



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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Waterloo ON N2L 2R0

Recreation Centre:
293/295 Shakespeare Drive

Web Site: www.bpha.ca
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FALL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

President	Joel Blit	Vice President	Paul Harrington
Past President	Sue Edwards	Secretary	Steve Kobes
Treasurer	Luke Eret	Program Director	Dana Finestone
Bookkeeper	Shenhui Lang	Pool Co-Director	Christine Valente
Membership Director	Tracey Nairn	Pool Co-Director	Lori Grant
Maintenance Director	Steve Singer	Tennis Director	Mark Baetz
Social Director	<i>vacant</i>	Member-at-Large	Dan Dragos
Payroll Officer	Jason Daly		

Special thanks to Laura Hewitson for her leadership role with BPHA programs

Hi Neighbours: The Beechwood Park Homes Association wants to create a bigger "local" community that extends beyond our Association membership, so please consider sharing your email address with us so we can communicate information to you on events and issues, like the new skating rink in the greenbelt this winter, fundraisers like our bottle drive and pumpkin fest, city leaf pickup, Clair Lake, etc. Our "local" community numbers over 375 homes with much we can share among us. If you wish to be included in our email community, please contact us at info@bpha.ca. We promise to use it wisely and you always have the option to unsubscribe. Thank you for your consideration. "There is strength in numbers".

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES TO REMEMBER/MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Bottle Drive – Wednesday, October 27. Please consider supporting the Youth Programs at BPHA by participating in our upcoming Bottle Drive. Visit www.bpha.ca to add your address to the collection list!

Fall Clean-up – Saturday, November 13 9:00am-12:00pm. Children welcome to participate. If interested, contact Steve Singer, Maintenance Director at stevesinger02@gmail.com to sign up.

City Loose Leaf Collection – Week of November 15-20 (important information below)

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, December 15, tentative. Check www.bpha.ca for updates.

BPHA BOARD REPORT

Thank you to all of our members for making this summer a great success. It was fantastic to see so many new and returning members enjoying the many things that our association has to offer. This included the use of the pool, the tennis courts, the produce stand, and programs like swimming lessons, tennis lessons, movie nights, and day camps. Our programs were delivered by our amazing staff, led by our pool Manager Victoria Giguere and our co-Assistant Managers Liam Fast and Patrick Benest.

Our association was busy on many fronts this year. Our by-laws subcommittee, led by Ivy Friedman, worked tirelessly to update our association's bylaws. The proposed changes will be presented to our members in the new year. Our Next50 subcommittee, led by Bill and Dianne Ratcliffe, conducted broad community consultations to develop a future vision for the BPHA. Our association was also busy advocating for our neighbourhood. We engaged with the city's official plan review to ensure that our neighbourhood's concerns are being considered as the city plans how and where to accommodate future growth. Our advocacy was also pivotal in ensuring the continuation of the city's Fall loose-leaf collection program.

Beechwood Park is a special place to live due to the energy and efforts of all our volunteers, including all of the folks who run the produce stand, our bylaws committee, our Next50 committee, and our amazing P&D committee (Duane Chris, Rob Phillips, Bill Ratcliffe and Paul Struck) who keep our facilities looking fantastic. Our neighbourhood is also very lucky to have a devoted Board of Directors. This was an especially busy year, not only planning for the future of our association and engaging with the city, but also navigating the challenges of offering programs in the midst of a pandemic. A special thanks to Sue Edwards, Dana Finestone, Lori Grant, Christine Valente, and Laura Hewitson, without whom our many programs would not have been possible. This year we also managed to build a new, more accessible, path into our facilities thanks to the efforts of Sue Edwards, Mike McGann and Tracey Nairn.

Our Board is always looking for new members who want to participate in and help guide our community. If you are interested in playing a role, and/or finding out more, please email info@bpha.ca. Our BPHA can only continue to thrive if we all remain involved.

As another successful year comes to a close, we invite you to attend our annual general meeting to be held at the beginning of December. More details to follow.

Thanks again to the many members and volunteers that make Beechwood Park such a special place to live!
Sincerely, Your Volunteer BPHA Board

BPHA Board Openings

The neighbourhood wants to acknowledge and thank all of the BPHA Board Members for their efforts and contributions. December is always a time to pass on the torch from one group of volunteers to the next. Stepping down will be: Mark Baetz (Tennis Director), Joel Blit (President), Sue Edwards (Past-President), Paul Harrington (Vice President), Shenhui Lang (Bookkeeper), Tracey Nairn (Membership Director), and Christine Valente (Pool Co-Director).

We are currently looking for neighbours that can transition into one of these positions. Please contact info@bpha.ca if you would like more details about any of these roles. Our association can only continue to thrive with your involvement.

BPHA PROGRAMMING

Looking to get involved at BPHA? Take a look at the opportunities below and mark your calendars! If you are interested in applying email bphaprograms@gmail.com.

- **Hiring lifeguards, tennis instructors and camp staff** - looking to work for BPHA next spring/summer/fall? Submit your resume no later than November 30, 2021. Interviews and hiring will take place in December / January. To learn more about working at BPHA visit our website: www.bpha.ca.
- **Volunteering** - Looking to shape what the events and programs look like next year? We are looking to expand our volunteer team to ensure we have adequate programming for all ages. Various positions with differing time requirements available. Planning starts now for next summer! :)
- **Program registration** - registration for Spring/Summer/Fall programming will open March 1, 2022.

Tennis Reminder!

Members are reminded to ensure the tennis gate is locked after use. Thank you for your participation.
Mark Baetz, Tennis Director

BPHA Recreation Centre Accessibility Walkway!

When passing by the Recreation Centre this summer/fall, you will have seen a new concrete accessibility walkway connecting the entrance to the pool area and the sidewalk! We have Mike McGann (a long standing member) and Peter Drexler of Navacon Construction to thank for our improved access to the pool! Through Mike's contacts with the City of Waterloo, he was able to ask Navacon to complete this project. Navacon generously agreed to do the project at a discount, fitting in the work as they continue the reconstruction of Longfellow Drive. This is a long overdue addition to our facilities that will make the pool entrance much more accessible to our membership, whether it is by wheelchair, walker, cane, stroller or wagon. Thank you Mike and Navacon!

BPHA 1st Annual Thanksgiving Pumpkin Fest Fundraiser

Thanks so much to all our neighbours who purchased pumpkins from our first Thanksgiving Pumpkinfest Fundraiser. It was so nice to see you all trundle up to the pool with your wagons and kids to choose your pumpkins from our Beechwood pumpkin patch. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Many thanks to Laura Hewiston Joanna Cram, Clare Jacobsen, Julia Day, and Frank Janssen for all their help and to Thames River Melons for supplying us such nice pumpkins. We raised \$215.00 from the event which will go towards our pool programming next season. Congratulations also to Reg King, Erin Rakita, and Sherry Hauser, the crab apple jelly draw winners! We look forward to making our BPHA Pumpkinfest bigger and better next year. Sincerely, Steve Singer on Behalf of your volunteer BPHA Board.

Neighbourhood Safety

- This is a friendly reminder to slow down when driving through the neighbourhood. Please remember that our beautiful streets, whether they do or don't have sidewalks, are shared with pedestrians, bikes, runners, scooters, strollers and wheelchairs. There are many children in our neighbourhood. We need to look out for them and ensure everyone feels comfortable moving through Beechwood Park.
- Parents that drive their children to Keatsway Public School are reminded to drop their children on Keats walk, Keatsway place, or Karen walk then escort them to the school. In front of the school is a NO STOPPING and NO PARKING zone. The bylaw division will be monitoring the area and violators will be fined 75 dollars.
- As the snow starts to fall, please shovel your sidewalks in a timely manner. Uncleared sidewalks make it virtually impossible for residents pushing strollers or wheelchairs to travel through the neighbourhood and icy conditions make it dangerous for everyone.

THE 14TH SEASON OF THE BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND

The 14th summer of operation for Beechwood Produce Stand was amazingly successful. The combination of many dedicated volunteers, supportive customers and incredible farm suppliers provided the ingredients for another superb season. Add excellent weather to the mix (13 consecutive rain-free Wednesdays!) and we couldn't have asked for more.

Our goals have remained the same through the entire existence of our stand: to support the local agricultural community, provide convenient access to healthy produce, raise funds for schools, charities and our neighbourhood association, support the regional food bank with unsold produce, and, in the process, build community among neighbours and friends. It is a rewarding closed circle!

Our method of operation has evolved in recent years, particularly with the introduction of our pre-order system last year. Pre-orders allow us to plan ahead and have more reliable information for ordering. Thank you for adapting to our process and also for following COVID protocols while at the stand this summer.

Special thanks go to:

- our fearless founder, Steve Singer
- our brilliant baker, Bruce Frayne
- our amazing adult volunteers – Paul and Jo Ann Struck, Gary Hauser, Bill Ratcliffe, Maria Brzozowski, Myrna Singer, Gulshan and Yusuf Mnyusiwalla, Dorothy Lillace, June Kobayashi, Hanspal Johar, Joanna Cram, Katie Gibb, Ivy Friedman, Sue Edwards, Tracey Nairn, Patricia Shaw
- our terrific teen volunteers – Clare J., Julia D., Emery M., Sydney T., Kennedy V., Jenna C., Ryan C.
- our fabulous farmers
- our beaming behind-the-scenes support: product pickup, lamppost signs, email distribution and tech consult volunteers - Karin Packull, Karen Buschart, Jan Phillips, Steve Kobes, Deb Morden
- and our special suppliers and display organizations: who provided us with gladioli, lavender, knife sharpening, natural soaps, hair scrunchies, pretzels and gypsy moth lures.

Our proceeds this year went to the following organizations: BPHA, Keatsway Public School, Centennial Public School, Carizon Family and Community Services (for Erb West community), Supportive Housing of Waterloo, Special Olympics KW Basketball, the Food Bank of Waterloo Region and Pound Dog Rescue. We are pleased to donate funds to the important work of each of these organizations within our community.

We are so fortunate to live in this amazing neighbourhood where everyone does what they can to support each other. It has been a privilege to work with and serve many people in our community. We look forward to seeing you again in June of 2022!

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Ratcliffe and Dolores Penner, Co-Managers



LOOSE LEAF COLLECTION - NOVEMBER 15-20 - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The City of Waterloo has agreed to continue loose leaf collection but will re-examine the program annually to determine whether it's worth keeping. Please carefully read and follow these instructions to keep this program running in Beechwood Park:

- Leaf collection is only for street/boulevard trees! Do not rake side and back yard leaves to the curb.
- **Rake leaves to the curb as close to the collection date as possible.** This is for road safety and storm water drainage.
- Keep storm drains cleared of leaves.
- If you miss collection day, bag and curb your leaves. Do not rake them to the street after collection.
- Make sure your landscaping service knows about the program.

Here are some alternatives to the City's leaf collection you may want to consider:

- Mow leaves into the lawn. This feeds the soil just like a fertilizer and can help inhibit weeds.
- Rake mowed leaves onto flowerbeds and under trees to create nutrient rich compost.
- Keep a thin layer of leaves on the ground to help protect the critters that overwinter here.



NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD SKATING RINK

There will be a new skating rink on the greenbelt by Clair Lake this winter thanks to Patrick O'Halloran, Nick Bayley and a growing list of volunteers. The City has already installed a waterline and marked the location in preparation for the rink. Special thanks to Julie Legg from the City who played a vital part in supporting the project. Here are some notes from Julie in response to the rink:

- Thank you to the rink convenor and volunteers that are making the outdoor rink possible this inaugural season! If you see volunteers out maintaining the rink this winter, say thanks to these neighbours for the time they spend creating ice to enjoy skating and hockey in the neighbourhood.
- An outdoor rink schedule will be posted at the park outlining skating and hockey times each day. Be sure to follow the schedule and share the ice with neighbours of all skills and abilities to support fun for everyone.
- If you would like to know more about outdoor rink rules, COVID-19 conditions, outdoor rink contact for volunteering, or a map of locations across the city, check out waterloo.ca/outdoor-rinks once winter arrives.
- The City of Waterloo outdoor rink program has been operating for several decades and each rink is well loved within its neighbourhood. We look forward to seeing neighbours make use of this great asset in Clair Lake Park!

Councillor Henry had this to say, "These rapidly changing and difficult times have challenged all of us to practice our old traditions in new ways. Thanks to so many dedicated neighbours and with the support of the city, skating is back this season in Clair Lake Park. I hope you can all find time to get outdoors and carve out new memories on this new neighbourhood ice rink."

If you are interested in joining this volunteer effort, please email Nick Bayley at ngbayley@gmail.com.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

234 Shakespeare Drive: Welcome to Claudia Bolla and Wesley Hagan and 5 year old Remington.

254 Shakespeare Drive: Welcome to Heather Smith. Heather is enjoying living in her new neighbourhood with the extensive walking trails throughout the greenspace.

274 Shakespeare Drive: Welcome to Whitney Susanna and Greg Boyd and Cole (10 yrs old), William (6 yrs old), Maxwell (5 yrs old) and Madison (3 yrs old). Whitney and Greg are independently employed in Waterloo's tech sector.

321 Shakespeare Place: Welcome to Jenny and Spencer Yule and Bentley (4 yrs old) and Leo and Charlie (almost 2 yrs old). Jenny is a Manager of Group Disabilities with Sunlife and Spencer is a Partner with Lackner McLennan Insurance.

196 Mohawk Avenue: Welcome to Alison and Kevin McQuin and 2 year old Parker. Kevin grew up in Ancaster and Alison grew up in Upper Beechwood. They are both very excited to join the community!

200 Mohawk Avenue: Welcome to Tim and Jess Dyck. Both of these UW grads have recently returned to Waterloo. Jess is a physiotherapist with SOS Northfield and Tim is a software developer.

256 Lions Court: Welcome to Benard and Maria Ebinu along with Nalani (5 yrs old), Josiah (3 yrs old) and Hannah (3 yrs old). They have moved to Waterloo from BC and Benard is a software engineer.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Sian Kou-Giesbrecht from Hiawatha Drive completed her PhD from Columbia University (NYC) in the department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology in 2021 and started a postdoctoral fellowship with Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis. We are very proud of her!

Tian Kou and Mark Giesbrecht, Hiawatha Drive

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our baby boy, Zachary. Just like mom and dad, big brother Nico is absolutely smitten.

Michelle & Grant Gunn, Tennyson Place

Congratulations to Lisa and Joel Blit (Longfellow Drive), and siblings Alex, Nico, and Teo on the birth of their precious baby Madeleine in June. Madi is looking forward to playing tennis and swimming at our neighbourhood pool, and one day becoming a life guard.

Our Golden Retriever, Oakley was competing in the Oakville and District Kennel club dog shows and had a fantastic weekend - earning Best of Breed and as such, is now a Grand Champion!

Alison Arden, Lion's Gate

Congratulations to Steve Kobes and Hope Krempa (Marlowe Street) on their recent engagement. The two met in 2018 on OkCupid. Hope first proposed to Steve with a beautiful Koa wood ring. In return, Steve proposed to Hope with a gorgeous emerald ring in Banff, having hidden the box in his socks. The wedding is set for June 2024.

Congratulations to the Armbruster house on the arrival of their first grandchild in June, a son for Nathalie (Joanna's daughter) and husband Geoff who are currently living in Yellowknife. Joanna has been to visit, and Leeroy is absolutely wonderful.

Congratulations to Wendy and Peter Baxter (Hiawatha Drive) on the engagement of their son, Mark Baxter to Dana Cantarutti. Mark is in business and marketing in Toronto and Dana is CEO of Spinco and just competed in her first Boston Marathon. Wendy is the one pulling a Little Tykes wagon through the neighbourhood on Market day without any little tykes. Congratulations to Haley Baxter, daughter of Wendy and Peter, on her new position as Professor in Recreation and Leisure at Conestoga College. Haley is also completing her doctorate at UW.

Myrna and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on August 24th. As well, our son Alex and his wife Sarah had their first child, Ezra Martin, on May 17th. Ezra is our 6th grandchild to come along in the Singer family. As well, Alex, Sarah and Ezra are moving back to Waterloo from Boston this fall after being away almost 20 years. We are very excited to have them back!

Steve and Myrna Singer, Shakespeare Drive

We are thrilled to announce that all three of our children have chosen to leave the US and return to Canada. Christina has chosen to leave LMN Architects in Seattle and is now employed at KPMB in Toronto. Lucas has started his Master's degree at U of T and his partner, Amy, is now in her final year of medical residency in Toronto. Janelle, who is a hospitalist at the Shands Hospital in Florida has started the process of also returning to Canada. Although many leave for more lucrative positions in the US, we are thrilled that our children have chosen to come back.

Jim and Carole Wilkinson, Mohawk Avenue

Congratulations to Clare Mitchell on Shakespeare Drive. Clare recently retired after 32 years as a Professor in the University of Waterloo, Geography department.

Thank you to Reg King (Coleridge Drive) for taking on the role of crossing guard in front of Keats Way Public School.

Alison Penner (Longfellow Drive), Founder and Executive Director of Reimagine Agriculture recently received a grant to produce a series of videos to explain the technology and history of cultivated meat and how it may be able to solve some global problems. Here is a link to the video.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8nd7F18koXhMzuSHh_UzCUmhrc30F6i3

The Halliwells at 131 Iroquois are relocating to the U.S. and at some point in the coming months will be selling their home. If you or someone you know are looking to move into the neighbourhood and have a bit of flexibility on timing (while they coordinate their Visas and cross-border move) please reach out to Don. 519-404-7334.

Our brother is looking to purchase a home in the Beechwood Park neighbourhood so I would love to put out a feeler in case someone is considering selling in the next couple months. They have recently sold their home and are ready to buy! They are expecting their first child in the spring, so a family friendly house is important. If you are planning to sell, please contact me at alysia@signsgalore.ca or 226-218-6731.

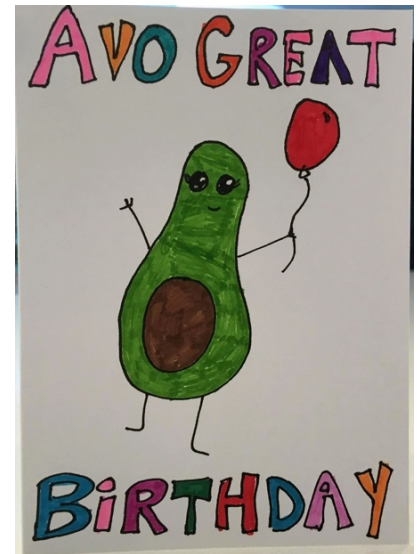
Alysia Fitz-Henry and family, Coleridge Drive

Wondering what's going on at 310 Hiawatha Drive? The house was purchased privately in the spring and is being completely renovated into a modern family home from a student rental. The current owner plans to put the renovated house on the market early in the new year, hopefully by January or February. If you want to follow the progress of the house, Evanstone Homes has an Instagram page you can follow:

[instagram.com/evanstonehomes?utm_medium=copy_link](https://www.instagram.com/evanstonehomes?utm_medium=copy_link)

Aryana's Gift Shop - aryanasgiftshop@hotmail.com

If you missed Aryana O'Halloran's summer gift shop situated outside her home on Hiawatha this summer, you don't have to miss out on buying her one-of-a-kind gifts. This 9-year-old entrepreneur has been super busy creating beautiful handmade cards and bookmarks and is ready for your business. Aryana is a student at St. Nicholas in Waterloo. When not in school or doing her many other activities (basketball, lacrosse and gymnastics), she is busy learning the ins and outs of small business. Not only does she spend time creating her artwork (which is her favourite part of the job), she's currently exploring how to expand her business online (website coming soon). Truly a go-getter, Aryana is willing to take risks, learn from her mistakes and is skilled at recruiting help from her younger siblings. While some of her earnings go to supplies, she makes sure to put most of it away in savings, though she's treated herself to a few well-deserved purchases. If you are interested in learning more about Aryana's Gift Shop and to purchase cards for your next holiday event, be sure to contact Aryana at aryanasgiftshop@hotmail.com.



Steve Singer did some shopping over the summer at Aryana's driveway stand. He bought a bookmark and plastic ring for \$4.00 but didn't have any money at the time and then forgot to pay. Here is a Payment Letter he found in his mailbox.

"To You. Your Payment Letter. Hi this is Aryana, a owner of the gift shop. I believe you ordered one ring and one bookmark and if you forgot the total will be 4 dollars. If you remember, my house number is 296 Hiawatha. Please pay me back. Have a good Day."

So Much Water!

On Sep 22 we had a record rainfall in Waterloo. Having observed the lake overflow for 25 years, this was one of the big ones, with the usual surge of water jumping out of the lake and running through our back yard. The dead fish are still lying in our yard.

However, different for us this time, the pipe which connects our weeping tile to the street had been collapsing over time, and this time it couldn't take the flow rate out fast enough. As a result, we had six inches of water in our basement. This is the first time we've had water in the basement so I was in a tizzy! I dashed to Home Depot and got a pump which Armin quickly setup to drain us. He ran water out with buckets all the while, but the water kept rising, even after the rain eased up.

After a sleepless night, we concluded this was not about the flooded backyard and it (finally) dawned on me to call the city about a possible drain problem. Within an hour, the city workers were at our place and confirmed the drain was blocked. They worked several hours to unblock it and eventually our basement drained with a whoosh. They followed up by viewing the piping with a camera system and determined that the pipe had failed.

The important part of this story that I'd like to share with the neighbourhood is that **the city has a 24 hour emergency line** for this type of thing and since many of us live in older homes with older sewage connections it's a good idea to keep that info handy. You'll find it online at [www.waterloo.ca/water and environment/sewers and wastewater](http://www.waterloo.ca/water-and-environment/sewers-and-wastewater).

Reporting a sewer blockage

If you think there's a blockage in your sewer lateral (the underground pipe that connects your home to the main sewer line):

1. Contact Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 to request a sewer safety locate. There is no charge for this service. (Joanna: Contact city right away as well as this step, don't wait)
2. Once the pipe is located contact us at **519-886-2310**(business hours) or **519-579-9557** (after hours) and we will come to investigate the location and cause of the blockage. We use a CCTV camera to inspect the pipe.

Joanna Armbruster, Shakespeare Drive

Interested in running?

This is for anyone and everyone, all levels of runners, and very casual. Whether you've run before or not, we invite you to join us in growing our Beechwood running group. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 6pm at Claire Lake, north side, for a short fun run. After an initial 1km lap around the lake, runners can continue on the course or branch off for longer runs. You can be part of the group even if you can't make the Wednesday time. We will offer other running events whenever possible and will inform the group of local racing events (ParkRun, RunWaterloo, etc). There will also be a couch to 5K program (if sufficient interest). If interested or want to know more, email beechwoodrunners@gmail.com and please join us at the lake on Wednesday, November 3 at 6pm for our first meeting. This will be a meet-and-greet. We'll do a lap (or 2) around the lake and enjoy a small treat. Distancing will be encouraged, and we will ask everyone to sign in for contact tracing.

Liz Vernon-Wilson, formerly of Shakespeare Drive and Ivy Friedman, Hiawatha Drive

BEECHWOOD WILDLIFE

Beechwood is full of wildlife. It's not unusual to hear someone talk about or show a picture of a deer visiting the backyard or a fox sauntering down the street as if it owned the neighbourhood. There is Pogo, the one-legged duck (probably injured by the snapping turtle), hobbling around with the other ducks, geese, cranes and many, many varieties of birds that perch and peck around Clair Lake. Recently spotted are a couple of mink that love to play in the rock walls of the Clair Creek walkway between Coleridge and McDougal. There are also skunks, possums, ground hogs, squirrels, and chipmunks, which left unsupervised are like little rascals finding mischief. And we can't forget the little critters we have creeping and crawling in and around our gardens. For the most part, these various species of wildlife are welcome in Beechwood Park. However, at times, they can become a problem. Just this month, a deer was attacked and killed in a resident's back yard. When determining whether to let wildlife go about their business or curb their wandering through your property, it might be worth considering the following:

- Can you name it? If so, what do you know about the animal? Knowing some fun facts about an animal makes it more enjoyable to have around.
- Is it beneficial? Most species of wildlife in the neighbourhood have a specific role to play in keeping balance in the ecosystem. They might stink, but skunks are omnivores and help keep things tidy.
- Is it a threatened species (e.g., bees)? Nobody wants to be stung, but honeybees and bumblebees are important pollinators and usually are too busy working to bother stinging.
- Is it destructive or dangerous? If your wildlife visitor is destructive (ground hogs burrowing under decks), prone to infestation (lymantria dispar - gypsy moth), or dangerous (coyote) and removal is necessary, please contact the City of Waterloo (www.waterloo.ca) or the KW Humane Society (519-745-5615) for the safest way to remove the animal.
- And please do not feed any wildlife.

Now about those caterpillars...

Lymantria dispar, a.k.a, gypsy moth

The challenge of controlling the *Lymantria dispar* caterpillar was a hot topic this summer. The good news is a collected effort by the neighbourhood limited caterpillar numbers, which in turn limited moths and egg masses. Additionally, just before many of the caterpillars cocooned themselves, a mould and virus that keeps the caterpillars in check presented itself this fall and naturally disposed of many. However, there may still be egg sacks around. If you see any, please scrape them off and put them in soapy water to keep the eggs from hatching in the spring. Also, if you haven't done so already, it's important to remove the fabric and tape from trunks to prevent damage to the trees. These moths run an infestation cycle every 7-10 years. Ontario should be nearing the end of the infestation which means fewer caterpillars next year.

The Gardens of Beechwood

Beechwood Park Gardens are amazing. Walk in any direction in the neighbourhood and you'll be treated to beautiful yards that are clearly well loved. One of the things I like most in this area is all the variety in gardening styles. Some yards have spans of lawn that are picture perfect, others have flower beds or rockscapes and every once in a while, you see a vegetable patch. And oh, the trees! Especially in the fall as the leaves turn colour and present a canvas of art as a backdrop to our homes. Recently, there's been a particular garden that has caught my attention. This summer and into the fall, I've watched Jenna Mooney's garden transform into a bursting sensation of colour and texture. When I talked to Jenna about her garden, she described her front yard as an experiment that brought her much happiness during the pandemic. "It's a work in progress (definitely!) but that's part of the fun. The kids have also enjoyed working on this with me, especially since this journey really began during that first lock-down from school/daycare and this daily gardening/outdoor time with me just became a focus of their home schooling for the rest of that year. They planted all the sunflower seeds and took pride in seeing their plants grow, bloom and feed the bees and birds. My eldest, Catherine (6) is pretty good now at identifying the plants and insects."

For inspiration, Jenna read *Nature's Best Hope* and *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy. It helped her to "reconceptualize the garden as aesthetic *plus* as an important haven for native plants, birds, bees, insects etc that contribute hugely to our ecosystem and have been facing numerous existential threats."

Jenna and her family live at 238 Shakespeare Drive. This is what Jenna had to say about Beechwood Park. "Finding a home in BPHA has been one of the best decisions of our lives...I love this neighbourhood."

Waterloo Gardening Club

Waterloo Gardeners is looking for anyone who loves gardening to join their group and what better place to look than the beautiful Beechwood Park. Also known as Waterloo Horticultural Society, they are a volunteer, not-for-profit organization operating since 1895. Membership is \$12/year and gets you a discount at most local gardening centres, monthly presentations, workshops and lots of community events. Meetings are held virtually for now but will resume at McCormick Community Centre once Covid restrictions are lifted. If interested in finding out more, visit their website: <https://www.waterloohort.org/>.

Cultural Heritage Landscape Update

The City of Waterloo has agreed to consider parts of Beechwood Park for a Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) designation. Community feedback is incredibly important for this initiative. Please visit www.engagewr.ca/beechnwood-park-chl to give your input on a CHL. You can also contact Michelle Lee, the City Planner who is leading the project at 519-747-6068 or michelle.lee@waterloo.ca. Your voice is important to the decision.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

***On My Way to School* by Dr. Johan Reis - Local Author**

Congratulations to Johan Reis (Anatolin Place) on the publication of his children's book, *On My Way to School*. The book is about walking to school through a diverse neighbourhood and learning about the people who live there. *On My Way to School* is self-published by Johan through Friesen Press and will be available for purchase in the coming month. You can order a copy directly from Johan by contacting him at onmywaytoschoolstories@gmail.com or online at books.friesenpress.com. Dr. Reis has lived in the neighbourhood for many years and is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Waterloo.

***Things I Don't Want to Know* by Deborah Levy**

If you enjoy literary essays as much as I do and, even better, forays into the writing life, you might like this slim memoir, the first in a trilogy. Taking place in three countries--Mallorca, South Africa, and England--it is Levy's response to George Orwell's "Why I Write" (which I recommend reading in tandem), and her chapters riff off of his "four great motives": "Political Purpose", "Historical Impulse", "Sheer Egoism", and "Aesthetic Enthusiasm". In spare, elliptical prose, Levy recounts her childhood in South Africa where her father is jailed as a political prisoner, her struggle to understand the racial politics of apartheid, and her encounter with a nun at a Catholic girls' school who tells her that she "shouldn't be scared of something 'transcendental' like reading and writing". Years later, as a teenager in the UK in the 70s, Levy spends hours in a greasy spoon writing on napkins because "writing made me feel wiser than I actually was" and despairs of escaping exile: "I wanted to be in exile from exile." Along the way, Levy delivers with deadpan hilarity her run-ins with honey-drunk bees and a PhD-writing au pair. Her follow-up book, *The Cost of Living*, continues to explore the creative life as the author's marriage ends, her daughters grow, and she takes up writing in a shed in a friend's backyard. Always an elegant, precise distiller of ideas, the questions Levy raises linger in your head: What impels us to retain certain memories? How can the smallest detail have the weightiest heft? And how do you transform it all into art? The third installment in this series, *Real Estate*, was published earlier this year and I look forward to reading it and hope that, unlike Karl Ove Knausgaard's *Boyhood Island* which I got stranded on and never got off of, I can accompany the author even further.

Camie Kim, Coleridge Drive

***If—* by Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1936**

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream—and not make dreams your
master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your
aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,

And stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Long time member Dr. Alan Watson passed away several months ago. He kept a framed copy of this poem on his office wall.

UPDATE FROM THE NEXT50 PROJECT

As many readers will already know, the NEXT50 project was commissioned by the BPHA Board at the 2019 AGM. Fast on the heels of our 50th anniversary: its objective was to help create a vision for the **next** 50 years! The team is busy preparing the final report on the initial/exploratory phase of the project, the report will be submitted to the BPHA Board near the end of October. Over the past 22 months we have collected ideas & suggestions from our community members via both the website & personal discussions; we have collected survey data (first in the spring of 2020, then again in the Spring of 2021); we have shared all the data via webinars, website reporting and finally via in-person meetings in September. Our numerous mailbox information drops and our 'Let's Talk' roadside signs helped raise awareness and despite all the disruptions wrought by COVID19, you have communicated strong interest in the project. **You told us, in no uncertain terms, that the BPHA and its volunteers are treasured by the community...**both for what is accomplished at the Rec Centre and for all the community spin-off projects that are fostered. Our key learning from this phase of the project includes:

- The Rec Centre itself, built in the 60s, is viewed as dated and in need of improvement (facility & landscaping). The onsite programming is strongly supported.
- There is strong interest in the role of the BPHA being formally expanded to include programming for the broader community, outside the walls of the Rec Centre (appealing to those neighbours who have no interest in using the pool or the courts).
- There is strong interest in reviewing & revising the current membership model. Associates are overwhelmingly supported as part of our future.

The report will include detailed recommendations on each of these three topics, including suggestions for project next steps. As with all the other work done by this team it will be reviewed with the Board & posted on the BPHA website www.bpha.ca, NEXT50 TAB. We encourage you to read it. The Board of Directors has final decision-making responsibility for how this project will proceed.

A warm 'thank you' to the volunteers who worked on the NEXT50 team for all, or part of, the past 22 months: Joel Blit, Serge LeVert Chiasson, Sanjay Govindaraj, Paul Harrington, Katie MacGuire, Dianne & Bill Ratcliffe, Carole & Jim Wilkinson. In addition, thanks are extended to the City of Waterloo for grants totaling \$5,000 to support this neighbourhood initiative.

We are all lucky enough to live in this amazing neighbourhood and we urge others to get involved in this exciting and rewarding project. It is a once in a life-time opportunity to shape the future for generations to come!

Dianne and Bill Ratcliffe, Algonquin Drive

Until next time

If you have stories or suggestions for the next newsletter, you can email them to me anytime. Special thanks to Sherry and Gary Hauser, Jan and Rob Phillips, and Katie MacGuire and crew for help with delivery of this newsletter and to Steve Singer and Tracey Nairn for ideas and edits.

Sincerely, Ivy Friedman ivyfriedman@gmail.com

"Without diversity of opinion, the discovery of truth is impossible." Alexander Von Humboldt