

Blackburn Area News And Reports

BANAR

Vol. 57 No. 4

April 2024

HELLO Spring

The daylight is lasting longer, temperatures are warming up, and the familiar sounds of so many different varieties of birds have returned to our community. That's right! Spring is here, despite the weather being a little bit indecisive in recent weeks.

For us here in Blackburn Hamlet, the return of warmer weather also means the return of some great BCA events.

Here is what we are looking ahead to:

- **Annual Spring Cleanup:** Help get our community ready for the summer by lending a hand on Saturday, April 27 (see page 20)
- **Community Garage Sale:** Get thrifty! Hunt for

great finds at great prices at our community-wide event on Saturday, May 4 (see page 14)

- **Community Closet Pop-Up:** Find new adult clothes and try new styles at the first pop-up community closet on Saturday, May 11 (see page 8)
- **Youth Bike Rodeo:** Stop by with your kids so they can learn important bike safety skills on Saturday, May 25 (see page 10)

Read on to learn more or to find out how you can get involved in these events, and don't miss the many other great initiatives happening around the Hamlet this Spring and Summer!





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President's message

The Blackburn Community Association (BCA) AGM was held in March and marked the end of the 2023 Board of Directors, and the election of the new 2024 Board. I had the pleasure of listening to members of the last Board talk about how much was accomplished in the past year and it was nothing short of inspiring!

I made the decision to return to the BCA this year in the role of President and listening to the passion of the volunteers in the room at the AGM really got me excited to be part of this great group again. There are several returning board members and a lot of experience around the table this year, but I am especially looking forward to meeting the new members and hearing the new ideas that are brought forward to make this year an even bigger success than the last!

The BCA is one of the most active community associations in the city and it's because of them we get

to enjoy amazing events each year to bring the community together. The larger projects include the Fun-Fair, Cancer Chase, Spring Clean-up, Pancake Breakfast and Garage Sale and 2023 even saw the return of Hockey Day in the Hamlet! We also introduced new events like the community closets, Christmas Market, and many youth contests and events, all to great success.

It was another tough year on the outdoor rinks, but I would still like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the people that headed out at the coldest times for late night and early morning floods or just to push a shovel around.

The Board has been set for the year, but if you have ever thought about getting involved, there is always room for more volunteers! Whether you want to jump in with both feet or dip your toes into the volunteering pond, we always have something that could use an extra set of hands!

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Websites

www.BlackburnHamlet.ca
www.BlackburnFunFair.ca

Facebook

- Blackburn Hamlet Community Association-BCA
- Blackburn Hamlet Community Association

X (formerly Twitter)

@BlackburnOttawa

Blackburn Community Association (BCA)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 47062, Ottawa K1B 5B0

President: Jeff Miller 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 communications@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Liaison: Jenny Lawrence jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca
Environment: TBD enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Facilities and Operations: Brent Lawrie vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Membership: Shashank Iyer membership@blackburnhamlet.ca
Seniors: Barbara Whittaker Seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca
Rinks: TBD rinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Safety: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Youth: TBD youth@blackburnhamlet.ca
Transportation: Robert Bellizzi robert@blackburnhamlet.ca

COMMITTEES

BANAR Editor: Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy banar@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Hall: Pamela Barton hall@blackburnhamlet.ca
Website: Steve Vesely webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca

EVENTS

Bike Rodeo: Robert Bellizzi robert@blackburnhamlet.ca
Cancer Chase: Don Kelly cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca
FunFair Chair: Steve Vesely chair@blackburnfunfair.ca
Garden Tour: Cynthia Hoisak gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup: TBD cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca
Santa's Breakfast: Don Kelly and Angie Jodoin santasbreakfast@blackburnhamlet.ca

Board meetings

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 9 times a year on the 3rd Thursday of the month (January-June & September-November) from 7:30pm to 10pm. Board meetings have been held virtually since March 2020. Meetings are open to Blackburn Hamlet residents. Contact secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca for the Zoom credentials.

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 April 18, 2024.

BANAR delivery routes

A carrier is currently needed to deliver BANARs to our local businesses. Availability during business hours, and access to a vehicle or wagon is preferred. Individuals interested in this route or to be on the waitlist for other routes can contact **Joanne Smith – joanneesmith@yahoo.ca**

BCA Membership!

NEW RENEWAL DATE _____

Your \$10 annual membership helps support BCA activities such as the BANAR, representation to various levels of government, Fun Fair, Hockey Day, Canada Day, Santa's Breakfast, as well as numerous initiatives for youth, seniors and local groups. One membership covers 2 adults and their dependents living at the same address. Please either fill out and mail this form or provide the same information in an email to membership@blackburnhamlet.ca.

ADULT NAME(S): _____

HOME ADDRESS including postal code: _____

PHONE(S): _____

EMAIL(S): _____

Add to BCA e-newsletter distribution: Yes No

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

Add to BCA volunteer list: Yes No

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash or Cheque mailed to BCA Membership, P.O. Box 47062, Ottawa, ON. K1B 5B0
- E-Transfer to treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca. Remember to include your name and email or phone in the memo field.

All memberships expire on June 30 each year.



The BANAR is published and delivered 5 times a year to Blackburn homes and businesses to celebrate community and provide information on local programs and events (circulation 3,500).

Article Submissions

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

Advertising

Ads can be purchased by individual issue or for the year (i.e., 5 consecutive issues).

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

Size	Cost per issue	Cost per year
7.5 W x 9.5 H (full page)*	\$300	\$1,350
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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 1.75 H (smallest ad)	\$40	\$180

Note: Tax will be added to the invoice. A 10% discount is applied to yearly subscriptions.

**Contact: Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy
at banar@blackburnhamlet.ca**

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

May BANAR Deadline: April 25, 2024

May BANAR Delivery: May 18, 2024

For BCA updates go to BlackburnHamlet.ca

BCA Board Highlights February 2024

Highlights from recent BCA Board activities include:

- The review of the 2023 Financial Statements has been completed and presented at the AGM.
- The City of Ottawa has agreed to extend the Community Partnership Insurance Program through 2024 and will have a new program available to qualified groups in place starting in 2025.
- The City of Ottawa is planning to replace the boards around the Bearbrook rink. The BCA is hoping that we can coordinate the replacement of the rink surface at the same time.
- Thank you to departing board members for their tireless efforts supporting our community: Mark Lister (President) Sarah Morgan-White (Environment), Maureen Forsythe (Youth) and Heather McCuaig Edge (Membership).

More details can be found in the BCA Meeting Minutes on our website at

<https://blackburnhamlet.ca/about/meeting-minutes/>

DONATIONS NEEDED!

The Blackburn FunFair is accepting donations for the Used Book Sale in June!

We're looking for gently used books in both French and English (no magazines or text books), as well as CDs, DVDs & games.

To drop off your used books, contact books@blackburnfunfair.ca

Volunteer with the BCA

All programs run by the BCA rely heavily on dedicated volunteers to achieve success.

If you would like to volunteer please email a board member or president@blackburnhamlet.ca or visit www.blackburnhamlet.ca

BCA Board 2024

Welcome to our new Board of Directors

With over 40 attendees, this year's Annual General Meeting had the largest community participation in many years and we are thankful that so many people came out to show their support!

We are excited to announce Jeff Miller as our newly elected President of the Board. In addition to Jeff returning to the BCA board after a 6-year hiatus, we are also happy to announce that Shashank Iyer, William Pfitzer, Mélanie Mathieu and David Purchase have joined the board and Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy has agreed to take over as BANAR editor. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to depart-



ing board members Mark Lister, Heather McCuaig Edge, Maureen Forsythe, Kiel Dixon-Lawler and Sarah Morgan-White for all their efforts to enhance our wonderful community and to Kendra Brett who has done a fantastic job as

BANAR editor.

With Jeff's leadership and the dedication of our amazing board members, we're confident that 2024 will be a year of remarkable progress and positive impact for Blackburn Hamlet!



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May 11, 2024 at 7:30pm

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Message from the Editors

After 3 great years as Editor for the BANAR, I came to the difficult decision to step down from the role and pass the baton to the next volunteer from the community. I enjoyed my time as Editor, and I'm proud that I was able to contribute to this long-standing Blackburn tradition (as my mom did many years ago!). One of the reasons I moved back to Blackburn Hamlet is the strong sense of community, and while working on the BANAR (and in my role as BCA environment director before that) I continuously witnessed the passion and dedication of Blackburn's (many!) volunteers. While I've officially stepped down from the BCA, I'm sure you'll continue to see me in the community participating in or helping with the many BCA events we're fortunate to have here in the Hamlet.

I am very excited to welcome Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy as the new Editor for the BANAR. I know she'll do a great job!

~**Kendra Brett**, *outgoing BANAR Editor*

Blackburn Hamlet has been my home for over 30 years, and it sits at the core of some of my best childhood memories: spending my school years at Glen

Ogilvie and Emily Carr, kicking off the summer at the FunFair, and running to the mailbox every few months to find the BANAR, then reading it cover to cover. I even got to write an article or two for it as I got older!

I'm now a mom, and I'm grateful that I can continue making memories in our community with my own kids at the fair and at other great events like the Spring Cleanup and Santa's Pancake Breakfast. None of those events would be possible without the incredible work of so many volunteers, so when I heard that Kendra was stepping down, I knew right away this was my opportunity to give back to the community that's given so much to me. I'm excited to be following in her footsteps (and those of editors before her) as the new BANAR Editor. I look forward to working with the BCA and the amazing team of volunteers to continue the long-standing tradition of bringing community news to our neighbours via the BANAR.

I would like to thank Kendra for co-editing this issue with me and for taking the time to show me the ropes and share her advice and experiences as I start this new journey.

~**Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy**, *incoming BANAR Editor*



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CANCER CHASE 2024

WE'RE BACK!

Don Kelly, BCA Director

The Blackburn Hamlet Community Association's Cancer Chase event is returning to Blackburn Hamlet in 2024! Mark this important date on your calendar and join us on September 8 at the Just Food farm, 2391 Pepin Ct, just off Tauvette Street. The event starts at 9am and, like in previous years, there will be a Walk/Run, a Silent Auction and other entertaining events.

More details will be posted on the BCA website and in future editions of the BANAR. If you want to help us with the event please contact Don Kelly by email at safety@blackburnhamlet.ca



Community Closet Pop-Up Event

Although we weren't able to run a larger Spring Community Closet event this year, we are moving ahead with plans to run tailored Pop-Up Events for residents in the coming months!

Each of these pop-ups will serve a specific age group. Our first event on May 11 will offer adult clothing.

Adult Clothing Pop-Up Event

Date: May 11

Schedule:

- **10:30am:** Doors open for residents with valid BCA memberships
- **12pm:** All members of the community are welcome to come and shop
- **3:30pm:** Doors close

We need your donations to make this event a success! Donations of clean, untarnished clothing for adults will be accepted from April 27 to May 10. Donations can be dropped off at one of the following locations:

121 Westpark Dr.
2188 Orient Park Dr.

Watch for more details on our Back-to-School Pop-Up Event for children's clothing coming in future BANAR issues.

Want to volunteer to help make these events a success? Please contact Jenny at jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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Children's Bike Rodeo 2024!

Robert Bellizzi, BCA Transportation Director

On Saturday, May 25, from 9am to 1pm, the BCA will hold a Children's Bike Rodeo for ages 6 to 10 at Good Shepherd School, 101 Bearbrook Road. Participants will be taught to ride safely, learn hand signals, properly fit their helmets, and check their bikes. Please note this is not a learn-to-ride event. The event will be presented in both English and French and is free. Parents

are required to remain on-site.

It's preferred that participants register beforehand by sending an email to robert@blackburnhamlet.ca, however if you cannot register or forget, please join us on site the day of the event.

If you would like to volunteer for this worthy cause, please let us know at the above email.

Rain date is Sunday, May 26, same time.

Rodéo à vélo pour les jeunes 2024 !

Le samedi 25 mai, de 9 h à 13 h, l'Association communautaire de Blackburn Hamlet organisera un Rodéo à vélo pour les enfants de 6 à 10 ans à l'école Good Shepherd, 101, chemin Bearbrook. Les participants apprendront à rouler en toute sécurité, à faire des signes de la main, à mettre correctement leur casque et à vérifier leur vélo. Veuillez noter qu'il ne s'agit pas d'un événement d'apprentissage de la conduite. L'événement sera présenté en anglais et en français et est gratuit. Les parents doivent rester sur place.

Il est préférable que les participants s'inscrivent à l'avance en envoyant un courriel à robert@blackburnhamlet.ca. Toutefois, si vous ne pouvez pas vous inscrire ou si vous avez oublié, rejoignez-nous sur place le jour de l'événement.

Si vous souhaitez faire du bénévolat pour cette bonne cause, veuillez nous le faire savoir à l'adresse électronique susmentionnée.

Date de pluie : le dimanche 26 mai; mêmes heures.



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Sustainability Tip: Run Your Own Clothing Swap

Jenny Lawrence, BCA

There are many reasons to love a clothing swap. Aside from getting a free update to your wardrobe, it's a fun, affordable way to reduce our consumption of fast fashion. But it doesn't stop at clothes! Done well, swaps can make for a fun opportunity for friends & family members to connect AND give back to the community. If you've ever thought about running a clothing swap, or if you're looking for a sustainable way to update your wardrobe, keep reading!

If you've attended one of the BCA Community Closet Events, you may have seen me there helping out. Aside from supporting these events, I've been running small clothing swaps at my workplaces and friends and family's homes for almost 10 years now. I want to share what I've learned about running these smaller events with the hope of inspiring you to give them a try.

There are many advantages to running a swap with a smaller group of colleagues or friends. Shopping becomes more fun and less stimulating in smaller groups. At a swap, you get to share your style and

clothes with folks you know, poach pieces from people whose style you admire, and take risks on pieces you wouldn't normally buy. And when sharing clothing with a person they know, it may be easier for someone to part with favourite pieces they no longer wear or expensive outfits that never really brought them joy.

Throw in a few appetizers or a cheese board and you end up with a fun afternoon of shopping, chatting, and supporting each other to try new things. Your only question at the end is then – what do you do any remaining clothes?

You donate them to the BCA for our Community Closet Events, of course! If you hold an event and you have clothing leftover, contact us to see if there's a Community Closet event coming soon.

You can find Clothing Swap ToolKit on the BCA website for those interested in learning more. This toolkit provides an outline of the basics you need in order to run an excellent clothing swap.

Have questions about clothing swaps? Reach out to me at jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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30 Years of Community Service

Since May 1994, Stephane Crete and his dedicated staff cared for generations of Blackburn Hamlet residents' vehicles, as well as those of many former residents. In fact, quite a few people from other communities heard about the good service and came to J&S. Regardless of a vehicle's make, model or age, the staff at J&S worked on thousands of vehicles with all sorts of aches and pains. Reliable, helpful, economical, unflappable, resourceful, friendly, and high quality are just some of the words used by customers to describe their service. Certainly the ability to drive in with a dead tail light, blown fuse or bad wiper for a quick "while you wait" service was greatly appreciated, especially when it often ended with an exchange like this, minutes later: "You are good



to go!" What do I owe you? "I'll get you next time."

Thank you Stephane and best wishes for your well-earned retirement.

Thank you also to all the staff at J&S: the late Jeff Bussiere (busi-

ness partner), Martin Levesque, Alex Campione, Carole Ward, Rick Mercer, Wesley Philips, and Derek Barter. It's good to know that most have started new jobs and a couple are retiring to new challenges in life.

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Celebrating 40 Years of Music!

Reinhard Rees

In 1984, a group of passionate singers in Blackburn Hamlet came together to form the Blackburn Chorus. Driven by their love for choral music and a desire to share their talents with their community, the Blackburn Chorus flourished, enchanting audiences with their harmonies and their dedication to musical excellence.

In 2006, the chorus embarked on a transformative journey, rebranding themselves as Coro Vivo Ottawa. This change marked a new chapter in their storied history, reflecting their commitment to growth, innovation, and inclusivity. Under their new identity, Coro Vivo Ottawa continued to uphold the rich traditions of choral music while embracing a vision of diversity and artistic evolution.

As Coro Vivo Ottawa celebrates its 40th season, it stands as a testament to the enduring power of music to unite and inspire. Over the past four decades, the chorus has delighted audiences across Ottawa and



beyond, showcasing the beauty and depth of the choral art form.

Still, Coro Vivo Ottawa remains dedicated to its mission: fostering community through music. Each performance continues to uplift spirits, touch hearts, and create lasting memories for audiences and performers alike. Here's to 40 years of harmony, passion, and musical excellence with Coro Vivo Ottawa!

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Community Garage Sale

Clutter busters and thrifters unite! It's the Blackburn Hamlet Community Garage Sale!

This year's garage sale will take place on Saturday, May 4 from 8am to 2pm. The entire community is invited...rain or shine!

Hamlet residents do not need to register or sign up – simply put out a table and join in! As we have done in past years,

we will be assembling an unofficial map of participating houses.

Please keep visiting the BCA website at blackburnhamlet.ca/events/garage-sale for more up-to-date information.

If you have any questions or would like to register your location on the map, please email us at garagesale@blackburnhamlet.ca.

Dr Bernard Vincelette, DMV & Dr Annie Séguin, DMV

Dr Amber Covello, DVM & Dr Alexandra Phoenix, DVM

Is heartworm disease really in Ontario?



1 in 200 dogs tested positive for heartworm disease throughout Canada in 2022. The overall prevalence of heartworm in Ontario dogs appears to be approximately 0.5%. With more dogs coming up from heartworm areas through rescue groups and the untreated foxes/coyotes it is likely we will see more.

How is Heartworm Transmitted?

Heartworm is caused by an approximately 8 inch long spaghetti-like worm. A mosquito bites an infected dog, fox or coyote and takes in the larval stage that is circulating in the blood. Later, the mosquito can bite your dog and inject the larva into your dog's

bloodstream. Over the next 6-7 months it develops into an adult worm, living in the vessels of your dog's heart.

Symptoms of Heartworm: Cough, lethargy, exercise intolerance, congestive heart failure. Some dogs may be asymptomatic and show none of these signs.

Diagnosing Heartworm: Unfortunately, we cannot rely on the absence of clinical signs to say your dog is free of heartworm. Fortunately, heartworm disease can be diagnosed through a simple blood test.

Prevention is Key! Heartworm "season" is typically June to November. It is during this time that it is important to have your dog on an appropriate monthly preventative. This preventative kills the larval stage before it can develop into adult worms and before they can cause damage to your dog's heart and lungs. For information on which product is right for your dog please contact us.

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Discovery Café has something for everyone!

Barbara Whittaker, BCA Director

On February 22, we welcomed Ottawa Book Prize winning author Jean Van Loon. As she read from her book *Nuclear Family* and shared stories from the 1940s and 50s, we got a glimpse of life in Ottawa at a very different time... before shopping malls, transitways and smartphones. In the fascinating discussion that followed, attendees shared their recollections about what it was like to live in Ottawa and in Blackburn Hamlet years ago.

In March, we heard from Carolyn Hébert, tap dancer, choreographer, author and award-winning teacher. She treated us to a session about the history of tap dancing and shared what happens when dancers reach the state of “flow”. She showcased her incredible dance moves and had attendees join in to keep to beat. What a great time!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING DISCOVERY CAFÉ SESSIONS:



Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Dick Brown: YOW – A Primer on Its Operations

Take a journey through the Ottawa airport as Dick Brown explains each step in the experience of a

passenger flying out of Ottawa. He will also talk about the impact that COVID-19 has had on flights and flying from Ottawa.

Dick Brown was born and raised in Ottawa and worked at Carleton University for 33 years. Following his retirement, Dick joined the Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association (OGHA) as their first Executive Director. He has been, and remains, active in a wide variety of both business and community service activities.

Thursday, May 23, 2024 – Dr. Paul Villeneuve: Health Benefits of Green Spaces in Urban Areas: A Canadian Perspective

Dr. Paul Villeneuve is a Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Carleton University and a renowned epidemiologist in the area of environmental and occupational health.

There will be NO Discovery Café sessions from June to August. Autumn sessions will be held on September 26, October 24 and November 28, 2024.

For more details about Discovery Café sessions and speakers, please visit the BCA website at <https://blackburnhamlet.ca> or the BCA Facebook page, and watch for posters around the community.

If you have any topics you'd like to hear about, please send your suggestions to barbara@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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BLACKBURN HAMLET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN – PART 2

Don Kelly, BCA Safety

Join us Thursday, May 16 from 7pm to 9pm at the Blackburn Community Hall (190 Glen Park Drive) as the BCA presents Part 2 of the Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) for the Hamlet.

Part 1 provided an information session on the multiple factors with implementing the EPP. In particular, the city of Ottawa's Emergency Management Office outlined the various roles of the municipality, city and local support in an emergency situation. There was also strong community feedback from residents. These valuable insights suggest that a proactive approach to an emergency situation is a prudent and responsible action for our community.

Residents are encouraged to attend the presentation on May 16, where we will provide a draft of the Hamlet's EPP. The document will also be displayed on the BCA website prior to the event.

Over the last few years, our changing and unpredictable weather has created havoc across many parts of our city. Come join us and learn how you and your family can prepare for an emergency situation while mitigating its impact.

If you want to help us with the event, please contact Don Kelly by emailing safety@blackburnhamlet.ca.

What's Happening at the Blackburn Library

Storytimes are back! We have other great programs, too, but YAY! Storytimes are back.

Baby Time / Bébés à la biblio : Tuesdays at 10:30 – Stories, rhymes and songs for babies and a parent or caregiver. 0-18 months.

Contes, comptines et chansons pour les bébés et un parent ou gardien. 0 à 18 mois.

Family Storytime/ Contes en famille: Wednesdays at 10:30 – Stories, rhymes, and songs for children ages 0-6, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Registration required. Contes, comptines, et chansons pour les enfants de 0 à 6 ans, accompagnés d'un parent ou d'un gardien. Inscription requise.

Blackburn Hamlet English Conversation Group/Groupe de conversation en anglais de Blackburn Hamlet: Know anyone learning English? Tell them about us and check out our website for dates and times!

Book Chat: April 15 at 2pm: *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish.

May 20, 2pm: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.
Drop in.

Looking for a job? Contact North/Contact Nord is offering free sessions with an education and training advisor who can help you navigate the job market. Thursdays from 6-8pm. Drop in.

Estate Planning Workshop with a CPA: Monday, April 22, 2-3pm. Register online.

How to Teach Your Kids About Money Workshop with a CPA: Saturday, May 4, 11am. Register online.

Pop in to the library Thursday April 25, 10:30-11:30 for a coffee and chat.

We gladly accept good condition adult and children's books at Mille Feuilles, our used book store in the branch.

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Councillor's Update

Laura Dudas

Blackburn Hamlet really is unique in Ottawa. Being nestled in the Greenbelt has allowed us to flourish, offering a slice of small-town life in the city. In addition to our surrounding greenspace, we have an extensive network of pathways and active transportation links that connect to all corners. We have multiple local schools, an arena, a community hall, and so many amazing small businesses, all right here in the Hamlet. Yet, even though we're tucked away, we still contend with cut-through traffic funneled by our three entrances, and the challenges that come with it.

As everyone who takes Bearbrook southbound during the morning rush can tell you, vehicles trying to do drop offs at Louis Riel High School can cause queuing all the way down the hill to the Hornets Nest. While City Traffic Engineers had assessed the Bearbrook/Westpark intersection before, specifically looking at whether the intersection met the Province's warrants for a protected left-turn into Louis Riel, I am

happy to share that it has now met the necessary criteria and is eligible. The installation of the advance left-turn signal is now on City work plans, and we should see the addition soon.

Another new addition to this stretch of Bearbrook will be new seasonal flex stakes between Westpark and the Hornets Nest, providing a separated place for walkers and cyclists to connect to the fields and NCC pathways. We will also soon see the return of centre-line flex stakes and their accompanying "cyclo-delineators" along Innes throughout the Hamlet.

As many have already seen, the Ottawa Safety Council has completed its assessments, and determined that Bearbrook/Innes was eligible for a second crossing guard. This welcome change will make the intersection safer for all users during peak hours, particularly children and their families en route to school.

I am pleased to see how these improvements continue to focus on calming traffic, easing congestion and protecting school children in our wonderful community.

40 years in Blackburn Hamlet!

Jan's Workout

**Cardio • Strength Training
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*All classes held at the
Blackburn Community Hall*

Registration is ongoing

*Our classes are designed to embrace all
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Gift of Giving – Always accepting donations!

For anyone doing a bit of spring cleaning, here's a reminder that the Parent Council at Glen Ogilvie is always grateful to accept donations for Gift of Giving! If you have small, unopened gift items gathering dust in your home, this is the perfect opportunity to pass them along!

What's Gift of Giving?

On the 2nd Friday of December, every student at Glen O has a chance to choose two presents for

special adults in their lives, at a suggested donation of \$1/gift. Items are donated by the community, and proceeds are donated to our local food bank.

What kind of items do you need?

We are in need of new, unopened gift items for adults, especially sports items and games. Donations should be new or in like-new condition, and small and sturdy enough for a child to bring home in a backpack.

Please DO NOT donate:

- opened or perishable items
- items with inappropriate words or images
- large or delicate objects
- anything dirty, broken or stained

Donations can be dropped off any time, in the marked bins outside the front doors of 9 Diceman Crescent or 46 Bearbrook Road. For more information, contact Natalie Merchant or Laura Smith at sc-glenogilvieps@ocdsb.ca and we'll be happy to answer your questions.

Annual Spring Cleanup

The annual Spring Cleanup is almost here! Each year as the weather warms up, we gather as a community to clean up our public spaces and ready them for another enjoyable season of outdoor activities.

Join us as a volunteer for this year's Cleanup! Upon arrival at the Community Hall each volunteer will be given equipment and will be assigned a small area of Blackburn to clean up. Once you are

done cleaning, join us back at the Hall for a free BBQ lunch! There is no need to sign up ahead of time, simply show up on the morning of the Cleanup to lend a helping hand.

Details:

- April 27 from 9:30 to 11:30am (rain date is April 28 at 9:30am)
- Meeting Location: Community Hall, 190 Glen Park Dr.

Volunteers will each be given gloves and garbage bags. We ask that all volunteers wear appropriate footwear, and wear clothing that covers legs and arms fully in case of poison ivy or ticks.

If you have any questions or would like to help organize or run the event, contact the BCA Environment Committee at: cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca.

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Plant Swap & Sale for Glen Ogilvie!

We are excited to invite everyone back again for another plant swap & sale to raise money for Glen Ogilvie Public School. Do you have hostas that need splitting, houseplants that need a new home or way too many irises? We'll take them off your hands for a good cause.

The swap & sale will take place rain or shine on Saturday, May 11 from 8am to 12pm, at 46 Centrepark Dr, in the sunken garden area in front of the school.

How does it work?

Community members are invited to donate extra, crowded, or unwanted plants from their homes, yards, and gardens, and trade up for new ones at a suggested donation of \$2-\$5/plant (cash only). All money raised will go toward improving the equipment and programs at Glen Ogilvie.

If you have plants you'd like to donate but can't make it on Saturday, please contact Laura by email at GlenOplantfundraiser@gmail.com to arrange to drop-off ahead of time. If you don't have plants to bring but would still like to purchase or make a donation to support the school, you are more than welcome!

We look forward to seeing you all there!



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Blackburn Seniors Corner

Barbara Whittaker, BCA Seniors Director

On a beautiful Valentine’s Day, several seniors gathered to walk along our greenbelt trails. With sun in the sky and just the right amount of chill in the air, conditions were perfect. On February 28, however, we were not so lucky: rain and 14°C temperatures made the forest paths unwalkable. So, a few intrepid walkers grabbed their umbrellas and trekked around the neighbourhood instead. A drier day on March 13 had us back onto the paths for a lovely afternoon outing.

A few days later, on March 16, Blackburn seniors showed their culinary skills and competitive spirit at the Seniors Winter Social Potluck Lunch and Games Afternoon. With the community hall decorated in green, and many attendees sporting green clothing and accessories, it was indeed a “(Pot)luck of the Irish”. Following a delicious lunch, attendees tried to find their matching pair (e.g. rock & roll, thunder & lightning, Tarzan & Jane), then divided up to play a variety of card and board games. Lucky door-prize winners took away a gift basket generously donated by Metro, as well gift cards for local businesses. Many thanks to the Blackburn Community Association and to Metro for their support and to Paul, Marion, Elena, Shirley, Carole and Luke for all of their work in planning and setting up the event.

Seniors events to come:

Blackburn Seniors Breakfast Get-togethers – First Wednesday of each month, 9:00am, Broadway Bar & Grill, 1615 Orleans Boulevard

Come join us for good food, great company and a chance to hear about all the great activities happening in the Hamlet.

Please RSVP to Shirley at 613-841-7691 or note your attendance in the Comments section of the Facebook posts for the upcoming breakfasts.

- May 1, 2024 – RSVP by April 26
- June 5, 2024 – RSVP by May 31
- July 3, 2024 – RSVP by June 28
- August 7, 2024 – RSVP by August 2

Blackburn Seniors Walk-and-Talk Outings – Spring 2024

Our Spring series of walks will depart at 1:00pm from the southernmost entrance to Diceman Park, off Ridgeburn Gate, and will take place on the following Wednesdays:

- April 17, 2024
- May 1, 15 and 29, 2024
- June 12, 2024

Routes will vary for each walk and participants will
Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

have the option to do a shorter or a longer route.

Water bottles are recommended.

Should there be inclement weather, please check the BCA public Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/blackburnhamlet/> on the scheduled walk day for updates. (You don't need a Facebook account to access this page.)

Blackburn Seniors Saturday Social:

Around the World in 80 Minutes – Potluck Lunch and Travel Stories. Saturday, June 22, 2024, 11:30am to 3:30pm – Blackburn Community Hall, 190 Glen Park Drive

Bring your favourite international dish (appetizer, salad, main or dessert) and join us for a potluck lunch and afternoon of sharing stories about travelling to or living in other cities and countries. No registration is necessary.

The community hall kitchen is equipped with an oven, a microwave, a fridge and kettles. Cutlery, napkins, plates and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Please bring your own serving utensils and, if you wish, a copy of your recipe... just in case people ask you for it.

More details will follow in the next BANAR.

For more information on all of these events, please



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What's new at FunFair?



Steve Vesely, FunFair Chair

Plans are afoot to make this year's fair the best yet and organizers are proud to announce the following changes to this year's attraction lineup:

Softball tournament revival: A longtime favorite of past years returns! After a three-year hiatus, the FunFair softball tournament sponsored by the Myers Orleans dealerships will return in 2024 as a 4-team mixed tournament. All games will be played at the ball diamond by the Lois Kemp arena from May 31 to June 1. Want to play? Register your team before spots are gone: <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/events/softball-tournament/>

Escape Room: This year's fair will feature an Escape Room, thanks to sponsorship from the Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet. The theme will be a knights quest to retrieve a secret potion for eternal life. Will your company of knights find the secret potion in time and become immortal? Or will you be thrown into a dungeon for the rest of your life? Book a room for your party of 10 knights (ages 10 and up) to find out. Sessions available over the weekend and advance bookings are recommended. Use coupon code ESCAPE50 before May 1 to get a \$50 discount on your registration! More info at <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/escape>

Road hockey tournament: Softball not your thing? Register a team in our inaugural road hockey tournament to be held at the outdoor rink by the pool. More info at <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/events/hockey>

50/50 Raffle: Another FunFair first! Support your local community by purchasing tickets for our inaugural FunFair 50/50 Raffle (lottery license # RAF1373060). Online purchases available at <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/raffle>

Bored of some attractions in recent years? You'll be

happy to hear we're mixing things up a little this year with different bouncy options:

- Whack a human mole! Ouch!
- 3-in-1 sports combo: Test your athletic skill at football, soccer and basketball
- Interactive play system: Compete against your opponents in speed, memory or tactics
- Soccer darts: How good is your aim?
- Funhouse Maze
- The Meltdown: Can you avoid the two spinning arms trying to knock you off your podium? Duck under one and jump over the other. Will you be the last one standing?

Scavenger Hunt: Your first challenge is to find the booth in the arena on Sunday, June 2 between 11am and 2pm where your FunFair team has prepared an interactive hunt for children of all ages. Scavenge through the fairgrounds for answers and bring them back to receive your goodie bag (while supplies last). Participants will also be entered in a draw for a BIG prize!

Final note: Thank you to the many first-time volunteers who have responded to our call for help. Thanks to community support, we are also looking forward to returning activities like the dog show and FunRun. The FunFair committee wholeheartedly thanks you. We are still looking for:

- a coordinator to organize volunteers on fair weekend
- adults to supervise inflatables and help take tickets on fair weekend
- SmartServe certified adults who can bartend on fair weekend

Questions or comments? Reach out to the FunFair committee at chair@blackburnfunfair.ca.



On stage music lineup at the FunFair

Steve Vesely, Blackburn Hamlet FunFair Chair

FunFair organizers are excited to announce that our Saturday evening headline act will be Mothership: the Led Zeppelin Experience. This talented and entertaining tribute band will transport you back in time to relive the legacy of Led Zeppelin from the first note played.

Early bird tickets are on sale now at www.blackburnhamlet.ca/mothership. Buy before April 28 and save 20% on your tickets.

Other confirmed acts at the FunFair with no cover charge include:

- * **Soul Motion** – Friday, May 31
- * **Fake McCoys** – Saturday, June 1

Additionally, the FunFair seeks:

- Anyone in the community with a trailer who might be willing to lend it to the FunFair as a changeroom on Friday and Saturday night.



- Volunteers with or without music/stage experience willing to help with entertainment.

Email entertainment@blackburnfunfair.ca for more info

Correction:

In the November 2023 BANAR, The Hamlet Veterinary Hospital was accidentally omitted from the list of sponsors for the 2023 FunFair. The Hamlet Veterinary Hospital should have been listed as a Silver Sponsor.

In recognition of the gift baskets they donated to the dog show and the silent auction, we would like to thank The Hamlet Veterinary Hospital for their support of FunFair!

DIGITAL SALES AT FUNFAIR . . .

Hate waiting in line for tickets? We do too!

This year's Funfair is expanding its tech footprint and offering online sales for three events.

Avoid disappointment and use the following 3 QR codes to purchase advance tickets with early bird pricing for our Escape room and Saturday night headline act.

50/50 Raffle

Online sales now live.
Draw noon June 2, 2024



Escape Room

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Mothership

the Led Zeppelin Experience
Buy by April 28 and save 20%



BLACKBURN HAMLET GARDEN TOUR 2024

Cynthia Hoisak

JULY 6 & 7: 10am to 4pm

Please join in by putting your garden on this year's tour, or by visiting the many gardens open for viewing this summer, on July 6 & 7.

In 2023, there were 16 gardens on display.

This year's tour will again include some musicians and master gardeners, and new this year will be artists with their easels in several gardens.

Please contact Cynthia Hoisak at 613-799-9514 or gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca or Miriam Hampson at miriam@blackburnhamlet.ca with any questions.



Volunteers wanted for Watering Crew

The BCA will be recruiting more volunteers this year to help water the four BCA Gateway gardens filled with annuals and perennials throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. If you would like to lend a helping hand or if you would like more information, please contact beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca

We hope you will join our 2024 Watering Crew!



Happy Retirement!

Long-time supervisor of the Blackburn Hamlet branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), Cathie Bergeron, has retired. Cathie was the supervisor of the Blackburn Hamlet branch for 12 years, and she is well known in the community as a gifted children's program-

mer. Cathie has been described as "a ray of light", and community members will miss her many contributions, including running Story Time and other programs, as well as her breadth of knowledge and her empathetic approach to helping the patrons of the library.

*Happy Retirement Cathie!
You will be missed.*



Neighbourwoods Seeking Volunteers

The Blackburn Neighbourwoods Program is launching its 3rd season. Volunteers will be trained to take inventory of the trees on private property in Blackburn Hamlet. Our next training session with Dr. Andrew Kenny will be May 25 and 26 at the Blackburn Community Centre from 9am to 4pm.

Everyone is welcome, even if you

can only attend a portion of the training.


Bring your lunch and dress for the weather as most of the training is outdoors.

To register or for more information about this program please contact Clifton Charie at treeinventory@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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