

# Blackburn Area News And Reports **BANAR**

Vol. 59 No. 4

April 2026



## JOIN US FOR OUR **BLACKBURN SPRING CLEAN-UP**

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

Join us at the Community Hall at 9:30 am to get your area assignment and supplies (garbage bags and gloves) for the clean-up in Blackburn.

The event wraps up at 11:30 am, followed by a thank-you BBQ (vegetarian and halal options available).

*Bring your family and friends – the more, the merrier!*



The BANAR is proudly produced by the Blackburn Community Association.





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# President's message

**Spring has arrived** in our community, and with it comes a full calendar of events for the whole family to enjoy!

First, I'd like to welcome back our Board of Directors, all of whom are returning for the 2026-2027 year. I'm so thankful to each of you for your dedication and commitment to Blackburn Hamlet. Our community wouldn't be the same without the incredible work of our Board members and volunteers!

Please join us for the Spring Clean-Up of the Hamlet, so we can all chip in to get every corner of our neighbourhood ready for the summer months. Meet us at the Community Hall on Saturday April 25 at 9:30am. Volunteers will be welcomed back around mid-day for a Thank-You BBQ.

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 to him at [funfairchair@gmail.com](mailto:funfairchair@gmail.com).

Warmer weather means more folks will be outside walking, biking, playing and exploring. To help keep everyone safe, be sure to check out the Safety Corner later in this BANAR for some great safety information.

Are you a gardener? Be sure to keep reading for some great events coming up like plant sales, our Annual Garden Tour and more. Our Watering Crew is also looking for some helping hands to keep the four BCA gardens watered and beautiful all summer long.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Spring!

*Jeff Miller, BCA President*



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**Did you know that the BCA publishes a monthly electronic newsletter highlighting coming events and community news? Blackburn Hamlet residents are encouraged to sign up at [blackburnhamlet.ca/newsletter](http://blackburnhamlet.ca/newsletter) for the latest news and emergency updates.**



### Websites

[www.BlackburnHamlet.ca](http://www.BlackburnHamlet.ca)  
[www.BlackburnFunFair.ca](http://www.BlackburnFunFair.ca)



### Facebook

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



### Instagram

@blackburn/hamlet

# 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

Accessibility & 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 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 Editor: Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy banar@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Community Hall: Tammy Bedard hall@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Rinks: Mark Lister rinks@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Website Content: Lynn Lefevre webadmin@blackburnhamlet.ca

## Events

Bike Rodeo: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Cancer Chase: David Purchase cancerchase@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Christmas Market: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca  
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 Hosiak gardentour@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Hockey Day: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Santa's Pancake Breakfast: Don Kelly safety@blackburnhamlet.ca  
Spring Cleanup: Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase 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 virtually on **Thursday, May 21, 2026 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 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 6, 2026**

**June BANAR Delivery: May 30, 2026**

**For BCA updates go to BlackburnHamlet.ca**

## BCA Board Highlights Winter 2025/2026

Highlights from recent BCA Board activities include:

- The new BCA Grant form was approved at the February board meeting and will be published on the website soon. The focus will be small grants to aid local groups.
- Due to insufficient interest, the March First Aid Course was postponed until June.
- The BCA is reviewing the BANAR distribution so that we can extend our reach to residents of new apartment buildings in the Hamlet.



## Community Hall Rental

Did you know you can book the Community Hall at 190 Glen Park Dr. for your events?

Scan the QR code below or visit [blackburnhamlet.ca/hall](http://blackburnhamlet.ca/hall) to learn more.



**WE NOW HAVE WIFI  
in the Community Hall  
and at the Arena!**

# Helping With Furniture

We all hear a lot about the lack of housing these days, but what happens when a family finally gets a home, and can't afford to furnish it? That's when Helping With Furniture (HWF) steps up to assist. Social workers refer families to HWF if they have no means to furnish their newly-found housing. They may be newcomers to Canada, people leaving shelters or other vulnerable persons. They get an appointment and come to the HWF warehouse to pick up furniture, kitchenware, linens, curtains, toys, bikes and more.

Everything HWF provides is donated and collected at their warehouse on Michael Street. The organization is completely volunteer-run. Three Blackburn Hamlet residents are volunteers:

- Carole Leduc is a Team Lead for the Warehouse Crew. Every Wednesday, she organizes the large furniture items with a crew of others during the day, and greets clients for their appointments in the evening.



Natalie happily volunteering to sort and organize some baby equipment.

- Martha Anderson and Natalie Merchant are Toy Bundlers. They sort and tidy donated toys, books, and baby equipment, and then box up age-appropriate items for families before they arrive for their appointment.

HWF is always pleased to receive donations of basic gently-used household goods, or money for

warehouse rent and utilities. They are also happy to welcome new volunteers to their team. You can explore these options on their web site at [www.hwfottawa.org](http://www.hwfottawa.org). Donations can be dropped off at 1455 Michael St on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 pm or Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm. If you know Martha, Natalie or Carole, feel free to contact them to drop off small items for HWF.

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[vieestheticstudio.com](http://vieestheticstudio.com)



Martha helping out with the toys.

# The 2026 BCA Board of Directors

The Blackburn Community Association is pleased to announce the results from this year's Annual General Meeting elections, where all existing board members are returning for the 2026-2027 year and our updated not-for-profit purpose statement was unanimously approved!

Last year was a very busy year for the BCA, where we held a record setting 70 events; maintained 3 outdoor rinks; raised funds for local groups like CHEO, the Ottawa Hospital and the Snowsuit fund; enhanced our Neighbourhood Watch program; worked with CRA to catch up on our GST rebates; managed the hall bookings; published 5 BANAR and 12 eNewsletter editions; maintained the BCA showcase in the Arena;



**Front Row:** Steve Vesely (FunFair Chair), Kyle Humphrey, Mélanie Mathieu, Lisa Margeson, Camille-Emmanuelle Purchase, Tammy Bedard (Hall Bookings). **Back row:** Miriam Hampson, Barbara Whittaker, Nina Ryan, Jeff Miller, Shirley Shepard, Lynn Lefevre, Satinder Sahota, David Purchase, Brent Lawrie. **Missing:** Don Kelly, Robert Long, Jaclyn O'Shaughnessy (BANAR), Cynthia Hoisak (Garden Tour) and Mark Lister (Rinks)

improved the entrance and four corners gardens and a so much more.

All of this work is made possible thanks to grants from the City of

Ottawa and The Friends of the Mer Bleue and help from a vast array of amazing volunteers. We look forward to continuing our work throughout 2026.



COUNCILLOR / CONSEILLÈRE  
**LAURA DUDAS**  
ORLÉANS WEST/OUEST-INNES

LauraDudas.ca  
613-580-2472  
Laura.Dudas@Ottawa.ca

# Community Garage Sale: May 2nd

**Spring is coming**, which means it is time to declutter your home and prepare for our annual Community Garage Sale! This 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. Join the fun with our annual community Garage Sale on Saturday, May 2 from 8am to 2pm, rain or shine.

Blackburn 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'll 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](mailto:garagesale@blackburnhamlet.ca).

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

Think green! Help minimize what goes in the trash.

## Senior Stingers Bring Community Focus to the Ice

**The Senior Stingers**, a newly formed adult rec team is preparing for their first official season at the Richcraft Sensplex. While the team has already played a few informal practice games, the upcoming summer season will mark their official start.

Plans are already in motion to develop initiatives that extend beyond the rink, including spending

time with seniors in local residences, creating opportunities for youth to access sport, and organizing community-focused events tied to hockey.

Support from local businesses has helped the team get off the ground. Sponsors include House of Bikes, Frangian Pharmacy (PharmaChoice Blackburn), Bercier Clinic, Hydra Plumbing, and High

Horse Galerie. Their contributions have helped cover the cost of jerseys and reduce league fees for players.

As the Senior Stingers prepare for their first season, they hope to become a familiar presence in Blackburn, not just at the rink, but throughout the neighbourhood.

More info at [senior.stingers@gmail.com](mailto:senior.stingers@gmail.com).

*40 years in Blackburn Hamlet!*

## Jan's Workout

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Dr Amber Covello, DVM & Dr Jonathan Harris, DVM

**Spring is finally around the corner! Unfortunately, ticks start to be active when it's above 0 C:**



\*Ticks mostly live in scrubs, tall grass, cedar edges and wooded areas. It's always a good idea to do a tick check on your pet and yourself after going in these areas. Ticks will crawl up people and pet's legs and will bite on the thinner skin like armpits, inner legs or around the neck, head or ears.

\*In most cases, the tick needs to be attached for over 24 hours before lyme disease is transmitted. This is why a tick check daily is so important when you are enjoying nature.

\* A good tick prevention should protect your pet for a minimum of one month against the Deer Tick (*Ixodes Scapularis*) which is the one that can transmit Lyme Disease.

\* Ask your veterinarian about tick prevention or if the lyme vaccination is a good option for your dog.

\* More and more veterinarians are discussing the option of all year round tick prevention if pets are going in high risks area. Ticks do not die in the winter and they start to be active when it is above 0C regardless of the season. \* Visit this website for more information: <https://ticktalkcanada.com>

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

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# Help Keep Blackburn Hamlet Blooming:

## Join the BCA Garden Watering Team 2026!

*Miriam Hampson,  
Beautification Director*

As we head into the 2026 season, we're proud to celebrate the 6th year of the BCA Garden Watering Team, an initiative that has helped keep the entrance gardens to our beautiful Blackburn Hamlet community vibrant and welcoming. Over the past 5 years, a dedicated group of 15 to 18 volunteers has generously stepped up each summer, each contributing a few weeks of their time to ensure that our flowers and shrubs stay healthy and thriving. Their efforts have made a visible difference, creating a warm and colourful first impression for residents and visitors alike.

This year, we're hoping to grow that team. Imagine how much easier it would be if we could double the number of volunteers: sharing the responsibility, lightening the load and building even more community spirit along the way.

What does it take to get involved?



Not much at all. Just a bit of muscle, a little time and a watering can!

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or simply someone who enjoys being outdoors, your help will go a long way.

If you've ever admired the entrance gardens, this is your chance to play a part in keeping them beautiful. Join us in making 2026 our best year yet! For more information contact Miriam at [beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:beautification@blackburnhamlet.ca)



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# Book & Plant Sale for Glen Ogilvie!

We're excited to invite everyone back again for another swap & sale to raise money for Glen Ogilvie Public School! Do you have hostas that need splitting? Houseplants that need a new home? What about gently used books ready for a new life? We'll take them off your hands for a good cause!

## 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.

## Books!

Building on the success of last year, we are again adding books to the sale! If you have books you'd like to pass on to a new owner, please feel free to bring them to the table and pick up a few new ones to take home! A donation jar will be available and all donations will go toward the programs and equipment at Glen O.



The swap & sale will take place rain or shine on **Sunday, May 24 from 9 am to 12 pm**, at 46 Centrepark Dr, in the sunken garden area in front of the school.

If you have plants or books you'd like to donate but can't make it on event day, please contact Laura at [GlenOplantfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto: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!

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Children 12 and under: free  
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Tickets / billets: [groovycvo.eventbrite.ca](http://groovycvo.eventbrite.ca)

Tickets will be available at the door. | Les billets seront disponibles à l'entrée.

# Rain Barrel Abundance

*Lynn Lefevre*

**Have you ever thought** about watering your garden with rain barrels? I tried using one 20 years ago, but found that it was slow and awkward to use. Two years ago, I decided to try again.

In the Spring of 2024, I installed an 80-gallon barrel to collect water from the rear roof of my garage. I also added a submersible utility pump connected to a garden hose to make it more practical.

It worked well, so in the Spring of 2025, I added a 50-gallon overflow barrel next to the original one

and installed a 50-gallon barrel to collect rain water off the shed roof. Since I already had power in the shed, this allowed me to install a pump that could be used to water the nearby raised beds and garden. In early summer, I added two 50-gallon barrels to collect water off the house roof in my front garden and a 50-gallon barrel and pump to collect water off the front garage roof.

When needed, I use a self-priming transfer pump to pull water from the overflow and front collection barrels to top up the three barrels with pumps. The key to making this

work is to use water-cooled pumps with standard hose adaptors that have enough power (1/2 HP) to use with a hose and to locate these barrels near power outlets. It worked out better than I expected and significantly reduced my summer City water consumption during last year's drought.

My garden, rain barrels, cold climate air source heat pump and my solar + battery system will be on display on July 11, as part of the 2026 BCA Garden Tour. Feel free to stop by and ask questions or email me at [secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:secretary@blackburnhamlet.ca).

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## Les Chansonniers

La Troupe des Chansonniers a vécu une année 2025 très occupée avec des participations au Gala Célébration 2025 au Casino du Lac Leamy, à Star Académie à Montréal en février et au spectacle Noir et Blanc de Gregory Charles à la

Salle Odyssée. Et depuis septembre, nous préparons avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme notre spectacle 2026 intitulé « Droit devant » qui aura lieu en mai prochain. Soyez là!

Le thème de notre spectacle est

tiré de la chanson « Droit devant » des Cowboys fringants. Au programme, on file droit devant avec des turlutttes et des rigodons inspirés des chansons comme « Le Gin à l'eau salée » (Salebarbes) et « Un pays beau ». Nous y ajouterons quelques classiques de Joe Dassin, Charles Trenet et Jacques Brel. Il va sans dire que nous vous réservons aussi quelques surprises.

Ne manquez pas le prochain spectacle des Chansonniers d'Ottawa. La Troupe présentera son spectacle « Droit devant » **le samedi 30 mai à 20 h et le dimanche 31 mai à 14 h** au Centre des Arts Shenkman, 245, Centrum, Orléans. Billets et information: [shenkmanarts.ca](http://shenkmanarts.ca). Responding to Emergencies



**Malcolm Leduc**  
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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.

Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Spring Session runs from March 30 – May 17, 2026.

**Sensory Storytime / Contes sensoriels**

This program features open play, a short story time, and the chance to connect with other families. A family member or caregiver must be present for the duration of the program. This program provides a welcoming environment and respects the needs of children from 18 months to 6 years who live with

developmental disabilities and/or autism, or who show signs of a developmental delay.

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 – 10:30-11:30 am**

*Ce programme comprend des moments de jeu libre, une courte période de contes et l'occasion d'échanger avec d'autres familles. Un membre de la famille ou un(e) aidant(e) proche doit être présent pour toute la durée de l'activité. Ce programme offre un environnement accueillant et respecte les besoins des enfants âgés de 18 mois à 6 ans qui sont autistes, ont une déficience intellectuelle, ou présentent des signes de retard de développement.*

**Le samedi, 25 avril 2026 – 10 h 30 – 11 h 30**

**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. Age 7+.

**Lego Block Party! / Ça dé "bloc" – PD Day / Journée pédagogique**

When the kids are not in school on PA days, don't let their creativity dwindle! Let them show off your architectural creativity with Lego®! Drop-in program.

**Friday April 24 - 1:00-2:30 pm**

**Monday April 24 – 1:00-2:30 pm**

**Homework Help / Aide aux devoirs**

Get help with reading, math, science, French, English, etc. Led by United for Literacy volunteers. For students in grades 1 through 10. Please note: A parent or caregiver for children participating in Homework Help must remain in the library while their child is being assisted.

**Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm - until June 9, 2026**

*Reçois de l'aide avec la lecture, les maths, les sciences, le français, l'anglais, etc. Avec des bénévoles de Littératie Ensemble. Pour les élèves de la 1e à la 10e année. Notez bien: Les parents ou gardiens doivent rester dans la bibliothèque pendant la séance de leur enfant.*

**Les mardis de 18 h 00 – 19 h 30 - jusqu'au 9 juin, 2026**

**Blackburn Hamlet Book Chat:**

Share the enjoyment of good books in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Third Monday of every month. Welcome to new members. Monday, April 20, 2026 – 2:00-

*Continued on next page*



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*Continued from page 14*

3:00pm – *Spare* by Prince Harry,  
Duke of Sussex

Monday, May 11, 2026 – 2:00-

3:00pm – *The Night in Question* by  
Susan Fletcher

Monday, June 16, 2026 – 2:00-

3:00pm – **Denial** by Beverley  
McLachlan

### **Spanish Conversation Group**

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practice your Spanish skills. Vari-  
ous levels are welcome.

Adult drop-in program. **Fridays  
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### **BH Technology – Question & Answer Sessions**

Our BH Tech group will be avail-  
able 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.

Monday, April 13, 2026 –

3:00-4:00 pm

Monday, May 4, 2026–

3:00-4:00 pm

Monday, June 1, 2026–

3:00-4:00 pm

### **Knit and Crochet Club / Club de Tricot et de crochet**

Bring your knitting or crochet proj-  
ect (or needlepoint, cross-stitch,  
etc.) and share tips and tricks,  
ideas, and conversations with fellow  
enthusiasts. For adults of all abili-  
ties.

**Every Thursday from 6:30 -  
8:00 pm**



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

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

**Join us every Monday from 10:00  
am-12 :00 pm**

### **Watercolour Connect / Aquarelle**

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

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 -  
2:00-3:15 pm

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 -  
2:00-3:15 pm

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 -

2:00-3:15 pm

### **Colouring For the Mind – Adult Colouring Club / Art-thérapie - Club de coloriage pour adultes!**

Coloring can have a calming effect  
on the mind and promote wellness!  
Join us for a fun and relaxing adult  
coloring session. All supplies are  
provided. No registration is re-  
quired. This is not a course.

Wednesday, May 13 - 2:00-3:15 pm  
Wednesday, June 10 – 2:00-3:15 pm

### **Interesting information about your library!**

Mille Feuilles Used Bookstore has  
gently used books for sale from  
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our programs and services. Now  
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donations!

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can enjoy a 20% discount on City  
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\*\*sconstantcpa@outlook.com\*\*



# Grandmas AIDing Grandmas Plant and Garden Sale

Grandmas AIDing Grandmas, together with the Bearbrook Retirement Residence, will be holding their 5th Annual Plant and Garden Sale on **Saturday, May 23 from 9am to 2pm** at the corner of Innes and Bearbrook. There will be a great selection of perennials, annuals and house plants, as well as delicious baking, garden-themed crafts and a raffle. Our expert gardeners will also be on hand to answer any of your gardening questions.

All proceeds from this event will support the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmas Campaign (SLF). The SLF partners with community-based organizations to help African grandmothers raising children orphaned by the HIV epidemic.

Plant donations are welcome. We are more than willing to pick up if needed.



For more information email Lynn at [Lynn.Anne.Pratt@rogers.com](mailto:Lynn.Anne.Pratt@rogers.com) or call Barb at 613-824-3524. See you there!

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# Councillor's Update: Wi-Fi now live at Lois Kemp Arena and Blackburn Hall

*Laura Dudas*

I am pleased to share an update that will make a real difference for residents, families and community groups across Blackburn Hamlet. Full Wi-Fi access is now available at both the Lois Kemp Arena and the Blackburn Hall, two of our most heavily used and deeply valued neighbourhood facilities.

This long-needed upgrade brings these community hubs fully into the modern age. Anyone who has attended a hockey game, early-morning practice, community meeting or special event at either location knows just how valuable reliable internet access can be. From parents coordinating pick-ups or volunteers using digital scorekeeping tools, to community groups running meetings and programs, we often take for grant-

ed how much Wi-Fi helps make everyday activities smoother, more efficient and more accessible. It also means residents can get a bit of work done while waiting for that 6 am practice to wrap up, or host community meetings and events in the Hall with greater ease and flexibility.

I worked hard to ensure that the Lois Kemp Arena and the Blackburn Hall were placed on the City's priority list for these upgrades because I know how central they are to community life. Beyond convenience, this improvement enhances the level and flexibility of services City facilities can offer. With dependable online access, staff can now explore simpler and more efficient options like non-cash payments for drop-in activities and stronger support for event operations, which I have already asked

staff to begin working on.

These may seem like small changes, but together they significantly improve the experience for residents and for those who operate and rely on these facilities every day. This is a clear win for both the community and the City.

My hope is that this enhanced connectivity will help expand the range of programs, partnerships and activities offered at both locations. These spaces are where neighbours connect, volunteer and celebrate together. With full Wi-Fi access now in place, they are better equipped to meet the evolving needs of our growing and connected community. Continued investments like this help ensure our neighbourhood facilities remain welcoming, responsive and ready to serve residents today and well into the future.

---

## BCA SAFETY – FIRST AID TRAINING

*Don Kelly, Director*

On June 27, 2026 the BCA has scheduled a First Aid Course. In accordance with Canada Red Cross regulations a minimum number of 13 candidates is required. The course is a 6-hour CPR Level C & AED (Adult, Child & Infant). Graduates will receive a 3-year Red Cross certification. The cost is \$70.00 per person + HST. There will be a written exam with a passing grade of 75%. The subjects covered will include:

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

The course will be held in the Theatre Room at the Bearbrook Retirement Residence on Innes. There will be snacks & refreshments at no charge.

**To register for the course please contact [safety@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:safety@blackburnhamlet.ca) by June 1.**



# BLACKBURN HAMLET GARDEN TOUR

*Miriam Hampson*

Year 5 is underway for another fabulous garden tour right here in the Hamlet. We're hoping to keep up and exceed the number of 15 gardens, and new entries are most welcome!

Again there will be artists and musicians and two Master Garden-

ers to answer your questions. Plus other activities.

This year's tour will take place July 11 & 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

FREE and open to all, far and wide. Bring a friend, or the whole family, to be inspired, get ideas, chat and to just enjoy what the gardeners and gardens are saying and showing.

*A dig in the dirt won't hurt.  
Just shovel, to make a pit, and plant  
in it.*

*The plant will grow, and you'll soon  
glow, at the beauty of such a cutie.*

*So join in, one way or another, as we  
stay the course, for another tour de force.*

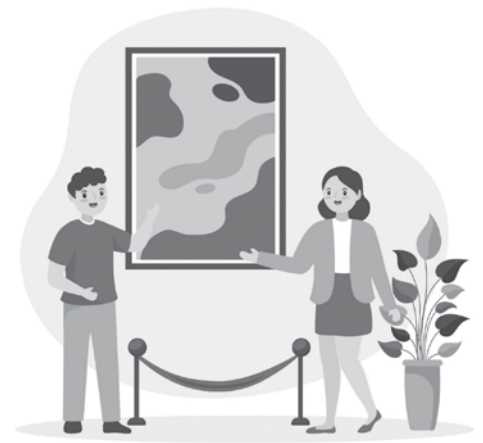
**Please contact Cynthia Hoisak at  
613.799.9514 or [choisak@rogers.com](mailto:choisak@rogers.com)**

## Arteast Ottawa

Arteast Ottawa is proud to present its inaugural Fine Art Show, showcasing a diverse collection of original works by 41 local artists. A number of artists are well known such as Jennifer Prévost, last year's Art in the Park 2D Award. From expressive watercolours and bold acrylics to intricate mixed media

pieces, the exhibition highlights the creativity and talent within our artistic community. Visitors are invited to explore, connect with artists, and experience a vibrant celebration of visual art.

- April 18–19, 2026, 10am to 4pm
- Pine View Golf Club
- Free admission + free parking





**National Open House**

*Spring on in!*

## Experience Retirement in Full Bloom!

Friday, May 29 & Saturday, May 30 | 1pm - 4pm

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# DISCOVERY CAFÉ NEWS

*Barbara Whittaker, BCA Director*

Discovery Café lectures take place at 7 PM at the Blackburn Community Hall, 190 Glen Park Drive, on the fourth Thursday of the month (September to November and January to May). Admission is free, people of all ages are invited and refreshments will be served.

In February, Dr. Halim Yanikomeroğlu, esteemed Chancellor's Professor at Carleton University and the Founding Director of Carleton-NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks) Lab, gave us an interesting look at the technologies in use and under consideration for wireless communications networks.

In March, Dr. Christopher Skinner returned to Discovery Café, this time to provide us with valuable information on: the different types of sleep disorders and their impact on daily life; strategies to recognize, diagnose and treat sleep disorders; and what can be done to improve your sleep.

***Please join us for these upcoming Discovery Café sessions:***

**April 23, 2026 – Healing Crystals: Fact or Myth? Inside the World of Dynamic Materials – Dr. Katherine Marczenko, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Carleton University**

When most people hear the term “healing crystals,” they think of folklore or wellness trends. But in modern chemistry labs, scientists



are discovering real crystals that can bend, move, crack, and even repair themselves when exposed to light. This talk explores the science behind dynamic, self-healing materials and shows how crystals can be designed to respond to their environment. We'll look at how something we usually think of as rigid and unchanging can actually be surprisingly active, and what these discoveries might mean for the future of technology.

Dr. Kate Marczenko is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Carleton University. She received her M.Sc. from McMaster University, where she studied unusual and highly reactive compounds made from noble gases such as xenon. She then completed her Ph.D. at Dalhousie University, focusing on new types of chemical bonding involving heavy elements.

**May 28, 2026 – Two-in-One, better together: A two-virus system for tackling solid tumours using a combined viral/mRNA cancer immunotherapy – Timothy Lee**  
Ever heard of cancer-killing virus-

es? They exist, and they're proven to work! The problem is, they struggle to work effectively outside of very specific cases. Come and learn about how the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute is tackling this problem, and how the institute is working to engineer new therapies to treat cancer.

Tim Lee is a PhD candidate working at the Ottawa Research Institute (OHRI). There, he works at the Cancer Research Program under the supervision of Dr. Carolina Ilkow and Dr. John Bell. His research focuses on using viruses engineered to kill cancer, and finding new ways to apply them across different types of cancers.

Mark your calendars and watch for more information about Discovery Café in the BCA e-newsletter, on the BCA website, on the Facebook page and on posters around the community.

*If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers, please email [barbara@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:barbara@blackburnhamlet.ca)*

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# SAFETY CORNER

*Don Kelly, Director*

## **Bike Safety**

The temperature is warming up and soon our streets and pathways will be filled with people of all ages enjoying the spirit of recreational activity. Of course, with this activity comes the responsibility for everyone to act safely, whether it be with your bicycle, skateboard or other personal device. The Ottawa Police, the Ottawa Safety Council and Bike Ottawa websites offer a wide variety of valuable tips that you can follow to ensure your riding experience is safe. The BCA encourages everyone: motorists, cyclists, and even pedestrians, to visit these sites and follow the safety principles highlighted.

NOTE: Anyone under the age of 18 must, by law, wear a helmet in Ontario when cycling.

The increase in cycling also means more opportunity for bike thefts. According to the Ottawa Police, 1,413 bicycles were reported stolen in 2024 and an equal number in 2025, although exact stats are not yet available. To help combat these thefts the Ottawa Police have a program called Project 529, whereby when you register your bike with them, and it is stolen or lost, an alert is sent across the city to other cyclists about the incident to be watchful for your bike. This networking program has resulted in many bikes being recovered. Detailed information on Project 529 can be found on the Ottawa Police website. The BCA encourages cyclists to register their bikes.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

In 2024 there were 4,300 Provincial Criminal Offences related to the Ottawa LRT. The number for 2025 was even higher. The LRT extension to Orleans is expected

to be in service by June 30, 2026, and has the potential to affect criminal activity in every east end community.

The East Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Committee (EONWC) will be hosting an event on Thursday, April 16 at the Ray Friel Centre, Fallingbrook Room, starting at 7:30 pm, to discuss “Enhancing LRT Crime Prevention and Public Safety”. The EONWC is comprised of 17 east end Ottawa Community Associations that work in partnership with Ottawa Police Services and other partners to enhance public safety and increase crime prevention. It is recognized that EDUCATION AND AWARENESS are key components of the Neighbourhood Watch Program (NWP) and is one of the objectives for this event.

The speakers for this evening event will be Peter Scislowski, Chief Special Constable, OC Transpo, Sergeant Stephane Fournier, Ottawa Police Services, and Jonathan Walden, City of Ottawa Bylaw Services. The discussions will address encampments, assaults, theft, drugs, and other related crimes. Discussions will include looking at what actions communities can take in the reduction and prevention of crime in their community. A report on the proceedings of this event will be posted in the next BANAR.

Another objective of this event is to highlight the important role your Neighbourhood Watch has towards public safety and crime prevention in your community. If you have not yet joined the Blackburn Hamlet Neighbourhood Watch we encourage you to think about strengthening our community and become a member. You can find the details on the NWP and how to become a member on the BCA website, under Safety, or contact Don Kelly at [safety@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:safety@blackburnhamlet.ca).

## **Crossing Guard Safety**

In recent months there have been significant incidents involving Crossing Guards in Ottawa. The role of the school crossing guard is to direct and supervise the movement of persons across public roads (as defined in the Highway Traffic Act) by creating necessary gaps in vehicular traffic, to provide safe passage for pedestrians. Motorists and cyclists must stop and yield the entire roadway for pedestrians at designated pedestrian crossings, school crossings and intersections





Thank you to our Crossing Guards for keeping our community safe.

with crossing guards. Where there is a Crossing Guard displaying a Stop Sign, all drivers (including cyclists) must STOP and yield to the pedestrians.

The BCA encourages all users of our roads to display utmost caution at our crosswalks and always respect the dedicated work of the Crossing Guards.

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# YOUTH CORNER

*Melanie Mathieu, Director*

## Youth Pyjama Party


- Ages 10 to 17
- Friday April 24 from 7 to 9pm
- Blackburn Community Hall

Come flex your onesie and fluffy slippers, enjoy some treats and have some fun! This event will have an art station, board games, Nintendo switch games on the projector and hilarious minute-to-win-it games. Bring your iPad or device if you'd like... our Community Hall now has wifi!

## Kids Spring Fling

- Ages 2 to 10
- Saturday May 16 from 9:30 to 11:15am
- Blackburn Community Hall


Come celebrate the arrival of spring at the Hall! This event will have opportunities for younger kids and their parents to engage in various spring-themed arts and crafts activities and games. Light refreshments will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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## Home Alone Course (\$)

Sunday May 24 from 9:30 to 11:30am at the Blackburn Community Hall (190 Glen Park Drive)

Get your kids ready for home alone safety 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 2 hour Ménard Safety Course for kids ages 8 to 12 years old, which is usually \$40, will be partially sponsored by the BCA for a reduced cost of \$20 per child. Please register your child by sending an email with their name, age and language to [youth@blackburnhamlet.ca](mailto:youth@blackburnhamlet.ca). Please note that space for this course is limited.

## Snowperson Contest Winners

Thank you to all the kids and families who participated in this contest. Congratulations to Jack, Nève, Brianna, Nora, Victoria, Roberto, Wyatt and Gage, who all received prizes for their hard work in creating magical masterpieces in the snow.

## Winners of the BCA Kids & Youth Winter Poetry Contest

In February of this year, the BCA invited local youth ages 8 to 17 to write an original poem inspired by winter.

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who participated. We received 14 original entries from some seriously creative kids, which included a nice mix of styles, rhythm and perspective.

We are pleased to announce that the first place winner of the Winter Poetry Contest is Henry MacWha for his poem "A World Repainted", which stood out for its extended metaphor of snow as paint, its vivid imagery, and its strong sense of progression through time. Henry will receive the top cash prize of \$75. We are also pleased to announce the runners up, who will each collect cash prizes of \$35: "My Forever Winter Memories" by Sakina Taylor, "Untitled" by Katherine Lovett Doust, "Winter in the Field" by Toru Miyashita, "L'hiver arrive..." by Clara Lachance and "It's a Cold Day" by Stella Guindon.

You can read the winning poems on the Blackburn Hamlet Community Association website at <https://blackburnhamlet.ca/winterpoetry2026>.

# SENIORS CORNER

*Shirley Sheppard, Director*

## SENIORS ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Barbara Whittaker, Connie Matthey,  
Elena Leggiadro, John Moores, Marion Hall*

### Seniors Breakfast Get-togethers

Our monthly breakfasts continued with between 33 and 39 people participating at each breakfast from February to April. Several bags of non-perishable food donations were collected at each breakfast, along with cash donations totaling a combined \$366.55.

Our wonderful virtuoso, Garth Hampson, celebrated his 92nd birthday on April 1, and in recognition of his many contributions to our seniors group and to Blackburn in general, we all signed a birthday card and presented him with a gift certificate to Halibut House. We sang Happy Birthday to Garth and to the others celebrating in April as well as a few other Easter/springtime tunes.

The breakfasts take place at 9am on the first Wednesday of each month at Halibut House, 2672 Innes Road. Seniors (55+) are welcome to join us on the following dates:



**Happy Birthday to Garth Hampson!**

- May 6
- June 3
- July 1 (They are open on Canada Day!)

To help our friends at the restaurant prepare and as the breakfasts have become quite popular it is important  
*Continued on next page*

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*Continued from page 25*

ant that you call Shirley at 613-841-7691 to register by the Monday preceding each breakfast.

### Seniors Walk & Talk Outings

The Walks and Talk events resumed on March 25th and will continue until June. 11 seniors, one baby and two dogs attended the March walk. Mark your calendars for the following dates: April 22, May 20 and June 17.

The April 22 walk will begin again at the corner of Bearbrook Road and Isaiah Scharfe Park at the crosswalk. The May and June Walk and Talk starting points will be advertised closer to those dates. We will be doing a 2 km and a 3 km circuit.

Come and join us for one of the circuits or both. Pets, kids, friends and family are all welcome to join us. Please check the BCA Facebook page and look for posters in the neighbourhood closer to the dates of the walks for additional information.

### A LOOK BACK...

#### Lunch at Portugalos – Friday, February 27

Lunch at this restaurant has become a popular event. 33 people attended the lunch and enjoyed a delicious meal and great service.

#### Late Lunch and Trivia – Blackburn Arms March 20th

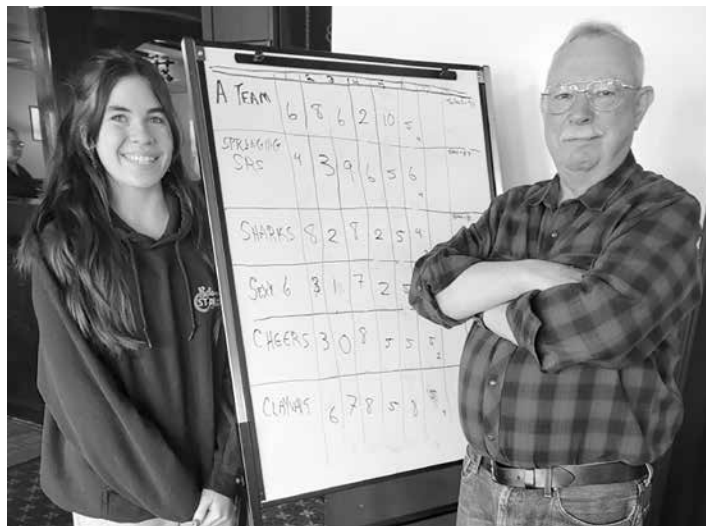
There were six tables of 6 (36 people in all participated) in the lunch/trivia. Huge thanks to the trivia master, Conrad, along with his assistant, Savannah, who led us with many head-scratching questions. The winning table was presented with 6 boxes of Merci chocolates. There was also a door prize of a gift certificate to the Blackburn Arms donated by Aspira Bearbrook Retirement home. Thank you once again Tammy Bedard for Aspira's and your ongoing support of many of our activities.

### Upcoming Events

On April 19 at noon at the Community Hall, we will have a seniors "Hi" Tea followed by bingo with prizes and a gift for the zanniest hat (woman and man) to welcome spring. Seniors are invited to come and enjoy food and fun with your friends and neighbours. Please



Our group at a recent Walk & Talk



Thanks to Conrad and Savannah who conducted the trivia event at Blackburn Arms.

bring a few little sandwiches or cookies/squares as well as your own favourite teacup or mug. We will be collecting donations at the door for the Cornerstone Women's Shelter (by cash or cheque). We look forward to seeing many of you there hopefully wearing interesting hats (optional of course).

Please check the Blackburn Hamlet Facebook page, website and posters in the community for details of future events being planned including another lunch at Portugalos, a visit to a winery and a seniors' family event for Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 13 at the Just Foods location in the Hamlet.

We wish to acknowledge the ongoing contribution of the Blackburn Community Association in supporting many of our events, the Seniors Action Committee for their many efforts, ideas and contributions in planning and organizing our events as well as the seniors in the community who come out to enjoy and support these events. Thank you all.



The Blackburn Seniors Action Committee (L-R Marion, John, Elena, Shirley, Barbara, Connie)

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