

Neighbourhood News & Views

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AINSLIE WOOD / WESTDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Autumn 2006 OF RESIDENT HOMEOWNERS INC.

"Building community block by block"



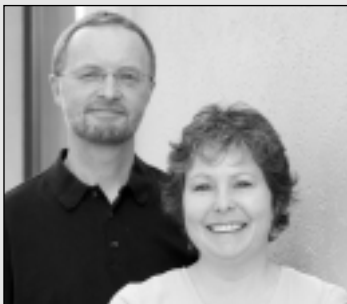
Changes to the PJ Parade

14



Graffiti Day 2006

18



Volunteers who Made a Difference

19

AWWCA Launches Website

MICHAEL TAN

*Editor's Note: AWWCA president Rob Payne reported at the eighth annual general meeting: "I am pleased to announce that we officially launched our first web-site, awwca.ca, on Sept. 18. Through the leadership of board member **Michael Tan**, the site was created by AWWCA member and McMaster graduate student **Jay Parlar**. It is our hope that this site will be a complement to our award-winning newsletter as a way to keep our members current with events in our community."*

There are a number of objectives that we intend our Internet presence to accomplish. First and foremost is to facilitate the mission of the association. This in itself is a huge undertaking. Improving the quality of life for all community residents, providing a forum to communicate, advocate and organize the interests and needs of our mem-

bers, and being the portal by which other neighbourhood organizations can communicate with us are all facets of the AWWCA's mission.

In addition, however, the website is intended to be the community's portal to the public. It will provide useful and insightful information on life in the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community and all it has to offer. Over time, it will be a source of real-time information on events, entertainment, and public opinion.

There is much work yet to be done to reach the goals of our online presence. Key segments will be developed and maintained by various board members in the coming months. To make it a website accessible to the public but focused on the interests of our membership, we welcome any comments, feedback, and ideas from you. Please visit us at awwca.ca.



Home page of the AWWCA's website.

AROUND the NEIGHBOURHOOD

A Park with a Splash!

JANET WOODWARD

After several delays, the contractor completed construction of the Churchill Park splash pad at the end of September, and benches were installed the first week of November. Thank you to AWWCA member **Penny Palmer** and her group for initiating the project, organizing a community meeting June 27, 2005, gathering signatures on a petition, and fundraising (see the autumn 2005 issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*). We received many messages of thanks for this wonderful facility; members noted it will attract more families to our community.

In my article *Splashing in the Park* in the autumn 2005 newsletter, the soonest construction was expected to start was the fall of this year. Our thanks to **Councillor Brian McHattie** for fast-tracking the project. Now youngsters will be able to enjoy the new splash pad on the first warm day of summer next year. Splash pads in the city are generally turned on in early June and turned off in mid-September. The duration is weather driven. During the season, the pads can be activated from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Churchill Park splash pad adjacent to playground.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Cynthia Graham, of the city's Open Space Development and Park Planning Section, advised that the spray pad (the term the city uses) features four upright water features and five ground jets. The upright features include an aqua arch (children run under the arch, which sprays water), a curvy cane (water pours down from above the children's heads), and two cattail features (water sprays out the top in several streams at the same time). The ground jets include three geysers (water bursts upward in a steady stream), and two "mop top" gushers (spray is forced in eight streams pointed in all directions).

Ms. Graham outlined the technical aspects of the sprayers: "Once the spray pad is activated by a child using the activation button, the spray sequence begins. Generally this is a random-looking pattern of sprays. Not all the features are spraying at once, but as some turn off, others turn on to create an exciting play experience. Generally, the sequence will last for several minutes before being turned off automatically."

We are very happy with the quantity of trees planted around the splash pad as part of the park improvements. There are five *Acer rubrum* (red maple), four *Acer saccharum* 'Green Mountain' (Green Mountain

sugar maple), three *Quercus rubra* (red oak), and four *Tilia cordata* (littelleaf linden).

Vandalism has been a problem at the Churchill Park playground, where youths gather after dark. The police have been helpful in clearing large numbers of them from the playground area after dark. On many occasions adults have cleared the playground of broken beer bottles, and we are concerned about the possibility of broken glass on the splash pad. Mr. McHattie's office has responded quickly to requests to remove graffiti from the playground, picnic tables, and benches and to stake young trees that have been deliberately bent over. **Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin** has agreed to have officers regularly patrol the splash pad area in an effort to protect it from vandalism. However, the best security system is a good neighbour. If you see vandalism **in progress**, call 911. If everyone who borders the park keeps an eye on it, we will have a better chance of reducing crime. Let's work together to keep this facility a happy and safe place for the children of our community.

Janet Woodward is newsletter co-ordinator and membership secretary of the AWWCA.



Earl and Loreen Jerome with history display at AWWCA booth at WestFest.
Photo: Janet Woodward

Celebrating 75 Years of Community Life

WestFest, a celebration of 75 years of community life, was held June 10 in Westdale Village. The AWWCA had a history board on display consisting of articles from *The Way We Were*, as published in *Neighbourhood News & Views*. AWWCA treasurer **Loreen Jerome**, who organized the association's display, commented on the volunteers for the AWWCA booth: "**Barb Mansfield, Ira Rosen, and Alice Sabourin** were great representatives for the AWWCA, and I could not have done without them. I also thank my husband, **Earl Jerome**, for all his assistance."

Are You a Photo Enthusiast?

We are seeking photo enthusiasts with a passion for our Westdale and Ainslie Wood neighbourhoods. Photos of inspiring locations and events are ideal.

Photos may be published, with photographer permission and acknowledgement, in forthcoming neighbourhood and Campus Town Association publications, websites, and presentations.

All photos are welcome, especially high-resolution photos (such as jpg, tiff, or bmp) taken with a digital camera.

To ensure photos of people are eligible to be published, please note that we require a release from any individuals in the photo.

For more information or details regarding how to obtain consent, please contact Alice Sabourin at 905-523-0337 or sabourin@cogeco.ca.

Westdale High School Adds International Baccalaureate

AWWCA member **Judith Bishop**, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board trustee for Wards 1 and 2, wrote to us Sept. 4: "It is exciting that Westdale High School finally has permission to start an International Baccalaureate Program. I have long supported such an idea, as it already fits in with the nature of the school: Westdale offers the most university courses of any high school in the district. The program will start in Grade 11 for students currently registering in Grade 9."

The International Baccalaureate Organization is a recognized leader in the field of international education, encouraging students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals, and engaged world citizens. Founded in 1968, the IBO currently works with 1,888 schools in 124 countries.

The IB Diploma Program is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16-19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities.

We asked Judith how the program came to Westdale High School, and she responded:

Westdale High School became interested in looking at the IB Program before amalgamation in the 1990s, when the former Hamilton Board of Education was considering magnet programs for high schools. The school did quite a lot of exploration and hosted an information meeting at the school.

The education director of the HWDB, Dr. Christopher Spence, is very interested in the IB Program because it has a community and global focus as well as offering enriched curricula. He raised the whole issue again, as the Board is anxious to increase the complement of programs that offer parental choice for their children.



International Baccalaureate sign at Westdale High School.

Photo: Rob Payne

Westdale has been chosen to start the IB Program for the HWDSB because: the school had already done preliminary work and made contacts with the IB Organization; the school has staff members who came from other boards of education where they had already been trained to give the IB Program; the school already offers the right range of programs to start the program, particularly in the languages, science, and mathematics areas; and the school is accessible by public transit so that students from the inner and other parts of the city can attend.

We are very happy to have this important asset in our community.

Bryan Prince Bookseller Sponsors AWWCA Contest

JANET WOODWARD

In August 2005 the city installed bike racks in Westdale Village. We thought it would be a good idea for children to



Douglas Westcott with his prize.

Photo: Janet Woodward

know where the racks are, so our contest at the AWWCA booth at Westitalia, held Sept. 8-10, was to guess or count the number of black bicycle racks. The contest was open to children aged 12 and under.

They were given a map of the bike-rack locations if they wanted to walk the village and count them rather than guess.

And the winner is . . .

Congratulations to six-year-old **Douglas Westcott** of Longwood Road, who counted 50 bike racks. There are actually 53 racks; his answer was closest to the correct number. Douglas won a \$25 gift certificate donated by **Bryan Prince Bookseller**.



Jack Vallentyne and his granddaughter, Tessa, filling out her contest entry form at the AWWCA booth at Westitalia Sept. 9.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Five Community Volunteers Honoured

The City of Hamilton's second "Hamilton Celebrates" VIP awards were presented on Oct. 1. This initiative was conceived by the Mayor's office to celebrate the people, diversity, and spirit of Hamilton.

Mayor Larry Dilanni presented awards to nominated individuals in each ward of the city. Half of the awards in Ward 1 went to the following AWWCA members: **Doug Anderson, Jeanne Bernard, Ira Rosen, Kenneth Sherman, and John Wigle**. (Ira and John are also AWWCA board members.)

These awards recognize volunteer contributions to our community and are well deserved. We congratulate them warmly.

The Trucks Stop Here

ROB PAYNE

As I listen to yet another in a line of construction vehicles that travel down my residential street in the early morning hours, I cannot help thinking of the optimism in the community about the new Main Street entrance proposal launched eight years ago. The vision to develop a "gateway" to McMaster, and to use an internal circulation route to address long-term residential issues concerning the then Sterling Street main entrance, struck a positive chord with the neighbourhood.

The rationale for such an internal circulation route seemed well thought out by both McMaster administration and expert traffic consultants: "The Sterling Street access is problematic in that it is located in a residential community, and does not provide effective access to the Hamilton arterial road network. There is no continuous internal road access system which would allow visitors to be directed to any of the campus parking lots without having to use external roadways" (New Entrance executive summary, mcmaster.ca/ua/opr/newentrance/execsumm.html).

This rationale was supported by the **McMaster University Access Review** (April 1999), which endorsed a "new primary entrance on Main Street West [that would] provide a continuous circulation route for all vehicles."

McMaster president Dr. Peter George gave encouraging comments about the impact the entrance would have on the community: "From the plans that I have seen to date, I think the recommendations to make Main Street our principal entrance are quite sound. The Sterling Street entrance will remain open, but congestion through the Westdale residential district will be greatly relieved" (McMaster Alumni Connection Luncheon, March 28, 2000).

What happened?

The first hint of what was to come can be found in the **University Planning Committee minutes** (Nov. 15, 2000): It was decided "that the University Planning Committee support the restriction of vehicular traffic on University Avenue to service vehicles and public transportation vehicles." This recommendation was approved by the Board of Governors on Dec. 15, 2000. The decision greatly changed the original rationale for the new entrance, although the internal circulation route was supported by another professional assessment report done one year later.



One of hundreds of trucks on Forsyth Ave. in September.

Photo: Rob Payne

The Main Street West Class Environmental Assessment Traffic Study Technical Report (Paradigm Transportation Solutions Limited, April 2001) stated a preferred alternative for an "All directional intersection at Main Street West, connecting to a new internal driveway within the campus." This new report, which again recommended an internal circulation route as the best option, did not have any impact on the position taken by the Board of Governors, who approved the McMaster campus plan, which again ignored the internal-traffic-route recommendation.

McMaster held a Main Street entrance public consultation March 23, 2004. The presentation made a point of emphasizing that "The proposed campus entrance road will not be used as a vehicular access between Main Street and other areas in the northern Central Campus (such as the Zones 1 and 2 parking lots or Scholar's Road). This was decided by the Board of Governors."

The Board of Governors approved the Main Street West entrance April 15, 2004. The "front door" to the campus was underway.

What is wrong with this process?

1. The ability of the university to make a unilateral decision with regard to traffic flow, knowing, according to their own reports, the negative impact that it would have on the surrounding community, is inappropriate. The jurisdiction of the Board of Governors should not be extended to off-campus areas by default.
2. The lack of co-ordination between the city's and the university's planning has created contradictions, as we have traffic calming planned for overloaded residential streets, while at the same time these streets absorb the traffic that should go

through the campus, based on the conclusions of professional studies.

3. The newly created main entrance to the university takes only a small volume of the vehicles compared to the Sterling Street entrance, which was at capacity in 1999.
4. Many of the university's destination attractions (the new stadium, the new fitness centre, the student centre) are all located in an area that is currently serviced by the Sterling Street entrance. This situation will further increase the volume of vehicles traveling through residential streets, unless an internal travel route is developed to accommodate the increased flow.

The university has done much in the past few years to address community concerns. The issue of traffic, particularly the flow of construction vehicles, will be a strong test of the collaborative ties developed over the past few years between the AWWCA and McMaster. The current situation is too punitive to the surrounding neighbourhood to continue.

We agree with the McMaster University Faculty Association president's recent comments: "We hope that there is now some recognition of the limits for growth on the main campus, given our physical footprint and our obligation to preserve and enhance the local greenspace environment, and our responsibility to be a 'good neighbour' to the surrounding Westdale community" (MUFA Newsletter, President's Report, September 2006).

As always, your board is committed to work closely with our community partners on any ideas that may help correct this situation.

Rob Payne is president of the AWWCA.

Reducing Truck Traffic in Our Community

As a result of a number of meetings arranged by Councillor Brian McHattie and attended by members of your AWWCA board, a short-term agreement has been made to share construction truck traffic with McMaster on a 50/50 basis until the current construction is completed by May 2007.

The removal of dirt is over, so the average of 200 trucks per day experienced by residents on Dalewood, Haddon, and Forsyth during the summer and fall has been reduced to approximately 20 trucks per day.

McMaster has also agreed to develop a formal "trucking plan." The AWWCA expects this plan to outline how the university will remove all heavy trucks from the community during 2007. Mr. McHattie has advised us that a draft terms of reference for that plan will be subject to public consultation.

The AWWCA will continue to work closely with the university, city, and police toward meeting our objective of no heavy truck traffic on our residential streets and will keep you posted on our progress.

Thank You, Westitalia Volunteers

The AWWCA thanks the nine volunteers who looked after our display area at Westitalia Sept. 9 and 10: **Betty Bechtel, Earl Jerome, Loreen Jerome, Carolyn Kinsley, Barb Mansfield, Kenneth Moyle, Alice Sabourin, Heather Thomson, and Janet Woodward.** At Westitalia six individuals took out memberships with the AWWCA, and several others expressed interest and took literature home.



Carolyn Kinsley speaking with Jack Vallentyne at AWWCA booth at Westitalia. Photo: Janet Woodward

CITY HALL NEWS

AWWCA INFLUENCES HAMILTON'S NEW SIGN BYLAW

LOREEN JEROME

As reported in both the autumn 2005 and spring 2006 issues of *Neighbourhood News & Views*, the AWWCA submitted suggestions for changes to Hamilton's sign bylaw in four areas: mobile signs, posters, rooftop billboards, and for-rent signs. The AWWCA was the only community group to submit a written presentation. **Carolyn Kinsley** and I prepared our written recommendations, and I prepared an audiovisual PowerPoint presentation for one of the public meetings.

We are pleased to tell you that our work has resulted in a few changes to Hamilton's new sign bylaw. Posters will only be allowed at designated information kiosks or on approved poster sleeves. Future rooftop signs will be banned, although unfortunately existing signs will be grandfathered. Flashing or animated signs are banned with the exception of electronic-message displays as permitted under this bylaw. Our recommendation for elimination of for-rent signs in our zoning was turned down.

Hamilton City Council approved A By-Law Respecting Signs and Other Advertising Devices within the City of Hamilton, 06-243, Aug. 9; it takes effect Feb. 1, 2007. It replaces more than a dozen old bylaws in Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, Hamilton, Stoney Creek, and the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth. Presently, regulations for signs other than election and mobile signs are found in the Hamilton Zoning Bylaw. With the passage of the new com-

prehensive sign bylaw, the zoning bylaw is being revised to remove all references to signage. Also, the Hamilton Licensing Code is being amended to include the requirement that all mobile-sign operators be licensed.

At the public meeting, I said: "There's no point in passing additional laws if they're not going to be enforced." I was pleased to hear that the city plans to use the permit fees to hire two bylaw officers to police the regulations.

During the past two years, 14 public-consultation sessions were held in the above communities to obtain feedback on sign regulations in the City of Hamilton. About 25 groups made presentations, including the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton-Burlington Automobile Dealer's Association, Realtors' Association of Hamilton-Burlington, Hamilton Association of Business Improvement Associations, and the AWWCA.

Council received the city staff report, which included many of the AWWCA's suggestions, on June 22. It was sent back for amendments. When the bylaw came back to council, it contained amendments based on feedback from the sign industry, including allowing limited amounts of colour.

The new sign bylaw may be viewed at myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/cityandgovernment/citydepartments/planningecdev/buildinglicenses/standardslicensing/newsignbylaw. Scroll down to "further information" and then click on "A By-Law Respecting Signs ..."

Loreen Jerome is treasurer of the AWWCA.



Eyesores like this should disappear after Feb. 1, 2007.

Ward 1 Chedoke-Cootes Councillor's Report

BRIAN MCHATTIE

Sadly, fall migration is nearly complete, but the beautiful fall colours more than make up for the onset of early winter. The Monarch butterfly migration was spectacular this autumn. In this article, I want to provide a snapshot of things I am working on now and in the future in Ainslie Wood and Westdale.

Many new projects have arisen in response to the challenges of living adjacent to a large, landlocked university campus over the past several years. One new partnership effort is Project Watchdog (funded by the McMaster Students Union, McMaster University, and the city). It is a pilot project designed to identify properties with long grass and weeds, with students contacting landowners to seek short-term, voluntary compliance before city bylaw personnel take action. On Sept. 27 a motion I brought to council was passed requesting that the 2007 Standards and Licensing work plan include organizational changes, increased staff, improved service levels, and additional funding. The intent is to get more bylaw officers out into the community.

Our initiatives have been successful as we have strived to operate through partnerships. However, traffic (especially trucks) in the neighbourhoods around campus has recently increased due to construction on campus and vehicles using the Main Street entrance as a short cut to the Sterling Street entrance via Forsyth Avenue. This may be an issue that challenges the co-operative partnerships that we have put in place. Addressing traffic issues may require the university to examine other truck routes through campus, with all of the groups coming together to revisit the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Transportation Master Plan, addressing issues such as how the new Main Street entrance functions.

Below are some quick updates:

1. A traffic-calming median is being installed this fall on Forsyth Avenue, south of Sterling Street.
2. Work is underway at the West Village Student Condominium complex on the former CNIB site toward a September 2007 opening. This will be Canada's first platinum-level LEED®-certified building and will house 463 students. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a green building-rating system.)
3. The special-duty Mac 91/92 police officers funded by the university and the student union will be deployed on Thursdays in addition to Friday and Saturday evenings this fall.
4. Billy Bob's Bar (which had its liquor license suspended for 40 days last spring) was subject to an October 10 Alcohol and Gaming Commission hearing. I spoke for the residents and



Councillor Brian McHattie

Photo: Janet Woodward

called a number of AWWCA members as witnesses. The hearing continued on November 9. The application was denied by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission on November 12.

5. Development of a Churchill Park Master Plan will begin in 2007 with a series of community meetings to determine your vision for this great community asset.
6. The splash pad in Churchill Park has been completed.
7. The G. R. Allan Pedestrian Safety Project includes a traffic median in the middle of King Street in front of the school.
8. The West Hamilton Bicycle Study is now complete and includes plans for bike lanes along Longwood Road from Aberdeen Avenue to King Street West, linking with the bike lanes that travel over the Highway 403 McKittrick bridge.
9. The Westdale Village Business Improvement Area is receiving new lighting that will spruce up the village.

Please visit my website at brianmchattie.ca for more details on my City Hall committee work and projects listed above. I invite you to communicate with me at 905-546-2416 or bmchattie@hamilton.ca. Have a great fall and bring on the over-wintering eagles, sea ducks, and boreal songbirds!

Congratulations Councillor McHattie

Congratulations to Ward 1 Councillor Brian McHattie on his reelection with over 62 per cent of the vote in Ward 1. He had an especially strong showing in Westdale, where he won 77.5 per cent of the vote. The AWWCA views Mr. McHattie as a strong ally in our work to improve the quality of life for our near-campus neighbourhoods. We look forward to continuing to work with him over the next four years.

Rob Payne, President, AWWCA.

Ainslie Wood/Westdale Secondary Plan Being Implemented

DALE BROWN

In the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* we reported that 15 individuals had volunteered for the Implementation Committee of the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Secondary Plan. They represent the different stakeholders, including the AWWCA, McMaster University, the Westdale Business Improvement Area, and the McMaster Students Union. The committee was organized through Councillor Brian McHattie's office.

Mr. McHattie's office is monitoring the various recommendations in the plan, and many of them are being worked on and implemented. The committee will reconvene in 2007 if there is interest.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or issues you would like to address, please contact Mr. McHattie at 905-546-2416 or bmchattie@hamilton.ca.

Dale Brown is Mr. McHattie's executive assistant.

PROVINCIAL *issues*

TGAO Now an Official Organization

ROB PAYNE

A key for our community is to identify and implement legislative changes needed to give our city more flexibility when dealing with specific near-campus issues. Participation in provincial organizations is the key to effecting legislative change.

I am pleased to report that the Town and Gown Association of Ontario became an official organization with an elected board during its symposium in Brantford in May. I was co-chair during the development of this organization, as I thought it important that all efforts be made to ensure a successful startup. There are now over 70 member organizations. The AWWCA was one of the original members and will continue to support this group as it goes forward. I will continue to sit on the board, along with fellow Hamiltonians **Dale Brown** from Councillor Brian McHattie's office and **Doug Rose**, retired city manager of bylaw enforcement.



Rob Payne

Colorado Town and Gown Conference

In June 2006 Colorado State University and the City of Fort Collins hosted a national town-and-gown conference on the theme Best Practices in Building University/City Relations. Representatives from more than 20 universities attended. **Rob Payne** wrote in his president's report e-mailed to members in June: "I recently returned from a conference in Colorado, where the Town and Gown Association of Ontario was invited to speak. Ontario was well represented, with six attendees joining rep-

resentatives from 11 states to discuss solutions to near-campus issues. McMaster University was represented by **Jennifer Kleven** from the Off-Campus Resource Centre. I have collected a number of ideas from the conference for the board to examine for possible application in our community." Read more about the conference at tgao.ca.



Working Together For a
Healthy Community



Because we care

Town and Gown Website

In our spring issue we announced the launch of the website of the Town and Gown Association of Ontario. Here you can read about issues and creative solutions to challenges in other near-campus communities. In addition to recent news from university communities around the world, you can read archived news.

One of TGAO's mandates is to collect and disseminate information on such topics as education, research, and best practices. TGAO provides members with a "toolkit" of resources that can be accessed as needed.

The AWWCA has a strong interest in TGAO and has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours toward its development. AWWCA president **Rob Payne** administers the website, and we recommend you check it out regularly: tgao.ca.

Property Taxation in the AWWCA Area

AWWCA Continues to Oppose Assessment Increases

ROB PAYNE

In the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* we published two articles outlining the concerns and actions we are taking on the current assessment of our homes. In the last assessment, the AWWCA neighbourhoods received the largest average increase in Hamilton.

André Marin, the Ontario ombudsman, released his report March 22. It dealt with improving the assessment methodology and appeal processes of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. The 94-page report: *Getting it Right* can be viewed at ombudsman.on.ca under "What's New." At that time, the government requested that MPAC conduct an analysis of the recommendations. The 21-page response to the report can be viewed at mpac.ca/pdf/mpac_response_march22_2006.pdf.

Minister of Finance **Greg Sorbara** announced June 29 that property-tax reassessments by MPAC would be cancelled for the next two years to allow for the implementation of the ombudsman's recommendations to Ontario's property assessment system.

The AWWCA continues to be concerned that MPAC unfairly compares the value of owner-occupied residential properties with residential properties used to generate income through rental. Our vice-president, **Alice Sabourin**, worked with **MPP Judy Marsales** to organize a community meeting on May 12 at her constituency office with representatives from MPAC. Ms. Marsales chaired the meeting. The purpose was to discuss how our assessments are affected by the significant number of student-rental properties in our area. Present were **Rob**



MPP Judy Marsales chairing the May 12 MPAC meeting.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Payne, AWWCA president; Ward 1 Councillor **Brian McHattie** and his assistant, **Dale Brown**; **Debbie Zimmerman**, chair of the board that governs MPAC; four staff members of MPAC's Hamilton office; and approximately 25 residents of Ainslie Wood and Westdale (mainly AWWCA members).

Debbie Zimmerman introduced herself by saying that she is from St. Catharines and understands our problems with student housing in our neighbourhoods. In St. Catharines, companies buy up houses to use them as rentals. She is a former municipal councillor and now a regional councillor and has served in political office for the past 28 years.

Following is a summary of the meeting from notes (e-mailed to members May 12) taken by AWWCA board member **Carolyn Kinsley**:

Ms. Zimmerman stated emphatically that MPAC's mandate is to do accurate current-value property assessments. It does not set tax policy. Current-value assessment is not necessarily what a house sold for; the sale price may be higher or lower. MPAC looks at hundreds of houses, not just the houses nearby. Ms. Zimmerman said: "If you could sell your house for its assessed value, then the value is correct."

A resident suggested we need a tax rate for student housing. Ms. Zimmerman pointed out there are seven tax-rate categories. In response to an objection that there is no category between "residential" and "multi-residential," which is for buildings with six or more self-contained units, Jason Moore,

manager of multiple-regression analysis (i.e., how properties are valued) at MPAC, agreed that "capturing" student rentals in single-family housing should be done but is a hurdle, as MPAC can't categorize a house according to who is living in it.

MPAC's Code 366 (student rentals) was developed for Waterloo and depended on the city licensing student housing and doing spot rezoning for it. However, this was challenged in court and does not seem to be a solution. Waterloo's spot rezoning also went with the land—it did not expire if the house was sold. This audience was concerned about any solution that would change our single-family zoning. As one attendee said, "We have to make it easy for student-rental houses to be converted back to family housing."

A number of long-time residents spoke of the difficulty of having steep increases in their property taxes. Over a period of some years, one man's assessment went up over 70 per cent and his taxes about 50 per cent. Rising assessments may not translate into tax increases of the same proportion, but nevertheless they are also steep.

In response to the final question, Mr. Moore said that MPAC can, by prior arrangement, have access to a property for on-site assessment. Could this be useful for assessing illegal conversions that haven't gone through the permit and variance procedures?

MPAC agreed to work with Mr. McHattie's office on this problem.

Check Your Assessment

Homeowners now have access to more detailed information to help them determine whether their property's assessed value is accurate. Information on this and other assessment updates (for example MPAC has increased the number of free detailed reports available from six to 12 houses) is available at mpac.ca or by contacting the local office at 21 King Street West, Hamilton, 1-866-296-6722.

News from the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario

JANICE BROWN

Editor's Note: Rob Payne, AWWCA president and board member of the Town and Gown Association of Ontario, said: "I have become more involved with FUN as a way to maximize our chances of getting legislative changes made at the provincial level. It is important that we have a bridge between FUN and TGAO in this area, so I will try to fill this role."

Background Information on FUN

In 2001 the Durand Neighbourhood Association of Hamilton organized a symposium, Shaping Ontario's Urban Neighbourhoods 2001. It was clear that community associations share many concerns, among them transportation, land-use planning, the Ontario Municipal Board, housing (student, affordable, senior), tax assessment, budgeting, and more. The need for a provincewide umbrella group was agreed upon, and work began to establish the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods.

Cities such as Ottawa and London that already had umbrella groups of community associations were having great success because of their united and forceful voice in municipal politics. Participants voted to establish a provincewide organization at a founding convention held in Hamilton on Nov. 24, 2001. The AWWCA joined FUN that day.

Most recently we welcomed the Kingston Electors and the Milton Ratepayer's Association to FUN. We now have community associations in Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Milton, Ottawa, Toronto, and Waterloo, representing more than 75 neighbourhood associations.

Update on Current Positions and Issues

FUN has been calling on the provincial government to reverse the downloading of housing, health, and social services, which are currently on the property-tax base. Thus when Premier Dalton McGuinty launched the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Services Review on July 14, which included among other things the delivery of housing, health, and social services, we welcomed the review. We are concerned, however, that it has been unfortunately timed so that any action that this government takes will be after the next provincial election.

FUN is a founding member of the Coalition After Property Tax Reform. This is an alliance of urban, waterfront, and senior's groups representing 1-million Ontario citizens. CAPTR has one single mission, and that is to bring meaningful property-tax reform to Ontario. We are pleased with the moratorium for 2006 and 2007. This is a good first step. However, CAPTR is most upset that no reform study will take place over the next two years. CAPTR has researched tax-mitigation strategies in over 20 North American jurisdictions and has requested a meeting with Mr. McGuinty to discuss their findings. In the meantime, CAPTR will continue to grow and to lobby for an equitable property-tax regime. Go to captr.org for more information.



Since 2004 FUN has continued to lobby for changes to the Municipal Elections Act that would prohibit contributions to candidates for municipal office by corporations and trade unions.

FUN was pleased with the Federal Accountability Act (April 11), which toughened laws governing the financing of political parties and candidates to reduce the opportunity to exert influence through large donations. Unfortunately the Ontario government has not amended the Ontario Elections Act or the Municipal Elections Act. FUN encourages candidates running for municipal office to refuse donations from corporations or trade unions. We believe that elected representatives at all levels of government owe their allegiance to the people living in their communities rather than to special-interest groups such as developers, businesses, and unions doing business in the area or contracting with the government.

At the general meeting May 6 in Guelph, your executive was elected for the year 2006-2007. Welcome to **Rob Payne**, who will serve as a member-at-large. We are pleased to have him on the executive and look forward to his expertise and contributions. A complete list of the executive is at urbanneighbourhoods.ca.

Janice Brown is membership co-ordinator of FUN

Queen's Parks Reports

If you would like to be on a circulation list to receive one-page updates from around the province sent to our membership, e-mail jedbrown2003@sympatico.ca.

Living in our CAMPUS TOWN

Campus Town Association Update

ALICE SABOURIN, AWWCA
VICE-PRESIDENT

The Campus Town Association, formed in 2004, is an innovative partnership composed of the AWWCA, McMaster University, and the Westdale Business Improvement Area.

CTA members came together with a mission to establish and sustain Canada's most vibrant university community, located in Hamilton's Ainslie Wood/Westdale/McMaster neighbourhood.

In 2005, the CTA was awarded a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to undertake research to define its strategy and set priorities.

Over the course of one year, the CTA project entailed:

- Four community consultations and a "sounding board" meeting, attended by more than 60 people.
- Diverse input from residents, businesses, McMaster staff, and students.
- More than 1,000 hours of time contributed by 80 volunteers.

Outcomes Included:

- Review of best practices in "town and gown" relations in Canada, the United States, and around the world.
- Sponsoring a presentation to the local community by a renowned professor from England about "studentification"—the evolving issues around high-density student neighbourhoods.
- Three research-summary reports from

two independent consultants.

- The CTA is now developing a plan to implement projects and programs to demonstrate success in each of its focus areas:

1. *Safety of student housing*

One of the main challenges facing a near-campus neighbourhood and the university is how to ensure that students have access to safe housing. The safety of off-campus housing is an issue that involves the need to communicate and enforce existing regulations (fire, health, zoning, and building codes) and a need to develop additional regulations that specifically address student homes.

2. *Improvement of the off-campus community environment and security*

All residents should feel comfortable and secure in their neighbourhood. Specific ways to ensure this for the Ainslie Wood/Westdale/McMaster community are through the communication and enforcement of regulations to promote appropriate and respectful behaviour (i.e., noise bylaws and reduction of disorderly conduct).

3. *Student housing/single-family balance*

An appropriate balance between student housing and single-family residences can improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood. This balance would protect against the ghettoization of students while preserving the value of single-family homes. A variety of methods can help achieve this balance, such as: creating a university housing plan, promoting other city neighbourhoods for students, and limiting the density of student housing in the neighbourhood.

4. *Balance in commercial/residential/ institutional activity*

In order for the Ainslie Wood/Westdale/McMaster community to thrive, a healthy balance in commercial, residential, and institutional activity needs to be achieved. Issues related to this include: determining the desired retail mix in Westdale Village, addressing parking requirements for mixed use, developing mixed uses along main arterial roads, and reusing/redeveloping industrial spaces.

5. *Cultivating and promoting living and working in West Hamilton*

Within Hamilton, the west end is competing with other areas of the city for

CAMPUS
TOWN
ASSOCIATION

people, jobs, and investment.

Cultivating and promoting the Ainslie Wood/Westdale/McMaster neighbourhood will economically enhance this area of the city. Ways to do this include: the retention and recruitment of desirable commercial uses, creating a co-ordinated neighbourhood identity through design features (signage, landscaping), and promotional strategies (commercial and recreational).

Next steps

The CTA met in early October to develop short- and long-term strategies and to identify funding opportunities. In addition to recommendations from the best-practices study, the priorities identified through community consultations will be reviewed. The CTA will report its progress through the AWWCA newsletter, *Neighbourhood News & Views*, and through the President's Advisory Council on Community Relations and its newsletter, *Community Report*.

My thanks to Rob Payne of the AWWCA and Andrea Farquhar and Mila Ray-Daniels of McMaster University for their assistance with this article.

Alice Sabourin is the AWWCA's vice-president.



© Ontario Trillium Foundation, 2006

New Student Housing Will Take Pressure Off Community

TOMMY PIRIBAUER

McMaster off-campus student housing in Hamilton will see dramatic change in September 2007. Dundurn Edge Developments, a company associated with the owners of student housing on Dundurn Street, has embarked on the first student-exclusive condominium rental project in Hamilton. The nine-storey, 208,000-square-foot complex, known as West Village Condos (WVC), will boast 107 apartment units with 449 student rooms.

Apartments for undergraduate students will contain four to five rooms each and ninth-floor graduate students' apartments two to three rooms, rented individually, annually. WVC's amenities will cater to students: common areas will include exercise rooms, study lounges, and game rooms on each floor, with laundry facilities and theatre rooms on every second floor. The complex will have monitored point-of-entry systems and on-site 24-hour security personnel. WVC will house 10,000 square feet of commercial space. A restaurant and convenience store are being sought to anchor the space, with other service providers filling the first floor adjacent to Main Street West. WVC is being built with three goals in mind:

Encourage better living accommodations for students. Students have had little control over their living accommodations for some time. During the years of the double cohort and McMaster's expansion, they scrambled to find housing. Landlords could rent houses in any state of repair. WVC will change that. Students will have a say in what their residence looks and feels like and what it contains. They and university staff are being consulted to see what they want in the complex. Although not part of McMaster, WVC will be a community for students to live, learn, and share in the university experience.

Conform to LEED® environmentally sustainable specifications. WVC will be a model for environmental sustainability. The



Artist's rendering of West Village Condos.

Photo: R. F. Lintack Architect Inc.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) accreditation program awards buildings with silver, gold, or platinum designation based on the extent to which the design and construction meet their standards. WVC has been designed to meet platinum standards. Currently no multi-use residential buildings in Canada have platinum designation. The project includes an on-site wastewater management system reusing 75 per cent of its water, solar energy, energy-efficient appliances, and a building structure of energy-reducing isolated concrete forms. Material from the old CNIB building has been almost entirely recycled for re-use in the new building. Student tenants will sign to be partners in environmentally responsible living by making use of a demonstration project with the City of Hamilton to collect compost materials, using underground bicycle parking, and ensuring energy efficiency. For more information on LEED® go to cagbc.org and on WVC go to main-westvillage.ca.

Address community concerns. This project is intended to be part of the solution to problems in the community; Dundurn Edge Developments expects WVC will take some pressure off permanent residents. We have had two community meetings thus far and continue to address issues of security, noise, traffic patterns, and pedestrian safety. I commend the community members who have attended the meetings for their input and involvement. Concerns addressed and valuable ideas put forward will make the project better for all. We welcome all community comments.

Contact me at tommy@dundurnpm.ca to ask questions about WVC or to sign up for community information bulletins.

Tommy Piribauer is marketing and community-relations officer of Dundurn Edge Developments. He was president of the McMaster Students Union from May 2005 to April 2006.

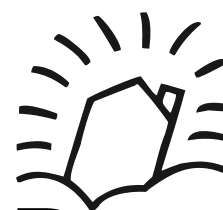
Proposed Student Residence on Ewen Road

JANET WOODWARD

A community information session regarding the redevelopment of 17 Ewen Rd. was held Sept. 28 at Binkley United Church. Notice of the meeting was sent to AWWCA members on e-mail on Sept. 20. About 20 community members attended along with Councillor Brian McHattie and city planning staff. The property is owned by Auburn Developments Inc. They proposed to build a 12-storey student residence to house 560 students and to provide 182 parking spaces.

Community members raised a number of concerns and made suggestions for improving the plans. The AWWCA has some concerns about the project, and these were outlined to Mr. McHattie in a letter sent in October.

If you would like to communicate with the developers, please contact Cynthia Baycetch, Planner, 21 Hunter St. E., Suite 102, Hamilton L8N 1M2; 905-522-4847; cynthiab@gspgroup.ca.



**Because
we care**

International Researcher on Studentification

ROB PAYNE

Led by AWWCA board member **John Wigle**, the AWWCA arranged a talk May 30 by **Dr. Darren Smith** of Brighton University, England. He is a pioneering academic researcher on near-campus issues. The evening was part of the Campus Town Association speaker series and was sponsored jointly by CTA and the Town and Gown Association of Ontario. About 50 people attended, a number of whom came from communities outside Hamilton.

Dr. Smith is developing an international reputation for research into near-campus issues. His research focuses on contemporary processes of urban and rural change, with a concern for emerging lifestyles and living arrangements, migration patterns, and population change. Most recently, he worked on a study entitled *Studentification: A Guide to Opportunities, Challenges and Practice*, published by Universities UK in partnership with the Standing Conference of Principals and in association with the Department for Education and Skills, Local Government Association, and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This report can be viewed at tgao.ca in the research section, found under "resources."

Recent notable research projects have examined "studentifica-



Rob Payne introducing Dr. Smith.

Photo: Janet Woodward

tion." This is a term that Dr. Smith coined to describe urban transformations tied to the migration of students into distinct enclaves of university towns and cities as a result of the marked expansion of higher education. Studentification has been entered into the Macmillan and Wikipedia English dictionaries, discussed in the British House of Commons, and widely used by local governments, community groups, and private-sector organizations in Britain. The term is now being used increasingly in Australia, Canada, Europe, and the United States.

We thank the Westdale United Church for hosting this event and in particular **Bill Kigar** for volunteering his time.

VARSAITY NEWS

Student Community Support Network

CAMEAL SINCLAIR AND
CHARLOTTE PEER

The Student Community Support Network is a student-run service offered by the McMaster Students Union aimed at expanding and strengthening good relations between students and permanent residents of the local community. Anyone who has questions about landlords, student housing, the MSU, the City of Hamilton, or just the community in general is encouraged to contact us. SCSN helps foster a sense of community in West Hamilton by helping at com-

munity events and acting as a resource and support network for the local community.

Some services offered by SCSN:

Community Resource Assistants are students who act as resource and information conduits for both students and local residents. Residents may contact the CRAs about any problems they are having with students in their areas. The CRAs will go out and take information to the "problem" house in an effort to keep the peace. They keep a document of the nature of the complaint, the house number, and what steps were taken by the SCSN staff. Then they inform the resident who made the complaint of the actions taken. That information is not given to police officers if the issue is resolved. However, if there are any further com-



plaints, the documented information is available for police to review. This process eliminates the excuse that students did not know the bylaws. The CRAs try to resolve issues without having to involve the police.

Contact the CRA located in your area if you have any questions about community events or concerns about student housing.

To find out who your CRA is, use the contact information below or e-mail cra@msu.mcmaster.ca. You will be asked to provide your address or closest intersection.

Resident Buddy Program provides in-home support to mature adults aged 55 and older in the Westdale and Ainslie Wood area. Eligible residents are interviewed and matched with a student volunteer based on interests, language, location, and availability wherever possible. See below for contact information.

Student/Resident Representative Communication Program seeks to develop an open line of communication between McMaster students and permanent residents of the local community. By communicating issues, brainstorming ideas, and tar-

geting problem areas we hope to create a more positive relationship within the community. Three AWWCA members have volunteered to be the first contact for student/resident issues: **Mary Anne Duncan, David Hitchcock, and Ira Rosen.**

Community Connection is SCSN's newsletter for students and permanent residents. It includes upcoming community events and volunteer opportunities. There are also helpful tips for being a good community member and neighbour.

Contact us at 905-525-9140, ext. 26575, or scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca. Visit our website at www.msu.mcmaster.ca/community. *Cameal Sinclair is SCSN director and Charlotte Peer is SCSN newsletter and promotions co-ordinator.*

*“Building
COMMUNITY
block by
block”*

New GO Bus Terminal at Mac

The construction of the new GO bus terminal at McMaster will be completed in late January 2007 on the west side of campus. The use of public transportation by students to get to McMaster has been increasing in recent years, with a current estimated volume of over 450 buses per day on campus.

The new GO bus terminal is significant for the neighbourhood because it:

1. will make it convenient for students who live farther away to commute instead of seeking off-campus housing near the university,
2. will potentially reduce the number of buses traveling through our community, as the new terminal may give more flexibility in bus-route planning, and
3. will provide convenient public transit for permanent residents also.

You can read the details of this project at www.ACT.mcmaster.ca

Swap-O-Rama 2007

MATT LEISS

Swap-O-Rama is a yearly event run by the City of Hamilton's Waste Reduction Division, McMaster University, McMaster Students Union, and MACgreen. The event aims to divert waste from Hamilton's landfill and to make this a neighbourhood event. When students move out, they leave reusable items on their lawns, that otherwise would go to the landfill.

Though resident homeowners may put out their own 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 the landfill. This year I picked up two shelves, three bookcases, two dressers, and a bunch of other stuff and furnished my new place for free!

The next swap runs from Friday, April 27, to Sunday, April 29, 2007. We ask you to note these dates now, as this is the AWWCA's 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 is having a garage sale, only it's all free!

For more information contact MACgreen at 905-525-9140, ext. 26628, or enviro@msu.mcmaster.ca, or www.msu.mcmaster.ca/macgreen/swaporama.php.

MSU Listens to AWWCA and Makes Changes to the PJ Parade

JANET WOODWARD

As reported in the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*, residents' concerns about the Welcome Week pajama parade prompted the AWWCA board to send a letter to the McMaster Students Union late last fall. As a result, **John Popham**, MSU president, came to our board



Christine Seeliger, with daughter Fiona and son Liam at the PJ parade. Photo: Janet Woodward

meeting in February and proposed some radical changes to fix the problems. A committee was struck to examine this new approach. He asked to have a board member sit on that committee, and I volunteered.

New initiatives were instituted:

1. Extra police officers were hired to patrol the parade route. These were in addition to officers hired to direct traffic.
2. A bylaw officer was hired to ensure property standards were adhered to.

3. A cleanup crew of students worked to ensure the streets on the parade route were clean before and after the parade.



Fergie with his trombone at the parade. Photo: Janet Woodward

4. The Student Community Support Network had an information booth near the intersection of Sterling and King, with handouts on student and community relations. They also had students monitoring the route.
5. The banner competition was moved to the end of the parade, which meant that upper-year Welcome Week representatives had to keep their students together and moving as a group or risk losing "spirit points" toward the highly valued Welcome Week Cup.
6. To add to the parade flavour, it included two acoustic guitar players, a unicyclist, a trombone player, and a sax player.



Some of the parade cleanup crew: L to R: Sandy Bardwell (Ainslie Wood East Community Resource Assistant), Beenhish Imam (Ainslie Wood CRA), and Vanessa Veto (Westdale North CRA). Photo: Charlotte Peer

7. Communications were improved to let everyone involved know of the community's concerns and the improvements that had been introduced. **Christina Burns**, the MSU's director of campus events, and I held consultation meetings.
8. Flyers were delivered to houses along or near the route before the parade. They included a note from the AWWCA welcoming students to the neighbourhood, asking them to take as much pride in the area as we do, and giving contact phone numbers for questions about property standards or municipal bylaws.

Due to this collaborative effort, Ms. Burns and I believe the PJ parade this year was a much better experience for permanent residents. We agree that the problems that still occurred came from upper-year students living along the route. Response from our members since the parade has been mixed. Although many thought the parade was much improved, others continue to have serious concerns with it and still want it cancelled. All responses have been forwarded to McMaster.



PJ parade flyer.

Designer: Krysten Bell

In the *Mac Daily News* on Sept. 6 Ms. Burns said: "We're working hard to bring the event back to its roots as a parade for the entire community." To reflect this change, the event was run as more of a parade, rather than just a march through the neighbourhood.

To further bring the parade back to its roots—introducing students to the community—I think the route needs to be directed away from streets where upper-year students live, to streets where families are predominant. I believe the tone would improve considerably, and I have made that recommendation to the MSU.

The AWWCA thanks the MSU, particularly Christina Burns, for ensuring the new initiatives were put in place and communicated to all the stakeholders. More work needs to be done, and I am confident we can make further improvements.

Community Accountability Program for McMaster Students

TIM CAMERON AND STAFF
SERGEANT SCOTT RASTIN

The community around McMaster University is a great one. Many McMaster University alumni have stayed in or returned to West Hamilton because of what it offers. Off-campus students are a part of this community. Like any community, be it a family, a household of friends, or a neighbourhood, its members have the responsibility to keep it great and make it better.



A goal of law enforcement is to work with all stakeholders of the West Hamilton community to solve recurring quality-of-life issues. That means dealing with incidents as they occur and working to keep them from happening again. As of September, law-enforcement officials are equipped with a new option in dealing with incidents involving McMaster University students. If a student has committed a minor offence, an officer might refer them to the new Community Accountability Program (CAP) if they show remorse and admit to the offence. This program has been funded for two years by McMaster University and the McMaster Student Union.



What Is CAP?

The program is designed to:

1. Promote communication and foster respect between students and their neighbours in the West Hamilton community.
2. Give offenders the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions.

3. Explore meaningful consequences that would serve all parties involved.
4. Deal with the incident voluntarily and constructively, rather than appearing in court.



How Does CAP Work?

1. The program is completely voluntary, but the alternative is being charged with an offence. Once referred by the investigating police or bylaw officer, the case will be sent for follow-up to the CAP co-ordinator at McMaster.
2. To participate in the program, the offender must sign a waiver of consent to release information to CAP. The victim and any witnesses may be asked to sign a waiver of consent to have their information released to the CAP co-ordinator.
3. If both the student and the co-ordinator consent, a meeting with a CAP panel will be scheduled.
4. The panel will be comprised of a minimum of three volunteers from any of the following: McMaster Students Union, the West Hamilton community, the Westdale Business Improvement Area, McMaster faculty, McMaster administration, and Hamilton police.
5. The meeting will provide a forum for open and positive communication between students and residents of the West Hamilton community.
6. It will provide students the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions, and educate the offenders, creating better students. One student suggested, "Paying a fine would be a lot easier than admitting guilt to the neighbourhood."
7. Student offenders will have input into any consequences that are recommended by the panel, and they may even suggest consequences that they feel are appropriate.
8. It is hoped that students and other members of the local community will gain a newfound perspective on each other's interests.

CAP Needs YOU

Presently we have volunteers from the AWWCA, the Westdale BIA, Hamilton police, the MSU, and McMaster University. However, more volunteers are needed. Volunteers will be provided training in the principles of restorative justice and will participate in the panels that review cases involving inappropriate behaviour by students. Panel members will discuss the issues and develop resolutions. The time commitment is a few hours per month. This is an excellent opportunity to become involved in an innovative program. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the CAP co-ordinator, Tim Cameron, at 905-525-9140, ext. 21190, or tcamero@mcmaster.ca.

NEWS from the BLUES

Nominate an Outstanding Student

ACTING SERGEANT TIM O'KEEFE

The AWWCA, the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Police Service, McMaster Students Union, McMaster University, and the Westdale Business Improvement Area have partnered to recognize students who make a positive contribution to the community. The program was launched in April, and 24 students were nominated for the 2005-2006 school year.

We would like to acknowledge and reward good students who are valuable members of our community during the current school term. If you know of one or more worthy students in your neighbourhood, please send me a note.

Give me the name and address and say why you feel the student deserves recognition. Send to: Acting Sergeant Tim O'Keefe, Division One Crime Manager, West Town, 155 King William St., Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 1A7. Phone 905-540-5093; fax 905-546-4914; e-mail tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca. An awards committee will review all nominations, which are due Feb. 15, 2007. Those chosen will be given a letter of appreciation signed by the mayor, the university president, the student union president, and the chief of police.

Police Survey Results

STAFF SERGEANT SCOTT RASTIN

On June 3 a survey was e-mailed to AWWCA members asking their opinion on communication and partnerships, service delivery, and quality of life. From the 204 houses that received the survey, 56 surveys were returned to the police. The results have been tabulated, and we are pleased to share the results with you, as promised.

Graffiti

- 55 per cent responded that their concern over graffiti had decreased.
- 93 per cent indicated that it was the same or decreased.
- 7 per cent indicated their concern over graffiti had increased.

Break-and-enter crimes

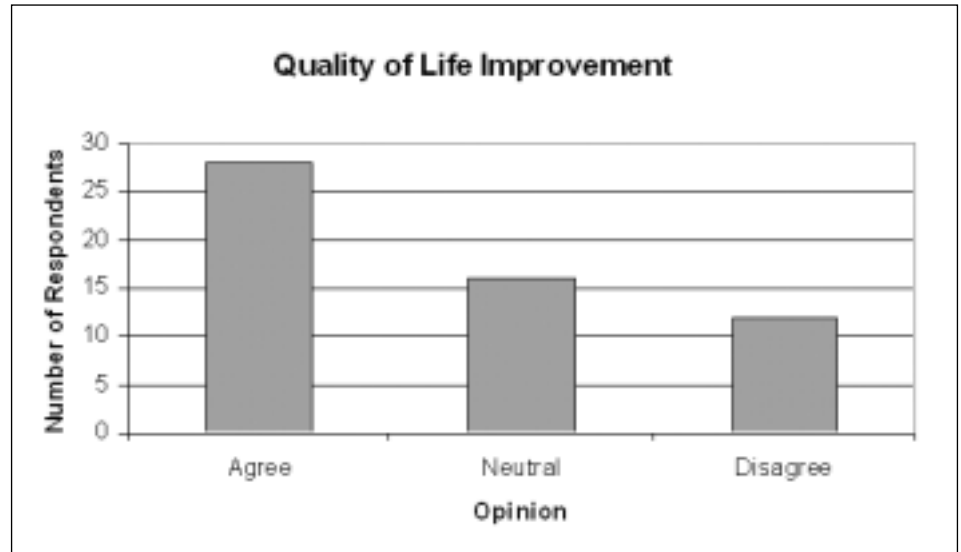
- 27 per cent indicated that their concerns had decreased.
- 76 per cent had the same concern or less.
- 21 per cent indicated their concerns had increased.
- 81 per cent found the crime-prevention tips valuable.
- 85 per cent found the Beat Tracker reports valuable.

Communication and quality-of-life issues

Of note was that over 80 per cent thought that both the student union and

improved over the last year.

The survey also indicated that everyone agreed that the police and the community must work together to address quality-of-life



the university were committed. In previous years, these organizations were considered the main problem.

In the area of communication, 82 per cent indicated that the community partners keep the neighbourhood informed about issues.

In the quality-of-life area, the majority of respondents felt that the quality had

issues. In the area of policing, 80 per cent indicated they were satisfied with police efforts to address quality-of-life issues.

Traffic safety

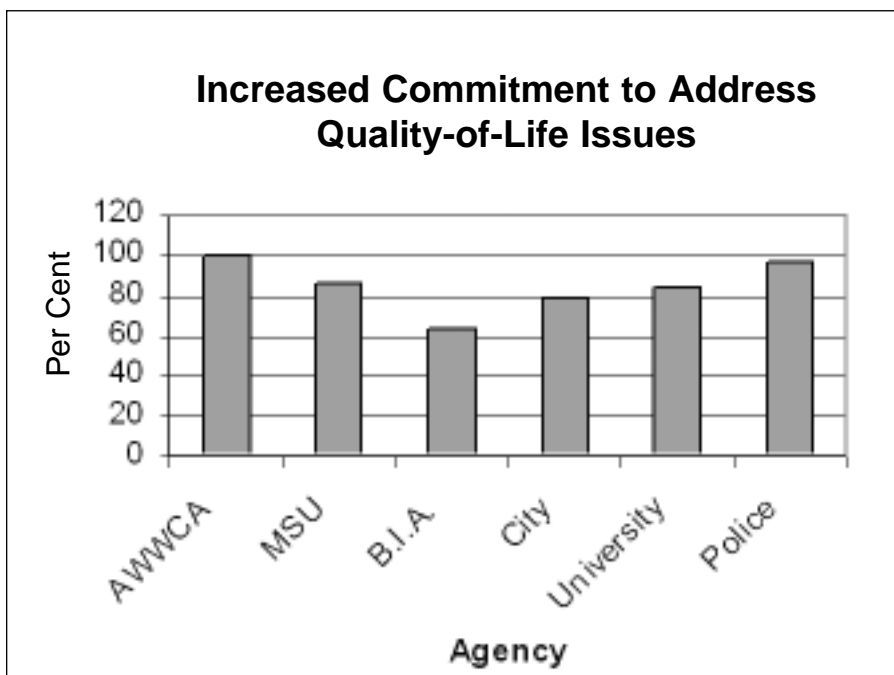
Even though most people's concerns stayed the same, more people responded that their concerns about pedestrian and traffic safety had increased. In the area of police visibility, 73 per cent noted an increased police presence.

Disorderly persons

- 27 per cent stated they had increased concerns.
- 72 per cent indicated their concern was the same or less. This is a tremendous accomplishment considering the community frustration over this issue. These results show that the responses to disorderly conduct are addressing the concerns of the community.

Police and bylaw response

- 53 per cent stated that bylaw's response to calls about infractions was good or excellent.
- 83 per cent indicated that the police response to calls for service was good or excellent.



- 71 per cent indicated that police visibility in the community increased compared to one year ago.

Community Enhancement Report

- 76 per cent stated they were given information on the report.
- 45 per cent stated they did not know how to use the report.
- Of those who used the report, 85 per cent indicated it was good or excellent.

The enhancement report is being supported with additional

advertising promoting its use this fall. This should address the problem of people not knowing how to use the report.

Hope

The final area of measurement was the hope question, namely: "I think that nothing can be done to improve the quality of life in my community." Of those who had an opinion, 96 per cent indicated they disagreed with the statement. This shows that people in the community have not given up and will continue to work toward improving the quality of life.

Police Update

STAFF SERGEANT SCOTT RASTIN

In the spring of 2006 the AWWCA, the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Police Service, the McMaster Students Union, McMaster University, the Westdale Business Improvement Area, and nine other stakeholders signed a business plan committing themselves to work together to address quality-of-life issues in the AWWCA neighbourhoods. This partnership led to the



Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin

development of programs such as:

1. Extra patrolling on weekends to support the Hamilton Police Service, paid for by McMaster University and the MSU. This is the first time in Canada that a university community and police have financed policing together; Halifax has now copied us.
2. Developing the Community Enhancement Report to encourage you to notify police and the city of issues in

your neighbourhood.

3. Police proactively visiting problem houses on weekends.
4. Increasing police patrols during Welcome Week.
5. Enforcing bylaws more throughout the year.
6. Posting noise-bylaw signs in problem locations and charging loud pedestrians (signs paid for by the MSU and McMaster University).
7. Creating a reward system to acknowledge good student houses during the year.
8. Launching a community graffiti-cleanup day, leading to the Adopt-a-Box program. Through this program, much of the graffiti in the community was eradicated (led by the AWWCA).
9. E-mailing Beat Tracker reports and crime-prevention information to AWWCA members.
10. Developing a special break-and-enter squad when break-and-enter reports increased in October 2005.
11. Developing a student-house-watch program to counteract break-ins to student houses.
12. Using the Community Enhancement Report to increase traffic enforcement in problem locations.
13. Enforcing bicycle violations on Sterling Street.
14. Instituting RIDE lanes at the university gates on pub nights.
15. Creating a traffic re-engineering committee to study all traffic issues (initiated by **Councillor Brian McHattie's** office).

16. Launching the Community

Accountability Program to make students more accountable for their actions.

17. Surveying AWWCA members to evaluate our effectiveness. The survey was sent to those of you on e-mail in June, and 56 members responded. A summary of the results is included in this newsletter.

We are working on the 2007 business



Noise-bylaw sign at corner of Sterling Street and Forsyth Avenue North.

plan now. If you wish to put forward suggestions for specific areas of improvement, please call Acting Sergeant Tim O'Keefe at 905-540-5093, or tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca.

Your Westdale beat officers are: Vince Ciriello, Rob Hardy, James Howard, Ian McElroy, Tim O'Keefe, Cameron Rumpel, and Steve Wowk.

Police Award for Work in Our Community

The cover story of the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* featured **Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin**, who has been an outstanding leader in our community. On May 17 **Superintendent John Petz** announced at the Police Superintendent's Advisory meeting that West Town beat officers, led by Staff Sergeant Rastin, won the Leonard G. Lawrence Award for Outstanding Community Policing. The award, named after a former Hamilton police chief, recognizes the success of Staff Sergeant Rastin, the sergeants, and the officers in mobilizing the community. One of the important components of community policing in the west end is a strong neighbourhood committee (the AWWCA) communicating with the police.

The following were the recipients of the Leonard G. Lawrence

Award: **Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin**; **Sergeants Blake Easto, Ron Hayward, and George Narozniak**; **Police Constables Ingrid Bolago, Hanah Carter, Ken Garland, Peter Hannon, Rob Hardy, Johnny Keosongseng, Jeff Majick, Scott Moreton, Terry Oliver, and Brad Robinson.**

They have been recognized for outstanding policing by working in partnership with the AWWCA, McMaster University, the McMaster Students Union, the City of Hamilton, and the Westdale Business Improvement Area. Together they addressed quality-of-life issues, implemented extra officers on Friday and Saturday nights during the school year to help patrol the area, and helped to organize and participated in both the graffiti cleanup day and the Adopt-A-Box program (in which volunteers keep mailboxes free of graffiti).



Graffiti Cleanup 2006

DMITRI MALAKHOV

Approximately 20 volunteers cleaned garbage and graffiti on public property Sept. 20. We collected about 15 large bags of garbage.

We had volunteers from the AWWCA, McMaster University, Hamilton Police, and **Councillor Brian McHattie**. Thank you to the Hamilton Community Foundation and the Westdale Business Improvement Area for their monetary donations. These funds will be used to continue to eradicate graffiti in Westdale and Ainslie Wood.

Thank you also to AWWCA member **Penny Palmer** of **Global Village Market** in Westdale for providing freshly brewed fair-trade coffee and to Hamilton Police for looking after the barbecue following the cleanup. **Little Caesars Pizza** in Westdale

was so grateful for the removal of graffiti on their property that they donated 10 pizzas for the barbecue!

This was the second Graffiti Day. Last year's cleanup was very successful, as it gave rise to the Adopt-A-Box program. This program has been so effective that there was very little graffiti to remove, so we were able to spend more time collecting rubbish. If you want to get involved in the Adopt-A-Box program, contact me at 905-521-6869 or dmitrimalakhov@gmail.com.

Dmitri Malakhov is recording secretary of the AWWCA.



Some of the graffiti cleanup team.

members' NEWS

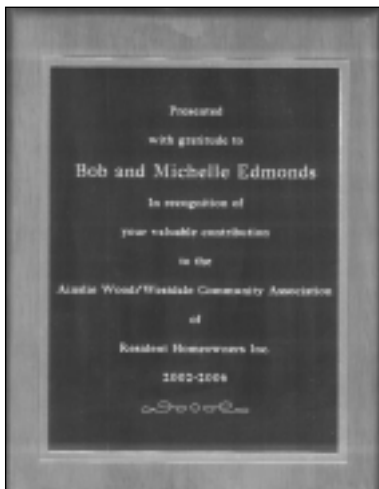
Volunteers Who Made a Difference

JANET WOODWARD



Bob and Michelle Edmonds Photo by Jon Evans.

At the annual general meeting of the AWWCA Sept. 19 we honoured **Bob and Michelle Edmonds** for their volunteer work. I was pleased to present them with a plaque on behalf of the AWWCA to recognize the many hours of expertise they have given for the improvement of our community and for giving us a newsletter we can be proud of.



Bob and Michelle have been our volunteer newsletter designers for the past five years. In February they told me they were looking for a larger house, as they needed more space for their teenage boys. They would have preferred to stay in this area, but in the end chose a house in the south-west, within walking distance of their downtown business.

In 2001 I met Bob, an AWWCA member living on South Oval. He told me he would like to volunteer for the association and offered to redesign our newsletter. Bob and Michelle are the owners of **Electra Communications**, and their company has produced award-winning designs and printed pieces.

On Nov. 5, 2001, Bob made a presentation to the AWWCA board, showing various newsletter mockups for our consideration. Our board considered his proposal and voted to accept his offer to redesign the newsletter. Bob also suggested possible names for the newsletter.

The first issue of the redesigned newsletter, with its new name, *Neighbourhood News & Views*, was the winter edition, 2002. The response was very positive, and in the following issue we published a number of accolades from our members.

Bob and Michelle worked on the visual aspect of the newsletter, laying out text and photos supplied by us. Layout is the most time-intensive aspect, and they worked on it according to who had the most time. They tried to give it as much attention as they could without neglecting their paying clients. To date they have produced 10 newsletters for the AWWCA, as well as numerous other printed pieces.

In the spring of 2004, Bob and Michelle entered our newsletter into a national competition. An independent panel of judges from various cities evaluated submissions according to a grading system. On April 1, 2004, at the Canadian Public Relations Society Pinnacle Awards in Jordan, Ontario, Michelle and Bob accepted an award of merit for *Neighbourhood News & Views*.

The Edmonds graciously offered to lay out this autumn newsletter for us, and they have been working to ensure there is a smooth transition so that our high-quality newsletter can continue.

President's Report

ROB PAYNE

We thank the approximately 160 people who attended the eighth annual general

meeting of the AWWCA held Sept. 19.

Many projects are being worked on by the AWWCA and its community partners; they are highlighted in this issue. These initiatives are in response to our members' concerns, many of which were expressed during the one-on-one session prior to the formal meeting. During that session, attendees met with **Councillor Brian McHattie** and representatives of police, bylaw, and McMaster University. Following the one-on-one session, the representatives summarized what they heard and then attendees addressed their questions to them. Two asked what the university and student union could do to help change the attitude



Lining up to ask questions of the panel at the AGM. Photo: Janet Woodward

of entitlement that some students have about our community; this issue was highlighted in Kevin Werner's article in the *Dundas Star* Sept. 22. Another resident wanted assurance that when students move out of single-family houses into the new student residences, the houses freed up will go to permanent residents.

Our guest speaker at our AGM was **MPP Ted McMeekin**. We appreciated his humour, his comments on the need to work with people rather than presenting them with a fist, his acknowledgement of the good work of our ward councillor, and his forthright style when so many people feel cynical about politicians.

At the AGM, I made a major appeal to attendees to step forward and volunteer their time to our community. I am following up with about 10 members who have expressed interest in serving on an AWWCA committee. This willingness to volunteer will certainly help us "add some speed" to current collaborative efforts to address negative issues such as noise, vandalism, and traffic, as well as help with positive activities such as celebrating and marketing our many community assets.

I would again like to recognize the AWWCA's board, all of whom put many vol-

See **REPORT** on page 20

unteer hours toward the betterment of our community. Your board members are: **Michael Tan, John Wigle**, vice-president **Alice Sabourin**, treasurer **Loreen Jerome**, recording secretary **Dmitri Malakhov**, property-standards and bylaw-enforcement liaison **Ira Rosen**, membership secretary and newsletter co-ordinator **Janet Woodward**, corresponding secretary and copy editor **Carolyn Kinsley**, police liaison **Tracey Lindsay**, past president **Liz Millar**, and honorary board members **Betty** and **Jim Bechtel** (who continue to attend board meetings).

Property Standards Are Key for Newest AWWCA Board Member



Ira Rosen

Ira Rosen has lived in Westdale most of his life. He was born in Hamilton in 1967 and lives in the house his parents bought about 45 years ago. Following attendance at Westdale Secondary School, Ira continued his education at Mohawk College, where he received certificates in management merchandising and software engineering. While attending Mohawk College Ira served several terms on the Mohawk College Student Union, including the Faculty of Engineering Technology Advisory Council, where he represented nearly 3,000 students. As a student Ira participated in the peer-tutoring program for exchange students and also worked for several local businesses, includ-



Participants at property-standards meeting Oct. 3.

Photo: Janet Woodward

ing three terms with the City of Hamilton, as part of his software-engineering program. Ira has held positions in retail management, security, and information technology.

Ira says: "I have watched the slow decay of my neighbourhood. Westdale was once a great community, but due to the proliferation of more students and property speculators, our community is at risk. This is why I have become more active in the past year in helping to keep our community from turning into a decayed area, as has occurred in other university towns. Some of the issues I have tackled have led to my participation in several focus groups, including the 2006 Police Services West Town business plan."

This spring Ira was appointed a board member of the AWWCA to work specifically on violations of property standards in our community. Our members have identified this issue as their greatest concern. This is a new position, and since its creation Ira has been working closely with city officials, community members, and McMaster University to change response times and the way that property standards are enforced.

The first meeting Ira organized took place Oct. 3 at McMaster's student centre to discuss initiatives to improve property standards. **Councillor Brian McHattie** and **Randy Charlton** from the city's standards and licensing department were joined by representatives from the board of the AWWCA, the Community Accountability Program, First Year Experience, the McMaster Students Union, the Society of Off-Campus Students, the Maroons, and the Off-Campus Resource Centre. This is the first of several meetings Ira will be organizing.

September Noise Proactive Report

Randy Charlton, the city's standards and licensing co-ordinator, provided the following report on the noise proactive work that took place in Ainslie Wood and Westdale in September over a 24-day period:

- An average of 101 properties were monitored per shift, for a total of 2,428 monitorings over the 24-day period.
- An average of 4.8 active investigations took place per shift, for a total of 117 investigations over the 24-day period.
- We laid 11 charges.

The next noise proactive begins in April 2007, when we will begin with 175 houses to monitor each day.

Membership Report

JANET WOODWARD,
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We've made a big effort to keep memberships up to date because it makes the best use of volunteer time. This effort led us to a new record on March 6, when we reached 502 paid-up members and just 17 overdue.

On Aug. 31, our paid-up membership was 491, including 20 Friends of the AWWCA. The paid-up number in August was lower than in March, because there were 32 whose membership was overdue.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Members' Gardens Featured in *The Hamilton Spectator*



Harpers' garden with rose arbour created by Chris Harper.
Photo: Sandra Harper

The garden of AWWCA members **David** and **Sandra Harper** was featured in *The Hamilton Spectator* June 17. Shown in the article were a number of wooden structures fashioned by **Chris Harper** for his parents' garden. Chris graduated in construction-engineering technology and now works in that field, with a sideline in garden structures.



Garden of Liz Millar and Ed Oliver. Photo: Ed Oliver

The cover story of *The Hamilton Spectator's* GO section Sept. 2 featured both the front and back gardens of the home of **Liz Millar** and **Ed Oliver** in Ainslie Wood North. Liz Millar is past president of the AWWCA. In a colourful double-page spread,

author **Rob Howard** wrote of Liz's love of gardening, which grew out of her childhood and youth spent on her family's farm on Number 2 Sideroad in north Burlington. He also described Ed's handiwork in designing and building wood and metal items for their gardens. Liz and Ed's gardens are oases amidst a host of rental houses. One day Ed took delight in informing an absentee landlord of a nearby house, who described their garden as "just a bunch of weeds," that those "weeds" have won them two Trillium Awards.

Members' Gardens on Secret Gardens Tour of Carnegie Gallery

Both the Harpers' lovely garden and the beautiful garden of AWWCA members **Liz Millar** and **Ed Oliver** were on this year's Secret Gardens Tour June 25, which benefited the Carnegie Gallery in Dundas. Eight gardens were on the tour.



Liz Millar in her garden during Secret Gardens Tour. Photo: Lynn MacIntyre

Antiques Road Show Features Bechtel's Antique Tool Chest

On June 11 the *Canadian Antiques Road Show* came to Hamilton's Dundurn Castle. Betty Bechtel, honorary board member of the AWWCA, decided to e-mail pictures and ask if they would be interested in viewing her grandfather's tool chest.



Grandfather Souter's tool chest. Photo: Janet Woodward

They phoned, asked to view it, and arranged to pick it up the next day. "It's a winner!" they said. Being on the road show was a new experience for Betty and one she enjoyed. The Dundurn Castle shows aired Oct. 3 and 10 this year and will air Jan. 16, 30, and Feb. 6, 2007. See canadianantiqueroadshow.com/tv_schedule.htm. Following is Betty's story of the tool chest:

My grandfather, A. M. Souter, is thought to have made his cabinet-maker's tool chest as part of his apprenticeship.

Many still remember, and have furniture from, the A. M. Souter Furniture store and the Malcolm and Souter Furniture Company. The store stood where the Art Gallery of Hamilton is, and the factory was on Barton Street near Wellington Street.

Granddad was born in Scotland in 1854 and came to Hamilton at age 14. At 17 he apprenticed with James Reid, who was a cabinet and coffin maker. Mr. W. Malcolm and my grandfather eventually bought the store and enlarged it. Later Mr. Malcolm left the store to concentrate on the factory.

The chest is a plain black box on the outside. Inside are tray sections made of beautiful woods including rosewood, tiger maple, mahogany, and walnut. In the late 1800s Granddad sent to England for the metal parts of the tools and then made the handles himself. Each tool has his name stamped on it.

Those who have seen this chest say that this is a comprehensive collection of well-made tools in pristine condition.

members' FEEDBACK

Love Letter

Long-time member **Helen Love**, who was one of the first to join the AWWCA in 1998, wrote a note to her block representative, **Betty Bechtel**, on May 28. Helen and Betty have given us permission to print the note below:

The neighbourhood seems to be so much better than in the early days of student housing. But I do wish that the students' landlords would be compelled to meet a high standard of home maintenance inside and outside. I believe that even higher standards could be required for this area, since it now seems to be defined as a university community. One would think that McMaster University would not want grubby student eyesore houses in their backyard, and would urge the city to clean them up.

I appreciate all the work that is being done and I enjoy the newsletter.

Our Great Community

AWWCA member **Assunta Sottile-Fortino**, a mother of two who has lived most of her life on Arkell Street, wrote on her AWWCA renewal form: "Thank you for all of the work you do for our community. We have a great community with everything available within walking distance. Our community should get recognition in the newspaper (front page) for being environmentally friendly-you don't have to use your car." We thank Assunta, who has supported the AWWCA since its inception in September 1998.

Useful Numbers

Abandoned shopping carts:

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

Animals injured or in distress:

- 905-574-3433, press 2

Assessments

- Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
Hamilton: 1-866-296-6722

Barking dogs: 905-546-CITY (2489)

- after hours, call Animal Control, 905-574-3433

Building permits: If no building permit is posted on a renovation site:

- call Jorge Caetano at 905-546-2720 to see if a permit is on file
- If not, file a complaint with him by phone or e-mail to JCaetano@hamilton.ca

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

- Councillor Brian McHattie
905-546-2416

Crime Stoppers (to report a crime anonymously): 1-800-222-8477*

Garbage, waste management: 905-546-CITY (2489)*

Graffiti:

- Graffiti in progress: 911*
- Graffiti on Canada Post boxes: Dmitri Malakhov, 905-521-6869
- Graffiti programs: Dmitri Malakhov, 905-521-6869
- Graffiti on street signs: 905-546-4376*
- Graffiti on public property: 905-546-CITY (2489)*
- Graffiti on private property: 905-546-4925*
- Hot line: 905-546-4723*

McMaster University, Office of Public Relations, Community Help Line:

- 905-525-9140, ext. 27305

Noise infractions: 905-546-2782; after hours, 905-546-CITY (2489)*.

- Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 11 p.m.-4 a.m., call 905-546-4925 and ask for McMaster's special-duty police officers to attend the noise complaint. If available, they should be able to respond faster than bylaw.

Parking infractions: 905-540-6000*

Police (non-emergency): 905-546-4925*

- a person will answer after the taped message (press 0 to skip the message)
- West Town Crime Manager, Acting Sergeant Tim O'Keefe, 905-540-5093, or tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
- To report keg deliveries 905-546-4771* (ask to have the Westdale beat officer call you):
- If you need further assistance: police reception desk, 905-546-4771*
- Westdale beat 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 a.m.-5 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



Useful Websites

AWWCA
awwca.ca

Councillor Brian McHattie
brianmchattie.ca

Federation of Citizens' Associations
fca-fac.ca

Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario
urbanneighbourhoods.ca

Hamiltonians for Progressive Development
progressivedevelopment.ca

Helping local communities achieve more autonomy
localgovernment.ca

McMaster's Off-Campus Resource Centre
macocho.com

Ontario Greenbelt Alliance
greenbelt.ca

Ontario Professional Planners Institute
ontarioplanners.on.ca

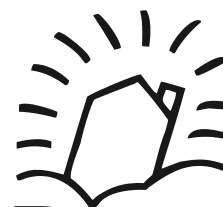
Ontario Smart Growth Network
greenontario.org/osgn

San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association
spur.org

Town and Gown Association of Ontario
tgao.ca

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

Westdale Business Improvement Area
westdalevillage.ca



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 published and 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
1063 King Street West, Suite 221
Hamilton, Ontario
L8S 4S3

GENERAL INQUIRIES
905-526-9101 or 905-526-1714

WEBSITE www.awwca.ca

NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATOR

Janet Woodward

COPY EDITOR
Carolyn Kinsley

DESIGN & LAYOUT
Bob Edmonds, Lynne Desjardins

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Malcolm Horsnell

Autumn 2006



*"Building community
block by block"*

Come and Join Us!

The AWWCA board of directors holds its monthly meetings at the Westdale Business Improvement Office, 1045 King St. West (above The Picture Frame), at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month and welcomes members interested in attending.

Call Rob Payne at 905-525-7338 or robpayne@sympatico.ca for more information.

The Way We Were Hillfield School



Hillfield School circa 1934.

Photo: Hillfield Strathallan Archives

LOREEN JEROME

Hillfield Strathallan College on Hamilton mountain was situated in our neighbourhood between 1930 and 1962, when it was Hillfield School, a private school for boys. Hillfield was part of a 60-acre farm owned by Colonel Robert C. Ainslie, who inherited it from his father, George H. Ainslie. Eventually ownership of the farm passed to Sir John Gibson. After he passed away, Lady Gibson deeded 15 acres of the land south of Main Street West near Paisley Avenue South to Hillfield School in memory of Sir John and her three sons. Lady Gibson also donated approximately 38 acres to the Hamilton Parks Board. After being modernized, Colonel Ainslie's square stone farmhouse became the residence of Hillfield's headmaster.

Hillfield's name was chosen to emphasize the fact it was the successor to Highfield School (1901-19) and Hillcrest School (1920-29). The new school, opened Jan. 14, 1930, was situated in the centre of the property. It had a naturally wooded ravine in the back, and far down the ravine Chedoke Creek meandered on its way to Cootes Paradise.

The school was built in the Georgian style, its brickwork ornamented with stone. It had massive solid oak doors and pine trim throughout. There was a large gymnasium, basketball court, two outdoor hockey rinks, and a great playing field. It operated like an English country day school for boys seven to 15 years old, who were bused to and from the city.

In 1959 Hillfield School's name was changed to Hillfield College. In 1962 Strathallan amalgamated with Hillfield to become Hillfield Strathallan College. This year Hillfield Strathallan College celebrates 105 years of education in Hamilton.

The Hamilton Spectator Nov. 4, 1959, reported: "The construction of the Chedoke Expressway may force the relocation of Hillfield College." In 1961 the City of Hamilton sold 38.23 acres of Ainslie's Woods (as it was then known) to build the Chedoke Expressway, now Highway 403. Hillfield, therefore, decided to consider other sites. Eventually, land around the Mountain Sanatorium in the Garth Street—Fennel Avenue area was purchased.

The City of Hamilton was asked to rezone the 15-acre Hillfield site as commercial

property so the school could obtain top dollar for relocation costs. Angry Westdale residents, fearful of a shopping plaza, fought a verbal battle but lost. After 60 years of valued service in the area, Hillfield School moved to the mountain in 1963. Hillfield sold its part of the Ainslie property to the developers of the Camelot Towers Apartments and the Board of Education for the Ainslie Wood Vocational School, which operated from 1970 to 1994.

Hillfield Strathallan College continues to be one of Canada's leading independent schools. Its mandate is to "prepare young people for higher learning and life."

Sources: *Echoes That Remain, Hillfield Strathallan*, Barry Wansbrough, 2001; Elaine Jenkins, Archivist, Hillfield Strathallan College; Westdale Scrapbook, Volume 1, Westdale Library.

Mailing Label