

Blackburn Area News And Reports BANAR

Vol. 58 No. 4

April 2025

Come one, come all to the Annual Blackburn Hamlet Spring Clean-Up!

EVENT DETAILS:

- **Date:** Saturday April 26
- **Time:** 9:30 to 11:30 am
- **Location:** Blackburn
Community Hall,
190 Glen Park Drive

Spring is here and it's almost time to roll up our sleeves for the annual Spring Clean-Up! Let's all come together to tidy up the main streets and parks in Blackburn Hamlet.

The BCA will provide you with coffee at the registration area, assign you a section of Blackburn and give you gloves and garbage bags. Please bring any other tools or supplies you think you may need. After the work, participants will be treated to a BBQ lunch and music back at the Hall. All ages are welcome!

The **Spring Clean-Up** is more than just picking up litter—it's about fostering community pride, protecting our environment and



Join in on April 26 - the Spring Clean-Up could not happen without our incredible volunteers!

creating a cleaner, healthier space for everyone to enjoy. *Last year's event saw our incredible community come together and collect over 150 bags of garbage!*

So let's welcome the warmer months with a fresh start and make this year's Spring Clean-Up the best one yet! Together, we can make a big difference.



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President's message

Emerging from one of the best winters we have seen in many years, the BCA too has dug themselves out, and we are all getting ready for another eventful year in Blackburn Hamlet! First, a big thanks to our many returning directors, and some new faces who joined the BCA Board of Directors in March at the Annual General Meeting.

We are turning our attention to the annual Spring Clean-Up on April 26. The organizers will be at the Community Hall making sure that everyone gets their own area to efficiently clean up and get ready for the summer months.

FunFair preparations are also in full swing, with Steve Vesely and his team adding new things to ensure that there is something for everyone. Steve is always looking for new volunteers. If you have some extra time and want to get involved, don't be shy to reach out!

A big thanks to all the people who put their hands up to help in

everything that the BCA does, but I wanted to mention what a great job that Mélanie Mathieu has been doing offering at least one event every month for our local youth. From crafting to game nights and everything in between!

Big thanks also to Mark Lister and the rink crew who all pitched in to give us one of the best outdoor rink seasons that I can remember. Flooding the rinks at all hours and in the coldest temperatures is truly a thankless job, but I wanted to give a big THANK YOU to the entire team.

The BCA has plenty on the schedule for the coming months and can always use new volunteers. If you have ever thought about coming out, simply contact us through the site or feel free to approach any of us at the events and we will help to find the right fit for you!

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

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Vice-President: Brent Lawrie vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Treasurer: Lisa Margeson treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca
Secretary: Lynn Lefevre secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca

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Website: Steve Vesely webm

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Cancer Chase: Vacant cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca
Christmas Market: Vacant jenny@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Closet: David Purchase david@blackburnhamlet.ca
Discovery Café: Barbara Whittaker barbara@blackburnhamlet.ca
Fun Fair: Steve Vesely funfairchair@gmail.com
Garage Sale: Lynn Lefevre enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
Garden Tour: Cynthia gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca
Hockey Day: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Santa's Pancake Breakfast: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup: Lisa Margeson cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca
Volunteer Appreciation: Don Kelly president@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 on **Thursday, May 15** at the Blackburn Community Hall (190 Glen Park Drive), at 7:30 p.m.

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 – joanne@blackburnhamlet.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, Santa's Breakfast, as well as numerous initiatives for youth, seniors and local groups. One membership covers two 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

June BANAR Deadline: May 8, 2025

June BANAR Delivery: May 31, 2025

For BCA updates go to BlackburnHamlet.ca

BCA Board Highlights February & March 2025

Highlights from recent BCA Board activities include:

- The BCA has now replaced 10 six-foot tables and 20 three-foot tables in the Hall. Four more three-foot tables will be replaced in April.
- Andrew Cole, the Bank of Montreal Branch Manager, provided the board with an update on their plans to improve the services at their branch, including renovations and hiring additional staff.
- The completion of our Emergency Preparedness Plan has been delayed due to the departure of our City of Ottawa contact. Activity will resume once the City hires a replacement.
- Thank you to the Lois Kemp Arena Team for procuring and installing a new fridge, oven and microwave oven in the Hall.
- The BCA Showcase in the Lois Kemp Arena is now complete and is currently honouring the memory of Gregory "Mayor Greg" Kazmierski.
- 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!](mailto:president@blackburnhamlet.ca)



Here is your 2025 Blackburn Hamlet BCA Board of Directors!

Welcome to the 2025 BCA Board of Directors!

The Blackburn Community Association (BCA) is pleased to announce the results from this year's Annual General Meeting elections. We welcome Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase, Kyle Humphrey, Robert Long and Shirley Sheppard who will be joining Miriam Hampson, Don Kelly, Brent Lawrie, Lynn Lefevre, Lisa Margeson, Jeff Miller, Mélanie Mathieu, David Purchase, Nina Ryan, Satinder Sahota and Barbara Whittaker on the 2025-2026 BCA Board.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to departing board members Shashank Iyer and Jenny Lawrence for all their efforts to enhance our wonderful community.

2024 was an amazing year for the BCA and are confident that 2025 will be even better!

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sARTurday morning paint session

Barbara Whittaker, BCA Director

On February 15, 27 artists from around the Hamlet gathered with instructor Heather Vos to create a lovely winter scene. Given that the event was held between two huge snow storms, the timing could not have been better!

The image was not shared in advance, so we had no idea what we were painting. It was simply amazing to see how a room full of people given the same supplies and instruction could all create similar, yet completely unique, works of art!

Thanks to Heather and all those who joined us for this fun event.

The next paint session with Heather will be held on **Saturday, May 17 at 9 am** at the Blackburn Community Hall. The fee is \$20 per person. To ensure we can have ample supplies for all artists, please register by email to barbara@blackburnhamlet.ca by May 15.

Looking forward to painting with you again!



Artists working away at the last session.

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Plant Sale and Children's Book Swap 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? House plants that need a new home? 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 **Sunday, May 4 from 9 am to 12 pm**, at Glen Ogilvie Public School (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.

Children's Books!

This year, we are excited to add a children's book swap to the event! If you have children's books suitable for kids in kindergarten to Grade 5 that you'd like to pass on to a new

owner, please feel free to bring them to the table and trade for a new-to-you book to take home! A donation jar will also be available, and all donations will go toward the programs and equipment at Glen O.

If you have plants or children's books you'd like to donate but can't make it to the sale, please contact Laura at GlenOplantfundraiser@gmail.com to arrange to drop-off ahead of time. If you don't have items 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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Councillor's Update

Laura Dudas

Blackburn is one of the older suburban communities in Ottawa, and while that brings a unique character and history that is uniquely ours, it also means that the City must prioritize the maintenance and protection of our infrastructure.

While regular readers of my newsletters and columns have heard me speak about the need for greater investments in our roads and parks, today I am sharing news about upcoming infrastructure work that may not be as flashy and noticeable, but is unquestionably as important to our community. This summer, the City will be undertaking extensive water main protection work in the Hamlet, installing what is known as cathodic protection.

Older water mains are made of metallic materials (newer mains are often made of PVC) that can be susceptible to corrosion. When this happens, water mains break. To prevent this, City crews will attach a series of magnesium rods (or “anodes”) and connect them by a thin wire to the outside of the water main. Known as cathodic protection, this process transfers the corrosion from the outside of the water main, to these “sacrificial” anodes. The anodes are non-toxic, non-electrical and are completely safe to touch, offering up to 20 years of protection to the water mains.

The crews will begin citywide in May, but they tell me that the Blackburn work will likely not start until later in the summer. City crews will

be drilling a series of 30 cm (1 ft) diameter holes on the City’s right-of-way (in the grass, not on the street, nor on driveways) to install these anodes. Work will be completed with the holes refilled and seeded the same day, and there will be no impacts to water quality, nor will they have to turn off the water.

You can find a list of the streets scheduled below, and the City

will also be mailing out notices to residents in the coming weeks that provide more details on the work and what to expect.

While water main protection work may not be as obvious, or exciting, as a playground renewal or when we had our arena expanded, it is however essential infrastructure work and helps to ensure the quality and reliability of our drinking water.

STREET	FROM	TO
Alder Cres	Eastpark Dr	Dead End
Autumn Crt	Wedgewood Cres	Dead End
Bearbrook Rd	Innes Rd	Westpark Dr
Blue Spruce Crt	Centrepark Dr	Dead End
Burndale Rd	Ridgeburn Gt	Northpark Dr
Burnview Cres	Northpark Dr	Northpark Dr
Butternut Crt	Northpark Dr	Dead End
Diceman Cres	Ridgeburn Gt	Beechmont Cres
Gravelle Cres	Innes Rd	Innes Rd
Highburn Cres	Northpark Dr	Northpark Dr
Highpark Cres	Westpark Dr	Westpark Dr
Northpark Dr	Bearbrook Rd	Bearbrook Rd
Parkcrest Crt	Westpark Dr	Dead End
Parklane Crt	Westpark Dr	Dead End
Parkridge Cres	Westpark Dr	Westpark Dr
Parkwood Cres	Westpark Dr	Westpark Dr
Red Maple Cres	Eastpark Dr	Alder Cres
Redberry Crt	Silver Aspen Cres	Dead End
Ridgeburn Gate	Northpark Dr	Eastpark Dr
Silver Aspen Cres	Centrepark Dr	Centrepark Dr
Southpark Dr	Innes Rd	Tauvette St
Valecrest Crt	Valewood Cres	Dead End
Valewood Cres	Westpark Dr	Westpark Dr
Wedgewood Cres	Eastpark Dr	Eastpark Dr
Westpark Dr	Bearbrook Rd	Bearbrook Rd
Woodburn Dr	Southpark Dr	Southpark Dr
Woodhill Cres	Southpark Dr	Southpark Dr
Woodview Cres	Southpark Dr	Southpark Dr

Seniors Corner

Barbara Whittaker, BCA Director

New Seniors Director

Following the recent Annual General Meeting and BCA Board election, Shirley Sheppard — whom many of you know from the Seniors Action Committee (SAC) and as the recipient of hundreds of RSVP calls — will take over as Seniors Director. She will work closely with SAC members, in particular Elena Leggiadro, to organize and oversee future seniors events and activities.

Seniors Breakfast Get-togethers

Our monthly breakfasts continued with a record attendance of 38 people in February. In honour of Valentine's Day, the participants joined our maestro Garth Hampson for a rendition of Let Me Call You Sweetheart. What fun! In March, Irish eyes were indeed smiling as we ate, and sang a couple of songs, including a touching bilingual ver-

sion of O Canada! Our great thanks to all who donated goods and funds to help the Lifecentre Food Bank.

The breakfasts take place at 9 am on the first Wednesday of each month at Halibut House, 2672 Innes Road. Please join us on the following dates:

- May 7, 2025. RSVP by May 5.
- June 4, 2025. RSVP by June 2.
- July 2, 2025. RSVP by June 30.

To help our friends at the restaurant prepare, please RSVP to Shirley at 613-841-7691, or reply in the Comments section of the Facebook page post.

Potluck Lunch & Games Afternoon

On March 15, over 30 Blackburn seniors gathered for a delicious lunch, trivia game, a prize search and an afternoon of games. Scrabble, bridge and various other games were played and, on a personal

note, I learned who not to take on in Scrabble!

Thanks to the BCA for their support, to the Seniors Action Committee (Shirley, John, Marion, Connie and Elena) for their help in organizing the event and, of course, to the chefs of the community for their delicious contributions to the lunch.

Seniors Walk-and-Talk Outings are Back!

Now that the snow and ice are clearing, we are pleased to announce that we have resumed the seniors' walks. Please mark your calendars and join other avid walkers at the Bearbrook Road stoplight entrance to Isaiah Scharfe Park (Bush Park) at 1 pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, May 14, 2025
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Walking routes will vary and walkers have the option to do a shorter 2 km route or a longer 4 km route.

Walks will proceed rain or shine. Should the weather be unexpectedly bad, please check the BCA Facebook page for updates.

Heart Valve Screening Session, September 24, 2025

The University of Ottawa Heart Institute will again be offering free heart-valve disease screening sessions for eligible residents aged 65+ at Aspira Bearbrook Retirement Residence, 2645 Innes Road this coming September.

Watch the coming issues of the BANAR, as well as the BCA website and Facebook pages, closer to the event date for more information about eligibility and registration.



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THANK YOU FOR 8 AMAZING YEARS !!



The Hamlet Veterinary hospital opened in January 2017. Located in the heart of Blackburn Hamlet we have been part of the community ever since.

Several team members also call Blackburn Hamlet their home. We do give a fair warning to new staff members that working at our hospital might make them want to move here!

Thanks everyone for your ongoing support and love.

Without our incredible clients we would not have been able to help so many animals. We also support a few local rescues for animals in need and are offering help where we can.

Our core values are client education, honesty, transparency and patient care. These values are important and we treat each patient like if they were our own pets.

We started the hospital with 1 veterinarian and 2 staff members. We work as a team (now 5 veterinarians and 10 support staff members) to continue to provide the best personalized care as possible. Every team member is helping us to maintain our culture of family oriented veterinary medicine. We strive to continue to connect with owners on a regular basis to get updates on their pets and to continue our friendly service.

We are accepting new clients and new patients. Tell your friends!

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Volunteers needed to water the BCA gardens!

*Miriam Hampson,
BCA Beautification Director*

Communities like Blackburn Hamlet are fortunate to have an incredible legacy of wonderful volunteers that help enrich our neighbourhood in so many ways. As the saying goes, it takes a village...

For the past 5 years, the BCA's Beautification goals have focussed on beautifying the entry points to our community by establishing gardens at our Gateway signs and by the art installation structure at the four corners. These four gardens are watered and cared for throughout the spring, summer and fall months by volunteers. We are only able to continue these types of BCA initiatives with your help. If you are interested in being a part of the Watering Crew of



Above: Our 2024 volunteers were all smiles after a hard job well done!

Right: One of our beautiful Gateway gardens in full summer bloom.



2025 or for more information, please contact Miriam at beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca.

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Community Garage Sale

Were you inspired to declutter your home this winter, but have yet to have a chance to get rid of everything due to all the snow?

Now is your chance to pass these items along, hoping they may 'spark joy' in someone else, and make some extra cash in the meantime! Or maybe you've been searching for a great deal on something that will make you smile and help keep our landfills, well, not full.

Join the fun with our annual community Garage Sale **Saturday, May 3 from 8 am to 2 pm**, 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. If you would like your house to be included, please let us know at garagesale@blackburnhamlet.ca.

Please keep visiting the BCA website Garage Sale Page at blackburnhamlet.ca/garagesale for more up-to-date information as it becomes available.

Think green! Help minimize what goes in the trash.

Youth Bike Rodeo

Don Kelly
BCA Director

The Blackburn Hamlet Community Association (BCA) will be hosting a Youth Bicycle Rodeo on **Saturday, May 24** at the Blackburn arena parking area, 190 Glen Park Drive, for children ages 6 to 11.

Riders will learn how to wear helmets safely, the importance of knowing their bicycle ABCs (Air in tires; Brakes; and Crank/Chain/Cogs), and safe riding skills like hand signaling, braking and maneuvering through

obstacles. The course is taught by an experienced and qualified bicycle instructor. There will be bicycle safety literature and gifts for participants. Participants will also receive a Certificate of Achievement from the BCA.

The course is FREE but participants must arrive with a proper-fitting helmet and a bicycle in a serviceable condition. To register for this event, contact Don Kelly at safety@blackburnhamlet.ca. Adult volunteers are welcomed and appreciated.



COUNCILLOR / CONSEILLÈRE

LAURA DUDAS

ORLÉANS WEST/OUEST-INNES

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grandmas AIDing grandmas Spring Events

Our Stephen Lewis Foundation “grandmother group” is excited to hold our 11th annual Card Party on **Tuesday April 29, at St.Helen’s Church, 1234 Prestone Ave. Orleans, from 12-4 pm.** Enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by the grandmas and your favourite card game, win a neat door prize and browse our mini market all for only \$35. You will be assisting heroic African grandmothers supporting children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic.

On **Saturday May 23,** visit our Plant and Garden Sale, corner of Bearbrook and Innes from 9am to 2pm. Replenish your annuals, perennials and houseplants, along with crafts, baking and a raffle. Plant donations are always appreciated, and we can pick them up. Call



Above: Don’t miss our popular Card Party on April 29!

Right: Come out and support an important cause.

Barbara at 613-824-3524 or Lynn at 613-410-6680, or email grandmas59@gmail.com for more information on either event!



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WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS WITH A SMILE!



YOUTH CORNER

Melanie Mathieu,
BCA Youth Director

Here's a look at what's coming up for the youth of Blackburn Hamlet:

Creative Comic Contest winners

In November 2024, the BCA invited local youth aged 5 to 17 to create an original comic of 1 panel or more in the theme of winter.

Congratulations to all participants! We are pleased to announce our two winners, Chloe (age 10) and Eiane (age 8), from Glen Ogilvie Public School. They will each receive a \$25 gift card of their choice!

Community Garage Sale Fundraiser and BBQ for Louis Riel Graduates

Saturday May 3 from 9 am to 2 pm
 at the Blackburn Community Hall
 (190 Glen Park Drive)

While enjoying the annual Blackburn Community Garage Sale, don't forget to stop by the Community Hall for a good cause! In collaboration with the BCA Youth Director, grade 12 students from Louis-Riel will be hosting an outdoor BBQ with hotdogs, chips and drinks. Inside the Hall, you can expect more garage sale items, vendor tables, a bake sale, and a *free* craft table where your kids can make a mothers day gift and card, decorate their own cupcake, and more!

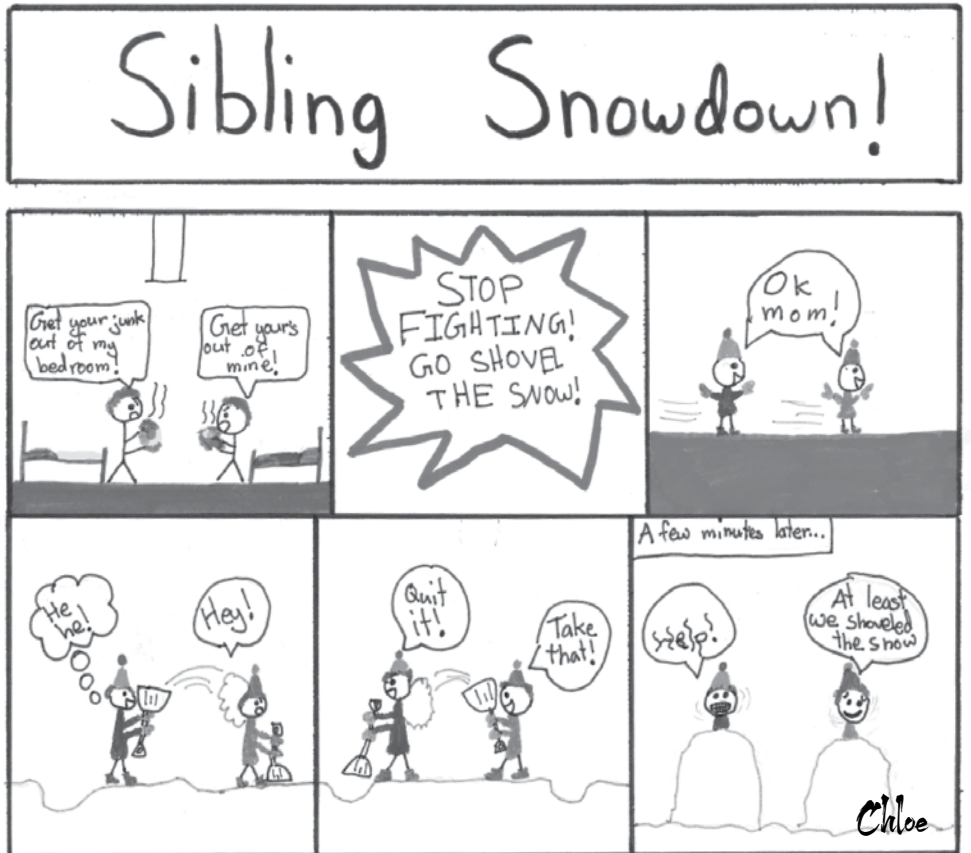
**Vente de garage communautaire
 Collecte de fonds et BBQ pour les
 diplômés de Louis Riel**
 Le samedi 3 mai de 9 h à 14 h à la

salle communautaire de Blackburn
 (190, promenade Glen Park)

Pendant que vous profitez de la vente de garage communautaire annuelle de Blackburn, n'oubliez pas de vous arrêter à la salle com-

munautaire pour une bonne cause !
 En collaboration avec le directeur de la jeunesse de la BCA, les élèves de 12e année de Louis-Riel organiseront un BBQ extérieur avec

Continued on page 17



Youth Corner CONTINUED FROM PAGE16

hot-dogs, croustilles et boissons. À l'intérieur de la salle, vous pouvez vous attendre à d'autres articles de vente de garage, à des tables de vendeurs, à une vente de pâtisseries et à une table d'artisanat *gratuite* où vos enfants pourront fabriquer un cadeau et une carte pour la fête des mères, décorer leur propre petit gâteau, et plus encore !

**Board Games and Brunch:
Sunday May 18 from 11 am to 1:30 pm** at the Blackburn Community Hall (190 Glen Park Drive)

This event is for kids and youth ages 3 to 17. Families and youth are invited to come to the community hall to have some fun while enjoying a light brunch. There will be many board games available to play, but feel free to bring your own! Kids 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

**Home Alone Course (\$):
Saturday May 24 from 9 to 11 am** at the Blackburn Community Hall (190 Glen Park Drive)

Get your kids ready for safety while home alone ahead of the summer! Your child will learn how to be responsible and safe while staying home alone. They will also learn how to build a safety plan including house rules, emergencies, street proofing, common lures and much more.

This two-hour Ménard Safety Course for kids ages 8 to 12 years old, which is usually \$39, will be partially sponsored by the Blackburn Community Association for the reduced cost of \$25 per child. Please register your child by sending an email with their name, age and language to youth@blackburnhamlet.ca.



Andrew Cole (left), BMO Blackburn branch manager, welcomes Rakesh Sekhri! Please call 613-824-3077 and leave a message with your return phone number or email.

Everyday banking

Bank accounts

Get up to **\$700*** when you switch to BMO today!

Step 1: Chequing Account Offer

Earn \$450 when you open a new BMO Performance or Premium Plan Chequing Account and make a deposit of any amount by **July 2, 2025**.*

Complete **two of the following** by **August 29, 2025**.*

- ✓ Set up one recurring direct deposit; **and/or**
- ✓ Make two bill payments to different payees of at least \$50 each through BMO Online Banking or BMO Mobile Banking; **and/or**
- ✓ Set up two eligible pre-authorized debits of at least \$50 to different billers.

Step 2: Savings Account Offer

Earn \$200 when you open a Savings Amplifier Account by **July 2, 2025** and **complete the following**:

- ✓ Deposit a total \$10,000 or more into the Savings Amplifier Account within the first 30 calendar days of opening the Savings Amplifier Account;
 - ✓ After the initial 30-calendar day period from the Savings Amplifier Account open date, maintain a daily closing balance of \$10,000 or more at all times for an additional 90 calendar days.
- You must qualify for step one to complete step two.

Step 3: Family Bundle Offer

Earn an extra \$50 when you invite a family member as part of a BMO Family Bundle and have them open their account by **July 2, 2025**.*

You must qualify for step one to complete step three.

Limit of one Chequing Account Offer, one Saving Account Offer and one Family Bundle Offer per customer. Customers who have an existing Canadian or U.S. Dollar Chequing Account or customers who closed their Existing Account between March 4, 2024 - July 2, 2025 and subsequently open a new Chequing Account are not eligible for the Everyday Banking Offer.

*Further terms and conditions apply. Please visit bmo.com/cash for full offer details.



Garden Strolls from years past.

Blackburn Hamlet Garden Stroll

Cynthia Hoisak

Mark your calendars for **July 5 & 6 from 10am to 4pm** for the 4th annual Blackburn Hamlet Garden Stroll!

This free, self-guided tour invites you to explore the beauty of local gardens without the need for tickets—just bring your curiosity and enthusiasm.

Open to the public, the event welcomes visitors from across the city and beyond. This year, you can look forward to enjoying around 14 gardens, featuring both returning favourites and new additions. Two Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions, and various artists will be present with their easels and paints, adding a creative

touch to the stroll.

New this year, Adrian will be roaming the Hamlet in his ice cream truck, offering sweet treats on both days. Also, Just Food, located on 150 acres of NCC property off Pepin Court, will open their farm and gardens for visitors. Printed maps with more information will be available and will be posted on social media. If you would like to share your garden, consider entering it in the Stroll. This is not a competition, but a chance to share your happy place with others.

For inquiries or to enter your garden, contact Cynthia Hoisak at 613-799-9514 or choisak@rogers.com, and Miriam Hampson at miriam@blackburnhamlet.ca.

First Aid Training June 2025

Don Kelly, BCA Safety Director

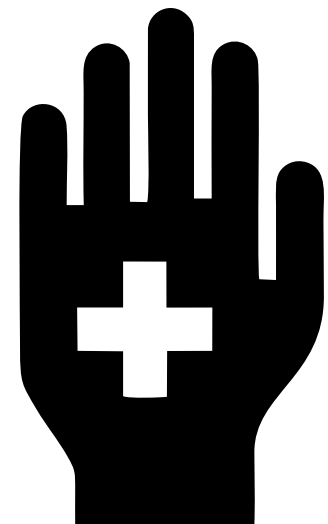
The BCA will be hosting the next First Aid Course on **June 21**. The details of the Course are:

CPR Level C & AED (Adult, Child & Infant) 6-hour course, 3-year Red Cross certification

- Responding to emergencies
- Check, Call, Care
- Airway emergencies
- Breathing & circulation emergencies
- CPR, Cardiac Arrest & AED
- Written exam (min. passing grade: 75%)

The cost is \$65.00 plus HST (\$8.45) = \$73.45.

Anyone interested in attending this important life-saving training can register at safety@blackburnhamlet.ca. The BCA would like to acknowledge the strong community support of the Aspira Retirement Residence who has hosted this event for several years.



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Blackburn Hamlet Running Group

Noel Paine, Blackburn resident

Our little community, snuggled off to the side before the expanse of Orleans, is an active one. At any time of the year, you can find people out walking, running, cross-country skiing, skating, biking and even race-walking. So why not a running group for those who like to lace up?

Join a very friendly, open community running group that gets together on **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** from the Blackburn Community Hall by the arena! Everyone is welcome, from beginners to the speedy, with the goal being to have fun, be social and connect with our neighbours. The more people that come out, the more opportunity to split into pace groups or find a new training partner or friend!

So, why put on running shoes? The Hamlet is a great place to run. Complete a circuit of the community and you can easily get in 10 kilometres. Jump onto the trails at Tauvette and go all the way down to the Ottawa River, or stop short and do hill repeats at Green's



Some of our runners bundled up on a cooler evening.

Creek. If you feel like getting away from things, meander on the Forest Valley trails across from the Fire Station, or jump across the Bypass on an old, abandoned road and run along the Prescott-Russell trail! There are lots of options for anyone.

Running, walking or racewalking is a great way to check out your community and do good for your body and mind! Why not join us?

You can also find the group on Facebook! Facebook page (Runners of Blackburn Hamlet): <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/15uq1CgH1x/>

About the author: Noel Paine is your local runner and competitive racewalker with the funky eyewear – give a wave when you see him!

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CRIME PREVENTION WORKSHOP

Don Kelly, BCA Safety Director

On June 18, starting at 7 pm, the BCA, in cooperation with Ottawa Police Services, will host a Crime Prevention Workshop at the Blackburn Community Centre, 190 Glen Park Drive. The event will feature four specific components of Crime Prevention. They are:

- 1 **Make the Right Call:** Learn how you are helping build a safer community by Making the Right Call. Calls to the Police must be prioritized quickly and responded to appropriately. Learn how “Make the Right Call” spells out which telephone number to call depending on the nature of the call — life threatening emergency or crime in progress (9-1-1), and other emergencies.
- 2 **National Capital Crime Stop-**

pers: Learn about Crime Stoppers, a community-based tips program that allows residents to anonymously report information about crimes and offers cash rewards of up to \$2,000 for this information. Learn how in 2024, the community’s support of Crime Stoppers led to \$233,345 worth of property being recovered, and how Crime Stoppers can play a vital role in community safety.

- 3 **CAMSafe:** Learn about the new police initiative designed to enhance crime prevention and investigations by leveraging community security cameras. Studies have shown security cameras have not only reduced crime rates but also act as an



extra set of eyes to help police identify and apprehend criminals.

This program establishes a community network that will help protect our neighborhoods.

- 3 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Learn how your Neighbourhood Watch is evolving into a highly effective means for Neighbours to help Neighbours and our plans to enhance its expansion.

This event is open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. The BCA is asking residents to please send confirmation of your attendance to safety@blackburnhamlet.ca by June 13 so that adequate logistical arrangements can be made. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

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What's Happening at the Blackburn Hamlet Library?

Stop by and check out what your library has to offer, from 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. Session runs from now through May 14, 2025.

Histoires, comptines, chansons pour les enfants de 0 à 6 ans. Portes ouvertes. Les mercredis à 10 h 30. du 26 mars au 14 mai, 2025.

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. session runs until May 14, 2025.

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 25 mars au 13 mai, 2025.

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. Session runs from now through May 13, 2025.

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 25 mars au 13 mai, 2025.

Knit and Crochet Club / Club de tricot et de crochet « NEW »

Bring your knitting or crochet project (or needlepoint, cross-stitch, etc.) and share tips and tricks, ideas and conversations with fellow enthusiasts. For adults of all abilities. Drop-in.

Thursday evenings starting April 3, 2025 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Apportez votre projet de tricot ou de crochet (ou de broderie, de point de croix, etc.) et venez partager vos connaissances et vos créations avec d'autres passionnés des arts du fil. Pour adultes de tous les niveaux. Portes ouvertes.

Les jeudis soir de 18 h 00 à 20 h 00 débutant le 3 avril, 2025

Blackburn Hamlet Book Club (Adult):

Drop in and discuss books! No registration required.

May 15, 2pm, “*All the light we Cannot See*” by Anthony Doerr

Groupe de conversation en anglais / English conversation group

Vous avez déjà une base en anglais et vous cherchez un endroit avec une ambiance décontractée et amicale pour pratiquer vos habiletés de converser en anglais? Joignez-vous à notre groupe de conversation en anglais! Recevez des conseils, rencontrez de nouvelles personnes et gagnez de la confiance à converser en anglais.

Monday, April 28, 6-8 pm

Mondays, May 5, 12 and 26, 6-8 pm

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

Continued on next page



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Library CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

the right direction for topics we do not handle. Please bring your own device and library card.

Mondays, April 28, May 5 and 26 – 3-4pm

Watercolour Connect / Aquarelle

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

- May 20, 2 - 3:15 pm

Chess club (April to June)

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+.

Contact North

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

- May 15, 6 - 8 pm

A Morning of Fun and Games for Adults! / Une matinée de jeux et de plaisir pour adultes

Do you love playing cards (Euchre)? Chess? Any game goes! We will provide an assortment of games, but you're welcome to bring your own board games, too.

Aimez-vous jouer aux cartes (Euchre) ou aux échecs? Vous choisissez le jeu! Plusieurs options seront disponibles. Vous pouvez aussi apporter vos propres jeux.
Monday, April 28, 10 am – 12 pm
Mondays, May 5, 12 and 26, 10 am – 12 pm

Gardening Basics

This presentation, offered by the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton, is about the basics that are essential to gardening success whether you are a novice gardener or an experienced one! The basics include among others the following topics: soil conditions, watering, soil amendments and fertilization, pests and diseases, and plant selection and planting.

Saturday May 3, 11 am – 12 pm
Registration required

French Conversation Group

« NEW »

Watch out for this **new** program starting on Wednesdays in April.

Participez à notre groupe de conversation, dans une ambiance amicale et décontractée, afin d'améliorer vos habiletés à converser en français. Aucune inscription requise.

Participate in our conversation group so that you can improve your French language conversation skills in a relaxed and friendly environment. No registration required.

And many more programs are available!

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.
- 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.
- You can recycle your **batteries** at the library.



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What's new at the FunFair

Steve Vesely, FunFair Chair

Plans are afoot to make this year's FunFair the best yet, and organizers are proud to announce the following new attractions at this year's event:

Casino Night

This year's fair will feature a Casino Night thanks to sponsorship from the *Club Optimiste de Blackburn Hamlet*. The casino will run Friday night from 7 to 10 pm and include popular games like poker, blackjack and roulette. Please note the event is a fundraiser with prizes for the winners and not a cash tournament. More info at <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/casino>.

D&D One-Shot and MTG tournaments

Get ready for a weekend full of adventure, strategy and community fun! This year, we're adding a unique twist by hosting an epic Dungeons & Dragons one-shot adventure alongside a thrilling Magic: The Gathering Commander

Tournament, offering something for every type of gamer. Whether you're slaying dragons in a medieval fantasy or casting spells in the world of MTG, you'll find plenty of opportunities to bond with other gamers, cheer for your favorite teams and explore the booths and attractions that the FunFair has to offer. More info here: <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/fantasy>.

Miniputt course

Another FunFair first! Saturday's attractions will include a nine-hole mini-putt course laid out in the skateboard park. Will you get a hole in one?

More free shows

We all love returning acts Little Rays Reptiles and Mojo Magic magician Ben Lavalee, but this year we're adding even more free entertainment:

- Stilt walker Luciano Lu will be patrolling the fairgrounds on Saturday
- Local comedian Chris Pilsworth

and juggler Jean-Guy Beaudry will make you laugh in the arena Sunday

- Princess and Superheros will share their story tales in the arena during the weekend

Bored of some attractions in recent years?

Then you'll be happy to hear we're mixing things up again this year with some new bouncy options:

- **3-Lane bungee run:** can you reach the end or will you be snapped back?
- **Interactive hockey:** Compete against your friends in skillset games!
- **Tippy Ladder:** Yikes! Can you reach the other side without falling off?
- **The Big Baller:** Can you jump across the giant balls from one side to another or will you... wipe out?

50/50 raffle

Last year's winner won over \$500! Support your local community by purchasing entries to our 50/50 FunFair Raffle at the QR code on the next page.

Softball tournament

Last year's revival softball tournament was a hit and will return in 2025 as a 4-6 team mixed tournament. All games will be played at the ball diamond by the Lois Kemp arena from June 6 to 8. Want to play? Register your team on the fair website before spots are gone: <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/>



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events/softball-tournament/.

Cornhole tournament

Softball not your thing? Then try cornhole! Get that sack in the hole at our cornhole tournament Sunday at the Community Hall. Want to play? More info here: <https://www.blackburnfunfair.ca/cornhole-tournament/>.

Barrelhouse Beatles Tribute

FunFair organizers are excited to announce that our Saturday evening headline act will be Barrelhouse - Beatles Tribute. Come groove to their note-for-note performance of the Abbey Road Album and other Beatles hits. Get a \$5 discount with online tickets purchased before the fair at the QR on the far right of this page.

Other music acts include: the Orleans School of Rock, Kids Karaoke,

Sing House Studios, Nepean School of Music, Hemlock Hotel, Double Standard and the Fake McCoy's.

Final note

Thank you to the many first-time volunteers who have responded to our call for support. The FunFair committee wholeheartedly thanks you. **We are still looking for:**

- a coordinator to help with food

on fair weekend

- adults to supervise inflatables and help take tickets on fair weekend
- SmartServe certified adults who can help with tickets and/or bartend on fair weekend

Questions and comments welcome! Reach out to the fair committee at chair@blackburnfunfair.ca. See you all at the Fair!

DIGITAL SALES AT FUNFAIR . . .

Hate waiting in line for tickets? We do too!

This year's Funfair is offering online sales for two events.

Avoid disappointment and use the following QR codes to purchase advance tickets with discount pricing for our Saturday night headline act and to purchase raffle tickets.

50/50 Raffle

Online sales now live.
Draw noon June 8, 2025



Barrelhouse Beatles

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DISCOVERY CAFÉ NEWS

Barbara Whittaker, BCA Membership Director

While the February event was cancelled due to the provincial election, we were thrilled to have Eric Jodouin, Sales Manager at the Royal Canadian Mint, lead a presentation on March 27 entitled “Gold: From Mine to Market”. We learned about the Mint, all kinds of interesting facts about the mining and transformation of gold, and what it is like to travel to a mine 2 km below ground. Eric also showed us a number of gold and silver coins and bars, held a draw and even showed us a magic trick! What a great night!

Please join us for our upcoming sessions:

April 24, 2025 – Electric Vehicles 101 – Raymond J. Leury, President of the Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are increasing in popularity and are a good choice for those who need personal transportation. This presentation will cover the basics of EV ownership including charging, long distance travel and performance in hot and cold weather. We will also dispel some common myths that are circulated in mainstream and social media.

Raymond Leury has always been interested in science and environmental issues. 11 years ago, he bought his first EV, which led him to become a member of the Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa (EVCO)



Eric Jodouin engaged us all with interesting information about gold on March 27.

of which he is now president. His interest in environmental issues was rekindled when he attended Al Gore’s Climate Reality Corps in 2017. Now retired from a long IT career, Raymond pursues his passion by spending much of his time researching and advocating for EVs and climate change solutions.

May 22, 2025 – The Making of a Podcast: The Interview Dudes – James Charron

Join podcast producer James Charron as he gives us a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of a wonderful podcast: The Interview Dudes.

In June 2019, James’s son Jack and his friends, Nathan, and Ben — all finishing Grade 6 here in Ottawa — decided to launch a podcast. Initially, their goal was simple: to

interview their classmates and learn about various career paths. However, with James guiding and supporting them, the podcast quickly evolved into something much more remarkable.

The inaugural episode featured James providing listeners with a glimpse into the world of voice acting. As the podcast gained momentum, they secured interviews with prominent figures, including Ottawa’s then-Mayor Jim Watson and, notably, Hollywood actor Ryan Reynolds.

Their unique approach involved reaching out to potential guests through social media platforms. Over the years, The Interview Dudes expanded their guest list to include scientists, politicians, athletes, musicians, and profes-

Continued on next page

sionals from the film industry. This diverse range of interviews not only enriched the podcast's content, but also demonstrated that age is no barrier to achieving remarkable feats, with the podcast climbing to the #2 Kids and Family podcast in Canada.

James's role as producer was handling guest coordination and

technical aspects, while Jack, Nathan, and Ben focused on crafting insightful questions. This collaborative effort resulted in a podcast that showcases the enthusiasm and curiosity of youth, proving that with passion and support, anything is possible!

Mark your calendars and watch

for more information about these upcoming sessions on the BCA website at <https://blackburnhamlet.ca>, on 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

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