



# Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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*Recreation Centre:*  
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## FALL NEWSLETTER

November 2019

**Dates to Remember:** Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 to 10:00 pm  
Annual General Meeting December 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:30 pm Conrad Grebel room 2202

### BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

|                             |                |                        |                   |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>President</b>            | Ivy Friedman   | <b>Vice President</b>  | Sue Edwards       |
| <b>Secretary</b>            | Steve Kobes    | <b>Treasurer</b>       | Luke Eret         |
| <b>Program Director</b>     | Deborah Morden | <b>Pool Director</b>   | Christine Valente |
| <b>Membership Director</b>  | Tracey Nairn   | <b>Tennis Director</b> | Mark Baetz        |
| <b>Maintenance Director</b> | Don Capes      | <b>Social Director</b> | Amy McPhee        |
| <b>Bookkeeper</b>           | Shenhui Lang   | <b>Payroll</b>         | Lisa Heaton       |

### **2019 BPHA BOARD REPORT**

Thank you to all of our members for making this summer a great success! It was a delight to see so many new and returning families enjoying the pool and tennis courts. We owe much gratitude to several volunteers who helped make this year what it was. For starters, thanks to our spectacular grounds committee (Duane Chris, Dianne Ratcliffe, Paul Struck and Katie Gibb), along with many other volunteers who kept our site looking exceptional all summer long. Stay tuned for more beautification to come. Thank you to Yusuf and Gulshan Mnyusiwalla for their generous donation for the purchase of a therapeutic ladder to make getting in and out of the pool a lot easier for swimmers of all ages. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped with the Little Library “expansion” Project (Dianne and Bill Ratcliffe, Armin, Joanna and Alina Armbruster and Rob Phillips). “Take a book, leave a book”. And thank you to the many, many volunteers, both Local and Associate, who stepped in to help out with social events, youth events, pool events, and wherever there was an opportunity to lend a hand. We live in a very giving community and your Board recognizes the efforts our members put into making this Association great. Congratulations on a job well done by all.

This summer’s staff, managed by Victoria Giguere and Shealyn DeCoppel, did a marvelous job teaching kids to swim, play tennis, water safety, and lifesaving skills, not to mention crafts, games, Wednesday events and handing out ice cream and smiles. There was a lot going on and the staff worked hard to keep everything in order.

Our team of Board members worked diligently throughout this year to bring our members a well-run Association. One of the main highlights included a wide range of new programming organized and delegated by our Program Director, Deborah Morden. Our PD Day Camps, Junior Programming, Poolside Play and Teen Program were a huge success and we’ll plan to continue and improve upon them next year. Our social events, led by Amy McPhee, were numerous and included two adult pool parties, family potluck bbqs, evening out events, a plant sale, a community yard sale, and we still have the cookie exchange coming up.

The tennis courts are being used regularly and remain open year round, so anyone wanting to play on a cold crisp fall or winter day can do so. Please remember to lock the gates after use.

Our Pool co-Directors, Christine Valente and Alison Arden are working with London Recreational Pool solutions to assess our pool's short term and long term maintenance. Thanks to the team, our pool is in good working order and in good hands. We will continue to monitor repair needs and pool conditions. We had a strong membership base this year, but always invite new local neighbours to join. Our Association's pivotal decision back in 2012 to formally expand our Local catchment area to include Lions Gate and homes all the way to Keatsway has really been a blessing as many of our new families live in these areas. We are very proud of the fact that Beechwood Park is the only strictly voluntary Association of the 12 Beechwoods and we encourage you to join our wonderful community organization. If you've recently moved into the neighbourhood, we'd love to meet you. You can reach us at [info@bpha.ca](mailto:info@bpha.ca).

As we finish up the year, we encourage everyone to come out to our Annual General Meeting that will be held at Conrad Grebel College room 2202 on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:30 pm. It is a great way for members to get a review of the past year and hear what projects the Board proposes for the upcoming year. It is also a great way to get involved and have your voice heard. One of our presentation topics this year will be long term planning for site development. Come join in the discussion.

*Sincerely, Your Volunteer BPHA Board*

### **We Are Hiring!**

Are you interested in applying for a summer position with BPHA? We are recruiting enthusiastic staff for a variety of positions for the summer of 2020. More information can be found on our website at [www.bpha.ca](http://www.bpha.ca). All applications must be received by **Monday, December 2, 2019**.

### **Bronze Medallion Courses**

Did you know that you can take the Lifesaving Society Bronze Courses at BPHA? Our certified instructors offer Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion, and Bronze Cross Courses. Take the next step in becoming a lifeguard!

Note: Registration for the Bronze Courses is open to non-members as well. Maximum of 9 participants per class.

Visit the BPHA website at [www.bpha.ca](http://www.bpha.ca) to learn about the exciting programs and events that are planned for the 2020 season!

### **Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 to 10:00pm**

Please join us for the BPHA Adult Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange! This year, Joanna Cram (316 Coleridge Drive) has kindly volunteered her home for the evening. Like last year, the event is more than just a cookie exchange! It is an opportunity for neighbours to come out for a bit of holiday cheer, whether or not you wish to participate in the cookie exchange!

If you wish to participate, this is how it works: 1) bring 3 dozen (of one kind) cookies. Please do not separate your cookies into dozens, as the BPHA tradition is to have participants walk around the table and take 36 random treats home; 2) bring a second (empty) container (to put your NEW treats in to make it easy for you take them home); and 3) optional: you may wish to note the ingredients on a card in front of your treats in the event of allergies, etc.

The exchange occurs around 7:30 pm so the length of time you wish to stay is totally up to you after that. Remember, you can only take treats if you bring treats! Refreshments and snacks will be provided by the Social Committee. If you have a neighbour (new or old) that is not a member of the BPHA, bring them out so we can show them how much fun we have!!

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **From Passionate Beechwood Member Joel Blit**

Given that it is the Fall newsletter, I was thinking that it would be nice to put in a thanks from all of us in the community to everyone that contributed so much over the summer: the people that put together the programs, those that did the maintenance, etc. I am really thankful for all that they have done to make this such a great community!

### **UPCOMING BEECHWOOD WELLNESS SERIES**

The BPHA Board is looking forward to bringing you new and exciting events in the New Year. One of these initiatives will include a Wellness Series in which we will be having guest speakers come and speak to us regarding a variety of health topics. In order to gauge your interest, we will be polling for discussion topics both on our website and the Facebook-Beechwood Social Group. Potential topics may include Vaping, Men's/Women's Health, etc. Your input is greatly appreciated so that particular topics of interest are identified and we can tailor these discussions to suit everyone in the neighbourhood. Thanks.

### **BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND HARVEST ROUNDUP**

Dolores and I would like to thank our amazing volunteers and neighbourhood for making our 12<sup>th</sup> Produce Stand season such a community success. Our local "Village Square" welcomed so many of you from near and far each week, looking for delicious produce, fresh honey and bread, and a meet up with your neighbours. In total, our little once a week stand purchased almost \$10,000 of local products from our agricultural community. Leftovers were donated to our Local FoodBank so nothing went to waste. And the money we earned went to: Keatsway and Centennial Schools (\$750 each), Autism Ontario (\$500), The Working Centre (\$500), Food 4Kids (\$250), and the BPHA (\$1000). Due to the popularity of his loaves, Bruce Frayne, our resident sourdough breadmaker, will be giving a workshop this Fall/Winter to those who expressed interest. We'd also like to thank our other breadmaker, Sabletine's, for their Country Loaves, as well as all the local farmers and food processors without whom there would be no stand. See you all next June in time for Strawberries and Asparagus.

### **THE LITTLE LIBRARY THAT "COULD"- A CREATION STORY**

One crisp afternoon in the fall of 2018, Paul Struck (Tennyson) started to muse about how awesome it would be if his grandson, Jack, could reach a book out of the Little Library all by himself! "How much fun would that be for the little ones in our neighbourhood?"

Well, not much later Katie Gibb (Longfellow) was taking photos of 2-tier Little Libraries in Stratford while visiting her Mom. Then, Dianne Ratcliffe (Algonquin) was filling out forms to the City for grant money.....Then, Armin Armbruster (Shakespeare) set about constructing a second library box, large enough to house children's books **ONLY**, in a multitude of sizes. Then, his talented daughter, Alina, grabbed paint and brushes and painted beautiful artwork on all 4 panels of the new box over a period of several weeks. Rob Phillips (Lion's Court) then figured out the engineering involved in mounting this second library on the existing post, which he and Armin accomplished in August 2019. Then, Bill Ratcliffe (Algonquin) installed copper sheeting to protect the top of the centre post and installed a solar powered tortoise and hare figurine. Both libraries are now brimming with books, one of which now brings the magic of reading literally to within a child's grasp. Interestingly, our original Little Library, circa 2015, involved a similar story; Raegan Little (Longfellow) bought it from the Boy Scouts with funding from the Produce Stand; the artwork came from three of our accomplished artists, Denise Strong and Kathy Chandler (Shakespeare) and Sherri Czekus (Iroquois Place) and then John Holmes and Steve Singer did the installation.

**This is so much more than the story of 2 boxes on a post.** Instead it is really about our neighbourhood using the talent and skills of its volunteers to improve their community one project at a time. **Is there something you can think of in the neighbourhood that you would like to see improved?** If so, all that needs to happen is to draft a plan, estimate expenses for Board review and approval. Then assemble a group with the talents and skills required and Voila! Another Beechwood community building improvement!

Sincerely, Dianne Ratcliffe

## **NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD ARRIVALS IN BEECHWOOD**

As you will notice in the list below, Beechwood has experienced a record number of new arrivals, both human and animal, in the past 6 months. On behalf of the entire neighbourhood, we welcome you all to our community. We hope you will enjoy living in this special place for many years to come.

- 175 Tennyson: Grant Gunn, Michelle Ruty, 1 year old Nicholas and their 2 cats Pinto and Fennic. (For bonus Jeopardy points, does anyone know what a Fennic is?) Both Grant and Michelle are U.W. Professors.
- 171 Tennyson: Madhuri and Harry Nathwani, their 3 children Chintan 30, Chirag 28, Nikita 26 and their 2 pets Yogi the Dog and Luna the Cat. Harry is a professional pharmacist and Madhuri a professional homemaker.
- 254 Lionscourt: Stefano, Tetyana, and their children Leonardo 4 and Maria 2. Stefano is a Research Assistant Professor at U.W.
- 355 Anatolin Place: Debbie Ellen, Alan Monkhouse, their daughter Lia Ellen 13, and their dog Scout. Alan is a retired family doctor, and Debbie works at the School of Pharmacy.
- 99 Amos: Claire Schramek, Matt Durant and their dog Kato. Claire is a Property Manager and Matt is a daredevil Crane Operator.
- 203 Mohawk: Shawn Warran, Karen Hultin (who grew up on Craighleith), their 3 boys teenage boys Aidan, Cameron, and Ethan, and their dog MeiMei. The family has recently returned from 17 years in Singapore where Shawn was President of Dole Pineapple Asia.
- 297 Shakespeare: Carl and Heidi Nunnhardt-Zender and their children Raegan 13 and Felicity 10
- 330 Marlowe: Dennis and Jessica Domingos and their 3 children Vincent 8, Marcel 6, and Evelyn 3.
- 296 Hiawatha: Patrick and Lyndsay O'Halloran and their 3 children, Aryana 7, Lincoln 4, and Harrison 2. Patrick is a fire chief with the Kitchener Fire Dept.
- 354 Coleridge Place: Ashley and Peter Caesar and their 2 children Colton 6, and Briney 3. Ashley is a dental hygienist and Peter an Electrician.
- 333 Coleridge Dr: Paul Vlasschaert and Bonnie Glencross and their 2 children Hayley 21, and Bridget 18.
- 340 Coleridge Dr: Cynthia and Mike Morrissey, their 2 children Connor 13 and Cameron 12 and their dog Ellie.
- 316 Coleridge Dr: Joanna and Alec Cram and their 2 children Isaac 9 and Maisie 7, recently returned home to Canada from Boston to be closer to family. Alec is a Professor at U.W. and Joanna is an Accounting Consultant working from home.
- 270 Shakespeare: Welcome back to longtime residents Dave and Katherine Hare, and their 2 kids Rose and Grace who are renting in the neighbourhood until Katherine retires from U.W. and Rose graduates from High School. Not to mention the fact that their oldest daughter Laura is expecting their first grandchild in Oakville in December!
- 344 Marlowe: Heather Beaton and her husband Brian Raftis have recently moved into Heather's grandma Kay Wentzel's home. Kay and her late husband Roy were dedicated members of our community for decades. It's so nice to have another generation of Wentzels living in the family home.

NOTE: Many of our new arrivals purchased their homes from longtime residents of Beechwood including Joe and Lydia Pankarican, Hugh Jack, Jerry and Margie Hooper, The Filitraults, The Ventons, The Leslies, Mary Lynch, and the Liebigs.

## **FAMILY MATTERS**

- We wish a hearty congratulations to longtime resident Gary Poole of Marlowe, whose daughter Lisa and partner Sam, gave Gary his first grandchild Arthur on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Congratulations to Jenna and Pat Mooney on Shakespeare whose son Eamon was born on August 11<sup>th</sup>, a brother for Catherine 4 and Nora 2. Jenna and Pat are enthusiastic Farmers Market patrons and Jenna was at our Produce Stand with her mother and new baby in a front pack 2 weeks after giving birth!
- A plaque honouring the life of Eric Gawman, a longtime resident who enriched the lives of so many neighbours for so many years through his gardening and horticulture skills, was recently installed by Eric's partner and close friends on a bench by Clair Lake. We know Eric would love the view of the lake!

### **A SMALL MIRACLE IN BEECHWOOD ON HALLOWEEN**

One of our Hiawatha neighbours, Duane and Carole Chris and their daughter Cory, were the recipients of a beautiful Act of Kindness from 2 local youth on Halloween night. The whole event was captured on their door camera and has since gone viral in our local community. To check out this local miracle you can either go to the K.W. Record's story/video Nov.5th entitled "Door Bell Camera Catches Waterloo Students in Halloween Act of Kindness" or our own Beechwood Park social facebook site; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/beechwood-social/?ref=bookmarks>. Both youths attend Keatsway Public School.

### **YOUTH JOB ADVERTISEMENTS**

- **BABYSITTING:** Annie Scott from Hiawatha, age 14, is a Grade 9 student at W.C.I. and knows many of the neighbourhood children from volunteering at Keatsway. She is great with children of all ages, has a love of music and a babysitting go bag filled with arts and craft supplies, games and ukulele. She has taken the Red Cross babysitting program. Her contact is 519-498-8855 or [js.julieannescott@gmail.com](mailto:js.julieannescott@gmail.com)
- **BABYSITTING:** My name is Tessa Hedrick and I am a grade 12 student at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. I have first aid certifications, and more to the point, I love kids! To contact me, email [tessa.hedrick@gmail.com](mailto:tessa.hedrick@gmail.com).
- **BABYSITTING AND FRENCH TUTORING:** Hello! My name is Chloe and I am 15 years old. I am offering babysitting for ages 1 and older. I have 3 years of experience, my standard first aid course, a babysitting course, and my bronze star. I love kids of all ages and would be thrilled to hang out with yours! I am usually available Friday nights and nearly all Saturday nights. Most weekday evenings work too! You can contact me at [chloekonrad23@gmail.com](mailto:chloekonrad23@gmail.com) or on my mom's phone at 519-998-3618. I also am offering tutoring in conversational French for kids. I spent my elementary school years in French immersion, and recently completed a 9 weeks exchange to France. I also volunteered at an all-French summer camp for kids.
- **BABYSITTING/DOG WALKING:** My daughter Katherine, who lives on Shakespeare and is 14, would like to offer her babysitting or dog walking service to people in our neighbourhood. She has taken the Red Cross Babysitting course and has some experience from the United Kingdom with a 3 year old. She can be contacted at [percivalfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:percivalfamily5@gmail.com).
- **BABYSITTING:** Hi, my name is Rivi. I'm 13 years old, live on Hiawatha and have completed the Red Cross babysitting course. I can take care of kids from ages three and up, and offer help with French, English, and basic piano skills. I love planning parties and if your child has a birthday, I can set up for it and help out with all the kids when that crazy day comes along. You can email me a [slingo23@gmail.com](mailto:slingo23@gmail.com) or call 519-886-6093. Hope to hear from you!
- **DOG WALKING:** Whether you're stuck in traffic and require a visit on short notice, or you wish to leave your pet at home whilst away on vacation, Lucas Midwood (Craigleith Dr) can visit your pet, and feed and exercise as instructed. He has familiarity with fish, birds, reptiles, cats and dogs. Lucas can be reach at 519-957-9136.
- **DOG WALKING:** Rhea 12 and Eshan 9 are available for dog walking in evenings in our Beechwood community. They love dogs. Please call 519-893-7854. Thanks, Sanjay Govindraj.
- **SNOWSHOVELING:** Are you going away this winter for a weekend or a few weeks and want someone to shovel your driveway and sidewalk? Daniel Nairn, age 17 (Marlowe Dr) 519-747-0827 or [tgairn@gmail.com](mailto:tgairn@gmail.com).

### **PHOTO SHOTS FROM A LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER**

If you are interested in individual, family, or friend photo shoots for a low price, I would love to help you out. To contact me, email [tessa.hedrick@gmail.com](mailto:tessa.hedrick@gmail.com)

### **HAND CRAFTED HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS from local artist KATHERINE PERCIVAL, age 14**

Help Katherine Percival raise money for the World Wildlife Fund by buying some of her original, handmade, seasonal greeting cards. Designs are varied, numerous and lovely! Check them out at 256 Shakespeare Drive (most evenings & weekends are fine). She charges \$5 for 3 cards and \$15 for ten cards, profits go to WWF.

Last year, Katherine raised enough money for two Save the Tiger packages (approximately \$150). Help her get going on a new goal and get an extra feel good glow from those Seasonal Good Wishes. Thank you.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last year Myrna and I bought many of Katherine's wonderful, hand painted, one of a kind cards, to give to all our friends at holiday time. It was so nice to support such a talented, good hearted neighbour!

### **LOOKING FOR A HOUSE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

The Rakita family have lived on Coleridge for 5 years. They are interested in any houses coming up for sale in the BPHA area that have at least 4 bedrooms that might better suit the needs of their growing family. If you are planning to sell your home in the next year or so, please contact Erin Rakita: [erin.melissa.smith@gmail.com](mailto:erin.melissa.smith@gmail.com).

### **HOUSE SITTERS FOR JAN/FEB 2020 AVAILABLE**

Amazing opportunity for snowbirds. Don't leave your house empty! Cheryl and Alex are a young couple, both working professionals looking to rent/house sit for the months of January and February. They are willing to look after pets and plants, willing to ensure the sidewalk and driveway are clear of snow. And willing to pay rent fee to cover expenses (i.e., heat & hydro for the two months). To connect with them and discuss the options that would work for you, call Alex at 519-503-5232.

Thanks Katie Gibb, a BPHA member from Longfellow Drive.

### **EMERY'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FUNDRAISER**

Emery, from 303 Algonquin Drive, is a member of the Predators U12 Girls Embrace Volleyball team. They are hoping to raise money to attend some out-of-town invitational tournaments this season. These enthusiastic young athletes are having a bottle drive on **Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>**. If you have refundable bottles and cans to donate, please email Deborah Morden: [morden.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:morden.deborah@gmail.com). A member of the Embrace team will collect the bottles and cans from your porch. Donations can also be dropped off anytime at 303 Algonquin Drive. If you know someone who would be interested in sponsoring this team, please have them email Deborah Morden as well. Thanks for your support!

### **AN ODE OF THANKS TO THE COOKIE EATERS**

1. A shout out from neighbours, who crossed the sea,  
In England, it's all about scones, jam and tea,  
In France, the Queen said "Let them eat cake",  
But in Canada, it's Girl Guide Cookies they bake.
2. My girls knocked at doors all down the street,  
They asked, "Is it cookies you'd like to eat?",  
And when you said "Yes, we'll take one or two",  
Their grins could stretch twice around Waterloo.
3. So I owe you a thank you, for helping them out,  
The girls raised some cash, a fair ole amount.  
And with it the Girl Guides, big ones and small,  
Will be planning events like the annual Snow Ball.
4. Yes, they'll go camping, make friends, have fun,  
But they'll also learn life isn't roses and sun.  
They'll get chances to challenge ways people think  
'bout environment, politics, and a role at the sink.
5. The Leprachauns, pixies, fairies and sprites,  
Graduate through to thinking "What's right?"  
They learn to build houses on rock, not on sand,  
And are always encouraged to help "lend a hand".
6. So, whilst Guide litter pickers keep our community  
clean, You'll find that there's more to this Girl Power  
machine. It's more than kind thoughts, more than a  
show, Those cookies make leaders and help our girls  
grow.
7. Once again I will thank you for your five dollar treat,  
You're helping our girls be more than just sweet,  
With hearts, minds and voices you'll hear them  
shout, Making a difference is what we're about.

Kindly from: Elizabeth Percival on Shakespeare Drive

### **NEIGHBOURS ART SHOWS THIS SUMMER**

Two of our neighbours, long time members Joe and Liz Wyatt, and Oktay and Binnur Onaran who moved here recently with their daughter from Turkey, hosted wonderful art shows in their homes this summer. Joe and Liz held an exhibition and sale of Joe's whimsical paintings while Oktay and Binnur invited the community to a Butterfly Sale and Exhibition. Oktay is a world renowned butterfly collector. Thanks to both couples for enriching our community by exposing us to their talented work.

## **THE BEECHWOOD FALL CLASSIC TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

*By: Mike "Mark of Cain" Dixon*

While many refer to the World Series as "the fall classic" they would, of course be wrong. The real fall classic is the men's doubles (as in pour me a...) tennis tournament at the BPHA. While Vin Scully may have said "I can't believe what I just saw" after Kirk Gibson's home run, in our fall classic one was more likely to hear cries of "Who'd have thought a Mennonite minister could stuff so many Jalapeno poppers down his gullet?"

Nine men gathered to flash their bobolats at one another. Joel "the Blight" Blit; Mark "Herr Director" Baetz; Dante "the Grinch" Pocrnich; Luke "the NSF Czech" Erat; Scott "the pulpit thunderer" Brubacher-Zehr; "let me be" Frank Jannsen; Sean "the antenna" McKenna; Karl "Jung at Heart" Czekus; and Mike "drop foot" Dixon. In the early rounds, the undisputed highlight involved Luke winding up and absolutely stepping into a scorching forehand that caught El Dixione in the solar plexus and felled him like a sack of hammers. After the round-robin portion of the tournament, eight men made the semi-finals and after the smoke cleared (it being legal and all) two men stood tall (one taller than the other) - Joel "two-bit Blit and Karl "small but mighty" Czekus (yes we have multiple nicknames). After some bickering, bribery, and a two-bit-Blit-bout of tearful pleading, Karl reluctantly accepted the gawd awful wooden-racket trophy.

The sun set as a feeling of peace fell over the lads. Congratulations Joel and Karl and to all the seven other losers on another great year. As I learned this year - when you are over sixty if you are able to just show up it's a win!

## **WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?**

Like the famous Sesame Street song, Beechwood has many amazing people making a world of difference in our community. Here are a few examples.

### **Rashmi Sanjay (Anatolin Place) - Community Radio**

Wanting to give back to the community and bring community stories to light, in May 2019, Rashmi Sanjay began her very own Radio Talk Show, **In Conversation with Rashmi, LIVE in studio on CKMS102.7FM Radio Waterloo ([www.radiowaterloo.ca](http://www.radiowaterloo.ca))**. Rashmi "sits" down with guest from across our region. They come from different walks of life, cultures and backgrounds. They will make you laugh; they will make you cry; they will encourage, share their highs and lows, failures and success, motivate and move you with their stories. Some of you may have heard of these people and some maybe not at all. Rashmi strongly believes that at the end of the day we are all storytellers in our day to day lives, we just don't call ourselves that.

Rashmi is always looking for stories that people can share on her show so feel free to email her at [onairwithrashmi@gmail.com](mailto:onairwithrashmi@gmail.com). Her shows air LIVE Saturday mornings 9am-10am. You can also follow her on Instagram-@rashsanj. Rashmi also continues to work full time with a global technology company in Kitchener. EDITOR'S NOTE: Our BPHA President Ivy Friedman and myself were recently on Rashmi's show speaking about our experiences building community in Beechwood. It was a great experience!

### **Allison Penner (Longfellow Drive) - Combatting Climate Change Through Smarter Eating**

I founded Reimagine Agriculture because I wanted to tackle environmental issues that often go unaddressed and unheard. In the fight against climate change, agriculture is one of the largest culprits. One of our biggest campaigns is helping to transition Canadians to an increasingly Plant-Based Diet. Meat is one of the most inefficient uses of resources with a growing global population eating more animal products than ever before. In fact, beef requires a whopping 25 calories of input for 1 calorie of output. Even the most "efficient" meat - chicken - requires 9 calories of input for 1 calorie of output!

We are really encouraged by the plant-based substitutes now available and the growing production of "clean meat"; meat grown in a lab without slaughter making it much easier for people to stick with eating habits they are accustomed to. If you want to find out more information about us or how to donate, please check out our website at <https://www.reimagineagriculture.org/>

### **Bill Ratcliffe (Algonquin Drive) - Building A Better World**

The recent Federal election featured Climate Change as a prominent issue. Canadians voted in favour of greater action. Oil producing provinces voted against limiting production growth. The issue remains contentious - politically and personally. Canadians have decided that we should keep talking and seek solutions to Climate Change, so our descendants are not left to clean up problems of our own making.

[www.canada.act4us.today](http://www.canada.act4us.today) is designed to encourage discussion by allowing people to quickly discover where they stand relative to family, friends, and neighbours. This anonymous website is based on recent research by [www.GlobeScan.com](http://www.GlobeScan.com) - a Toronto based world leading research and consulting firm that has been working on sustainability issues for over 25 years. Please feel free to try the site out for yourself. Invite family, friends, and neighbours to do the same. Then talk amongst yourselves about things you can do together to **BUILD A BETTER WORLD.**

### **Sasha Judelson-Kelly (Hiawatha Drive) - Making Beautiful Music**

Music has been a part of Sasha's life since she was a young girl growing up in London England. When you talk with Sasha, who earned a Master's Degree in Community Music from Wilfred Laurier and plays the cello and piano, you sense her passion and strong belief that music can make a powerful difference in the lives of the young and old alike. For Sasha, music is an important part of both our intelligence and what makes us human. She believes that "making" music at a young age by simply banging on Tupperware or a tin can, or by singing a tune, or finding a beat or rhythm can turn kids onto music for life. Today, Sasha puts her beliefs into action by running two local programs; one for the very young and one for seniors. Twice a week in Guelph and K.W. Sasha's program called "Making Music Together" introduces children up to 7 years of age to music in a fun and creative way. And every Thursday afternoon, she runs an intergenerational choir for seniors with dementia at St. Peters Church on Queen St. Her choir has 12 groups of 3 individuals, each group consisting of the person with dementia, another family member, and a high school volunteer from Cameron Heights. For an hour the group sits in a large circle with their Lyric Binder singing well known songs together, along with Sasha and her accompanist. When the singing is done, they all stay around for coffee/tea and social time. Bringing generations together into a mutually supportive community through music is how Sasha brings her own kind of harmony to people. As a final footnote, Sasha and her family recently became Canadian citizens and voted in their first election. Congratulations!

### **STOPPING JUNK MAIL DELIVERY IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

In the last few months our neighbourhood has been inundated with weekly bundles of flyers and the Waterloo Chronicle tossed onto our driveways by car delivery. For many of us, these bundles are unwanted litter that heads straight for our blue bins for costly recycling by the Region. Sometimes these bundles sit on driveways for days if our neighbours aren't around. If you want to stop your delivery as some of us have done, call Metroland Media (the K.W. Record) at 519-894-3000 and firmly ask to have your address removed from the delivery list. A heads-up that it might take a few calls to succeed but if you are persistent it will happen. If you need extra help try contacting one of Metroland's distribution managers, Grant Soper ([gsoper@therecord.com](mailto:gsoper@therecord.com)). A final note that for those who make use of these flyers you can access them online at [www.save.ca](http://www.save.ca).

### **CONTACTING THE CITY ABOUT PROBLEMS**

If you have questions, concerns, complaints about City services (i.e. trees, roads, leaf pickup, sidewalks, sewers, ice, garbage, etc.) don't be afraid to contact the appropriate department so they know what your issue is and can deal with it promptly. Just call the main number 519-886-1550 and ask for the appropriate department. Also, keep our city counselor, Jeff Henry, in the loop at [jeff.henry@waterloo.ca](mailto:jeff.henry@waterloo.ca). He can often be of help. Remember, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" but "he who hesitates is lost".

### **KEATSWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Keatsway's School Council is always looking for additional community involvement, whether it be attending the council meetings or assisting with school programs and events. Please email [keatswayschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:keatswayschoolcouncil@gmail.com) if interested.



The first phase of our Depave Project has been completed!! HUGE thanks to our fantastic parent community for making this difficult work look easy! There will be more opportunities to become involved in this project if you missed out this time. We will need to lay mulch and do some planting! Stay tuned!

Our clothing drive is happening on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4pm in the school gym. Fill a bag for \$1!! If you have clean, gently used items of clothing/footwear to donate (infant to adult sizes) please drop them off to the school office by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cannot transport them? Email [keatswayschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:keatswayschoolcouncil@gmail.com) and we will lend a hand!

### **KEATSWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL - NUTRITION FOR LEARNING**

Research has shown that children have difficulty learning when they are hungry. The goal of the Nutrition for Learning Program is to provide nutritious food to all students to ensure that they are well nourished and can focus on learning. This important program cannot run without the help of volunteers. We are currently looking for volunteers to help out for approximately 1 hour/week between the hours of 12pm and 4pm. If you are able to help out, please contact Deborah Morden: [morden.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:morden.deborah@gmail.com)

### **THE KILLAM REIT MULTI TOWER RESIDENTIAL PROPOSAL AT ERB AND WESTMOUNT**

Some of you may have noticed the “Coming Soon” sign above Westmount Plaza at the N.E. corner of Erb and Westmount. The sign is somewhat misleading as the proposal by Killam Reit of Halifax to build, over the next 7-10 years, 6 residential towers up to 25 stories high along Erb St. and Dietz Ave. as well as a 4 story parking garage, and a 5 story commercial building on the Southern Edge of Westmount Plaza where the Michael’s store and parking lot are, has not yet been approved by the City of Waterloo. However, it’s expected that their rezoning application will come to a final vote of council in January 2020. In the meantime, Killam and their planning consultants have been working hard to convince the City’s planners and council members that their development will be of tremendous benefit to all concerned. In a nutshell, Killam is asking the City to change the Zoning classification on the narrow strips of land on Erb St. and Dietz Ave. to double the allowable building height to 81metres (25 stories) in order to build 1014 1-2 bedroom rental units targeting students, millennials, and seniors. Killam’s plan also includes tearing down 2 low rent 3 story buildings on Dietz Ave to make room for 2 of their 6 new towers.

You might ask how Killam would be allowed to build so many units on this small 1.28 Hectare (3.2 acres) strip of land. The answer lies in the fact that Killam is trying to convince the city that it makes good planning sense to transfer the unused density of the entire 7.22 Hectare Westmount Plaza site, which they purchased from Sun Life Insurance in March of 2018 for \$72M, and utilize it to build EHD (Extremely High Density) on the southern edge of the property. Having spent the past month or so studying their arguments in detail, it is my considered opinion that while perhaps legally permissible to transfer this density, it would not lead to good long term urban planning outcomes for our area or the City generally.

Firstly, this massive residential development, essentially forming a 1200 foot long glass “Street Wall” along the north side of Erb St., will potentially set a precedent for future proposals all along Erb St. towards the downtown core. Besides the added vehicular traffic this would create at the already crowded Erb and Westmount intersection, our community is in danger of replicating the monotonous high rise student housing streetscapes found on Columbia near King and on King between Columbia and University. While increasing residential density to foster economic growth in the city core makes sense when done properly, multiplying these types of cookie cutter high rise developments throughout the downtown will end up sapping the area of the diversity and vitality that’s made it so attractive to us in the first place.

Secondly, while the City, in its new Strategic Plan, emphasizes goals of equity, inclusion, sustainability, and affordability to guide “its collective efforts over the next 4 years”, this proposed development addresses none of these goals. While Waterloo does lack sufficient rental housing stock to accommodate its population growth, it’s the affordability of this new rental stock that is at issue. The high cost of new construction dictates rents currently approaching \$3.00/sq.ft. in Waterloo, meaning these 1 and 2 bedroom apartments will run in the range of \$1800 to

\$2200/month; well beyond the range of all but the higher income residents in our community. As well, it makes little sense to tear down perfectly good, lower rent older housing stock to make way for new buildings at inflated prices. Unfortunately, while their Official Plan “encourages” affordable units in new construction, currently Waterloo has no regulations in place requiring a certain % of affordable units, and Killam has no plans to provide them voluntarily, citing the prohibitive costs of new construction, and their obligation as a public company to provide an acceptable financial return to their shareholders. As well, the City, unlike other municipalities, unfortunately has no tenant compensation rules in place for people displaced from buildings slated for demolition. Killam’s current tenant offer is 3 months’ rent and \$1000, but only if the tenant stays in the building until their proposal is finalized.

Finally, Killam’s plan to focus on smaller apartment units rather than larger “family size” 3 bedroom units will mean that these buildings will generally attract “transitory” tenants, doing very little to slow urban sprawl( a stated goal of the City’s long term plan) as these tenants will eventually leave in search of larger homes to start their families. Larger units, like developers in other cities are now building, would allow rental families to remain longer in the central core of the city where they would prefer to be.

If you would like to voice your concerns to our City Councilors and the Planning Dept. about Killam’s proposal, I would ask that you send a letter to our councilor, Jeff Henry, copying the other 6 ward councilors, as well as Natalie Hardacre, the City Planner in charge of this Zone Change application. Jeff’s email is [jeff.henry@waterloo.ca](mailto:jeff.henry@waterloo.ca) and Natalie’s is [natalie.hardacre@waterloo.ca](mailto:natalie.hardacre@waterloo.ca). The remaining councilors’ emails can be found on the City’s website. Please copy me on your submissions. Thanks very much, Steve Singer.

### **JANUSZ (John) BRZOWSKI – A LIFE WELL LIVED**

Our neighbourhood recently lost one its most esteemed members - John Brzowski. In 1967 John, together with his wife Maria, moved to 289 Shakespeare Drive, and joined U.W.’s pioneering Dept. of Computer Science. They raised their 2 children, Mike and Theresa there and were active members of the neighbourhood association throughout. John was a true renaissance man, combining a quiet European gentleness and erudition with an inner brilliance as a Computer Science professor at U.W. for over 5 decades. He loved classical music, played classical guitar, was an avid bike rider and tennis player, and a wonderful grandfather to his 3 grandchildren. His early life was tumultuous. Born in Warsaw in 1935, John, his mother and his sister fled Poland after his father, a captain in the Polish army, was killed in Russia in 1940. By way of Kazakhstan, and Iran, John and his family eventually landed in a Lebanese refugee camp where he was educated by other Polish refugees. They emigrated to Canada in 1949.

John graduated from St. Michael’s College in Toronto in 1953, received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Toronto, and completed a PhD at Princeton (the home of Albert Einstein’s Institute of Advanced Studies) in 1962. In 1967, John was attracted to the upstart University of Waterloo’s Dept. of Computer Science that was beginning to develop a worldwide reputation for its excellence and was working hard to attract world class talent to their faculty. John was a part of a group of bright, tireless, and innovative professors that laid the foundation for what the Cheriton Dept. of Computer Science has become today. Competing against the likes of the University of Toronto, Princeton, M.I.T. and Stanford, these apostles created a revolutionary approach to computer science education by a general willingness to take risks that larger more established programs at other universities would not. Ultimately becoming a Professor Emeritus John published over 200 scholarly papers, co-authored 2 books, and supervised 15 PhD students during his illustrious career. In 2016 John was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement award by the Canadian Institute of Computer Science.

*That’s all for the Fall Issue of our Newsletter. We hope you find it both informative and enjoyable and we encourage feedback on anything in this issue or ideas for future issues. Once again, a big thanks to our amazing newsletter editor, Tracey Nairn, and to all the volunteers who deliver it to the nearly 400 local homes in our community.*

*Sincerely, Steve Singer, BPHA Newsletter Editor, [singercutt@golden.net](mailto:singercutt@golden.net)*