

Neighbourhood News & Views

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **AINSLIE WOOD / WESTDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**
Autumn 2009
OF **RESIDENT HOMEOWNERS INC.**

*"Building community
block by block"*



**For the Birds
Contest**

10



**Open Doors
Barbeque**

15



**AWWCA
Food Drive**

29

ADOPT-YOUR-BLOCK

On May 14 we announced a new program in our neighbourhoods called Adopt-Your-Block. It was spearheaded by **Shelli Eisenberg**, AWWCA board member and student liaison, who wrote about the program in the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*.

We now have 22 volunteers keeping 36 blocks debris free. If your block has not yet been adopted (see the list below), please consider being part of this worthwhile program and help keep the community we call home litter free. With a little bit of effort and some exercise, we can keep our streets clean and beautify our neighbourhood for everyone. If your block has been adopted, please consider adopting one nearby.

No one is too old or too young to volunteer. In fact, our youngest volunteer, **Ryan Bennett**, is 11, and his seven-year-old brother, Aidan, helps sometimes as well. Our oldest volunteer, **Hazel Broker**, is 88. If you are curious as to the boundaries of your area, check the map at awwca.ca/about/awwca.ca/about/.

Contact Shelli at 905-527-2644 or eisenberg@sympatico.ca to sign on and get equipped with gloves and bags. Some grippers and blue boxes are also available.



Our youngest and oldest volunteers:
Ryan Bennett and Hazel Broker. Photo: Janet Woodward

ADOPTED BLOCKS

Below are the blocks adopted to date:

Westdale South

- Arkell Street (Newton to Paisley)
- Bond Street South (King to Main)
- Cline Avenue South (King to Main)
- Dalewood Crescent (King to Sterling)
- Dalewood Crescent (Sterling to the park)
- Marion Avenue South (Bond to South Oval)
- North Oval (Marion to Paisley)
- Olmstead Street
- Paisley Avenue North
- Paisley Avenue South (Dalewood to Dromore)
- South Oval (King to Marion)
- Sterling Street (Dalewood to Dromore)

Continued on page 4

LIVING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Bottles for Africa

RUTH AND MIKE GREEN

The best way that we can put it is that it is like living with a stone in your shoe. That's what we've come to say to people who ask what our spring trip to Kenya has meant. We don't think or do things the way we used to because of a niggling discomfort—we have so much and are so wasteful, and the people we met in Kenya have so little.

It must have been that kind of discomfort that led to Bottles for Africa. Seeing the waste of returnable bottles, often in garbage containers, impelled us to return them and to donate the money to Free the Children. Its philosophy is that education is a powerful means to combat poverty and exploitation in underdeveloped countries. We agree, and \$8,500 to build a school seemed “doable.” It was a lot of bottles, but we have many friends and a unique community. As word spread, things became easier.

By last spring we raised enough for a school and joined a group of 13 Canadian high-school students to share their life-changing experiences, their education, and ours.

The students were already planning to go to Kenya; we joined their trip as participants and co-supervisors. The students raised the bulk of their funds to travel and to stay in Kenya, and we paid our own way. All the funds we raise go to Free the Children.

The community in which we built the school was Emorijoi in the Great Rift Valley in western Kenya. Although it was the beginning of the rainy season, it was hot, and the earth we attacked for a foundation was rocklike clay. All labour was by hand. We managed to dig and pour a foundation in the time we were



Ruth Green with school children in Kenya.

Photo: Mike Green

there. Others who follow will complete the school under the capable direction of Robert, the Kenyan foreman.

While at Emorijoi we learned that Free the Children does not initiate projects but assists communities to do what they have decided to do. This sense of ownership is very important for them, as it would be for us. We saw the community lifting itself up with better health care, clean water, alternative-income projects, reforestation, a secondary school, and a sense of hope through achievement. Because of what we saw, we are still collecting bottles.

Do you know that many Westdale businesses save us a portion of their bottles, that students call us to contribute what they have collected, that our neighbours regularly deliver bottles to our porch (usually silently, without waiting for thanks), and that

our mechanic donated an old car to help with storage and transport? We live in a great neighbourhood!

We thank you all on behalf of Emorijoi and Free the Children. Call 905-928-1860 if you need bottles picked up.

Ruth and Mike Green live in Westdale. Ruth has been an AWWCA member since 2004.



FAMILY MEMORIES IN WESTDALE

KAREN YOUNG



Karen Young in her back garden.

Photo: Sharon Hall

I always wanted to live in Westdale. I remember many times when I was attending McMaster University that I had dreams of a home in this community. Buying my little house on Barclay Street was a dream come true. I hope to stay here in Westdale for the rest of my life; I think it is one of the best places to live. I also have a lot of family history here in Westdale.

My grandfather, Robert Johnson, worked for Mr. H. C. Nunn, who owned Halliday Company, which built some of the houses in the Westdale area. Eventually my grandfather was able to afford a Halliday home himself—at 27 Paisley Ave. N.

My grandparents moved in right after its completion on Sept. 3, 1939, which my grandfather remembered as the “day the war broke out.” They had lived in a rented apartment on Bold Street in Hamilton, where they paid \$25 a month. My grandfather told me that the house and lot on Paisley cost them \$4,971. He and my grandmother, Muriel Johnson, and their children, Pauline (my mother) and Robert (my uncle), lived in that house for several years. At the corner of Paisley and North Oval, across from Westdale United Church, it still is one of the many pretty houses around here.

The house then passed to my grandfather’s brother, Dr. Fred Johnson, a well-known pediatrician at McMaster University Hospital, and his wife, Helen. They lived in that house until the early 90s. My great uncle’s obituary notes that he was the former chief of obstetrics and gynecology at what was then Hamilton Civic Hospitals; he was on staff at McMaster University Medical Centre; was the first president, Chedoke–McMaster Hospital; first professor, first chair, and professor emeritus, obstetrics and gynecology, McMaster University. He died July 15, 2003, aged 93.

While my grandparents lived at 27 Paisley Ave. N., my mother started kindergarten at our local public school, George R. Allan, one of the beautiful historical schools in Hamilton. Now 75 years old, and living in Mississauga with my father, David Young, she has lovely memories of Westdale. My grandfather died in May 1999 at age 87. He really enjoyed knowing that I live in Westdale so close to his much-loved first home.

Karen Young has been an AWWCA member since 1999.

Our Community’s Vital Signs

JANET WOODWARD

Vital Signs is an annual community checkup conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our cities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in at least 10 areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is based on a project of the Toronto Community Foundation and is co-ordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. As part of its 2009 Vital Signs program, CFC commissioned the Environics Research Group to conduct a national public-opinion survey, released Oct. 6.

Although Hamilton was not a participant in the survey, we have some of the top quality-of-life factors right here in our community:

Green space and good neighbours. Survey results show that “residents are most likely to point to the physical attributes (e.g. green space) or social atmosphere [good neighbours] as the feature that most contributes to a positive quality of life in their community.”

Small towns. Ainslie Wood and Westdale function very much like small communities. According to the survey, “There is little variation among Canadians living in communities of different sizes, although Canadians living in the smallest communities (29%) are the most likely to believe the rural or small town character of their community is the most important feature.”

Education and income. Having McMaster University as a neighbour has its benefits, as quality-of-life ratings increase noticeably along with residents’ level of education and income.

Non-profit organizations. Ainslie Wood and Westdale benefit from improvements brought about by the AWWCA and other non-profit organizations. Survey results show that “Canadians place the greatest confidence in the leaders of local non-profit organizations in making a positive contribution to improving their community.”

You can view the results of the survey at vitalsignscanada.ca/nr-2009-public-opinion-survey-e.html

Janet Woodward is the AWWCA’s newsletter co-ordinator.

TRILLIUM AWARDS

JANET WOODWARD

Hamilton's Trillium Awards Program is funded by private donations and corporate sponsors and is managed by a volunteer committee with assistance from the operations and maintenance division of Hamilton's public-works department.

The program, established in 1956, is one of the oldest and largest beautification programs in North America. It 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. Over the years, many AWWCA members have won Trillium Awards, and we print their names in *Neighbourhood News & Views*.

Judges and Judging

The city is divided into zones, and each property in each of the zones is judged by one or two volunteer judges. The program would not be possible without the support of over 300 volunteers, who judge all properties in the city, often revisiting their assigned zones several times before making a final decision on the issuance of awards.

Judges look for properties that have curb appeal, are well maintained, and have good design (harmony, balance, focal area, proportion, texture, and colour). Each year, White Trillium Award judging is done between the second Friday of June and the third Friday of July. The two properties with the highest scores in each zone receive a White Trillium. Then the one with the highest score in each zone competes for a Pink Trillium, one of which is given in each ward. Pink Trillium judging occurs during the first two weeks of August.

If you have a love of gardening and can attend the judges' workshop in June, please consider the opportunity of volunteering as a judge. Information: **Liz Celt**, city liaison with Trillium members, 905-546-2424, ext. 4228, or trilliumawards@hamilton.ca or myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/cityandgovernment/citydepartments/publicworks/parks/horticulture/trillium+awards+program.htm.



Our Trillium Award Winners



White Trillium
Copyright City of
Hamilton 2001

We extend our congratulations to our AWWCA members who won White Trillium Awards in 2009:

Elizabeth Butty, sixth-time winner.

Megan Coombes, first-time winner.

Carol Davids has won a total of 11 White Trilliums, including this year's. Also, she has won two Pink Trilliums.

Joyce Killin won for the second year in a row.

We salute the winners and all in our community who take pride in their gardens. You help improve the quality of life in our neighbourhood, making it a nicer place to live—one of the goals of the AWWCA.

Nominate a Garden

You may nominate any garden in the City of Hamilton, as long as it is visible from a public street and belongs to a private residence. You may also nominate landscapes of businesses, churches, schools, and other institutions for the Awards of Excellence. One is chosen from each ward in the city. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2010. Information: 905-546-2424, ext. 4228, or trilliumawards@hamilton.ca or myhamilton.ca (search "trillium awards").

'Adopted Blocks' continued from page 1

Ainslie Wood East

- Delbrook Court
- Gary Avenue
- Haddon Avenue South (Main to Westwood)
- Stroud Road

Ainslie Wood North

- Westbourne Road
- West Park Avenue
- Sanders Boulevard (West Park to Westbourne)

Ainslie Wood West

- Purvis Drive (Lower Horning to Mericourt)
- Yates Drive

Ainslie Wood

- No blocks adopted

Westdale North

- No blocks adopted

To adopt a block, contact Shelli Eisenberg at 905-527-2644 or eisenberg@sympatico.ca to sign on and get equipped.

WALKABLE HAMILTON AND WALKABLE AINSLIE WOOD AND WESTDALE



A survey organized by Westjet's in-flight magazine *UP!* and the Canadian Federation of Podiatric Medicine studied 50 Canadian cities for walkability in 2009. It named Hamilton one of the top 10 walkable cities in

Canada. Each month one of those cities is being profiled in the magazine and online at *up-magazine.com*. Hamilton will be profiled in the April 2010 issue.

Say the judges:

"The cities that decided to participate were given a walking survey requesting attributed information about the pedestrian experience within their city limits—from vehicular-pedestrian collisions to sidewalk width to

whether or not they've signed the International Charter of Walking. These surveys constituted 50 per cent of all scores. Another 25 per cent of scoring came from our judges' ranking. The remaining 25 per cent came from an urban area's ranking on *walkscore.com*, an international scoring system for pedestrian-friendly places."

If walkability interests you and you would like to promote walkability in Ainslie Wood and Westdale, please contact **Alice Sabourin** at 905-523-0337 to discuss walking-audit opportunities.

STORY OF A BIRCH TREE IN WESTDALE

RAYMOND LEON

Twenty-four years ago a blazing birch acorn fell into the ground somewhere in Westdale. Today, the acorn has become a birch tree.

When he was little, the birch acorn was the pride and joy of his parents, as it had two eyes, two ears, two hands, two feet, two branches, and too much energy. The male acorn attended George R. Allan, and he had a good time. He learned how to dance, how to swim, how to sing, how to play the violin, and how to read. He studied well enough, and made lots of friends, and did all those things that Westdale trees do. He even played as an unprofessional in the West Hamilton Youth Soccer League.

Seven years later, after growing taller in middle school and high school, he was now a young birch tree and not an acorn anymore. He had to choose where to put down his roots. Wishing to have a little bit more space for himself in which to grow, he decided to go to Toronto, where there was plenty of space at a university.

A few years later, the university in Toronto didn't seem like such a nice place to spend the rest of a tree's life. The air was smoggy, someone got shot one street down from where he lived, and worst of all, instead of looking for a way to share the light that was available,

the trees at the university were always competing against each other to see who was biggest and who could get the most light, leaving most of the trees somewhat hungry for light most of the time.

So the birch tree, using a marvel of modern technology, decided to uproot himself—to Vancouver. Enlisting in a "quality assurance" army, he vowed to document absolutely every bug that he could find in the software he tested. His work led to a lot of happy customers, and Vancouver was a beautiful place, but after a year living there, he found that it wasn't for him. He was restless and didn't want to remain in one place too long.

If the tree could have, he would have continued travelling the world, but he had no money because he had quit his job and used up all his savings on his university tuition. Thus, he went back to Westdale to grow beside his parents. But the space was cramped, and because he had no money, he felt restless and unhappy, and he was itchy all the time. He spent his first few months at home trying out different "get rich quick" schemes while his parents paid his land taxes for him.

He now spends most of his energy trying to gain enough experience to write a book he plans to call *How to Get Rich Slowly*. He spends his free time inviting friends to Westdale and giving

tours of the area's attractions, including Westdale Park, Westdale Theatre, Westdale Restaurants, Westdale Aviary, Westdale Bakery, Westdale Library, George R. Allan School, Dalewood Middle School, Westdale Secondary School, McMaster University, Bayfront Park, and Webster's Falls.

Once, one of his friends remarked, "What a wonderful place to have a family! Everything is within walking distance. I love this area! Let's get married!" And the young tree would have said, "Yes," but he had a heart attack instead due to commitment phobia. His last words before passing out were, "Promise me that you'll move to Westdale, it's a wonderful place to call home."

Luckily, his heart attack wasn't fatal. For better or for worse, he lived to overcome his commitment phobia and married the tree who had given him a heart attack.

Because she was rich, he would never have to work ever again in his life! But, for appearances' sake, he got a job to prove that he could support himself.

Author's note: This story is loosely based on my life. Readers can decide for themselves how much of this is true and how much is fiction.

Raymond Leon was born in Westdale, lives here today, and is 24 years old.

OH DEER, IT'S A TURKEY

RON LANCASTER

Our house on Oak Knoll Drive backs onto a ravine, and we are often visited by animals, including many deer. All the animals, except for the fox, love to hang out around the bird feeders, and the leftover seeds on the ground are very popular with the deer and raccoons. As I walked down the stairs in early January 2010, I was stunned to see a large turkey in the backyard. I grabbed my camera and took a number of photos and several videos partly because I figured no one would believe me when I told them a turkey was on the loose in Westdale. I watched the turkey for about an hour, and at one point it flew in the air and positioned itself on top of the bird feeder, nearly destroying it. I briefly went outside to take a closer look as the turkey eventually returned to the ground to eat more seeds.

I contacted **Janet Woodward**, who in turn contacted **Marion Bryner**, a volunteer at the Aviary in Churchill Park, to ask if the Aviary was missing a turkey. Marion replied that there are no turkeys at the Aviary and it was probably wild. She forwarded the query to **Don Intini**, who raises ground fowl. He said, "Wild turkeys have been released in this area, and we often see a flock of 20 to 40 birds in the farm fields, but the unusual thing is seeing a turkey in the city." Janet then connected me to **Tys Theysmeyer**, head of conservation and natural lands at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Mr. Theysmeyer reported that turkey sightings are becoming more common, as their numbers are rapidly increasing in southern Ontario. Said Mr. Theysmeyer, "Last spring was the first they had been sighted back within the RBG sanctuaries, but on the north shore of Cootes Paradise there have also been numerous sightings this winter. A first for me—I passed 19 turkeys in the field on the north shore of Cootes Paradise the morning of Jan. 13. I presume some have travelled across the marsh to your side. Oak acorns are among their favourite foods. In other locations the individual birds range from extremely skittish to totally oblivious to the presence



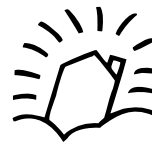
Turkey at 35 Oak Knoll Dr. on Jan. 9.

of people." Mr. Intini added in another e-mail on Jan. 13, "I was travelling to Kitchener and saw a flock of about 40 turkeys just south of Rockton and another of 15 near Sheffield."

The turkey has been back to my yard a number of times at different times of the day. I never imagined that the day would come when I would see a rafter of turkeys in our backyard (a *rafter* is a group of turkeys).

If the population continues to grow, maybe someone in Westdale will start a new national hockey-league team and call it the Hamilton Rafter.

Ron Lancaster has been an AWWCA member since March 1999.



Ainslie Wood/Westdale
Community Association of
Resident Homeowners Inc.

Because we care

President's Report

*Below is an excerpt of **John Wigle's** report presented at the 11th annual general meeting of the AWWCA, held in the auditorium of Dalewood Middle School on Sept. 22. Additional reporting on the AGM is on page 28 and at awwca.ca/articles/2010/01/05/11th-annual-agm-minutes/.*

Welcome to the 11th annual general meeting of the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Home Owners Inc., and welcome to our guests

In this age of President Barack Obama, those of us who dare to stand on a public stage to speak to fellow citizens must have either great content or brevity. Tonight I choose brevity. The great content will come from the presenters on our panel.

The AWWCA now has almost 600 members, making us the largest community association in Hamilton. I remind all of us that, unlike the Hamilton Police Service, the city's bylaw department, and McMaster University, the AWWCA does not have legal power. Rather, the association has "soft" power, the power of influence. As a result,

Developers proposing purpose-built student housing ask to attend our board meetings to outline their ideas for projects and to obtain our input.

Some restaurant and tavern owners make the same request.

HPS and bylaw officers attend our board meetings and work with our directors and volunteers to make our neighbourhoods cleaner, quieter, safer, and more livable.

Rob Payne, past president of the AWWCA, and I sit on McMaster's President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations, PACCR for short, and work with **Gord Arbeau**, **Roger Trull** (vice-president of university advancement), and their colleagues regarding issues of mutual concern.

Shelli Eisenberg, an AWWCA board member and our student liaison, works with the MSU and other

McMaster student organizations on such worthy events as the PJ parade and food drives.

The AWWCA has this "soft" power for several reasons:

My predecessors had the foresight and the determination to create this organization 11 years ago in order



John Wigle in the foyer, waiting to welcome guests.
Photo: Janet Woodward

to deal with the challenges and opportunities presented by the growth of our post-secondary educational institutions.

Non-board members have volunteered countless hours on many projects, such as the Walkability Study by **Alice Sabourin** and her team and the annual Rail Trail cleanup organized by **Ken Sherman**, who has been a community activist in the finest tradition. Regrettably Ken will be moving away for family reasons. We will greatly miss him. Ken, well done!

Janet Woodward and her team (**Chris Harvey**, **Malcolm Horsnell**, and **Carolyn Kinsley**) put out a wonderful newsletter twice a year.

Roger, Gord, and their colleagues recognize that the neighbourhoods that encircle McMaster matter, and they

want to make PACCR work.

The board is determined always to engage in dialogue with the McMaster administration, McMaster Students Union, the city, the HPS, and our provincial MPP.

There have been strong disagreements in the past between the AWWCA

and other stakeholders, such as the dispute over the truck bylaw a year ago, and there will be strong disagreements in the future. Nonetheless, the board and, we hope, the majority of our members do not engage in personal attacks on other community stakeholders. Rather, we participate in a spirited and occasionally heated dialogue. We listen, respond politely but firmly, and as a result are heard. That is "soft" power.

I wish to recognize the following persons' contributions during the past 12 months:

Sergeant Jo-Ann Savoie, who has worked hard as our West Town Crime Manager

Police Constable Steve Wowk, who has been one of our beat officers.

Lisa Dodds, the board member who has been our police liaison for the past two years; she is stepping down to enjoy a well deserved rest and retirement

Jay Parlar and **Ira Rosen**, who contributed their indispensable audiovisual-technology abilities tonight

The AWWCA is only as strong as the commitment of its members, all of whom are volunteers. I urge you to become active or more active, as the case may be. We welcome and need your support.



Ainslie Wood North Revitalization

BETTY BECHTEL



Ryan Moran hands out information at the group supper. Photo: Betty Bechtel

Councillor Brian McHattie has been concerned about the many stressful problems experienced in the AWWCA areas. Ainslie Wood North has been particularly hard hit by rental housing, with over 56 per cent rentals in an area of 307 homes.

AWN is the area west

of Cootes Drive and north of Main Street West. Its western border is West Park Avenue, and its northern boundary is the greenspace that leads down into McMaster University's parking lot in the hollow. The problems related to overdensity of rentals have been well documented and are well known to anyone living in the area. Students moving into the area for the first time may not know the history of the problems but are aware of the tensions.

In an effort to foster a sense of community among students and permanent residents, Mr. McHattie initiated the formation of the Ainslie Wood North Group, consisting of students, AWWCA members and other permanent residents, and McMaster representatives. Many student associations at McMaster are represented in addition to the Off-Campus Resource Centre (**Jennifer Kleven**) and the Office of Community Service Learning and Civil Engagement (**Adam Kuhn**). **Vishal Tiwari**, the current McMaster Students Union president, has attended each meeting. **Ryan Moran**, a former MSU president, was hired by Mr. McHattie's office to study other near-campus areas for ways of revitalizing AWN. Ryan found that garage sales have proven successful in improving community relations. He helped to organize meetings and a walkabout, a garage sale,

and the new AWN website. **Dale Brown** and **Susan Millman** from the councillor's office also provided their considerable organizational skills.

There have been meetings over the summer and a light supper on Sept. 3 at the home of **Marlene Castura**, following which committee members headed out on a walkabout in the AWN area. The purpose of the walkabout was to knock on every door to learn about residents' concerns and to inform them of the new group and its upcoming garage sale.

The garage sale, held Sept. 26, started at 10 a.m. Items that might appeal to students furnishing their homes were displayed by seven vendors along Sanders Boulevard. Students and residents, and possibly dealers, engaged in lively conversations with the vendors, and even found a few bargains. The forecast was for rain, but the sun shone on the sale, and the rain held off until two minutes after the sale ended at 2 p.m. Some vendors have already allotted their proceeds to the AWN website, *AWNGroup.com*, which was launched in September. An e-mail list has been formed for AWN residents. If you wish to be added to it, send a note to awnrgroup@gmail.com.

Betty Bechtel is an honorary board member of the AWWCA.



One of the seven garage-sale stations on Sanders Boulevard.

Photo: Earl Jerome

CALMING SANDERS BOULEVARD

BETTY BECHTEL

After a street-racing crash on Sanders Boulevard, AWWCA member **Brian Coombes** made a plea to **Councillor Brian McHattie** for simple traffic-calming measures: "This car was street racing on Sanders Boulevard and, by my own witness, I would estimate the car was traveling at least 140 kilometres an hour. It went the full stretch of Sanders from east to west, turned around and then came west to east, where it then crashed through the new posts constructed at the entrance to Cootes Pathway and flipped onto the roof as you can see in the photo. Several posts and much of the new concrete construction are destroyed, including damage to the street light post at the intersection. The tire skid marks begin at Betty and Jim Bechtel's house, which gives you an impression of the speeds we are talking about; at least 200 feet of tire skid tracks. The occupants of the vehicle fled the scene once the car came to a rest on its roof, according to student eye witnesses who were crossing at the intersection at the very time the car crashed. There were also several cyclists on the path as well and it is miraculous that pedestrians or cyclists were not killed tonight. Please, can we do something about traffic calming on Sanders now? I am including below correspondence that we had back in August 2008 on this very issue. It seems none of the traffic calming measures I have been pushing for the past two years have been actioned. It is time." On Sept. 28 he posted his views and suggestions about calming on the Ainslie Wood North Group website, *AWNGroup.com*.

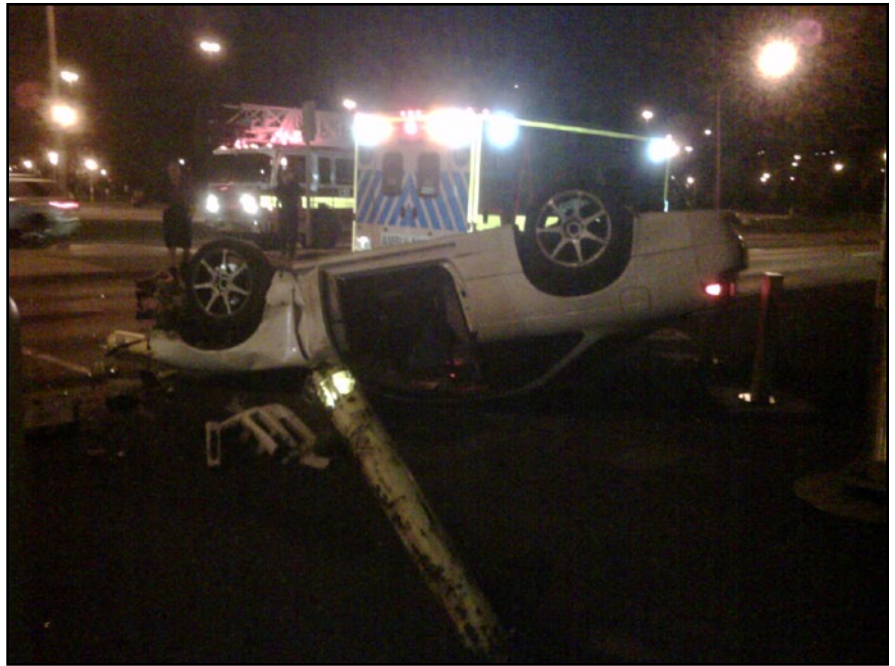
As part of Hamilton's official bike route, Sanders should include marked bike lanes. It seems that it was the drama of the crash that brought us our wish. Following the crash, Mr. McHattie met with traffic staff to plead for calming on Sanders.

The first thing I noticed, on Oct. 14, was broad white stripes painted at each intersection leading onto Sanders Boulevard. I contacted Mr. McHattie, who e-mailed an explanation: "The city is painting stop lines at the side streets, a centre line, and bike lanes on Sanders. This effectively narrows this wide street, thereby slowing traffic. Next, we will look at how Sanders and all AWN streets function via the Ainslie Wood Westdale Master Transportation Plan review, which should begin January 2010."

The bicycle lines and a centre line were

painted on Sanders Oct. 18 and 19. Cyclists seem pleased to have dedicated bike lanes; they started using them as soon as they were painted, but so did pedestrians! Brian Coombes said: "Since the clearly visible bike lanes were introduced in October, cars seem to be driving more cautiously. It reminds some drivers that they're sharing the road with vulnerable cyclists."

Thanks to Brian for lobbying for calming on Sanders, and thanks to Mr. McHattie for bringing it about. We look forward to more improvements under the Transportation Plan review.



Car crash at Sanders Boulevard and Cootes Drive 11:45 p.m., Friday evening, Sept 4.
Photo: Brian Coombes



Cyclists using the new lanes on Sanders Boulevard.

Photo: Janet Woodward

WELCOME KOOSH

JOHN WIGLE

AWWCA vice-president **Ira Rosen** and I met with **Koosh Kahnamoui** and his brother **Kamyar** on Aug. 13. We had a candid, cordial discussion with them about their business plan, including the type of food (casual fine dining) and the clientele they are pursuing. We believe they are the kind of restaurant owners that the AWWCA wants and should encourage to do business in the Westdale merchant district. Koosh has been in the hospitality and food business for over 20 years at a variety of locations, is a licensed chef, and has a focused business plan that includes catering.

Ira and I recommended to the board that the AWWCA inform our councillor that we do not oppose Koosh's application to extend the hours in which alcohol (predominantly fine wines) can be served.



Koosh Bistro in Westdale Village.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Koosh Bistro opened for business on Thanksgiving weekend. We wish them well.

John Wigle has been the AWWCA's president since 2007.

FOR THE BIRDS CONTEST AT WESTFEST

LOREEN JEROME

Once again, Bryan Prince Bookseller sponsored the AWWCA contest for children at our booth at Westfest in Westdale Village Sept. 12. Children 12 and under were asked to give the name of the oldest bird at the aviary in Westdale. Those who were unsure of the answer were directed to the aviary's booth, where a picture of Sinbad was on display. He is a double-yellow-headed Amazon parrot (*Amazona oratrix*). Said aviary volunteer **Marion Bryner**, "We do not know his exact age, but when he was donated to the aviary in 1997 we were told that he was at least 35 years old. We estimate that he is approximately 50 now."

And the winner is . . .



Ava Royce

Photo: Janet Woodward

Congratulations to four-year-old **Ava Royce** of Glen Road, who, along with 22 others, entered the correct name. Hers was the first correct entry drawn. Ava won a \$25 gift certificate donated by Bryan Prince Bookseller.

Loreen Jerome is membership secretary of the AWWCA. She co-ordinated the AWWCA's exhibit at Westfest.



Sinbad

Photo: Aviary volunteer Carolyn Bell

*"Building community
block by block"*

CHURCHILL PARK & RBG NEWS

Building a Boardwalk

In the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* Tys Theysmeyer, acting head of conservation at the Royal Botanical Gardens, outlined a volunteer community opportunity—building a boardwalk at Caleb's Walk Trail in one day. Eight AWWCA members responded. Tools in tow, the volunteers gathered Sept. 26 and, with the help of RBG staff, attached 18 sections of boardwalk and dug 36 holes on the wettest section of that trail.

In thanking the volunteers, Mr. Theysmeyer said, "A simple boardwalk is an extremely valuable element in affecting the perceived value of a natural area. This is one of many elements I hope to add over the coming years in an effort to return Cootes Paradise sanctuary to the status which saw it designated as one of the first protected areas in Canada, established for the protection of migratory birds as well as its unique and unusual biodiversity."



Volunteers who built the boardwalk Sept. 26. Left row front to back: Shelly Sender, Tys Theysmeyer (RBG), Ed Wisnieski (RBG), Mike Kukucska, Jay Parlar. On boardwalk: Unidentified volunteer. Right row front to back: Ken Moyle, Julie Twyford, Ron Lancaster, John Dezoete (RBG). Absent from photo: Joe Day. Photo: Janet Woodward

HAMILTON HAMMERHEADS ATHLETIC CLUB



Hammerheads running at Princess Point late September.

Photo: Peter Summers

HELEN POWERS

Several times a week, a large group of youths is seen at Churchill Park or on the streets of Westdale, many dressed in red, black, and white. They are not loitering and are not a new gang—it's the Hamilton Hammerheads Athletic Club training for triathlon competitions.

There are over 50 club members, aged six to 18, who train with a team of professional coaches, including head coach **Kevin Mackinnon**, of Westdale. The athletes come from all parts of Hamilton and beyond to train year round for triathlon, swim, track, and cross-country competitions.

Hammerheads are pushed to be the best they can be—but that does not mean looking for trophies. The coaching staff's

philosophy has a wider perspective: "The measure of a true athlete is not their athleticism, top finishes and awards; it's their personal story of perseverance, courage and determination."

Last year, the coaches created a new squad structure to offer a recreational and a competitive program to each age group. This allows more flexibility in customizing a workout schedule suitable for each member. Another new component is a run-only program created for athletes who are not seeking to participate in triathlons.

The athletes' workout schedule accounts for other athletic activities to be sure they are not overworked. The training is also balanced with goofy games, jokes, and parties to remind everyone not to take things too seriously.

A tradition of the club includes an optional spring training program in the sunny South. This year's session was in Clermont, Florida, where state-of-the-art track and pool facilities provided a perfect head start on the season's outdoor training. Side trips to Disneyland and ocean beaches were a nice touch too!

If you want to know more about the club, visit hamiltonhammerheads.com or e-mail hamiltonhammerheadsac@gmail.com.

Helen Powers is club secretary and registrar of Hammerheads. She lives in Westdale and is an AWWCA member.

Editor's note: This article updates one by Peter Summers in the autumn 2007 issue of Neighbourhood News & Views.

RAIL TRAIL NEWS

SOMETHING NEW IS HAPPENING ON THE RAIL TRAIL

JEANNE BERNARD



After the rain stopped, I went for a walk. It was a fine day in August. First, down to Stroud Road Park. Of course, the wild apples have been cut down to make way for the sewer overflow tank. I miss their honeyed scent. There are wild daisies and other flowers in the park now, as well as new trees. White-tailed hares hop about, and there are benches too, well placed for watching traffic coursing up the 403.

I climb to the top of the rise and join the Rail Trail. The tracks have been gone since early July, and the earth has been levelled. As I walk by, I can see remnants of individual flower gardens that used to be neatly tended patches of colour. Perhaps new occupants have not figured out what to do along the trail abutting their yards. At Broadway I come upon a neat blanket of well-trimmed grass with a circle of flowering plants in the middle. **Louise and Bob Eaton** care for this section all summer long. It is the skirt for their large show of pink roses and other

delights.

On I go toward Emerson. This is strange terrain. Some people believe that this part of the trail is a great place to dump garbage. Every year **Ken Sherman** and his group of stalwarts come out in early spring with gloves and bags to clean up the debris. But in the past two years someone has been working day after day with a plan in mind. The weeds have been replaced with ground cover, nasturtiums, roses of Sharon, and delightful greenery. It is a spot to rest for a while. **Adella Antonow** is a newcomer to this part of town, but she is determined to leave her mark of improvement. She has single-handedly removed the garbage and worked out a plan of colour for the long side wall of Aitchison's Lumber. She is not discouraged by those who destroyed

a vegetable garden each spring. In the fall, he has some of the sweetest apples and pears in the area, and now he has planted several fruit trees beside the trail. I marvel at the work these folks are willing to put into the areas around them. Their efforts produce food for the birds, bees, and small creatures; colour and fragrance for pedestrians; and peace of mind as one goes by their plots. It is people such as these who make a difference in how we enjoy walking between Ainslie Wood and Dundas—older folk who ignore their aches and pains to add a little beauty for all to enjoy. Can you imagine the result if more folks were similarly involved?

What can we look forward to on the Rail Trail in West Hamilton? Not more dog droppings or tenant discards! Perhaps the city can encourage more

residents along this mile of walking space to adopt parts of it and fill it with their choice of colour. The Royal Botanical Gardens hands out sample wildflower cards, a few of which would change the summer scenery along here. Let us not forget that many businesses along the way sell plants in the spring. Invariably some of these plantlets are not sold quickly and start to shrivel. The stores could offer these annuals at a discount for the Rail Trail flower patches.

The Rail Trail is in an area of fertile one-

time farmland. It would be challenging to bring back the West Hamilton of the 70s, with raspberry canes growing wild and large red jewels of crabapples waiting to be picked for jelly. If we ignore the area, nature will fill it with

Continued on page 21



A pastoral scene on the Rail Trail at Ward and Broadway, maintained by the Eatons. This photo was taken on Sept. 16; the train signal was removed Nov. 8.

Photo by Janet Woodward.

the first garden she created. She asks if I know anyone who has an extra lilac plant because she would like to have one.

As I move westward, I find spots that were once vegetable or flower gardens. Off Kingsmount, I run into **Guiseppe Sienna**—84 years old and still planting

PAVING OVER THE RAIL TRAIL

JEANNE BERNARD

If you like walking on terra firma, hurry up and enjoy the Rail Trail as is. Sometime in 2010, the city plans to pave the section from Chedoke Avenue to Fortino's. It will probably be the only paved section. The city claims that it would like to make the trail accessible to wheelchair users, and cyclists can then use this section of the trail as an alternative to using Sanders Boulevard or Whitney Avenue. Their other argument is that a paved trail will facilitate snow clearance. What I do not understand is: are they going to pave all the way to Brantford?

Early in August the tracks were removed. Those homeowners who have created gardens on the land adjacent to their backyards have become very concerned about what the effect of this paving will be. Other homeowners wonder where the rainwater will go when the area is paved and no ditches are provided for runoff.

Following a call to our ward councillor, a group of concerned residents met with **Brian McHattie** and **Daryl Bender** (the man in charge of executing the plan). Thanks to the pastor of St. George's church, we met in their hall to share the city's plan and what resident homeowners would like to see happen in our neighbourhood. At the end of the exchange the home team made the following small inroads:



Jeanne Bernard (on the right) with Adella Antonow, in Adella's garden on the rail trail at Emerson Street. Photo: Janet Woodward



Rail Trail off Leland Street, looking west.

Photo: Janet Woodward

To enhance use of the trail, residents would like to see lighting along the paved section. Mr. Bender is working on including lighting in the final plan.

Mr. McHattie promised to divert a dozen benches for rest stops on the route.

Residents would also like a water fountain to be operable in hot weather.

For increased safety from traffic, Mr. Bender said that bollards will be installed at Leland, Emerson, Broadway, and Stroud.

We requested some form of traffic control be installed that would force users to be cautious at places where north-south traffic crosses the trail.

At Mr. McHattie's request, Mr. Bender also committed the city to replacing or repairing gardens that residents have created, if they are damaged by the heavy paving equipment.

We asked that the rails be left intact at Broadway Avenue to support the historic data on the area. Did you know that the Aitchison Lumber site was the first industrial stop going west from the Aberdeen Yard?

Two AWWCA members have a fantastic idea of creating a wall mural for this area, and Mr. McHattie indicated there may be funding for public art.

While the city's representatives persist in comparing the Waterfront Trail with this section of the Rail Trail, they are ignoring the fact that this section of the trail runs through a residential area and is essentially part of our backyards.

You can view lovely photos of the natural trail at: awwca.ca/stockphoto/laneways.

Jeanne Bernard lives in Ainslie Wood East and has been a block representative for the past eight years.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN WEST HAMILTON

West Hamilton Cenotaph Memory Garden

JUDY SMITH



Volunteers planting the memory garden around the cenotaph July 18.
Photo: Janet Woodward

The Memory Garden project was brought to fruition by 38 Canadian volunteers from diverse backgrounds, including the Vietnamese Gospel Church on Main Street West, the Bethel Methodist Korean Youth Group, Westside Community Church (which meets at McMaster University), and a host of other volunteers including a good number from the AWWCA and the neighbourhood.

Men, women, and children shovelled, lugged, and planted through two weekends in July to make **Phyllis Tresidder's** garden design become a reality.

The Memory Garden is located at 134 Emerson St. in West Hamilton. Its intention is to dignify and set off the long-standing cenotaph that was funded by the citizens of West



Planting the boxwoods at St. George's.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Hamilton to honour the war dead from both World Wars. The city placed the cenotaph on the front lawn of the former St. Margaret's Anglican Church, now St. George's Anglican Church (Reformed Episcopal), in 1925.

Five truckloads of soil had to be dug in before the planting could begin. There was an immediate response from passers by who stopped to offer verbal encouragement and donations toward the project. The garden is planned as evergreen to honour those who gave their lives for our freedom. Twenty-nine boxwoods, donated by the AWWCA board of directors, have been planted on the south side in memory of each person named on the cenotaph. Hostas, junipers, blue spruce, cone flowers, and hydrangeas got a good start with the help of the rainy summer. Grasses to match the theme of chartreuse and maroon have been planted in vignettes throughout the garden. **Joyce Killin** donated many hostas and other healthy plants from her own garden.

The garden is also meant to enhance walkability, which the city is encouraging. It will provide a green space—a cool resting spot for those who walk to stores and the university. The newly replaced sod evens out the ground so that those of us who are unsteady on our feet will be able to enjoy the garden too.

Sergeant Jo-Ann Savoie and Phyllis Tresidder painted the fence that runs along the north end of the garden in a dramatic shade of black known as slate. Some members of St. George's Church have agreed to paint the window frames to match the fence so that the garden will be surrounded by a "picture frame." Sergeant Savoie's husband, **Paul**, made a beautiful board to display the donor plaques on the north wall in front of the boxwood.

Someone was overhead to comment, during the digging and the general dirty work, "This has been so much fun. It seems to be about a lot more than making a garden. It seems to be about building community."

The donations of time, energy, work, and finances (including a \$100 donation from the AWWCA), were overwhelming and very much appreciated. Do come and sit on one of the four benches that will soon be in place. The Memory Garden is meant for you to enjoy, and you are welcome there.

Judy Pollard Smith is a member of St. George's Anglican Church (Reformed Episcopal) and the AWWCA.



Board in Memory Garden with plaques recognizing donors, including the AWWCA.

OPEN DOORS BARBECUE

JUDY POLLARD SMITH

The corner of Emerson Street and Royal Avenue really rocked on Saturday evening, Sept. 12. The choir and band of the Apostolic Holiness Church on Royal Avenue set up a stage in the new Memory Garden at St. George's Anglican Church (Reformed Episcopal).

Seven churches of West Hamilton (Apostolic Holiness Church of Jesus Christ, Canadian Martyrs Catholic, Friends' Meeting House, Grace Lutheran, Hamilton Mennonite, St. George's Anglican, and Westside Baptist) and the McMaster Chaplaincy Centre came together for the first time in history to welcome new neighbourhood residents and students into the community. Open Doors was the brainchild of **Dr. John Ferns**, a recently retired professor of English at McMaster University and an ordained deacon at St. George's.

It began as a tour of all seven churches with draw prizes at the end of the day for those who participated. The big event was the barbecue on St. George's lawn. Hundreds of students and community members consumed

about 800 hamburgers, sausages, veggie burgers, and ice-cream cones. The choir had everyone clapping and stamping, mingling and mixing.

Phyllis Tresidder, there in the garden she had so beautifully designed, said, "This is just what I hoped would happen—that it would be filled with people having a good time together." A photographer from the National Film Board of Canada who had been doing some filming in Hamilton that week joined in the fun, as did **MP David Sweet**. Two young men, one from China and one from Mongolia, who had only been in the country one week, seemed amazed at the warmth with which the neighbourhood welcomed them. Three middle-aged Mexican men who live in the area, all English as a Second Language students, and a family from Poland were overwhelmed by everyone's friendliness. McMaster students from near and far thanked their hosts several times for their free dinner.

Regardless of faith, creed, or ethnic background, we are all one family. We need one another.



The choir and band of the Apostolic Holiness Church provided music for Open Doors.
Photo: Earl Jerome

ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

JANET WOODWARD



George, as the knight (Adam Smith), slays the dragon (Hollie Dunkley). Photo: Norman Allen

The church was packed for special concerts featuring the John Laing Singers at St. George's Anglican Church (Reformed Episcopal) Oct. 23 and 24. The choir and soloists sang several pieces, and after the interval a premiere performance of the operetta, *St. George and the Dragon*, was performed. The event was a fundraiser for the West Hamilton Cenotaph Memory Garden fund.

The first church service was held in St. Margaret's Anglican Church in December 1909. It became St. George's in 2004. To celebrate the centenary of the church, **John and Gillian Ferns** wrote the libretto for the operetta, and **John Laing** wrote the music.

The AWWCA is grateful to St. George's for the use of their church hall for our monthly board meetings.



BUILDING OUR CAMPUS TOWN

MCMASTER'S LONG-TERM PLANNING NEEDS COMMUNITY INPUT

JOHN M. WIGLE

The opening of McMaster University's impressive new engineering building on Main Street West on Oct. 23 prompted The Dundas Star to ask for our thoughts on enrolment growth and how it affects the near-campus community. What follows is a summary of the board's response to one part of the reporter's inquiry.

The AWWCA endorses the increase in graduate students in all disciplines for a host of reasons. For example, they may become permanent residents of, and workers/entrepreneurs in, our city. Also, they may have young families, with the result that our merchants will prosper and our institutions—our elementary, middle, secondary, and private schools, and our churches, synagogues, mosques, recreation centres, and clubs—will maintain capacity.

A pressing concern for our association is the undergraduate population at McMaster. While undergrad enrolment has been relatively steady over the past few years, the number of conversions of single-family homes to student digs and mini-dormitories has increased.

As a result, both we and students living off campus have a growing concern about the quality of support provided by some absentee landlords, compliance with municipal property standards, and, most importantly, the safety of students living in overcrowded houses, for example, the risk of fire and the lack of hygiene in some houses.

Worthy organizations such as the Student Community Support Network and Society of Off-Campus Students under the

auspices of the McMaster Students Union work hard to educate students and do a very good job, but leadership is needed from other sectors as well, as I explain below.

The AWWCA has learned through experience that long-term planning by McMaster with respect to its Westdale campus is done without adequate consultation with any of the other important stakeholders. While we welcome the creation and work of the President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations, which is co-chaired by **Roger Trull**, vice-president of university advancement, and me, and especially the concern and diligence of **Gord Arbeau**, associate director of public relations at McMaster and a PACCR member, more is required. For example, we believe that the board of governors and the senior administration (including the president and the planning and budget committees) should regularly inform and obtain input from our Ward 1 councillor, senior city planning staff, and reputable developers of purpose-built student housing. In that way a truly integrated approach

could be developed to ensure a viable community structure for Ainslie Wood and Westdale. Some current and past members of our board have acquired a deep understanding of these issues during our 11-year history. They have thoughtfully and constructively things to say, as do the knowledgeable and seasoned professional planners at the city and some private developers.

In fact, a number of us in the community believe it would be appropriate for McMaster to appoint an informed permanent resident of our neighbourhoods to a university committee charged with its overall planning process. In this way, permanent citizens in the community surrounding McMaster would have procedural and substantive input at an early stage about issues that affect us. The university's board of governors has distinguished people on it, but few of them (if any) live in the near-campus community, nor do any of the university's senior administrators. Consequently, we doubt that they appreciate the challenges that we face.

It is no longer sufficient for the AWWCA, the city, provincial political leaders, and the local media to merely commend McMaster for its economic contributions. All of us must encourage, and where necessary put pressure on, this key economic player to communicate and to listen, to create and then participate in joint planning before implementing measures—most likely compromises—that come out of such a process. If McMaster will do these things, it will be a true community leader.



The new engineering building on Main Street West.

Photo: Janet Woodward

Atrium @ MIP

JANET WOODWARD

Several AWWCA members responded to the invitation to attend the open house at McMaster Innovation Park held Oct. 27. During the ceremony at noon, the name of this first building was announced, the Atrium @ MIP. The name is perfect for this building because the atrium is such a strong and pleasing focal point of the building.

On Oct. 28, leasing and property manager Mark Stewart wrote to thank the AWWCA for publicizing the event, saying that about 500 people dropped by for the open house.

In the spring 2006 issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* we reported on the public information events about McMaster Innovation Park that had been held in our community in 2005 and 2006. On Oct. 27 we had the opportunity to see the development of the plans in person, and the response has been nothing but positive.

The Atrium @ MIP is designed so its tenants from academia, government, and private business are grouped together, so that ideas and resources can flow more easily.

Over the next 15 years, about 14 structures will be built in the park, accommodating about 3,000 people. AWWCA president **John Wigle** said, "The AWWCA's board of directors and many of the association's members are pleased about the development of McMaster Innovation Park and wish the separate corporation that



At the open house, sunlight poured through the soaring skylight in the new atrium, created by removing the floors in the centre section of the building.

Photo: Janet Woodward



Immediately south of the Atrium @ MIP, construction of the federal government's CANMET facility is well under way to house their Materials Technology Laboratory.

Photo: Janet Woodward

operates it continued success. We readily acknowledge that the university and its various spin-offs such as the new park constitute a key economic engine for Hamilton."

You can follow the development at the park at mcmasterinnovationpark.ca, in The Hamilton Spectator (thespec.com), or through the city's website, myhamilton.ca/myhamilton (search for McMaster Innovation Park).

LAND-USE UPDATE

LAVINIA WELSH

In the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* we updated you on several projects in our area. A further update for each follows:

Hamilton Metal Products, Aberdeen Holdings, and Trinity Developments (Aberdeen Avenue and Longwood Road South): Trinity Developments proposed to build a big-box shopping complex on the property of Hamilton Metal Products and Aberdeen Holdings, next to land designated for McMaster Innovation Park. The land they wished to develop also lies within the West Hamilton Innovation District, a city-designated area for high-tech businesses. For their development to have gone forward, the zoning would have had to be changed. Trinity appealed the current zoning to the Ontario Municipal Board. The AWWCA supported the city, and was expecting to participate in an OMB hearing this fall. Trinity, however, withdrew their appeal to the OMB and also their affiliation with the property owners. The city announced Dec. 23 that it will purchase the land for 2.1 million under a power of sale. This means that there will be no big-box shopping complex adjacent to the Innovation Park.

17 Ewen Road proposed purpose-built student housing: There are no further updates on the zoning change required to build this complex. Our understanding is that Auburn Developments is still in conversation with Cadbury Adams, which is concerned that they would be unable to mitigate noise from their candy plant next to the proposed student housing and that this noise would lead to complaints from the residents. As we become aware of developments, we will let you know.

69 Sanders Blvd. purpose-built student housing: A local resident appealed



The former Swackhammer Funeral Home property on Main Street West.

Photo: Janet Woodward

to the Ontario Municipal Board the zoning change approved by the City of Hamilton. The appeal has since been withdrawn, and interior changes to the building are proceeding. **Adam Ellis**, the owner of the property, expects to have it ready for students sometime in 2010.

Ainslie Wood North Community Group: Several meetings over the summer gave birth to the Ainslie Wood North Collaborative Group. The group is made up of representative homeowners, student tenants, the AWWCA, and various McMaster student organizations. It is looking at strategies to revitalize the neighbourhood and bring all residents together in a collaborative approach. Many thanks to **Councillor Brian McHattie**, who, along with **Susan Millman** and **Ryan Moran** from his office, spent many hours bringing this new group to fruition.

King Street West and Carling Street proposed purpose-built student housing: This site was already zoned for a multiple-unit residential building up to 10 storeys. Ninco Construction Ltd. of Dundas applied for and received a minor variance to have 49 units instead of 40.

Proposed purpose-built student housing opposite McMaster (formerly Swackhammer Funeral Home property):

On Sept. 28 **John Wigle, Rob Payne**, and I had an introductory meeting with **Carlo DiGioacchino** of Dundurn Capital Partners, developers of the West Village Suites on Main Street West. We said that we would like any development to be in keeping with the Ainslie Wood Westdale Secondary Plan and expressed our concern that, in the absence of long-term student-enrolment numbers from McMaster, it is not possible to plan the appropriate amount of purpose-built housing in our neighbourhood. Mr. DiGioacchino stressed that they were very early in the development cycle and did not have definite design plans for the site. This first meeting was extremely positive, and we believe that Dundurn wants to work collaboratively with the neighbourhood.

Coming up in the next few months: We will be forming an AWWCA committee to work with city planners on our recommendations for the new zoning bylaw. Full information on the new zoning bylaw can be found at: myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/CityDepartments/PlanningEcDev/StrategicServicesSpecialProjects/.

Lavinia Welsh is the AWWCA's liaison for land use.

CITY HALL NEWS

Ward 1 Chedoke-Cootes: Councillor's Report

BRIAN MCHATTIE

As always, we've been busy in the Ward 1 office, and I would like to update you on our work and discuss issues that I am pursuing on your behalf as 2009 draws to an end and we look forward to 2010.

We have received many accolades for the September proactive bylaw enforcement by municipal law enforcement and the Hamilton Police Service. Thanks to MLE's **Kelly Barnett** and our Ward 1 crime manager, **Sergeant Jo-Ann Savoie**, there have been significant staffing and process changes, resulting in much better communication between bylaw and police. Sadly, after two years with us, Jo-Ann is moving on to another division, but the good news is that **Sergeant Tina Potter** is our new crime manager for 2010. Tina has worked very closely with Jo-Ann, so we're expecting great things.

The project I am most excited about is the **Ainslie Wood North Community Group**, focused on building better relations between permanent and student residents in the Sanders Boulevard neighbourhood. Former McMaster Students Union president **Ryan Moran** was hired by the Ward 1 office last summer to develop preliminary ideas for the group and to involve students. Mr. Moran is still involved but is back at McMaster pursuing an MBA. **Bill Wilson**, a fourth-year McMaster labour-studies student, is working on a project to learn what students think about the neighbourhood and what we might need to do to get them more involved. We continue to meet and build relationships; please let us know if you'd like to become involved. If this works we may wish to focus on other Ainslie Wood and Westdale neighbourhoods with a similar approach.

The proposed development at 17 Ewen Road for 550 students is on hold as Auburn Development continues to discuss noise issues with Cadbury's. A 49-unit facility for 210 students is being planned for a probable opening

in September 2011 between King and Carling Streets, near the Metro grocery store. The former Binkley School (most recently the Colin MacDonald School) will open with up to 50 student residents sometime in 2010. I will be working with the AWWCA to monitor the impact of these facilities on the student-housing supply in the near-campus neighbourhoods.

Other updates follow:

The Ainslie Wood Westdale Master Transportation Plan five-year review will begin and be completed in 2010.

The Dalewood Recreation Centre feasibility study will be revealed shortly, with a commitment to rebuild the facility on-site in conjunction with Dalewood School.

A community group is being established to lead the repurposing of the **Churchill Park lawn-bowling facility**, with options including tennis courts, continuation of the winter outside rink, and other ideas.

Repairs have been completed at **Coronation Arena**, resulting in the facility remaining sustainable for a minimum of 10-15 years.

In 2010 **bike lanes** are planned for Longwood Road (with a new link east on King Street over the 403 bridge), along with completion of the West Hamilton Rail Trail (from Fortino's east to Chedoke Avenue in Kirkendall).

Below are some quick updates on my citywide efforts:

As the council representative on the Poverty Roundtable, I continue to work on lowering poverty rates in the city—particularly challenging during the current recession. This work includes creation of more affordable housing via my

council responsibility as president of CityHousing Hamilton.

The new economic-development strategy has a key focus on creative industries, with the arts featured prominently, and I continue to work on that through my position on the Arts Hamilton Board.

As a follow-up to the groundbreaking 2006 peak-oil report (Hamilton was one of the first Canadian municipalities to analyze this issue), I am the council lead on the community energy collaborative to prepare Hamilton for a low-energy future, working toward getting off fossil fuels.

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 bmchattie@hamilton.ca.

Have a great winter!



This photo was snapped by Janet Woodward as Councillor Brian McHattie arrived at the AWWCA's October board meeting.

RENTAL LICENSING UPDATE

LAVINIA WELSH

As reported in the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*, **Ira Rosen**, **Ken Sherman**, and I represented the AWWCA on the Neighbourhood Residential Housing Community Liaison Committee. We looked at options for monitoring rental housing, including a possible rental-housing bylaw. The committee finished its work in July. Our report went to the economic development and planning committee on Sept. 8, which voted to receive it and refer it to the general manager of the EDP committee for recommendations before the EDP committee takes any action. No date was set for the general manager to submit recommendations. Meanwhile a citywide committee has been struck to address the issue on a citywide basis. The Neighbourhood Residential Housing CLC recommended to the EDP committee that our report be forwarded to the new citywide committee.

Three separate public information centres were held for landlords, student tenants, and homeowners. In addition, the committee met with real-estate professionals. Results of the



Rental-licensing public information centre for homeowners at McMaster University May 28.
Photo: Janet Woodward

questionnaires completed at these meetings and the full CLC report are posted on the city's website: myhamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/385722C2-84A5-410F-8A41-8AA665CC0E0E/0/Sep08Report009001NRRHCLC.pdf.

The full list of recommendations is on page 21. We will continue to update you on progress as it occurs.

Lavinia Welsh is the AWWCA's liaison for rental licensing.

An Update on Jimmy Gringo's

CAROLYN KINSLEY

In the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* we outlined the reasons we supported nearby residents in their opposition to granting a liquor licence to Jimmy Gringo's Burrito Factory. A hearing by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario was set for Oct. 14.

First, however, was a Committee of Adjustment hearing on Sept. 17, as the owners of Jimmy Gringo's were seeking a variance to convert and expand their takeout restaurant (supposedly with no seats but actually with 17) to an eat-in restaurant seating 24 customers. (A takeout restaurant cannot have a liquor licence.) A 24-seat restaurant in the Westdale Business Improvement Area would require four parking spaces, which were not available, and therefore a variance was necessary. A large contingent of residents attended the hearing despite its being held on a weekday and starting an hour late. The COA also had received 11 letters opposing conversion and enlargement of the restaurant.

To explain why he also opposed the variance, **Councillor Brian McHattie** presented the committee with a timeline of the city's many dealings with Jimmy Gringo's owners. They were issued a business licence for a takeout restaurant on Feb. 4, but various city departments had to respond to issues of their building without a permit (September 2008, and again in July 2009), operating as an eat-in-restaurant, garbage in the alleyway,

and illegal parking. He agreed with residents that there were already significant parking problems and traffic congestion in the surrounding neighbourhood.

The COA denied the application to convert and expand the takeout restaurant, one of the members saying that waiving the parking requirement would amount to abolishing it. Jimmy Gringo's owners are appealing the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board.

On Sept. 25 the city held a Show Cause Hearing regarding Jimmy Gringo's operation as an eat-in restaurant despite its licence as a takeout restaurant and suspended its licence from 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2, to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.

The city sent certified documents to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario that the variance had been denied and Jimmy Gringo's would remain a takeout restaurant. On Oct. 14, at the AGCO hearing, it was agreed by the AGCO lawyer, Mr. McHattie, the residents, and Jimmy Gringo's representative to adjourn the hearing. If Jimmy Gringo's is successful at the OMB, the liquor-licence hearing will be rescheduled. The date for the OMB hearing has been set for Feb. 25.

The second unit carved out of Chez Bonbon, next to Jimmy Gringo's, has a For Rent sign. Like Jimmy Gringo's, it opens onto Marion Avenue North. Let us hope that whatever business receives a licence for that location will be compatible with a residential side street.

Carolyn Kinsley is the AWWCA's corresponding secretary.

Recommendations of the CLC

That Report 09-001 of the Neighbourhood Residential Rental Housing Community Liaison Committee (Wards 1, 8, 10 & 12) be received and that the following Recommendations be referred to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development for a report back on the issues, prior to any further action being taken on the Report:

(a) That the Neighbourhood Residential Rental Housing Community Liaison Committee's findings and results pertaining to licensing rental housing be forwarded to the City-wide Residential Rental Housing Review Community Liaison Committee for information.

(b) That the matter of a Zoning By-law Amendment to limit the number of bedrooms and/or habitable rooms in a dwelling be referred to Zoning By-law Reform staff for further review and that consideration on the development of regulations for Ward 8 be considered for the Residential Zones in the City of Hamilton Comprehensive Zoning By-law 05-200.

(c) That staff be directed to investigate

and report to Economic Development and Planning Committee with costing and an implementation plan for an 18-month proactive by-law enforcement pilot program for Wards 1 and 8 that includes:

(i) a focus on problem properties/landlords,

(ii) an educational component for landlords and tenants, and

(iii) a plan to identify properties that may be operating illegally as lodging homes and an enforcement strategy to address the matter.

(d) That staff be directed to investigate and report to Economic Development and Planning Committee regarding the potential effectiveness of creating a rental housing registry that would include property owners and their contact information.

(e) That staff be directed to investigate potential partnerships with McMaster University and Mohawk College as both schools partner to develop and enhance their respective Voluntary Landlord

Certification Programs.

(f) That staff be directed to investigate and report to Economic Development and Planning Committee on the feasibility of creating an incentive program to encourage the de-conversion of rental properties back into single family homes.

(g) That staff be directed to investigate and report to Economic Development and Planning Committee regarding the feasibility of hiring a Community Liaison Outreach Coordinator, on a costs sharing basis with McMaster University and Mohawk College, to liaise, facilitate and mediate problems between landlords, tenants, residents, the City/Councillors, and the academic institutions.

(h) That staff be directed to investigate service level improvements to address stakeholder comments/concerns regarding transit hours of operation, waste container limits and additional options, and potential waste by-law amendments (as noted in Option 8 of Appendix "C" of this (Report 009-001) report) and report back to Economic Development and Planning Committee.

'Rail Trail' continued from page 12

weeds and wild trees. There are lots of birds—doves, cardinals, robins, sparrows, and those whose names I do not know—and glimpses of hares, raccoons, and jaunty squirrels. Some apples, crabapples, and pears will provide adequate nourishment for these four-legged residents.

Several world-class cities have garden walkways; one of the better known is the Promenade Plantée in Paris on a former railway track. Let's upgrade the Rail Trail to make it a nature walk that we can all enjoy close to home. See more Rail Trail images at awwca.ca/stockphoto/laneways/.

Jeanne Bernard lives in Ainslie Wood East and has been an AWWCA block representative and member since May 2002.

Adella Antonow in the garden she created.
Photo: Janet Woodward
July 12



MAC STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

MAC STUDENTS ACT AND REFLECT



After painting four floors in the stairwell of the Salvation Army building on Main Street West, Mac Serve volunteers relax at the Sept. 26 garage sale on Sanders Boulevard. They are about to enjoy treats made by Betty Bechtel.

Photo: Janet Woodward

SHIREEN MAARSCHALK

Service learning, according to Eyler and Giles (1999), is an experiential method of learning through action and reflection. Students apply their skills to community problems while working with others and reflect upon their experiences to develop a deeper understanding for themselves

while achieving real objectives for the communities they are in.

The McMaster Office of Community Service Learning and Civic Engagement (OCSLCE) provides meaningful opportunities for students to interact with their Hamilton community, as

Continued on page 23

THE PEER-TO-PEER PROGRAM IS BACK!



LAURA STEVENS

The Student Community Support Network is proud to present an amazing new team of community resource assistants trained and ready to go!

The main goal of the SCSN is to promote positive relations between students and the community; one of the ways we do this is through the Peer-to-Peer Program. We encourage members of the community to send any complaints they may have about student neighbours (noise, garbage, unshovelled snow, etc.) to us before going to bylaw or police.

Upon receiving a complaint, a CRA will be sent to the house to deliver a By-Law 101 pamphlet and educate the students. 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.

All of the visits are documented and sent to the City of Hamilton so that further action can be taken if the violations continue. Keep in mind that we are not a hotline and cannot actually break up a party or take immediate action!

Overall, we have had a very positive response from both students and community members involved in the program. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to report a violation, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at scsn@msu.mcmaster.ca.



L to R: Chanique Gardener (CRA co-ordinator), Laura Stevens (SCSN director), Layla Abdulrahim (Ainslie Wood North), Mike Socko (Ainslie Wood East), Don Courchesne (Ainslie Wood), Chris Aucoin (Westdale South), Shama Bhatia (Westdale North). Absent from photo: Jeremy Forsythe (Ainslie Wood West).

WAR CHILD @ MAC



Sam Colbert (guitar), Harrison Cruikshanks (guitar), Aaron Hudgenson. (drums). Holding poster, L to R: Shohinee Sarma, Amal Abuzgaya.
Photo: Janet Woodward

These McMaster students were busking for War Child outside Global Village Market on Oct. 8, where they raised \$175 that was sent directly to War Child Canada. According to their website, *warchild.ca*: “War Child Canada is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to providing urgently needed humanitarian assistance to war-affected children

around the world. War Child Canada helps generate awareness, support and advocacy for children’s rights everywhere.”

War Child International is a network of independent organizations with offices in Holland, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The founders, Dr. Samantha Nutt and Dr. Eric William

sent directly to War Child Canada for appropriate distribution. Events include a baked-goods fundraiser hosted in McMaster University’s student centre, a presentation for Columbia International College to raise awareness of War Child International’s cause, and a coffee-house type of fundraiser near the end of the semester.”

‘Act & Reflect’ continued from page 22
well as national and international communities.

We run four main programs. Mac Serve is a one-day event in September that introduces students to local agencies, provides a service to these agencies, and teaches the students about issues that the Hamilton community is facing.

During reading week in February, students stay in a community, either local or abroad, while participating in a variety of service projects. Our goal is to introduce them to issues that the community faces, teach them to look closely and critically at these issues,

and think beyond their assumptions.

This year students will travel to Arkansas, Mexico, and Winnipeg or go to placements in Hamilton to learn about international policy, immigration, housing and community development, hunger, poverty, or health-related issues such as AIDS and HIV.

In May 2010 students will travel to Costa Rica for two weeks. They will participate in local projects while living with local families.

One-time placements are on-going throughout the year. If groups of students (such as clubs or residence communities) want to provide service work in the local community, we will

connect them to a Hamilton agency by organizing a day of service for them.

In addition to our programs that complement and run parallel to students’ academic experiences, we provide support to faculty interested in integrating service learning into their courses.

For more information, please see our website at *servicelearning.mcmaster.ca*. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us at *servicelearning@mcmaster.ca*.

Shireen Maarschalk is project assistant for OCSLCE.

WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS

PJ PARADE 2009

SHELLI EISENBERG

In the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views* we outlined plans for this year's pajama parade, held Sept. 9. The new route implemented last year was repeated. This is the third year the route was directed away from rental housing where problems had been experienced toward streets with more resident homeowners.

This year the parade committee decided to add a new feature—light entertainment for both the students' and residents' enjoyment. The parade highlighted a jazz band, an acoustic act, a group from the McMaster marching band, a dance group, buskers, an acapella group, and cheer leaders. The emergency first-response team from campus was also there to promote their services.

Several younger children living along the route set up refreshment stands, where fruit drinks could be purchased for 25 or 50 cents.

AWWCA member and parade committee member **Mary Anne Duncan**, with family and friends, hosted the AWWCA "booth" outside her home on Sterling Street and gave out 1,000 radiant-house stickers featuring our logo, slogan (Because We Care), and web address.

I personally was extremely happy with how the parade



Students from McMaster's marching band provide entertainment on Dromore Crescent.
Photo: Janet Woodward

went. We worked very hard with **Sergeant Jo-Ann Savoie** in organizing a group of police, both in uniform and plain clothes. Fourteen were on duty—six for traffic control (paid for by a grant from the city for special events) and eight for enforcement, four of whom were paid for by the McMaster Students Union. The police did a terrific job of enforcing the zero-tolerance

policy against carrying any type of liquid; if the policy was violated, police immediately confiscated the containers and poured out the liquid on the spot.

The first-year students appreciated the neighbours who came out to greet them and thanked those who had made signs welcoming them. Following the parade **Christina Burns** of the MSU sent a questionnaire to 5,000 first-year



Neighbourhood children, L to R: Tara O'Neill, Charlie Hil, and Marcus Richter serve lemonade at Tara's stand on Paisley Avenue North.
Photo: Janet Woodward

Continued on page 25

'PJ Parade' continued from page 24

students, asking them what they thought of the parade, and 1,000 responded anonymously. Of those, 27 per cent were very satisfied, 20 per cent were satisfied, 13 per cent were neutral, 7 per cent were dissatisfied, and the balance had not attended the parade. One student said: "The PJ Parade gave me a sense of what Hamilton is really like, and seeing them encouraging us and cheering for us as we paraded down Sterling Street made me feel as if this is my own town." Another said: "The PJ Parade really made me feel like McMaster is welcomed and loved by Westdale because everyone welcomed us to Mac and Hamilton and it made me feel really at home."

Ms. Burns and her staff at the MSU worked hard to make the PJ parade a success. McMaster volunteers collected garbage along the route both during and after the parade, with the result that we received no complaints about garbage.

Apart from a few parties held on Sterling Street by upper-year students, I thought that things went very smoothly. Our thanks to Sgt. Savoie and the rest of the police force on duty that night.

We asked our members for feedback and received a dozen responses, all but two of them very positive. One member who sent us a list of things that did not go well wrote, as one item, "Despite a group of residents defending our neighbour's property (at Dromore and Sterling), there was a repeat of last year's problems with trespassing, urinating, littering, and swearing on their property."

The committee will continue to meet until the next parade to consider suggestions from committee members, students, and community members for eliminating the problems that remain and for improvements to the parade itself.

Shelli Eisenberg is the AWWCA's student liaison.



Former PJ-parade committee member Janet Woodward (centre) welcomes first-year students.

INCOMING GRAD STUDENTS WELCOMED INTO OUR COMMUNITY

ALLISON SEKULER

McMaster held its first-ever university-wide welcome event for our incoming graduate students on Sept. 8 at the David Braley Athletic Centre. Hosted by McMaster's School of Graduate Studies, over 800 students (from more than 100 programs across all six faculties) were welcomed by McMaster's president and vice-chancellor **Peter George**, provost and vice-president (academic) **Ilene Busch-Vishniac**, and Graduate Students Association president **Jessica Merolli**. Everyone took part in inspirational, interactive, and loud drumming.

The event was organized by McMaster's new assistant dean for graduate-student life and research training, **Peter Self**. Dean Self's position is the first of its kind at a Canadian research-intensive university and was created to help graduate students integrate as fully as possible into university and community life during their time at McMaster. They received information to help them become better acquainted with the university and the community (all packaged in an organic-cotton tote bag, in keeping with McMaster's theme of sustainability). One of the most important pieces of information students received was an introductory letter from AWWCA president **John Wigle**, inviting students to join the association as Friends of the AWWCA.

Graduate students make up a vibrant part of our community. They contribute greatly by supporting our local businesses and serving as volunteers in a number of community organizations. It is a pleasure to welcome such a distinguished and diverse group of young scholars both to the university and to the Ainslie Wood/Westdale community.

Allison Sekuler is associate vice-president and dean of the School of Graduate Studies at McMaster University and an AWWCA member.



President Peter George drums to the beat of McMaster's new graduate students.

Photo: Alan Teo

WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

JENNIFER KLEVEN

In September, as in years past, the McMaster Off-Campus Resource Centre spearheaded the distribution of close to 500 welcome bags to student houses in the Ainslie Wood and Westdale neighbourhoods. This year, in a pilot project, all the bags were hand-delivered by AWWCA volunteers with a friendly personal message welcoming the students to the McMaster community. Bags contained information pamphlets on subjects such as fire safety, local bylaws, and how to properly handle garbage and recycling in the City of Hamilton. There were also some fun items, such as Experience Hamilton booklets, the Downtown Dining Guide, energy-efficient light bulbs, and other items donated by the SC Johnson Company. All of the materials were delivered in reusable cloth bags, helping to promote McMaster's commitment to a sustainable future.

Janet Woodward, who co-ordinated the distribution of bags in the community, said: *The response to the request for volunteers was outstanding for this pilot project, and several went beyond the task requested. We had 34 volunteers delivering anywhere from two bags to the 50 bags delivered by Jeanne Bernard to every rental house on Broadway Avenue. David Hitchcock prepared a personal letter to include with each bag, introducing himself and the community, detailing the bag's contents, and providing his e-mail address. Pat Chandrashekar volunteered to deliver to two blocks in addition to her own, for a total of 41 deliveries. Shelli Eisenberg delivered to 18 rentals on South Oval, and in each bag she placed a package of her homemade cookies, together with her name and contact information, should the students need assistance at any*

time. A similar story was told to me by Hazel Broker, who included a package of 18 of her homemade cookies in each of the 21 bags she delivered. She met someone from each house. Said Hazel, "For several years I baked cookies for the students but when I had knee surgery last year, I couldn't do it. So I was happy to be able to bake for the students this year and, using my walker, I took the bags and cookies around to the students and now they greet me on the street." I recommend that we repeat this program next year.

Jennifer Kleven is manager of the Off-Campus Resource Centre.



AWWCA block representative Caroline Stinson delivering a welcome bag to students on her block in Westdale. Students are, L to R: Sean Saunders, Jay Hingston, Vik Cicman.
Photo: Heather Stinson



AWWCA board members as of September 2009. Back row, L to R: Jay Parlar, Kenneth Ockenden, Lavinia Welsh, John Wigle, Ira Rosen. Front row, L to R: Shelli Eisenberg, Angela Tirone, Janet Woodward, Carolyn Kinsley. Absent: Loreen Jerome, Barb Mansfield, Rob Payne.
Photo: Betty Bechtel

Join Us

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.

Why? By becoming involved with your community, you have the opportunity to promote positive change, improve the quality of life for all, and feel good about what you have accomplished.

Contact Loreen Jerome at 905-525-7386 or loreen.jerome@sympatico.ca for the meeting location and information.

MEMBERS' NEWS

FROM OUR MEMBERS

June 26: Block representative **Murray Babb** wrote to newsletter co-ordinator **Janet Woodward**: "Thank you for having the newsletters all ready for me to deliver. It was a pleasure. Please thank all the others who are so deeply involved in preparing it for print. I am proud of all of you. Also, please forward sincere thanks from my Westdale neighbours and me for the continued excellent detailed policing reports. They are very informative and provide us with confidence and pride in our police force, who are 'walking the dark alleys for us.'"

July 4: AWWCA member **Soraya Erian** wrote to Janet: "I have received several responses about the article 'A Writer at Home in Westdale,' which I wrote for the spring issue of *Neighbourhood News & Views*, and very happy ones I might add. One person told me that we should have an article of this nature in every newsletter—stories about the privilege of living in our community from the perspective of its different members. We have many residents here with great skills and achievements, and their articles would add an in-depth feature to our newsletter. This feature would end up being a networking conduit for the residents. Thanks to you and everyone working in the association, we are building and developing a unique community here."

July 5: AWWCA member **Rosemary Squire-Graydon**: "I am so impressed with the newsletter! The quality and content of the articles, the photographs, and the layout make it appealing, accessible, informative, and engaging. Well done."

July 9: Block representative **Diane Zsepeczky**: "There is much to ponder in this issue of the newsletter, and I am grateful for all that is being initiated."

Aug. 20: AWWCA member **Karen Young**: "The spring issue was a particularly good newsletter, with lots of information about the purpose-built student-housing plans and discussions. Thank you. I would like you and all those who work so hard in the AWWCA to know how much your time, energy, and dedication to our community mean to me. I hope to stay here in Westdale for the rest of my life, and the work that the AWWCA does helps me to have hope that I can, despite the many challenges that are present in our lovely community because of the density of rental housing that the city has allowed here. It always puzzles me why the city does not see a good and fair solution as being a designated percentage of rental housing permitted in the community. The current concentration of rental housing is far too high to maintain quality of life in our community. I hope that the newsletter helps to bring families here to Westdale."

Sept. 7: Block representative **Kim Seunarine**: "Thank you very much for implementing and enforcing the 'zero tolerance' policy."

It is working, and as a family and homeowners in Westdale we cannot thank you enough for working on our behalf. We had to call Friday evening about a loud drinking party, and in 15 minutes three police officers and a bylaw person arrived. After they left it was quiet and we went back to sleep. On Saturday night we had the same problem, but we placed a call and soon it was quiet. We did not have to make a call last night. Zero tolerance works when it is enforced. Thank you very much. It is greatly appreciated. The police department, together with bylaw, did a great job."

Oct. 10: Block representative **Ruzica Stanc**: "I notice that our community is improving in appearance, and my block especially is better kept than in the past. Some of the students tell me they like our garden as they walk by—that is nice. So far we are not experiencing as many problems with noise this year. When I go for walks with my neighbour, we comment that a lot of people have made improvements in landscaping and lawn maintenance. Also, I want to say that I appreciated the slideshow of our community at the annual general meeting—it made me feel happy to be living here. Now when we go on our walks, I try to find the places that were in the slideshow."

1,000 MEMBERS SIGNED UP



Gabriela Luchsinger and José Venturelli with two of their grandchildren, Luca Venturelli-Golba and Ofelia Venturelli-Hitchcock.

Congratulations and welcome to **Gabriela Luchsinger** Beaumont and her husband, **Dr. José Venturelli**, who joined the AWWCA Sept. 10. Including them, we have signed up 1,000 members since our inception in September 1998. To celebrate this milestone, membership secretary **Loreen Jerome** awarded José and Gabriela an extension of one year on their memberships. Note that not all of those who signed up are still with us or living in the community.

11TH ANNUAL AGM

ANGELA TIRONE

At the beginning of the evening, Sept. 22, the audience of approximately 135 had the opportunity to ask questions of a panel consisting of McMaster University associate director of public relations **Gord Arbeau**, municipal law-enforcement co-ordinator **Kelly Barnett**, chief fire-prevention officer **Frank Biancucci**, Ward 1 Councillor **Brian McHattie**, West Town crime manager **Sergeant Jo-Ann Savoie**, Student Community Support Network director **Laura Stevens**, and McMaster Students Union president **Vishal Tiwari**.

The formal part of the evening began at 7:15 p.m. with president **John Wigle's** report of the board's busy past year. He thanked **Lisa Dodds**, who has stepped down, for her service to the board and then welcomed our newest member, **Ken Ockenden**. He then introduced the speakers: **Al Fletcher** and **Jason Thompson** of the city's planning department; **Lavinia Welsh**, the AWWCA's second vice-president and land-use liaison; and Mr. McHattie. The evening's topic was Let's Plan Our Community Together.

The planning department recognizes



John Wigle moderates the panel.

Photo: Janet Woodward

the neighbourhood's concern regarding the transition to high levels of student rentals. Purpose-built student housing is a relatively new concept; the newest one is on Main Street West: West Village Suites. Several others were discussed, and they are outlined in the land-use

update in this issue (p. 18).

The hope is that the houses in the neighbourhood will return to resident homeowners, but there is little knowledge of the long-term impact of purpose-built student housing on the

Continued on page 29

NEIGHBOURHOOD WALKABOUT

CAROLYN KINSLEY

As a follow-up to the annual general meeting in September, **Vinnie Welsh**, our land-use liaison, organized a neighbourhood walkabout with **Al Fletcher**, who had been one of the panelists. He is manager of strategic projects in Hamilton's planning and development department and responsible for creating a new comprehensive zoning bylaw taking direction from the new official plan for the amalgamated city. This is a many-step process; he expects the new zoning to be in place in 2012.

The zoning bylaw creates land-use zones that establish permitted uses (industrial, commercial/mixed use, residential, etc.) and regulations (building setbacks and heights, parking standards, etc.) for every property within the city.

We met at 9 a.m. on Nov. 4 at Vinnie's house. Mr. Fletcher brought with him another member of the city's zoning-bylaw reform team, **Shannon Hamilton**, who will be responsible for commercial and mixed-use zoning. Vinnie had drawn up a list of AWWCA concerns, which included bylaw and zoning enforcement, respecting the Ainslie Wood Westdale Secondary Plan, cultural-heritage landscapes, and some other points, which we discussed before setting out.

On these neighbourhood walks, Mr. Fletcher wants local residents to show him what is working well or areas that need further focus or regulation. Vinnie and I led the walkabout from Westdale North (where Vinnie lives) to Westdale South (where I live), through the Westdale Business Improvement Area. Then we drove over to **Jeanne Bernard's** area, Ainslie Wood East, opposite McMaster University, where she is dismayed by "monster houses" and loss of permanent neighbours, and to Sanders Boulevard in Ainslie Wood North, where **Marlene Castura** showed us the "bit of country in the city" that had attracted her to the area and some of the student housing that now constitutes 56 per cent of the 307 houses.

After the tour we returned, hungry, to Vinnie's house for delicious chili and some more discussion. Mr. Fletcher and Ms. Hamilton said they are very familiar with the city from maps but it is quite different to walk the neighbourhoods. Mr. Fletcher reiterated several times during the walkabout that if we want problems corrected we must call in violations to the city.



Al Fletcher addresses the audience. L to R: John Wigle, Lavinia Welsh, Jason Thompson, Councillor Brian McHattie.

Photo: Janet Woodward



Angela Tirone with donations collected for Mission Services.

Photo: Janet Woodward

'11th Annual' continued from page 28

neighbourhood. Our secondary plan provides more detail for the goals and vision of our community. The planning department looks for community involvement and suggested that a good first step would be a walk through the neighbourhood with resident volunteers to give input into the upcoming zoning changes. The question period that followed included several suggestions that would give a jump start to the neighbourhood walkabout.

A new initiative this year, at the suggestion of Mr. McHattie, was to ask that donations of non-perishable food be brought to the AGM. We collected 10 boxes of food, which were delivered the next day to Hamilton's Mission Services Food Bank. Let's aim to better this amount each year!

For a fuller report of the annual general meeting, go to awwca.ca/articles/2010/01/05/11th-annual-agm-minutes

Angela Tirone is the AWWCA's recording secretary.

Our Members' Response to the AGM

Two of our past presidents commented after the AGM that our guests were extremely good at giving us a very clear message about the process and future changes. Getting that message out was very much appreciated.

John Wigle said: "Our objective was to give people a way to understand what happens in the community—to inform them of their rights as to what they can and cannot do. It gave us a framework."

AWWCA honorary board member **Betty Bechtel** wrote shortly after the meeting: "Neighbour and block representative **Stephen Plevak** stopped to talk to me today while I was watering at the front of the house. He thought the AGM was quite interesting. He liked the idea of student buildings on Main Street West, as he thinks it would decrease the number of houses being turned into rentals."

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

LOREEN JEROME

At the end of our fiscal year, Aug. 31, the AWWCA had 567 paid-up members, including 15 Friends of the AWWCA; 17 memberships were overdue. We continue to make an effort to keep memberships up to date. We ask that you renew your membership when you receive your renewal notice or by the time your membership expires. When memberships lapse, we need to make calls to collect, which is an inefficient use of volunteer time. Assisting me in membership collection are **Betty Bechtel, Earl Jerome, Barb Mansfield, and Janet Woodward**. In the past year, we welcomed 49 new members; your membership helps us to continue as a strong association.

The AWWCA is a volunteer, nonprofit association with the mission 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 to:

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

WEBSITE awwca.ca

GENERAL INQUIRIES

905-526-9101 or 905-525-7386

NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATOR

Janet Woodward

COPY EDITOR Carolyn Kinsley

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Malcolm Horsnell

DESIGN & LAYOUT Chris Harvey

Useful Websites

Architecture Hamilton: architecturehamilton.com

Art Bus: thepearlcompany.ca

AWWCA: awwca.ca

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

Citizens at City Hall: hamiltoncatch.org

City of Hamilton: hamilton.ca

Councillor Brian McHattie: brianmchattie.ca

Environment Hamilton: environmenthamilton.org

Federation of Citizens' Associations: fca-fac.ca

Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario:
www.urbanneighbourhoods.ca

Fire, Hamilton Emergency Service: hamilton.ca/fire

H Magazine: hmag.ca

Hamilton's Event Calendar: hcal.ca

HammerBoard: hammerboard.ca

Hamilton Police Services: hamiltonpolice.on.ca/hps

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

Raise the Hammer: raisethehammer.org/index.asp

Town and Gown Association of Ontario: tgao.ca

TownGown World: towngownworld.com

Urban League of London: ul.london.on.ca

Westdale Business Improvement Area:
westdalevillage.ca

Westdale Slide Show: <http://forum.skyscraperpage.com:80/showthread.php?t=135327>

Sources for the TH&B story on page 32

TH&B Historical Society (Lance Brown, archivist; thbrailway.ca); Norman Helms, *In the Shadow of Giants: The Story of the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway* (2nd ed.; Toronto: Boston Mills Press, 1996); John Spring, *The Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway* (vols. 1 and 2; Calgary: British Railway Modellers of North America, 1993 and 2001); Earl Jerome (former employee of Diamond Shamrock).



Useful Numbers

Abandoned shopping carts:

Metro: 905-523-5044; Fortino's (Rifle Range store): 905-308-9045, press 0 for next-day pickup of Fortino's buggies: the Buggy Man: 905-921-5811 or thebuggyman.com, postmaster@thebuggyman.com

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: 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

Contractors: To find out if a contractor is licensed: 905-546-2782 and press 3 for licencing. For concerns about contractors' activities: Building Services Division at 905-546-3950 or hamilton.ca/building or hamilton.ca/tradelicence. Other helpful resources: Ontario Renovators' Council (Ontario Home Builders' Association) for a consumers' guide to the Standard Renovations Contract at 1-800-387-0109 or ohba.ca/newsinfo/homeownersguidetorenovations; the Better Business Bureau at bbb.org/canada; Consumer Protection (Ontario) at www.consumerbeware.mgs.gov.on.ca

Councillor Brian McHattie: 905-546-2416 or 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:

In progress: 911*; on city property (including street signs) or private property: 905-546-CITY (2489) or info@hamilton.ca
Also notify West Town Crime Manager Sgt. Tina Potter: 905-540-5093 or tpotter@hamiltonpolice.on.ca

McMaster University, Office of Public Relations, Community Help Line: 905-525-9140, ext. 27305

Noise infractions: For noise in progress call police at 905-546-4925* or the city's municipal law-enforcement department at 905-546-2782, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; after hours, 905-546-CITY (2489)

Parking infractions: 905-540-6000* (you need to call while the vehicle is in violation for the vehicle to be ticketed)

Park permits: 905-546-2424, ext. 4270

Police:

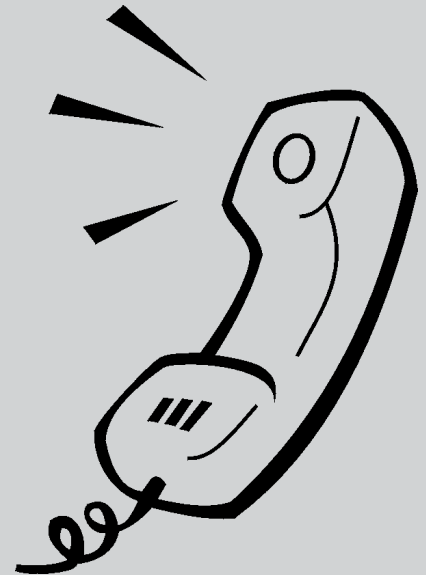
Non-emergency: 905-546-4925*; a person will answer after the taped message (press 0 to skip the message)
West Town Crime Manager Sgt. Tina Potter: 905-540-5093 or tpotter@hamiltonpolice.on.ca
If you need further assistance: police reception desk, 905-546-4771*
Special duty police: mac91-92@awwca.ca

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

Signs:

Illegal signs: 905-546-2424, ext. 2782
Street signs missing or damaged, traffic lights not working: 905-546-4376*

Snow-clearing infractions: 905-546-CITY (2489)*



*Hours are 24/7

THE WAY WE WERE

The TH&B Railway in West Hamilton

MALCOLM J. A. HORSNELL

The Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway, which operated from 1892 to 1987, had a large impact on West Hamilton by servicing industries and passengers.

The TH&B's Aberdeen freight yard lay at the south end of Longwood Road, with a passenger station on the south side. An industrial spur branched off south to serve the Canadian Porcelain Company, which closed following a strike in 1987. Canadian Westinghouse, later Hotpoint, then Camco, was serviced off the north side of Aberdeen Yard. McMaster Innovation Centre now occupies the property.

The track from the west end of Aberdeen Yard crosses Highway 403 on a bridge to Stroud Road. The old TH&B right of way is now the Rail Trail (for walking and cycling), which begins at Fortino's near Rifle Range Road; it will eventually include the Ainslie Wood East section. The Rail Trail to Jerseyville makes for an enjoyable ride—uphill all the way, but conveniently downhill coming back.

From Aberdeen Yard to Highway 2, the TH&B serviced the following:

1. The switch to the siding for Aitchison Lumber (formerly Bowman's Lumber) on Emerson Street lay east of Broadway Avenue. The siding crossed Broadway to reach Aitchison. As of this autumn, some switch ties are still visible, along with some of the siding track as it crosses Broadway.
2. A line to Dundas branched off the main line west of Emerson. The right of way from the switch is still apparent, with Hall Construction now occupying the land. The track curved north, crossing Leland, passing through what is now the Esso station (at Main Street West and Leland), and then crossing Main West to run beside Highway 102 (Cootes Drive) to service industries and passengers in Dundas.
3. The former property of Canadian Aniline and Extract (later Nopco Chemical, then Diamond Shamrock, and acquired by Henkel Canada in 1988) lay south and next to the main line between Leland and Rifle Range. It made acids for the steel industry, chemicals for the pulp and paper industry, and surfactants for the soap industry. McMaster now leases the property for a parking lot.
4. The former Donald Wire and Rope (later Greening Donald, an amalgamation of Donald Rope and Greening Wire

in 1970) is the current location of Fortino's Supermarket. The TH&B main line ran through the present parking lot, crossing Rifle Range to run just north of the present Cadbury Company.

5. The former John Deere Plant is currently occupied by Cadbury (between Rifle Range and Ewen) opposite Fortino's. The siding branched off the south side of the main line just east of Rifle Range, crossing the road to reach John Deere. You can still see a raised loading dock (once used to load tractors onto flatcars) on the north side of the Cadbury buildings alongside the old right of way (now a gravel-covered strip).

6. The Ranges passing siding branched off north of the main

line between Leland and Rifle Range, rejoining the main line east of Ewen. The Ranges team track branched off the siding toward its east end, running west to end at Ewen. The siding and team track serviced various industries: Ralph & Sons Fuels (with office at 1599 Main West, where Wendy's is now) lay east of Rifle Range on the team track. Walter E. Jacques & Sons, confectioner, was located on Ewen; Xtra Storage, a warehouse building, is on the site now, but developers are proposing to build student housing there. Dundas Valley

Foods used the Ranges siding in the 1980s,

Chatham Street engine-servicing terminal (below) and Aberdeen freight yard (above). Top right, bridge crossing Highway 403; top left, Canadian Porcelain; centre above roundhouse, Westinghouse. Used with permission of the TH&B Historical Society.

transloading vegetable oil from tank cars to trucks.

The TH&B greatly helped in the development of West Hamilton, but all that is now left of the original right of way and industries described above are the Aberdeen Yard, the Rail Trail, and Aitchison Lumber.

Malcolm Horsnell is a TH&B Railway enthusiast and has been an AWWCA member since 1998.

Sources on page 30

Mailing Label