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Rothwell Heights Community News

October 2018

2018 Municipal Election

On October 22, 2018 the city of Ottawa will be heading to the ballot box to elect a new city council. Your RHPOA is teaming up with Beacon Hill Community Association (BHCA) and Pineview Community Association to host an All Candidates Municipal Debate.

The questions that the candidates will field will be entirely up to you! Questions may be submitted until Monday, October 15 via the BHCA website at: <http://www.bhca.ca/2018-municipal-all-candidates-meeting/>

When: October 17, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Where: Colonel By High School cafetorium – 2381 Ogilvie Road

Simulcast: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2168435523391695/>

Who: Candidates for Councillor: Michael Schurfer & Tim Tierney

Candidates for OCDSB Trustee: Rawlson King & Sandra Schwartz

RHPOA 2018 Annual General Meeting

The RHPOA AGM was held on May 9, 2018. The guest speaker was Councillor Tim Tierney who spoke about improvements that have been made in our area, about outstanding issues, and answered questions. In particular he mentioned a traffic study that is currently underway for the Montreal/Blair road intersection. The City's Transportation Master Plan will be updated in 2019, and now includes Blair Road. In Phase 2 of the LRT, a station will be built on Montreal Road, under the Highway 174 bridge.

2017/18 RHPOA Chair, Jane Brammer, reported on actions taken by the Association over the past year. Two paper newsletters were distributed throughout the community and two electronic ones were sent to members and posted on our website. The first step in the request for a permit to enter city lands to deal with invasive species was undertaken. Requests to our Councillor included: a) RHPOA involvement in our park's renewal cycle – he indicated that redevelopment plans currently include only minor changes; b) information on road resurfacing plans – he replied that city staff currently set priorities and that he would like to see a map of road conditions made available to the public, as they do in Los Angeles; c) installation of road traffic speed indicators – one has since been installed on Blair, just north of Montreal Road, and there is one on Montreal Road, west of Blair; d) secure and maintain garbage bins for Quarry Park and the cul-de-sacs at the north ends of Blair and Rebecca Crescent.

A motion to amend the RHPOA constitution in case of dissolution was passed unanimously (45 votes). The following paragraphs will be added:

“(i) A resolution to dissolve the Association requires the approval of two-thirds of members present and voting at a General Meeting of the Association. Following the passage of such a resolution, the Board shall follow the requirements of the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act 2010, and as amended from time to time, for the voluntary winding up of the Association.

(ii) In the event of a voluntary winding up of the Association, the liquidator(s) shall determine and apply the assets remaining after all its debts and obligations have been met to an organization with similar community-focused goals.”

All members of the Board stood for re-election and were joined by Tim Gardiner, Adam Polka and Andrew Teo (associate member). All were elected by acclamation. Jane Brammer indicated that she would be stepping aside as Chair and was thanked by everyone for her considerable and tireless efforts over many, many years. The new Board is listed on page 4.

Rezoning of 1795 Montreal Road

On September 26, Ottawa City Council approved a zoning change to a vacant piece of land on the north side of Montreal Road next to our community. The owner and his consultant had met with RHPOA and abutting neighbours to discuss his proposal and our concerns. As a result, we supported the rezoning of the site for a two-story office building and associated warehouse. We will keep involved as far as the site design is concerned as development proceeds.

Update NRC: Report of Meeting with NRC Senior Staff

On October 2, Jane Brammer and Maria Barrados attended the bi-annual NRC RHPOA meeting. These meetings provide an opportunity for NRC to update the community on their activities and address any concerns raised by the community.

Updates were provided following the last meeting that included the commissioning of the Synthetic Fuels Facility. No testing is planned for six months; expected testing would total 15 days per year. At the request of the Association an after-hours emergency contact and escalation process has been established that can be initiated through Security Dispatch at M1 613-993-2428. Residents are asked to use this number only for emergencies. Non-urgent contacts should continue through community@nrc.gc.ca.

NRC appreciates hearing from residents of concerns and issues. They would appreciate as much information related to the concern as possible. NRC has demonstrated their responsiveness when an engine test in August was producing a lot of exhaust smells. On receipt of a complaint the test was stopped. Residents are encouraged to address their concerns directly to NRC and copy maria.barrados@bell.net.

There were further discussions on complaints received and how they were handled. Information was also provided on future planned activities. A notice of activities will be sent to the Association which will be disseminated further. A full report on the meeting will be posted to our web site.

Maria Barrados

Upcoming Events

Ottawa City fall “Give Away Weekend” October 20 & 21. Put out items such as books, furniture, construction material and small appliances at the curb, with a sign saying “FREE”. Take in anything left at nightfall.

Electronic waste collection: Sat. Oct 27, Earl Armstrong Arena, 2020 Ogilvie Road

Hazardous & electronic waste: Sat. Oct 27, Strandherd at Dealership Drive.

Light Rail is Coming

Light Rail is coming – perhaps not in 2018 but surely not long after. The recent announcement that the Confederation Line LRT would not be delivered to the City in early November injected a bit of uncertainty; however, a glance at the virtually-complete Blair Station and the sight of trains being tested there leaves little doubt that this signature mass transit project is on the verge of carrying customers.

Those customers could – and arguably should – include Rothwell residents. Taking private cars heading into the downtown core off the roads should have as benefits reducing congestion, sparing expensive road works and facilitating use of recent repurposing of arterial roads for other uses: bicycles, walking and the leisure use of widened sidewalks. This could all accrue were more journeys into the core made on public mass transit.

Also, not to be overlooked to the extent that the LRT attracts new riders, is the increased revenue to OC Transpo – revenue that certainly must be a component of a business plan that has seen over two billion dollars of tax monies invested in the Confederation Line.

What then are the obstacles to achieving this from the viewpoint of Rothwell residents? I suggest there are at least three: First, inadequate bus service; Second, non-availability of parking at the Blair LRT station, and Third, a predisposition of Rothwell residents to drive their private vehicles into the city.

For the First: With the possible exception of residents who live an easy walk from Montréal Road and the No. 12 bus to and from downtown, the only bus service serving Rothwell is the No. 23. It runs roughly every thirty minutes during the morning and afternoon rush hours, infrequently in between and not at all evenings and weekends. Not an option, for example, if you have a medical appointment mid-day or plan to take in a concert at the NAC some evening.

For the Second: There is virtually no occasional or casual parking at the Blair LRT – not on the Gloucester Centre lots, not at the Scotia Bank cinemas, certainly not on the street. The City cites a policy of no Park-and-Ride lots within the Green Belt but I have never heard the rationale for this.

The Third: No doubt, the dependence of Rothwell residents on their private vehicles is at least in part a consequence of the poor bus service and absence of parking. Also undoubtedly, the relative economics which may favour driving over OC Transpo's high – and rising – fares.

The benefits of the LRT have been heavily promoted to the existing users who may, after the novelty wears off, question the advantage of a transfer at Blair and many stops as the train heads downtown. The real payoff from the LRT will come from more new riders and fewer cars on the road.

Bryan Rawlings

2018 RHPOA Board Members:

Janet Kiff-Macaluso (Chair)	36 Clovelly Road	(613) 745-8916
Bryan Rawlings (Treasurer)	31 Amberly Pl, K1J 7J9	(613) 742-0228
Maria Barrados	22 Whippoorwill Dr	(613) 749-4010
Ursula Menke	1362 Whippoorwill Dr	(613) 744-5856
John Alcock (Secretary)	1 Massey Lane	(613) 746-6242
Tony Brammer	4792 Massey Lane	(613) 744-5376
Jane Brammer (Past Chair)	4792 Massey Lane	(613) 744-5376
Tim Gardiner	10 Nichol	(613) 219-8013
Adam Polka	39 Amberly Place	(514) 743-4150

Sandra Schwartz says - Thank you Beacon Hill & Rothwell Heights!



As many of you will remember, the Le Phare elementary school kindergarten play structure was burned down this summer. We were all left wondering: who would target kids like this?

The community rallied to help the school raise funds to re-build. Through a crowd-funding campaign, a lemonade stand, and a spaghetti dinner, we raised over \$40,000; and the School Board sped up the replacement, a process that normally takes years.

The new Kindergarten Yard is now built, and was ready to officially welcome the children on September

27! It just goes to show what is possible when our community comes together and transforms an act of harm into one with heart. On behalf of the students at Le Phare, Principal Julie Morris and myself, THANK YOU to everyone who made this project possible.

ROTHWELL HEIGHTS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Memberships 2018

\$10 for one year

Name:

Address:

E-mail address:

Can you help? Board Member Picnic Newsletter Website Other ?

Send to RHPOA Treasurer, 31 Amberly Place, Ottawa K1J 7J9