder@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Environment	Sarah Morgan-White	<a href="mailto:enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca">enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
E-Newsletter	Lynn Lefevre	<a href="mailto:newsletter@blackburnhamlet.ca">newsletter@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Facilities and Operations	Brent Lawrie	<a href="mailto:vp@blackburnhamlet.ca">vp@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Membership	Heather McCuaig Edge	<a href="mailto:membership@blackburnhamlet.ca">membership@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Parks	Kiel Dixon-Lawlor	<a href="mailto:parks@blackburnhamlet.ca">parks@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Rinks	Mark Lister	<a href="mailto:parksandricks@blackburnhamlet.ca">parksandricks@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Seniors	Barbara Whittaker	<a href="mailto:seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca">seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Transportation	Robert Bellizzi	<a href="mailto:transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca">transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Volunteer Management	Mark Lister	<a href="mailto:president@blackburnhamlet.ca">president@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Youth	Maureen Forsythe	<a href="mailto:youth@blackburnhamlet.ca">youth@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>

## Committee Chairs

BANAR	Kendra Brett	<a href="mailto:banar@blackburnhamlet.ca">banar@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Climate Team	Anna-Sarah Eyrich	<a href="mailto:climate@blackburnhamlet.ca">climate@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Community Hall	Pamela Barton	<a href="mailto:hall@blackburnhamlet.ca">hall@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Tree Team	Sarah Morgan-White	<a href="mailto:treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca">treeteam@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Website	Steve Vesely Lynn Lefevre (Content)	<a href="mailto:webmaster@blackburnhamlet.ca">webmaster@blackburnhamlet.ca</a> <a href="mailto:webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca">webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>

## Events

Bike Rodeo	Robert Bellizzi	<a href="mailto:transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca">transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Canada Day	<b>Vacant</b>	<a href="mailto:canadaday@blackburnhamlet.ca">canadaday@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Cancer Chase	Don Kelly	<a href="mailto:cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca">cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Fun Fair	Brent Lawrie	<a href="mailto:funfairchair@gmail.com">funfairchair@gmail.com</a>
Garage Sale	Sarah Morgan-White	<a href="mailto:enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca">enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Garden Tour	Cynthia Hoisak	<a href="mailto:gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca">gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Hockey Day	Mark Lister	<a href="mailto:parksandricks@blackburnhamlet.ca">parksandricks@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Santa's Pancake Breakfast	Don Kelly & Angie Jodoin	<a href="mailto:santasbreakfast@blackburnhamlet.ca">santasbreakfast@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Seniors Information Event	<b>Vacant</b>	<a href="mailto:seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca">seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Spring Cleanup	Lisa Margeson	<a href="mailto:cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca">cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>
Volunteer Appreciation	Mark Lister	<a href="mailto:president@blackburnhamlet.ca">president@blackburnhamlet.ca</a>