

# Neighbourhood News & Views

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AINSLIE WOOD / WESTDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
OF RESIDENT HOMEOWNERS INC.  
Autumn 2007

*"Building community  
block by block"*



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2007

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AWWCA's  
New  
President

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## Thank You, Rob

JOHN WIGLE

The obstacles to truly singing **Rob Payne's** praises are his modesty and his incurable habit of always directing credit and compliments to other volunteers. Rob brought an enormous amount of vision and drive to the association, as shown by the following snapshot of some of his accomplishments as president of the AWWCA for the past four challenging years.

During Rob's tenure, over 200 new members joined the AWWCA. Now, at about 550 members, we are the largest and most active neighbourhood association in Hamilton. Rob spearheaded the creation of the Campus Town Association, a not-for-profit partnership formed December 2004. The CTA is dedicated to the improvement of our near-campus community, with the goal of being a model for campus towns in Canada. He also helped to create the Town and Gown Association of Ontario, incorporated February 2006, and continues to manage their website. TGAO membership is currently comprised of over 60 organizations. Rob has been in demand as a presenter and author on topics relating to near-campus communities throughout Southern Ontario and as far away as Colorado. He is also an active member of McMaster's President's Advisory Community on Community Relations.

Rob has qualities that have served the AWWCA very well, allowing him to build on the excellent work of the association's founders. For example, he has a good sense of humour, especially about himself, and has real insight into thorny human issues. His approach to problem solving is collaborative, even when tempers become



Rob Payne

frayed. He has excellent judgment, evidenced in so many ways, including his marriage to **Dr. Liz Shaw**, who has unselfishly "loaned" Rob to us for these past four years. Liz is quietly but vigorously supportive of the AWWCA.

Rob is endlessly inquisitive and an indefatigable researcher. The information that he has been able to find has enhanced and strengthened all correspondence sent, presentations made, and positions taken by the association on many issues affecting our own and other near-campus communities. In short, Rob has been and continues to be a great resource for the association and the board.

Rob continues as a director of the AWWCA as an active past president.

*John Wigle was elected president of the AWWCA in September.*

# THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY

## Play in the Park: Building on Community Strengths

BETTIE VANGILS KLOET

Play in the Park is a new and yet very old idea. We residents of Westdale have always come to our local park to play with our kids and connect with our neighbours. One of Westdale's strongest characteristics is the ability of its residents to form relationships. We all want to belong, to know and be known, to have a community that is our own.

During my children's younger years, I cherished the relationships I developed with other parents and children at Playgroup at St. Paul's Church; how I looked forward each week to seeing everyone, but especially **Karen Poyner**, who always remembered my children and me by name. Those same friends would be at the library, at the coffee shop, or at the park, always happy to share our parenting joys and concerns. As my children have grown, I have reconnected with many of those same families at West Hamilton soccer, where we enjoy chatting on the Churchill Fields while our kids play. The common thread that links all these positive experiences is the people—the sense of connection with caring and friendly neighbours.

This love for my community was the energizing force behind the Westdale Play in the Park program. As a fitness instructor, educator, and parent, I was already concerned about childhood obesity and inactivity statistics. After reading Silken Laumann's book *Child's Play* and hearing her passionate talk at the CanFitPro conference in Toronto, where she challenged us as a group of fitness professionals to change our neighbourhoods and make them more active places, I was committed to bringing this program to Westdale. My friend **Sharlene Loudon**, who lives around the corner from my home, was seated next to me in the auditorium at the conference. By the end of Ms. Laumann's talk, we had agreed to forge ahead together.



Bettie VanGils Kloet playing with children in Churchill Park.

Photo: Janet Woodward

We began by making posters, talking to our friends, handing out flyers and, on opening day (Sept. 11), we waited. Would anyone come? On that beautiful day approximately 45 kids, and lots of parents, joined in for free play, organized games, and conversation. What a joy to see kids skipping, running, drawing with chalk, and moving their bodies! We have access to many ideas through games, books, and websites, such as [silkenactivekids.ca](http://silkenactivekids.ca), which also has stories of groups (including ours) around the country.

Our plan is to continue the drop-in program at the playground at Churchill Park each Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. through the school year. When the cold weather comes, we will play in the snow, skate on the ice rink, and stay fit and healthy together. We will connect with each other as parents, play and laugh together, and support one another in our commitment to be active families. Most of all, we will build community together.

What do we need? Mostly we want more families to join us. Children aged seven and under must have an adult caregiver with them. We encourage older kids to bring a parent too. The games are suitable for children of all ages but probably most appealing for those up to age 12. Teens are most welcome to come and help out with games; often younger children need an older helper to really enjoy games like capture the flag. We also need parents who are willing to organize games and bring a few small equipment items.

We are applying to Hamilton's Recreation Department for funding of equipment and access to the Supie (Supervised Park Program) supply box and are arranging access to George R. Allan's gym on rainy Tuesdays. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me at 905-522-1082 or [bkloet@sympatico.ca](mailto:bkloet@sympatico.ca). We welcome suggestions; together we can make this program better.



Bettie VanGils Kloet watches as the children scramble over the new climbing wall Oct. 2.

Photo: Janet Woodward

## Chipping Away at the Stones

It took several days, several men, and several trucks to remove the stones from the playground, after which wood chips were laid. Thanks to the City of Hamilton. We love the new wood chips.



Stones being removed from the playground Sept. 25.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

## Hammerheads in Our Community

PETER SUMMERS

Have you seen a group of young cyclists making their way through Westdale streets this past summer? Maybe you have seen the same group running sprints at Churchill Park or swimming at the McMaster pool? If so, you have just seen members of the **Hamilton Hammerheads Athletic Club**, the largest youth triathlon club in Ontario.

Founded in 1999 by **Mat Reid**, the Hamilton Hammerheads have grown to 60 athletes, ranging in age from seven to 17, who work with many of the most experienced and respected triathlon coaches in Ontario. These youth train about five times a week to hone their running, cycling, and swimming skills.

The club's mission is to foster a healthy love of activity for young athletes of all abilities, but the club also caters to those who aspire to compete at a provincial or national level.

Head coach Kevin Mackinnon lives in Westdale, but Hammerhead athletes come from as far away as Mississauga, Jordan Station, and Caledonia to be part of the team. When they are not training you can find the athletes participating in various

competitive swim, track, and cross-country meets throughout the year and, of course, the triathlons that run across the province from late May to mid-September. If you want to know more, you can contact the team at [hamiltonhammerheadsac@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonhammerheadsac@gmail.com) or [hamiltonhammerheads.com](http://hamiltonhammerheads.com).

*Peter Summers is past president of Hammerheads and a parent of two Hammerheads. He is an AWWCA member and block representative.*



Youth triathlon club doing running drills in Churchill Park.

Photo: Peter Summers

## Movie in the Park

JANET WOODWARD

On the last day of school in June, about 150 children and adults gathered next to the aviary in Churchill Park under the clear night sky to watch the movie *Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*. Children in their pajamas sat on blankets placed on the ground, munching on popcorn as they settled down to watch the movie. They were surrounded by parents, grandparents, and friends. Toward the back of the crowd viewers sat in chairs they had carried to the park. **Mary Louise Pigott** and **Lorne Kredl**, both parents of children who attend George R. Allan School, thought it would be a great way to celebrate



Mary Louise Pigott and Lorne Kredl

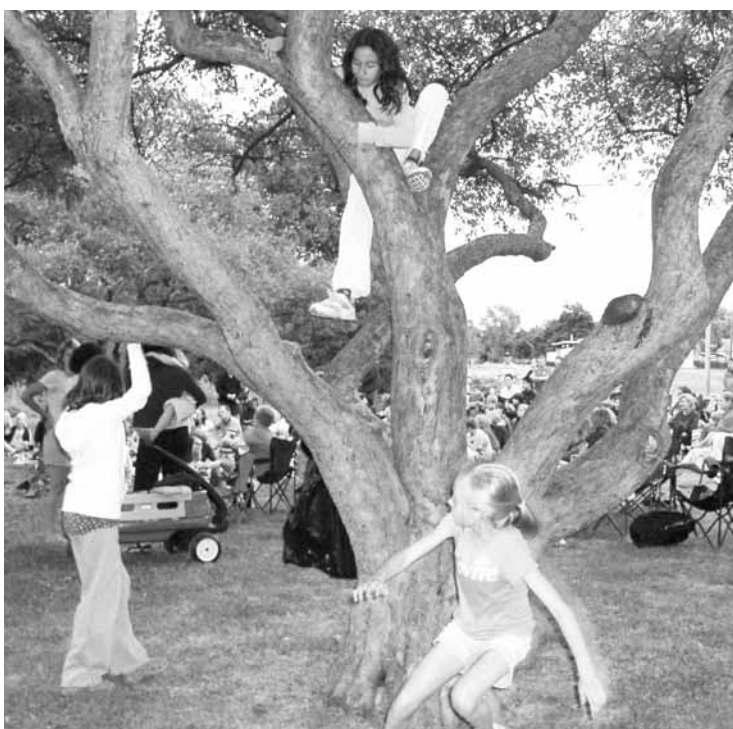
Photo: Janet Woodward





Getting ready for the movie.

Photo: Janet Woodward



Playing in the tree before the movie.

Photo: Janet Woodward

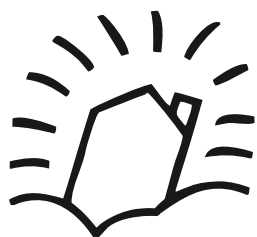
the last day of school and the start of summer. So they arranged for the screening of the movie and invited the community on a "pay what you can" basis. As well as distributing several independent films, Lorne was the film co-ordinator for the Staircase Theatre and initiated the National Film Board's lunchtime film series at Hamilton Central Library. He has screened a number of alternative films at a variety of venues in and around Hamilton, but considers the Churchill Park screening one of his highlights!

Invitations were given to the students at George R. Allan, and the AWWCA sent a notice to its members. AWWCA member **Catherine Weir** wrote: "It was a great evening. I love Wallace & Gromit, and it's so much fun to see a movie under the night sky. It reminded me of our adventures in Mexico when the gypsies came to town and strung a sheet across the street and we watched a spaghetti Western."

Mary Louise was thrilled by the level of generosity people showed when she passed the hat. Thanks to the outpouring of support, she is sure that this will become an annual event.

It was a wonderful evening and offered an opportunity for a casual visit with friends and neighbours. Thank you, Mary Louise and Lorne.

*Janet Woodward is the AWWCA's membership secretary and newsletter co-ordinator.*



# Because we care

# Why Do I Live in Westdale?

RUTHANN STANHOPE

I live a few doors from campus and have been asked many times by friends and co-workers why I continue to live in an area surrounded by student renters. There is no simple answer. My personal history, my sense of community, and my faith that good will triumph over bad all play a part in my decision to stay put in a place that truly feels like home.

In October 1972 I moved to Westdale as a newly married, working mother of a six-month-old baby. Back then, I felt very much an outsider in the neighbourhood. My neighbours were all older couples who tended to get together for cocktails at 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Eyebrows were raised when I left my child in the care of my husband while I worked 12-hour shifts at McMaster Medical Centre.

By the 80s I was a single mother juggling extracurricular activities for my two children, child care, and work. Banks required a co-signer so that I could get a mortgage. I worked hard to maintain my home in Westdale—a place where the schools were excellent, the community centre was close by, I could walk for my groceries, and people were willing to make sure my children made it to Cubs, Brownies, soccer, and all those character-building activities. Living in this community I was able to give up my car to conserve finances and so became “green” before it was cool.

Through the 90s I felt the change in Westdale. Family homes were becoming rentals. Neatly trimmed lawns and gardens were becoming unruly and strewn with garbage. My children were growing up and leaving home. Now I had time for me, my garden, and my ever-changing collection of abandoned animals. But my garden ornaments and hanging baskets were stolen, and multitudes of young men relieved themselves in my hedge. The annual pajama parade was truly out of control and scary. A good night's sleep was hard to come by.

Why do I stay? Because I have faith in the new generation. Every September Westdale is inundated by a new wave of outsiders (as I once was). The air is ripe with beer and hormones. By night a very small percentage of students cause prob-

lems. By day, they respond to my “good morning” as I walk my dog. Many days, as I work in my garden, students stop to tell me how good it makes them feel, as they have walked by year after year, to see the flowers that I have nurtured and loved.

Now I am semiretired and a grandmother. I could sell my house and my beloved garden for what I think of as a fortune. But

will I? Not likely. But I will continue to implore my daughter to return to Westdale with my grandchild, as I believe the values that served me and my young family so many years ago are still intact. The community (including permanent residents and students) and the university need to continue to work together, and I believe they will.

*Ruthann Stanhope is an AWWCA member.*



Ruthann Stanhope in her garden with Dodger.

Photo: Janet Woodward



# Because we care

## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

### Bryan Prince Bookseller Sponsors

AWWCA Contest

LOREEN JEROME

Walk the Village was the name of our contest for children at the AWWCA booth and the AWWCA-sponsored walkability booth at WestFest, held Sept. 7 and 8. Children were asked to guess the number of books in the children's section of Westdale Library and to give the name of the bookstore on King Street West near Sterling Street. The contest was open to children aged 12 and under.

And the winner is . . .



Fiona Snell with her prize.  
Photo: Loreen Jerome

## Nominate a Garden

The Trillium Awards Program was established in 1956. It is one of the oldest and largest beautification programs in North America. The program promotes and encourages community pride through the recognition of excellence in landscape design, maintenance, and curb appeal. Beautiful gardens improve the quality of life in our neighbourhood—one of the goals of the AWWCA.

This year you may nominate any garden in the City of Hamilton. The garden must be visible from a public street, and it must belong to a private residence. Nominating a garden does not guarantee an award, but it does guarantee consideration. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2008. Information: 905-540-5066 or [trilliumawards@hamilton.ca](mailto:trilliumawards@hamilton.ca) or [myhamilton.ca](http://myhamilton.ca) and search "trillium awards."

## AWWCA at WestFest

LOREEN JEROME

For the second year, the AWWCA had a display booth at WestFest, on June 9 in Westdale Village. This year WestFest celebrated Westdale Library's 50th anniversary and again featured family-friendly events. We thank AWWCA volunteers **Jeanne Bernard, Earl Jerome, Carolyn Kinsley, Barb Mansfield, Maureen McKeating, Ira Rosen, Grace Wang, and Janet Woodward.**



Grace Wang (with umbrella), Councillor Brian McHattie, and Carolyn Kinsley at WestFest.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

Congratulations to six-year-old **Fiona Snell** of Barclay Street, whose guess of 10,000 books was closest to the actual number—19,377. **Helen Kelly**, children's librarian at Hamilton Public Library, said: "I included books only (hardcover and paperback), no comics, no magazines or nonprint formats.

I did not include teen books. So this is the number of books geared to children from birth to 12 years old." Fiona won a \$25 gift certificate donated by **Bryan Prince Bookseller.**

*Loreen Jerome is treasurer of the AWWCA.*



# Thank You, Westitalia Volunteers

JANET WOODWARD



Liz Millar and Ira Rosen at AWWCA booth.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

The AWWCA thanks the volunteers who looked after our display area at Westitalia Sept. 8: **Jeanne Bernard, David Hitchcock, Earl Jerome, Loreen Jerome, Liz Millar, Ira Rosen, and Heather Thomson.** And we thank Shelli Eisenberg and Carolyn Kinsley, who helped Earl and Loreen pack up Sunday morning when the event was cancelled due to rain. At Westitalia several individuals took out memberships with the AWWCA and many others expressed interest, taking literature home to peruse.

The walkability committee is a committee of the AWWCA, and their booth was next to ours. At Westitalia, committee members guided residents through a process of documenting important walking destinations and the walking strengths and weaknesses within Westdale South and Ainslie Wood East. A special thank you to walkability committee members **Catherine Bianco, David Blechman, Suzanne Brown, Bev Chisholm, Sally Gaudie, Matt Leiss, Sharon Mackinnon, Kelly McCormick, Penny Palmer, Alice Sabourin, Jane Weary, and Kristen West.**

## Walkable West Hamilton

ALICE SABOURIN

The Ainslie Wood/Westdale walkability committee is running a pilot grassroots walkability initiative in the City of Hamilton.

We have held eight walkability committee meetings since March, and we have 12



Banner of the walkability committee.

Photo: Janet Woodward

committee members, including Ward 1 **Councillor Brian McHattie** and representatives from the AWWCA, the Westdale Business Improvement Area, Public Health,



L to R: Sally Gaudie and Bev Chisholm at walkability booth.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

City of Hamilton planning, George R. Allan School Council, and Adas Israel Synagogue.

We have divided community engagement into two phases:

**Phase 1:** Four charette-style open-house booths in September at Westitalia, the AWWCA's annual general meeting, George R. Allan Home and School barbecue, and

McMaster University Student Centre's Car Free Day/Week (where we paired with MACycle's free-bike-repairs booth).

**Phase 2:** Two walkabout audits in Ainslie Wood East and Westdale South on Sept. 30. The AWE walk had six people. The WS walk had 14 people (including a public health nurse, who was the lead facilitator, and Mr. McHattie, who introduced the walk) and one dog! The committee is very pleased with the support for the walks and with the comments and observations that were made.

The committee is sharing responsibility for collating data from the various aspects of research. We are happy with the level of engagement and interest the topic has garnered.

We hope to have a report to Mr. McHattie before the end of 2007; submission of the report will mark the end of the pilot phase.

The committee will develop recommended next steps. One likely step is to inspire others to continue the walkability audits throughout Ainslie Wood West and other Hamilton neighbourhoods. The pilot walkability group will likely serve as a resource to new groups.

*Alice Sabourin is chair of the AWWCA's Ainslie Wood Westdale walkability committee.*



Participants in the Westdale South Walk Sept. 30.

Photo: Alice Sabourin

# GRAFFITI PREVENTION

## Adopt-A-Box Program

KEN OCKENDEN



Entering its third year, the Adopt-A-Box program is well established and is being used as a model for similar programs in other neighborhoods.

Initiated by former AWWCA board member **Dmitri Malakhov**, it has received support from the AWWCA, Canada Post Corporation, Hamilton Police Service, McMaster University, and, above all, more than 60 community volunteers. Using a solvent called Goof-Off, volunteers have kept the majority of the red and grey area mailboxes free of graffiti.

A visual survey, as well as feedback from volunteers, indicates that after being cleaned once or twice, most boxes remain clean for long periods—sometimes for years. This mirrors the results found with programs in other cities.

Some local businesses, such as **Shoppers Drug Mart** and **Scotiabank**, carry out quick removal of graffiti and maintain their property in good condition. There are other businesses, however, that make little effort at removal and even refuse offers by volunteers to do the job for them.

While proactive enforcement of the municipal anti-graffiti bylaw appears nonexistent, when alerted by residents the city removes graffiti promptly from city property.

As with all projects, there have been changes. For example, some volunteers have moved away, so we have “orphan” boxes that need to be adopted. With changes in the location and number of boxes, current lists are being revised. Anyone who would like to help keep our neighborhoods free of graffiti is most welcome as a volunteer. Winter is usually quiet from a graffiti viewpoint, so boxes and new volunteers will be arranged early in 2008. In the meantime, a big “thank you” to all volunteers.

Finally, if anyone sees graffiti on municipal property, please contact the city at 905-546-2489. If a mailbox is vandalized, contact me at 905-528-4805 or [ken.inthecastle@gmail.com](mailto:ken.inthecastle@gmail.com).

## Graffiti Prevention Strategy

JANET WOODWARD

**Sarah Mayo** is Graffiti Prevention Strategy supervisor with the Hamilton Police Service. GPS is a program created in 2006 to initiate Hamilton into combating graffiti. Operated through a partnership of the HPS, the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Safe Communities Coalition, and McMaster University, it is funded by a federal grant from the National Crime Prevention Council. Said Ms. Mayo: “The GPS team is putting focus on education, awareness, and mobilization in the community. One of our tasks was to mobilize the business communities and to create a method for the BIAs to perform their own cleanups.

“We approached community-minded individuals with the aim of forming partnerships and mobilizing our neighbourhoods in the fight against vandalism.”

Westdale was one of four areas chosen. **Wipeout Specialty Cleaning** provided their services free of charge. Said **Paul Maynard** of WSC, “We then contacted GPS and showed our bio-friendly products that are neutralized by water and how to apply them safely and effectively.” The GPS ran from May to August and will continue next year.



L to R: Volunteers Zamir Sideq, Murray Babb, Glenn Brettell, and Sarah Mayo clean graffiti in Westdale BIA July 20.  
Photo: Janet Woodward



L to R: Marc Rudy and Terry Smith, volunteers with Wipeout, clean graffiti in Westdale BIA July 20.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

*“Building  
community block  
by block”*



# Ward 1 Chedoke-Cootes: Councillor's Report

BRIAN MCHATTIE

I hope that everyone enjoyed the prolonged colours this fall—beautiful to see but also worrisome as we reflect on the drought this past summer and hints of the effect of ongoing climate change.

As you know, we continue to engage with McMaster University on the issue of heavy trucks and student enrolment. In September, city council passed a temporary truck-route bylaw (to the end of January 2008) allowing McMaster to send up to 25 heavy trucks per day down Forsyth Avenue to the Sterling Street entrance, with those same trucks exiting campus via University Avenue and the Main Street entrance. Limited truck hours on Forsyth apply, and Hamilton Police Service is providing enforcement.

The AWWCA has made it very clear that McMaster needs to curtail its current enrolment growth in Westdale and perhaps consider reducing the number of undergraduate students on campus. I agree, and we will be making that a key discussion point with the new provost, **Ilene Busch-Vishniac**, over the next year.

I have had a busy year leading efforts on the new anti-idling and pesticide bylaws. We remain the only ward in the city to have no pesticides in our parks. The mayor has asked me to assist him in achieving a robust Rapid Transit Plan; we anticipate receiving a feasibility study of bus versus light-rail rapid transit by this summer. In 2008 we will review the Ainslie Wood Westdale Transportation Plan.

Below are some quick updates:

- I recently had a tour of the Dundurn Edge development, West Village Condominiums which opened for 449 students in early September. It is a very attractive facility with a strong environmental commitment—the solar-panel system on the roof is the largest of its type in North America. In mid-October I represented the community at an Alcohol and Gaming Commission hearing for a 160-seat restaurant (plus a 50-seat patio) there called Charlie West. See the separate report on the hearing in this issue. We will continue to monitor the impact of this purpose-built student residence on the number of occupied student houses in the neighbourhood.
- Reports on a proposed student residence at 17 Ewen Road were included in the autumn 2006 and spring 2007 issues of *Neighbourhood News & Views*. Auburn Developments has now filed a planning application with the city for this project, designed to house up to 550 students. The application requires an Official Plan amendment and zoning change. Concerns include the height of the building and general impact on the community. I am aware of additional discussions around downtown student residences but have nothing specific to report at this point.
- Efforts continue on licencing student-rental homes, providing financial assistance for homeowners renovating former student houses, protecting West Hamilton schools, and controlling future growth in licenced premises through application of an interim control bylaw.
- We continue to green Churchill Park, with over 200 trees planted this fall by community volunteers (to go along with a similar number planted in 2005)



One of over 200 trees planted Oct. 13 with tree from 2005 planting in background.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

## CITY HALL NEWS



Councillor Brian McHattie

and a dozen larger “park” trees planted by city staff. We were all very sad to see the Churchill oak come down this year, but thanks to a suggestion by Westdale resident **Mary Louise Pigott**, we are using the wood to create benches for the park and a tree ring for George R. Allan's science classes.

Please visit my website at [brianmchattie.ca](http://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](mailto:bmchattie@hamilton.ca). Have a great fall, and bring on the overwintering eagles, sea ducks, and boreal songbirds!



Churchill Park oak tree Sept. 21, 2006.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

## Let's Replace Those Lead Pipes

The city has introduced a pilot loan program to help qualified homeowners replace the lead water service in their homes.

For more information:  
905-546-CITY (2489), or  
[myhamilton.ca/water](http://myhamilton.ca/water).

## West Hamilton School Planning Committee Report

DALE BROWN

In December 2006, *The Hamilton Spectator* published two articles outlining the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board's preliminary capital plan, including the issues and priorities. The plan to review the three West Hamilton local schools was listed as priority number five out of six priorities. It stated, among a lot of other points, that Westdale's Dalewood Middle School and Ainslie Wood's Prince Philip Elementary School were too costly to repair and thus closures should be considered.

The AWWCA called a special meeting to address community concerns stemming from these articles. The meeting was attended by **Councillor Brian McHattie**, **Trustee Judith Bishop**, and representatives from the AWWCA and the three schools: George R. Allan, Prince Philip, and Dalewood. A second meeting was hosted by the George R. Allan School Council. Judith Bishop and **John Forbeck**, HWDSB superintendent, attended this meeting, where it was noted that the HWDSB has an extensive consultation process that must happen before any school can close. These meetings were reported on in the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*.

## E-mail Notices from Councillor Brian McHattie's Office

In the past, the AWWCA has forwarded to our members e-mail notices from **Councillor Brian McHattie's** office about issues of interest to Ward 1 residents. Your board of directors has decided it would be best if these notices came directly from the councillor's office. If you are not currently receiving them but would like to, please sign up with his office directly by sending an e-mail to [daabrown@hamilton.ca](mailto:daabrown@hamilton.ca) with your name. Please indicate that you live in Ainslie Wood or Westdale. Mr. McHattie's office maintains three separate lists, one for each Ward 1 neighbourhood (Strathcona, Kirkendall, and Ainslie Wood/Westdale). By indicating your neighbourhood, your name will be placed in the Ainslie Wood and Westdale list. Notices go to only one neighbourhood if they do not apply to the other two; notices of broader interest are sent to all three neighbourhoods.

As a result of these two meetings, Mr. McHattie formed the **West Hamilton School Planning Committee**. Its mandate is to develop a preferred school plan for West Hamilton in advance of the HWDSB's next accommodation review. Committee members include Mr. McHattie, Judith Bishop, and representatives of the AWWCA and of Dalewood, George R. Allan, and Prince Philip schools.

Two meetings have been held to date to receive information from the Board of Education about "prohibitive to repair" ratings, school-capacity numbers, and projected demographics. The committee also heard a presentation about the Campus Town Association's marketing strategy to convince families coming to work at McMaster's Innovation Park to live in Ainslie Wood or Westdale.

The committee noted the importance of the city's recreation centre at Dalewood and is currently planning a tour of the facilities as well as of the school to understand the maintenance work that is required.

Prince Philip has been particularly affected by the declining number of school-aged children in the neighbourhood. However, there is good news this year, as Prince Philip reports that the number of children registered for kindergarten has nearly doubled and there are more children in Grade 2. Also, the HWDSB is exploring the creation of a bilingual (Chinese/English) program at Prince Philip.

*Dale Brown is Mr. McHattie's executive assistant.*

## Thanks to Our Councillor and the Police

AWWCA member **Carey McManus** wrote to us in August to tell us about two instances where she and her neighbours received great service.

"In early August my neighbour had a problem with some dangerous branches about to fall from a tree, and in my tree, there was a wasp nest. These trees are at the front of our houses on city property. My neighbours and I were concerned that the branches might fall and also, being allergic to wasp stings, that we might be stung.

"After a number of fruitless calls over a one-week period, I called the office of **Councillor Brian McHattie** in desperation. His office was so helpful. **Susan Millman** in Mr. McHattie's office immediately started to work on the problem. Although it took awhile, after so much frustration I really appreciated her willing assistance, and eventually help was on its way.

"Around the same time I called the police because someone was trying to break into my car in my driveway at 2:30 a.m. The police arrived within minutes and checked everything, assuring us that they would cruise by a couple times through the night. Because a neighbour and I could not sleep, we were sitting on the porch most of the rest of the night and observed that the police did cruise by. So, kudos to them ... they made us feel safe and secure."



Because  
we care

# Property-Standards and Fire-Safety Enforcement

IRA ROSEN

Since I joined the AWWCA's board of directors I have focused on building better relations with the major stakeholders in our community so that we can work together to address the many bylaw-related issues that we deal with on a day-to-day basis.

We are pleased that the city has made some dramatic changes in how property standards are enforced, resulting in a reduction for compliance from three weeks to one week. In addition, it is always easier to bring attention to the problems, but it is much harder to come up



Representatives of the parties to the fire-inspection pilot project: chief fire-prevention officer James Winn, AWWCA liaison for property standards and fire safety Ira Rosen, McMaster Students Union president Ryan Moran, and Ward 1 executive assistant Dale Brown.

Photo: Janet Woodward

with viable solutions. It is also very easy not to see the improvements, but I believe that both the Hamilton Police and the representatives from the city bylaw department have made a solid effort in this community, and we are grateful.

Throughout the fall the **Hamilton Fire Department**, in conjunction with **Councillor Brian McHattie's** office, the **McMaster Students Union**, and the **AWWCA**, started a fire-inspection pilot project in homes in Ainslie Wood and Westdale.

Our members tell us that bylaw infractions are their biggest neighbourhood concern, so we continue to make these issues a priority. Our website will soon be implementing a new complaint form to help streamline the constant flow and to collect statistics. To report infractions, go to [awwca.ca/initiatives/initiative/municipal-bylaws](http://awwca.ca/initiatives/initiative/municipal-bylaws).

*Ira Rosen is AWWCA liaison for property standards and fire safety.*

## Fire-Inspection Motion

In the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* we referred to the motion brought to council by **Councillor Brian McHattie**. That motion passed on March 28, and the text is as follows:

### **Fires in Westdale Area Student Housing (Item 9.1)**

**WHEREAS**, there have been three fires in student housing in the Westdale area surrounding McMaster University in the past 16 months, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners Inc. (AWWCA) have been concerned for years about the condition of homes, which have been converted into student rentals, and believe that the situation is becoming more critical, and;

**WHEREAS**, on behalf of almost 19,000 undergraduate students, the McMaster Students Union (MSU), has requested that the City of Hamilton provide assistance by offering fire inspections to ensure that student housing is meeting code and that these homes are safe for residency, believing that the condition of some student homes are especially dangerous and may contain violations of the fire code.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Hamilton Emergency Services be directed to work with the Ward 1 Councillor, the AWWCA, and the MSU to undertake a pilot project in which approximately 45 houses in three different neighbourhoods in Ainslie Wood and Westdale (including family homes and student homes) are inspected on a voluntary basis in order to gather information and assess fire safety.



Sergeant Tim O'Keefe addressing the truck meeting.

Photo: Janet Woodward

## Truck Meeting

JOHN WIGLE

About 35 people attended a truck meeting Oct. 30 at the Westdale Library. The meeting was suggested by the city and hosted by the AWWCA. **Councillor Brian McHattie**, general manager of the public

works department **Scott Stewart**, and manager of traffic engineering and operations **Hart Solomon** discussed the contents and intent of the Sept. 26 council resolution and the bylaw change regarding heavy trucks in our community. **Sergeant Tim O'Keefe** discussed enforcement of the bylaw and gave advice to residents. There were many questions and much lively discussion.



# Provincial ISSUES

## All-Candidates Forum Sponsored by the AWWCA

JOHN WIGLE



Dylan Aiello speaking at the forum.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

The AWWCA sponsored an All-Candidates Forum Oct. 2 at the Dalewood School auditorium. About 100 residents came to listen to the views of candidates for the Oct. 10 provincial election.

Before the candidates spoke, **Dylan Aiello** gave a presentation on the referendum to be held in conjunction with the Oct. 10 provincial election. The referendum was to decide whether to change our voting system from "first past the post" to mixed-member proportional representation. Dylan, a Grade 12 Westdale Secondary School student, was chosen to represent Hamilton West at the Students' Assembly on Electoral Reform. He explained how the students studied systems in use worldwide and then chose a system to recommend. Their proposal was submitted earlier this year to the specially convened Citizens'

Assembly on Electoral Reform. The system chosen by the students was the same one chosen by the Citizens' Assembly to be on the ballot and is similar to proportional-representation systems used in most other democracies. (As you know by now, voters in Ontario rejected the proposal.)

The AWWCA thanks Dylan for helping to plan and organize the forum and for arranging delivery of about 1,500 notices throughout the community.

We congratulate **Ted McMeekin**, who was elected our Member of Provincial Parliament, and look forward to working with him. Said Mr. McMeekin: "I will continue to work with the stakeholders to bestow on Cootes Paradise the status of being Ontario's first Urban Provincial Biosphere Park. I envisage an even more wonderful, greener (and treed) median entranceway to our great city."

## Joya Sushi AGCO Hearing

Our thanks to **Councillor Brian McHattie** for attending the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario hearing on May 24 for Joya Sushi of 1630 Main St. West. Mr. McHattie met with the owners May 17 to discuss the conditions residents would like to see. After the hearing, he reported that conditions were put in place to ensure that no liquor will be served after 10 p.m. and the restaurant will close by 11 p.m. Also, no outdoor patio will be installed. These conditions also apply if a licence transfer occurs in the future.

## Charlie West's Liquor-Licence Application

BETTY BECHTEL

In July **Carolyn Kinsley**, **Janet Woodward**, and I sent letters to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario regarding the application of Charlie West for a liquor license. This restaurant and bar is located in the new West Village student condominium building at 1686 Main St. West.

We requested certain conditions be attached to the liquor license. **Councillor Brian McHattie** had already been working with **Simon Ruzzier**, the owner of the restaurant, and **Rob Manhertz**, the owner and builder of the West Village Condos. Mr. McHattie organized a meeting for us Sept. 5 at West Village with Mr. Ruzzier, Mr. Manhertz, liquor-licence specialist **Mark Tiley**, and **Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin**. This was an opportunity to voice our concerns and to learn about the operational plans, including security, for the restaurant and bar. One concern was the number of seats. Originally Mr. McHattie was told there would be 104 seats. When we met, we learned Mr. Ruzzier wanted licensing for 160 indoor seats and 50 outdoor seats. Conditions were negotiated and eventually agreed upon.

Mr. McHattie informed the AGCO of the conditions the objectors agreed to. We requested a conference call to replace the hearing scheduled for Oct. 16, as two of us could not attend, but the hearing took

place as scheduled at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Mr. McHattie spoke on behalf of the residents. Mr. Ruzzier, Mr. Tiley, Mr. Manhertz, and I also attended. The AGCO chairperson read the conditions agreed upon for the Charlie West restaurant and bar:

1. Capacity of 160 indoor seats and 50 outdoor seats.
2. On the outside patio there is not to be any live entertainment or amplified sound.
3. A log of the restaurant's activity is to be maintained by the security staff.
4. Security staff are to patrol the inside and outside of the establishment. On evenings when security staff are not on duty, the restaurant staff are responsible for patrolling every hour between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

After the hearing Mr. McHattie explained to me that the AGCO had problems with including in the licence our request for special-duty police. Therefore, Mr. McHattie will work to include special-duty policing as a condition in the city's business licence, which will also include the closing time of 2 a.m. He will also work with Staff Sgt. Rastin on this matter.

The hearing lasted less than an hour. The AGCO lawyer complimented the participants on the quick, effective resolution. A large part of the credit is due to Mr. McHattie's ability to work with the participants and to achieve a collaborative solution.

*Betty Bechtel is an honorary board member of the AWWCA.*

# Dealing with the Impact of Excessive Alcohol Consumption on Our Community

JOHN WIGLE

Past president **Rob Payne** wrote to **Councillor Brian McHattie** on April 16 regarding the impact of excessive alcohol consumption on the quality of life in our near-campus community. He said that the AWWCA board believes these issues need to be directly and formally addressed: *We have worked very closely over the past few years with McMaster University, the McMaster Students Union, and the city to address this problem. As a result of this collaborative effort, unique programs such as special-duty police officers, Project Hush, and proactive bylaw enforcement have been put in place. These programs have proved their usefulness but have not been able to keep up with the population growth of the university. As a result, the negative effects on the community at best have remained constant and at worst have actually increased over the last few years.*

*We would request that you implement through council a freeze on granting any new alcohol licences in the near-campus area while undertaking a study of the area to determine such things as appropriate densities of licenced establishments, maximum number of seats in licenced establishments, enforcement processes, etc. This type of request is not unique, as it has been implemented recently in other university towns such as Ottawa, Guelph, and most recently St. Catharines.*

This issue was brought to a head in June when the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario decided to review McMaster's student bar, Quarters, a 720-seat facility. The AWWCA's position is that there needs to be a public hearing about Quarters' licence.

On July 11 the Economic Development and Planning Committee passed the following motion presented by Mr. McHattie:

*Whereas, undergraduate enrollment at McMaster University has increased exponentially in the past decade, and;*

*Whereas, the number of licensed seats in the Ainslie Wood Westdale area has increased in a similar vein, with six new liquor license applications in the past*

*three months, and;*

*Whereas, there has been a significant rise in alcohol-related incidents involving students in the neighbourhoods surrounding McMaster University, and;*

*Whereas, there are many younger students now attending the University with less experience using alcohol, and;*

*Whereas, the cities of St. Catharines, Ottawa, and Guelph are implementing planning approaches to specifically address this issue;*

*Therefore,*

*Request that staff come back with a plan to study this issue with consideration to applying an interim control bylaw (making reference to best practices in other Town and Gown cities including the ones noted above).*

Through Mr. McHattie's office, the AWWCA asked the AGCO for a formal public hearing to review Quarters Pub. That request was made in May, but as of November we have not been advised of when that meeting will take place. We are also awaiting the city staff report requested in Mr. McHattie's motion of July 11.



## Make Yourself at Home in the West End

CATHERINE BIANCO

Comments that entice potential residents to consider living in Ainslie Wood or Westdale, and a map that shows the natural, educational, and commercial amenities in the area—both are highlights of a brochure produced by the Campus Town

Association, a venture of the AWWCA, McMaster University, and the Westdale Business Improvement Area.

The attractive, informative brochure, produced in English and French, is being distributed to area realtors, faculty-recruitment officers at McMaster, and the office of economic development at the City of Hamilton, for use in attracting new residents to Hamilton's west end. Representatives of McMaster and the city brought it along on a Nov. 30 trip to Ottawa, during which they met with the CANMET employees who will be eligible for relocation to Hamilton.

## CAMPUS TOWN ASSOCIATION

**Alice Sabourin**, who played a key role in the development of the brochure as a representative of the AWWCA board, said, "This first product from the CTA is important to attract new residents to the neighbourhood we all love and enjoy."

You can view the brochure at [awwca.ca/articles/2007/10/16/new-brochure-highlights-community-assets](http://awwca.ca/articles/2007/10/16/new-brochure-highlights-community-assets).

*Catherine Bianco is associate director, public relations, Office of Public Relations, McMaster University.*

*"Building community block by block"*

# SCSN: Welcome Week and the Year Ahead

NICOLE RUMBLE



Nicole Rumble

Are you living in the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community? Are you a student or a permanent resident? If you answered "yes," keep reading! A relatively new student-run service, the Student Community Support Network, offered by the McMaster Students Union, aims to benefit the entire community. Our principal goal is to foster positive interaction between students and their surrounding community. We have many endeavours throughout the year that help us reach this objective.

In early September we handed out welcome bags to 500 off-campus student houses. This is the project's third year, and it has proven to be widely successful. Welcome bags contain information that helps students effectively integrate into the community and become responsible members of the community. The bags include McMaster's Good Neighbour guide, Hamilton's garbage schedule and instructions, plus information on energy conservation, security, police services, and transit information.

We thank the local vendors who made donations to help with the growth of the project. It was amazing to see so much support within the McMaster Students Union and the community. We had the greatest volunteer turnout in welcome bag history, with about 44 people involved, including **David Hitchcock**, **Carolyn Kinsley**, and **Grace Wang** from the AWWCA. The team worked fast and effectively and got all the bags delivered in less

than an hour! I want to say a huge "thank you" to all who helped with the distribution of our welcome bags.

This year's SCSN core staff (**Shabeeh Ahmad**, **Yukit Li**, and I) are working with **VON Hamilton** to encourage McMaster students to volunteer in the community, as opposed to solely on campus, which will also allow them to interact with permanent residents. There are many different opportunities within this partnership that allow for varying levels of time commitment and also career-specific experience for students. Mature residents of 55 years of age or older, disabled residents, parents with newborns, and any person who is seeking companionship could also greatly profit from some of our programming. We ask anyone who is interested or wants to learn more to contact SCSN at 905-525-9140, ext 26575, [scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca), or VON Hamilton at 905-522-1022.

SCSN is working to make students and the community more aware of our services so that they will be able to take advantage of what SCSN has to offer. We intend to do this by attending various committee meetings within the community, forming partnerships with other organizations, and

being more specific with promotion. In addition, we would like to educate students about their community by running a year-round poster campaign that highlights various aspects of the community, such as snow removal and garbage pickup. These posters will be displayed on campus for a month, and then students will be tested on the information. If the students know the facts, they will receive a prize; if they do not, they will learn new information about how to be responsible members of the community. We hope that we can interest people in our service, because we really do have a lot to offer the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community, and we hope to represent students in a positive light to the community.

As the director of this service, I am always open to new ideas about possible projects and would love to form more partnerships this year. If you have any ideas or any further questions, I encourage you to e-mail me at [scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca) and to remember that SCSN's door is always open!

*Nicole Rumble is director of SCSN for the 2007-2008 academic year.*

## Trick or Eat 2007



L to R: Ira Rosen, AWWCA 2nd vice-president; John Wigle, AWWCA president; Vass Bednar, McMaster Breadbin co-ordinator; and Lisa Dodds, AWWCA 1st vice-president, with donations from the board of the AWWCA. Donations were divided between McMaster Breadbin and Hamilton Food Share.



# Peer-to-Peer Program

NICOLE RUMBLE

The Student Community Support Network, a service provided by the McMaster Students Union, is committed to maintaining a positive atmosphere in the community surrounding the university. As part of this, we address the needs of both students and permanent residents.

One aspect is dealing with a common problem that arises between the two groups in terms of neighbourhood disturbances. Permanent residents often register complaints with the City of Hamilton, the AWWCA, or the Hamilton Police about noise from student parties. The SCSN is being proactive through our peer-to-peer program, which involves a community-resource assistant visiting a student house that is the subject of a complaint. The CRA provides the students information on bylaws that they need to follow, as well as other information about the implications of their actions. This gives students an opportunity to reflect and become more aware of their neighbourhood. For many off-campus students this is their first year living without their parents, and they may not be aware of the bylaws they are expected to follow. The response received from students has been overwhelmingly positive, as most are grateful for the education and now have an opportunity to change their actions, and many do so. The SCSN sees this program as a win-win situation for both students and permanent residents. Please contact me at [scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca) if you have any questions or feedback about the program.

## The McMaster Sterling Street Entrance: The Truck Entrance That Never Was

JOHN WIGLE

There was excitement in the air in April 2000 when the university celebrated ground breaking for the new Student Centre. The truck routes to build this new building were clearly outlined in the April 2000 issue of *McMaster News*: "During construction, trucks and other heavy equipment will be routed from Main Street and Cootes Drive to College Crescent and north on University Avenue and around the east side of Mills to the construction site. The return trip will be the reverse of the above. Regional traffic enforcement requires that trucks not enter or leave by Sterling Avenue."

Again in 2003, plans were being developed to build what would become the DeGroote Centre of Discovery and Learning as an extension to Hamilton Health Sciences. McMaster met with the residents on Forsyth Avenue on numerous occasions in an effort to address the negative consequences of constructing such a large building so close to the residential community.

Following these discussions **Karen Belaire**, McMaster's vice-president of administration, sent a letter July 5, 2003, to residents of Forsyth Avenue stating that she approached then Councillor **Marvin Caplan** about "the possibility of installing 'No Heavy Trucks' signs along Forsyth Avenue."

It appears that McMaster administration has been aware since 2000 that the Sterling Street entrance did not meet the city's truck-route bylaws and therefore was off-limits for heavy trucks.

In 2005 the university celebrated the ground breaking of both the new stadium and the new sports complex. However, this time the university did not initiate or participate in discussions with the Ainslie Wood and Westdale neighbourhood about the impact the much-increased volume of heavy trucks would have on the near-campus community. Forsyth residents reported that up to 200 construction trucks a day traveled through the Sterling Street entrance, which previously had not been used for heavy trucks. In fact, discussions with the university did not resume until October 2006, when Forsyth Avenue residents, the AWWCA, **Councillor Brian McHattie**, the **Hamilton Police Service**, and the city's **legal and public-works departments** forced McMaster to address the situation.

The university and the neighbourhood continue to disagree over the appropriateness of sending trucks through residential streets to access the Sterling entrance. You can review the evolution of these discus-

sions at our website, [awwca.ca](http://awwca.ca).

The AWWCA stands by its position of "no heavy truck traffic on our residential streets."

The association appreciates the pressures faced by McMaster given their enrolment increase from approximately 14,000 students in 2000 to over 22,000 today. However, we do not believe that putting any of the heavy truck traffic into the community is an appropriate or wise way to substitute for a comprehensive transportation plan for the university. Other universities have experienced challenges identical to those now being encountered by McMaster, and they have responded proactively and with meaningful input of their near-campus communities. The University of British Columbia Truck Management Plan implemented in 2003 is one of several useful Canadian precedents. We recognize that McMaster needs to service its existing facilities and needs to complete its capital projects now under way. We merely ask that the university join with all community partners in designing, implementing, and monitoring a transportation plan that is workable and mutually satisfactory.



A truck exiting Sterling Street Sept. 29. This truck drove over the curb, putting students on the corner at risk, and taking over both lanes in both directions while turning.

## Thanks, Students

AWWCA member **Fran Scott** wrote Sept. 10: "I want to let you know that the students who live nearby collected and cleaned up a whole pile of beer bottles, cans, and wine bottles yesterday. They must have taken them away for refund, as their yard is now clear; pretty impressive. I wrote to the students and thanked them."

## Nominate an Outstanding Student

SERGEANT TIM O'KEEFE

The AWWCA, the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Police Service, McMaster Students Union, McMaster University, and the Westdale Business Improvement Area continue their partnership to recognize students who make a positive contribution to the community. The program was launched in April 2005, and the first awards were presented in the spring of 2006.

At the March 29 meeting of the McMaster President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations, a letter of appreciation signed by the mayor, the university president, the student union president, and the chief of police was presented to 14 students for their valuable contributions to Ainslie Wood and Westdale.

If you know of one or more worthy students in your neighbourhood, please send me a note. Give me their name and address and say why you feel the student deserves recognition by sending it to: Sergeant Tim O'Keefe, Division 1 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](mailto:tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca). An awards committee will review all nominations, which are due Feb. 15, 2008.

## Long-Time Residents Express Their Gratitude

DIANE AND BILL ZSEPECZKY

It was mid-August. Along with a shared lament for the waning of summer, two long-time residents braced themselves—familiar by now with September's onslaught of the raucous noise of late-night parties, the ongoing deteriorating properties, and the garbage that would soon litter the streets.

It was not so long ago that it was not like this; no wonder we felt anxious, sad too, fondly remembering our neighbourhood during a time when homeowners and students were mutually enriched by the presence of the other.

But, I digress. The purpose of this commentary is not to remind AWWCA members of that which they know all too well. In fact, we have been motivated to write this by a sense that progress in some of our most urgent concerns may be possible after all.

On Aug. 31 the e-mail from **Councillor Brian McHattie** describing the proactive-enforcement strategy put in place by city staff and the Hamilton Police Service helped to bring some unexpected optimism. This caused us to think about other reasons, too, why we might feel a measure of confidence that the tough and frustrating challenges of our neighbourhood could actually be addressed. **Rob Payne's** strong and positive leadership of the AWWCA and **Janet Woodward's** dedicated, consistent, and timely efforts to keep us informed came quickly to mind. Now that we were on that track, we thought about the AWWCA's own board of directors. Their work is tireless, strategic, and determined. Could it be that the key decision makers, now certain that we will not go away, are finally stepping up to the plate? And then, of course, we thought of all the volunteers, growing in numbers it seems, who are willing to come on board.

So, for what it is worth, these two long-time residents wish to express their gratitude to all who continue to stay the course. With so much determination, savvy, and dedication we may finally have reason to be hopeful.

And as for us, we will plant some perennials this season, the first in a while.

*The Zsepczky's have been AWWCA members and block representatives since the commencement of the association. Diane Zsepczky was head of student services at Westdale Secondary School until her retirement 10 years ago.*

## Swap-O-Rama 2008

KATIE STIEL

What you gonna do with all that "junk"—all that junk inside your trunk? Let the **City of Hamilton's waste-reduction division**, **McMaster University**, **McMaster Students Union**, and **MACgreen** give you the answer! The annual Swap-O-Rama will be held from Friday, April 18, to Sunday, April 20, 2008. Please note these dates now, as this is the AWWCA's last newsletter before the swap. This event is not only for McMaster students but for permanent residents as well, though the focus is on items left by students.

When students move out, they leave reusable items on their lawns. Letting them go to the landfill would be a waste, since one person's garbage may be another person's gold. The aim of Swap-O-Rama is to encourage everyone to explore swap items at the curbside and give a home to anything that could be of use.

Though resident homeowners may put out their own reusable items, this is not the focus of Swap-O-Rama. The city has bulk-goods pickup days for that. For more information: 905-525-9140, ext. 26628, or [enviro@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:enviro@msu.mcmaster.ca) or [www.msu.mcmaster.ca/macgreen](http://www.msu.mcmaster.ca/macgreen).

*Katie Stiel is events co-ordinator of MACgreen, a committee of the MSU.*

# Varsity NEWS

## McMaster Enrolment: Time for a Downtown Campus

ROB PAYNE



Crane at McMaster University October 2007.

Photo: Rob Payne

McMaster University's rapid growth is making it one of the fastest growing universities in the province, according to the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In the last five years, enrolment at McMaster has increased 42 per cent. This surge outstrips the largest of three possible undergraduate-enrolment targets in McMaster's last publicly released planning exercise (Refining Directions, 2003-2004). Despite complaints by students and faculty about overcrowded conditions, the university administration has done nothing to stop this unplanned growth, even though the board of governors has the power to limit it.

Given the landlocked nature of the Westdale campus and the many indications that it has reached its "carrying capacity," the university needs to tap into its innovative strengths and develop a solution to the increasing demand for postsecondary education.

McMaster's growth is coming from the

university-age population in Toronto. The University of Toronto is well ahead of McMaster when it comes to enrolment planning. One of the options they are considering in their Towards 2030 document is to "work collaboratively with government, colleges, and university partners to create another university within the GTA."

In partnership with Mohawk College, the city, and the province, McMaster could jump ahead of the University of Toronto's planning and create a "new" McMaster in downtown Hamilton. This bold move would be consistent with one of the key planks in the City of Hamilton's Economic Strategic Plan: to make Hamilton Education City.

McMaster has been resistant to dramatically expanding in the downtown core, and the city has not developed a proposal that is attractive enough to change its mind. However, having the courage and energy to innovate our way to a bigger and better university, and a bigger and better Hamilton, means that we need to move forward with serious plans to establish downtown Hamilton as the site for a "new" university within the GTA.

As an alumnus of McMaster, I hope my university will be that new university. If that does not work out, an expanded University of Toronto or another new university could just as well relieve the expansion pressures on the neighbourhoods that surround McMaster.

*Rob Payne is the immediate past president of the AWWCA.*

Note: McMaster's carrying capacity was the topic of Rob's presentation at the AWWCA's annual general meeting on Sept. 18. It was reported in the Sept. 20 *Silhouette* and the Sept. 28 *Dundas Star*. You can view the presentation at [awwca.ca/articles/2007/09/25/mcmasters-enrolment-growth](http://awwca.ca/articles/2007/09/25/mcmasters-enrolment-growth). Additional articles on enrolment can be accessed at [awwca.ca](http://awwca.ca) at News/Essays/Articles.



## Because we care

## MCMMASTER'S PAJAMA PARADE 2007

JANET WOODWARD



AWWCA block representative and PJ-parade committee member Mary Anne Duncan, managing the AWWCA table in her frosh-year shirt from McKay Hall 1982-83, her son Scott, and MSU V-P administration, Paul Jones. Photo: Janet Woodward

For the past two years I have been the AWWCA's representative on McMaster's pajama-parade committee. One of the major changes in the parade this year was the route, as reported in the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*. The purpose was to reroute the parade from the problem areas. The **McMaster Students Union** delivered notices to all the houses on the new route prior to the parade, which took place Sept. 5. In response to the route change, **Sergeant Glenn T. Jarvie** said: "I did like the change in the route; it brought more control to the crowd. It did impact Dalewood Crescent and Dalewood Avenue South, but only for a short period of time. I found most residents were out on their front lawn, including the non-student houses. I was very impressed with how things were done this year."

Responses from residents about the route change were mixed. All eight residents of Traymore Avenue that I spoke with were supportive of the parade; sample responses follow. **Irwin Feuerstein**: "It was peaceful and there was good interaction with the kids." **Bill Rodman**: "It brings the community together." **Kelly Hurst**: "The students parading were great with the kids, and all of the parents thought that they treated our little ones so well with the face painting, high fives, stickers, and buttons. Having said that though, the student houses on the street that had parties had booming music, lots of alcohol, and couches on the lawns. One house had 200 bottles strewn about the lawn, and we had to ask them to





L to R - Jorden Denkers, Rehana Meru, Zoya Alam, Candice Bean, and Nathan Denkers with Moulton Hall mascot.  
Photo: Janet Woodward



Back row L to R: MACgreen director Mark Wade, McKay Hall community-advisor director Matt Chojnacki, MACgreen Maroon Anson Leung, and AWWCA PJ-parade committee member Janet Woodward. Second row L to R: track director Slova Goolik, SCSN community-resource assistant Sophia Chang, and IRIS director Krystal Berwick. Front: student representative Meredith Rutherford.

clean them up. However, there was glass on the sidewalk and roadway that we later had to ask them to clean, and the next morning the remnants of the mess were still there. So with all that said, the parade is good, but it is the students in the houses watching that are the issue."

Regarding the problem of open liquor on public property, **Sgt. Tim O'Keefe said:** "I was being pulled in all directions to 'put out fires,' but I still managed to issue a full book of tickets myself. My personal concern was the number of students who felt it necessary to stand on the roadway or sidewalk with open liquor. They were the recipients of my tickets."

Additional changes to the parade included a Dixieland band leading the parade and a McMaster Cheer Team. There was an increased emphasis on the environment with the city's Blue Box Man in costume. **Dennis Guy**, outreach co-ordinator at the city's waste-management department and one of the creators of the Blue Box Man, said: "**Derek Ochej** was the Blue Box Man for the parade, and he enjoyed the experience. He and his helper gave out about 100 recycling brochures that give room-by-room recycling information." The city supplied Pitch-In bags and gloves for the

cleanup crew, which included two representatives from each student residence and members of the **Student Community Support Network**.

Although many of our members thought the parade was much improved, some continue to have serious concerns with it and still want it cancelled. All responses have been forwarded to McMaster. **Nikola Patti** of **McCullor Brian McHattie's** office said: "Normally we receive a lot of complaints after the parade, but this year we haven't had a single complaint." We thank the city for responding instantly to complaints about posters plastered on the parade route.

The pajama-parade committee continues to meet to discuss further improvements and another possible route change in 2008. The committee wants to further strengthen the environmental emphasis in the parade.



Blue Box Man Derek Ochej and MACgreen director Mark Wade.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

# CAP Update for 2006/07 Academic Year

TIM CAMERON

The Community Accountability Program wrapped up its first academic year with an increasingly busy case load, with a total of 10 cases. The Hamilton Police did an excellent job of referring appropriate cases: 100 per cent of referrals were accepted. CAP is funded by the **McMaster Students Union** with support from **McMaster University** and the **Hamilton Police Service**.

CAP has trained 14 volunteers from the greater community, including students, homeowners, alumni, and McMaster staff. Of those, nine remain active in the program and five more were trained in October.

We had six formal community meetings where students took responsibility for their actions and suggested sanctions to remedy the situation. All sanctions were completed successfully. Sanctions have included letters of apology, articles in the student newspaper, restitution for damage, and community service. The following is an excerpt from an article written by a student who was referred to CAP:

*After I was brought home by the police I was informed of the Community Accountability Program ... a program designed for students like myself who end up in such a situation, facing a criminal charge which could jeopardize their future all because of inebriated actions. This program would see me meet with its organizer, a student, a police officer and a non-student member of the neighborhood to discuss and try to find a way to make my next interaction with the community a positive one ... After the dust had settled I was working side by side with many of the local non-student residents, helping in an annual cleanup of the neighborhood, a mess which many a student contributed to and did not help clean up ... I have a much greater respect as well as appreciation for the non-students of the McMaster community ... I am very grateful for the Community*

*Accountability Program and the opportunity which it presented me with. If not for this program I may have found myself in a much different situation than today, facing a criminal record for a night that only the worst parts could be remembered.*

For more information: 905-525-9140, ext. 21190, or [tcamero@mcmaster.ca](mailto:tcamero@mcmaster.ca).

*Tim Cameron is program co-ordinator of CAP.*



Tim Cameron

Photo: Janet Woodward



*"Building community block by block"*

# News From the **BLUES**

## Police Report of McMaster's Welcome Week

SERGEANT TIM O'KEEFE



Sergeant Tim O'Keefe

This year, the Hamilton Police Service and the City of Hamilton standards and licensing department worked in a partnership to deal with the annual issues presented to Ainslie Wood and Westdale at the start of McMaster University's fall classes. When the plan was presented to Ward 1 Councillor **Brian McHattie**, he responded: "From my perspective as the ward councillor, this is the best organized proactive-enforcement strategy in my four years here, and I thank city staff and the Hamilton Police Service for assembling the plan."

The city took a proactive approach in August by mailing out a courtesy letter to the homeowners and tenants who had received warnings or fines for noise and yard maintenance the previous year. This effectively set the tone for Welcome Week (Sept. 1-9) and the month of September.

The route for this year's pyjama parade, held Sept. 5, was shortened, greatly reducing its impact on the community. The McMaster Students Union provided cleanup crews during and after the parade. They did an excellent job of removing all remnants of the festivities from the streets.

Tickets were issued by the police for open alcohol off private property.

On any given night during Welcome Week, the city provided as many as five municipal law-enforcement inspectors (MLEI). The HPS provided coverage from the two Westdale beats (1161 and 1162), plus support from its high-enforcement action team (HEAT), vice and drugs, emergency-response unit, core-patrol bike officers, youth and school liaison office (YSLO), and the auxiliary police. This joint initiative achieved the following results for the period Sept. 1-9:

### **Liquor Licence Act Violations**

Provincial-offence notices were issued to 57 individuals for "Section 31(2) consuming liquor in other than licensed premise, residence or private place."

### **Noise**

- Police and MLEI issued warnings to 38 individuals.
- Provincial-offence notices were issued to 10 houses for violations.
- Three fees for service at \$220 each were added to the tax roll under "Section 2: emit sound likely to disturb another between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m."

### **Yard Maintenance**

The city issued 13 seven-day orders to comply.

### **Waste Violations**

The city issued 59 notices to comply.

### **Conclusion**

The Division 1 crime manager's office is extremely pleased with the results produced by the joint plan. The consistency in service delivery was very effective in addressing quality-of-life issues that Ainslie Wood and Westdale traditionally face in September.

Thanks are due to the following groups, which provided an invaluable contribution to this plan: City of Hamilton's standards and licensing department; Division 1 uniform patrol branch, HEAT, and YSLO; investigative-services department, vice and drugs office; traffic office; and auxiliary police.

On Nov. 1 there were 58 houses on the proactive noise list and they are monitored by the Mac 91/92 paid-duty officers throughout the school year. If you wish to add to the list, contact me at 905-540-5093 or [tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca](mailto:tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca).

Your beat officers (currently **Mike Kowalchuk**, **Lauren Troubridge**, **Amanda Vernon**, and **Steve Wowk**), the standards and licensing department for bylaw matters, and Mac 91/92 paid-duty officers are handling the balance of the year. The paid-

duty officers are used primarily on weekends or whenever there is a large-scale event at the university. The beat officers are always in the community, and bylaw is on duty in Ainslie Wood and Westdale on all Fridays and Saturdays.

*Sgt. O'Keefe is the West Town Crime Manager.*

## Police and Noise-Bylaw Liaison Lisa Dodds

BETTY BECHTEL



Lisa Dodds

Photo: Matt Dodds

This fall **Lisa Dodds** joined the AWWCA board as first vice-president. She is also serving as police and noise-bylaw liaison. Lisa moved to Westdale 18 years ago with her husband, Jim, and their son, Matt.

Recently retired after over 30 years of public service, Lisa has worked in hospitals, schools, and government offices managing and delivering community health and social programs. For 10 years Lisa supervised young-offender services for the Regional Municipality of Halton, the Region of Peel, and the Counties of Dufferin and Simcoe, where she was responsible for ensuring offenders carried out the terms of their court orders.

Lisa also worked at Queen's Park to support the Ministry of Community and Social Services' policy development. She is a strong supporter of proactive community



planning and, before heading to Queen's Park, spent many years as a government liaison to provincially funded service providers, working to develop co-ordinated and responsive community-based services for children and their families.

In 2001, Lisa took on the role of executive director of the Hamilton chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. "It was a rewarding experience to return and work in the city I had lived in for so many years," says Lisa. "It was that same sense of satisfaction that motivated me to volunteer with the AWWCA. Working along with your neighbour to make your community healthy and vibrant, in a manner that reflects shared values, is a wonderful way to spend your time. The AWWCA is a very committed group and has already accomplished so much. I am looking forward to the opportunity to contribute."

## Thanks, Mac

For over three years, McMaster University and the McMaster Students Union have contributed equally to funding two special-duty police officers (Mac 91/92) to provide proactive enforcement to our community on pub nights (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). The Hamilton Police Service provides vehicles for the patrols. Our community has benefited greatly from this extra service. Though problems still occur, we know we would experience many more without the patrols. Based on the success of McMaster's program (a first in Canada), Dalhousie University and Brock University have started similar programs. Thanks Mac; our community appreciates this service.



**Because  
we care**

## Appreciation Barbecue

JANET WOODWARD

After two cool days, the weather changed to quite a pleasant 26 degrees, just in time for the Hamilton Police Service's volunteer-appreciation barbecue held Aug. 22 outside the aviary in Churchill Park.

About 50 people attended, including members of the **AWWCA**, the **Graffiti Prevention Strategy**, the **McMaster Students Union**, and the **Rail Trail Cleanup Committee**.



The cooks. In foreground, L to R: Staff Sgt. Scott Rastin, Acting Sgt. Randy Drumm, and Sgt. Brandi Frazier. Photo: Lorean Jerome

AWWCA board member **John Wagle** thanked the police for putting on the barbecue and doing the cooking. He then thanked the many community members who have volunteered in numerous ways, including those who have helped with the various cleanup initiatives, Adopt-A-Box graffiti eradication, and graffiti-prevention programs; the tree planting and tree-counting programs, as well as gardening projects; AWWCA members who work on the newsletter and website, serve as board members and on committees, help at events, and volunteer as block representatives; and McMaster students who volunteer in our community.

You can view additional photos at [awwca.ca](http://awwca.ca).

Our community is beautified, enriched, and supported by hundreds of volunteers. Each one is valued and appreciated.



L to R: Chris Melowsky and Mike Kloosterman, summer students working with the Hamilton Police Service's Youth In Policing Initiative. Photo: Janet Woodward

# Outstanding Service

AWWCA member **Ron Lancaster** wrote in August about some problems in his neighbourhood and said: "Since I contacted the police, there has been a flurry of activity that has resulted in some good news. Westdale is fortunate to have such great police officers. **Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin** and **Police Constable Amanda Vernon**, the 1162 Beat Officer on 'A' Squad, care about the community, and they go above and beyond the call of duty. On another note, I called the city this morning to pick up a couch that has been sitting on a lawn nearby for the past four days. The staff person was great and said she would send out a truck. Good service!"

## Thanks, Police

Honourary AWWCA board member **Betty Bechtel** wrote to **Staff Sgt. Scott Rastin** and **Sgt. Tim O'Keefe** July 11 regarding tenants of a house who were causing problems for the neighbours: "This house had a very noisy party on Saturday evening, July 7. Loud music and yelling were noted. Also heard was someone counting, presumably while people were chug-a-lugging. I called the Hamilton Police Service, and officers must have visited, as the noise stopped somewhere around 11 p.m. Many thanks for the quiet. This was a problem house last semester with noisy outdoor keg parties."

Sgt. O'Keefe informed the AWWCA board that he and **Sgt. Brandi Frazier** were working evenings and visiting problem houses during the summer when Mac 91/92 were not available.

Betty wrote again: "Your initiatives have worked very effectively, as you will see by the following comment from an AWWCA board member concerning another problem house: 'I knew that someone must have said or done something, because we haven't heard a peep from them and it has been wonderful. Thank you so much for your help—the response was excellent!' With much appreciation from our quieter neighbourhood."

The police report for McMaster's Welcome Week was sent to members Sept. 12, after which AWWCA member and block representative **Michael Ladouceur** sent the following note to **Sgt. Tim O'Keefe**: "I just want to personally thank and commend you and your officers for the excellent (and daunting) job you did keeping a lid on the mayhem of Welcome Week in Westdale. We noticed the efficient responses of the police to calls made last week. We can see the effectiveness of the actions taken in the statistics provided. It's a sad commentary on the social conditions prevailing in our

community that we are left to resorting to law enforcement to impose a sense of peace and security in our neighbourhood. At least we can be confident that the Hamilton Police Service is making a noticeable difference in the quality of our lives. Thank you again." Sgt. O'Keefe responded: "Thank you very much for this positive feedback. We set out this year to make a difference in the Westdale community, and it appears that we have made some progress in this direction. Thanks again for your support!"

## Members' NEWS

### Outgoing President's Report

ROB PAYNE

Following is a summary of my report sent to members via e-mail Sept. 10:

The main issues we have been working on are:

1. heavy truck traffic in our community,
2. Quarters Pub on campus,
3. McMaster's enrolment size and future projections, and
4. the proposed Ewen Road development

Although these issues have not been resolved, we do have other achievements to report, all of them involving

collaboration among various stakeholders in our community.

#### 1. Churchill Park Splash Pad

This was a great community effort, led by **Councillor Brian McHattie**, **Penny Palmer**, and her volunteer group.

#### 2. New Volunteer School-Review Committee

The AWWCA is taking an active role with Mr. McHattie's office to review the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board's planning for our elementary schools. The decision to be proactive in this area is unique and reflects our recognition that the availability of high-quality schools is critical in attracting and retaining families in our community.

#### 3. Graduate-Student Retention

We are working with McMaster to develop programs that could attract graduate students to live in our community. These students are our families of tomorrow, and any efforts we can make to help McMaster in this area will benefit our neighbourhood greatly in the future.

#### 4. Marketing Ainslie Wood and Westdale

A 10-person marketing group, led by AWWCA member **Alice Sabourin**, focused on promoting our many community assets and has produced an advertising brochure. Their efforts will certainly help to attract families, McMaster faculty and staff, and graduate students to our community. We are working with both McMaster University and the Westdale Business Improvement Area in support of this program through our affiliation in the Campus Town Association. Initially the brochure is targeted to the CANMET employees in Ottawa who will be relocating to Hamilton as part of McMaster's Innovation Park.

#### 5. New Bylaw Programs

We have another large group, spearheaded by AWWCA board member **Ira Rosen**, that has been focusing over the

past year on improving the efficiency of bylaw enforcement.

#### 6. Adopt-A-Box Program

Thirty volunteers have adopted a large number of postal boxes in our community with the goal of keeping them free from graffiti—a proven crime reducer. This program is now led by AWWCA member **Ken Ockenden**.

#### 7. Community Cleanups

AWWCA board member **Janet Woodward** organized a successful community cleanup on Earth Day, April 21, and several members participated in the annual Rail Trail cleanup April 30, organized by AWWCA member **Ken Sherman**. Some members also participated in a cleanup March 31 sponsored by **McMaster's Student Community Support Network** and **MACgreen**.

#### 8. Walkability Committee

The walkability committee of the AWWCA is led by Alice Sabourin. It seeks to investigate, celebrate, and promote Westdale and Ainslie Wood's walkability and to partner with organizations and institutions to improve walkability within the community. The AWWCA is the first community organization in Hamilton working with the city to promote walkability.

For many other ongoing activities, please visit our website at [awwca.ca](http://awwca.ca).

## Introducing the AWWCA'S New President

JANET WOODWARD

We welcome **John Wigle** as the association's new president. John has been a board member since 2005. On Sept. 18 members elected him president, to succeed **Rob Payne**, who continues as immediate past president.

John definitely has roots in Westdale. He lived on Paisley Avenue North for the first 10 years of his life before moving with his parents and two brothers to Oak Knoll Drive in 1960, where his parents still live. John attended George R. Allen Public School, Dalewood Middle School, Westdale Secondary School, and Hamilton Collegiate Institute for Grade 13. He did an honours degree in history at Queen's University in Kingston and obtained degrees from King's College School of Law, University of London in England, and the Common Law Section, University of Ottawa. He was

admitted to the Ontario Bar in 1982. John is a litigation partner in Simpson Wigle LLP, which has offices in Hamilton and Burlington. His maternal grandfather started practising law in Hamilton in 1919, and his father practiced law in Hamilton from 1949 until early 2007.



John Wigle

Photo: Janet Woodward

**Susan Wigle**, John's wife, is one of the earliest members and block representatives of the association. John's parents are members as well. One of the first tasks that John assigned to himself was to sign up new members for the association, which he has done.

John has always been active in the community, having served as a vice-president and director of Hamilton's Ronald McDonald House, chair of various committees at Westdale United Church, president of Epilepsy Hamilton and District, a coach and organizer with the West Hamilton Youth Soccer Club, and an avid supporter and driver for the various competitive basketball teams on which his daughters have played.

John loves sports and outdoor activities, including hiking, tennis, canoe tripping, and cross-country skiing. When he has time he enjoys reading, especially political biographies and history. He also enjoys the cinema and live theatre.

In his new role as president, John had a quick and busy start. He was involved in a rally objecting to the presence of heavy construction trucks on our residential streets Sept. 26 and had his first media scrums that morning and following the Hamilton City Council meeting that evening.

Said John, "I hope and intend to continue and expand the important legacy left by the founders of the association and by its visionary past president, Rob Payne."

# Ninth Annual General Meeting

CAROLYN KINSLEY

Our annual general meeting Sept. 18 at Dalewood Middle School was well attended, by over 200 residents. At the informal session in the lobby preceding the business meeting, Ward 1 **Councillor Brian McHattie**; **Sergeant Tim O'Keefe**, Hamilton Police Service; **Roger Trull**, vice-president, university advancement; **Jim Winn**, Hamilton Fire Department; and **Bill Young**, manager, bylaw enforcement, were available to talk to residents individually. They then repaired to the auditorium to give short reports and answer questions.

Outgoing president **Rob Payne** opened the formal part of the meeting and gave his report. He listed some of the accomplishments during his tenure that directly affect the well-being of our community; these are outlined elsewhere in this newsletter.

Rob's main topic was the 38 per cent increase in undergraduate enrolment at McMaster in the last five years and the harmful effects it is having on the surrounding community. There are 5,400 more undergraduates than in 2002, an average increase of 1,080 per year.

The university has opened two new on-campus residences, and in September an off-campus, purpose-built residence was opened to accommodate 449 students. But we are not keeping up. Approximately 200 more houses have been converted to student rentals. At this rate of increase, what will our community look like by 2014 with 6,500 more students? McMaster's current planning process means that the university alone determines enrolment levels and therefore the future of this community. We have no plan from the university for a carrying capacity on the Westdale campus.

There should be no more than approximately 20 per cent transient renters for a near-campus community to retain family amenities while retaining the vitality of having students around. An undergraduate enrolment of 17,000 makes sense if we are to continue to attract families, students, faculty, and staff. Two more student residences need to be built to free up approxi-



mately 140 family houses for permanent residents. The city and the university need joint planning for issues that affect the surrounding residential community; planning is haphazard now.

Our advantages are great communication structures and great assets in the community. But the impact of unplanned enrolment is at a critical juncture. We need to work together with the city and university to attract and retain graduate students and employees of Innovation Park. But do we have a shared vision with the university?

The topic of our guest speaker, **Mayor Fred Eisenberger**, was Achieving Town and Gown Balance in Ainslie Wood and Westdale. He recommended a consensus conference to mediate outstanding issues, such as truck traffic, between the university and the community. A consensus conference is a bit like a jury of people who are not involved with the issues and have no personal stake in them. They listen while the competing interests give their presentations; then this "jury" makes recommendations. We must always look for a path to resolution, as these issues are not going to disappear.

**Roger Trull** requested time to respond to the enrolment issue, stating McMaster is in the middle of the pack in the province and gave examples of how some of the pressure has been minimized.

In his Ward 1 councillor's report, Mr. McHattie emphasized the good relations we have here and welcomed the mayor's suggestion of a consensus conference. City staff are looking into licencing houses using Oshawa's bylaw as a model. Mr. McHattie said that we should take home the theme of the night—enrolment and carrying capacity. Due to his background in eco-planning, he knows that size is critical. There are limits to growth.

For a fuller report of the annual general meeting, go to [awwca.ca:80/articles/2007/10/31/ninth-annual-general-meeting](http://awwca.ca:80/articles/2007/10/31/ninth-annual-general-meeting).  
*Carolyn Kinsley is corresponding secretary of the AWWCA.*



Incoming president John Wigle making a presentation to Alice Sabourin.  
Photo: Janet Woodward

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## Newsletters Reflect Our Community

June 24, Murray Babb, block representative: "Just finished reading *Neighbourhood News & Views*. Another great job! It's always positive and well-presented. This, of course, is just the tip of the iceberg. It is our way of communicating all the superb efforts of so many people who care about our community. Please pass my commendations on to everyone involved."

June 25, **Betty Bechtel**, AWWCA honorary board member: "I have just finished reading the spring newsletter and am delighted with its scope, calibre, and positive messages. It accurately reflects our vibrant community. Thank you to all who have been involved in the newsletter's creation and in the work of this community: **Janet Woodward** spends countless hours organizing and co-ordinating the newsletter. She contacts would-be authors and ensures their literary efforts reach the editors before deadlines. She works closely with the editors and publishers to maintain the high quality we have come to expect in the newsletter. **Carolyn Kinsley** and **Malcolm Horsnell** are those unsung heroes who edit the numerous literary contributions (there were over 40 in the spring newsletter) submitted by community members and members of our collaborative team. Editing is a time-consuming undertaking that is done behind the scenes, without any fanfare."

June 25, **Jean Wilson**, block representative: "It's heartening to see how strong and effective the AWWCA has become."

June 27, **Michael Ladouceur**, block representative: "Great newsletter! Things are turning around in Westdale."

Sept. 10, **Stephen Plevak**, block representative: "I want to thank you for your very informative newsletters. They are appreciated and enjoyed. You must have quite a network set up to keep your finger on the pulse."

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### Thanks to Fortino's at Rifle Range for donating bottled water for our annual general meeting in September

# Membership Report

JANET WOODWARD

We continue to make a big effort to keep memberships up to date, simply because this is the most efficient use of volunteer time. This effort led us to a new record on Aug. 31, when we had 534 paid-up members, including 19 Friends of the AWWCA. At that time, we had the lowest number of overdue memberships on record—just 12.

## TownGown World Website Launch

Past AWWCA president **Rob Payne** launched a new website Nov. 12 that focuses on collaborative community planning for communities that surround higher educational institutions. The site has both an international and an academic focus, examining the planning processes being used in various parts of the world to address near-campus-neighbourhood well being.

The site is a collaborative effort, with contributing authors from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, who add their expertise to town and gown planning. TownGown World encourages contributors from a variety of demographic groups and geographic areas to contribute to our knowledge of community-planning issues that affect near-campus communities.

Said Rob: "I encourage members to visit the forum section at [towngownworld.com](http://towngownworld.com), where they can place their comments about planning issues that matter to them. I hope this site will be an asset to the AWWCA in our struggle for a sustainable and balanced community.

## Join Us



AWWCA board members elected Sept. 18: Back row L to R: board members Lavinia Welsh, Barbara Mansfield, Megan Coombes, and Brian Coombes (behind); second vice-president Ira Rosen, president John Wigle, first vice-president Lisa Dodds, past president Rob Payne; front row: treasurer Loreen Jerome, corresponding secretary Carolyn Kinsley, and membership secretary Janet Woodward (absent: board member Michael Tan). Photo: Liz Millar

The AWWCA board of directors holds its monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Members and guests are welcome to attend by prior arrangement. Contact John Wigle at 905-523-8775 or [WigleJ@simpsonwigle.com](mailto:WigleJ@simpsonwigle.com) for the meeting location and information.

# Useful Websites

Architecture Hamilton: [architecturehamilton.com](http://architecturehamilton.com)

AWWCA: [awwca.ca](http://awwca.ca)

AWWCA bylaw complaints: [awwca.ca/initiatives/initiative/municipal-bylaws](http://awwca.ca/initiatives/initiative/municipal-bylaws)

City of Hamilton: [hamilton.ca](http://hamilton.ca)

Councillor Brian McHattie: [brianmchattie.ca](http://brianmchattie.ca)

Federation of Citizens' Associations: [fca-fac.ca](http://fca-fac.ca)

Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario: [urbanneighbourhoods.ca](http://urbanneighbourhoods.ca)

Fire, Hamilton Emergency Services: [hamilton.ca/fire](http://hamilton.ca/fire)

H Magazine: [hmag.ca](http://hmag.ca)

Hamilton's Event Calendar: [hcal.ca](http://hcal.ca)

HammerBoard: [hammerboard.ca](http://hammerboard.ca)

Hamiltonians for Progressive Development: [progressivedevelopment.ca](http://progressivedevelopment.ca)

Helping local communities achieve more autonomy: [localgovernment.ca](http://localgovernment.ca)

McMaster's Off-Campus Resource Centre: [macocho.com](http://macocho.com)

Ontario Greenbelt Alliance: [greenbelt.ca](http://greenbelt.ca)

Ontario Professional Planners Institute: [ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://ontarioplanners.on.ca)

Ontario Smart Growth Network: [greenontario.org/osgn](http://greenontario.org/osgn)

Raise the Hammer: [raisethehammer.org/index.asp](http://raisethehammer.org/index.asp)

San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association: [spur.org](http://spur.org)

Town and Gown Association of Ontario: [tgao.ca](http://tgao.ca)

TownGown World: [towngownworld.com](http://towngownworld.com)

Urban League of London: [ul.london.on.ca](http://ul.london.on.ca)

Westdale Business Improvement Area: [westdalevillage.ca](http://westdalevillage.ca)

The AWWCA is a volunteer, nonprofit association whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community environment and the quality of life for all residents, and to organize, communicate, lobby, and pursue the needs of the members of the association. The AWWCA newsletter, *Neighbourhood News & Views*, is distributed to members twice a year and supplemented by news sent by e-mail.

Opinions expressed in 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** [awwca.ca](http://awwca.ca)

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## **LAYOUT**

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## **EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Malcolm Horsnell

*Autumn 2007*





# 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, Animal Control, 905-574-3433

Building permits: If in doubt about a building permit for a renovation site,  
contact Councillor Brian McHattie, 905-546-2416, or  
[bmchattie@hamilton.ca](mailto:bmchattie@hamilton.ca); if there is no permit, file a  
complaint with him and copy his assistant, Nikola Patti,  
[npatti@hamilton.ca](mailto:npatti@hamilton.ca)

City Hall: 905-546-CITY (2489)\*; if you know the extension, call 905-546-2424

Councillor Brian McHattie: 905-546-2416 or [bmchattie@hamilton.ca](mailto:bmchattie@hamilton.ca)

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

Fire, Hamilton Emergency Services (Fire and Fire Prevention  
Division): 905-546-2424, ext. 1380

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

## Graffiti:

Graffiti in progress: 911\*

Graffiti on Canada Post boxes and graffiti programs: Ken Ockenden 905-528-4805 or [ken.inthecastle@gmail.com](mailto:ken.inthecastle@gmail.com)

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)\*. Fridays, and Saturdays, November–April,  
9 p.m.–3 a.m., 905-546-4925. 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\* (you need to call while the vehicle is in violation for the vehicle to be ticketed)

## Police:

(non-emergency): 905-546-4925\*; a person will answer after the taped message (press 0 to skip the message)

West Town Crime Manager, Sergeant Tim O'Keefe, 905-540-5093, or [tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca](mailto:tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca)

To report keg deliveries (ask to have the Westdale beat officer call you): 905-546-4771\*

If you need further assistance: police reception desk, 905-546-4771\*

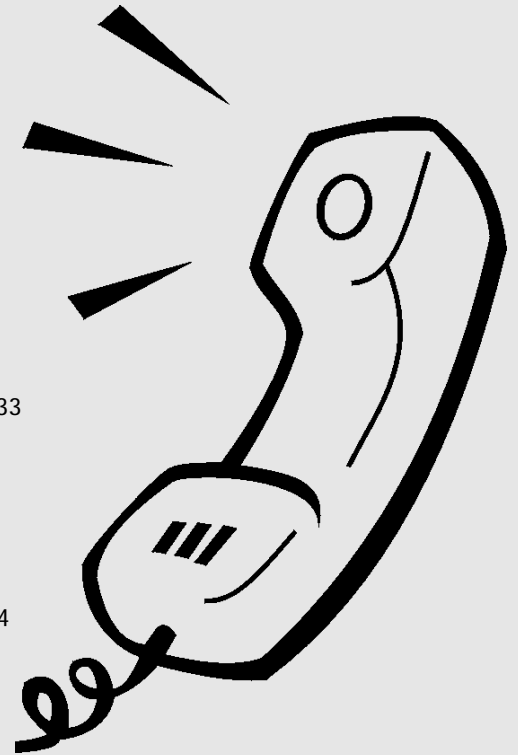
Westdale beat officers' e-mail: [westdale@hamiltonpolice.on.ca](mailto:westdale@hamiltonpolice.on.ca)

Property-standards infractions (dwellings, structures, and yards): Councillor Brian McHattie, 905-546-2416, or  
[bmchattie@hamilton.ca](mailto:bmchattie@hamilton.ca) and copy his assistant,  
Nikola Patti, [npatti@hamilton.ca](mailto:npatti@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



# The Way We Were

## The Rifle Ranges

LOREEN JEROME

In the 1890s, following the outbreak of the **Boer War**, rifle ranges were built on a huge flat area on both sides of today's Rifle Range Road for the **13th Royal Regiment of Hamilton** (now known as the **Royal Hamilton Light Infantry**). On the east of the ranges was the farm of **John Jacob Bowman** and on the west the farms of **John Bedel** and **H. Burton**. On the north were the **Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway** tracks, and on the south was "the Mountain" (part of the Niagara escarpment), about 200 feet high at this point.

The ranges were also used by the **Dominion Rifle Association**. There were 11 targets positioned at 200, 500, 600, 800, and 1,000 yards from the firing positions. Each soldier was usually allotted 33 rounds of ammunition—10 rounds plus a sighting shot for each of the 200-, 500-, and 600-yard ranges. The shooters fired south toward the Mountain, which served as a back-stop for stray bullets. In 1908, the **Brantford and Hamilton Electric Railway** was built up the mountain and a high, thick steel wall erected on the rifle-range side of the tracks to make certain no ricocheting bullets would hit a passenger.

Eventually, a fine clubhouse was built south of the TH&B Railway tracks, and each Saturday during the summer the soldiers came to the ranges by foot, bicycle, or the **Dundas Radial Cars**. There were also special cars switched onto the TH&B tracks that unloaded right behind the clubhouse. Many soldiers gathered at the **Halfway House**, owned by **Samuel Bamberger**, and marched in formation to the clubhouse. In charge of the clubhouse and grounds were **Mr. Catchpole** in 1905 and later **Alfred Drummer** and his family. There is no record of anyone being injured by an errant bullet. The ranges closed in 1928.

At the base of the Mountain, beyond the last house in the survey, there remain the cement target holders from the lower range. The upper range was completely obliterated by the construction of Highway 403 in 1966.

In 1950, the Village of West Hamilton saw the western side of Rifle Range Road turned from farmland into residential lots. The original clubhouse was torn down in 1951. After the rifle ranges closed, the **Ralph and Son Coal Co.** ran a business there, using a siding from the adjacent TH&B Railway for unloading coal into their sheds. Later on, industries and businesses such as the **Donald Rope & Wire Co.**, the **John Deere Co.**, and **Walter Jacques Importers** (candies and cakes) located on the rifle-range property. Today, **Fortino's** is there.

Sources: Ancaster Historical Society, *Ancaster's Heritage: A History of Ancaster Township* (copyright 1973); David N. Jardine, *West Hamilton: A Village and a Church* (Hamilton, Ont.: West Hamilton Heritage Society, 1990?); Margaret Houghton (ed.), *Hamilton Street Names* (Toronto: James Lorimar & Co. Ltd., 2002).



Vanished landmark: the old clubhouse on the rifle ranges in West Hamilton.  
Photo: *The Hamilton Spectator*, courtesy Stanley Jones.

Mailing Label