

Blackburn Community Association
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2026 7:30 PM

1. Call to order at 7:40pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
 - Motion to approve the February 19, 2026 minutes by Melanie Mathieu. Seconded by Shirley Sheppard. Carried.
4. Councillor Update (Laura Dudas)
 - The paving of Innes and the southern portion of Northpark is proceeding this year with the hope it will be completed before the end of August. More details will be provided once the project has been tendered and awarded.
 - Montreal LRT Station work underway to finish the pedestrian and cycling access. There will be a temporary Bus loop until a permanent one is installed in 2028.
 - The Bearbrook Rink and Board replacement is funded. More details will be provided soon.
 - Another tree planting is scheduled on May 2nd for the former Convent site. A call for volunteers to help plant 1000 trees is being sent to all associations in the ward.
 - The renaming of the Blackburn Park Ball Diamond is scheduled for May 9. This will be officially announced once the time has been confirmed.
5. Serenity Renewal for Families (Melanie Mathieu)
 - Presentation of program and options to meet the needs of our community. This is funded through a Trillium grant. Melanie Mathieu will work with the program manager to offer it as a BCA youth event in the fall.
6. Financial Update (Lisa Margeson)
 - No areas of concern.
 - Rinks were over budget due to the long skating season.
7. Tennis Club (Lisa Margeson)
 - We received a query from Tennis club to help cover operations cost. Our grants are for projects, not for operations costs.
8. Motion to appoint Miriam Hampson to the board by Jeff Miller. Seconded by Barbara Whittaker. Carried

9. Stage Purchase (Brent Lawrie)

- The Vintage Stock Theatre group are willing to sell us the stage we use at FunFair as long as they maintain the ability to use it, free of charge, for the life of the stage. They are asking for equal priority to BCA, but above any other potential users. Motion by Brent Lawrie to purchase the stage for \$4,000. Second by Jeff Miller. Carried.
- The BCA will need to formally document who we lend the stage to, who has priority access, the insurance requirements for events along with an indemnity form for each group who borrow the stage.

10. 2026 Community Priorities (Lynn Lefevre)

- The BCA needs to identify projects that we can finance from our reserve fund. An informal survey of the community has identified many items that the BCA could focus on.
- Board and Committee members are asked to review the list and send their top priorities to Jeff Miller. The top results will be used in our upcoming discussions with the City.

11. Mural concepts for the Pool (Melanie Mathieu)

- The four concepts were discussed along with suggested changes. Melanie Mathieu will work with the artist to create a final design for approval by the BCA and the City.

12. BANAR Layout and Delivery (Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy)

- Our current layout designer will be resigning after the next edition. An announcement will be made through our Facebook group and the next eNewsletter to see if there is anyone in the community who could take over this role. We will also explore the cost of using the design team who work for the printing company as an interim backup plan.
- We will also need to look for a new delivery coordinator volunteer for the fall.

13. Spring Cleanup Signs, BBQ, etc. (Brent Lawrie)

- Brent Lawrie will retrieve the old BBQ and will put up the sign at Innes and Bearbrook.

14. Funfair Participation (Lynn Lefevre)

- The BCA has reserved 3 tables at the showcase. One will be used for Memberships and one has been reserved for BCA and Enviro displays. If you have plans to use the 3rd table, please advise Lynn Lefevre.

15. Hockey Day & Christmas Market Chairs (Lynn Lefevre)

- Jeff Miller and Brent Lawrie will take over as the Hockey Day organizers.
- Melanie Mathieu will look for a volunteer to take over the Christmas Market.

16. Event Updates (Don Kelly)

- **First Aid Training** - A First Aid Course is scheduled for June 27. The Red Cross requires a minimum of 13 students. We encourage everyone to promote this training. There is an article in Banar and BCA Newsletter. There remain 2 funded openings for BCA Board/Committee members.
- **Bike Rodeo** - May Bike Rodeo is cancelled because of Chief Instructor medical situation and no availability of other qualified instructor, including Ottawa Safety Council, for that date. Now exploring a mid-June date with partners.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** - The East End NW Committee is holding a special session entitled "Enhancing LRT Crime Prevention and Public Safety at the Ray Friel Center on April 16. The BCA is Co-Chair. The speakers will address criminal activity associated with LRT expansion and provide historical evidence. A report on the event will be submitted at the next BCA Meeting.
- **Emergency Planning** - BCA Safety has been working with the City's Office of Emergency Management and other east end Community Associations to develop a uniform emergency plan that would address the concerns of everyone. Our continued efforts to highlight the need for emergency planning for community associations seems to have helped generated action by the City. The City of Ottawa is developing a pilot grant program to support community emergency preparedness for extreme weather and has asked for feedback. Both Lynn & I have submitted a reply.
- **Shred It Day** - BCA Safety is negotiating with a local company for a Schred It Day during the summer. Jeff is assisting. There will be more details at next meeting.
- **Recommended Revisions to BCA Events** - The recommended revisions for Christmas Market, Pancake Breakfast & Community Christmas Tree events will be presented at June Meeting.

17. Seniors Action Committee (Shirley Sheppard)

- **February 27** – Lunch at Portugalos Restaurant. 31 attended for great conversation and a delicious lunch with excellent service.
- **March 4** - Monthly Breakfast at Halibut House. 33 attended. As usual we collected for the Life Centre Food Bank. Upon delivery of \$125.00 plus grocery items, they responded with thanks and remarked "We love what you do." We do too!
- **March 20** – Lunch and a very enjoyable few hours of trivia conducted by Conrad took place at Blackburn Arms. 36 attended. Each participant at one of the tables of six won a box of chocolates. Also, a door prize (gift certificate for Blackburn Arms), kindly donated by Tammy Bedard from Aspira Bearbrook Retirement Home was won by one of the seniors. Thanks again Tammy!

- **March 25** - Eleven humans, two dogs and a baby participated in the Walk and Talk (2 km and 3 km circuits), which started at the crosswalk - Bearbrook and Isaiah Park.
- **April 1** – This breakfast was attended by 39 people. As per usual we sang Happy Birthday to those with birthdays that month. That day was the actual birthday of one of our wonderful seniors, Garth Hampson, who turned 92. Garth then led in the signing of the Easter Parade and also an old springtime song about birds. A photo of him was taken for inclusion in the BANAR in the Seniors section. We collected grocery items and \$160.15 for the Life Centre Food Bank.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - April 19 from 12:00 to 2:00, Community Hall. "Hi" Tea and Bingo. Seniors to bring sandwiches/sweets and their favourite tea cup or mug. There will be various prizes for the best (zaniest) hats (female and male) and for Bingo.
 - April 22 at 1:00 pm Walk and Talk (2 km and 3 km circuits), starting at the crosswalk - Bearbrook and Isaiah Park.
- **Thank you** to BCA for your ongoing support of our activities including the support provided by Lynn and Nina.

18. New Business

- The FunFair would like to run a Drone Show on Friday night but would need an additional \$5,000. The BCA already has a planned deficit for this year and cannot provide this funding.
- Melanie Mathieu is not available for organizing or running the October 10 Friendsgiving event. Shirley Sheppard will discuss this with the Seniors Action Committee.
- Brent Lawrie to review and update BCA high value asset list.

19. Adjournment at 9:50pm (Next Board meeting May 21, 2026)

Attendees

Jeff Miller
 Brent Lawrie
 Lisa Margeson
 Lynn Lefevre
 Barbara Whittaker
 Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase
 David Purchase
 Melanie Mathieu
 Miriam Hampson
 Robert Long
 Satinder Sahota
 Shirley Sheppard
 Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy
 Tammy Bedard
 Laura Dudas
 Sharon Kes

BCA Board 2025-2026

Executive

President	Jeff Miller	president@blackburnhamlet.ca
Vice President	Brent Lawrie	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Secretary	Lynn Lefevre	secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca
Treasurer	Lisa Margeson	treasurer@blackburnhamlet.ca

Director Portfolios

Accessibility and Transit	Kyle Humphrey	kyle@blackburnhamlet.ca
Beautification	Miriam Hampson	beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca
Communications	Nina Ryan	communications@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Relations	David Purchase	david@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Safety	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Environment	Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase	enviro@blackburnhamlet.ca
E-Newsletter	Lynn Lefevre	newsletter@blackburnhamlet.ca
Facilities and Operations	Brent Lawrie	vp@blackburnhamlet.ca
Membership	Barbara Whittaker	membership@blackburnhamlet.ca
Parks	Brent Lawrie	parks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Seniors	Shirley Sheppard	seniors@blackburnhamlet.ca
Social Media	Satinder Sahota	satinder@blackburnhamlet.ca
Transportation	Robert Long	transportation@blackburnhamlet.ca
Youth	Mélanie Mathieu	youth@blackburnhamlet.ca

Committee Chairs

BANAR	Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy	banar@blackburnhamlet.ca
Community Hall	Tammy Bedard	hall@blackburnhamlet.ca
Rinks	Mark Lister	rinks@blackburnhamlet.ca
Website	Steve Vesely Lynn Lefevre (Content)	webmaster@blackburnhamlet.ca webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca

Events

Bike Rodeo	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Cancer Chase	David Purchase	cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca
Christmas Market	VACANT	
Community Closet	Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase	enviro@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 Hoisak	gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca
Hockey Day	Jeff Miller & Brent Lawrie	
Santa's Pancake Breakfast	Don Kelly	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca
Spring Cleanup	Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase	cleanup@blackburnhamlet.ca
Volunteer Appreciation	Don Kelly & Brent Lawrie	safety@blackburnhamlet.ca