

Neighbourhood News & Views

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AINSLIE WOOD / WESTDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Autumn 2005
OF RESIDENT HOMEOWNERS INC.

"Building community block by block"



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Our New Community Plan Is the Law

On July 5 **Vanessa Grupe**, Hamilton's senior planner, Planning and Economic Development Department, gave us some very good news:

You will be pleased to hear that the Ainslie Wood/Westdale plans, including the Official Plan Amendment to adopt the secondary plan, the community strategy, and zoning bylaw amendments, were approved by the Planning and Economic Development Committee at their meeting this morning. The plans were approved without objection or deferrals.

Thanks to all of the members of ASPECT (Ainslie Wood/Westdale Secondary Plan Executive Committee and Team) and others who provided countless volunteer hours to help prepare and refine these plans. The contributions of these citizens were recognized at committee today.

Vanessa gave us an update in August:

Subsequently, city council approved the plans on July 13, 2005. The appeal period for the bylaws ended on August 11, with no appeals. The final plans and reports are posted on the city website at myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGo

[vernment/CityDepartments/PlanningEcDev/Development/CommunityPlanning/SecondaryPlans/aww-secondary-plan.htm](http://www.cityofhamilton.ca/CityDepartments/PlanningEcDev/Development/CommunityPlanning/SecondaryPlans/aww-secondary-plan.htm).



Vanessa Grupe

The next steps are:

- *City departments and other stakeholders will be requested to incorporate the actions arising from the plans into their work programs and budgets.*
- *An implementation team will be set up, co-ordinated through the Ward 1 councillor's office, with the first meeting in October or November.*
- *An event to recognize the*



Our new secondary plan affects the areas outlined above. Map courtesy of Planning and Development Department, City of Hamilton.

contributions of members of the ASPECT advisory committee will be held along with the implementation team kick-off.

See PLAN on page 3

community NEWS

Churchill Park Could Become Part of National Park

Earlier this year our member of Parliament, **Russ Powers**, made an official request to Minister of the Environment **Stephane Dion** to investigate the possibility of establishing an urban national park incorporating most lands surrounding Cootes Paradise, including the Royal Botanical Gardens and Churchill Park.

During this summer and early fall, Mr. Powers met on an informal basis



Churchill Park.

Photo: Janet Woodward

with a number of individuals, agencies, and organizations to gauge their reaction and the degree of support for his proposal. These discussions included West Hamilton **Councillor Brian McHattie**, Dundas **Councillor Art Samson**, the RBG, McMaster University, Hydro One, the City of Hamilton, and the conservation authorities, among others.

Later in the fall Mr. Powers will host a series of roundtable discussions with interested individuals and groups, many of them open to the public.

Mr. Powers indicated that national park designation "could come as early as 2006." Share your thoughts with him either by e-mail at powerrr@parl.gc.ca or by phone at 905-627-9169.

A Job for Every Citizen

Thanks to AWWCA member Linda Snowling for her letter of April 16 to the editor of *The Hamilton Spectator*, in which she called on every citizen to pick up one piece of litter per day. We concur.

Bike Racks Built for Our Neighbourhood

JANET WOODWARD

George R. Allan School Gets Bike-Rack Parking Pad

About 10 months ago **Judith Armour** and **Caroline Stinson** of the George R. Allan traffic committee made it a priority to lobby for bike racks for the school. This is one of many initiatives the committee has spearheaded in an effort to promote walking or cycling to school, thereby reducing car traffic. In late August the city built the parking pad for the bikes, and **Danny Chiaravalle** of J & R Ornamental installed shiny new racks. There is space for up to 30 bikes. Judith and her children were the first to use the new bike parking pad the minute it was completed Aug. 31. Thanks to **Councillor Brian McHattie**, who spearheaded the project in response to



Judith Armour (on right), her daughter Emma, son Douglas, and Danny Chiaravalle (at back).

Photo: Janet Woodward

requests from Judith and Caroline, and to City of Hamilton traffic technologist **Brian Applebee** and acting manager of traffic engineering and operations **Ed Switenky**.

Westdale Village Gets 53 Bike Racks

Funding for 53 bike racks came from the city's cycling budget; the racks were installed in the village in August. **Brian Applebee** and **Ed Switenky** from city staff worked with **Councillor McHattie**, who met with **David Dayler** from the Business Improvement Area and **Randy Kay** from OPIRG (Ontario Public Interest Research Group) to identify suitable locations. Special thanks to the **McMaster Credit Union** for agreeing to accommodate several bike racks!

Janet Woodward is a community representative on the George R. Allan Traffic Committee.

The "Barclay Oak" Lives On!

LINDA BRYANT

In order to celebrate and replace the stately oak lost to disease Aug. 16, 2002 (see story in autumn 2002 *Neighbourhood News & Views*), members of the Westdale community planted a lovely white oak, *Quercus alba*, adjacent to MacNeill Baptist Church (opposite Barclay Street on the corner of Cline Avenue South and King Street West). Private donations to the Westdale Tree Committee, a subcommittee of the AWWCA, were augmented by \$200 each from the AWWCA and the Westdale Business Improvement Area, making this a true community effort! Thanks to everyone involved in the project.



Linda Bryant and Karen Poyner of the Westdale Tree Committee, at the planting of the new Barclay oak June 17. Photo: Ken Ockenden of the Westdale Tree Committee

PLAN from page 1

ASPECT members will be advised of these events and will be invited to participate in implementing these plans.

We would like to recognize and thank AWWCA members **Michael Bordin** and **Phyllis Tresidder** for countless hours spent representing the AWWCA as committee members, as well as former AWWCA board member **Rick Grigg** for chairing the committee for one year. Others who attended meetings (all AWWCA board members) included **Betty Bechtel**, **Loreen Jerome**, **Carolyn Kinsley**, **Liz Millar**, and **Rob Payne**. Sincere thanks to all!

WESTDALE in the NEWS

Northumberland Strait Conquered by Westdale Graduate

A Westdale Secondary School graduate, **Kristin Roe**, conquered the Northumberland Strait July 28, swimming 7 hours 50 minutes to reach New Brunswick from Prince Edward Island. She did it in record time. Roe, 25, who works at the University of Prince Edward Island, was raising money for the Stephen Lewis Fund and AIDS PEI. Her mother, AWWCA member **Janet LeBeau**, said: "It really was an unbelievable day for us all. All I cared was that she was safe and successful, but to break a record! Also, she surpassed her goal of raising \$20,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. It is closer to \$25,000 with more donations coming in."

Art Gallery of Hamilton Head Loves Living in Westdale

On May 26 **Rob Faulkner** wrote in *The Hamilton Spectator* about **Louise Dompierre**, referring to her as a turn-around artist who, through her position as president and CEO, has provided the Art Gallery of Hamilton with more art, a renewed building, financial stability, and a healthy future to build on. He included Ms. Dompierre's comments about living in Westdale, and we have received permission from her and from

The Hamilton Spectator to reprint them: *She lives in Westdale, and loves its proximity to McMaster University and the Royal Botanical Gardens. You may see her walking her dogs, an Airedale and a wirehaired fox terrier, daily. Or peering out the window, at deer. Unthinkable in most cities, Dompierre was thrilled when a family of deer wandered into her garden. She didn't see that in Toronto. She loves her piece of the country in the city. "You have this sense of the countryside, and Westdale's a bit of a village, with nice shops run by independent business people," she says. "In terms of a living environment, it's wonderful."*

Globe and Mail Writer Promotes Westdale

"Is this the Annex or Westdale" was the title of an article by **Christopher Shulgan** in *The Globe and Mail* May 28. The writer outlined places just outside Toronto where charming properties can be purchased at a fraction of the price of Toronto's. Mr. Shulgan wrote of the area of Toronto that surrounds the University of Toronto, called the Annex, where the average listing for detached homes is above a million dollars. He went on to describe Westdale as "an enclave remarkably similar to the Annex, with a mix of McMaster students and academics, local pubs (the Snooty Fox), bookstores (Bryan Prince Bookseller, Westdale Bookworm) and street festivals, like the end-of-summer Italian cultural festival, Westitalia—all just an hour's drive from Yonge and Bay." We welcome those from Toronto or elsewhere who are looking for a vibrant community in which to raise their families or spend their retirement years.

Councillor's Report

BRIAN McHATTIE

The last few months have been a very busy and exciting time for the Ward 1 office. The lead article in this newsletter profiles passage of the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Secondary Plan. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the citizens and other representatives (especially **Dale Brown** from my office and planner **Vanessa Grupe**) who spent many hours ensuring that the secondary plan and the accompanying community plan represent the neighbourhood's desires. The next step for us is to establish an ongoing implementation task force to make sure that things happen. Already we have seen new student housing in the works along Main Street West (at the former CNIB); the Ontario Professional Planners' Institute hosted a Main-Street-design-guidelines workshop on Sept. 28 at their annual conference at the Hamilton Convention Centre (public

presentation to follow at a later date); and discussions are ongoing to investigate establishment of a heritage-conservation district in the AWWCA area.

Hundreds of trees were planted this year in your community through the Trees Across Hamilton program and



Tree planting in Churchill Park May 14.

Photo: Janet Woodward

through the city's street tree-planting program (see Tree Planting in Ainslie Wood and Westdale in this newsletter for details). Across the city in 2005 we'll have planted 5,000 trees involving over 200 community volunteers. We plan to continue these programs in 2006 and are working on establishing a Hamilton Parks and Trees Foundation to ensure sustainability. Also, I am working with you to install a splash pad adjacent to the existing playground in the park.

Some people have been concerned about the future of Churchill Park given the financial difficulties faced by the Royal Botanical Gardens. At a recent city council meeting I therefore moved

a motion: "The Council of the City of Hamilton advise the Royal Botanical Gardens that it endorses the future use of Churchill Park as an open space for the continued benefit of all Hamiltonians and visitors to Hamilton." The motion passed unanimously. It is

absolutely critical that the RBG remain a cornerstone of our community, and to that end I am working with **Mayor Larry Di Ianni** to find ways to assist the RBG. Lastly, we are working with Canadian Pacific Railway through the new CP liaison committee to share possible designs to extend the rail trail from Fortino's at Rifle Range Road to Studholme Drive.

In cross-city activities, I am working to attract a CBC radio station and to encourage the Toronto 1 television station to include Hamilton in their coverage. Also, I am president of City Housing Hamilton, which has a mandate to create more social housing, and am chairing the city's pesticide subcommittee, with the goal of reducing pesticide use. Please visit brianmchattie.ca for more details on my committee work and projects listed above; I invite you to communicate with me at City Hall at 905-546-2416 or via bmchattie@hamilton.ca. Enjoy the autumn, and bring on the fall hawk migration!

A New Sign Bylaw for the New City of Hamilton

LOREEN JEROME

On July 11, on behalf of our nearly 500 dues-paying members and taxpayers, I presented to the City of Hamilton recommendations for the proposed new sign bylaw for the amalgamated city. The recommendations were accompanied by an audiovisual presentation showing the proliferation of signs in our community.

The AWWCA recommended that the new City of Hamilton sign bylaw contain similar wording and the same intent as the City of Burlington sign bylaw, as follows: "No person shall erect, or permit to be erected, or allow to remain on lands or buildings owned,

rented or leased or occupied by them, any sign in the City of Hamilton other than in accordance with the provisions of the new sign bylaw." We also asked that City Hall publicize contact information for complaints about signs.

One of the topics covered in our presentation was mobile signs in our community. On February 28, the AWWCA asked **Councillor Brian McHattie** to request Building and Licensing to conduct an inspection of mobile signs on Main Street West. Seventeen mobile signs were identified in this area. When I followed up on April 7, I learned that 16 of 17 signs were in violation of the mobile-sign bylaw. The perspective of

the AWWCA is that these signs are an eyesore and take away from the visual experience of the streetscape. The AWWCA requested that, short of a ban on mobile signs, the new bylaw be strictly enforced.

The feedback received at the public consultation sessions, as well as written submissions, is now being analyzed by the city's consultant. The consultant's report, with recommendations, is expected to be submitted to the Planning and Economic Development Committee of council by November.

My complete presentation may be viewed at brianmchattie.ca, the website of Ward 1 Councillor McHattie.

THIS IS OUR Neighbourhood

We're Positively Delighted to Announce the Winners

ALICE SABOURIN

Congratulations to AWWCA members **Jeanne Bernard** and **Paul Faure** for their inspiring entries to the AWWCA's Positively Delightful Contest.

Jeanne Bernard – First Prize
\$35 gift certificate for use at Bryan Prince Bookseller and \$15 gift certificate for use at Vital Planet.

As a new immigrant, I missed the greenery of the tropics during my four years in Toronto. When I accepted a new job in Hamilton, I was delighted to see trees everywhere. During a six-month commute, I looked for an area to live in that was beautiful, well cared for and close to nature ... I settled on Ainslie Wood/Westdale. The easy access to the lakefront, a beautiful campus, and all those little stores that were family businesses said wel-

come to a new-comer. On the fringe there were farms, fresh produce, waterfalls, and a marvellous botanical garden. Ainslie Wood/Westdale has always been a great place to show off to out-of-town visitors—it is part of a city, yet with a character of its own.

Paul Faure – Second Prize
\$25 gift certificate for use at Causal Gourmet.

I chose to live in the Ainslie Wood/Westdale neighbourhood because there is no other place that I would rather be. Indeed, it's the best place to live in the City of Hamilton. I love all the clean air, beautiful parks, nature areas, and walking/biking trails that are only steps away. I walk to work, I walk to shop (even downtown), I walk to visit my friends, plus



Path to RBG trails from Marion Ave. North.

Photo: Alice Sabourin

I have easy access to public transit that can take me almost anywhere I need to go (including Toronto). But the best thing about the Ainslie Wood/Westdale neighbourhood is its people—a wonderful mix of university students, faculty, and area residents living in harmony in their modest homes.

The winning entries were randomly selected, and both are heart-warming tributes to our wonderful community.



L to R Nancy Gulliver with Nicole (3 months), Stephanie Ounpuu, and Luis (age 7) fundraising for the splash pad.
Photo: Janet Woodward

AWWCA Supports Splash-Pad Fundraising

The AWWCA supported the splash-pad committee with its fundraising by sharing its booth at Westitalia and by providing space at the annual general meeting of the AWWCA on Sept. 14. At both events the splash-pad committee had a display where volunteers answered questions. The amount raised at these events was \$485. The AWWCA is contributing \$100, making a total of \$585 raised for the splash-pad fund in September.

A Splash Pad Is a Very Good Thing

LESA van LOON

Splash pads are public areas where spraying or shooting water is provided with no standing water. They are usually found in public parks, so they are free.

The showers and ground nozzles are controlled by hand-activated motion sensors. The sensor is on a timer to run for a limited time only. Splash pads use recycled water that is treated to at least the same level as public swimming pools.

The surface of the splash-pad area is made of slip-resistant non-porous material. With only a gradual slope of approximately two per cent, the water flows right into the drain so that there is no standing water. This eliminates the risk of drowning, the need for lifeguards, and the possibility of creating a mosquito breeding ground.

The cost of a splash pad is estimated to be one-tenth the cost of a swimming pool. With very little maintenance and no lifeguards required, the city's recurring costs are minimal.

The best part of splash pads is that they are designed for all ages to cool down and play together safely. Splash pads are



Splash pad at Gage Park, Hamilton.

Photo: City of Hamilton

wheelchair accessible and allow for planned family outings as well as spontaneous splashing. At the end of a run or bike ride through the park during our sweltering summers, just take off your shirt and shoes, roll up the legs of your pants, and run on through!



Some of the participants at the splash-pad meeting June 27.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Splashing in the Park

JANET WOODWARD

With the sweltering, record-breaking temperature on June 27, it was a perfect evening to meet at Dalewood School to discuss the possibility of a splash pad in Churchill Park.

Councillor Brian McHattie hosted the meeting of about 40 adults, some accompanied by their children. Almost all present were parents of young children. This was an exploratory meeting to determine if our neighbourhood wants a splash pad.

Mr. McHattie thanked Penny Palmer and Lesa van Loon for collecting signatures on a petition of about 500 names representing about 500 families in sup-

port of a splash pad. Penny thanked Mr. McHattie for spearheading the project.

Cynthia Graham from Open Spaces Development and Park Planning at the City of Hamilton presented the plans. The estimated cost is \$200,000 based on three upright sprays and five ground jets. The soonest that city dollars can be obtained is the spring of 2006. If the funding is approved, the work must be tendered and contractors selected, which would allow for construction to start in the fall of 2006. If the process goes as we hope, children will be playing in the splash pad in the summer of 2007. However, there is always a chance funding won't be approved in 2006, as city budgets are so tight. It was suggested that if the community could raise up to \$20,000 toward the cost, it might help expedite city funding. Some neighbours spoke of tapping into corporations as sponsors and applying to granting agencies. A fundraising committee has been set up and welcomes additional members. The Royal Botanical Gardens has given their

approval in principle but will have to approve the final plan.

All present were in favour of the idea of the project, though a few expressed reservations on behalf of neighbours who are concerned about the splash pad becoming a hang-out for youths and subject to vandalism.

Participants mentioned the need for shade trees (trees are often the first to be cut from the budget if there is a shortage of dollars), for the splash pad to be in colours that blend in with the existing playground, and for restricting usage to times when young children would be using the splash pad.

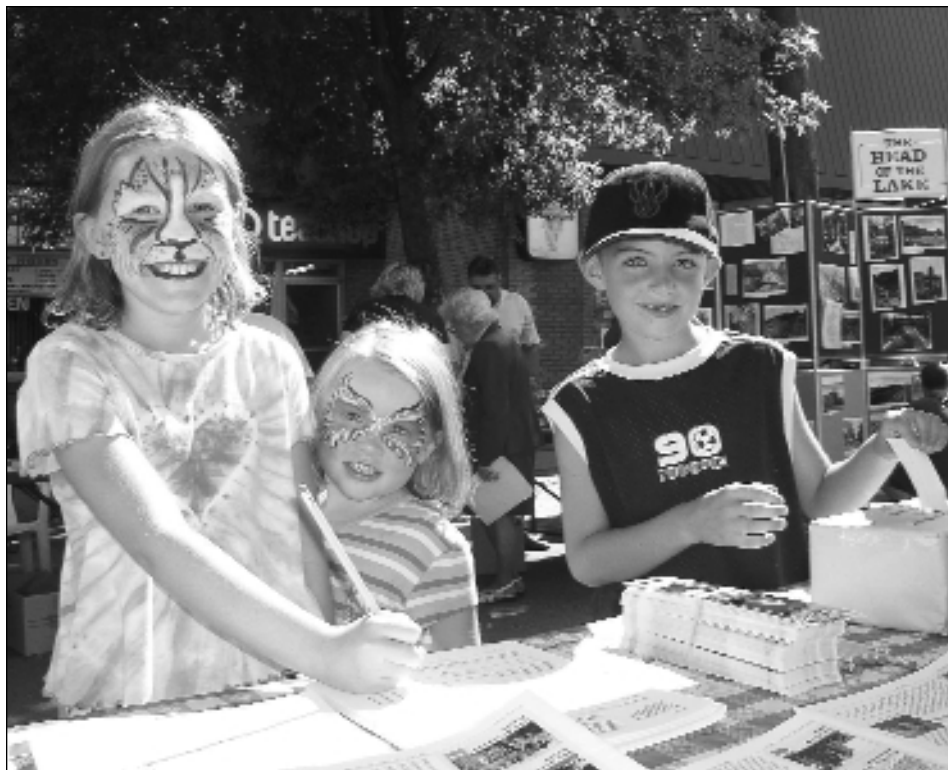
Surveyors commenced a survey for the splash pad on Aug. 30, and on that day Ms. Graham said: "The detailed design has to be completed prior to the scheduling of construction, and the survey is a first step to getting the detailed design started. As soon as the detailed design is complete, we will be in a better position to schedule construction, pending council approval of the Churchill Park development budget."

Please consider donating to the splash-pad fund and helping with fundraising. Contact Penny Palmer at ppalmer3@cogeco.ca for details.



City of Hamilton land surveyors Brian (on left) and Manny conducting a survey for the splash pad.
Photo: Janet Woodward

Bryan Prince Booksellers Sponsors AWWCA Contest



Olivia and Julia Mactavish and J. J. Shanlin entering draw at the AWWCA booth at Westitalia Sept. 11.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Seventy children aged 12 and under entered the children's marble contest held Sept. 10-11 during Westitalia. Congratulations to the winner of the \$25 gift certificate sponsored by Bryan Prince Booksellers, **Natalia Konrad Giesbrecht**.

The Squeaky Swing Gets the Grease

During the summer, neighbours surrounding Churchill Park noticed a distinct squeaking noise coming from the swings at the children's playground. It was particularly annoying at night. The problem was brought to the attention of Dale Brown, assistant to Councillor Brian McHattie, on July 5.

In less than 24 hours the squeaky swing was fixed. It was determined that the swing bearings were excessively worn, and they were all replaced. The children noticed the difference immediately, and so did the grownups.

Special thanks to Steven Ames, of playground maintenance, and his staff for the speedy response.

A Self-defining Season

ALICE SABOURIN

I take stock of what I've achieved, as well as what I haven't, at those predictable times of years—New Year's and my birthday. That's when my list-making starts and my "five-year plan" is refreshed. Well, it's more of a mental list than a written thing. Every once in a while I do something big or vow to venture into something new outside my comfort zone. You might be expecting a juicy confession, but instead I offer you a tasty organic tomato from my sunny community-garden plot.

water your plants. The city provides tools, wheelbarrows, and watering cans. There are even washroom facilities on site.

2. The garden is very sunny, so you can grow delicious produce and still enjoy your shaded yard at home.
3. It's a wonderful bonding area—a terrific spot to meet new people or to share with a friend.
4. It teaches our children about the cycle of life and how



Community Gardens at Churchill Park.

Photos: Janet Woodward

The plot I rented this year at Churchill Park Community Gardens marks a first for me, and it's offered me a symbolic leap in defining myself. I've always wanted to be the kind of person who has a community garden plot—responsible, neighbourly, of the earth. I cherish childhood memories of my mother's huge garden in Winona and the family favourites, like freshly picked peas and watermelon. As an adult with my own family I have dabbled in gardening but have had little success growing vegetables in our lovely shaded yard. It's been a small price to pay to live in beautifully treed Westdale. I had heard about the garden plots next to the Hamilton Aviary but was intimidated by the idea of renting a plot and tending to a vegetable garden until a friend and fellow villager suggested we share a plot. The deal was sealed over a glass of wine, and the planning began. The plot has been a joy, and I offer like-minded villagers these top reasons to rent a plot next year:

1. It's convenient and easy—a big plus for a busy household. The plots are rototilled at the beginning of each gardening season in May and irrigated throughout the season, so you don't need to visit the garden daily to

food is grown—if you can tear them away from riding their scooters or bikes on the circular driveway.

5. The scenery is beautiful. The plots are between Cootes Paradise and the Hamilton Aviary; it's our favourite picnic spot in the neighbourhood.
6. The area is really its own destination—the kids love to visit the birds and play on the grounds.
7. Gardening is meditative. In fact, the benefits of gardening range from psychology and economics to sociology and medicine.
8. Weeding counts as exercise! The task is accomplished quickly enough, but particularly when you have a gardening buddy.
9. You will eat healthy and delicious organic produce all summer long.
10. It's the perfect size (approximately 4 x 5 metres) and inexpensive at \$80 for the gardening season.

For more information, contact the city at 905-546-2424, ext. 5386, or e-mail them at parks@hamilton.ca.

green NEWS

Tree Planting in Ainslie Wood and Westdale

COUNCILLOR BRIAN
McHATTIE

As many of you know, the City of Hamilton has restored its street tree-planting program and this year is spending \$1.5 million along city rights of way. It is interesting to note that this is more than Toronto is spending! In addition, this year, for the first time, the city embarked on the Trees Across Hamilton tree-planting program in partnership with Environment Hamilton, Green Venture, and the Hamilton Future Fund, which contributed \$60,000 toward this community-based program.



Endre of Cedar Springs planting trees on perimeter of Churchill Park July 8. Photo: Janet Woodward

What does this mean for the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community? On May 14, 25 volunteers of Ward 1 for Trees Across Hamilton installed 300 native trees in Churchill Park where it meets

the Royal Botanical Gardens' natural lands. Species planted included tamarack, red oak, white oak, butternut, river birch, yellow birch, blue beech, black cherry, red maple, striped maple, sugar maple, eastern redbud, service-



Kim Appleby, Greg Kens, and Ben Gozdowski planting trees in Churchill Park May 14. Photo: Janet Woodward

berry, speckled alder, hoptree, and Kentucky coffee.

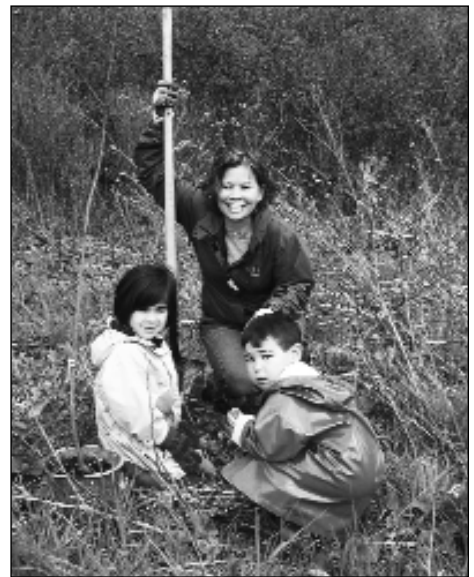
The city's street tree-planting program is funded with one per cent of the public-works budget, which comes to \$1,500,000 a year. Through this program, many of you approached the city for street trees on the city right of way across the front of your property. An additional 463 trees have been planted in the neighbourhood through this program, including 67 trees adjacent to McMaster University, 47 trees as part of the Main Street West reconstruction project, and 72 trees around the perimeter of Churchill Park.

How did the trees survive in the drought conditions we faced this summer? Overall, the plantings are doing very well. Clearly some of them were struggling, but we watered the trees in Churchill Park every three to five days. Depending on the weather, watering will continue until the leaves drop; if it is a dry fall, watering may continue until the first frost. Over 85 per cent of the trees survived quite well. We are replacing six dead serviceberries this fall and will re-evaluate other stressed trees in the spring to see if they have rebounded; if not, we will

replant. We encourage you to deeply water your own trees to ensure their health in drought conditions.

A flourishing urban forest is a key component of a healthy city. On average, an acre of trees can store 2.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually and generate enough oxygen daily for 18 people. In 50 years one tree can generate \$30,000 in oxygen, recycle \$35,000 of water, and eliminate pollutants that would otherwise cost \$60,000 to remove from the air.

What's next? I hope to meet with the Westdale Tree Committee to work together on an overall tree-planting and tree-health plan for the Ainslie Wood and Westdale area. You and your neighbours are encouraged to order street trees for next spring's planting by contacting my office at 905-546-2416 or bmchattie@hamilton.ca.



Janice Waye and her children, Tristan and Cooper, planting trees in Churchill Park May 14. Photo: Janet Woodward

Editor's note: After meeting with Toronto's Councillor Joe Pantalone, Councillor McHattie initiated the Trees Across Hamilton program, which he modeled after Toronto's program. Councillor Dave Braden arranged for additional tree stock and helped organize the plantings. Through this program over 5,000 trees were planted in Hamilton in 2005, with funding from Hamilton's Future Fund.

Leave a Legacy for Your Children and Grandchildren

DMITRI MALAKHOV

On hearing of the City of Hamilton's revived tree-planting program, my neighbour, **Mark Eisenberg**, and I knocked at doors of houses on our street where there were no trees. By speaking with residents, pointing out the many benefits of trees, and offering to put in the request for them, we persuaded 15 South Oval homeowners to accept a tree on their property.

The city's tree program allows you to choose one of 30 species. These trees are free, and the city will even plant them at no cost to you. We thank our councillor, **Brian McHattie**, for his role in leading the initiative for the tree program that is now enriching Hamilton's urban forest. And thanks to the Forestry Department, whose staff process our requests. Visit hamilton.ca/treeplanting for details of the program and to see the exciting features it has to offer. Request your tree today for the 2006 spring planting season!

The website environmenthamilton.org/treescount/tree_recommendations.htm provides information on the Trees Count program in Westdale. Also, browse davidsuzuki.org, the website of the David Suzuki Foundation. It is full of interesting scientific facts, arguments, and advice for making us a healthier society.



A 75-year-old silver maple tree on South Oval that came down in June.
Photo: Dmitri Malakhov

We are asking for your help to extend our efforts to plant trees on all Ainslie Wood and Westdale properties that don't currently have a tree. Are you willing to canvass a street or two, ask people to accept a tree, provide information about the program, acquire their contact details, and their list of desired species? Mark and I are planning to have a meeting of all volunteers in November. Please e-mail me at malakhdd@mcmaster.ca or call me at 905-521-6869 to help us with this effort or to chat and offer suggestions. Please join Mark and me in our campaign to make Ainslie Wood, Westdale, and Hamilton a greener, healthier, and more vibrant community. Leave yourself and your loved ones a lasting legacy!

Tonnes for Trees Exceeds Its Goals!

JULIA KOLLEK
PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Ainslie Wood and Westdale residents who took part in the Tonnes for Trees program can be proud of themselves: They pledged to reduce their personal greenhouse gases and helped us reach 1,027 tonnes for the city. The original goal for the entire program was only 50 tonnes. The most popular action chosen on the Tonnes' website was checking car-tire pressure once a month.

By going on the Tonnes for Trees website, residents chose from more than 64 energy-saving actions (from driving less to washing laundry in cold water) in an effort to support the Kyoto Accord and help stem the release of gases con-



More than 100 people came to the Tonnes for Trees Volunteer appreciation evening Aug. 11.
Photo: Janet Woodward

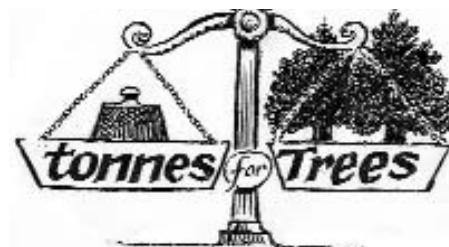
tributing to global warming. Those who pledged to lose a tonne of gases were rewarded with a free tree.

The project has closed now, but even though free trees are no longer on offer as an incentive, you can visit our website, get tips on how to help the environment, and save yourself money

at the same time. Visit environmenthamilton.org/tonnes/.

Meanwhile, two more tree counts took place this summer (in the Delta-west and north-end neighbourhoods).

We hope to return with all these Environment Hamilton projects next year when our funding is renewed. We look forward to continued partnerships with your community.



Every Litterbit Helps!

KENNETH SHERMAN

About 10 volunteers came on Mother's Day weekend to help to clean up CP Railway's abandoned corridor between Fortino's on Rifle Range Road and Stroud Road.

At the end of two hours all were amazed to discover just how much can be done by a small group of committed volunteers with special support from the City of Hamilton and Fortino's. Every litterbit helps!

Fortino's staff gave a few hours out of their workday to stack up mounds of debris at their end of the abandoned rail trail. Carrying on beyond Fortino's for another four or five blocks, we added another three dozen huge mounds of garbage.

We were glad to be joined by our councillor, **Brian McHattie**, and our member of Parliament, **Russ Powers**, and his wife, **Linda Powers**. Mr. McHattie told us that the city is presenting a proposal to CP Rail to convert this abandoned corridor into an extension of the existing Hamilton-Brantford Rail Trail. Mr. Powers, who was formerly active with the Hamilton Conservation Authority, offered his help to the city on the

initial development of the rail trail.

Special thanks go to Hamilton's Department of Public Works for getting their packers into the corridors to pick up the mounds of materials. It was a job well done by everybody, and I look forward to everyone's co-operation again in the spring.

In addition to those already mentioned, this year's cleanup had the co-operation of **CP Railway**, the **AWWCA**, **St. Mary's Secondary School's Recycling Environmental Assessment Program (REAP)**, and **McMaster's President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations**.

Following the cleanup, AWWCA member **Jeanne Bernard** sent the following note to Mr. McHattie, which she has given us permission to print:

What a treat! This morning I took my walk to Dundas along the rail trail. Imagine how pleasantly surprised I was to walk along a route sans bags, old furniture, and junk. It was

actually possible to focus exclusively on new growth, bird song, and looking for deer. Perhaps in the coming year we could get people so excited about keeping the trail enjoyable that they will actually stop littering and also curb their dogs. Thanks big time!



Jeannie Bernard, Robert Eaton, and Jean Wessel at rail-trail cleanup.
Photo: Kenneth Sherman

Pesticide Use

In an e-mail to members on Sept. 20, **Councillor Brian McHattie** said he had received several e-mails and phone calls saying that the city has posted notices that Churchill Park would be sprayed Sept. 21 to control weeds and improve turf health.

Mr. McHattie said: "I was not aware of these plans until I read an e-mail this afternoon from a constituent on Parkside Drive. In response, I spoke with staff and have a commitment not to spray pesticides in any Ward 1 municipal property, especially parks, in 2005. In addition, I have asked for a report on the condition of turf in Ward 1 parks. And I will be authoring a motion at Public Works Committee asking staff to investigate alternatives to pesticides to improve turf health, with financial implications identified, before we start into the 2006 budget process."



Ken Coit leading the Westdale tour.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Westdale Walk

On the lovely sunny, summery Sunday afternoon of Oct. 2, over 35 people explored Westdale under the leadership of **Ken Coit**. Ken is a volunteer with the Hamilton Region Branch of the

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. The tour explored the innovative City Beautiful design and social history of the Westdale neighbourhood. For information on upcoming tours go to architecturehamilton.com or call 905-308-9790.

living IN OUR campus town

Mac's New Director of Security and Parking

BETTY BECHTEL

The AWWCA welcomes **Terry Sullivan** as the new director of security and parking at McMaster University. It was under Terry's supervision as police superintendent of Division One that community-based policing was pioneered in the west end, and it has



Terry Sullivan

Photo: Bill Hunt, Hamilton Police Service

become a role model for similar post-secondary neighbourhoods. Terry enjoyed this work and writes: "I look forward to working again at making giant steps to achieve quality-of-life gains both on and off campus."

Skunk Rescue by Mac Students Pleases Homeowner

AWWCA member **Dr. Joan B. Heels** sent us the following letter Sept. 6:

So often we hear bad news about students in our neighbourhoods. I want to share the fact that students who live around me have helped me

in various ways, even shoveling my snow before the man I hired to do it gets here. And two young men once brought me flowers when they were going to have a party that night—perhaps a little bribe, but they were giving me a "heads up."

This morning, a couple of young women who live next door saw a skunk hardly moving in my driveway. They thought it was sick, so they called Animal Control. While they were waiting, they brought a cage from their house, covered the injured skunk, and put a cover over the cage so the skunk wouldn't get any wetter from the rain. An Animal Control officer came within about half an hour and removed the skunk from my driveway; she agreed that it was sick. I think it's important to remember that the skunk was not in the students' driveway, but in mine, and they took care of the problem. I own two houses with wonderful students in them, but I'm referring to ones who are not my tenants.

Wouldn't it be nice to hear more of these stories? I'm sure they are out there. I have had some wonderful experiences with the students who live around me. They are always willing to help.

This Landlord Means Business

BETTY BECHTEL

Some of us have tried unsuccessfully to have absentee landlords deal with their troublesome tenants. This past summer we encountered a landlord who would stand no nonsense from his problem tenants.

Students in a nearby house had an all-night party. There was sporadic shouting, drinking and urinating in public, and loud music. Police were called twice. I did not get much sleep. When I phoned the landlord the next morning and recounted what had happened, he said he would be over and would "give the tenants a piece of my mind and I will call their parents." Twenty-five minutes later he knocked on our

door, having done what he said he would do. He had admonished the young people, had reached one parent, and said he would write to the others.

A few days later he reported that he had been to City Hall and had learned that the one incident was enough for him to boot out these tenants. He decided to give them one more chance. "I will not have them back next year." He also learned that the noise bylaw was in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

He instructed us to call him anytime, day or night, saying, "One has to nip these things in the bud!"

Safe and Clean Accommodations for Students Is the Goal

McMaster's Student Rental Accommodation Review Program began in May. See the spring edition of *Neighbourhood News & Views* for an overview of the program. **Jennifer Kleven**, manager of McMaster's Off-Campus Resource Centre, is confident the program will keep growing. The goal is to make student accommodations safe and clean for students, and this is one of the AWWCA's goals as well.

The good news for resident homeowners is that the strain on the community has lessened this year because there is reduced demand for rental properties in our single-family-zoned neighbourhoods. Several rental houses have been gutted and refurbished for family living. When McMaster's new 390-bed residence opens next year, we expect to see more rental houses revert to family homes.

For more information on McMaster's program, visit macocho.com or contact Jennifer Kleven at 905-525-9140, ext. 27201, or klevenj@mcmaster.ca.

Swap-O-Rama 2006

Swap-O-Rama is a yearly event run by the City of Hamilton's Waste Reduction Division, McMaster University, McMaster Students Union, and MACgreen. It aims to divert waste from Hamilton's landfill when students move out and to make this a neigh-

bourhood event.

The next swap runs from Friday, April 28, to Sunday, April 30, 2006, and we ask you to note these dates now, as this is our last newsletter before then.

During the swap, you are encouraged to explore swap items at curbsides and give a home to anything that could be of use to you. It's as if everybody's having a garage sale, only it's all free!

Though resident homeowners may put out reusables, that isn't the focus of Swap-O-Rama. The city has bulk-goods pickup days for that. The focus is to encourage anyone who may be able to make use of an item left by students to take it and use it, leaving less to go to landfills. For more information contact MACgreen at 905-525-9140, ext. 26628, or enviro@msu.mcmaster.ca, or www.msu.mcmaster.ca/macgreen/swaporama.php.

Useful Websites

Back copies of *Neighbourhood News & Views*
brianmchattie.ca

Federation of Citizens' Associations
fca-fac.ca

Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario
urbanneighbourhoods.ca

Helping local communities achieve more autonomy
localgovernment.ca

Ontario Greenbelt Alliance
greenbelt.ca

Ontario Professional Planners Institute
ontarioplanners.on.ca

Ontario Smart Growth Network
greenontario.org/osgn

The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association
spur.org

Urban League of London (association of community groups)
ul.london.on.ca

INTERNATIONAL VARSITY NEWS

Aging Boomers Moving Back to Their College Towns

Francis X. Donnelly of *The Detroit News* reported on April 18 that the academic, cultural, and athletic offerings on campus are attracting aging baby boomers to resettle in a college-sponsored retirement community in Ann Arbor, the college town of the University of Michigan. College-sponsored retirement communities are a growing trend in the United States as baby boomers move into retirement. They are attracted by the youthful feel of university communities and the opportunity to participate in learning on their doorstep. See detnews.com/2005/lifestyle/0504/18/A01-153847.htm. *The Miami Herald* reported on Sept. 18 that more than 50 retirement communities are now up and running in college towns in the United States. Retirees are returning to their alma maters to live, attending classes and

sporting events and proudly carrying college identification cards.

Nationwide Movement to Build Housing for Seniors in College Towns

The article "Back to School" by Nell Porter Brown in the January-February 2005 issue of *Harvard Magazine* outlines the joys for retirees of living near an academic institution. They enjoy concerts, plays, art shows, lectures, the opportunity to audit courses, listening to the cheers from the nearby playing fields, and being drawn out of their houses by the sounds of people having fun. The article mentions that while the benefits of living in a university town are appreciated by people of all ages, retirees who want to re-establish social, cultural, and intellectual connections once they end their formal careers are attracted to college towns. Ms. Brown says that in the past 10 years in the United States, a nationwide movement has been growing to integrate and formalize relations between academic institutions and senior housing. The intergenerational models outlined in this article are ones our community can benefit from in future community planning. Go to harvardmagazine.com/on-line/010535.html.

City and University Fund Student-Housing Inspections

The St. Cloud Times of Minnesota reported on Aug. 22 that, through the efforts of the Neighbourhood Coalition, the City of St. Cloud and St. Cloud State University are splitting the cost of a part-time health inspector to ensure students live in safe and clean rental units.

Reclaiming Housing Stock Around the University of Wisconsin

The April 7 article by Claire Allen, "Pressure to live in high-rises mounts," in *The Daily Cardinal* deals with the pressure on neighbourhoods around the University of Wisconsin in Madison. The expectation is that rental properties will revert to owner occupied due to the building of 2,000 new high-rise student units on the campus boundary. The university's goal is to house every freshman student, because their data show students who live on campus have higher grades and more connections with other students. See dailycardinal.com/media/paper439/news/2005/04/07/News/Pressure.To.Live.In.HighRises.Mounts-916112.shtml.

members' NEWS

President's Report

ROB PAYNE

our grant application. More announcements and information will be given to members as the work continues.

I attended and gave a presentation at the National Town and Gown Forum at Brock University June 19-22. The theme of the forum was Building Bridges. As co-chair of the board of the newly formed Town and Gown Association of Ontario, I am pleased to see the AWWCA, the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Police Service, McMaster University, Mohawk College, and the Westdale BIA among TGAO's many sup-

the quality of life for all residents" in our community. In this case, and in many others, the AWWCA has assumed the role of information co-ordinator with regard to activities that affect our community.

I am also pleased to announce that **John Wigle**, an AWWCA board member, has been asked by McMaster University to act as co-chair of McMaster's President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations. I believe this is the first time that an AWWCA board member has held this position.

Congratulations to John!



Participants at the National Town and Gown Forum at Brock University June 19-22.

Photo: Stacey Neil

A New Format for Our Annual General Meeting

Below is a letter from AWWCA president **Rob Payne** distributed to those who attended the AWWCA's annual general meeting on Sept. 14. A slightly different version was sent to members on

our e-mail list in advance of the meeting. The letter is reprinted for members who were not on e-mail and were unable to attend the meeting. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please send a message to woodwardj@sympatico.ca.

September 14, 2004

To members of the AWWCA and guests:

The board of the AWWCA is looking forward to sharing with you this evening the many activities that we and our partners have worked on over the past year to improve the quality of life for all residents.

The guest speaker is our member of Parliament, Russ Powers, on the timely topic of sustainable communities.

Given the large number of activities that have been undertaken, we have changed the format of the AGM this year to allow you sufficient time to explore your areas of interest and to speak to police, bylaw, or McMaster representatives in a small-group setting.

Your AWWCA board has been active on your behalf over the past 12 months. One of the most important items to report to you is that the newly formed Campus Town Association (announced in the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*) was awarded an Ontario Trillium Grant in the amount of \$27,000. The funds will be used to formalize research to measure the status of our community and to enhance communication with the community. Over the past six months **Alice Sabourin**, vice-president of the AWWCA, led the board of directors through a marketing exercise. One outcome is a marketing document detailing the many benefits offered in the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community. This document will be used as a starting point by a consultant who will be hired and funded by a portion of the Trillium grant awarded to CTA. All three partners—the AWWCA, McMaster University, the Westdale Business Improvement Association—will be working toward fulfilling the mandate of the Ontario Trillium Foundation for

porters. It is hoped that this collaborative provincial body will lead in finding solutions that recognize the special challenges near-campus communities face in maintaining vibrancy and balance within their neighbourhoods. Currently, membership has grown to over 60 organizations across the province. The initial work of TGAO will focus on issues around student safety.

Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation is responsible for many issues that affect our neighbourhood. With the goal of developing a formal communication structure with the hospital similar to the one we have with the university, I requested a meeting with **Bruce Holden**, operations manager, to discuss communication with the community. In many cases we contact McMaster University for issues that are under control of the hospital, and I wanted our organization to have a clear communication structure with the hospital. I hope that this development will produce some collaborative financing strategies for the AWWCA, the university, the Westdale BIA, and the city to meet the AWWCA's goal to "enhance

From 5.30 to 6:30 p.m. you may visit the following booths:

1. *The secondary plan: City planners are available with display boards to answer questions.*
2. *Town and Gown Association of Ontario (TGAO): Representatives of this newly formed provincial body designed to address near-campus issues are available for questions. TGAO has grown to a membership of over 60 organizations in 2005. McMaster University, the Hamilton Police Service, the Westdale BIA, Mohawk College, and the AWWCA were among the founding members.*
3. *McMaster University: McMaster is displaying information from the Off-Campus Resource Centre, as well as the plans for the new residence and athletic centre. Representatives are here to answer questions.*
4. *Splash-Pad Committee: The proposal for a splash pad for Churchill Park is on display, with the local volunteer group available to answer questions and collect donations for this tremendous potential addition to our community.*
5. *City Bylaw and Police: Representatives have displays and are available to address members' questions.*

I have been impressed with the number of actions McMaster has taken to support our community since the last AGM. They have led the way for universities in Canada in applying such innovative programs as the special-duty police officers assigned to the near-campus community (funded in partnership with the McMaster Students Union and the city police) and the new voluntary Off-Campus Housing-Review Program to take the first steps to improving student safety. These programs are currently being used as models for universities across Canada through the newly formed TGAO.

Also, for the first time this year, Mac's Off-Campus Resource Centre started a welcome-bag program. Last

Thursday evening, board members Carolyn Kinsley and Tracey Lindsay went out with OCRC's staff Jennifer Kleven and Mike Ferguson, Police Constable Scott Moreton, Councillor Brian McHattie, his assistant Dale Brown, Vanessa Grupe of the city's planning department, and McMaster students to distribute bags to about 450 student houses. Along with a map of nearby stores and restaurants, a phone card, coupons, and other donated goodies, the bags contained information on city bylaws, the city's waste-collection calendar, and directions for recycling. Students were very surprised and pleased, and the hope is they will feel more integrated into the neighbourhood.

In addition, McMaster has enthusiastically supported such organizations as TGAO and the new Campus Town Association, a partnership between the

Westdale BIA, the AWWCA, and McMaster, with the goal of developing our neighbourhood into the "best campus town in North America." You will hear more about CTA over the next year.

While we will continue to struggle with ongoing issues such as noise, vandalism, and community balance, there is no doubt that during 2005 we have developed the appropriate formal structures to deal with these issues. I look forward to seeing how much further we can go in 2006.

I would like to thank all of the many volunteers and partners who are focused on improving the quality of life for all the residents of our community, specifically the AWWCA board, our newsletter design and layout artists Michelle and Bob Edmonds, McMaster University, Councillor Brian McHattie, Hamilton Police Service, the tree and splash-pad committees, the City of Hamilton, and the Westdale BIA.

All of the activities listed above, plus the tremendous benefit to Ainslie Wood and Westdale with the addition of McMaster Innovation Park, make the CTA vision for our community as

"the best campus town in North America" an achievable reality.

Sincerely,

Rob Payne, president

Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners Inc.

A Precious Asset

ROB PAYNE

As you are aware, your AWWCA is very actively pursuing quality-of-life issues in our neighbourhood. We do not run membership drives, but despite this we have experienced a gradual increase in numbers. Today, we have approximately 500 members, and we expect that this will increase again when the recent partnerships and activities we are involved with become more commonly known. We have a small group of board members who volunteer considerable time managing the activities of the AWWCA—the largest dues-paying neighbourhood association in Hamilton.

On behalf of our membership secretary, I would like to ask you to be prompt with your renewal when you receive your renewal form. Also, when you renew, please consider a multiyear payment to reduce the time spent on follow-ups for memberships and to reduce paperwork. This saving is passed on to members in the form of a fee reduction.

Volunteer time dedicated to our community is a precious asset, and we prefer not to waste it on repeated reminders to renew memberships. Thank you for your help with this matter.

The AWWCA board of directors holds its monthly meetings at:

Westdale Community Policing Centre,
1045 King St. West
First Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

We welcome all those interested in attending.

An Encouraging Evening

CAROLYN KINSLEY

On Sept. 14 the annual general meeting used the new format outlined above and exceeded our expectations. Representatives from the city, police, and McMaster talked to community members one on one beforehand at their display booths; instead of undergoing the annual "bear pit" of a hostile audience, they could show what they

Woodward reported that on Aug. 31 paid-up membership was 471, including 15 Friends of the AWWCA; 34 memberships were overdue. At the AGM 20 people renewed their memberships and 19 joined for the first time. About 150 people attended the meeting.

At 7 p.m., when the displays were being dismantled and the formal part of the AGM was about to begin, one of our

remind students not to litter. George R. Allan School assures me that students are reminded about this on a regular basis."

The Sept. 23 *Dundas Star News* had a flattering story about our AGM, which was picked by the U.S. publication *College Town Life*.

Jobs Well Done

Michael Bordin has been a member of the AWWCA board for four years. He volunteered to succeed Phyllis Tresidder as our representative during development of the secondary plan for Ainslie Wood and Westdale; this was quite a responsibility and involved attending many meetings. He volunteered his time while balancing a busy law practice and a growing family. The AWWCA would like to thank Michael for his community leadership. As a token of our appreciation, we presented him with a gift certificate from Bryan Prince Booksellers.

At the annual general meeting Sept. 14, **Tom Bryner** was presented with a framed certificate for his many years of dedication to and work for our community. Tom served as recording secretary of the board of the AWWCA from September 2001 to September 2005. His accurate and comprehensive notes are an invaluable record for our association. Members were readily brought up to date by referring to the minutes he provided. Tom, in his quiet, friendly, and effective manner, provided considerable experience and insight into the problem-solving work of the board. He always presented his views with diplomacy and wisdom.

We will miss Michael and Tom on the board.



Rob Payne outlining actions taken in past year.

Photo: Janet Woodward

are doing in response to our problems. The splash-pad and tree committees also had displays. **Councillor Brian McHattie** and our president, **Rob Payne**, reported on what has been accomplished since last year's AGM (a lot!) and on plans for the future. **Alice Sabourin** introduced technology to the AGM by preparing a PowerPoint presentation to accompany Rob's report and a slide show that ran in the background during part of the evening; it received many compliments. Our guest speaker, **Member of Parliament Russ Powers**, promised to co-operate with the government of Ontario and Hamilton City Council to see what the federal government could do to address our concerns and then to report back to us next year.

Membership secretary **Janet**

older members arrived breathless and looking anxious: "Can't I talk to anyone now?" At the end of the evening I caught her as she was leaving, among the last to go, and asked if she'd been able to speak to anyone. She was beaming: "Oh yes. We still have problems, but there is a feeling of hope. People are listening."

After the meeting, **Judith Bishop**, AWWCA member and school trustee, Wards 1 and 2, wrote to the schools to say that one of the comments made was that there was a lot of garbage in Westdale. She asked the principals to remind students that all are responsible for a nice place to live. She then sent a note to the AWWCA: "A great meeting on Wednesday night and a lot to celebrate. For your information . . . Westdale Secondary School has promised to

Kudos for *Neighbourhood News & Views*

After delivery of the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*, long-time Ainslie Wood resident and AWWCA member **Jean Walker** called to express her congratulations on an excellent newsletter with timely articles that give her hope for the future of the area. She also appreciates the list of helpful phone numbers. Another member, **Gillian Booth**, writes: "I am impressed by the quality of the newsletters and find them very useful."

The AWWCA Keeps Me Informed

AWWCA member and block representative **Murray Babb** writes: *I was helping Councillor Dave Braden and several others plant trees on a hillside just north of Greenville on May 1. They were experts, and I just did what I was asked to do. Dave Braden was a pleasure to work with, and he was delighted to have anyone help. When he asked how I found out about the planting, I told him that our AWWCA board keeps us very informed about everything. That's another point for our team!!*

NEWS from the BLUES

Project SAFEGUARD

POLICE CONSTABLE MARTIN
SCHULENBERG

Last summer our service implemented Safeguard Hamilton, a crime-prevention program aimed at reducing residential break-and-enters. The program is operated by our auxiliary officers and focuses on security audits and target hardening. We use this program in two ways:

1. The auxiliary officers are deployed in areas where a crime trend has been identified.
2. The auxiliary officers respond to homeowners' calls for service. This is where you fit in.



Scheduling is done by phone with the auxiliary officers. They will respond directly to your residence and work with you to burglar-proof your home.

More information can be obtained from our website at hamiltonpolice.on.ca—look under Preventing Crime. We also have Safeguard flyers available for dissemination in your community.

Help protect your home by taking advantage of this free service. Call an auxiliary officer at 905-546-4929.

A Policing Plan for Our Community

A community forum jointly hosted by **McMaster's President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations**, the **McMaster Students Union**, the **City of Hamilton**, and the **AWWCA** was held March 10 at Binkley United Church.

Representatives of the hosting parties, the **Westdale Business Improvement Area**, and the **Hamilton Police Service** signed a 2005 policing plan for the area with four goals: reduction of graffiti, reduction in property crimes, improving road safety, and identifying and addressing disorderly persons. All are committed to working together to solve recurring quality-of-life issues in the community.

Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin informed us: "Good news is here and it has two wheels. On Friday and Saturday nights from Sept. 23 to Oct. 31 between 8 p.m.



Representatives who signed the policing plan.

Photo: Janet Woodward

and midnight the police are deploying bicycle officers in the AWWCA area. A police bicycle officer will team up with an auxiliary bike officer and patrol the side streets of the area.

(Councillor McHattie should like this idea, because it is a very environmentally friendly patrol.) These

officers are responsible for seeking out developing parties and reminding the residents about being responsible neighbours. They are also looking for liquor violations on the street. Two bike officers can sneak up on you before you can say "dump the beer." The most important role is that they are "advance scouts" who brief the McMaster special-duty officers when they come in, so they know what is hot. This allows them to get right to work. This is a new initiative to help us address the goal in our business plan to "work together to identify and address the problem of disorderly people associated with both houses and establishments."

To begin to address the goal of reduction of graffiti, a graffiti-removal day was organized for Sept. 6 to clean bus-stop and traffic signs, Canada Post boxes, electrical boxes, and benches. Special thanks to AWWCA board member **Dmitri Malakhov**, representing the AWWCA and the Westdale BIA, and to **Staff Sgt. Scott**



Graffiti cleanup crew.

Photo: Liz Millar

Rastin for their outstanding leadership in organizing the event. And thanks to all who were involved in the organizing and cleanup, including **Dale Brown**, **Michele Corbeil**, **David Dayler**, **Jessica Fedoruk**, **Police Constable Scott Moreton**, **Sgt. George Narozniak**, **Julia Thomson**, and **Janet Woodward**.

A Reminder About Safety

from an AWWCA Member

It's good to prepare your routine before canvassers (or salespeople) come calling, especially if you are alone.

Don't Open Your Door to Strangers

Talk through the door or a window. If you have a storm door, keep it locked so you can open the interior door without being completely exposed. If you are alone and have a portable or cell phone, you can carry it with you to the door, as if you're talking to someone, and be ready to hit the button for 911.

Canvassers for legitimate charities will have postage-paid donation envelopes and brochures with their toll-free number and web address. If you don't want to open the door, ask them to put the information in your mailbox. (Same goes for legitimate salespeople. Identification tags around the neck may look professional, but you can't read them from behind your door, and anyone can make them up.)

Never Give Cash at the Door

That applies to anyone canvassing on behalf of anything—even for a cause you know and even if you know the canvasser. Say, "I never give cash," or, even better, "I don't have cash." (Remember, it's also safer for the canvasser not to be carrying cash donations.)

If you want to make a donation on the spot, give a cheque made out to the charity (never to an individual). If you're not sure you want to make a donation, or just want to refuse politely, ask for a brochure and envelope and say you will consider sending a donation later.

I make two exceptions (sort of): If neighbours' children I recognize are selling candy to support their school's music program, for instance, I always buy it. I also sometimes sign pledge sheets for high school students I don't know who are raising money for a worthy cause. Before signing I make sure that when they come back to collect I will be paying by a cheque made out to the cause or the school, not cash to them. (And of course you don't give them the cash up front before they've completed the activity!)

If you want to chat with strangers soliciting for a cause or selling something you're interested in, go out on your porch instead of inviting them inside, and only in daylight.

Better to seem slightly unfriendly than to take foolish risks.

A Letter of Thanks to the Police

On April 12 **Michael Ladouceur** wrote to the police: *First of all, my wife, **Kendyll Woodman**, and I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your reports and work in keeping the Westdale/Ainslie Wood neighbourhood safe and civil. We have noticed a sharp and substantive decline in boisterous and threatening behaviour in our neighbourhood since the advent of your patrols, especially on weekends. I am a block representative for the AWWCA and live on Haddon Avenue North. If there is anything we can do to assist you, don't hesitate to ask.*



Year of the Veteran

Today, we ask a new generation of Canadians to surrender their time, volunteer their hearts, and take one year to fully remember a century of sacrifice. That year is 2005—The Year of the Veteran.

The Honourable Albina Guarnieri,
Minister of Veterans Affairs

In 1925 the people of West Hamilton erected a fine granite cenotaph on the front lawn of St. Margaret's Church (now St. George's) at 134 Emerson St.



Cenotaph on front lawn of St. George's Church.
Photo: Janet Woodward

Useful Numbers

Abandoned shopping carts

- Barn: 905-523-5044
- Fortino's (Rifle Range store): 905-308-9045 and press 0

Barking dogs

- 905-546-CITY (2489); after hours call Animal Control, 905-574-3433

City Hall: 905-546-CITY (2489)*

Crime Stoppers

(to report a crime anonymously)

- 1-800-222-8477*

Garbage, waste management

- 905-546-CITY (2489)*

Graffiti

- Hot Line: 905-546-4723*
- Graffiti on Canada Post boxes: 1-800-267-1177 and press 0
- Graffiti on street signs: 905-546-4376*
- Graffiti on public property: 905-546-CITY (2489)*
- Graffiti on private property: 905-546-4925*

McMaster University

Office of Public Relations, Community Help Line

- 905-525-9140, ext. 27305

Noise infractions

- 905-546-2782; after hours 905-546-4925 or 905-546-CITY (2489)*

Parking infractions

- 905-540-6000*

Police (non-emergency)

- 905-546-4925; * a person will answer after the taped message.
- To report keg deliveries (ask to have the Beat 691 officer call you): 905-546-4771*
- If you need further assistance: police reception desk, 905-546-4771*
- Westdale Community Policing Centre 905-546-8951 or 905-546-8952
- Beat 691 officers' e-mail: westdale@hamiltonpolice.on.ca

Property-standards infractions

- 905-546-2782 or Randy Charlton, co-ordinator, standards and licensing, 905-546-2424, ext. 1314 (8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.), or rcharlto@hamilton.ca

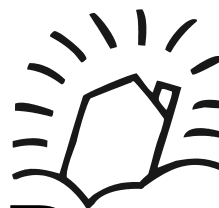
Snow-clearing infractions

- 905-546-CITY (2489)*

Street signs missing or damaged, traffic lights not working

- 905-546-4376*

* Hours are 24/7



Because we care

The AWWCA is a volunteer, nonprofit association whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community environment and the quality of life for all residents, and to organize, communicate, lobby, and pursue the needs of the members of the association. The AWWCA newsletter, *Neighbourhood News & Views*, is distributed to members. The opinions expressed within the newsletter are those of the writers unless otherwise specified and do not necessarily represent the views of the AWWCA.

Submissions welcomed. Please send all news, story ideas, and photographs (no Polaroids please) to:

AWWCA

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*"Building community
block by block"*



The Way We Were

Westdale Memories

LOREEN
JEROME

Charles Houghton was kind enough to relate some of his fond memories of Westdale for your reading pleasure.

When Charles's family moved to Westdale circa 1924, they occupied the only house on **Dromore Crescent**, and a mud road went down to the intersection of **Oak Knoll**.

The back window of Charles's house afforded him a view of his father coming home from teaching school via Main Street West.

Before the McKittrick Bridge was built in 1914, the area had been the city dump, and dumping continued long after the bridge was built. The streetcars stopped at **Dundurn Street**. Later they turned in the loop at **King** and **Sterling Streets**, and the **Westdale Oval** began to take shape.

Growing up, Charles played in the houses under construction west of **North Oval**. Night watchmen were stationed in caravans parked nearby, and the site was lit up with smelly coal-oil lamps. Charles attended school at **George R. Allan** (built 1927) and was



First kindergarten class at George R. Allan, 1927. Photo: Hamilton Public Library, Special Collections, Cunningham Collection 1927.

in the first kindergarten class there; he is in the front row, second from the right, in the above photo. "We all knew **Mr. Little** as the principal. Illuminated toboggan slides were built overlooking Cootes Paradise. We would go down the hill on a toboggan, and out onto the marsh; depending on the state of the ice, we could almost reach the **Desjardins Canal**."

Charles recounted that the road to Toronto went down **Longwood Road North** and around the arm of **Cootes Paradise**. There were a number of boat houses/shacks (**Shacktown**) on the north side up to the **Desjardins Canal**. The **Hamilton Isolation Hospital** for diphtheria patients was situated at the very north end of **Paradise Road**, overlooking **Cootes Paradise** and **Chedoke Creek**. "We were too terrified to go

near the place!"

A nice drive in the 30s was through the woods, entering either at the corner of **Dromore** and **Marion** or **Dalewood Crescent** and **Oak Knoll**. The roads came out at a hay

field near what is now **Les Prince Field** at McMaster. A favourite hike, if the water was low, was down **Marion** to the sand hills just beyond the creek and then right on a path out to the island with no name (now **Rat Island**). Behind the Westdale **Aviary** parking lot, at the edge of the woods, were a number of picnic tables and a hut where soft drinks and snacks were sold to picnickers.

Charles currently lives in Ainslie Wood East with his wife, Jan, and we thank him for his recollections.

Mailing Label