

# BCA Meetings - Oct. 17, 24, Nov. 21 & Dec. 19

This month's summary of BCA meeting minutes is unusually long as it covers four meetings.

## Summary

1) **BANAR - Oct. 24:** Concern raised over the increasing amount of advertising in the BANAR and whether the cost of advertising reflected a fair market price. Opposition to further increases based on the fact that rates were increased 50% two years ago. As well, BANAR advertising is intended to assist local businesses. A motion to raise rates was defeated, however, rates will be reviewed again in April.

**Nov. 21:** It was proposed that additional issues of the BANAR would be beneficial. John Stevens and Neil Morris will look into the cost of additional issues and make a recommendation.

**Dec. 19:** Recommendation to add one issue in the Fall. Motion passed. The number of issues of the BANAR will now be six per year.

2) **OC Transpo - Oct. 17:** Julie Newman expressed concerns about OC Transpo buses speeding on Southpark Drive and continuing to use large buses after hours after assuring that they would switch to small community buses. Michael Martin agreed to contact OC Transpo in this regard.

3) **Athlete Awards - Oct. 17:** It was proposed that the BCA sponsor an "Athlete of the Year" award to further recognize individual achievement within the community. Don McGregor will look into it.

4) **Drop-in/Community Centre - Oct. 24:** Neil Papineau will look into locating a place for a mom & tot's group as well as other community functions. Board authorized an expenditure of up to \$1,500 per year toward heating and maintenance if a location can be found.

**Dec. 19:** Rainer Bloess briefed the BCA on the decision by Gloucester City Council to support, in principle, the development of a community centre attached to the arena. Among other things, this project is dependent upon a commitment by the community to contribute approximately 10% or \$30,000 to the construction. The BCA agreed in principle to the expenditure, subject to the actual proposal from the City. Because of the large amount of money involved, approval of the expenditure will take place at a BCA general meeting.

5) **Youth Problems - Oct. 24:** Susan Sheridan provided an account of recent disturbances involving youths in Blackburn Hamlet, one involving students from

Emily Carr school and the other, students from Louis Riel. Regional Police are reportedly proposing a midnight curfew for children 16 years and under.

**Nov. 21:** Luc Dauray provided an update on the youth program. No appropriate facilities are available right now in Blackburn Hamlet to operate a regular youth program over the winter months. He is still searching. It would be beneficial for the community to have long-term ongoing projects which involve local youths rather than reacting specifically to recent problems.

6) **BCA Meeting Space - Oct. 24:** Lois Kemp suggested that we look into using the fire hall for our meetings as we may be able to get the space at no charge.

**Nov. 21:** Use of the fire hall meeting rooms confirmed. BCA board voted in favour of having meetings in the fire hall commencing January, 1997.

7) **BCA Memberships - Oct. 24:** Richard Cantin's office requested a copy of our BCA membership list. The BCA membership list is confidential and the request was denied.

**Nov. 21:** Michael Martin and Iris Phillips have been handling membership in the absence of a director. Feedback obtained during the membership drive have revealed two issues. The way the BCA has handled internal local issues such as the Good Shepherd Church construction, the building of the Bingo Hall and OC Transpo routes has alienated numerous residents from the BCA. As well, many residents feel that there is no benefit to joining the BCA: they no longer have children at home and the BANAR is distributed to everyone. With respect to divisive issues, it was suggested that the BCA could act more as a facilitator as opposed to taking one side or another. With respect to finding activities which will encourage membership, it was suggested that we need to provide tangible, concrete benefits.

**Dec. 19:** To date, approximately 500 memberships have been purchased, with half of canvassers having completed their areas. This is approximately 50% of the goal. Large sections of the Hamlet, however, have no canvassers - in particular, most of Orient Park Drive and Innes Road. These areas have traditionally had low subscription rates and will not have a dramatic impact on the final totals.

8) **Knights of Columbus Donation - Nov. 21:** K. of C. requested a donation from the BCA for their charity auction. It was agreed that a 1/2-page commercial advertising space in the BANAR be donated.

9) **Bavarian Fest - Nov. 21:** Final report provided on this event. This event resulted in a loss of \$5,916. It was generally felt that this was an excellent event, but could easily be put on for less. Iris Phillips was appointed chair of the Bavarian Fest committee. It was agreed that Iris will prepare a cost/benefit analysis of this event, determine whether it can be operated at break even, or a negligible cost, and recommend whether the BCA should do it again.

10) **Changes to CBE charges for school use - Nov. 21:** Michael Martin notified the CBE and Maret Swayze, our trustee, of BCA opposition to proposed significant increases in school use charges, especially for youth programs. Apparently the decision to change fees was subsequently deferred for the foreseeable future at the Oct. 28 meeting of the Trustees in light of the Ontario government's review of the school system.

11) **Blackburn Hamlet Signs - Dec. 19:** Sam Elias was in attendance on behalf of the Blackburn Business Association (BBA) to further explore the process of developing business signs at the Innes Road entrances to Blackburn Hamlet. Michael Martin reported that the notion of such signs had considerable support at the meeting of the BBA earlier in the month. Some creative ideas were presented by the BBA as to how to manage and rotate advertisement space among businesses, including ensuring that home-based businesses had an opportunity to use space on the signs. The signs, as discussed, would serve to 1) identify Blackburn Hamlet, 2) advertise local businesses, and, 3) permit posting of community events. The primary purpose of these signs, however, is to draw passers-by to local businesses. Such signs would, however, be very expensive - perhaps \$30,000 - \$60,000 each, or more. Joël Lapalme reported that issues regarding approval of a site have also not been resolved as the various lands at the entrance to Blackburn Hamlet belong to either the NCC, the Region, or Gloucester. It was agreed that a design and cost estimate is necessary first. The BCA agreed, in principle, to contributing to a business sign. Sam Elias was asked to approach the BBA to get a design and cost estimate prepared and bring it to the BCA. Once received, the actual amount of support will be determined. The BCA also supported the idea of decorative signs at the Innes Road entrances to the community of the genre used in Chapel Hill. Lois Kemp reported that the cost of such signs will be in the vicinity of \$10,000 each. Because of the large costs involved, the BCA agreed that final approval for expenditures on both types of signs should be determined at a general meeting.