

Neighbourhood News & Views

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

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block by block"*



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Dmitri Made a Difference

JANET WOODWARD

In the five years I have known Dmitri Malakhov, he has impressed me with his huge commitment to our community, carried out in numerous practical ways. I first met Dmitri when he contacted the AWWCA in March 2002. He told me that he and a friend would like to organize a community cleanup. I learned that he was 17 and in Grade 11 at Westdale Secondary School. I tried to contain my joy and surprise at meeting someone so young with such maturity and genuine concern for his community.

Over the next six weeks Dmitri worked through all the details of how to organize the community cleanup. He designed, produced, and distributed notices throughout the community; the cleanup took place April 27, 2002. It was followed by yearly cleanups, continuing through April 21 this year.

When Dmitri turned 18 (the age at which the AWWCA admits members), he joined the AWWCA and volunteered to be a block representative. Shortly after, he was nominated as a board member of the AWWCA and served until the departure date for his new career. As a board member, Dmitri was always willing to volunteer for any job that came up, including taking on the position of recording secretary in April 2006. Dmitri was not only the youngest board member the AWWCA has ever had but also the only board member who served while at university.

In 2005 Dmitri was instrumental, together with the Hamilton Police Service, in starting an Adopt-A-Box program in our community. It encourages residents to adopt Canada Post boxes near their homes



Dmitri Malakhov

Photo: Mira O. Votakh

and eradicate graffiti from them. In addition, Dmitri organized annual Graffiti Days, with support from the police, where volunteers come together to do an intensive cleanup of graffiti from the community. The Adopt-a-Box program was the first such initiative in Hamilton, and other areas are now establishing the same program.

Another of Dmitri's initiatives was a tree-planting program. He and his neighbour spoke to residents, signing them up for a tree on their lawn. Together they have arranged for about 50 trees to be planted on properties in our neighbourhood.

Our community is indebted to Dmitri for his care. His actions are an example of how one person can make a big, positive difference. We said farewell to Dmitri on April 15 when he left for Regina to pursue his career. We wish him well.

WESTDALE IN THE NEWS

Running for Water in Kenya

LAUREN PAYNE

Kenya is a place that holds a lot of meaning for us. This past summer, a number of McMaster students travelled to the Masai Mara in rural Kenya with the Free the Children organization. We went to build a school, to teach, and to learn about the local culture and challenges the communities face. The experience was life-changing for all of us, and we came back to Hamilton in September with the urge to do more.

While in the Masai Mara, many of us realized that numerous children are unable to attend school simply because their mothers need help carrying water back and forth from the Masai River during the day. The river, which runs thick and brown, is not only a source of drinking and bathing water but an area of defecation for livestock. For us as North Americans, these conditions were truly astonishing. The team decided to raise money to fund a well in order to provide clean water to the community and to enable more children to go to school.

As I had run a half marathon in the past, I suggested it as a method to raise money for a cause that people would support. On March 4, 11 McMaster students ran a half marathon to raise the \$6,000 needed to purchase the well. Looking back now, many of my team members think I was fanatical, and perhaps they were even crazier to agree to it.

Running the half marathon was a tough six months of work, meeting up to four times a week and working up to runs of over 1 hour 45 minutes during the winter months to prepare for the 21-km race. The event was a great success (we raised just over \$6,000), and we hope it continues in the upcoming years. The positive response I have received from the team has been overwhelming. Dedicating ourselves to



Members of the Leaders Today Kenya team with elementary-school students, in front of the school the team built during their one-month stay (author is in the back row, second from the right).

this cause for so long has made the outcome tremendously powerful for us on both an individual and a collective level. Thank you to everyone, including community members, who supported our cause!

Lauren Payne is a third-year student at McMaster University in the Arts and Science Program who has lived in Westdale for nine years. Stories about her team's experience in Kenya were published in the April issue of Free the Children/Leaders Today newsletter and in the June issue of Canadian Living.

Congratulations to Our Trillium Award Winners

JANET WOODWARD

The 50th anniversary of Hamilton's Trillium Awards took place in 2006. We congratulate the AWWCA members who won awards in 2006; all of them have won Trillium Awards more than once.

Pink-trillium winner: Carol Davids has won nine white-trillium awards; her first pink trillium, in 1993, was given as a reward for winning three years in a row.



Pink Trillium
Copyright City of Hamilton 2001

White-trillium winners: Shelli Eisenberg, third-time winner; Grace Gordon, fourth-time winner; Alan and Joan McArthur, eighth-time winners; and Mary Najev, second-time winner.

The award program has changed over the years and currently works as follows: During July, local front gardens are assessed by 300 trained volunteer judges, who are assigned individual areas of the city. They award up to two white-trillium garden orna-



White Trillium
Copyright City of Hamilton 2001

ments per area, according to a scorecard that allocates points for both plantings and hardscapes (porches, walkways, driveways, etc.). Judges look for properties that have curb appeal, are well maintained, and adhere to principles of landscape design (harmony, balance, focal area, proportion, texture, and colour).

Each judge also nominates one of the two white-trillium winners for a pink Trillium Award. The pink-trillium judging (by different judges) occurs in August and pits the best gardens in each ward against one another. Pink-trillium judging occurs during the first two weeks of August by three experienced white-trillium judges.

Thank you to the award winners and to all in our community who take care of their gardens. You not only make a positive contribution to our community but also brighten our day as we pass by your gardens.

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

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The decision to establish a community project on walkability was inspired by the AWWCA's community-assets interviews last year, in which walkability topped the list of residents' explanations of "what makes Westdale great." Around the same time, **Councillor Brian McHattie** made a motion requesting that a city-wide pedestrian committee be established. Following meetings with staff, Mr. McHattie spearheaded a plan to hold a pedestrian workshop in

Westdale Walkability Committee

ALICE SABOURIN

Hamilton.

The AWWCA attended the city's pedestrian workshop last November to learn more about the topic. Indeed, attending the workshop was more than a case of luck meeting opportunity.

The workshop was facilitated by **Dan Burden**, a North American expert in walkability. I had the honour to meet Mr. Burden when Mr. McHattie invited the AWWCA to join a tour of West Hamilton, which was arranged to acquaint Mr. Burden with the

area. Since that time, and with Mr. McHattie's enthusiastic leadership, we have assembled a group of keen Westdale residents and held our first Westdale Walkability meeting in March.

The committee seeks to investigate what constitutes walkability, celebrate and promote Westdale's walkability, and partner with organizations and institutions to improve walkability within the Westdale community. In addition to Mr. McHattie's vision and commitment, the topic has garnered support from Public Health, the City of Hamilton, the Westdale BIA, McMaster University, and the afore-mentioned residents. We have 12 committee members and are in the process of recruiting school-council representatives.

Mr. McHattie notes that the work of the committee is significant since it is a pilot program—we are the first community organization in Hamilton working with the city to promote walkability. Enthusiasm continues to mount as the committee builds its plan and embarks on a project in which health, social capital, urban design, and environmental domains intersect.

Alice Sabourin is vice-president of the AWWCA.



Dan Burden, walkability expert, tours West Hamilton with, L to R: David Cohen, Transportation for Liveable Communities; Alice Sabourin, vice-president, AWWCA; Susan Mintz, project manager, Urban Strategies Inc.; Mary Lou Tanner, manager of strategic and environmental planning, City of Hamilton; Cyndi Rottenberg-Walker, partner, Urban Strategies Inc.; and Brian McHattie, Ward 1 councillor, City of Hamilton.

Photo: Dan Burden

Westdale Has Everything I Need

TRISH STRUNG

I recently moved to Hamilton from Toronto, where had I lived for more than 30 years. We moved west so that I could be closer to my aging parents, who live in the Woodstock area. With my husband still working in downtown Toronto, we found ourselves looking in Westdale and Ancaster. At the time there was next-to-no resale housing available in Westdale, so we decided on Ancaster. It is too bad that Westdale did not have housing available at the time we were looking, because Westdale is where I spend a lot of time.

The many lovely shops in Westdale have made this a destination shopping area for me. I have coffee there regularly with my friends. My church is in Westdale. The flower shops have attracted my business too, because I love to send flowers for special occasions. I love the fact that I can park my car and walk to all my necessary destinations in Westdale. I even take my dogs for grooming at the Westdale Dog Salon. The Westdale Theatre is a great place to see a movie—I love the movies that arrive there, and I am not bombarded with loud sound or with endless advertisements. My friends from Toronto now visit me to attend a movie. The best bookstore and service I have ever experienced is Bryan Prince Bookseller. I make a regular visit there each Christmas with my list of book titles to buy for the children in my life. The staff are among the most friendly and knowledgeable bibliophiles in the business. The Casual Gourmet is also a store I cannot live without; since coming to Hamilton I have made it my wedding-gift store of choice. "The" Boutique is simply a joyful place in which to shop, with its fine selection of artistic pieces of jewellery and accessories—all against a background of classical music. The Global Village Market is the only place for me when it comes to coffee on the run and samosas for lunch. At Weil's Bakery I had to discipline myself to resist the danishes, cinnamon rolls, and scrumptious oat cookies; I now go into Weil's only when I have been watching my diet long enough to know that I will not do major damage when I treat myself.

Westdale has everything I need to be content. Although I do not live there, I can truly say that Westdale is one of the most beautiful residential areas anywhere. The tree-lined streets and the variety of shops are simply splendid. Since I have not been in every store or restaurant yet, I expect that there are still more treasures to be discovered in Westdale.

Hamilton Aviary's Spring Fair



Friends of the Aviary presented their 10th Annual Spring Fair Sunday, May 27. Free admission included crafts, face painting, entertainment, raffle table, animals, and, of course, birds. Also, there was a barbecue, for which there was a charge. The Aviary, located in the park off Oak Knoll Drive, is open year round on Sundays, 1-4 p.m., and from Victoria Day until Thanksgiving daily, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information: 905-546-4842, tbryner@sympatico.ca, or friendsoftheaviary.ca

Teaching Gardens Need Volunteers

No Experience Necessary

MARY LOUISE PIGOTT

The spring 2006 issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* carried a story about master gardener **Dan Riegler**, whose volunteer efforts have slowly brought life back to the Teaching Gardens in Churchill Park.

Because of a growing gardening business, Mr. Riegler is no longer able to maintain the Apothecary's Garden there on his own, so he is looking for community members to help us keep this treasure in our community. No specialized knowledge is needed. This garden is a significant community asset that Mr. Riegler has maintained on a volunteer basis. He will still be involved and is happy to pass on everything you need to know. Please contact him at driegler@cogeco.ca or 905-297-9662.



Because
we care

Churchill Fields Lawn Bowling Club Welcomes All

Churchill Fields Lawn Bowling Club held an open house on Sunday, May 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. Refreshments were served. We welcome anyone interested in trying the game; all ages are welcome. Equipment and instruction are available *free*.

For more information, contact **Peter Clarke** at 905-523-5276 or **Nancy Hewer** at 905-529-1772.



Ultimate Frisbee at Churchill Park



NATASHA PACE

The Hamilton Ultimate Frisbee season started May 12 with a Disc Off Kick Off at Churchill Park. There were clinics, a hat tournament, meet-and-greet, Ultimate information, merchandise, and an opportunity for new players to register.

The summer league plays on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights this year and is open to both novice and competitive Ultimate Frisbee players. The regular summer season runs until the last week of August. Players can register as individuals or as a team. The fall season begins Sept. 6 at Churchill Park.

The Hamilton Ultimate Club is a great



Frisbee players at Churchill Park. Photo: Jeff Eleveld

and affordable way to play a new sport and meet new people. For more information about the HUC or to register for the summer league, see hamiltonultimate.com. *Natasba Pace has been a member of the Hamilton Ultimate Club for the past four years and is a member of the board of directors.*

Organic Harvest

Plan B Organic Farm, established in 1997 by **Melanie Golba**, **Alvaro Venturelli**, and **Rodrigo Venturelli**, will be selling organic produce in our community for the fourth year.

Location: Outside St. Cuthbert's Presbyterian Church (corner of King Street West and Bond Street North)

Dates: Saturdays, May 26 through October

Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Contact: 905-659-2572, info@planborganicfarms.ca, or planborganicfarms.ca.



Rodrigo Venturelli at market at St. Cuthbert's. Photo: Janet Woodward

A Walk Through Westdale's History

Meet at George R.Allan School (King Street West at Bond Street) Sunday, Oct. 14, at 2 p.m. for a tour of Westdale guided by **Megan Hobson**. Hamilton's first planned suburb is an excellent example of City Beautiful planning. You will learn the fascinating story of Westdale's development, view its unique English-inspired architecture, and discuss the original plans for McMaster University. The walk is sponsored by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Hamilton Region Branch; the suggested donation is \$5.
architecturehamilton.ca.

Our Neighbourhood Schools

West Hamilton School Planning Committee

ALICE SABOURIN

In January, a new committee was established by Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board trustee **Judith Bishop, Ward 1 Councillor Brian McHattie**, and the **AWWCA**. Spurred by an article in *The Hamilton Spectator* Dec. 12, 2006, that identified Westdale's Dalewood Middle

School and Ainslie Wood's Prince Philip School as "prohibitive to repair," AWWCA President **Rob Payne** sent an e-mail of concern to Ms. Bishop and Mr. McHattie. The AWWCA and parent-council representatives then met with Ms. Bishop and Mr. McHattie on Jan. 9, and the group agreed that an ongoing committee be structured. AWWCA members were also invited to attend the next evening's already-scheduled George R.Allan school-council meeting to hear HWDSB Superintendent **John Forbeck** speak.



HWDSB Superintendent John Forbeck speaking at Jan.10 meeting. Photo: Janet Woodward

Terms of reference have been drafted. The committee will seek to understand the HWDSB's methodology while striving to develop a preferred school plan for the West Hamilton area in advance of the next accommodation review. Ms. Bishop reports that "the Board is duty bound to consider this even though it is way down in priority, and will not be looked at for **8 to 12 years**." Mr. McHattie notes that "it is critical for the community to have full input to any Board decision and by starting early, the School Planning Committee will significantly influence the process."



School Trustee Judith Bishop speaking at Jan. 10 meeting. Photo: Rob Payne

The committee has met twice and is being chaired by Mr. McHattie. Copies of the minutes may be found at brianmcbattie.ca.

G. R. Allan Naturalization Update

MARY LOUISE PIGOTT



Mary Louise Pigott
Photo: Janet Woodward

Following the design charettes attended by community members last spring (see "Let's Green George R.Allan" in the spring 2006 issue of *Neighbourhood News and Views*), several George R.Allan parents met with our design facilitator, **Adam Bienenstock**, and helped him gather the enormous number of ideas generated into four categories: thinking, feeling, doing, and being. Later in the year, Mr. Bienenstock was able to meet with George R.Allan staff and conduct visioning exercises with the students to gather their input as well.

From this, Mr. Bienenstock generated a report that can be viewed on the George R.Allan website at hwdsb.on.ca/grallan (go to School Council Initiatives and scroll down to G. R.Allan School Ground Proposal). Following this report, the George R.Allan community has elected to follow a lengthier and more involved process that will engage all of the user groups. New research has shown that this type of process results in greater long-term



Adam Bienenstock

success for projects such as ours.

According to Mr. Bienenstock, the advantages of this more involved and broad-scoped approach are:

1. One plan takes care of all the needs of the children and the teachers.
2. The school's place in the community is more secure over the long term.
3. The plan utilizes "other peoples' money" through grants and foundation support.
4. The redevelopment has a greater chance of long-term success and support.
5. The school is now at the centre of a process of renewal that has an established infrastructure to enable continued development over the years to come.
6. The school will have greater influence over the placement of portables, development of roads and access, and revitalization of the adjacent parkland.

More information on this process can also be found on the school website (see above website and scroll down to G. R. Allan School Ground Process).

Such a detailed, professional design process costs money, of course. A team of dedicated and enthusiastic parents has taken on the task of applying for grants to cover the cost of this process. As you can imagine, we have embarked upon a long-term project, but we are very excited about the possibilities for partnerships with the wider community. While our primary focus remains the students and staff of George R. Allan, there is no doubt that this project will have a positive effect on the entire Westdale community. This has been reflected in the support we have received so far from the AWWCA as well as other community representatives. This support distinguishes our project and will be a great help in our fundraising efforts. You can follow our progress on the school website bwdsb.on.ca/grallan. I invite you to read the reports and contact me with any questions or offers of support and resources at mlpigott@cogeco.ca or 905-524-2423.

Mary Louise Pigott is an AWWCA member.

*"Building
community
block by
block"*

New Feature on School Board's Website

JUDITH BISHOP

A new feature on the board's website (bwdsb.on.ca) uses a common format to describe each school. Useful information is provided about community connections, extracurricular activities, and school plans. Included on the site at bwdsb.on.ca/school_profiles/school_profile.aspx is EQAO* information for the last four years for each school. This information is useful for people moving or considering moving into the community.

*EQAO, the Education Quality and Accountability Office, conducts province-wide assessments at the primary, junior, and secondary levels to measure student achievement against curriculum expectations. The data are widely used as an additional tool to guide improvements in education at the individual, school, and provincial levels. For more information see www.eqao.com.

Judith Bishop is trustee chair for Wards 1 and 2 of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Cootes Cleanup

JANET WOODWARD

The last day of March was cold and blustery, but that did not deter about 125 people from participating in the Cootes cleanup.

About 30 students and permanent residents (including AWWCA members) participated in the cleanup at Princess Point, one of six stations where Cootes cleanups took place. **Christina Humniski**, a fourth-year student at McMaster, and **Dawn Graham**, an employee at McMaster Hospital, both members of McMaster Outdoor Club, were among them. The three-hour cleanup was followed by a free barbecue at McMaster University.

We thank the sponsors of the cleanup:
Friends of Ian Gray, MACgreen, Student Community Support Network, Hamilton-Wentworth Stewardship Council, and McMaster Outdoor Club.



Dawn Graham and Christina Humniski at Princess Point with some of the garbage collected.
Photo: Janet Woodward

COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

Earth Day Community Cleanup a Big Success

JANET WOODWARD



Some of the volunteers at Churchill Park station.



Garbage Collected by Sanders/Cootes volunteers.
Photo: Liuda Stungevicius

On a warm spring Saturday, AWWCA volunteers, their families, and friends launched Earth Week on April 21 with a community cleanup. We joined others volunteering for Earth Day Hamilton projects and those volunteering all over the planet on International Earth Day.

Betty Bechtel supervised the Sanders station and reported: "I was really buoyed up by the response of the community volunteers to cleaning up the Sanders/Cootes site on Earth Day. Volunteers seemed very eager to pitch in and clean the area. Some decided to clean up the bike path along Cootes Drive to the bridge; they also cleaned up the traffic island at Main Street West and Cootes Drive. They were fun peo-

ple to work with, and there was a great sense of community. One couple found a ladder and a long piece of eavestroughing, which they lugged to the collection pile. A lot of litter miraculously disappeared into bags. What an improvement!" The 16 volunteers at the Sanders/Cootes site were: **Katlin Aarts; John Attridge, Bob and Mary Abramovich and their daughter, Donna Burke; Betty and Jim Bechtel; Doug Black; Marion and Tom Bryner; Ruth Green; Tracey Lindsay; Bill Spicer; Liuda Stungevicius and her grandson David; and Grace Wang.**

I looked after the Churchill Park station, a project that **Dmitri D. Malakhov** spearheaded for many years. In fact, Dmitri initiated the cleanup this year but was called to training for his career the Sunday before the cleanup. Volunteers helped make our

spot on the planet a little more pleasant by cleaning debris from Westdale streets. The 33 volunteers at the Churchill Park station were: **Murray Babb; Ronald Bayne and his daughter, Sarah; Mary Anne Duncan and her daughter, Cara, and son, Scott; Mark and Shelli Eisenberg; Heather Hobbs; Carolyn Kinsley; Dmitri J. Malakhov and Mira O. Votakh and their daughter, Irina Malakhova; Councillor Brian McHattie; Ann McLaughlin and Joe Aiello and their son, Dylan; Fatima Mohideen; Klaus Schultes; John and Leesa Van Loon, their daughters, Jessica and Thea, and their son, Johannes; Jane Walker and her three daughters; Eric Wasmund and his daughter, Valerie; Janet Woodward; and Christine and Peter Wysmyk.**

*Thank you **Pitch-In Hamilton** for providing gloves and bags, and our thanks to all the cleanup volunteers.*



Some of the volunteers at Sanders/Cootes station.

Photo: Liuda Stungevicius

Ward 1 Chedoke-Cootes: Councillor's Report

BRIAN MCHATTIE

Happy spring! During this term on council my focus will be on encouraging McMaster to conduct joint planning with the community—specifically on issues of student enrolment, housing, construction, and traffic. I met with **Dr. Peter George** in early March to discuss this subject, and he suggested that I also speak directly with the university's board of governors. As you know, I have been encouraging the development of purpose-built student housing on Main Street, and I remain positive about the potential for getting families back into homes in the neighbourhoods. An added piece to this is development of a municipal incentive program that would provide financial help (perhaps in the form of low-interest loans) to assist families in renovating former student houses.

No doubt you have read about some of the challenges that council has had over the past few months. I am supporting **Mayor Eisenberger** in his efforts to establish an Ethics and Integrity Commissioner, and I will be sitting on the committee to get that moving. We are also making significant changes to the standards and licencing division and anticipate one of the results will be better bylaw enforcement in Ainslie Wood and Westdale. In addition, the new Municipal Act appears to offer an opportunity to increase bylaw fines and possibly allow licencing of rental housing; I'm pursuing both of those opportunities with the province. Lastly, we looked at moving the waste-collection day away from Monday, as we have had problems with people who are going away for the weekend putting out garbage as early as Friday evenings; it is often strewn about by Monday morning. Commencing April 2008 garbage pickup in Ainslie Wood and Westdale will be on Wednesday. Below are some updates:

1. The Dundurn Edge development for 450 students at the former CNIB property is on schedule for a September opening, and I am working with them on transportation issues, such as a special shuttle bus to and from campus, particularly on nights when Quarters is open.



Councillor Brian McHattie

Photo: Janet Woodward

2. Auburn Developments has proposed a similar project at 17 Ewen Road for up to 550 students. It will be subject to an Official Plan amendment and zoning change and, of course, much further discussion in the community.
3. Not only was Billy Bob's Bar on Rifle Range Road unsuccessful in obtaining a new licence, but no one can seek a permit for the property for two years. My thanks to the AWWCA's **Betty Bechtel**, **Carolyn Kinsley**, **Ed Oliver**, and others, for helping me at the Alcohol and Gaming Commission hearing on this.
4. You may have noticed activity at 801 King St. West, just east of Paradise Road. A 39-suite, nine-floor condominium for families is planned for the former National Painting and Decorating company property. Brownfield remedial work will be underway throughout 2007 before construction can begin.

5. Together with public-school-board trustee **Judith Bishop** and the AWWCA, I have established a West Hamilton Schools Committee to investigate the status of Ainslie Wood and Westdale schools within the board's "prohibitive to repair" process linked with demographic changes. Ms. Bishop reports that we are still eight to 12 years away from any changes, so we are starting our planning at the right time.

Please visit my website at brianmchattie.ca for more details on my City Hall committee work and projects listed above. I invite you to communicate with me at City Hall at 905-546-2416 or at bmchattie@hamilton.ca. Have a great spring, and bring on the return of the warblers, ducks, and other southern avian migrants!

Controlling and Regulating Signs

DAN B. MOUSSEAU

The new Sign Bylaw took effect Feb. 1, and the city hired two bylaw officers for proactive enforcement of the bylaw. They are initially focusing on the mobile signs on city property. The city gives notice, asking the sign owner to remove the sign (usually within a day or two). Illegal signs not removed are removed by the city, and the sign owner is responsible for the cost. If the offender is habitual, the city will consider laying charges under the bylaw. This is a lengthy process. Upon conviction, fines may be levied by the court.

All mobile signs need to have a sign permit for the display period, have to be within a certain size, and have to be placed only in front of the retail store to which they advertise.

You have no doubt seen signs from *justjunk.com* on hydro poles around the community. This is called posterizing in the new Sign Bylaw. The owner of *justjunk.com* appears to be based outside the country, and the city is attempting to locate the local office or franchisee. In the meantime, many of these signs have been removed.

The city wants to control and regulate such poster signs and maintain clean poles. We will be working with a team to develop criteria for posterizing. The bylaw requires



Posterizing on Main Street West.
Photo: Dan Mousseau

designating poles and kiosks for community notices and posters.

With respect to sidewalk signs (both A-frame and T-frame style) that are located on city sidewalks, the city is using co-op students to educate retail storeowners on sign requirements and the permit requirements.

To view or download a pdf of the new Sign Bylaw, go to myhamilton.ca and search Sign Bylaw. If you have any questions, please contact me at 905-546-2424, ext. 4551, or dbmousseau@hamilton.ca.

Dan Mousseau is Sign Bylaw co-ordinator for the City of Hamilton.

Illegal and Dangerous Parking in Our Community

MARY NORTHCOTT

I have lived in Westdale for over 50 years and have attended all the neighbourhood schools, as did my three children. As a long-time Westdale resident, I have noticed an increase in parking violations in our community due to the dramatic increase in rental housing and the resulting deterioration of my neighbourhood over the years. The increase in rental housing is at the root of many of our community's difficulties, but I want to focus on the parking problem.

While there are many different violations, I am most concerned with cars that block driveways and that park too close to stop



Sign at northwest corner of Newton Avenue and Arkell Street indicating parking permitted up to the corner.

signs at intersections, both of which are contrary to our bylaws. I see a number of cars that park not only adjacent to the stop signs (the legal limit is 20 feet from the corner) but right up to the corner as well. I started voicing my concern in early February when I realized the safety hazard created with the snowstorms that we had this year. But even on a day without snow, it is difficult to make a safe turn past a car parked flush with the intersection. What liability does the city have in the event of an accident because of this problem?

I am also concerned about the lack of enforcement of our bylaws. I let the authorities know of one such illegally parked vehicle, but it remained in the exact spot with the ticket on the windshield for five days, so I called again. Why was it not re-ticketed or towed?

My recommendation is to have No Stopping signs placed 20 feet from **all** corners. At present some streets have



Cars parked illegally March 28 at corners of South Oval and Marion Avenue South.

these signs, but many have signs indicating parking is actually allowed (contrary to the law) right to the corner!

For the safety of drivers and pedestrians, it is important that the signage be consistent and correct. I have spoken with **Councillor Brian McHattie**, as well as **Sergeant Tim O'Keefe**, regarding this matter. Mr. McHattie responded that he is working with parking on the issue; I do hope the problem can be rectified before there is an accident. Our area recently received the highest municipal-tax increase, so I feel our services need to be improved, but at the very least we need to have correct signage on our streets.

Mary Northcott is an AWWCA member who lives on South Oval.

Councillor McHattie's Response to the Parking Problem

I have been speaking with our parking department on the issue of cars parked too close to corners in Westdale. The rule is that parking is not allowed 20 feet from any stop sign; this is in place so that the intersections remain clear and people can see when stopped at a stop sign before proceeding (i.e., when moving into a through street, as would be the case from South Oval onto Marion Avenue).

Many parts of the older city have a lack of street parking; many other intersections across the city are much less safe than those described in Westdale. The challenge is to maintain enough parking around areas like Westdale Village while ensuring that the intersections are clear enough that drivers feel safe. Our parking department is doing its best to ensure that cars are not parked significantly into the 20-foot setbacks so that these intersections are safe.

Regarding signs in the neighbourhood that seem to indicate that parking is available right to the corner, I am working with Bill Young, superintendent of parking, to see if those signs can be relocated to avoid confusion.

Municipal-Bylaw Enforcement

IRA ROSEN

Meetings of the bylaw-enforcement committee were held Jan. 22, March 15, and April 25.

The safety of students has long been a concern of the AWWCA and was highlighted Nov. 14, 2006, when a house on Forsyth Avenue South caught fire, forcing six McMaster students to move out.



Some of the bylaw-enforcement committee members at March 15 meeting.

Photo: Lindsay Lim

The issue of fire safety is always a concern, and due to recent house fires in our community the issue was raised again at a bylaw-enforcement meeting. Due to the serious nature of this issue, the AWWCA and the McMaster Students Union were compelled to send formal letters to **Councillor Brian McHattie** asking that city council accept a motion for the Fire Department to do inspections. The result was a meeting chaired by Mr. McHattie in which the issue was discussed. Details are still being worked out, but we hope inspections will commence in September.



House on Forsyth Avenue South after the fire.

Photo: Janet Woodward

There have been transfers within the city's building and licensing department. The AWWCA's contact person for bylaw and for building is Mr. McHattie's office. Our list of Useful Numbers has been updated in this newsletter and on the website. **Judy Downey**

worked during the spring on a proactive bylaw-enforcement campaign in our community, and police and bylaw officers will continue to enforce "zero tolerance" of noise infractions.

If you have concerns, complaints, or feedback about bylaw infractions, please forward them to our specially created e-mail addresses so that we can track whether they are resolved:

- propertystandards@awwca.ca
- parking@awwca.ca
- noise@awwca.ca
- wastemanagement@awwca.ca
- snowremoval@awwca.ca
- buildingpermits@awwca.ca
- lawncare@awwca.ca

AWWCA member **Ken Sherman** has agreed to work with the AWWCA as a contact on building-code violations. He can be reached at the building-permits e-mail address above.

We continue to work with all parties and look forward to working with those in new leadership positions in the McMaster Students Union, the Society of Off-Campus Students, the Maroons, and the Student Community Support Network.

Ira Rosen is an AWWCA board member working on municipal-bylaw enforcement.

Living in our CAMPUS TOWN

Campus Town Association Update

ALICE SABOURIN

CAMPUS
TOWN
ASSOCIATION

The Campus Town Association, formed in 2004, is an innovative partnership composed of the AWWCA, McMaster University, and the Westdale Business Improvement Area. CTA members came together with a mission to establish and sustain Canada's most vibrant university community, located in Hamilton's Ainslie Wood/Westdale/McMaster neighbourhood.

The CTA continues to utilize a Trillium grant awarded in 2005 as it begins the implementation of the strategies developed through community consultations and a review of best practices. One key project has already emerged—a marketing brochure supporting the objective of cultivating and promoting west-end living and working.

The brochure project started with a review of the neighbourhood's assets (through the presentation developed by

the AWWCA) and follow-up research with four knowledgeable local realtors, who shared their perspectives on marketing Ainslie Wood and Westdale. The CTA also consulted with an AWWCA member skilled at marketing and recruitment, Westdale's **Jane Walker**. Another highlight of the research was a two-hour "architour" of the Ainslie Wood and Westdale by the highly regarded retired architect, **Anthony Butler**, who is also a long-time Westdale resident.

The CTA strives to attract new families to our area. The primary market segments for the brochure are faculty and staff being recruited by McMaster, people who will be working at McMaster's new Innovation Park (e.g., Canmet), mature graduate students (with families) who are applying for study at McMaster, and clients of co-operating realtors in Westdale.

The marketing brochure, expected to be ready later this year, is being assembled by a writer from Summit Media Group who has been hired by the CTA to review research materials provided by the AWWCA and CTA. In addition, the writer will interview residents and profile a few businesses in the Westdale BIA. The CTA will start setting its future priorities later this spring.

McMaster Outdoor Club Welcomes Community Members

CHRISTINA HUMNISKI

McMaster University Outdoor Recreation would like to extend a warm invitation to

outdoor enthusiasts of the surrounding community to join us for a summer full of great hiking and tripping opportunities! Some of the events we will be holding this summer include:

June: Ottawa River rafting

July: Grand River and Algonquin Park canoeing

August: Horseback riding and Killarney Park canoeing

For further details go to macoutdoorclub.ca or e-mail outdoor@mcmaster.ca or call 905-525-9140, ext. 23879. All ability levels welcome. Registration fees apply. The club runs many free day hikes, including wildflowers, Spencer Gorge, and Cootes. There are boxes along the way for donations that contribute to park management.

Christina Humniski is events co-ordinator of the Outdoor Club.



Outdoor Club hike on Bruce Peninsula.
Photo: Wayne Terryberry

SCSN Seeks Community Residents

CHARLOTTE PEER

Are you a mature or disabled resident looking for some companionship? The Student Community Support Network is a student-run service offered by the McMaster Students Union aimed at expanding and strengthening positive relations between students and members of the local community. In partnership with the Victorian Order of Nurses Hamilton, SCSN has created the Resident Buddy Program to provide in-home support to mature adults 55 and older and to disabled residents in Westdale and Ainslie Wood. The program is aimed at decreasing the sense of isolation experienced by some members of the community.

A few of the benefits of this program include home visits to provide companionship, encouragement, and support; telephone reassurance when residents need a helping hand or just someone to talk to; and access to VON Hamilton's SMART Program (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together), which helps seniors remain independent through physical wellness. Our volunteers are trained, dedicated, and



reliable students over the age of 16. All volunteers undergo an application and screening process and comprehensive training by a VON Hamilton co-ordinator.

With all of our volunteers already chosen and trained, we are currently looking for residents to pair them with. Eligible residents are interviewed and matched with a student based on interests, language, location, and availability wherever possible.

The Resident Buddy Program is for senior and disabled individuals who reside in the West Hamilton area and live in their own home or apartment. If you could benefit from the companionship of a volunteer, please contact SCSN at 905-525-9140, ext. 26575, or www.msu.mcmaster.ca/community, or VON Hamilton at 905-522-1022 or vonhamilton.com.

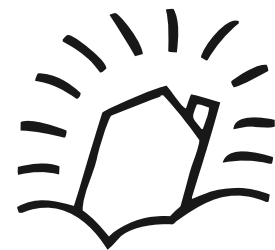
Charlotte Peer is SCSN newsletter and promotions co-ordinator.



Welcome All Seniors and Retirees

The Westdale/West Hamilton seniors and retirees meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, 1107 Main St. West. Join us for a relaxing afternoon and refreshments with a friendly, congenial group. New members are most welcome. Contacts are AWWCA members

Pat Barton, 905-527-5137, and
Effie York, 905-522-6256.



Because we care



Community Members Invited to Join McMaster's New Athletic Centre

JANET WOODWARD

McMaster hosted an open house Jan. 6 at the new David Braley Athletic Centre and invited our community.

Highlights of the centre include:

- a new sports-medicine and rehabilitation centre with saltwater hydrotherapy pool
- a wellness and fitness centre
- the only indoor track in Hamilton
- four international squash courts
- an additional 15,000 square feet of gymnasium space
- a high-performance strength and conditioning area
- an indoor climbing wall and cycling studio
- multipurpose studios for karate, yoga, dance, and tai chi

Individual and family memberships are available to the Hamilton community for fitness and recreation programs and the expanded sports-medicine and physiotherapy services.

For more information: 905-525-9140 or

www.atbrec.mcmaster.ca/facilities/details/davidbraley/index.htm



David Braley Athletic Centre

Photo: Janet Woodward



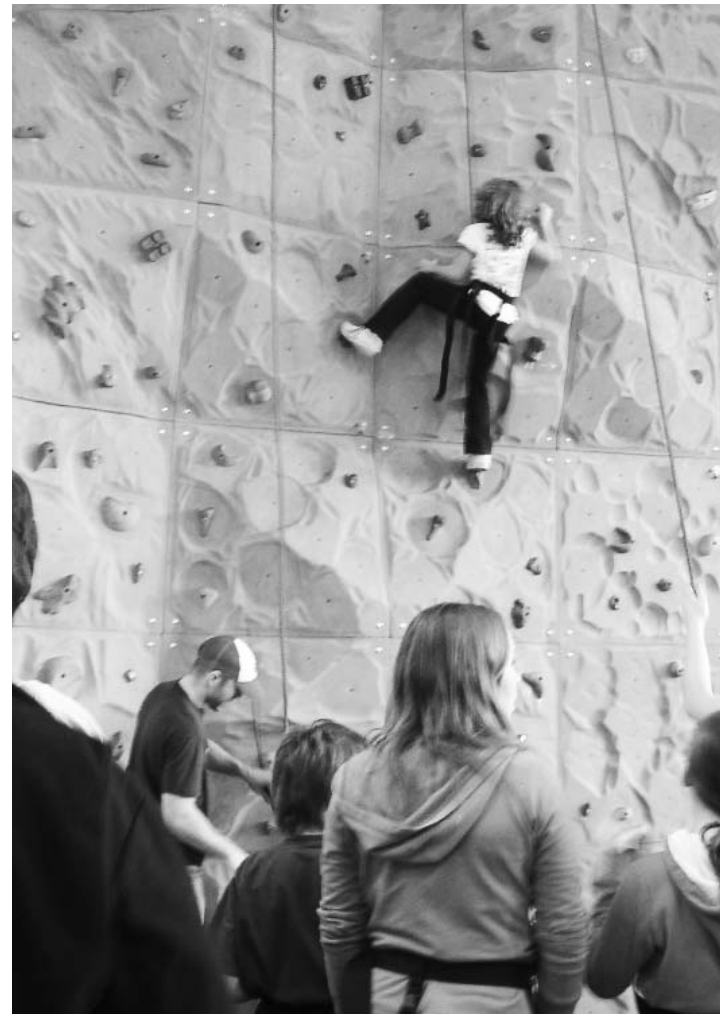
Indoor Track

Photo: Janet Woodward



One of 16 new courts.

Photo: Janet Woodward



Climbing Wall

Photo: Janet Woodward

SCSN Spreading Its Wings

BETTY BECHTEL AND BRIAN MCHATTIE

The Student Community Support Network has spread its wings in Ainslie Wood and Westdale. It is actively involved in making the community an attractive place for resident homeowners and students to live. Some of its focus has been on improving relations between residents and students, encouraging people to show pride in property standards, having a senior-student buddy program in partnership with VON Hamilton, working with the local Adopt-a-Box graffiti program (the first of its kind in Hamilton), attending community committee meetings and taking part in the Cootes cleanup on March 29.

The community would like to express its appreciation to the SCSN for its comprehensive and innovative work in addressing student and resident issues in our neighbourhoods. It is an excellent program, and its volunteers have won the admiration of all who have had the pleasure of working with them. They have enhanced community living in the west end. We look forward to meeting the new SCSN volunteers. Our best wishes for continued success.

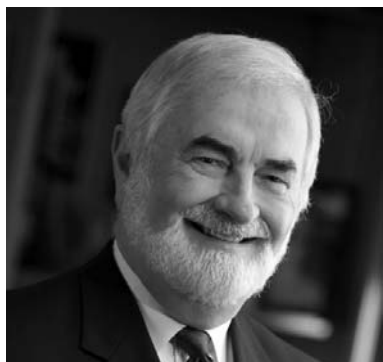
We want to specifically thank outgoing director **Cameal Sinclair**, as she took extraordinary steps to elevate SCSN's presence in the neighbourhoods. Special thanks also to community-resource co-ordinator **Kayi Li** for her wonderful work and support for the Ainslie Wood and Westdale neighbourhoods.

SCSN's newsletter and promotions co-ordinator, **Charlotte Peer**, has been the AWWCA's key contact for printed material, and we are happy that she is continuing with SCSN for the next school year. She will work with **Nicole Rumble**, who is replacing Ms. Sinclair, and **Yukit Li**, who is replacing Kayi Li.

SCSN demonstrates that great student leadership can change student/resident dynamics for the better in the near-campus community.

VARSAITY NEWS

Future Enrolment According to McMaster President Peter George



Peter George

Dear members of the AWWCA,

I wanted to have the opportunity to provide association members with information about McMaster's future plans. I appreciate that the size of the student population is of particular interest to the community.

The university has undergone significant growth over the past few years, but there is no intention of seeing this type of growth continue. In fact our enrolment plan through 2010 is to keep our overall undergraduate enrolment numbers flat or to see some decreases. That means that for this coming fall and for at least the next three years our target is to have a first-year class of just over 5,000. This is a drop of about two hundred from the current academic year. We do anticipate higher graduate-enrolment numbers, as increasing the number of graduate students is a priority for the provincial government as part of its plan to ensure Ontario has the highly trained workforce the province requires to sustain and strengthen its economic growth.

The physical capacity of campus is always a consideration, and we are approaching the limits of our physical growth contained within the Campus Plan. Our building plans on campus for the foreseeable future will focus on two landmark buildings near the Main Street West entrance. The first, which is already under construction, will house engineering. It

will be complemented by a second building to contain new science and health-sciences research and teaching space. A new liberal-arts building is part of our current fundraising campaign.

While our undergraduate student numbers will not be growing, I do look forward to McMaster continuing to build its national and international prestige as one of Canada's leading research universities. Research at the university brought over \$345-million dollars to the city last year as we continue to attract talented researchers from around the world. Hamilton's economic revival requires that we embrace new opportunities, and the university can play a significant role in bringing new resources and jobs to our community. We accept that challenge with great enthusiasm.

The Innovation Park is one component of this plan, and the recent confirmation of the relocation of the Canmet Materials Technology Laboratory from Ottawa is just the beginning of what I believe will be many more announcements about the development of the park.

We look forward to continuing to work with the AWWCA and other community groups as we address issues of concern to the community.

Yours sincerely,
Peter George, President
McMaster University

Dr. George will be completing his third term as president in 2010.

Surplus of Student Housing in Ainslie Wood and Westdale

JENNIFER KLEVEN

As the manager of the Off-Campus Resource Centre at McMaster University, I read in amazement the article in *The Hamilton Spectator* March 14 regarding the declining (permanent) population in the Ainslie Wood area adjacent to McMaster. The article mentions the increasing student population that is driving out the permanent residents. My question to landlords is, "Why are you doing this?" Have you not taken a look around to see the large number of existing vacant houses in the area? On March 15 we had over 500 advertisements running on our website—152 of them for whole houses that are vacant in the Westdale and Ainslie Wood areas. We do not need any more student housing right now—and not in the foreseeable future, either. What we do need is for existing landlords to take better care of the places already in the market, to take pride in what they have to offer to the students, and to respect their neighbours.

The university is not expecting a large increase in student numbers over the next several years. We currently have around 18,000 full-time undergraduate students, with enough spaces in on-campus residences to house approximately 3,600 students. Of the remaining 14,000 or so students, more and more are choosing to live at home (e.g., in Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, and Toronto) and commute to campus (made especially easy now that we have a full-fledged GO Transit station on campus with buses arriving every 15 minutes). Private developers are currently building a large condominium complex on Main Street West (a 10-minute walk to campus) that will house 450 students. Another developer has plans in the same area for a building with enough space for about 500 students.

The abundance of off-campus housing means more choice and lower rent for students; landlords are lucky to find two or three student renters for their houses instead of six or seven. Part of the problem is that landlords thought twice as many students would need housing when the double cohort arrived. Instead, more students are choosing to live at home.

We get so many calls from landlords saying that they are not getting any phone calls. Do yourself and your potential neighbours a favour: do your homework before you decide to invest in the student-housing market. Real estate is not always the surefire investment that real-estate agents may tell you it is!

PJ Parade Route Change

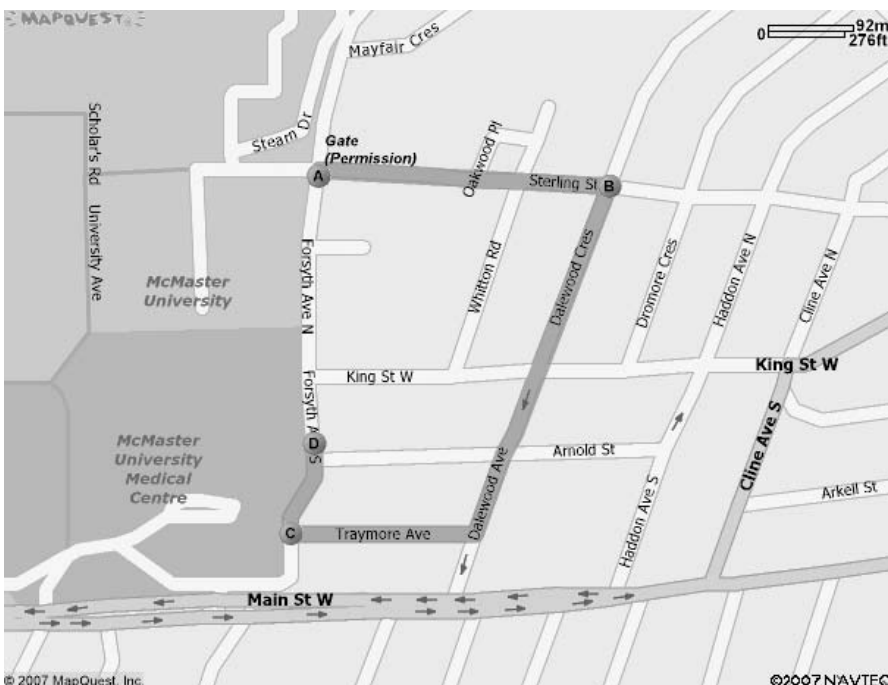
JANET WOODWARD

The autumn issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* provided an overview of new initiatives, based on residents' concerns, instituted in the September 2006 pajama parade. That report stated the need to reroute the parade away from streets where upper-year students live.

The parade committee struck last year continues to meet. It includes **Ryan Moran**, president of the McMaster Students Union; **Christina Burns**, MSU director of campus events; and AWWCA members **MaryAnne Duncan** and **Janet Woodward**.

At meetings Oct. 25 and Nov. 15, 2006, the committee explored a number of possibilities for a new route and recommended the following:

1. Parade starts at Sterling Street entrance
2. East on Sterling Street to Dalewood Crescent
3. South on Dalewood Crescent to King Street West
4. South on Dalewood Avenue to



New pajama-parade route.

MapQuest and the MapQuest logo are registered trademarks of MapQuest, Inc. Map content © 2007 by MapQuest, Inc., and the respective copyright holders. The MapQuest trademarks and map content are used with permission.

Traymore Avenue

5. West to Forsyth Avenue South

6. North to Arnold and west into campus at King's Walk

Knowing residents' concerns, Hamilton Police Service approved the new parade route. This decision was conveyed in a letter dated March 15 to Ms. Burns. **Councillor Brian McHattie** advised that funding approval is tied to the city's budget, and he expects it will be approved.

The committee will continue to meet to discuss further improvements to the parade and to review the 2007 parade, which takes place Sept. 5.

CAP Update for 2006/7 Academic Year

TIM CAMERON

The Community Accountability Program is wrapping up its first academic year with an increasingly busy caseload. Of the nine referrals to the program, five came in March and April. The rise in numbers is a result of an increase in awareness about CAP. The Hamilton Police are doing an excellent job of referring appropriate cases; 100 per cent of their referrals were accepted. **Police Constable Steve Wowk** has contributed enormously to the program through both his astute referrals and his participation on the steering committee. He has helped shape and refine the process to the benefit of residents and students alike. Thanks Steve!

CAP has trained 14 volunteers, including students, homeowners, alumni, and McMaster staff. Of those, nine remain active in the program.

The types of offences referred to CAP include disturbance, mischief, theft and possession under \$5,000, forgery, and shoplifting. In addition, we have had two referrals for facilitated dialogue between neighbours.

As of April 10, we have had two formal CAP meetings where students took responsibility for their actions and suggested sanctions to remedy the situation. We have three (possibly four) more scheduled over the next couple of weeks.



Sanctions have included letters of apology, articles in the student newspaper, resti-

tution for damage, and community-related service.

Over the spring and summer we plan on increasing our profile in the community and hope to attract more volunteers for an anticipated busy autumn.

For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at McMaster University, 905-525-9140, ext. 21190. Have a great summer!

Tim Cameron is program co-ordinator of CAP.

McMaster Students Reach Out to Community

LAUREN PAYNE

The McMaster University Student Health Education Center (SHEC) is committed to providing education on health issues and promoting more conscientious health choices. SHEC is a peer-run, not-for-profit health-promotion, education, and referral service for McMaster University students.

The SHEC Outreach Committee is a group of eight McMaster students dedicated to educating the McMaster community on health-related issues, volunteering in community settings to raise awareness of social and health issues, fundraising for various health and social causes, and ultimately making a contribution to both the McMaster and Hamilton communities.

This year has been a busy one. On the McMaster campus, we held campaigns questioning beauty as portrayed in the media and promoting a positive body image, promoted the importance of blood donation and flu protection, held a bake sale to raise money for breast-cancer research, and ran a White Ribbon Campaign for males speaking out in opposition to violence against women. Some of our large-scale events included a "condom-o-gram" campaign to promote safe sex around Valentine's Day and on Jan. 23 the Active Living @ Mac Spectacular. This all-day event exposed McMaster students, staff, and community members to a balanced lifestyle by focusing on meaningful and tangible mechanisms to incorporate health and wellness into daily life.

On March 23 we were part of the McMaster Relay for Life, an all-night event to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Outreach has also been involved in

many off-campus events, including the Maroons' pumpkin hike for families in Westdale, The Living Rock's evening program for underprivileged youth, and a Take Back the Night walk downtown to protest violence against women.



Three members of the SHEC Outreach Committee during their breast-cancer fundraiser. Special thanks for cupcake donations from Fortinos, The Barn, and Cupcakes in Westdale Village.

It has been a fulfilling and promising year, and as McMaster students, we hope to continue reaching out and forming positive relations with both the McMaster and Hamilton communities.



SHEC volunteers in downtown Hamilton before the start of Take Back the Night (author in front row, far right).

Lauren Payne is a third-year student at McMaster and a member of the SHEC Outreach Committee.



NEWS from the BLUES

West Town Crime Manager, Sergeant Tim O'Keefe

I have just started my 20th year with the Hamilton Police Service. Since being hired in 1988 I have worked in uniform patrol at Kenilworth Station, Stoney Creek Station, Station 20 when they combined



Sergeant Tim O'Keefe

Kenilworth and Stoney Creek, and Central Station. In 1991, I became a scenes-of-crime officer for seven years, then in 1998 went into the Forensic Identification Branch full time and completed a seven-year commitment there. I returned to uniform patrol in 2005 in the Central area as a beat officer in Corktown and Westdale. Due to my seniority and experience, I was often taken away from my beats to fill in as an acting supervisor on the street and in the custody area.

I have been married for 18 years and have three wonderful children (16, 13, and 10). My wife and I are also foster parents of infants with the Catholic Children's Aid Society. We currently have two infants in our care—a 5-month-old boy and a 4-month-old girl. It is very rewarding.

I am looking forward to the challenges ahead as the West Town crime manager. I am impressed with how organized the residents of the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community are. I really enjoy working with them and all the other community stake-

holders in solving quality-of-life issues. I truly believe in the Neighbourhood Safety Project and want to continue the great work started last year by **Acting Sergeant Jeff Copp**. We are very fortunate to have Jeff working with us in Westdale for 2007. Other beat officers for 2007 include **Ian Millburn, Brad Robinson, Lauren Troubridge, Amanda Vernon, and Steve Wowk**. You can reach me at 905-540-5093 or tokeefe@hamiltonpolice.on.ca.

Police Business- Plan Update

STAFF SERGEANT SCOTT RASTIN AND SERGEANT TIM O'KEEFE

This spring, the AWWCA, the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Police Service, the McMaster Students Union, McMaster University, the Westdale Business Improvement Area, and other stakeholders got together to evaluate last year's business plan. The following was accomplished:

1. **Councillor Brian McHattie's** office implemented joint funding by the university and the MSU of a bylaw officer for proactive enforcement during the summer in Ainslie Wood and Westdale.
2. The AWWCA worked with the MSU to address issues with the pajama parade,

resulting in route changes and a better-controlled event.

3. To support the police, the university and MSU paid for extra patrolling on pub nights. Mac 91 and 92, the special-duty officers, have been very successful in dealing with unruly student activity and house parties.

4. The Community Enhancement Report was put into place. As the year progressed, it was apparent that e-mailing was a more effective communication tool, so the report was replaced with direct e-mails.

5. Police proactively visited problem houses on weekends. This was conducted on a regular basis and found to be very effective.

6. Police patrols were increased during Welcome Week.

7. Operation Hush was implemented. Noise-bylaw signs, paid for by the MSU and McMaster, were posted in conspicuous locations on Sterling Street and on Forsyth Avenue North. Numerous tickets were issued as a result.

8. The award for good student neighbours was implemented and community residents invited to submit nominations. This year 14 students received awards signed by the mayor, the president of the university, the chief of police, and the president of the MSU.

9. Led by the AWWCA, a community graffiti-cleanup day and the Adopt-a-Box program were implemented. As a result, much of the graffiti in the community was removed.

10. The crime manager prepared and e-mailed Beat Tracker reports and crime-



Signing the police business plan March 29.

Photo: Ira Rosen

prevention information to AWWCA members.

11. The HPS instituted RIDE lanes at the university gates on pub nights.
12. Mr. McHattie's office created a traffic re-engineering committee to study all traffic issues. This led to traffic-calming measures being put into place on Arnold Street, Forsyth Avenue, and Traymore Avenue.
13. The Community Accountability Program (CAP) to make students more accountable for their actions has been implemented. Several cases have been successfully addressed.
14. McMaster Security, the McMaster Off-Campus Resource Centre, and the Westdale Heritage Housing Action Committee established a partnership with the Hamilton Fire Department to promote fire safety and inspect off-campus housing to ensure compliance with mandatory smoke detectors.

The 2007 business plan now has now been completed and signed by the stakeholders. This year's plan is committed to continue with last year's successes and to work toward the following goals:

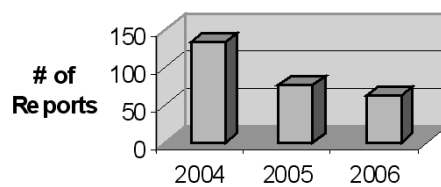
1. The MSU, the City of Hamilton, McMaster University, and the McMaster Alternative Commuting and Transportation Office will examine the feasibility of providing bus service to cover bar-closing hours.
2. The City of Hamilton, through the Ward 1 councillor's office, will provide resources such as bylaw, fire, and health to deal with offences at both bars and private dwellings.
3. The City of Hamilton, the McMaster Student Community Support Network, the MSU, and the HPS will continue to promote Operation Hush. The MSU and McMaster University will proactively warn potential violators of consequences. The HPS will focus on enforcement.
4. The AWWCA will continue to report bylaw infractions, including property-standards issues. The City of Hamilton will conduct the follow-up on these reports.
5. Reports for police attention will be tracked by the crime manager.
6. McMaster University, the MSU, and the Ward 1 councillor's office will create an information package to promote and support the Mac 91 and 92 special-duty program, including the use of plainclothes officers for enforcement purposes.

*"Building
community
block by block"*

Crime Statistics Decrease Since Development of Community Business Plan

**STAFF SERGEANT SCOTT RASTIN AND
SERGEANT TIM O'KEEFE**

Stolen Auto Reports



In 2004, Ainslie Wood and Westdale were experiencing a high level of property crime. In 2005 the community set goals for crime prevention and reduction as part of the first community business plan. This partnership has led to positive results. For the second year in a row, both break-and-enter and stolen-auto reports have decreased in these neighbourhoods.

The number of stolen autos dropped from 134 in 2004 to 63 in 2006. Break-and-enters followed a similar trend, dropping from 159 in 2004 to 57 in 2006.

Even though the numbers are encouraging, we need to stay focused on our crime-prevention goals. This combination of crime-prevention techniques, intelligence-led policing, and information sharing needs to continue if we hope to keep sending the message to criminals that they are not welcome in Ainslie Wood and Westdale.

Students Who Made a Positive Contribution to Our Community

**STAFF SERGEANT SCOTT RASTIN AND
SERGEANT TIM O'KEEFE**

The AWWCA, City of Hamilton, Hamilton Police Service, McMaster Students Union, McMaster University, and Westdale Business Improvement Area have partnered to recognize students who contribute to the community. The program was launched in April 2005.

At a meeting of the McMaster President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations March 29, students nominated by AWWCA members received awards for their contribution to Ainslie Wood and Westdale. **Sergeant Tim O'Keefe** presented them with a letter of appreciation signed by the mayor, the university president, the student-union president, and the chief of police.

We will continue to acknowledge and reward good students who are valuable members of our community and will be looking for further nominations later this year.

Congratulations, and keep up the good work.



Back row, L to R: Sergeant Tim O'Keefe; students Simon Andrews, Aarie Glas, Tyler Kenyon, Evan MacKenzie, and Dmitri Malakhov; Mayor Fred Eisenberg, and Roger Trull, vice-president, university advancement. Front row, L to R: Shauna Stokely, Shannon McIntyre, and Jill Wiegand. Absent from photo: Alicia Campbell, David Carroll, Charlotte Farish, Brian Healy, Kristin Jewell, and Sara Praetorius.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Praise for Police

On March 18, AWWCA member **Sandi Harper** and her husband, **Dave Harper**, wrote to the police to express their thanks and have given us permission to reproduce their letter: *We just wanted to say how very appreciative we are with the rapid and lengthy response to our noise call on the evening of March 17. We called at approximately 10:45 p.m., and noise-by-law officers were on the scene within 10 to 15 minutes. They waded in through the sea of people and dispersed the party. Officers were still on site at 11:30 p.m. when we went to bed. We are sure (judging by the list provided by police and circulated to AWWCA members earlier that evening) that by-law, Mac 91/92, and police were kept very busy during the evening of the Paddy's Day Revelries. We would also like to add a hearty "thank you" for the patrols that so efficiently kept the noise level to a "barely there" minimum as the Westdale bars closed. We heard virtually nothing at all (a few fellows walking and talking at just-above-conversation level but not the usual booting, bollering, or singing).*

On April 1 AWWCA member **Wanda McLaren** wrote to the police: *Just a sincere note of thanks for the way in which your officers handled a situation regarding rude and offensive signs on student houses on Dalewood Avenue on Sunday, April 1. We greatly appreciate your support in helping to keep our neighbourhood liveable.*

AWWCA member **Jeanne Bernard** wrote on May 3: *A big thank you to all the McMaster special-duty officers who, during this semester, diligently kept watch while we slept.*

members' NEWS

President's Report

Future Activities of the AWWCA

ROB PAYNE



Rob Payne

Photo: Lauren Payne

It is hard to believe, but the AWWCA will celebrate its ninth annual general meeting this September. Our organization has developed into the largest neighbourhood association in the City of Hamilton, and as of this writing we enjoy a record of 535 paid-up members.

While in many ways the challenges affect-

ing the quality of life of our residents remain the same, the near future also provides some new possibilities that require the development of a "community vision." Some of these discussion points are as follows:

1. Development of Purpose-Built Student Housing

The AWWCA has long been an advocate of developing purpose-built housing, both on and off campus. It has been our position that this type of well-managed housing best suits our large transient student population, while at the same time relieving the demand to convert family homes.

We have had some success in this area, with three new residences built on campus over the last five years, as well as the off-campus West Village Condos under construction by Dundurn Edge Developments at the old CNIB site.

The current enrolment projections from McMaster University call for no increase in undergraduate enrolment at least until 2010. This means that the rental housing demand for our housing stock will decrease further in the next few years, as the West Village Condos will house 449 students starting this fall.

2. Joint City/University Planning on Housing

There continues to be interest in development of purpose-built student housing off campus. It is important for us to work with the city and university to ensure we do not overbuild such housing and that the style and size of such housing are suitable for our neighbourhood. McMaster has space to add residences on campus, where we would prefer to see them. An overall plan that addresses key data such as Westdale's maximum campus capacity, on-campus building sites, and overall student-housing demand would be a good starting

point in such planning.

3. Campus Capacity

On March 22 *The Hamilton Spectator* published the AWWCA's letter to the editor about campus capacity. This was a follow-up to a letter sent to University President Dr. Peter George Oct. 30, 2006 that pointed out the difficulty in properly planning our community without this type of information.

While the AWWCA understands the uncertainty around enrolment projections, we continue to insist on McMaster communicating a maximum-capacity target for the Westdale campus. We see McMaster enrolment projections and Westdale campus capacity as two different issues, given the future capacities available at the new satellite campus in Burlington.

4. Graduate-Student Enrolment Increase

McMaster's enrolment plans show a desire to increase the number of graduate students. This is an area where the community can work closely with the university to establish a housing plan for this neighbourhood-friendly demographic. Graduate students are older, prefer to live in smaller groups, or are married and have young children, and are desirable permanent additions to Hamilton. Any ideas we can develop concerning this will be a win-win for the university and its surrounding neighbourhood. This will be a key focus of the Campus Town Association partnership we have developed with the university.

5. Neighbourhood Truck Traffic

The recent building of the new stadium on campus highlighted a concern about neighbourhood truck traffic that had been brewing for some time. It is the AWWCA's position that all truck traffic servicing the university needs to have traffic patterns established by the university that do not include illegal use of our neighbourhood streets.

McMaster is developing a truck-transportation plan. Our position is simple: No trucks on neighbourhood streets.

6. Neighbourhood Schools

Originally our schools were planned and located as attractions to our neighbourhoods. Unfortunately, however, such decisions have generally become of a reactive nature in favour of larger, centralized schools that may require busing. Retaining primary schools in our neighbourhoods is extremely important. Their quality and "walk to" availability are key drivers in attracting families. Taking control by developing a community vision for our schools is a key development activity the AWWCA is encouraging in concert with our school trustee, **Judith Bishop**, and representatives of the Hamilton Wentworth School Board.

7. More Power for Municipalities to Develop Local Solutions

Many of our requests for improvements in our community run up against provincial legislative barriers that prevent municipalities from creating solutions. Changes in provincial legislation to allow municipal flexibility need to be a key focus of the AWWCA, working with the Town and Gown Association of Ontario.

8. Improving Safety in Our Community

The AWWCA has had a long-standing concern about the safety of university students in our community. Addressing the issue of having a large number of students living in illegal basement apartments that do not meet established safety requirements will continue to be a focus area.

9. Encouraging Volunteerism in Our Community

As we continue to evolve into a larger membership base, your board has discussed how best to maximize our members' valuable volunteer hours. We have decided to move slowly toward the development of working groups as a possible long-term structure. This year we organized two such groups:

a) Property Standards/Bylaw Committee

Headed by AWWCA board member **Ira Rosen**, this group's mandate is to focus on all things affecting our community in these areas, as well as to develop the necessary contacts to ensure continued improvement in enforcement. Ira has had a number of meetings and has a group of 10 to 15 people working with him to ensure progress.

b) Marketing Committee

Headed by AWWCA Vice-President **Alice**

Sabourin, this group's focus is to promote our many positive community assets in co-operation with the Campus Town Association. Communication is a key role of this group, and our new website is an example of what we can anticipate from this committee.

It is our hope that by slowly evolving and developing these types of working groups, we can maximize our volunteer potential, make neighbourhood improvements at a quicker pace, and make it easier for our large membership base to get involved.

Summary

As our organization continues to grow and mature, it is the passion of our residents, offering their time to the betterment of the neighbourhood, that will ensure its ongoing success. I would like to thank the new volunteers who have stepped forward to help. We hope that, as the AWWCA evolves, it will provide a structure for you to be able to easily participate in an area that is of interest. Please contact me at 905-525-7338 or robpayne@sympatico.ca to volunteer.

awwca.ca Updates

MICHAEL TAN

Several updates to the AWWCA website (awwca.ca), which launched toward the end of last year, will occur in the coming months:

- We will be populating the site with a wide range of wonderful photographs capturing life and scenery around our area. These include photos from AWWCA member **Mark Debruyne-Smith** and AWWCA-commissioned photographs by **Aaron Moxley**.
- We will add a new front-page article that will be updated monthly and address a community theme. It will link users to appropriate photo galleries.
- We hope to have surveying functionality built into the site by the end of the summer, allowing us to gauge community interests.
- We will also be posting the Hamilton Police Service's application for the Herman Goldstein Award. It outlines police efforts and successes in Ainslie Wood and Westdale.

We welcome any comments or sugges-

tions relating to the site. Please direct any correspondence to michael_tan@awwca.ca or to the webmaster at webmaster@awwca.ca.

2007 AWWCA Elections

This is our election year, and the board of directors of your association is seeking nominations for the board. Please take a moment to consider whether you can volunteer some time for your community. If you know of someone who might be interested in serving, please ask them if they would be willing to be nominated.

Two members in good standing of the AWWCA are required to nominate a candidate. Any paid-up member may stand for election to one of the following offices of the association: president, first vice-president, second vice-president, treasurer, recording secretary, membership secretary, corresponding secretary, or director (maximum of five).

- All nominations need to be signed and received by Loreen Jerome, the nominations officer, no later than Sept. 11.
- Nominations may be mailed to or dropped off at the AWWCA's box at 1063 King St. West, Suite 221, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4S3.
- Please call Loreen Jerome at 905-525-7386 or e-mail loreen.jerome@sympatico.ca if you do not have a nomination form and would like one.

Our Members Respond

In January police asked for our help in locating a suspicious person. **Karen Ward** responded: *This is invaluable information, and what a great job our association does at getting that information out! It also reinforces the value of community and association.* On Jan. 26 block representative **Linda Kisko** wrote: *Just finished reading the newsletter ... looks good with all the great things happening in the neighbourhood.* And on the same day, block representative **Marie-Louise Kallsen** wrote: *Great work! Great newsletter. My thanks to all involved.*

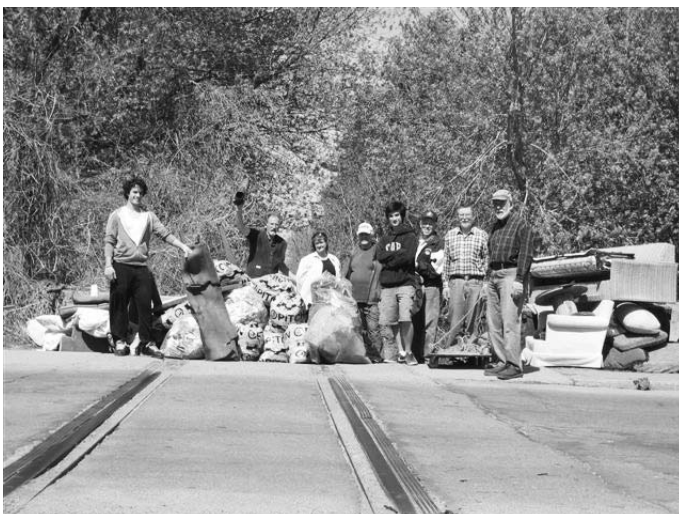
Rail Trail Cleanup

KENNETH SHERMAN

Our thanks to the 50 volunteers who helped in the cleanup of the abandoned rail corridor from Rifle Range Road to Stroud Road on May 5. We learned from **Councillor Brian McHattie** (who participated in the work) that the city has set aside up to \$1.9 million for the development of a trail system through this corridor into the heart of the Kirkendall neighbourhood. Details of the trail plan are still to be negotiated.

Our thanks again to everyone who participated and to Fortino's for providing refreshments. Today's effort was co-ordinated by **Richard Palmer** of St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church and **Kenneth Sherman** of the AWWCA-endorsed Rail Trail group.

Kenneth Sherman is an AWWCA member.



Rail Trail cleanup at the Leland crossing.

Photo: Alina Sklad

Graffiti-Cleanup Volunteers Making a Difference

DMITRI MALAKHOV



Dmitri Malakhov

Photo: Beth Snider

Over the last two years, the AWWCA has addressed graffiti issues in our neighbourhoods. Although I have provided updates in previous issues, it is time to make a broader report on our efforts and to summarize our actions to date.

Together with our partners we have created the Adopt-A-Box program, which has resulted in an almost-complete elimination of graffiti on Canada Post boxes in West Hamilton. We based this program on a well-known principle that early removal of graffiti prevents further tagging. Once our volunteers began caring for their assigned boxes, they found very little repeat graffiti vandalism.

Another form of tagging is to affix stickers instead of spraying paint, as it is faster and there is less chance of being caught. I have asked our volunteers to remove all stickers, as they would paint tags. Approximately 25 volunteers look after almost 80 Canada Post boxes in our community. We are constantly looking for more volunteers in order to make our response time even shorter. As I am leaving Hamilton to pursue a career, AWWCA member **Ken Ockenden** is now looking after this program.

Please do not hesitate to contact him at 905-528-4805 or ken.intbecastle@gmail.com.

Having cleaned graffiti from mailboxes, residents are naturally noticing such vandalism elsewhere. We have had reports of graffiti on private property, industrial property, bus shelters, sidewalks, and utility poles. The office of **Councillor Brian McHattie** has been instrumental in dealing with graffiti on city property. Graffiti on concrete surfaces is difficult and requires city crews to remove it. Please report specific locations that need attention to Mr. McHattie's office: bmcbattie@hamilton.ca.

Some of you have expressed concern over gang and hate graffiti. Fortunately it is minimal in West Hamilton, but if you encounter it, please inform the police immediately by using non-emergency numbers. However, if you witness graffiti vandalism in progress, please call 911. This is a criminal offence in progress and will be addressed accordingly. Please do not intervene. Instead, make as many observations as you can and provide your statement to the responding officer.

To our many volunteers and those who have attended graffiti events in the last several years, I would like say "thank you." Together we have made a significant dent in graffiti crime. According to **Staff Sergeant Scott Rastin**, "Minimizing graffiti contributes to lowering the perception of crime in an area."

I know that, under Ken's leadership, this community will continue to be a leader in creatively dealing with issues as they arise. It has been an immeasurable pleasure working with all of you.



Dmitri Malakhov removing graffiti on Sterling Street mailbox.

Photo: Beth Snider

Cleanup Commendation

Following the spring cleanup events in our community, **Philip Homerski**, public affairs coordinator, City of Hamilton - Public Works, wrote: *The AWWCA volunteers should be commended for their exemplary concern for their neighbourhood and the environment. If you are interested in what the city, local business and the community are planning for a concerted civic pride effort, please visit hamilton.ca/cleancity.*

E-mail Notices from Councillor Brian McHattie's Office

In the past, the AWWCA has forwarded e-mail notices from **Councillor Brian McHattie's** office to our members. Your board of directors has decided it would be best if these notices came directly from the councillor's office. If you would like to continue receiving Mr. McHattie's e-mail notices about issues of interest to Ward 1 residents, please sign up with his office directly by sending an e-mail to 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. Sometimes the notices go to only one neighbourhood, because they don't apply to the other two, and sometimes they are sent to all three neighbourhoods.

Useful Websites

Architecture Hamilton: architecturehamilton.com

AWWCA: awwca.ca

AWWCA bylaw complaints: awwca.ca/initiatives/initiative/municipal-bylaws

Councillor Brian McHattie: brianmchattie.ca

Federation of Citizens' Associations: fca-fac.ca

Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario: urbanneighbourhoods.ca

Hamiltonians for Progressive Development: progressivedevelopment.ca

Helping local communities achieve more autonomy: localgovernment.ca

McMaster's Off-Campus Resource Centre: macocho.com

Ontario Greenbelt Alliance: greenbelt.ca

Ontario Professional Planners Institute: ontarioplanners.on.ca

Ontario Smart Growth Network: greenontario.org/osgn

The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association: spur.org

Town and Gown Association of Ontario: tgao.ca

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

Westdale Business Improvement Area: westdalevillage.ca

Join Us

The AWWCA board of directors holds its monthly meetings at the Westdale Business Improvement Office, 1045 King St. West (above The Picture Frame), at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month and welcomes members interested in attending. Contact Rob Payne at 905-525-7338 or robpayne@sympatico.ca for more information

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

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

AWWCA

1063 King Street West, Suite 221
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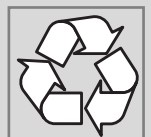
LAYOUT

Lynne Desjardins

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Malcolm Horsnell

Spring 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; if there is no permit, file a complaint with him and copy his assistant, Nikola Patti, 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

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

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

Graffiti:

Graffiti in progress: 911*

Graffiti on Canada Post boxes and graffiti programs: Ken Ockenden 905-528-4805 or 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)*. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 11 p.m.-4 a.m., 905-546-4925 from September to April; 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). WestTown Crime Manager, Sergeant Tim O'Keefe, 905-540-5093, or 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

Property-standards infractions (dwellings, structures, and yards): Councillor Brian McHattie, 905-546-2416, or bmchattie@hamilton.ca and copy his assistant, Nikola Patti, 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 Buttrum Family—Early West Hamilton Settlers

LOREEN JEROME



Buttrum Farm 1880 (near Oak Knoll Drive). Back row, L to R: Unidentified worker, John Buttrum, Edward Mills, Robert Buttrum, Harold Buttrum, Frank Buttrum, James Forsyth, Hugh Buttrum, Fred Buttrum, Bill Buttrum, Sam Buttrum, and Garnett Real. Front Row, L to R: Francis Buttrum, Pricscilla Buttrum, unidentified child, Annie Buttrum Binkley, and Kate Binkley.

Picture: Courtesy Grace Buttrum, in David N. Jardine, *West Hamilton, a Village and a Church* (1990).

Most of West Hamilton's streets are named after families who first owned the land. They include **Ainslie**, **Bamberger**, **Binkley**, **Bowman**, **Buttrum**, **Cline**, **Forsyth**, **Horning**, **Newton**, **Paisley**, and **Stroud**.

In 1854 Francis Buttrum, his wife, Lydia, and their six sons and one daughter emigrated from England to New York, later moving to Canada in 1863. They eventually settled in 1867 in West Hamilton on a portion of Maple Grove Farm, formerly owned by Elias Forsyth. McMaster University now occupies 70 acres of the former farm.

Many of the Buttrum children married and moved away, but Robert stayed on at the homestead and married Isabella. In the 1930s Maple Grove Farm was subdivided into building lots. The back parcels of the Forsyth and Buttrum farms ran from Main Street West all the way back to the ravine where Oak Knoll is now located. These woody ravines and hillsides became building sites for many fine homes on Mayfair Crescent and Oak Knoll Drive.

John F. Buttrum, son of Francis Buttrum Jr., farmed 11 acres of vegetables on the south side of Main Street West from 1910, where the hydro towers are now. John's son, Harry Buttrum, married Ivy in 1942 and had three children—Jim, Judy, and Elaine. Harry worked the 11-acre farm until the day he passed away in 1992. Harry's son, Jim, still works a farm in Waterdown. The Buttrums have had a stand at the Hamilton Farmers' Market for well over a century. They are famous for their potatoes but also sell a variety of vegetables, homemade jams, and knitted items. Jim's daughter, Shelley, now runs the market stall.

In 1967 Ivy started taking bookings from her market booth to fill a couple of buses for the trip to Expo 67 in Montreal as a favour for a friend. From this modest beginning evolved the Ivy Buttrum Travel Agency on Emerson Avenue. Cookies and tea always awaited a visitor. Under new ownership since 2001, but retaining the original name, the business changed location and continues on Main Street West near Cline Avenue South.

In 1880 an old tannery at Binkley's Corners (Main Street West and Osler Drive) was demolished and a 1787 Bible containing parts of the Old and New Testament was discovered; this Bible is still owned by the Buttrum family.

I wish to thank Ivy Buttrum for her numerous anecdotes and allowing me the privilege of an interview.

Sources: *A History of Ancaster Township* (Ancaster Township Historical Society, 1973); *Hamilton City Journal*, Jan. 9, 1980, p. 10.

Mailing Label