



Blackburn Area News And Reports BANAR

Vol. 58 No. 2

November 2024

Santa's Pancake Breakfast

Date: December 7, 2024
Time: 3 sittings to choose from!
Place: Blackburn Community Hall
(190 Glen Park Dr.)
Tickets: safety@blackburnhamlet.ca

The BCA invites you to the annual Santa's Pancake Breakfast at the Community Hall! This year, we'll also be joined by a local choir singing our favorite Christmas carols, both in English & French.

The event is FREE to current BCA members and their family. The fee for non-BCA members is \$10. This \$10 gets you a 2025 BCA membership and allows your entire family to feast on a fantastic breakfast of buttermilk pancakes,

succulent sausages, fruit, and a variety of beverages.

Last year, over 300 people attended our event. In some cases, people had to wait outside in the wet, cold weather – something we do want to occur again. Furthermore, in accordance with the City of Ottawa Fire Regulations, we are restricted to 100 people at any one time in the building. As a result of these factors, this year there will be three “sittings” for breakfast: one at 8:30 am, again at 9:45 and the final sitting at 11:00.



Participants are required to register for their sitting prior to the event. You can register by

emailing your name and number of seats required to safety@blackburnhamlet.ca. Your cooperation with this change is greatly appreciated!



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President's message

Fall is truly a beautiful time of year in Blackburn Hamlet, and I hope that you are all taking the time to get out and enjoy all the paths and parks before the snow flies!

The BCA has had a busy fall, with Don Kelly and his team bringing a very successful Cancer Chase back to the Hamlet. We had a new route this year, enjoying a run through Blackburn instead of the NCC trails. It was a great event that was very successful in raising much-needed funds for a great cause!

Mark the date for this year's Christmas Market at the Community Hall on November 23 from 10 am to 3:30 pm. This is an event that brings together local artists from not only Blackburn Hamlet but across the city to share their Holiday treats and crafts with all of us. Thank you to Jenny Lawrence for taking the time to put this event together!

Back by popular demand, the BCA is hosting this year's Santa's Pancake Breakfast on December 7, starting at 8:30 am. Don't forget to renew your membership to the BCA to get a free breakfast for the family! We have also planned some exciting crafts for the kids to get into, and a raffle with the chance to win prizes. Kids will have the opportunity to take their own photo with Santa, who will of course be popping by.

Just a reminder to our residents to please be extra diligent while

driving around our community. With all the new construction happening, it is easy to get frustrated, but as schools let out for the day or get started in the morning, the kids need some help from all of us to get to their destinations safely. There are new challenges with the heavy truck traffic and machinery that is required for these projects, and it is sure to cause some traffic slowdowns, but let's take our time and help each other out.

Once again, I would like to thank all of the volunteers that are willing to give up their time to make sure that our community has something for everyone to do – from seniors breakfast and walk and talks, to youth events for the kids to meet new friends and have some fun. If you have ever considered getting involved in your community, we'd love to have you! Feel free to attend a BCA meeting or to connect with us through the website.

Keep an eye on the website for all the fun upcoming events as we head into the winter months.

Thanks, and have a great fall!

Jeff Miller
BCA President



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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
Treasurer: Lisa Margeson treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca
Secretary: Lynn Lefevre secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca

BOARD

Beautification: Miriam Hampson beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca
Communications: Nina Ryan communications@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Liaison: Jenny Lawrence jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca
Environment: David Purchase enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Hall Coordinator: William Pfitzer hall@blackburnhamlet.ca
Membership: Shashank Iyer membership@blackburnhamlet.ca
Newsletter: Lynn Lefevre newsletter@blackburnhamlet.ca
Parks: Brent Lawrie vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
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Youth: Mélanie Mathieu youth@blackburnhamlet.ca

COMMITTEES

BANAR Editor: Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy banar@blackburnhamlet.ca
Rinks: Mark Lister rinks@blackburnhamlet.ca

EVENTS

Bike Rodeo: Robert Bellizzi transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca
Cancer Chase: Don Kelly cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca
Christmas Market: Jenny Lawrence jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Closet: Jenny Lawrence jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca
Discovery Café: Barbara Whittaker barbara@blackburnhamlet.ca
FunFair Chair: Steve Vesely funfairchair@gmail.com
Garden Tour: Cynthia Hoisak gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca
Santa's Breakfast: Don Kelly santasbreakfast@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup: Lisa Margeson cleanup@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 of Directors meets 9 times a year on the third Thursday of the month from 7:30 to 10pm. The January to March meetings are held virtually. From April to June and September to November, meetings are held in person. All meetings are open to Blackburn Hamlet residents. Check the BCA website or contact secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca for more details.

Board meetings follow an agenda, so if you have any questions or topics that you wish to raise, please advise the secretary at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

The next BCA meeting will be held in person at the Just Food Farm red barn (upstairs), at 7:30 pm on Thursday, November 21.

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:

E-Transfer to treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca. Please add a memo with your name and either your email address or phone number.

Cheque made out to Blackburn Community Association or Cash, mailed to BCA Membership, P.O. Box 47062, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5B0

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
7.5 W x 4.25 (~half page)*	\$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 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**

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.

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

Feb. BANAR Deadline: Jan 16, 2025

Feb. BANAR Delivery: Feb 8, 2025

For BCA updates go to BlackburnHamlet.ca

BCA Board Highlights Fall 2024

Highlights from recent BCA Board activities include:

- There was a change in ownership and licensing for the asphalt plant located at the Lafarge Quarry. A committee has been formed to explore the impact this will have on our community.
- The BCA has awarded a \$500 grant to Ski Heritage East as part of their campaign to replace aging trail grooming equipment.
- The City of Ottawa is adding smoke and CO2 detectors to the Community Hall and emergency call buttons in the washrooms. They also confirmed the maximum capacity of the hall is 100 people.
- At the October meeting, the BCA board thanked our former Transportation Director, Robert Bellizzi, for his service over the past 2 years. If anyone is interested in taking over this role, please contact president@blackburnhamlet.ca.
- The BCA is planning to resume our annual Community Volunteer Awards event starting in September 2025. Names of the award winners will be included in the BCA display case that we are setting up in the Lois Kemp Arena.

*More details can be found in the
BCA Meeting Minutes on our website at
<https://blackburnhamlet.ca/about/meeting-minutes/>*

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The success of the many great BCA events throughout the year rely on the dedication and support of our volunteers.

We are always looking for some helping hands, so if you would like to get involved, if you have high school volunteer hours to finish up, or want to meet new people, please reach out to a BCA member or president@blackburnhamlet.ca!



Join us for the second annual lighting of the Blackburn Hamlet Community Christmas Tree

Don Kelly

Date: December 14, 2024

Time: starting at 6:30 pm

Place: in front of the Blackburn Pharmacy at the corner of Southpark & Innes

On December 14, starting at 6:30 pm, the BCA will be hosting the lighting of the Blackburn Hamlet Community Christmas Tree for the second year.

Last year, over 50 people attended! Families and neighbours of all ages are invited to help us decorate our tree and enjoy some hot chocolate and marshmallows. We'll also have a local choir singing our favorite Christmas carols, both in English and French. It's an occasion for everyone to share in the joys of Christmas.

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Winners of the Wonderful Writers 2024 Short Story Competition

In August 2024, the BCA invited local youth aged nine to 17 to write an original short story on one of two topics: a family discovers a mysterious door in the middle of a wooded path while out for walk; or a story about an alien or monster visiting your school/neighborhood for the first time.

Congratulations to all participants! We are pleased to announce that the first place winner of the short story competition is

Eva Rakowski for her chilling short story “Another Family Through the Door” about a family who decides to go through a mysterious door they find, never to be seen again. Eva will receive the top cash prize of \$100. We are also pleased to announce the following winning stories: “Alien Feelings” by Henry ManWha, “The True Spirit of Halloween” by Chloe Leblanc, and “Bobby, the Alien Visitor” by Georgia Udesen. Henry, Chloe and Georgia will collect cash prizes of \$50 each. Honourable mentions also go to Zarif Iftikher for “Oak Door”; Aveline Pommainville for “Monsters”, and Lucy Comber for “Grayling and the Trap Door”. Additional cash prizes of \$25 will be awarded to each of these promising young storytellers. All of the winning stories will be posted on the BCA website.

Another Family Through the Door (excerpt)

By: **Eva Rakowski**

The McGlebe family was out for a Sunday walk in the woods when they



Photo: gstudioimagen, Vecteezy

stumbled upon something odd. Sunlight filtered through the trees, casting various shapes on the pebbled pathway. Then they all saw it—a mysterious door standing upright, distorted and alone in the middle of the trail. It was a heavy wooden door in shades of brown, intricately carved with vines and leaves. There was no frame or wall around it—just a door, standing as if it were waiting to be opened.

“Who would put this huge door here?” asked Coraline, the youngest, her eyes wide with curiosity.

“Probably some hooligan trying to be funny,” her older brother Wybie said dismissively. Their parents, Marissa and Timothe, exchanged curious glances.

“Can I open it?” Wybie asked, half-joking. Strangely, something about the door felt inviting, almost comforting. Coraline stepped forward and reached for the golden handle. As she turned it, a soft click echoed, and the door creaked open.

Continue reading the rest of the story on the BCA website!

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Thanks to the watering crew!



BCA garden set for fall

A BIG Thank You to the BCA Garden Watering Crew 2024!

Miriam Hampson, BCA Beautification Director

As the leaves begin to change colours and the temperatures start to drop, it brings us to an end to this beautiful summer ... and to the BCA garden watering duties for 17 amazing Hamlet volunteers!

Thank you to **Anne Edwards, Carol Kerwin, Christina McNiven, Christine Varley, Debbie Jolley, Don Kelly, Eloha Kakou, Erik Leicht, Garth Hampson, Jasmine Dohadwala, Karen Barrington, Os Hoch, Lisa Margeson, Mary Comerton, Monica DeRomer, Susie Wilson, Tammy Bedard** for all of the time, work, and care that you put towards watering the BCA gardens this year. A shout out also goes to the spouses or children that tag along to help the watering volunteer! This volunteer gig is a big commitment: five months of dedication! It involves planting, lugging many jugs of water, pulling weeds, dragging hoses, and trimming grass. Muscles and wheels are a must! The reality is that this volunteer-led BCA garden initiative

could not have been maintained without these amazing community members, ages ranging from 16 to 90! Thank you for helping make our entrance points into Blackburn Hamlet look welcoming and inviting!

A special mention to **Monica DeRomer, Erik Leicht, Don Kelly, Christine Varley, Garth Hampson, Karen Barrington** and **Os Hoch** for being part of this watering crew for the last 4 years. Thank you for coming back as a volunteer year after year!

Thank you to **Julie Williams** for helping create a beautiful new garden design at the Art Structure this year and to **Dave Williams** for some of the muscle work required for this project.

Thank you to **Aspira Living** for installing a hose to facilitate watering one of the gardens this year. Thank you to **Don Kelly** and **Brad Hampson** for the installation of extra hoses and gadgets, again with the aim of making the watering task less difficult for the volunteers.

And of course, a special thank you to my father-in-law, **Garth Hampson**, who even at 90 years old continues to inspire me with his incredible energy, positive drive, and garden ideas. Five years ago, we dreamed up reviving this garden project from the past. Since then, he has helped plant these four BCA gardens and you can often find him maintaining the garden edges, rearranging the stones, or trimming the grass area with his own weed-whacker! He has proudly lived in Blackburn Hamlet for 56 years and has always greatly exemplified the importance of giving back to communities across the city...and beyond. Thank you Garth for your benevolence and for being a wonderful role model for us all.

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FunFair final notes for 2024

Steve Vesely, FunFair Chair

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2024 Blackburn FunFair a successful event - our hard working volunteers, our financial sponsors, our attraction and event partners and our community - who came out to enjoy the festivities.

Your community spirit helped raise a record amount of money enabling our fair volunteers to give back \$19,800 to local non profit Blackburn community groups, organizations and associations through our Honorarium Distribution Program.

Next year's fair will run June 6-8, 2025 and we hope to see you back!

Interested in getting involved? Reach out to chair@blackburnfunfair.ca for more information.

FUNFAIR SPONSORS 2024

The FunFair would not happen without the generous contribution of time and labour of our committee members and volunteers. It would also not happen without the generous financial support of many of our local businesses and representatives. A big THANK YOU to all for your generous support toward the 2024 FunFair:

Platinum sponsors

The Blackburn Community Association and le Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet

Gold sponsors

Metro, Lafarge, Blackburn Pharmacy, Bee-Clean Building Maintenance & Christine Bussieres Broker

Silver sponsors

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Continued on next page



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Continued from page 10

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See honouairum distribution list on page 12



Norman Johnston Secondary Alternate Program



Gloucester High School



Life Centre Food Bank

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2024 FunFair honourarium distribution

Activity	Shares	Volunteer	Qty	Honorarium Recipient	Amount
Chair	3	Steven Vesely	1	Emily Carr Middle School	\$330.00
			1	Glen Ogilvie Public School	\$330.00
			1	Good Shepherd Parish	\$330.00
Support - Finance	2	Darlene Lapointe	1	Gloucester High School PTA	\$330.00
		Aline Vesely	1	Glen Ogilvie Public School	\$330.00
Support - Food	3	Bernard Charlebois	1	Le Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet	\$330.00
		Steven Vesely	1	Gloucester High School	\$330.00
		Sara Antonini	1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
Support - External	1	Mark Lamoureux	1	Glen Ogilvie Public School	\$330.00
Support - Sponsorship	2	Brittany Burden	1	Sainte-Marie School	\$330.00
		Elena Leggiadro	1	Just Food	\$330.00
Fair - Silent Auction	2	Brittany Burden	1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
		Elena Leggiadro	1	Just Food	\$330.00
Support - Tickets	3	Michael Chippa	3	Knights of Columbus No 9005	\$990.00
Pancake Breakfast	2	Cliff Seibel	2	Knights of Columbus No 9005	\$660.00
Support - Advertising	1	Brent Lawrie	1	Dapo Agoro Foundation for Peace	\$330.00
Support - Website	1	Steven Vesely	1	Gloucester Recreation Development	\$330.00
				Organization (GRDO)	
Support - Social Media	1	Nina Ryan	1	Gloucester Recreation Development	\$330.00
				Organization (GRDO)	
Support - Facilities	4	Brent Lawrie	1	Just Food	\$330.00
			1	Just Food	\$330.00
			1	Le Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet	\$330.00
			1	Glen Ogilvie Public School	\$330.00
Support - Volunteers:					
Students	2	Melanie Mathieu	2	Life Centre Food Bank	\$660.00
Fair - Beer Tent	1	Sara Antonini	1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
Fair - Softball					
Tournament	2	Pierre Guerard	2	Blackburn Hamlet Cornhole League	\$660.00
Fair - Book Sale	3	Steve Rathwell	2	Glen Ogilvie School Council	\$660.00
		Sonia Marcotte	1	Norman Johnston Secondary Alternate Program - Food Bank	\$330.00
Fair - Fruit Stand	2	Marc Charlebois	2	Le Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet	\$660.00
Fair - FunRun	2	Erika Coghill	2	Good Shepherd Parent Council	\$660.00
Fair - Lunch	3	Marc Charlebois	3	Le Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet	\$990.00
Fair - Movie Night	1	France Souliere	1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
Fair - Parade	2	Ilona Bartman	1	Ottawa Public Library - Blackburn Hamlet branch (childrens programming)	\$330.00
		Jennifer Walker	1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
Fair - Music	4	Kevin Wright & Kenny Whyte	2	YSB Foundation	\$660.00
			1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
			1	Scouts Canada - 1st Blackburn Scouting Group	\$330.00
Fair - Attractions	1	Will Pfitzer	1	Girl Guides of Canada Ontario Council	\$330.00
			1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
			1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
Fair - Dog Show	1	Shari Cameron	1	Life Centre Food Bank	\$330.00
Fair - Face Painting	1	Viviane Cote Maxwell	1	4e Cordée Kateri Blackburn Hamlet	\$330.00
Fair - Funfair Games	1	Viviane Cote Maxwell	1	4e Cordée Kateri Blackburn Hamlet	\$330.00
Fair - Field Games	1	Viviane Cote Maxwell	1	4e Cordée Kateri Blackburn Hamlet	\$330.00
Fair - Craft beer night	2	Ali Yassine	2	Life Centre Food Bank	\$660.00
Support - Arena Showcase	3	Diane Charlebois	3	Le Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet	\$990.00
Support - Barricades/ Popcorn	1	Joanne Laskoski	1	Scouts Canada - 1st Blackburn Scouting Group	\$330.00
Total Shares	60		60		\$19,800.00

Blackburn Hamlet Outdoor Rinks – Call for Volunteers

Mark Lister

The BCA is seeking ice-making volunteers as well as rink attendants for the 2025 season. If you are interested in volunteering for our ice-making team or being a rink attendant, or want to learn more, please email Mark Lister at parksanddrinks@blackburnhamlet.ca.



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Thank you Blackburn Hamlet

Don Kelly

The BCA and the 2024 Cancer Chase committee would like to thank our community for their generous support of this year's Cancer Chase. Despite a brisk wind and a definitive chill in the air, 93 brave souls participated in this year's event on September 8.

A special thanks has to go to the many volunteers who directed traffic, assisted with the Walk/Run course, handed out gifts and provided us with refreshments and treats. Moreover, our committee members (Angie Jodoin, Nina Ryan, Chantal Levac, Jennifer Kelly, Karl Frangian and Christian Dusault) did exceptional work organizing and delivering this event that helped raise **over \$14,000** for cancer research at the Ottawa Hospital!

And I would be remiss if I did not thank Natasha De Sousa (Ottawa Hospital Foundation) and Sarah Benfield (Cancer Chase photographer) for their incredible support.



Mention should also go to the Condominium Management Group (CMG) and its Manager, Scott Brohman, for their hospitality in allowing the event to move through their private property at Orient Park. The BCA is appreciative of all of our great community partners!

A lot goes into making an event like the Cancer Chase happen, and a critical component is the engagement of sponsors. This year, we had many incredible sponsors providing items for the Silent Auction while many other caring supporters made financial donations.

In our Emerald Club (\$500 or more) we had notable sponsors such

as Mava Paving, Sapience Financial, the Frangian and Kelly Families, Dr. Chantal Plant, Sandra Crabtree and Your Way Lawn & Snow.

Companies, such as Metro, Tim Hortons, and the Blackburn Pharmacy, who are often at the forefront in the support of our many community events, once again donated generously to our event.

Other strong contributors included Budd Garden, Petro Canada, BMO, TD, Kowalski Hearing, and the Aspira Retirement Residence. And, once again, the Cancer Chase was supported by the Ottawa Police with Constable Marc Leroux ensuring safety on the Walk/Run Course and by the Ottawa Fire Services with a crew from Station 54 allowing kids (and adults) to climb aboard Big Red.

Want to get involved for next year?

The BCA is seeking someone to be the Chair for the 2025 Cancer Chase event. Over the years, we have itemized the planning and organizing details of the event and structured them into a binder. We have always had such a strong volunteer community that the role of the Chair is mostly administrative, although occasionally we do have a hiccup or two. But the reward is in knowing that you can make a difference in the lives of so many. For those interested, please contact Don Kelly at safety@blackburn-hamlet.ca.



Thanks to Ottawa Fire Services for stopping by!



OPS Constable Leroux keeping us all safe



Two runners approaching the finish line



And they're off!



The silent auction was a great success.

NOTABLE 2024 CANCER CHASE SUPPORTERS

Blackburn Veterinary Hospital
 Blackburn Physiotherapy
 Carole Brazeau
 Cosmic Adventures
 Eileen Lindsay
 Escape Manor
 Gabriel Pizza
 Hair Alive
 HomeCheckers Canada

Lapierre Law Office
 Immerman Angels
 Ingenium
 Jan's Workout
 LaserMax
 Laura Dudas
 Maz Karimjee
 Museum of Nature
 Museum of History

Orleans Bowling
 Ottawa Sports & Entertainment Group
 Pineview Golf
 Pirate Life
 Shindao Martial Arts
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 Tom Scott
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 Vie Esthetic Studio

What's happening at the Blackburn Hamlet Library?

Stop by and check out what your library has to offer, including new books, express items, museum passes, online databases, magazines and so much more.

Feel free to register or drop in for one of our programs!

Family Storytime / Contes en famille

Stories, rhymes, and songs for children ages 0-6, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Drop-in program. Wednesdays at 10:30 am. November 6 to December 11, 2024.

Histoires, comptines, chansons pour les enfants de 0 à 6 ans. Portes ouvertes. Les mercredis à 10 h 30. Du 6 novembre au 11 décembre 2024.

Stay and Play / Jouons à la biblio

Join us following our Storytime to play and chat! There will be self-directed activities and toys for young children and their parents/caregivers. Drop-in program. Wednesdays at 11 am. November 6 to December 11, 2024.

Joignez-nous après les Contes en famille pour jouer

et socialiser. Il y aura des activités pour les tout-petits et leurs parents/gardiens. Portes ouvertes. Les mercredis à 11 h. Du 6 novembre au 11 décembre 2024.

Babytime / Bébés à la biblio

Stories, rhymes and songs for babies and a parent or caregiver. 0-18 months. Drop-in program. Tuesdays at 10:30 am. November 5 to December 10, 2024

Contes, comptines et chansons pour les bébés et un parent ou gardien. 0 à 18 mois. Portes ouvertes. Les mardis à 10 h 30. Du 5 novembre au 10 décembre 2024

Blackburn Hamlet Book Club (Adult):

Drop in and discuss these titles! No registration required.

November 18, 2 pm, "Radicalized" by Cory Doctorow
December 16, 2 pm, "All Together Now" by Alan Doyle
January 20, 2 pm, "Yiddish for Pirates" by Gary Barwin
February 10, 2 pm, "The Lonely Hearts" Hotel by Heather O'Neil

BH Technology – Question & Answer Sessions

Our BH Tech group will be available to assist you with basic tech questions, as well as point you in the right direction for topics we do not handle. Please bring your own device and library card.

November 4 and 18 and December 9, 3 to 4 pm

Watercolour Connect / Aquarelle

Join us for a watercolour painting session, no experience necessary and supplies are provided.

November 19, 2 to 3:15 pm

December 17, 2 to 3:15 pm

Chess club

Join us for open games of chess every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5 pm. Whether you are a beginner or more advanced, this is a relaxed environment where everyone is welcome. Bring your own board or borrow one of ours. Drop-in program. Ages 7+.

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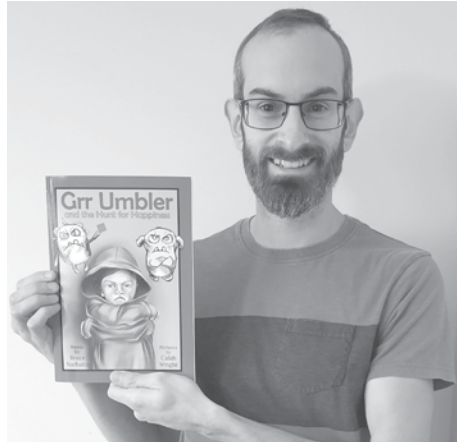
Continued on page 17

Local writer kid, now writes for kids

Bruce Narbaitz

I was first published in the BANAR in April 2003, winning the kids writing competition with my silly short story “Day of the Dancing Penguin.” Recently I tracked down the story on the BANAR’s website, expecting to cringe the whole way through...and was relieved to find myself laughing! While my writing has certainly evolved over the past 20+ years, that first publication was a meaningful milestone.

Good Shepherd Catholic School hosted another key moment in my development as a young writer. My grade 3 teacher, Mrs. Bolster, made us write a short story every



week. One Friday I submitted “The W Story,” featuring Wiggly Worm, Woolly Worm and a wacky wave of other words starting with W. When she praised the story in front of the whole class, it filled me with deep pride. As a bonus, she also introduced me to a new fantasy series called Harry Potter (maybe you’ve

heard of it?).

Fast-forwarding MANY years, I’m now celebrating a new milestone: the release of my first picture book for kids. In October 2024, I self-published “Grr Umbler and the Hunt for Happiness,” a playful and profound picture book about the magic of gratitude. My hope is that it inspires a new generation of kids towards positivity and a love for words. You can find it via my website at <https://brucenarbaitz.com/picture-books/>.

As I reflect on my journey, I am deeply thankful: for Mrs. Bolster, for the BANAR, for the steady stream of books from our local library, and for the satisfying feeling when words click into place.

LIBRARY - Continued from page 16

Contact North

Skills Training – Drop in and meet with a training advisor from Contact North.

October 17 at 6 pm

November 14 at 6 pm

December 12 at 6 pm

Many more programs are available! Look out for our winter session starting in January 2025.

Interesting information about your library!

Mille Feuilles Used Bookstore has gently used books for sale from \$0.25 - \$3.00. These sales fund our programs and services.

Come in and explore these special sale events from November 20 to 27, 2024 and Saturday December

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Did you know that with your City of Ottawa library card you can enjoy a 20% discount on City of Ottawa sports and fitness memberships? This applies to the one-year “All-inclusive” or “One-option (Class A)” membership options.

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Blackburn Seniors Corner – Upcoming Events

Barbara Whittaker, BCA Seniors Director

Blackburn Seniors Breakfast Get-togethers – First Wednesday of each month at 9 am Halibut House, 2672 Innes Road

Join us for a great meal and some fun conversations as we gather for our monthly seniors breakfast.

To help our friends at Halibut House plan, please RSVP to Shirley at 613-841-7691 or note your attendance in the comments section of the Facebook posts for the upcoming breakfasts:

- December 4, 2024 – RSVP by December 2 (Donations for the Life Centre Food Bank will be collected)
- February 5, 2025 – RSVP by February 3
- March 5, 2025 – RSVP by March 3
- April 2, 2025 – RSVP by March 31

Please note that there will be NO breakfast gathering on January 1, 2025.

Blackburn Seniors Walk-and-Talk Outings – Fall/Winter

Our final walk for 2024 will depart from the front of the Aspira Bearbrook Retirement Residence at 2645 Innes Road on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

Check the next issue of the BANAR for information about our 2025 walk-and-talk outings.

Seniors Holiday Kitchen Party/Potluck Dinner – Saturday, November 30, 2024 – 5:00 to 9:00 pm – Blackburn Community Hall, 190 Glen Park Drive

Calling all Blackburn Seniors! Our Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Holiday Kitchen Party Dinner is fast approaching! Bring a favourite shareable dish (appetizer, salad, main or dessert) and join us for a potluck dinner and evening of music, fun and laughter. Doors open at 5:00 pm and dinner will begin at 5:30.

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.

We are thrilled that local duo Mason's Apron will be providing the musical entertainment for the evening. If the mood hits you, feel free to sing along or get up and show off your dance moves.

No NL holiday gathering would be complete without a visit from a few "mummers". In NL, the "mumming" Christmas-time tradition usually involves a group of friends who disguise themselves and visit neighbours. If welcomed into a house, the mummers might do a quick performance or tell a joke. The hosts

Continued on page 19

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Continued from page 18

then try to guess the identities of their visitors. Once identified, the mummers remove their disguises and enjoy some time with the hosts before moving on to another location.

So, in the true NL holiday spirit, we are inviting those who wish to do so to don their best mummer's outfit. We promise that we will not ask you to perform! However, a prize will be awarded for the best mummer's costume!

To help us prepare for the event, please confirm your attendance by phoning Shirley at 613-841-7691, sending an email to seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca, or adding a note to the comments section of the Facebook post for the event.



Mummers (credit: Adam Coish Photography)

Looking forward to celebrating with you!

For more information on these and other BCA activities, visit the BCA Website and Facebook page and watch for posters around the community. Questions? Please email seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca

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- CANDY CANES
- DECORATIONS
- FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
- HAPPY NEW YEAR
- HOCKEY
- HOLIDAYS
- MITTENS
- SKATING RINK
- SLEDDING



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Christmas Market 2024!

Jenny Lawrence, BCA Director

- Date:** November 23rd
- Time:** 10 am to 3:30 pm
- Where:** Community Hall – 190 Glen Park Dr.

The Blackburn Christmas Market is back in 2024 and we have more community vendors than ever before! Come check out our event to find the unique holiday gifts that can only be found at a local market.

We will once again be raising money at the event for Mental Health programs at the Ottawa Hospital. See our website for more details on how you can contribute to support those in need of extra care this holiday season:

<https://blackburnhamlet.ca/events/christmas-market/>

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Another successful Community Closet

On October 19, about 170 kids and adults dropped into the Blackburn Community Hall for our Kids & Costumes Community Closet pop-up event!

There were hundreds of items of clothes, from the tiniest baby onesies to costumes and outerwear for teenagers - all kindly donated by members of our community. Doors opened to BCA members at 10 am, and then to the general public at 11 am, and by mid afternoon, dozens of bags had been filled and most of the items had been collected to be given a second life.

Events like these are a great way to bring the community together, support sustainable practices and get some new clothes for the family, but they take a lot of planning and hard work! Our thanks go to the organizers and volunteers who accepted donations, sorted and folded clothes, transported them to the hall, set up and took down tables, helped shoppers find what they were looking for, playing with the kids, and so much more. This event would not have been possible without each of you! And special thanks to all who donated and dropped off items of clothing to our volunteers.



Thank you to the volunteers who made it all happen!

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Traveling with your cat

What to Look For in a Cat Carrier



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

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

Before you plan a trip, leave the carrier in your cat's favorite room. We recommend to have a carrier that the door and top half can be easily detached. This allows your cat to start resting in it without feeling enclosed. You can leave blankets, toys, treats in the carrier. Once your cat accepts to be in the carrier you can continue the training and slowly put the carrier top back on (but keep the door open). You

can even feed him in the carrier and eventually close the door. Once he finishes eating you open the door and he can learn that being inside a carrier does not mean something stressful will happen. Training sessions takes time and effort but the rewards are worth it.

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

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

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Councillor update

Laura Dudas

In the spring edition of the *BANAR*, I shared that we would be seeing a new flex stake pilot project installed along the shoulders of Bearbrook Road, between Westpark and the Hornet's Nest.

This project was a result of many conversations with community members, the BCA, and staff; exploring how to better connect Blackburn to the north, and the future Montréal Station, making use of the existing NCC trails.

While a more extensive connection following Bearbrook Road would have been ideal, faced with the constraints set out by the Ministry of Transportation limiting what could be added to the roadway, staff were finally able to present a plan to help start building these multi-modal connections.

These measures are seasonal, removed for the winter to allow for snow-clearing operations, and will be installed again after the spring street sweeping is completed. As

happens with all seasonal traffic measures in the ward, the plans are reviewed with staff every year, to ensure they are working the way they are designed and intended. With that in mind,

I would love to hear more on your experiences in using the connection this past summer and fall. I will be sharing community feedback with staff as a part of those discussions.

Continuing to look ahead, the City is now well into the 2025 Budget season. While the 2025 Draft City Budget has not yet been tabled, the Mayor has provided his direction on what budgets departments will have to work with next year. For me, these are not just seasonal conversations, it is important to me that I hear from residents about their priorities throughout the year, whether at the door, at community events, or when connecting by email. My Budget Survey continues to be open on my website as another way for you to let me know what priorities you want me to bring to the Council table: Lauradudas.ca/BudgetSurvey. As done for the last several years, I have also organized multiple in-person budget consultation events for our ward. These include the upcoming drop-in at the Lois Kemp Arena on Thursday, December 5, from 6:30 to 8 pm. I hope to see you there.

As always, whether it be to discuss the budget, traffic and safety concerns, or ideas you may have for making our community a better place to live, my door is open. Do not hesitate to reach out to me at Laura.Dudas@Ottawa.ca, or simply say hello at a community event. It is always a pleasure to connect.

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Discovery Café News

Barbara Whittaker, BCA Director

Discovery Café lectures are held from 7:00 PM to 8:30 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Blackburn Community Centre (190 Glen Park Drive).

Admission is free and refreshments are provided. No registration is required.

In September, Detective Sergeant John Armit from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre gave a record-attendance crowd a fascinating look at fraud trends and how to identify and avoid scams. If you missed the presentation, a copy of the slide deck has been posted on the BCA website at blackburnhamlet.ca.

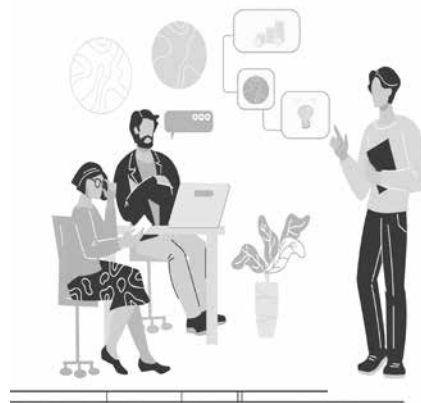
The following month, Richard Van Loon, Professor Emeritus and former President of Carleton University, took us on a journey with trader/explorer Alexander Mackenzie as he made the first complete crossing of North America. We learned of Mackenzie's perilous travels and of the many First Nations and traders who preceded him.

Please join us for these upcoming Discovery Café sessions:

November 28, 2024 – Let's Talk Climate Change – Elsa DaCosta: Have you ever wondered why we are hearing so much about climate change these days? Join Elsa Da Costa as she explains the impacts of climate change, why it is such an important issue today, why governments have been meeting annually about the issue for 30 years, why the private sector is now getting

involved (like your banks and pension managers), and what are some of the main things happening in Canada to transition to low-carbon.

Elsa Da Costa has over 15 years of experience in the field of reporting on environment and sustainable development matters. She has worked for the federal government on a number of reports relating to the environment and sustainable development and climate change topics. For Elsa's complete bio, please visit the Blackburn Hamlet website at blackburnhamlet.ca/241128.



January 23, 2025 -- A Day in the House of Commons – Jeffrey LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk, Procedure: You might have seen a quick news clip from Question Period, but what is an actual day in the House of Commons like? Who decides what gets debated or when matters come to a vote? How do parties prepare for Question Period? How does the Speaker oversee proceedings? What goes on behind the curtains? This session takes you through a typical sitting day, explaining the different parts of the House's schedule, how the business

is organized and how important matters get decided. It will also focus on key players involved in preparing for a sitting and how you can follow the progress of a particular bill or motion.

Jeffrey LeBlanc was appointed Deputy Clerk, Procedure of the House of Commons in March 2023. He is responsible for the team that provides procedural and legislative support to Members of Parliament in the House and in committees. Jeffrey began his career on Parliament Hill as a Page in 1995 and was hired as a Procedural Clerk in 2000. He became a Table Officer in 2007, providing advice to five different Speakers of the House.

February 27, 2025 – Topic TBC – Halim Yanikomeroğlu – Professor in the Department of Systems and Computer Engineering, Carleton University

March 27, 2025 – Forever Chemicals: Chemicals that define environmental persistence – Amy Rand, Assistant Professor in the Chemistry Department and Institute of Biochemistry, Carleton University

Mark your calendars and watch for more information about these upcoming sessions on the BCA website at blackburnhamlet.ca and the BCA Facebook page, and on posters around the community.

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

Youth events and activities

Melanie Mathieu, BCA Youth Director

***Interested in volunteering for any of these events? Send an email to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca.*

Holiday Crafts: Saturday November 30 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Blackburn Community Hall.

Kids and youth of all ages are invited to come by the Hall and use their creativity and holiday spirit to create various holiday themed crafts! Kids 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Family Pizza and Movie Night: All ages, Monday December 23 from 6 to 8:30 pm at the Blackburn Community Hall.

Looking for something to do during the Holidays and need a break? Bring your family to the Hall for a pizza party and a movie! Please register for your free slice of pizza and a drink by sending an email to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca and include the total number of kids (4-12) and adults (13+). Popcorn will also be provided!

Are you a GAMER?! Let's PLAY!! Ages 10-17 Thursday, December 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the



Blackburn Community Hall.

Play video games and enjoy some snacks with your friends at the Blackburn Community Hall! Bring your own camping chair or beanbag (classroom-type chairs

Continued on next page

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Witty Wintry Writers, Rally! (try saying that tongue-twister five times!)

Ages 5-17 Creative Comic Contest: Create a comic of 1 panel or more, that has a theme of winter/ cold/ snow, etc. You can draw the comic yourself (Stick figures are OK!), or you can use images you create with the help of technology. Cartoonists who get published in the BANAR or on the BCA website will get a \$25 gift card of their choice.

Winners will be selected based on humour, creativity, theme, and effort.

Each entry must include a title and include the following information: First Name_Last Name_Name of School_Age as of March 31, 2025_Name of Home Street Address (e.g. Melanie_Mathieu_Glen Ogilvie_12_Northpark).

Deadline for submissions is 9 pm on February 2, 2025. Send to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca.

Continued from page 26

available), and send your suggestions for multiplayer games to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca. You can bring your own portable gaming system (Switch, GameBoy, etc), at your own risk.

Winter Wonderland Paint Night: Ages 3-17, Sunday December 29 at 1 pm at the Blackburn Community Hall.

Register for free to participate in one of two guided painting sessions by sending an email to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca Please indicate the name of the participant and the age (Ages 10 and under must be

accompanied by an adult.)

Pyjama Party Ages 12-17, Thursday, January 2 from 7 to 9p m at the Blackburn Community Hall.

Come flex your onesie and fluffy slippers while enjoying some snacks. Play a few hilarious games, watch some fail videos, and hang out with friends!

Basketball Tournament: Ages 8-12 and 13-17 Friday, January 3 at 10:30 am and 12 pm - Le Dôme @ Louis Riel. Register as an individual or team (minimum 2 players) at youth@blackburnhamlet.ca. Include your age and ability level (beginning-intermediate/ Intermediate-advanced).

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